

This report covers the period between 11 and 22 December. Hereafter, the Yemen Humanitarian Update will be issued monthly, unless there are any major developments in the humanitarian situation. The next report will be issued on or around 22 January.

Key Points

- Clashes continue to be reported in Sa'ada Governorate, particularly at the Saudi-Yemeni border areas. On the night of 20 December, the Government undertook heavy aerial bombardments – it is reported that a large number of civilians were among the death toll.
- Construction of a new camp at a government-allocated site,,at Amran city university, has been suspended after around 300 members of the local community, entered the university compound and began throwing stones at humanitarian workers, protesting against any IDP camp in the area.
- The 2010 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan was launched locally in Sana'a on 14 December, hosted by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation and the Vice Chairman of the High Level Relief Committee. The launch was well attended by media, government ministers, and members of the humanitarian and donor communities.

I. Situation Overview

Quick Stats		
	This Report	Last Report
IDPs Registered for Assistance¹	176,472	154,671
IDPs Reached with Food Assistance (WFP)	132,468	123,291
IDP families reached with NFI distribution by UNHCR	11,107 (approx. 77,749 individuals)	7,922 (approx. 55,454 individuals)
Funding to Flash Appeal	77 percent	64 percent

The security situation in Sa'ada Governorate remains unstable, with reports of heavy airstrikes by Yemeni and Saudi forces. On 13 December, airstrikes were reported in Razeh district of Sa'ada Governorate, in the border region between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Yemen. Bombs reportedly struck a market, killing at least 35 people who appeared to be civilians. On the night of 20 December, further heavy aerial bombardments took place in Razeh.

The situation remains volatile in Khaiwan IDP settlement, and almost 500 IDPs have left settlement in the last week. Construction of a potential new camp in Amran city has been suspended, as the local community began throwing stones at humanitarian workers to express their rejection of the establishment of any IDP camp in the area.

Overall provision of humanitarian assistance to IDPs continues to improve in all conflict-affected governorates, the supply route to Sa'ada city and surrounding areas remains open and improved access has been enabled in

Al-Jawf Governorate, although a number of areas with a high concentration of IDPs remain inaccessible.

Overcrowding in the Al-Mazrak area continues to present challenges to humanitarian actors, particularly regarding the provision of safe water and hygiene facilities. However, construction of Al-Mazrak Camp III is underway. This camp will significantly reduce the pressure of overcrowding in Al-Mazrak Camp I and surrounding areas. When completed, the camp will be able to accommodate up to 1,700 families.

II. Registration

Registration and verification of IDPs is ongoing in all Governorates, although registered and estimated IDP figures are subject to regular change. The table below provides the following breakdown:

Governorate	Estimated IDP Population ²	IDPs Registered for Assistance ³
Amran	28,000	18,577*
Hajjah	40,000	69,615*
Sa'ada	90,000	70,044**
Sana'a	4,900	11,810*
Al-Jawf	12,500	6,426**
Total	175,400	176,472

*Registered by UNHCR

**Registered by other humanitarian actors

The estimated overall IDP population which was developed on 19 November, is lower than the registered population since data on the latter was compiled later, on 19 December.. Between these two dates, higher rates of

¹ Registration practices vary by geographic area. Some figures are based on individual-level registration and some figures are extrapolated from the number of families recorded in household-level registration.

² Estimates formulated on 22 November 2009

³ Registration statistics compiled on 21 December 2009

displacement have occurred and the registration process has improved. IDP estimates will be updated at the beginning of 2010.

III. Geographical Update

Sa'ada Governorate

The security situation in Sa'ada Governorate continues to deteriorate, particularly in the Yemeni-Saudi border areas. The shelling of Razeh district is of particular concern because many civilians are forced to remain in this district due to ongoing fighting.

Local NGO, Al-Amal, has conducted a rapid needs assessment in Sa'ada City. The assessment revealed lack of access to basic services such as food assistance, malnutrition of children under-five, lack of adequate housing, problems of acceptance by host communities, and war related trauma. The assessment also highlighted that women and children constitute the vast majority of the displaced population in the area (around 75%). Al-Amal is finalising a report aimed at responding to these gaps. In the meantime, Al-Amal will continue to assist IDPs by providing NFIs, including emergency shelter.

Amran Governorate

Over the past weeks, hundreds of IDPs left the Khaiwan camp, due to the continuous volatile security situation in the camp. The population has decreased from 1,763 individuals to 1,272. Women are the most vulnerable, as complete disarmament has not yet taken place within the camp. On 12 December, following persistent appeals by the humanitarian community for the closure of the Khaiwan camp and identification of a secure site, the government announced the establishment of a new IDP camp at the university in Amran city. This camp is intended to accommodate IDP families currently settled in Khaiwan camp, as well as vulnerable families living in, rural and urban areas of Amran Governorate.

