



Yemen

Humanitarian Situation Report



16 - 29 December 2015

Highlights

- During the reporting period, UNICEF was able to reach some of the most complex, insecure and affected zones in Taiz and Sa'ada.
- In Taiz, UNICEF supported the operation of the local water system reaching over 124,000 people and an additional 4,103 households in Taiz received humanitarian cash transfers. In Sa'ada, temporary water storage tanks are being connected to the water system and five mobile clinics were launched.
- UNICEF launched a package of education support to IDP children in Ibb and Hajjah. In Manguriah IDP camp, seven temporary classrooms were installed, 1,200 school bag kits were distributed and 648 children received psychosocial support.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Since March 2015, the conflict has spread to 20 of Yemen's 22 governorates, exacerbating the already critical humanitarian situation. Access constraints and limited governmental capacities, are hampering humanitarian assistance and recovery efforts.

At least 21.1 million people, including 9.9 million children, are in need of humanitarian assistance. After nine months of continued air strikes, shelling and ground fighting, social infrastructure and basic services have collapsed, particularly national health, water and sanitation services, with over 15 million people currently lacking access to basic health services, and 19.3 million in need of water and sanitation services.

The conflict continues to force families to flee their homes, with 2.5 million Yemenis now internally displaced, about half of them are living in schools, public and abandoned buildings, tents, temporary structures, makeshift shelters or in the open; facing overcrowding and very poor sanitation conditions.¹

The agreement of the parties to the conflict to a temporary ceasefire from 15 December 2015, presented a long awaited opportunity for humanitarian actors to reach areas of the country that have been inaccessible for the past months. However, hostilities were reported in parts of the country during the ceasefire affecting humanitarian response.

People in need of urgent humanitarian assistance:

21.1 million people, of which:
9.9 million children and
2.5 million IDPs (31% children)
 (Protection Cluster, includes prior to and since the conflict escalated)

0.3 million children under 5 at risk of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM)

1 million children under 5 projected to suffer Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM)

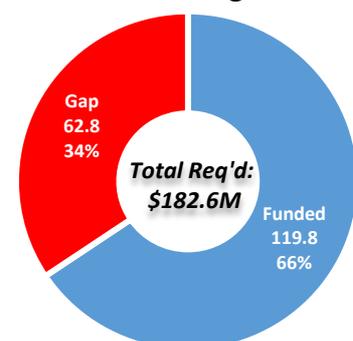
19.3 million people in need of WASH assistance

15.2 million people in need of basic health care

Funds received:

US \$119.8 million (34 per cent gap)
 (2015 Total Requirement: US \$182.6 million)

Overall Funding Status



¹ Sixth report of the Task Force on Population Movement, led by UNHCR and IOM (10 December 2015).

Recent developments include the increase of food imports to pre-crisis levels.² However, fuel imports are still half of what they were before the crisis and prices of basic goods remain high, increasing poverty and malnutrition among the most vulnerable populations. To mitigate the grave humanitarian situation, UNICEF continues to provide support across different sectors, including, but not limited to, health and nutrition, WASH, education, child protection and social protection.

Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

UNICEF continues to work in coordination with the Yemen Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and is leading the WASH, Education and Nutrition Clusters and the Child Protection Sub-Cluster. UNICEF has also established sub-national level Clusters for WASH, Child Protection and Education in Aden and Nutrition Sub-Clusters in all field offices, and continues to be an active member of the Health Cluster.

In addition to the hub in Ibb, which has been operational since 15 November, UNICEF continues taking the lead for the humanitarian hub in Sa'ada. UNICEF continues to review and monitor programme implementation through local partners, remote monitoring and some innovative use of electronic technology. Efforts continue to diversify and expand partnerships with local NGOs with the capacity to deliver emergency and humanitarian programmes on the ground.

