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## HIGHLIGHTS

- Heavy fighting in Sana'a in September left 274 people dead and 470 wounded.
- Humanitarian impact of fighting in Sana'a is limited and those who fled the violence have returned.
- Fuel subsidies partially restored, reducing prices at the pump by 23 per cent.
- Fighting in Al Jawf has subsided, but IDPs yet to return home.
- 800,000 Yemeni girls of school-age are not enrolled in school.

## FIGURES

People in need of humanitarian aid	14.7 m
Food insecure people	10.6 m
People without access to safe water and sanitation	13.1 m
People without access to adequate health care	8.6 m
Acutely malnourished children	1 m

Sources: UNHCR, WFP, OCHA, WHO, UNICEF

## FUNDING

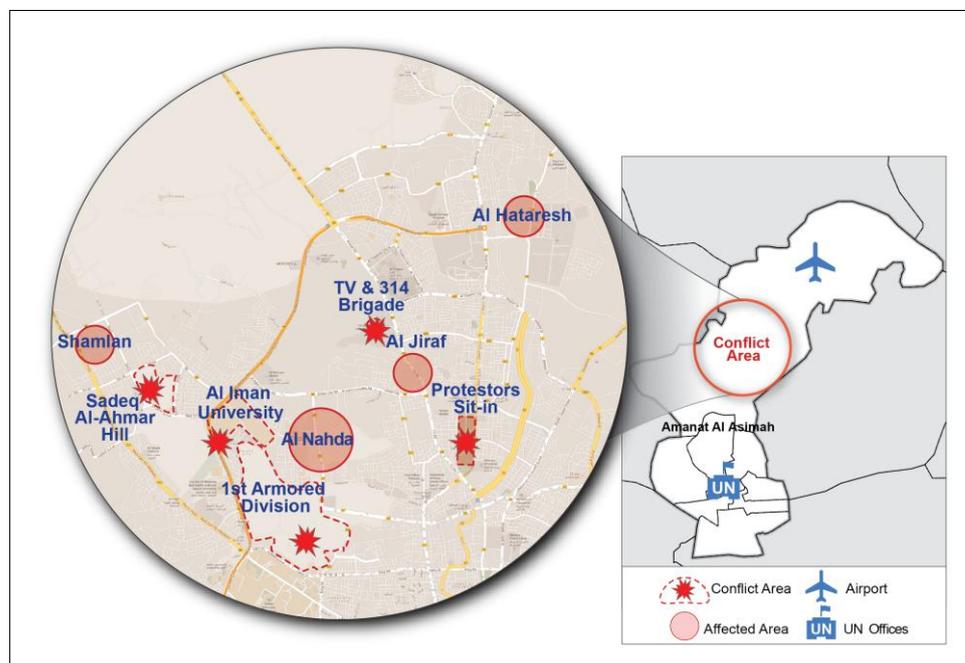
596 million  
requested (US\$)

49% funded

## Violent clashes in Sana'a increase humanitarian concerns

The situation in the Yemeni capital is calm but unpredictable after the signing of the Peace and National Partnership Agreement (PNPA). Following weeks of Al Houthi-led protests in and around Sana'a, clashes erupted on 16 September in Hamdan District of Sana'a Governorate, 8 kilometres north-west of the capital. Early on 18 September, fighting spread to north-western neighbourhoods of the city, particularly around the Al Iman University and Yemeni State Television. Clashes expanded on 19 and 20 September, with air strikes against Al Houthi positions and heavy fighting between Al Houthis and the Government's armed forces and allied armed groups. The fighting took place primarily around military installations and infrastructure associated with Al Houthis' opponents.