As local community leaders, including the local Sheik, have expressed strong discontent and demonstrated hostility towards humanitarian workers on the site, a conciliatory meeting will be held on 24/12 with local community leaders, local authorities, UNHCR, and concerned local agencies. Assessments conducted jointly by UNHCR and Islamic Relief Yemen in several districts of Amran Governorate have revealed a number of protection needs. Shelter and livelihoods are the main concern for IDPs. Consequently, tents were distributed in Raidah and Khamir to respond to the needs of some 100 IDP families.

Hajjah Governorate

Although security measures at the Saudi-Yemeni border have been tightened since the establishment of a 10km buffer zone, displaced Yemenis continue to reach Hajjah Governorate via Saudi Arabia. Some 122 families have

been registered and accommodated both inside and outside the camps in Al-Mazrak.

Although pressure on Al-Mazrak Camp I has been somewhat reduced by improved provision of assistance and relocation of some IDPs to Al-Mazrak Camp II, tensions continue to run high due to serious overcrowding. Over the last week a number of incidents were reported of humanitarian workers being threatened by IDPs. Additionally, UNHCR reported a shooting incident between tribal militia on the road between Al-Mazrak Camp II and Haradh town.

A number of Somali and Ethiopian refugees who were deported from the Saudi border remain stranded in detention centres in Hajjah Governorate. UNHCR and IOM have launched a refugee operation in the area to transfer these refugees, away from Hajjah Governorate, and are calling for funds to enable this operation.

A joint needs assessment conducted by CARE International and other humanitarian organizations in Hajjah and Amran Governorates identified several gaps, including provision of shelter, difficulty sustaining livelihoods, child labour and access to health services. Reports of discrimination also surfaced during the assessment. The assessment revealed that many IDP communities, outside the camps in Al-Mazrak, are receiving little or no support, particularly with regards to water supply and hygiene kits.

Sana'a Governorate

At the request of the Government and following several weeks of negotiation, around 800 IDP families in Sana'a Governorate will be provided with food and NFI assistance. Those IDPs are currently staying with host communities. A profiling assessment will be also carried out during this operation.

Al-Jawf Governorate

Distribution of food assistance has been possible to some areas beyond Al-Matammah during December, including to Al-Hazem and Al-Matoom areas. However, access to Kharab Al-Marashi and Bart Al-Anan districts, where large concentrations of IDPs are reported, remains restricted.

IV. Cluster Update

Food Assistance

In November, WFP conducted a Post Distribution Monitoring exercise (PDM) among 182 displaced households in Hajjah and Amran Governorates. The exercise found that food consumption among the overwhelming majority of IDPs receiving assistance was acceptable: no assisted families were found to have poor food consumption scores. The monitoring exercise found that if WFP assistance were to be removed from these governorates, 44 percent of IDPs in Amran Governorate

and 50 percent in Hajjah Governorate would drop to poor food consumption scores.

Delays in the arrival and clearance of international shipments continue to prevent the timely provision of assistance leading to a shortage of pulses and sugar for the December distribution cycle. Local procurement of wheat flour has also been delayed. In Al-Mazrak Camp I, beneficiaries have received wheat grain instead, to avoid postponing distribution. The lack of wheat flour is delaying the third convoy to Al-Mandaba through the Saudi-Yemeni border. The December distribution cycle in this area is expected to reach 14,000 people (an increase of some 2,000 people since the last cycle).

In Hajjah Governorate, distribution of reduced rations to scattered IDP populations began on 17 December. Delays in international procurement have left these families without pulses and with only a half ration of sugar. The local authorities provided complementary items for IDPs, both, inside and outside camps, including 10kg of rice and half a carton of canned beans per family.

The December distribution cycle in Amran Governorate has also been postponed due to delays in international procurement. The tentative planning figure is 17,000 individuals. So far, Kharif, Thibin and Raydah have benefited from assistance this cycle.

Traffic continues to flow smoothly along the main supply route to Sa'ada city and surrounding areas, allowing effective distribution of food assistance.

ADRA began the December distribution cycle for IDPs in Al-Jawf Governorate on 19 December. For this cycle they have been able to reach areas beyond Al-Matammah, including Al-Hazem and Al-Matoon areas. The cycle is also expected to reach families in four other districts. However, distribution to Kharab Al-Marashi and Bart Al-Anan districts continues to be restricted.

