

# UNFPA Response in Yemen

## MONTHLY SITUATION REPORT



Healthy twins delivered at UNFPA-supported Azzan Health Centre in Hajjah

## 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



**3.3M**

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

**The humanitarian crisis in Yemen remains the worst in the world;** driven by five years of conflict and political instability. Humanitarian conditions continue to deteriorate, including internal displacement, famine, outbreaks of cholera and COVID-19. An estimated 24.1 million people – over 80 per cent of the population – are in need of some form of assistance, including 14.4 million who are in acute need.

**COVID-19 continued to spread across the country in September.** By 26 September, 2,034 confirmed cases of COVID-19 had been reported in Yemen, including 588 deaths and 1,262 recoveries, since the first case was reported on 10 April 2020. While the number of reported cases has continued to slow, health professionals remain concerned on the actual extent of COVID-19 in Yemen for reasons that include lack of testing facilities and official reporting. UNFPA remains a frontline partner to the COVID-19 response, ensuring the protection of health workers and women and girls accessing reproductive health services.

**The uptick in fighting in and around Marib continued into September leading to an influx of internally displaced persons.** Initial reports estimate more than 3,000 households (18,000 individuals) have been displaced since the beginning of September 2020 alone. The UNFPA-led Rapid Response Mechanism is distributing emergency relief within 48 to 72 hours of displacement. More than 3,000 kits were distributed during September, while mobile teams provided reproductive health and protection services in and around Marib.

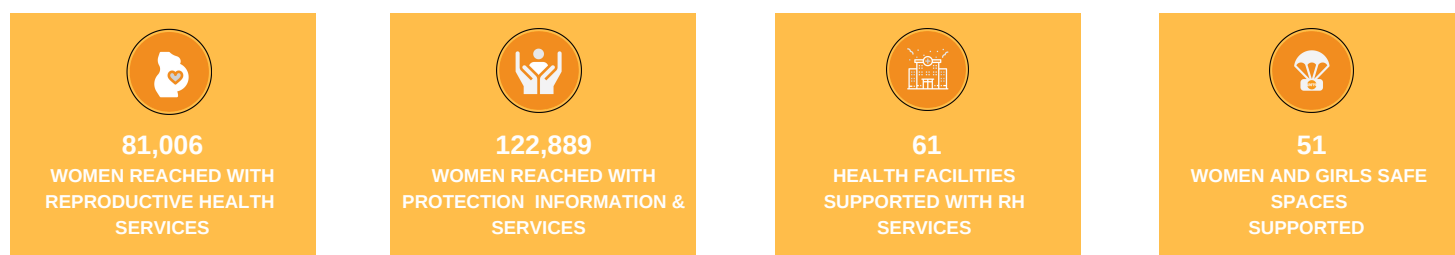
**Lack of funding is crippling the UN's humanitarian operation in Yemen.** Fifteen of 41 major humanitarian programmes have already been reduced or shut down; with only 37.8 per cent received of the \$3.23 billion required for the Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan in 2020. **UNFPA's appeal for \$100.5 million in 2020 received only 63 per cent by end September.** Seventy per cent of UNFPA's life-saving reproductive health programme remains suspended due to the lack of funding, while fifty per cent of UNFPA's women's protection programme will be suspended by October. This would result in more than 2 million women and girls losing access to reproductive health and protection services. To keep reaching the most vulnerable women and girls up to the end of the year, UNFPA requires \$37.3 million with an additional \$20 million to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**By September, UNFPA's response has reached over 1.6 million women and girl with life-saving reproductive health and protection information and services,** with support to 61 health facilities, 51 safe spaces, 8 shelters and 6 specialized mental health centres.

# 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 September is detailed below:

## HIGHLIGHTS: SEPTEMBER 2020



GOVERNORATE	PEOPLE REACHED		SERVICES DELIVERED	
	Women reached with reproductive health services	Women reached with protection information & services*	Health facilities supported with RH services	Women and girls safe spaces supported
Abyan	1,342	1,435	1	1
Aden	3,290	482	3	0
Al Bayda	3,016	502	1	1
Al Dhale'e	1,716	920	1	2
Al Hudaydah	15,964	8,959	15	8
Al Jawf	2,206	983	3	1
Al Mahwit	1,594	1,447	1	1
Al Maharah	1,113	1,557	1	1
Amanat Al Asimah	3,467	1,972	2	1
Amran	3,949	1,372	3	2
Dhamar	1,690	1,360	1	1
Hadramaut	3,579	8,318	2	2
Hajjah	16,123	7,084	6	4
Ibb	265	5,535	1	3
Lahj	376	3,999	2	4
Marib	4,703	5,193	2	2
Sa'ada	1,523	866	1	1
Sana'a	892	1,940	1	3
Shabwah	0	8,346	0	1
Taizz	13,589	58,220	12	11
Raymah	0	2,399	0	1
Socotra	609	0	2	0

\*Physical provision of services reduced due to COVID-19 mitigation measures with alternative modalities of delivery in place.

