4 June

The situation in Yemen is seriously deteriorating. Violence has now reached almost all parts of the country. Donors are starting to pay attention and the media is making daily enquiries. Unfortunately, information to provide them is thin on the ground. Humanitarian activities have all but stalled, given the obvious constraints. In a ‘double tragedy’, agencies are neither able to continue delivering their existing programs, nor address the massive new needs triggered by the conflict.

The 5-day ‘humanitarian pause’ in May allowed agencies to import and pre-position supplies, including fuel, to conduct distribution of relief items and to conduct rapid assessments, but it barely scratched the surface.

The Saudi-led coalition has announced that it will no longer enforce a blockade at Hudaydah Port. Despite this, the port is virtually unmanned, and unpowered. Unloading of cargo must be done by hand. The average waiting time for ships to enter the port is 8 days. Aden Port cannot be accessed due to the country’s worst violence occurring in that city across district lines. While there appears to be some grain in reserves, there is no way to mill it and turn it into an edible food item – due to lack of fuel.

Lack of fuel is affecting hospitals, schools and urban water corporations who are starting to limit usage. Import restrictions are impact the presence of cooking gas on the market, which now costs 600% more than prior to the conflict, and is unavailable in 9 governorates. The staple wheat is unavailable in 5 governorates and where it is available, has risen over 300%.

Displacement figures keep rising, as does the casualty toll, which includes hundreds of civilians, although figures are hard to verify. Around 1.6 million children lost access to schooling as schools closed throughout the country due to damage, occupation by IDPs or armed groups, or simply because of the prevailing violence.

Aid workers continue to come under attacks, with ambulances, medical teams and aid workers being targeted by armed groups. Several humanitarian workers have been killed.

While Aden residents in the south suffer through intense ground fighting and are virtually under siege, with checkpoints in and out of the city and the port closed, residents of Sa’ada in the north have been subject to unrelenting Coalition airstrikes. Several hundred thousand people were forcibly displaced to neighbouring Hajjah when leaflets were dropped declaring the entire governorate, which borders Saudi Arabia, a target and warning residents to leave.