Humanitarian Strategy

UNICEF's humanitarian strategy remains focused on delivering lifesaving services and supplies in line with UNICEF's Core Commitments to Children in Emergencies. This includes providing an integrated package of health, nutrition and vaccination services to mothers, newborns and children, preparing for potential outbreaks of childhood diseases, expanding treatment services for children with malnutrition and supporting displaced families through provision of safe water and hygiene facilities. UNICEF supports government partners to re-open schools, provide catch up classes, provide school supplies and encourage strategies for alternative accommodation for displaced persons occupying schools to enable children's return to school. Acknowledging the psychological distress experienced by children, UNICEF supports partners to provide psychosocial support through schools and community facilities including child friendly spaces (CFS). UNICEF and partners are scaling up efforts through all field office areas to reach the most vulnerable children and their families especially internally displaced persons which have now reached 2.5 million (IDPs)—roughly 10 per cent of the population. In light of the huge impact of poverty on children, targeted cash grants reach thousands of the most vulnerable families in Yemen. UNICEF continues to generate new evidence on geographic vulnerabilities, effectiveness of early relief efforts and remaining gaps in lifesaving interventions. While relief efforts seek to save children's lives, UNCT continue to advocate for access to isolated areas, especially where blockades exist. UN leaders at country, region and HQ level remain committed to a peaceful solution to the conflict and negotiate for the protection of humanitarian supplies and sites. The Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan (YHRP) for 2016 will be released in mid-January, UNICEF is developing its Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) 2016 appeal, aligned with the YHRP.

UNICEF continues to work closely with local government providers to improve their capacity to respond to the ongoing crisis. UNICEF's humanitarian strategy prioritizes actions in such a way that supplies and services are directed to governorates with high levels of population displacement. On 1 July, UNICEF activated its Level 3 Corporate Emergency Procedure which mobilizes the highest level of organization-wide support to the current crisis in Yemen.

Summary of Programme Response

Health & Nutrition

The collapse of Yemen's health system including infrastructure, has left over 15.2 million people in need of basic healthcare. UNICEF and partners estimate that in 2016,³ about 320,000 children under 5 will be at risk of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and 1 million children are projected to suffer from Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM), compared to 690,000 before the crisis.

+15.2 million people
in need of access to basic
health care

Between 16 and 29 December, UNICEF provided health and nutrition services for over 50,000 people, including children, pregnant and lactating women (see table).

In addition, 42 new outpatient therapeutic programme (OTP) centres were launched in Hodeidah (4) and Hajjah (38) Governorates, to provide treatment to severely and acutely malnourished children under five years of age. Two mobile clinics were established recently in Aljawf, while five mobile clinics were launched during the last ceasefire in Sa'adah.

² OCHA, Yemen: Snapshot on Shipping and Food Imports (as of 14 December 2015).

³ According to the updated Humanitarian Needs Overview – Yemen 2016. Calculations are based on the results of the following surveys: DHS 2014, CFSS 2014, SMART Surveys 2014 /2015.

Consistent with its pre-crisis approach, building local capacities continues to be a priority for UNICEF. In Hajjah (40) and Dhammar (20), 60 governmental district and zonal monitors were trained on monitoring and reporting systems. CMAM⁴ and IYCF⁵ trainings were conducted for 78 health workers in Taiz and Ibb Governorates, this will result in the opening of 42 new OTPs in the coming days. 43 health workers were trained in Sana'a governorate. Moreover, 197 people were trained as community volunteers in Aljawf.

Health and nutrition services provided by 73 mobile teams MTs (16 – 29 December, 2015)	
Children screened for acute malnutrition in Sana'a, Alhodidah, Taiz and Aden Governorates (6,861 male, 7,281 female).	14,142
Severely malnourished children (944 male, 1,263 female) admitted in feeding programmes in Alhodidah, Hajjah, Almahwit, Raymah, Lahj, Aden, Shabwah, Aldhalea, Abyan, Ammant Al asimah, Sana'a, Ammran, Dhammar and Taiz.	2,207
Mothers of children under 5 received infant and young child feeding counselling in Ammran, Alhodidah, Hajjah, Raymah, Aden, Lahj, Aldhalea, and Abyan.	2,370
Children from 6 to 59 months old received vitamin A & Micronutrient supplementation.	3,167
Children received de-worming capsules.	2,339
Pregnant and lactating women received iron/folate supplementation.	31,240

During the reporting period, UNICEF's Health staff visited facilities in urban and rural zones in Ibb Governorate, to monitor integrated health and nutrition outreach activities. The deterioration of the security situation in Taiz has led to an increase of IDPs coming to Ibb, with needs of protection and assistance. The total numbers of IDPs in Ibb has now reached 40,000 - 2,349 of them are living in public facilities including schools. UNICEF is developing a specific plan for the provision of health services for IDPs sheltered in public facilities.

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

UNICEF and partners estimate that at least 19.3 million people⁶ will lack access to safe water and sanitation during 2016, considering the continuity of the conflict and the difficulties to restore services and infrastructure. UNICEF remains committed to improving water supply and sanitation services, and is providing hygiene kits to those in need on a regular basis.

