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Flash Update #3

Heavy rains and flash floods place lives at risk in Yemen

Country:	Yemen ▾
Emergency type:	Climate disaster ▾
Start Date of Crisis:	Jul 1, 2024
Date Issued:	Sep 10, 2024
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Highlights

- Exceptionally heavy seasonal rains have caused widespread damage and displacement across Yemen, worsening the already dire humanitarian crisis brought on by over nine years of conflict. The governorates of Al Mahweet, Al Hodeidah, Dhammar, Hajjah, Marib, Sa'ada, Sana'a, Ibb, and Taizz are among the hardest-hit regions. More than 500,000 people have been affected since July 2024, according to local authorities and humanitarian partners. Women and girls, already among the most vulnerable in the conflict, face increased protection risks, particularly displaced female-headed households, which account for over 22 percent of those receiving emergency relief.
- Critical needs include emergency shelter, multi-purpose cash assistance, food, non-food items, water and sanitation, clothing, protection, and medical supplies to ensure continuity of care and health facility preparedness.
- The UNFPA-led multi-sectoral rapid response mechanism (RRM) has been swiftly activated within 24 to 72 hours of displacement alerts, delivering emergency relief to displaced and flood-affected families. RRM teams, working at maximum capacity, have verified 82,082 households (574,574 individuals) and assisted 50,781 households (355,467 individuals) since July 2024. Of those assisted in 2024, 91 percent were

severely disadvantaged or displaced by climate-related shocks, while nine percent were directly affected by the conflict.

- While average rainfall in September is expected to be lower than in August, the risk of flash floods remains significant due to swollen rivers and waterlogged soil, particularly in areas with poor drainage systems, as reported by the UK Met Office and the FAO Agrometeorological Assessment.

Situation Overview

Al Mahwit Governorate

- Heavy rainfall on August 27, 2024, caused severe flash floods in Milhan District, Al Mahwit Governorate, destroying 13 dams and affecting at least nine sub-districts.
- Houses, agricultural lands, health facilities, and water storage tanks have reportedly sustained damage. The main roads leading to at least two affected sub-districts are blocked.
- Initial information suggests scores of casualties and missing people, with local sources estimating around 40 people missing or dead.
- At least 215 families have been displaced within the district and are currently hosted in two schools. The number is expected to rise due to damaged or blocked roads restricting movement.
- Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) teams have conducted Rapid Needs Assessments in some affected locations, and distribution of RRM kits commenced on August 29, 2024.



Map Sources: UNCS, ESRI.
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Map created in Sep 2013.

Dhammar Governorate

- Bani Musa district in Dhammar has been severely affected by floods and landslides, resulting in the destruction of 22 homes, 27 deaths, and three missing persons. Many houses and shops, including one with 17 workers who are still missing, have been swept away. Among those affected are many young children, pregnant women, and elders.
- Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) teams are conducting needs assessments and have enrolled 705 households thus far. However, 27 families remain unreachable due to severe weather conditions and damaged infrastructure.
- The floods have devastated around 85% of agricultural land, destroying crops that served as the primary food source for many communities. Significant livestock losses have also been reported,

exacerbating food insecurity in these areas. The governorate has reported 30 deaths and 22 casualties in total.

Al Hodeidah and Hajjah Governorate

- In Al Hodeidah Governorate, flooding has affected 20 districts, particularly Al Marawa'ah, Al Zaidiyah, Al Qanawis, Zabid, Al Hawak, Al Hali, Al Luhaya, Al Dureyhi, Biet Al Faqeh, and Az Zuhrah, damaging or destroying hundreds of homes and livelihoods.
- As of September 4, the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) received alerts of 103,761 individuals affected by severe weather conditions in Al Hodeidah Governorate.
- Hajjah Governorate has also experienced significant flooding, with widespread damage reported across 17 districts, particularly in Abs, Hajjah City, Mustaba, Aslam, Qulf Shamer, Kheyran, Muharaq, Bani Jais, and Kuaydinah. Abs and Aslam districts in Hajjah Governorate, hosting 172 informal IDP sites, are among the most affected areas by the recent flooding, especially the informal IDP sites. The RRM has so far enrolled 56,693 flood-affected persons within the governorate.
- Facilities in Bajel, Zuhrah, Zaydiah, and Marawa have also been impacted, including the UNFPA-supported Al Thawrah and Al Mahabisha Referral Hospitals, but remain fully functional. The Health cluster has reported an urgent need for fuel to ensure the continuity of care, particularly at the Al Thawrah Referral Hospital.

