Yemen

Operational Update 2026

Warda and her daughter Rasha, Somali refugees in Yemen, wait to check in at Aden Airport before flying home to Somalia through UNHCR's Assisted Spontaneous. ©UNHCR/Nahda Makers Organization.

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

After more than a decade of conflict, Yemen remains one of the world's largest and most complex humanitarian crises. The country continues to face the cumulative effects of new and protracted displacement, economic deterioration, climate-related shocks, and limited access to essential services. Since 1 August, intensified fighting and shifting conflict frontlines have triggered significant new displacement , increasing protection risks and humanitarian needs and placing further pressure on already overstretched services. Despite the ongoing insecurity, mixed movements into Yemen have continued, with at least 23,238 arrivals from the East and Horn of Africa, mainly by sea, between August and end of September 2026.

POPULATIONS FIGURES

22.3 M	5.2 M	65,000+	300,000+
People in need	Internally displaced people	Refugees & asylum-seekers	Newly displaced since August

UNHCR RESPONSE AT A GLANCE

Individuals reached by Sector

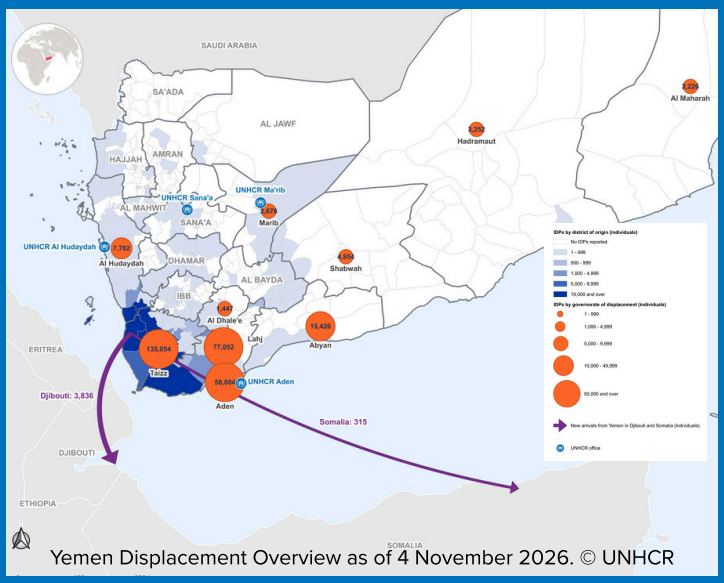
Protection 35,790	Health 36,963	Multi-purpose cash assitance 35,790	Shelter 26,497
Education 4,873	Durable solutions 649	$193.6 M UNHCR 2026 Financial Requirements	

EMERGENCY RESPONSE SITUATION AND UNHCR RESPONSE
(as of 5 November 2026)

Following the declaration of a **Level 1 emergency** for Yemen, Djibouti and Somalia on 16 September, UNHCR has strengthened preparedness and response across the three countries, supported by the Yemen Regional Response and Preparedness Appeal.

UNHCR YEMEN EMERGENCY RESPONSE REQUIREMENTS
USD 25 million required | 231 people targeted
Under the UNHCR Yemen Regional Response and preparedness Appeal (October 2026 - March 2027).

With over a quarter million people displaced since August, UNHCR has scaled up its response to new displacement in Yemen, providing emergency cash assistance alongside protection, shelter support, and non-food items. The response builds on UNHCR's existing presence and programmes across Yemen, enabling assistance to be rapidly directed to displaced families with heightened vulnerabilities and protection risks.



Yemen Displacement Overview as of 4 November 2026. © UNHCR

UNHCR EMERGENCY RESPONSE

15,800+ households
reached through rapid assessments across Abyan, Aden, Marib, Lahj and Taiz.

Scaling up protection monitoring and risk analysis, referrals, community-based protection networks, and emergency protection cash.

5,100+ households
received emergency multipurpose cash assistance allowing families to meet their most immediate needs.

2,100+ households
reached with emergency shelter cash across Abyan, Aden and Lajh.

