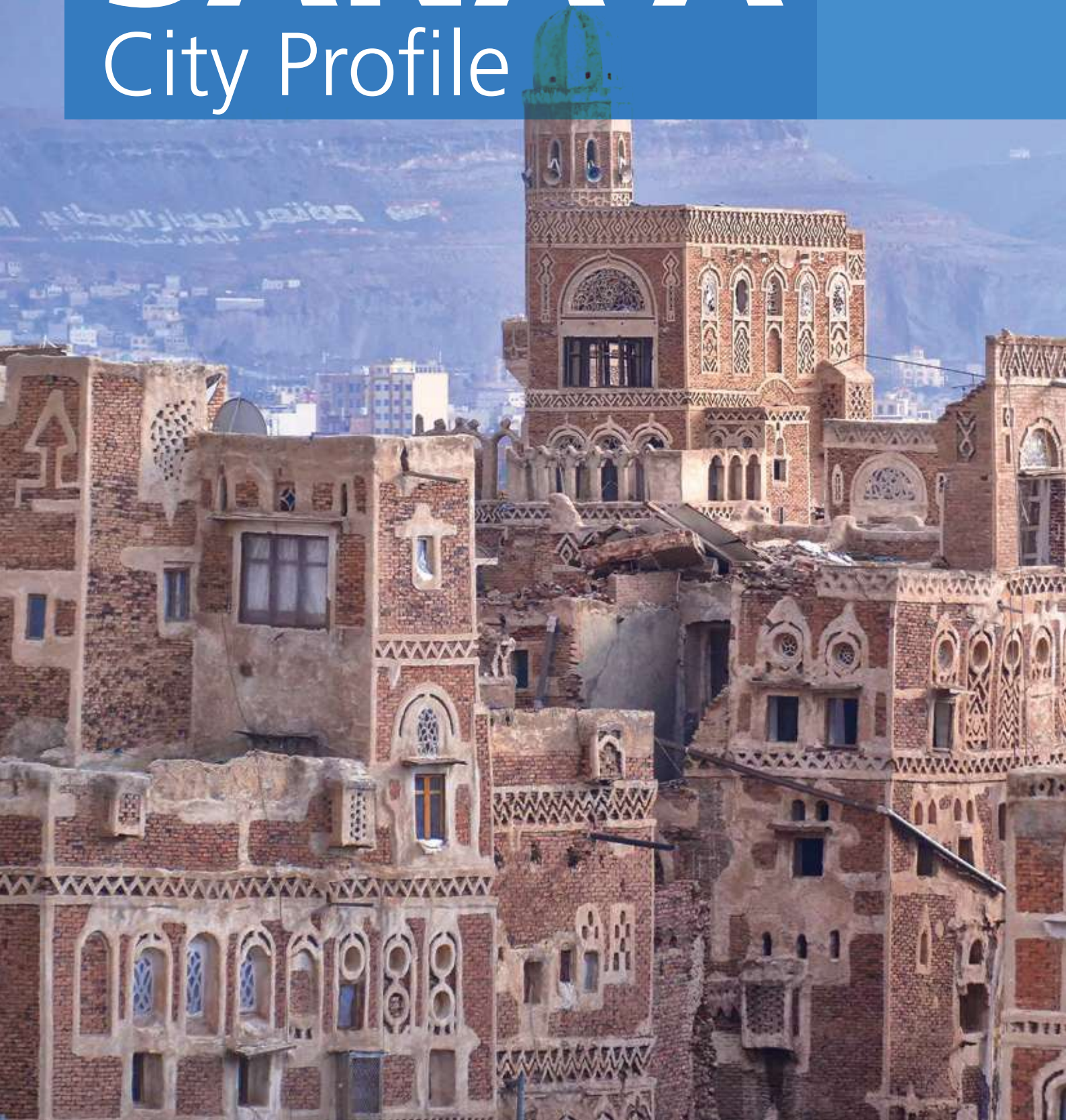


SANA'A

City Profile



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General Views Sana'a

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With participation of
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SANA'A

City Profile

Urban Profiling Yemen

This project is part of a Profiling Project that aims to develop city profiles of 7 cities in Yemen. These

cities include Aden, Sana'a, Sa'ada, Taizz, Al Hudaydah, Al Hawtah and Zinjibar. All profiles and data

developed in this profile are accessible on the Yemen Mapping and Data Portal.

