

Refugees and Asylum-Seekers in Yemen

August 2020



Shukria a 20 years old mother and her son Hamdan (1) on the boat that is taking them from Yemen to Somalia through the Assisted Voluntary Return programme last March. "I hope to be able to give him a proper education so that he can live a better life" © UNHCR/ Marie-Joelle Jean-Charles.

Refugee response during COVID-19

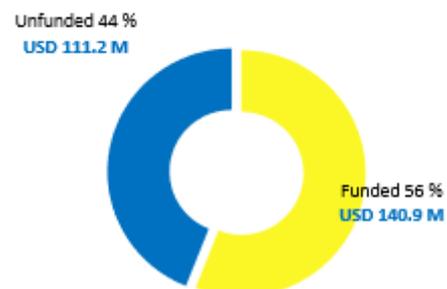
The 283,000 refugees and asylum-seekers estimated to be living in Yemen, mostly Somalis (90 per cent), are amongst the most vulnerable, especially in the context of COVID-19. Most refugees and asylum-seekers live in urban neighbourhoods in Aden and Sana'a, with fewer in Mukalla in Hadramaut governorate and Kharaz camp (9,000) in Lahj governorate. The community has been disproportionately affected by the pandemic due to the loss of livelihoods, caused by the slowing down of the economy as they had unskilled jobs in the informal sector, and discrimination due to scapegoating for bringing the disease to Yemeni communities. The number of individuals meeting UNHCR's cash assistance criteria increased exponentially since April.

In 2020, UNHCR will provide

- 44,275** refugees and asylum-seekers with **legal and psychosocial care**
- 100%** support to refugees with **primary health care** needs
- 13,400** new arrivals with **registration services**
- 22,000** families with **cash to address their socio-economic needs**
- 36,400** children access to **education**
- 1,120** survivors of **GBV with tailored support**
- 1,000** persons with **disabilities with assistive devices and physiotherapy**

FUNDING (AS OF 1 SEPTEMBER 2020)

USD 252.1 M* required for the Yemen operation, including the additional response for COVID-19.



UNHCR monitors COVID-19 related movement restrictions, especially at borders and between territories controlled by the *de facto* authorities in the north and the internationally recognised Government of Yemen in the south.

UNHCR's refugee programme in Yemen remains **relatively underfunded in comparison to its programme for displaced Yemenis**. If funding is not received by September, life-saving secondary and tertiary health referrals will halt, affecting 30,000 refugees. The lack of shelter maintenance such as installing sewage lines to homes will affect hundreds of families in Kharaz refugee camp. A very successful programme that used to provide microfinance loans to 200 refugee entrepreneurs, promoting self-sufficiency and resilience will come to an end as well as support for education and vocational trainings. Furthermore, the reduction of assistance during the cold winter season for clothing, blankets and fuel will expose vulnerable refugees to cold and heightened risks of getting respiratory infections, especially for new-borns, elderly and people living with chronic diseases.

HOW DO WE ASSIST?

 **Advocacy** for refugees and asylum-seekers' rights including access to asylum and public services

 **Support the authorities** to ensure registration and documentation

 **Legal assistance** for issuance of birth certificates and to facilitate representation in court and resolution of disputes (family, rent, etc.)

 **Cash assistance** to address socio-economically needs, micro-loans for entrepreneurs and provision of vocational training including with national certification

 **Protection monitoring and assessments** to address the risks and abuse faced by refugees and asylum-seekers

 **Durable solutions** Since 2017, UNHCR has been facilitating the **return of 5,416 Somali refugees home who had freely expressed their intentions to do so**. UNHCR provides returning families with civil documentation, medical screening and cash grants to reintegrate in Somalia. UNHCR is determined to initiate a similar programme of **Voluntary Return for Ethiopians when conditions will allow for a safe and dignified return**.

Local integration programmes aim to support refugees and asylum-seekers who have lived in Yemen for a prolonged period through entrepreneurship and vocational training. During COVID-19, UNHCR supported a 'cash for work' project of face masks produced by refugees, which were distributed to refugees, asylum seekers and UNHCR partner staff.

Refugees with specific needs that cannot be addressed in Yemen are **resettled** as a measure of last resort, although there are no distinct quotas for resettlement out of Yemen this year.

 Age and gender sensitive services for **children at risk and for survivors of gender-based violence**

 **Distribution of food** and monitoring of nutrition status in Kharaz refugee camp

 **Health services** including referrals to specialised health care, provision of medicines and therapy/assistive devices and rehabilitation of health facilities

 Provision of **shelter, basic household items and WASH services**

 Primary, secondary and tertiary **education**

WORKING WITH PARTNERS



EXTERNAL / DONORS RELATIONS

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For more information,
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