

Yemen

December 2017

Despite **increasing hostilities** and **access challenges**, UNHCR provided life-saving assistance to refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons during December.

Missions took place across Yemen, responding to an **increase in protection and shelter needs** of IDP families, 89% of whom have been displaced for over one year.

UNHCR-assisted return movements for Somali refugees continued in December bringing the total number of Somalis voluntarily returning to 814.

FACTS AND FIGURES

22.2 million people in need

2,014,026 Internally Displaced Persons (IDP)

89 per cent of IDPs displaced for more than one year

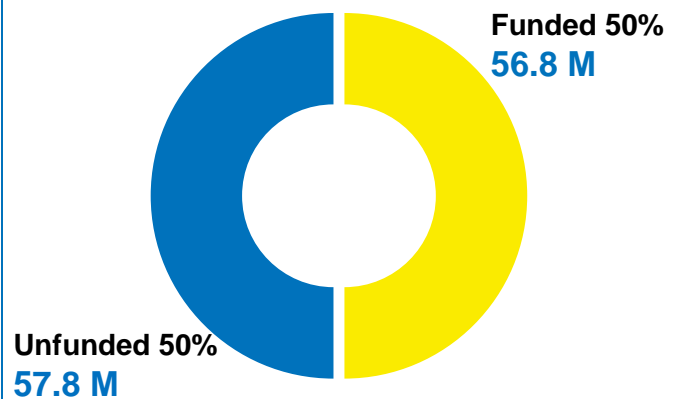
956,076 IDP returnees

280,539 refugees and asylum seekers (majority from Somalia and Ethiopia)

FUNDING

USD 114.6 M

requested for Yemen Operation



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

167 National Staff

31 International Staff

Offices:

1 Branch Office in Sana'a

1 Sub Office in Aden

4 Field Offices in Ibb, Kharaz, Hudaydah, and Sa'ada

1 Support Office in Amman



Working with Partners

- UNHCR maintains a collaborative relationship with authorities in Sana'a and the internationally recognized Government of Yemen currently operating from Aden, to maintain access to provide protection and basic services for people of concern countrywide.
- UNHCR leads the multi-sector response for refugees and asylum-seekers in Yemen, both in urban settings and in Kharaz refugee camp, maintaining regular interaction with national and local authorities, international and national NGOs and refugees.
- As part of the response to address the internal displacement emergency throughout Yemen, UNHCR leads the Protection Cluster and the Shelter/ NFI/ Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster.

Main Activities

Protection

- Despite the volatile security environment, UNHCR with its partners, continues to work towards expanding the humanitarian presence beyond Sana'a, to Aden, Ibb, Hudaydah and Sa'ada and their neighbouring governorates. As humanitarian access and delivery remain affected by continuous insecurity, UNHCR continues to advocate for unimpeded and sustained humanitarian access and for the protection of civilians.
- UNHCR as protection lead, provides assistance to refugees and asylum seekers, including protection monitoring, cash assistance, and services for children and survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). UNHCR also monitors the situation of refugees and asylum-seekers in detention facilities and advocates with authorities for alternatives to detention and release when relevant.
- UNHCR has initiated an Assisted Spontaneous Return (ASR) programme for Somali refugees, and is working with IOM, the Yemeni authorities and the Somali Consul to support refugees' voluntary return to Somalia. So far, 814 refugees have departed from the Port of Aden. In Yemen, returning refugees are being assisted by UNHCR and partners with documentation, medical support/ health care, shelter, transportation and financial support to facilitate the journey. Upon arrival in Somalia, individuals receive return and reintegration support, which includes an initial reinstallation grant, core relief items or cash equivalents, food vouchers, and subsistence allowances, among other assistance. A further 2,800 individuals have been counselled on return at help desks, receiving information on the process and conditions in return locations with 1,833 confirming their desire to return home.
- Although Yemen is the only country in the Arabian Peninsula that is signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, war and insecurity mean that conditions there are not conducive for asylum. In February, UNHCR launched a regional information campaign to raise awareness on the situation in Yemen and the risks of irregular migration to and through Yemen from the Horn of Africa countries. Prolonged conflict and insecurity have

created the conditions for the proliferation of smuggling and trafficking by criminal networks, targeting and exploiting people fleeing persecution or poverty.

