FACT SHEET

Yemen

January – December 2023

Years of devastating conflict in Yemen have led to a **protection and displacement crisis**. As of end of December 2023, 21.6 million Yemenis were dependent on humanitarian assistance, including 4.5 million internally displaced people (IDPs), and over 71,816 refugees and asylum-seekers.

Yemen is the only country in the Arabian Peninsula that is **party to the 1951 Refugee Convention** and its 1967 Protocol since 1980 (north) and 1990 (south). While Yemen has generously hosted refugees for decades, it lacks a national legal framework for the protection of refugees.

Confronted with the growing challenge of dealing with internal displacement, Yemen adopted its 2013 **National Policy for Addressing Internal Displacement** in 2023, which confirms responsibilities to assist, protect, and find solutions for IDPs.

Key population overview in Yemen

71,816

Number of **refugees and asylum-seekers** in Yemen. The majority are from Somalia (63.7%), Ethiopia (26.4%), Syria (4%), Eritrea (2.4 %), and Iraq (1.4%).

4.5 million

Number of **internally displaced people** in Yemen.

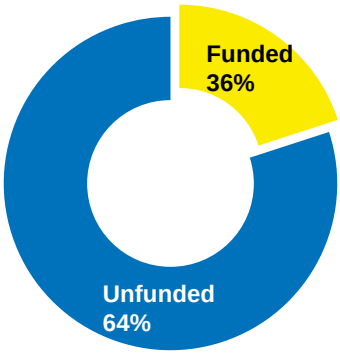
21.6 million

In need of **humanitarian assistance: 17.7 million** need protection; **7.5 million** need shelter and non-food items; **1.9 million** in displacement sites need protection and basic services.

Funding

$320.5 million

Requested for 2023 activities



UNHCR Presence in Yemen

UNHCR has been present in Yemen since 1987, when its first office opened in Sana'a. In 1989, UNHCR also established a presence in the south of the country. Today, UNHCR has a well-established presence across the country, covering most of the 22 governorates and 333 districts through its country office in Sana'a, a sub-office in Aden, field offices in Al-Hudaydah, Ibb, Marib, Sa'ada, and a field unit in Kharaz refugee camp in Lahj governorate until end of 2023.

Operation Overview

IDP response

UNHCR plays a key role in the inter-agency coordination mechanisms. UNHCR is the leading UN agency of the Protection, CCCM, and Shelter/NFI Clusters, and is the co-lead of the Refugee and Migrant Multi-Sector cluster. Through the inter-agency coordination mechanisms, UNHCR advocates on protection and displacement issues and durable solutions programming. Key areas, inter alia, include joint site identification (demining, site planning); policy on the civilian character of sites and non-encampment; housing, land, and property (HLP) issues; eviction guidance, including joint displacement tracking; support on community engagement, and protection considerations.

Right: *Morsi, an internally displaced boy in Marib, celebrates a goal scored by his friend.*

Morsi and his friends are playing table football at a child friendly space which is operated by one of UNHCR's partners in Alsowayda IPD site in Marib.

The space gives Morsi and his friends somewhere to meet, to enjoy, and to just be kids.

Alsowayda hosts almost 10,000 people who were forced to flee their homes due to conflict.

Refugee response

UNHCR is the only agency addressing the protection and well-being of refugees and asylum-seekers across Yemen. UNHCR and partners provide a wide array of services, such as protection, energy, education, healthcare, water, and sanitation. All services provided to refugees are open to all persons in need, free of charge.

The majority of the population lives in urban settings, concentrated in the cites of Sana'a and Aden. There is one refugee camp in the country, Kharaz refugee camp, in Lahj governorate, which currently hosts over 9,800 refugees and asylum-seekers. The vast majority (91 per cent) in the camp are from Somalia.

Key 2023 Refugee Response Key Achievements

Protection

Registration:

- 7,411 asylum-seekers registered
- 33,454 documents issued or renewed for refugees and asylum-seekers
- 789 refugees and asylum-seeker children registered and issued birth certificates

Legal Assistance:

- 2,797 refugees received legal assistance or counseling
- 276 legal awareness sessions conducted for refugees and asylum-seekers

Services for people with specific needs:

- 5,281 individuals received psychological first aid and psychosocial support
- 9,914 physiotherapy sessions for refugees and asylum seekers and vulnerable Yemenis with disabilities

Child Protection:

- 204 refugee children received legal assistance
- 930 refugee children received psychological first aid and psychosocial support
- 1,430 refugee children participated in recreational activities

Durable Solutions:

- 1,849 refugees expressed their intention to return to their countries of origin
- 1,422 refugees returned home safely with the Assisted Spontaneous Return programme

Education

- 8,983 refugee and host and asylum-seeker children enrolled in primary education
- 600 refugee and asylum-seeking children receiving support to access secondary education
- 5,157 Yemeni children attended one of UNHCR's supported schools
- 1,202 out-of-school children to restart school following UNHCR and partners' assistance
- 813 refugee and asylum-seeking children enrolled in language, literacy, and numeracy classes

