

Survey on Humanitarian Assessments in Yemen

April 2017

REACH Informing more effective humanitarian action

INTRODUCTION

In February 2017, the largest consolidated humanitarian appeal ever for Yemen was launched. Despite the anticipated increase in humanitarian funding, access to reliable information on humanitarian needs in Yemen remains sparse. The ability of humanitarian actors to conduct assessments has been hampered by many factors including insecurity due to the ongoing conflict and other assessment constraints.

To better understand these factors, REACH in cooperation with OCHA conducted a web-based survey between 16 and 23 March 2017 to inform the humanitarian community on the assessment efforts made in Yemen along with the challenges faced in the last 12 months. The survey received 31 responses: 11 from national NGOs, nine from international NGOs and two from United Nations agencies. The survey respondents **are currently operational** in 267 out of 333 districts across all 22 governorates of Yemen.

This overview describes the type and geographical scope of assessments conducted in Yemen during the last 12 months and the assessment constraints faced by organizations. The cleaned data set is available on the REACH Resource Centre and has been distributed to partners and the broader humanitarian community.

LIMITATIONS

Although the survey has been disseminated widely through the main humanitarian channels (including the Yemen Humanitarian Assessment and Monitoring Working Group) in both English and Arabic, this survey may not be representative of the humanitarian assessment situation in Yemen. Not all humanitarian organizations that are operational in Yemen have responded to the survey.¹ It is also likely to be susceptible to the same assessment constraints highlighted in this overview.

OVERVIEW

Twenty-six out of 31 survey respondents reported having conducted assessments in 151 districts with operational presence across 15 governorates in the last 12 months. Five of the 26 respondents are from international NGOs, the remainder are from national NGOs.

Most respondents reported the implementation of assessments in only some of their districts with operations (see Figure 1). **Among the 267 districts with reported operational presence, no assessments were reportedly conducted in 43% of them in the last 12 months.** It is unclear if this is due only to assessment constraints or the influence of other factors.

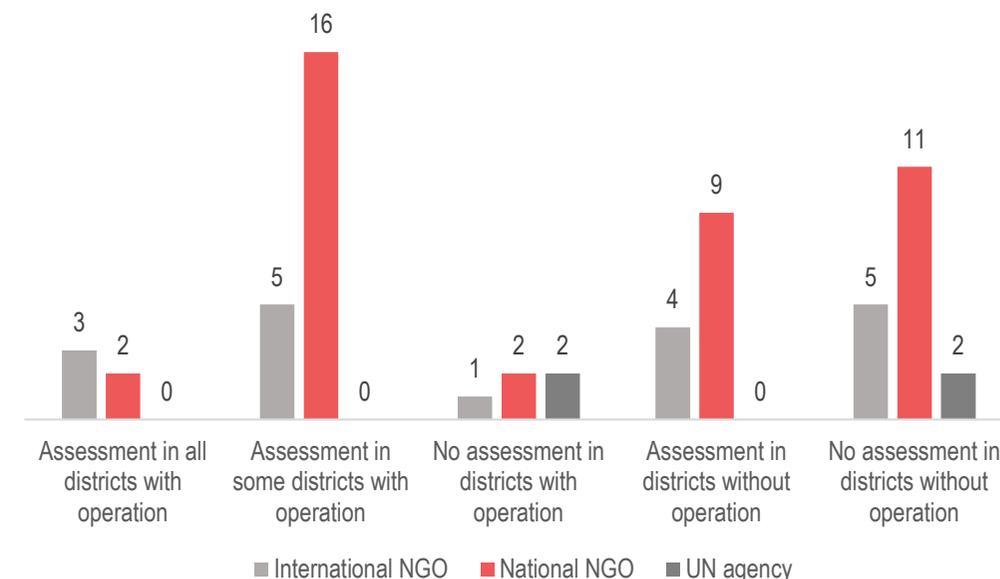
Assessments during the last 12 months in districts without operational presence have been reported by 13 respondents. These assessments took place in 83 districts of 17 governorates.

In three governorates - Al Maharah, Marib and Shabwah - there were no reported assessments over the last 12 months despite reported operational coverage (see Map 1).²

Fourteen respondents reported not completing planned assessments during the last 12 months. This was reported in 39 districts of 13 governorates. The main governorates with reported incomplete planned assessments were Al Hudaydah (5 respondents), Hajjah (4), Dhamar (4) and Al Mahwit (2). This does not provide the full picture of assessment constraints since some assessments may not have been planned due to perceived constraints.

The majority of respondents who reported having conducted assessments in districts with operations have indicated the use of direct data collection methods.

Figure 1: Reported assessment in relation to operational coverage



The main methods of assessments used by respondents in districts with operations were key informant interview and household survey (17 out of 26 respondents each), followed by direct observation by staff or trained enumerator (13), community group discussion (11) and focus group discussion (9).

Out of the 26 survey respondents with assessments in districts with operations, 22 listed affected households as assessment respondents, followed by local authority and government representatives (14 survey respondents), and community leaders or representatives (13).