As of 20 December, WFP and its partners, Islamic Relief Yemen and ADRA, have distributed 4,434.36 mt of food to 132,468 beneficiaries since the start of the sixth round of fighting. The table herewith provides a breakdown:

Governorate	Location	IDPs Reached	Total Tonnage Distributed (MT)
Hajjah	Al-Mazrak Camp	14,630	610.10
	Scattered	29,246	1175.28
Amran	Khaiwan Settlement	1,085	33.79
	Jabal Yazid	672	11.41
	Raydah	1,484	47.61
	Houth	1,344	42.89
	Khamir	3,241	103.35
	Kharif & Thibin	490	8.41
	Amran Town	6,643	186.09
Al Jawf	Al-Matammah	3,423	68.54
	Al-Hazem	84	1.52
	Al-Matoon	511	9.24
Sa'ada	Sa'ada Town	54,684	1662.52
	Baqim	12,096	319.57
	Al-Ihsa Camp	721	35.79
	Al-Sam Camp	2,114	104.14
Total		132,468	4,420.25

NFI/Shelter Assistance

As of 21 December, since the outbreak of the sixth round of hostilities, 11,107 families have benefitted from UNHCR NFI distribution.

Significant progress has been made since the last reporting period in providing assistance to newly arrived IDPs in Hajjah Governorate. A new distribution site has been identified in Haradh City, enabling schools that were occupied for distribution to be vacated. Additionally, storage capacity has been increased in Haradh district, since an inter-agency storage facility has been constructed in Haradh City.

Humanitarian organizations are strengthening their operations outside camps in all conflict-affected Governorates. To this end, NFIs' distribution has been expanded to reach IDPs scattered in urban settlements of Sana'a Governorate. On 23 December, some 700 families in Bani Al-Harith district will receive NFIs including mattresses, sleeping mats, blankets, sanitary napkins, soap bars and soap powder. Distribution will follow in other parts of the Governorate.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Water supply to Al-Mazrak area, Hajjah Governorate, is provided at an average of 20 litres per capita per day, water monitoring and chlorination at the source and in camps is ongoing. In Al-Mazrak II there are concerns about water quality monitoring and disinfection: all drinking water comes from surface ground wells, indicating that it is contaminated.

CSSW and the local council have provided 10 water storage tanks to IDPs scattered between Haradh and Al-Mazrak Camp I, however it has become apparent that more tanks will be needed.

In Khaiwan settlement, Amran Governorate, Oxfam has increased the water supply to 35 litres per capita per day. Oxfam has also completed 25 latrines, established solid waste disposal around the settlement and conducted a general cleaning campaign inside the settlement.

In Al-Mazrak I, UNICEF and Oxfam have constructed 1,800 household latrines. Both agencies aim to have constructed all latrines by the end of the month. Solid waste management has begun in Al-Mazrak I. However, continued overcrowding is having an impact on the hygiene environment, particularly due to open defecation.

Hygiene kit distribution is ongoing in all conflict-affected areas. In Amran Governorate, a total of 2,259 families have received hygiene kits. The target population of 2,500 will be reached by the end of the week.

Oxfam has completed public health promotion training in Al-Mazrak Camp I. The training was attended by 30 staff members from the UN, INGOs, NGOs and the Ministry of Health, as well as 57 IDP hygiene promotion volunteers.

Health

MSF France conducted an assessment in Amran Governorate to identify health facilities which could be further supported to respond to the medical needs of both IDPs and host communities. Support to the health facilities will complement the health assistance provided by other humanitarian organizations in the Governorate.

In Hajjah Governorate, following the deployment of outreach mobile teams by Islamic Relief Yemen, some 270 cases of people with special medical needs were identified and referred to the medical centre in the camp. In Al-Mandaba, Sa'ada Governorate, MSF France has reported that they have found 50 cases of diarrhoea with blood, related to improper hygiene.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)

List of known camps/concentrations of IDPs assisted by International Organisations		
Location	Camp/Settlement	Lead
Sa'ada Governorate	Sam Camp (Sa'ada town)	ICRC & YRCS
	Al-Ihsa Camp (Sa'ada town)	ICRC & YRCS
	Al-Talh Camp (Sa'ada town)	ICRC & YRCS
	Al-Jabanna Camp (Sa'ada town)	ICRC & YRCS
	7 Settlements in Al-Mandaba area	Al-Amal, Al-Saleh & ICRC/YRCS
Hajjah Governorate	Al-Mazrak Camp I	UNHCR & Islamic Relief Yemen
	Al-Mazrak Camp II	UAE Red Crescent & Al-Saleh
	Al-Mazrak Camp III (under construction)	UNHCR & Islamic Relief Yemen
Amran Governorate	Khaiwan Settlement	CSSW
Al-Jawf	Mabd'a Settlement	ADRA

Humanitarian actors have taken a number of measures to reduce the pressure on Al-Mazrak I and improve living conditions for IDPs in the camp. These include, distribution of food to all households, relocation of IDPs from transit areas to host tents, relocation to Al-Mazrak Camp II, gravelling to suppress dust, reorganization to create space for the IDP community centre, and completion of the construction of the women's centre.

