





KEY FIGURES


 **22.2M**
People in need

 **2M** IDPs
89% of IDPs displaced
for more than a year

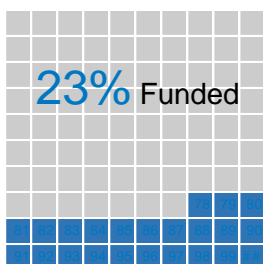
 **956k**
IDP returnees

CRI **1M** recipients
of CRIs since March 2015

 **280k**
refugees and
asylum seekers

 **\$198.7M**
requested in 2018

\$45.5M funded
as of 1 May 2018



OPERATIONAL UPDATE

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is concerned about the worsening security situation for civilians, including humanitarian workers in Yemen. In an incident on 21 April 2018, an international staff member of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), who was in charge of the detention programme, was fatally shot in an attack by unknown armed men, while travelling to visit a prison outside of Taizz. This brutal targeting of an aid worker is the latest example of the toll that the conflict in Yemen is taking on civilians, and the difficulties humanitarian aid workers continue to face in providing much needed assistance to the most vulnerable. Shrinking humanitarian space continues to be an issue in Yemen, exacerbated by airstrikes, ground clashes and other access constraints.

The two million people displaced across Yemen, nearly 90 per cent of whom fled their homes more than a year ago, are among the most vulnerable. Many families experiencing protracted displacement have exhausted their coping mechanisms and rely on humanitarian assistance for their survival. In addition, the intensification of the conflict in Yemen's Red Sea coast has prompted the displacement of 100,000 new IDPs since December 2017 alone. Women and children constitute three quarters of the displaced and are particularly vulnerable. Over one third of displaced Yemenis live in female-headed households, including many headed by female children below the age of 18. Displaced families are seeking temporary lodging in abandoned buildings, collective centres, spontaneous settlements, or host families, with large families often sharing one room.



Displaced Yemeni children wait for their mother's counselling session at a UNHCR supported community centre in Dhamar. Psychological trauma and distress is widespread in Yemen as a result of prolonged and ongoing conflict and insecurity. Photo: UNHCR/ Arwa Al-Sabri

IDP Response

Fighting on Yemen's western coast as well as other frontlines continues to trigger fresh displacement. In the last six months some 9,811 households (69,000 individuals), have been displaced to southern Governorates, namely Abyan, Lahj and Shabwa. UNHCR is very concerned about families who remain trapped in frontline areas, including Al Mukha and Hays. Some people are using boats to flee fighting in Hudaydah and Taizz into Lahj, Abyan and Hadramout, to avoid checkpoints and save overland transportation costs, which have increased exponentially with the deteriorating security situation and increased risk of road travel. Some 662 families (4,600 individuals) were newly displaced from Mawza to Al Mukha, in Taizz Governorate in the second half of April. Humanitarian partners have coordinated rapid assessments to areas with new IDPs. After UNHCR was temporarily forced to pause the distribution of core relief items (CRIs) to 1,345 conflict-affected families (9,415 individuals) in Al Mukha, due to fighting, the distribution has now started. Preparations are underway to distribute CRIs to an additional 1,200 families in Al Khawkhah in Hudaydah Governorate.

With the conflict in Yemen now in its fourth year, many IDPs are facing increased protection risks. A large number of displaced Yemenis who are approaching UNHCR to seek legal assistance require support with issuance of civil documentation, such as ID cards and birth certificates. Lack of legal documentation is linked to difficulties to claim rights to assistance, restricted freedom of movement and decreased work opportunities - adding to the existing vulnerabilities of displaced populations. In response, UNHCR is providing legal assistance to those in need through counselling, awareness-raising sessions, and ongoing engagement with relevant authorities. This year, over 5,200 individuals have received UNHCR-supported legal assistance.

To respond to the urgent need for shelter of newly displaced populations in Hajjah Governorate, UNHCR through partners completed the assessment of 3,215 families in Abs district. The families will receive transitional shelters that use an innovative design based on local materials. Further assessments are ongoing to identify an additional 1,500 families who will receive rental subsidies. In neighbouring

Hudaydah Governorate, UNHCR through partner Jeel Albena, distributed 1,169 CRI kits, containing mattresses, water buckets, blankets and kitchen items, and 716 Emergency Shelter Kits, to displaced families sheltering Al Qanawis district. Further to this, UNHCR provided rental subsidies to 500 vulnerable IDP families in Razih district and CRIs for 488 displaced families in Baqim district, both in Sada'a Governorate.

Refugee Response

Following continuous advocacy from UNHCR, 87 asylum seekers, who were arrested and kept in detention in Aden since February 2018, have been released. They were transferred to a Transit Shelter in Basateen, where they will be temporarily accommodated, whilst the search for durable solutions is ongoing.

The 13th Assisted Spontaneous Return (ASR) boat movement departed from the Port of Aden on 23 April with 141 refugees on board. A total of 1,754 individuals have now arrived in Berbera, Somalia as part of the ASR programme, which UNHCR is implementing in coordination with IOM. Some 3,900 Somalis have been counselled at Return Help Desks established in Kharaz camp and Basateen. The next ASR movement is planned to take place before the month of Ramadan.

The general food distribution for refugees in Kharaz camp started on 25 April, with vulnerable families prioritized to receive the first rations. The last food distribution in Kharaz camp took place in early February. Meanwhile, a re-documentation exercise of refugees living in Kharaz camp is ongoing and which is carried out by the Immigration, Passports and Naturalization Authority (IPNA) with the support of UNHCR. The exercise will help to update the number of refugees living in Kharaz camp.

UNHCR works closely with relevant authorities and stakeholders to improve refugee protection in Yemen. In this light, UNHCR facilitated an in-depth training in Sana'a on international refugee law, on the 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol, and UNHCR's mandate, which was attended by 40 lawyers from the Bar Association. In Hudaydah, UNHCR supported a training on the same subjects for 44 coast guards and 43 students of Sharia and Law.