



World Health Organization

Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean

Situation report MARCH 2019 Yemen conflict



From 1 January to 31 March, a total of 164,684 suspected cases of cholera and 351 associated deaths have been reported. C: Omar Nasr, WHO.



24.1 MILLION*
IN NEED



14.3 MILLION **
IN ACUTE NEED



164,684 ***
CHOLERA CASES



19.7 M ****
IN NEED OF HEALTH CARE

WHO



WHO supported by the UAE, delivered 4 C-Arm machines to Aden, Taiz, Shabwa, and Hadhramout, C: Nesma Khan/WHO

NUMBER OF WHO STAFF & OTHER CONTACTS MODALITY IN COUNTRY: 230

HEALTH SECTOR

71 HEALTH CLUSTER PARTNERS
15.8 M TARGETED POPULATION –YHRP 2019

MEDICINES DELIVERED TO HEALTH FACILITIES/PARTNERS MARCH 2019

433 TONS OF MEDICINES AND SUPPLIES
1.1 M LITRES OF FUEL TO HOSPITALS
1.8 M LITERS OF WATER

HIGHLIGHTS

- From the beginning of 2019 until 31 March, there have been a total of 164,684 suspected cases of cholera and 351 associated deaths.
- An Integrated Cholera Response Plan was launched in March in response to the recent surge in suspected cholera cases. The first round of oral cholera vaccination concluded on 1 March in Taizz, Al Dhale'e, and Aden governorates, reaching 96% of the target population.
- Nine hundred thirty-six children were admitted to WHO supported TFCs for the treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) with medical complications, and a further 5,653 screened and nutritional sentinel sites.
- 1.8 million liters of water were distributed to WHO supported health facilities.
- During March, more than 433 tons of essential medicines and supplies were delivered to hospitals and health facilities.

* Yemen HNO 2019
** Yemen HNO 2019
*** Cholera bulletin as 31 March 2019
**** Yemen- HRP 2019

Situation update

Reports of suspected cases of cholera and acute watery diarrhea increased in March 2019, which are likely attributed to the early arrival of the rainy season, use of untreated sewage water for irrigation and farming, little to no maintenance of sewage disposal systems, and the ongoing displacement to and from high priority districts.

The recent increase in cases comes nearly two years after Yemen suffered its worst ever cholera outbreak. Almost one-third of all the suspected cases reported are in children under the age of five. Increasing rates of malnutrition have also left many children vulnerable and at greater risk of contracting the disease.



WHO provided cancer drugs for 7 oncology centers across Yemen. Supporting the treatment of up to 35,000 cancer patients in need with the support of Kuwait. C: Omar Nasr, WHO

The escalation in fighting in Hudaydah has severely limited the flow of humanitarian aid, food, and fuel into the country. Yemen relies on imports for over 85% of its food requirements, and the fuel and supply imports that come through Hudaydah Port cover an estimated 50% of national requirements.

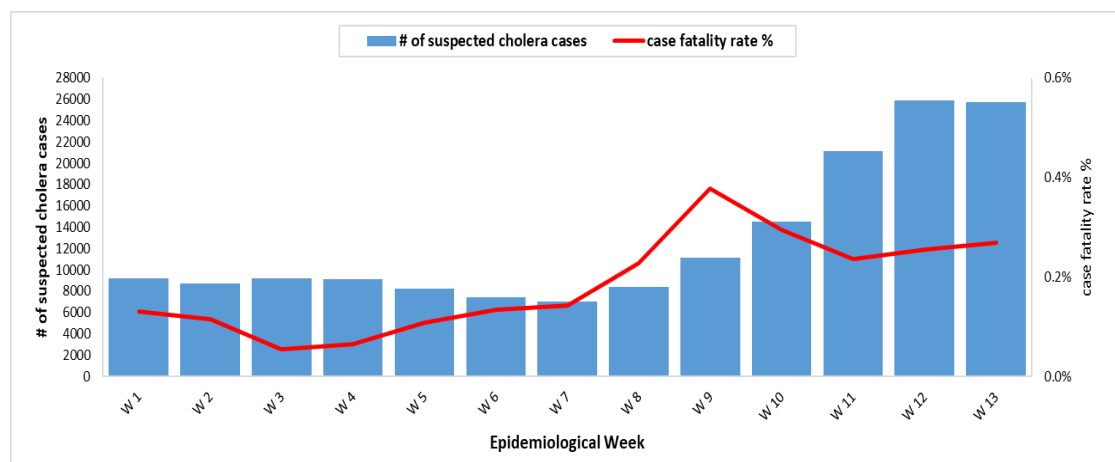
The food security situation alarming and in continues to deteriorate. The latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) released in December 2018 showed that 53 per cent (15.9 million) of population is facing severe acute food insecurity.

