



Yemen Security and Humanitarian Review

1 June to 22 August 2018

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Glossary

Saudi-led Coalition	Includes Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Morocco, Jordan, Sudan, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, and Bahrain.
AQAP	Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula
CNN	Cable News Network
IS	Islamic State
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IRC	International Rescue Committee
UNOCHA	UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
STC	Southern Transition Council
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UN	United Nations

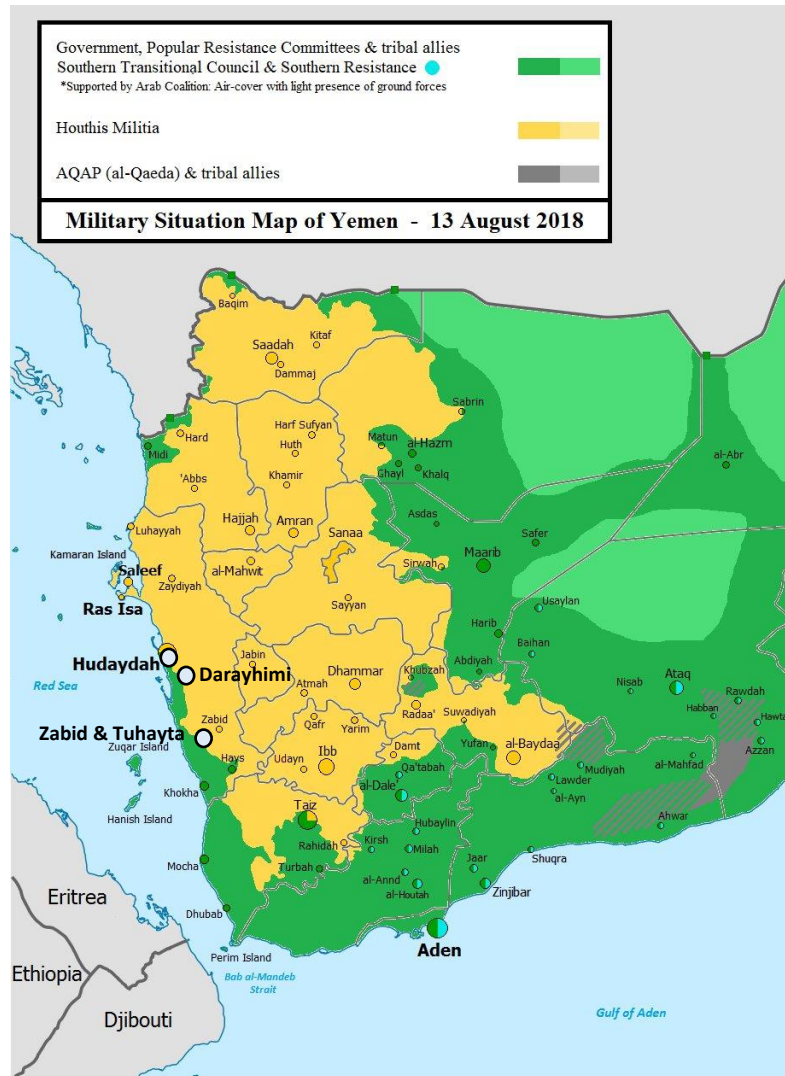
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In the text when '*Comment: ...*' appears in *italics* and the subsequent text is also in *italics*, this information is not fact, but the opinion of the author.

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1. Military and Political Developments Source: RiskIntelligence <https://twitter.com/riskstaff>



UN PEACE EFFORTS

Throughout the reporting period the UN Special Envoy, Martin Griffiths, met with numerous leaders & officials, including the al Houthi leadership, the Yemeni President Hadi, the Emir of Kuwait, the US Secretary of State, & Saudi officials. In June 2018, following the UAE-led attack on al Hudaydah, his negotiations focused on the proposal to have the UN administer the port & avoid a worsening of the humanitarian situation. The proposal was accepted by the Houthis but rejected by Hadi & the Saudi-led coalition who demand an unconditional al Houthi withdrawal from al Hudaydah city.

