

YEMEN

25 June 2020

KEY FIGURES:

24.1 million
people in need

3.65 million
displaced since March 2015¹

Over **80 per cent**
have been displaced for
more than a year

16,397 families have
experienced
displacement at least
once in 2020²

66,499 families were
newly displaced in
2019³

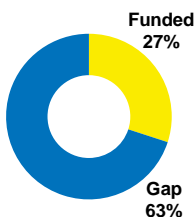
1.28 million
IDP returnees¹

271,357 refugees

11,377 asylum-
seekers

FUNDING:

USD **252.1 M**
required for 2020
operations



USD **69.1 M** received as
of 23 June 2020

¹ IOM-DTM March 2019
² IOM/DTM 20 June 2020
³ IOM-DTM 21 December 2019

IDP Response

Despite limited funding, difficulties with humanitarian access, ongoing clashes and the devastating onset of COVID-19, UNHCR continues to deliver life-saving interventions across Yemen. During the first five months of 2020, UNHCR and its partners supported 76,300 IDP families with cash assistance, emergency shelters and household items such as mattresses, kitchen sets and solar lamps. With respect to refugees and asylum-seekers, UNHCR assisted 18,900 families with the same interventions, while facilitating access to identification documentation (6,400 documents issues) and psycho-medical support to 2,560 children and SGBV survivors.

UNHCR and partner Society for Humanitarian Solidarity (SHS) continued to deliver emergency items to 350 displaced families in the central governorate of Marib during the reporting period. Roughly half of all displaced families in 2020 have fled hostilities seeking safety in Marib. During the past three months, UNHCR together with partner YRC collected data on the needs of 10,400 families, including those affected by the heavy rains and floods. Immediate distribution of shelters and household kits targeted 1,300 families with basic household items, 300 families with tents, and cash for 4,200 families to support their rent, food and medicine costs.

UNHCR and partners began a basic household items distribution for 4,600 families displaced from multiple districts in the south of Hudaydah governorate who settled in Zabid district. With adherence to [COVID-19 prevention measures](#)—including social distancing and basic hygiene—the exercise is expected to take up to a month, approximately four times longer than would normally take to complete.

Refugee Response

Despite the temporary suspension of Assisted Spontaneous Returns (ASR) for Somali refugees due to COVID-19, UNHCR continued to provide information and registration for those expressing an interest in returning home at the four Return Help Desks in Aden. So far, 374 persons have been registered for future departures, while 611 Somalis sought information about returns.

UNHCR provided three ventilators and three anaesthetic machines as part of its effort to support public hospitals in their response to COVID-19. The equipment was provided to one of the hospitals in Sana'a where UNHCR refers refugee and impoverished Yemeni patients for secondary and tertiary care. UNHCR also continues to support the construction of a large intensive care unit in the north to accommodate up to 28 patients. UNHCR also donated lab machines for swift haemorrhagic surgical interventions as part of ongoing efforts to support refugee and host community access to secondary and tertiary health services.

Close to 1,000 refugees, asylum seekers, and Yemeni nationals accessed urgent health services at the five UNHCR supported clinics during the reporting period. UNHCR activities reached nearly 3,300 refugees and host community members. Some 200 refugees received mosquito nets and awareness-raising material on insect-transmitted diseases, including malaria, dengue and chikungunya. In Aden and Sana'a, clinics reported an increased number of patients suffering from a fever-like illness; UNHCR is verifying if these cases are associated with COVID-19.



UNHCR began rehabilitation and upgrading of 35 [Refugee Housing Units](#) installed in Hajjah city, including improving the water drainage, fire safety and privacy elements. © UNHCR/Jeel Al-bena.

COVID-19 Response

COVID-19 is having a significant impact on access to livelihood opportunities for both refugees and asylum-seekers. Nearly three quarters (72 per cent) of recent calls to UNHCR hotlines related to loss of employment and requests for cash support. Prior to the global pandemic, the figure was as low as 30 per cent. The rate of repayment for the microloans for refugee entrepreneurs managing restaurants, door-to-door sellers, tailor services and shoe shops was also observed to have dropped, from 95 per cent prior to COVID-19 to the current 86 per cent.

UNHCR is conducting a survey on Communication With Communities (CWC) across the north, including the outcome of COVID-19 awareness measures. In Hajjah and Hudaydah, the survey reached 400 beneficiaries, with 87 per cent of respondents saying they were aware of associated symptoms, precautionary measures and how the infection was transmitted. However, 40 per cent said they could not afford to follow prevention measures beyond the recommended hand-washing advisories. Some 90 per cent noted that access to health facilities became a challenge due to fear of infection from hospitals. In Ibb governorate, the survey reached 930 beneficiaries, where 90 per cent of respondents stated that they were aware of COVID-19 symptoms, precautionary measures and how the infection was transmitted, though only 35 per cent reported regularly washing their hands. Some 73 per cent of respondents informed that access to health facilities was more difficult since the beginning of the outbreak, and 49 per cent said that their daily financial income had been significantly impacted during the pandemic.

Beneficiary story

Abdo (35) fled his home country Somalia in 2002 in search of protection and the possibility of a better future in Yemen. He travelled between the southern governorates in search of employment opportunities before eventually settling in Taizz for five years. However, as the outbreak of conflict in the region arrived in his district, he was forced to flee north to neighbouring Ibb, where he approached UNHCR's protection team who assessed his case. He, his wife, and his two children are currently taking shelter in an unfinished construction site. The trauma and hardship they faced during their displacement has taken a toll on his wife, who suffers from high blood pressure and diabetes.



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Abdo continues to provide for his family through ad-hoc jobs such as car washing, however his meagre income vanished overnight with the arrival of COVID-19 in Yemen. **After carrying out a detailed assessment of his situation and prioritised needs, UNHCR provided Abdo and his family with two rounds of cash assistance to support their basic needs.** UNHCR's partners also provided the family with awareness sessions on COVID-19 and basic household items including bedding materials, a kitchen set and a solar lamp.

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