

# Yemen

September 2018

Despite **increasing hostilities** and **access challenges**, UNHCR continued to provide life-saving assistance to refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons during the first half of 2018.

**Protection and shelter needs** of IDP families have increased. In 2018, UNHCR has so far assisted over 608,000 IDPs, of whom some 100,000 were reached during the Al Hudaydah response.

**UNHCR-assisted spontaneous return** for Somali refugees in Yemen to Somalia continued in 2018, bringing the total number of Somalis voluntarily returning to 2,270 persons.

## FACTS AND FIGURES

**22.2 million** people in need

**2,014,026** Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

**89** percent of IDPs displaced for more than one year

**956,076** IDP returnees

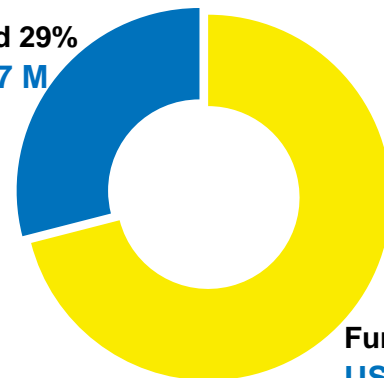
**280,279** refugees and asylum seekers (majority from Somalia and Ethiopia)

## FUNDING (AS OF 28 AUGUST 2018)

**USD 198.7 M**

requested for Yemen Operation

**Unfunded 29%**  
**USD 57.7 M**



**Funded 71%**  
**USD 141 M**

## UNHCR PRESENCE

### Staff:

162 National Staff

28 International Staff

### Offices:

1 Branch Office in Sana'a

1 Sub Office in Aden

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

1 Support Office in Amman



## Working with Partners

- UNHCR maintains a collaborative relationship with authorities in Sana'a and the Government of Yemen to provide protection and basic services for people of concern countrywide.
- In 2018, UNHCR has signed partnership agreements with 20 organisations and counterparts, of which 85 percent are national partners.
- UNHCR leads the multi-sector response for refugees and asylum-seekers in Yemen, both in urban settings and in Kharaz refugee camp, maintaining regular interaction with national and local authorities, international and national NGOs and refugees.
- To ensure a coordinated and guided response to the displaced and conflict-affected populations in Yemen, UNHCR leads the Protection Cluster and the Shelter/ NFI/ Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster.

## Main Activities

### Protection

- Despite the volatile security environment, UNHCR and partners continue to carry out activities countrywide from hubs in Sana'a, Aden, Ibb, Hudaydah and Sa'ada. While humanitarian access and delivery remain affected by continuous insecurity and other impediments, UNHCR nonetheless continues to advocate for unimpeded and sustained humanitarian access and for the protection of civilians. Given the recent escalation of conflict within Al Hudaydah Governorate, UNHCR is responding to the emerging needs of IDPs and refugees with protection monitoring assessments, psychosocial counselling, multipurpose cash, legal assistance and referrals to specialised services.
- **Refugees:** UNHCR as protection lead, provides assistance to refugees and asylum seekers, including education, health, protection monitoring, cash assistance, and specialised services and comprehensive case management for children and survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). UNHCR also monitors the situation of refugees and asylum-seekers in detention facilities and advocates with authorities for alternatives to detention and release. In 2017, UNHCR initiated an Assisted Spontaneous Return (ASR) programme for Somali refugees, and is working with IOM, and the Yemeni and Somali authorities to support refugees' voluntary return to Somalia. So far, 2,270 refugees have departed Yemen through ASR.
- **IDPs:** UNHCR's Community Based Protection Networks (CBPNs) serve to monitor protection risks, and identify and address vulnerable protection cases, which are referred to UNHCR's seven established IDP community centres across the country. Through these centres, UNHCR and partners provide a variety of services including psychosocial and social counselling support, and legal assistance for vulnerable displaced Yemenis.
- **Protection Cluster:** UNHCR leads the Protection Cluster, ensuring a coordinated response to the protection needs of the displaced and conflict-affected population of Yemen. With the ongoing conflict in Al Hudaydah and other emerging frontlines, protection of civilians remains paramount. In 2018, the Protection Cluster expanded its Civilian Impact Monitoring Project, an activity to assess and analyse the impact on civilians of real-time conflict events, in order to assist our protection and humanitarian response follow-up in the affected areas as well as collective advocacy for the protection of civilians. In response to the Al Hudaydah crisis, Protection Cluster partners, including in child protection and Gender Based Violence, as well as community-based networks, are being mobilized to provide emergency protection assistance at transit areas, distribution sites, schools, and in the communities.

