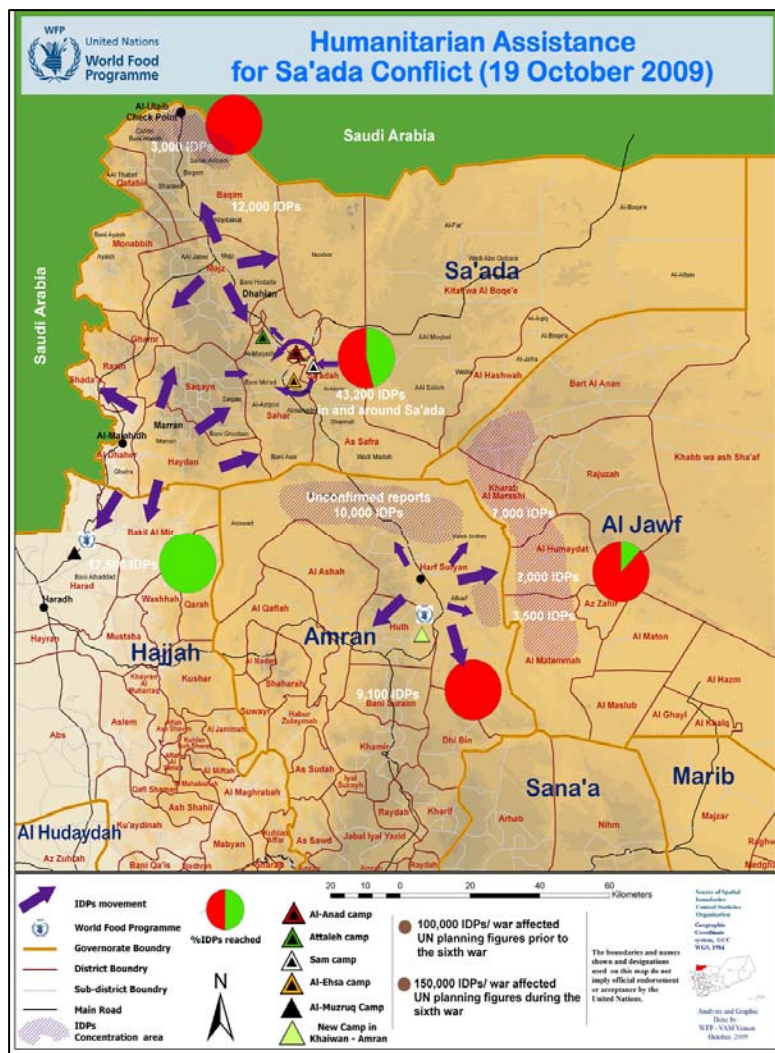


This report was issued by the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator in Yemen. It covers the period from 14 October to 21 October 2009. The next report will be issued on or around 4 November 2009.



I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- The Central Government of Yemen has agreed that the UN and international organisations resume assistance to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) living in host communities in Amran Governorate.
- A UNHCR cross-border convoy carrying aid for some 2,000 beneficiaries close to Yemen's border with Saudi Arabia crossed into Yemen at the town of Alb on Sunday 11 October. ICRC and the YRCS continue to provide assistance to IDPs in all conflict-affected areas including Baqim
- The Government of Yemen issued a report highlighting the relief efforts it has undertaken since the start of the conflict. It thanked donors who have contributed to the Flash Appeal and called for further support from other donors.
- Revision of the Flash Appeal is ongoing.

II. Situation Overview

On 18 October, the diplomatic community, United Nations agencies, international non-governmental organisations (INGO) met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Health, in his capacity as Vice Chair of the High Level Emergency Relief Committee. The Ministers confirmed media reports of Government intentions to open humanitarian corridors to enable IDPs to reach camps. During this meeting the Government thanked the UN and partners for their relief operations and the donors for their contributions to the Flash Appeal, and invited other donors to contribute.

The authorities continue to build a camp in Khaiwan in Amran Governorate. The UN expressed concerns over the security of the site and suggested that the camp be established in an alternative location.

Humanitarian distribution to IDPs living in host communities in Amran Governorate was initially suspended at the request of the authorities in order to encourage the IDPs to move to the camp. Following discussions between the UN Resident Coordinator and the Government of Yemen at the central level, it was agreed that international humanitarian agencies would be authorised to resume assistance to IDPs living in host communities. Discussions are ongoing with local authorities to address the matter.

Insecurity is preventing road convoys to Sa'ada via Al-Jawf Governorate. Five trucks containing food and seven containing non-food items (NFIs) have been held up between the two governorates due to obstructions from tribal leaders..

