UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency | Yemen

House Rehabilitation

IDP returnee, Nour, shows the roof damage of her family's shelter in Aden, Yemen @UNHCR/SHS

Context

The ideal solution to forced displacement is safe, dignified, and voluntary return to the place of origin. Unfortunately, for most of Yemen's displaced, this remains elusive.

While many IDPs wish to return home, only a few can do so, with most facing protracted displacement.

Key factors influencing return include safety and security (90%), livelihood opportunities (56%), and access to adequate housing and property rehabilitation mechanisms (40%).

IDP returnees struggle to rebuild their homes, are exposed to hazards, lack basic services, and face potential secondary displacement due to unmet needs.

According to UNHCR, 34% of IDP households have no income, while 47% earn less than 25,000 YER (USD 41) per month. With average family sizes of six, families are forced to make difficult choices.

House Rehabilitation Programme

To support returns, UNHCR has a house rehabilitation programme, targeting the most vulnerable returnees.

Guided by the Yemen Shelter and NFI Cluster priorities, the program provides conditional cash to IDP returnees for house rehabilitation.

This initiative promotes self-reliance by covering equipment and labour costs, enabling returnees to repair conflict-damaged homes.

This intervention has a double impact—it benefits both returnees and the host community by stimulating local economies and fostering peaceful coexistence.

Monitoring visit to Faisal, who completed the second phase of the rehabilitation process. © UNHCR/SHS

How It Works

- ➔ Recipients are selected based on vulnerability and shelter conditions, ensuring transparency.
- ➔ Housing, Land, and Property issues are addressed during the process, with legal assistance provided if needed. Beneficiaries must demonstrate house ownership, verified by UNHCR and partners.
- ➔ A shelter assessment is conducted to identify the scope of intervention and a detailed bill of quantities is drawn up, with a maximum ceiling cost for each house.
- ➔ Three cash instalments are provided, contingent upon UNHCR and partner review of progress at each stage to ensure the cash is being used as intended.

Key 2024 achievements:

IDP returnee households assisted with house rehabilitation	**2,128**

Achievement in So Aden house Rehabilition: 1,346 HH