

## HUMANITARIAN AND DISPLACEMENT SITUATION TAIZZ GOVERNORATE, YEMEN

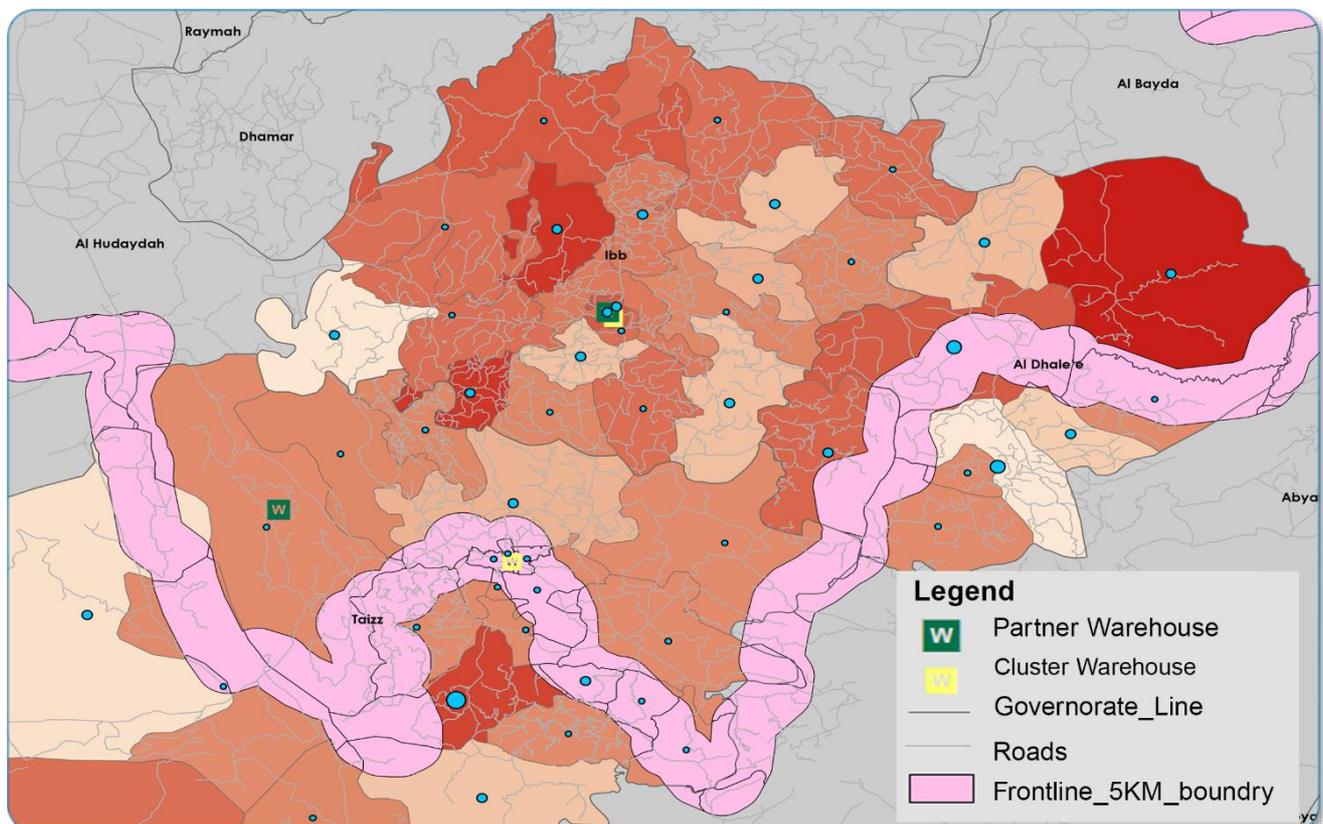
### OVERVIEW | 09 April 2021

Since early March 2021, the western borders of Taizz have witnessed an escalation in fighting, including in the area surrounding Jabal Habashi and Maqbanah districts. Heavy ground fighting and shelling have been reported in areas near civilian population. Intense clashes are ongoing, particularly along the Al-Kadahah front. Fighting has also picked up in the south of Hayfan, near the border with Lahj Governorate. Civilian infrastructures, including schools, markets and houses have been significantly damaged by the recent escalation, which has resulted in about **120 civilian casualties**, and triggered movement restrictions, new displacements and trauma.

Maqbanah District of Taizz is one of the hardest to reach areas in Yemen. The district hosts more than **23,700 displaced persons** who have been living in harsh conditions since the beginning of the conflict in 2015. More than **95 families (698 individuals)** recently displaced from Al-Ma'afer district to Maqbanha district have settled in Al Barh village.

According to [IOM](#), about 1,000 families (around 7,000 individuals) have been newly displaced in Taizz governorate since the beginning of the year. The number continues to increase as more families escape ongoing fighting.

