



Emergency distributions in Yemen

AUGUST 2020



UNHCR and partners assisted a recently displaced family with basic items including a solar lamp. © UNHCR /NMO

Emergency distribution on the onset of displacements and COVID-19

Nearly 5,500 houses have been destroyed by fighting in the past 12 months. There are now 43 frontlines across 11 out of 22 governorates in Yemen. More than 21,000 families have been forced to flee fighting, heavy rain, and floods in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic. The extreme weather has had a particularly severe effect on the families in Yemen, affecting more than 500,000 individuals this year alone, mostly in need of shelter.

So far this year, UNHCR distributed 37,530 emergency shelter and basic household items, a large portion in Hudaydah, Hajjah and Sana'a governorates to displaced, returning and vulnerable host community families. Furthermore, UNHCR, as the Lead Agency for the Shelter Cluster and provider of last resort, supported families effected by both natural disasters and COVID-19 in addition to those displaced by the conflict.

UNHCR adopted prevention measures to contain the spread of COVID-19 during distributions. Handwashing stations were set-up at distribution sites and physical distancing was organised in waiting areas including through scheduling of distribution and on-site spacing. During such distributions, partners also took the opportunity to raise awareness about the COVID-19 preventative measures and to distribute information on where and how to safely refer individuals who present symptoms.

Despite growing needs, the lack of funding and logistical difficulties such as broken roads and administrative difficulties severely hampers UNHCR's emergency distribution programme. If significant funding is not identified by September, up to 12,500 families who have recently fled the impact of the conflict or flooding will be forced to live in the open, while 18,750 families will not receive basic household items such as cooking utensils or blankets and mattresses. UNHCR had already to stop its programme to upgrade emergency shelters to a more sustainable structure, affecting 125,000 destitute persons, due to lack of funding.

In 2020, **47,800** families will be provided with basic household items, **37,740** families will receive emergency shelter kits (ESK) and **19,600** families with transitional shelters

FUNDING (AS OF 1 SEPTEMBER 2020)

USD 252.1 M* required for the Yemen operation, including the additional response for COVID-19.

Unfunded 44 %
USD 111.2 M



DIFFERENT TYPES OF SHELTER KITS

UNHCR adapted the design of shelters to the local climate, culture and availability of items in the local market. By sourcing shelter materials locally, UNHCR seeks not only to boost the local economy but

also promote self-sufficiency and a harmonious relationship with hosting communities.



An Emergency Shelter Kit (ESK) is the UNHCR standardised shelter that consists of plastic tarpaulin sheets and sisal ropes. These last up to six months and are distributed, as an emergency solution to families recently displaced.



A Transitional Shelter Unit (TSU) is built with iron pipes and local materials. It withstands extreme weather conditions, such as heavy rain, strong wind, humidity and heat. This longer-term shelter solution can last up to five years with proper maintenance.



A Tehama is a type of an ESK, with an extra layer of palm leaves (Khazaf) produced by displaced families (IDPs) and host community members. This shelter is more suitable for the hot and humid climates of the west coast governorates, and easier to upgrade to TSUs.



The active involvement of IDP and host community families in the **production of Khazaf (palm leaf mats)** for the **TESK and TSU** brings income to the families, especially to the women living in rural areas.



UNHCR is adopting measures to prevent against the spread of COVID-19 and to mitigate its impacts. Physical distancing is maintained at queues, while door to door assistance is incorporated whenever possible.



A basic household item distribution consists of mattresses and blankets to match the family size, a kitchen set, two buckets and a solar lamp. UNHCR and partners also raise awareness on COVID-19 through information sessions and brochures on the distribution day. All photos © UNHCR.

WORKING WITH PARTNERS



EXTERNAL / DONORS RELATIONS

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