

Yemen

January – June 2024

Years of devastating conflict in Yemen have led to a **protection and displacement crisis**. According to the Humanitarian Response Plan, 18.2 million Yemenis were dependent on humanitarian assistance, including 4.5 million internally displaced people (IDPs), and 60,193 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 its responsibilities to assist, protect, and find solutions for IDPs.

Key population overview in Yemen



60,193

Number of **refugees and asylum-seekers** in Yemen. The majority are from Somalia (64%), Ethiopia (25%), Syria (5%), Iraq and Eritrea (1%)



4.5 million

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



18.2 million

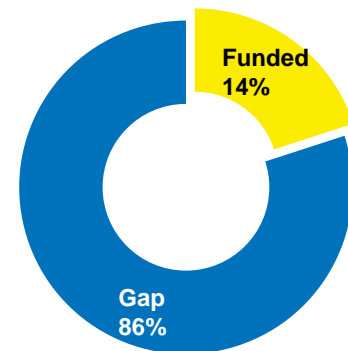
need **humanitarian assistance**: 16.4 million need protection assistance; 6.7 million need shelter and non-food items; and 1.8 million live in displacement sites and need protection and basic services.

Funding



\$354.4 million

Requested for 2024 activities, as of 30 June 2024.



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, and field offices in Al-Hodeidah, Ibb, Marib, and Sa'ada.



Operation Overview

IDP response

UNHCR plays a key role in the inter-agency coordination mechanisms. UNHCR is the lead UN agency of the Protection, CCCM, and Shelter/NFI Clusters and co-leads the Refugee and Migrant Multi-Sector. Through inter-agency coordination mechanisms, UNHCR advocates for protection, displacement issues, and durable solutions programming. Key areas, among other things, include 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.



UNHCR partners conducting assessments in Dabbat site in Taizz governorate © NMO/Ezzedine Mohammed

Refugee response

UNHCR is the only agency addressing the protection and well-being of refugees and asylum-seekers across Yemen. UNHCR and its partners provide a wide array of services, such as protection, energy, education, healthcare, water, and sanitation. 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 cities 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.



Somali refugees waiting to depart to Berbera, Somalia. UNHCR supports safe, dignified, and voluntary return. © UNHCR/GregoryDoane

Key 2023 Refugee Response Key Achievements

Protection

Registration:

- 3,031 refugees and asylum-seekers registered.
- 7,757 documents issued or renewed for refugees and asylum-seekers.
- 140 refugees and asylum-seeker children registered and issued birth certificates.

Legal Assistance:

- 1,755 refugees and asylum-seekers received legal assistance or counseling.
- 793 refugees and asylum-seekers participated in legal awareness sessions.

Services for people with specific needs:

- 931 individuals received psychological first aid and psychosocial support.
- 139 persons living with a disability received specialized support.

Child Protection:

- 128 refugee children received legal assistance.
- 595 refugee children received psychological first aid and psychosocial support.
- 524 refugee children participated in recreational activities.

Solutions:

- 802 refugees attended information or counseling sessions and provided with information.


Education:

- 5,371 refugee and asylum-seeker children enrolled in primary education.
- 729 refugee and asylum-seeking children enrolled in language, literacy, and numeracy classes.
- 190 out-of-school children assisted to restart school.
- 129 refugee and asylum-seekers supported by DAFI scholarships to go to university.
- 20 refugee and asylum-seekers enrolled in a vocational school.



Huda, a Somali refugee, receive cash assistance as part of the case management process. © UNHCR/GregoryDoane


Cash Assistance:

- 899 refugees and asylum seekers received emergency cash.
- 9,284 refugees and asylum seekers received multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA).


Health:

- 45,935 refugees and asylum seekers, and 13,929 Yemeni nationals accessing one of the five UNHCR supported primary health centres.
- 240 children under 5 and pregnant and breastfeeding mothers admitted to a supplementary feeding Programme.

Key 2023 IDP Response Key Achievements


Protection
Documentation:

- 2,015 national identification documents issued by the Civil Registry Authority (CRA) with UNHCR support.

Legal Assistance:

- 3,650 IDPs and IDP returnees received legal assistance.
- 214 legal awareness sessions conducted for IDPs and IDP returnees.

Community-Based Protection:

- 947 awareness-raising activities conducted or supported by community-based protection networks.

Services to people with specific needs:

- 4,661 IDPs and IDP returnees received psychological first aid and psychosocial support.

Child protection:

- 1,258 children received psychological first aid and psychosocial support.
- 2,127 children participated in recreational activities.

NFI Shelter and Non-food Items:

- 2,503 IDP and returnee households received core relief items, including blankets, sleeping mats, soap, buckets, mosquito nets, and kitchen sets.
- 577 households assisted with house rehabilitation and reconstruction.
- 205 households provided with transitional shelters.



Non-food item distributions at an IDP site in Maqbanah district, Taizz governorate © UNHCR/Alezz Alaqel.

Cash Assistance:

- 196,415 IDPs, IDP returnees, and host community members received multi-purpose cash to address their most urgent needs.
- 1,995 IDPs, IDP returnees, and host community members received emergency cash to address urgent protection needs.

Housing (Shelter and CCCM):

- 301 contingency emergency shelters prepositioned and distributed.
- 166 households assisted with shelter maintenance and upgrade in accordance with minimum standards.

Partnerships

Al-awn Foundation for Development | Al-dar Al-Arabia for Development and Advocacy | Benevolence Coalition for Humanitarian Relief | Deem for Development Organization | Executive Unit | Field Medical Foundation | Human Access for Partnership and Development | The Immigration, Passports, and Nationalization Authority | Jeel Albena Association for Humanitarian Development | The Migration, Refugees, and IDPs Studies Centre at Sana'a University | NAMA Small and Microfinance Foundation | Nahda Makers Organization | The National Committee for Refugee Affairs | Qatar Red Crescent | Rawabi Al-Nahda Developmental Foundation | Safe Road for Peace and Development Organization | Sustainable Development Foundation | The Supreme Council for Management and Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and International Cooperation | Society for Humanitarian Solidarity | Tamdeen Youth Foundation | Yemen Alkair for Relief and Development | Yemen Development Foundation | Yemeni General Union Of Sociologists, Social Workers, and Psychologists | Yemeni Red Crescent Society | Yemen Women Union.

UNHCR is also partnering with four displaced-led organizations to ensure accountability to affected populations: Al Ghaith | Foundation for Humanitarian Cooperation for People with Disabilities | Reef Foundation for Human Development | Social Researcher Foundation for Development (SRFD).

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