

Yemen

September 2017

Against a backdrop of hostilities and access challenges, UNHCR continued to assist and support **refugees, asylum seekers** and **internally displaced persons** during September.

Missions took place across Yemen, responding to an **increase in protection and shelter needs** of IDP families, 84% of whom have been displaced for over one year.

The first **UNHCR-assisted return movement** for Somali refugees in Yemen to Somalia took place in September.

FACTS AND FIGURES

20.7 million people in need

1,980,510 Internally Displaced Persons (IDP)

84 per cent of IDPs displaced for more than one year

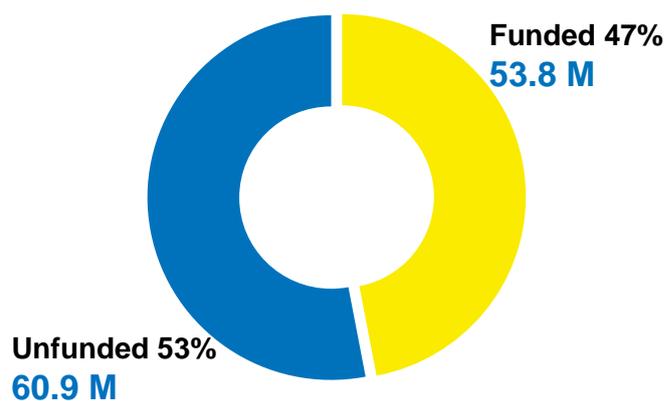
946,044 IDP returnees

280,623 refugees and asylum seekers (majority from Somalia and Ethiopia)

FUNDING

USD 114.6 M

requested for Yemen Operation



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

174 National Staff

30 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

- The office maintains a collaborative relationship with the authorities in Sana'a and the internationally recognized Government of Yemen currently operating from Aden in the South to maintain access to provide protection and basic services for people of concern across the country.
- 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, 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, 133 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 1,376 individuals have been counselled on return at help desks, receiving information on the process and conditions in return locations.
- 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. 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.

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.

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. UNHCR also provides mental health support and refers persons with chronic medical conditions and emergency cases to hospitals. The Agency enabled 17,600 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, 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.

Shelter and NFIs

- 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 NFIs to 212,155 IDPs/returnees, shelter items to 69,853 IDPs and a further 10,875 families have received cash interventions including rental subsidies and return grants since January 2017. UNHCR is also lead agency of the Shelter/ NFI/ CCCM Cluster.

External / Donors Relations

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by AGFUND-Arab Gulf Programme for Dev., Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Country-Based Pooled Funds, Educate a Child Programme, European Union, France, Japan, private donors, Germany, Singapore, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Qatar Charity, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States of America **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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