UNHCR YEMEN | 2021 COUNTRY OPERATIONAL PLAN

This document aims to provide a broad summary of UNHCR's main programme goals, objectives and priorities for Yemen in 2021

Main planning assumptions and expected constraints

Yemen continues to face an unrelenting conflict triggering what the UN describes as the worst humanitarian crisis in the world. Some 80 per cent of the population is estimated to be in need of humanitarian assistance, and food security and health indicators are amongst the lowest worldwide. With more than four million forcibly displaced people as of the end of 2020, Yemen has the fourth largest internally displaced population due to conflict worldwide. Some 135,000 registered refugees continue to be highly vulnerable, while the evolving situation in Ethiopia may see increased arrivals.

A displaced Yemeni receives core relief items in Lahj Governorate, December 2020 © UNHCR

Active hostilities—14 new frontlines in 2020—and explosive hazards endanger civilians and cause widespread damage to homes and public infrastructure such as hospitals and schools. Political instability, weak governance and rule of law, and a ravaged economy with growing currency depreciation remain distinctive features of the situation. Largely ignored by the authorities, the COVID-19 pandemic impacts people's lives and humanitarian needs (loss of livelihoods, evictions, stigmatization of populations on the move). Its effects will continue to justify the preventative measures adopted by humanitarian actors, as well as dedicated resources. The peace process has yet to make any significant progress. The overall security situation will remain fluid and unstable, especially on the Marib and Al Houdaydah fronts. Other active conflict areas have also emerged in Taizz, Al Dahle and Abjan governorates.

Uncertainties about the nature of the coalition between the internationally recognised Government of Yemen and the Southern Transitional Council may continue to affect the effective control of territory, the delivery of public services and interaction with humanitarian actors in southern Yemen. In the north, increasing scrutiny by De Facto Authorities (DFA) on humanitarian interventions, in relation to the financial support to public service providers, and allegations of aid diversion by the donor community will continue shaping the humanitarian response and interactions with the Ansar Allah leadership (i.e. the De Facto Authorities in Sana'a) .

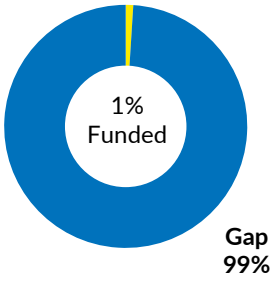
Within its the budgetary parameters for 2021, UNHCR is reviewing its staffing levels that currently do not match its budget and footprint. In 2021, UNHCR will reduce its presence in some areas in the south (Mukalla and Turbah) given the relatively low number of displaced persons (especially IDPs) in both areas, while setting a robust presence in Marib that hosts a quarter of all IDPs. UNHCR also plans to reinforce human resources in field offices in the north that hosts more than two-third of all IDPs countrywide. The Office will continue to exercise its refugee mandate, especially in advocating and cooperating with Ansar Allah authorities in resuming the registration process in the north, in continuing to conduct registration and refugee status determination in the Government-controlled areas, and exploring a limited set of durable solutions, including the resumption of the assisted return to Somalia once COVID-19-related restrictions ease. On the IDP front, UNHCR will continue to rely on heavily earmarked funding, maintaining a robust emergency response and supporting an increasingly protracted IDP caseload, primarily through multipurpose cash assistance and protection services through a network of community centres. UNHCR will continue to lead protection, shelter and camp coordination and camp management clusters.

Population figures

- **24.3 million** people in need
- **4 million** internally displaced since March 2015
- Over **80 per cent** have been displaced for more than a year
- **171,954** individuals (28,659 families) were newly displaced in 2020[1]
- Children and women represent up to **79 per cent** of the total IDP population
- **135,000** registered refugees and asylum-seekers

Funding

USD **271 M** required for 2021 operations



USD **1 M** *received as of 12 January 2021*

2021 Key planning figures and indicator targets

- **1,000,000 displaced Yemeni** and **44,500 refugees** will receive multi-purpose cash assistance;
- **470,000 displaced Yemeni** will receive cash grants for rental accommodation;
- **420,000 displaced Yemeni** will receive emergency shelters;
- **124,000 displaced Yemeni** and **1,100 refugees** will receive transitional shelters;
- **350,000 displaced Yemeni** and **35,000 refugees** will receive core relief items;
- **75,000 displaced Yemeni** and **8,700 refugees** will be reached with legal awareness, counselling and mediation sessions, and – when necessary – representation;
- **30,000 displaced Yemeni** and **8,000 refugees** will be provided with psychosocial support through UNHCR's Community Centers;
- **49,000 refugees** will receive health care support;
- **9,600 refugee children** will receive school kits for primary and secondary education; **210 refugee students** will receive support to access tertiary education;
- **9,000 refugees** will receive food assistance;
- **1,950 refugees with disabilities** will receive free rehabilitation services (physiotherapy sessions and assistive devices).

[1] *IOM/DTM 28 December 2020*

Population trends

Internal displacement remains one of the defining features of the Yemen conflict. At the end of 2020, it was estimated that Yemen hosted some total four million IDPs, the fourth largest population of conflict-induced IDPs in the world. According to IOM's displacement tracking matrix, from January to December 2020 it was estimated that some 28,500 households or 170,600 individuals were displaced due to conflict. Most of these new displacements (45%) were reported in Marib Governorate followed by Al Hudaydah and Al Dhale'e governorates. Some 990,000 IDPs are estimated to live across more than 1,600 IDP sites, only half of those supported by humanitarian actors. Although conflict remains the primary cause of displacement, disasters – particularly floods - continue to displace thousands of civilians. It is estimated that the 2020 summer rainy season displaced more than 74,000 households, the majority estimated to be already previously displaced. According to demographic data from UNHCR protection monitoring, children represent 55% of the IDP population (of which, 27% are girls), women 24% and men 21%, with an average IDP family size of six.

Gabra Hussain and her family at Dar Silm Camp supported by UNHCR in Aden City, Yemen© UNHCR

With the peace process not fully implemented in 2020, an increase in the number of conflict frontlines and thus new displacement is expected in 2021, with the number of people expected to be displaced at some 200,000 new IDPs. Monitoring and analysis on IDP returnees remain weak and does not currently allow for a coherent estimation of the overall IDP returnee population and their humanitarian needs (at the end of 2018, the last year for which there is reliable data, returning IDPs were estimated at 1.2 million). It is not expected that a significant number of IDPs will achieve durable solutions, either through returns to their place of origin, or through local integration in 2021 when acceptable by relevant authorities, although UNHCR will engage and support inter-agency discussions on how to support the voluntary and sustainable return of IDPs.

