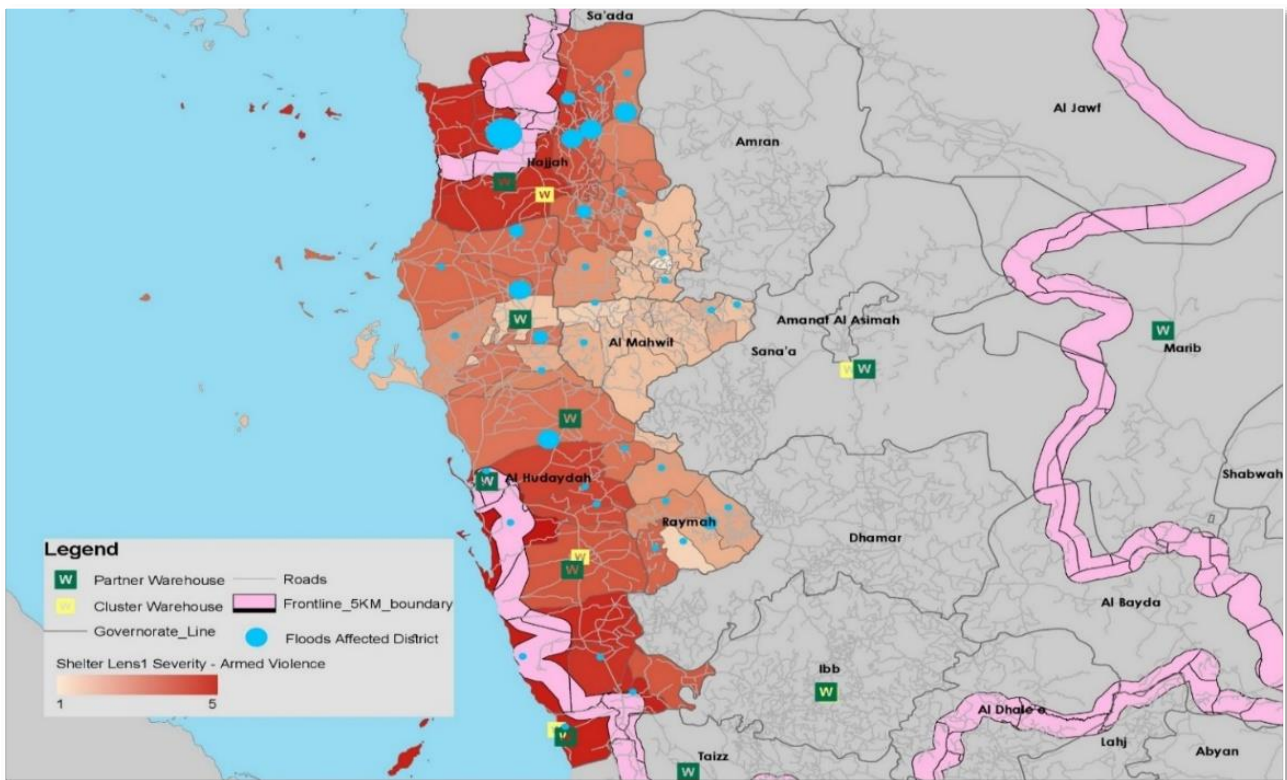


HUMANITARIAN AND DISPLACEMENT SITUATION IN ABS DISTRICT, HAJJAH GOVERNORATE

OVERVIEW | 1 APRIL 2021

The current escalation in the fighting in Harad and Abs districts in Hajjah Governate continue to force many Yemenis to abandon their homes and seek safety in nearby areas. It is estimated that during the past two weeks **more than 200 families (around 1,200 individuals) have been forcibly displaced** and have sought refuge in existing IDP hosting sites in the governorate. Most newly displaced families have settled on sites located in four sub-districts, namely: *Bany Thawab, Alwasat, Qutuba and Al-Bitarih* in Abs district.

Current active frontlines in the affected area



DISPLACED POPULATION AND NEEDS

Following the new displacements, UNHCR's partner, Rawabi AL-Nahdah Developmental Foundation (RADF) conducted a Rapid Needs Assessment to evaluate the urgent protection needs of those forcibly displaced. So far, since 15 March, some 679 individuals (97 families) have been assessed. The initial findings show that **children and women represent 81% of the displaced population, with 31% of the assessed households (HH) being headed by women**. Most newly displaced families have settled in existing IDP sites in Abs district, joining relatives who had been previously displaced.

New arrivals have shown to further increase pressure on scarce services and resources shared by the already vulnerable populations residing on these sites. The lack of health and WASH services, as well as poor shelter conditions and constant shortage of food are increasing the vulnerability of those having found refuge in these informal settlements.

