

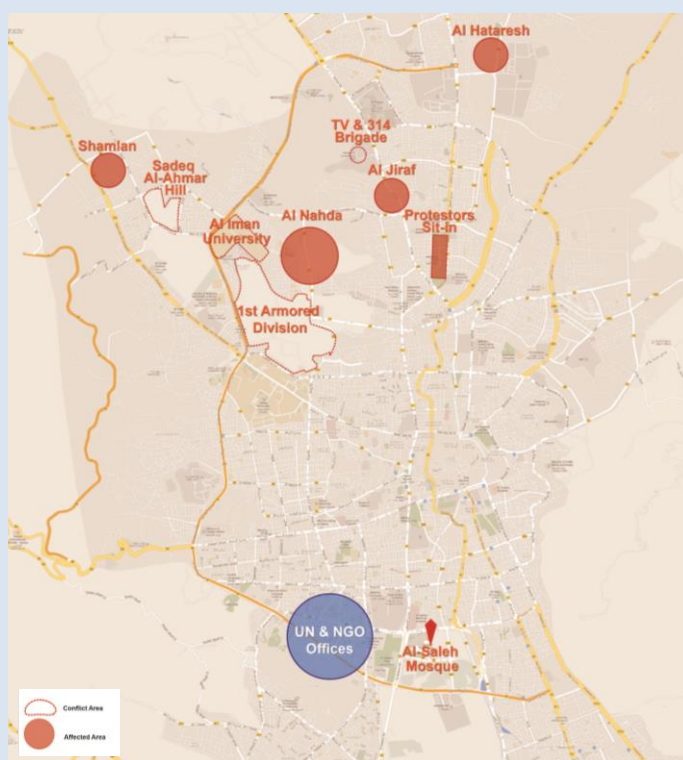


This report is produced by OCHA Yemen in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It was issued by OCHA Yemen. It covers the period from 16 to 21 September (16.00 Sana'a-time). The next report will be issued on or around 28 September or earlier subject to evolving conditions.

Highlights

- On 18 September, clashes erupted in Sana'a between Al Houthi militants, Government forces and pro-Government armed groups, following weeks of Al Houthi protests in the city. Fighting continued as of 21 September, mainly in the northern half of the city. However, UN DSS reported shelling from Army positions in Faj Attan around noon on 21 September, indicating that conflict may be expanding south.
- No verified estimates of humanitarian needs were available at the time as of 21 September, but reports indicate civilian casualties and significant displacement from affected areas. Partners are currently not able to reach affected areas due to road closures and ongoing violence, but the Government confirms that Ministry of Health and Yemen Red Crescent ambulances have been deployed to the area. Partners are also providing essential supplies to Sana'a hospitals.
- Intermittent clashes between Al Houthi militants, Government forces and affiliated armed groups in Al Jawf and Marib Governorates have escalated since mid-September. According to humanitarian partners, 1,500 families have been displaced from these areas since the end of July. Of these, 1,200 families in Al Jawf are receiving basic assistance, but an estimated 300 families in Marib have not yet been assisted.
- UN Special Advisor to the Secretary-General on Yemen Jamal Benomar announced late on 20 September that all parties had committed to sign an agreement. This agreement is intended as a "national document" that would immediately end hostilities and set out a peaceful way forward. Government sources reported yesterday that the agreement would be signed on 21 September, but it had not been signed by 16.00.

Sana'a: Reported conflict and displacement areas



Source: Google Maps, Humanitarian partner reports, media, local sources
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Situation Overview

Clashes erupted in Sana'a on 18 September between Al Houthi militants, Government forces and their affiliates, following weeks of Al Houthi protests in the city and escalating violence in Al Jawf Governorate. Despite several attempts to broker a ceasefire in Al Jawf, intermittent clashes escalated considerably in mid-September and spread to parts of neighbouring Marib Governorate.