Cholera

Epidemiological Update and Surveillance

From 1 January to 31 March 2019, there have been a total of 164,833 suspected cases of cholera and 355 associated deaths (CFR 0.19%). Cases are concentrated in six governorates – Amanat Al Asimah, Al Hudaydah, Sana'a, Ibb, Amran, and Dhamar, which account for nearly two-thirds of all reported cases. A total of 279 districts out of 333 (84%) are reporting suspected cholera case. Children under the age of five represent 23% of the total number of suspected cases. **The trend in suspected cases remained stable between epidemiological weeks 11 -13.**

Epidemic Curve from 1 Jan 2018 to 31 Mar 2019



Diphtheria

There were a total of 100 probable cases of diphtheria reported in March 2019, along with seven associated deaths. From 1 January to 31 March, a total of 422 probable cases and 27 deaths.

Measles/Rubella

For epidemiological weeks 10 -13, a total of 779 suspected cases of measles and 38 associated deaths. For the period from 1 January to 31 March 6,155 suspected cases and 38 associated deaths were reported

Cholera

An Integrated Cholera Response Plan (ICRP) was finalized in March to help streamline coordination and ensure robust response mechanisms are in place to respond to the increase in suspected cholera cases. Response efforts have been scaled in all areas, including case management and treatment capacity, WASH, laboratory, health promotion activities, the distribution and pre-positioning of essential supplies, and preventive measures.

As of 31 March 2019:

- 94 WHO supported DTCs were in place with plans to scale to 141
- 147 health rapid response teams were activated across all 147 priority districts
- 378 cholera kits distributed (different modules)
- 125 laboratory technicians trained on sample collection, transportation, diagnosis and proper reporting of cases;
- Six hundred thousand people reached with community-based outreach activities on hygiene practices, the importance of reporting, and seeking early treatment.



WHO Keeps providing life-saving supplies to meet the needs of patients requiring surgical care. C. WHO staff

In coordination with WFP, planning is ongoing to establish oral rehydration points (ORPs) in conjunction with monthly food distribution schedules. Beneficiaries will receive ORS sachets, water treatment products, and education on the proper use of ORS. The initial pilot launch of the project is expected to take place in early to mid-April.

The first round of oral cholera vaccination (OCV) in three governorates Taizz, Al Dhale'e, and Aden governorates. concluded on 1 March 2019, reaching 96% of a target population of 497,108. An additional 1.2 million doses of OCV have been prioritized for campaigns in April, for which planning efforts are underway, including the confirmation of priority districts for vaccination.

Medical and Trauma Care

Within the 136 hospitals supported by WHO, there were 615,319 consultations for the month of March, bringing the total for 2019 to 1.82 million. In addition, there were:

