

MSF Yemen - Crisis Info 14/ January 2017

EXTERNAL

Yemen in figures

- Population: 27.4 million (OCHA, 01/2017)
- GDP / capita: 1,400 USD / 182th in the world (out of 228) (World Bank, 2015)
- Infant mortality: 89 per live 1,000 births; Under 5 mortality: 42 deaths per 1,000 live births (UN IG CME, 2015)
- 14.8 million have no access to healthcare (OCHA, 01/2017).
- Around 3.3 million children and pregnant or lactating women are acutely malnourished, including 462,000 under 5-year-olds severely malnourished (OCHA, 01/2017). More than 3 million people have fled their homes in search of safety and security in Yemen, out of which more than 2 million remain internal displaced and over 1 million have provisionally returned to their places of origin (Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan, 01/2017)

CONTEXT UPDATE:

After 22 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 fully resumed, with huge consequences for the civilians. All armed actors involved in the conflict, including the Saudi-led Coalition and the Houthis, are carrying out indiscriminate attacks without any respect for civilians or civilian infrastructures such as hospitals, schools or markets. Airstrikes are having 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. On October 8th, an airstrike hit a funeral house killing at least 140 people and injuring more than 500 people. MSF supported the main hospitals in Sana'a that received the wounded with supplies to cover the needs of more than 500 wounded.

MSF health facilities alone have been hit four times. The last bombing, an airstrike on Abs hospital on 15 August 2016 resulted in 19 deaths and 24 wounded, including a MSF staff member. 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)

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.

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.

November 24th MSF resume full scale activities in Abs after major rehabilitation- mobile clinics to resume in January

Abs Hospital was the main medical facility functioning in the western part of Hajjah governorate, serving more than 150,000 people in the area.

From January to November 2016, 9,191 patients were treated in the Emergency Room, of which more than 50% were medical cases and a total of 166, war wounded. More than 850 surgical interventions were performed, 194 being caesarean sections, 1,197 patients were hospitalised and 1,670 women delivered in the maternity. Until the withdrawal of MSF in August 2016 the teams were also running mobile clinics, with nearly 12,000 consultations done. These will be resumed in late January 2017.

SHIARA HOSPITAL, Razeh - January 10, 2016, 9:20am 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 had been hit by a missile-rocket in September 2015 and the IPD and surgical department were destroyed. Shiara Hospital is the main medical facility functioning in this 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. MSF is now supporting the hospital with advanced care (Emergency Room and maternity) including medications and money incentives for the Ministry of Public Health and Population staff.

Almost 9000 patients were treated in the ER in 2016, and over 300 patients were referred to hospitals in Saada.

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 its national and international staff in late November 2016 as a result of the airstrike on Abs hospital. MSF will resume its presence with international staff in February 2017. The support to the hospital never stopped even with the evacuation of the team. 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.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES:

MSF has been working in 12 hospitals and health centers in Yemen and providing support to more than 30 hospitals or health centers in 11 Yemeni governorates: Taiz, Aden, Al-Dhale', Saada, Amran, Hajjah, Ibb, Sana'a, Hodaida, Abyan and Lahj, with nearly 1,600 staff including 82 international staff - making it among MSF's largest missions in the world in terms of personnel.

MSF resumed working in Hajjah and Abs hospital in November 2016. MSF supported Al-Jamhuri hospital in Saada city with medications, incentives for their MoH staff and logistic support until December 2016, and is supporting the Shiara hospital in Razeh district with advanced care (ER and maternity).

MSF operations in Yemen had a budget of more than 103 million Euro / for 2015 and 2016.

Cholera:

A growing number of cases with acute watery diarrhea and suspected cholera cases have been reported by the Yemeni Ministry of Health in Yemen. MSF supports the Al-Sabeen hospital in Sana'a, and the Al-Sadaqa hospital and Al-Jumhuri hospital in Aden, as well as other health facilities in Taiz governorate to help with the response. MSF is providing these health facilities with medical supplies, training of staff, in addition to logistical support for the aim of prevention of the disease, isolation of patients with suspected symptoms, case management and capacity building. Beside this direct support of medical facilities, MSF teams are continuously monitoring the situation to be prepared for any increase in cases, in addition to providing precautionary measures in MSF facilities in Aden, Al-Dhale, Amran, Ibb and Taiz.

MSF urges the international community to support Yemen's fragile health system to cope with any needs.

Malnutrition:

In our projects, MSF staff have indeed witnessed and treated several cases of malnutrition throughout the year, as well as prior to March 2015. Malnutrition is a complicated diseases that arises from many factors. In Yemen, the issue of malnutrition is most notably exacerbated by the deteriorating economic conditions – which creates barriers for vulnerable communities to access medical treatment, restricts the ability to travel and the income to buy the necessary daily intake of food, among other factors – in addition to the general hardships resulting from the conflict. MSF strongly urges the international community to support the Yemeni population with all their needs and to reinforce a collapsing infrastructure. From January to September 2016, MSF has treated 4,485 children suffering of malnutrition in Amran Taiz and Hajja.



MSF Projects (listed starting from North to South)

Saada

MSF withdrew its staff members from Al-Jumhori, 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. This is the only time MSF has evacuated its personnel in Yemen after a bombing. The support to the hospitals never stopped, though, in the form of medications, incentives and a referral system. MSF is currently supporting Shiara hospital with advanced care. MSF will resume its presence with international staff in February 2017 in Haydan.

