

HIGHLIGHTS

- More than 90 per cent of IDPs from Abyan who have been living in Aden have returned to their homes
- A national policy to address internal displacement is under final review
- Poorer families in Yemen are facing pressure in meeting their daily food needs during the lean season
- The food aid pipeline will be disrupted unless WFP gets new funding by the end of June
- The number of migrants arriving in Yemen from the Horn of Africa reduced in the first quarter of 2013 by 12 per cent compared to the same period in 2012.
- Ninety per cent of health facilities in four pilot governorates are providing surveillance data to the electronic disease early warning system

FIGURES

People without access to safe water, sanitation	13.1 m
Food insecure people	10.5 m
People without access to health care	6.4 m
Acutely malnourished children	998,000
Internally displaced people	299,087
Returnees	232,025
Refugees	242,002
Migrant arrivals in 2013	35,876

Sources: UNHCR, WFP, OCHA, WHO, UNICEF

FUNDING - 2012

716 million
requested (US\$)

30 % funded

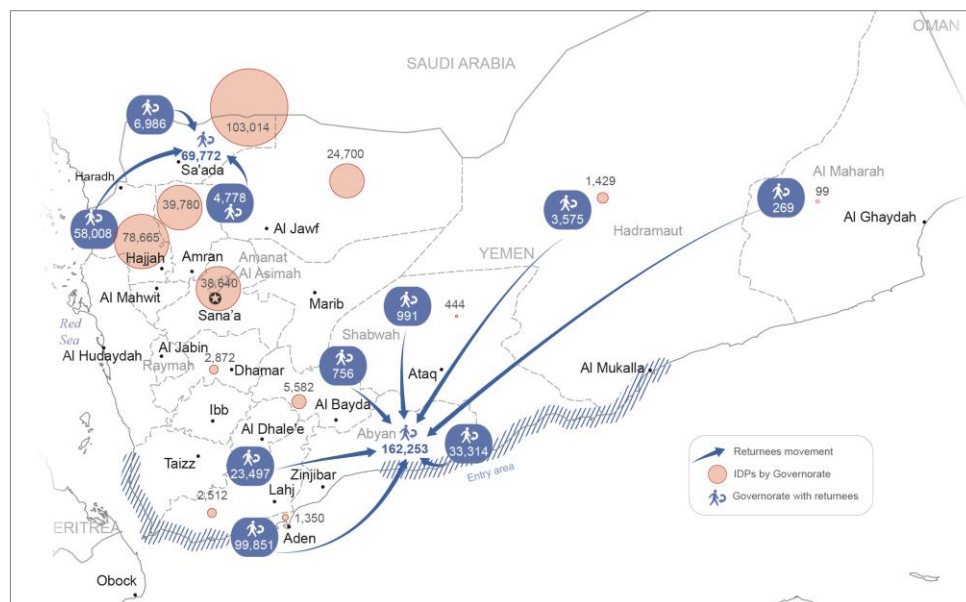


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Targeted assistance needed to sustain returns in southern Yemen

Over 90 per cent of IDPs have returned as conditions improve in Abyan

The number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in southern Yemen has dropped sharply from 68,533 in December 2012 to 6,133 in April 2013. According to these figures, over 90 per cent of IDPs from Abyan have returned home since June 2012. Several factors have encouraged their return: declining violence, resumption of some basic services and the re-opening of markets with essential goods. With such large-scale returns, humanitarian partners have an opportunity to provide the services and support needed to make these returns sustainable in the longer term. Partners in Abyan have expanded their activities, mostly working through local partners. However, significant needs remain in areas of return.



IDPs and returnees in Yemen. Source: UNHCR

Gaps in basic services, livelihoods threaten sustainability of returns

According to the UN Refugee Agency, UNHCR, 162,253 people had returned to southern Yemen including some areas beyond Abyan as of April 2013, putting added strain on resources there. Despite improvements in some basic services, local authorities are struggling to meet the needs of all returnees. Many returnees are living in their original homes, even if they were damaged in the recent conflict. Without concerted action, the accumulated pressure on available resources and services could push some returnees back into displacement. Gaps are especially pronounced in shelter, livelihoods support,

The response to humanitarian needs in Abyan has increased since December, but early recovery needs remain huge

early recovery and resilience. Targeted support in these areas is critical to help the returnees back on their feet. With 80 per cent of the population in Abyan dependent on agricultural livelihoods, providing basic farming supplies would greatly help people's transition back into normal life. Working with youth to discourage recruitment into armed activities is also essential to avoid a relapse of violence at this critical stage.