At the beginning of 2021 Yemen hosted some 135,000 registered and an estimated 55,800 unregistered asylum-seekers. The combination of COVID-19 and an unrelentless conflict in Yemen led to a sharp reduction in the number of refugees/asylum-seekers and migrants in Yemen. IOM estimates that the arrivals to the Yemeni coast from East Africa dropped by 90 percent since March 2020. After consulting relevant stakeholders at country and regional levels, a three-phased population review of the refugee and asylum-seeking population is currently underway to improve the accuracy of the refugee figures. The review considered the return of Somali nationals not registered with UNHCR and who were confirmed by the Somalia Operation to have spontaneously returned from Yemen to their homeland between 2015 -2020. The review also considers the transitory nature of foreign population movements across Yemen and the evidence that a significant segment of the unregistered population has likely reached further destination as reflected by the IOM's displacement tracking matrix migration monitoring flows over recent years. Demographically, the registered refugee population is constituted by a substantial number of small families and single individuals (family size of 3.7), with women and girls representing 35-30% of the overall refugee population. The refugee population is mainly comprised of Somali nationals (89%), followed by Ethiopians (5%), and small numbers of Syrians and Iraqis. Ethiopians remain the majority within the asylum-seeking population (81%).

Based on the review and the regular update of the active population data registered in proGres, the population of refugees and asylum-seekers at the end of 2020 is estimated at 135,000. However, while registration activities are ongoing in the south, carried out by local authorities and UNHCR, they have yet to resume in the north under the responsibility of the mandated institutions, following a halt which began in August 2019.

It is expected that most of the refugee population will remain concentrated in Aden (Basateen) and Sana'a urban areas, and to a lesser extent in Hadramout governorate (Mukalla) and in Kharaz camp, hosting some 9,250 refugees (as of end of 2020), largely Somali nationals.

Multi-Year Protection and Solutions Strategy

With a likely scenario of continuous conflict leading to new or protracted displacement, the protection strategy will build on existing approaches and activities in line with UNHCR's policies and commitments. As per its recently adopted IDP protection strategy, UNHCR will continue to strengthen qualitative and quantitative protection monitoring at household and community level, to improve analysis, inform evidenced-based programming and advocacy, strengthen identification and referrals. UNHCR will maintain—and possibly expand—its network of community centres to carry out targeted protection interventions for displaced children, women and girls at risk of violence and exploitation, people with disabilities and older people, and other persons at heightened risk, including those in need of psychosocial support.

UNHCR will maintain its legal awareness and counselling interventions, with emphasis on civil rights issues such as personal documentation and housing, land and property rights. The variety of protection services offered will be determined by UNHCR partners' capacity as well as by complementary opportunities for referral to other protection cluster actors, as well as public institutions. Cash assistance will complement protection services, when appropriate, and a scoping study will assess whether UNHCR multipurpose cash effectively mitigates protection risks by deterring the resort to negative coping mechanisms, particularly in situations of protracted displacement. UNHCR will invest in improving its two-way communication between displaced and hosting communities and UNHCR partners through established community feedback mechanisms such as community-based protection networks. While concrete inter-agency initiatives to foster durable solutions for IDPs in Yemen have yet to be devised, UNHCR will spearhead such advocacy, promoting the centrality of protection. Achieving durable solutions, particularly through voluntary return will remain a challenging effort to be strengthened in coordination with the authorities and other humanitarian and recovery actors. Similarly, initiatives to support displaced and host communities to build resilience and peaceful coexistence will need to be encouraged, to reduce vulnerability. Challenges may be expected, especially in relation to protection due to deeply rooted sociocultural norms.

Ismail, a 12-year-old boy who got displaced along his family from Haradh upon the start of the conflict. He now lives in Khdeishcamp for IDPs in Hajjah Governorate, Yemen © UNHCR

In exercising its refugee mandate, UNHCR will strive to ensure access to international protection through continuous registration and issuance of documentation, in cooperation with relevant authorities. Emphasis will continue to be put on the resumption of much-needed registration and documentation activities in the north, where such activities are under the responsibility of the Ansar Allah designated institutions (National Committee for Refugee Affairs). The delivery of protection services (child protection, gender-based violence, legal assistance, interventions in places of detention) and other services (education, health, cash assistance, small income-generating initiatives) will be implemented, with UNHCR multiplying its efforts to reach out to specialized agencies and public institutions to promote access and inclusion of refugees into public services. The Operation will seek to implement a responsible and consultative shift towards a settlement approach for refugees in Kharaz camp and work to promote area-based interventions in other refugee-hosting areas.

The review of the unregistered refugee population will be concluded, with the goal of assisting 135,000 refugees by the end of 2021, while the process of continuous registration or verification will be reinforced, pending agreement and collaboration with UNHCR and authorities in the north to promptly resume such critical protection intervention.

Durable solutions will continue to be pursued, notably the voluntary assisted returns of Somali refugees, depending on the evolving COVID 19 pandemic. Options for the voluntary repatriation of Ethiopians will need to be weighed against the attitude of Yemeni authorities, UNHCR capacities in both countries and the current situation in Ethiopia. Efforts to expand resettlement will be pursued, primarily through improving internal referrals and advocating for a higher quota. On statelessness, the Yemen operation will continue its efforts to advocate for accession to the statelessness conventions and maintain initiatives to support access to civil documentation, particularly birth certificates, amongst refugees and IDPs.

Partnership and Coordination

As the protection cluster lead agency and provider of last resort, UNHCR plays a pivotal role in advocating the protection of civilians and of forcibly displaced families. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic and the call for a ceasefire, the conflict continues to exact a significant toll on the lives of civilians. In addition to tracking the impact of the conflict on the civilian population through civil impact monitoring project, the protection cluster will promote assistance of civilians injured or otherwise affected by hostilities through referrals and provision of specialized services. Moreover, using multiple platforms including through the Humanitarian Country Team, the cluster will continue to advocate with parties to the conflict and others for respect of international obligations related to the protection of civilians and for mainstreaming protection throughout all humanitarian interventions.

The protection cluster will continue to strengthen its coordination with other sectors and will work to further solidify its coordination with local authorities. It will continue to support the development of community-based protection networks to ensure the active participation of affected communities, the strengthening of their resilience and the referral of individual cases.

As the shelter cluster lead in Yemen, UNHCR will continue to fully align its interventions to the cluster's strategy, including by moving from a one-fits-all non-food item kit to a model using a core kit with three options to be adapted according to needs, geographical location, climate, culture and family composition. UNHCR will play an active role in the shelter cluster common pipeline, which aims at reorganizing and consolidating cost efficient and more reliable sourcing of shelter materials and non-food items. UNHCR will support analysis and response on housing, land, and property issues as evictions from IDP hosting sites and private dwellings continue to rise, largely due to delays in rental payments. Utilizing the results of the cluster's watershed and runoff analysis, UNHCR will prioritize flood mitigation measures such as sandbagging techniques. In urban contexts, cash for rent will continue to improve security of tenure. Transitional and long-term shelter solutions may be prioritized where appropriate, and if funding is made available.

