

# Yemen

November 2018

Despite **ongoing hostilities** and **access challenges**, UNHCR continued to provide life-saving assistance to refugees, asylum-seekers and internally displaced persons and the host community.

**Protection and shelter needs** of IDP families have increased. In 2018, UNHCR gave material assistance to over 1.2 million IDPs, of which most in-kind assistance were made in the Al Hudaydah Governorate after June.

**UNHCR-assisted spontaneous return** for Somali refugees in Yemen to Somalia continued in 2018, bringing the total number of Somalis voluntarily returning to 3,053 persons since April 2017.

## FACTS AND FIGURES

**22.2 million** people in need

**2,3 million** Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

**89 percent** of IDPs displaced for more than one year

**1,012,464** IDP returnees

**280,181** refugees and asylum seekers (majority from Somalia and Ethiopia)

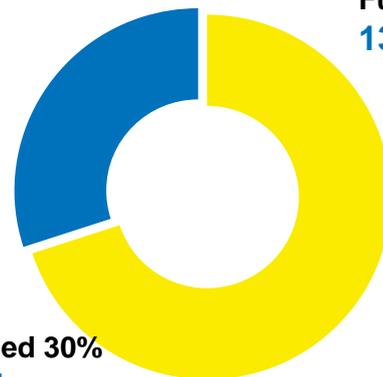
## FUNDING (AS OF 18 DECEMBER 2018)

**USD 198.7 M**

requested for Yemen Operation

**Funded 70%**  
**139.2 M**

**Unfunded 30%**  
**59.5 M**



## UNHCR PRESENCE

### Staff:

178 National Staff

28 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 Government of Yemen currently operating from Aden to provide protection and basic services for people of concern countrywide.
- In 2018, UNHCR has signed partnership agreements with 20 organisations and counterparts, of which more than 80 percent are national partners.
- 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.
- To ensure a coordinated and guided response to the displaced and conflict-affected populations in Yemen, UNHCR leads the Protection Cluster and the Shelter/ NFI/ Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster.

## Main Activities

### Protection

- Despite the volatile security environment, UNHCR and partners continue to carry out activities countrywide from hubs in Sana'a, Aden, Ibb, Al Hudaydah and Sa'ada. While humanitarian access and delivery remain affected by continuous insecurity and other impediments, UNHCR nonetheless continues to advocate for unimpeded and sustained humanitarian access and for the protection of civilians. Given the recent escalation of conflict within Al Hudaydah Governorate, UNHCR is responding to the emerging needs of IDPs, IDP returnees, vulnerable host community, asylum-seekers and refugees with protection monitoring, assessments, psychosocial and social counselling support and legal assistance, multipurpose cash (Protection and shelter), and referrals to specialised services. Out of the 1.2 million IDPs assisted so far with material assistance, 320,920 were those in Al Hudaydah Governorate.
- **Refugees** As Protection cluster lead, UNHCR provides assistance to refugees and asylum-seekers including education, health, protection monitoring, cash assistance, and specialised services and comprehensive case management for children and survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). UNHCR also monitors the situation of asylum-seekers and refugees in detention facilities and advocates with authorities for alternatives to detention and release. In 2017, UNHCR initiated an Assisted Spontaneous Return (ASR) programme for Somali refugees, and is working with IOM, Yemeni and Somali authorities to support refugees' voluntary return to Somalia. A total of 3,053 individuals have now landed safely in Berbera, Somalia and 2,239 since 2018. Top reasons for departures were mentioned as lack of income earning opportunities (61 per cent) and reunification with family (33 per cent).
- Registration activities for the new arrivals and renewals is ongoing by the Bureau for Refugee Affairs (BRA) in Sana'a after two years of suspension. UNHCR is present daily to build capacity of the authorities and the number of applications are increasing slowly. Pre-requirements for the issuance such as medical tests and physical address verifications are identified as challenges, however are expected to accelerate in the future. Once the asylum-seekers and refugees obtain their registration, they can access government services such as education and health.
- In Kharaz, following the Government of Yemen and UNHCR verification, registration and documentation exercise completed in September 2018 and as a result of the ongoing Assisted Spontaneous Repatriation (ASR), the population of Kharaz camp has dropped from 16,000 individuals to 8,094.
- **IDPs** UNHCR's Community Based Protection Networks (CBPNs) serve to monitor protection risks, identify and address vulnerable protection cases, which are referred to UNHCR's eight established IDP community centres across the country. Through these centres, UNHCR and partners provide a variety of services including psychosocial and social counselling support, and legal assistance for vulnerable displaced Yemenis. Emergency one-off cash assistance for shelter or protection needs is also provided for urgent cases.
- **Protection Cluster:** UNHCR leads the Protection Cluster, ensuring a coordinated response to the protection needs of the displaced and conflict-affected population of Yemen. With the ongoing conflict in Al Hudaydah and other emerging frontlines, protection of civilians remains paramount. In 2018, the

Protection Cluster expanded its Civilian Impact Monitoring Project, an activity to assess and analyse the impact on civilians of real-time conflict events, 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. In response to the Al Hudaydah crisis, Protection Cluster partners, including in child protection and GBV, as well as community-based networks, are being mobilized to provide emergency protection assistance at transit areas, distribution sites, schools, and in the communities.

