

Yemen

1 – 31 August 2017

Rental subsidies have reached **9,200 extremely vulnerable displaced families** across Yemen, protecting them from imminent eviction.

As part of increasing protection assistance for displaced populations, **1,900 households** were assessed using an in-depth protection monitoring tool in Yemen's southern governorates.

Given the deteriorating conditions in Yemen, **1080 Somali refugees** have been counselled on the Assisted Spontaneous Return programme.

KEY INDICATORS

190,212

internally displaced persons **received NFI kits** since January 2017

49,668

internally displaced persons **received shelter** materials, including the emergency shelter kit this year

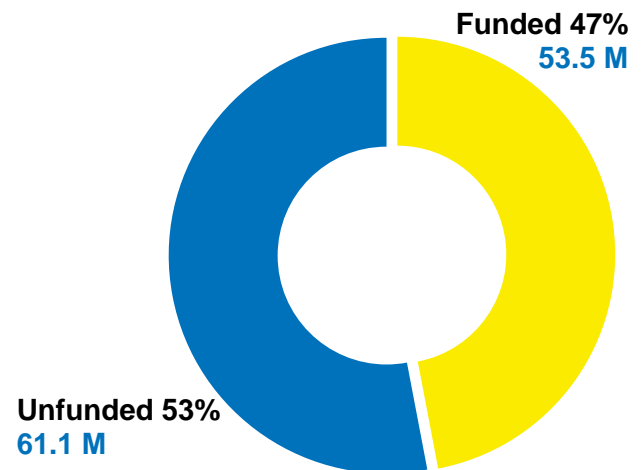
17,600

Individuals from refugee and Yemeni host communities **accessed essential health care** services this year

FUNDING (AS OF 29 AUGUST)

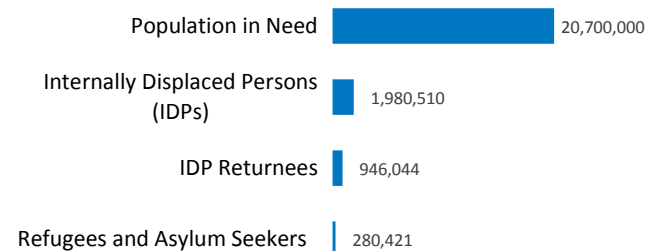
USD 114.6 M

requested for Yemen



POPULATION OF CONCERN

Yemen



Update on Achievements

Operational Context

UNHCR remains deeply concerned by the significant impact the escalating hostilities are having on the protection of civilians and on the increase of newly displaced persons. The UNHCR-led Protection Cluster released an update indicating that, through the first half of 2017, the average number of reported airstrikes per month was almost three times higher compared to 2016, and the pace of reported armed clashes also higher per month in 2017 compared to 2016. Major incidents resulted in over 50 civilian casualties during the month of August, including persons of concern to UNHCR. UNHCR reiterates its call to all parties to the conflict to ensure the protection of civilians in Yemen and to do their utmost to mitigate suffering.

At the same time, two tragic incidents off the coast of Yemen's Shabwah Governorate took place, in which scores of refugees and migrants drowned. With the launch of the Dangerous Crossings campaign in February 2017, UNHCR has warned repeatedly of the risks involved in dangerous boat crossings to Yemen, as prolonged conflict and insecurity have created the conditions for the proliferation of smuggling and trafficking by criminal networks targeting and exploiting people fleeing persecution or poverty. Against a backdrop of ongoing hostilities, UNHCR continued its efforts countrywide to assist refugees, asylum seekers and displaced families across Yemen, as the needs and vulnerabilities of affected populations continue to increase in the absence of a cessation of hostilities.



Rental subsidies reach vulnerable displaced families across Yemen. Photo: UNHCR/ D Tilakamonkul

Achievements



PROTECTION

Protection Cluster

- The Protection Cluster led by UNHCR released an update in August which emphasized the impact of the conflict on civilians. The update highlights that 104,658 internally displaced persons (IDP) were newly displaced in 2017 as a result of ongoing conflict, and that through the first half of 2017, the average number of reported airstrikes per month was almost three times higher compared to 2016, while the pace of reported armed clashes in 2017 was also 56 per cent higher per month in 2017.
- The Protection Cluster held a two-day strategic meeting with more than 40 participants, representing protection agencies in Sana'a and regional hubs. The Protection Cluster Strategy was revised and validated, and technical sessions were held on protection programming ranging from IHL/IHRL/Protection Monitoring, Psychosocial Support and Mental Health guidelines to Cash Assistance and Community-Based Protection Networks.

