

ZINJIBAR

City Profile



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Cover photo:

Credit: Roundabout of the three Jumanat in Zinjibar.

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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'dah, Ta'iz, Al Hodeidah, 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'dah
 Sana'a
 Al Hodeidah
 Ta'iz
 Zinjibar
 Al Hawtah
 Aden



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Acronyms

ADSL	Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line	MoHESR	Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research
AQAP	Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula	MoHM	Ministry of Housing and Municipalities
AYF	Abyan Youth Foundation	Mol	Ministry of Interior
AWSLC	Abyan Water and Sanitation Water Corporation	MoLA	Ministry of Local Administration
CFP	Community Focal Point	MoPHP	Ministry of Public Health and Population
CCIF	City Cleaning and Improvement Fund	MoT	Ministry of Transport
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	MoTEVT	Ministry of Technical Education and Vocational Training
CSO	Central Statistical Organization	MPWH	Ministry of Public Works and Highways
EC	European Commission	MTIT	Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology
ERW	Explosive Remnants of War	MW	Megawatt
GIS	Geographic Information System	MWE	Ministry of Water and Environment
GOAM	General Organization for Antiquities and Museums	NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
GOPHCY	General Organization for the Preservation of Historic Cities of Yemen	NNGO	National Non-Governmental Organization
GBV	Gender-Based Violence	NSSWM	National Strategy for Solid Waste Management
GoY	Government of Yemen	NWRA	National Water Resources Authority
GPS	Global Positioning System	NWSSIP	National Water Strategy and Investment Program
HC	Host Community	PEC	Public Electricity Corporation
HeRAMS	Health Resources and Services Availability Monitoring System	PDRY	People's Democratic Republic of Yemen
HFO	Heavy Fuel Oil	PV	Photovoltaic
HH	Household	SAM	Severe Acute Malnutrition
HLP	Housing, Land, and Property	SBF	Security Belt Forces
HNO	Humanitarian Needs Overview	SFD	Social Fund for Development
HQ	Headquarter	STC	Southern Transitional Council
ICT	Information and Communications Technology	SWM	Solid Waste Management
IDP	Internally Displaced Person	TEVT	Technical Education and Vocational Training
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development	UAE	United Arab Emirates
IHL	International Humanitarian Law	UN	United Nations
IHRL	International Human Rights Law	UNDP	United Nations Development Program
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
IRC	International Rescue Committee	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
IRG	Internationally Recognized Government	UNOCHA	United Nations Organization for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
ISDN	Integrated Services Digital Network	UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
JRC	Joint Research Center	UNOSAT	UNITAR's Operational Satellite Applications Program
KfW	kreditanstalt für wiederaufbau	USD	United States Dollar
KI	Key Informant	UNOSAT	United States Dollar
LAEO	Literacy and Adult Education Organization	WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
LAL	Local Authority Law	WHO	World Health Organizations
LC	Local Council	WTO	World Trade Organization
MENA	Middle East and North Africa	YEMAC	Yemen Mine Action Center
MoAI	Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation	YER	Yemeni Rial (currency)
MoE	Ministry of Education		
MoHUD	Ministry of Housing and Urban Development		

Executive Summary

Zinjibar is the capital of Abyan Governorate, located on the southern coast of Yemen, bordering Aden to the east. This city profile describes and analyses the situation in the city of Zinjibar across a variety of sectors. It addresses key themes and findings made prominent by the impact of the ongoing conflict, its toll on the city's population, and ability of institutions to provide basic services. Each section paints a picture of the prevailing situation and the needs of the city's residents through triangulation of different data types and sets, including secondary data analysis which draws on available publications and media reports, remote sensing, and structured interviews with community leaders and sector experts. The aim of this profile is to provide partners with the widest possible canvas of relevant information, assisting them in their operating programming and strategic policy development. Key findings include:

