



Yemen conflict



WHO has provided water tanks, cleaning materials and water trucking services for internally displaced persons in Khamer district of Amran governorate.



WHO

65 STAFF IN COUNTRY

HEALTH SECTOR

18 HEALTH CLUSTER PARTNERS

7.5 M TARGETED POPULATION

MEDICINES DELIVERED TO HEALTH FACILITIES/PARTNERS*

24 TRAUMA KITS
48 INTERAGENCY EMERGENCY HEALTH KITS

EWARN

200 E-DEWS SENTINEL SITES

FUNDING US\$ FOR 2015 RESPONSE PLAN

37.9 M REQUESTED
3.55 M FUNDED

HIGHLIGHTS

- From 19 March - 4 May, conflicts in Yemen claimed 1439 lives and left 5951 others injured, according to health facility-based reports.
- Lack of fuel continues in the capital Sana'a and other governorates making life more difficult for millions of people. Food and water pumping prices have increased dramatically, with some areas witnessing scarcity of clean water, sanitation, food and fuel.
- Health service provision, especially in major hospitals, is at risk of collapsing if fuel shortages are not resolved urgently. All hospitals in both public and private sectors started to close some of its departments (especially operation rooms and intensive care units) in order to reduce consumption of fuel.
- It is estimated that almost 16 million people in Yemen are currently in need of humanitarian assistance. Heavy clashes in more than half of the country's governorates have been reported and the fighting is expected to worsen.
- Insecurity in areas where conflict is ongoing is one of the key challenges impeding the provision of health care service delivery by humanitarian partners.
- Accumulation of garbage on the streets of Sana'a and other governorates is becoming more noticeable. Youth initiatives have removed garbage from some streets in Sana'a.

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19 March - 4 May	deaths	injuries
Total	1439	5951
Women (included in total)	40	107
Children (included in total)	71	189

Clashes in Aden and Taiz have escalated while conflict continues in Sa'ada, Sana'a, Al-Baida and Hodeida. Electricity supply to the city of Sana'a and most neighboring governorates continues to be disrupted.

The number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) is increasing day by day as street fighting and airstrikes are continuing in Aden and Taiz. Roads have been blocked due to fierce fighting, presence of snipers and total lack of fuel. Most of the population in the city have decided to travel to their villages.

In Aden, the districts of Khormakser, Ma'alla, Kraitier, Tawahi, and Kalo'oa are still experiencing acute shortages in bread and many other food items, as well as fuel shortages, water scarcity and power cuts. Civilians are unable to escape conflict areas due to street fighting and violence in different parts of Aden.

The persistent fuel shortage continues to pose a real threat to the proper functioning of the health care system. This problem continues to cause a great concern to health authorities and stakeholders. All hospitals in both public and private sectors started to close some of its departments (especially operation rooms and intensive care units) in order to reduce consumption of fuel. In many cases, hospital staff fails to report to their duty stations either because of the security situation in the area or because of lack of transport means.

Lahj Governorate Health Office reported 484 cases of suspected dengue fever in Toban and Al-Hoota districts with two reported deaths. The insecurity is preventing the transportation of samples for lab testing.

The National Tuberculosis Programme's centre in Taiz Governorate has shut down, leaving more than 1000 patients without treatment, and consultations in Sana'a Governorate have decreased by 30% as a result of the insecurity. Multi-drug resistant patients requiring vital, continued treatment are facing challenges in accessing treatment due to insecurity and fuel shortages.

Attacks on health facilities are continuing in Aden, Sa'ada, Taiz and Hajja. Al-Thawra hospital in Taiz has been fiercely hit and its functionality has been disrupted. On 29 April, one of the ambulances and other two vehicles (belonging to the malaria eradication programme and surveillance programme) in Lahj Governorate fell into the hands of armed groups and taken to unknown places.

Public health concerns

The coverage of the early warning system in the most affected governorates of Aden, Abyan, Lahj, Taiz and Sa'da is only 20%. Many surveillance coordinators at the level of districts fled to their villages while health facilities have been closed

down.

The water crisis is escalating with severe shortages of safe water in all affected areas. The cost of water trucking has increased sharply. Many people are forced to stand in long queues to find water, with many resorting to using unsafe water, increasing the risk of water-borne diseases.

There is still a risk that the entire stock of Yemen's vaccines for childhood immunizations will be lost if the Ministry of Public Health premises (including warehouses) are targeted or destroyed, leaving children unvaccinated and at risk of life-threatening diseases.

Health needs, priorities and gaps

With the continuation of violence, electricity cuts and fuel shortage, there are urgent needs for specialized surgical teams and mobile medical teams, trauma kits, life-saving medicines for noncommunicable diseases, as well as fuel for ambulances and hospital generators, vaccine cold chain, ambulances,

There are urgent needs to:

- Support mass-casualty management in conflict-affected governorates, including provision of trauma kits, vaccines, medical and surgical supplies, deployment of surgical teams and referral services, and ambulance services.
- Provide integrated primary health care services, including mental health care.
- Provide life-saving maternal, new-born and child health, including antenatal, delivery and postnatal care for mothers; new-born care, routine immunization and screening and treatment of illnesses in children through health facilities, outreach and mobile services, all accompanied by social mobilization activities.
- Stockpile reproductive health supplies and provide reproductive health care through public health facilities.
- Procure, stockpile and distribute medical supplies to health facilities around the country.
- Update information systems and field reporting using available means of communication to ensure timely and effective response and avoid duplication of efforts.
- Medically evacuate the most critically injured who cannot receive effective trauma treatment in country.
- Provide health care to migrants and third-country nationals.

Health response and WHO action

On 28 April, WHO provided trauma kits for a total of 1000 medical interventions the health offices in Amran, Marib and Taiz Governorates.

WHO provided Al-Thawra hospital in Hodeida with 4650 IV fluids and 300 blood bags sufficient for 4500 beneficiaries for three months. WHO is also continuing to provide the hospital with fuel for generators.

In Abyan, WHO met with female health volunteers in different districts of the governorate to draw up a plan to raise awareness about the malnutrition, maternal health and hygiene among IDPs and host community.

Due to persistent problems of water shortages, WHO provided water tanker

trucks on a daily basis to Haradh Hospital and 2 health facilities in Hayran in addition to 7 health facilities in Abs District. Chlorine tablets and jerry cans were distributed in Alluhaya districts of Hodeida for 140 families.

WHO delivered 410,000 chlorine tablets from its warehouse in Sa'ada Governorate to Abs district of Hajja Governorate.

WHO repaired the damaged water network of Al-Razi Hospital in Abyan and started trucking water to IDPs in Al-Buraiqeh district in Aden governorate where IDPs are fleeing daily from other districts in the city in addition to distributing hygiene materials.

WHO has supported immunization teams in Sahar district in Sa'ada, Aslam district in Hajja and Ataq district in Shabwa to continue vaccinating displaced children. Children under 15 have been immunized against polio, measles and rubella as well as given vitamin A supplements. Exact numbers are not available due to disruptions in connectivity with medical teams in some governorates.

Resource mobilization

A United Nations flash appeal requires US\$273.7 million to meet the life-saving and protection needs of people affected by the escalating conflict in Yemen. Out of this amount, US\$ 37.9 million is required to provide a health response for a targeted 7.5 million people over the next three months.

WHO's response to the crisis in Yemen has been supported by the Governments of Japan and Russia and the Central Emergency Response Fund. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has also pledged to support the humanitarian work of WHO in Yemen.

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