Map showing areas where recent fighting took place in Sana'a City



Map: UNOCHA

The signing of the PNPA on 21 September ended four days of conflict in Sana'a. Eleven political parties and Al Houthis signed the PNPA and only isolated skirmishes in the city have occurred since. By 27 September, the parties had also signed the so called security annex to the PNPA, which sets out a process to end hostilities in Sana'a, Al Jawf, Marib and Amran Governorates. This annex also commits the signatories to facilitate humanitarian access. Tensions and uncertainty will likely persist until a new Government

## Baseline

Population (Yemen Statistical year book, 2011)	25.2 m
GDP per capita (World Bank, 2010 est.)	\$1,209
% population living under poverty line (World Bank, 2010)	54.4%
Life expectancy (2010 est.) (SOWC2012)	64 years
Under- five mortality (NHDS 2013)	53/1000
Under-five global acute malnutrition rate (2010 est.) (SOWC2012)	15%
Number of children under 18 (UNDP,2010)	12.4 m
Child labour (5 – 17) years (ILO, 2013)	17%

*51 schools serving 72,000 students were used by armed groups or affected by shelling during recent conflict*

has been formed. The PNPA stipulates that a government should be formed within 30 days of signature of the agreement.

### Humanitarian impact in Sana'a

Partners have sought to verify the humanitarian impact of the recent conflict in Sanaa. However, two inter-agency sectoral assessments, jointly organized by the UN and the Government's IDP Executive Unit, could not happen due to denial of access to the conflict affected areas. Access was denied ostensibly on security grounds, although partners were ready to travel into the area as UN Security had cleared both missions. The second denial of access came after all parties to the conflict had signed the PNPA annex that commits them to facilitating humanitarian access, among other provisions.

Based on reports by humanitarian partners and local residents, the humanitarian impact in affected areas is limited, and most people who were displaced have returned home. According to the Ministry of Health, 274 people were killed and 470 wounded during the conflict. However, distinguishing military and civilian casualties remains difficult. An unknown number of additional casualties were likely never reported, as families were observed burying the dead or treating injuries without referring to medical facilities or reporting deaths to the authorities. During the fighting, health partners supported Sana'a hospitals with trauma kits, blood bags and other crucial supplies.

### Concerns over violations of rights and international humanitarian law

Although material humanitarian needs in Sana'a appear limited, the conflict has raised serious concerns about systematic violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, raising critical protection concerns. As of 1 October, five schools in Sana'a remained occupied by combatants, which constitute a grave violation of the rights of children. There are also reports that parties to the conflict commandeered civilian residences for military purposes, including the storage of weapons and munitions. Moreover, the presence of armed children manning checkpoints indicates the prevalence of recruitment of children by armed groups.

### Armed groups urged to vacate all schools to facilitate resumption of classes

The Government closed all schools in Sana'a on 21 September due to insecurity, leaving more than 570,000 students in 751 public and private schools out of class. The Ministry of Education announced reopening of schools on 28 September and has identified 51 schools serving 72,000 pupils that were used by armed groups or otherwise affected by the conflict. Four of the 51 affected schools were extensively damaged, requiring rehabilitation. An assessment of private houses will be conducted to establish the extent of damage and scale of need for shelter assistance. Humanitarian partners are encouraged by reports that combatants have already left some schools, and urge those in the remaining five schools to depart immediately.

### Mine action and mine risk education crucial in Sana'a

Three children were wounded in Sana'a on 29 September with unexploded ordnance, illustrating the need for clearing explosive remnants of war (ERWs) and raising awareness of the dangers they pose. Authorities are working to verify that no ERWs are present in schools, and the Education Office in Sana'a is ensuring access to alternative schooling for children in affected schools. To date, the Yemen Executive Mine Action Centre (YEMAC) has screened 20 affected schools and not found any ERWs. These efforts are ongoing.

## Fuel prices fall, as subsidies partially reinstated

### Higher fuel prices exacerbate vulnerability

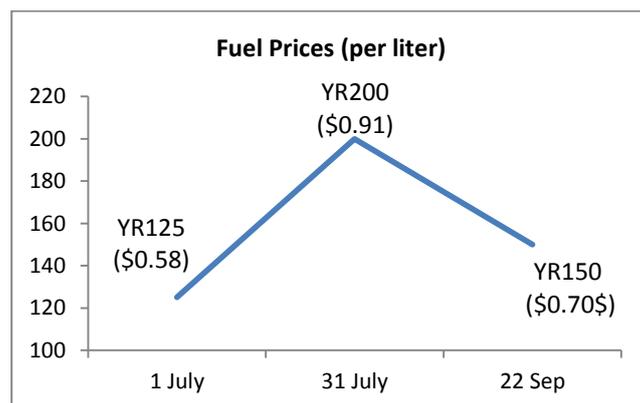
On 31 July, the Yemeni Government removed subsidies on fuel as part of an economic reform package. This drove the price of fuel up from YR125 (US\$0.58) to YR200 (\$0.91) per liter.

