OPERATIONAL UPDATE

Despite attempts from the United Nations, including deliberations by Security Council members, the Yemeni government forces backed by a Saudi-Led Coalition (SLC) launched an assault on 13 June to recapture the strategic Red Sea port city of Hudaydah. As a result of severe airstrikes and ground fighting in Hudaydah city and surrounding areas, displaced families have been feeling Al Hudaydah to Sana’a, Haja, Dhamar and others south to Al Khawkha and Hays where they have received assistance by UNHCR. The international community have warned about the grave consequences on the people of Hudaydah and Yemen as a whole, should a full-scale offensive materialise.

While displacement of families is ongoing, UNHCR and its partners are working together to reach a verifiable figure of displacement. The protection of civilians is being increasingly threatened in Al Hudaydah by indiscriminate attacks by the warring factions. According to the latest UNHCR-led Protection Cluster Civilian Impact Monitoring Report, almost 50 per cent of civilian casualties in Al Hudaydah to date have occurred when people were in their own homes or farms, and 25 per cent when they were on the road, many of them trying to access services or find routes to safety. The six-month report also highlighted that a total of 844 incidents caused over 1,800 civilian casualties, 26 per cent of which were women and children. Furthermore, 85 per cent of the incidents resulted in psychosocial trauma implications for the people affected. UNHCR continues to remind all parties to the conflict to ensure the protection of civilians and guarantee their access to humanitarian assistance.

As UNHCR’s partner carries out distributions of core relief items in Hudaydah city, two displaced Yemeni children find some enjoyment after being forced to flee their homes. Photo: NMO
IDP Response

Since the recent escalation of conflict around Hudaydah, approximately 10,000 displaced families (some 80,000 people) have received some form of emergency assistance from humanitarian partners. To respond to the displacement from Hudaydah and surrounding areas, four Humanitarian Service Points (HSPs) in rural areas and three Transit Sites in Hudaydah city are operational. Registration of displaced families is taking place at the transit sites where rapid response mechanism (RRM) kits and core relief items (CRIs) are being distributed. Newly displaced families are being accommodated in schools in Hudaydah city unless they choose to stay with families and members of the host community.

UNHCR is working closely with humanitarian partners to deliver life-saving assistance to displaced families at transit sites, schools, and areas of displacement in Hudaydah city and in other governorates.

UNHCR, through partners, has verified some 6,613 families who have had to flee their homes. Furthermore, UNHCR partners Jeel Al Bena and JAAHD have provided CRIs and emergency shelter assistance to over 3,500 displaced families in Hudaydah city. Families are also being assessed for cash assistance.

Through its partners, UNHCR is also providing protection/referral services, verification, protection assessments, legal consultations and psychosocial support to displaced families at the transit sites, areas of distribution, schools and community centres in Al Hudaydah city and surrounding areas including Bait Al Faqiah, Al Marawi’ah and Zabid.

UNHCR’s Sa’ada Field Office has also provided psychosocial support and legal assistance to displaced families in community centres also frequented by an increasing number of vulnerable host community members seeking humanitarian assistance, in particularly cash to cover their most urgent needs, including medical expenses.

Approximately 400 displaced families have arrived in Aden since the beginning of the recent conflict. Aden is reaching a saturation point with limited shelter options. In order to assist families who may be heading south from Hudaydah, UNHCR has prepositioned 1,000 CRIs in Al Khawkha. Based on vulnerability assessments, displaced families in Aden will receive cash instead of in-kind assistance.

To support the humanitarian response in Yemen, UNHCR in Aden facilitated a number of high level UN missions during the month of June. As lead of the UN Hub in Aden, the Agency facilitated Aden missions of the Panel of Experts and the Under Secretary General for Safety and Security, in addition to the UN Special Envoy’s mission meet President Hadi in Aden.

Refugee Response

World Refugee Day (WRD) celebrations took place in Aden on 27 and 28 June in Kharaz camp and will continue into the beginning of July in the Basateen urban area. In Sa’ada, UNHCR provided refugees in detention and their children with clothes in celebration of Eid, which coincided with WRD. Community events in Sana’a will take place during the first two weeks of July.

UNHCR met with the Emirati Red Crescent (ERC) in Aden to discuss the humanitarian response for refugees and displaced families and the need to coordinate interventions. ERC will support UNHCR with 15,000 mattresses to be distributed in Taizz and Hudaydah in due course.

UNHCR is working with partners, the Health Cluster and the Department of Health to find urgent solutions to combat the spread of cholera in refugee and host communities. Rapid assessment tests are being conducted for refugees, and UNHCR has reopened the Diarrhoea Treatment Centre (DTC) in Kharaz camp.

On 5 June, a boat carrying an estimated 100 refugees and migrants capsized off the coast of Hadramout, Yemen. The boat had departed from the Port of Bossaso, Somalia and was approaching the coast of Hadramout when the incident happened. Reports from other agencies indicate that 46 migrants had drowned and a further 16 were missing, presumed dead. UNHCR provided registration, counselling and assistance to those in need of international protection.