As of the end of 2020, more than 1,600 Yemini families found temporary shelter in informal settlements. Yemeni families will continue to find shelter in informal settlements, where access to basic services and living conditions remain substandard and where IDP families are at heightened risk of exposure to communicable diseases. Economic instability and limited livelihoods will further reduce household purchasing power, creating greater economic barriers to access to services, forcing communities to resort to negative coping mechanisms, and creating tensions with host communities. UNHCR will continue mapping needs and gaps in the interventions on such sites and work to mitigate the threat of eviction from sites in the proximity of active areas of conflict (some 45% are within 5 km of such areas).

UNHCR will continue to spearhead the RRMS with IOM and will seek to revitalize mechanisms of operational coordination for situations of mixed population movements. The mixed population are platforms to discuss trends, produce analysis regarding the situation of people on the move and to coordinate action with relevant humanitarian and public actors.

Population Group: **IDPs in Yemen**

Priorities

Internal displacement remains a feature in the Yemen conflict. With almost 177,000 newly displaced by the end of 2020, the overall new and protracted IDP population has surpassed four million at the end of 2020. The Operation projects similar yearly trends of new displacement in 2021.

IDP women, children and other persons at heightened risk face protection risks due to multiple effects of the conflict, sociocultural norms and weak rule of law, and the deterioration of their socioeconomic welfare. Access to civil status registration remains a challenge, due to lack of awareness and limited operating capacities of local institutions. IDP children remain particularly vulnerable, exposed to early marriage, child labour and other forms of abuse, neglect and exploitation. Gender-based violence incidents remain underreported, with a culture of impunity and lack of specialized service providers hindering effective interventions. Almost one million IDPs are estimated to live across more than 1,600 hosting sites, which are only partially accessible to humanitarian actors. Loss of livelihoods is leading to negative coping mechanisms, while relations between IDPs and host communities are often strained due to competition over scarce economic resources, growing discrimination, and tribal tensions.

In 2021, UNHCR will strive to mitigate the protection risks of IDPs by addressing specific needs with due consideration for age, gender and diversity. UNHCR in Yemen will focus on:

I. Improving qualitative and quantitative protection monitoring at household and community level by strengthening its staff and partners' capacity. Protection monitoring will enhance timely identification and referral of persons at heightened risk, including to determine eligibility for assistance; trends analysis will inform evidence-based programming and advocacy.

II. Maintaining its network of community centres to carry out targeted protection interventions. Gender-based violence prevention and response, including case identification and management, will be consolidated. For child protection, UNHCR will focus on case identification through protection monitoring and community-based protection network referrals, and on activities such as recreational and psychosocial support, while strengthening referral pathways with UNICEF and other partners, including MOSAL, for case management. Legal awareness and counselling will focus on personal documentation, family issues and informal dispute resolution. Psychosocial first aid and psychosocial support will address the situation of distress created by the effects of the conflict, displacement and the COVID-19 pandemic.

III. Addressing socioeconomic vulnerability through cash assistance will remain a key complement to protection services. As socioeconomic vulnerabilities among IDPs increase, multipurpose cash and rental subsidies will also contribute to mitigate the recourse to negative coping strategies, therefore mitigating protection risks. A limited component of emergency "cash in hand" may be maintained.

IV. Enhance living conditions in IDP sites and co-existence between IDP and hosting communities through quick impact projects.

V. Identifying vulnerable IDPs, foster community support and enhancing two-way communications between IDP communities and UNHCR and its partners through community-based protection networks.

UNHCR will continue to invest in internal and partners' capacities on protection and information management. UNHCR will maintain its tri-cluster and area-based approaches to foster synergies in the response and improve the protective environment for IDPs where feasible. While focusing on new and protracted displacement, UNHCR will contribute to inter-agency efforts towards better analysis and increased support to durable solutions for IDPs in Yemen.

Objectives

Services for persons with specific needs strengthened (goal: Protection and mixed solutions)

Problem assessment: New and protracted displacement continues to determine vulnerabilities, protection and assistance needs, particularly for persons at heightened risk such as women and girls, at-risk children, persons with serious medical conditions and chronic illnesses, older people, people with disabilities and marginalized communities like the descendants of Belal, colloquially referred to as the Muhamasheen. Opportunities for a safe and dignified existence remain challenged by the effects of the conflict, compounded by the pandemic and sociocultural norms and practices marginalizing such groups. Findings of UNHCR protection monitoring and needs assessments of some 68,000 households between January and September 2020 show that 77% of households have at least one member displaying a vulnerability - pregnant or lactating women or girls (16%), women head of households (16%), individuals with chronic medical conditions (10%). Some 25% of households report to have at least one member with legal and/or physical protection needs, including persons exhibiting conflict or displacement-related signs of distress. A recent UNHCR post distribution monitoring report revealed that 73% of respondents engaged in four or more negative coping mechanisms to survive. Maintaining the capacity to conduct protection monitoring remains critical, to inform analysis, evidence-based advocacy and assistance delivery. UNHCR has in place dedicated monitoring tools at community (rapid protection assessment) and household levels (Initial Needs Assessment Tool (INAT) and Protection Monitoring Tools (PMT)), feeding into vulnerability criteria used for eligibility in cash assistance, which remains a cornerstone for UNHCR's response to displacement.

Comprehensive response: The Operation will expand its protection monitoring as well as needs assessments. The protection monitoring tool used in the north (INAT) was modified in 2020 to be more accessible by local authorities and will need to be further re-negotiated to allow more meaningful analysis and needs identification. Identified vulnerable IDPs will continue to be referred to appropriate services including through the existing network of community centres (11 in the north and two in the south), where targeted protection interventions will be offered. In the south, four new community centres may be established, while any expansion will need to consider the current capacity of protection partners, which needs to be reinforced. UNHCR will address psychosocial distress through the implementation of psychological first aid and psychosocial support via individual counselling and group sessions and through referral to specialized services, where needed. Basic support services for the well-being of children and women and girls at risk will be maintained, while looking for complementarity with child protection and other protection actors.

Cash assistance will remain a cornerstone of UNHCR's response to internal displacement, with modalities aligned with inter-agency parameters. A revamped scoring formula may be adjusted to re-evaluate the vulnerability of protracted IDPs. As the socioeconomic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic persists, UNHCR will extend its disbursement cycle to increase the sustainability of such interventions. Limited emergency "cash in hand" for households in distress may be disbursed according to revised eligibility criteria.

