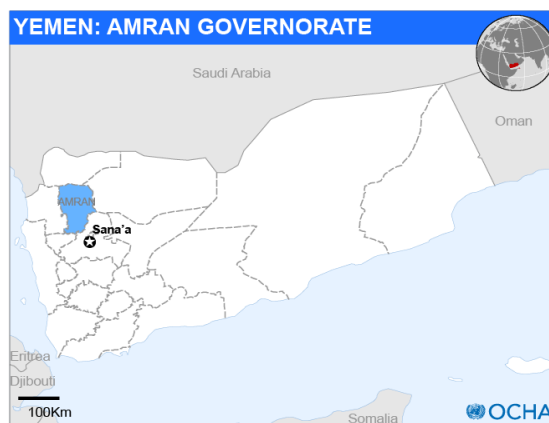




This report is produced by OCHA Yemen in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It covers the period from 31 January to 5 February 2014.

Highlights

- Violent conflict has left thousands of people displaced in Amran Governorate.
- An estimated 42,350 people have been displaced within the governorate since October 2013.
- A total of 81,857 people are displaced out of 452,662 living in conflict-affected areas of Amran Governorate
- Aid organizations have assisted 7,100 newly displaced people so far; the majority within Amran city.
- Protection of civilians, in particular women and children, is of great concern.
- Insecurity prevents humanitarian response outside Amran city.



Source: OCHA

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

452,662

Total population in conflict affected areas *

81,857

Total number of displaced people within the governorate

42,350

Estimated number of displaced people since October 2013

7,100

Recent internally displaced people reached with some assistance **

*Out of a total population of 949,185 in the Governorate. Included districts are: Amran, Raydah, Khamir, Al Ashah, Al Qaflah, Kharif, Huth and Bani Suraim. Source: iMAPP population project 2013, based on data from the Central Statistical Office.

**Assisted by UNHCR. This figure does not indicate that needs have been comprehensively met.

Situation Overview

An estimated 42,350 people have been displaced by conflict within Amran Governorate since October 2013. Most of these people are living with families and host communities across the governorate. More than 23,800 people have reportedly reached Amran city, while thousands have sought shelter in other parts of the governorate (Bani Suraim, Khamir and Raydah districts). Another 800 people have arrived in the capital, Sana'a.

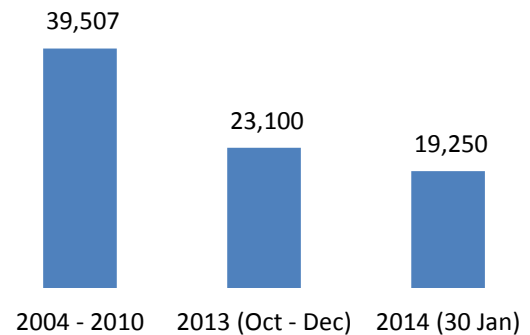
Since 30 January, new rounds of clashes between Hashid Tribes and Al-Houthis have been taking place in Amran Governorate. Fighting in Huth, Khamir, Al Ashah, Wadi Danan and Al Khaiwan over the weekend of 31 January caused a new wave of displacement towards Amran city and Sana'a. A local civil society organization reports that as many as 19,250 people have been displaced. Some 7,000 people are reportedly unable to leave the area of conflict, and the renewed fighting has led to secondary displacement of a large number of people displaced by the conflict at the end of 2013. Dozens of people have been reported killed and others injured in the fighting.

On 3 February, a mediation team led by the Governor of Sana'a facilitated a truce between the fighting parties. The truce required fighters from both sides to withdraw from the contested areas to pave way for the deployment of the national army. However, the situation remains tense. There are fears of more clashes following the capture of Huth town (population of some 22,500 people, according to the 2004 census) by Al-Houthis. On 5 February, reports emerged that the Al Houthis were advancing towards Amran city and were already gathering at Rayda. Fighting in Amran city and Arhab District (on outskirts of Sanaa) could displace more people to the Capital, Sana'a.

Displacement of people within Amran Governorate has occurred several times over the last 10 years. While some people have returned to their areas of origin, many remain displaced and dependent on humanitarian assistance. Families hosting displaced people face extra difficulties to support them.

Recent violence occurred in areas hosting previously displaced people. It is likely that some people were displaced for a second or third time. Therefore, the number of people in need of assistance might not be equivalent to the number of displaced people.

