SECOND FLASH UPDATE: Flooding in Yemen

Unusual heavy monsoon rainfall and flooding continue to affect significant parts of the country. Several dams were reported either damaged or collapsed while others risk bursting and flooding populated areas. This has so far resulted in the loss of life, displacement, damage to property and public infrastructure, as well as the destruction of livelihood and deterioration of health conditions owing to waterborne diseases. Initial information mentioned over 400 houses either partially damaged or collapsed.

Significant events occurred include the failure of Al-Roone Dam in Hababa city, Thula District, Amran governorate which is an example of outdated infrastructure that caused a catastrophic characterized by the sudden, rapid, and uncontrolled release of 250,000 Cubic meters of water. This affected mainly three IDP sites Al-Tahseef, Sooq Al-Lili, and 22 May. 170 households immediately relocated to three different schools (Al-Methaq, Bait Sha’alal, and 14 October). Houses in the host community were affected and certain accommodating IDPs. While Marib Dam reached the overflow level, it has so far affected sites in Sirwah were 1,340 living in four sites and they need emergency shelter and essential NFIs, food, and WASH. Information indicates that the dam is highly vulnerable to overtopping and a subsequent major and rapid breach in the event of an extreme and extended rainfall season that overfills the reservoir. This would result in the destruction of the downstream irrigated area where some IDP hosting sites are located and the lower parts of Marib town where thousands of people would be affected.

Up to now, Shelter Cluster partners reported 73,987 families affected so far since January, including 44,181 in the last three months. Most affected areas are in Marib, Hajjah, Al Hudaydah, Taiz, Lahj, Aden and Abyan Governorates. Needs assessments are still ongoing, and figures of families directly affected by the flood continue to increase while the situation is expected to be aggravated by further rain during the coming days. The Cluster initiated a policy of #72hoursresponse, putting a benchmark between the end of the rainfall episode and trucks hitting the road for distribution. This policy is applicable only if shelter or NFI kits are available.

The current stock of Emergency Shelter and Non-Food Items kits in the 30 warehouses of the 8 largest partners are alarmingly low, with no major replenishment occurred. As a result, the Shelter Cluster managed to assist 20% of NFIs reported needs and 31% with emergency shelter. Other challenges include delays in getting movement clearances and the impact of the fuel crisis.

In partnership with REACH-Impact Initiatives, the Shelter Cluster conducted further analysis on flood susceptibility to identify most-at-risk sites and paths of a potential flash flood. Further progress made in three pilot projects in Hajjah (particularly Abs district), Aden and Marib Governorates to capitalize on the runoff and dynamic model to foresee the flood level according to time and level of rainfall.

Map of the Population Affected by Flood

For more information, please contact the Shelter Cluster Coordinator at coord.yemen@sheltercluster.org or the deputy at depcoord.yemen@sheltercluster.org