

# YEMEN

26 February 2021

## KEY FIGURES

**20.7 million**  
people in need

Over **4 million** internally displaced

Over **80 per cent** have been displaced for more than a year

**15,036** individuals (2,506 families) newly displaced in 2021<sup>1</sup>

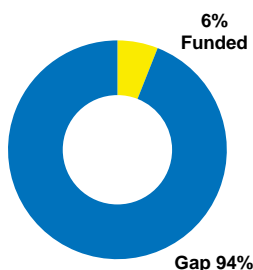
Children and women represent up to **79 per cent** of the total IDP population

**126,482** refugees

**10,997** asylum-seekers

## FUNDING

USD **271 M** required for 2021 operations



USD **16.1 M** received as of 23 February 2021

<sup>1</sup> IOM-RDT 22 February 2021

## IDP Response

During the reporting period, UNHCR and partners distributed emergency tents and core relief items to **1,400 individuals fleeing hostilities in Marib Governorate**. Ongoing clashes in Marib have forced over 1,150 families (6,900 individuals) to flee their homes during the last week to Sirwah district, with an estimated 70 per cent of the newly displaced being women and children. Most of the displaced families fled to Al-Rawdah Sirwah IDP hosting site, many of them displaced for a second time. IDP sites in Sirwah are faced with limited access to water, electricity, health, and education services, with most newly displaced families in need of shelter, core relief items, water, and food.

According to the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator, **Mark Lowcock, a recent escalation in hostilities threatens to trigger further mass displacement in Yemen**. Lowcock warned a major frontline shift could potentially displace 385,000 persons, while up to two million would be exposed to heightened protection risks. Ongoing clashes are further complicating a renewed diplomatic push to end the war. As the security environment deteriorates, the protection landscape continues to shrink as protracted displacement permeates across the country. Despite the complex security situation, UNHCR and partners remain committed to stay and deliver.

**Over 20 million Yemenis remain in need of humanitarian assistance—66 per cent of the total population—including 12 million in acute need, according to the recently released 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO)**. The HNO

provides a comprehensive outline of the humanitarian situation in Yemen, including the most pressing humanitarian needs and estimated number of people in need. Internal displacement remains one of the defining features of the conflict; Yemen currently has over four million internally displaced persons (IDPs), making it the fourth largest IDP crisis globally. In 2021, the situation is predicted to deteriorate further as the severity of needs increases pending a de-escalation in hostilities and improvement of the local economy and infrastructure.



Displaced Yemeni families fleeing conflict in Marib receive core relief items from UNHCR partner SHS in Sirwah district, Marib governorate © UNHCR / SHS

**The virtual High-Level Yemen Pledging Event scheduled for 1 March and hosted by Sweden and Switzerland will consist of three sessions:** opening remarks, with the participation of UNSG Antonio Guterres; statements and funding announcements by participants towards the *2021 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan*; and closing remarks by UN Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs Mark Lowcock, with a press conference to follow. Lowcock also informed on a 'virtual visit' to allow Yemenis the chance to communicate to participants the impact the conflict has had on their lives. A primary focus will be on food insecurity and the imminent threat of famine across the country. Following a lower overall pledging outcome at last year's event, this pledging event seeks to mobilize financial support to Yemen's prolonged humanitarian crisis through substantial country pledges and timely disbursement of funds. Member states and partners will be strongly encouraged to commit financial support ahead of the event. A summary of the Humanitarian Needs Overview 2021 has been prepared in advance to guide the event.

## Refugee response

**During the reporting period, UNHCR-supported clinics and healthcare services assisted over 2,500 refugees, asylum-seekers and members of the host community in Aden governorate.** UNHCR-supported clinics addressed consultations and specific cases mainly related to upper respiratory infections and febrile illness. An additional 5,000 refugees and Yemenis were reached with educational activities on nutrition and health, and awareness-raising sessions on COVID-19 prevention.

**UNHCR continues to counsel refugees on the Assisted Spontaneous Return programme.** UNHCR has so far registered some 1,450 refugees for departures in Aden governorate. The operation continues to work closely with partners in Somalia to resume boat journeys to Somalia and provide asylum-seekers with a safe return when conditions allow. Boat rotations have been suspended indefinitely since mid-March 2020 due to the pandemic.

## Special thanks to our major donors

Belgium | Canada | Denmark | Japan | Germany | Ireland | Netherlands Qatar | Sheikh Thani Bin Abdullah Bin Thani Al-Thani Humanitarian Fund | Spain | Switzerland

---