Information about displacement in recent days is still preliminary because verification is difficult due to fluid population movements and a lack of access to IDPs in remote locations. Given that the displacement patterns are highly fluid, further assessments are necessary to inform activities and response plans. Currently, WFP, UNHCR and OCHA staff are on the ground working with national NGOs to address the most critical needs of registered IDPs. In addition, ICRC, WHO, Humanitarian Aid and Development, and MSF-F are providing medical supplies through local partners including the Ministry of Health.



Displacement of people that have been reported in Yemen during different durations. Aid agencies are to still figure out new numbers of displacement during February 2014

Funding

Humanitarian agencies have the capacity to respond to the immediate needs of the people affected by the recent conflict. On 5 February, OCHA convened a meeting with national partners to discuss the implementation of ongoing projects funded through the Emergency Response Fund (ERF) in Amran, as well as the possible need for and capacity to initiate additional projects within lifesaving sectors. Additional funding requirements will be addressed through the ERF as needs arise.

Humanitarian Response

Prior to the recent escalation of violence, the only UN agency with staff in Amran was UNHCR. Others operated through national partners. As a result of growing humanitarian needs, UNHCR, WFP and OCHA are boosting their response capacity in Amran particularly to support national partners in establishing the new caseload and providing assistance to affected people in the south. Access to the affected people in northern Amran is led from neighbouring Sa'ada Governorate.

Thousands of IDP families that registered for assistance in the northern parts of the governorate – areas of ongoing violence - are out of reach. As a result, much-needed assistance is likely to delay due to access constraints, limited presence of humanitarian partners and general insecurity. A large proportion of the displaced people are women and children.



Protection

Response:

- UNHCR and national partners have assisted some 7,100 people (1,420 IDP families) with non-food items, such as cooking utensils and plastic sheeting. The majority are within Amran city.
- Protection monitoring activities are going on through the Community Based Protection Network and the community centre in Amran. This is run by UNHCR through its implementing partner, Islamic Relief Yemen (IRY).
- Activities that target the enhancement of protection for vulnerable groups are continuing. These include rental support, and psycho-social and legal counselling.
- The Protection Cluster will strengthen its community-based protection network to better understand the situation where direct access is difficult.
- Child protection partners are implementing mine risk education activities in six districts in Amran (Bani Suraim, Huth, Harf Sufyan, Al Asha, Al Qafrah, Habour Thulayma), reaching 13,694 people (791 IDPs, 12,933 host communities).
- UNHCR and national partners are working closely with the Government IDP Executive Unit to register displaced people and assess needs. The forced displacement has generated more protection issues across the governorate.

Needs, gaps and constraints:

- UNHCR and WFP discussed methodologies for the registration of IDPs in northern Amran. The agencies plan to train local partners in Sa'ada on registration/verification so they can reach IDPs in northern Amran.
- A national NGO's ERF-funded project targeting vulnerable displaced families in Raydah, Jabal Iyal Yazid and Amran for house rent support, which is due to start this week, is reconsidering the target areas following recent displacement patterns within the governorate.
- To address the rising needs of children affected by conflict, the Child Protection Sub-Cluster has developed an Emergency Response Fund proposal for Child Friendly Spaces and Mine Risk Education.
- UNFPA and UNHCR are discussing how to strengthen GBV response. The agencies plan to organize a joint training on GBV monitoring/reporting for national NGOs

**Shelter****Response:**

- UNHCR's implementing partners are providing rental support to vulnerable displaced families in Amran city.
- Shelter/NFI/CCCM Cluster has a stock of non-food items (NFIs) to respond to immediate needs of 56,000 people (8,000 families). The cluster will organize a coordination meeting early next week to scale up their capacity to serve 84,000 people (12,000 families), possibly through the ERF.

Needs, gaps and constraints:

- UNHCR is considering setting up a warehouse in Amran. However, a recent update on the possible deterioration of security in Amran city may delay the proposal.
- UNHCR and its partners consider distributing NFIs from Sa'ada for IDPs in northern Amran. The area is not accessible from Amran city. (See also Protection)

**Food Security****Response:**

- Food aid – WFP will provide food (one month ration) to some 2,240 IDPs (approx. 320HH) in Sana'a and 5,810 people (approx. 830HH) in Amran who are registered by UNHCR and the Executive Unit. The numbers are expected to grow. Distribution in Amran started on 6 February while distribution in Sana'a will begin next week.
- WFP is distributing food to some 39,507 vulnerable people in Amran.