Marib and Al Jawf Governorate

- More than 14,844 households, including 7,000 displaced families in 41 camps and IDP sites, have been affected by heavy rain, winds, and lightning in Marib Governorate. Of these, nearly 3,000 families have been directly impacted with their shelters completely destroyed, while over 4,000 families have faced partial damage to their shelters and belongings. The RRM reached 5,482 individuals with aid assistance.
- The humanitarian situation in Al Jawf Governorate continues to deteriorate. From 29 to 31 August, the districts of Osaylan and Al Maslub experienced heavy rains and flooding. A reported 767 households have been fully or partially affected by the floods.
- Agricultural land, the main livelihood of affected communities, remains submerged in floodwaters, resulting in crop damage, livestock loss, and the destruction of other assets.

Hadramout and Shabwah Governorates

- On August 29, Al Mukalla District of Hadramout Governorate experienced heavy rains and floods, causing significant damage to shelters and infrastructure, especially in Ben Sena, Fua Al Qadima, Al Sahel, Boyish, Ba Aboud, and Al Mahraqh Camps. Approximately 937 households have been impacted, many of whom have already been displaced multiple times and are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance.
- In Shabwah Governorate, around 159 households have been partially or entirely affected by the floods.

Amran and Sana'a Governorates

- Flooding in Amran Governorate has affected settlements for displaced persons, worsening their already dire living conditions. The RRM has verified 700 flood-affected families in six districts requiring emergency relief.
- In Sana'a Governorate, heavy rainfall caused significant urban flooding, particularly in low-lying areas. The drainage systems were overwhelmed, leading to extensive damage to buildings and infrastructure, especially in Sana'a City. In rural regions, landslides and flash floods have isolated entire communities, complicating rescue and relief efforts. A total of 1,425 families are reported to be affected within the Governorate.

Al Bayda and Al Dhale Governorate

- Heavy rainfall in Al Bayda Governorate caused landslides and flooding, damaging infrastructure and isolating communities. A total of 2,048 families were affected.
- In Al Dhale Governorate, heavy rainfall caused damage to 1,518 families, particularly in Damt District, where dilapidated camps for displaced persons were destroyed. In Old Damt, 43 houses collapsed, affecting 238 households. Rockslides in Al-Husha District resulted in one fatality and four injuries, with 225 houses and 44 tents reported collapsed.

Taiz Governorate

- By the end of August, 3,290 families were affected by floods in Taizz Governorate. In early August, unprecedented rainfall and floods in the Maqbanah district damaged roads, farms, livestock, and wells. No displacement sites were affected, though the host community was impacted.
- In mid-August, heavy rains destroyed 82 houses in Mawiah District, critically injuring four individuals and causing minor injuries to several others.

Ibb Governorate

- In mid-August, unexpected heavy rains hit Ibb Governorate, damaging old homes in Old Abyan, Al-Qafari, Al-Udain, Al-Makhader, Al-Sabrah, and Al-Sayani districts and several camps for displaced persons. As of 4 September, 1,190 families have been impacted across the governorate.

West Coast and Abyan Governorate

- On 2 September, heavy floods and rains destroyed IDP settlements in Al Koud Khanfar District, displacing many families from their temporary shelters.
- In the West Coast, RRM teams received alerts of 3,000 families being affected. The verification process along with rapid needs assessments is ongoing.

Urgent Needs for the Response

- Replenish RRM kits to assist 45,000 families.
- Urgently distribute an estimated 150,000 blankets (5 per family) with RRM kits to meet winterization needs.
- Increase the number of RRM teams for a prompt response to affected families' needs.
- Enhance logistical capacities for dispatching RRM kits for a prompt response.
- Support to repair and rehabilitate 120 health facilities in Al Mahweet, Dhammar, Al Hodeida, and Hajjah Governorates, many of which are submerged in flood waters and non-functional due to equipment, medication, and electrical supplies damage.

Challenges

- More than 212,000 people in need of emergency relief have yet to receive Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) assistance due to delays caused by the destruction of roads and infrastructure.
- The limited availability of RRM kits hampers the response to flood-affected families across governorates.
- The current number of distribution and verification teams and logistical capacities is inadequate to meet the scale of humanitarian needs across the country.

UNFPA Response

Al Mawhit Governorate

- By 4 September, the RRM enrolled and provided assistance to 7,749 individuals across nine districts in Al Mawhit Governorate, including 3,654 individuals in the severely affected Milhan district, with RRM teams having to use camels to transport kits in areas with no road access due to severe flooding.
- More than 800 women and girls affected by the flooding in Milhan District were reached with protection services, including dignity kits containing women's hygiene supplies to aid their mobility.
- Lifesaving reproductive health services were provided to nearly 5,000 women, with UNFPA supporting four health facilities in the Governorate.

