

Yemen

March 2019

The situation continues to worsen in Hajjah governorate, in the north of Yemen. According to OCHA, around 25,000 families have been displaced from and within Hajjah Governorate since June 2018. The majority live in Abs District.

UNHCR continues to deliver lifesaving assistance to displaced persons. In the first three months of 2019, IDP families received 8,763 core relief items and 4,100 emergency shelter kits across 14 governorates in Yemen.

Cholera is re-emerging with the rainy season. According to WHO, the number of suspected cases doubled in March compared with the previous two months. UNHCR is working in close collaboration with the authorities to contain this outbreak.

FACTS AND FIGURES

24.1 million people in need

14.4 million in need of protection assistance

3.65 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and **1.28 million** returnees*

More than 80 per cent of IDPs displaced for over a year

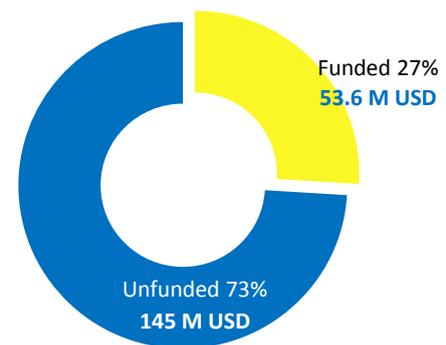
274,478 refugees and asylum-seekers (mainly from Somalia and Ethiopia)

** IOM Figures*

FUNDING (AS OF 2 APRIL 2019)

USD 198.6 M

requested for the Yemen operation



Staff:

195 National Staff
32 International Staff

Offices:

1 Country Office in Sana'a
1 Sub Office in Aden
4 Field Offices in Ibb, Kharaz,
Hudaydah and Sa'ada
1 Support Office in Amman



A displaced Yemeni man collects UNHCR assistance for his family who fled their home in Hajjah to a safer part of the governorate. © UNHCR/Rashed Al Dubai

Working with Partners

- UNHCR is a member of the UN Country Team (UNCT), leading the Protection cluster and Shelter/ NFI/ CCCM (Camp Coordination and Camp Management) clusters.
- UNHCR maintains a collaborative relationship with authorities in Sana'a and the Government of Yemen in Aden to provide protection and basic services for people of concern countrywide.
- As of March 2019, UNHCR has signed partnership agreements with 24 organizations and counterparts, of which 75 per cent are national partners.
- UNHCR and IOM co-lead the Refugees and Migrants Multi-sector response for refugees and asylum-seekers and migrants respectively, both in urban settings and in Kharaz refugee camp, maintaining regular interaction with national and local authorities, international and national NGOs and beneficiaries.

Main Activities

- **IDPs in Yemen** - According to [IOM's DTM report in March](#), there are currently 3.65 million IDPs in Yemen, representing 12 per cent of the overall population. The governorate with the highest number of IDPs is central Marib governorate (20 per cent) followed by Taizz (11 per cent) in the south and Hajjah (10 per cent) in the north. One third of IDPs are currently living in rented homes and one fifth with host families, surviving on whichever meagre resources they have left. **More than 80 per cent of IDPs have been displaced for over a year** – and some multiple times – rendering their basic rights and essential economic, social and psychological needs unfulfilled. UNHCR's regular protection monitoring reveals that the prolonged crisis continues to exact a significant toll on IDPs, particularly on IDPs with specific needs, exposing them to further risks and infringement of basic rights.
- **UNHCR's emergency response to recently displaced IDPs** - UNHCR and its partners continue to support fleeing families with life-saving emergency response such as core relief items (CRIs) and emergency shelter kits (ESKs). In the first three months of 2019, UNHCR and its partners **distributed 8,763 CRIs and 4,100 ESKs**, of which one third were distributed in Hajjah governorate at flashpoints in the Kushar, Mustaba, Haradh and Midi districts.
- **Building community resilience** - UNHCR continues to prioritize people with specific needs, focusing on rebuilding the resilience of affected communities and families. UNHCR and its protection partners conducted **16,295 home assessments in 16 governorates**. More than half of the assessments were carried out in governorates most heavily affected by the northern frontlines: Hudaydah, Hajjah and Sa'ada. In the south, monitoring and outreach are complemented by two mobile community centres and ten mobile teams. Community-Based Protection Networks (CBPNs) of 206 members (138 male, 68 female) provide a bridge between humanitarian actors, IDPs and the vulnerable host communities, **reaching a total of 30,484 persons through 214 awareness raising activities**. Out of the beneficiaries identified by the CBPNs, 26,024 were referred for protection assessments, with 73 per cent of beneficiaries located in Hajjah governorate.
- **Providing protection assistance through community centres** - In response to the dwindling traditional coping mechanisms, kinship-based community support and family resilience, UNHCR and its partners provide **psychosocial support, legal assistance, mine risk education and emergency cash assistance** amongst other protection services through eight community centres. These activities are complemented by robust community outreach programmes. From January to March, 4,419 persons received legal assistance or counselling, 2,351 received psychological support and 970 persons were issued with birth certificates or national identification documents that facilitate their access to services. The highest number of psychosocial support consultations occurred in the central governorate of Amran (29 per cent), where many IDPs from surrounding northern governorates of Hajjah, Sa'ada and Al Jawf in the north arrive in search of safety, protection support and affordable accommodation.

