




## KEY FIGURES


 **22.2M**  
People in need


 **2M** IDPs  
**89%** of IDPs displaced for more than a year

 **956K**  
IDP returnees

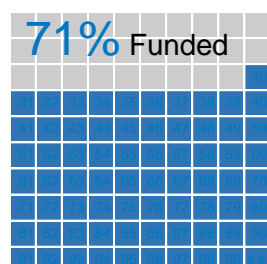
**CRIs 572K** IDP recipients of CRIs in 2018

**84K** recipients of CRIs in the Hudaydah response

 **280k** refugees and asylum seekers

 **\$198.7M** requested in 2018

**\$141M** received as of 28 August 2018



## OPERATIONAL UPDATE

The United Nations Refugee Agency, UNHCR, is observing a surge in protection needs as a result of ongoing hostilities, particularly within the Governorate of Al Hudaydah. As a result, UNHCR has ramped up its response to meet the most urgent protection needs of tens of thousands of families that are being displaced by fighting in Al Hudaydah.

During focus group discussions with displaced persons from Al Hudaydah, UNHCR identified a series of protection needs requiring urgent attention. Most prominent among them are the specific needs of children who may be separated from their families, and women, who may be at high risk of sexual harassment and violence either during flight or when living in overcrowded settings. Another common concern is the loss of livelihoods, exacerbated by a decline in purchasing power due to increasing food prices and the decline in value of the Yemeni currency, the Riyal.

Incidents with high civilian impact are continuing at an alarming rate, the vast majority of which are in the northern governorates. The UNHCR-led Protection Cluster's Civilian Impact Monitoring Project reported that in the first nine days of August, there had been over 450 civilian casualties in Yemen – making it one of the deadliest weeks for civilians since the start of the conflict in 2015. In these incidents, 131 child casualties were recorded; 28 per cent of the total casualties. UNHCR reiterates the call to all parties to ensure the physical safety of civilians, their freedom of movement and to guarantee safe routes when fleeing conflict areas.

The conflict in Yemen is also affecting refugees and asylum-seekers. UNHCR and partners face challenges in ensuring a safe environment, adequate protection, humanitarian assistance and access to essential, life-saving services for refugees who may be vulnerable to serious protection concerns such as early marriage, child labour, increased detention and dangerous onward movements. Despite the challenging operating environment, UNHCR has continued to assist refugees and asylum seekers in Al Hudaydah, most of whom are from Eritrea. In the context of shifting frontlines and a volatile security situation, these persons of concern are particularly vulnerable due to the limited flight options available to them.



A displaced man from al Hudaydah hosted in Baghdad School, Sanaa, speaks to UNHCR staff

## IDP Response

Since the start of the Hudaydah offensive in June 2018, UNHCR has been working closely with other humanitarian partners to assist those who have been forcibly displaced. Due to ongoing hostilities, over 50,800 households have been displaced during the three-month period, with some 98 per cent of internally displaced persons (IDPs) receiving some form of emergency assistance thus far.

Since June, UNHCR and partners have conducted over 31,000 in-depth protection monitoring assessments at transit sites, schools and IDP community centres in the governorates of Al-Hudaydah, Hajjah, Sana'a, Dhamar, Sa'ada, Ibb, Taiz, Lahj and Aden. These assessments were instrumental to ensure the vulnerable are verified as displaced and provided with protection/ referral services, including legal and psychosocial assistance, multipurpose cash assistance and rental subsidies. Since the beginning of June to mid-August, UNHCR's Hudaydah response benefitted a total of 15,222 families with core relief items (CRIs), 2,932 with emergency shelter kits and 3,463 families with cash assistance.

In response to a new wave of displaced families reaching Abs district in Hajjah Governorate in mid-August, UNHCR and partners conducted a rapid assessment and verification of the families. Having fled the districts of Hayran, Midi and Haradh due to clashes, some 581 families were found to be in need of CRIs and 500 families in need of emergency shelter.

In Sana'a, UNHCR and its partner ADRA, have taken the lead in managing eight schools that have been host to 278 vulnerable families displaced from Hudaydah. With the new school year approaching, the National Authority for the Management of Humanitarian Affairs (NAMCHA) has been in discussions with UNHCR on the method of vacating the schools by 15 September. UNHCR will manage this process in collaboration NAMCHA, and will conduct protection assessments and provide rental subsidies for families to meet their shelter requirements. UNHCR will also return the schools to their original condition, ready for the school year. Since June 2018, UNHCR has already assisted 528 displaced families from Hudaydah who sought refuge in schools in Sana'a.

## Refugee Response

Following delays to the Assisted Spontaneous Return (ASR) movements in June and July due to poor weather conditions, two boats departed in August, carrying a total of 251 Somali refugees. These departures represent the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> return movements sailing from Aden to the port of Berbera, Somalia, facilitated by UNHCR and partners in cooperation with IOM and the relevant authorities in Yemen and Somalia. Since the ASR programme started in late 2017, 2,270 Somalis have so far departed Yemen. In 2018 alone, over 1,300 Somalis returned to their places of origin in Somalia.

As part of the ASR programme, UNHCR provides an assistance package to refugees both in Yemen and Somalia. In Yemen, the package includes a multi-purpose cash grant to procure basic necessities for the journey and consolidate any outstanding debts or financial obligations. Counselling is also conducted by UNHCR's partner Intersos, ensuring that refugees are well informed about the process of returning and the situation in their areas of origin. Upon arrival in Somalia, returnees receive a cash grant to support with their reinstallation into their communities in addition to a package consisting of household items, food assistance through WFP, and an education allowance for primary school children.

During July and August, UNHCR distributed 500 food baskets donated by the Emirates Red Crescent (ERC) to refugees in Kharaz camp. In addition, a further 5,000 food parcels were distributed to vulnerable refugees and the host community in Al-Basateen sub-district in Aden. Around 2,600 refugees and 2,400 host families benefitted from the distribution, which included rice, wheat flour, tuna, beans, pasta, oil, sugar, and pulses.