HEALTH CLUSTER BULLETIN
APRIL 2019

YEMEN
Emergency type: Level 3 Emergency
Reporting period: 01-04-2019 TO 30-04-2019

HIGHLIGHTS

- A total of 2,892 Health Facilities (17 Governorate Hospitals, 112 District Hospitals, 57 General Hospitals, 19 Specialized Hospitals, 907 Health Centers and 1,756 Health Units) are supported by Health Cluster Partners.

- From 1 January 2019 to 28 April 2019, the cumulative figures were - 278,584 suspected cholera cases, 99,217 rapid diagnostic tests (RDT) were performed, 57,197 RDT positive, 2,915 confirmed cases with 561 associated deaths and a CFR of 0.20%. Children under five years of age represent 22.6% of the total suspected cases. The proportion of severe cases is 17%.

- The Health Cluster Partners are supporting 222 DTCs and 1,084 ORCs across Yemen in 147 priority districts. There is a gap in one district (Hyran) due inaccessibility and ongoing conflict.

- The OCV campaign in April 2019 was conducted in Amana Al Asmah Governorate in three districts with an overall vaccination coverage of 89% = 1,087,093 people.

- A joint Cholera review meeting was held on 14 April 2019 in Aden, under the patronage of the Ministry of Health, Population, and Ministry of Water with the support of Health & WASH Clusters to review cholera response in 2018 and prepare a roadmap for 2019.

- The Health Cluster in Yemen conducted Cluster Coordination Performance Monitoring in April 2019. A meeting of the Health Partners will be convened to discuss the findings and prepare an Action Plan in order to strengthen the cluster functions.

HEALTH SECTOR

| HEALTH CLUSTER PARTNERS | 71 |
| PEOPLE IN ACUTE NEED | 14 M |

KITS DELIVERED TO HEALTH FACILITIES/PARTNERS

| IEHK BASIC KITS | 95 |
| IEHK SUPPLEMENTARY KITS | 43 |
| FIRST AID KITS | 200 |
| CHOLERA KITS | 34 |

SUPPORTED HEALTH FACILITIES

| HEALTH FACILITIES | 2,868 |

HEALTH ACTION

| CONSULTATIONS (7%) | 1,375,959 |
| SURGERIES (7%) | 34,759 |
| ASSISTED DELIVERIES (NORMAL & CS) (6%) | 6,318 |

VACCINATION

| PENTA 3 (45%) | 40,507 |

EDEWS

| SENTINEL SITES | 1,982 |

FUNDING SUS

| REQUESTED | 627.2 M |
| FUNDED | 34.1 M |

19.7M PIN of Health Assistance

15.8M Targeted with Health Interventions

3.34 Million** IDPs

627M Funds requested

1 Million Returnees
Public health risks, priorities, needs and gaps

The non-functionality of about 49% health facilities across the country, with most depending on incentive payments amidst few/dwindling resources, the chances of deteriorating health status are likely to happen.

The poor economic situation and purchase power of the people is of major concern and is largely affecting the access to the health services.

With the deplorable condition of the health facilities and inadequate clean water, there is a likelihood of a rise in the communicable diseases.

The part of the population who have chronic conditions, such as cancer and renal failure experience access constraints to medical care due to the cost of care as there are limited resources for the care of the non-communicable diseases.

Communicable diseases

There were 312,727 patients treated for various communicable diseases across the various health facilities in Yemen during the month of April 2019. This is reflective of 46% increase from the number of cases attended to in the month of March 2019 due to improved reporting.

The last month of April has witnessed a reduction in the number of cholera cases though cumulatively by about 30%. It is worth noting that 75% of the cholera suspected cases are reported from 7 governorates (Amanat Al Asimah (17%)-highest, Sana’a (12%), Al Hudaydah (11%), Ibb (10%), Dhamar (9%), Amran (9%) and Hajjah (8%).
The first Reserve Allocation 2019 to scale up Cholera prevention and response is completed with six (6) health partners receiving a total of US$ 12.58 million. The funds allocated are to procure medicines and medical supplies, medical equipment, and support trainings and payment of salaries and incentives in response to the cholera outbreak.

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<th>Governorate</th>
<th>Cases</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
<th>CFR%</th>
<th>Population 2019</th>
<th>AR/10,000</th>
<th>W 15</th>
<th>W 16</th>
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**Total** 278,584 561 0.20% 29,973,465 93 29841 26900 22502 -15 ▼

Non-communicable diseases and Mental Health

There were 17,768 new hypertensive patients (a 5% decrease from the 18,627 patients attended to in March 2019). Though the interventions for mental illness are not well established in Yemen, there were 855 patients who received medical interventions in the health facilities in the month of April 2019, which represents a 9% decrease compared to the number seen in March 2019.

