

Amran Update as of August 2014

Situation Update:

- It has been reported recently that most of the 45,000 people that were displaced in July as a result of the escalation of conflict in Amran have returned to their homes. According to the Executive Unit about 4000 IDPs were registered in Sana'a governorate alone.
- While the number of returnees cannot be easily verified because of the security situation, it is estimated that over 70% of the displaced have returned to Amran
- Whether families are still displaced or are returnees, their situations are still critical. Most of these families lost their properties during the conflicts and some had to sell their assets in order to move to safer areas.
- IDPs, returnees and conflict-affected families are in urgent need of emergency shelter and NFIs especially those whose houses were damaged or exposed to looting. It is estimated between 200 and 500 houses were damaged and the returning families are forced to seek shelter from friends, relatives, or in open spaces.
- Public infrastructure such as schools and health centres were also damaged and it is also reported that IDPs who took refuge in public buildings have returned to their homes.
- Families who were renters and have lost their livelihoods or income generating activities need temporary assistance to pay their rents while they try to secure a more long-term solution.
- A rapid survey conducted in Al Qaflah, Al Ashah, Huth and Harf Sufyan districts underscored IDPs need for adequate shelter and NFIs.

Response:

- Since the beginning of the year, the Cluster has provided 4,249 HH/ 29,432 IDPs and conflict-affected families with NFIs in Amran and Amanat Al Asimah (Sana'a City) governorates. So far 678 HH/ 5,354 IDP families have received rental subsidies in Amran governorate.
- Cluster's partners including YRCS, THFY, IHUK and NRC have carried out needs assessment exercises in order to assist families displaced within the governorate and those affected by the conflict. A joint assessment was conducted by UNHCR and its IPs in two districts of Sana'a (Amant and Al Asimah) with high density IDPs from Amran.
- CARE International is leading a team of UN agencies, NGOs and representatives from the government to carry out a joint and an in-depth assessment in the governorate. This assessment will help to identify and address response gaps.

In Sana'a, UNHCR through the cluster has contributed NFIs, which are currently being distributed to 1000HH. Still through the cluster, additional NFIs for 1500 families will be secured from the ERF for distribution.

Challenges:

- Most of the displaced families were vulnerable due to poverty, food insecurity and lack of access to basic services even before the conflict. Their vulnerability has been further exacerbated by the conflict, which has affected women, men, boys and girls alike.
- Multiple displacements of formerly displaced families due to the recent conflicts. Also, some IDPs families who were displaced are unable to return because their homes in Amran were destroyed or they don't feel safe returning to their homes

Response has not been quick owing to the lack of access into Amran for most humanitarian organisations and the challenging security and political issues. As a result some agencies have been forced to close their offices for the time being.

- Public infrastructure including schools and health facilities were seriously damaged, thus the urgent need for repairs and rehabilitation.