

# UNFPA Response in Yemen

## MONTHLY SITUATION REPORT



Safe delivery at a UNFPA-supported health facility in Socotra, 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)



**1.2M**  
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;** further deteriorating in 2020, driven by an escalating conflict, collapsing economy, a depreciating currency; exacerbated by torrential rains and flooding, COVID-19 and a fuel crisis. 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.

**By mid-2020, Yemen had returned to alarming levels of food insecurity.** An Integrated Phase Classification analysis report in October 2020 covering the south of the country, revealed a near 10 per cent increase in cases of acute malnutrition this year. **At least a quarter of a million pregnant or breastfeeding women were found to be in need of treatment for malnutrition in the south.** The actual number is likely higher as the drivers of malnutrition in Yemen have worsened in 2020. Some 1.2 million pregnant and lactating women are estimated to suffer from either moderate or severe malnutrition across the country.

**The uptick in fighting across 47 active frontlines continued into October** along hotspots in Taizz, Al Hudaydah, Al Jawf, Marib and Al Bayda, leading to an influx of internally displaced persons. More than 156,000 people have been displaced this year alone, adding to the 3.6 million displaced persons. The UNFPA-led Rapid Response Mechanism continues to distribute emergency relief within 48 to 72 hours of displacement to those newly displaced. Since January 2020, nearly 75,000 displaced households have been reached with emergency relief.

**Lack of funding continues to cripple the UN's humanitarian operation in Yemen** with only 46 per cent received out of the \$3.23 billion required for the Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan in 2020. **Three-quarters of UNFPA's \$100.5 million humanitarian appeal for 2020 had been received by end October.** Consequently, over 50 per cent of UNFPA's life-saving reproductive health and women's protection programme remains suspended due to the lack of funding. To keep reaching the most vulnerable women and girls up to the end of the year, UNFPA requires \$25.4 million with an additional \$20 million to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**By October, UNFPA's response has reached over 2.4 million individuals with lifesaving reproductive health and protection information and services,** with support to 100 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 October is detailed below:

## HIGHLIGHTS: OCTOBER 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	3,096	939	4	1
Aden	3,038	422	6	0
Al Bayda	1,659	1,716	3	1
Al Dhale'e	1,712	258	1	2
Al Hudaydah	12,396	6,673	17	8
Al Jawf	1,440	0	5	1
Al Mahwit	1,306	1,648	3	1
Al Maharah	923	1,555	1	1
Amanat Al Asimah	4,031	3,703	2	1
Amran	3,617	842	4	2
Dhamar	3,302	1,241	4	1
Hadramaut	2,629	3,392	2	2
Hajjah	10,132	4,628	8	4
Ibb	2,475	6,510	7	3
Lahj	547	2,656	2	4
Marib	3,522	7,779	5	2
Sa'ada	1,465	357	1	1
Sana'a	1,027	1,712	1	3
Shabwah	1,038	3,804	3	1
Taizz	11,881	25,261	19	11
Raymah	0	0	0	1
Socotra	426	0	2	0

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

## MOBILE TEAMS PROVIDE LIFESAVING CARE IN DISPLACED CAMPS

Amina fled her village in Marib with her eight children, when fighting intensified in the area. Her husband had also disappeared weeks before their displacement. Amina was in the early months of pregnancy when they found shelter in a displaced camp. "The tent was barely enough for the nine of us. There is no space to sleep, so I end up sleeping in a seated position. I wish my husband was there; every night I pray he would return and share the burden of the children and this displacement," tells a tearful Amina.

In her ninth month of pregnancy, during a routine visit by a midwife of a UNFPA-supported mobile reproductive health team operating in the camp, Amina was found with severe vaginal bleeding. The mobile team provided Amina with immediate care and referred her to Al Shaheed Mohammed Hospital for a caesarean section; one of many hospitals supported by UNFPA with funding from the European Union.

After four hours of contraction pain, Amina delivered a healthy baby. "You have left your families and put your lives at risk to help displaced women like me, you all are the real heroes. Thank you for saving me and my little sunshine," said a joyful Amina to the medical teams that assisted her.

UNFPA operates mobile reproductive health teams comprising of a general physician, two midwives, two nurses and a pharmacist to provide essential reproductive health services in locations where health facilities are not available or hard to reach such as displaced camps and remote villages. In addition, 100 health facilities are currently supported by UNFPA to provide emergency obstetric care services.

# 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

- In October, 2,053 PPE items were distributed to health facilities across the country. Over 200 health facilities have been provided with PPE to date.
- Training for 60 health workers (mainly midwives) was conducted on infection prevention control and response mechanisms to provide reproductive health services during the pandemic. Over 300 health workers have been trained to date.
- This month, 27 reproductive health kits were distributed to 3 health facilities in Socotra.
- 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.
- In October, 15,000 women were reached with awareness campaigns on protection and prevention of COVID-19, including in IDP camps.
- Public service announcements on prominent locations to increase public understanding on COVID-19 prevention measures continued in October.
- 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 October, 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

2,074 cases of COVID-19 and 604 deaths were reported by end October 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 7,000 RRM kits were distributed in October 2020. Other highlights for the period June 2018 to October 2020 include:

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM JUNE 2018 TO OCTOBER 2020

Since June 2018, RRM kits were delivered to **420,937 families (over 2.5 million individuals)**.

