



This report covers the period between 14 June and 10 July. The next report will be issued on or around 1 August.

Key Points

- The Mid-Year Review of the 2010 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan (YHRP) has been finalised. The revised requirements for 2010 amount to US\$187 million. Of this, \$57 million (31 percent) has been received, leaving the outstanding requirements until the end of the year at \$130 million.
- The security situation in Yemen's northern governorates remains volatile, particularly in parts of Sa'ada Governorate and in Harf Sufyan, northern Amran Governorate, where there have been a number of low level clashes. Although peace committees continue to meet, implementation of the ceasefire is slow.
- Despite the security situation, humanitarian actors are increasing their presence in these areas and levels of assistance to the conflict-affected continue to improve. Joint rapid needs assessments were carried out at the end of June in Sa'ada City and Malaheet (Dhaher District of western Sa'ada Governorate). Locals highlighted that there are needs among vulnerable groups in these areas, not only among IDPs and returnees.
- The situation in parts of southern Yemen is increasingly volatile, with continued violent demonstrations, and an increase in the number and severity of attacks against security forces. On 7 July in Aden, two people were killed in riots, which followed raids by security forces targeting the Southern Movement. Humanitarian actors are making contingency plans, in case the security situation should deteriorate with humanitarian consequences.

I. Situation Overview

The security situation in parts of Sa'ada, Amran and Al-Jawf Governorates remains volatile. Sporadic low level clashes have been reported. The situation is particularly precarious in Harf Sufyan District, northern Amran Governorate. Harf Sufyan is of strategic importance, as the main road from Sana'a to Sa'ada runs through it. Although this road remains open, there have been intermittent delays due to low level clashes and tribal checkpoints. These security concerns often present obstacles to the timely and effective implementation of operations, particularly in Amran Governorate.

The risk of landmines continues to be of great concern, particularly in Sa'ada Governorate where, thus far, landmine clearance has been largely limited to main paved roads. There have been a number of media reports on injuries and incidents resulting from landmines.

As families are returning to their areas of origin, there have been some reports of land disputes. An IDP profiling exercise is ongoing, led by the protection cluster, the results are due to be finalised in mid-August. It is hoped that this exercise will reveal people's intentions to return to their areas of origin, provide an indication of the number which has already returned, and show how many are likely to remain in a situation of protracted displacement. Humanitarian actors plan to distribute return packages to returnees, in addition to providing continued assistance to those IDPs remaining in displacement.

Monitoring and screening in Hajjah Governorate has revealed that the incidence of acute malnutrition, diarrhoea and anaemia is on the rise among all population groups – IDPs in the camps, scattered IDPs and host communities. This is likely to be the result of oppressive heat and humidity during the summer months. Reduced food rations are likely to exacerbate the situation. However, there has been a reduction in the cases of malaria reported. Another issue faced by the population of Haradh District of Hajjah Governorate is sand storms with strong winds. These have caused damage to tents over the past few weeks, a number of which are in need of replacement. It is likely that poor weather conditions will continue over the coming weeks, with further strong winds and potential flooding due to the rainy season. Although efforts are underway to establish a drainage system in the camps, further damage to tents is expected.

Over the last three months, the situation in parts of southern Yemen is of growing concern. The Southern Movement seems to have built momentum. The number of reports of violent and armed attacks on public or police buildings has increased, and civil disobedience and demonstrations are also common. On 7 July in Aden, two people were killed in riots, which followed raids by security forces targeting the Southern Movement. Humanitarian actors are adapting contingency plans to the evolving situation, should the security situation deteriorate with humanitarian consequences.

II. Summary of the Humanitarian Response

The situation in Yemen's northern, conflict-affected governorates is very complex, more so than following the previous rounds of fighting. There are more splinter groups of parties to the conflict with unclear motivations. This makes it difficult to plan the humanitarian response, particularly in parts of Sa'ada, Amran and Al-Jawf Governorates, as the

security situation is unpredictable and access to various areas is only granted intermittently. In some districts of Sa'ada Governorate, there is little or no government presence. The Government is reluctant to grant access to these areas, as they are unable to guarantee the safety of humanitarian workers. Humanitarian actors are revising contingency plans and are beginning stockpiling in case of further deterioration of the situation and prior to the rainy season.

A fresh approach is being taken by parties to the conflict towards implementing the ceasefire agreement. This is expected to have a positive outcome.

Despite these difficulties, humanitarian actors were able to carry out two needs assessments in Sa'ada Governorate during June 2010 – one in Sa'ada City and the other in Malaheet (Dhafer District).