Dhammar Governorate

- RRM teams utilised various modes of transport, including motorcycles and donkeys to reach the severely affected Bani Musa District. As of 4 September, 705 individuals have been reached with emergency relief through the RRM.

Al Hodeida and Hajjah Governorate

- By 4 September, a total of 145,397 individuals were enrolled for Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM)

assistance, and 66,633 individuals received emergency relief through the RRM.

- In both governorates, nearly 10,000 women were reached with protection services, while 300 dignity kits were distributed to women in flood-affected areas.
- Over 30,000 women were reached with reproductive health services, with support provided to 23 health facilities (12 Basic Emergency Maternal and Newborn Care (BeMONC) and 11 Comprehensive Emergency Maternal and Newborn Care (CeMONC)).
- Currently, there is a shortage of immediate food rations and basic hygiene kits in the Al Hodieda Area of Responsibility (AoR), with ongoing coordination among UN agencies to receive items promptly to allow for scaling up the response.
- Data collection and rapid needs assessments are ongoing to inform cluster-based second-line responses.

Marib and Al Jawf Governorate

- RRM teams have enrolled 4,200 families affected by the severe weather conditions in Marib, providing assistance to 724 families (5,068 individuals) with RRM kits since the onset of floods.
- UNFPA distributed 12 inter-agency emergency health kits and reproductive health medicines for 120,000 people in Marib, including 40 reproductive health kits specifically for pregnant women unable to reach health facilities.
- Lifesaving reproductive health services, including delivery services through mobile clinics, were provided to 3,420 women and girls in Marib.
- Nearly 150 individuals received mental health and psychosocial support across 10 IDP sites in Marib, with 86 referrals made for women's protection services through UNFPA's cash and voucher assistance program.
- In Al Jawf Governorate, RRM assistance reached 2,743 people by September 4th.
- Reproductive health commodities and supplies were delivered to assist 6,121 flood-affected women in Al Jawf.

Hadramout and Shabwah Governorates

- A total of 4,165 individuals in Hadramout Governorate received Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) assistance by September 4, 2024.
- In Shabwah Governorate, 2,394 people benefited from RRM assistance.
- Shabwah Governorates distributed 55 reproductive health kits, particularly targeting pregnant women affected by floods in Al Mukalla District.

West Coast and Abyan Governorate

- In Abyan Governorate, 2,555 flood-affected individuals received RRM assistance. Once RRM kits are transported to the affected areas, more than 870 households will be assisted.
- Along Yemen's west coast, 4,200 people received emergency relief through RRM, while 16,800 more

will be assisted once RRM kits reach flood-affected areas.

- Health facilities received lifesaving reproductive health supplies to support 2,000 flood-affected vulnerable women and girls of childbearing age.

Amran and Sana'a Governorates

- In Amran Governorate, 4,081 individuals received RRM assistance, with an additional 819 people to receive emergency relief upon delivery of RRM kits to affected areas.
- A total of 7,798 individuals in Sana'a Governorate, including Sana'a City, were reached with RRM assistance. Over 2,177 people are yet to be assisted as more RRM kits arrive in affected locations.
- UNFPA distributed inter-agency emergency health kits to assist 80,000 flood-affected individuals, along with reproductive health medicines for 3,000 women and girls in flood-affected areas of Amran Governorate.
- In Sana'a, UNFPA distributed inter-agency emergency health kits and basic RH kits in health facilities in Sana'a City and outer districts within the governorate, serving 80,000 people. Additionally, reproductive health medicines were provided to support the needs of 15,400 women and girls.

Al Bayda and Al Dhale Governorate

- In Al-Bayda Governorate, 489 people received emergency relief through the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM).
- In Al Dhale Governorate, 869 people received RRM assistance, with an additional 900 people to be assisted upon receipt of RRM kits in flood-affected areas.
- Reproductive health commodities were provided to UNFPA-supported health facilities in Al Dhale Governorate, serving over 4,000 women and girls of childbearing age.

Taizz Governorate

- A total of 4,564 people were reached with RRM assistance in Taizz Governorate. More than 2,100 are pending receipt of RRM assistance within the governorate.
- Inter-agency emergency health kits and measles kits were distributed by UNFPA to serve 40,000 people, including reproductive health medicines for nearly 10,000 women of reproductive age.

Ibb Governorate

- By 4 September, a total of 1,190 people were reached with RRM assistance within the governorate.
- Inter-agency emergency health kits and 10 measles kits were distributed by UNFPA to assist nearly 9,000 flood-affected individuals across the governorate.