

YEMEN

6 - 12 October 2017

KEY FIGURES

20.7 million

people in need

1,980,510

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

84 per cent of IDPs

displaced for more than a year

946,044 IDP returnees

931,846 recipients of

CRIs since March 2015

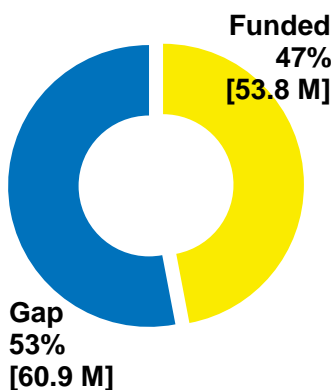
280,539 refugees and

asylum seekers

Funding

USD **114.6 M**

requested in 2017



Operational Update

As the end of year fast approaches, and temperatures begin to drop, the winter needs of displaced Yemenis have come into sharp focus.

The two million IDP families in Yemen, who are already exposed to enormous hardship, will now have to grapple with a severe drop in night time temperatures. The UNHCR-led Shelter/NFI/CCCM Cluster, along with UNHCR field teams, have devised a winter response to assist the most vulnerable displaced families in areas acutely affected by cold, particularly in particular mountainous parts. UNHCR and partners will work against the clock to reach some 17,000 families, or close to 120,000 individuals in total. Of these, 15,000 households will be targeted to receive core relief items such as blankets, mattresses and sleeping mats, in addition to a one-off cash grant to go toward heating fuel and winter clothing. A further 2,000 families will also receive financial support to the value of US \$200. Considering the scale of shelter needs in Yemen, the number of desperate Yemenis who require the winterization package greatly exceeds the Cluster and Agency's capacity to respond based on current funding levels.

At the same time, reports continue to reach UNHCR of new displacement as fighting in frontline areas persists. Hostilities in the deeply contested Taizz Governorate have forced some 100 families to flee their homes in recent days. The families are currently sheltering in appalling conditions in the Ras Al-Arah district in Lahj Governorate, with early reports suggesting that more than half of families are sleeping in open air, exposed to the elements. Concern is growing for the newly displaced, with an assessment expected to take place as soon as possible to minimise risks and to provide families with much needed assistance.



MBM Knowledge Foundation gifted 2,342 books to three primary schools in Lahj and Aden governorates supporting 4,500 Yemeni and refugee children.

Photo: UNHCR/ N Binsalman

IDP Response

UNHCR distributions of household items took place across Yemen this week, reaching over 6,000 displaced people in Ibb, Dhamar and Amran Governorates. The core relief items (CRI), which include blankets, mattresses, kitchen sets and jerry cans to safely store water, are an integral component of the IDP response, as families who flee hostilities often do so with little more than the clothes they are wearing. In Amran, UNHCR through partner Yemen Red Crescent, reached 600 vulnerable families in Raida, Thula, Jabelyazid and Eyal Suraih districts. In addition, partner ACTED distributed CRI kits to a further 170 displaced families, who had recently fled hostilities in Taizz to Al-Mashannah and Al-Dhehar districts in Ibb Governorate.

As the northern governorate of Sa'ada continues to bear the brunt of hostilities, two UNHCR missions took place this week to assess displacement conditions. Sa'ada is home to over 100,000 IDPs, with a further 294,000 people forced to seek shelter in neighbouring governorates. During a joint mission with local authorities to Kitaf district, UNHCR identified families taking shelter in caves, under trees or sharing with other families as the cost of rent has exponentially increased. A second mission visited the Al Heshwah district in Sa'ada, where conditions remain challenging. In Al Heshwah, UNHCR is planning to support 2,000 families soon, who are both in need of emergency shelter and CRI kits. Considering the scale of needs in Sa'ada, distributions of assistance also took place with CRIs reaching 315 families and emergency shelter kits for 32 families in the Sahar and As Safra districts.

In an effort to improve the way assistance is planned and delivered in Yemen, UNHCR continues to boost post distribution monitoring (PDM) for IDPs who have previously received support. Focusing on families who have received CRIs, rental subsidies or one-off protection assistance such as the multipurpose cash grant, UNHCR is carrying out home visits and phone calls, with results collected for analysis. This week, the details of 171 families in Dhamar and Ibb were collected, including information on how the financial assistance was spent and the ease of which it was collected. Once collated, the results will highlight broad trends and will better inform programming, feeding back into the project cycle in order to improve the way assistance is planned and delivered.

Refugee Response

Education continues to be a vital aspect of UNHCR's refugee work, including in war-torn Yemen. In Sana'a, UNHCR partner Sustainable Development Foundation (SDF) held an event to mark the success of a literacy course, with 29 students passing and progressing to Grade 2 and Grade 3. The course, which covers Arabic reading and writing, French, English and computer literacy, provides a foundation and entry path for refugee children and teenagers into formal education in the Yemeni public school system. In the south, the MBM Knowledge Foundation gifted 2,342 books to three primary schools, including two schools in Kharaz Camp and one school in Basateen, helping 4,500 Yemeni and refugee children to read their way to success. Education is crucial for fostering social cohesion, particularly in refugee settings, providing life-saving information, and a safe and stable environment for those who need it most.

An amnesty granted to refugees in late July this year to regularize marriage and divorce certificates by the Notary Court in Aden, will come to an end on 31 October. With the support of UNHCR, 50 cases have been submitted to the Court so far. The amnesty materialised following UNHCR's advocacy, after being alerted to refugee communities facing difficulties in obtaining such official documentation in southern governorates. Access to such documentation enables refugees to regularize their marital status, which if not, can affect the entire family, including the birth registration of children. Recognising the importance of the marriage amnesty for the legal protection of refugees, UNHCR accompanied its roll-out with a public information campaign that included home visits, awareness sessions, distribution of leaflets in four languages and posters in key locations.

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