

YEMEN

13 - 26 October 2017

KEY FIGURES

20.7 million

people in need

1,980,510

Internally Displaced Persons
(IDPs)

84 per cent of IDPs

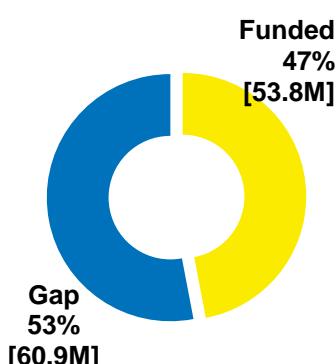
displaced for more than a year

946,044 IDP returnees

931,846 recipients of CRIIs since March 2015

280,539 refugees and asylum seekers

Funding
USD **114.6 M**
requested in 2017



Operational Update

Unhindered humanitarian access is critical to ensuring life-saving assistance is delivered and activities are conducted for those who need it the most, particularly families in frontlines areas. Despite challenges in access and operational conditions, UNHCR has conducted more than 50 high-risk missions during 2017, and provided life-saving assistance including emergency shelter and financial support to some 330,000 to displaced people and IDP returnees this year. However, worsening security conditions, including active hostilities, continue to hamper humanitarian efforts to reach those who are most need.

UNHCR has also witnessed an increase in needs among the displaced population, as prolonged conflict impacts on families' safety and security, in particular those forced to flee. UNHCR has received reports of new displacement and need for urgent aid for an estimated 1,000 families who have fled ongoing hostilities and are now seeking shelter in Zabid, Bayt Alfaqih and Al Jarrahi districts in Hudaydah. Furthermore, the number of IDPs in Turban district areas in Lahj Governorate continues to increase, with some 50 families arriving to the area since September after fleeing hostilities in Taizz. Rapid needs assessments are underway to better understand the needs of both communities.



UNHCR field staff carry out missions to some of the most isolated areas in Yemen, including in the mountainous areas of Dhamar Governorate.

Photo: UNHCR / A. Al-Sabri

IDP Response

Much needed UNHCR assistance reached 3,722 displaced families in need across Yemen during the reporting period. Distributions to the most vulnerable IDPs took place through national partners, Yemen Red Crescent Society and Jeel Al Bena, and international partners ADRA and ACTED. Core relief items (CRI), which include essential household items such as mattresses, blankets and kitchen sets, reached 360 IDP families in Dhamar City, 490 vulnerable families in Al-Dhahair in Sa'ada, 239 households in Khamir and Amran city, and 95 families in Sana'a and Amanat Al Asimah Governorates. In addition, UNHCR distributed CRIs to 537 IDP families in Kitaf district along with 2,001 households in Abs district, Hajjah Governorate.

UNHCR has increased financial support as a life-saving measure for displaced families, as conflict in Yemen prolongs and families struggle to cover their most basic needs. In Yemen's northern governorates of Sa'ada, Amanat Al Asimah and Amran, 266 displaced families received cash support to cover a range of needs. Meanwhile in the southern governorates of Aden, Lahj and Taizz, the second round of rental subsidy and multi-purpose cash assistance activities commenced for vulnerable IDPs, host communities and returnees. UNHCR partner Intersos has identified 410 extremely vulnerable families who will receive urgent financial support.

Despite ongoing hostilities, maintaining a strong field presence and engaging with affected communities remains a priority for UNHCR. A number of field outreach missions took place, including to Dhamar, Hudaydah, Hajjah and Ibb Governorates. In Dhamar, UNHCR carried out a Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) exercise for recipient families of CRIs. Families shared critical information with UNHCR, including their growing need for solar lanterns to form part of the CRI package in the absence of electricity. UNHCR also observed many individuals in need of protection assistance, among them expectant mothers and female headed households, elderly persons, individuals with medical needs and/or chronic diseases, and children living with disabilities, whose situation has been greatly exacerbated by displacement. Missions also took place to Ibb and Hajjah to monitor the implementation of a traditional shelter project for a community displaced for over two years.

Refugee Response

The third Assisted Spontaneous Return (ASR) took place on 23 October with 134 Somalis on board, bringing the total number of those who have returned to Somalia to 418. A further 1,228 individuals have confirmed their desire to return from Yemen to Somalia, however teams at the Return Help Desk in Kharaz have noted a decrease in the number of people signing up for the ASR programme during the past week, which could be linked to this month's events in Mogadishu.

UNHCR conducted its first meeting with the Education Technical Committee (ETC), which was established by the Ministry of Education. The ETC is tasked to work with UNHCR on the mainstreaming of refugee education into the national Yemeni system and to improve the quality of education. UNHCR and the ETC conducted joint field visits in the south of Yemen, to Basateen schools and the new Government kindergarten in Basateen, as well as to Kharaz refugee camp schools. UNHCR construction of four additional classrooms in Al-Ghafiki School in Basateen has also been completed to support both refugee and host community children. Furthermore, the school year has commenced in Kharaz camp with 900 girls and 1,300 boys attending primary school this week. Students received uniforms, books, pens and stationary items, provided by UNHCR.

On the occasion of “World Global Hand-Washing-Day” a hand-washing campaign was launched, targeting Kharaz Camp students from kindergarten to high school. Over several days, the hygiene promotion team conducted activities to raise personal hygiene awareness and to reduce the spread of infectious disease, such as Cholera. UNHCR, through partner Intersos, also conducted awareness sessions on water, sanitation and hygiene and distributed hygiene kits to vulnerable cases in Kharaz.

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