- The political and security situation remains fragile in most of the southern governorates; there is an evident power vacuum in terms of law and order. Late May 2011, Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) took control of Zinjibar city following clashes with forces loyal to Yemeni Leader Ali Abdullah Saleh. Mid-June 2012, the Yemeni army retook control over Zinjibar with support from local militias, known as Popular Committees. Since the onset of the conflict, nearly 40,000 households (HHs) have been displaced in Abyan Governorate and the livelihood of another 30,000 – 35,000 have been destroyed.¹ Civil unrest, in some instances involving violence, has severely disrupted the delivery of basic social services, exacerbating widespread and chronic vulnerabilities.
- Zinjibar's Local Council (LC) had one of the most dynamic urban areas in pre-conflict Yemen, outperforming others on most dimensions in terms of operational capacity. Currently, LC members state they mainly face challenges in terms of having capacity gaps due to a shortage of qualified staff; additionally, the LC has inadequate resources to perform its functions, due to poor financial resources at the district level and furthermore reports shortage of furniture, equipment and work tools.²
- Prior to the outbreak of the conflict, Zinjibar was a tourist destination and contains numerous historical and natural monuments and landmarks. The National Museum of Zinjibar has been pillaged and largely cleared of its collections³; many records have been looted or stolen. Though the extent is unclear, many sites have undergone further damages since the onset of the current conflict. In order to mount reconstruction work, a comprehensive damage assessment would need to be conducted, a comprehensive management strategy would need to be set up, and training of staff is required.
- In 2017, it was estimated approximately 43 percent of Zinjibar's housing sector had been damaged; houses make up the largest share of damaged buildings in the city. Damages to the housing sector and corresponding challenges have exacerbated existing grievances in Abyan as a government relief program that was intended to repair the damages to Zinjibar and relieve the plight of the local population was seen as slow and inadequate. Furthermore, landmines have long posed a threat to the inhabitants of Zinjibar and continue to do so⁴ despite past campaigns to remove them.
- The electricity infrastructure in Zinjibar city has been significantly affected as a result of conflict dynamics. Following the 2012 conflict, the power supply network sustained severe damage. While partial supply was later restored, fuel shortages result in limited electricity availability. The electricity and street lighting infrastructure are either partially or fully damaged in both Zinjibar and Khanfar districts.
- Zinjibar city hosts nine health facilities, out of which four are not functioning. Several health services are not available in the city, including emergency, major and minor surgery and the outpatient department. The numbers of hospital beds as well as medical staff have decreased in recent years, resulting in most of the households just barely meeting healthcare needs.
- All communications facilities in Zinjibar city are fully functioning, while three ICT facilities in Khanfar district are not functioning. Internet cafes in Yemen remain an important point of access to internet services; at a governorate level, there are six internet cafes and 262 call centers in Abyan. These numbers remained unchanged since 2011, suggesting that while no critical operational constraints were encountered, there also were no new service providers during these years.
- Roads in Zinjibar and Khanfar districts are damaged, hindering mobility for people and vehicles. According to primary data, damage to physical infrastructure is the first most serious problem in the transportation sector which requires immediate intervention, followed by security challenges, lack of funding, insufficient public transport vehicles and cars not carrying number plates. As of January 28, 2020, the National Highway (N4) connecting Aden and Zinjibar is open and accessible, while the road to the east, along the seacoast towards Shuqrah is difficult to access.⁵ Since 2011, no new asphalt roads have been built.

1 IRIN, Yemen: Abyan Governorate emerges from war, July 16, 2012, <https://www.refworld.org/docid/500536b32.html> (accessed March 16, 2020).

2 Ibid.

3 Deborah Lehr and Ahmed Awad Bin Mubarak, "The U.S. art market for stolen antiquities from Yemen must be shut down", *The Washington Post*, January 1, 2019, https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-us-art-market-for-stolen-antiquities-from-yemen-must-be-shut-down/2019/01/01/c3df44aa-db9d-11e8-85df-7a6b4d25cfbb_story.html (accessed March 11, 2020).

4 Xinhua, "At least 2 killed, 4 injured in landmine explosion in southern Yemen", September 21, 2019, http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-09/21/c_138410954.htm (accessed March 19, 2020).

5 Yemen Logistics Cluster, Yemen Access Constraints as of 28 January 2020 Dashboard, January 2020. <https://logcluster.org/map/yemen-access-constraints-map-28-january-2019> (accessed February 2020).

Figure 1: Geographic Location of Zinjibar in Yemen



Zinjibar, Date Created: 26 March 2020, Datum/Projection: WGS_84, Data sources: OCHA
 Disclaimer: The boundaries, names and designations used in this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IMMAP.

The port city and historical trading center of Zinjibar⁶, located 60km northeast of Aden in southcentral Yemen, is the capital of Zinjibar District and Abyan Governorate. Long considered a strategic entry point to Aden, Zinjibar is in the Abyan Project Delta, an artificial spate irrigation delta comprising approximately 40,000 hectares of irrigable land, found between Wadi Bana and Wadi Hasan. Following the introduction of cotton in the 1940s, Abyan quickly became the country's biggest agricultural area.⁷

Over the course of the conflict in Yemen, the city has seen fierce clashes between warring factions, leading to numerous damaged buildings, crippled infrastructure, and a power and water network left for ruins. City residents frequently warn visitors not to try and approach certain areas within the city because of the overwhelming presence of landmines.⁸ Late May 2011, AQAP took control of Zinjibar city following clashes with forces loyal to Yemeni Leader Ali Abdullah Saleh. Mid-June 2012, the Yemeni army retakes control over Zinjibar with support from local militias, known as Popular Committees; at the time, it was estimated 27.5 percent of the urban population had been displaced.⁹

At the time of writing, the political and security situation remains fragile in most of the southern governorates; there is an evident power vacuum in terms of law and order. Since the onset of the conflict, nearly 40,000 HHs have been displaced in Abyan Governorate and the livelihood of another 30,000 – 35,000 have been destroyed.¹⁰ Civil unrest, in some instances involving violence, has severely disrupted the delivery of basic social services,

exacerbating widespread and chronic vulnerabilities. While a number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) have returned, there is a likelihood of tensions between different population groups within Abyan Governorate, mainly between IDPs, returnees and the host community. The slow restoration of basic services has the potential of creating frustration within the local community in Abyan that could lead to further unrest.¹¹

