



Humanitarian Overview

Yemen has been declared the world's worst humanitarian crisis by the UN due to its extreme levels of need. The current disaster in Yemen has its roots in the Arab spring of 2011 where political instability only worsened pre-existing national and sectarian tensions. Despite already being one of the poorest countries in the Middle East, ongoing conflict has exacerbated economic decline, institutional collapse, and food insecurity. 24.3 million people in Yemen now require humanitarian or protection assistance, including 14.3 million who are in acute need. The country is currently on the brink of famine. Humanitarian needs overview assessments confirm that conflict is the primary driver of the world's largest food security crisis. Additionally, Yemen is facing the worst cholera outbreak in modern history, met with diminishing healthcare services and heavily restricted aid distribution. Most recently, flash floods across the region and the imminent threat of a COVID-19 outbreak has left the country more unstable than ever before. This protracted conflict leaves the country extremely fragile and the people of Yemen in dire need of humanitarian assistance.

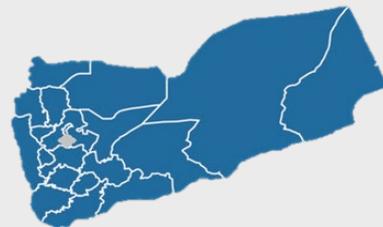
OC In Yemen

With a registered office in Yemen, we have a growing presence in governorates across the country, including Sana'a, Al Jawf and Al Hudaydah in the north and Lahj, Ta'iz and Aden in the south. Due to our widespread acceptability and reach, Osman Consulting is able to support the most vulnerable groups in Yemen including the displaced, those in restricted conflict affected areas, women, those with disabilities, children and the elderly.



Country Offices:

- Sana'a
- Aden (finalising registration)



Previous Contributions

- UNHCR Cash-For-Rental Assistance Project for Yemeni Refugees, April 2019, Sana'a, Abyan, Lahj, and Al Hudaydah, Yemen
- WFP project "Commodity Vouchers Through Traders Network CV-TN, May 2019, Lahj, Aden
- Food parcels distribution, United Hands Relief, April - May 2019

Situation Report

24.3M
TOTAL
NUMBER
OF PEOPLE
IN NEED

Crisis in Numbers

- Nearly **250,000** Yemeni people have died since 2015, including **100,000** people as a direct result of combat and **130,000** from hunger and disease.
- Nearly **80%** of the population requires humanitarian assistance and protection. Close to half of all families are in acute need.
- As many as **4 million** civilians have been displaced, including **375,000** during 2019.

Vulnerable Groups Affected



Displaced



Female Headed Households



People with Disabilities



Older People



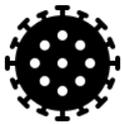
Children

Key Priorities



Figure 1: OCHA Yemen Humanitarian Update Issue 03 / March 2020

Critical Threats



COVID - 19

Since being declared a pandemic, the respiratory disease COVID-19 has quickly spread to countries in the Middle East. Whilst currently there is only one confirmed case in Yemen, an outbreak is imminent. It is possible that there are many infected persons in Yemen, though limiting testing facilities increases the risk of the virus continuing to spread. Controlling the transmission of the virus in this context has proven difficult due to the limited number of health facilities, insufficient access to hygiene products and clean water, high density population and poor living conditions.



Flash floods

Heavy rains since April 13 have caused extreme flooding across 14 governorates in both the north and south of the country. Sana'a, Ma'rib, Aden and Lahj governorates are amongst the worst affected. The floods have caused an increase in displacement, heightened risk of cholera and further disruption to COVID-19 prevention measures.



Famine

HNO assessments confirm that the conflict is the primary driver of the world's largest food security crisis. Two thirds of the population (more than 20 million people) are hungry, and 11.6 cent of the population is malnourished. More than 1.6 per cent of all children are suffering from severe acute malnutrition. Whilst the risk of famine has been an ongoing threat, WFP Director David Beasley has declared that COVID-19 could push even more into starvation.



Cholera Outbreak

During 2019, cholera remained widespread in 90 per cent of the districts. Only 50 per cent of health facilities are fully functional and electricity and power are intermittent across all cities. Records currently show 137,736 suspected cases and 266 associated deaths. Between 1 January to 24 March 2019, 21 out of Yemen's 23 governorates and 268 out of Yemen's 333 districts were affected. The flash floods increase the risk of cholera-related morbidities and mortalities due to contaminated water systems.

Key Challenges



Access Constraints

The operating environment in Yemen has become one of the most difficult in the world. At least 5.1 million people in 75 hard-to-reach districts have been cut off from humanitarian assistance by restrictions imposed by local authorities. Humanitarian actors face bureaucratic and security constraints particularly in the north of the country. In 2019, reports showed 142 separate incidents of violence against humanitarian personnel and assets. The recent widespread floods add logistical challenges will now further impede access in the region.



