



# World Health Organization

Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean

Situation report #2  
6 APRIL 2015

## Yemen conflict



**15.9 MILLION**  
AFFECTED



**334 093**  
DISPLACED



**254 413**  
REFUGEES



**2191**  
INJURED



**648**  
DEATHS

### WHO

**65** STAFF IN COUNTRY

### HEALTH SECTOR

**18** HEALTH CLUSTER PARTNERS

**8.2 M** TARGETED POPULATION<sup>1</sup>

### MEDICINES DELIVERED TO HEALTH FACILITIES/PARTNERS\*



**10** TRAUMA KITS

**8** INTERAGENCY EMERGENCY HEALTH KITS

### EWARN



**200** E-DEWS SENTINEL SITES

### WHO FUNDING US\$ 2015 RESPONSE PLAN



**25 M** REQUESTED

**6.5 M** FUNDED

### HIGHLIGHTS

- As of 6 April 2015 there have been a total of 648 deaths and 2191 injuries. Casualty estimates are likely to change in the coming days as additional cases are verified and reported.
- Heavy clashes in Aden and Al-Dhale'a are reported and the humanitarian situation is critical, with power cuts and water and fuel shortages further deteriorating the humanitarian situation. Sana'a and Hodeidah are also reporting severe shortages of fuel, creating challenges in the transportation of medicines and health supplies.
- Since the conflict escalated on 19 March, WHO has provided eight interagency health kits for 80 000 beneficiaries throughout the country for 3 months from its warehouses in Sana'a, Aden and Hodeidah. WHO has also provided trauma kits for 400 major operations, 11 000 blood bags, IV fluids, analgesics, oxygen supplies and dressing materials to 18 hospitals throughout the country.
- There remain difficulties in accessing air and sea ports, creating challenges in the movement of medical supplies into the country. WHO has pre-positioned medicines and medical supplies in its humanitarian hub in Dubai for transporting to Yemen once access has been negotiated. The International Committee of the Red Cross has also pre-positioned supplies from transport from Jordan and Médecins Sans Frontières is prepared to scale-up its operations in Yemen once access has been negotiated.
- As of the reporting period, humanitarian actors have been unable to deliver medical emergency supplies into Yemen.

<sup>1</sup> Strategic Response Plan 2015 quoted 5.9 million targeted population. This number has increased to over 8.2 million.

## Situation update

Violence and conflict continue throughout Yemen, resulting in a total of 648 deaths and 2191 injuries from 19 March to 6 April. These are only health facility-based figures and casualty estimates are likely to continue to increase as additional cases are verified and reported. As of the reporting period, there is no way of measuring the deaths and injuries that are not reported at health facilities. Due to the scale and nature of the injuries sustained by patients, it is important to ensure adequate rehabilitation in the future.

According to the Director-General of Social Affairs in Abyan, more than 827 families were displaced from Aden and Lahj to Zungibar and Khanfar districts in Abyan governorate due to heavy clashes on 3 April.

Heavy clashes in Aden and Al-Dhale'a are reported and the humanitarian situation is critical, with water shortages, power cuts and fuel shortages further deteriorating the humanitarian situation. Sana'a and Hodeidah are also reporting severe shortages of fuel, creating challenges in the transportation of medicines and health supplies.

Due to heavy clashes in Aden, ambulances could not reach injured patients in Al-Ma'ala and Al-Tawahi districts. As an alternative way, the patients were transferred by boat to Al-Mansoorah district where ambulances were waiting to receive the patients and transport them to health facilities where they can receive the necessary care.

Attacks on health care workers and health facilities are being reported in Aden, Sana'a and Sa'ada. On 4 April, two volunteer paramedics with the Yemen Red Crescent Society in Aden were shot when their ambulance was hit by gunfire. The paramedics, who were brothers, died from their injuries on their way to hospital. On 30 March, a volunteer ambulance driver with the Yemen Red Crescent Society was killed after his vehicle was hit by gunfire in Al Dhale'a in southern Yemen. Three ambulances operated by the Ministry of Public Health and Population were taken by armed forces in Aden on 1-2 April and used for non-medical purposes. The Emergency Health Operations Centre was able to successfully track the vehicles through GPS and disable them.

One security guard was killed and two nurses were injured in the health centre of Al-Mazraq camp for internally displaced persons in Haradh, Hajja governorate. The centre, which is operated by the health ministry and supported by WHO, was partially damaged. In Sana'a, the Science and Technology Hospital was hit by shrapnel on 1 April, resulting in injuries to three hospital employees and five family members of patients.

On 5 April, the Ministry of Public Health and Population's Emergency Health Operations Centre in Aden was aggressively intruded and staff members were detained for a short time. In Sana'a city, Zaid hospital was slightly damaged due to an attack on a nearby area. As a preventive measure, four inpatients have been transferred to Al-Sabeen hospital.

The provision of health services in 11 health facilities were temporarily suspended in Sa'ada due to the proximity of these facilities to areas where fighting is ongoing. These facilities include seven health units, two health centres and two district hospitals.