Health facility support

Following the HERAMS 2018 report, there are 51% functional health facilities (2,522), while 35% are partially functional (1,762) with 14% being non-functional (758). The health facilities that have been reported non-functional or partially functional are mainly due to lack of health staff, fully damaged or partially damaged infrastructure, lack of equipment, medicines and unavailability of support to the operational cost. Health Cluster Partners therefore continue supporting the functional facilities with operation support, incentives for the health workers and provision of medicines and medical supplies.
Availability of essential services

Primary and secondary health care services are being supported by the Health Cluster Partners who offer humanitarian services across the country. These services are offered free of charge across all the health centres and health units with secondary health care in the governorate and district hospitals, with support of incentives and operational costs from the Partners. Health service delivery is mainly hampered by access challenges, insecurity and lack of health workers. The depreciation of the Yemen rial makes the economic situation difficult for the people to be able to afford transport from one location to another. Further, along with costly transportation charges, the roads are in poor state and impassable. The Health Partners are supporting patients with transportation facilitation to access services through the voucher system to improve acceptance, access and utilisation of health services by the patients.

Availability of health staff

There are hardly enough health workers in the facilities who have moved from their locations due to insecurity or lack of salaries. They have moved to other locations with those who are still serving in the Health Facilities; depend on incentives offered by the humanitarian actors to retain the facilities remaining functional.

Availability of essential drugs, vaccines and supplies

The Health Cluster partners continue supporting the health facilities with medicines and medical supplies as well as payment of incentives to the health staff. 78,000 litres of fuel and 4.68 million liters of water supplied to the health facilities in addition to 95 IEHK basic Kits, 43 IEHK Supplementary kits, 100 First Aid Kits, 34 Cholera kits and 103 DDK kits to support various health facilities across the country.

Health Cluster Action

Health Cluster partners comprise six UN agencies, 29 INGOs, 36 NNGOs in 22 Governorates in Yemen. In April 2019, 29 Partners reported through the Yemen health information system.

The implementation status by the partners can be accessed at http://yemenhc.org

Health Cluster Partners Updates – April 2019

Health Cluster Partners continued supporting health service delivery across the country: -

TYF (Tamdeen Youth Foundation)

Supporting integrated health and nutrition services through the support of the YHF project in the districts of Al-Silw and Al Mawyah, in Taiz Governorate. In one of the ORC in Quradeh Sub- district, a remote mountainous hard to reach within conflict affected area in Al-Silw district, Taizz Governorate; a young boy 8 years of age with severe dehydration and could not reach any health facility in time was received at the ORC site. By the time the parents got access to the ORC he had fainted and with sunken eyes, he was attended to by the health staff in the site and was able to regain his consciousness and
discharged home healthy and in better health. In total, there were 900 cases with acute watery diarrhoea received and treated in the five ORCs established and supported by TYF.

FHI 360

Since the opening of FHI360’s newly rehabilitated Al Ghaded Health Unit in Dhubab district in February 2019 and continuation of services in Al Mokha and Al Khawkha districts, FHI 360 has seen a steady increase in the number of consultations of individuals at supported health facilities in those three districts. This increase has been tracked and monitored from the start of project: in the first two months of MSP activities, FHI360 witnessed total consultations at 3,386 (August 2018) and 3,570 (September 2018), whereas the most recent months of project activities have seen total consultations at 4,351 (March 2019) and 4,753 (April 2019). This is on average a 31% increase in the total number consultations at the supported facilities.

To cope with the increase in the number of individuals benefiting from consultations and to better enable staff to provide quality services, FHI 360 conducted an IMCI training (Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses) to 10 health workers, 6 Medical assistants, 3 Nurses and 1 Midwife, in April 2019 at Al Sadaqa Teaching Hospital in Aden. FHI 360 in collaboration with MoPHP was able to train all key staff at the supported facilities who had not previously received training in IMCI, equipping participants with the knowledge to improve service delivery to children.
A 61-year-old male who is a refugee in Sana’a city and living alone for decades under very difficult situation in the midst of the crisis and illness (weakness in the heartbeat, which affected vital body organs with his heart reached 35 beats-per-minute). He previously was working as a truck driver, and ran a business, which has since stalled because of the conflict in Yemen. He has therefore not able to afford treatment for his failing health. Through the help of good Samaritans, he was taken to Al-Rahbi Health Center and after medical tests; it was found that he required immediate surgery to save his life. He was referred to Al-Thawra Hospital in Sana’a through QRCS, who supported all the medical procedures, surgery and medications as well as the purchase of a pacemaker. There are more than 1750 beneficiaries who received treatment at Al-Rahbi Health Center and those requiring surgical interventions were referred to various hospitals under QRCS.