+19.3 million people
lack access to safe water and sanitation (Estimates 2016)

During the reporting period, UNICEF continued to provide support to local water corporations benefitting close to 2 million people connected to water infrastructure systems in Al Bayda, Al Hudaydah, Amanat Al Asimah, Amran, Sa'ada and Taiz Governorates, and 28 rural water projects reaching 147,397 people in Sa'ada Governorate. Through water trucking, UNICEF provided water for drinking and domestic use to 94,236 displaced people and their host communities in Amanat Al Asi-mah, Sa'ada, Abyan and Taiz Governorates, including sieged districts of Taiz city.

In Taiz, one of the locations most affected by active conflict on the ground, UNICEF and the Taiz Local Water Corporation were able to provide 60,000 liters of diesel to pump water in Taiz city, reaching at least 124,000 people. In Sa'ada, UNICEF is also working with partners to install temporary community water tanks to replace water reservoirs that were damaged in the conflict.

Basic hygiene kits were distributed to 29,059 people in Abyan and Hadramaut Governorates, consumable hygiene kits were provided to 798 individuals in Taiz Governorate. In Hajjah, 880 students in two schools benefitted from school hygiene kits and hygiene awareness sessions. In Abyan and Taiz Governorates, 1,263 ceramic water filters were distributed to 6,726 people, 35 water tanks were installed in Abyan for around 5,765 beneficiaries. UNICEF also conducted hygiene awareness sessions focusing on personal hygiene, hand washing and safe water storage for 40,620 people in Abyan and Hajjah governorates, while 40 community volunteers were trained in hygiene promotion in Hajjah Governorate.

UNICEF continues to support solid waste collection and disposal in Aden and Sa'ada (with 501,015 beneficiaries), and is providing cleanliness materials for targeted beneficiaries in Taiz and Sa'ada Governorates. The children's agency also supports the operation of the wastewater treatment plant in Sana'a city benefitting around 1,400,000 beneficiaries.

Education

The escalation of the conflict in Yemen forced at least 1.8 million school-aged children out of school due to the closure of 3,584 schools for over two months, during the school year 2014-2015. Additionally, 1.6 million school-aged children were already out of school before the conflict and are not yet enrolled. Since November, 14,500 schools have been reopened, however 1,500 remain closed due to insecurity, leaving over 383,000 children out of school, mainly in Sa'ada and Taiz Governorates. Attendance remains around 35 per cent in the most affected areas, including seven districts in Hajjah, Marib and Taiz.

+1.8 million children
forced out of school at the beginning of the crisis

+383,000 children
remain out of school

⁴ CMAM: Community Management of Acute Malnutrition.

⁵ IYCF: Infant and Young Child Feeding.

⁶ According to the updated Humanitarian Needs Overview – Yemen 2016. Current estimations, particularly for rural areas, are based on improved information provided by the General Authority for Rural Water Supply (GARWSP) branch offices.

To ensure that vulnerable IDP children get access to education, UNICEF has launched a package of education support to displaced children in Ibb and Hajjah. During the reporting period, UNICEF supported Hajjah Governorate Education Office (GEO) to identify school-age children in the IDP camp in Manguriah district, provided seven tents to be used as temporary classrooms and distributed 1,200 school bag kits. A task force has been established to identify volunteer teachers in the IDP camp, to be trained to support the functioning of temporary classrooms. In Ibb, UNICEF and a local NGO provided Early Grade Reading support and psychosocial support to 648 IDP children.

As part of UNICEF's Back to School programme, 28,200 school bags packed with stationery items have been provided to affected children in Ibb, Hajjah and Sana'a Governorates during the reporting period. Distribution of 237,000 school bags is underway in ten additional governorates.

Child Protection

The ongoing conflict and the consequent aggravation of vulnerabilities, has left at least 7.3 million children in need of protection services, including urgent psychosocial support and other child protection concerns. Reports of child rights violations have increased dramatically since March 2015, and children have been facing significant psychosocial stress inflicted by prolonged violence, instability and displacement.

+7.3 million children
in need of protection services

UNICEF continues to provide Psycho-Social Support (PSS) for conflict affected populations, host communities and IDPs. During the reporting period, 24,783 children⁷ in Ibb, Taiz, Hodeidha, Hajjah, Al Amanah, Hadramout, Aden, Dhale and Abyan Governorates, received PSS via community and mobile based child friendly spaces (CFSs) activities such as sport, arts and recreational activities. Out of these, 148 cases⁸ were referred to suitable services, including children identified as victims of physical violence, separated or unaccompanied, or without birth certificates. In addition, 3,733 people⁹ received information and skills on the protection of children in emergency, including prevention from being used or recruited by armed groups or armed forces. The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour (MOSAL), with support of UNICEF, organized a training for 30 social workers¹⁰ on referral of identified children to proper services.

