

Cash Based Interventions Factsheet



IDP women receive their multi-purpose cash assistance at a local financial institution. © UNHCR

Needs in Yemen

Yemen is among the worst humanitarian crises globally. Almost ten years of conflict have created and exacerbated vulnerabilities and eroded resilience and capacities to cope. Moreover, Yemen is home to an estimated 4.56 million internally displaced people (IDPs) and over 70,000 refugees and asylum seekers. These displacement-affected individuals and families are particularly vulnerable, with reduced access to basic services and livelihoods, and face numerous protection risks, often daily. Many turn to harmful coping mechanisms to get by, including skipping meals, school dropout, child labour, taking out loans, moving to poorer quality shelter, and early marriage.

Why cash? Cash is one of the most rapid, efficient, and effective ways to support vulnerable people forced to flee their homes and those who are in dire circumstances. Cash respects a person's independence and dignity by providing a sense of normality and ownership, allowing affected individuals and families to decide what they need the most in their circumstances. Over 85 per cent of recipients confirmed they prefer to receive support entirely or partially through cash. Cash also means families can purchase goods and services from local businesses, boosting the local economy.

Types of UNHCR cash-based interventions in Yemen: In Yemen, UNHCR uses various types of cash-based interventions, each with a view to mitigate protection concerns and harmful coping mechanisms.

→ **Multi-purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA):**

Addresses socio-economic vulnerabilities to help affected families to meet basic needs and avoid using harmful coping mechanisms, such as skipping meals, dropping out of school, debt, and early marriage.

→ **Case Management Cash**

Supports highly vulnerable individuals who are undergoing a case management process to address protection concerns, working in combination with complementary protection activities.

→ **Assisted Voluntary Return Cash**

Supports safe, dignified, and voluntary return to country of origin in coordination with the country of origin and alongside legal assistance as needed.

→ **Emergency Cash Assistance**

Addresses unforeseen and life-threatening emergencies and is processed within 72 hours. Examples of uses include severe non-chronic medical expenses and cases of home eviction.

→ **Winterization Cash**

Addresses additional needs and expenditures arising due to harsh winter weather conditions, such as winter clothes, shelter insulation, and heating costs.

→ **Shelter Rehabilitation and Maintenance Cash**

Improves the living conditions of those in sub-standard housing or shelter and supports durable solutions.

→ **Cash for Documentation/IDs**

Facilitates access to national identity documents for vulnerable IDPs and IDP returnees, which promotes access to key services, such as healthcare and education, and rights.

Who is eligible for cash?

Detailed assessments are conducted, and selection criteria are applied to identify who is eligible for assistance and who is most in need. While weighting and criteria differ according to the type of cash-based intervention, the focus is on vulnerability and capacity to cope, including income, reliance on coping mechanisms, shelter conditions, household size, and specific protection vulnerabilities, including persons living with disabilities. In 2023, for example, UNHCR assessed 134,000 IDP households comprising over 800,000 individuals, allowing targeting of the most vulnerable.

2023 Achievements:

Cash intervention	Refugee individuals reached	IDP individuals reached	USD in millions
MPCA	17,873	502,172	21.5
Case management cash	1,694	-	1.2
Emergency cash	2,272	36,655	1.6
Winterization cash	11,927	58,852	1.5
Cash for shelter	-	46,393	6.0
Assisted voluntary return cash	1,422	-	0.3
ID cash	-	3,077	0.09

Muath's story

Muath and his family fled from conflict and insecurity in Taizz to Sana'a in search of safety and a livelihood.

They faced the threat of being evicted from their home as they struggled to make ends meet in their new location, and with nowhere to return to.

UNHCR provided cash assistance to help them to pay their overdue rent and to keep a roof over their heads and ensure they have someplace safe to live.



Muath talks with a UNHCR partner staff member about his situation.

In 2024, UNHCR requires **100M USD** to respond to identified needs for cash-based interventions in Yemen.

Effectiveness, quality, and Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM)

To assess effectiveness, quality, and suitability of cash assistance, UNHCR conducts regular PDM exercises to gain insight into the experience of recipients as well as the uses of cash to improve programming.

Recent PDM findings showed:

- Almost all respondents reported using at least one harmful coping mechanism in the month before receiving cash.
- Harmful coping mechanisms included reducing expenditures on key items, skipping rent payment, debt, moving to poorer quality shelter, stopping a child from attending school, and begging.
- Almost all (99 per cent) of respondents reported a significant (41 per cent), moderate (34 per cent), or slight (24 per cent) improvement in living conditions while receiving cash.

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