Life-saving aid is increasing, but funding gap limits recovery activities

Life-saving humanitarian activities have increased in areas of return in southern Yemen, especially in Abyan, but funding shortfalls are preventing humanitarian partners from moving beyond life-saving interventions to support early recovery and resilience-building for returnees.

"The situation in the south is still very complicated, but we have some optimism because we have better access, more partners, better coordination with the Government and more consciousness," said the Humanitarian Coordinator Ismael Ould Cheikh Ahmed. "But we are only 30 per cent funded – in the middle of the year. This is a risk. We need more funding." In the 2013 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan, the Early Recovery Cluster requested \$31.5 million. As of end of May, it had only received \$2.6 million (8.3 per cent funded).

Security too remains unpredictable and precarious throughout the south and in particular Abyan. At the same time, Abyan, Aden and Lahj are among the governorates that are most likely to face deteriorating food security this year partly due to the effects of conflict and insecurity, according to the Yemen Food Security Monitoring System February bulletin. Preliminary findings of an inter-agency assessment in April show that 50 per cent of households in Abyan and Lahj are facing a worsening livelihoods situation, while 85 per cent of family expenditure is on food and 28 per cent on debt repayments.



Thousands of households have received non-food items

The draft IDP policy for Yemen, based on global standards including the Guiding Principles on Displacement, is in the final stages of review

New national policy to guide response to internal displacement

The Government of Yemen and the UN Refugee Agency, UNHCR, have prepared a landmark national policy to address internal displacement in Yemen. Developed through extensive consultations with all stakeholders – including 3,600 IDPs – the policy is based on global legal standards, including the Guiding Principles on Displacement. It has three strategic objectives:

- Prepare for new displacement and protect civilians from involuntary displacement
- Protect and assist IDPs and displacement-affected communities
- Create conditions for durable solutions

The IDP policy clarifies responsibilities within the Government and provides a framework for cooperation between the international community, Government and civil society

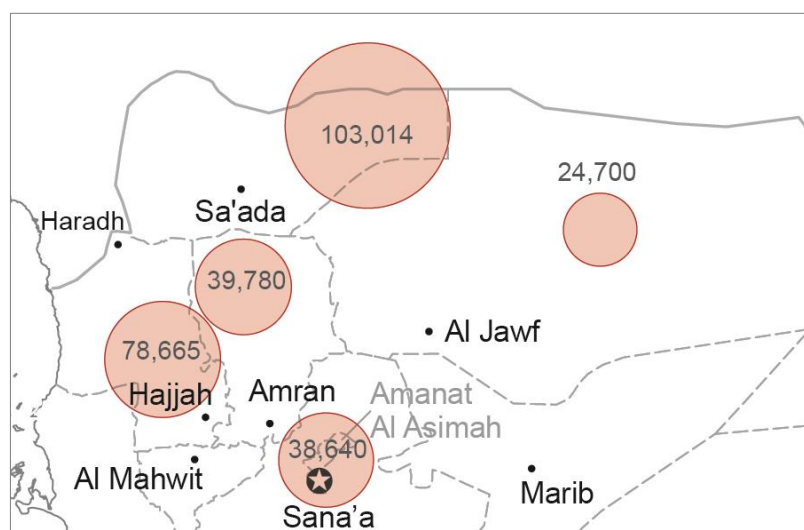
The Government is expected to submit the final draft to the Prime Minister in June. Advocacy for its speedy adoption and implementation is a priority for the Humanitarian Country Team, as highlighted in the 2013 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan.

Persistent displacement in the north highlights importance of IDP Policy

Despite significant returns in the south, most IDPs in the north are still reluctant to go home. According to IOM, 292,954 people remain displaced in Sa'ada, Hajjah, Amran, Dhamar, Al-Jawf and Sana'a. Over 95 per cent live with host communities or in informal settlements. The rest live in two camps in Al Mazraq in Hajjah. Most fled repeated rounds of fighting in and around Sa'ada Governorate since 2004, especially in 2010. To date, only about 10 per cent of registered IDPs in the north have returned home. Most IDPs cite security concerns, damaged homes and infrastructure, lack of basic services and disruption to livelihoods as the main obstacles to return. Others who were involved in political activity fear possible persecution by groups that control parts of northern Yemen.

The draft policy demonstrates that IDP issues are a national priority and articulates the Government's goals and priority actions. It informs IDPs of specific programmes, clarifies responsibilities within the Government, provides a framework for cooperation between the international community, Government and civil society, and will help in resource mobilization.