In conflict-affected and displaced communities, 44,032 people participated¹¹ in Mine risk education (MRE) sessions¹¹. To provide life-saving and urgent MRE key messages during the ceasefire, Yemen Executive Mine Action Centre (YEMAC) with support of UNICEF, trained 21 staffs from MOSAL and NGOs.¹² At least 17,188 people¹³ will benefit from this capacity.

Since 16 December 2015, the Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting of Grave Child Rights Violations in Armed Conflicts and their networks, were able to verify 39 out of 58 MRM reports. The verification of the six grave violations is especially challenging in the Governorate of Taiz, where 16 out of the 29 reported incidents were verified. The MRM networks will prioritize the verification of the remaining incidents in the next reporting period.¹⁴ During the reporting period, four incidents in Sa'ada led to the killing of 26 children and maiming of other three.

Social Policy

Through unconditional cash transfers, UNICEF is supporting the most vulnerable families to cover their basic needs including food, water and shelter. UNICEF launched the distribution of cash assistance in Taiz on 19 December, reaching 4,103 households in Taiz City, including districts under blockade and/or suffering major security issues¹⁵ and three rural districts¹⁶. UNICEF is partnering with Al-Amal Bank for cash disbursement, the Social Welfare Fund (Taiz Branch) for running the Complaints and Appeal mechanism, and Hemmat Shabab for providing monitoring and verification. Intervention in Taiz has been extremely challenging due to the continuity of hostilities, presence of armed groups, breakdown in communication methods, and loss of identification documents of beneficiaries.

Cash assistance continues to be distributed in Amanat Al-Asima (Sana'a city), reaching 4,971 households. So far, a total of 9,074 households (around 63,518 individuals) have been reached with cash assistance (YR 21,500, approximately US\$100 in each household), in both governorates.

In Amanat Al-Asima, biometric data (fingerprints) are being collected for verification, this technology will soon be deployed in Taiz. UNICEF also continued building on its cooperation with WFP by referring a list of vulnerable households, compiled in collaboration with the Social Welfare Fund, to be included in WFP's cash and voucher programmes.

⁷ Including 13,418 girls, 11,365 boys.

⁸ Including 68 girls, 80 boys.

⁹ Including 888 girls, 1,265 boys, 718 women, 862 men.

¹⁰ Including 9 women, 21 men; from nine Governorates.

¹¹ Including 33,648 children (14,742 girls, 18,906 boys), 10,384 adults (3,835 women, 6,549 men), in AL-Baydah, Dhale, Mukalla and Hajjah Governorates.

¹² Staff from Salah, Taizia, Al-Qaherah and Modhaffer, districts of Taiz.

¹³ Including 12,914 children (6,649 girls, 6,265 boys), 4,274 adults (1,432 women, 2,842 men).

¹⁴ The remaining verified incidents were reported in Aden (9), Sa'ada (8), Marib (3), Sana'a and Sana'a city (2) and Al Bayda (1).

¹⁵ Al Qahirah, Al Modhafar and Salah.

¹⁶ Mawyah, Samea and Maqbanah.

Communication for Development (C4D)

Given the deterioration of living conditions caused by the current crisis, community engagement is critical to reinforce the impact of humanitarian interventions. During the reporting period, UNICEF reached 247,105 people with critical information and promotion of positive behaviors, bringing the total number to 885,235 since the escalation of conflict. Individuals and families engaged in counselling sessions, home visits and focus group discussions, among other activities, around critical lifesaving practices and messages including disease prevention/outbreak (malaria, Dengue fever, diarrhoea /cholera), vaccination, exclusive breastfeeding and proper infant and child feeding practices, hygiene promotion and safe water use. UNICEF also continues to promote the Back to School Campaign and spreading key messages on child protection issues, including child recruitment, child separation, child trafficking and mine risk education.

Supply and Logistics

Since the escalation of the crisis in late March, over 3,026.7 metric tons of emergency supplies have been sent to Yemen.

Funding

In line with the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for 2015 (revised in June 2015), **UNICEF's updated Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal is US\$182.6 million**. To date, UNICEF has received US\$119.76 million against the appeal, leaving a **34% funding gap** (by 21 Dec. 2015).¹⁷ In particular, funding that would allow cash transfers to the poorest families to enable purchase of basic survival supplies for their children is still urgently needed.