Prioritized response: The Operation will continue using and improving its protection monitoring/vulnerability assessment tools to assess some 120,000 households in 2021. The data will be further evaluated using an improved scoring system and will determine eligible households for non-food items, shelter, multipurpose cash assistance, and rental subsidies. UNHCR will harmonize its cash transfer value to the minimum expenditure basket recently endorsed by the inter-agency cash and market working group. Some 40,000 households will benefit from cash assistance. Some 24,000 individuals will be provided with psychosocial support through community centres, which are to increase from 13 to 15 following additional two centres planned for the south in 2021.

Population has sufficient basic and domestic items

Problem assessment: In 2021, the conflict in Yemen is expected to generate new displacement, particularly across active frontlines such as Hudaydah, Sa'adah and Marib governorates. Some 150,000 people were newly displaced in these governorates in 2020. Further frontlines have appeared in Taizz and Al Dahle governorates, increasing the risk of additional displacement. At the same time, Yemen will continue to be affected by natural disasters such as seasonal flooding and extreme weather conditions. Field monitoring in September 2020 for some 68,124 households indicated that 70% of assessed IDPs were without any source of income, while 22% of households earned less than USD 41 per month, forcing many to resort to negative coping mechanisms. This reflects the deterioration of the economic situation in Yemen, and the ongoing depreciation of the Yemeni Rial. After six years of conflict, similar conditions are affecting host communities as well. In emergency situations involving new displacement, core relief items and shelter material represent one of the main interventions to guarantee minimal standard of living and protection for the most vulnerable.

In 2020, UNHCR assisted 43,138 households countrywide with core relief items as part of the shelter or non-food item cluster. UNHCR also enhanced its storage capacity for emergency stock, by establishing warehouses in each field office. It will remain critical to maintain enough quantity of contingency stock for conflict-induced IDPs, for emergency situations in hosting sites (for example, fire incidents) and—if the situation calls for a last resort intervention—for flood-affected IDPs.

Comprehensive response: Considering the large population in need, UNHCR will deliver non-food items through its partners as part of its comprehensive shelter interventions and mobilize members of shelter cluster to respond to the needs of IDPs, primarily those recently displaced, as well as vulnerable host communities.

In 2021, approximately 50,000 households will be targeted with non-food items and 20,000 with winterization assistance. Longer term solutions will be explored through a better understanding of housing, land and property issues in support of shelter and protection interventions. UNHCR will maintain emergency stock in each hub. Customization of non-food items will include mosquito nets, stoves, and solar fans in warmer areas, taking into consideration geographical locations and context. Cash assistance will complement the response or replace in-kind distribution where possible.

Prioritized response: UNHCR will target newly displaced families by the conflict, and where necessary, protracted IDPs affected by natural hazards, targeting 23,000 households with non-food items and/or cash assistance.

Shelter and Infrastructures established, improved and maintained | Emergency Response

Problem assessment: According to shelter cluster's assessments, over seven million people in Yemen have immediate unfulfilled shelter needs, out of which nearly one million IDPs live in camp-like situations and in sub-standard living conditions, primarily overcrowding, at risk of eviction (both in urban settings due to inability to pay rent and in informal settlements in the absence of land tenure agreements). In addition, many are living close to active conflict areas, with 45% of IDP hosting sites within five kilometres of such areas, or exposed to yearly seasonal flooding.

According to assessments conducted by UNHCR in 2020 with a sample of 238,000 households, 55% of respondents reported living in emergency shelters and 64% facing risks caused by living in sub-standard shelters, including harm to their physical and mental health.

As the conflict continues to generate new displacement, particularly in active confrontation areas that are continuously expanding, both displaced and host communities face harsher living conditions due to their lack of access to livelihoods and the fragile economy, which will lead to growing level of poverty.

Competition over common resources, coupled with stigma towards IDPs perceived as vectors of the COVID-19 pandemic, is fanning tensions between displaced and host communities, particularly around hosting sites. Durable solutions and voluntary returns continue to be a limited option.

During the rainy season, new and protracted IDPs as well as host communities struggle to find safe and adequate shelter options, with the majority living in sub-standard conditions. From January to September 2020, an estimated 74,000 families had been directly affected by heavy rains and floods across Yemen.

In 2021, UNHCR in Yemen will continue providing emergency shelter standard kits, while promoting and expanding the shifting to the localized and enhanced emergency shelter solutions, coupled with Cash for Work for both displaced and host communities. The enhanced emergency shelter kit combines UNHCR standard plastic sheets with traditional construction techniques and the use of local materials such as Khazaf, a local palm tree fibre refined to produce modular walls manufactured by IDP and host communities, and purchased by UNHCR and shelter cluster partners for use in shelter materials. The manufacturing of these modules creates an income-generating opportunity for vulnerable families after receiving materials and training by UNHCR partners, while providing a culturally sensitive response for emergency shelter needs of Yemeni displaced communities.

Comprehensive response: UNHCR will target 50,000 most vulnerable IDP families with enhanced emergency shelter kits and maintain a floating contingency stock of 20,000 kits. In addition, more efforts will be dedicated to flood prevention and mitigation measures to reduce the need of emergency shelter response. Each hub will maintain a first line of response stock based on needs and expected displacements in 2021 to provide assistance in a timely manner (6,000 in Al Hudaydah, 4,000 in Marib, 3,000 in Aden, 2,500 in Sa'adah, 2,500 in Ibb and 2,000 in Sana'a). UNHCR will continue exploring sustainable long-term shelter solutions, especially in relation to IDPs who may have returned to their place of origin and through local integration, where acceptable.

Prioritized response: UNHCR will target 4,000 newly displaced families with enhanced emergency shelter kits in acute severity locations based on needs identified through principled needs assessments, while keeping an additional 2,500 kits as contingency stock.

Shelter and Infrastructures established, improved and maintained | Protection and mixed solutions

Problem assessment: Approximately three quarters of IDPs reside in de facto authorities'controlled areas, with the majority of IDPs in areas controlled by the internationally recognized Government located in Marib. Approximately 60% of IDPs live with host families or in rented accommodations, while 25% reside in informal spontaneous hosting sites in sub-standard conditions.

With protracted displacement mixed with new displacement due to conflict, and to a lesser extent displacement from natural hazards,—shelter conditions vary greatly from one group to another and depending on the location where IDPs find safety. While IDPs living in urban or peri-urban settings are at risk of eviction due to their inability to pay rent, others are establishing their dwellings on private land for which they have no security of tenure. Some IDPs have also found refuge at 400 collective centres, mainly unfinished and abandoned buildings. Given limited local integration and return options, it remains a challenge to identify long-term solutions and invest in shelters for people who are unable to stabilize their situation.

