

*This report was issued by the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator in Yemen. It covers the period from 21 October to 04 November 2009. The next report will be issued on or around 19 November 2009.*



## I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- A United Nations cross-border assessment mission, facilitated by the Governments of Yemen and Saudi Arabia, took place in northern Sa'ada (Al-Mandaba, Alb) between 26 and 29 October.
- The security situation in Sa'ada and neighbouring governorates is deteriorating, causing serious constraints to humanitarian assistance. Tens of thousands of displaced people have been on the move, and the winter season is fast approaching.
- In Al-Jawf Governorate, access remains limited to only one district (Al-Matammah).
- Discussions are ongoing over the location for a new camp in Amran. Local authorities have allowed the UN and INGOs to assist IDPs in host communities outside the existing government camp in Khaiwan, which hosts some 50 families.
- The draft 2010 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan (YHRP) is under review.

## II. Situation Overview

A United Nations cross-border assessment to Al-Mandaba, Alb from 26-29 October has provided a clearer picture of humanitarian needs in the immediate border region. The situation for people living in this region is particularly precarious. Based on the findings of the United Nations rapid assessment, it is estimated that 8,000-10,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) are sheltered in the area, with 140-210 new persons arriving daily. The assessment mission confirmed the feasibility of launching an immediate humanitarian response to provide life-saving support to complement assistance delivered by the government and other agencies. Contingency planning will now begin, in case of a further deterioration of the situation.

The situation in Sa'ada and its neighbouring governorates remains tense and volatile, with frequent operational obstructions delaying the provision of humanitarian assistance. The supply route to Sa'ada town through Al Jawf into Kittaf Al-Boqa'a, which had been closed for nearly three weeks in October, blocking twelve trucks with relief items from WFP and UNHCR, opened again on 31 October. Provisions have been sent to replenish depleted stocks; however, the situation remains unpredictable, and the potential for using an alternative side road to provide assistance is being explored.

Access in Al-Jawf Governorate remains limited to only one district (Al-Matammah), impeding humanitarian assistance to several hundreds of IDPs stranded in the northern part of the governorate.

Since 26 October, the Yemeni Government, at the central and local levels, has allowed the provision of humanitarian assistance to IDPs living in host communities in Amran Governorate, after an initial suspension of aid. The distribution of assistance is ongoing. United Nations agencies immediately made use of this humanitarian access by launching food and non-food item (NFI) distributions in three different districts, reaching more than 4300 people. However, serious security concerns remain given that WFP trucks carrying food commodities for 370 IDPs and two trucks carrying UNHCR NFIs were blocked en route by armed tribesmen, but later released. Again, on 3 November a UNHCR and UNICEF convoy was blocked by tribal forces, and has not yet been released. United Nations agencies are assessing if the security situation will allow distributions in the area to continue as planned.

### III. Humanitarian Needs and Response

#### Registration

A total of 110,623 IDPs have been registered by humanitarian actors as of 31 October. Calculations of the total number of IDPs registered and assisted are made through joint exercises by all humanitarian actors involved in these processes. The registration process is ongoing, and so is the cleaning of registration lists and verification of beneficiaries in order to obtain the most accurate and updated figures. The number of IDPs is increasing as the conflict continues, and camps are being established accordingly.

Governorate	Estimated IDP Population	Breakdown by Location	Total IDPs Registered for Assistance by Humanitarian Actors
Amran	28,000	Amran City	2,744
		Houth	1,376
		Khaiwan (inside camp)	875
		Khaiwan (outside camp)	3,514
		Khamir	3,237
		Raidah	380
		Bani Suryam	875
		<b>Total Amran Governorate</b>	<b>12,126</b>
Hajjah	20,000	Mazrak Camp	9,842
		Haradh District	15,420
		Bakil Al-Meer District	2,849
		<b>Total Hajjah Governorate</b>	<b>28,111</b>
Sa'ada	59,000	Sa'ada Town (excluding camps)	51,121
		Al-Talh A*	639
		Al-Talh B*	2,436
		Al-Sam*	2,114
		Al-Ihsa*	721
		Al-Mandaba IDP settlement (Baqim district)	4,900
		Other IDP settlements in Al-Mandaba	2415
		<b>Total Sa'ada Governorate</b>	<b>64,346</b>
Sana'a	-	Sana'a City	1,540
Al-Jawf	12,500	Al-Matammah and surrounding districts	4,500
Other	30,500	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>150,000</b>		<b>110,623**</b>

\*Camp managed by ICRC & Yemen Red Crescent Society (YRCS)

\*\* These figures are subject to regular changes, due to the increasing influx of IDPs and ongoing registration and verification by organisations assisting in conflict-affected areas and those responsible for the camps.