The situation in Razeh town (western Sa'ada Governorate) has deteriorated over the last few days as several rockets repeatedly hit the Rural Hospital, while medical staff and patients were present. MSF has taken the decision to evacuate a part of its staff and reduce its medical activities in the hospital.

III. Humanitarian Needs and Response

Registration

A total of 71,225 IDPs have so far been registered by the UN and the ICRC/Yemen Red Crescent. Registration and verification of IDPs is ongoing. The table below shows the number of IDPs registered as of 20 October 2009.

Governorate	Estimated IDP Population	Breakdown by location	Total registered by UN	Total registered by ICRC and Yemen Red Crescent (extrapolated from number of families)
Al-Jawf	12,500	Various locations	--	
Amran	28,000	Various locations	6,623	15,883
Hajjah	20,000	Al-Mazraq Camp	7,045	
		Haradh / outside of Al-Mazraq Camp	11,753	
Sa'ada	59,000	Sa'ada City and surroundings*	17,283	3,776
		Sam Camp (Sa'ada city)		1,442
		Al-Ihsa Camp (Sa'ada city)		350
		Al-Talh Camp		4,830
		Baqim		2,240
		Al-Alb	209 families registered by UNHCR??	
Sana'a	-	Sana'a City (registration ongoing for around 200 families)		
Others	30,500			
Total	150,000		42,704	28,521

* Assisted by WFP through their partner, Islamic Relief

Protection

Sa'ada Governorate

A UNHCR cross-border convoy carrying aid for some 2,000 beneficiaries close to Yemen's border with Saudi Arabia crossed into Yemen at the town of Alb on Sunday 11 October. This assistance will complement the aid provided by the Government and other organisations. In the meantime, citizens of Sa'ada continue to live under extreme hardship as stocks decrease and prices of commodities increase.

Amran Governorate

Mini-profiling exercises conducted by UNHCR revealed that most IDPs in Amran Governorate originate from Sa'ada district (the district surrounding Sa'ada City in Sa'ada Governorate) and Harf Sufyan (Amran Governorate). Most IDPs either had farms or were engaged in casual labour before they fled or were displaced due to ongoing hostilities, in which civilians are caught in crossfire, airstrikes, and forced enrolment of children into armed groups.

IDPs report difficulties finding employment in the area; some move to Sana'a hoping to find work opportunities. The majority of IDPs are unwilling to move into camps for cultural reasons, lack of economic opportunities and security concerns. IDPs also encounter problems renting houses because they are either charged inflated rates or denied access by private landlords. Many families state that they cannot support their children's education due to economic constraints. Some IDPs report that the current lack of food or basic NFIs contributes to health problems.

Hajjah Governorate

In Al-Mazraq Camp, a mini-profiling exercise revealed that a significant proportion of the camp population is made up of a marginalised ethnic community, also known as 'Al-Akhdam', displaced from Malaheet (Sa'ada Governorate).

Although the Government has begun erecting a fence to secure the camp, freedom of movement is, and will continue to be, respected as IDPs are free to enter and exit the camp and settle in surrounding areas. IDPs have requested that their movements and the movements of their animals are not restricted once the fence is complete.

The UN continue to work with Saudi authorities to find appropriate solution for those crossing the border into Saudi Arabia fleeing the conflict in Sa'ada. The Protection/Education Cluster conferred on the issue and on possible appropriate responses. UNHCR is undertaking in-depth interviews with IDPs to determine the scope of the problem.

The Protection/Education Cluster has now been activated in Haradh and Amran and weekly meetings are taking place with stakeholder in the field.

Food Assistance

The following table provides a breakdown of food distributed to beneficiaries since the outbreak of the sixth round of hostilities in northern Yemen up to 18 October:

The October food distribution cycle in Hajjah Governorate is complete for IDPs outside the camp, and distribution inside the camp is ongoing. The new distribution cycle in Sa'ada camps is also complete, and began on 18 October in Sa'ada town. Final verification of new registration is ongoing in Sa'ada town. In Al-Jawf Governorate, ADRA continues to distribute food in Al-Matammah. Islamic Relief Yemen is still unable to move into Kharab Al-Marashi and Bart Al-Anan in the same governorate due to ongoing security concerns. WFP has 7,000 metric tonnes (MT) of foodstuffs pre-positioned in a warehouse in Amran city. Permission has been given to begin distributions in Amran Governorate, which are due to start this week.