Achievements and Impact for IDPs

- The conflict in Yemen is now in its third year, with the impact of hostilities felt in every facet of daily life. IDPs face increased protection risks, particularly with regard to securing sustainable shelter and a lack of legally-sound housing contracts. Eviction from rented shelters continues to emerge as a major concern for those who have fled conflict, who have often long since spent savings on basic necessities including food. In response, UNHCR through its partners, is providing legal support to those in need, including resolving disputes through negotiations with landlords, and allocation of rental subsidies, a cash grant to prevent a family from becoming homeless. In addition, UNHCR and partners are providing legal counselling for the obtainment of critical civil status documentation and birth registration documents, along with mediating conflicts such as divorce. Since January of this year, over 4,000 individuals have received UNHCR-supported legal assistance.
- IDP outreach has increased in the south of Yemen, in particular with the roll out of in-depth protection monitoring, using KOBO Collect, a mobile data collection platform. Information is collected about IDPs and IDP returnees' shelter conditions, family composition, and whether individuals have experienced any type of protection risks in the past six months. Some 1,900 households have been reached thus far across three governorates, which will enable UNHCR to better understand current protection trends, provide targeted response and use data for advocacy purposes.
- Capacity building for community volunteers has been piloted in the south. Volunteers are trained on identifying vulnerable persons within their community for the purposes of referring persons in need to service providers. The establishment of these Community-Based Protection Networks (CBPN) also serve to provide access to areas where UNHCR may otherwise face difficulty accessing, such as near areas of active hostilities.

Achievements and Impact for Refugees and Asylum Seekers

- UNHCR's Representative to Yemen held consultations with refugee communities in Sana'a, in light of the increasingly challenging context refugees are finding themselves in. Concerns raised by the community include personal security, documentation, and lack of tertiary education prospects for youth. UNHCR is

working to address some of those concerns as the vulnerability of the refugee population in Yemen continues to increase in line with the deterioration of the country's socio-economic and security situation.

- As conditions in Yemen worsen, UNHCR has initiated an Assisted Spontaneous Return (ASR) programme for Somali refugees, and is working with IOM, the Yemeni authorities and the Somali Consul, to support refugees' voluntary return to Somalia. So far some 1,080 individuals have been counselled at the Return Helps Desks (RHD) in Basateen district in Aden and Kharaz camp in Lahj, receiving information on the return process and the conditions in return locations. Some 757 individuals have confirmed their desire to return to Somalia. The latest analysis from the RHDs, indicates that the majority wish to return due to lack of economic opportunities in Yemen (82 per cent), followed by family reunification reasons (12 per cent). The first departures are expected to take place in September.
- UNHCR has broadened the refugee assistance criteria in order to increase the number of recipients of financial support in northern governorates. The review of the existing criteria was initiated as a matter of urgency to enable more families to benefit from life-saving financial assistance, and reflects the growing needs of Yemen's most vulnerable refugee and asylum seeker population. The prevailing crisis has resulted in more families falling into the vulnerable category, including female headed households, persons living with disabilities, and survivors of sexual and gender based violence among others. As a result, UNHCR has allocated additional resources to expand the cash assistance programme, including the provision of one-off emergency cash assistance in situations of extreme hardship, given the continuous and deepening decline of the country's economic, social and security situation.
- In the South, a 90-day amnesty has been granted to refugees to regularize marriage and divorce certificates, following a UNHCR intervention with the Notary Court in Aden. UNHCR was alerted that refugee communities were facing difficulties in obtaining such official documentation in southern governorates. The three month amnesty will enable refugees to regularize their marital status, including the birth registration of children, and to provide proof of family units, which will provide refugees with legal security. An awareness campaign in four languages has been launched in the Basateen district.