#### Protection

##### Sa'ada Governorate:

As the conflict continues and winter approaches, the situation for IDPs is becoming increasingly challenging. The IDPs in some locations are reported to be living under plastic sheeting in open areas, with no proper shelter and in unhygienic conditions. Some NFIs have been sent to bridge this gap, but constrained humanitarian access remains a primary concern in Sa'ada Governorate, and information is sparse about the humanitarian situation there.

A number of female-headed households have reported their husbands missing. Many have been missing since fighting first broke out. Some IDP children are suffering from war trauma due to shelling and bombing near their residences; and the Minister of Education has declared that around 65,000 students are not attending school because of ongoing fighting in the governorate.

##### Hajjah Governorate:

People from the traditionally marginalised 'Al-Akhdam' community continue to arrive in Al-Mazrak camp. Local authorities are in the process of verifying their places of origin before registering them for camp residency, to ensure that they are IDPs from Sa'ada and not local residents from the surrounding areas. Meanwhile, UNHCR is working with local authorities to ensure that legitimate new IDPs are being allowed to register without discrimination.

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On 21 and 26 October, there were reported incidents of IDPs fighting over access to assistance in Al-Mazrak camp. These were apparently caused by uncoordinated, *ad hoc* distributions by charitable or private sources arriving in the camp unannounced. UNHCR is working with local authorities and camp management to ensure more effective coordination of distributions to avoid a repetition of such incidents. Appropriate distribution to IDPs, both in host communities and in camps, is being encouraged.

The risk of child trafficking and child labour remains high. To reduce this risk, campaigning against and raising awareness about these issues is ongoing. Rازه Foundation, an implementing partner of Save the Children, will start campaigns aimed at sensitizing the camp population.

A group of 70 IDP families in Al-Zaghloul area of Haradh district were asked to leave the land they were residing on because it was owned by a Sheikh who did not consent to their presence. Following UNHCR facilitation efforts, another local Sheikh offered his land to the families.

#### *Amran Governorate:*

The primary achievement over the past two weeks has been the opening up of humanitarian access to IDPs in host communities throughout Amran Governorate. United Nations agencies immediately made use of this humanitarian access by launching three days of food and NFI distributions in three different districts, reaching more than 4300 people.

Despite a need for more teachers in Amran due to the influx of IDPs, reports of discrimination against IDP teachers have surfaced as local education authorities have refused to integrate teachers into schools in Amran. UNICEF and Save the Children are following this up with local authorities.

### **Food Assistance**

The table to the right shows the number of actual beneficiaries and the tonnage distribution reached per location since the start of the conflict, as of 1 November.

The WFP shortfall for support to IDPs in Sa'ada until the end of the year is US\$2.7 million (some 23 percent) and \$14.36 million until the end of the operation.

#### *Hajjah Governorate*

The November distribution cycle is set to begin on 12 November. Until then, WFP is distributing half rations to some 2,500 IDPs who have arrived since completion of the October cycle, as well as to families who were absent during the last cycle. These families will receive regular monthly rations with the November cycle.

In October, WFP began providing increased nutritional support to children under five through high-energy biscuits (HEB). This month, WFP is planning to conduct training on supplementary feeding. Distribution of the planned nutrition basket will follow, including wheat-soya blend, sugar and vegetable oil along with the regular monthly food rations.

The Governor of Hajjah has asked WFP to provide food to IDP families in Bakil Al-Meer district, northeast of Haradh, where there are some serious security concerns. As of 10 October, some 420 families had been registered in the area. These families were on the WFP distribution list in October, but only 40-50 families were able to reach the distribution centre due to distance. In the meantime, local authorities will provide temporary food and assistance to the area.

#### *Sa'ada Governorate*

WFP's implementing partner, Islamic Relief Yemen, completed the October distribution cycle in Al-Ihsa and Al-Sam camps and in Sa'ada town on 31 October.

Governorate	Location	IDPs Reached	Total Tonnage Distributed (MT)
Hajjah	Al-Mazrak Camp	9,842	216.06
	Haradh/outside Al-Mazrak Camp	15,701	501.92
Amran	Khaiwan Camp	371	6.69
	Raydah	476	7.82
	Houth	1,344	24.03
	Khamir	3,241	60.68
	Amran Town	<i>Ongoing</i>	-
Al Jawf	Al-Matammah	3,346	60.17
Sa'ada	Sa'ada Town	51,121	735.84
	Mandaba	2,800	48.06
	Al-Talh Camp	0	-
	Al-Ihsa Camp	721	25.91
	Al-Sam Camp	2,114	70.40
<b>Total</b>		<b>91,077</b>	<b>1,757.58</b>

Following a nearly three-week blockade of the major remaining supply corridor to Sa'ada town and camps, the road was opened on 31 October. WFP has sent a second dispatch of 705 mt to re-supply depleted stocks. The situation remains volatile and unpredictable, therefore WFP is sending a pilot run of 40 mt through an alternative side road.