IDP numbers in northern Yemen as of May 2013



Source: UNHCR

Food insecurity in Yemen has significantly increased due to a weakened economy and large population displacement, 22 per cent of Yemenis are severely food insecure

Food aid threatened by lack of resources

Funding needed to maintain food assistance pipeline

The food assistance pipeline in Yemen will be disrupted in mid-2013 unless the World Food Programme (WFP) receives new funding by the end of June. With a current shortfall of \$98 million for 2013, WFP is reaching out to local and international donors to be able to continue delivering food assistance to 5 million vulnerable Yemenis. About 22 per cent of the population (5.3 million people) in Yemen is severely food insecure.

Higher food prices in Yemen and abroad squeeze poorest families

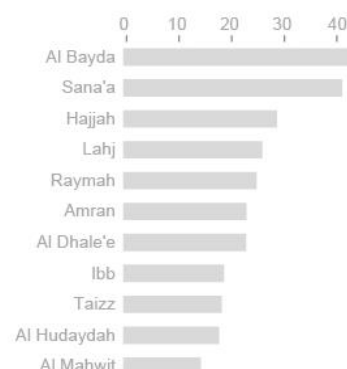
Yemen's annual lean season, which usually ends in mid-June, caused increased staple food prices, putting pressure on poorer households that rely on earnings from employment to purchase food, according to FEWS Net.

Desert locusts have been spotted in Saudi Arabia and could spread to Yemen, which could threaten areas that recently received good rainfall and have some vegetation

According to the Yemen Food Security Monitoring System that reported on 11 Governorates in February, 27.1 per cent of the population has poor food consumption and 24.8 per cent has borderline food consumption. This is an improvement from 31 and 23 per cent respectively in 2012. However, coping mechanisms worsened in Al Hudaydah, Lahj and Al Mahwit, and the survey found that 45 per cent of the people buy food on credit. As a result, people may be more vulnerable to shocks than is immediately apparent. Most food in Yemen is imported, meaning Yemenis are extremely reliant on the international market for food supply, with domestic agriculture used more as a source of income. Greater labour demand in the June-July harvest season should therefore boost incomes and potentially improve overall food security.

Food Security:

11 governorates are most likely to be affected in 2013
(Percentage of food insecure households)



Warnings over possible desert locust spread

Groups of desert locust adults have moved into the interior of Saudi Arabia, and mature gregarious adults were reported on the edges of irrigated alfalfa fields where they apparently laid eggs, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization.

As a result, there is moderate to high risk that small groups or perhaps a few small swarms could reach south-west Iran and continue eastwards along the southern coast of Yemen and into the interior of the country (between Marib, Ataq, Hadramaut and Thamud), especially in areas that received good rainfall. The situation is being monitored closely and control operations will be undertaken if necessary. Without adequate control, desert locusts have the potential to severely damage crops.



Desert locusts can damage livelihoods

The number of migrants arriving in Yemen from the Horn of Africa dropped in April to the lowest number per month since January, and is lower than the number of arrivals at the same time last year

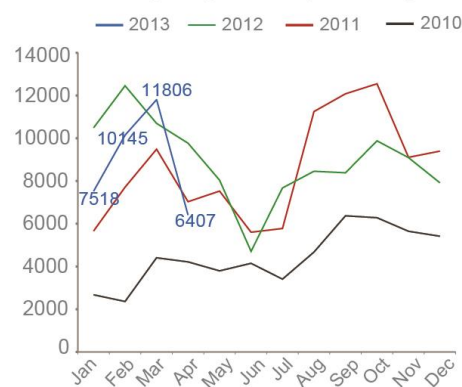
Regional approach needed to address migrants' plight

Fewer migrant arrivals recorded in April amid reports of abuse

The number of migrants arriving in Yemen from the Horn of Africa via both the Red and Arabian seas dropped from 11,806 in March to 6,407 in April, compared to 10,693 in March and 9,767 in April 2012. This is the lowest reported level since June 2012 and is 12 per cent lower than the same period last year. Humanitarian organizations are trying to understand why the numbers have dropped and hope to get a clearer picture when the data for May is received.

But even as fewer migrants arrive in Yemen, they continue to face exploitation, physical and sexual abuse. In January, the Nairobi-based Regional Mixed Migration Secretariat (RMMS) reported 36 cases of sexual and gender-based violence, mostly perpetrated by smuggling crews at sea.

