

YEMEN

CASH-BASED ASSISTANCE

May 2017

PROVIDING HOPE THROUGH CHOICE

Protection

Targeted cash grants for refugees; including survivors of SGBV, child protection cases and refugees with specific needs.

Multipurpose

Multi-purpose grants to support protection outcomes for most vulnerable IDPs; including persons with specific needs and survivors of SGBV.

Shelter/NFIs

Targeted cash-based assistance, purposed as rental subsidy for those in displacement, or shelter repair grants for returnees.

Background

March 2017 marked two years of conflict in Yemen, leaving 18.8 million people in need of protection and assistance across the war-torn country. On-going fighting has forced close to two million Yemenis to flee their homes, and a further one million people have returned to their places of origin and remain in critical need. Yemen is also a temporary home to close to 280,000 refugees and asylum seekers, 91 per cent of whom are from Somalia. The situation in Yemen is now the largest humanitarian crisis in the world with looming famine, lack of livelihoods, and growing protection concerns, forcing families further into poverty and having to resort to negative coping mechanisms – including survival sex, child labour, child recruitment, and begging.

Cash-based assistance allows refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) to choose what is best for themselves and their families, in a dignified manner. The assistance is delivered with the support of partners on the ground. Responding to protection and shelter/NFI needs, supporting populations of concern through the distribution of cash and vouchers ensures that the donor contributions entrusted to UNHCR are used in the most effective manner possible, and most importantly, places the recipient at the centre of the decision making on their needs.

Vision for 2017

UNHCR Yemen, with the support of donors, aims to expand further on its cash-based response in 2017 to cover **77,500** families including refugees, IDPs and returnees.

Why cash-based assistance?

- ✓ Value for money
- ✓ Lifesaving
- ✓ Reduces poverty
- ✓ Targeted to most vulnerable
- ✓ Dignified
- ✓ Provides choice



Refugees and Asylum-seekers

The war-torn country of Yemen hosts 279,480 refugees and asylum seekers. Listening to the concerns of refugees, there was a clear need for cash assistance that would reinforce the refugees' dignity, promote self-reliance, effectively making them a customer and participant in the market, able to act and make decisions as any other citizen. This is in comparison to the resource intensive approach of receiving pre-determined in-kind assistance and especially for the most vulnerable refugees, including persons with specific needs, survivors of sexual and gender based violence (SGBV), and in child protection cases.

As war drags on, lack of livelihoods, the high number of refugees living with disabilities, injured or with chronic illnesses, and a growing concern of violence perpetrated against, women, girls and boys adds to the vulnerability of families who reached Yemen in search of safety. In response, the cash programme will cover **15,000 families** under the following;

Persons with specific needs [USD 100 - 180]

- Unconditional cash grants for protection, from one-off and up to six times assistance depending on vulnerability.
- Monthly assistance for elderly or persons living with disabilities as long as they fit the agreed criteria of vulnerability including; inability to work, lack of familial or community support or lack of sources of income.

SGBV [USD 74, + USD 4 per each dependent]

- Unconditional cash grants for survivors of SGBV and women at risk, from one-off and up to three times assistance and can be extended further, depending on the level of vulnerability.

Child protection [USD 100, + USD 6 per each dependent]

- Monthly assistance for unaccompanied and separated children, and families with children living with disabilities in need of full time care, with no external support or income.

IDPs and Returnees

The needs of some two million IDPs and one million returnees in Yemen are staggering. Displaced families are living in appalling conditions, lacking water and sanitation facilities and sharing limited resources with the local host communities. Many who are displaced live in spontaneous settlements, public buildings including schools, and others are living out in the open, exposed to harsh weather conditions and protection risks. The coping capacity of conflict-affected individuals is under severe pressure due to prolonged displacement, with families resorting to negative coping strategies, including child labour, early marriage and begging, placing vulnerable persons at increased risk of exploitation and abuse.

With financial resources long depleted, families are in need of emergency assistance to meet their protection related needs and ensure safe shelter for their families. Cash-based assistance forms a key element of the UNHCR emergency response in areas with functioning markets, covering the following protection and shelter needs for **62,500 families**;

Persons with specific needs [USD 150]

- One-off cash grants for vulnerable families to achieve protection outcomes. This assistance can be repeated according to level of need, on a case-by-case basis.

Shelter [USD 300 - 2,000]

- Rental subsidies covering three months allowing families a window of security during displacement. (USD 300)
- Return grants for most vulnerable Yemeni returnees to carry out shelter improvements (from USD 1,000 to 2,000 depending on severity of need)

Non-food items [USD 170]

- One-off vouchers to cover emergency NFI needs for recently displaced and returnees, including purchasing of essential items at the local market.