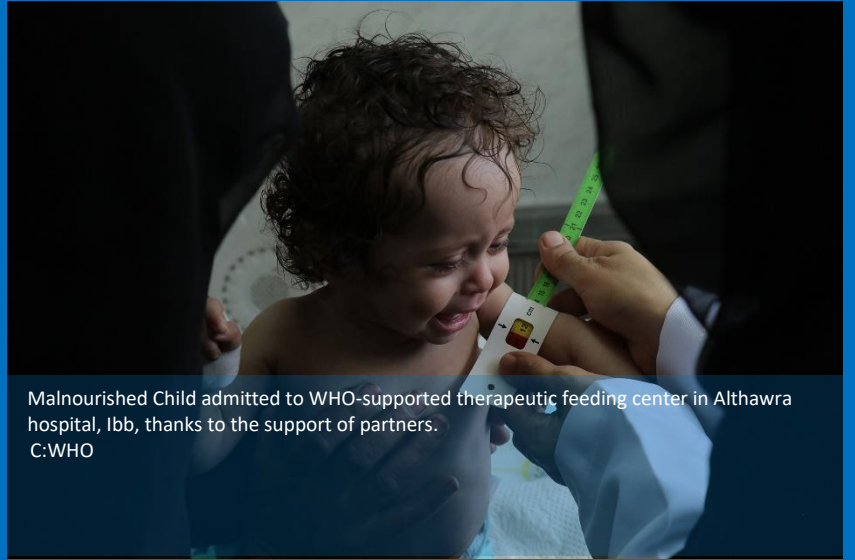




SITUATION REPORT FEBRUARY 2021 ISSUE NO.2 Yemen Update



Malnourished Child admitted to WHO-supported therapeutic feeding center in Althawra hospital, Ibb, thanks to the support of partners.
C:WHO



30.5M ESTIMATED POPULATION*



20.7 M ** NEED HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE



2,273*** COVID-19 CONFIRMED CASES



20.1M **** IN NEED OF HEALTH ASSISTANCE

WHO

HIGHLIGHTS



Child patient waiting her turn to receive treatment in Althawra hospital, Hudayda.
C:WHO

- **Projected health needs in 2021 have increased by 11.9 per cent compared with 2020 levels**, with approximately 20.1 million people in need of health assistance, including 11.6 million people who are in acute need.
- **WHO and partners continue their fight against child malnutrition** as nearly 2.3 million children under the age of five in Yemen are projected to suffer from acute malnutrition in 2021.
- **Oral Cholera Vaccination Campaign:** WHO and UNICEF implemented the second round of the oral cholera vaccination campaign in Al-Dhalea and Al-Azraq districts in Al Dhalea governorate and Hajr district in Hadramout governorate.
- **Healthcare workforce capacity building:** WHO continues its support to the capacity building of the healthcare workforce in Yemen, including with regards to COVID-19 and malaria.

NUMBER OF WHO STAFF & OTHER CONTRACTS MODALITY IN COUNTRY: 300

HEALTH SECTOR

71 HEALTH CLUSTER PARTNERS

19 M TARGETED POPULATION –YHRP 2020

MEDICINES DELIVERED TO HEALTH FACILITIES/PARTNERS SEPTEMBER

381,850 LITERS OF FUEL DELIVERED

* Yemen HNO 2021
 ** Yemen HNO 2021
 *** COVID-19 Report as of Feb 2021
 **** Yemen HNO 2021

2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview: Health needs are increasing

The 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) released on 21 February confirmed that Yemen remains the world's largest humanitarian crisis and aid operation. The situation is expected to deteriorate further, and the severity of needs are expected to increase unless there are conflict de-escalation and an improvement in the economy and funding.

A staggering 20.7 million people – 66 per cent of the population – need humanitarian assistance in 2021; and 12.1 million people are in acute need. Food insecurity and malnutrition are the main drivers behind the number of people in need. Over 2.25 million cases of children aged 0 to 59 months and more than a million pregnant and lactating women are projected to suffer from acute malnutrition in 2021. More than 15.4 million people need support to access their basic water and sanitation needs, of whom 8.7 million are in acute need.