3,000 core relief kits
on their way to Yemen to meet urgent basic needs

Cluster Coordination

SHELTER, LAND and SITE

5,500+ households
received shelter assistance

5,600+ households
assisted with essential household items

PROTECTION

30,600+ people
reached with protection services

REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS RESPONSE
(as of 30 September 2026)

PROTECTION

11,500+	2,500+	857	~ 250
people issued identity documents	people received individual legal assistance	detention monitoring visits	children supported through birth registration

KEEPING REFUGEES DOCUMENTED AND CONNECTED TO SERVICES

- Keeping refugees documented is an essential protection prerequisite, enabling access to territory and asylum, freedom of movement, and access to basic services.
- As of September 2026, UNHCR sustained the systems that ensure access to territory and asylum, for **over 11,500 refugees and asylum seekers** who received identity documents from UNHCR and authorities.
- **Over 2,500** were newly registered on an individual basis with the minimum set of data required. UNHCR also supported nearly **250 children** through birth registration procedures, helping families obtain legal proof of identity required for children to access education, health care and other essential services.

PROTECTION THROUGH FAIR PROCEDURES, LEGAL AID AND DETENTION MONITORING

- Maintaining access to asylum and protection procedures remained essential in 2026. As of September, UNHCR issued **78 Refugee Status Determination decisions**, ensuring individuals seeking international protection could access fair and established decision-making processes.
- Throughout this period, UNHCR sustained legal counselling and representation to help refugees navigate documentation barriers, resolve administrative obstacles, access mediation services, and reduce exposure to exploitation. A total of **175 legal awareness sessions** reached nearly **2,500 individuals**, while **over 2,500 refugees** received individual legal assistance.
- Detention risks remained a persistent protection concern. UNHCR conducted **857 detention monitoring visits** and monitored or supported **447 detainees**, enabling protection follow-up, referrals, and advocacy where feasible.

Nearly 7,600 complaints, inquiries, and feedback messages received through UNHCR mechanisms, helping identify and address concerns, inform programme adjustments and improve responsiveness of service delivery.

Accountability to affected people and community engagement

- UNHCR strengthened accountability to affected people through accessible feedback channels and sustained community engagement.
- UNHCR supported seven community groups, strengthening two-way communication, outreach, and foster trust between communities and service providers.

CHILD PROTECTION: SAFETY, FOLLOW-UP AND WELL-BEING

- Displacement risks affect children first and often for the longest. UNHCR continues to prioritize child protection services designed to ensure timely identification, sustained follow-up, and longer-term wellbeing. Refugees and asylum seekers children were supported through child protection services and best interest procedures, including **623 Best Interest Assessments**.
- **124 unaccompanied children** and **79 separated children** have been newly identified since the start of 2026, and supported through appropriate caregiving arrangements, with follow-up and monitoring visits to ensure safety and continuity of care.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE RESPONSE AND RISK MITIGATION

- UNHCR strengthened access to safe, survivor centered gender-based violence services, reaching **over 1,400 people** through GBV awareness and risk mitigation activities aimed at reducing exposure to harm, promoting the empowerment of empowering individuals and communities, and strengthening their access to information and support services. **Over 160 high risk cases** were supported to access GBV response services, including confidential referrals and follow-up care.

- In parallel, UNHCR supported children's psychosocial well-being and recovery. **Over 3,000 children** have received psychosocial support, and **nearly 1,000 children** participated in structured recreational activities. Legal assistance has further been provided to **nearly 300 children** and trained **32 frontline actors** on child protection and children's rights, strengthening the quality and reach of child protection responses.

Refugee children participate in a recreational activity, playing with building blocks in Marib. © UNHCR/Human Access.

SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE WITH SPECIFIC NEEDS

- UNHCR prioritized tailored protection responses for refugees facing heightened risks and compounded vulnerabilities. As of September 2026, nearly **5,400 individuals** with specific needs received psychosocial support. In parallel, UNHCR assessed **over 3,200 households** at heightened risk to identify vulnerabilities and protection concerns, enabling evidence-based prioritization, referrals, and follow-up support. This included **nearly 400 refugees with disabilities** who received targeted assistance to address barriers to accessing essential services and support their daily needs.

