

UNFPA Response in Yemen

MONTHLY SITUATION REPORT



Safe births at Azan Health Centre in Hajjah ©UNFPA Yemen

FAST FACTS



24.1M

In need of some form of assistance



14.3M

In acute need



19.7M

Lack access to basic health services



14.4M

In need of protection



3.6M

Internally displaced



6.0M

Women of reproductive age (15-49 yrs)



1.0M

Pregnant women malnourished



120,000

Women and girls at risk of violence

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

In March, the crisis in Yemen entered its sixth year. **The scale, severity and complexity of needs in Yemen continue to stagger. Some 24 million people, 80 per cent of the entire population** require some form of assistance or protection and close to half of all families are in acute need. The conflict has also compromised access to health; only 50 per cent of health facilities in Yemen are functioning, of which 20 per cent provide maternal and child healthcare; services are restricted further by intermittent electricity and power outages across the country.

Yemen's economy has been badly fractured by half a decade of war. In the first quarter of 2020, economic forecasts indicate that macro-economic conditions are likely to continue deteriorating. The situation is exacerbated by lack of humanitarian access to people in urgent need of assistance, and a shortage of funding. **UNFPA's response remains funded at 41 percent of an appeal of US\$100.5 million for its response in 2020.**

Heavy fighting continued throughout March on the Al Jawf – Marib fronts. An estimated 7,500 families were displaced between 19 January and 23 March as the result of escalated conflict in Marib, Al Jawf and Sana'a governorates. On 1 March, when clashes broke out in Al Hazm City in Al Jawf Governorate, UNFPA estimated that about 2,000 families fled in just 24 hours. **The UNFPA-led Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM), has provided emergency relief assistance to over 53,000 people** since January 2020. Mobile teams deployed in these areas reached nearly 20,000 women with reproductive health and protection services.

While no cases of COVID-19 were reported by end of March, epidemiologists warn that the virus could spread faster, more widely and with deadlier consequences in Yemen than in many other countries, resulting from five years of war which has severely degraded the health infrastructure, lowered immunity levels and increased vulnerabilities. Women and girls, especially those pregnant are particularly vulnerable with over one million pregnant and lactating women being malnourished.

UNFPA GOVERNORATE RESPONSE

UNFPA's interventions cover all 22 governorates in Yemen. Overall coordination is handled by UNFPA's office in Sana'a. In other governorates, joint UN humanitarian hubs coordinate. UNFPA has presence in all operational UN humanitarian hubs. Services provided and people reached in March are detailed below:

HIGHLIGHTS: MARCH 2020



GOVERNORATE	PEOPLE REACHED		SERVICES DELIVERED	
	Women reached with reproductive health services	Women reached with protection services	Health facilities supported with RH services	Women and girls safe spaces supported
Abyan	2,921	1,475	6	1
Aden	3,687	3,356	7	0
Al Bayda	2,539	437	6	1
Al Dhale'e	2,189	1,934	5	1
Al Hudaydah	11,603	9,422	31	5
Al Jawf	2,367	1,338	8	1
Al Mahwit	2,992	1,030	6	1
Al Maharah	692	1,539	2	1
Amanat Al Asimah	7,751	2,676	5	0
Amran	2,409	297	5	1
Dhamar	4,091	1,373	7	1
Hadramaut	4,512	5,576	9	2
Hajjah	10,677	3,391	12	4
Ibb	7,630	5,614	20	3
Lahj	442	4,764	3	3
Marib	2,091	2,240	3	2
Sa'ada	2,711	418	10	1
Sana'a	2,095	1,280	6	2
Shabwah	2,951	2,454	8	1
Taizz	15,904	20,049	30	10
Raymah	0	898	0	1
Socotra	0	0	0	0

16 YEARS LATER, THE JOY OF TWINS

Amira* was married at 16 years. Amira and her husband, a farmer in rural Hajjah, have been trying to have children since they married.

"I have been trying to get pregnant since I got married 16 years ago without any success; I had lost all hope, until I started to develop symptoms of pregnancy. We rushed immediately to the Azan Health Centre to confirm if I was pregnant. We were overjoyed by the positive test results."

"I had waited so long for this news. I wanted to take extra care and visited the health centre for check-ups regularly, although I was very scared when travelling through rough roads for almost two hours to reach the hospital. When I gave birth, I could not believe when the midwife told me I had given birth to twins, a boy and a girl. It is impossible to describe how I felt. Our prayers have been answered after all this time. I am so thankful for the care I received from the the doctors, nurses and midwives. I am healthy and so are my babies thanks to their care," tells a joyful Amira.

