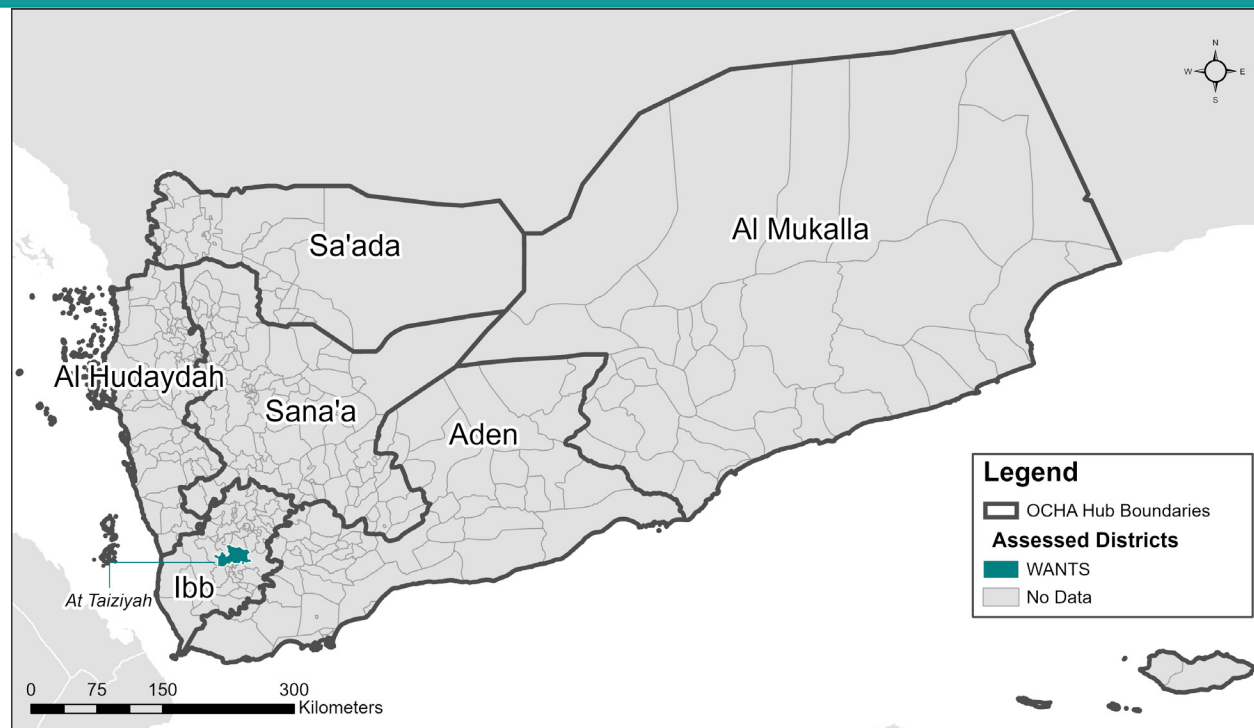


INTRODUCTION

The Yemen WASH Cluster (YWC) launched the WASH Needs Tracking System (WANTS) with the support of REACH to provide high quality WASH data and inform more effective programming and planning. The WANTS comprises a set of harmonized monitoring tools which, through partner data collection, provide updated information on WASH access and needs throughout Yemen.

This Situation Overview describes all YWC partner assessments carried out between January and March 2021, including four WANTS Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) conducted in Taiz governorate. The Situation Overview triangulates WASH assessment findings with contextual information.



WASH RESPONSE UPDATES¹

The final 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) was published in March, setting forth a strategy to provide humanitarian aid to the people of Yemen. It was estimated that 3.85 billion United States Dollars (USD) would be needed in 2021 to reach the targeted 16 million people (representing 77% of the total 20.7 million people in need).

An estimated 15.4 million people are in need of WASH assistance, and it is expected to cost 331 million USD to provide WASH assistance to the 11.2 million people who are targeted for WASH programming by the HRP. The targeted population includes 2.4 million women, 6.3 million children and 1.7 million people living with disabilities. The 2021 WASH strategy has four core pillars 1) embed WASH as integral to public health, 2) make inclusive WASH a priority, 3) build predictable, risk-based response and 4) reduce negative environmental impact.

- In 2021, the YWC will work with 80 partners to preserve life, well-being and dignity and reduce risk of WASH-related disease.
- The YWC will target: 6.6 million people with programming to address acute WASH needs to prevent and respond to outbreaks; 3.5 million Yemenis displaced by conflict, natural disaster, or climate change by delivering integrated assistance to improve WASH services and mitigate flood risk; and 6.1 million people through the restoration and maintenance of WASH infrastructure.
- The YWC approach will be guided by WASH needs analysis, prioritizing Yemenis in acute need of WASH assistance.

1) [Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan 2021](#).

HUMANITARIAN PROGRAM CYCLE

The 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO)² estimates that 20.7 million people (66% of the Yemeni population) require some form of humanitarian assistance, with 12.1 million people in acute need. Lack of WASH services is one of the main drivers of need in Yemen, with 15.4 million people in need of WASH assistance. According to YWC findings, 49% of households have no access to safe water and 42% have no adequate sanitation. Only 45% of households have access to soap, with 55% reporting cost as the main barrier to soap access.

