Quick Impact Projects

One of three classrooms and two restrooms in Al-Jawf to ensure education for displaced host students. © UNHCR

Context in Yemen

Yemen is one of the world's most severe humanitarian crises, marked by ongoing conflict, climate change, economic collapse, and the breakdown of public institutions and services.

The country is home to an estimated 4.8 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) and hosts over 60,000 refugees and asylum seekers. Many of these individuals lack access to basic services, and the protracted crisis has further eroded their ability to support themselves. A significant number of households live in extreme vulnerability.

Both displaced families and host communities, whether in areas of return or displacement, urgently need assistance to ensure adequate service provision and to foster self-reliance.

What are QIPs? Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) are community focused, small-scale, low-cost interventions that can be rapidly implemented to support vulnerable populations, whether in IDP hosting areas or return areas. They aim to benefit both host communities and displaced persons, fostering social cohesion in the process and creating conditions conducive to durable solutions. QIPs also serve as a bridge between humanitarian and development efforts, helping to reduce long-term dependency on aid.

Types of QIPs: QIPs vary in scope and form but are always designed to address urgent community needs as identified by the community. UNHCR implements QIPs in areas with high concentrations of IDPs, IDP returnees, or refugees. These projects are best implemented as part of a broader, area-based development or recovery strategy to ensure a comprehensive approach to community needs. Generally, QIPs can be categorised as having social, economic, and community-cohesion benefits.

Examples from Yemen: UNHCR implements various types of QIPs in Yemen. Examples include the construction of access roads to remote communities, the rehabilitation or expansion of schools and technical institutes, the refurbishment and equipping of health centres, sanitation interventions, support to enhance access to water, small business start-up support, and the livelihoods training.

Empowering female headed households

A cohort of IDP women were trained in photography, empowering them to generate an income. Graduates also received startup kits upon completion, including professional grade cameras.

There is high demand for female photographers at women's events, offering a sustainable income opportunity. Bookings were secured by 80 percent of participants within three-months.

Right: course participants during a training session.

Achievements in 2024

UNHCR and its partners implemented over 100 Quick Impact Projects in Yemen in 2024. These projects enhanced employability, promoted education for children, supported the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities, empowered communities with renewable energy and water solutions, and mitigated flood risks in IDP sites. These interventions have empowered forcibly displaced individuals and families, promoted well-being, fostered social cohesion, improved living conditions, and saved lives.

Youth empowerment through skills

Comprehensive training combining theory and practical skills in aluminum working was provided to IDPs in Sana'a.

Graduates also received startup kits to support entry to the labour market.

As many as 90 percent found work or started a business following the programme, which was designed to address skilled labour shortages.

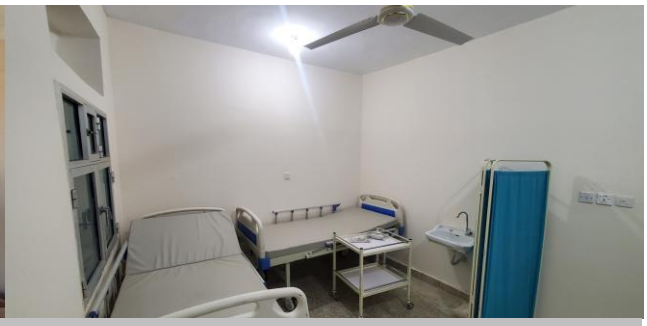
Left: a trainee hones technique and precision.

Mitigating flood impacts to safeguard displaced communities

Flooding poses repeat risks to IDP sites in Yemen, regularly endangering lives, homes, and belongings.

Infrastructure interventions mitigate flood risks and provide communities with peace of mind.

Right: Quick impact project at DarSalm IDP site to improve drainage and reduce flood risk.



Promoting health outcomes for forcibly displaced and host communities

Years of conflict left the Milaha health unit largely unfunctional. The building was unsafe and posed risks, despite a sizeable population of over 800 IDPs and host community members nearby. UNHCR and its partner rehabilitated the centre, including repairs to the structure, installation of a solar energy system and an improved sanitation system, as well as provision of essential equipment and furnishings.

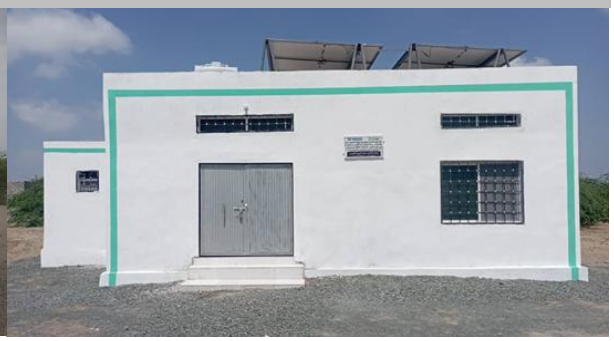
Today, the Milaha health centre is functioning with supplies and staff provided by the authorities.

Above: before and after photos of the Milaha health unit

Promoting health outcomes for forcibly displaced and host communities

Rehabilitating the Al Rabee Health Facility in Hodeida Governorate restored healthcare access, providing a permanent base for medical services, timely diagnostics, disease prevention, and a sustainable healthcare hub.

Below: before and after photos of the Al Rabee health unit.



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