Comprehensive response: In 2021, UNHCR will provide rental subsidies to some 67,000 vulnerable IDP families, which will allow them to continue paying rent and avoid evictions. Some 20,00 transitional shelters will be built or upgraded through Cash for Work as a way of offering more long-term and dignified living conditions. UNHCR will continue to explore ways reinforce support from local authorities to identify public land and upgrade shelter conditions in collective centres and IDP hosting sites.

Prioritized response: In 2021, UNHCR will provide some 3,000 transitional shelters and 46,000 rental subsidies to extremely vulnerable families (assessed based on protection vulnerabilities, such as female or child-headed households, breadwinners with disabilities or older persons without family support) living in sub-standard conditions.

Community mobilization strengthened and expanded

Problem assessment: According to the 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan extension, 200 of Yemen's 333 districts are now classified as hard-to-reach, inhabited by more than 11 million vulnerable people. Limited humanitarian access to remote and highly affected areas is aggravated by insufficient number of partners, discontinuation of activities due to lack of funding, and administrative and security obstacles limiting humanitarian access. Accordingly, UNHCR will strive to strengthen its channels of communication with affected communities to better understand and address their needs. A Communication with Community survey in 2020 identified that 'word of mouth' remains the most common source of information amongst IDPs.

In 2020, UNHCR's protection partners established some 160 community-based protection networks (CBPNs), comprising more than 700 members, composed of male and female displaced and host community members. CBPNs are an important communication channel through which timely information can be disseminated and feedback solicited. These networks remain a form of community empowerment and support to community resilience. CBPNs are tasked to detect new population movements, and act as an early warning mechanism; identify and refer individuals in need of specialized protection services; support community-based complaints and feedback mechanisms; and report protection needs at individual and community level. They are connected to UNHCR partners' community centres. UNHCR's existing CBPNs system requires structural review and substantive capacity-building to ensure that they fulfil their purpose, function impartially, and consistently adopt Age Gender Diversity approaches, in line with UNHCR global policy. Aside from CBPNs, UNHCR's existing community feedback mechanisms include hotlines and complaint or feedback boxes at community centres. From January to October 2020, around 17,500 communications were received.

The Communication with Community survey identified that community feedback mechanisms were not sufficiently known or well utilized among IDPs. As such, UNHCR will seek to balance the tendency to multiply outlets with the capacity to manage them and avoid creating expectations amongst communities, while seeking to improve the follow-up on requested feedback.

Comprehensive response: In 2021, UNHCR will invest in strengthening the CBPNs system, ensuring representative membership, enhancing female representation and including representation from persons at heightened risk and marginalized communities. Their capacity will be strengthened to improve the identification of vulnerable persons and their timely referral, the reporting on protection risks or vulnerabilities, as well as the reception complaints and the provision of feedback. CBPN members will continue disseminating oral and written information and raising awareness through face-to-face and group interactions on important topics, thus enhancing two-way communication. UNHCR will pay attention to mechanisms through which it receives and responds to complaints in a timely manner. More will be done to raise awareness regarding confidential access to complaints and feedback mechanisms and to provide remedies through the involvement of community-based protection networks and dissemination of material about complaint mechanisms UNHCR will expand its geographical coverage of CBPNs with extra funding, by establishing or supporting additional CBPN teams in remote and rural locations, particularly in the north where most IDPs are located. UNHCR will collaborate with relevant partners like UNICEF, who have multiple channels of communication with communities, including through local media and community volunteer networks.

Prioritized response: The existing 150 CBPNs will be prioritized for capacity-building support.

Peaceful co-existence with local communities promoted

Problem assessment: The continuation of the conflict and increasing displacements as well as the deterioration of the economy further hit by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, resulted in IDPs and host communities competing over increasingly scarce resources, including livelihood opportunities or access to public services. As a result, tensions between communities are on the rise, including among IDPs who are stigmatized on suspicion of carrying the virus due to their mobility. IDPs reside in the most impoverished urban neighbourhoods in Sana'a, Aden, Hudaydah, Taizz and Marib, and in more than 1,600 camp-like settings in poor rural areas. These tensions were particularly noticeable during the rainy season that caused flooding which impacted on the well-being of both displaced and host communities and during the peak of the pandemic.

After assessment and through participation of communities directly affected, UNHCR implemented quick impact projects (QIPs) that allowed for approximately 30,000 individuals from displaced and host communities to join forces on common initiatives, while another 1,000 individuals benefited from Cash for Work activities in 2020. A proper QIPs strategy anchored in protection and social cohesion objectives will be devised to maximise the impact of such projects in 2021.

In 2020, UNHCR constructed eight community spaces in Hudaydah and Hajjah, creating mutual space for community activities. Similarly, UNHCR supported activities aimed at improving living conditions on and around IDP hosting sites.

Reports indicate an increase of instances of evictions as IDPs do not have the financial means to pay rent or cannot secure proper tenancy. This increase confirms that the acceptance of IDPs by host communities is diminishing. A report issued in November 2020 in collaboration with the UNHCR protection cluster states that IDPs in sites are often easier to recognize as displaced, i.e. outsiders, and to physically distinguish or locate. 'Being an IDP' as a reason of tension and exclusion is also mentioned among IDPs in hosting sites, compared to those in host communities. To address these concerns in 2021, UNHCR and partners will continue to foster social cohesion through community-based initiatives, awareness raising sessions by community-based protection networks, and through the implementation of QIPs, based on a revised strategy and operating procedures.

Comprehensive response: UNHCR plans to implement 100 QIPs related to community-led infrastructure projects, including through Cash for Work, shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene, education and protection interventions, in particular in IDP sites in Hudaydah, Sa'adah, Ibb, Marib, Aden and Sana'a governorates, complimenting protection and CCCM activities. Such projects will seek to foster social cohesion by engaging both displaced persons and host communities in joint activities to address common needs or concerns identified through participatory approaches.

Prioritized response: In 2021, 15 peaceful coexistence projects in the form of QIPs will be supported – particularly in IDP sites, mostly through Cash for Work modality for water sources/projects, rehabilitation of livelihood training centres, and repairs of common public infrastructures. Coordination with relevant clusters will be pursued, to better identify gaps and apply cluster technical standards in UNHCR interventions.

Along with shelter cluster partners, UNHCR will develop a comprehensive approach to flood prevention and mitigation, working simultaneously on preparedness for the most exposed districts and rehabilitation of critical infrastructure. This will include activities related to sandbagging (Cash for Work), in zones assessed by the Shelter Cluster's flood susceptibility mapping, ongoing watershed and runoff analysis in flood exposed areas.