UNFPA is providing lifesaving reproductive health services at Azan Health Centre in Hajjah in partnership with the World Health Organization. Nine health facilities are being supported by UNFPA in Hajjah Governorate, reaching over 10,000 women with essential reproductive health services in March 2020 alone. **name changed for privacy*

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) RESPONSE

UNFPA is among the frontline responders working closely with the Ministry of Public Health and Population and the World Health Organization; helping to mitigate the spread of the disease, while prioritizing to sustaining current humanitarian operations. Main areas of support include:

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

- UNFPA has availed its 40 ventilators for the response to the pandemic, and another 40 ventilators are being shipped to the country. Equipment is pre-positioned and ready to be deployed to health facilities as needed.
- Procured and distributed assorted infection control materials and personal protection equipment for approximately 1,500 health personnel; 22 health facilities in south Yemen have been provided with these supplies. More are being procured for the northern parts of the country.
- Reinforcing infection prevention and control in maternal and emergency obstetric care facilities in all UNFPA-supported health facilities country-wide.
- Community awareness sessions are being conducted by UNFPA partners with the production and distribution of information materials on COVID-19 for pregnant and breastfeeding mothers as per WHO guidelines.

WOMEN'S PROTECTION

While the physical provision of women's protection services through women and girls safe spaces, shelters and mobile teams has been scaled down to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19, awareness raising and other activities for the prevention of COVID-19 are in progress. These include:

- Operation of women's protection hotlines that provide information on COVID-19 prevention.
- Awareness sessions on protection and prevention of COVID-19 targeting IDP camps.
- Large-scale distribution of information materials on prevention of COVID-19 in markets, qat centres, restaurants and transportation, walls of safe spaces, surrounding buildings and sharing at private women's gathering.
- Public service announcements on prominent locations to increase public understanding on COVID-19 prevention measures.
- Individual and group psychosocial support sessions conducted at UNFPA-supported specialized psychological care centres to reduce the state of fear and panic associated with the disease.



RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM

- The UNFPA-led Rapid Response Mechanism in partnership with UNICEF and WFP is assisting those in quarantine centres. More than 8,800 people at quarantine centres have been provided with relief assistance. This includes, ready to eat food provided by WFP, hygiene kits provided by UNICEF and transit kit provided by UNFPA.



FUNDING REQUIREMENT

UNFPA, is appealing for USD **\$9 million** to respond to an outbreak of COVID-19 in Yemen as part of UNFPA's [global appeal](#) to respond to the disease.

NUMBER OF CASES

No cases of COVID-19 were reported in March 2020. However, the risk level is high.

RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM (RRM)

UNFPA is leading the efforts of three agencies i.e. UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP to distribute immediate, most critical life-saving emergency supplies to families who are newly displaced, on the move, in hard-to-reach areas or stranded close to the front lines, as well as most vulnerable returnees. The RRM minimum assistance package is comprised of these components: (1) ready to eat food provided by WFP; (2) family basic hygiene kits provided by UNICEF; and (3) one female dignity/transit kit provided by UNFPA. More than 10,421 RRM kits were distributed in March 2020. Other highlights for the period June 2018 to March 2020 include:

HIGHLIGHTS FROM JUNE 2018 TO MARCH 2020

Since June 2018, RRM kits were delivered to **375,824 families (over 2.2 million individuals)**.

199,061 RRM kits distributed through the **Al Hudaydah** humanitarian hub from June 2018 to March 2020.

64,813 RRM kits distributed through the **Aden** humanitarian hub from June 2018 to March 2020.