213,448 RRM kits distributed through the **Al Hudaydah** humanitarian hub from June 2018 to Oct. 2020

74,400 RRM kits distributed through the **Aden** humanitarian hub from June 2018 to Oct. 2020.

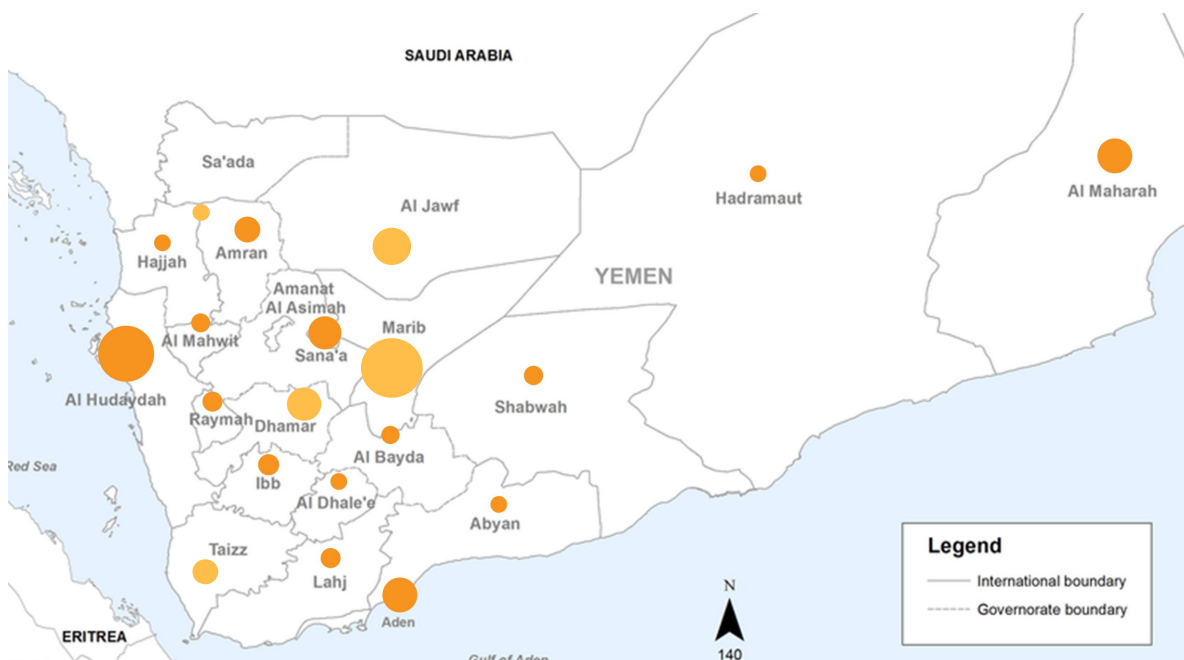
79,911 RRM kits distributed through **Sana'a** humanitarian hub from June 2018 to Oct. 2020.

23,218 RRM kits distributed through the **Ibb** humanitarian hub from June 2018 to Oct. 2020.

29,960 RRM kits distributed through the **Sa'ada** humanitarian hub from June 2018 to Oct. 2020.



Distribution of rapid response kits in Al Jawf and Marib Governorates.



The RRM is operational country-wide. The map indicates RRM distribution by governorate and volume of distribution in Oct. 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	1,021,550
No. of safe deliveries supported	130,123
No. of cesarean sections supported	24,812
Individuals reached with Family Planning services	227,499
Dignity kits distributed	70,412
Individuals reached through the Rapid Response Mechanism	449,718
No. of women reached with protection information & services	961,231
No. of health facilities supported with reproductive health services	100
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



KSRelief and UNFPA Sign New Agreement to Improve Women’s Protection Services in Yemen **Read more...**



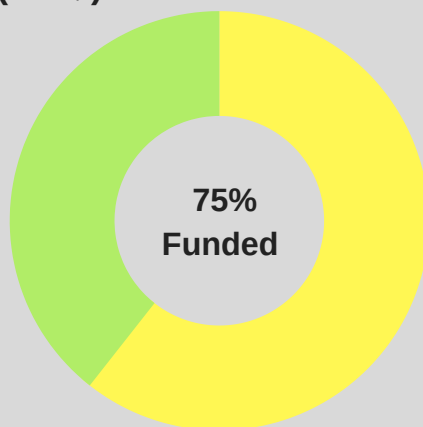
Netherlands helps to boost access to life-saving reproductive health supplies for women and girls across Yemen **Read more...**



Reproductive health facilities resume life-saving work, but funding remains scarce **Read more...**

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

**\$100.5 M**  
REQUIRED  
**\$75.1M**  
FUNDED  
**\$25.4 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