Camp management and coordination refined and improved

Problem assessment: IDPs settling in improvised settlements often lack access to adequate shelter and basic services, including health, education and water, sanitation and hygiene. Close to one million IDPs live across more than 1,600 sites across the country, but predominantly in northern governorates and around Marib city. They live in overcrowded conditions, often close to active conflict areas. It is estimated that up to 45% of these sites are within five kilometres of such areas. While initially welcomed by surrounding communities, competition over scarce resources and the perceptions that IDPs are carriers of the COVID-19 have led to increasing tension between displaced and host communities.

As the camp coordination and camp management cluster lead, UNHCR began the mapping of services and gaps across some 700 hosting sites, and towards the end of 2020 received agreement from the IDP coordinating bodies of authorities in both the north and the south to expand mapping to all sites hosting IDPs. Such mapping will provide basic information on population demographics and community needs, which allows a targeted and evidence-based response from a multi-sectoral perspective. In addition, the cluster established a referral system to flag critical gaps that are to be addressed through coordination with other clusters. Particular attention is paid to evictions from IDP sites, given the increase of risks associated with the lack of means for IDPs to secure tenure, both financially and legally.

In 2021, UNHCR and partners aim at improving the living condition of displaced families living on these informal IDP sites and vulnerable host communities. Assisting these communities to strengthen their resilience and participate in decisions affecting their lives will be achieved through a participatory approach, namely IDP committees will be established at large hosting sites to represent the needs and concerns of displaced persons vis-à-vis humanitarian partners, while ensuring an Age, Gender, and Diversity (AGD) approach is applied . Quick impact projects (QIPs) implemented in IDP sites will aim at not only improving living conditions but also fostering social cohesion and peaceful cohabitation. IDPs themselves will continue to be empowered to identify needs and support the delivery of services.

Comprehensive response: UNHCR will lead the coordination work of the cluster, thus ensuring common needs assessment and response, including by ensuring the participation of IDPs. Community-led projects (QIPs) will continue to be financially supported (including Cash for Work) to improve living conditions and cohabitation between displaced and host communities. In this respect, UNHCR will ensure that synergies with shelter and protection interventions remain central to partner interventions on such sites.

Prioritized response: UNHCR and its partners will conduct site management activities on the largest IDP settlements (some 300), provided that UNHCR and partners continue to have access to such settlements.

Population Group: **Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Yemen**

Priorities

As of November 2020, Yemen hosted some 220,700 refugees and asylum-seekers. Of those, some 135,000 are currently registered in ProGres, mainly Somalis and Ethiopians, with smaller numbers from Eritreans, Iraqis and Syrians. A progressive review of the refugee population is underway through a phased reduction, based on estimations on returns to country of origin and on evidence that many foreigners only transit through Yemen on the way to other countries. While addressing the unregistered population, the review will extend to all active population data, as part of the regular registration process. Based on the records of registered populations, the urban areas in Aden/Basateen (43%), Sana'a (34%), Mukhalla (9%) and Kharaz camp in Lajh (6%) will remain the primary areas for implementing the refugee program. According to proGres, 40% of the registered population are female, while 8% of refugees have one or multiple specific needs (women at risk (38%), persons with serious medical conditions (13%) and people with disabilities (12%)).

Yemen remains the only country in the Arabian Peninsula that ratified the 1951 Convention and its Protocol, granting prima facie status to Somali nationals. While Somalis continue to be considered as prima facie refugees in the areas under the control of the Government of Yemen, the de facto authorities in Sana'a suspended the prima facie recognition of Somali nationals as well as registration and refugee status determination activities in August 2016. After a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between UNHCR and the authorities in Sana'a on data sharing, registration resumed temporarily between November 2018 and August 2019 and some pre-registration activities were conducted in 2020. As a result, registration, documentation and refugee status determination are currently only available in areas under control of the Government, where Somali nationals are still considered prima facie refugees, while UNHCR conducts registration and refugee status determination for Ethiopian nationals.

The suspension of registration and refugee status determination activities in the north of the country prevents asylum-seekers and refugees from renewing their documentation and accessing asylum procedures. Most refugees have expired documentation or remain undocumented and face an increased risk of detention, including for irregular presence on the territory, involuntary transfers to the south of the country and challenges in access to basic services. UNHCR's assistance for refugees and asylum-seekers in Yemen will focus on the most vulnerable, with an attempt to rationalise and harmonise assistance across the Operation. UNHCR will continue its advocacy efforts and its support to mandated institutions to resume the registration process and the issuance of documentation in de facto authority's controlled areas in the north. UNHCR will strive to enhance the quality and effectiveness of registration and access to documentation as a key protection tool. To maintain accurate data, enable targeted assistance and seek durable solutions, UNHCR will support data review, particularly if registration resumes in the north. The implementation of PRIMES registration platform will also be pursued, if conditions allow.

UNHCR will strengthen the effectiveness of its reception and refugee status determination process by reviewing modalities in line with the new UNHCR guidelines, explore fast-track modalities, strengthen the monitoring of mixed population movement and liaise with migration partners to detect individuals in need of international protection amongst mixed population flows. An "out of camp" strategy will be pursued for Kharaz Camp to progressively integrate the 9,250 Somali refugees living in the camp into the surrounding host community.

UNHCR will continue to prevent and respond to the risk of arbitrary arrest and detention of refugees, including through legal assistance. UNHCR will support access to basic services, including health and education, with efforts to promote refugees' inclusion in public services through partnerships with other UN Agencies and relevant ministries. The Office will continue providing protection services, including psychosocial support, legal assistance, community-based protection initiatives and services for children and women at risk and for other persons at heightened risk). Cash assistance will continue to be provided to the most vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers, based on case management and with an attempt to harmonise procedures across the operation.

UNHCR Yemen will work to enhance self-reliance of asylum-seekers and refugees by developing a livelihood strategy with specialised support from regional and global levels. durable solutions such as assisted spontaneous returns for Somali refugees and a strategic use of resettlement will be pursued, if the COVID-19-related restrictions ease, while voluntary repatriation to Ethiopia will be assessed in line with the evolving political situation there.

Objectives

Self-reliance and livelihoods improved (goal: Protection and mixed solutions)

Problem assessment: The collapse of the economy and of public services due to the conflict seriously affects refugees' self-reliance and livelihood opportunities, increasing their dependency on humanitarian aid. Refugees do not have the right to work in Yemen without possession of a work permit, which is often costly and difficult to obtain. As a result, their ability to enter the work force is limited, forcing them to rely on the informal sector, exposing them to sub-standard treatment and poor wages. Due to the high reliance on the informal sector, the socioeconomic situation of refugees has further deteriorated since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic due to restrictions imposed by authorities on movement and economic activity, as well as the increased stigmatization of foreigners. Refugees and asylum-seekers reported having lost their jobs or micro-businesses, while accruing mounting debts often following delays in repayment of loans. As a result, many face evictions due to their inability to pay rent. The situation is even more dire in the south of the country given the devaluation of the Yemeni Rial, leading to a loss of purchasing power vis-à-vis an estimated 40% increase in food prices. An increasing number of refugees are thus forced to resort to negative coping mechanisms, including begging and child labour, and dependent on humanitarian aid. Many refugees and asylum-seekers lack necessary education and technical skills to find decent employment opportunities.