<https://yemenportal.unhabitat.org/>

Sa'ada
 Sana'a
 Al Hudaydah
 Taizz
 Zinjibar
 Al Hawtah
 Aden



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Acronyms

AQAP	AL-Qaeda in Arabian Peninsula	MoHM	Ministry of Housing and Municipalities
CBY	Central Bank of Yemen	MoHUD	Ministry of Housing and Urban Development
CCIF	Cleanliness and City Improvement Fund	MoI	Ministry of Interior
CSO	Central Statistics Organization	MoLA	Ministry of Local Administration
DHUP	Department of Housing and Urban Planning	MoPHP	Ministry of Transportation
DNA	Dynamic Needs Assessment	MoT	Ministry of Transportation
DTM	Displacement Tracking Matrix	MoTEVT	Ministry of Technical Education and Vocational Training
EC	European Commission	MoWE	Ministry of Water and Environment
ERW	Explosive Remnants of War	MPWH	Ministry of Public Works and Highways
GALSUP	General Authority for Land, Survey and Urban Planning	MSWM	Municipal Solid Waste Management
GCC	Gulf Cooperation Council	NFI	Non-Food Items
GDP	Gross Domestic Products	NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
GIS	Geographic Information System	NLP	National Land Policy
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH	NNGO	National Non-Governmental Organization
GoY	Government of Yemen	NSSWM	National Strategy for Solid Waste Management
GOPHCY	General Organization for the Preservation of Historic Cities	NWRA	National Water Resources Authority
Ha	Hectares	NWSSIP	National Water Sector Strategy and Investment Program
HH	Household	PDRY	People's Democratic Republic of Yemen
HLP	Housing, Land and Property	PEC	Public Electricity Corporation
HNO	Humanitarian Needs Overview	PiN	People in Need
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross	SFD	Social Fund for Development
ICT	Information and Communications Technology	SWM	Solid Waste Management
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons	UAS	United Arab States
ILO	International Labor Organization	UN	United Nations
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization	UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
IRG	Internationally Recognized Government	UNDP	United Nations Development Program
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
JRC	Joint Research Center	UNESCWA	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
KI	Key Informant	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
KSA	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	UNOCHA	United Nations Organization for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
LAEO	Literacy and Adult Education Organization	USA	United States of America
LAL	Local Authority Law	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
LC	Local Councils	USSR	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
MC	Mercy Corps	WASH	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
MCLA	Multi-Cluster Location Assessment	WHO	World Health Organization
MENA	Middle East and North Africa	WWTP	Wastewater Treatment plant
MKY	Mutawakkilite Kingdom of Yemen	YAR	Yemeni Arab Republic
MoAI	Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation	YER	Yemeni Rial (currency)
MoC	Ministry of Communications	YSP	Yemeni Socialist Party
MoE	Ministry of Education		
MoHESR	Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research		

Executive Summary

One of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world, Sana'a is an historically important center and capital city for most early state polities in the region. It is also the administrative center of the Sana'a governorate. This city profile describes and examines living conditions and needs in the city of Sana'a across a variety of sectors. It addresses key thematic findings made prominent by the impact of the ongoing conflict, its toll on the city's population, and the ability of institutions to provide basic services. Each individual section paints a picture of the prevailing situation and the needs of the city's residents through triangulation of different data types, including secondary data analysis which draws on available publications and media reports; remote sensing, and structured interviews with community leaders and key sector experts. The aim of this profile is to provide partners with the widest possible canvas, assisting them in their operational programming and strategic policy development.

