YEMEN
Emergency Level: Level 3
Reporting period: 01-03-2020 to 31-03-2020

HIGHLIGHTS

- A total of 2,512 Health Facilities (16 Governorate Hospitals, 119 District Hospitals, 51 General Hospitals, 18 Specialized Hospitals, 690 Health Centers and 1,618 Health Units) are being supported by Health Cluster Partners.

- The cumulative total number of suspected Cholera cases from the 1st of January to the 31st of Mar, 2020 is 100484 with 26 associated deaths (CFR 0.03%). Children under five represent 23% whilst the elderly above 60 years of age accounted for 6.0% of total suspected cases. The outbreak has so far affected in 2020: 22 of 23 governorates and 290 of 333 districts in Yemen.

- As of 31st of March 2020, Health Cluster Partners supported a total number of 250 DTCs and 1007 ORCs in the 147 Priority districts.

HEALTH SECTOR

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<tr>
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<th>71</th>
<th>HEALTH CLUSTER PARTNERS</th>
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<td>14 M</td>
<td>PEOPLE IN ACUTE NEED</td>
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**KITS DELIVERED TO HEALTH FACILITIES/PARTNERS**

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<tr>
<td>22 IEHK BASIC KITS</td>
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<td>0 IEHK SUPPLEMENTARY KITS</td>
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<td>0 TRAUMA KITS</td>
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**SUPPORTED HEALTH FACILITIES**

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<td>2,512 HEALTH FACILITIES</td>
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**OUTPATIENT CONSULTATIONS**

| 1,507,627 OUTPATIENT CONSULTATIONS |

**SURGERIES**

| 37,870 ASSISTED DELIVERIES (NORMAL & C/S) |

**VACCINATION**

| 52,597 PENTA 3 |

**EDEWS**

| 1,982 SENTINEL SITES |

**FUNDING US$$**

| 627.2 M REQUESTED |
| 0M (0%) FUNDING RECEIVED BY 31ST MARCH 2020 [SOURCE FTS] |
Situation update

Yemen is in the midst of the worst manmade humanitarian crisis in the world. The people in need has increased reaching a whopping 24.1 million people out of 29 million people. Out of the 24.1 million people in need, 19.7 million person require some sort of health assistance and 14 million out of that are in dire need of health assistance. 45 Health cluster partners with ongoing active projects are currently supporting and responding to the health needs of the Yemeni people working in 2041 health facilities all over Yemen. Providing continuous support and health services requires the sustainability of funding for the health operations in Yemen, which supports the most vulnerable groups in the country.

The Intensified fighting in Nihm, Al-Jawf and Marib boarders has led to the displacement of more than 35 thousand individuals towards the southern parts of Marib and surrounding areas and are living in crowded public buildings, tents and with host communities. Health Cluster Partners are responding to their health needs through mobile clinics and teams in these IDPs locations.

COVID-19 is continuing to spread at an alarming rate in neighboring countries with cases skyrocketing in the EMRO region. WHO and MoPHP are currently working on the preparedness and response to COVID-19. No cases of COVID-19 have been registered in Yemen till this date. However, the risk is very high that the virus will be transmitted into the country in the near future.

Public health risks, priorities, needs and gaps

There are about 51% fully functional Health Facilities (HFs), 36% partially functional and 13% remain non-functional (*HeRAMS 2018*). The Majority of the Yemeni population have limited access to health services as a result of the harsh economic conditions, which impacts their ability to seek health services. As a result of transport costs, poor road infrastructure and insecurity, road blocks and advancing frontlines, access challenges continue to further complicate the already worsened situation.

The referral from PHC to the secondary care level, the availability and cost of specialized care alongside limited resources for the care of non-communicable diseases continue to place a huge burden on the patients who suffer from chronic illnesses such as diabetes, hypertension, renal failure and cancer.

COVID-19 outbreak has been registered in many countries in the region. WHO risk assessment of virus reaching Yemen is still at low, but preventive measures have been taken at entry points and reagents and supplies have been provided to the Central Public Health Labs in Yemen. Enhancement of the capacities of the CPHL has been supported with training and technical support from WHO. The situation is being monitored closely for any updates or change.

