

YEMEN

14 May 2020

KEY FIGURES:

24.1 million
people in need

3.65 million
displaced since March 2015¹

Over **80 per cent**
have been displaced for
more than a year

12,866 families have
experienced
displacement at least
once in 2020²

66,499 families were
newly displaced in
2019³

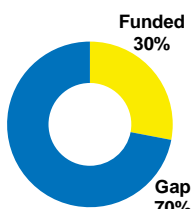
1.28 million
IDP returnees¹

270,353 refugees

11,239 asylum-
seekers

FUNDING:

USD **211.9 M**
required for 2020
operations



USD **63.2 M** received
as of 8 May 2020

¹ IOM-DTM March 2019

² IOM-DTM 2 May 2020

³ IOM-DTM 21 December 2019

IDP Response

UNHCR continues to address the needs of internally displaced and flood-affected families in Marib governorate. From 27 April – 3 May, 100 IDP families received basic household kits consisting of bedding, kitchen sets and solar lamps, while 60 families received emergency shelter kits. During the current week, UNHCR began an emergency cash distribution to some 4,750 recently displaced families in Marib governorate, as an urgent response to the recent displacement following floods. Each family received YER 100,000 to address their urgent needs such as food, rent and medicine. Considering the high number (some 15 per cent) of potential beneficiaries without identification, mitigating measures such as designating alternative collection points or delivering cash-in-hand were put into place.

As heavy rains continue to ravage the country, damage to shelters, roads, farms and electricity grids were particularly severe in the west of Yemen, Hajjah and Raymah governorates, affecting some 6,500 families who now require immediate support with shelter and household items. UNHCR is working with Shelter and Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster partners to coordinate a response. In Abs, Hajjah governorate, 2,400 families received basic household items and food, while 960 families received emergency cash assistance. Other affected areas are scheduled for protection assessments and emergency distributions as soon as access is granted and weather conditions permit.

Clashes in Al Bayda governorate forced at least 600 families to flee to various districts in neighbouring Abyan in the south. Further displacements due to ongoing fighting are expected in the coming days. The UNHCR-led Protection Cluster is closely monitoring the situation in coordination with the Government of Yemen's Executive Unit and other partners. Shelters and basic household items will be distributed to all affected families. UNHCR and partners NMO and SHS distributed mattresses, kitchen sets and solar lamps to some 600 families displaced by conflict in Hudaydah, Al Dhale'e, Al Mahrah, Hadramaut and Shabwah governorates, ensuring COVID-19 prevention measures such as social distancing were observed.

Ongoing protection assessments for IDPs' needs and vulnerabilities in Hajjah governorate reveal an increasing number expressing psychological anxiety. IDPs and vulnerable host community members have communicated their vulnerability regarding COVID-19, expressing concern over lack of timely access to adequate medical care. UNHCR is providing psychosocial support for affected families while enhancing awareness-raising activities regarding preventative measures.

As the CCCM lead, UNHCR continues to work with WASH partners to emphasize the needs of 600 most-at-risk IDP hosting sites. CCCM partners continue working with IDP committees on identifying and referring suspected cases to the COVID-19 Rapid Response Teams, setting up community isolation spaces as required. Installation and community management of handwashing stations are also underway.



Basic household item distributions are prepared for families affected by floods in Marib governorate. © UNHCR/YRC



A displaced Yemeni woman identifies her name on the list at a basic household item distribution site in Lahj governorate. UNHCR provided basic items to a total of 1,000 displaced families that were affected by the recent rain and flash floods. © UNHCR/HYAC, Abdualjilil Al-Shuaibi, May 2020

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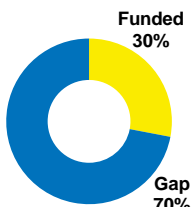
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(IDP Response cont.)

UNHCR and partners completed the second round of its cash distribution, reaching over 2,000 families – 86 per cent of all intended beneficiaries. Vulnerable IDPs, returnees and host community members received a cash allocation to help cover their basic needs and rent. UNHCR is increasing its advocacy among donors to urgently mobilize necessary funding to maintain the cash programme in May, and assist vulnerable families whose livelihoods have been compromised during the pandemic. Pending the receipt of additional funding contributions, the next round of distribution aims to reach up to 58,343 families – more than ten times the average number of families assisted every round.

According to the Civilian Monitoring Impact Project (CIMP), there were 177 civilian casualties and 112 civilian injuries in April, slightly more than the March figures of 156 and 90, respectively. Some 65 fatalities were recorded during the month, including 17 women and 11 children. The highest level of civilian impact was in the western frontlines of Sa'adah, Al Hudaydah and Taizz governorates. CIMP noted that Ramadan has slowed hostilities on several frontlines, though fighting and airstrikes continue to be reported across multiple areas.

Refugee Response

UNHCR and WHO trained 34 community health workers leading activities for refugee communities in Basateen neighbourhood in Aden and Kharaz Refugee Camp in Lahj on community-based active surveillance. Communication with Communities (CwC) orientation training for CCCM partners was conducted in Aden, focusing on COVID-19 awareness and prevention in 145 sites across the south. The trainers will conduct parallel orientations and awareness sessions at the community level in their respective areas.

Reports of stigmatization and discrimination against refugees are increasing following the announcement of the first COVID-19 related death of a Somali refugee in Sana'a, including harassment and verbal abuse. UNHCR is scaling-up its CwC to reinforce wider and more effective messaging, to encourage tolerance both among authorities and local populations towards vulnerable communities fleeing conflict and persecution. Given the now universal threat of COVID-19, UNHCR is working to ensure a response that includes all levels of the community without distinction of origin or status.



A 48-year-old Somali refugee and her granddaughter visit a bank in Aden to receive UNHCR cash assistance. The money she receives will help her meet the immediate needs for her daughter and grandchildren, including food and rent. © UNHCR/ Marie-Joelle Jean-Charles



A UNHCR humanitarian health partner in Aden conducts COVID-19 testing for refugee men and women to determine the current impact of the virus in the city and help limit its spread. © UNHCR/ Aiman Fuad

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