Comprehensive response: In 2021, UNHCR will advocate for an expansion of livelihood and self-reliance opportunities, through refugees' inclusion into programs of key livelihood actors. In line with the Global Compact on Refugees, the Operation plans to develop a livelihood strategy after undertaking a comprehensive socioeconomic assessment and mapping of stakeholders, including UNDP, ILO and the World Bank, seeking the support and technical expertise at UNHCR regional and global level. If resources allow, various forms of vocational training and start-up support through microloans will be provided to some 2,500 refugees.

Prioritized response: In 2021, UNHCR will prioritize small-scale livelihood activities for some 2,000 refugee youth, women including gender-based violence survivors, people with disabilities and caregivers of unaccompanied children, to reduce their dependency on external aid and foster dignity. The support will include technical vocational training, microloans and various courses such as language and computer training.

Protection of children strengthened (goal: Protection and mixed solutions)

Problem assessment: More than 26,000 children are registered as refugees or asylum-seekers in Yemen. Many refugee children, particularly unaccompanied and separated children, cannot rely on community networks and remain at risk of exploitation and abuse, including during their travel to Yemen and beyond. Community-based caregiving arrangements are challenging to be implemented on a large scale. Refugee children face legal and socioeconomic barriers to access education, particularly those who work to support themselves and their families. With the exhaustion of coping mechanisms and depletion of family economic resources, refugee children may be at risk of forced recruitment, early marriage and child labour. Children face increased risk of domestic violence, verbal abuse and physical violence as family structures are put under stress by living conditions, poverty and displacement situations. Children with disabilities are often marginalized due to prevailing sociocultural norms and isolated due to structural barriers to access schools or public services and humanitarian aid.

The closure of schools during the COVI-19 pandemic has negatively impacted the emotional and physical well-being of many children. Movement restrictions worsened the already sub-standard living conditions for many. In a survey conducted in Sana'a in August 2020, 71% of parents highlighted the psychosocial impact of the restrictive measures on their families, with increased distress and frustration reported among children.

From January to October 2020, 150 new unaccompanied and separated children were identified. UNHCR and partners conducted 405 best interest assessments for unaccompanied and separated children and other children at risk, including to organize caregiving arrangements with other refugee families. Those arrangements often require a thorough process of screening and monitoring. Public institutions, notably the ministries of social affairs, as well as UNICEF and other protection actors lack resources to respond to the needs of refugee children.

Comprehensive response: In 2021, UNHCR will continue prioritizing child protection activities with a focus on the most vulnerable refugee and asylum-seeking children. Childcare and recreational activities, psychosocial support, limited economic support to caregivers and hosting families through cash assistance, will be provided through UNHCR's family centre in Sana'a, as well as community centres in Aden and in Kharaz camp. The possibility to include adolescent unaccompanied and separated children in life skill activities and vocational training for income generating opportunities will be explored. Limited support will be offered to children with disabilities, such as assistive mobility devices and referral to rehabilitation centres run by the social welfare system.

UNHCR will continue participating in the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism technical working group. In line with global commitments, UNHCR will seek UNICEF's cooperation and support for refugee children to access national child protection services. UNHCR will continue its efforts to establish referral mechanisms with IOM and to address the needs of children on the move. Training for partners on the UNHCR best interest procedure guidelines will be conducted.

Prioritized response: UNHCR and partners will continue to conduct best interest determination for children at risk, and some 450 best interest assessments will be conducted. Some 850 children at risk will receive assistance, including through case management services and caregiving arrangements; 1,500 refugee children will participate in activities in family and community centres; some 200 children with disabilities will be supported, including with assistive devices; and activities for youth will benefit some 1,200 adolescents with skills and awareness activities.

Risk of SGBV is reduced and quality of response improved (goal: Protection and mixed solutions)

Problem assessment: Gender-based violence continues to be a risk particularly faced by refugee women and girls, especially those without support from community networks or families. Commonly reported gender-based violence incidents include sexual violence, physical violence, domestic violence and psychological and emotional abuse. The general socioeconomic situation that pushed refugees into further poverty, compounded by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, continues to trigger negative coping mechanisms for many with no resources or economic prospects, including survival sex.

Through awareness, community-based interventions and targeted cash assistance, UNHCR attempts to offer limited support to reduce such risks. Recent participatory consultations with refugee women and girls in urban areas (Aden/Basateen and Sana'a) and safety audits in camp settings (Kharaz) revealed several factors that may expose individuals to gender-based violence, which included living in sub-standard conditions with lack of privacy, especially due to the high cost of rents; the challenges of movement in poorly lit and insecure areas; the presence of armed individuals; and the risk of physical and sexual assault by members of local communities as a result of discriminatory attitudes.

In addition, marginalization and increased poverty exacerbated pre-existing vulnerabilities and inequalities among families, particularly when gender roles changed as an effect of the context and conditions in the country of asylum and women are assuming new functions in the family, including those of breadwinners. Recent consultations conducted with women's refugee group and partners highlighted that domestic violence was increasingly reported, particularly during movements restrictions implemented due to the pandemic.

Identifying and reporting gender-based violence cases remains a challenge, due to the prevailing sociocultural environment, an unfavourable and discriminatory criminal and civil legal framework, and lack of trust in law enforcement and judicial systems. As a result, under-reporting is believed to be high.

Awareness on gender-based violence and the protection of women and girls in general requires reinforcement, including through initiatives put in place by UNHCR and partners such as women committees to sensitize peers, identify cases and provide information on available services and solutions.

Comprehensive response: Through dedicated partners, UNHCR will continue to mitigate and address gender-based violence, including through referral of cases to specialized services for survivors, to be conducted in a safe and confidential environment (i.e. dedicated community centres and safe spaces) and through consent and participation of survivors. This will include referral to medical services, psychosocial support, material support (including cash assistance and engagement in micro income-generating initiatives) and legal counselling and assistance.

UNHCR will continue its efforts to strengthen community engagement in gender-based violence prevention, through communication with communities, sensitization and information on available services and when possible, on women's rights. This will also include activities with men and boys. Dedicated community structure (for example, women committees) will remain instrumental for sensitization, identification and support. In Kharaz and certain urban areas, UNHCR will advocate mitigating measures such as lighting installations and additional safety audit action plans and other risk mitigation measures.