As of February, only 1.7 billion of the needed 3.85 billion USD had been pledged. Funding for the humanitarian aid response in Yemen was reduced by about half from 2019 to 2020, largely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2020, only 54% of the WASH budget was funded, causing significant gaps in WASH assistance coverage. As the humanitarian situation is predicted to deteriorate in 2021, it is critical that more funding is pledged to the humanitarian response.³

FOOD INSECURITY

According to the UN Secretary⁴, Yemen is facing “the worst famine the world has seen in decades.” The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) reports that a total of 13.5 million people (45% of the population) were facing severe food insecurity as of December 2020, and project that number to increase to 16.2 million (54%) by June 2021. Food insecurity is largely driven by the ongoing conflict, economic shocks and reduced foreign investment. The situation is especially severe in Al Jawf, Amran and Hajjah governorates, where “famine-like conditions” have already been identified and urgent action is needed.

According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Yemen Situation report, food and fuel prices have increased by more than 150% compared to pre-crisis levels. The World Food Programme (WFP) is providing nutrition assistance to 1.1 million women and children every month, but has identified widening funding gaps to meet their targeted food and cash activities in April-June 2021. Overall, the WFP estimates it is short 1.9 billion USD to ensure uninterrupted food assistance in 2021.

CONFLICT

Between January and March 2021, a total of 19,806 fatalities were reported across Yemen due to a total of 9,567 conflict events consisting of: 3,881 battles; 88 riots; 4,933 explosions and incidences of remote violence; and 665 actions of violence against civilians⁵.

Conflict has escalated in the districts of Ma'rib and neighboring governorates since mid-January. Ma'rib governorate currently hosts an estimated one million internally displaced persons (IDPs), and current displacements mean that most households have already been displaced at least once before. OCHA reports⁶ that ongoing clashes in Ma'rib have forced over 1,150 households to flee their homes. As the conflict continues, more households are expected to flee to the east, where IDP sites lack space and resources are stretched thin. An estimated 25 humanitarian agencies are currently providing aid in Ma'rib and have already reached an estimated 11,000 displaced people. UNHCR and partners continue to provide assistance and they have provided about 1,400 individuals with emergency tents and core relief items to those fleeing hostilities in Ma'rib governorate.

COVID-19 and WASH

Yemen's first COVID-19 case was announced in April 2020. As of March 28th, 2021, there have been 3,973 confirmed cases of COVID-19 with 833 deaths in Yemen. WASH interventions play an important role in the COVID-19 response, as hygiene is a key component of infection prevention. According to the most recent WASH 4W data⁷, 7 YWC partners conducted COVID-19 activities across 20 districts in 8 governorates in January-February 2021.

YGUSSWP has distributed COVID-19 kits at IDP sites for 353 households and establishing eight hand washing points. The UN and partners continue to work on providing COVID-19 interventions with 7 new laboratories: four in the south (Aden, Al Mukalla, Seyoun & Ta'iz) and 3 in the north (Sana'a city & Al Hodeidah & Ibb City), as well as 26 Emergency Operations Centers that have been repurposed for COVID-19.

2) 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) 3) Yemen Humanitarian Update 4) Yemen Situation Report 5) ACLED Dashboard 6) Yemen Situation Report 7) Yemen WASH Cluster Partners Presence



KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW (n=4): the findings below are based on four KIIs conducted in At Taiziyah district, in Taiz governorate. Data was collected in January 2021 by the General Authority for Rural Water Supply Projects (GARWSP). These findings should only be interpreted as indicative of the WASH needs in the district where the interviews were collected.

Water

Proportion of KIs that reported in the 30 days prior to data collection their community:

Used an improved drinking water source¹ as their main source 2/4

Experienced water quality issues 2/4

Proportion of KIs that reported water access problems in the 30 days prior to data collection:

Waterpoints too far away 1/4

Some groups lack access 1/4

There are no water points available 2/4

Waterpoint is closed 0/4



2/4 KIs reported people in the community do not treat their drinking water, for the following reasons:

Do not treat because they cannot afford to 0/4

Do not treat due to lack of materials 2/4

Do not know how to treat 0/4

Hygiene

Estimated proportion of people in the community with enough soap in the 30 days prior to data collection, as reported by KIs:

All 2/4

Most people 0/4

About half 0/4

Few 2/4

None 0/4



Hygiene items at least one KI reported was not accessible or increased in price in the 30 days prior to data collection:

	Not Accessible	Price Increased
Bar of soap	-	x
Soap for cleaning floor	-	x
Jerry can/Bucket	-	x
Sanitary pads	-	x
Diapers	-	x
Washing powder	-	x
Washing basin	-	x
Toothpaste	-	x
Toothbrush	-	x
Chlorine	x	x

1) Defined by the WHO as a source that, by nature of its construction, adequately protects the water from outside contamination, in particular from faecal matter.

2) Defined by the WHO as one that likely hygienically separates human excreta from human contact.

Sanitation

Main sanitation facility type used by people in the community in the 30 days prior to data collection, as reported by KIs:

Open defecation 0/4

Pit latrine with slab and platform 2/4

Flush or pour flush toilet 0/4

Hanging toilet 0/4

Open hole 2/4

Estimated proportion of people in the community with access to a functional latrine in the 30 days prior to data collection, as reported by KIs:

All 0/4

Most people 1/4

About half 2/4

Few 1/4

None 0/4



Proportion of KIs that reported sanitation problems in the 30 days prior to data collection:

There is sewage in the streets 3/4

The pipes are broken 3/4

Latrines are not functioning 2/4

Proportion of KIs that reported in the 30 days prior to data collection their community:

Used improved sanitation facilities² 2/4

Had regular garbage collection 3/4

Disposed of garbage in public containers 0/4

