

# Yemen

June 2018

Despite **increasing hostilities** and **access challenges**, UNHCR provided life-saving assistance to refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons during the first half of 2018.

An estimated 112,000 individuals have been newly displaced since December 2017, with an **increase in protection and shelter needs** of IDP families fleeing frontline hostilities.

**UNHCR-assisted return** for Somali refugees in Yemen to Somalia continued in 2018 bringing the total number of Somalis voluntarily returning to over 2,000 persons.

## FACTS AND FIGURES

**22.2 million** people in need

**2,014,026** Internally Displaced Persons (IDP)

**89** per cent of IDPs displaced for more than one year

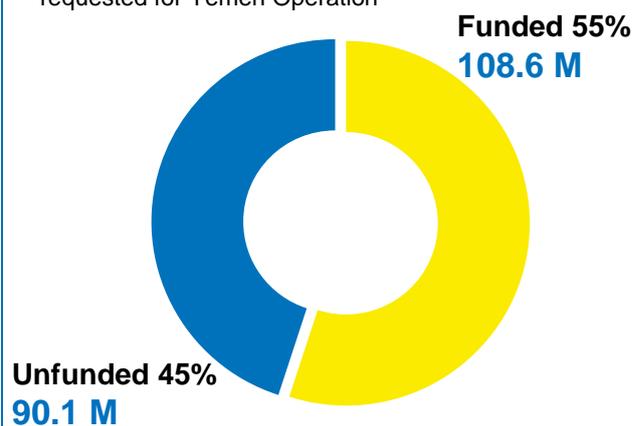
**956,076** IDP returnees

**279,264** refugees and asylum seekers (majority from Somalia and Ethiopia)

## FUNDING (AS OF 13 JUNE 2018)

**USD 198.7 M**

requested for Yemen Operation



## UNHCR PRESENCE

### Staff:

162 National Staff

28 International Staff

### Offices:

1 Branch Office in Sana'a

1 Sub Office in Aden

4 Field Offices in Ibb, Kharaz, Hudaydah, and Sa'ada

1 Support Office in Amman



## Working with Partners

- UNHCR maintains a collaborative relationship with authorities in Sana'a and the internationally recognized Government of Yemen currently operating from Aden to maintain access to provide protection and basic services for people of concern countrywide.
- In 2018, UNHCR has signed partnership agreements with 20 organisations and counterparts, of which 85 per cent are national partners.
- UNHCR leads the multi-sector response for refugees and asylum-seekers in Yemen, both in urban settings and in Kharaz refugee camp, maintaining regular interaction with national and local authorities, international and national NGOs and refugees.
- As part of the response to address the internal displacement emergency throughout Yemen and to provide guidance and coordination, UNHCR leads the Protection Cluster and the Shelter/ NFI/ Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster.

## Main Activities

### Protection

- Despite the volatile security environment, UNHCR with its partners, continues to carry out activities countrywide from hubs in Sana'a, Aden, Ibb, Hudaydah and Sa'ada. Humanitarian access and delivery remain affected by continuous insecurity, nonetheless UNHCR continues to advocate for unimpeded and sustained humanitarian access and for the protection of civilians. Given the recent escalation of conflict within Al Hudaydah, UNHCR is responding to the emerging needs of IDPs and refugees with protection monitoring assessments, psychosocial counselling and referral services.
- **Refugees:** UNHCR as protection lead, provides assistance to refugees and asylum seekers, including protection monitoring, cash assistance, and services for children and survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). UNHCR also monitors the situation of refugees and asylum-seekers in detention facilities and advocates with authorities for alternatives to detention and release when relevant. UNHCR initiated an Assisted Spontaneous Return (ASR) programme for Somali refugees in 2017, and is working with IOM, the Yemeni authorities and the Somali Consul to support refugees' voluntary return to Somalia. So far, 2,019 refugees have departed Yemen.
- **IDPs:** Regarding Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), UNHCR is monitoring protection risks, including through Community Based Protection Networks (CBPN), and is providing psychosocial, legal and cash assistance to mitigate the grave protection risks faced by IDPs on a daily basis. In addition, IDP community centres in six northern governorates of Amanat Al Asimah, Dhamar, Hajjah, Amran, Hudaydah and Sa'ada are supported by UNHCR and provide outreach and assistance to displaced Yemenis.
- **Protection Cluster:** UNHCR also leads the Protection Cluster in order to ensure a coordinated response to the protection needs of the displaced and conflict-affected population of Yemen. With the ongoing conflict in Al Hudaydah and other frontlines, protection of civilians remains paramount. In 2018, the Protection Cluster is expanding its Civilian Impact Monitoring Project, an activity to assess and analyse the impact on civilians of real time conflict events, in order to assist our protection and humanitarian response follow-up in the affected areas as well as collective advocacy for the protection of civilians. In response to Al Hudaydah, protection cluster partners, including in child protection and GBV, as well as community-based networks are being mobilized to provide emergency protection assistance at transit sites, humanitarian service points and in the communities.

