

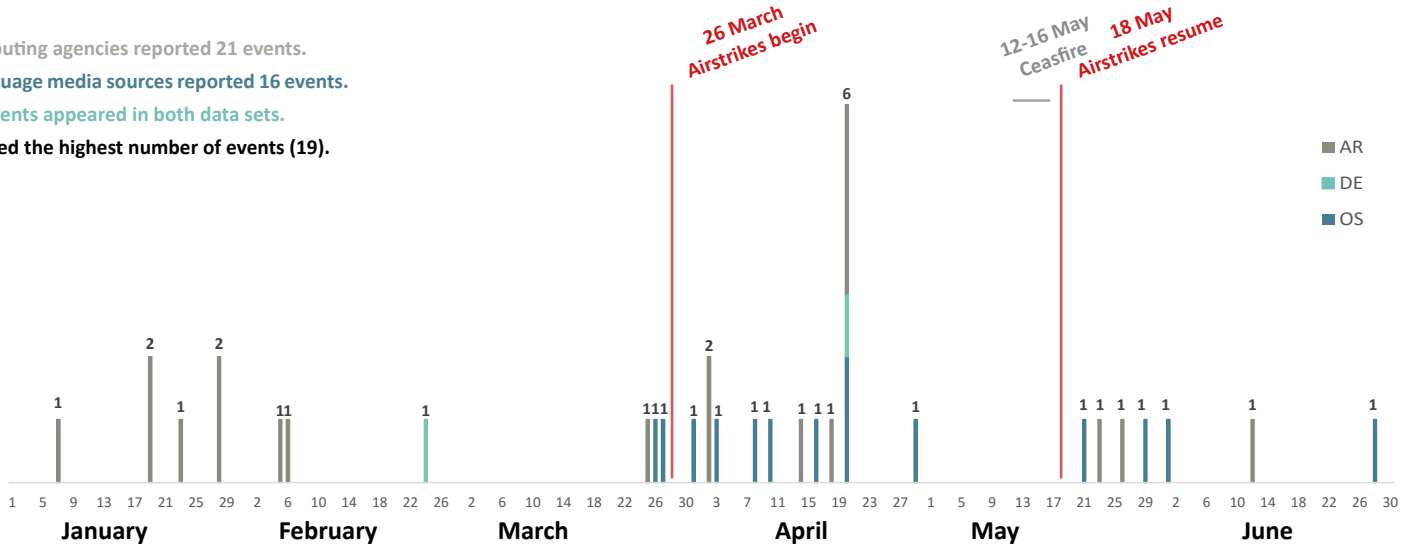
Six months trends from Agency Reports and Open-Source Data

Spotlight on Yemen, January to June 2015

By August 2015, Yemen was at the brink of a humanitarian disaster. Insecurity and violence help explain the population's dependency on aid and why agencies could not deliver aid as needed. **The Second Quarterly Security Analysis 2015** highlighted insights from the 35 reported humanitarian security incidents from Yemen during the first six months of 2015. **Note that these findings are based on incomplete information.**

Reported incidents in Yemen, January to June 2015

Four contributing agencies reported 21 events.
 English-language media sources reported 16 events.
 Only two events appeared in both data sets.
 April reported the highest number of events (19).



In January, agencies reported that two staff were detained by unknown authorities and beaten in custody in Hajjah governorate. Prior to the intervention in March by the Saudi-led coalition, both open sources and agencies reported the kidnapping of a French national working for a World Bank-funded project and her Yemini translator.

Airstrikes started on 26 March 2015. A total of eight aid workers were injured by airstrikes in the governorates of Aden, Sana'a and Sa'ada in April and June.

In May, two reported events occurred in Hajjah governorate: open sources covered the shelling of an INGO office and agencies reported a male national guard being temporarily detained by Asarullah (Houthi) militia.

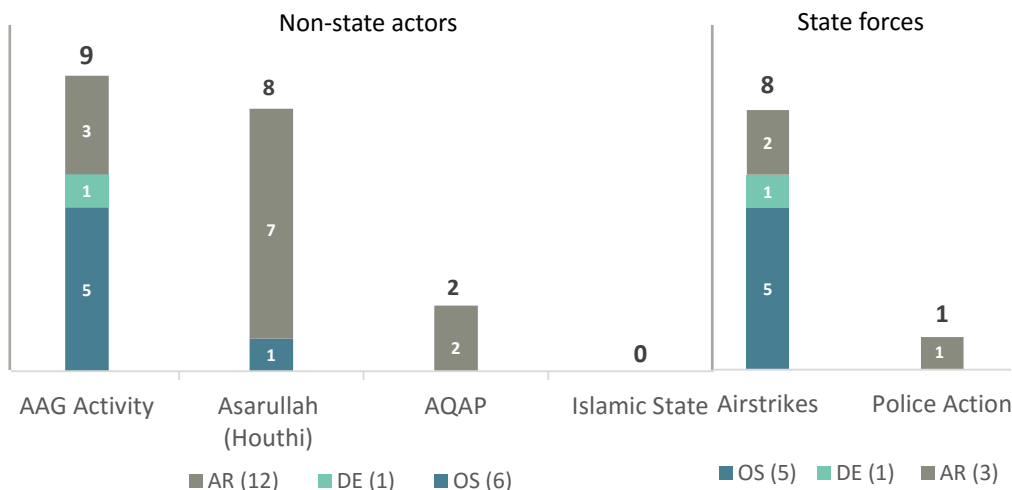
All five reported incidents in June relate to coalition airstrikes or activities by non-state actors (see page 2).

Non-state and state actor activity affecting aid operations.

More incidents in Yemen are attributed to non-state actors than state actors. Non-state actors were identified as the perpetrators in the highest number of reported events (19/28), nearly two thirds of which agencies provided (12/19).