In early August Martin Griffiths announced consultations for the leading actors in Yemen to be held in Geneva on 6 Sept 2018. The talks will focus on reaching a deal between Hadi's government & the al Houthi movement to form a transitional government. Al Houthi & the UAE leadership expressed willingness to join UN consultations. Whilst Griffiths stated that representatives of the General People's Congress (GPC) & the Transitional Political Council for the South (STC) must be included, the STC would not be included in the first round of talks on 6 Sept.

Comment: The al Houthi current eagerness to consent to negotiations suggests they believe they cannot hold the coalition advances & want to negotiate whilst they still hold much territory in east Yemen. Similarly, resistance by the Hadi government & coalition to an agreement over al Hudaydah suggests they believe they have the advantage in the conflict.

UAE LED OFFENSIVE ON AL HUDAYDAH

On 13 June 2018 a UAE-led ground offensive to seize the Houthis held port of al Hudaydah began, despite strong international pressure not to. Within 4 days UAE forces were on the southern outskirts of the city fighting for the airport. However, little further progress had been made by the end of the month. The majority of Yemen's food & fuel enter the country at al Hudaydah & the UN warn the dire humanitarian situation in Yemen will worsen should the port close due to fighting.

In early July, the UAE forces delayed the offensive on al Hudaydah to give the UN more time to negotiate an al Houthi withdrawal.

On 27 July, the Saudi-led coalition resumed airstrikes on al Hudaydah.

Also in July, the UAE-led ground forces renewed its offensive, but south of al Hudaydah on the cities of Zabid, Tuhayta & Darayhimi. This continued into August with some progress, but the offensive in al Hudaydah remained static.

Comment: The UAE advance on al Hudaydah had created a thin corridor with the Red Sea to the west & al Houthi territory to the east. On one occasion the al Houthi had successfully broken the corridor for 2 days, isolating the UAE forces to the north. The offensive south of al Hudaydah is the UAE widening & securing this corridor. If the UAE & coalition forces successfully took al Hudaydah, it would be a major blow to the al Houthi hold on west Yemen.

AL HOUTH MISSILE ATTACKS ON SAUDI ARABIA

In June 2018, Al Houthi forces fired 7 ballistic missiles from Yemen at civilian & military targets in southwest Saudi Arabia. The missiles were intercepted by the Saudi air-defence system, but the fragments from one killed 3 Saudi civilians.

In July, Al Houthi forces fired 3 ballistic missiles at targets in southwest Saudi Arabia, again all were intercepted by the Saudi air-defence system. The Al Houthi also claimed to have attacked a Saudi Aramco refinery in Riyadh with a new long-range drone named Samad 2.

Up to 22 Aug, the al Houthi fired 3 ballistic missiles, all were intercepted but the debris from one killed 1 civilian & injured 11. The Saudi military claim al Houthi forces have fired 179 missiles at Saudi Arabia over the course of the war.

CIVILIAN CASUALTIES FROM COALITION AIRSTRIKES

- In June a Saudi-led coalition airstrike hit a Medecins Sans Frontieres cholera treatment centre in the Abs city in northern Yemen. Treatment facilities were destroyed but fortunately there were no casualties.
- On 27 July 2018, airstrikes damaged an IRC-supported health facility in the city, forcing it to suspend operations. This & subsequent strikes damaged a reproductive health centre, sanitation facility, and a water station in al Hudaydah governorate. UNOCHA warned that continued airstrikes on major facilities may accelerate the cholera epidemic.
- Coalition airstrikes killed two fishermen & injured several others on an island near al Hudaydah on 1 August.
- Coalition airstrikes hit a fish market & al Thawra Hospital in al Hudaydah city on 2 August killing 55 people.
- On 9 Aug, a coalition airstrike hit a bus in a market in Sa'ada governorate, northern Yemen killing 51 people, including 40 children, and wounded 61 others. Days later CCN investigations revealed the bomb used was provided by the US.

Comment: The Saudi-led coalition airstrikes have been condemned worldwide, but it is unlikely to change Saudi strategy. It seems they are getting the upper hand in the conflict & will want to maintain the pressure. If the Geneva consultation talks on 6 Sept are successful & a ceasefire looks hopeful, it is likely the intensity of airstrikes will increase prior to the ceasefire coming into effect, increasing the risk of civilian casualties.