Key findings include:

- **Fighting between different factions has caused considerable damage to edifices and cultural sites.** Sana'a has been an embattled city since the escalation of the conflict in early 2015. It has witnessed three major battles, in 2011, 2014, and 2015, and has intermittently been targeted by airstrikes and other ground attacks which have resulted in momentous loss of human life and caused widescale material damages.
- **The Sana'a basin is home to approximately nine percent of the total population of Yemen.** The population in Sana'a city is very young. Almost 60 percent are under 18 years old and 12 percent of the population are aged between 15 and 24 years old.¹ Over 1.5 million children are classified as boys and girls in need.² In terms of population density, As Sabain, Ma'ain, Shu'aub and Bani Al Harith are the most populated areas in the city. Historically, Sana'a has been one of the main destinations for internally displaced people (IDP), many of whom left rural areas due to lack of jobs, and climate-related factors, including water scarcity and droughts. Almost 70 percent of the IDP population is located in Bani Al Harith, Ma'ain, and As Sabain districts.³
- **The economic infrastructure in Sana'a has deteriorated exponentially in recent years and trends are severely weakened.** Even before the political woes that followed the Yemeni Revolution of 2011, the poverty rate in Sana'a was highest amongst all other governorates. The conflict has caused widespread disruption of economic and commercial activities and has dramatically diminished employment and income opportunities in both private and public sectors.
- **The intensification of the conflict in 2015 caused significant damage to health facilities.** There is a significant lack of health amenities, in particular, hospitals. Moreover, available facilities are operating under problematic circumstances due to insufficient numbers of health workers and large numbers of population coming from neighboring governorates to receive healthcare services, leading to facilities operating at strained capacities. The closure of Sana'a airport to all commercial flights in August 2016 also prevented those in need of specialized medical care to seek assistance abroad. The high price of medicines was reported as the most serious problem faced by IDPs, returnees, and non-host community when accessing health facilities in Al Wahdah and At Tahrir districts in Amanat Al Asimah according to 2019 Multi Cluster Locations Assessment (MCLA) Assessment.
- **The main issue affecting access to housing in Sana'a specifically is not the supply, rather affordability.** More recently, rents increased 250 percent – 300 percent for well-located apartments; it is highly likely that this is driven by the significant influx of IDPs to the city, rapid urban expansion, and housing overspill beyond the administrative boundaries of the capital; in 2013, almost 37 percent of the population of Sana'a lived in 'slums';⁴ by 2019, these areas expanded even further and are currently housing a large population of IDPs displaced to the city from other governorates. Returnees are primarily based in As Sabain, Assafi'yah, Az'zal, Ath'thaorah, Shu'aub, and Bani Al Harith districts. Some 89 percent of returnees live in their original domiciles or habitual residence.
- **While most of the urban areas are connected to the electricity grid, public electricity supply almost halted in Sana'a.** During the conflict, many of the electricity sector assets sustained damage, including power plants, substations and distribution lines. Furthermore, the Public Electricity Corporation (PEC) saw a drastic reduction of funding and almost collapsed. Currently, provision of electricity through a public grid is almost non-existent, with most of the population relying on diesel generators and solar panels.

1 Ministry of Public Health and Population, Central Statistical Organization, Pan Arab Program for Family Health and ICF International, National Health and Demographic Survey 2013 (Rockville, Maryland, USA: MoPHP, CSO, PAPFAM, and ICF International, 2013), <https://dhsprogram.com/pubs/pdf/FR296/FR296.pdf> (accessed September 2019).

2 Yemen PIN Severity HNO 2019 data, available at <https://data.humdata.org/dataset/yemen-humanitarian-needs-overview>

3 United Nations Organization for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Humanitarian Needs Overview: Yemen 2019 (New York, NY: 2019).

4 UN-Habitat, Country Slum Data by Shelter Deprivation (Nairobi, Kenya: 2020), https://urban-data-guo-un-habitat.hub.arcgis.com/datasets/430beee2622b45a7857ff8af7ce463eb/data?orderBy=One_Shelter_Deprivation&where=Countrypercent20percent3Dpercent20percent27yemenpercent27 (accessed May 2020).