Communicable Diseases

In March 2020, there have been a total of 31493 suspected cases reported including 6 associated deaths (CFR 0.02%). Within the last four weeks, 197 districts have reported suspected cases. The highest proportion of cases is being reported from districts where access is challenging due to insecurity.

From the 1st of January to the 31 of March 2020, there were 100484 cholera suspected cases reported, 26 associated deaths and the outbreak has affected 22 of 23 governorates and 290 of 333 districts in Yemen. The districts reporting the highest number of suspected cases of cholera during month of Mar 2020 were, Saleh 1049, Hamdan 922; Al Hali 897; Az Zuhrah 692; and Bani Al Harith 645. The highest
reporting governorates of Cholera were Al-Hudaydah 5048; Sana’a 4839; Taizz 4685; Ibb 3050; Dhamar 2438,

Non-communicable diseases and Mental Health

There were 16,740 new hypertensive and 11,623 individuals with mental health illness who received medical attention and psychosocial support by health partners during the month of March 2020.

Health Facility Support

In March 2020, 43 Health Cluster Partners have sustained their support to the 2,041 health facilities including operational support, incentives for the health workers, training of health workers and provision of medicines and medical supplies.

Availability of essential services

The Health Cluster Partners are continuing to support primary and secondary health care services across the country. These services are offered free of charge across all health centers and units, with secondary health care provided in the governorate and district hospitals, as a result of the support of partners with incentives and operational costs. Some of the main challenges that are hindering the delivery of quality health services are insecurity, access impediments and inadequate health workers (capacity and numbers). The economic situation is becoming worst on a daily basis as the Yemeni Rial continues to depreciate and the majority of the population are not able to afford transport to and from the health facilities. In addition, the roads are in poor state and can some of them are no longer usable. In an effort to counter these challenges, Health Partners are supporting and facilitating patients’ transportation and referral through the voucher system in order to improve acceptance, access and utilization of health services by the patients.
Availability of Health Staff

The health workers available in the health facilities are not enough, as the majority have migrated from their locations due to insecurity, access challenges or lack of salaries. Those still in the health facilities are largely dependent on incentives offered by the humanitarian actors to sustain the remaining services offered in these facilities.

Availability of Essential Drugs, Vaccines and Supplies

Health Cluster partners supported the health facilities’ operations with medicines and medical supplies as well as payment of incentives to health staff. 716,409 Liters of fuel and 33.5 million liters of water were supplied to the health facilities in addition to 22 IEHK basic Kits, 0 IEHK Supplementary kits, 557 other types of kits and 0 Trauma kit to support various health facilities across the country.

Health Cluster Action

Health Cluster Partners include 4 UN agencies, 18 INGOs, 21 NNGOs in 22 Governorates in Yemen. In March 2020, 43 Partners reported through the Yemen health information system.

Partners Implementation Status can be accessed at http://yemenhc.org

Health Cluster Partners Updates – March 2020

Health Cluster Partners continued supporting health service delivery across the country. Below are a few examples of different Health Cluster Partners operating in different governorates inside Yemen.

World Health Organization (WHO)

The World Health Organization in Yemen continues to provide life-saving health services in Yemen and supporting and enhancing the existing health system. WHO is also focusing on COVID-19 Preparedness and support. As of the 31st of March 2020, no COVID-19 cases have been confirmed in Yemen.

Key Highlights regarding COVID-19:

Coordination and Leadership

- A national COVID-19 committee has been established, with WHO advising on all technical issues pertaining to the national response. The committee meets once a week and on an ad-hoc basis as needed.
- The Country Level Preparedness and Response Plan has undergone further revisions and will be discussed with MOPHP.
- The Sana’a MOPHP COVID-19 focal point and the WHO COVID-19 focal point are attending the global COVID-19 telephone conferences to understand the situation in neighboring countries.
- Meetings at the Aden emergency operations center (EOC) are being held regularly, with updates provided on all of the response pillars.
- WHO has assisted in the development of the UN country-level contingency and business continuity plan.
- Free hotlines have been activated for the public for incoming updates and outgoing information. The MOPHP has conducted a press conference to address prevailing rumors.
**Surveillance and Laboratory**

