

Yemen

January - October 2023

Years of devastating and unrelenting conflict in Yemen have led to a **protection and displacement crisis**. As of October 2023, 21.6 million Yemenis (two-thirds of the population) are dependent on humanitarian assistance, including 4.5 million internally displaced people (IDPs), and 71,800 refugees and asylum-seekers.

Yemen is the only country in the Arabian Peninsula that is **party to the 1951 Refugee Convention** and its 1967 Protocol since 1980 (north) and 1990 (south). While Yemen has generously hosted refugees for decades, it lacks a national legal framework for the protection of refugees.

Confronted with the growing challenge of dealing with internal displacement, Yemen adopted its 2013 **National Policy for Addressing Internal Displacement** in 2023, which confirms responsibilities to assist, protect, and find solutions for IDPs.

Key population overview in Yemen



71.8K

Number of **refugees and asylum-seekers** in Yemen. Women and children make up 60% of the population. The majority are from Somalia (63.8%), Ethiopia (26.3%), Syria (4%), Eritrea (2.4%), and Iraq (1.4%).



4.5 million

Number of **internally displaced people** in Yemen.



21.6 million

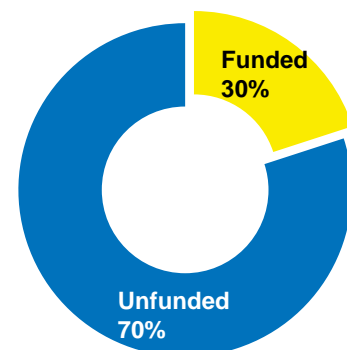
Number of those in need of **humanitarian assistance in Yemen: 17.7 million** need protection; **7.5 million** are in need of shelter and non-food items; **1.9 million** are in need of camp coordination and camp management services.

Funding



\$320.5 million

Requested for 2023 activities



UNHCR Presence in Yemen

UNHCR has been present in Yemen since 1987, when its first office opened in Sana'a. In 1989, UNHCR also established a presence in the south of the country. Today, UNHCR has a well-established presence across the country, covering most of the 22 governorates and 333 districts through its country office in Sana'a, a sub-office in Aden, field offices in Al-Hudaydah, Ibb, Marib, Sa'ada, and a field unit in Kharaz refugee camp in Lahj governorate.



Operation Overview

IDP response

UNHCR plays a key role in the inter-agency coordination mechanisms. UNHCR is the leading UN agency of the Protection, CCCM, and Shelter/NFI Clusters, and is the co-lead of the Refugee and Migrant Multi-Sector cluster. Through the inter-agency coordination mechanisms, UNHCR advocates on protection and displacement issues and durable solutions programming. Key areas, inter alia, include joint site identification (demining, site planning); policy on the civilian character of sites and non-encampment; housing, land, and property (HLP) issues; eviction guidance, including joint displacement tracking; support on community engagement, and protection considerations.

Right: Mohammed is a Somali refugee and has lived in Al-Ghaida since 2010. He works as a porter and just manages to get. His budget doesn't allow for long distance travel such as to the closest registration centre, almost 500km. His refugee documentation expired in 2013 (documentation is crucial for many of life's basics, such as accessing healthcare or getting a SIM card). Fortunately, a mobile registration exercise recently took place and Mohammed is one of hundreds of refugees who were able to renew or obtain documentation.

Refugee response

UNHCR is the only agency addressing the protection and well-being of refugees and asylum-seekers across Yemen. UNHCR and partners provide a wide array of services, such as protection, energy, education, healthcare, water, and sanitation. All services provided to refugees are open to all persons in need, free of charge.

The majority of the population lives in urban settings, concentrated in the cities of Sana'a and Aden. There is one refugee camp in the country, Kharaz refugee camp, in Lahj governorate, which currently hosts over 9,800 refugees and asylum-seekers. The vast majority (91 per cent) in the camp are from Somalia.



Key 2023 Refugee Response Key Achievements

Protection

Registration¹:

- 4,872 asylum-seekers registered
- 18,004 documents issued or renewed for refugees and asylum-seekers
- 589 refugees and asylum-seeker children registered and issued birth certificates

Legal Assistance:

- 2,280 refugees received legal assistance or counseling
- 230 legal awareness sessions conducted for refugees and asylum-seekers

Services for people with specific needs:

- 4,436 individuals received psychological first aid and psychosocial support
- 2,693 refugees and asylum seekers with disabilities received targeted support

Child Protection:

- 163 refugee children received legal assistance
- 827 refugee children received psychological first aid and psychosocial support
- 1,089 refugee children participated in recreational activities

Durable Solutions:

- 1,426 refugees expressed their intention to return to their countries of origin