Sector	Requirements	Funding Received		Funding Gap	
		US\$	%	US\$	%
Nutrition	41,500,000	37,564,481	91%	3,935,519	9%
Health	34,000,000	26,368,982	78%	7,631,018	22%
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	58,000,000	32,156,017	55%	25,843,983	45%
Child Protection	12,600,000	8,695,664	69%	3,904,336	31%
Education	10,500,000	7,263,274	69%	3,236,726	31%
Social Protection in Emergency	26,000,000	6,305,073	24%	19,694,927	76%
Being allocated	-	1,403,441			
Total	182,600,000	119,756,932	66%	62,843,068	34%

*Funds received do not include pledges.

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¹⁷ In addition to the above, approximately USD\$17 million from the development programme for education has been re-programmed to the emergency appeal, out of which an estimated 6 million is expected to be used in 2015. An additional \$2.5 million is being shifted from development to emergency funds.

SUMMARY OF PROGRAMME RESULTS

2015 PROGRAMME TARGETS AND RESULTS	Cluster		UNICEF	
	2015 Target	Total 2015 Results	2015 Target	Total 2015 Results
HEALTH				
Number of children under 5 vaccinated for measles and polio (OPV ₃ /MCV) ¹			2,730,000	4,685,088
Number of pregnant and lactating women provided antenatal, delivery and postnatal care ²			590,000	236,742
WASH				
Number of affected people provided with access to water as per agreed standards ³	4,364,179	4,500,489	3,971,800	3,761,851
Number of affected people with access to basic hygiene kit ⁴	973,785	501,108	650,000	416,321
NUTRITION				
Number of children under 5 with Severe Acute Malnutrition admitted to therapeutic care (OTP/TFC/Mobile) ⁵	214,794	158,409	214,794	158,409
Number of children under 5 given micronutrient interventions ⁶	1,600,000	4,089,794	1,198,059	4,089,794
CHILD PROTECTION				
Cases of grave child rights violations monitored, verified and documented ⁷		1,074		1,074
Number of affected children benefiting from psychosocial support ⁸	548,168	372,965	328,900	372,965
Number of people (children and adults) reached with information on protecting themselves from physical injury/death due to mine/UXO/ERW ⁹	500,000	469,270	357,161	469,270
EDUCATION				
Number of affected school-aged children with access to education via Temporary Learning Spaces and school reconstruction ¹⁰	126,748	31,690	77,000	17,677
Number of out-of-school children supported for reintegration into education system (including provision of books and supplies and compensational learning opportunities) ¹¹	904,326	556,849	542,000	373,487
SOCIAL PROTECTION				
Number of affected people assisted with cash transfers (including rental subsidies)			245,000	66,556
C4D				
Number of affected people reached through integrated C4D efforts			834,000	885,235

Footnotes:

**The initial target was based on plans for a Sub-National Immunization Days (SNIDs) for Polio targeting 2.7 million children; this was subsequently changed in favor of the National Immunization Days (NIDs) for Polio targeting 5 million children and hence the higher number than planned vaccinated (4.4 million). This includes 742,081 children provided at least one Measles dose since January 2015.

¹ Original UNICEF target following flash appeal was 2.4 million

² Original UNICEF target following flash appeal was 384,000

³ Original UNICEF 2015 target following flash appeal was 2,953,852; includes access to water via water trucking, piped water systems, and short-term fuel for local water corporations.

⁴ Original UNICEF 2015 target following flash appeal was 55,000 families; includes only hygiene kits that meet agreed standards

⁵ Original UNICEF 2015 target following flash appeal was 128,503; cluster target for this result in revised Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) is 144,000 as time frame was April – December 2015, while the target of 214,794 is for January – December 2015.

⁶ Original UNICEF 2015 target following flash appeal was the same (1,198,059); cluster target for this result in the revised YHRP is 913,652 as time frame was April – December 2015, while the target of 1,600,000 is for January – December 2015; original UNICEF 2015 target following flash appeal was the same (1,198,059).

⁷ This indicator describes the number of children verified, who have been affected by grave violations of child rights through the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) following the escalation of conflict beginning 26 March 2015.

⁸ Original UNICEF 2015 target following flash appeal was 320,000; includes PSS received through mobile and static Child Friendly Spaces.

⁹ Cluster target for this result in revised YHRP is 360,000 as time frame was April – December 2015, while the target of 500,000 is for January – December 2015.

¹⁰ Revised indicator. Original UNICEF target following flash appeal was 66,465

¹¹ Conflict-affected and other vulnerable out-of-school children