All air and sea ports remain hard to-access, creating challenges in the transportation of medical supplies into the country. All parties to the conflict are

urged to ensure humanitarian corridors into Yemen.

## Public health concerns

Shortages in safe water, fuel and electricity will affect the functionality of health facilities, and increase the risk of waterborne and communicable diseases, especially in area where internally displaced persons are concentrated.

Accumulation of garbage is being reported in Sana'a city due to sanitation workers going on strike. Environmental problems may arise resulting in hygiene-related illness if this situation continues.

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

## Health needs, priorities and gaps

Health-related needs in all affected governorates include:

- trauma and surgical medicines and medical supplies
- medicines for chronic noncommunicable diseases
- fuel for ambulances and generators in health facilities
- safe water in health facilities; safe water and sanitation in places where IDPS are located
- food, especially as there are more than 170 000 children in Yemen already suffering from malnutrition
- additional ambulances and scaling up of medical teams inside the country.

## Health response and WHO action

WHO is in daily contact with the Ministry of Public Health and Population and all health partners on the ground in Yemen to monitor all gaps in health care services, and ensure a timely health response. The Ministry of Public Health and Population Emergency Health Operations Centre follows up all hospitals in all governorates for any urgent needs in terms of oxygen supply, trauma and dressing kits, life-saving equipment and essentials, bed capacity, health human resources and inter-hospital patients transfer.

Médecines Sans Frontières (continues to operate its surgical centre in Aden, and has played a crucial role in saving the lives of many severely injured people. The continuity and scaling up of this centre is critical in ensuring an effective health response in Aden.

UNICEF has begun distributing hygiene kits and cleaning materials to hospitals in Aden.

Due to urgent need of IV fluids, analgesics and dressing materials in Seera district, Aden, WHO Aden supported Al-Sha'ab, Al-Kate'e and Al-Maydan polyclinics with two dressing kits, 100 packs of Dextrose, 100 packs of normal saline, 100 packs of intravenous fluids, 50 bags of paracetamol infusion, 60 bottles of povidone-iodine and five litres of spirit to each polyclinic. The International Committee of the Red Cross participated in the transport of those supplies.

WHO sub-office in Aden provided half of a locally procured trauma kit for 50 major operations, 200 packs of intravenous fluids, and 200 bags of paracetamol

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infusion to 22 May Hospital in Aden. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) participated in the transport of the supplies.

WHO provided 4500 IV packs and one interagency health kit for 10 000 beneficiaries for 3 months from Hodeidah warehouse to Haradh Hospital.

The Ministry of Public Health and Population/WHO provided 6000 IV fluids packs and one interagency health kit for 10 000 beneficiaries for three months to Sa'ada.

The Ministry of Public Health and Population provided medicines of chronic diseases, particularly for those who have transplanted kidneys and renal failure, to Aden, Lahj and Al-Dhala'e governorates.

Since the conflict escalated on 19 March, WHO has provided a total of eight interagency health kits for 80 000 beneficiaries throughout the country for 3 months from its warehouses in Sana'a, Aden and Hodeidah. WHO has also provided trauma kits for hundreds of major operations, 11 000 blood bags, IV fluids, analgesics, oxygen supplies and dressing materials to 18 hospitals throughout the country.

WHO is locally procuring an additional 20 trauma kits for 2000 major operations, as well as medicines for noncommunicable diseases from the local market. Additional supplies have been procured internationally and are pre-positioned in WHO's humanitarian hub in Dubai in anticipation of humanitarian corridors into Yemen being opened.

Given the frequent power cuts in Aden, WHO is exploring options with the Ministry of Public Health and Population for locally procuring generator sets to maintain the cold chain for vaccines, although shortages in fuel are creating additional challenges. All humanitarian partners are encouraged to provide direct support to the Ministry of Population and Public Health in this domain.

To ensure that referral services are available where they are needed most, WHO is coordinating with the Ministry of Public Health and Population, ICRC and the Yemeni Red Crescent to relocate ambulances to governorates with the largest numbers of injured patients. WHO is also covering the operational costs of the ambulances and installing GPS tracking devices in the vehicles to prevent their misuse.

WHO has more than 200 sentinel sites and environmental health teams across the country that continue to report and monitor communicable diseases, and has also dispatched additional environmental health teams to places where IDPS are concentrated such as schools to monitor water quality and check for waterborne diseases. Water and sanitation supplies have been pre-positioned by WHO in Islamabad and Dubai.

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## Resource mobilization

According to Strategic Response Plan for 2015, total funding required to cover health needs in Yemen was projected around US\$ 61.87 million.

WHO has so far received a donation of US\$ 2.7 million from the Government of Japan.

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**Background of the crises**

Since the beginning of the year, the capital city of Sana'a and other major cities in Yemen have witnessed an escalation of armed conflict, resulting in hundreds dead and thousands injured.

In 2015, humanitarian partners estimate that almost 15.9 million people – or 61% of the population – require some kind of humanitarian assistance, of which more than 8.4 million people are estimated to be in need of health care services, including almost 334 000 internally displaced people who are mainly located in the north.

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