

Yemen

December 2019

The security situation in the south of Yemen remains volatile, after a severe deterioration that reached its peak in August, when the separatist Southern Transitional Council (STC) took effective control of Aden. Sporadic clashes and targeted attacks continued to be reported in the southern governorates, and in November, a power-sharing deal was signed with the STC in the south and the Government of Yemen (GoY).

According to IOM, there are now more than 66,499 families displaced since the beginning of 2019, with the majority in the Southern Hajjah, Hudaydah and Al Dhale'e Governorates. It is estimated that more than one-eighth of the 30.5 M Yemeni population are IDPs. The fighting in Taizz and Al Dhale'e Governorates has been particularly tense, forcing more than 18,000 families to flee, which is close to one-third of the total number of newly displaced this year.

This year, Yemen was severely affected by the unprecedented heavy rain and flooding since 2006. OCHA identified close to 10,000 IDP families affected between August and September. UNHCR as the provider of last resort continued to respond to the needs of the families through providing shelter and basic household items via item distribution and cash assistance modalities.

FACTS AND FIGURES

24.1 million people in need

14.4 million in need of protection assistance and services

3.65 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and **1.28 million** returnees

66,499 families newly displaced in 2019

More than 80 per cent of IDPs displaced for over a year

279,193 refugees and asylum-seekers

UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

242 National Staff

52 International Staff

Offices:

1 Country Office in Sana'a

1 Sub Office in Aden

4 Field Offices in Ibb, Kharaz, Hudaydah, and Sa'ada

1 Support Office in Amman

FUNDING (AS OF 7 JANUARY 2020)

USD 198.6 M required for the Yemen operation

Unfunded 26%
USD 49 M



Field Office Sana'a visited IDP sites in Hamdan district, Sana'a governorate. Many of the families were already resorting to burning plastic to keep warm, and as a result, suffering from respiratory diseases. © UNHCR/Anwar Al Ameri.

Update on Achievements

Operational Context

- **In November, the Government of Yemen and the separatist Southern Transitional Council signed a power-sharing agreement in Riyadh, ending hostilities that began in early August.** The fighting had since spread to the neighbouring Governorates, forcing thousands of families to flee. The volatile situation in the south hampered the freedom of movement, impacting their livelihood activities and access to services.
- **The De Facto Authorities (DFA) in Sana'a repealed the 2018 presidential decree reorganising the National Authority for the Management and Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (NAMCHA) whose main activities included implementing the National IDP policy.** NAMCHA authorities and responsibilities have transferred to a new body called the Supreme Council for the Management and Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and International Cooperation (SCMCHAIC).
- **The detailed planning meeting for the 2020 UNHCR Yemen Operational priorities took place in November.** The office agreed to focus on the synergies of the UNHCR-led Clusters (Protection, Shelter/NFI and CCCM) through tri-cluster approach, adopt and enhance an area-based approach, emphasise on exit strategies and sustainable solutions for the persons of concern through promoting income-generating activities for both, the displaced and host communities.

Main activities

PROTECTION SERVICES

- UNHCR and partners continue to identify and respond to the needs of persons of concern and vulnerable host communities countrywide, through systematic protection monitoring, vulnerability needs assessments, provision of protection services, including legal and psychosocial support as well as case management and specialised support for children and SGBV survivors. **In 2019, a total 178,843 IDP and refugee households were assessed for vulnerabilities. In 2019, 63,631 IDPs and 5,121 refugees and asylum-seekers received legal assistance and counselling while 30,370 IDPs and 3,298 refugees and asylum-seekers received psychosocial support.**