IOM

Through its Global Fund Programme, to support the increase in awareness of new guidelines and support for the prevention and treatment of Malaria, IOM supported the National Malaria Control Program to mark the World Malaria day. Several activities were: - workshop for 51 healthcare staff to orient them on updated Anti-Malarial Drug (AMD) Policy (25 doctors, 17 nurses and 9 laboratory technicians); onsite training on AMDs Policy and treatment guidelines of severe Malaria cases in targeted health facilities in Amanat Al-Asimah governorate. 219 medical staff participated in the first phase of onsite trainings at 4 targeted hospitals; 395,248 Long-Lasting Insecticide Treated Nets (LLITNS) were distributed in Malaria endemic areas of 17 targeted districts of Hajjah governorate with IDPs (7.6%), children (14.4%) and pregnant women (3.2%) among the recipients.
SCI (Save the Children International)

SCI continued to support the delivery of MSP services in 200 PHC Centre’s/units in 9 governorates across the country, through delivery of medicines, consumables and medical supplies and incentives paid to the health workers to ensure they are well motivated for quality service delivery.

During the reporting period, SCI conducted 3 trainings for various categories of health workers including: - Integrated Management of Childhood illnesses training for 24 medical assistants, Expanded Programme of Immunization (EPI) training for 57 nurses and murshed and Basic Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal care (BEmONC) training for 24 midwives.

In addition, supportive supervisory visits were made to the health facilities and provided on job trainings. As part of the ongoing support, SCI ensured case management and infection prevention and control for management of acute watery diarrhea cases presenting at the health facilities in through SCI supported DTCs.

UNFPA

UNFPA supported the launch of the first national reproductive health logistics information management system (RH LIMS) in Yemen. The system will help improve the availability of lifesaving reproductive
health supplies at the service delivery points all over Yemen and electronically connect the Ministry of Public Health and Population with governorates and districts across the country. The system will also support planning, management, and decision-making in health facilities and the ministry of public health and population.

In addition, UNFPA conducted training on the RH LIMS system for 30 Reproductive Health Directors and trainings are on going for those at governorate and district levels across the country.

**Health Cluster coordination**

The Health Cluster conducted two (2) National Health Cluster coordination meetings and five (5) Sub National Health Cluster coordination meetings conducted in the (5) functional hubs (Aden, Al Hudaydah, Ibb/Taizz, Sa’ada and Sana’a).

There were nine (9) joint Health and WASH consultations and coordination meetings held at both National and SubNational levels, while weekly cholera taskforce meetings continued in the month of April to strengthen the interventions in cholera response.

The Health Cluster participated in 4 ICCM meetings and 2 HCT meetings at national level while at Hub level, the SubNational Health Cluster Coordinators attended five (5) RCT meetings.

The SubNational Health Cluster Coordinators conducted 19 field visits in respective hubs while there were two support missions to Hajjah Governorate by the National Health Cluster during the month of April 2019.

**Training of health staff**

24 medical assistants were trained on IMCI, 24 midwives on Basic Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal care (BEmONC) and RH LIMS system training for 30 RH Directors whilst a similar training will be rolled out across the country. There were 555-community health workers who were oriented on health education, prevention and control of cholera and 57 nurses and murshed were trained on EPI and 469 health staff in various health facilities across the country being oriented on Minimum Service Package (MSP). More than 1000 health staff at DTCs were imparted training on appropriate case management with the support from WHO.

**Trauma and injury care**

Fighting sporadically escalated in different parts of Yemen in recent weeks leading to spikes in displacement and civilian casualties. In this regard, 9,717 patients (a 16% increase from the previous month) were treated for conflict related trauma injuries in various health facilities across the country in April 2019.

**Child Health**

40,507 children were immunized for Penta 3 (a significant 45% increase), while 22,908 children were treated SAM with complications cases (30% increase) and refereed for further follow up and care with nutrition partners.
Reproductive Health

127,472 women attended antenatal care services (34% increase); skilled birth attendants conducted 31,241 normal deliveries (12% increase); 6,318 mothers underwent caesarean section (6% increase); while 32,258 mothers attended postnatal care services, (20% increase). There were 8,628 beneficiaries of RH Kits supported by various implementing partners.

Water, sanitation, hygiene, and environmental health

There are 333 district Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) and 23 Governorate RRTs to support case management and contact tracing, active surveillance, case follow ups referrals of cases identified at community level with linkage to the nearest health facility for prompt case management. The 782 WASH RRTs ensure follow up of water sources treatment and testing of contaminated water from patients and their contacts as well as undertaking hygiene promotion awareness in collaboration with the WASH Partners.

Plans for future response

The Cluster Coordination Performance Monitoring - Partners' Assessment for 2018 has been completed and the Health Cluster will convene a consultative partners meeting after Ramadan to present the findings and prepare a Plan of Action.

The MCLA 2019 questionnaire has been drafted and is currently being reviewed for inputs by all the stakeholders ahead of the launching of the need assessment exercise later in the year.

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