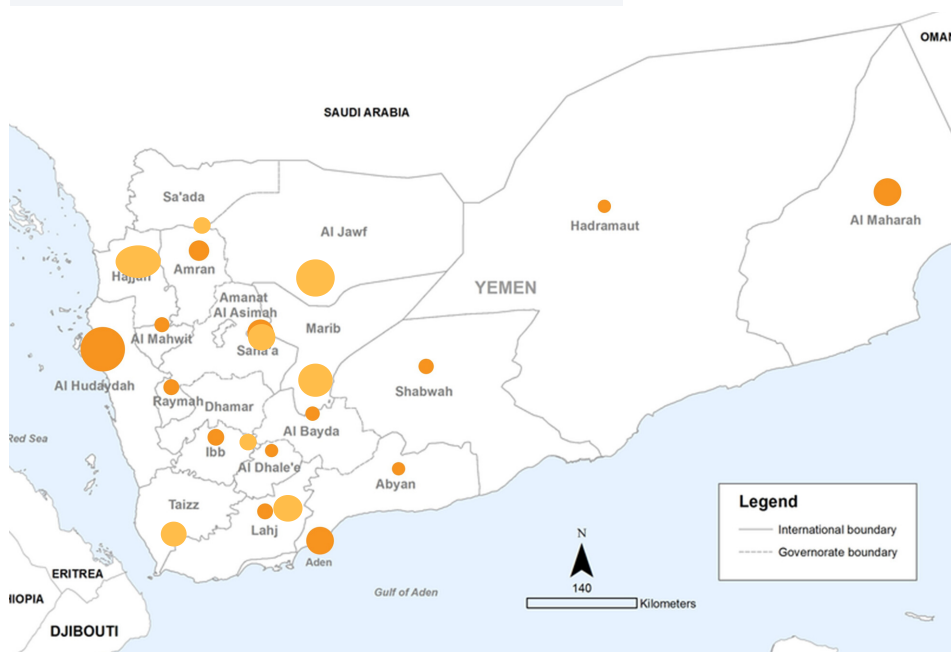
67,772 RRM kits distributed through **Sana'a** humanitarian hub from June 2018 to March 2020.

19,729 RRM kits distributed through the **Ibb** humanitarian hub from June 2018 to March 2020.

24,449 RRM kits distributed through the **Sa'ada** humanitarian hub from June 2018 to March 2020.



Distribution of rapid response kits to displaced families in Al Jawf and Hadramout



FLASH UPDATE Escalation in Marib, Al Jawf and Sana'a Governorates



53,880 individuals assisted with Rapid Response Mechanism



6,296 displaced people assisted with mobile reproductive health services



7,744 displaced women assisted with protection services

The RRM is operational country-wide. The map indicates RRM distribution by governorate and volume of distribution in March 2020.

Donors to the RRM: United Arab Emirates, European Union Humanitarian Aid

IN THE NEWS

PEOPLE REACHED

	NO.
No. of people reached with reproductive health services	298,861
No. of safe deliveries supported	43,146
No. of cesarean sections supported	8,098
Individuals reached with Family Planning services	88,167
Dignity kits distributed	24,021
No. of women reached with protection services	246,807
No. of health facilities supported with reproductive health services	189
No. of safe spaces supported	42
No. of women shelters supported	8
No. of specialized psychological care centres	7
No. of mobile protection teams in collective sites	88



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UNFPA Welcomes Japan's Support for Women's Protection in Yemen
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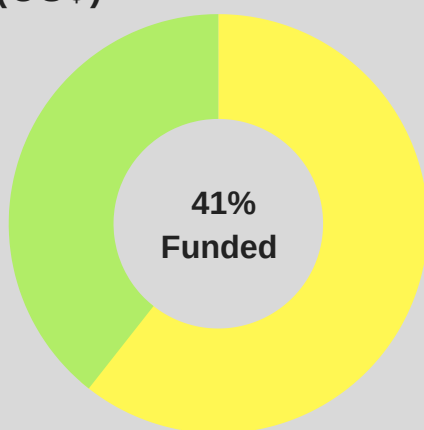
Joint funding from Sweden, Netherlands and Switzerland helps to expand women's protection services
Read more...

2020 HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN FUNDING STATUS (US\$)

\$100.5 M
REQUIRED

\$41.7M
FUNDED

\$58.8 M
FUNDING GAP



KEY CHALLENGES

- A non-permissive operating environment with limited humanitarian access and shrinking humanitarian space.
- Limited funding available for the continued provision of humanitarian services up to the end of the year.
- Lack of national resources for the provision of basic social services.
- Lack of health workers in severely conflict-affected areas.
- Increasing restrictions imposed on implementing partners to undertake humanitarian operations in conflict-affected areas.
- Delays in transportation of supplies due to bureaucratic impediments.

2020 Donors (alphabetical order): Canada, European Union Humanitarian Aid, Denmark, Iceland, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, UNICEF, WHO, Yemen Humanitarian Pooled Fund