## SAFE SPACES PROVIDE RENEWED HOPE FOR WOMEN

Yamen, a 30 year old woman from Al Dhale Governorate, found herself alone with six children when her husband died. "Once my husband died, there was nobody to provide for the family. The whole responsibility fell on me. The conflict had already made living conditions difficult. I could not pay the house rent or provide the basic necessities for my children," Yamen told UNFPA.

As a widow and now the head of the household, Yamen also had to suffer verbal and psychological abuse from her community. But Yamen's life changed when she joined a UNFPA-supported safe space and learned new skills that helped her to stand on her two feet. Yamen trained in sewing and was granted cash assistance, from which she started a sewing project at home. She also received psychological sessions that helped to build her self-confidence. "Joining the safe space gave me renewed hope. Now I can educate my children and live with dignity," she said.

Yamen's house was damaged by the recent floods. Yet, Yamen doubled her work on the sewing machine and she was able to revamp her house. "The key to success is to have determination and the passion to learn. Then you can start over anytime." said Yamen with pride.

Safe spaces offer critical services for women and girls amid the conflict, pandemic and economic devastation seen in Yemen today. These spaces serve some of the most vulnerable, including displaced women and girls. Today, 51 safe spaces are currently operational, working with funding from Canada, Denmark, Iceland, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland.

# 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

- This month, 562 reproductive health kits were distributed to 32 health facilities in southern governorates of Yemen to continue provision of reproductive health services, including in COVID-19 dedicated hospitals.
- In September, 2,000 PPE items were distributed across 13 health facilities. Over 200 health facilities have been provided with PPE to date.
- Training for 53 health workers (mostly midwives) was conducted on infection prevention control and response mechanisms to provide reproductive health services during the pandemic.
- UNFPA has availed its 40 ventilators for the humanitarian response to the pandemic and another 40 ventilators have been shipped into the country.
- A national manual/guidelines has been developed for healthcare providers for the provision of reproductive health services under COVID-19 in partnership with the Ministry of Health and UN agencies.
- Provision of reproductive health services in all UNFPA-supported health facilities across the country continue, including in facilities where COVID-19 cases have been isolated.

## 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 18 hotlines that provide telecounseling of women's protection services and information on COVID-19 prevention.
- Awareness campaigns and large-scale distribution of information on protection and prevention of COVID-19, including in IDP camps continue.
- Public service announcements on prominent locations to increase public understanding on COVID-19 prevention measures continued in September.
- Survivors of violence are being trained on production of cotton face masks and hand sanitizers, which are being distributed free-of-charge among displaced persons and within communities. More than 50,000 masks have been produced and distributed.
- Critical services such as specialized psychological care centres and shelters continue running, with distancing measures in place.



## RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM

- The UNFPA-led Rapid Response Mechanism in partnership with UNICEF and WFP raise awareness on the risks of COVID-19 during verification, registration and distribution stages of the response. COVID-19 prevention and mitigation measures are adhered to during distribution of rapid response kits.



## FUNDING REQUIREMENT

As of end September, UNFPA, is appealing for USD \$20 million to respond to COVID-19 in Yemen as part of UNFPA's [global appeal](#) to respond to the disease.

## NUMBER OF CASES

2,034 cases of COVID-19 and 588 deaths were reported by 26 September 2020.

# 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 9,090 RRM kits were distributed in September 2020. Other highlights for the period June 2018 to September 2020 include:

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM JUNE 2018 TO SEPTEMBER 2020

Since June 2018, RRM kits were delivered to **414,026 families (over 2.5 million individuals)**.

211,859 RRM kits distributed through the **Al Hudaydah** humanitarian hub from June 2018 to Sept. 2020

72,926 RRM kits distributed through the **Aden** humanitarian hub from June 2018 to Sept. 2020.

