

YEMEN

29 September - 5 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

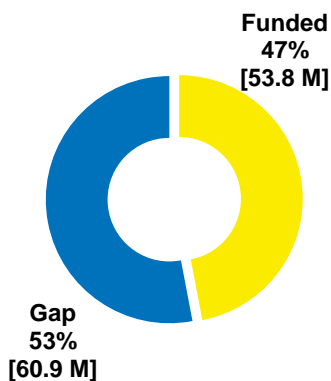
946,044 IDP returnees

931,846 recipients of core
relief items since March
2015

280,623 refugees and
asylum seekers

Funding

USD **114.6 M**
requested in 2017



Operational Update

As part of UNHCR's commitment to support the system-wide cholera response, 48,000 collapsible 10 litre jerry cans have arrived in Sana'a from the UNHCR global stockpile in Dubai. The Agency has made available a total of 55,000 jerry cans to the Health and WASH cluster partners, which will help families to store clean water safely. The epidemic is now considered the fastest growing in the world, with 777,229 suspected cases and 2,134 deaths according to the World Health Organisation, with concerns growing that Yemen could see up to one million suspected cases by the end of 2017. UNHCR efforts have largely focused on placing communities at the centre of prevention efforts, empowering high risk refugee communities with accurate information on the spread of cholera, coupled with early case detection and surveillance, and the timely referral of suspected cases to UNHCR-supported health and community centres. The UNHCR-led Protection Cluster has also mobilised volunteers country-wide, who are imparting critical information on cholera prevention in public areas including markets, stores, and in places of worship, in an effort to stem the epidemic.

Hostilities continue to mar efforts to broker peace, disproportionately affecting Yemen's displaced population. Civilian casualties and forced displacement have resulted in loss of life, family separation and the breakdown of community structures. During the past two months, the number of those newly displaced continues to rise, due to an escalation in conflict in Taizz and Sa'ada Governorates, which has precluded families' safe return, leaving them caught in an exhaustive cycle of multiple displacement in frontline areas. UNHCR continues efforts to reach newly displaced with emergency assistance where access permits.



Emergency shelter kits and core relief items reach displaced families in need, in Mokha, Taizz Governorate. Photo: UNHCR/ExU M. Saleh

IDP Response

Three years into the conflict in Yemen, the central governorate of Taizz continues to endure hostilities, forcing families from their homes with little more than what they can carry. Yemenis have been displaced within embattled Taizz itself, and pushed into neighbouring governorates in search of safety. UNHCR recently carried out a distribution in coordination with local authorities in Hays district in Mokha, for 1,009 families. The conditions among the population are dire, with many families sheltering under trees, their clothes hanging from bare branches to provide a semblance of shade. The distribution of emergency shelter kits and core relief items for an additional vulnerable 120 families, will provide privacy and protection from the heat and much needed household items. This week, UNHCR through partner ACTED, also reached a further 278 families who fled hostilities in Taizz with core relief items, such as blankets, kitchen sets and mattresses, in the AlMashannah district in Ibb Governorate.

UNHCR teams carried out a three day mission to Amran Governorate to monitor activities being carried out with partner Yemen Red Crescent Society. Assessment missions, including meeting with families supported by assistance, are a critical tool to guide UNHCR's humanitarian response. Visiting three spontaneous settlements in Amran City, where 144 displaced families were recently provided with core relief items, the IDP community revealed that with winter approaching, additional blankets and mattresses will be needed to protect families from the cold. Families are sheltering in makeshift shelters, with little protection from the elements. During the three day mission, UNHCR also met with 20 of the 117 families who received financial assistance and are experiencing extreme hardship. The financial support, to the value of US \$150, was used primarily to cover food and basic health care as well as debt accumulated in displacement.

The central governorates of Sana'a and Amanat Al Asimah host 284,616 principally urban IDPs. The vast majority of the displaced are sheltering in towns and cities, several families sharing a single room, paying exorbitant and ever rising rents and under the constant threat of eviction. UNHCR through partner ADRA, distributed rental subsidies to the value of US \$300, to 523 families in Amanat Al Asimah this week, reaching those most vulnerable. A further 62 families also received core relief items, which included much needed household goods.

Refugee Response

Two important events took place at the UNHCR established Migration and Refugee Studies Centre (MRSC), including an 18-day course and a moot court simulation for Sana'a University law students. The course covered: asylum and rights of refugees under Islamic Law, national guidelines for dealing with asylum, UNHCR and international protection from an international legal perspective as well as contemporary issues in refugee law. The University of Sana'a affiliated research institute is tasked with building capacities for refugee protection in Yemen, including for national authorities. A two-day training was also conducted for staff from the Ministry of Interior, namely from the Immigration Passports and Naturalization Authority (IPNA). The training focused on the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, UNHCR's mandate, and the challenges and consequences of migration and refuge on national security. Yemen, which is a temporary home to some 280,623 refugees and asylum seekers, remains the only country in the Arabian Peninsula that is signatory to the Refugee Convention.

The second departure of 151 refugees to Somalia as part of the UNHCR's Assisted Spontaneous Return (ASR) programme took place on 1 October. To date 284 Somali refugees have returned to Somalia since September 2017, transported by sea from Aden Port to Somalia's Port of Berbera. UNHCR will now prepare for departures every two weeks, with a third departure for another 139 refugees planned to take place later in October. More than 1,690 refugees have approached UNHCR for information on return since the return help desks were established, receiving counselling about return assistance and impartial information on return conditions in Somalia.

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