Yemen Protection Cluster

“Working together for protection”
Global Protection Cluster

January 2020
**Highlights**

The reignited fighting in Sana’a, Marib and Al Jawf governorates which commenced in mid-January has triggered mass displacement, impacting over 4600 households. In an attempt to escape series of armed attacks, people fled to neighbouring districts within the governorates taking shelter with host communities, in abandoned/unfinished buildings and on open lands. In response to the new displacement crisis, Protection Cluster partners continue to conduct needs assessment to identify community level protection concerns and to Inform initial response with an emphasis on persons with special needs, women and children. Preliminary assessment outcomes revealed that:

- Majority of displaced populations in Marib reside on open lands and abandoned/unfinished buildings with severely deteriorated living conditions, magnifying the susceptibility women and children to exploitation and abuse.
- Rising number of displaced people including children exhibit signs of psychological trauma, principally suffering from panic attacks sparked by constant fear of armed attacks.
- Growing number of unaccompanied/separated children in dire need of imminent reunification with family members and psychological assistance.
- The presence of people with limited mobility including elderly and people with specific needs, who have not received specialized assistance.
- The exposure of IDPs to landmines due to settlements in areas riddled with explosive remnants of war e.g. Beni Al-Hashish district.

Following initial findings, partners have provided a number of displaced households with protection cash assistance, which is essential in mitigating immediate protection risks and deterring resort to negative coping mechanisms such as early marriage, child recruitment and exploitative labour. In addition, some individuals benefited from legal assistance which encompasses support with the issuance of identification documents, imperative for gaining access to life-saving humanitarian services. It is also worth noting that, partners continue to provide vital protection services including psychosocial support and mine risk education.

**Challenges**

- Fierce fighting in the above-mentioned governorates has exacerbated the existing displacement crisis, placing an enormous pressure on the capacity of partners to cope with the rising number of people in need of immediate assistance.
- Limited funding has hindered efficient protection response, particularly with respect to cash assistance, which plays a pivotal role in averting major protection risks.
- Restricted access due to ongoing fighting combined with inefficient telecommunication service has hampered the ability of protection actors to collect information, which is decisive to accurately comprehend the gravity of the crisis.
- Difficulty in tracing the whereabouts of some displaced families, as they are dispersed in remote and hard-to-reach locations.

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