By contrast, open sources attributed nearly equal numbers of events to state forces (5) and non-state actors (6), thereby providing a different impression of the situation in Yemen.

Number of reported events attributed to non-state and state actors



Asarullah and Al-Qaeda of the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) activity affecting aid agencies reported on 10 occasions.

Agency reports named the Asarullah militia in eight reported incidents and AQAP militants in two reported events. Open sources rarely specified the affiliation of the non-state actors.

For seven events mainly related to aid delivery constraints or preventive measures, agencies did not include the information about the perpetrators.

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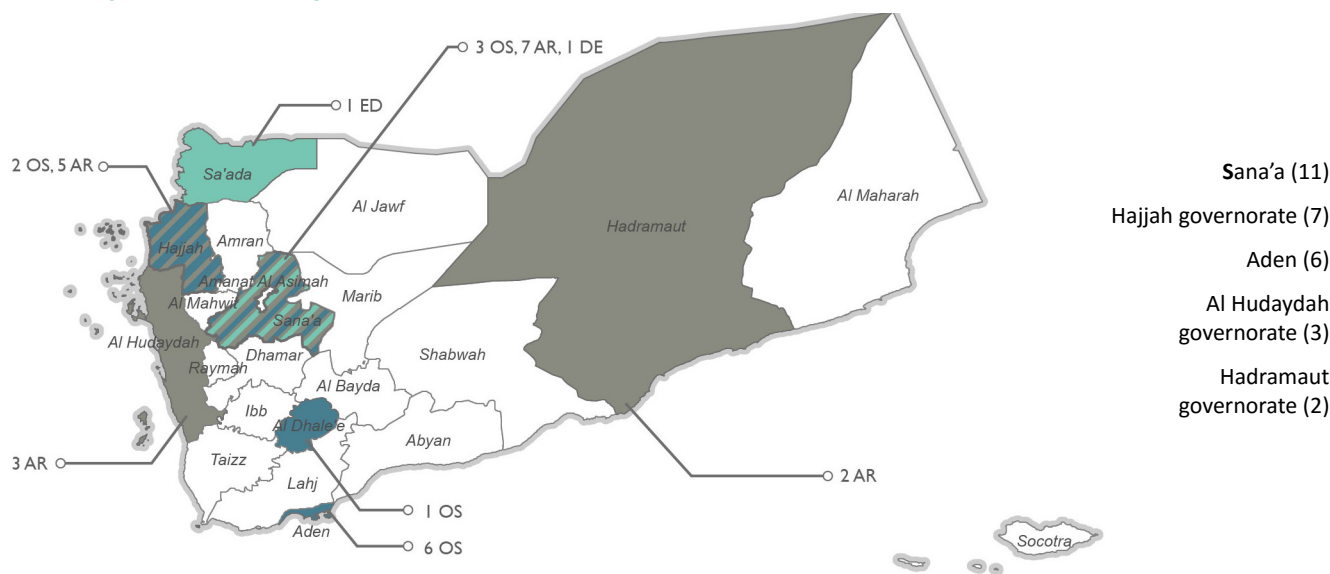
Spotlight on Yemen January to June 2015

Agencies reported the following activities of these non-state actors on humanitarian activities:

- In the AQAP-stronghold Hadramaut governorate, militants targeted aid offices, looted equipment, and forcibly evicted one partner agency. (April)
- Armed activity by Asarullah militia affected staff and programming in Hajjah and Al-Hudaydah governorates and in Sana'a.
- In Hajjah governorate an agency vehicle was stopped at an Asarullah checkpoint and militants questioned staff (January). Armed Asarullah militia entered an international and national staff office to "inspect and view documents" (February). A male national guard was temporarily detained by Asarullah militia (May) and five Asarullah militia entered an agency compound and harassed staff (June).
- In Al-Hudaydah governorate, Asarullah militia entered an agency office and demanded information about the selection of beneficiaries (April). A national staff member was arrested by Asarullah militia for reportedly being affiliated to al-Islah (February).
- In Sana'a, programming was suspended and staff hibernation was implemented after the January Asarullah attack on the Presidential Palace. Following hibernation, non-essential staff were relocated to Al-Hudaydah governorate.

Location of reported security incidents

Map: iMMAP (immap.org).



Open source and media reports cover distinct parts of the country.

- Agency and open-source reported incidents give different impressions on the locations where humanitarian security incidents occurred.
- Only three governorates all in former North Yemen and where Asarullah militia are active, were covered by both open source and agency reports (Hajjah, Sa'ada and Sana'a).
- Agencies also reported incidents from Al-Hudaydah, which media sources did not.
- Agencies also reported events from more-distant Hadramout, which were not covered by open sources.
- Open sources tended to focus on Aden, with six reported events.

However, agencies indicate that their staff underreport the true scale of the impact of air strikes on humanitarian work. Time spent in safe rooms during air raids disrupts accomplishing key tasks. As time is limited, prioritization is essential. This often leads to under documentation of the disrupting impact of air strikes. Many incidents that only caused disruption but no damage are not recorded.

These patterns are probably directly related to how agencies and the media work. There are restrictions on operating in the North West both for media and humanitarian agencies. Humanitarian agencies only work in the area controlled by Asarullah and have probably more access than many media outlets. The reported incidents reflect these contacts.

Absence of other non-state actors as perpetrators in agency reports and the media more generally reflect the much more limited contact with other non-state actors. This underlines that the impression we get from reported data is not necessarily an accurate reflection of who causes most harm to the delivery of aid. It could be argued that bodies who prevent humanitarian access cause more harm than actors who permit access but are recorded in the reports as having impeded access on a specific day at a specific checkpoint.