Projected health needs in 2021 have increased by 11.9 per cent compared with 2020 levels, with approximately 20.1 million people in need of health assistance, including 11.6 million people who are in acute need. At least one child dies every 10 minutes in Yemen because of preventable diseases. Vulnerable groups include the most impoverished families, female-headed households, children under age 5, older persons, pregnant and lactating women, persons with disabilities, people with chronic or critical illnesses and gender-based violence survivors.

COVID-19 has aggravated the situation. Roughly 15 per cent of the functioning health system has been repurposed for COVID-19, contributing to reducing overall health coverage by 20 to 30 per cent. Fewer patients are seeking healthcare partly due to fear of COVID-19, related stigma and constrained access. COVID-19 has also affected supply chains causing higher costs,

increased demand, supply gaps, and significant delays. The COVID-19 pandemic and limited funding in 2020 resulted in substantial decreases in daily medical consultations and vaccination services, mother and child health and reproductive health services, and services for people with disabilities. These and other factors will drive further increases in health needs during the year.

WHO and partners continue their fight against child malnutrition

The humanitarian crisis in Yemen continues to exert a terrible toll on children, as nearly 2.3 million children under the age of five in the country are projected to suffer from acute malnutrition in 2021. Of these, 400,000 are expected to suffer from severe acute malnutrition and could die if they do not receive urgent treatment.

The new figures, from the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Acute Malnutrition report released on 12 February by the World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), UNICEF (the United Nations Children's Fund), the World Food Programme (WFP) and partners, mark an increase in acute malnutrition and severe acute malnutrition of 16 per cent and 22 per cent, respectively, among children under five years from 2020. The figures are among the highest levels of severe acute malnutrition recorded in Yemen since the escalation of the conflict in 2015.

WHO and health partners are scaling-up to respond. In January 2021, WHO increased its support to therapeutic feeding centres (TFCs), reaching 100 TFCs to improve access to treatment for severely malnourished children with medical complications. A total of 1,495 children were admitted to these WHO supported TFCs to treat severe acute malnutrition (SAM) with medical

complications. The cure rate was reported at 93 % (1,347) with a case fatality rate of 2 % (29).



*data collection and management in nutrition surveillance sites.
Photo: WHO Yemen*

In addition to the case-management in TFCs, preventive activities were conducted, including counselling on Infant and Young Child Feeding practices (IYCF). In January 2021, 1,495 caregivers were counselled on IYCF, Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) measures and best practices. They also received mental health and psychosocial support.

Moreover, in February, WHO distributed individual drugs to 53 TFCs and therapeutic milk to all supported

TFCs, in addition to the distribution of 35 furniture package to 36 TFCs, including Lab equipment.

On another aspect, WHO supported building the capacity of 51 health workers in 20 TFCs in Aden, Lahj, AL Dhele'e, Hadramout, Abyan and Shabwa. Moreover, 191 health workers from 86 district health offices were trained to scale up 72 nutrition surveillance sites. WHO supported data collection and management in 22 nutrition surveillance sites in 18 governorates.



Malnutrition Surveillance Training. Photo: WHO Yemen

Intensive Care Unit Training

WHO in February supported an ICU training for 98 participants from 20 COVID-19 intensive care units (ICU) in Aden, targeting two physicians, two nurses, and one anesthesiologist from each ICU. The six-day training aimed to skill the participants to become more proficiently trained on ICU care of COVID patients.

The training sessions focused on enabling the participants to recognize patients with SARI and steps on admission and initial management of patients with complications, including emergency life-saving treatment and oxygen therapy.

Support for health facilities:

In February, WHO continued support to health facilities across Yemen, including dialysis centres and central public health laboratories, including Al-Hudayda, Raymah, Al Mahweet, Hajjah and Hadramout, through the provision of medicines and medical supplies to ensure the delivery of essential health care services.

The equipment delivered included two CT scans, 31 ambulances, two oxygen stations, modern laboratory devices, blood refrigerators, cholera kits, nutrition kits, surgical supplies, PPE equipment, hygiene kits and infection control, dialysis supplies, and other medicine and medical supplies.

WHO continued its support to targeted hospitals to ensure the functionality and continuous provision of Trauma Care Services by providing 100 surgical supply kits, 235 trauma kits, and emergency surgical kits to the main referral hospitals across the country.

Besides, WHO continued its support to targeted health facilities by providing 381,850 litres of fuel and 4,618,760 litres of water to health facilities across the country. This support will ensure functionality and continuous provision of life-saving health care services.