Refugee inclusion starts with a sense of belonging. In Yemen, refugees contribute to their communities through their skills, resilience, and determination as they rebuild their lives in safety and dignity. With the support of UNHCR and its partners, they are empowered to participate, connect, and help shape a brighter future for themselves and their communities.

Muna's Journey: From Struggle to Strength

Photo: © Abdullah Babrek/UNHCR

Muna, a 29-year-old Somali refugee living with a physical disability, struggled to meet her family's basic needs and relied on begging to support her two children. Through UNHCR's cash assistance programme, she was able to provide for her family, enroll her children in school, and find a more sustainable way to meet their needs. Today, Muna supports her family with greater dignity and hope while helping other vulnerable refugees in her community. Her story highlights how timely cash assistance can strengthen self-reliance, restore dignity, and improve access to essential services.

CASH ASSISTANCE | HEALTH | EDUCATION

7,300+	~ 37,000	4,100
refugee supported with multi-purpose cash	people received medical care	Children enrolled in primary education

CASH ASSISTANCE AS PROTECTION

- Financial assistance remained one of UNHCR Yemen's most effective protection tools in 2026, enabling the most vulnerable families to meet basic needs and while maintaining dignity and choice. As of September 2026, through multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA), UNHCR supported **over 7,300 individuals** with predictable cash support, prioritizing families facing persistent vulnerabilities and heightened protection risks, and helping them cover essential expenses and make informed decisions according to their needs and priorities. This assistance helped reduce reliance on harmful coping strategies, including withdrawing children from school, early marriage, and taking on unsustainable debt.
- In parallel, **more than 1,900 individuals** received Cash for Protection assistance linked to case management, enabling them to address specific protection risks and reduce reliance on negative coping mechanisms.

HEALTH: SUSTAINING LIFE-SAVING ACCESS

- UNHCR supported medical treatment and care for nearly **37,000 individuals**, including referrals for **over 900 cases** to specialized medical services. UNHCR equipped or rehabilitated three health facilities and ensured availability of psychiatric/MHPSS services at health centres by supporting specialized staff.
- Reproductive health awareness sessions reached **over 21,000 individuals**, including **nearly 250 births** attended by skilled health workers, improving access to safe delivery care for women in vulnerable settings. **Over 800 children and pregnant or lactating women** accessed supplementary feeding programmes, helping prevent and address malnutrition. Disease-related counselling sessions were provided to improve well-being, help individuals cope with distress and protection risks, alongside targeted support to people with high-risk medical conditions requiring specialized follow-up.

EDUCATION: PROTECTING FUTURES

- UNHCR supported refugee children to remain in school despite displacement and poverty, recognizing education as a critical protection intervention. As of September 2026, close to 4,100 children were enrolled in primary education, helping to ensure continued access to learning despite displacement. UNHCR supported nearly 600 children in literacy, numeracy, and language classes, strengthening their essential skills and opportunities for self-reliance.
- Over 2,400 children received material support to access educational materials and other support to facilitate access to education, helping reduce barriers to attendance and improve retention in school.

IMPROVING CONDITIONS IN KHARAZ REFUGEE CAMP

- In Kharaz Refugee Camp, Yemen's only refugee camp, UNHCR combines multi-sector services with practical site improvements to make daily life safer for refugees.

9,831 refugees
hosted in Kharaz

- Located in Lahj Governorate, Kharaz refugee camp host around 9,831 refugees, primarily from Somalia and Ethiopia, many of whom have lived in Yemen for years.
- Refugees in the camp continue to benefit from multi-sector services supported by UNHCR, including cleaning campaigns, access to water services aligned with Sphere standards, protection assistance, health and education services, contributing to safer and more dignified living conditions.

- UNHCR has invested in sustainable infrastructure through solarization of refugee households, the camp's water pumping system, and the UNHCR supported health clinic, which serves refugees and nearby hosting communities. This has helped reduce reliance on fuel, and supporting peaceful coexistence between refugees and host communities.

DURABLE SOLUTIONS: SAFE PATHWAYS

- **Nearly 1,800 refugees and asylum- seekers** received counselling on conditions of return conditions, enabling them to make informed decision-making regarding their future and available durable solutions.
- UNHCR also assisted **607 refugees** with safe and dignified voluntary return to Somalia, supporting access to a durable solution for those wishing to return home.
- **42 refugees** departed for resettlement, while **11 others** accessed complementary pathways through private sponsorship programmes, providing longer-term opportunities beyond Yemen.

