The Houthis and the Yemeni government have battled on and off since 2004, but much of the fighting was confined to the Houthis’ stronghold, northern Yemen’s impoverished Saada province.

In September 2014, the Houthis took control of Yemen’s capital, Sanaa, and proceeded to push southwards towards the country’s second-biggest city, Aden. In response to the Houthis’ advances, a coalition of Arab states launched a military campaign in 2015 to defeat the Houthis and restore Yemen’s government.

On June 13th 2018, The Saudi-led coalition launched a military campaign in the West coast to retake Hodeida city, with Emirati troops leading the operations with the backup of different forces (Southern Giants Brigades, National Resistance forces, Tihama Resistance Fighters, Sudanese troops).

Following the Yemen peace talks organized by the UN that took place mid-December in Sweden, a ceasefire has been set up. The Houthis and the Saudi-backed Yemeni government came to an agreement to withdraw their troops from Hodeida by January 7. This process is meant to pave the way for negotiations to end the war.

However, there are disagreements over a deadline for withdrawal or a mechanism for local forces to take over security at the ports and city. These disagreements have not only delayed peace but also prevented the opening of humanitarian corridors. Regardless of the talks, the conflict in Yemen continues and is still threatening the lives of millions.

Yemen is indeed facing a severe protection crisis, and civilians face serious risks to their safety, well-being and basic rights. Tens of thousands of people have been killed or injured since 2015, and among them at least 17,700 civilians as verified by the UN. From October 2017 to September 2018, 15,170 conflict incidents were reported, including airstrikes, armed clashes, and shelling across the country.

MdM is closely monitoring the evolution of the situation and the potential impact on humanitarian aid.
HEALTH SITUATION

The conflict has devastated the health care system in Yemen. According to the 2018 Health Resources Availability Monitoring System (HeRAMS) assessment, 49% of health facilities are not functioning or only partially functioning due to staff shortages, lack of supplies, inability to meet operational costs or limited access. Since 2015, there have been 120 incidents recorded as attacks on health care.

In the South as in the North, access to all levels of care is compromised, especially in rural areas, due to long distances to health facilities, insecurity, inadequate staff, high costs and poverty. In addition, training is needed for health workers, and qualified professionals require incentive payments to ensure that the health system does not entirely collapse.

MDM ACTION

Since 2015, Médecins du Monde (MdM) has been operating in northern Yemen by supporting 11 health facilities in Sana’a, Ibb and Amanat Alasimah governorates. Our teams are currently backing up the Ministry of Health by providing primary healthcare services so that populations can have access to: curative consultations, pre and postnatal consultations, routine immunization, nutritional care, health education, psychosocial support and individual counselling for mental health. We are also working to train health staff and volunteers in communities.

Additionally, MdM has opened an office in Aden in the south of Yemen in December 2018. Discussions were held between MdM team based in Aden and local authorities, including the MoPHP, to initiate similar activities in the South (to support full package of comprehensive integrated PHC services as supported in the North). Activities are expected to start soon.

MdM overall strategy in the country focuses on holistic primary health care (curative consultations, MHPSS services, SRH including SGBV services), through supporting the provision of free of charge consultations and medications for all the vulnerable groups (such as children and pregnant and lactating women) in the target populations. This approach is implemented in partnership with the MoH and local organizations.

A rear base was opened in Djibouti, on the other side of the Gulf of Aden, to adapt our humanitarian response.

FIRST QUARTER OF 2019 - MAIN ACTIVITIES

21,000 PRIMARY HEALTH CONSULTATIONS including 2,400 ANTE NATAL

10,000 PEOPLE attended HEALTH EDUCATION AWARENESS sessions

3,500 MHPSS CONSULTATIONS (individual and group sessions)

4,700 CHILDREN SCREENED for MALNUTRITION

DONORS

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80 STAFFS

3,600,000 € BUDGET 2019