### Current affected area



## DISPLACED POPULATION AND NEEDS

Following the increase in clashes and new displacements, UNHCR protection partner INTERSOS, conducted a Rapid Protection Assessment (RPAs) in Taizz city to identify needs of the displaced population. Newly displaced families are in urgent need of shelter, food, water, sanitation and protection services.

More than **200 families** have sought refuge in existing IDP hosting sites in **Al-Ma'afar and Ash-Shamaytain districts**. Most hosting sites in Taizz lack adequate basic services, including water, sanitation and hygiene. Most of the newly displaced families reported staying with other displaced relatives and friends, sharing tents and food.

UNHCR, and Shelter/Non-food Items (NFI) Cluster's partners conducted further needs assessments in Ash-Shamaytain, Jabal Habashi and Al Ma'afar districts and identified **431 displaced families in urgent need of Shelter/NFIs assistance**. The security situation continues to prevent UNHCR and its partner from accessing certain areas such as Hayfan to assist the newly displaced.

Over a hundred displaced families have arrived in Jabal Habashi district - most of them escaped armed violence, forced to abandon everything behind and walk to the nearest place of safety in Jabal Habashi district. They are living in harsh conditions, without access to basic services. The closest market and health facility are 16 km away from where the displaced population is sheltering. They have no access to water and sanitation services and have relied so far on water provided by the host community and food from humanitarian organizations.



UNHCR partner DEEM conducts Rapid Protection Assessment for the newly displaced in Maqbanha district. Photo © DEEM /UNHCR

In Maqbanah district, UNHCR and its partner Deem for Development conducted a rapid needs assessment of the 95 newly displaced families. The assessment which was conducted during the last week of March, indicated that **90 per cent of the displaced are hosted in a governmental residential compound** (Governmental Housing Compound for the employees of a Cement Factory) while 10 per cent in rented accommodation.

Most of the families are sharing shelter – on average, **three to five families share one shelter**, which leads to a lack of privacy and expose women to protection risks.

The lack of latrines due to the non-functioning sewage network is an additional hazard especially for **women and children who constitute 35 per cent of the newly displaced**. UNHCR assessment revealed that **75 per cent of families have no identification documents** as they fled their home in haste with no time pack any belongings. Around **30-40 per cent of children suffer from diarrhea and suspected malaria** which is further spreading among the displaced who are in dire need of food, water, medical care and emergency cash assistance.

Schools near the hosting sites in Maqbanah district are closed because of the non-payment of teachers' salaries. Medical services are also scarce in the district. The only available governmental hospital is nine kilometers away from the hosting site. The hospital lacks medical services and charges consultative fee which the displaced families cannot afford.

### UNHCR TRI-CLUSTERS RESPONSE

UNHCR has dispatched emergency stocks to Taizz consisting of **200 Enhanced Emergency Shelter Kits (EESKs)** and **200 Non-Food Items (NFIs) kits**. An additional **700 NFIs kits and 200 EESKs are on the way to Al Ma'afer district**.

In Taizz, the UNHCR-led Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster covers 26 hosting sites and coordinates with UNHCR and other humanitarian partners to extend its services to all the sites. Partners have also assisted **100 families with critical hygiene items, clothes, dignity kits and food**.

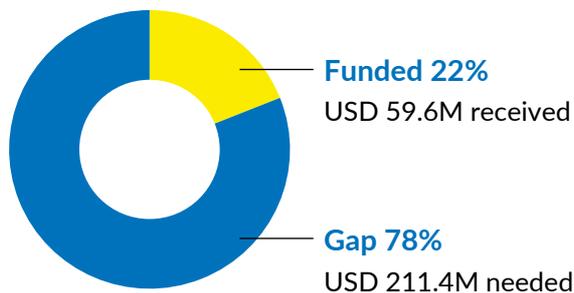
In Maqbanah district, shelter and CCCM Clusters' partners provided emergency shelter and NFI kits to **50 families**. Local authority in the governorate provided food baskets to **62 families**. The Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) cluster provided **food and hygiene/dignity kits to some 82 families** through UNHCR's partner Deem.



*IDPs face severe water scarcity and mostly rely on the generosity of local community to meet their needs.  
Photo © DEEM / UNHCR*

The protection team of Deem, which is composed of protection monitors, legal consellor, social worker and a psychologist, participated in the Rapid Protection Assesment for the newly arrived IDPs to develop a response plan based on the actual needs of the most vulnerable families. Coordination is ongoing to respond to the protection needs identified including legal documents and emergency cash.

### UNHCR 2021 FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS



**USD 271 million** required for UNHCR's Yemen Operation in 2021. The Operation is currently **22% funded** as of 30 March 2021.

### SPECIAL THANKS TO DONORS

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**At this critical time, humanitarian action to save lives and alleviate the suffering of vulnerable populations across Yemen remains imperative.** UNHCR appeals to donors to prioritize their funding now more than ever to the response in Yemen to avoid a devastating humanitarian disaster.

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