- The water supply grid and management in Sana'a city is considered the worst across Yemen.** Water consumption decreased by half in the last year, due to restrained operational capacity of the system and production. The presence of large numbers of IDPs in Sana'a city put additional pressure on the city's stretched capacity. In the district of Hamdan, Bani Al Harith and Bani Hushaysh, farmers have reportedly drilled so many unlicensed boreholes for irrigation that water levels have declined by an estimated 6m. The high demand for qat in Sana'a alone is supplied by 4,000 such unauthorized wells.⁵
- In Sana'a city specifically, 27 percent of educational facilities sustained some form of damage,** with 25 percent of the facilities partially damaged and 2 percent completely destroyed. According to the latest 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview, Amanat Al Asimah governorate had the highest number of affected schools. As of April 2018, almost a third (28 percent) of school age children lacked access to formal education.⁶ Many of the schools are overcrowded and there is a reported lack of teachers and teaching materials.
- Sana'a's drastic urban expansion over the last decades has led to an increased demand for transportation services.** The city's population continued to increase following the escalation of the conflict as many IDPs arrived in the city. Most of the investment within the city targeted development of the roads and intersections network, while the public transportation sector remains largely controlled by the informal sector. Several roads have been damaged during the conflict. While some have been rehabilitated, many are still in need of reconstruction

5 Frederika Whitehead, "Water Scarcity in Yemen: The Country's Forgotten Conflict," The Guardian, April 2, 2015, <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development-professionals-network/2015/apr/02/water-scarcity-yemen-conflict> (accessed September 23, 2019).

6 The World Bank Group, Yemen Dynamic Needs Assessment: Phase 3 (Washington, DC: 2018).

Context

Sana'a – Cultural Center and National Capital in a Divided Nation

Sana'a rapid urban profiling in a dynamic and chaotic period for the country

Times of armed conflict are extremely difficult for cities and their citizen. Especially, in Yemen, where the current armed conflict is in its sixth year and population figures are changing fast due to internally displaced people and migrants. Local administration, urban economy and development barely exist. After five years of conflict more than 100,000 people have died due to combat, over 230 districts are food insecure, 3,6 million people have been displaced including 375,000 in 2019 and 46 districts are at high risk of cholera. The total number of People in Need (PiN) stands at 24,3 million.⁷ Moreover, the political division in the country has dramatically reduced the function of Sana'a as a capital.

This city profile can hardly be compared with a similar profile developed in peacetime because data and information had to be compiled with limited field visits and interviews on the ground. Inaccessibility and a lack of situational information pose a significant challenge to the local government as well. Hence, the State of the Yemeni Cities Report had to be produced under very difficult circumstances, complementing the city profiles, where national experts compiled important information and together with other reports and documents this profile provides snapshots on a wide range of subjects relevant to urban planning and development.

One of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world

The history of the City of Sana'a is made up by a unique blend of geography, culture, urban and political developments. It is the largest city and the national capital of Yemen. Nested between the Jabal An-Nabi, Shu'ayb and Jabal Tiyaal mountains of the Sarawat mountain range, correspondingly the two highest peaks in the Arabian Peninsula, Sana'a rises at an elevation of 2,300m above sea level. It is one of the highest capital cities in the world. It possesses a semi-arid climate with an average of 265 mm of rainfall per year. Average temperatures rarely exceed 30°C, but they do oscillate considerably between day and nightfall.

As one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world, Sana'a is an historically important center and capital city for most early state polities in the region. The history of the city can be traced back to the Second Century AD where it was first mentioned in an inscription of the Third-Century Himyaritic King Shaar Awtar.⁸ Yemeni tribes supported the earliest campaigns of Islam, and conversion to Islam was rapid and nearly universal in the area. Later, the Umayyad and Abbasid caliphates ruled Yemen through governors whose seat was Sana'a. In the 10th century the local Zayedi dynasty was established. Sana'a came under Ottoman rule first from 1547 – 1629 and then from 1872 until the end of World War I in 1918. Thereafter, Sana'a became the capital of the Mutawakkilite Kingdom of Yemen (MKY), except for a brief period between 1948 and 1962 when Taizz replaced it.

Following the North Yemen Civil War (1962-1970), Amanat Al Asimah regained its status as the capital city of the new [North] Yemen Arab Republic and remained the political and administrative capital of the Republic of Yemen after the unification of North and South in 1990. In September 2014, Yemen's Houthis took control of the Yemeni capital Sana'a.

Figure 1: Geographic Location of Sana'a within Yemen



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https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_17712

