RAPID NEED ASSESSMENT
FOR IDPS AND HOST COMMUNITIES
IN HOUTH AND KHAMIR DISTRICTS
AMRAN GOVERNORATE, YEMEN

September 2017
Introduction

Since the beginning of the conflict in March 2015, more than 11 percent of Yemen’s population, some 3 million people, have been forced to flee their homes for safety. Two years and a half later, the unabated conflict and rapidly deteriorating conditions across Yemen are pushing millions of displaced Yemenis further into danger and adversity, during the accelerating humanitarian basic needs.

According to the YHRP 2017, and the Yemen Humanitarian Dashboard (January to June 2017) the conflict and displacement combined with famine and cholera has increased the needs of a vulnerable population. This has led to negative coping mechanisms and the breakdown of support structures, nearly 11.3 million people require protection assistance to ensure their safety, dignity, and basic rights. There are 2.9 million people that are living in severely affected areas. These vulnerable people require help to secure basic human rights including legal, psychosocial and other services, and child protection and gender-based violence support.

The Yemen TFPM 15th Report Dashboard June 2017 and the YHRP 2017, states that there are 2 million IDPs and 0.9 million returnees, and protection concerns will increase as there is a lack of accountability mechanisms. As resources have become insufficient tensions within communities will increase especially IDPs, returnees and vulnerable host communities as the length of displacement and the burden on the host community increases. Crime rates will be on the rise as people will drain coping mechanising. Domestic and communal violence may increase as families and communities struggle with accumulated stress and shortages. Discrimination against minorities will become more acute as competition over resources grows. The Protection Strategy (September 2017), states Amran hosts the largest number of IDPs, and 79% of IDPs were women and children. In addition, it shows that IDPs and returnees faced challenges that include: lack of safety, harassment, limited freedom of movement, lack of documentation, limited access to services, family separation, loss of livelihoods, and there has been a 63% rise of gender based violence. Additionally, Khamir district has been classified among the highest priority districts as a phase 4 by the latest IPC with food insecurity of (23.6%) and GAM rates of (15.7%).

To assess the scope of the problem, identify needs and improve appropriate response, Yemen Family Care Association (YFCA) has conducted the rapid needs assessment for protection, food security, and shelter- NFI in two districts of Amran governorate; Khamir and Huth.
Objectives of the Assessment

The main objective of the assessment is to identify the priority food needs, protection issues shelter focusing on basic household needs (NFI) in Khamir and Huth districts in Amran in order to inform targeted and evidence-based humanitarian response. Specifically, the assessment aimed to:

1. Identify the main protection needs and demands by the IDPs and host communities in the targeted districts.
2. Assess the level of awareness of protection issues in the targeted districts
3. Assess the main issues regarding the availability and accessibility of basic food supplies
4. Evaluate the availability and accessibility of essential shelter and NFI supplies

Methodology

The assessment was conducted using questionnaires, key informant interviews, focus group discussion, direct observation and physical inspection of the camps. The KIIs included community leaders of the vulnerable host communities, community leaders of the IDPs and beneficiaries including males, females, boys and girls.

In these districts, two camps were selected in addition to the host community. There are:

- Khamir: Dahdh Camp which has a total of 271 households and 1361 individuals
- Huth: Al Mitraah Camp which has a total of 254 households and 1313 individuals

The target population includes IDPs and vulnerable host community, with target groups defined as follows:

- IDPs: those facing first-time displacement and multiple displacements are considered among the most vulnerable groups due to limited coping capacity and a loss of assets due to displacement.
- Vulnerable Host Community (the non-displaced affected population): including households in the host community whose homes have been damaged by the conflict and have no alternative shelter may benefit from repair kits. The scale of damage among some communities needs to be better documented and analyzed.
Sampling Methodology

- Random sampling methodology was used.
- A total of 50 community leaders and members and 100 IDP men, women, children and vulnerable host community were interviewed using open ended and closed questionnaires.
- 8 Focus group discussions were conducted; 3 in Huth and 5 in Khamir.

Key Findings

1. Protection:

The targeted group of IDPs and host communities interviewed gave different definitions of protection where 75% of the IDPs and host communities had unclear understanding of protection issues. An acceptable number of the population in Khamir were familiar with protection issues as other assessments with similar questions had been conducted before in the district. The case was different in Huth as most of the targeted population had little knowledge on protection.

In addition, below points summarize the findings of the assessment:

- IDPs in the camps stated that 90% of the violent incidents were from the host community. The main the incidents mentioned by the IDPs are ranked as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Violations incidents</th>
<th>Khamir</th>
<th>Houth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ranked 1</td>
<td>Shooting incidents</td>
<td>Discrimination of children in district schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ranked 2</td>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ranked 3</td>
<td>Discrimination from the host community</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Gender Based Violence were usually handled by community leaders (i.e Sheikhs)
- About 30% of male guardian in Khamir and 40% in Houth are separated from their families mainly to search for alternative income to support their families.
- There were no issues regarding the freedom of movement inside the IDPs camps or in the host communities. Furthermore, many of the IDPs stated that they prefer to return to their land of origin but they are afraid from the hazards of the conflict in these region.
• Behavioral changes were noted in the children living in both districts (IDPs and Host community) mainly as a result of the conflict (ie. Airstrikes) and change in the living atmosphere in addition to the discrimination against the IDPs children in the district schools. Unfortunately, no actions or activities were conducted to alleviate the psychological impact on these children.
• We concluded from the interviews that they aren’t any protection activities implemented yet in both districts.

2. Food Insecurity

Within identified IDP locations, key informants stated that the top three problems associated with access to food among IDPs and host communities were: price was too expensive, distances to food supplies and markets were too far or difficult to access by road and have lack of access to sustainable income (IDPs have no jobs, host communities not getting paid).

Top three priority Food needed by IDP in Khamir district:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Men</th>
<th>Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ranked 1</td>
<td>Basic Food supplies</td>
<td>Basic Food supplies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ranked 2</td>
<td>Clean water</td>
<td>Infant milk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ranked 3</td>
<td>Quality of food</td>
<td>Cooking Gas</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Top three priority Food needed by host community in Khamir district:

• Food cost.
• Lack of income.

Access to Food Problems

Significantly, when asked whether the number of meals or quantity of food eaten per household since the end of March 2015 had changed, 100% of IDP at both districts locations and 80% of host community locations indicated that it had decreased.

3. Non-Food Items NFIs

Within identified IDP locations, key informants stated that the top three NFI priority needs among IDP were: blankets, mattresses and clothes and kitchen sets.
Top three priority Shelter & NFIs needed by IDP:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Khamir</th>
<th></th>
<th>Houth</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td></td>
<td>Gender</td>
<td></td>
<td>Gender</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>Blankets</td>
<td>Baby products</td>
<td>Shelter tools</td>
<td>Baby products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>Baby products</td>
<td>Cooking gas</td>
<td>Warm clothes</td>
<td>Cooking gas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>New kitchen set</td>
<td>Portable light</td>
<td>New kitchen set</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ranked 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ranked 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ranked 3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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