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

- UNHCR supports community-based protection networks (CBPNs) and outreach workers to bridge between the affected population and service providers through awareness-raising, information dissemination, facilitation of community support projects that empower communities and facilitate peaceful co-existence. Given their extensive geographic coverage and strong links with the communities, they have been an important communication channel through which information has been disseminated among the communities and their feedback solicited. **In 2019, 138,752 IDPs were referred by the community-based protection networks (CBPNs) for needs assessment and protection services.**
- The refugee community outreach workers in the DFA Sana'a conducted **some 8,000 visits and assisted some 6,700 refugees and asylum-seekers.** In the GoY areas, the 30 health outreach volunteers from different nationalities identify persons with a specific health need and conduct awareness about various health issues, including screening for malnourished children and refer those who need assistance. **During 2019, they referred a total of 10,952 cases.**

REGISTRATION OF REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS

- UNHCR **maintained its efforts to safeguard the protection space for refugees and asylum-seekers.** Refugees from Somalia and asylum-seekers from Ethiopia and Syria, amongst other nationalities, continued to be registered and provided with documentation, assistance and referral at the Government while UNHCR runs three facilities in Basateen (Aden), Mukalla (Hadramaut) and Kharaz (Lahj).

- Persons with Specific Needs, including unaccompanied and other at-risk children were identified upon registration and referred to protection services to receive tailored support. *Prima facie* refugees from Somalia and asylum-seekers from Ethiopia and other nationalities continued to be registered and provided with documentation, assistance and referral at the Government and UNHCR-run facilities. UNHCR and IPNA processed **8,436 refugees and asylum-seekers across the four registration locations**.
- In November 2019, UNHCR signed a partnership agreement with the DFA Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the registration and renewal of documentation for refugees and asylum-seekers. Besides, UNHCR entered into an agreement with the National Centre of Public Health Laboratories to pre-pay the cost of mandatory HIV and blood tests, which was previously seen as a challenge in facilitating access to registration.

PREVENTION OF AND RESPONSE TO SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

- UNHCR Yemen's proposal on 'SGBV Prevention, Risk Mitigation and Response Interventions and Mainstreaming' was selected as one of eight global '[Safe from the Start](#)' projects. The project aims to benefit some **50,000 women and girls directly and reduce or mitigate incidences of SGBV** while ensuring survivors have access to functional complaint and feedback mechanism. Alongside other activities, UNHCR will install lighting fixtures in common areas of two IDP sites using [Liter of Light](#) technology. Use of such sustainable solar light technology is in line with UNHCR's recently launched four-year [Global Strategy for Sustainable Energy](#), which promotes the transition to clean, renewable energy at refugee camps and hosting sites, including for individual households, communal areas and support facilities.
- UNHCR continues to assist refugee women and girls with a comprehensive SGBV case management package that includes psychosocial first aid and counselling, legal assistance, medical assistance and cash-based interventions. This year, 1,194 cases have been assisted through UNHCR's partners.

CHILD PROTECTION

- UNHCR offers child protection programmes which include identification and referral pathways for education, health, Refugee Status Determination, support to children with disabilities, cash assistance and comprehensive case management. For adolescents, activities such as life-skills training, sport, awareness-raising activities and informal education are available, depending on each child's needs. During the reporting period, a total of **3,617 refugee children received various forms of assistance. A total of 1,706 home visits were conducted** to identify and protect children who may be at risk of abuse or neglect.
- Unaccompanied children and children at risk may also benefit from alternative care arrangements, such as foster care. A total of 109 unaccompanied children benefitted from this arrangement, all of them receiving regular monitoring. UNHCR's child protection programme for unaccompanied children also includes life-skills training, peer support and close monitoring to ensure that upon attaining adulthood, the children are adequately prepared and able to lead an independent life. Eighty-three children attended capacity building, awareness-raising and life-skills sessions.