## CLUSTERS

### Lead/Co-lead organizations

Early Recovery	UNDP
Education	SCI, UNICEF
Food Security	FAO, WFP
Health	WHO
Logistic	WFP
Multi-Sector	IOM, UNHCR
Nutrition	UNICEF
Protection	UNHCR
Shelter/NFIs/CCCM	UNHCR
WASH	UNICEF

Yemenis are heavily dependent on fuel for transportation, water and livelihoods. As the seventh-most water-scarce country in the world, Yemenis often rely on fuel to power pumps that extract ground water used for human consumption and agriculture. Studies made by the World Food Programme and Oxfam earlier in the year indicated that the removal of fuel subsidies could plunge a large number of people into poverty and food insecurity, unless such a move is followed by alternative measures to reduce vulnerability. According to Oxfam, the fuel crisis that hit Yemen in June and July increased the levels of hunger as food prices soared.



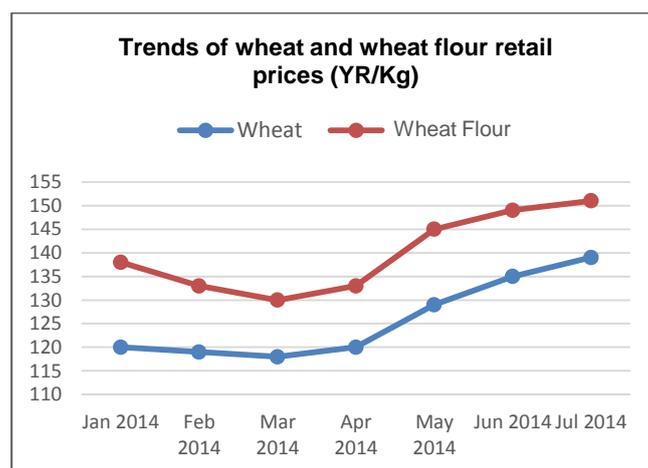
Source: OCHA Yemen

On 22 September, the Government of Yemen partially restored fuel subsidies that had been lifted in July, fulfilling a key commitment in the PNPA. As a result, official fuel prices at the pump fell to 150 YER (\$0.70) per liter, down from 200 YER (\$0.91).

### Economists: Fuel subsidies drive economic instability in Yemen

Although higher fuel prices potentially exacerbate existing vulnerabilities, concerns persist that Yemen cannot afford the subsidies, and that their maintenance holds the country back from economic growth that could alleviate some root causes of the current crisis.

According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), removing the subsidies was part of Yemen's recent reform agenda that aimed to boost growth, create employment and alleviate poverty. The IMF



Source: WFP Yemen

made a \$553 million loan to Yemen conditional on the cancellation of fuel subsidies and curbing public expenditures. The first tranche of the loan was delivered in September. As part of the programme, this money would add 250,000 families to the Social Welfare Fund, which provides \$14 per month to 1.6 million families, including those most likely to become vulnerable as a result of fuel subsidy cuts. It is still unclear what the return of the subsidies means for future of the IMF loan.

*The Social Welfare Fund has reduced vulnerability for a large number of Yemenis, but it needs more funding*

**The Social Welfare Fund (SWF) and the Social Fund for Development (SFD)** are the backbone of the Government's social safety net. The SFD has implemented 12,088 development projects mainly in rural areas, constructed or rehabilitated 34,270 classrooms, benefitting over 1,113,480 students including 523,300 girls. It has also provided 692,300 small loans, amounting to \$311 million. According to Oxfam, the SWF has greatly improved access to health and education for poor families, including some in hard-to-reach areas. However, the SWF cash transfers scheme needs more funding. Underfunding impacts on the regularity of payments and prevents the funds from reaching all those in desperate need. More than 400,000 applications are on the waiting list and need to be supported to get the help that families need to be resilient.