### Shelter and Core Relief Items

- 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. Across Yemen, some two million IDPs are struggling to cope in displacement, in addition to close to one million returnees, who require emergency assistance. Many are destitute in the absence of livelihoods, access to income, health care and sufficient food.
- UNHCR provides emergency shelter kits, core relief items (CRIs), rental subsidies, return grants and develops emergency strategies, tools and guidelines to support Yemen's displaced.
- As of November 2018, UNHCR has already provided emergency life-saving shelter and CRI assistance to 743,841 IDPs, IDP returnees and vulnerable host community. The construction of 1,700 transitional shelters for IDP families was finalised in January this year, and 3,200 new shelters are currently being constructed in Hajjah Governorate. Currently 855 have been completed and 637 are under development.
- With regards to the Hudaydah crisis, UNHCR has assisted displaced families with 25,204 CRIs and 8,400 emergency shelter kits since June.
- **Shelter/NFI/CCCM Cluster** UNHCR is also leading the Shelter/ NFI/ CCCM Cluster, providing guidance and support along with critical coordination to all partners responding to shelter needs in Yemen.

### Education

- For refugees, UNHCR coordinates with the Ministry of Education to facilitate refugee children's individual access to public schools and quality education. UNHCR and partners also organize informal education, including literacy and numeracy classes, and run child-friendly spaces.
- During the 2017-18 academic year, UNHCR in Sana'a supported 10 public schools with 687 refugee students and 19,488 Yemeni students with equipment, teacher training and school maintenance. In Aden, UNHCR signed an agreement with the Ministry of Education (MoE) in 2018 for the implementation of the refugee education programme in Aden and Kharaz refugee camp to ensure that a total of some 9,000 refugee children are supported in collaboration with the authorities. In addition, a total of 836 out of school children were reached out and enrolled in school country-wide, while 560 students benefitted from various informal classes through accelerated education program, language classes and numeracy classes.
- UNHCR also supports an Early Childhood Education program which provides some 100 children aged 3–5 years with a safe space to learn, play and aims to retain out-of-school children who stay home to care for younger siblings.
- Countrywide, 75 students are also studying at the tertiary level supported by DAFI and protection scholarship programmes, among them students from Kharaz camp, Aden and Sana'a.

### Health

- Health care remains a critical need with only 45 percent of health facilities functioning in the country. 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 has established referral mechanisms with local hospitals for emergency cases and persons with complicated medical conditions. So far, 106,953 medical consultations have been facilitated by UNHCR across the country this year, of which 60,060 were for refugees and asylum seekers and 46,893 for host community members. Furthermore, 158,823 refugees and 41,070 host community members have been reached through community outreach activities focused on health.

- UNHCR is also responding to prevent and control the spread of cholera among refugee and host populations through a Cholera Treatment Centre in Kharaz refugee camp and Diarrhoea Treatment Unit in Al-Basateen urban area, an oral rehydration station in Aden, and active case identification and referrals including two health centres in Sana'a. Furthermore, UNHCR conducts capacity building of staff, hygiene promotion and community awareness campaigns to combat the spread of cholera. In response to the 2017 outbreak, the UNHCR – led Protection Cluster has also boosted cholera prevention efforts through the CBPNs, including training for volunteers as part of a comprehensive, system-wide response. UNHCR is also supporting community health outreach and providing awareness sessions about Diphtheria.

### External / Donors Relations

**UNHCR Yemen is grateful for the generous support provided by:** Saudi Arabia (35.4 M) | United Arab Emirates (30.7 M) | Kuwait (30 M) | United States of America (14 M) | United Kingdom (7.3 M) | Japan (6.5 M) | CERF (6 M) | European Union (3.5 M) | Sweden (2.5 M) | Country-Based Pooled Funds (3.8 M) | Belgium (2.3) | Finland (1.2 M) | Canada (1.1 M) | Switzerland (1 M) | France (1.3 M) | Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (0.6 M) | Educate a Child Programme (EAC/EAA)(0.5 M) | Private donors of Germany (0.3 M) | Slovakia (0.2 M) and other private donors.

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