Increasing Conflict

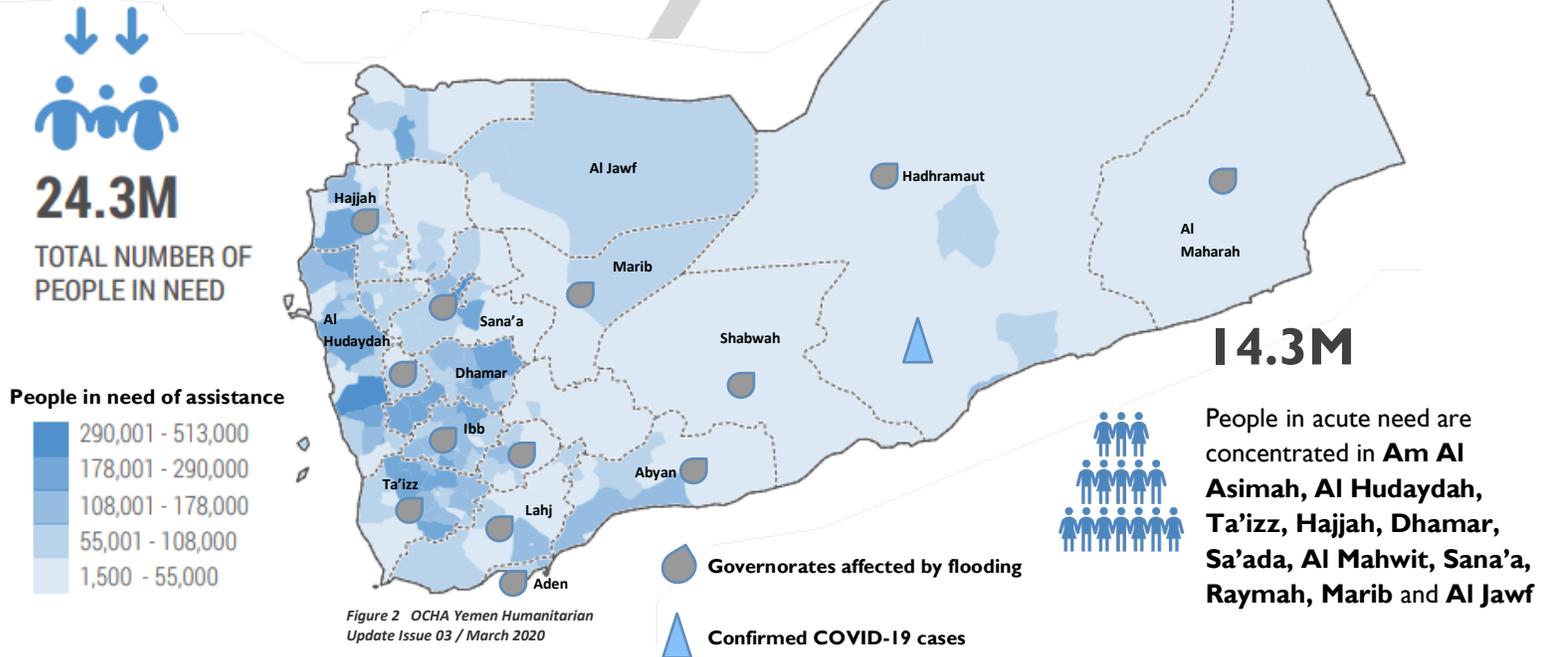
Yemen is now entering the sixth year of ongoing conflict between the government and Houthi forces. So far 2020 has seen violence increase across Al Hudaydah, Ta'izz and Sana'a. Most recently, the escalation of conflict can be seen in Al-Jawf and Ma'rib governorates with the Houthi forces making significant advances. Fighting continues to exacerbate existing vulnerabilities causing increased displacement and access constraints.



Weak Health Infrastructure

The conflict has compromised access to health; only 50 per cent of health facilities in Yemen are functioning. At the current time of a global health emergency, the remaining health institutions are at risk of total collapse. Existing health services are restricted further by intermittent electricity and power outages across the country. As floods continue to spread, existing health facilities desperately need strengthening to survive.

OC Risk Analysis



3.65M
 People displaced since March 2015 are concentrated in **Marib, Ta'izz, Hajjah and Al Hudaydah**

OC Risk Responses

Due to the varying levels of access and the restrictions in place, OC will use our intimate contextual understanding to respond accordingly to the needs of the most vulnerable across Yemen. We are able to mobilize our local teams in Yemen, with all members efficiently trained and appropriately equipped to tackle COVID-19 related challenges.

As such, Osman Consulting will respond to these critical threats in the following ways:



COVID-19

- ❖ Procure and distribute hygiene kits.
- ❖ Public sanitation/sterilization activities.
- ❖ Widespread awareness campaign.
- ❖ Provide training & capacity building for community volunteers.



Famine

- ❖ Procure & distribute food packets to support IDPs/vulnerable groups.
- ❖ Distributed through OC's local staff and community volunteers.



Flash Floods

- ❖ Prepare the distribution of hygiene kits and food packets to those affected.
- ❖ Continue to monitor the situation and conduct regular needs assessments.



Weak Health Infrastructure

- ❖ Strengthen & equip existing health facilities.
- ❖ Procure & distribute medical supplies, beds and PPE for selected health facilities.
- ❖ Establish and equip isolation centres.
- ❖ Provide training & capacity building and psychosocial support for health workers.