Trend analysis (2010 - April 2013)



A regional conference on mixed migration is being planned in September to discuss the influx of migrants from the Horn of Africa to the Gulf region

On the boat journey from Djibouti to Yemen, almost every female is a victim of or witness to rape, according to RMMS.

UNHCR estimates that 35,876 migrants from the Horn of Africa have arrived in Yemen since January, including 30,095 Ethiopians. According to the RMMS, 11 per cent of the migrants who arrived in April were attempting the journey for the second or third time. Most hope to reach Yemen as a transit point en route to wealthier Gulf countries.

Regional approach being explored to resolve migrant crisis

In Haradh town near the Saudi border, thousands of stranded migrants face harrowing conditions with limited access to food, health care or sanitation. In southern Yemen, 200 migrants are living in the Basateen area in Aden. Despite funding shortages, partners are responding to migrants' urgent needs. But emergency assistance is not a durable solution. Partners are therefore working with Yemeni and regional authorities to find longer-term answers, including voluntary returns. All 1,804 migrants freed by Government operations against traffickers since 16 April were returned to Ethiopia on two military and nine commercial flights organized by the Yemeni authorities.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is urgently seeking \$3.3 million to assist the voluntary return of 6,000 migrants to Ethiopia. The organization has received some funding for in-country assistance, but none for returns assistance. Efforts to address the problem are now being handled from a regional perspective. IOM Yemen works with IOM Ethiopia on awareness-raising as well as assistance to those who arrive back home in Ethiopia. In September, a regional conference is planned to discuss and agree on strategies to stem mixed migration from the Horn of Africa to the Gulf region.

Increased efforts to provide health care

Online disease surveillance and response reporting up and running

The Electronic Disease Early Warning and Response System (eDEWS) that is being piloted by the Health Cluster in Aden, Abyan, Lahj and Taizz Governorates is now operational. The system will fill gaps in terms of data on morbidity and mortality. Ninety per cent (81 out of 90) of health facilities in the four governorates have provided surveillance data and 32 alerts have been verified as true for further investigations and response since 4 March.

The system was launched in March to strengthen the weak disease surveillance systems in Yemen. The pilot phase of the project involves 100 health facilities which have been identified as sentinel sites for weekly reporting to eDEWS. More than 130 health care providers from selected sites and health departments in the four governorates have been trained on weekly reporting, including case definitions, disease surveillance, public health response and health information management.

Implementation of the eDEWS system across Yemen by the end of 2013 will improve planning and implementation of health care interventions



The health systems in Yemen are still inadequate

Discussions are underway to determine how the hospital in Al Mazraq can continue to offer services to IDPs, migrants and host communities, after MSF-Spain pulls out in June

Partners in the Health Cluster hope to expand the eDEWS to cover all governorates in the country by the end of the year. This will facilitate monitoring of diseases, mortality and morbidity, thus improving the planning and implementation of health care interventions across the country.

Discussions underway to keep Haradh hospital open after MSF-S leaves

Médecins Sans Frontières-Spain (MSF-S) will stop admissions into Al Mazraq hospital in Hajjah Governorate on 23 June, and the hospital will be closed on 30 June. Discussions are underway between the World Health Organization (WHO), the Ministry of Health and other partners to find a solution to keep the hospital running, as this is the only referral hospital offering services to thousands of IDPs in Al Mazraq area, migrants and the host community.

Two other medical facilities exist in the Al Mazraq IDP camps, namely the Adventist Relief Agency clinic in camp III and the UNHCR health centre in camp I. Both refer patients to the MSF-S hospital, which provides treatment for at least 150 patients a day. Should the Ministry of Health, in collaboration with WHO, take over provision of services at the hospital, then some gaps in health service provision in the area, especially for IDPs, migrants and the host communities, will be filled.

In Brief

Worries over increasing HIV/AIDs infections

The Yemen National Programme to Fight Aids has registered 160 new cases of HIV/AIDS since the beginning of the year and the trend is worrying health officials. The cases were registered in Sana'a, Aden, Al Hudaydah, Taizz and Hadramaut Governorates. Official statistics show that Yemen recorded 3,502 cases in 2012, with most infections believed to have been sexually transmitted.

OCHA Yemen Client Satisfaction Survey - 2012/2013

OCHA Yemen is conducting a survey among its stakeholders to review its performance during 2012 and the first quarter of 2013. In order to improve its performance, OCHA is appealing to all who use OCHA Yemen products, including NGO and INGO partners, Government officials, UN agencies, and others to fill in the survey online: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PJ3NLR9>.

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