



### HIGHLIGHTS

- Fighting continues in Sa'ada. The conflict has rapidly expanded to Daher, Razih, Saqayan, Shada, Maraan, Ghamar and Haydan districts in Sa'ada and Harf Sufian district in the Amran governorate. According to recent reports, internally displaced persons (IDPs) are scattered in different locations, including Al Malaheet and Al Hassama, Amran and Al-Jouf governorates.
- There are no accurate figures on the numbers of IDPs in Sa'ada city. There are some reports suggesting that there are approximately 30 000 IDPs in Baqim (bordering Saudi Arabia). A camp for IDPs will be established in Baqim.
- A joint UN mission (UNHCR-WFP-WHO-UNICEF) that visited Haradh found that approximately 600 IDP families were registered in the Al-Yarmuk school located in Al Mazarak area, halfway between Haradh and Al Malaheet. UN agencies, including WHO, are providing assistance to these IDPs.
- Houthi rebels have reportedly looted Al-Anad camp near the centre of Sa'ada. This camp, established to take care of IDPs who were displaced during the previous round of conflict in Sa'ada, is hosting approximately 9000 people. International organizations have been forced to halt assistance efforts due to the looting.
- Upon the request of the SMT it was decided to evacuate UN staff on a military helicopter. National resident staff will be offered an opportunity to evacuate immediate family members.



### HEALTH IMPACT

- There is no confirmation of the extent of injuries or deaths among civilians in conflict areas are not accessible.
- So far, there are no reports or rumours of any disease outbreak.
- While a number of families are unable to flee to safety, some have headed to the borders of Saudi Arabia. Others are fleeing to the south, with hundreds of families having already crossed into the Hajjah governorate. Second or multiple displacements are common.
- During a joint-mission to the Hajjah governorate, WHO conducted a rapid assessment of the health status of a handful of IDP families living in schools and tents. Cases of diarrhoea and skin rashes were the most common ailment although a few cases of malaria were also reported. The WHO assessment mission found that although the areas of displacement were safe in general, lack of water and sanitation was a concern, particularly the lack of latrines.

### HEALTH SECTOR RESPONSE

- The Cabinet convened a meeting today and agreed to formulate a ministerial committee under the leadership of the Minister of Health. The committee is to coordinate the relief activities and coordinate the humanitarian actions in the course of Sa'ada conflict.
- The Minister of Health convened a meeting with the WHO Representative after the cabinet meeting in the presence of the Deputy for Curative Health Care in the Ministry of Public Health and Population, the Deputy for Primary Health Care, the Assistant Deputy Minister of Health, the Director General of the Emergency Department and the Head of the Finance Department. In the meeting, Dr Omer Mujally, Assistant Deputy Minister of Health, was assigned as a focal person in the Ministry of Public Health and Population to coordinate relief and humanitarian activities.
- Technical committee, in the Ministry of Public Health to coordinate the implementation of the Emergency health services, has been formulated from the Director General of the Emergency Department, the Director General of Disease Surveillance, and the Director of the Integrated Management of Child Health (IMCI) programme and the malaria programme.
- On Thursday the Minister of Public Health and the WHO Representative will visit Haradh and Al Mazarak (where most IDPS gather) to assess the IDP situation and oversee humanitarian assistance. Technical staff will be accompanying them.

- WHO and UNICEF will co-chair a joint meeting of the Health and Nutrition Clusters on 22 August.
- A rapid assessment will be conducted by UNICEF in a number of locations, including Al Salam School, Hejla School, Al Jummah School, Tashar village and outside Al Mazarak noted that children were suffering psychosocial distress related to war events.
- UNICEF will provide jerry cans, water purification tablets, water filters and hygiene kits for 300 families. UNICEF is also planning to provide psychosocial support for traumatized children in the long term.