Oral Cholera Vaccination Campaign

in February, through the Emergency Health and Nutrition Project, WHO and UNICEF, with the support of the World Bank, implemented the second round of the oral cholera vaccination campaign in the districts of Al-Dhalea and Al-Azraq in AlDhalea governorate and Hajr

district in Hadramout governorate. The first round was conducted in December 2020. In total, 32,000 households and 188,000 people were reached with two doses of oral cholera vaccine during the two rounds of the campaign.



Oral Cholera Vaccination (OCV) Campaign in Hadramout governorate. Photo: WHO Yemen

COVID19 Training sessions

In February, WHO kickstarted a series of training sessions to skill health workers to deal with severe COVID-19 cases. Twenty trainees from four treatment units in Aden & Lahj took part in the first session.

On a similar aspect, WHO and the Ministry of Public Health conducted a three-day training workshop in Aden for 38 health workers to integrate COVID19 & Influenza surveillance systems and improve Influenza-like illness (ILI) and severe acute respiratory infection (SARI) data collection.



Intensive Care Unit (ICU) Training in Aden & Lahj governorates. Photo: WHO Yemen

Malaria Control Training

As part of the Malaria Control and Prevention Project funded by KSRelief, WHO and the Ministry of Public Health and Population conducted a training session on malaria case management for 75 health workers in Aden, Hadramout and Shabwah.



Malaria Control & Prevention Training in Aden, Hadramout, & Shabwah governorates. Photo: WHO Yemen

Schistosomiasis MDA campaign:

WHO has supported a four-day mass drug administration (MDA) onchocerciasis campaign in Bani Saad district (Al Mahweet governorate), targeting 80,365 people. One hundred thirty-four teams and 34 supervision leaders implemented the campaign.

Moreover, WHO implemented a three-day training session in Aden on neglected tropical diseases to skill health workers in targeted governorates to implement mass drug administration campaigns for diseases targeted with preventive chemotherapy.

Influenza Workshop:

WHO conducted a three-day workshop on Influenza case management in 3 districts in Al-Hudaydah governorate. The workshop targeted 20 participants from Al Thawra hospital, Al Salaghanah hospital and Al Hudaydah central public health laboratory.

Epidemiological Update

COVID -19

In February, health authorities reported 143 new confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 15 associated deaths, bringing the total number of reported cases to 2,273, with 632 deaths as of the end of February.

However, health partners remain concerned that under-reporting continues for various reasons and that the official epi-curve underestimates the extent of COVID-19 in Yemen.

Cholera

From 28 December 2020 to 28 February 2021, a total of 9494 suspected AWD/cholera cases were reported from northern governorates, with two associated deaths. Within the last three epidemiological weeks, 13 governorates reported suspected case, with 59% of suspected cases reported from four governorates: Sana'a (22%), Al Hudaydah (18%), Al Bayda (10%) and Amran (9%).

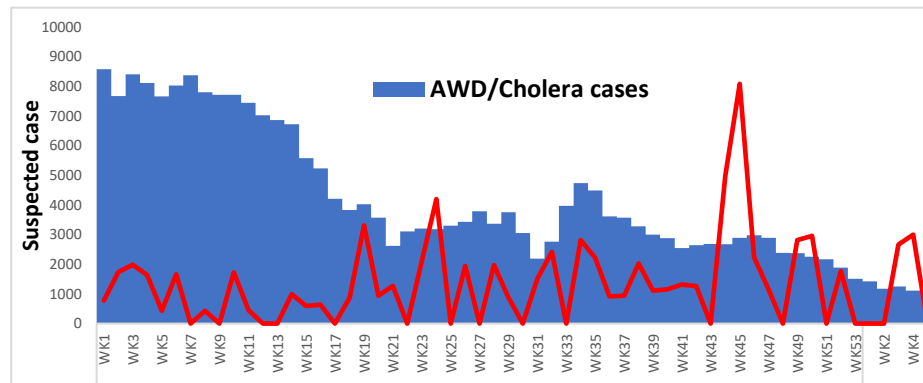


Figure 1 The trend of suspected cholera cases between epidemiological weeks 1, 2020 to 8, 2021

Diphtheria

From 28 December 2020 to 28 February 2021, a total of 162 probable cases, including ten associated deaths, were reported in northern governorates. Within the last three epidemiological weeks, 12 governorates reported probable cases, with 71% of probable cases reported from four governorates: Sa'ada (27%), Amanat Al Asimah (19%), Hajjah (13%) and Al Hudaydah (12%).