- The PCR thermocycler at the Central Public Health Laboratory (CPHL) in Sana’a has been calibrated, and a test run was performed to ensure COVID-19 can be detected.
- Additional reagents for 5,700 PCR reactions were received in the country.
- Surveillance and RRTs training of trainers conducted in Sana’a. Training in Aden scheduled for this week.
- Active case search ongoing in Aden and Sana’a. One suspected case detected during the week in Aden, with lab result testing negative.
- Of a total of 38 suspected cases investigated in the country, all have tested negative.

**Communication and Community Engagement**

- School sensitization and awareness campaigns started in Sana’a and Hadramout schools during the morning student assembly to educate students about COVID-19.
- Engaging religious leaders: A circulation to mosques and imams in Sana’a, Aden and other governorates about the importance of personal hygiene, has taken place.
- Social media messaging: Public health messaging and infographics have been shared in English and Arabic. Traffic also has been directed to the global coronavirus dashboard handled by WHO HQ.
- IEC material development and distribution:
  - Printed 326,000 posters, stickers, and leaflets, including for public awareness and health workers. In Sana’a 5 TV spots and 10 radio spots were produced that covered COVID-19 symptoms, transmission and prevention. In Aden, short TV spots were produced to inform the public across three channels.
  - Broadcasts have taken place on 9 TV channels and 17 radio stations.

For further information, please refer to WHO’s situation reports.

In addition to the COVID-19 preparedness and response, WHO continues to provide its regular support to hospitals and health facilities to provide essential life-saving services.

**United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)**

UNICEF is a UN organization supporting a large number of Health Facilities in Yemen and also conducting vaccination campaigns, WASH and awareness activities, communication for development and many other projects. UNICEF is supporting well over 2300 Health Facilities in 332 districts in 22 governorates.

- Attachment (1) includes a success story of the C4D crosscutting with Health Response to Cholera in Al-Dhalea Governorate.
International Organizations for Immigration (IOM)

IOM is a UN Organization supporting more than 86 Health Facilities in 17 governorates in Yemen. Its activities range from Primary Health care, Outbreak Response, Global Fund activities for the Malaria Program, and Mobile teams.

Main Activities:

- Primary healthcare services in line with the Yemen Minimum Service Package, including outpatient consultation, EPI services, malnutrition screening, reproductive health care services and support to referral services.
- Outbreak response including management of Acute Watery Diarrhea through diarrheal treatment centers (DTCs) and oral rehydration corners (ORCs), referral for testing for diseases such as Malaria and Tuberculosis, and awareness raising for prevention of transmission of communicable and vector borne diseases.
- Implementing the activities of the Global Fund through support to the National Malaria Control Program, National Tuberculosis Control Program and National AIDS Program.
- Provision of mobile medical and outreach teams for the provision of emergency primary healthcare and referrals for further medical care for migrants and IDPs respectively.

Key Highlights for March 2020:

- 161367 Health Consultations.
- 3447 suspected Cholera cases treated.
- 23 Health Facilities were supported with medical supplies and equipment.
- Mass distribution campaign of Anti-Malarial drug to 966 HFs in 12 governorates.
- 1049 Migrants received health services through mobile medical teams.
- 443 migrants received medical screening for the Voluntary Humanitarian Return Project.
- Provision of awareness and preventive measures regarding COVID-19.

Figure 2 IOM Activities during March 2020
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

UNFPA is one of the main UN organizations working in Yemen by implementing RH Projects and improving the lives of the people in Yemen.

It is one of the frontline responders during the current COVID-19 outbreak and is working very closely with the Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization in the response to COVID-19. Key areas of support include:

- UNFPA has availed its 40 ventilators that were provided for emergency obstetric care for the response to the pandemic, and another 40 ventilators are being shipped to the country. Equipment is pre-positioned and ready to be deployed to health facilities as needed. UNFPA is also supporting the Reproductive Health Department at Al Kuwait Hospital, the main referral hospital for the treatment of identified cases in Sana’a Governorate.