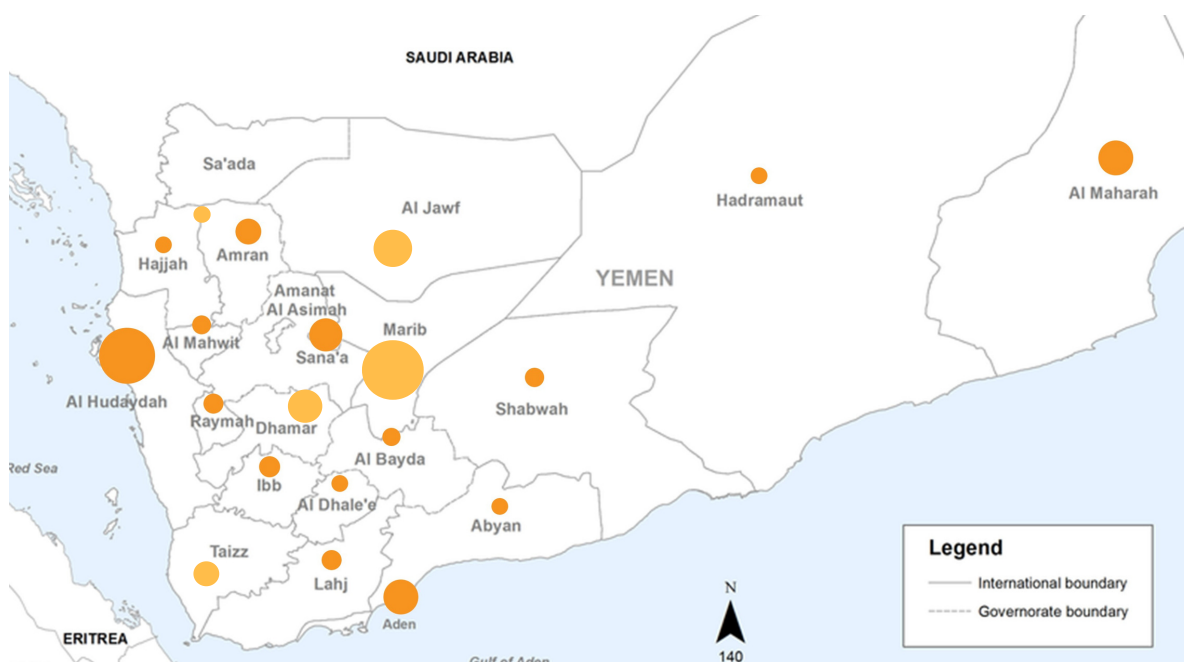
77,713 RRM kits distributed through **Sana'a** humanitarian hub from June 2018 to Sept. 2020.

22,316 RRM kits distributed through the **Ibb** humanitarian hub from June 2018 to Sept. 2020.

29,210 RRM kits distributed through the **Sa'ada** humanitarian hub from June 2018 to Sept. 2020.



Distribution of rapid response kits in Sana'a, Al Hudaydah and Sa'ada Governorates.



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

**Donors to the RRM:** European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid (ECHO), Humanitarian Pooled Funds

## IN THE NEWS

### PEOPLE REACHED

	NO.
No. of people reached with reproductive health services	771,694
No. of safe deliveries supported	110,687
No. of cesarean sections supported	22,715
Individuals reached with Family Planning services	223,944
Dignity kits distributed	63,412
Individuals reached through the Rapid Response Mechanism	408,252
No. of women reached with protection information & services	904,188
No. of health facilities supported with reproductive health services	61
No. of safe spaces supported	51
No. of women shelters supported	8
No. of supported specialized psychological care centres	6
No. of mobile protection teams in collective sites	88



Against the odds, delivering mental health support in Yemen  
**Read more...**



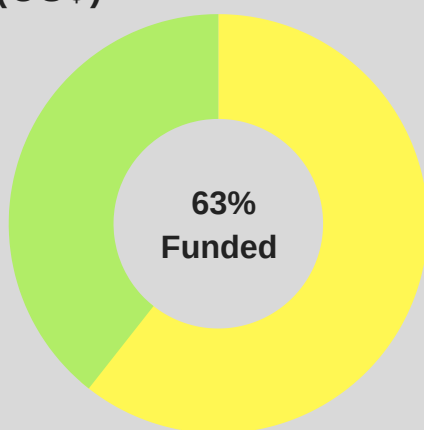
Flash Update #05 Escalation and Response in Marib  
**Read more...**



Colouring life of an obstetric fistula survivor in Yemen  
**Watch...**

### 2020 HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN FUNDING STATUS (US\$)

**\$100.5 M**  
REQUIRED  
**\$63.2M**  
FUNDED  
**\$37.3 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