Needs, gaps and constraints:

- Distribution of basic food and nutrition supplies are ongoing, but the current plans need to accommodate the new caseload as new arrivals of IDPs are reported..
- Insecurity has hindered the ability of food partners to reach certain groups with assistance.

**Health****Response:**

- Health partners are scaling up distribution of essential drugs to health facilities throughout the conflict affected areas.
- MSF-France is present in Khamir hospital. Its activities include supporting the referral system with 3 ambulances.
- Humanitarian Aid and Development (HAD) is supporting one health center and two health units in Bani Suraim with staffing and medical supplies. The health center received 139 patients displaced from Huth by the recent violence.

- ICRC provided 2 dressing kits and PHC medicines to Al-Asha rural hospital, in addition to 3 dressing kits and PHC medicines to Sukibat health unit.
- WHO/MoPH will provide 1 trauma kit (A+B) and 5 dressing kits. These kits are dispatched to the governorate health office.
- Reproductive emergency kits have been provided to Amran and Khamir hospitals. The medical supplies can assist 270,000 people. This could accommodate newer caseloads as conflict unfolds.

Needs, gaps and constraints:

- A national NGOs ERF-funded project which was due to provide medical assistance to Al Ashah hospital withdrew its staff from the area last week due to insecurity. The project was only one day old. A local partner will, together with OCHA and the cluster lead, consider a possible relocation of the project within the area to address emerging needs. Essential medicines will be transported to Harf Sufyan from WHO/MoPHP warehouse in Sa'ada based on identified needs. Access to Harf Sufyan is possible from Sa'ada Governorate (north) and difficult from Amran (south) due to active conflict and insecurity.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Response:

- UNICEF's local implementing partner Charitable Society for Social Welfare (CSSW) has provided hygiene kits to 814 newly displaced families.
- Water has been trucked for 555 IDPs families reaching 5,980 individuals in transit locations in Amran, Khamir, and Raydah districts on a daily basis.

Needs, gaps and constraints:

- The limited number of partners in conflict-affected areas severely affects information collection as well as capability to provide assistance.



Nutrition

Response:

- UNICEF has delivered nutrition supplies – plumpy nut and medication – to 29 health facilities in the affected areas. Three mobile clinics are screening, referring and treating severely acute malnourished children in the districts of Raydah, Iyal Surayh and Jabal Iyal Yazid.

Needs, gaps and constraints:

- The existence of roadblocks has delayed the delivery of nutrition supplies in Qaflah and Al Ashah districts.
- Displaced under 5 children are highly vulnerable to malnutrition in addition to pregnant and lactating mothers.



Education

Response:

- UNICEF is supporting 9 child friendly schools in Shahara, Amran and Al Asha districts.
- Some 20,000 school bags for grade 1-3 have been distributed across the governorate.
- The Education Cluster with partners is planning to distribute 1,500 school bags to children in the districts of Al Ashah, Al Qaflah, Maswar, Sauwayr, Bani Suraim, Al Madan and Al Sawd.

Needs, gaps and constraints:

- Assessments are going on to rehabilitate 18 conflict-affected schools in Harf Sufyan.

General Coordination

Due to reoccurring violence within the governorate over several years, assessing and addressing the needs of conflict-affected people is and has been a challenge. Insecurity is challenging the ability of both national and international humanitarian organizations to establish a presence in the area.

Coordination of the ongoing operation is supported by the OCHA sub-office in Sa'adah as well as the country office in Sana'a in close cooperation with cluster lead agencies. Agencies and partners are closely monitoring the situation and will continue to coordinate the verification of needs, numbers of affected people and response efforts.

To strengthen coordination both for assessing and responding to needs, cluster lead agencies (UNHCR, WFP) and OCHA have strengthened their presence in Amran.

Agencies and organizations present in Amran Governorate include: UNHCR, WFP, OCHA, , Charitable Society for Social Welfare (CSSW), Humanitarian Aid and Development organization (HAD), Islamic Relief Yemen, MSF-F, National Foundation for Development and Human Rights, (NFDHR) Sama Al Yemen and Yemeni Red Crescent (YRC).

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