MIXED MOVEMENTS: PROTECTING PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

- Yemen remains a key transit route within broader mixed movements, mainly from the East and Horm of Africa, exposing refugees and migrants to dangerous journeys, heightened protection risks, including exploitation and trafficking. While many seek to reach Gulf countries in search of employment, motivations for movement often overlap, with economic hardship, violence, conflict and insecurity driving arrivals and potentially giving rise to international protection needs. UNHCR works closely with IOM, national authorities, and partners to strengthen protection safeguards for people on the move, with a focus on early identification, referrals, and access to assistance for those stranded in high-risk conditions.
- UNHCR supported protection and capacity-building for frontline actors, including the Coast Guard, to improve the identification and referral of refugees and others in need of international protection. UNHCR and partners have delivered **1,191 protection awareness raising** sessions, and provided referrals to **over 1,131 individuals** on the move, including for protection counselling, documentation guidance, healthcare referrals, and targeted assistance, helping reduce exposure to harm along irregular routes.

UNHCR and its partner providing the early response and awareness to people from horn of Africa who has newly arrived to Yemen in Al-Madarba Wa Ras-Alara, in Lahj governorate. Janurary 2026. © UNHCR/FMF.

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPS) AND RETURNEES
(as of 30 September 2026)

An estimated **5.2 million people** remain internally displaced across Yemen, many of whom have endured years of protracted displacement, while recent hostilities have triggered more than a quarter million people to flee their homes inside Yemen. Many having been displaced more than once. Ongoing economic decline, climate-related shocks, including recurrent flooding, and limited access to essential services continue to exacerbate vulnerabilities, while protection risks remain acute, particularly for women, children, and persons with specific needs.

PROTECTION

3,100+	3,500+	40	12,000+
ID cards issued or renewed	people receiving individual legal assistance	community-based protection network teams	households assessed for vulnerabilities

LEGAL IDENTITY AND LEGAL ASSISTANCE

- Access to legal identity and legal aid remains critical to protecting displaced families from exclusion, avoiding eviction, and loss of housing. In coordination with the Civil Registry Authority (CRA), UNHCR has facilitated the issuance or renewal of **over 3,100 ID cards**, enabling internally displaced families to access essential services and exercise their rights.
- To reduce the risk of forced eviction and housing, land and property disputes, UNHCR helped avert **36 cases** of eviction and HLP disputes and provided targeted HLP legal assistance to **124 households**. In parallel, **over 3,800 individuals** received legal assistance, including civil issues to address documentation, civil, and administrative barriers. Additionally, **more than 140 legal awareness sessions** reached **some 3,100 people**, helping strengthen legal knowledge and early resolution of disputes.

COMMUNITY-BASED PROTECTION NETWORKS

- UNHCR strengthened community-based protection by supporting **40 Community-Based Protection Network teams**, enabling early identification of risks and timely referrals at the community level. As of September 2026, these networks conducted more than 90 awareness-raising activities and facilitated over 1,600 referrals to specialized services, helping connect people to protection, legal, health, and social support.

IDENTIFYING VULNERABILITY AND LINKING PEOPLE TO SERVICES

- Systematic vulnerability assessments remained central to UNHCR's protection response, ensuring assistance and services reached those most at risk. As of September 2026, UNHCR assessed **more 12,000households**, representing some **65,000 individuals**, to identify socio-economic vulnerabilities and protection risks. These assessments enabled targeted referrals and follow-up.

A member of the community based protection committees provides awareness services to the displaced community in Marib. © UNHCR/Human Access.

Nearly 1,700 feedback messages and inquiries received through community and accountability mechanisms, strengthening accountability to IDPs and informing protection responses based on community priorities and emerging concerns.