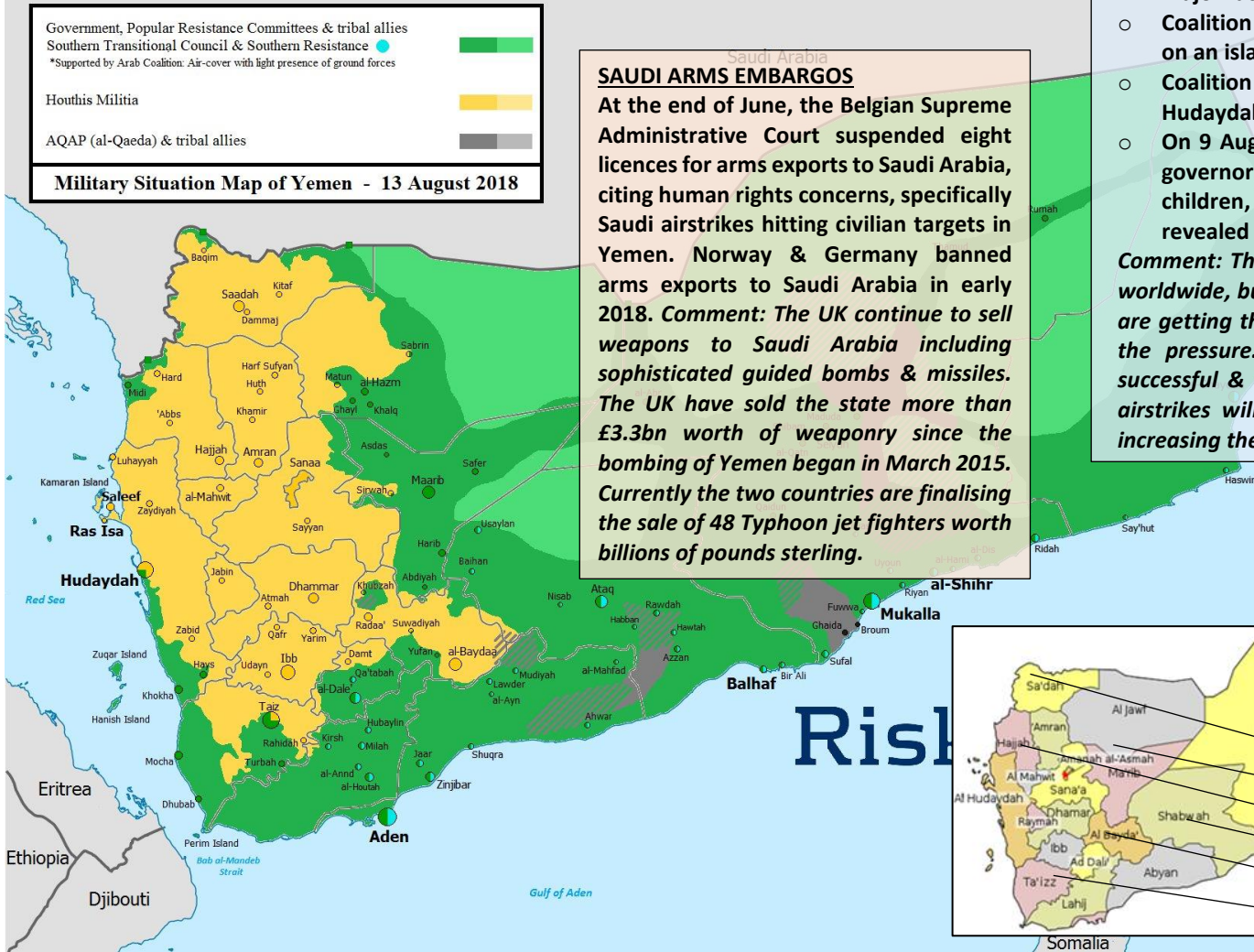
SAUDI ARMS EMBARGOS

At the end of June, the Belgian Supreme Administrative Court suspended eight licences for arms exports to Saudi Arabia, citing human rights concerns, specifically Saudi airstrikes hitting civilian targets in Yemen. Norway & Germany banned arms exports to Saudi Arabia in early 2018. *Comment: The UK continue to sell weapons to Saudi Arabia including sophisticated guided bombs & missiles. The UK have sold the state more than £3.3bn worth of weaponry since the bombing of Yemen began in March 2015. Currently the two countries are finalising the sale of 48 Typhoon jet fighters worth billions of pounds sterling.*

