

# YEMEN: Conflict and Displacement in the North (as of Dec 2009)



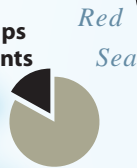
Sporadic clashes between Al-Houthi tribal groups and the Government have led to the sixth round of conflict in the north of Yemen since 2004, creating new displacement and forcing many previously displaced into a second or third displacement.

## Displaced Persons

At least **175,000** (15-20% of the population of Sa'ada) displaced in Yemen,<sup>1</sup> and media reports of an estimated 15,000 Saudis evacuated in Jizan, Saudi Arabia.<sup>2</sup>

Overcrowding and insecurity in the camps and settlements are serious concerns. In Al-Mazraq, an average 150 families are arriving per day, forcing the opening of a second camp with plans to open a third.<sup>3</sup>

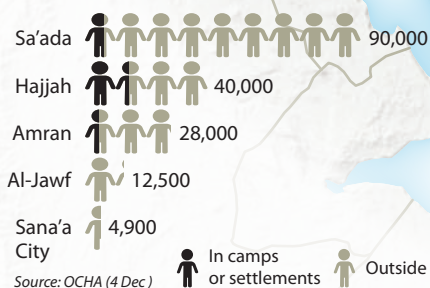
**17% in camps or settlements**



**83% outside**

The majority of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are residing with family and friends, in schools, buildings under construction or makeshift shelters and tents.<sup>4</sup> Ways to increase aid provision to these IDPs need to be devised and strengthened.<sup>3</sup>

## IDPs in Yemen per governorate



## SAUDI ARABIA



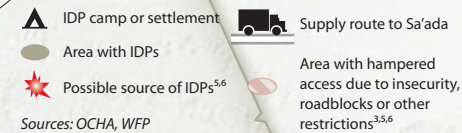
Area with IDPs  
Source: OCHA

## YEMEN

## Humanitarian Access

Lack of continuous humanitarian access has hampered needs assessments and prevented humanitarian activity.<sup>1</sup>

- 1 Sa'ada is only reachable by a route starting in Sana'a through Saudi Arabia. Access beyond Al-Mandaba is not possible.
- 2 IDPs outside of Sa'ada are reachable through various internal routes with several checkpoints causing delays.
- 3 Access to Al-Jawf is limited to Al-Matammah, impeding humanitarian assistance to several hundreds of IDPs stranded in the northern part of the Governorate.
- 4 IDPs are being refused entry to Saudi Arabia, and displaced people are being deported from Saudi Arabia mostly to Hajjah.<sup>5</sup>

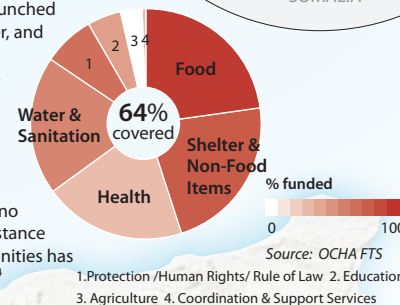


## Critical Needs

Large numbers of residents have progressively lost access to basic services, such as food, water and healthcare.<sup>1</sup> Due to the insecurity, only life saving activities will be carried out by humanitarian actors.<sup>3</sup>

## Requirements US\$22 M

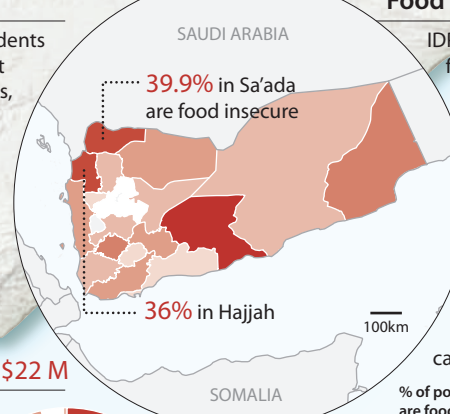
Flash appeal launched on 2 September, and revised on 14 December. It is estimated that only half of the IDPs in some governorates have been assisted, while no significant assistance to host communities has been received.<sup>4</sup>



## Food Insecurity

IDPs represent the most food-insecure populations in Yemen, and Sa'ada and Hajjah suffer from particularly high food insecurity levels.

In Sa'ada, 88% of IDPs outside of camps are dependent on WFP food assistance and 78% of IDPs inside of camps.<sup>1</sup>



## Six waves of conflict

**Aug 2009 - present** - Sixth round of conflict between Al-Houthi and the Government of Yemen breaks out on 12 August. A ceasefire is announced by the Government on 4 September to allow for the distribution of humanitarian aid, however it only lasted a few hours.<sup>6</sup>

**May - Jul 2008** - The government accuses Al-Houthi of violating the ceasefire agreement signed in Doha in February 2008, and the fifth round of conflict breaks out. On 17 July, the president announces a unilateral ceasefire.<sup>7</sup>

**Feb - Jun 2007** - Fourth round of conflict spreads to districts outside of Sa'ada.

**late 2005 - early 2006** - Third round of conflict starts as a confrontation between pro-government tribesmen and tribal fighters supporting Al-Houthis.

**Mar - May 2005** - Second round of conflict erupts in north and west of Sa'ada, where the Al-Houthis found support and the mountainous terrain slowed the army.

**Jun - Sep 2004** - Conflict starts southwest of Sa'ada city where the first head of Al-Houthi, Husein al-Huthi, sought refuge. Following al-Huthi's death on 10 September, the Government declared a unilateral end to the fighting.

**Disclaimer:** The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on all maps do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

**Creation date:** 14 Dec 2009

**Base map sources:** FAO, UNCS, USGS, OCHA, WFP.

**References:**

- 1 OCHA. Humanitarian Response Plan. 1 Dec 2009.
- 2 AlertNet. Saudis flee border fighting with Yemen rebels. 2 Dec 2009.
- 3 OCHA. Yemen Humanitarian Update. 19 Nov 2009.
- 4 OCHA. Yemen Flash Appeal Revised. 14 Dec 2009.
- 5 OCHA. Humanitarian Operations and Assistance Tracking. unpublished.
- 6 OCHA. Yemen: Sa'ada Emergency Situation Reports. 24 Aug - 5 Nov 2009.
- 7 ICG. Yemen: Defusing the Sa'ada Time Bomb. 27 May 2009.