

SITUATION OVERVIEW

The conflict continued to affect civilians on daily basis and impact critical infrastructures. Dhamar witnessed one of the deadliest incidents in the whole conflict after an airstrike targeted a prison and killed more than 150 civilians. During August and September, the dynamics in the South, mainly Aden has changed. Civilians were caught in conflict following the assassination of a Southern Transitional Council leader. IDPs, especially those from northern areas, faced restrictions on movements, detention and limited services provision in IDPs collective sites.



A displaced woman sits in her tent at a displacement site in the Abs district of Hajjah governorate, where UNHCR has built 4,900 transitional shelters so far. @UNHCR/Ibrahim Al Ja'adi

Protection of Civilians

- Al-Hudaydah continues to see the highest civilian casualty count, with 133 out of 418 civilian casualties reported during July and August 2019 in Yemen. Of these, 97 were as a result of shellfire, as hostilities persist in proximity to the civilian population, both on the eastern outskirts of the city, just to the south in Al-Durayhimi district, and along the main supply routes through the southern districts, including in Al-Tuhayat and Hays.
- Hajja observed the highest civilian casualty toll on account of airstrikes (incident in Dhamar not included in date range), seeing 30 of 38 civilian casualties caused by airstrikes across Yemen during August 2019. The main hostilities in Hajja remain focused in Harad, Hayran and Midi district, although a high rate of airstrikes has also been reported in Abs and Mustaba districts.
- The recent surge in hostilities in Aden during August 2019 drove a high civilian casualty rate. During July and August 2019, 65 civilian casualties were reported in Aden, of whom 54 were during August, as a direct result of incidents of armed violence in the city. After Al-Hudaydah governorate, Aden saw the highest civilian casualty rate in the country during the reporting period. Casualties were caused by shellfire, IEDs and small arms fire.
- Another hotspot in the country remains at the border areas with Saudi Arabia, with the Sa'ada border districts continuing to see a high rate of hostilities on a weekly basis. 61 civilian casualties were reported in Sa'ada during July and August 2019, 48 of whom were on account of shellfire.
- Children were reportedly most harmed as a direct result of by armed violence in Al-Hudaydah (46 child casualties), Sa'ada (23) and Taiz (16).
- Active conflict in Al-Dhale also continued to take a toll on civilians during July and August 2019, largely concentrated in Qa'atabah district. The governorate saw 30 civilian casualties during the two months.

- Across the country, shellfire caused the highest number of civilian casualties, 224 out of 418 civilian casualties, of whom 97 were reported in Al-Hudaydah and 48 in Sa'ada. Another 120 civilian casualties were caused by fire from light weapons, including small arms fire and sniper fire.

Populations in need

Yemen has a complex migration history and dynamic, acting as a country of origin, transit and destination that spans decades and has often been interminably linked to both Yemen's internal political and security situation as well as regional dynamics. Today in Yemen migration flows include a range of movements concerning several categories of individuals and groups from "irregular migrants"¹, refugees, asylum- seekers, Yemeni returnees. Conflict in Yemen has greatly shifted the narrative on migration and a significant focus in the past decade is now placed on the presence of "irregular" migrants in Yemen, primarily persons of Ethiopian and Somali origin moving from Horn of Africa (HoA) and transiting through Yemen to Gulf Cooperation Countries (GCC).

Migrants face significant protection threats at various points throughout their journey from maritime movement and arrival/ landing, transiting within Yemen, and eventual movement to GCC. The gravity of human rights violations commissioned against migrants tends to evade much of the humanitarian community. The situation however constitutes an emergency within a broader crisis that deserves greater attention.

PROTECTION RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS

Despite gaps in funding and constraints on humanitarian access, Protection Cluster partners continue to respond to the protection needs of the conflict-affected and displaced population. Recent highlights include:

- In Aden, INTERSOS opened in August 2019 a new community center in Al-Buraiqa, the project entitled "Provision of emergency primary and secondary health & nutrition services, with integration of protection services, for conflict and displacement affected people, in Aden and Hajjah governorates". The community center will address the protection needs of both IDPs and vulnerable host communities. The community center provides emergency protection services for the most vulnerable, targeting Persons with Specific Needs, Child Protection cases and women protection survivors. Furthermore, the

KEY FIGURES

PEOPLE IN NEED	14.4 M
PEOPLE IN ACUTE NEED	8.2 M
IDPs	3.6 M
IDP RETURNEES	1.3 M
PERSONS TARGETED	4.8 M
FUNDING REQUESTED	153 M
FUNDING MET*	87 M
UNMET NEEDS	66 M



57%
FUNDED

*Figures based on FTS as of 30 Sep 2019

PROTECTION CLUSTER STRATEGY

Monitor key protection issues (including violations of IHL/IHRL, displacement, vulnerable populations, gender-based violence and child protection) in order to **identify persons in need of assistance**, inform the humanitarian response and advocate for the protection of civilians

