

MSF Yemen - Crisis Info 12 26 September 2016

EXTERNAL

CONTEXT UPDATE:

After 18 months of conflict, Yemen is a full-blown humanitarian emergency. After a short ebb in fighting due to the peace negotiations, airstrikes and ground fighting have fully resumed, with huge consequences for the civilians. All armed actors involved in the conflict, including the Saudi-led Coalition and the Houthis, are conducting this war and carrying out indiscriminate attacks without any respect for civilians or civilian infrastructure such as hospitals. Airstrikes resumed again in July and have a disproportionately high level of civilian casualties with as a sad highlight the airstrike in Haydan on 13 August which killed 10 and seriously injured 28 children.

MSF health facilities alone were hit four times. The last bombing, an airstrike on Abs hospital on 15 August, resulted in 19 deaths and 24 wounded, including a MSF staff member. MSF was forced to evacuate the teams from six hospitals in Northern Yemen, as they are not considered safe for both staff and patients, reducing access to quality health care for at least 200,000 people. The UN reports that over 600 health facilities in the country have stopped functioning due to damages or lack of staff/supplies affecting the access to healthcare of millions of people. Taiz city is one of the worst affected areas of Yemen with intense fighting including daily shelling in the densely populated inner city and has not seen any ceasefire since July 2015.

MSF HEALTH FACILITIES HIT BY AIRSTRIKES/MISSILES:

Four MSF-supported facilities and one ambulance were hit by airstrikes or missiles within 10 months

1. August 15, 2016 Abs Hospital (OCBA)
2. January 10, 2016 Shiara hospital (OCBA)
3. December 02, 2015 Tent clinic in Al-Houban, Taiz (OCA)
4. October 26, 2015 Haydan hospital (OCP)

August 18, 2016 Evacuation

MSF withdrew its staff members from six medical facilities in Saada (Haydan, Shiara, Al Gamhouri and Yasnim) and Hajjah (Abs and Al Gamhouri) governorates because it considered them unsafe for both patients and staff. As Saada, Haydan, Shiara, Abs, Yasnim, and Hajjah are hospitals run by the Ministry of Health, medical activities continue with their MoH staff and local volunteers. This is the only time MSF evacuated its staff in Yemen after a bombing. See Q&A MSF continue to support these hospitals to allow them to continue to function with medical supplies, fuel, food, water, diagnosis, staff costs and running costs.

Hospital bombing details:

ABS HOSPITAL, Hajjah - August 15, 2016, 3:45pm

Hospital: Abs Rural Hospital
Location: Abs district, Hajjah governorate, northwestern Yemen
Details: Aerial bomb hit the area where the Emergency Room is located and destroyed it along with other structural damage.

أطباء بلا حدود

Death toll: 19, including one MSF staff: Abdul Kareem al Hakeemi
 Injured: 24
 Status: 27 Aug MoH resumed maternity and emergency services
 August 18 MSF evacuated staff.

Abs Hospital was the main medical facility functioning in the western part of Hajjah governorate serving more than 50,000 people in the area. The facility has treated 11,020 patients in the ER, 906 admissions in IPD, 1394 deliveries and 15,730 mobile clinic consultation patients since MSF began supporting the hospital in July 2015. The hospital had a 14-bed emergency room, a maternity unit and a surgical unit and was in the process of starting a nutritional unit. In the first weeks of August before the hospital was bombed the staff saw an increase in war-wounded patients, mostly victims of recent clashes and the aerial campaign in the area.

SHIARA HOSPITAL, Razeh - January 10, 2016, 9:20 am NOT AN AIRSTRIKE, WE CANNOT CLAIM IT WAS KSA.

Hospital: Shiara Hospital
 Location: Razeh District, Saada governorate
 Details: The **missile/rocket** hit a corridor leading from the main gate to the hospital buildings, with a metal fence alongside. The wounded were hit by shrapnel from the rocket, and also by shards of metal from the fence.
 Death toll: 6 killed, including 3 staff members
 Injured: 7 people were seriously injured, including 2 staff members. Many others received shrapnel injuries.
 Status: For 5 months after the attack, the hospital was not fully functioning so people did not have access to hospital care. It's noteworthy to mention here that the hospital was not a fully functional hospital even in January 2016 as it was hit already by missile-rocket in September 2015 and the IPD and surgical department were destroyed. By July 2016 the MSF team restarted regular supervision visits, but in August the situation became insecure again with an escalation of airstrikes so MSF halted these visits. However, the MoH staff continues to provide health care services.