Location	Beneficiaries		Total Tonnage Distributed (MT)
	Registered	Reached	
Hajjah	Ongoing	20,041	492.24
Amran	Ongoing	-	0.00
Al Jawf	Ongoing	1,428	25.30
Sa'ada Town	Ongoing	17,283	305.45
Baqim	-	-	0.00
Al-Talh Camp	5,600	-	0.00
Al-Ihsa Camp	763	763	21.59
Al-Sam Camp	2,114	2,114	55.38
Total	Ongoing	41,629	899.97

Convoys to Sa'ada via Al-Jawf Governorate continue to face opposition from tribal leaders: five trucks containing 65mt of wheat and 45mt of pulses have been held up between Sa'ada and Al-Jawf Governorates.

Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items

The table below shows UNHCR's distribution of NFIs:

Number of Families Benefitted, Location, Date and Distributed Quantity											
Governorate	No. of Families Benefitted	Mattresses	Blankets	Plastic Sheets (pcs)	Plastic Sheets (rolls)	Sanitary Napkins	Kitchen Sets	Powdered Soap (kg)	Bath Soap	Jerry Cans	Tents
Amran City / Sa'ada	532	1510	3178	460	0	718	459	422	3242	255	79
Alb	209	700	2,100	300	0	450	0	375	0	0	200
Haradh	1,967	7,409	7,513	649	4	859	1,753	672	5,231	300	1,094
TOTAL	2,708	9,619	12,791	1,409	4	2,027	2,212	1,469	8,473	555	1,373

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

The WASH team provides 22 litres of safe drinking water per person per day to IDPs in Al-Mazraq camp (Hajjah Governorate). As many as 122 families living outside the camp have been provided with 3 storage tanks. Water quality monitoring in Al-Mazraq is due to start 21 October, with the disinfection of water at the source, in addition to regular water testing.

An appropriate, cost effective pit-latrines has been designed, which the Al-Mazraq IDP community has accepted. Construction is ongoing: around 70 latrines have been constructed this week in the camp. Oxfam and UNICEF are continuing hygiene promotion activities in the camp through mobilisation of the community, meetings, house visits and focus groups.

ADRA has provided 13 water tanks and water supply to over 200 families staying in tents in Al-Jawf Governorate. It has also distributed water filters and will distribute hygiene kits in the coming days. The IDPs still require latrines. The ICRC is planning to provide IDPs in Baqim (Sa'ada Governorate) with WASH services. In Amran Governorate, access to IDPs outside the camp remains limited. Oxfam is ready to provide WASH services to IDPs in the area as soon as the security situation allows.

Health

Response:

Health services have been provided to more than 17,000 patients in the affected governorates of Amran, Hajjah and Al-Jawf. Diarrhoea, skin, respiratory and urinary infections remain the main causes of consultation. The Yemen Family Care Association mobile clinic has reported 792 consultations for reproductive health services during the last week. UNFPA has delivered emergency supplies for safe child delivery, emergency obstetric care interventions, contraceptives, medicines to treat victims of sexual violence and to prevent sexually transmitted diseases, and other medical supplies to implementing partners in Hajjah and Amran Governorates. The first round of these supplies has been distributed to health facilities in Al-Mazraq camp, Hajjah Governorate.

Gaps /Challenges:

Immediate financial resources are required in order to continue the health services provided to IDPs and to cover the gaps in service delivery. Primary healthcare coverage needs to be strengthened through support of the existing healthcare infrastructure in IDP camps and the IDP hosting areas in Amran, Hajjah and Al-Jawf Governorates. For instance, the increased number of IDPs in Al-Mazraq camp (Hajjah Governorate) is overwhelming the health clinic at the camp. A Relief International rapid assessment of Al-Mazraq camp revealed the need for enhanced capacity of the fixed health post in Al-Mazraq town to cater for referrals from the clinic in Al-Mazraq camp.

Additional support is also needed for secondary healthcare facilities in these governorates to enable timely provision of treatment for chronic illnesses such as tuberculosis, hypertension, cardiovascular diseases and asthma. Risk of communicable disease outbreaks remains very high, although no outbreaks have been reported from IDP hosting areas. In order to prevent disease and control epidemics in IDP camps and IDP hosting areas, there is a need for active disease surveillance. Water quality monitoring is needed to reduce morbidity and mortality associated with water borne diseases. This will be undertaken by WHO, in close consultation with the WASH Cluster.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)