Provide **life-saving protection assistance and services** to vulnerable, conflict-affected individuals, including children and gender-based violence survivors

Develop **community-based responses** in order to prevent, mitigate or address protection needs and risks, and enhance individual and community coping strategies and conflict resolution

Strengthen the capacity of partners, service providers, civil society and authorities on protection

Mainstream and integrate protection into all sector and cluster-specific humanitarian responses

¹ IOM use the terms of "undocumented" and "irregular" migrants as opposed to "illegal" as the former two better describe the conditions migrants face themselves and avoids potential social and political stigmatizations. Reference to "illegality" inadvertently assumes that the individual human practicing any form of migration is not entitled to basic human rights.

project is integrating protection with health and nutrition.

- Through Yemen Humanitarian Fund, YGUSSWP, running a community center at Bani Hushish district in Sana'a Governorate, where a total of 3,649 beneficiaries have been provided by humanitarian comprehensive protection services (668 Men; 1,614 Women; 711Boys; 656Girls) of which are 2,437 IDPs and 1,212 host communities, in addition to 7,859 indirect beneficiaries through referral mechanisms.
- Through Yemen Humanitarian Fund, SDF were able to implement the following: 467 cases were provided with cash assistance, 450 received legal support out of them are documentation (264 IDs, and 156 Birth Certificate), 293 were provided with psychosocial support and 76 cases were provided with livelihoods component in Sana'a (Arhab district) & Al Hudaydah (Bajil & Al Qanawis) Governorates.
- YRC provided Protection Services in IDPs Collective Sites, who have been affected by conflict and suffering the absence of service providers as some locations nearby conflict frontlines. 93 households provided with Conditional & Restricted Cash Assistance, 793 IDPs benefiting from legal assistance, 119 IDP child benefited from psychosocial support, 496 Community resilience for adults. 393 MRE sessions carried out in IDPs sites for women, men, girls and boys.
- In partnership with UNHCR, YRC provided 855 households with Multi-purpose Cash Assistance, 2,128 households received rental subsidies, 1,598 IDPs benefited from legal assistance, 833 persons benefited from psychosocial support. Establishment of 36 CBPNs members. CBPNs daily presence, identified 2,078 vulnerable cases & provided awareness activity for 2,086 persons. Distribution of clothes for 995 IDP children during Eid was completed.
- Through Yemen Humanitarian Fund, NFDHR is operating three community centers in Al-Bayda city and Wusab As-Safil. The community centers provide case management, psychosocial support, legal and protection cash assistance, as well as referrals. Critical interventions for child protection and cash assistance was provided for 800 beneficiaries UNFPA provided NFDHR Community Centers with 1,000 transit kits in Al-Bayda and 1,000 in Wusab As Safil district and distributed during GBV awareness sessions.
- In Marib and Al-Jawf, CSSW is currently operating a community centers that conducts case management, rapid protection assessments and provides case management (including GBV and child protection), legal assistance as well as protection cash assistance, psychosocial support and community awareness.
- Through Yemen Humanitarian Fund, in Bani Al-Harith district in Amanat Al-Asimah, LMMPO is operating protection community center. LMMPO provided 402 vulnerable beneficiaries with protection cash assistance, more than 500 received legal assistance including support with IDs and birth certificates to facilitate access to humanitarian assistance and basic services, livelihood assistance to 30 beneficiaries, case management services (including CP and GBV) and PSS.
- In Sa'ada Governorate (Sa'ada and Sahar districts), Democracy School is running two community centers under YHF support. The community centers provide case Management, psychosocial support, legal and protection cash assistance, as well as referrals. 106 individuals have been supported with legal assistance (IDs and Birth Certificates).

IN FOCUS: Strategic workshops in Aden and Sanaa

Challenges in implementation of protection programs in Yemen vary according to the program, area and context in question. While restrictions on access and security emerge as major challenges in the North, the same does not apply consistently to Southern parts of the country. Nevertheless, challenges pertaining to coordination, capacity and funding patterns could be traced across geographical locations, with inevitable variations resulting from the nature of the contexts, targeted beneficiaries and stakeholders involved.

Discussions held between members of the Protection Cluster in July and August 2019 revolved around key programs, modalities and activities, most notably: **Community Centers; Minimum Service Provision in IDP Sites; Legal Aid; Protection Preparedness and Response; Cash-Based Interventions; Vulnerability Assessments; Mine Action and Demining; Victim Assistance; Access to Services; Protection and Site Management; and importantly Inclusion.**

Recommendations on best practices and ways forward emerging from the discussions are categorized in five sections, which represent cross-cutting themes: 1) Referral Pathways and Service Mappings; 2) Capacity Building; 3) Protection Mainstreaming; and 4) Information Management and 5) Advocacy.

Minutes and Notes

Protection Cluster Strategic Workshop

Aden and Sanaa
July-August 2019



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