Shiara Hospital is the main medical facility functioning in the town located in the mountains where most of its 40,000 residents are living in caves to shelter from the bombs. The hospital serves about 120,000 people in the area. It has six inpatient beds for emergencies but only functions in the daytime because people do not want to drive to the hospital at night as their headlights will give them away in the dark and they'll be bombed. Patients nor medical staff prefer not to stay overnight, as they know that hospitals are targets.

Medical teams have treated more than 8,500 since MSF began supporting the hospital in November 2015.

The hospital has 6 beds in the emergency room, a maternity ward, a lab.

HAYDAN HOSPITAL Saada - October 26, 2015, 10:30pm

Hospital: Haydan Hospital – MSF-supported
 Location: Haydan District, Saada Province
 Details: Airstrikes occurred over a two-hour period completely destroying the emergency and consultation rooms, maternity unit, or inpatient department.
 Death toll: 0 - hospital staff and two patients managed to escape
 Injured: One staff member was slightly injured while escaping
 Status: Evacuated

أطباء بلا حدود

Haydan Hospital was the only functioning hospital in the Haydan area which served at least 200,000 people. It had an inpatient and outpatient departments, a maternity ward, a lab, and the emergency room.

MSF began supporting the hospital in May 2015. On average MSF was seeing 200 war-wounded patients per month emergency room.

CLINIC in Al-Houban, Taiz - December 02, 2015, 11:10

Health Facility: MSF Clinic in hospital tent in area with high number of displaced.

Location: Taiz city, Al Houban neighborhood, Taiz Province

Details: An airstrike occurred 22 metres from a MSF mobile tent clinic, which had closed 30 minutes earlier.

Death toll: This airstrike injured 9 people within the proximity of the tent clinic, including a MSF health educator and a MSF guard. One of the wounded persons died of his injuries the following day.

Status: The clinic closed after the airstrike as the population felt MSF's presence caused the attack.

AMBULANCE with Al Gomhoury Hospital, Saada - January 21, 2016, 4pm

Location: Dhayan, 20 kms (12 m) north from Saada, Saada governorate

Details: The ambulance was responding to an earlier bombing in Dhayan. Just as it arrived and people were gathering to assist the victims of the initial bombing, the same site was hit again with another airstrike, wounding many people. A third strike was then launched, hitting the ambulance and killing its driver, a health worker, and injured 2 during the bombing.

Death toll: 18 people. 5 of them arrived dead on arrival at the hospital.

Injured: 36 people who were treated at Al Gomhoury hospital.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES:

MSF has been working in 11 hospitals and health centers in Yemen and providing support to another 18 hospitals or health centers in eight governorates: Taiz, Aden, Al-Dhale', Saada, Amran, Hajjah, Ibb and Sanaa, with more than 2,000 MSF staff in the country, including 90 international staff - making it among MSF's largest missions in the world in terms of personnel. MSF is currently looking at how it can continue to work in Hajja & Sa'ada to serve the population there following the airstrike on Abs hospital in a manner which provides an acceptable level of security for its staff. MSF is still though supporting the six hospitals in Hajja and Sa'ada with medications, money incentives for their MoH staff and logistic support. MSF operations in Yemen have a budget of nearly 70 million Euro / year.

MSF Data

March 2015-August 2016

49,473 war wounded and violence victims

23,137 surgeries were performed in MSF facilities.

112,140 medical consultations were provided for displaced people in MSF mobile clinics

18,962 women had given birth in MSF facilities

267,188 patients had been seen in the emergency room

More than **1,761** tonnes of medical supplies had been sent to Yemen

Taiz

The situation in Taiz remains extremely critical, with some of the heaviest fighting in the country. MSF is running lifesaving medical activities on both sides of the frontlines in Taiz, Yemen's third largest city, where most hospitals have closed due to the conflict. In Al Houban neighborhood, it runs a Mother and Child hospital where 458 deliveries were recorded last month and over 400 severely malnourished children were admitted to the therapeutic feeding clinic and MSF runs a Trauma Centre for war-wounded and trauma cases and covers referrals. In the enclaved city centre, MSF supports Al Jomhuri hospital for maternity services, Yemeni Swedish hospital for pediatrics, Al Thawra hospital for medical and surgical ER, and Al Rawdah hospital for ER for war wounded. In Taiz alone, MSF has treated over 10,000 war wounded cases since July 2015, including 934 war wounded in August 2016 alone. Most of the wounded are coming from the city centre, where many civilians are caught in the middle of intense fighting, struggling food and survival. The patients MSF sees in Taiz mainly suffer from injuries due to airstrikes, blasts, shellings, gunshots, snipers and more recently landmines. Movement in and out of the city remains restricted and dangerous for civilians and humanitarian actors. MSF is also providing medications to the emergency room and emergency OT supplies to Khalifa Hospital in Al-Turba in Taiz.