- UNFPA has provided infection prevention equipment and supplies through its partner CSSW last week to Al-Shihr Hospital in Hadramout where the first case of COVID-19 has been admitted and isolated. These infection prevention equipment supplies include, hand sanitizers, gloves, masks, spraying disinfectants and other essential protection supplies. The hospital and the maternity department in particular has been disinfected and all nurses and midwives at the hospital provided with personal protection equipment (PPE).

- UNFPA has procured and distributed assorted infection control materials and personal protection equipment for approximately 1,500 health personnel, last week, in 22 health facilities in south Yemen. UNFPA is also working to support maternal and reproductive health services that are already in short supply. One critical measure has been reinforcing infection prevention and control in maternal and emergency obstetric care facilities in all the 235 UNFPA-supported health facilities country-wide.

- Community awareness sessions are being conducted by UNFPA partners with the production and distribution of information materials on COVID-19 for pregnant and newborn mothers as per WHO guidelines.


International Medical Corps (IMC)

IMC is a leading International Organization working in Yemen since 2012 providing health services to people in need. It is providing multi-sector humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable communities in six governorates in Yemen - Sana’a, Ibb, Taiz, Lahj, Aden, and Al Dhale’e.

Main Activities:

- Activities supported include general medical consultations for communicable and non-communicable diseases, provision of essential medications, reproductive health care, nutrition and growth monitoring, disease surveillance, community health, infection prevention and control as well as medical waste management. Other services supported include ambulance transport in Al Hussien and Al Dhale districts in Al Dhale governorate and in Al Haima Al Kharajiya district in Sana’a governorate.
Key Highlights during March 2020:

- In the month of March, discussions to start supporting 6 additional health facilities (Jafir, Khedar and Walan in Bilad Alroos district) in Sana’a and (Arhab, Khelah, Sarar) in Al Dhale in April 2020 was finalized.
- 118 community health and nutrition volunteers were trained during the period March 17 – 22, 2020. After the training, they were provided with supplies for community-based case management of common childhood illnesses as per MOPHP protocol. This service aims to complement health facility-based services and improve health outcomes by initiating treatment prior to referral to the nearest health facility. To comply with physical distancing, the participants were divided in groups of 12- 15.

![Figure 3 IMC training during March 2020](image)

**Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRD)**

ADRA is an independent, humanitarian agency established for the specific purpose of providing individual and community development and disaster relief. ADRA International serves 142 countries and has been active in Yemen since 1995, focusing on the delivery of primary health care, economic development, education and food security. ADRA is currently implementing multi-sectoral projects in 11 governorates in Yemen.

**Main Activities:**

- Health system and clinical support; (MSP) minimum service package for vulnerable targeted population. Nutritional support for children under five and LPWs.
- General consultation and operating emergency units at 2 HFs (Kamaran Hospital, Althalooth HC).
- Prevention and treatment of communicable diseases.
- Health education through awareness sessions at the HFs
- Reproductive health which includes ANC, PNC, vaccination and skilled birth delivery.
- Medications and medical supplies to targeted health facilities.

**Key Highlights during March 2020:**

- Incentive support for health care workers in targeted health units and mobile clinics
- Distribution of essential drugs to the targeted health facilities for treatment of targeted population in all of the 72 HFs supported ADRA.
- The distribution of essential equipment in 47 health units completed in March 2020.
- Distribution of medicines to patients in the targeted health facilities for medical treatment, total of 24,060 prescriptions has been issued.
- A total of 40,891 general outpatient consultations provided to the patients includes communicable and non-communicable diseases.
• Emergency units at Kamaran Hospital and Althalooth center has received 5298 emergency cases during March, the ERs are working 24/7.
• A total of 6,903 reproductive health RH assistance cases has been provided to the patients including ANC, PNC and NVD were made to PLWs and children in the target governorates;
• A total of 13,890 individuals have received health awareness in the targeted areas.
• Laboratory tests have been conducted to 8,884 patients at the HFs.
• Nursing service including minor surgeries and dressing has been provided to 11,164 patients at the HFs in the targeted governorates.

