

YEMEN

CHOLERA RESPONSE UPDATE

31 October 2016

OVERVIEW

On 6 October 2016, the Ministry of Public Health and Population announced the **occurrence of cholera in Yemen**. According to WHO, 2,070 suspected cases have been reported as of 1 November 2016; 67 have tested positive for *Vibrio Cholerae* in Yemen.

Cholera is an acute diarrheal disease that can kill within hours if left untreated; it is caused by ingestion of food or water contaminated with the bacterium. Most of those infected will have no or mild symptoms, and can be successfully treated with an oral rehydration solution. Provision of safe water and sanitation is critical to control the transmission of cholera and other waterborne diseases.

UNHCR's population of concern in Yemen

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 269,255 Registered refugees | 9,087 Registered asylum seekers | 2.18 million Internally Displaced People | 1 million IDP Returnees |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|

UNHCR'S RESPONSE TO CHOLERA

The cholera outbreak is particularly worrying for refugees, asylum seekers and local communities in Yemen, whose risks and vulnerabilities are compounded by the ongoing conflict and the deteriorating humanitarian situation. Access to safe water and sanitation is indeed essential to prevent and cure cholera.

As part of the national Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (EPREP) for cholera, led by the Ministry of Public Health in partnership with WHO, UNICEF and other partners, UNHCR ensures that refugees, asylum seekers and other persons of concern are included in the national plan and have access to surveillance, prevention, WASH, communication, control and curative activities.

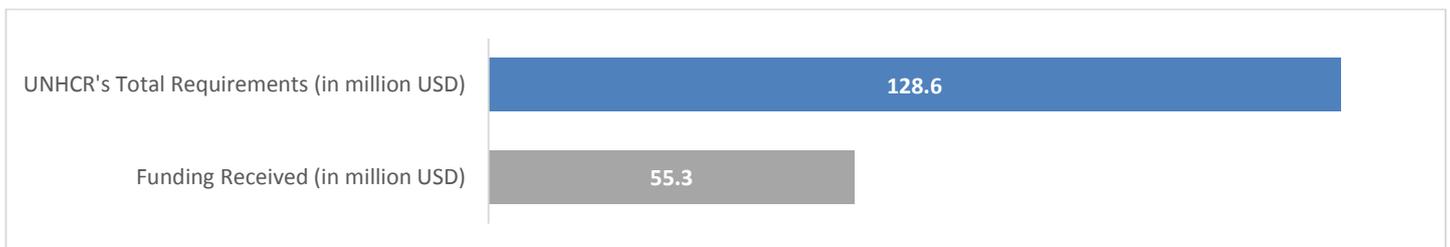
UNHCR's response aims at preventing and controlling the outbreak by supporting health facilities for refugees and asylum seekers as well as their local host communities in Sana'a, Aden, Lahj and Shabwah governorates.

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| 151,649 Persons received UNHCR health assistance in 2016 | 7,700 Chlorination tablets distributed | 5,835 Persons benefitted from cholera awareness | 361 Persons treated and discharged |
| 84 Health and community workers trained on cholera response | 70 Cases tested for Acute Watery Diarrhea or Cholera | 2 Oral Rehydration Stations established by UNHCR | 1 Cholera Treatment Center established by UNHCR |

UNHCR’s response includes:

- **Establishment of a Cholera Treatment Centre (CTC)** in the Kharaz refugee camp, in Lahj, for case isolation and management
- **Establishment of Oral Rehydration Stations (ORS)** in the Basateen urban district in Aden and at the Mayfaa Reception Centre in Shabwah, to provide early rehydration, screening and case referral
- Strengthening surveillance systems for **early case detection** among persons of concern to UNHCR and their local host communities
- **Case referrals** to the Cholera Treatment Centre or to hospitals
- **Capacity building** of UNHCR and partner, health and community health worker staff on cholera response measures such as early case detection, reporting, and community awareness
- Community based **outreach and engagement** with persons of concern to UNHCR and local communities on cholera and acute watery diarrhea (AWD) prevention and control, hygiene promotion and health education
- Increased **monitoring and testing of water sources** as well as chlorination and infection control in the Kharaz refugee camp

UNHCR’S FINANCIAL NEEDS IN YEMEN



Refugees and Yemenis receiving cholera - awareness education at the UNHCR-supported Al Rahaby health centre in Sana’a. Photo: IMC/K.Hamoud

Contacts:

Shabia Mantoo, Public Information Officer, mantoo@unhcr.org

Links:

Please follow us on Twitter at [@UNHCRYemen](https://twitter.com/UNHCRYemen) and on Facebook at [UNHCRYemen](https://www.facebook.com/UNHCRYemen)