





KEY FIGURES

 **22.2M**
People in need

 **2M** IDPs
89% of IDPs displaced for more than a year

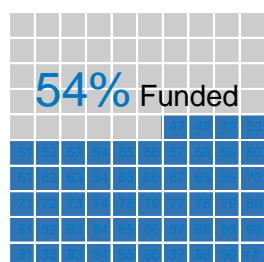
 **956k**
IDP returnees

CRI **1M** recipients of CRIs since March 2015

 **279k**
refugees and asylum seekers

 **\$198.7M**
requested in 2018

\$107.6M received as of 30 May 2018



OPERATIONAL UPDATE

UNHCR is bracing for further displacement and a spike in humanitarian needs as hostilities intensify in frontline areas on Yemen's west coast.

The number of newly displaced people in Yemen's southern Governorates, continues to increase and has reached 15,678 families (110,000 individuals) as of 13 May. Almost two thirds of people have fled fighting in Al Hudaydah Governorate. Since the outbreak of the conflict in March 2015, two million people have been internally displaced, 89 per cent of whom have been out of their homes for more than 12 months.

With the war in Yemen now in its fourth year, civilians continue to bear the brunt of the conflict. A sharp increase in casualties made April the deadliest month for civilians in Yemen so far this year. At least 236 civilians were killed and 238 injured in April 2018 – a total of 474 civilian casualties, well over double the casualties documented in March. In the first week of May, the heavy toll continued, with 63 civilian casualties documented, including six deaths and 57 people injured. Since the start of the conflict, The High Commissioner for Human Rights has documented 16,432 civilian casualties – 6,385 who have died and 10,047 who have been injured. Despite these challenges, UNHCR continues to provide protection and lifesaving assistance to IDPs, vulnerable host communities and refugees in Yemen.

Though the number of cholera cases is significantly lower than what it was in June last year, fears are growing about a possible new cholera outbreak in this rainy season (April-August). The impact could be exacerbated by flash floods, caused by tropical cyclone 'Sagar' that formed in the Gulf of Aden, as well as related heavy rainfall on the western coast. In cooperation with Yemeni local health authorities, the UN has launched the first anti-cholera vaccination campaign in southern Yemen. Plans are under way to expand the campaign to all at-risk-zones which will cover at least four million people across the country. In order to simultaneously respond to the diphtheria outbreak that has killed at least 91 people since late October 2017, the UN and Yemen's health authorities have also launched a large-scale diphtheria vaccination campaign for 2.7 million children across the country.



Hizam and his granddaughter wait for assistance at a UNHCR supported community centre in Dhamar City, Yemen. The centre supports IDPs, as well as vulnerable members of the host community, such as Hizam and his family. Photo: UNHCR/ Arwa Al-Sabri

IDP Response

UNHCR is very concerned about the safety of families in hard-to-reach areas on Yemen's Red Sea coast, including 4,000 individuals living near active frontlines in Al Hudaydah Governorate. Families are sheltering around Hays, Al Tuhayat, Al Garrahi and Al Khawkhah districts, where sporadic armed clashes are continuing. Humanitarian partners are assisting some of the displaced, but a number of locations are impacted by severe access constraints that prevent life-saving assistance from reaching those in need.

To respond to the urgent needs of the most vulnerable displaced families in frontline areas on the west coast, UNHCR is working with partners to distribute Core Relief Items (CRIs) to 1,200 families in Al Khawkhah in Al Hudaydah Governorate. The distribution is coupled with a rapid protection needs assessment. An additional 1,345 families in Al Mukha, Taizz Governorate, are receiving CRIs through UNHCR partner NMO. Both distributions are coordinated from the South, through UNHCR Sub-Office (SO) Aden.

UNHCR through its national partner, YARD, is distributing CRIs to over 900 families in Al Matammah district, Al Jawf Governorate. This is the first distribution by UNHCR or any other agency in Al Matammah, since humanitarian agencies have not been able to access the district until now. Across Yemen, UNHCR is increasing the number of national partners in an effort to build local capacity, decrease costs and improve access to hard-to-reach locations.

In neighbouring Sa'ada Governorate, UNHCR assisted 400 displaced families in Jawi city, Monabbih district with CRIs. Further to this, UNHCR is working with partners on needs assessments in Abs district, Haradh district, Aslem district and Midi district, all in Hajjah Governorate, with additional assessments underway in Al Mahwit and Al Hudaydah Governorates.

Refugee Response

UNHCR is combating the cholera and diphtheria epidemics in areas with a high concentration of refugees, through prevention and awareness activities in supported health and community centres, dissemination of translated materials to communities, and community outreach activities. During the first half of May, some 1,179 refugees, and 411 Yemenis in northern Governorates attended cholera awareness sessions, 1,304 individuals receive cholera prevention brochures in six different languages, while an additional 347 refugees, as well as 1,071 Yemenis benefitted from diphtheria awareness sessions conducted by UNHCR in collaboration with partners. Over the same period, 3,957 persons of concern to UNHCR were reached through ongoing hygiene and awareness campaigns and community outreach activities in Kharaz refugee camp and the Basateen area in Aden.

Despite the prolonged conflict and insecurity in Yemen, as well as the dangers of crossing the Gulf of Aden and Red Sea from Africa, UNHCR has registered an increased number of newly arrived Ethiopian children over the last six months. From November 2017 to April 2018, 201 Ethiopian unaccompanied children have been registered in UNHCR SO Aden, compared to 48 in the previous six months. Upon arrival in Yemen, many refugee and asylum seeker children, in particular Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC), are extremely vulnerable to detention for illegal entry/stay and are exposed to serious protection risks, including poverty, lack of documentation, discrimination, sexual harassment, smuggling, kidnapping, trafficking, and child labour. UNHCR protects and promotes the rights of all children falling under its mandate and is registering and counselling UASC that are approaching the Office. UNHCR is also working to ensure the best possible care for UASCs is provided, including through placement in foster families. To raise awareness about the dangers of crossing to war-stricken Yemen from the Horn of Africa, UNHCR is promoting the [Dangerous Crossings](#) campaign.