Parallel to the United Nations mission, WFP sent 180mt of commodities for 10,000 IDPs through the Saudi border to Mandaba. The ICRC/YRCS began distributions on 2 November.

#### *Amran Governorate*

Since 26 October, WFP has been providing food assistance to IDPs scattered in the governorate. On 30 October, a truck carrying food commodities for 370 IDPs in the camp was blocked by armed tribesmen, but later released to allow distribution. A total of 3,500 people are estimated to have received assistance in Amran town as of 1 November.

#### *Al Jawf Governorate*

Distribution and registration by ADRA is ongoing in Al-Matammah District. Families are receiving monthly food baskets in addition to HEB to provide additional micronutrient support to children.

#### *Sana'a*

WFP and UNHCR plan to conduct a joint assessment and registration of IDPs in Sana'a, although confirmation from authorities is pending. In the meantime, a local NGO, CSSW, has begun providing assistance through its charity network.

### **NFI/Shelter Assistance**

<b>NFIs distributed by UNHCR and Number of Families Benefitted</b>											
<b>Location</b>	<b>No. of Families Benefitted</b>	<b>Mattresses</b>	<b>Blankets</b>	<b>Plastic Sheets (pcs)</b>	<b>Plastic Sheets (rolls)</b>	<b>Sanitary Napkins</b>	<b>Kitchen Sets</b>	<b>Powdered Soap (kg)</b>	<b>Bath Soap</b>	<b>Jerry Cans</b>	<b>Tents</b>
Amran	896	4,130	5,891	1,065	0	0	1,056	0	0	0	73
Sa'ada	502	1,604	3,406	490	0	840	500	853	6,750	245	39
Alb	209	700	2,100	300	0	450	0	375	0	0	200
Haradh	1,967	7,420	7,560	649	4	859	1,903	672	5,231	300	1,094
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,574</b>	<b>13,854</b>	<b>18,957</b>	<b>2,504</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2,149</b>	<b>3,459</b>	<b>1,900</b>	<b>11,981</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>1,406</b>

In Amran Governorate, local authorities have agreed to allow distributions of humanitarian assistance to take place in areas outside the camps. Distributions have so far taken place in Amran City and the districts of Houth and Khamir. However, the security of humanitarian supply routes is of increasing concern: two trucks carrying UNHCR NFIs destined for distribution to IDPs in host communities in Houth were stopped en route by tribal forces. The drivers, and later the trucks, were released. Negotiations between the tribe and local authorities are ongoing.

### **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)**

#### *Water Supply and Quality Control*

In Hajjah Governorate, UNICEF is providing safe drinking water to above SPHERE standards (15 litres per person per day) to Al-Mazrak camp, Yarmouk School, and some families outside the camp. Additionally, the WASH team in Haradh has started water chlorination at the filling points of all contracted water tankers on a daily basis. Drilling of a new borehole has been completed in Haradh, and a water line to serve IDPs, schools, clinics, and host communities is being constructed.

New water schemes to directly benefit more than 20,000 people are being developed in Haradh. These include digging two wells and constructing networks from wells to the camps and local communities. The project is not likely to be completed until the end of the year, therefore it is anticipated that water trucking will be needed until then.

Oxfam is providing 12,500 m<sup>3</sup> of water per day to Khaiwan camp in Amran Governorate, and is negotiating with GARWAP for the rehabilitation of water sources in the area.

#### *Sanitation and Hygiene*

A total of 620 household latrines have been built in Al-Mazrak camp by UNICEF and Oxfam, through community participation. Oxfam has distributed hygiene kits for 400 families over the past two weeks in the camp. Additionally,

Oxfam has started working to improve sanitation conditions in Yarmouk School by rehabilitating existing latrines and building new ones, and by improving the water supply and hand washing facilities.

In Amran, the IFRC has provided the following items for 2,100 families: 14,270 water filters, 28,540 water buckets, 28,540 jerry cans, 13,200 bars of soap, and 24kg of washing powder. Additionally, UNICEF has distributed hygiene kits for 945 families in Amran Governorate.

The WASH Cluster continues to conduct hygiene promotion activities and the mobilization of local communities in both Haradh and Amran, through local NGOs such as Al-Khair, Al-Amal, and SOUL.

