




KEY FIGURES



22.2M
People in need



2M IDPs
89% of IDPs
displaced for more than
a year



956K
IDP returnees

CRIs 1M
recipients of CRIs since
March 2015

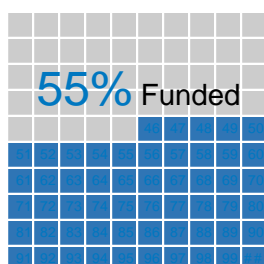


279K
refugees and
asylum seekers



\$198.7M
requested in 2018

\$108.6M received
as of June 2018



OPERATIONAL UPDATE

The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator (USG/ERC), Mark Lowcock, has called on the Yemeni Government and the Saudi-led Coalition (SLC) to loosen restrictions on imports of food and fuel through commercial ports, warning that millions more could face starvation. In a public statement released on 24 May 2018, he addressed the escalation in conflict, which is causing large numbers of civilian deaths, and called on all parties to the conflict to respect their obligations under International Humanitarian Law and ensure that everything possible is done to protect civilians. Lowcock further highlighted the difficult operating environment in Yemen, noting that humanitarian agencies face increasing restrictions on their work imposed by authorities, particularly in northern areas, where humanitarian staff are being detained and intimidated and visas are being delayed and denied.

As fighting is escalating on Yemen's Red Sea coastline, with significant advancement by forces supported by the SLC towards Hudaydah city, the humanitarian community is preparing for possible mass displacement and increased humanitarian needs, if the conflict reaches the city. Hudaydah's port is a vital lifeline for commercial and humanitarian imports to Yemen. A complete closure of the port would have devastating consequences for the population – 75 per cent of whom are already in need of humanitarian assistance. According to OCHA, an additional 200,000 people are likely to be displaced in case of an attack on Hudaydah city, mostly within the governorate. Since 1 December 2017, more than 112,000 people have fled fighting along the west coast and in Taizz Governorate to safer areas in southern Governorates.

On 23 May 2018, tropical cyclone "Mekunu" resulted in flooding on the island of Socotra and parts of Yemen's eastern mainland, for which the Yemeni Government declared a state of emergency. Humanitarian partners in Aden mobilised relief items and sent an Inter-Agency assessment team to Socotra.



UNHCR emergency household supplies arrive on Socotra to help 500 families who have been displaced by the tropical storm which swept through the island. Photo: HYAC

IDP Response

An Inter-Agency emergency mission that arrived in Socotra on 29 May 2018 to assess the impact of tropical cyclone “Mekunu”, concluded that the impact on the island and eastern mainland was less severe than originally feared. One week after the cyclone, most of the over 1,000 displaced households have returned to their homes. Three humanitarian aid flights arrived in Socotra from Aden, carrying different types of humanitarian assistance, including food, medicine and blankets. UNHCR, through partner Al-Hikma Al-Yamaniya Association for Charity (HYAC), distributed household items to 500 displaced families in Habido district.

Shelter remains a major concern for many of the over 2 million Yemenis that have been displaced by the conflict. Their situation is often exacerbated by the protracted nature of displacement - 89 per cent of IDPs have been displaced for over one year, including 77 per cent who have been displaced for over two years. Many IDPs approaching UNHCR community centers now fear eviction from their homes, as they are unable to pay the accumulated rents for multiple months. UNHCR provides the most vulnerable among these families with rental assistance. In the search for shelter, some of the most vulnerable displaced families turn to informal settlements or collective centers, which are often converted or disused health facilities, schools or mosques. Over 59,000 individuals are living in 539 collective centers, while 92,000 individuals are living in 323 informal settlements in various parts of the country.

UNHCR, through partner Jeel Albena, distributed Core Relief Items (CRIs) to 2,068 displaced families (14,500 individuals) in rural areas of Midi district, Hajjah Governorate. The families fled to safer areas to escape armed clashes in the same district. The situation of IDPs in Midi district is very poor, with many families sheltering in the open. The security situation is deteriorating and IDPs have very limited access to basic services, including medical assistance. Access to remote villages is

becoming more difficult, as frequent airstrikes make road travel increasingly dangerous.

UNHCR’s Sa’ada field office has observed a worrying increase among the needs of the host population. An increasing number of vulnerable host community members are approaching UNHCR’s IDP community center; seeking humanitarian assistance, particularly cash to cover their most urgent needs, which include medical expenses.

Refugee Response

During the reporting period, thirty-five Ethiopian refugees, all of whom former residents of Kharaz refugee camp or urban refugees in Sana’a, departed for resettlement to Sweden. They have been in protracted displacement in Yemen, some of them since 1992. Resettlement is a protection tool for refugees with specific needs who are at particular risk in Yemen. Less than 1 per cent of recognized refugees worldwide benefit from resettlement. In 2017, a total of 51 refugees from Yemen were resettled to Sweden.

More than three years into the conflict, the national health system in Yemen has nearly collapsed. Only 45 per cent of health facilities are fully functional and accessible, while lack of clean water and poor sanitation is putting refugees and host communities at additional risk of life-threatening disease. An increasing number of refugees as well as host communities, are approaching UNHCR health care facilities for medical assistance. UNHCR’s interventions include the provision of primary care, medical consultations, vaccinations, medicines, and reproductive health services. Through partners, UNHCR also provides care for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, psychosocial counselling, and physiotherapy for refugees living with disabilities, along with referrals for specialized treatment for refugees with life-threatening and chronic illnesses. During the reporting period, UNHCR-supported clinics provided medical assistance to over 9,000 individuals, one third of whom were local Yemenis.