

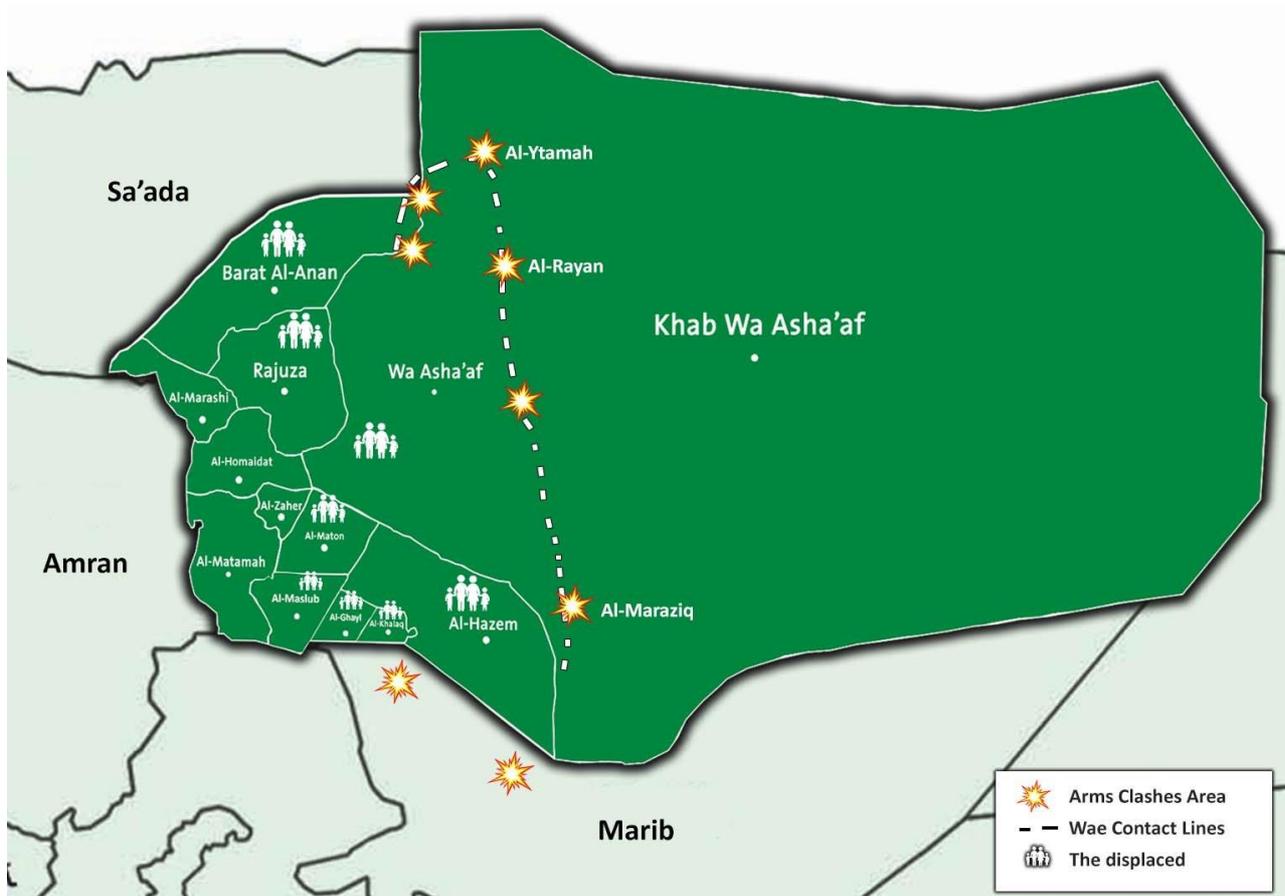
HUMANITARIAN AND DISPLACEMENT SITUATION IN Al-Jawf GOVERNORATE, YEMEN

OVERVIEW | 29 April 2021

Escalation in hostilities since the beginning of 2018 in Yemen's northern province of Al-Jawf governorate has left at least **189,340 displaced Yemenis and members of hosting communities in acute need of humanitarian assistance**. Most of these people are displaced from areas in Al-Hazm, Al-Khalaq, Al Ghayl, Bart Al-Anan and Khab Wa Al-Sha'af districts where fighting was more intense.

According to UN-OCHA statistics, Al-Jawf is also home to some 125,500 internally displaced persons (IDPs) from Hajjah, Hudaydah, Sa'ada and Marib governorates. Displacement movement from Marib to Al- Jawf is ongoing following the recent escalation in violence. Some 53 families displaced from Marib in beginning of April 2021 have arrived in Al-Ghayl district – Yam Mountain, most of them arriving with no belongings, citing increase in hostilities and intense air strikes as the main reason for their flight.

Al-Jawf situation map with presence of IDPs and areas of armed clashes



(The information on this map is provided by YARD. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.)

DISPLACED POPULATION AND NEEDS

Continued fighting at the borders of Al-Hazem with Marib governorate and Khab Wa Al-Sha'af district is aggravating the humanitarian needs of the displaced population. The needs are mounting while the humanitarian response remains insufficient. Most of the displaced families are residing in isolated and deserted rural locations, far away from local communities with little or no access to healthcare, education, and water and sanitation facilities.