SHELTER AND NFIS

- UNHCR as a Shelter/NFI Cluster lead agency continued to support the families who have just fled or have been displaced for a prolonged period with much-needed emergency shelter kits and basic household items. This year, UNHCR and partners supported more than **86,146 IDP, IDP returnees and the vulnerable host community with more than 1 million basic household items, and 17,057 families received emergency shelter kits** to provide the minimum layer of protection against the elements. Furthermore, efforts are ongoing to provide alternative shelter solutions for those displaced for an extended period or those living in hot and humid areas. UNHCR provided **1,078 sustainable shelter units** and 5,757 adjusted emergency shelter solutions for those displaced in the west coast region of Tehama.
- Securing a safe, sustainable accommodation space for IDPs is a priority. IDPs often settle on private land, or inhabit public schools or other established buildings, and therefore are at constant risk of eviction. IDPs who can afford renting accommodation in urban areas face challenges in paying rents. Under UNHCR's

CCCM programme, involving both the Government of Yemen and partners, UNHCR and the CCCM cluster are actively addressing issues related to the growing number of spontaneous settlements by identifying sites to which IDPs can be relocated. In December, the Prime Minister of GoY confirmed in a meeting with UNHCR Aden that the Ministry of Legal Affairs has been instructed to provide suitable public land for IDPs. This vital step will reduce the risk of evictions and help the humanitarian response to meet international standards.

CASH-BASED INTERVENTIONS (CBI) TO ADDRESS BASIC NEEDS OF THE IDPS IN YEMEN

- UNHCR has one of the most extensive CBI programme, globally. In 2019, UNHCR directly disbursed some 48 million USD to the IDPs, refugees, asylum-seekers and the vulnerable host community, including 167,831 families (or 1.2 million IDPs) to address prioritised needs, such as rent, protection service and extra clothes for during the winter. In 2019, UNHCR developed an online verification system for CBI, which helped to enhance the timely and impartial delivery of cash, and which will eventually extend to all types of assistance provided by UNHCR.

COMMUNITY-BASED LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT

- UNHCR finalized more than ten rounds of its 'Cash for Work (CFW)' activity. This year, a total of 360 participants benefited from this programme, including refugees from Somalia, asylum-seekers from Ethiopia and vulnerable Yemenis, in the Basateen neighbourhood, Aden governorate. Participants in the CFW programme led cleaning campaigns in public areas such as schools and the police station for a month each and received some 220 USD as livelihood support. UNHCR is acutely aware of the growing tensions between the displaced population and the host community, caused by the continued deterioration of the economic situation and competition over already scarce resources. UNHCR is pursuing an area-based, integrated programming approach that includes all persons of concern, including the host community, as per the guidance of the [Policy on UNHCR's Engagement in Situations of Internal Displacement \(2019\)](#).
- In addition, persons working in the recycling industry in the Aden governorate from both the displaced and host communities' beneficiaries, received a total of 164 tricycles and safety gear. This initiative was coordinated with the Government of Yemen to not only support beneficiaries with a safe and dignified working environment for their income-generating activities but also support municipal authorities to improve public hygiene. Through this intervention., the beneficiaries were able to increase their income multiple times,
- UNHCR also involves IDPs and vulnerable host community members in producing materials needed for emergency shelters. A total of 696 families were trained to produce Khazaf, or palm leave mattresses that are incorporated in the Tehama emergency shelters, increasing the ownership of the distributions, supporting their livelihoods and promoting peaceful coexistence between the communities.

DURABLE SOLUTIONS

- Since 2017, UNHCR has been facilitating the return of Somalis under its Assisted Spontaneous Return (ASR) programme, in collaboration with IOM, the Government of Yemen, NGO partners, and the Somali authorities. Until today, **5,089 Somali refugees have returned** to their country of origin through 39 boat rides.
- UNHCR has successfully submitted 142 individuals for resettlement, exceeding its allocated annual quota. A total of **105 refugees have departed under UNHCR's resettlement programme** in 2019, in search of protection and safety in a third country.

