



World Health Organization

Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean

Situation report #1
1-APRIL-2015

Yemen conflict



**15.9 MILLION
AFFECTED**



**334 093
DISPLACED**



**254 413
REFUGEES**



**1699
INJURED**



**519
DEATHS**

WHO

65 STAFF IN COUNTRY

HEALTH SECTOR

**18 HEALTH CLUSTER
PARTNERS**

**8.2 M TARGETED
POPULATION¹**

MEDICINES DELIVERED TO HEALTH FACILITIES/PARTNERS*



**10 TRAUMA KITS
INTERAGENCY
EMERGENCY
HEALTH KITS**

EWARN



**200 E-DEWS SENTINEL
SITES**

FUNDING US\$ FOR 2015 RESPONSE PLAN



25 M REQUESTED

6.5 M FUNDED

HIGHLIGHTS

- As of 31 March 2015 there have been a total of 519 deaths and 1,699 injuries. Casualty estimates are likely to change in the coming days as additional cases are verified and reported.
- All air and sea ports are closed, creating difficulties in the movement of medical supplies into the country. WHO is coordinating with The World Food Programme and UN partners to explore alternative logistical solutions for the provision of medicines and medical kits.
- Inside the country, access to areas where conflict is ongoing is one of the key challenges faced by humanitarian partners, impeding the provision of health care service delivery.
- In light of the scale, urgency, complexity and magnitude of the crisis in Yemen as defined by WHO's Emergency Response Framework, on March 30 the Organization designated the event a Grade 2 emergency, requiring the mobilization of additional regional resources to support the health response.
- WHO has provided medicines and medical supplies to MoPH for 80 000 beneficiaries and is negotiating safe corridors for the provision of health supplies to inaccessible areas.

¹ Strategic Response Plan 2015 quoted 5.9 million. This number has increased to over 8.2 million.

Situation update

Violence and conflict in Yemen have intensified since 19 March, affecting 13 of the country's 22 governorates. As of 31 March there have been a total of 519 deaths and 1,699 injuries. Casualty estimates are likely to change in the coming days as additional cases are verified and reported.

According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, local partners have reported increasing levels of displacement as the violence intensified. These reports could not be independently verified and are intended to be indicative only. About 14,500 families (101,500 people) may have been displaced by recent violence, including 9,000 families (63,000 people) in Al Dhale'e. Displacement in Yemen is often fluid, with people frequently returning home within several days after a perceived threat has diminished and so estimates are almost certain to change – perhaps significantly – over the coming days and weeks.

As a result of strikes on Al-Mazraq camp for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Haradh, Hajja governorate on 30 March, 29 IDPs were killed and 40 were injured). The only health center serving IDPs and host communities, operated by the Ministry of Health and supported by WHO, was damaged; one assistant worker was killed and two nurses were injured.

The second largest hospital (48th Hospital) in Sana'a City has been partially evacuated by authorities due to its proximity to a military base and full evacuation is expected to take place soon.

All air and sea ports are closed, which creates difficulties in the movement of medical supplies into the country. All parties to the conflict need to ensure humanitarian corridors into Yemen.

Public health concerns

Limited access to essential health care services have increased the risk of higher morbidity and mortality from mass casualty events and other common diseases (diarrhoea, respiratory infections and vaccine-preventable diseases) in areas such as Al-Baidha, Marib, Taiz and Aden.

Malaria control preparedness activities conducted by the national health authorities and WHO, such as distribution of bed nets, training of households and positioning of malaria kits to health centres, are usually carried out between the months of April and June before the transmission season starts in early July. These preparedness activities have now been halted as a result of the current conflict and funding shortages, leaving populations at increased risk.

As the conflict intensifies and access becomes a challenge in "hot" areas, there is a risk that the surveillance system for monitoring of communicable diseases will be disrupted, resulting in a possible delayed response to suspected cases and an increased risk of outbreaks.

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

Health needs, priorities and gaps

With additional waves of violence and population displacement expected, WHO focal points in Yemen report urgent needs for trauma kits and life-saving medicines, health staff, ambulances, mobile medical teams. There is also a need for fuel for ambulances and hospital generators.

Health response and WHO action

WHO is in daily contact with national health authorities, including the Acting Minister of Health and the Emergency Coordinator at the Ministry of Public Health, and has a 24/7 connection to the Ministry of Health Emergency Operations Room to monitor the health situation and identify urgent needs.

Health cluster partners have been mobilized and are collectively responding to gaps and needs under the leadership of WHO as the health cluster lead agency and the Ministry of Health as cluster co-lead.

WHO staff in Yemen are currently working with national health authorities to provide 8 interagency health kits for 80,000 beneficiaries, and are also negotiating safe corridors for the provision of supplies to inaccessible areas. WHO is also coordinating with national health authorities to provide medicines and medical supplies to Al-Mazraq camp for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).

6000 blood bags were procured by WHO and provided to hospitals and blood banks as needed. Local procurement by WHO of 10 trauma kits (for 1000 beneficiaries) is nearly complete.

Epidemiological monitoring and reporting of communicable diseases is ongoing and weekly reports continue to be received.

Both the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Medecins Sans Frontiers (MSF-France and Spain) have provided additional medicines and medical supplies, including war-wounded kits, anaesthesia drugs, and injectable antibiotics and analgesics. Many of the injured cases in Aden received treatment in the MSF Surgical Centre through referrals from Aljumhooria Hospital. As a preparedness measure, ambulance health workers in Aden were recently trained by the ICRC in managing injured cases being transported to nearby hospitals.

With the closure of all airports and ports to Yemen, WHO is coordinating with The World Food Programme and UN partners to explore alternative logistical solutions for the provision of medicines and medical kits. The International Committee of the Red Cross is unable deliver trauma kits into the country from Jordan because of port closure.

Resource mobilization

According to health cluster plan for 2015, total funding required to cover health needs in Yemen was projected around US\$ 61 million, of which WHO requested US\$ 25 million. WHO has so far received funding or pledges for almost US\$ 6.5 million for 2015.

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 injured.

In 2015, humanitarian partners estimate that almost 15.9 million people – or 61 per cent 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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