- Regarding Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), UNHCR is monitoring protection risks, including through Community Based Protection Networks (CBPN), and is providing psycho-social, legal and cash assistance to mitigate against the grave protection risks faced by IDPs on a daily basis. In addition, IDP community centres in five northern governorates of Amanat Al Asimah, Dhamar, Hajjah, Amran and Sa'ada are supported by UNHCR and provide outreach and assistance to displaced Yemenis.
- UNHCR also leads the Protection Cluster and, together with partners, is making every attempt in view of challenging security and access conditions to expand outreach to IDPs and their host communities. The Protection Cluster launched its Civilian Impact Monitoring Project, a new activity to assess and analyze the impact on civilians of real time conflict events, based on open source information together with reports from partners, in order to assist our protection and humanitarian response follow up in the affected areas as well as collective advocacy for the protection of civilians. The project is beginning as a pilot in five governorates, spanning three regional hubs.

Education

- For refugees, UNHCR coordinates with the Ministry of Education to enable refugee children to access public education. UNHCR and partners also organize informal education for children, including literacy and numeracy classes, and run child friendly-spaces.
- UNHCR and partner INTERSOS finalised the university admission for 30 new recipients of the DAFI scholarship programme in December. Among them, 10 students are from Kharaz camp, 13 from the city of Aden, and a further seven students from Sana'a who will study a variety of courses including medicine, engineering and teaching.
- Rehabilitation work is also underway at Kharaz camp schools, with improvements to school washrooms, classrooms in addition to shading from the sun, close to completion. Schools in Sana'a and Aden hosting refugee students are also supported by UNHCR.

Health

- For refugees and asylum seekers, UNHCR in cooperation with partners, provides primary health care services, pharmaceutical and reproductive health services, and HIV/AIDS prevention and response for refugees and Yemeni host communities. UNHCR also provides mental health support and refers persons with chronic medical conditions and emergency cases to hospitals. The Agency enabled 60,000 individuals from refugee and Yemeni host communities to access essential health care services this year.
- UNHCR is responding to prevent and control the spread of cholera among refugee and host populations through a Cholera Treatment Centre in Kharaz refugee camp, oral rehydration stations in Aden and Shabwah, active case finding and referrals including at two health centres in San'a, along with capacity building of health staff, hygiene promotion and community awareness campaigns. In response to the recent outbreak of cholera, the

UNHCR-led Protection Cluster has also boosted cholera prevention efforts through the CBPN, including training for volunteers as part of a comprehensive, system-wide response.

- UNHCR is also supporting partner Yemen Family Care Association with a community health outreach programme. Community workers provided awareness sessions about Diphtheria during December, so far reaching 2,060 refugees and 432 Yemenis from the host community.

Shelter and Core Relief

- With regard to IDPs and IDP returnees, an important component of UNHCR'S protection activities is to guarantee access to adequate shelter in humanitarian emergencies. UNHCR provides emergency shelter kits, rental subsidies, return grants and develops emergency strategies, tools and guidelines. UNHCR has distributed CRIs to 389,824 IDPs/returnees, shelter items to 92,485 IDPs and a further 28,721 families have received cash interventions including rental subsidies and return grants since January 2017.

- UNHCR launched in December its cold weather response with cash assistance destined for 18,451 displaced Yemeni families (129,000 individuals). This is the first time UNHCR is distributing cash grants for winter support in Yemen, with the US \$4M programme rolled out as night time temperatures reach as low as 2 degrees Celsius. The disbursement of the US \$200 cash grants are being distributed in Sana'a, Dhamar, Amran, Amanat Al Asimah, Ibb, Marib and Hajjah Governorates. The one-off cash grants are targeting extremely vulnerable families, and provide those in high altitude areas the freedom to spend the grants where needed including on clothes and fuel, as gas prices continue to rise.

- UNHCR continues to be the lead agency of the Shelter/ NFI/ CCCM Cluster, providing guidance and support along with coordination to all partners responding to shelter needs in Yemen.

External / Donors Relations

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by the United States of America, Japan, Saudi Arabia, European Union, United Kingdom, Finland, Sweden, Country-Based Pooled Funds, Canada, Belgium, Priv Donors Germany, Switzerland, Educate a Child Programme (EAC/EAA), Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Qatar Charity, France, AGFUND-Arab Gulf Programme for Dev., Rahmatan Lil Alamin Foundation, Fondation Sanofi Espoir, Priv Donors Switzerland, Priv Donors Egypt, Bulgaria, Priv Donors Singapore, Holy See, Priv Donors Indi, Priv Donors United Kingdom, Priv Donors USA **who have specifically contributed to UNHCR programmes in Yemen in 2017 as well as other donors who have contributed through broadly unearmarked and broadly earmarked funding.**

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