Al Jawf

Humanitarian partners estimate that 1,500 families (10,500 people) have been displaced in Al Jawf and Marib since late July. Partners are providing food and other life-saving assistance to 1,200 families in Al Jawf, and water and shelter assistance is expected to be delivered this week. In Marib, partners estimate that about 300 displaced families (2,100 people) have not been reached with any assistance, some of whom are reportedly living in the open. No international partner has an established presence in Marib due to long-standing concerns over kidnapping and other security threats. Presence of national humanitarian organizations is also extremely limited. However, one national partner expects to provide food, shelter and NRIs to the 300 IDP families in Marib in the

coming week with ERF support. No confirmed casualty figures are available for clashes in Al Jawf or Marib, but civilian casualties appeared extremely limited as of 20 September. Conflict affected areas were sparsely populated before the conflict, and most civilians are believed to have left the area before fighting escalated.

Sana'a

In Sana'a, thousands of Al Houthi protestors began to set up camps in and around the city in mid-August, demanding that the Government reinstate fuel subsidies, implement agreements of the National Dialogue and resign. Tension rose significantly after six Al Houthi protestors and an ambulance driver were killed on 9 September in front of the Ministerial Cabinet offices. The circumstances surrounding this incident remain unclear. On 16 September, clashes erupted in several villages of Hamdan District of Sana'a Governorate, 8 km north-west of the capital. Fighting continued the next day between Al Houthi militants, pro-Government armed groups and Government forces.

Early on 18 September, fighting spread to north-west neighbourhoods of Sana'a City, concentrating mainly around Islah-affiliated Al Iman University and Yemeni State Television. Clashes expanded on 19 and 20 September, with air strikes against Al Houthi positions and fighting around military installations, but remained mostly confined to the northern half of the city. The Government Higher Security Committee

announced a curfew from 21.00 to 06.00 in conflict-affected areas until further notice, but heavy explosions were heard coming from northern Sana'a overnight on 20 September and into the morning of 21 September. Around noon on 21 September, UN DSS reported artillery fire coming from army positions in Faj Attan area, indicating that the conflict may be expanding south.

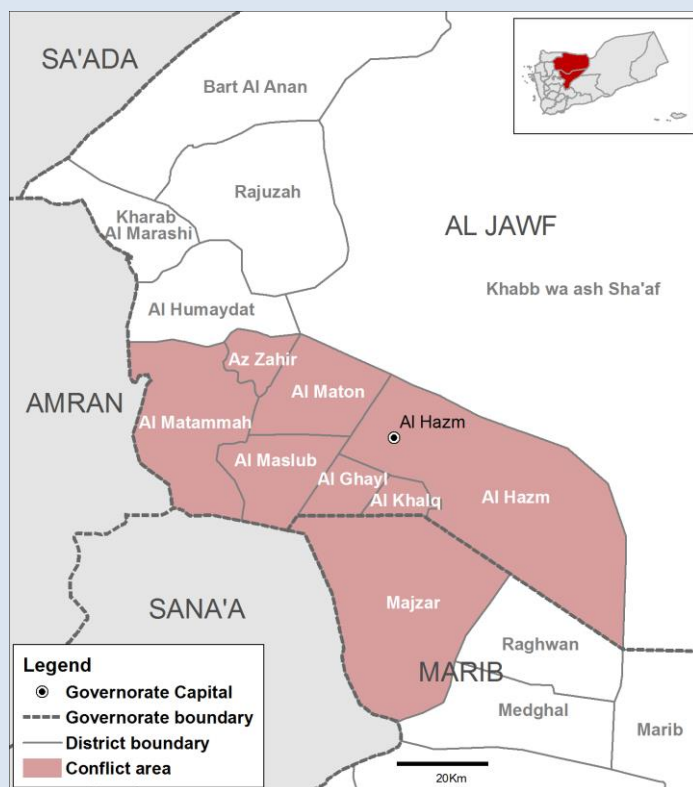
No verified assessment of the humanitarian impact of the violence in Sana'a is available due to ongoing clashes and road closures, but civilian casualties have been reported. Parties to the conflict have established checkpoints in affected areas and occupied some private and public civilian buildings, including schools. Education, health services and markets are closed in these areas, and the Ministry of Education announced on 20 September that all classes in Sana'a would be suspended until further notice. Reports indicate that large numbers of civilians have fled affected neighbourhoods, though some remain, mainly adult males guarding their property, elderly people and others who have no safe means of leaving. The Yemeni Red Crescent estimates that 1,500 families have left conflict-affected areas, with 40 per cent travelling to villages outside Sana'a and the rest renting apartments elsewhere in town or staying with family or friends. This figure could not be verified as of 21 September. Markets and other businesses in Sana'a away from conflict zones were operating normally as of the morning of 21 September, and the Ministry of Health confirms that ambulances are working in conflict areas.