- **Cash assistance for protection and shelter needs of IDPs and vulnerable host communities**
- Delivering multi-purpose cash for protection and shelter subsidies to IDPs, IDP returnees, vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers remains a key objective. Last year UNHCR provided 1,065,000 IDPs and 4,400 vulnerable refugees with cash assistance. **So far in 2019, 48,908 IDP households (some 342,356 individuals) have received cash** to address their protection needs (20,815 families), shelter subsidies (17,413 families) and winterization (10,680 families). UNHCR and partners conduct household visits, including verification and regular post-distribution monitoring through a third party to monitor the quality of the distribution process, and to ensure beneficiary satisfaction.
- **Improving humanitarian access in Taizz** - On 14 March, Sub-office Aden signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the UN Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator, Lise Grande, to **establish a hub in Al Turba (Taizz governorate)**. This 'Forward Humanitarian Office' will be established and managed by UNHCR on a cost-share basis along with 11 UN agencies. The hub will greatly improve the humanitarian community's access to beneficiaries in embattled Taizz and the surrounding areas while enhancing humanitarian response and coordination.
- **Protection assistance for refugees and asylum-seekers** Refugees and asylum-seekers in Yemen continue to experience trauma as a result of ongoing hostilities and diminishing livelihood opportunities. UNHCR continues to **search for durable solutions through resettlement, voluntary repatriation and Assisted Spontaneous Return (ASR) programmes**. From January to March 2019, UNHCR conducted 530 household vulnerability assessments with 708 refugees receiving unconditional cash grants, 359 individuals receiving psychosocial support, 146 refugees receiving legal support and 103 refugees receiving physiotherapy services. In addition, 14 SGBV survivors received psychosocial counselling, 10 received related legal assistance and seven received medical services at SGBV drop-in centres which offer comprehensive and confidential case management. Best Interest Assessments (BIAs) were conducted for eight children, 150 home monitoring visits carried out, 101 separated children were assisted and 13 children received psychosocial support. Also between January - March, 548 Somali refugees returned to Somalia through the ASR programme. UNHCR continues systematic monitoring of detention centres and works with the relevant authorities to advocate for the improvement of detention conditions. By March, 69 detention monitoring visits had been conducted and 16 detainees released through 21 interventions.
- **Registration for asylum-seekers and refugees** - In November 2018, the Bureau for Refugee Affairs (BRA) **resumed registration and documentation renewal activities for refugees and asylum-seekers** in Sana'a following a two-year suspension whilst negotiations between UNHCR and the de facto authorities on the handover of these activities was ongoing. As of March 2019, with UNHCR material and technical support, **more than 2,500 expired certificates were renewed and issued**. Preconditions such as mandatory HIV/Hepatitis testing and address verification are delaying the rate of renewals; UNHCR is currently looking at modalities to address these issues. In the south, UNHCR continues with the registration and documentation of non-Somali asylum-seekers and refugees while supporting the government on registration and documentation for Somali refugees. By end of March, 1,031 individuals have received renewed documents, and 639 individuals were newly registered.
- **Health assistance for asylum-seekers, refugees and vulnerable host communities** - UNHCR continues to respond to the medical needs of refugees, asylum-seekers and vulnerable host communities through five health facilities, **providing a total of 33,509 consultations to asylum-seekers and refugees** (50 per cent) and host community (50 per cent). Overall, 13 per cent of consultations were mental health-related, highlighting the negative effects of prolonged conflict on civilians. **Cholera has resurged due in part to the rainy season** and has intensified due to faltering sanitation facilities. During February, UNHCR advocated with the Ministry of Health for the national cholera vaccination and anti-measles/rubella immunization campaign to include the refugees living in Basateen neighbourhood, Aden governorate and in Kharaz Camp in Lahj governorate.
- **Protection Cluster** - The UNHCR-led Protection cluster continues to monitor the impact of the conflict on civilians in Yemen and provide life-saving protection assistance and services through cluster members. In the first three months of 2019, overall **civilian casualties decreased by 30 per cent** compared to the monthly average of 100 in 2018. This was largely attributed to the

developments in Hudaydah, where there has been a virtual halt in airstrikes since December. However, other governorates of Hajjah, Amran, and Shabwah experienced increases. In Taizz, the level of civilian casualties doubled during January from the monthly average of 2018. The number of civilian impact incidents in Hajjah since the beginning of 2019 has also doubled compared to the monthly average in 2018, and the number of estimated casualties almost tripled. Protection Cluster members are mobilizing in response to the spike in civilian impact, civilian casualties, new displacement, as well as reports of civilians trapped between conflict lines unable to access services, including life-saving victim assistance. The Protection Cluster is also **providing intensive support to new partners in a nationwide scale-up of 28 additional community centers** to allow the vulnerable – including child protection, SGBV and persons with specific needs – greater access to a wide range of protection services **including psychosocial support, protection, cash assistance, legal assistance, mine risk education, and livelihood support** (amongst others). Thanks to the support from the Yemen Humanitarian Fund, the Protection cluster is also focusing on providing minimum protection services to the most critical 88 priority IDP collective sites out of the 1,340 country-wide, strengthening nationwide emergency victim assistance and establishing more community centres in areas severely affected by the conflict such, as Hajjah and Taizz.

- **Shelter/NFI/CCCM Cluster** - UNHCR also leads the Shelter/ NFI/ CCCM Cluster, providing technical support and advice at IDP hosting sites and capacity building support to cluster partners in integrating site management coordination approaches that promote evidence-based planning and active integration with different clusters for a holistic solution across the inter-agencies. The cluster continued to provide emergency assistance to the most affected areas, such as Al Hudaydah, Hadramaut, Amanat Al Asimah and Aden governorates, scaling up assistances in the priority IDP hosting sites as well as first-line assistance in areas of new displacement. Until March, more than **38,000 IDP families have been assisted with household items, 32,544 families with subsidies for rent or winterisation and some 9,000 with emergency shelter kits**. The cluster also recommends transitional shelters for those displaced for more than eight months, and 3,384 families were supported with this sustainable housing solution.

External / Donors Relations

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