Saada - evacuated

MSF withdrew its staff members from Al-Jumhuri, Haydan and Shiara hospitals on August 18 because it considered them unsafe for both patients and staff after the bombing of Abs hospital on August 15. These three hospitals in Saada are run by the Ministry of Health, so medical activities continue with their staff and local volunteers. MSF continues to support these hospitals in remote control. This is the only time MSF evacuated its staff in Yemen after a bombing.- see Q&A

Before the withdrawal of staff, MSF treated the people with injuries from landmines, UXO and other war injuries, including road traffic accidents injuries. They provided treatment to people in the maternity and surgical, inpatient department as well as mental and physiotherapy support. In addition, MSF is providing assistance in the Emergency Room and in the maternity department of Shiara Hospital that was hit by a missile-rocket in January 2016. Before the withdrawal of staff, MSF made weekly visits to supervise the activities as well as organizing referrals from here to Al-Jumhuri reference hospital in Saada city. The Haydan Health Centre, which was struck in an airstrike on 26 October 2015, had resumed activities there after the rebuilding of the center. Besides Haydan, MSF was also supporting the emergency rooms and referral system in Noshoor and Yasnim health centers.

Hajjah evacuated

MSF withdrew its staff members from Abs and Al-Gamhuri hospital on August 18 because it considered them unsafe for both patients and staff. In Abs Hospital MSF was supporting the Emergency Cases in the ER, the pediatric ward, the maternity and the emergency surgery with post-operative care MSF also referred the some complicated cases to the specialized hospitals in Hajjah and Hudaydah. As Abs hospital is run by the Ministry of Health, a minimum of medical activities continue despite the level of destruction of the hospital with the remote support of MSF

This is the only time MSF evacuated its staff in Yemen after a bombing.- see Q&A

<http://www.msf.org.uk/article/yemen-msf-withdraws-its-teams-from-six-hospitals-in-north-yemen>

The population it served lived in displaced sites all around the Abs district. Through a system of mobile clinics, MSF teams provided basic medical care to people as well as monitored the nutritional situation. Mental health services are provided in the hospital as well as in the mobile clinics that do outreach to the population in and around the IDP camps.

In Hajjah town, MSF has been supporting the main public referral hospital in the governorate in the ER, with surgical services, and in the ICU, post-operation wards since August 2015, and maternity services since July 2016. Because transportation costs are very high, MSF supports a referral system and an ambulance to bring patients from other parts of the governorate to the hospital.

Al Dhale

Al Dhale governorate is located on the old border between Northern and Southern Yemen and besides being affected by the current conflict, it is also affected by ongoing tensions over the old border. The governorate has front lines on three sides between pro-Hadi forces and pro-Houthi forces (Hamak, Taiz, Moreis/Damt). These areas saw intense levels of fighting in August in the form of armed clashes, snipers, shelling and rockets. Shelling along the frontline hit civilian houses and cars. There was an increase in civilian casualties as armed actors targeted villages. One incident in particular stood out when seven children aged 4-6 years old were seriously wounded by shelling. They were admitted to the Al Dhale hospital, where two of them died. MSF works in partnership with the hospital in Al Dhale and districts health centres in Al Azariq and Qatabah, running emergency room, outpatient consultations, surgeries, inpatient services, patient referrals, pediatrics, nutrition program and maternity. The Emergency Room of the health centre in Damth, the only MSF location under Houthi control in the governorate, is supported after the increase of war-wounded in the area. So far this year 838 major surgeries were performed, over 1,100 war-wounded were treated and nearly 60,000 OPD/ER consultations carried out.

Aden

Aden is currently controlled by southern resistance forces, backed by the military coalition led by Saudi Arabia. MSF is running an Emergency Surgical Hospital in Sheikh Othman district, in the north of the city. The hospital provides free medical care in an emergency room, a hospitalization ward and an operating theatre, and provides mental health and physiotherapy consultations. MSF is still seeing victims of landmines and UXO coming from Aden, Taiz, Lahj and Al-Dhale'.