² Nationwide coordinated assessments have high reported geographical coverage at the district-level. For example, the Yemen Task Force on Population Movement (TFPM) assessed 98.2% of all 333 districts via direct and indirect data collection methods. TFPM. Task Force on Population Movement Yemen 13th Report, March 2017.

WHAT IS ASSESSMENT CONSTRAINT?

Humanitarian assessment constraints refer to the limitations affecting humanitarian actors' ability to conduct a full assessment of the selected geographical areas, sectoral scope and affected population. It is often related to humanitarian access constraints but can also be caused by other factors.

¹ As of 28 February 2017, there were 121 organizations working in Yemen: 82 national NGOs, 31 international NGOs and 8 UN agencies. OCHA. Yemen: Organizations 3W Operational Presence, February 2017.

ASSESSMENT CHALLENGES

All 31 survey respondents reported facing assessment constraints in the last 12 months.

For international NGOs, the five most commonly cited assessment constraints were the limited provision of travel authorization within governorate, concern over the safety of staff and enumerators, lack of understanding from authorities on assessment, limited provision of authorization for assessment and that of travel between governorates (see Figure 2).

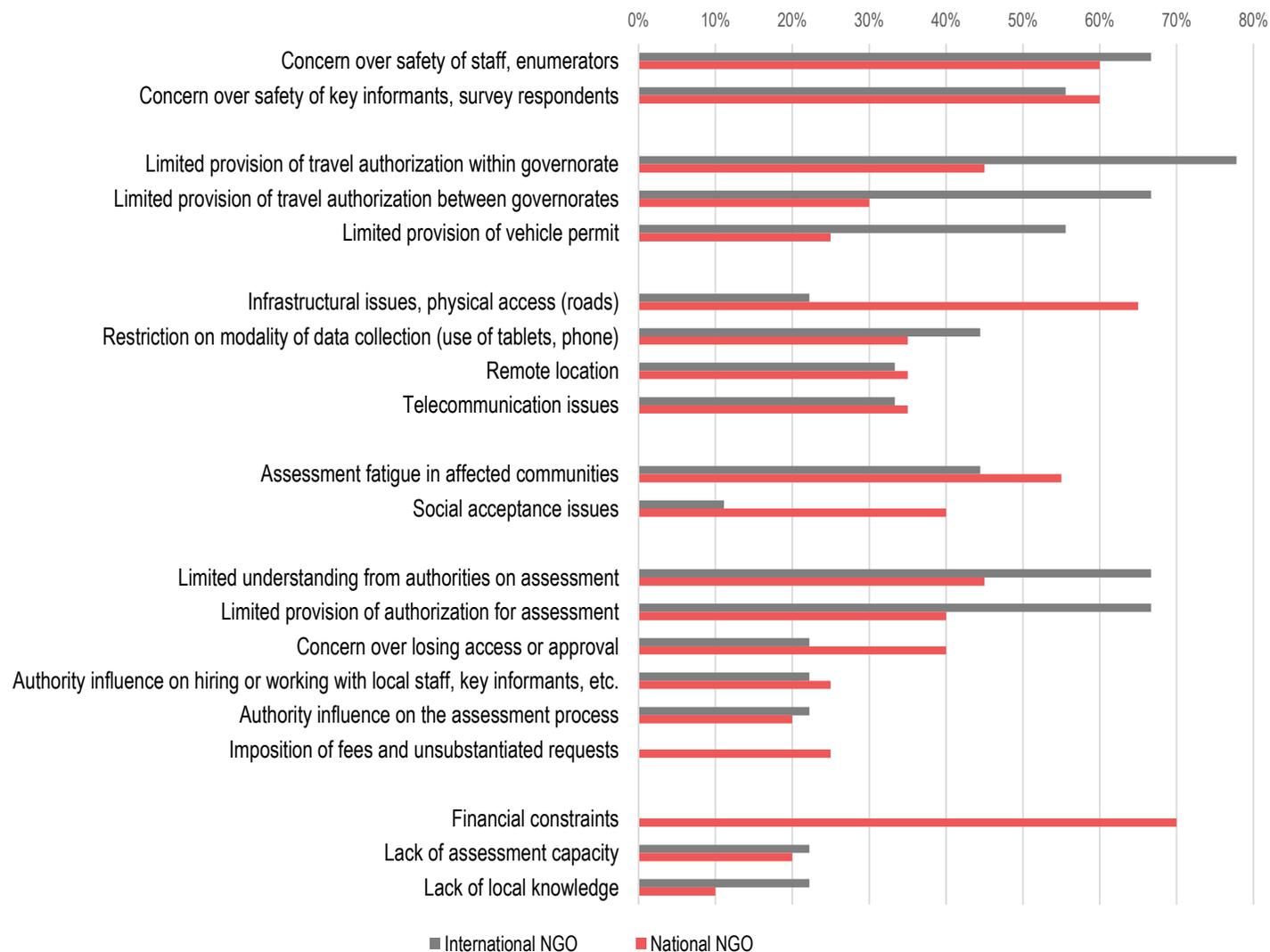
For national NGOs, the five main assessment constraints reported were financial, infrastructural, concern over the safety of staff and enumerators and that of key informants and survey respondents, and assessment fatigue in affected communities.