#### *Solid Waste and Vector Control*

Solid waste collection and disposal has improved. Two cleaning campaigns were conducted in Al-Mazrak camp through community participation and mobilization of trained volunteers, with local council support. The local council has agreed to find a new disposal site that will be managed by the council, while humanitarian agencies will support the collection and transfer of refuse to the disposal site.

WHO and the Ministry of Health have agreed to take responsibility for vector control to prevent, *inter alia*, malaria transmissions in Al-Mazrak camp and surrounding areas.

#### **Gaps/Challenges**

- Epidemiological monitoring needs to be conducted by the clinic in Al-Mazrak and the Ministry of Health, followed by sharing of information with the WASH Cluster.
- No distribution of hygiene kits and filters has taken place in Al-Jawf to date.

#### **Health**

The WHO-supported clinic in Al-Mazrak camp (Hajjah Governorate) and four other mobile teams in Al-Jawf and Amran have provided services to more than 21,000 patients since the start of the conflict. Diarrhoeal, skin, respiratory and urinary infections as well as malaria remain the main causes of consultation. In all mobile clinics and in the clinic in Al-Mazrak, adequate supplies of medicine are available, as well as vaccination and reproductive health services. Unified forms have been developed to report on the health situation in different areas, which are now in use by all teams in Hajjah, Amran and Al-Jawf Governorates.

WHO and UNFPA participated in the joint United Nations mission to Al-Mandaba through Saudi Arabia on 26 October. WHO provided vaccines and arranged to conduct a campaign with the health office there for vaccines for measles, polio and tetanus, as well as the provision of Vitamin A. Children will also be given routine vaccinations. A UNFPA technical consultant undertook a rapid assessment of reproductive health, living conditions and basic needs of female IDPs.

WHO and the Ministry of Public Health and Population (MoPH&P) undertook a joint-visit of Al-Mazrak camp on 28-29 October to monitor and supervise health activities. The clinic is fully functional, with staff on duty at all times. In October, some 6537 consultations were provided: 2200 cases of diarrhoea and 900 cases of malaria were treated, 583 patients were referred to Haradh hospital and 47 deliveries took place.

Some 1082 consultations were provided in Al-Jawf (in Barat Al-Marashi, Al-Matammah, Al-Homaidat and Al-Matoon), and 4821 consultations were provided in Amran (in Khaiwan, Al-Hamra and Houth).

UNFPA is supporting the Yemen Family Care Association (YFCA) by strengthening reproductive health services. They have provided three fully-equipped mobile clinics, staffed with midwives and female doctors. These clinics aim to assist IDPs in Hajjah and Amran Governorates, both inside and outside the camps.

#### **Gaps/Challenges**

Many gaps remain in the provision of health services due to a lack of resources. There is a need to strengthen both primary and secondary healthcare coverage in all conflict-affected areas. Additionally, although no communicable disease outbreaks have been reported from IDP hosting areas, active disease surveillance is needed to monitor the disease trends to prevent and control epidemics, and water quality monitoring is needed to reduce morbidity and mortality associated with water-borne diseases.

The WHO-supported drugs sent to Al-Mandaba by the MoPH&P have almost run out. Therefore, there is an urgent need for drugs and medicines, as well as to secure safe drinking water and improve the hygiene situation in the camp.

### **Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)**

Islamic Relief Yemen has officially taken over camp management of Al-Mazrak Camp in Hajjah Governorate, replacing local NGO, Al-Saleh Foundation.

<b>List of known camps/concentrations of IDPs assisted by International Organisations</b>		
<b>Location</b>	<b>Camp/Settlement Name</b>	<b>Lead</b>
<b>Sa'ada Governorate</b>	Sam Camp (Sa'ada town)	ICRC & Yemen Red Crescent Society
	Al-Ihsa Camp (Sa'ada town)	ICRC & Yemen Red Crescent Society
	Al-Talh Camp (Sa'ada town)	ICRC & Yemen Red Crescent Society
	7 Settlements in Al-Mandaba area	The 7 settlements are being run by Al-Amal, Al-Saleh, and ICRC/YRCS
<b>Haradh (Hajjah Governorate)</b>	Al-Mazraq Camp I	UNHCR & Islamic Relief Yemen
	Al-Mazraq Camp II (under construction)	UAE Red Crescent
<b>Khaiwan (Amran Governorate)</b>	Khaiwan Camp	CSSW
<b>Al-Jawf</b>	Mabd'a Settlement	ADRA

Although around half the preparation work for Al-Mazrak II is complete, some unresolved issues with the landowner remain. The second site presented by the local authorities for Al-Mazrak II has been deemed unsuitable by UNHCR due to the nature of the terrain. The government has accepted the UAE Red Crescent offer to take over responsibility for the construction and management of Al-Mazrak II.