¹ For registration activities, UNHCR works with Bureau of Refugee Affairs (BRA) and Immigration, Passport & Nationality Authorities (IPNA) in the north. In the South, UNHCR works with Immigration, Passport & Nationality Authorities (IPNA)


Education

- **8,983** refugee and host and asylum-seeker children enrolled in primary education
- **594** refugee and asylum-seeking children receiving support to access secondary education
- **14** schools rehabilitated or provided with educational material
- **1,170** out-of-school children to restart school following UNHCR and partners' assistance
- **784** refugee and asylum-seeking children enrolled in language, literacy, and numeracy classes


Cash Assistance

- **18,021** refugees and asylum-seekers received multipurpose cash to support their most urgent needs
- **1,104** refugees and asylum-seekers received emergency cash through case management to address identified protection needs


Health

- **83,351** refugees and asylum-seekers accessed one of the five health facilities supported by UNHCR
- **1,501** children under-5 and pregnant and lactating mothers admitted to a supplementary feeding programme

Right: Ali was assisted to return to his home country, Somalia. Ali first arrived in Yemen in 2005 to seek safety. Life in Yemen has become increasingly difficult and Ali decided to return to Somalia, to the Baidoa region where he will farm. His journey was facilitated by UNHCR meaning he didn't need to resort to making a dangerous and life-threatening journey. This year UNHCR will support 1,500 people to voluntarily return to Somalia.



Key 2023 IDP Response Key Achievements


Protection
Documentation:

- **8,700** national identification documents issued by the Civil Registry Authority (CRA) with UNHCR support

Legal Assistance:

- **12,573** IDPs and IDP returnees received individual legal assistance
- **1,844** legal awareness sessions conducted for IDPs and IDP returnees

Community-Based Protection:

- **1,868** awareness-raising activities conducted or supported by community-based protection networks

Services to people with specific needs:

- **17,985** IDPs and returnees received psychological first aid and psychosocial support

Child protection:

- **2,538** children received psychological first aid and psychosocial support
- **7,780** children participated in recreational activities

NFI Shelter and Non-food Items

- 2,044 displaced families provided with emergency shelters
- 9,882 IDP and returnee households received core relief items, including blankets, sleeping mats, soap, buckets, mosquito nets, and a kitchen set
- 90 households received cash grants for rental accommodation
- 2,091 households assisted with house rehabilitation and reconstruction
- 9,417 shelters maintained and upgraded

\$ Camp Coordination & Management

- 766 IDP sites supported/monitored by UNHCR
- 80 IDP sites receiving infrastructural improvement projects to mitigate flooding, fire communicable diseases, and natural hazards
- 31,705 people benefited from the provision of light systems

🤝 Cash Assistance

- 419,989 IDPs, IDP returnees, and host community members received multipurpose cash to support their most urgent needs
- 24,651 IDPs, IDP returnees, and host community members received emergency cash



Left:

Hundreds of displaced families living in Hudaydah now have dignified and durable homes to live in that are tailored to Yemen's harsh climate.

Partnerships

Al-Awn Foundation for Development; Al-Dar Al-Arabia for Development and Advocacy; Al-MAGD Charitable Humanitarian Relief & Development; Bureau for Refugee Affairs; Deem for Development organization; Executive Unit for IDPs Camp Management; Field Medical Foundation; Human Access for Partnership and Development, Human Access for Partnership & Development; Immigration, Passports and Naturalization Authority; INTERSOS; Jeel Albena Association for Humanitarian Development; Migration, Refugees, and IDPs Studies Centre ; Nahda Makers Organization; NAMA Small and Microfinance Foundation; Qatar Red Crescent Society; Rawabi Al-Nahdah Developmental Foundation; Safe Road for Peace and Development; Society For Humanitarian Solidarity; Sustainable Development Foundation; Tamdeen Youth Foundation; The National Committee for Refugee Affairs; The Supreme Council for Management and Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and International Cooperation; Yemen Al-Khair for Relief & Development Foundation; Yemen Development Foundation; Yemen General Union of Sociologists, Social Workers and Psychologists; Yemen Red Crescent Society; Yemen Women Union.

Coordination

UNHCR leads the Protection, Camp Management & Camp Coordination (CCCM), and Shelter/Non-food Item (NFI) clusters; and co-leads the Refugee & Migration Multisector cluster with IOM. As part of the UN Country Team, UNHCR co-chairs the prevention to sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) network. UNHCR is an active participant in several inter-agency working groups, including the Durable Solutions Working Group, the Humanitarian Access Working Group, the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Working Group, and other specialized task forces.

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is grateful for the support of:



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For more details, please contact:

Vi Tran, External Relations Officer, tran@unhcr.org
Gregory Doane, Associate External Relations Officer, doane@unhcr.org

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