Majority among the local population in Al-Jawf are nomads thus prefer to stay in rural areas that matches their traditional nomadic living style. They often live in very remote and deserts places that keep them away from public services and complicate their assistance by humanitarian partners.

Some 53 newly displaced families from Marib, in Al-Ghayl district – Yam Mountain reported that they walk long distances for hours to fetch water. The terrain in Al-Ghayl district is barren and have no paved road infrastructure which makes the delivery of assistance more challenging. IDPs ride on camel backs for at least four hours to access to the nearest Al-Atheen market to bring supplies back to their families. Health services are distant, and the nearest health facility is four hours drives from Yam Mountain.

These displaced families have received food assistances delivered by WFP and hygiene and dignity kits distributed by Yemen Al-Khair for Relief & Development Foundation (YARD).

During the first quarter of 2021, UNHCR's partner, YARD, conducted needs assessment of more than 4,600 displaced families, the majority of whom have arrived from Marib governorate and settled in the districts of Khab Wa Al-Sha'af, Al-Hazm, Al-Khalaq, Al-Ghail, Barat Al-Anan and Rajouza in Al-Jawf governorate.



Mohsen, 14, stepped on a landmine when returning from school in Al-Jawf governorate and injured his legs. Photo © YARD/UNHCR

The assessment results show displaced families are in urgent need of shelter, non-food items, water, and food assistance.

Many of the displaced persons reported, they were experiencing psychosocial distress and trauma due to displacement and associated risks including the **threats of landmines and unexploded ordnance which remain a major protection risk**. According to YARD, landmines covers areas mostly in Al-Maslub, Al-Ghayl, Al-Khaliq, Al-Hazm and Kha Wa Al-Sha'af districts.

Displaced families reported that their children are deprived of education as they fear injury or death by landmines and explosive remnants, in addition to inaccessibility to schools that are situated far from IDP hosting sites.

Most displaced families live in extreme poverty without basic assistance including food, shelter, health, water, and sanitation. Nearly **67 per cent of IDPs live in old and shabby tents without core relief items** such as, mattresses, blankets, kitchen sets, solar lamps, or mats. The remaining **33 per cent of displaced families live in vacant buildings and open areas exposed to harsh weather conditions** and facing heightened levels of food insecurity.

Some **30 per cent among the displaced families reported, they have either lost or left behind their national identity documents when fleeing.** The absence of any valid identity documents hampers their access to public services and humanitarian assistance.

Provision of the much-needed assistance becomes more challenging because most of the **UN agencies have limited or no access to the**



Mohammed Abdo Al-Faqih and his family walk long distance to fetch water in Al-Khalq district in Al-Jawf. Photo © YARD/Mansour

affected districts of Al-Jawf due to the remoteness of the area and prevailing security situation. UN agencies currently only have access to six of the 12 districts in the governorate through local partner organizations.

Nearly **85 per cent of the families assessed do not have access to clean drinking water, toilets, and sanitation services.** It was also observed that **45 per cent of displaced families have no access to food assistance** and reported relying on what they receive from their neighbors.

UNHCR TRI-CLUSTERS RESPONSE

UNHCR and partner in Al-Jawf governorate have been providing regular and emergency response to displaced families, including shelter, protection services, non-food items, and support in **40 hosting sites** through the Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster (CCCM).

Since the beginning of 2020 to February 2021, UNHCR through YARD has provided **cash assistances to more than 90,000 displaced persons** to help them meet a variety of needs, including access to food, water, shelter, and medicine. UNHCR also distributed **2,393 non-food items kits to displaced families** in the governorate.

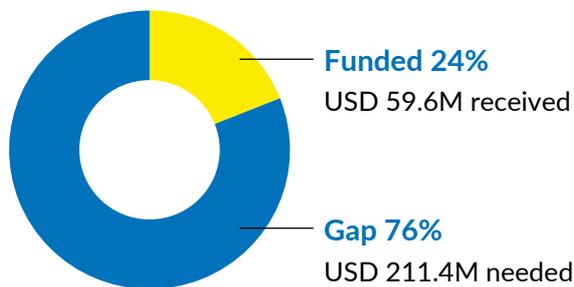
Additionally, UNHCR-led Shelter Cluster's partners provided **1,300 displaced families with non-food items** in Al-Rayan area in Kha Wa Al-Sha'af districts, targeting mainly women and children. UNHCR through its implementing partner provided **psychosocial support to 3,325 displaced persons including 675 women and 45 children** who suffer from displacement-related psychosocial distress, anxiety, and trauma.

More than **2,680 people (including 108 women and girls)** received legal assistance to replace their documentation (birth certificates and national ID cards) which were lost during their flight, to enable them

access public services and humanitarian assistance. Most of the displaced are restricted from movements due to the lack of personnel documentation and have no access to humanitarian services either.

Al-Jawf is also a major migratory route for migrants and refugees transiting through the governorate's northern parts toward Sa'ada governorate and further to the Gulf Countries. UNHCR through YARD is monitoring this mixed population movements through Al-Jawf. Since mid-2020, UNHCR's partner YARD monitored the movement of **1,296- cery critical cases of refugees/asylum seekers among them cases were referred to UNHCR for assistance.**

UNHCR 2021 FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS



USD 271 million required for UNHCR's Yemen Operation in 2021. The Operation is currently **27% funded** as 20 April 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.

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