

YEMEN

UNHCR FLASH UPDATE

2- 8 June 2017



KEY FIGURES

18.8
million people in need

1,988,946
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

81
Percentage of IDPs displaced for more than a year

900,258
IDP returnees

858,549
recipients of NFIs since March 2015

280,096
registered refugees and asylum seekers

21,698
new arrivals to Yemeni coast since 1 January 2017

FUNDING

USD 114.6 million
requested for IDPs and refugees in Yemen for 2017



OPERATIONAL UPDATE

Despite an intensification of fighting throughout the country, with conflict continuing on all frontlines, UNHCR continues to provide emergency assistance to internally displaced persons (IDPs) in some of the hardest to reach areas. Again this week, UNHCR, through partners, entered the highly contested governorate of Taizz, against a backdrop of insecurity and access challenges, to distribute much needed core relief items to displaced populations. More than half a million people have been displaced from Taizz since the beginning of the conflict in March 2015.

As cholera maintains its grip on Yemen, UNHCR's efforts to support refugees continue, as part of the wider United Nations and authorities response. Community outreach at UNHCR-supported health and community centres for prevention, early case detection and surveillance, along with referral services are ongoing for persons of concern in Yemen. The epidemic continues to spread at an alarming rate with over 86,000 individuals diagnosed with cholera, including nine refugees, and over 681 deaths.

IDP RESPONSE

Responding to the needs of IDPs in central governorates, UNHCR has opened a new IDP centre run by partner Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA). The shelter and protection activities have begun at the site in Dhamar City, which is located some 100km south of Sana'a, and also serves IDPs in the neighbouring governorates of Marib and Al-Bayda. Together the governorates host close to 230,000 IDPs, and 50,000 IDP returnees. ADRA staff jointly with Executive Unit have begun visiting displaced families in Dhamar City to support those in need with rental subsidies and one-off cash assistance.

UNHCR has completed the distribution of core relief items to 459 families in Maqbanah district in Taizz governorate through partner, Yemen Red Crescent Society (YRCS). The Red Sea governorate is one of the worst affected areas in Yemen, with a surge in the number of families on the move since the escalation in hostilities in early 2017. Close to 7,000 households were displaced in and from the governorate, with UNHCR missions taking place to deliver lifesaving assistance when possible.

UNHCR is carrying out a cash grant activity to support IDP returnees in re-establishing their lives in the south. A technical assessment of 1,000 conflict-damaged homes is currently under way, with 360 homes so far assessed in Aden, Lahj and Al-Dalea Governorates. The cash grants aim to ensure dignity and privacy for returnees, allowing for repair of latrines, windows, doors and roofing. Assessments are also underway for emergency shelter enhancements in the northern governorates of Sa'ada, Sana'a and Ibb to cover a further 8,200 households in the coming months.

REFUGEE RESPONSE

The health of refugees continues to be a priority for UNHCR, with some 1,600 individuals receiving medical consultations at UNHCR partner facilities in Basateen and Kharaz Camp in the south of Yemen, as well as two primary health care clinics in Sana'a in the past week alone. One third of consultations were for vulnerable Yemenis in host communities. Support includes reproductive health services, psychosocial counselling, vaccinations, casualty and emergency treatment along with awareness-raising sessions on public health challenges, including the cholera epidemic.

UNHCR is working to improve the quality of education for children in Kharaz Camp, which is home to some 16,000 Somali and Ethiopian refugees. UNHCR is working closely with Save the Children and the Office of Education, to put together a technical review and competency test for the recruitment of teachers for camp schools. The goal is to 'right-size' the number of teachers needed in camp schools through an in-depth review of the curriculum and to train new teachers before the new academic year commences.