Before the withdrawal of staff, MSF treated the people with injuries from landmines, UXO and other war wounds, including road traffic accidents injuries. MSF provided treatment to people in the maternity and surgical, inpatient departments as well as mental and physiotherapy support.

MSF is currently providing assistance in the Emergency Room and in the maternity department of Shiara Hospital, that had been hit by a missile-rocket in January 2016.

Hajjah: evacuated in August and resumed activities in Abs and Hajjah late November 2016.

MSF withdrew its staff from Abs hospital and Al-Gamhouri hospital in Hajjah town on August 18 2016 because it considered them unsafe for both patients and staff. This is the only time MSF has evacuated its staff in Yemen after a bombing. As Abs hospital is run by the Ministry of Health, a minimum of medical activities continued despite the level of destruction of the facility, with the remote support of MSF, and both national and international personnel resumed the intervention in late November.

In Abs Hospital, MSF is currently running the emergency cases in the ER, the pediatric ward, the maternity and the emergency surgery with post-operative care, with mental health support for both patients and caretakers. In addition, MSF opened an inpatient therapeutic food center (ITFC) within the hospital in early December. MSF refers complicated cases to the specialized hospitals in Hajjah, Sana'a and Hudaydah.

<http://www.msf.org.uk/article/yemen-msf-withdraws-its-teams-from-six-hospitals-in-north-yemen>The population served by the project lives in displaced sites all around the Abs district. Through a system of mobile clinics, MSF teams used to provide basic medical care to people while monitoring the nutritional situation. Mental health services were also provided through outreach activities for the population in and around the IDP camps. This mobile clinic program will resume in late January.

In Hajjah town, MSF has been supporting the main public referral hospital in the governorate in the ER, with surgical services, in the ICU, post-operation wards since August 2015, and the maternity services since July 2016. MSF also supports a referral system to bring patients to Al-Jamhouri hospital in Sana'a.

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. 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



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 provides war wounded kits in the districts surrounding Sana'a, like Arhab, Nihm, Hamdan or Jihanah. MSF is also supporting the Mother and Child hospital Al Sabeen in Sana'a.

HIV

MSF's support to the Ministry of Health's HIV programme in Sana'a continues as normal. More than 1,752 patients from the capital and several governorates received their life-saving anti-retroviral treatment in 2016 despite the tensions and violence in the city, and this intervention will continue throughout the year. In addition, MSF will keep supporting Voluntary Counselling and Testing as well as Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission sites, in parallel to its advocacy work for the rights of people living with HIV to fight the stigma and discrimination against them in the health facilities.

MSF is providing regularly blood testing kits to the National Blood Bank in Sana'a since September 2015.

Dialysis

Since October last year until the end of December 2016, MSF has been 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. After ICRC took over these centers since the beginning of 2017, MSF start to support of three dialysis centers in in Sana'a. 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. MSF supports the centers till December 2016 and ICRC will take over 2 centers. MSF is looking into the possibility to support 3 new centers.

Mental health

In view of the escalating needs, MSF has progressively increased its mental health and psychosocial support activities across the country. The teams are composed of clinical psychologists and counsellors-educators, and target population includes victims of violence and their families with special attention to war wounded, internally displaced persons and children. In 2016, MSF provided 5,700 individual and family sessions to over 2,700 beneficiaries and their relatives, in addition to group interventions to sensitize local communities about mental health, reduce stigmatization and teach basic techniques for psychological hygiene and to restore previous coping mechanisms; recreational activities for the children hospitalized are part of this package. Furthermore, regular trainings are provided to the medical staff in the MSF run or supported hospitals in different regions, in order to improve the referral system and understanding of psychological effects of exposure to violence. Mental health teams are also actively involved in mass casualty contingency planning and implementation in all the projects.

Ibb



At the end of 2015, MSF initiated medical and humanitarian operations in Ibb Governorate, the most densely populated region in the country bordering two active front lines.

MSF supports the Emergency Department of Ibb Governorate's tertiary-level referral hospital, the most important referral medical structure in the region with a catchment population of two and a half million inhabitants. The objective is the provision of free, high quality emergency medical care to war-wounded and the general population, ensuring the hospital's capacity to manage a large influx of trauma cases (mass casualty management) and the provision of out-patient care for displaced person. The emergency room receives more than 1000 patients per week, of which around 15% are victims of violent trauma and 17% are other critical cases. Finally, MSF provides regular financial and material support to support departments of the Hospital.

Additionally, close to one of the country's violent war frontlines bordering Taiz Governorate, MSF currently supports the General Rural Hospital of Thi As Sufal District. MSF provides free, high quality emergency medical care, life-saving surgeries, and in-patient hospitalization for the most severe medical conditions. MSF also ensures mass casualty management capacity of the hospital (as above). On average, MSF teams offer 250 consultations in the Emergency Room and perform 80 surgeries per week. The catchment population of this medical structure is estimated to be five hundred thousand inhabitants. Finally, MSF provides regular monthly donations to the maternity department, in addition to water, fuel and other support to the entire hospital.

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 2500 severely malnourished children were admitted to the therapeutic feeding clinics supported by MSF in Taiz. MSF runs a Trauma Centre for war-wounded and trauma cases and covers referrals. In the enclaved city centre, MSF supports Al Jomhour 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. 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.

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 has 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.

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.

Hodaida:

MSF started supporting the emergency room in the Ministry of Health Al-Olfy Hospital in Hodaida with medications and medical supplies. The support also includes incentives for 60 of the staff.