UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

PRESS RELEASE

**PLACE**
Aden, Yemen

**DATE**
4 August 2026

# EU boosts Protection for Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Yemen

**Yemen -** *UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, welcomes a €1 million humanitarian grant from the European Union (EU) through its Humanitarian Aid Operations. This funding will support some 13,000 refugees and asylum seekers in Yemen to access essential protection services.*

Yemen hosts over 64,000 refugees and asylum seekers, primarily from Somalia, Ethiopia, Syria, Eritrea, Iraq, and Sudan. The ongoing conflict and economic hardship have left many without access to documentation, legal assistance, and other essential services.

Thanks to the EU's support, UNHCR and partners are able to assist refugees and asylum seekers to access registration, documentation and legal identity services. This will enable them to access education, healthcare, and other essential services, and support their rights and safe movement within Yemen.

Refugees and asylum seekers will also receive legal counselling and assistance on issues such as tenancy disputes, detention, civil documentation, birth registration and other legal matters affecting their protection. In addition, specialised child protection and gender-based violence services will be provided through case management, psychosocial support, family tracing and reunification, and safe referral pathways. These interventions will support early identification of individuals at heightened risk, prevention activities, safe referrals and survivor-centred assistance.

The project will also strengthen protection monitoring and referral mechanisms at key entry and transit points, to help identify people with specific protection needs and connect them with appropriate services.

"The EU's support is critical to strengthening protection systems and reducing protection risks for refugees and asylum seekers in Yemen," said Armen Yedgaryan, UNHCR Representative in Yemen. "At a time of growing humanitarian challenges, this partnership helps ensure that some of the most vulnerable people can find safety and support when they need it most."

"Refugees and asylum seekers in Yemen can access vital protection and legal services through this new EU humanitarian support, ensuring their rights are upheld and they can live in safety and dignity," said Anne Sophie Laenkholm, the EU Humanitarian Aid Acting Head of Yemen Office. "The EU's cooperation with UNHCR is essential to safeguarding rights, expanding access to critical services, and offering hope to those forced to flee."

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**About UNHCR**
UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, protects people forced to flee because of conflict and persecution. We save lives, protect rights and help build better futures.

**About EU Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid**
The European Union and its Member States are among the world's leading donors of humanitarian aid. Relief assistance is an expression of European solidarity with people in need all around the world. It aims to save lives, prevent and alleviate human suffering, and safeguard the integrity and human dignity of populations affected by disasters and human-induced crises. Through the Directorate General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations of the European Commission, the European Union helps millions of victims of conflict and disasters every year. With headquarters in Brussels and a global network of field offices, the EU provides assistance to the most vulnerable people on the basis of humanitarian needs.

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