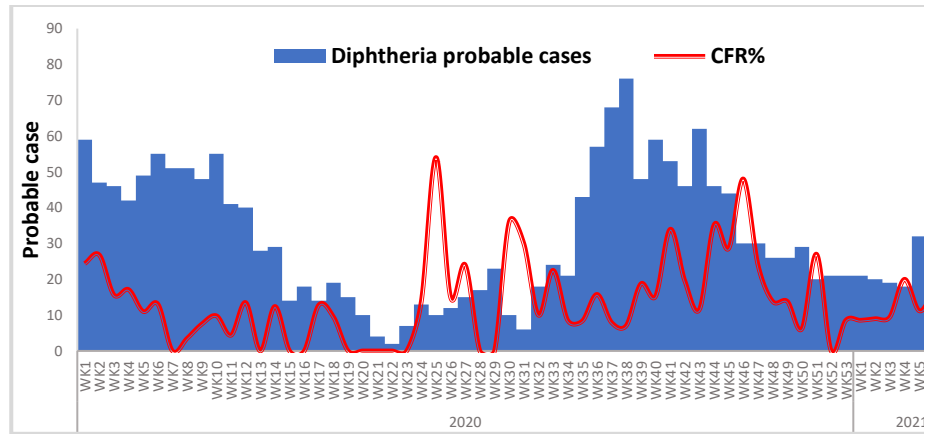


Figure 2 The trend of probable diphtheria cases between epidemiological weeks 1, 2020 to 8, 2021

Dengue Fever

From 28 December 2020 to 28 February 2021, a total of 1000 suspected dengue fever cases were reported from northern governorates, with one associated death. Within the last three epidemiological weeks, 90% of suspected cases were reported from 2 governorates: Al Hudaydah (78%) and Hajjah (12%).

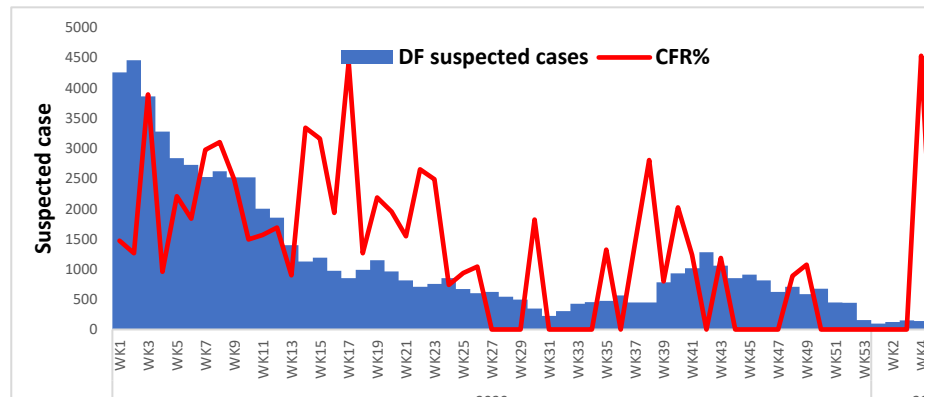


Figure 3 The trend of suspected dengue fever cases between epidemiological weeks 1, 2020 – 8, 2021

Measles

From 28 December 2020 to 28 February 2021, a total of 1635 suspected measles cases were reported from northern governorates, with 8 associated deaths. Within the last three epidemiological weeks, 75% of suspected cases were reported from four governorates: Sa'ada (45%), Amanat Al Asimah (13%), Amran (9%) and Sana'a (8%). Children under the age of five represent 73% of the total suspected cases.