In Amran, the Yemeni Economic Cooperation, which constructed Khaiwan Camp, has officially handed over the camp to local authorities and IDPs have started to move in. UNHCR's implementing partner, CSSW, has started distributions to the camp population. UNHCR still has some serious concerns about security in the camp.

### **Education**

In Amran, the Ministry of Education has agreed to register all displaced children who attend school. The school in Khaiwan Al-Hamra (Madrasa Al-Nour) has been prevented from registering displaced children; however it has registered all children from the host community. So far, Save the Children has identified 161 enrolled displaced boys and 80 enrolled displaced girls in 5 schools. This figure is far below the identified number of displaced children in the governorate. Save the Children has started an in-depth assessment of 11 identified schools in areas with the most IDPs. Six schools in which approximately 27 IDP families are residing continue to be closed for education.

### **Nutrition**

This week, 341 children under five were screened at the out-patient therapeutic centre (OTP) in Al-Mazraq camp, Hajjah Governorate. Of these, 15 children were severely malnourished with complications and were referred to hospitals in Hajjah and Sana'a. Five children died before reaching the hospital.

Volunteers have continued to work within the IDP community, promoting breastfeeding and appropriate complementary feeding, screening for child malnutrition and following up cases of severe acute malnutrition under treatment. A meeting was held with the volunteers to explain the importance of community mobilization in raising awareness about personal hygiene, cleanliness, use of latrines and keeping drinking water safe. The OTP is well supplied with ready-to-use therapeutic food and drugs. A number of families continue to refuse to go to the OTP, despite advice from the volunteers.

There is an urgent need for the establishment of a therapeutic feeding centre (TFC) at Haradh Hospital. At present, the nearest TFC is 220 km from Haradh, and those families referred to TFCs by the OTP cannot afford to go. Therefore, an experienced doctor from Hodeidah has agreed to assist in the establishment of the TFC, and will train doctors at Haradh Hospital in handling severely acute malnourished children.

## **IV. Coordination**

The draft 2010 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan (YHRP) has been submitted on 2 November to OCHA Geneva for review. The YHRP will be published as part of the Global Launch of the 2010 CAPs on 30 November 2009.

Revision of the Flash Appeal has been finalized by the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) in coordination with the Yemeni Government. It includes an update of the needs of each Cluster, as the humanitarian needs and trajectory of the crisis have become clearer.

An Inter-Cluster Coordination Meeting took place this week, in which the humanitarian coordination structure for Sana'a was decided upon. Clusters continue to hold operational meetings on a regular basis, and coordination meetings are taking place at field level.

It has been agreed to hold weekly coordination meetings with the Vice-Chairman of the government's High-Level Relief Committee, attended by United Nations and INGO representatives, including MSF. During these meetings, operational issues and constraints related to humanitarian access and security are raised directly with the government.

A meeting was held to discuss registration figures of IDPs and the total estimated number of IDPs in each governorate. It was agreed that, due to continuation of the conflict and the ongoing influx of IDPs, the estimated total of IDPs could be revised.

## V. Funding

The tables below show the breakdown of funding recorded to date, by cluster and by donor.

Requirements and Funding per Sector to Flash Appeal			
Cluster	Requirement (US\$)	Funding (US\$)	% Funded
Agriculture	700,000	0	0%
Coordination	125,000	0	0%
Food aid	5,300,000	0	0%
Education	1,410,000	0	0%
Health	4,797,000	215,828	5%
Protection	1,780,765	577,980	32%
Unspecified Sector	0	3,246,345	0%
Shelter/NFIs/CCCM	5,139,235	3,895,740	76%
WASH	4,500,000	1,743,180	39%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>23,750,000</b>	<b>9,679,073</b>	<b>41%</b>

Total Funding per Donor to Flash Appeal		
Donor	Funding (US\$)	Pledges (US\$)
Allocations of unearmarked funds by UN agencies	2,530,000	0
United States	1,450,000	0
Saudi Arabia	1,000,000	0
France	726,744	0
Germany	726,743	0
Sweden	1,388,299	35,471
Switzerland	481,000	0
Private	323,503	0
South Korea	300,000	0
Ireland	289,233	0
Turkey	100,000	0
United Kingdom	0	1,202,230
Italy	0	195,990
Greece	0	43,165
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>9,679,073</b>	<b>1,476,856</b>

All humanitarian partners including donors and recipient agencies are encouraged to inform FTS of cash and in-kind contributions by sending an email to: [fts@reliefweb.int](mailto:fts@reliefweb.int).

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