A medical doctor and nurse conduct weekly visit so Aden Central Prison to provide primary healthcare services. An average of 50 consultations is provided every week.

Training

Training is part of our regular activities in this hospital in which MSF provide on- job- training to MoH doctors and nurses. We have one doctor and two nurses at a time. We started this activity in February and we trained 14 doctors and nurses so far. An official training programme supported by the David Nott Foundation, validated by the Royal College of Surgeons of England ran for three days early July. We had around 40 surgeons attending the course, from our hospital, from other hospitals in Aden, and from hospitals in Lahj, Abyan, Lawder and Shabwa.

Blood bank

MSF provided blood 700 screening test kits to the national blood bank in Aden to restart their blood donation activities.

Lahj

MSF has been supporting Ibn Khaldoun Hospital in Lahj with regular donations of medical supplies since December 2015 and Al-Razi hospital in Abyan since February 2016. The support includes medications to the emergency room and emergency OT supplies to Lawadar Hospital Abyan and Al-Razi Hospital in Abyan.

Amran

The situation North Amran governorate is relatively calm; as a result people are fleeing conflict to settle in this area. MSF has been providing general consultations to displaced people with mobile clinics. MSF is supporting Al-Salam hospital and Huth health centre in healthcare provision, donations of medication, oxygen, logistical equipment, electricity, human resources and a referral system. MSF is providing medical supplies, training personnel in emergency care, repairing and improving damaged structures, and running ambulance and reference systems in a number of health structures in Amran Governorate.

Scabies

In January, MSF treated nearly 150 patients with scabies, but when medical teams treated around 2,000 in May, they decided to conduct a mass treatment campaign in Khamer & Huth.

Ibb

MSF has initiated in mid-2015 its medical and humanitarian operations in the Ibb Governorate, which in turn is the most densely populated region in the country and bordering two of the active war front lines. Since the first days of 2016, is supporting the Emergency Room Department of Ibb Governorate's largest central hospital, which is the most important referral medical structure in the region and with a catchment population of two and a half million inhabitants. The objective is to increment free access good quality emergency health care in general and to improve the hospital's capacity to clinically manage a large influx of wounded (mass casualty management) in particular. Accordingly, our staff is seeing 600 to 850 patients per week in the Emergency Room, out of which between 15% to 20% is violent trauma.

Simultaneously, in the southern border with the Taiz Governorate, close to one of the country's violent war frontlines, MSF rehabilitated and is supporting a general hospital – dysfunctional until then – incrementing the free access to good quality emergency health care, improving the hospital's mass casualty management (as above), provide lifesaving surgeries as well as inpatients hospitalization for the most severe medical conditions. The catchment population of this medical structure is estimated to be five hundred thousand inhabitants.

On average MSF medical teams provide per month around 600 Emergency Room consultations, 120 life-saving related surgeries and more than 100 severe medical cases' hospitalizations. Violent and accidental trauma represents more than 50% of the cases seen in this medical structure.

Sana'a

MSF continues supporting the emergency room in Al-Kuwait hospital in Sana'a. In addition, MSF is donating emergency supplies to Al-Jumhuri and Al-Thawra hospitals. MSF is supporting war wounded patients in Al-Jumhuri and Al-Thawra hospitals, in Sana'a and also distribute war wounded kits in the districts surrounding Sanaa like Arhab, Hamdan or Jihnanah. MSF is also supporting the Mother and Child hospital Al Sabeen in Sanaa.

HIV

MSF's support to the Ministry of Health's HIV programme in Saana continues as normal, with 97% of the programme's 1,300 patients receiving their life-saving anti-retroviral treatment despite the tensions and violence in the city. These patients do not come only from Sana'a but from several governorates in Yemen. MSF is providing regularly blood testing kits to the National Blood Bank in Sana'a since September 2015.

Dialysis

Since October last year, MSF is supporting dialysis treatment centers in Sana'a, Hajja and Mahweet and recently the dialysis center in Taiz supporting in total around 650 patients with kidney failure. These



patients were at risk of death as the dialysis treatment centers were badly affected by lack of supplies and had reduced their sessions per patient from 3 to 2. MSF is supporting these centers until November 2016 but we need to identify international organizations who are willing support these centers as MSF is focusing on providing life-saving healthcare to the wounded and violence victims in 10 Yemeni governorates in Yemen. MSF brought in 240 ton of medical supplies for this activity alone, budget for 6 months was 1.8 million Euro.