FIGHTING ELSEWHERE IN YEMEN

Although the al Hudaydah offensive dominated the news, offensives & fighting occurred elsewhere in Yemen between Yemeni government forces & coalition forces on one side, & al Houthi forces on the other. The Yemeni government forces initiated most of the clashes & made several advances against al Houthi forces. Areas of fighting included:

- Northwest Sa'dah governorate
- Southwest al Jawf governorate
- Central Hajjah governorate
- Shabwah governorate
- Al Bayda Governorate
- Taiz governorate



Government, Popular Resistance Committees & tribal allies
 Southern Transitional Council & Southern Resistance
 *Supported by Arab Coalition. Air-cover with light presence of ground forces

Houthis Militia

AQAP (al-Qaeda) & tribal allies

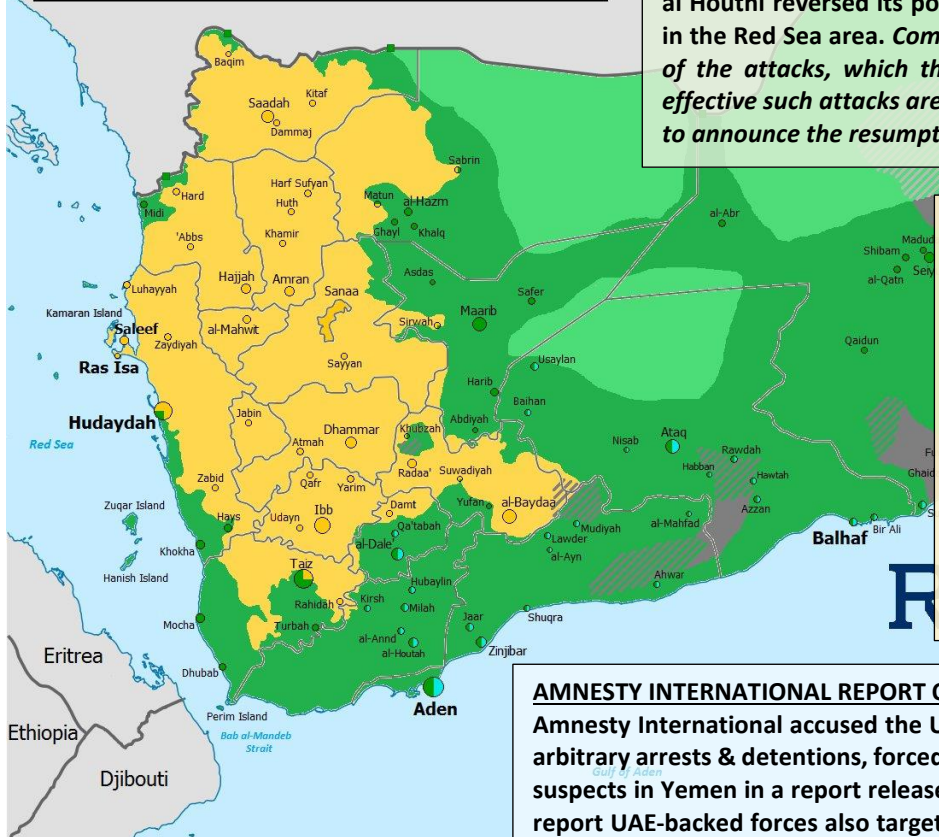
Military Situation Map of Yemen - 13 August 2018

Government, Popular Resistance Committees & tribal allies
 Southern Transitional Council & Southern Resistance ●
 *Supported by Arab Coalition: Air-cover with light presence of ground forces

Houthis Militia

AQAP (al-Qaeda) & tribal allies

Military Situation Map of Yemen - 13 August 2018



AL HOUTH ATTACK SHIPPING

Al Houthi forces attacked 2 Saudi oil tankers, damaging one, near Yemen's Red Sea coast on 25 July. The following day Saudi Arabia halted oil shipments through the Bab al Mandab Strait due to the attacks. A week later the al Houthi movement announced it would pause attacks in the Red Sea. The following day, in relation to the attacks, the Israeli Prime Minister warned that if Iran closed the Bab al Mandab Strait Israel would take military action. In mid-August the al Houthi reversed its position & stated it would resume operations in the Red Sea area. *Comment: Israel believe Iran is the orchestrator of the attacks, which they may be. Israel's response proved how effective such attacks are & may have been a motivator for al Houthi to announce the resumption of attacks.*