Sa'ada City

Access

Humanitarian workers in Sa'ada City are restricted to providing assistance within a 7 km radius of Sa'ada City. Within this radius the situation is quiet and calm, and life is normal. However, there is little information available on the security situation beyond this radius. Advocacy has been taking place to enable access beyond the 7 km radius and it seems that some progress has been made. National staff members have been granted intermittent clearance to travel beyond this radius to provide assistance and assess the situation.

Since June, the logistics cluster has put a system in place for at least one flight per week to go to Sa'ada City. The frequency of flights is sometimes disrupted as clearance to travel to Sa'ada is not always granted. Discussions with the Government are ongoing to establish an effective mechanism for clearance, to ensure that humanitarian actors have regular and constant access to Sa'ada City.

Coordination

There is a need to ensure that assistance is not duplicated, and that all areas in need are covered with adequate humanitarian assistance. Therefore humanitarian actors at Sana'a and Sa'ada level have been working together to ensure a clear division of responsibilities in all accessible areas.

Needs and Gaps in Assistance

The assessment in Sa'ada City revealed a number of needs and gaps, which humanitarian actors are working together to address. Coordination mechanisms will be put in place in Sa'ada City, both between humanitarian organisations as well as with government officials.

Registration in Sa'ada City is difficult and the exact number of IDPs remains unknown. The increased presence of humanitarian actors and the ongoing IDP profiling exercise will help to remedy this.

There is an overall good coverage of food assistance in Sa'ada City. Due to lack of funds, WFP may have to stop providing food assistance from August, and no other organisation is in a position to fill this gap. This is a concern that needs to be carefully looked into. Furthermore, in the wake of the conflict, it is unclear for how long food assistance will be provided to the population of Sa'ada. Some thought needs to be given to this and an exit strategy established. There is no doubt that the population of Sa'ada is extremely poor and, although no one is dying of hunger, food is an essential commodity which some people are using to generate cash. Due to high poverty levels, the assessment highlighted that it is essential to continue food distribution at present.

The nutrition situation is severe, with a high percentage of malnourished children under-five. Nutrition activities in Sa'ada Governorate are currently implemented by MSF-France (outside the cluster system, in coordination with the Ministry of Public Health and Population (MoPHP)). A number of Therapeutic Feeding Centres are already being run in two hospitals in the Governorate however there is an urgent need to set up additional TFCs and OTPs in order to adequately address malnutrition. Shortages of ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) are the main cause for delayed implementation of the programme. The MoPHP is providing supplies in the short-term, to fill some of the gaps.

Education was severely disrupted due to the conflict. Many IDP children and residents of Sa'ada City have not attended school for an entire academic year, and many schools have been damaged or destroyed. Now there is an urgent need for children to be enrolled in schools. Teaching has been resumed in some schools, but there is a need for more action. UNICEF is focusing on providing WASH activities in schools to facilitate this process.

Most of the health facilities in the governorate are reported to be either damaged or looted during the war. Due to the lack of health workers available in the area, the remaining health facilities are only partially functional. The MoPHP was unable to achieve full vaccination coverage in Sa'ada during the last campaign, resulting in measles outbreaks in several districts. The reproductive health services in the rural areas are almost nonexistent. Due to limited funding availability for health activities, the existing coverage of health services may be reduced in the coming months.

A child protection specialist visited Sa'ada City and camps and identified a number of needs and gaps. There seems to be a growing trend of abandonment of children with mental and physical disabilities with families returning home (with 19 cases reported so far). A coordinated effort is required to reunify these children with their families and prevent separation. A child protection assessment conducted in late May revealed several child protection issues which have been exacerbated by the conflict, including physical violence, gender based violence, sexual exploitation, child marriage, and child labour. Boys are generally more exposed to all forms of violence and exploitation.

Northern Border Areas of Sa'ada Governorate

Humanitarian actors have been trying to find ways to provide assistance to families who remain in displacement in the northern border area of Sa'ada Governorate, as well as to returnees to these areas and vulnerable conflict-affected communities. Tribes have stated that assistance moving from Sa'ada City to Mandaba (Baqim District on the border with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) will be confiscated. The reason given for this is that the populations living between these areas are not IDPs and so are not receiving any assistance. However, they are, reportedly, in great need. During the conflict, these people were trapped by the fighting, and since the ceasefire announcement have waited to receive assistance. In the meantime, assistance to IDPs will continue to IDPs in Mandaba through the border with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Malaheet, Dhaheer District (Western Sa'ada Governorate)

Humanitarian actors have carried out a number of missions to Malaheet since April 2010, and have found that there are high levels of poverty in the area with very few fixed sources of income. The humanitarian country team is starting to provide assistance to the area. To enable this, two rubhalls for storing relief items have been set up.