UN Special Advisor to the Secretary-General on Yemen Jamal Benomar announced late on 20 September that an agreement to resolve the crisis had been accepted by all parties. Government sources reported that the agreement would be signed on 21 September, but no official signing had been announced by 16.00. Rumours of ceasefires or other agreements have circulated several times since fighting began, but this is the first official confirmation that all parties have committed to conclude an agreement and end hostilities. International airlines suspended flights to Sana'a on 18 September, but the airport remains open, with two national carriers operating normally.

Funding

In Al Jawf, humanitarian partners are able to cover new needs within existing programmes and with ERF support where needed. In Sana'a, the scale of the humanitarian impact is not yet clear, and partners are not currently seeking additional funding. As of 20 September, the Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan (YHRP) had received 49 per cent of its requirements.

Al Jawf and Marib: Areas of conflict or displacement



Source: Humanitarian partner reports, Government IDP Executive Unit
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All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS - <http://fts.unocha.org>) of cash and in-kind contributions by e-mailing: fts@un.org

Humanitarian Response



Food Security

Needs:

- An estimated 1,500 families (10,500 people) displaced by fighting in Al Jawf and Marib Governorates need emergency food assistance.
- Civilians remaining in conflict-affected areas of Sana'a are likely to require food assistance, particularly if conflict persists over the coming days and household stocks run low.

1,200
IDP families received
food aid in Al Jawf

Response:

- To date, humanitarian partners have provided food assistance to nearly 1,100 families in Al Jawf and will have reached 1,200 families by the end of the week. This will cover all IDPs within Al Jawf.

Gaps & Constraints:

- No food aid has reached 300 IDP families estimated to be sheltering in Marib Governorate. A national NGO expects to receive ERF funding in the coming days to provide multi-sectoral assistance – including food – there.
- Insufficient information was available on the scale of food needs in conflict-affected areas of Sana'a.



Emergency Shelter and Non-food Items (NFIs)

Needs:

- An estimated 1,500 displaced families in Al Jawf and Marib Governorates require essential non-food items, including cooking supplies and clothing.
- An estimated 500 families in Al Jawf require emergency shelter support, including 300 families in Al Ghayl District.
- Private homes have been reportedly damaged in conflict-affected areas of Sana'a. No aggregate estimates were available as of 20 September. Several homes in Hamdan District are confirmed to have been completely destroyed during clashes.

Response:

- As of 17 September, 720 IDP families had received NFIs in Al Jawf, and remaining IDP families were expected to be reached by the end of the week.
- A shelter project targeting 1,000 IDP families in Al Jawf is expected to get under way in the coming week.

Gaps & Constraints:

- NFIs and shelter support has yet to reach 300 IDP families estimated to be sheltering in Marib Governorate. A national NGO expects to receive ERF funding in the coming days to provide multi-sectoral assistance – including shelter and NFIs – there.
- More information is needed on potential shelter and NFI needs of people displaced by fighting in Sana'a. Based on patterns observed in 2011, immediate needs are not anticipated to be significant, as people mostly stayed with relatives or friends.