ICRC WITHDRAW STAFF

On 7 June 2018, ICRC announced it was withdrawing 71 staff from Yemen & sending them to Djibouti. This was due to its "activities being blocked, threatened & directly targeted in recent weeks" by "parties to the conflict". Adding to the decision was the murder of an international staff member on 21 April. 450 ICRC employees remain in Yemen, including dozens of international staff.

AQAP & IS

A report on IS & AQAP by the UN's Analytical Support & Sanctions Monitoring team states AQAP maintains a strong organizational & leadership structure, which will likely increase the threat from AQAP over time. This strength may also encourage IS supporters to join AQAP, further weakening IS in Yemen. IS in Yemen reportedly commands only 250 to 500 members while AQAP commands 6,000 to 7,000 militants. The UN report stated that AQAP seeks to build a reputation for "humanitarianism & governance" in Yemen, whereas IS's "extreme ideology & brutality" discourages Yemeni recruits.

During the reporting period the US conducted several aircraft & drone strikes against AQAP targets. AQAP & IS have been involved in numerous clashes against al Houthi & Yemeni government forces. AQAP are strongest in al Baydah, Marib & Abyan governorates. There was one clash between AQAP & IS, reportedly leaving 13 AQAP dead.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORT ON UAE HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES

Amnesty International accused the UAE & UAE-backed Yemeni forces of arbitrary arrests & detentions, forced disappearances, & torture of terror suspects in Yemen in a report released on 12 July 2018. According to the report UAE-backed forces also targeted activists & members of the Islah party, which is affiliated to the Muslim Brotherhood. The report called on the UAE government to stop denying its role in the unofficial detention facilities & to bring the facilities under the oversight of Yemeni prosecutors. It also called on the U.S. to ensure it does not receive information obtained through torture. UAE officials denied Amnesty International's claims & called the report "politically motivated".

RESUMPTION OF OIL EXPORTS

Yemen exported a shipment of crude oil on 1 August 2018 for the first time since the outbreak of the war. The Ministry of Oil & Minerals exported 500,000 barrels of crude oil from the coast of Shabwah governorate, central Yemen. The Hadi government is attempting to revitalize the oil industry in Hadramawt, Ma'rib, & Shabwah governorates after oil companies departed Yemen in 2015.

2. Humanitarian Situation

SITUATION OVERVIEW & KEY ISSUES

Yemen is suffering the world's largest humanitarian crisis. Some 22.2 million people - 75 per cent of the population - are in need of humanitarian assistance. 17.8 million people are food insecure and 8.4 million people do not know how they will obtain their next meal. Malnutrition and Cholera are critical issues that continue to need focus.

Recently over 50,800 households have been displaced from Al Hudaydah Governorate, of whom 50,100 (98 per cent) have received rapid response assistance including hygiene kits, transit kits and food rations.

USEFUL LINKS & DOCUMENTS

<https://reliefweb.int/report/yemen/yemen-humanitarian-dashboard-january-june-2018>

<https://reliefweb.int/report/yemen/yemen-humanitarian-update-covering-9-15-august-2018-issue-24>

<https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/yemen/document/yemen-humanitarian-response-plan-january-december-2018>