## New materials available online

- Yemen: Clashes in Al Jawf and Sana'a Situation Report No. 1
- Hundreds of Yemeni families in need of aid, UN humanitarian office warns
- Families struggle to restart livelihoods in Amran
- Can legal changes stop trafficking in Yemen?
- Yemen Monthly Market Watch July 2014 (Source: WFP)
- UNICEF Yemen Situation Report August 2014 (Source: UNICEF)
- Yemen Unrest: MSF Supports Public and Private Hospitals in Sana'a (Source: MSF)
- Yemen: resolving displacement essential for long-term peace and stability (Source: NRC/IDMC)
- GIEWS Country Brief: Yemen 29-August-2014 (Source: FAO)
- Yemen WFP Situation Report 01-15 September 2014 (Source: WFP)
- Sana'a power vacuum hampers aid response
- WFP Yemen Situation Report September 2014 (Source: WFP)

# Response to humanitarian needs in Al Jawf and Marib

## Al Jawf: Assistance reaching conflict-affected families

Clashes between Al Houthi fighters, Government forces and affiliated groups in Al Jawf and Marib Governorates escalated in September.

A ceasefire was agreed on 18 September. Following the ceasefire, the parties to the conflict have withdrawn from Al Ghayl District in Al Jawf, which was the main area of conflict. Despite the relative calm, partners report that very few of the 1,500 families (10,500 people) displaced by the fighting have returned home due to fears that clashes will resume.

Displaced people are also concerned about ERWs, although no evidence has emerged to date of contamination. The recent fighting reportedly shut down 75 per cent of schools in the Governorate. Sixty schools damaged by conflict need repairs.

Humanitarian partners have provided food assistance, water and basic household items to those displaced. Al Jawf and Marib are sparsely populated governorates with populations of about 440,000 and 240,000 (2004) respectively.

## Marib: 300 affected families receive assistance

In Marib Governorate, an estimated 300 conflict-affected families (2,100 people) received assistance on 2 October. Serious security risks have generally hampered efforts by humanitarian partners to operate in Marib. However, partners completed a needs assessment of the area on 1 October, and some basic life-saving assistance was subsequently provided.

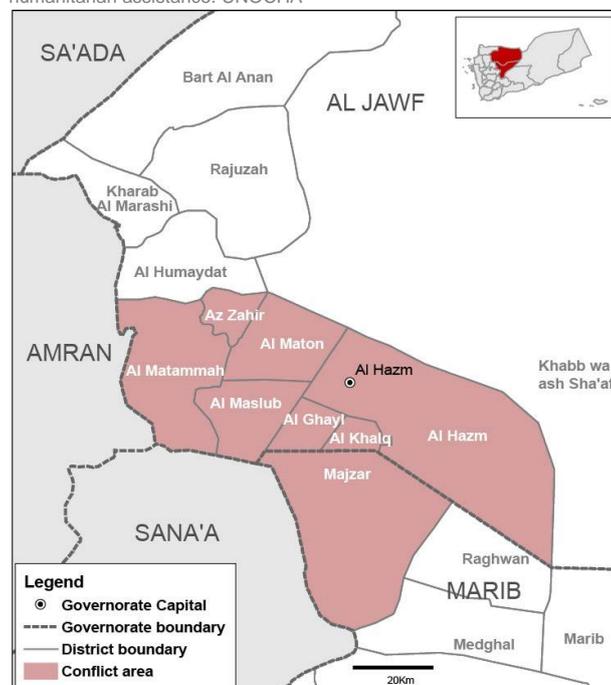
# Education out of reach for most Yemeni girls

## 800,000 girls of school age out of school

Yemen is highly unlikely to attain the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) of universal primary education by 2015, unless the reasons that keep children out of school are urgently addressed. According to UNICEF, only two in five women can read and write, compared to three in four men. Moreover, 800,000 school-aged girls do not go to school but are at home, helping out with chores such as fetching water, working to provide income or sometimes preparing for marriage.