### Shelter and Core Relief

- With regard to IDPs and IDP returnees, an important component of UNHCR'S protection activities is to guarantee access to adequate shelter in humanitarian emergencies. Across Yemen, some two million IDPs are struggling to cope in displacement, in addition to close to one million returnees, who require emergency assistance. Many are destitute in the absence of livelihoods, access to income, health care and sufficient food.
- UNHCR provides emergency shelter kits, core relief items (CRIs), rental subsidies, return grants and develops emergency strategies, tools and guidelines to support Yemen's displaced.
- As of 15 September 2018, UNHCR has already provided emergency life-saving shelter and CRI assistance to 492,436 IDPs, IDP returnees and vulnerable host community, including CRIs to 383,549

individuals, emergency shelter kits to 59,882 individuals and rental subsidies for 108,396 individuals. The construction of 1,700 transitional shelters for IDP families was finalised in January this year, and 3,200 new shelters are currently being constructed in Hajjah Governorate.

- With regards to the Hudaydah crisis, UNHCR has assisted displaced families by distributing 26,767 CRIs and 4,430 emergency shelter kits from the start of June to 15 September.
- **Shelter/NFI/CCCM Cluster:** UNHCR is also lead agency of the Shelter/ NFI/ CCCM Cluster, providing guidance and support along with critical coordination to all partners responding to shelter needs.

## Education

- For refugees, UNHCR coordinates with the Ministry of Education to facilitate refugee children's access to public schools and quality education. UNHCR and partners also organize informal education for children, including literacy and numeracy classes, and run child-friendly spaces.
- In Kharaz camp, 91 percent of primary-aged children are enrolled in camp schools. UNHCR is also currently in discussion with the Ministry of Education and governorate authorities with a view to integrating Kharaz schools into the national education system. Rehabilitation work has also taken place at Kharaz camp schools, with improvements being made to classrooms, washrooms, and shaded outdoor areas. Schools in Aden that host refugee students are also supported by UNHCR.
- In Sana'a, UNHCR supports 10 public schools, in which a high number of refugee students are enrolled, with equipment, teacher training and school maintenance. UNHCR also supports an Early Childhood Education program which provides children aged 3–5 years with a safe space to learn and play and serves to retain out-of-school children who stay home to care for younger siblings.
- Countrywide, 75 students are also studying at the tertiary level supported by DAFI and other scholarship programmes, among them students from Kharaz camp, Aden and Sana'a.

## Health

- Health care remains a critical need with only 45 percent of health facilities functioning in country. UNHCR in cooperation with partners, provides primary health care services, pharmaceutical and reproductive health services, and HIV/AIDS prevention and response for refugees and Yemeni host communities. UNHCR also provides mental health support and has established referral mechanisms with local hospitals for emergency cases and persons with complicated medical conditions. So far 59,891 medical consultations have been facilitated by UNHCR across the country in 2018, of which 32,341 were for refugees and asylum seekers and 27,550 for host community members. In Sana'a, alone 52,785 refugees and 11,104 host community members have been reached through community outreach activities focused on health.
- UNHCR is also responding to prevent and control the spread of cholera among refugee and host populations through a Cholera Treatment Centre in Kharaz refugee camp and Diarrhoea Treatment Unit in Al-Basateen urban area, an oral rehydration station in Aden, and active case identification and referrals including at two health centres in Sana'a. Furthermore, UNHCR conducts capacity building of health staff, hygiene promotion and community awareness campaigns to combat the spread of cholera. In response to the 2017 outbreak of cholera, the UNHCR-led Protection Cluster has also boosted cholera prevention efforts through the CBPNs, including training for volunteers as part of a comprehensive, system-wide response. UNHCR is also supporting community health outreach and providing awareness sessions about Diphtheria.

## External / Donor Relations

**UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by:** Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, United States of America, United Kingdom, Japan, CERF, Sweden, Finland, Canada, Switzerland, France, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Educate a Child Programme, Private donors in Germany, Slovakia and other private donors **who have specifically contributed to UNHCR programmes in Yemen in 2018 as well as other donors who have contributed through broadly unearmarked and broadly earmarked funding, including:** Private donors in Australia, Spain, Republic of Korea, Japan and Italy, Germany, Sweden, Norway, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Denmark, Switzerland, France, Germany and Italy.