EDUCATION

- As also seen during the [Global Refugee Forum, 2019](#), global attention is drawn towards ensuring that the refugee children do not miss out on education opportunities. In the Sub Office Aden, assessments and analysis of the reasons behind the high rate of Out of School Children (OOSC) within the refugee

community were made, while maintaining the efforts to retain those who have already registered through school fee and supply support. Following the assessment conducted in July, **219 OOSC in Basateen neighbourhood, Aden, were registered** for enrolment in the new school year in the three UNHCR-supported schools in the community. In parallel, UNHCR with a partner identified and finalized a list of **908 refugee schoolchildren** and disbursed USD 30 to their parents to help them buy uniforms and school kits through UNHCR's education partner, Ministry of Education. Assessments are also planned in other areas of Hadramaut and Al Maharah Governorate.

- In the 2018/19 academic year, a total of 7,148 primary, 979 secondary and 205 tertiary school refugee students were supported.

HEALTH

- UNHCR supports health care services and medications in five facilities country-wide, for refugees and asylum-seekers but also the vulnerable host community members who have been suffering from the lack of public health service. In addition, UNHCR facilitates community-based projects such as rehabilitation of health facilities, while also advocating for the inclusion of refugees in national campaigns such as measles, cholera and polio. In 2019, a total of **87,169 refugees and the vulnerable host community received primary health care**, while 5,404 persons were referred to secondary and tertiary medical care, including rehabilitation, physiotherapy and provision of prosthetic limbs. Upper respiratory tract infection continued to be the leading cause for out-patient-consultation in the south of Yemen, while in Sana'a, mental health and chronic cases such as diabetics, kidney failure and liver disease were identified most frequently.
- Considering the reoccurrence of cholera in 2019, UNHCR and partners supported the GoY on the national oral cholera vaccination. This door-to-door campaign, organised jointly with the Ministry of Health and WHO, reached a total of **9,634 beneficiaries including persons of concern to UNHCR and the host community**.
- With nearly five years of war in Yemen, the magnitude of psychosocial challenges and needs has dramatically increased. Recent assessments show particularly high rates of major depressive disorder, anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder within Yemeni population, with the potential to have far-reaching consequences, affecting family relationships, physical health, education, ability to work and willingness to support peaceful measures to end conflict. The need to further expand the [Mental health and psychosocial support programme](#) has become critical.

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

- Since the onset of the conflict in 2015, millions of Yemenis and refugees have been pushed into severe food insecurity. According to the [2019 Humanitarian Response Plan](#), 20 million Yemenis - or one-third of the population needs help to secure food. In Kharaz camp, Lahj governorate, refugees and host community members benefit from general food distributions provided by WFP; and have access to UNICEF's nutrition programmes for malnourished children under five years old and pregnant/lactating mothers through delivery of ready-to-use food such as plumpy nuts from UNICEF, and wheat-soy blends from WFP.
- In 2019, **3,645 refugee children, pregnant/lactating women** and vulnerable members of the host community residing close to the Kharaz refugee camp benefitted from the supplementary feeding programme, facilitated by WFP and UNICEF. UNHCR also supports community health workers to conduct the bi-monthly Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) screening, referrals of cases and tracing defaulters. UNHCR also conducts awareness campaigns to promote breastfeeding and provides Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) programs, reaching 2,795 mothers.

PROTECTION CLUSTER

- According to the quarterly [Protection Cluster update through the Civil Impact Monitoring Project](#), the number of civilian fatalities in 2019 continued to increase until the third consecutive quarter then saw a 42 per cent decrease in the final three months with 151 persons affected. There was a significant civilian impact in the third quarter when a deadly attack in the Dhamar prison killed 156 persons, however, in the

fourth quarter, the number of fatalities was the lowest record since the beginning of 2018. Shelling and shell fire caused the highest civilian impact through casualties and deaths.