Humanitarian actors plan to use Malaheet as a distribution point for returnees to Sa'ada, due to its proximity to Haradh District of Hajjah Governorate. Returnees will be able to collect their return package from Malaheet and register as returnees, before continuing their journey to their areas of origin. From Malaheet, the aid community also hopes to access nearby areas, such as Haydan and Razez Districts, which can only be accessed through Malaheet.

The joint rapid needs assessment to Malaheet revealed a number of needs and gaps in the area, in particular the presence of unexploded ordinance (UXOs) and landmines. Activities to remove demine the area have not yet started. This is urgently needed, in combination with continued landmine awareness campaigns.

Levels of destruction in Malaheet are severe, with 80 percent of houses damaged or destroyed. Many people are living in partially damaged houses, which poses severe safety risks. Urgent repair of homes and provision of NFIs is needed.

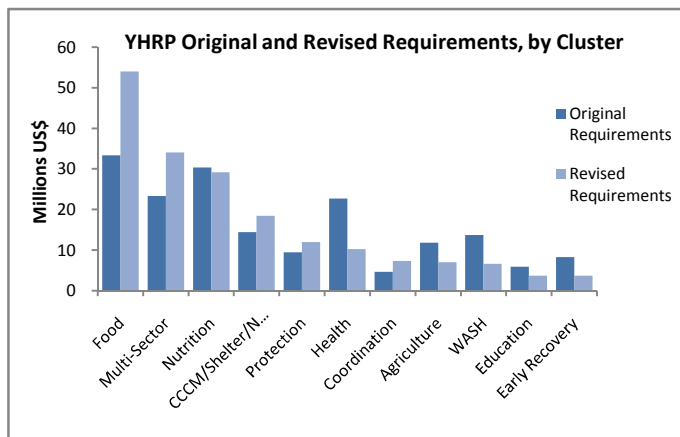
The provision of food to returnees in the area is limited. Only registered returnees are being provided with food (around 10 percent of the total population). Additionally, availability of water and access to water sources is severely limited. There is an urgent need for provision of WASH services, including waste disposal in the area.

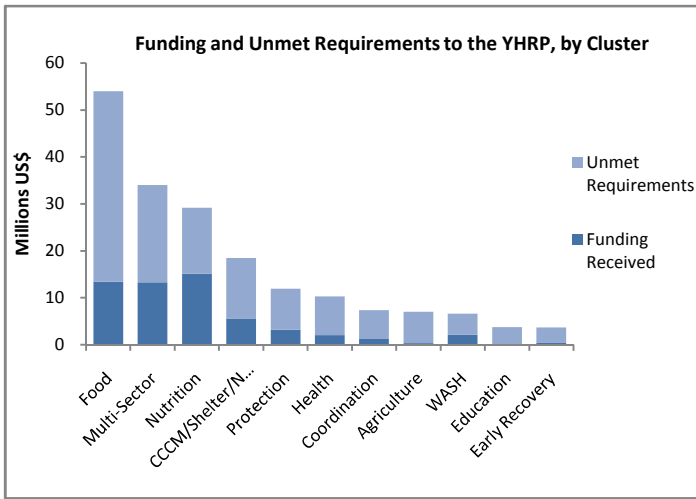
The health situation is also drier. There was one hospital serving the population, which is no longer functioning due to severe damage. There is a small private clinic which provides healthcare to a limited number of people, but this is not free of charge. The assessment indicated that the prevalence of diarrhea, malaria, typhoid and measles is relatively high (with around 500 cases reported in Malaheet and Haydan). Contamination of water and sewage may result in outbreaks of waterborne disease.

Since the needs assessment was carried out, some clashes have been reported in the area and it has not been possible for humanitarian actors to access the area.

III. Funding Update

The Mid-Year Review (MYR) of the 2010 YHRP has been finalised. The revised requirements for 2010 have increased by US\$10 million, and now amount to US\$187 million. The MYR provided the opportunity for humanitarian organisations to revise their projects and funding requirements in line with new needs and the evolving situation. The largest increase in requirements has been for food provision, which has increased by 62 percent, followed by the multi-sector, refugee response, which has increased by 46 percent. A number of clusters revised their requests downwards, including the health, WASH, agriculture, education and Early Recovery clusters.





Of the requested \$187 million, \$57 million (31 percent) has been received, leaving the outstanding requirements until the end of the year at \$130 million. The graph to the right shows the funding received and unmet requirements by cluster. Due to lack of funds, IDPs have received half food rations since May. If no additional funds are received food rations will be cut completely from August.

However, some funding is in the pipeline. ECHO is to announce its envelope of EURO 10 million, and DFID is working on its funding for 2010-2011, which is expected to be announced soon. Additionally, the US Government announced a doubling of its donation to the humanitarian response in Yemen. Furthermore, the Yemen Emergency Response Fund (ERF) has a total of \$1.8 million pledged by Sweden and Denmark.

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