Cash Assistance

- 29,800 refugees and asylum-seekers received multipurpose cash and winter assistance to support their most urgent needs. Winter assistance was distributed only in Q4.
- 2,272 refugees and asylum-seekers received emergency cash through case management to address identified protection needs

Health

- 101,583 refugees and asylum-seekers and 77,668 Yemeni nationals accessed one of the five health facilities supported by UNHCR
- 1,712 children under-5 and pregnant and lactating mothers admitted to a supplementary feeding programme

Right: *On 14 December 2023, Isaac and his family were among 159 Somali refugees who returned home to Somalia with support from UNHCR. "I took this decision to return home to Somalia for my children", said Isaac.*

Key 2023 IDP Response Key Achievements

Protection

Documentation:

- **12,294** national identification documents issued by the Civil Registry Authority (CRA) with UNHCR support

Legal Assistance:

- **15,091** IDPs and IDP returnees received individual legal assistance
- **2,322** legal awareness sessions conducted for IDPs and IDP returnees

Community-Based Protection:

- **1,875** awareness-raising activities conducted or supported by community-based protection networks

Services to people with specific needs:

- **22,793** IDPs and returnees received psychological first aid and psychosocial support

Child protection:

- **3,244** children received psychological first aid and psychosocial support
- **9,235** children participated in recreational activities

Shelter and Non-food Items

- 2,539 displaced families provided with emergency shelters
- 18,060 IDP and returnee households received core relief items, including blankets, sleeping mats, soap, buckets, mosquito nets, and a kitchen set
- 7,417 households assisted with house rehabilitation and reconstruction

Camp Coordination & Management

- 766 IDP sites supported/monitored by UNHCR and CCCM cluster partners.
- 154 IDP sites receiving infrastructural improvement projects to mitigate flooding, fire communicable diseases, and natural hazards
- 708 staff and authorities trained in site management

Cash Assistance

- 502,172 IDPs, IDP returnees, and host community members received multipurpose cash to support their most urgent needs
- 36,655 IDPs, IDP returnees, and host community members received emergency cash

Left:

A localized shelter unit being installed next to the ad hoc shelter a displaced family had built and been living in.

Once complete, the structure will provide improved living conditions for the family.

These shelters were produced locally in the governorate and were designed to suit local climate conditions.

Partnerships

Al-Awn Foundation for Development; Al-Dar Al-Arabia for Development and Advocacy; Al-MAGD Charitable Humanitarian Relief & Development; Bureau for Refugee Affairs; Deem for Development organization; Executive Unit for IDPs Camp Management; Field Medical Foundation; Human Access for Partnership and Development, Human Access for Partnership & Development; Immigration, Passports and Naturalization Authority; INTERSOS; Jeel Albena Association for Humanitarian Development; Migration, Refugees, and IDPs Studies Centre ; Nahda Makers Organization; NAMA Small and Microfinance Foundation; Qatar Red Crescent Society; Rawabi Al-Nahdah Developmental Foundation; Safe Road for Peace and Development; Society For Humanitarian Solidarity; Sustainable Development Foundation; Tamdeen Youth Foundation; The National Committee for Refugee Affairs; The Supreme Council for Management and Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and International Cooperation; Yemen Al-Khair for Relief & Development Foundation; Yemen Development Foundation; Yemen General Union of Sociologists, Social Workers and Psychologists; Yemen Red Crescent Society; Yemen Women Union.

Coordination

UNHCR leads the Camp Management & Camp Coordination (CCCM), Protection, and Shelter/Non-food Item (NFI) clusters; and co-leads the Refugee & Migration Multisector cluster with IOM. As part of the UN Country Team, UNHCR co-chairs the prevention to sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) network. UNHCR is an active participant in several inter-agency working groups, including the Durable Solutions Working Group, the Humanitarian Access Working Group, the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Working Group, and other specialized task forces.

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is grateful for the support of:

With the support of the following organizations and private sector partners:
Aurora Humanitarian Initiative | Fondation de Luxembourg | Private donors USA | Organizations & private donors Qatar | Private donors Luxembourg | Private donors Canada | Private donors MENA | Private donors France | Private donors Armenia | Organizations & private donors Qatar | Private donors UK | Private donors UAE | Other private donors

With additional flexible funding support from:
Sweden | España con ACNUR | Norway | Japan for UNHCR | France | United Kingdom | Private donors Republic of Korea | Netherlands | Denmark | Germany | Japan | Private donors Italy | Switzerland | USA for UNHCR | Sweden for UNHCR | Belgium | Ireland | Australia for UNHCR | UNO-Fluchtlingshilfe | USA | Private donors Luxembourg | Spain | UK for UNHCR | Private donors China | France | Private donors Netherlands |

For more details, please contact:
Vi Tran, External Relations Officer, tran@unhcr.org
Gregory Doane, Associate External Relations Officer, doane@unhcr.org

Yemen Global Focus | Yemen Operational Portal | UNHCR Yemen Twitter | UNHCR Yemen Facebook