In rural areas, girls' school enrolment is only

Map showing areas of Al Jawf and Marib that have been reached with humanitarian assistance. UNOCHA



Gender disparities prevalent in schools. Photo: UNICEF

*Yemen urgently needs to address constraints that keep girls out of school. Two in five women can read and write, compared to three in four men as 800,000 school-aged girls do not go to school*

58 per cent compared to overall enrolment of 72 per cent. Many girls are disadvantaged by long distances of travel to schools without a safe and conducive learning environment, lack of female teachers and lack of girls' lavatories. The Government and its partners are working to increase girls' enrolment by training more female teachers, improving facilities and setting up parent teacher associations in the schools.

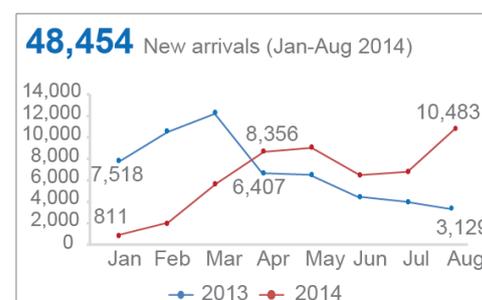
In nine governorates, 32,376 girls have returned to school after humanitarian partners rehabilitated 170 schools while 65,000 parents, teachers and community leaders are engaged in a drive to increase understanding and commitment about the importance of girls' education.

## In brief

### More than 10,000 migrants and refugees from the Horn of Africa arrived in Yemen in August

The numbers of migrants and refugees arriving in Yemen from the Horn of Africa increased significantly in August to 10,483. The spike, according to UNHCR, could be due to deterioration in livelihood opportunities in Ethiopia and Somalia, recent drought in six major regions of south-central Somalia, continued conflict and abuse of civilians by armed forces.

Relaxation of border controls between Ethiopia and Somalia may be another factor, enabling more Ethiopians to cross to Bosaso in Somalia, compared to the end of 2013 and early 2014, when authorities tightened border security. The new arrivals included 855 people who confirmed that they had been previously deported from Saudi Arabia. Between January and August, 48,454 migrants arrived in Yemen from the Horn of Africa.



Migrant arrivals from the Horn of Africa into Yemen.  
Source: UNHCR

*Security has improved in Shabwah, but a recent inter-agency assessment found 34 checkpoints on the Aden-Ataq road*

### Inter-agency needs assessment in Shabwah

Partners in Aden have concluded a needs assessment in Shabwah Governorate – the first inter-agency assessment since the Government offensive against AQAP in April and May. Preliminary findings show that there was no severe damage to infrastructure from recent conflict. Respondents mostly identified needs related to water and sanitation, health and livelihoods as priority needs. The assessment covered the districts of Mayfa'a, Habban, Ar Rawdah, Rudum and Ataq. Shabwah witnessed recent conflict, but security has generally improved. The final report is expected on 9 October.

### Ongoing conflicts affect agriculture

According to [FAO](#) conflicts in Yemen have hampered agricultural assistance programmes, such as the distribution of agricultural inputs to farmers in rural areas like Al Jawf. An escalation of political turmoil could aggravate an already dire food security situation by disrupting farming activity, displacing people from their land and shutting down markets. According to FAO, a national food security strategy that aims to cut food insecurity by a third by 2015 - and to make 90 per cent of the population food secure by 2020 - has been hampered by recent instability.

For further information, please contact:

**Trond Jensen**, Head of Office, OCHA Yemen, [jensen8@un.org](mailto:jensen8@un.org), Tel. (+967) 712 222 207

**Erich Ogoso**, Public Information and Advocacy Officer, OCHA Yemen, [ogoso@un.org](mailto:ogoso@un.org), Tel. (+967) 712 222 831

**Signe Jepsen**, Humanitarian Affairs Officer, OCHA New York, [jepsen@un.org](mailto:jepsen@un.org), Tel. +1 (917) 367 2334

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