- The Protection Cluster continued to support more than 30 community centres countrywide – eight of those led by UNHCR which cater to the needs of the most vulnerable – including children, SGBV survivors and persons with specific needs by providing access to a wide range of protection services including psychosocial and legal support, case management, cash assistance, mine risk education, and livelihood support, reaching 3.2 million persons out of the 4.8 million targeted for this year by November. The Cluster also supports a victim assistance programme, which provides medical and other support to civilians who have been injured by the conflict, and their families.
- The Protection Cluster, led by UNHCR, launched an online service directory for Protection Cluster partners. This online system strengthens referral pathways for IDPs, IDP returnees and vulnerable host community by granting partners full access to services offered by other protection actors. The online platform maps various protection services provided by **74 Protection Cluster partners in Yemen**.

SHELTER/ NFI CLUSTER

- Throughout the year, **the Shelter/ NFI Cluster** with 53 active partners, continued to respond to the growing needs of the displaced families who fled the fighting that escalated in Hajjah, Al Dhale'e, and Taizz Governorates. The heavy rain this year, particularly during May-June that affected more than 80,000 persons according to the authorities, further strained UNHCR's response as the provider of the last resort in situations of conflict-induced displacement. Despite the constant challenge with resource mobilisation, resulting in 10.5 per cent funding at the end of 2019 financial year, the Cluster still managed to support some 2 million persons out of the 3 million planned, through basic household items (NFIs), emergency shelter kits, cash assistance for rental subsidies, livelihood support, construction or rehabilitation of their transitional shelters, winterisation cash grants and rehabilitation/reconstruction grants for their damaged/destroyed homes, and shelter maintenance/upgrades.
- **The Shelter/NFI Cluster** also published the 'Winterization Recommendations for Yemen, October 2019-February 2020'. The Cluster estimated that more than **385,320 vulnerable families would need various degrees of seasonal assistance** which will be disbursed through vouchers and cash to prepare for the cold, while in-kind distributions will be utilised in remote locations where there are no cash systems or functional markets. **Each family will receive some 230 USD** through cash or vouchers to purchase blankets, clothes, heating or shelter insulation, and in-kind materials or cash will be provided for basic minor rehabilitation, maintenance and shelter upgrading.

CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT CLUSTER

- The Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster was activated in Yemen in July 2019, in recognition of the growing need to improve the standard of basic service delivery in **more than 1,746 IDP sites** identified across the country.
- As of December 2019, the CCCM Cluster **mobilized 21 active partners** including UNHCR to **intervene in a total of 746 sites** (or spontaneous camps) **servicing some 250,271 individuals** including in the hard-to-reach areas. Currently, the CCCM Cluster is composed of 112 national and international organizations, who are working towards improving the living conditions of the IDP sites. Multi-sectoral services and assistance at the sites such as Protection, WASH, Education, NFIs and others is coordinated and monitored through static and mobile teams, and while the Cluster aims to establish and manage multi-purpose community centres in each site to effectively coordinate various services.

Working with Partners

- The Humanitarian Coordinator/Resident Coordinator leads the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) composed of UN agencies and national and international NGOs. The team operates in coordination to

respond to the humanitarian emergencies in the country. UNHCR, as part of the UN Country Team (UNCT) and the HCT, continues to collaborate with OCHA which coordinates operations in the country, humanitarian financing, and information sharing. UNICEF supports UNHCR's protection activities in health, education, and reaches out to children and community members with landmine risk education and organising resilience-building activities for children and caregivers as part of the Protection Cluster programme. UNHCR also partners with UNFPA, which leads the Women Protection AoR. UNDP collaborates closely with UNHCR in implementing community-based projects, livelihood activities, and improving social cohesion and security, under the broader effort to restore public services and foster economic recovery. WFP collaborates with UNHCR for food distribution in the IDP sites and the Kharaz refugee camp, including through nutritional programmes for children and lactating mothers. UNHCR and IOM co-lead the Refugees and Migrants Multi-Sector response for refugees and asylum-seekers, and migrants respectively, both in urban and rural settings and in Kharaz refugee camp, maintaining regular interaction with national and local authorities, international and national NGOs and beneficiaries.

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