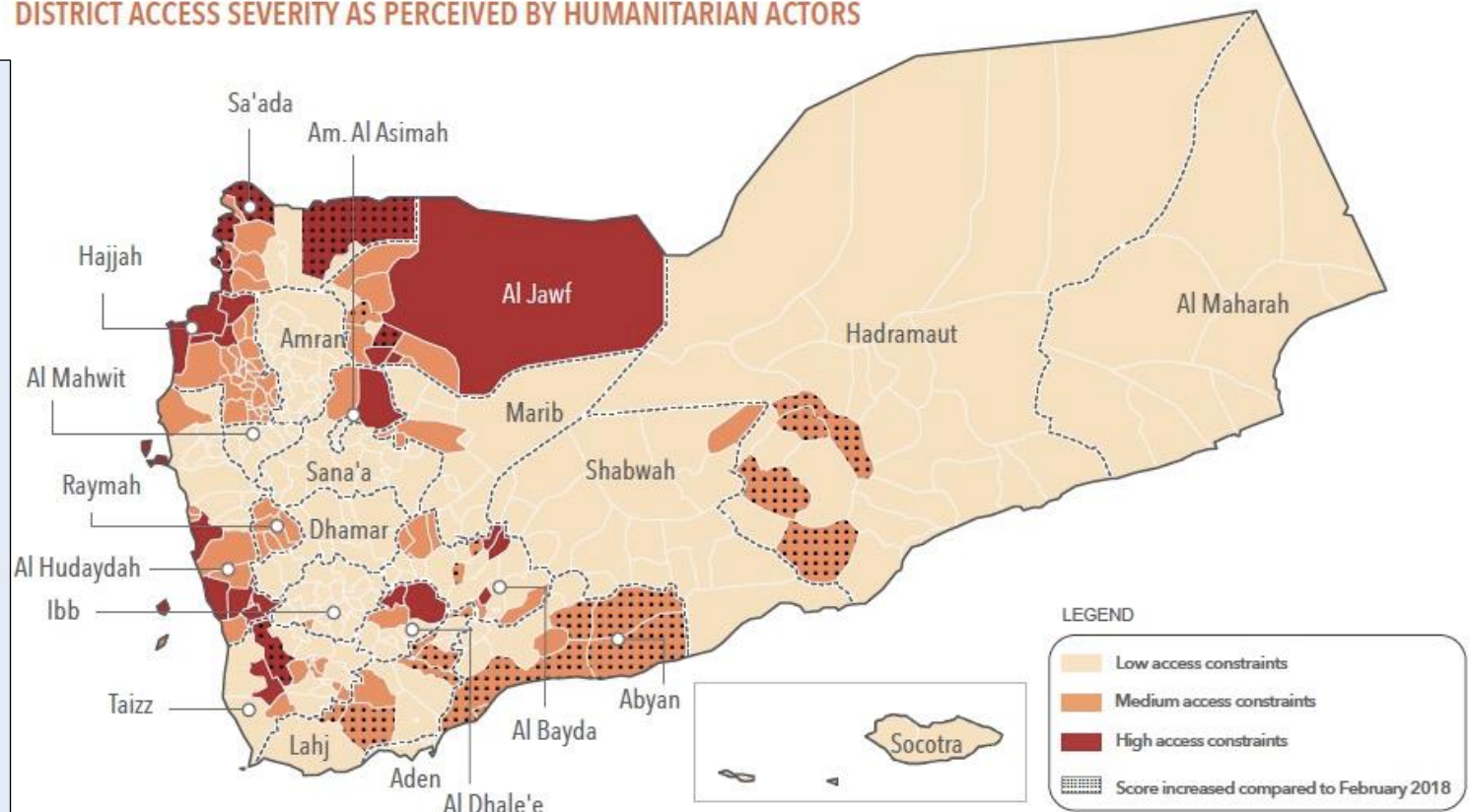
https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Yemen_20180608_Access_Snapshotv5.pdf

<https://reliefweb.int/report/yemen/yemen-humanitarian-access-severity-overview-july-2018>

REFUGEE AND MIGRANT MULTI-SECTOR (RMMS)

The RMMS population of concern remains in need of multi-sectoral assistance, including food, WASH, health, shelter, legal assistance, psychosocial support, support for persons with specific needs (PWSNs) and durable solutions. Asylum space in Yemen for refugees and asylum seekers is shrinking due to lack of rule of law and deteriorating security conditions. Some of the on-going logistical constraints for boat departures under the Assisted Spontaneous Return (ASR) have been resolved, however, the pace of departure remains slow as weather conditions do not permit boat travel during the months of June to August. The current situation in Al Hudaydah has also caused long delays of Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) movement from the port.

DISTRICT ACCESS SEVERITY AS PERCEIVED BY HUMANITARIAN ACTORS



HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

The access environment in Yemen remains extremely difficult, with more than 1.4 million people in need of assistance living in districts with high access constraints. This is an increase of 200,000 people since February 2018. The districts with the most severe access constraints are concentrated in the most conflict affected governorates, including Al Hudaydah, Sa'ada, Hajjah, and Al Jawf with more than 1.1 million people in need, living in these four districts.