With a total population of 513,701, Abyan Governorate is considered the stronghold of the Zomra elite. The Governorate is the home province of President Hadi and it is understood by some observers that the region is largely in support of the Hadi government.¹² However, despite this alignment, fighting between pro-Hadi and pro-Southern Transitional Council (STC) forces manifested itself in Abyan, where the Security Belt (SBF) – a force trained and backed by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) – made significant territorial gains.¹³ By the end of March 2015, pro-Hadi Popular Committees joined forces with AQAP elements which led to periodical peaks of heavy clashes with Houthi-Saleh forces. By August 2015, pro-Hadi forces had regained control over Zinjibar.¹⁴

6 This profile examines Zinjibar city, which is the same district of Zinjibar in Abyan governorate.

7 Robert Stephens, *The Arabs' New Frontier* (Routledge, 2019).

8 IRIN, Yemen: Abyan Governorate emerges from war, July 16, 2012, <https://www.refworld.org/docid/500536b32.html> (accessed March 16, 2020).

9 Ibid.

10 Ibid.

11 *The World Bank Group*, Yemen Dynamic Needs Assessment (DNA): Second Phase Report, (Washington, DC: 2017).

12 ACLED, Yemen's Fractured South: Aden, Abyan, and Lahij, December 18, 2019, https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Yemen%E2%80%99s%20Fractured%20South_%20Aden%2C%20Abyan%2C%20and%20Lahij.pdf (accessed June 24, 2020).

13 Ibid.

14 BBC, Yemen crisis: Rebels 'driven out of key city of Zinjibar', August 9, 2015, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-33839735> (accessed June 24, 2020).

Figure 2: Zinjibar Conflict Timeline

ZINJIBAR WITHIN YEMEN CONTEXTUAL TIMELINE OF CONFLICT

THE CITY OF ZINJIBAR was founded by Sultan Hussein bin Ahmed bin Abdullah, and was called Abyan, then his grandson, Sultan Abdul Qadir bin Ahmed bin Hussein, changed the name to Zinjibar, after his visit to the island of Zinjibar in Tanzania.

1962

Zinjibar became the capital of Fadhli Sultanate which has signed an agreement with Great Britain earlier and became part of the British Aden Protectorate.

FEBRUARY 20, 1994

About 150 soldiers from the Giants Brigade, one of the largest armoured northern brigades, surrounded several public and governmental institutions. After receiving information of changing the current governor from the north with another one from the south, clashes occurred with southern armoured units, killing an unspecified number of soldiers, and a number of wounded civilians.

AUGUST 13, 1994

The northern forces entered Zinjibar, capital of Abyan, and secured the link road between Aden and the city.

AUGUST 25, 2010

The first battle of Zinjibar: Yemeni army claimed to regain control of the city which was in the grip of Al-Qaeda in Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) after days of clashes with the army.

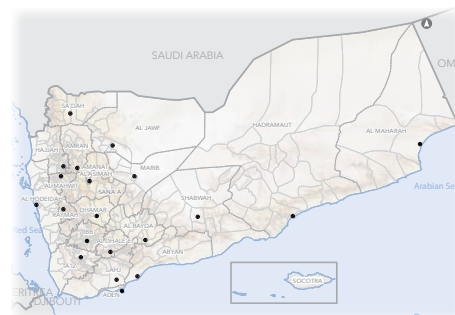
MAY 27, 2011

The second battle of Zinjibar which took place during the Arab spring, however AQAP has gained full control over the city.

JUNE 21, 2011

Battles raged between the army and suspected AQAP forces for control of Zinjibar, as the number of soldiers killed passed the 100 mark. Two militants were killed in the southern province of Abyan.

JANUARY 14, 2012



JUN 30, 2012

Yemeni officials said six bodies were found outside Zinjibar. On a different note, the number of deaths caused by landmines dropped following a military offensive had reached 81 casualties. Engineering teams have removed some 3,000 landmines from the area.

MARCH 28, 2015

As the Houthi-Saleh alliance penetrated Abyan and captured Zinjibar.

AUGUST 9, 2015

Pro-government forces in Yemen are reported to have retaken the city of Zinjibar from Houthis.

DECEMBER 2, 2015

Hundreds of AQAP fighters seized two major cities in Yemen, Zinjibar and Ja'ar, after hours of clashes, part of the terror group's effort to expand its presence in southern regions of the war-torn country.

MAY 5, 2016

AQAP fighters withdrew from the city of Zinjibar and Ja'ar after negotiation with pro-government loyalists. Since then, it has repeatedly withdrawn and returned. On 14 August, the cities were fully captured by pro-government forces which dislodged the militants from them.

AUGUST 18, 2019

STC fighters seized a special forces base from IRG loyalists in Abyan; two days later, they moved on Ataq in Shabwah, before being pushed out and subsequently losing control of all their bases in the province to IRG forces.

AUGUST 22, 2019

Heavy clashes broke out between Security Belt and Special Security Forces in Zinjibar.

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_17708