Engagement in coordination structures and participation in inter-agency initiatives will be maintained. Some 850 gender-based violence survivors will be assisted countrywide through multisectoral support.

Prioritized response: A total of 380 survivors will be provided with multisectoral support (medical assistance, psychosocial support, non-food items, cash assistance, legal counselling, and referral to life skills training), including as part of case management through partner community centres. Awareness and sensitization sessions will be organized through partner and community structures aimed at reaching some 1,200 refugees and asylum-seekers.

Quality of registration and profiling improved or maintained (goal: Protection and mixed solutions)

Problem assessment: In the north of Yemen, UNHCR handed registration activities to the de facto authorities since 2018, including the ownership of the ProGres database, while continuing to provide technical support and training to the mandated institutions. In August 2019, the authorities suspended all registration and documentation activities without reaching the targets set in the partnership agreement. Some limited pre-registration and registration verification activities were conducted in 2020 but falling short of a full-fledged registration and documentation process. In 2020, UNHCR began negotiations with National Committee for Refugee Affairs (NACRA), as the overall coordination and policy-making body on refugee issues in north of Yemen, and on the more technical side with the Bureau for Refugee Affairs (BRA)in Sana'a to resume the process. As a result of the suspension, it is estimated that ID documents for almost 51,000 refugees and asylum-seekers have expired, effectively making the data ProGres database out of date. As BRA is the data controller for the proGres data in the north, UNHCR currently lacks the capacity to edit data from proGres to update protection events, biodata and allow other case management activities.

In the south, Immigration, Passport and Naturalization Authority continues to conduct registration and documentation for Somali nationals, who are still granted a prima facie status by the authorities. In parallel, UNHCR's Office in Aden conducts registration and documentation for other, mainly Ethiopians, asylum-seekers and refugees as Somalis are recognised as prima facie refugees and registered as such by the authorities. The lack of verification exercises in urban areas and limited staff capacity remain recurrent challenges for the quality of registration activities. The lack of registration centres at migration entry points in the south of Yemen (Aden, Bab Almandeb, Lahj, Mukalla and Shabwa) and the long distance to travel to dedicated registration centres also represent a challenge for situations of mixed population movements.

Comprehensive response: In the north, UNHCR will continue its efforts to negotiate with NACRA and at a technical level with BRA for a resumption of registration activities in 2021. UNHCR will also advocate with the authorities to conduct a verification exercise and comprehensive data clean-up to ensure accuracy of the ProGres data. UNHCR will also review the existing registration standard operating procedures with BRA, to ensure that registration is conducted according to international standards, while ensuring the protection of personal data in line with the 2018 Memorandum of Understanding on data sharing. In the south, UNHCR will advocate for a verification exercise in urban areas to accurately reflect refugee data. UNHCR will also advocate to expand registration centres at entry points for mixed population groups, while making sure that existing referral pathways from IOM to UNHCR are effective and possibly improved. Countrywide, UNHCR will continue to support authorities in improving the quality of reception and registration through trainings, including on interviewing techniques, joint quality control activities, and data management and analysis. Provided that registration and documentation is resumed countrywide according to standards, UNHCR will prepare for a roll out of proGres V4 and Biometric Identity Management System platforms across the country, which will significantly enhance the integrity and quality of registration data.

Prioritized response: Should registration resume in the north, in accordance with consolidated technical standards, approximately 6,500 individuals may be in need to be newly registered and documented, with up to 25,000 refugees and asylum-seekers having their data updated in proGres and their documentation renewed. UNHCR plans to work closely with BRA on updating the data regarding new births, family composition, and spontaneous departures to ensure all fields are correctly updated and specific needs accurately reflected. In the south, some 8,000 new Somali arrivals and 2,000 other asylum-seekers are expected to be registered. Government authorities will be provided with capacity-building and training in this area.

Population has optimal access to reproductive health and HIV services (goal: Protection and mixed solutions)

Problem assessment: Only 50% of health facilities are considered functional in Yemen, including emergency obstetrics and neonatal care. In addition, the suspension of salaries for health personnel and complex challenges in importing medicine and supplies, including contraception, place additional barriers on women and girls of reproductive age, hindering their access to safe and affordable reproductive and maternal health services and thereby impacting their health status, as well as the health conditions of new born children. Despite serious adverse health impacts, gender-based violence remains underreported due to stigmatization, as well as conservative social and cultural norms and discriminatory attitudes towards survivors. The absence of a marriage certificate poses a challenge for gender-based violence survivors who become pregnant, when seeking medical care to deliver in hospitals. Lack of confidential and dignified access to public health services by gender-based violence survivors, including through reproductive health services, increases the risk of long-term health consequences.

Limited awareness among communities on the importance of safe maternal practices and the decline in the quality of public services have resulted in an increased number of deliveries at home often with sub-standard health and safety standards.

In Sana'a and Basateen, stigmatization of people living with HIV/AIDS is common, compounded by a lack of confidentiality in health facilities; lack of awareness by health care providers; procedures leading to mandatory HIV testing as part of the registration of refugee and/or asylum-seekers. UNHCR continues to advocate against such practices to ensure patient consent, confidentiality and privacy.

Comprehensive response: In 2021, UNHCR will continue to ensure access of refugee women to comprehensive reproductive health care. Health care providers will receive training on reproductive health. Reproductive health sensitization programs will be directed to youth.

In collaboration with the National AIDS Programme, UNHCR will continue supporting HIV/AIDS universal precaution and prevention activities and ensure access for refugees to antiretroviral curative and prophylactic treatment free of charge.

If resources allow, UNHCR will target 1,300 refugees and asylum-seekers and host community members with voluntary counselling and testing, and will provide counselling regarding the prevention of mother-to-child transmission services to 1,850 pregnant women in Basateen, Kharaz and Sana'a. Additionally, 5,500 youth will be sensitized on HIV/AIDS and gender-based violence. Cases of gender-based violence who express their informed consent will receive medical care, including through the clinical management of rape procedure.

Prioritized response: UNHCR will continue to ensure access for refugee women and adolescent girls to reproductive health and support to access reproductive health services. Through its health partners, UNHCR will aim to reach 100% of child births attended by skilled medical staff in Sana'a, as well as 85% in the south of Yemen. Some 900 refugees will receive voluntary counselling and testing services, and 830 mothers will receive services for prevention of mother-to-child transmission. Some 100 refugees living with HIV will receive antiretroviral therapy, and 100% of gender-based violence survivors identified and expressing their informed consent will receive timely and proper medical care including, post-exposure prophylaxis.

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