Access challenges continues to be one of the biggest challenges which have been most acute in Al Hudaydah since mid-June. Of the 85 incidents involving the humanitarian community reported across Yemen, 79 per cent involved interference in humanitarian operations or restrictions to humanitarian movements. A total of 190 UN staff were delayed or denied access to people in need due to administrative

Food Security: 17.8 million Yemenis are food insecure, with 8.4 million on the brink of starvation and needing emergency humanitarian assistance to stay alive. Needs are driven by the reduced level of commercial imports, increased hostilities, huge influx of newly displaced people, disrupted incomes and livelihoods, and an alarming depreciation of the Yemeni Rial.

Nutrition: An estimated 7.5 million people need nutrition assistance, of whom 2.9 million will require treatment for acute malnutrition in 2018. This includes 1.8 million children under the age of five and 1.1 million pregnant and lactating women (PLW). Some 2.3 million PLW and caretakers of children aged 0-23 months will require infant and young child feeding counselling.

WASH & Health: The major health care needs are:

- life-saving minimum service packages at primary and secondary healthcare facilities
- capacity for prevention and control of epidemics and outbreaks
- operational costs including salaries for health workers.

There is also a need for sustained delivery of medicines, medical supplies and equipment with reliable pipelines, support to declining vaccination coverage and maintenance of epidemiologic surveillance.

Less than 50 percent of health facilities are functioning – 18 percent of districts have no doctors.

The recent attacks on water systems have caused reduced access to safe drinking water. Combined with other factors such as the onset of heavy rainfall & a the relatively high number of people living in prioritized Cholera districts, there is concern for a third wave of cholera epidemic.

16 million people, 55 percent of the population, lack regular access to safe water and basic hygiene. The main focus areas of WASH is providing safe drinking water, rehabilitation of rural and urban water supply schemes, and for IDPs, improving sanitary conditions, provide hygiene kits and promotion.

People in need 2018

22.2 million

Women, children and men are in need of assistance in 2018.



Organisations Presence

183 Humanitarian organisations and partners were active in Yemen in January through June



Source: Clusters (January - June 2018)

People targeted 2018

13.1 million

Women, children and men are targeted in 2018.



Famine Risk Areas

107 districts

107 out of the 333 districts in Yemen are at risk of famine.

In the 107 districts, 3.7 million people received some form of humanitarian assistance out of a target of 4.8 million people.

Source: clusters (Jan to June 2018)

Food Security and Agriculture

People reached with sustained emergency food assistance (general food distribution, cash or voucher transfers)



Outbreaks

Cholera Outbreak

1,1 M suspected cases
2,310 related deaths

29.3% of the cases are children < 5 years

21 out of 22 governorates (305 out of 333 districts) have been affected (from 27 April 2017 to 30 June 2018).

Source: WHO

Protection: Widespread violations of International Humanitarian Law by parties to the conflict pose an ongoing threat to the life and safety of civilians, resulting in loss of life, displacement and destruction of infrastructure. The protracted nature of the conflict is particularly affecting women, children and persons with specific needs whose vulnerability is further exacerbated and resort to negative coping mechanisms as a means of survival. As grave violations of children's rights continue to occur, support for affected children is critical. Gender Based Violence incidents have significantly risen requiring multi-sectoral responses.

Shelter/NFIs/CCCM: Large-scale conflict in Al Hudaydah has caused increased displacement. New waves of displacement continued to be generated from the frontline governorates such as Sa'ada, Al Jawf and Al Bayda resulting in increased vulnerability of the affected population as the coping mechanisms of the families continue to be eroded.

Education: Disruption to the payment of salaries to teachers in 13 governorates has greatly hindered the commencement of the school year in these governorates and continues to jeopardize the provision of education. With the new school year set to start in Sept, 3.7 million children may be at risk of missing out on a new school year. Displacement is also affecting education systems as teachers and students are displaced and schools are often used by IDPs as shelter. There is an urgent need to support schools in districts with high severity of need, through provision of desks and essential learning supplies, and teachers training on psychosocial support.