CASH ASSISTANCE | SHELTER

24,000+	3000+	~2,900	6,232
people supported through multi-purpose cash assistance	families received emergency cash since September	households supported with shelter solutions	people benefited from site monitoring and coordination

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

- UNHCR supported **over 24,000 individuals** with regular multipurpose cash assistance, enabling the most vulnerable families to meet urgent needs, including rent, food, transport, and health-related expenses.
- Additionally, since mounting an emergency response in September to new displacement, UNHCR has assisted **over 3,000 families (21,000 individuals)** with emergency cash assistance. Post-distribution monitoring indicated that most recipients used part of their cash assistance for food purchases, underscoring the role of financial support in helping families cope with rising food insecurity and living costs.

SHELTER AND SITE SUPPORT

- As of September 2026, UNHCR supported safe and dignified shelter solutions for **nearly 2,900 households (20,300 individuals)**, reducing exposure to harsh weather, overcrowding, and insecurity. This included support to **nearly 700 households** through shelter maintenance, **100 transitional shelter units**, and **more than 2,100 emergency shelters**, enabling safer living conditions.
- Across displacement sites, **6,232 individuals** benefited from site monitoring and coordination services.

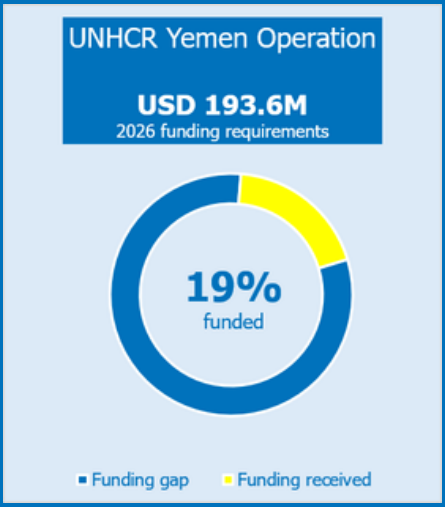
COORDINATION AND LEADERSHIP

- UNHCR continued to maintain its coordination leadership across Yemen despite continued operational constraints, including restrictions on humanitarian activities in DFA-controlled areas. UNHCR ensures the delivery of protection and live-savings assistance for refugees and asylum-seekers, while engaging as the cluster lead agency for Protection and the Shelter, Land and Site Coordination (SLSC) Cluster within the wider IDP response.

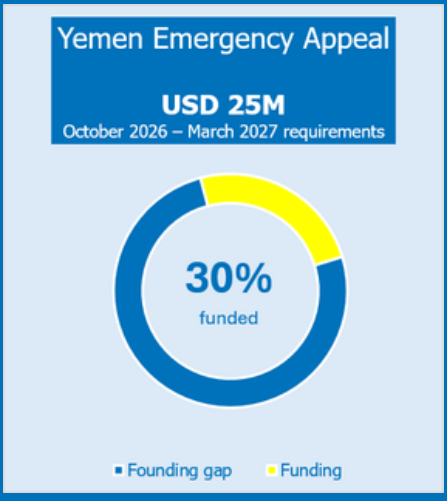
- UNHCR co-leads the Refugee and Migrant Multi-Sector (RMMS) with the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Through these mechanisms, UNHCR promotes principled, inclusive and coordinated responses to the needs of displaced populations, refugees and migrants.

FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS AND FUNDING CONSTRAINTS

- Funding shortfalls in 2026 have significantly constrained the humanitarian response in Yemen, limiting the scale and continuity of essential assistance and protection services amid growing needs and vulnerabilities. These funding gaps have particularly affected the scale of cash assistance, protection services, shelter, and emergency support, reducing the capacity of humanitarian partners to respond to increasing needs.



- Against this backdrop, UNHCR will continue to prioritize life-saving protection interventions, targeted cash assistance and emergency shelter support, subject to available resources, while maintaining its coordination leadership to support a coherent and principled humanitarian response. Sustained, timely and flexible funding remains critical to maintaining essential services, mitigating protection risks and responding to the growing needs of displaced and vulnerable populations.



UNHCR IS GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT OF:

CONTACT: UNHCR External Relations and Public Information Unit:
Tara Fischer, External Relations Officer, fischer@unhcr.org
Abdullah Babrek, External Relations Associate, babrek@unhcr.org
LINKS: UNHCR website | UNHCR Yemen Facebook | UNHCR Yemen X | UNHCR Data Portal