Al-Mazrak II has been expanded to accommodate an additional 100 families; however the strict selection criteria and a number of cultural issues have limited movement of IDPs to the camp. Therefore, none of the IDPs who arrived via Saudi Arabia were admitted to Al-Mazrak II.

Following an agreement with the Yemeni authorities, site planning has begun for Al-Mazrak Camp III. This camp will accommodate new IDPs arrivals to the area and help decongest Al-Mazrak I. It will be able to accommodate up to 1,700 families.

Nutrition

As of 14 November, MSF-Spain assumed responsibility for the day-to-day running of the therapeutic feeding centre (TFC) and the outpatient therapeutic program (OTP) in Al-Mazrak area. These centres are well stocked with supplementary food, equipment, tents and furniture.

Since nutrition activities began on 9 October in Al-Mazrak Camp I, 45 female and 25 male volunteers have been trained on nutrition issues, including screening for malnutrition, counselling, breast feeding and nutrition education. Screening of children under-five for malnutrition is ongoing in Al-Mazrak I. Since October, a total of 690 children have been diagnosed with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and 250 with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). Of these, 37 children were referred to the TFC for round-the-clock treatment; while the volunteers have followed up on the other cases of malnutrition and supplementary food has been provided. 6 children have died due to severe malnutrition.

WFP has been providing high energy biscuits (HEB) to children under-five alongside the regular food basket. During the next distribution cycle, HEB will be replaced with a high protein formula, wheat soya blend, which will be distributed in addition to regular food rations in some governorates. A second convoy is currently en route from Dubai to Al-Mandaba with 20 mt of HEB.

A number of local and international NGOs have begun screening malnourished IDP children living outside camps in Haradh district, providing mobile teams to work in these communities and supporting the referral of children to the TFC and OTP.

V. Coordination

The 2010 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan was launched locally in Sana'a on 14 December 2009. The launch was well attended by authorities including five government ministers, Heads of UN Agencies, INGO reps, observers from the ICRC and MSF, and members of the donor community, including several ambassadors. Opening remarks at the launch were made by the Deputy Prime Minister, the Vice Chairman of the High Level Relief committee, and by the UN Resident Coordinator. Yemeni authorities made a presentation on the humanitarian situation and the government's response. OCHA presented the key elements of the YHRP.

A child protection sub-cluster has been established to coordinate child protection interventions and strengthen the protection of children in conflict-affected areas and IDP camps. UNICEF and the Ministry of Social Affairs are the focal point agencies for this group. Terms of Reference and Standard Operating Procedures are currently being drafted. Working groups will be initiated in all affected areas, starting in Amran and Hajjah Governorates.

UNHCR is working on a strategy in Hajjah Governorate to identify people with special needs and their specific requirements. People with special needs include those with mental and physical disabilities, unaccompanied or separated children, pregnant or lactating women, women at risk, and those with important medical conditions. This strategy will include the inputs of WHO, UNICEF, IRY, Save the Children and CSSW.

A Humanitarian Country Team meeting took place on 22 December, during which a presentation was given by CARE International about the findings of the rapid needs assessment. Additionally, heads of agencies were briefed about the Emergency Response Fund for 2010, and the cluster approach for 2010 was discussed.

VI. Funding Update

The Revised Flash Appeal is funded at 73.5 percent (US\$ 16,604,899 million out of US\$ 22,668,500 requested). The table below provides a breakdown by donor of funding recorded to the Flash Appeal to date:

Donor	Funding (\$)	Pledges (\$)
Allocations of unearmarked funds by UN agencies	2,930,000	0
ECHO	2,263,272	0
Japan	1,920,000	0
Germany	1,466,388	0
United States	1,450,000	0
Sweden	1,424,064	0
Saudi Arabia	1,000,000	0
Spain	739,644	0
France	726,744	0
Private	686,824	0
Switzerland	481,230	499,501
United Kingdom	398,090	806,675
South Korea	300,000	0
Ireland	289,233	0
Australia	238,100	0
Italy	191,310	0
Turkey	100,000	0
Greece	0	43,165
Grand Total	16,604,899	1,349,341

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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