

Since conflict escalated in March 2015:

- **33% more people are in need of humanitarian assistance**, from 15.9 up to 21.2 million
- **600% more people are internally displaced**, from 334,00 up to 2.4 million
- **31% more people are food insecure**, from 11 up to 14.4 million
- **48% more people do not have access to safe water and sanitation**
- **112% more children are out of school**, from 1.6 up to 3.4 million
- **1.5 million of the poorest Yemenis were cut off from social welfare**
- **3,000 civilians have been killed, including 2,000 children; 35,000 people injured**
- **600 health facilities have been closed**, due to damage, lack of supplies or healthcare workers



Following an escalation in conflict one year ago, **82 per cent of the population in Yemen, some 21.2 million people, are in need of humanitarian assistance¹ – an increase from 60 per cent.** In just twelve months, the living conditions in Yemen have shockingly deteriorated leaving 33 per cent more people are in need of protection and assistance. Four out of every five woman, man and child are unable to find safe shelter and get enough food, water and medical services to meet their basic needs.

All parties to the conflict have committed violations of International Humanitarian and Human Rights laws. Since March 2015, around 3,000 civilians have been killed, including 2,000 children. 35,000 people have been injured². More than 600 health facilities have closed due to damage, lack of supplies and healthcare workers³. Over 1,700 schools are closed due to damage or occupation by displaced persons or armed groups⁴. Calls for a credible, independent international monitoring and investigation mechanism were not heeded.

Life in Yemen was already hard for most people due to underdevelopment, financial crisis, poverty and gender inequality; but it got markedly worse following escalation of conflict over the past year. Increased fighting and attacks on civilian and economic infrastructure have caused loss of life, collapse of basic social services and a virtual halt of the economy. Businesses have collapsed and an estimated 50 per cent of people in areas directly affected by conflict have had their livelihoods destroyed, leaving millions of people to face vast amounts of debt and the vicious cycle of poverty. 1.5 million poor Yemenis have been cut off from social welfare. The specific needs of women and girls have also become more acute, as they are at greater risk of sexual and gender-based violence and early marriage.

2.4 million ordinary people have fled the fighting and are internally displaced⁵ – a six-fold increase. Leaving behind their homes, belongings, economic opportunities and community support systems, they are at particular risk for

OVERALL KEY FIGURES | Yemen Crisis

21.2m	People are in need of humanitarian assistance
14.4m	People are food insecure, 7.6 million extremely food insecure
19.3m	People do not have access to safe water and sanitation
2.4m	People are internally displaced
3.4m	Children are not in school
1m	Children are malnourished

Source: 2016 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan

¹ 2016 Yemen Humanitarian Needs Overview, November 2015.

² Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs/Emergency Relief Coordinator, Stephen O'Brien Statement to the Security Council on Yemen, 16 February 2016.

³ 2016 Yemen Humanitarian Needs Overview, November 2015.

⁴ Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs/Emergency Relief Coordinator, Stephen O'Brien Statement to the Security Council on Yemen, 16 February 2016.

⁵ Task Force on Population Movement. 7th Report, 17 February 2016.

hunger, sickness and abuse. The majority of IDPs, many of whom are women and children, are sharing crowded accommodations or sheltering in public spaces and makeshift accommodations. Some have been displaced multiple times, thus increasing their vulnerability each time they are displaced.

More than half the population in Yemen, some 14.4 million people, struggle to get enough food for their families. At least 7.6 million women, children and men go to bed hungry every night. 320,000 more children are at risk of Severe Acute Malnutrition⁶. While Yemen already faced chronic food insecurity, poor nutrition and stunting, the *de facto* commercial blockade over the past year has interrupted delivery of essential food, fuel and medical supplies. Yemen is extremely dependent upon imports to meet basic needs including: 90 per cent of the wheat flour consumed in country; 70 per cent of its fuel supplies, upon which the country relies to run key public services such as water supply, hospitals and food production; and 100 per cent of medicines.

So far in 2016, wheat flour imports have totaled less than one per cent of annual requirements⁷ and less than 15 per cent of the monthly fuel import needs were met February 2016⁸. The number of ships berthed/anchored in Yemen decreased by 40 per cent from January to February due to bureaucratic challenges, rising insurance and demurrage costs and credit line uncertainties caused by a banking crisis.

Insecurity and administrative impediments continue to impede humanitarian access. Over the past year, humanitarian organizations have faced attacks on staff and assets and loss of supplies. Movement restrictions by all parties to the conflict and intense fighting have delayed or blocked delivery of assistance in areas with vulnerable populations. Temporary, localized ceasefires have not been respected by the parties and have not been sufficient to enable vulnerable populations unfettered access to aid.

Humanitarian actors are scaling up humanitarian response. Despite the challenges, the humanitarian community is ramping up its response to the crisis in Yemen. The 2016 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan aims to reach 13.6 million of the most vulnerable people in Yemen but has only received four per cent of the financial requirements (US\$ 76 million out of 1.8 billion required⁹).

In 2016, the Norwegian Refugee Council will expand shelter, WASH, food security programs and launch education in emergencies and protection programs. So far in 2016, NRC has provided assistance to more than 305,000 of the most vulnerable men, women and children in Abyan, Aden, Amran, Hajjah, Hodeida, Lahj, and Sana'a, including 4,100+ people with shelter/non-food items 78,200 with water trucking; and 223,000+ with food assistance.

In 2015, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), reached over 341,000 men, women and children with life-saving food, water and shelter assistance in Abyan, Aden, Amran, Hajjah, Hodeida, Lahj and Sana'a.

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

- **World leaders should mobilize political will to secure a permanent ceasefire and advance inclusive peace negotiations.** An inclusive political solution, ensuring engagement of women and youth, is needed to stem the rapidly deteriorating humanitarian and protection crisis; humanitarian assistance alone is not enough to meet the scale of needs.
- **States should leverage their influence with parties to the conflict to stop indiscriminate attacks, use of explosive weapon, and attacks on civilians, public infrastructure and medical facilities; and to comply with obligations for protection of civilians under international humanitarian and human rights law.** States should halt the sale of arms to parties to the conflict given the clear risk that they may be used to commit violations of IHL. The UN Security Council should urgently pass a new resolution focused on holding parties to the conflict accountable for protection violations and to facilitate access.
- **All parties to the conflict must facilitate rapid, safe, unhindered and humanitarian access for all populations in need.** Members of the international community should leverage their influence with the parties to enable all populations in need to access aid, impartially.
- **Increase funding.** The international community should provide timely funding for coordinated, accountable and impartial humanitarian response and extend the macro-economic support needed to enable complete resumption of commercial trading of food, fuel and medicines.

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⁶ UNICEF Humanitarian Sitrep, 13-16 January 2016.

⁷ Yemen Food Security Information System (FSIS) Development Programme. Yemen Food Security Update for January 2016.

⁸ UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. Yemen: Snapshot on Shipping, food and fuel imports for February 2016.

⁹ As of 17 March 2016. <https://fts.unocha.org>