



YEMEN UNHCR FLASH UPDATE 29 MARCH 2017

KEY FIGURES

62,000

People estimated to be displaced predominantly in and from Taizz, but also Dhamar

18,151

Recently displaced individuals from Taizz have been assisted with NFIs and shelter support

1,991,340

Internally displaced persons (IDPs) since onset of hostilities in March 2015.

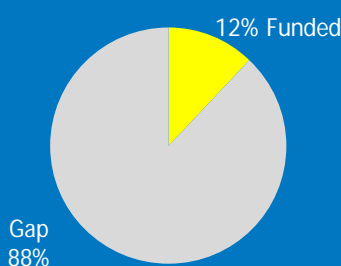
1,048,896

IDP returnees since March 2015

FUNDING

USD 99.6 million

requested for IDPs and refugees in Yemen for 2017



SITUATION UPDATE

After weeks of intense negotiations, UNHCR has reached the embattled district of Mokha in Yemen's western governorate of Taizz, where hostilities have escalated since January. Intensified fighting has led to more than 48,000 people being displaced from Taizz in the past six weeks alone, out of a total of approximately 62,000, which included some displacement of 13,900 in Dhamar. Dhamar has since stabilized, yet humanitarian access to Mokha, one of the worst affected areas within Taizz Governorate, has been challenging owing to ongoing clashes and movement restrictions imposed by parties to the conflict. Fighting is affecting essential services including medical, fuel delivery and water supply and those trapped face serious risks in an effort to reach safety, involving mined roads and ongoing hostilities. UNHCR remains concerned about the plight of these civilians.

UNHCR is also deeply distressed by an incident in which 42 persons of concern lost their lives off Yemen's Red Sea Coast. The High Commissioner has called for an inquiry in to the horrific event, which also left a further 39 people injured, when the boat they were traveling in was attacked by unidentified assailants some 30 km from Al Hudaydah Governorate.

POPULATION MOVEMENT

Mass Displacement in Taizz and beyond: The UNHCR-IOM led Task Force on Population Movement (TFPM) rolled out its new Emergency Tracking (ET) methodology for tracking displacement. The number of those displaced in and from Taizz Governorate is 48,378, including thousands of families sheltering in neighbouring Al Hudaydah, Lahj and Ibb governorates. Figures could continue to rise as hostilities continue.

Displacement in Dhamar Governorate: A flare up in hostilities forced more than 13,900 people to flee their homes during the past month in central Yemen, however a stabilization in the security situation has allowed more than 7,700 people to return.

UNHCR RESPONSE UPDATE

As lead of the Shelter/CCCM and Protection Clusters, UNHCR has mobilized cluster member agencies and formulated coordinated response plans to the Taizz displacement.

UNHCR carried out a mission to Mokha last week and commenced distributions on 20 March in an area close to the frontlines. More than 3,416 affected individuals received non-food assistance from UNHCR, including mattresses, sleeping mats, blankets, and kitchen sets, supplementing UNHCR's previous distributions to those displaced by Taizz hostilities. UNHCR has also secured access in six other districts in Taizz, and will reach more than 42,000 people with emergency assistance in the coming days in Muqbanah, Mawza, Mawiyah as well as Dhubab Al Wazia and Al Maafir.

More than 18,151 individuals recently displaced from Taizz governorate were also reached by UNHCR assistance during the past six weeks in nearby governorates of Al Hudaydah and Ibb.

Meanwhile, UNHCR is providing assistance to families affected by tragic boat incident by working with authorities on the arrangements for the 42 deceased, including material support to facilities. UNHCR has provided financial support, mattresses, food and drinking water to those hospitalized and accommodated by authorities awaiting release. In addition, a hotline has been set up for family and friends of survivors or those believed to have been on board.

Separately, UNHCR distributions in Utmah district of Dhamar Governorate started on 22 March to assist more than 1,050 families who have returned. On the first day of distribution, UNHCR partner ACTED, national and international staff monitored the distribution of returnee kits to 320 families. Distribution to the remaining 730 families is ongoing and close to completion.