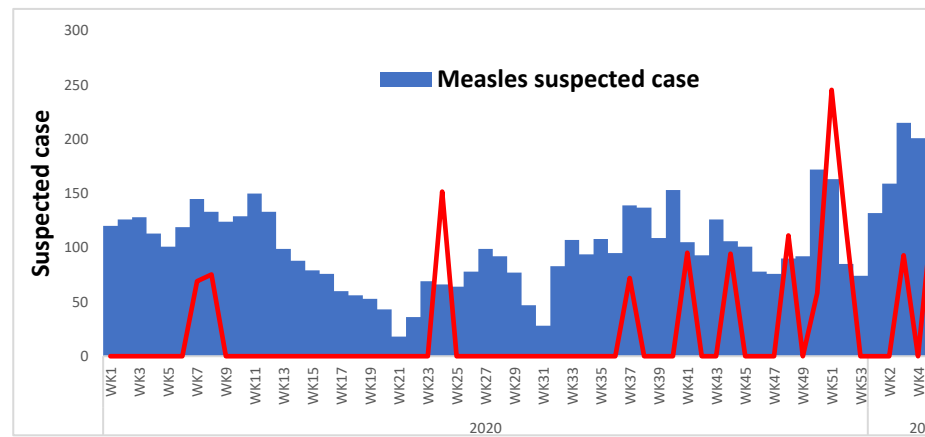


Figure 4 The trend of suspected measles cases between epidemiological weeks 1, 2020– 8, 2021

SARI

From 28 December 2020 to 28 February 2021, a total of 558 suspected SARI cases were reported from northern governorates, with 16 associated deaths. Within the last three epidemiological weeks, 13 governorates reported suspected cases, with 82% of suspected cases reported from four governorates: Dhamar (50%), Amanat Al Asimah (14%), Amran (10%) and Ibb (8%).

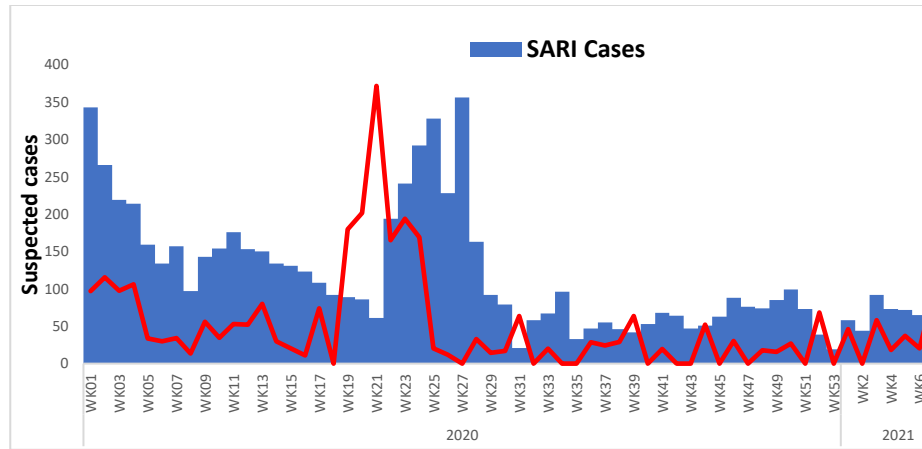


Figure 5 The trend suspected SARI cases between epidemiological weeks 1, 2020 to 8, 2021

Nutrition

As a total of 43,426 children under five were screened for all forms of malnutrition in January 2021, 27% were under six months. Acute Wasting by Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) was detected in 21.4% of the total children aged 6-59 months screened in January 2021, with the highest rates recorded in Al Hudaydah and Sa'ada. Children found with acute malnutrition were referred to appropriate nutrition services.

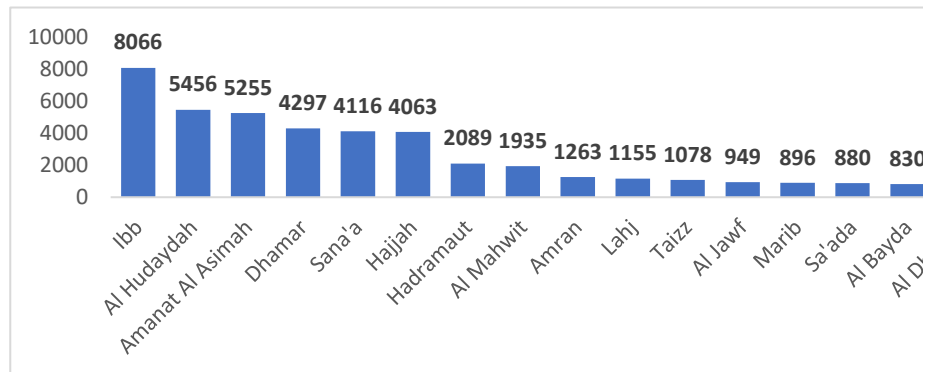


Figure 6 Number of children screened for severe acute malnutrition in January 2021

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