### Shelter and Core Relief

- With regard to IDPs and IDP returnees, an important component of UNHCR'S protection activities is to guarantee access to adequate shelter in humanitarian emergencies. Across Yemen, some two million IDPs are struggling to cope in displacement, in addition to close to one million returnees, who require emergency assistance. Many are destitute in the absence of livelihoods, access to income, health care and sufficient food.

- UNHCR provides emergency shelter kits, core relief items (CRIs), rental subsidies, return grants and develops emergency strategies, tools and guidelines to support Yemen's displaced.
- UNHCR has already provided in 2018, emergency life-saving assistance to some 140,000 IDPs, including CRIs to 105,847 IDPs, emergency shelter kits to 15,827 IDPs and a further 17,892 individuals have received cash interventions for persons with serious medical conditions, vulnerable women-headed households, and those at risk of eviction and homelessness. The construction of 17,000 transitional shelters for IDP families was also finalised in April this year.
- **Shelter/NFI/CCCM Cluster:** UNHCR is also lead agency of the Shelter/ NFI/ CCCM Cluster, providing guidance and support along with critical coordination to all partners responding to shelter needs in Yemen.

## Education

- For refugees, UNHCR coordinates with the Ministry of Education to enable refugee children to access public schools and quality education. UNHCR and partners also organize informal education for children, including literacy and numeracy classes, and run child-friendly spaces.
- In Kharaz camp, 91 per cent of primary-aged children are enrolled in camp schools. UNHCR is also currently in discussion with the authorities with a view to integrating Kharaz schools into the national education system. Rehabilitation work has also taken place at Kharaz camp schools, with improvements to school classrooms, washrooms, and shaded outdoor areas close to completion. Schools in Aden that host refugee students are also supported by UNHCR.
- In Sana'a, UNHCR supports 20 public schools in which a high number of refugee students are enrolled, with solar systems, science lab tools, projectors, sports and equipment, along with rehabilitation works when needed. UNHCR also supports an Early Childhood Education Centre which, in addition to providing children with a safe space to learn and play, also serve as day-care centres for working parents.
- Countrywide, 75 students are also studying at the tertiary level supported by scholarship programmes, among them students from Kharaz camp, Aden and Sana'a.

## Health

- Health care remains a critical need with only 45 per cent of health facilities functioning in country. UNHCR in cooperation with partners, provides primary health care services, pharmaceutical and reproductive health services, and HIV/AIDS prevention and response for refugees and Yemeni host communities. UNHCR also provides mental health support and refers persons with chronic medical conditions and emergency cases to hospitals. So far 43,146 medical consultations have been facilitated by UNHCR in 2018; and 34,233 refugees and 7,246 host community members have been reached through community outreach activities.
- UNHCR is also responding to prevent and control the spread of cholera among refugee and host populations through a Cholera Treatment Centre in Kharaz refugee camp, oral rehydration stations in Aden and Shabwah, active case finding and referrals including at two health centres in Sana'a, along with capacity building of health staff, hygiene promotion and community awareness campaigns. In response to the 2017 outbreak of cholera, the UNHCR-led Protection Cluster has also boosted cholera prevention efforts through the CBPN, including training for volunteers as part of a comprehensive, system-wide response. UNHCR is also supporting community health outreach, providing awareness sessions about Diphtheria.

## External / Donors Relations

**UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by:** Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, United Kingdom, Japan, CERF, Sweden, Finland, Canada, Switzerland, France, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Educate a Child Programme, Private donors Germany and Slovakia **who have specifically contributed to UNHCR programmes in Yemen in 2018 as well as other donors who have contributed through broadly unearmarked and broadly earmarked funding, including:** Private Donors in Germany, Australia, Spain and Republic of Korea and others, Norway, Sweden, USA, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Denmark, Australia, Switzerland, France and Italy.