## WHO RESPONSE

- WHO has mobilized two diarrhoea kits and one trauma kit to Haradh.
- WHO has donated two trauma kits (sufficient for 200 surgical interventions for people with trauma injuries). The kits will be used at the places on the basis of the UN rapid assessment report.
- Four more emergency trauma kits are in the pipeline that will support 700 surgical interventions. One trauma kit and four diarrhoeal kits (each containing 154 cartons) are also stockpiled.
- Funds were received from the Regional Office Emergency Fund to be used in humanitarian actions for IDPs.
- Operations Manager from the Regional Office has been deployed to Yemen.
- WHO as the cluster lead has started working with other partners. The first meeting of the health cluster will be convened on Saturday 22 August at WHO Regional Office. The participants will be mainly Ministry of Public Health and Population and other health-related sectors in addition to UN agencies, international and national nongovernmental organizations and bilateral donors.
- WHO participated in the joint UN mission to Haradh to conduct a rapid assessment for the IDPs. This included site numbers, needs and situation analysis. The following is the main information obtained from the assessment:
  - Prior to the extension of the conflict in Malaheet areas, UN agencies were present and provided assistance to approximately 900 IDP families.
  - Registration has started by UNHCR in collaboration with implementing partners, WFP, UNICEF and WHO. So far, 500 families have been newly registered and the process is ongoing.
  - Psychosocial distress related to conflict prevails especially among women and children.
  - WHO and UNICEF conducted a joint field assessment with 54 IDP families in different locations including Al Mokhayam village, Bakeel Al Mir district, Al Mishrafi area, Al Hassita area and Fag Haradh:
    - Most of IDPs are settled along the wadi;
    - Half of the interviewees have no shelter;
    - There is a lack of access to clean water;
    - There is a lack of sanitation facilities;
    - Cases of malnutrition and skin rashes among children;
    - High prevalence of diarrhoea among the whole IDP population.
- WHO in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Health and Population mobilized two mobile health clinics to provide health services to the IDPs in Al Mazarak (17 August) and one mobile clinic to Amran (20 August) supervised by WHO staff. These mobile teams are providing IMCI services, malaria treatment and treatment for skin diseases and other diseases. Vaccination, reproductive health issues and severe cases are being referred to hospitals.
- Mosquito nets will be distributed soon to newly registered IDPs.
- WHO is participating in another joint UN mission in the Amran governorate to conduct a rapid assessment for IDPs. Update on 18 August:
  - Displacement of people started on 11 August;
  - The team has already registered 750 households in the Khaiwan area;
  - In May 2008 the total number of IDPs registered in the area reached 7500 households. As assumed by IRC, over 4000 HH are believed to be secondary displaced from the Amran governorate, some in the Al-Jawf governorate while others are still trapped in Harf Sufyan (conflict area);
  - Areas in Harf Sufyan in which IDPs are under siege of the army and cannot leave include:
    - Waset: about 800 HH
    - Dho Hubaish: 150 HH
    - Hawzat Hashed: 1500 HH. However, there are rumours about IDPs from this area beginning to move towards Huth and Bani Suraim.
  - Condition of IDPs is deplorable, they lack safe water, some are hosted by relatives, while others are occupying unfinished buildings and schools. The host communities lack sufficient food to provide to IDPs. Displaced people lack basic non food items including: blankets, mattresses, cooking utensils, etc.
- WHO office in Sana'a received provisional information on the location and numbers of IDPs in Al-Jouf governorate from a local WHO staff (Surveillance Medical Officer) in Al-Jouf governorate. The information has been shared with the other UN agencies for their consideration as it appears it is the only source of information

about the IDPs who fled to Al Jowf governorate as it is not secure for the UN staff. The provisional information is the following:

- IDPs are located in three districts in the Al Jowf governorate (Barat Al Ana, Barat Al Marashi and Al Zaher)
  - The places of the IDPs in Barat Al Anan are: Almarana, Al Asha and Al Sha'awa'a. In Al Zaher district the IDPs are in Wadi Mathaband Al Khared.
  - The IDPs are approximately 900 to 1100 persons. 99% of whom are children and women.
  - Some of the IDPs are residing with relatives and the others in tents.
  - The malaria cases registered in one of the hospitals increased from 13 as average of every month to 113 after the arrival of the IDPs.
- 
- WHO, the Ministry of Public Health and Population and other humanitarian agencies have mobilized local staff to the three districts to collect further information on the security, number, sites, situation and needs of the IDPs.
  - The International Committee of the Red Cross provided the Ministry with 100 body bags.
  - The Red Crescent and Islamic Relief are still operating in Sa'ada city.
  - WHO's in Cairo has sent a senior emergency health officer to support country operations.
  - The Government of Italy has agreed to fund the purchase of additional surgical supplies.
  - WHO has received almost US\$ 230 000 from the Central Emergency Response Fund for a project to provide emergency health care for IDPs in Al Malaheet. The project aims to provide curative and preventive health services, especially for children and women; reduce malaria, diarrhoea and acute respiratory infections; improve disease surveillance and response; and provide medicines and other emergency health supplies.

## CONTACTS

For further information please contact:

### **WHO Yemen Country Office:**

Dr Ghulam Popal

WR Yemen

e-mail: [wr-yemen@yem.emro.who.int](mailto:wr-yemen@yem.emro.who.int)

tel: +967 1 252213

### **WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean**

Dr. Irshad Shaikh

Emergency and Humanitarian Action Regional Adviser

e-mail: [shaikhi@emro.who.int](mailto:shaikhi@emro.who.int)

tel.+202 276 5525

mobile: +2010 173 3924

### **WHO headquarters:**

Jukka Sailas

External Relations

Health Action in Crises

e-mail: [sailasi@who.int](mailto:sailasi@who.int)

Mr Paul Garwood

Communications Officer

Health Action in Crises

e-mail: [garwoodp@who.int](mailto:garwoodp@who.int)

tel. +41 22 791 3462

mobile: +41 79 475 5546