List of known camps/concentration of IDPs, assisted by international organisations		
Location	Camp Name	Lead
Sa'ada Governorate	Four camps/settlements: Sam, Al-Ihsa and Al-Talh Camps (in Sa'ada town) Baqim Settlement	ICRC & Yemen Red Crescent Society
	Settlement: Al-Alb	The Government is discussing the possible establishment of a camp
Haradh (Hajjah governorate)	Two Camps: Al-Mazraq I Al-Mazraq II (under construction)	UNHCR & Al Salah (with technical assistance from Islamic Relief)
Khaiwan (Amran governorate)	Khaiwan	Established and managed by the Government

With the help of IDPs, almost half of Al-Mazraq camp has been reorganised and extended by about 50 tents. Despite finalisation of the mapping and site planning for the second camp, Al-Mazraq II, local authorities have now indicated that they would like the camp to be situated in a different location, closer to the first camp.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management training sessions in Amran Governorate and Haradh (Hajjah Governorate) have been completed. The sessions were conducted by UNHCR and the Norwegian Refugee Council, and attended by UN agencies, implementing partners, Government officials, representatives from the host community, and IDPs.

Education

As many as 1,000 students (800 IDPs, 200 children from the local community) are currently enrolled in a school near Al-Mazraq. Enrolment of IDP children appears to have contributed to higher enrolment among girls from the host community (from 20% to 50%). A 2,000 litre water tank is in place to serve the school, and new latrines are being built.

Nutrition

In Al-Mazraq camp an extensive tent-to-tent screening for malnutrition was carried out, in which 1,074 children between the ages of 6 months and 5 years were examined. The table below provides a breakdown of the results. 25% of those scanned were referred to the new Outpatient Therapeutic Care Programme (OTP) for treatment. These figures are higher than those reported by the rapid assessment of 7-9 September, putting great pressure on the staff and resources of the OTP. The large number of cases raises concern because malnourishment makes children more vulnerable to disease. Forty eight IDP volunteers from Al-Mazraq camp continue to follow up malnourished children under treatment, and to promote breastfeeding, hand washing and personal hygiene.

Type of Malnutrition	No. of Cases	% of Total Scanned
Severe Acute Malnutrition	114	10.6%
Moderate Acute Malnutrition	209	19.5%
Global Acute Malnutrition	323	30.1%
Total Scanned	1,074	100%

IV. Coordination

A revision of the Flash Appeal has begun and should be finalised in the coming weeks. The revision will review the caseload and humanitarian needs on the basis of recent rapid needs assessments and make adjustment to the response.

Several coordination meetings have taken place this week to discuss the Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan for 2010, which is nearly finalised. Country teams have worked to finalise and submit all projects for 2010. Coordination meetings at cluster level are ongoing, in order to streamline a coordinated approach and a common response.

The Government of Yemen called a meeting with the diplomatic community and the UN, in which it confirmed media reports of Government intentions to open humanitarian corridors to enable IDPs to reach camps. The Government thanked donors who have already contributed to the Flash Appeal, and called for further support from others. The Government issued a report highlighting the relief efforts it has undertaken since the beginning of the conflict.

Coordination meetings are taking place at field level. The response in the field is being strengthened by sporadic surge support from senior officers based in Sana'a.

V. Funding

The tables below show the breakdown of funding recorded to date, by cluster and by donor. It is noted that Spain, Germany, and ECHO have pledged further funding, however this has not been recorded by the Financial Tracking Service (FTS). If your funding has not been recorded, please send details of funding or pledges to fts@reliefweb.int.

Requirements and Funding per Sector to Flash Appeal				Total Funding per Donor to Flash Appeal		
Cluster	Requirement (US\$)	Funding (US\$)	% Funded	Donor	Funding (US\$)	Pledges (US\$)
Agriculture	700,000	0	0%	United States	1,450,000	0
Coordination	125,000	0	0%	Saudi Arabia	1,000,000	0
Food Aid	5,300,000	0	0%	France	726,744	0
Education	1,410,000	0	0%	Switzerland	481,000	0
Health	2,300,000	220,000	5%	Private	323,503	0
Nutrition	2,495,000	220,000	9%	South Korea	300,000	0
Protection	1,780,765	248,810	14%	Ireland	289,233	0
Sector Unspecified	0	975,596	0%	Sweden	0	1,418,842
Shelter/NFIs/CCCM	5,139,235	2,095,074	41%	United Kingdom	0	1,202,230
WASH	4,500,000	1,031,000	23%	Germany	0	719,425
Grand Total (US\$)	23,750,000	4,570,480	19%	Italy	0	195,990
				Grand Total	4,570,480	3,536,487

All humanitarian partners including donors and recipient agencies are encouraged to inform FTS of cash and in-kind contributions by sending an email to: fts@reliefweb.int.

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