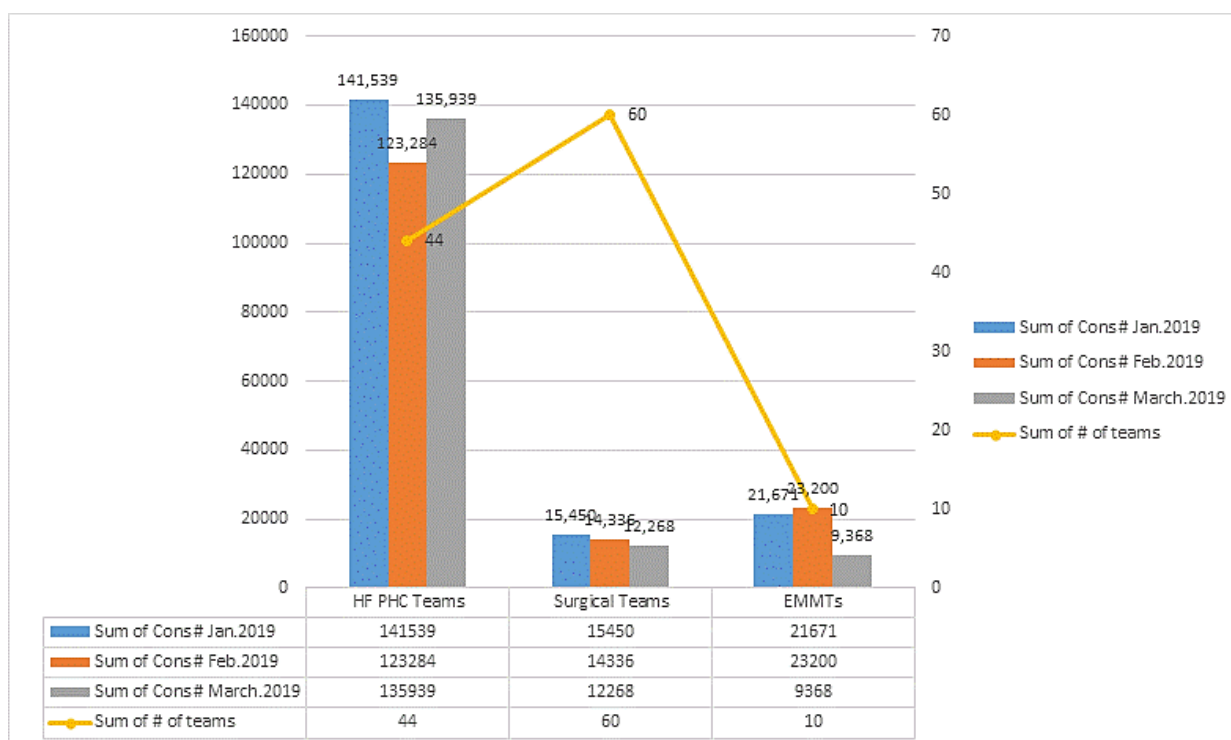
- 50,977 admissions, an increase of 30% from February (39,201);
- 34,372 operations, compared with 35,531 in February and 34,861 in January;
- 11,422 deliveries, a slight increase from the 11,049 conducted in February;

For the month of March, 5,000 liters of fuel and 1.8 million liters of water were delivered to WHO supported health facilities, bringing the total for 2019 to 2.2 million liters and 29.1 million liters respectively. The number of liters of fuel delivered in March was significantly lower than in the two preceding months (1.5 million in February 2019, 2.6 million January 2019), resulting from limited access to fuel through Hudaydah port.

Additional supply and logistics support to WHO supported health facilities included:

- Distribution of 69 basic IEHK kits, 163 supplementary IEHK kits, and 42 trauma kits, reaching more than 70,000 people with essential medicines and supplies;
- Delivery of an X-ray machine, facilitated by the support of the World Bank, to Al Thulaya hospital.

With regard to trauma care, the total number of consultations delivered by forty-four PHC mobile teams increased from 123,284 in February to 135,939 in March 2019. Surgical and emergency medical teams conducted 12,268 and 9,368 consultations in March, respectively.



WASH

In March, WASH materials were distributed to all 92 DTCs, including garbage collection bags, soap (powder and liquid), cleaning tools, waste collection baskets, and steel/hard plastics cups and utensils. Training on medical waste management was also conducted in 20 healthcare facilities.

More than 103,000 people received safe water through water trucking, and chlorinators targeted 454 private wells through coordination with NWRA.

To help ensure water quality in high-risk districts, WHO, in partnership with the World Bank, delivered 30 mobile laboratory kits to monitor and test water quality in water networks, wells, and water trucks to determine the effectiveness of chlorination activities.

Nutrition

In March, a total of 936 children were admitted to WHO supported TFCs for the treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) with medical complications. The cure rate was reported at 92.7% with a case fatality ratio of 2.05%.

A total of 5,653 children were screened at nutrition surveillance sentinel sites in March. Since the start of nutrition surveillance reporting in November 2018 through to March 2019, more than 32,000 children under the age of five have been screened for malnutrition across 38 newly established sentinel sites. The proportion of children referred for treatment for acute malnutrition was 21.6% and 6.6% for SAM.



WHO also supported training courses on Inpatient Management of SAM with medical complications to support capacity building in 29 therapeutic feeding centers (TFC) in the North, reaching 340 health and nutrition workers. Monthly supervision missions were carried out in all 60 functioning TFCs, including on-the-job training conducted in 13 TFCs in the North and 20 TFCs in the South.

As part of the Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan (YHRP) for 2019, WHO is appealing for US\$ 307.1 million, of which US\$ 3.3 million has been received, leaving a 99% funding gap.

Resource Mobilization

WHO's response to the crisis in Yemen has been supported by the World Bank, governments of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Japan, Norway, Germany, Canada, China, Oman and Kuwait, the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), Emirates Red Crescent, the League of Arab States, the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID) and Yemen Humanitarian Pooled Fund.



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