SHELTER AND NON FOOD ITEMS (NFIS)

Shelter/NFI/CCCM Cluster

- The Shelter/Non Food Items/Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster led by UNHCR is seeking to improve the Enhanced Emergency Shelter Kit (EESK), to increase its robustness and to enhance protection and privacy in the shelter through the inclusion of partitions.
- A (CCCM) IDP Hosting Site assessment is underway countrywide in collective centres and spontaneous sites, in order to gather information on the status of IDPs, who find themselves at the bottom of the accommodation ladder with no other shelter options. Once complete, the baseline assessment will enable a prioritisation of the response based on needs, and will also feed into the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) 2018 process.

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR has completed a substantial effort to reach 9,200 IDP families with rental subsidies. The financial support, with a value of USD 300, has directly helped 64,400 people across Yemen, including in Sana'a, Sa'ada, Hajjah, Amran, Dhamar, Ibb, Aden, Lahj and Taizz Governorates. Recipient families were identified

following home visits, and represent some of the most vulnerable displaced families at risk of eviction.

Recognising the scale of the needs, and bolstered by donor support, UNHCR and partners are now working on reaching a further 10,000 families by the end of 2017.

- A UNHCR pilot shelter project for an extremely vulnerable internally displaced community in Abs district, Hajjah Governorate, is underway. Some 170 shelters have been completed in the Al-Manjjarah spontaneous settlement, where for over two years families have sought shelter in poor conditions. During a UNHCR monitoring mission to assess progress, families underlined that the improved shelters provided increased comfort and privacy. The traditional shelters, to which communities contributed to the design, are constructed using local materials, with thatched roofs and mud walls, reinforced with plastic sheeting and a wooden frame. The pilot phase will see 200 shelters constructed, with a further 1,500 homes to be built over the next four months.
- The 15th Task Force on Population Movement (TFPM) report, has identified that almost 950,000 individuals have returned from conflict driven displacement to their location of origin across 20 governorates. The TFPM report indicates that half of conflict returnees are located in Aden, Taizz and Lahj Governorates. UNHCR has expanded its response to address the initial needs of IDP returnees in southern governorates, including improving shelter conditions. With 88 per cent of returnees residing in their original homes, UNHCR's housing repair project, implemented by partner Society for Humanitarian Solidarity (SHS), aims to help families repair their war-damaged homes. So far, 992 families have received cash grants for repairs. Home assessments and recommendations have also been conducted for an additional 139 households in Aden, Lahj and Al Dhale Governorates.



EDUCATION

Achievements and Impact

- Education for refugee children is a vital part of UNHCR's work, and in Yemen, UNHCR is working closely with the authorities to safeguard both access and quality of schooling for children. Recognising that in times of displacement, safe education is crucial to children's psychosocial needs as well as their development, UNHCR is carrying out refurbishment on three schools in Kharaz camp and Basateen district,. Ahead of the commencement of the new school year, work is underway to improve classrooms, put in place resource rooms, and establish shaded areas to protect children outdoors, benefitting both refugee children and children from local hosting communities.



HEALTH

Achievements and Impact

- As the number of suspected cases of cholera surpasses 600,000, UNHCR is working to confront the epidemic as part of a comprehensive, system-wide response. Early case detection and surveillance, along with referral services are taking place at UNHCR-supported health and community centres in areas with a high concentration of refugees. The UNHCR-led Protection Cluster has also boosted cholera prevention efforts through Community Based Protection Networks (CBPN), which include the training of volunteers. Training is now complete, with volunteers equipped with printed materials, ready to reach out to communities in 25 districts beyond areas with refugee populations. The prevention and awareness activities are currently taking

place in public places including mosques, schools, hospitals and markets and are carried out in close coordination with authorities, and WASH and Health Clusters.



WATER AND SANITATION

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR's ongoing water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programme in Kharaz camp aims to meet basic needs and improve safe access to water of sufficient quality and quantity for the families residing in the sixteen year old camp. Kharaz camp, which is a temporary home to some 16,000 people, nearly half of whom are children, is mainly populated with Somali refugees and situated in an isolated location in Lahj Governorate. Ensuring access to clean water and sanitation facilities helps to prevent or contain the outbreak of diseases, including cholera. Each week some 2600m³, or 696,847 gallons of water are distributed. An additional 1,880m³ of clean water is also distributed weekly to the police station, health clinic, schools, mosques, warehouse and power station within the camp.

Financial Information

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 53.5 million**.

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