For the two UN agency respondents, common assessment constraints reported were concern over safety of staff and enumerators, provision of travel authorization between governorates and authority influence on the assessment process.

Mobility- and authorization-related assessment constraints have been more frequently reported by international NGOs compared to national NGOs. Assessment constraints related to the affected communities (assessment fatigue and social acceptance issues) are more commonly cited by national NGOs.

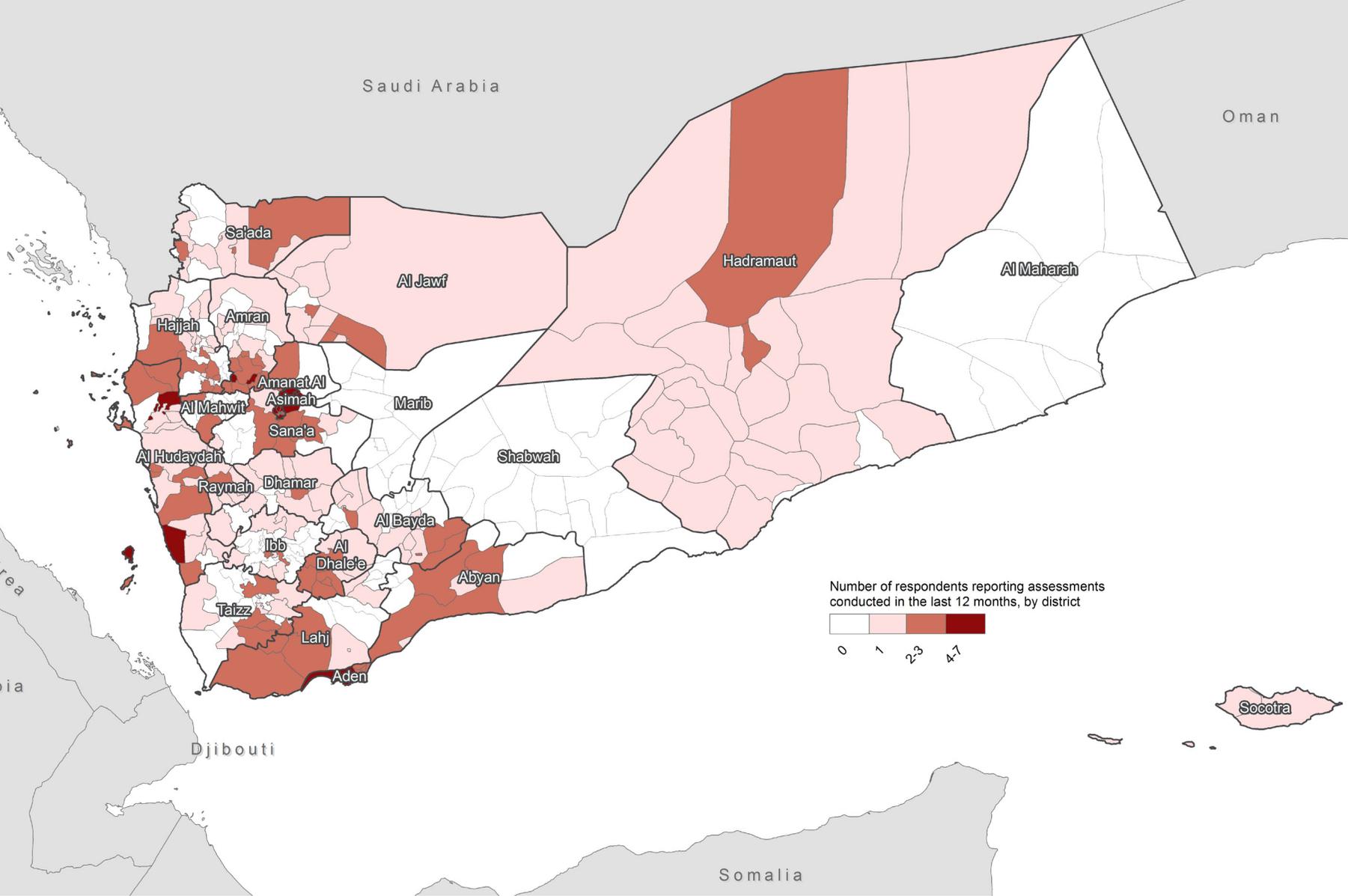
The majority of both international and national NGOs have raised concerns over the safety of their staff, enumerators, key informants and survey respondents as assessment constraints.

Figure 2: Types of assessment constraint



* Percentages based on 29 survey responses, 9 of which are from international NGOs while 20 from national NGOs. For visual clarity, 2 UN agency respondents have been omitted from this figure.

Map 1: Number of survey respondents conducted assessments, by district



* Based on 31 survey responses on districts in which 26 respondents reported having conducted assessments in the last 12 months.