Yemen Family Care Association (YFCA)

YFCA is a leading, independent and neutral non-governmental organization that works nationwide at different levels to promote equitable and sustainable development, humanitarian response, and other relevant interventions for a better life and wellbeing of Yemeni communities and individuals. YFCA is currently working in about 27 hospitals, 24 HC and 15 HU in 44 districts in 8 governorates.

Main Activities:
• Obstetric Emergencies to provide maternal, newborn and RH services at health facilities supporting CEmONC & BEmONC services.
• Minimum Health Services Package (MSP) interventions
• General health services for primary and secondary health care including the CD prevention, RH MISP package, IMCI with focus in increasing immunization coverage

Key Highlights during March 2020:
• 17 Health Facilities benefited from operational support, minor maintenance and repair including sanitation, latrines and hand washing points.
• Integration of COVID-19 awareness session through trainings courses of the community health volunteers & health workers, minding reasonable space between participants, ensure cleaning, mobbing the hall ground & tools by anti-septic, providing face masks, disposable gloves, and hand sanitizers to all participants. Also fixing posters that enhance health awareness messages regarding COVID-19.
• 102 total Health Workers trained on the Minimum Service Package (Communicable diseases’ prevention, control and management) according to the national plans and schemes
• 66 total Health workers trained on emergency first aid and Basic lifesaving support BLS
• 66 total Health workers trained on Mass casualties and Trauma Management
• 105 total CHVs trained on hygiene promotion and disease prevention.
• 9 Health Facilities received Medicines, Laboratory solutions, Medical Equipment and medical supplies
- 3 Emergency mobile medical teams
- Over 106,000 Medical Consultations
- 5,000 Pregnant women receiving antenatal care
- 450 Deliveries assisted by skilled birth attendant
- 2,000 Children under one year received Penta 3 vaccination
- 33,000 People reached with health education messages

**Health Cluster Coordination**

**COVID-19 Updates:**

- On the 18th of March, a COVID-19-focused cluster meeting was held in Sana’a, which provided an update on the current preparedness and response plan. Needs and challenges were discussed, followed by a Q&A session.
- Through the cluster channels, work is being done to align protocols for quarantine sites and various other issues. WHO is providing technical guidance where necessary.
- An ad-hoc Health Cluster meeting to update on COVID-19 was held in Aden on Sunday 14th
- COVID-19 situation updates have been presented at UN Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and Senior Management Team (SMT) meetings.

The Health Cluster also conducted **seven Sub-National Health Cluster coordination meetings** conducted in the five functional hubs (Aden, Al Hudaydah, Ibb/Taizz, Sa’ada and Sana’a).

The Sub-National Cluster Coordinators at Hub level conducted **nine field visits** to various health facilities in the governorates to support Health Partners during the month of March 2020.

The Health Cluster participated in **two ICCM meetings and two HCT meetings** at national level and the Sub-National Health Cluster Coordinators attended **eight RCT meetings, two ICWG meetings in all the hubs**.

The Health Cluster conducted **four Technical Working Group meetings** during the month of March 2020 in addition to 15 bilateral meetings.
Training of Health Staff
During the month of March 2020, Partners across the country conducted training sessions for: - 357 community health workers on health education, health promotion and infection prevention - 100 midwives on various topics in Reproductive Health and 365 Nurses.

Trauma and Injury Care
With the ongoing conflict in several parts of the country 15986 patients were treated for conflict related trauma injuries in various health facilities across the country in March 2020.

Child Health
52,597 children were immunized for Penta-3, while 45,693 children were treated for SAM with complications cases and refereed for further follow up care and support.

For Further Information, Please Contact:

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<th>Dr. Fawad Khan</th>
<th>Dr. Nasr Mohammed</th>
<th>Dr. Fahad Al-Fadhel</th>
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<td>Sub-National Health Cluster Coordinator – Sana’a Hub</td>
<td>Health Cluster Coordinator (MoPHP)</td>
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<td>Ministry of Public Health and Population</td>
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