In December, 16 new confirmed cases of COVID-19 were reported, 4 deaths and 11 recoveries, bringing the total number of reported cases to 2,103 with 611 deaths and 1,396 recoveries. Health partners remain concerned that under-reporting continues for various reasons and that the official epidemic curve underestimates the extent of COVID-19 in Yemen.

Other factors that have had a negative impact on the COVID-19 response include a lack of adaptive behaviour by the population to reduce transmission, severe funding shortages for health workers and personal protective equipment (PPE) and long delays in importing COVID-19 response supplies. Partners continued working towards increasing surveillance; deploying dedicated COVID-19 staff within agencies; tracking the impact of the virus on routine priority health programmes; refining messaging to encourage behavioural change; and boosting intensive care unit (ICU) capacity. Partners have also been working to expand testing capacity through new technologies; to better characterize epidemiology; and to actively protect essential health services. Partners have begun to prepare for a second wave of COVID-19, including engaging with excluded and vulnerable groups to keep them safe and supporting essential health facilities to ensure they function throughout winter. In 2021, partners will promote COVID-19 vaccination, drawing on the global COVAX initiative, and improve the quality of care, especially at ICU level. The fuel and funding crisis risked exacerbating the COVID-19 and broader humanitarian response.
SUPPRESSION

To suppress transmission of the virus, aid agencies continued Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) support. Community volunteers and members of Mother-to-Mother clubs continued interpersonal communication interventions, reaching 4.43 million people through 713,549 house-to-house visits and Mother-to-Mother sessions. Imams and female religious leaders continued to engage with people at gatherings and social events to sensitize them to COVID-19 prevention practices and physical distancing guidelines reaching 1.64 million people. Imams also facilitated sessions in mosques especially during Friday (Jumma) Prayers. About 3.6 million people are reached continuously in over 5,000 mosques with messages on how to protect themselves and their families from COVID-19, and to seek care for the sick. Calls to the Ministry of Public Health and Population hotlines continued with 21,201 people calling in with questions on COVID-19, while about 19,491 calls were received through radio call-in programmes where health experts answered callers’ questions and responded to their concerns on COVID-19.

Number of people reached

- **16.5 million** people reached through mass media
- **4.43 million** engaged through house-to-house visits
- **1.64 million** people reached in 45,000 community gatherings and women social events
- **3.6 million** people engaged through Mosque events in 5,000 Mosques
- **180,000** students and parents reached through school health facilitators interventions in schools and at community level
- **Over 14,000** Community volunteers provide hygiene kits to families and members of Mother-to-Mother clubs
- **12,000** copies of colouring and comic books on COVID-19 were distributed to children in the south.
- **Over 40,692** calls to hotlines and radio phone-ins
- **3.5 million** people engaged through WhatsApp groups/trees created and managed by CVs,RLs,M2M members
- **Number people reached in December:**
  - Safe water: **2.1 million**
  - Hygiene Items: **159.6 k**
  - COVID-19 kits: **41.1 k**

**Mass Media reach by Hub**

- **16.5M** Total Mass Media reach
- **1,330** refugees participated in risk communication surveys in Ibb, Hajjah & Hudaydah.
- **5,000** screenings were conducted at Kharaz Refugee Camp
- **2,695** hand-washing stations installed
- **17** water systems are being installed
SUPPLIES

The United Nations has procured more than 20,228 metric tons of medical equipment, testing kits and medicine from a highly competitive global market; 19,298 metric tons have already arrived in country and another 930 metric tons were in the pipeline at end of December. Still more is urgently needed, especially oxygen and personal protective equipment.

**Arrived**

- Internationally Procured
- Locally Procured

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Internationally</th>
<th>Locally</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Testing kits</td>
<td>&gt; 23,438</td>
<td>&gt; 980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Face shield</td>
<td>&gt; 294.4 K</td>
<td>&gt; 640</td>
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<tr>
<td>Face masks</td>
<td>&gt; 3.7 M</td>
<td>&gt; 4.3 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respirator masks</td>
<td>&gt; 1.2 M</td>
<td>&gt; 1.1 M</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gloves</td>
<td>&gt; 5 M</td>
<td>&gt; 4.7 M</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sanitizers (Litres)</td>
<td>&gt; 230.7 K</td>
<td>&gt; 37.6 K</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oxygen concentrators</td>
<td>521</td>
<td>521</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oxygen Cylinders</td>
<td>2,189</td>
<td>941</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital Beds</td>
<td>2,320</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Procured**

- 19,298 m³ arrived
- 930 m³ in pipeline

**Transport**

- **Air**
  - 6,801 m³ arrived
  - 843 m³ in pipeline

- **Sea**
  - 12,455 m³ arrived
  - 87 m³ in pipeline

- **Land**
  - 42 MT in pipeline
SAVING LIVES

The UN and partners continue to work on expanding hospital capacity in key population centres. Aid agencies scaled up the number of intensive care units (ICUs) in COVID-19 designated hospitals from 38 beginning of May, and are equipping an additional 21 ICUs, bringing the total to 59. In line with the current COVID-19 strategy, the focus was on triage, keeping patients and healthcare workers safe, referral pathways and capacity building.

Activities and Items Provided

- **40 Isolation Units (IU)**
  - 20 are in the north
  - 20 in the south

- **675 ICU Beds**
  - in 63 districts

- **259 Ventilators**
  - in 52 districts

- **333 health rapid response teams**
  - (1,565 staff)

- **11,7k oxygen cylinders**
  - refilled each month

- **300k PPE items delivered**

- **7 laboratories**
  - with COVID-19 testing capacity
  - 4 in the south (Aden, Al Mukalla, Seyoun & Taiz)
  - 3 in the north (Sanaa city & Al Hudaydah & Ibb City)

- **85%**
  - of entry points (22 of 26) have screening capacity

- **26 Emergency Operations Centres**
  - repurposed for COVID-19

- **UN to provide per diem and danger pay to 9,000 frontline health-care workers**

*WHO has finalized rehabilitation works or these are in process, delivered material and equipment and conducted staff training. The main criteria for operationalization depends on staff incentives.*
SAFEGUARDING THE PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM

Safeguarding the public health system at more than 4,300 non-COVID health care facilities to ensure available facilities are not overwhelmed by COVID-19 cases remains a priority for humanitarian partners. These facilities continue to provide non-COVID health care services to prevent deaths from other deadly diseases and causes, including cholera, diphtheria, dengue and malaria, and to provide nutrition treatment to pregnant women and malnourished children. By December, 2,779 health facilities continued to provide health services for malaria, and 956 health facilities provided cholera response services.

Throughout the COVID-19 crisis, Health Cluster partners and the private sector will safeguard the public health system by:

- Triaging acute and chronically ill people and treating them outside the 4,300 non-COVID health facilities.
- Maintaining provision of the Minimum Service Package in non-COVID health facilities.
- Providing essential medicines and vaccines to the people who need them the most, including cancer patients and children.
- Maintaining routine immunization activities and containing and responding to deadly disease outbreaks including cholera, diphtheria, dengue and malaria.
- Providing nutrition treatment to pregnant women and malnourished children.

Support Provided for

- **5,049** health facilities
- **2,528** fully functioning health facilities
- **1,865** partially functioning health facilities
- **2,779** health facilities providing health services for malaria
- **1,257** health facilities providing cholera response services

4,966 Health Facilities (HFs) in 22 Governorates

*Fully functioning HFs may have some lack of services

Functioning HFs per Governorate and per 100,000 people:

- >30
- 20-30
- 15-20
- 5-15
- 2-5

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