Health

Needs:

- Humanitarian partners are supporting the Ministry of Health in tracking casualties related to the conflict in Sana'a. Since 9 September, this mechanism estimates that 97 people have been killed and 449 injured due to conflict. Additional cases may not have been reported, and it is extremely difficult to determine what share of reported casualties are civilian.
- Unconfirmed reports have emerged that a hospital in Sana'a was shelled during clashes on 20 September. Reports also indicate that some health facilities elsewhere in the city are overwhelmed.
- Health services were often in poor condition in Al Jawf before the conflict, and IDPs require access to health services. Partners are planning a comprehensive health assessment in all Districts of Al Jawf to clarify needs.

Response:

- Humanitarian partners are supporting hospitals in Sana'a with additional supplies to cover conflict-related casualties. Partners are providing IV fluids, emergency drugs, trauma kits and other essential items.
- According to the Ministry of Health, ambulances from the Ministry and the Yemen Red Crescent are operating in conflict-affected areas of Sana'a.
- No new emergency health response is under way in Al Jawf. However, partners are re-programming an existing health project in affected districts to cover IDP needs.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Partners report no significant emergency health gaps for the crisis in Al Jawf. However, no emergency health services have reached 300 IDP families estimated to be sheltering in Marib Governorate.
- Additional health services will be required should conditions deteriorate further in Sana'a.

**Water, Sanitation and Hygiene****Needs:**

- 1,500 IDP families in Al Jawf and Marib need access to safe water and hygiene. The climate in affected areas is hot and dry.
- Reports have emerged that water storage tanks on roof tops in some residential areas in Sana'a have been destroyed. Families who are said to be hiding in basements of such buildings will likely need water.

Response:

- Emergency WASH programmes in Al Jawf are distributing ceramic filters to IDP families, ensuring access to safe drinking water. Partners are also re-programming existing WASH projects to cover IDP emergency needs.
- Water trucking is being provided to 100 displaced families near Yemen State Television in Sana'a. These people left their homes during the fighting but were unable to secure other accommodation.

Gaps & Constraints:

- WASH partners report no significant gaps in Al Jawf. However, no emergency WASH programmes are under way for the estimated 300 IDP families displaced in Marib Governorate.
- More information is needed on the scale of WASH needs in conflict-affected areas of Sana'a.

**Protection****Needs:**

- According to information from the Technical Working Group on monitoring and reporting grave violations of child rights in conflict, three schools in Sanhan District (Sana'a Governorate) were used by armed groups to launch attacks on military targets. Armed groups vacated the schools within 48 hours under community pressure.
- In Hamdan District, two school staff and one pupil were reportedly killed in an exchange of fire at two schools. One of the schools reportedly came under attack by a party to the conflict and had been sheltering the other party to the conflict.
- Reports are being received of child recruitment and use by parties to the conflict, including children being killed, maimed and arbitrarily detained due to their engagement in the conflict.
- Information on protection needs in Al Jawf is limited, but partners plan to undertake a protection assessment next week.

Response:

- Planning is under way for an advocacy campaign to discourage militants from using schools for any military purposes. A radio and television outreach campaign is also being developed to offer advice on how to talk to children about violence and to promote mine risk education.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Information gaps persist on the protection situation in conflict-affected areas of Sana'a, including verification of civilian casualties, rights violations and displacement.
- Stronger child protection services are needed in Al Jawf. Partners are currently developing a monitoring, reporting and referral programme for crisis-affected areas and are seeking ERF support.

 **Education****Needs:**

- IDPs are sheltering in several schools in Al Jawf, preventing classes from resuming on time in September.
- Reports have confirmed that conflict parties used several schools in Sanhan District (Sana'a Governorate) to launch attacks.
- The Ministry of Education announced on 20 September that classes would be suspended in Sana'a until further notice.

General Coordination

Humanitarian partners in Yemen recently approved a contingency plan for the next six months and met on 21 September to review this plan. Partners have established an Emergency Task Force that will guide response activities for Al Jawf and Sana'a.

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