Inadequate shelter conditions on sites are forcing male and female family members to live separately in gender segregated areas and in makeshift and crowded shelters, placing a further burden on displaced families. This is triggering increasing tensions within the community given the lack of privacy when a husband visits his wife and children in female designated shelters, causing separation of family members (including children from one of their parents). **Lack of privacy and safe access to WASH facilities represent a major challenge, particularly for women.**

Additionally, **children are not attending schools due to littler or no space in classrooms as well as long distance from sites to schools.** Instead many children are being tasked to fetch water for their families.

The findings further show that needs are vast and across all sectors, including health, shelter, non-food items (NFIs), protection, and food security, for the newly displaced but also for the existing populations on sites. Some 95 families (570 individuals) are in urgent need of shelter assistance, NFIs, and cash to buy food, while some 90 households have reported not having access to WASH facilities. The assessments also revealed that at least five elderly persons with chronic medical conditions require urgent health interventions.



UNHCR partner RADF providing psychosocial counselling and support to newly displaced IDPs living with relatives in Abs district, Hajjah Governorate

As armed clashes continue, UNHCR partners will continue assessing the needs of those currently displaced as well as newly displaced populations to inform about the most urgent interventions.

UNHCR TRI-CLUSTERS RESPONSE

During the assessment, UNHCR's partner RADF teams consisting of protection staff, psychologists and social workers, visited IDPs and ensured that psychosocial support (PSS) and counselling services were provided as necessary. Some 42 individuals, including 16 children who showed symptoms of acute trauma, depression and stress, received individual and group counseling. Most individuals had gone through, or were exposed to, panic due to sudden and unexpected armed attacks. During the sessions, individuals were encouraged to share their experiences and received specific PSS.



UNHCR partner RADF conducts assessments targeting those newly displaced in Abs district © RADF | UNHCR

UNHCR has shared the findings of the assessments with all humanitarian partners to formulate a coordinated response. The Operation has also distributed NFIs to the 95 families assessed. While the needs on the ground are acute, provision of humanitarian aid continues to face certain challenges due to inadequate access to the affected populations. UNHCR and partner staff continue to increase efforts to ensure that support is provided and that new gaps arising from lack of capacity or access by other actors are duly addressed.

Mobile protection teams deployed consisting of male and female staff members from RADF will continue to visit displaced populations in the area and follow up on the initial findings of the protection assessments. Protection teams will conduct further detailed interviews and provide targeted support to female headed households. UNHCR and partners will also ensure that those affected by the conflict are reached with PSS sessions, and that those lacking proper documentation receive adequate support. UNHCR will further advocate for safe spaces for women in particular (single women and female-headed households) and will identify and refer children at risk to specialized services.

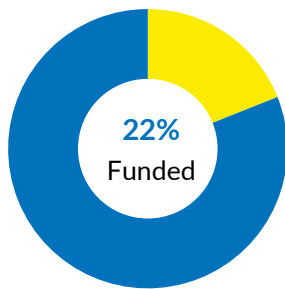


UNHCR partner RADF conducts assessments targeting those newly displaced in Abs district, with specific focus on vulnerable women and children © RADF | UNHCR

SHELTER NEEDS THROUGHOUT YEMEN

The UNHCR-led Shelter Cluster estimates that 7.3 million people still require Shelter/Non-Food Items assistance throughout the country, with almost 2.9 million individuals affected by armed violence and seasonal or natural hazards experiencing extreme, protracted living conditions. **Provided funds are available, throughout 2021, UNHCR plans to distribute core relief items to some 600,000 individuals (100,000 families), emergency shelter support to 70,000 families (420,000 individuals), and transitional shelter assistance for 20,000 families (120,000 individuals).** The UNHCR-led Shelter Cluster further plans to work with 167 partners to assist a total of 3.8 million of displaced and highly vulnerable individuals, equal to 52% of persons in need. This assistance will ensure that displaced populations have access to adequate shelter and a safe haven, helping them improve their living conditions and reduce their exposure to health and protection risks.

UNHCR 2021 FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS



Gap 78%
USD 211.4M

USD 271 million required for UNHCR's Yemen Operation in 2021. The Operation is currently **22% funded** as of 30 March 2021.

SPECIAL THANKS TO DONORS

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided so far by donors to the 2021 humanitarian response in Yemen: [Canada](#) | [España con ACNUR](#) | [The Famine Relief Fund](#) | [Japan](#) | [Qatar](#) | [Sheikh Thani Bin Abdullah Bin Thani Al-Thani Humanitarian Fund](#) | [Spain](#) | [United Kingdom](#) | [United States of America](#) | [UNO-Fluechtlingshilfe](#) | [Private Donors](#)

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At this critical time, humanitarian action to save lives and alleviate the suffering of vulnerable populations across Yemen remains imperative. UNHCR appeals to donors to prioritize their funding now more than ever to the response in Yemen to avoid a devastating humanitarian disaster.

For more information please visit: [Yemen Global Focus](#) and [Yemen Operational Portal](#)

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