



YEMEN

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN 2010

BACKGROUND¹

The overall aim of the 2010 Humanitarian Response Plan in Yemen is to respond to a series of acute and chronic humanitarian needs which have been triggered, or in some cases exacerbated, by armed conflict. This conflict escalated in August 2009 between the Government and Al Houthi rebels in the north of the country, and expanded to include tribal and international actors. However, this is only one of the increasingly complex emergencies that the country faces. Yemen suffers from chronic underdevelopment, and is both a low-income, food-deficit country and one of the world's least developed, suffering from weak infrastructure, widespread poverty and unemployment, rapid population growth, low education indicators and high gender disparities. Families with limited coping mechanisms have been further stretched by a series of crises – including high food prices, economic downturn, conflict, and climate change – leaving them increasingly vulnerable. An estimated 48% of households in Yemen are food-insecure, and half of all children are chronically malnourished. It is likely that these already alarming levels of chronic food insecurity and malnutrition have only further deteriorated as a result of the complex situation. Any delay in responding to the humanitarian challenges could put at risk some of the gains, such as those made in poverty reduction, made by Yemen and the international community over recent years.

UNFPA AREAS OF CONCERN AND PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS FOR 2010

| INTERVENTION AREA | | AMOUNT REQUESTED |
|---|---|------------------------|
| GENDER EQUALITY AND LIVELIHOOD DEVELOPMENT | | US \$ 350,000 |
| YEM-10/ER/28744/1171 | Early recovery capacity development targeting women in conflict-affected areas of Yemen | 350,000 |
| SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH | | US \$ 750,926 |
| YEM-10/H/28015/1171 | Emergency Reproductive Health Response in conflict-affected areas of Yemen | 750,926 |
| GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND PROTECTION | | US \$ 472,983 |
| YEM-10/P-HR-RL/28737/1171 | Protection and support of displaced women in conflict-affected areas of Yemen | 426,983 |
| YEM-10/P-HR-RL/29146/1171 | Coordinated Protection Monitoring of IDP Communities | 46,000 |
| TOTAL | | US \$ 1,573,909 |

GENDER EQUALITY

In emergency situations, responsibility for caring for the family unit often falls entirely on women. It is they who must provide continuous care to children and the elderly, regardless of their own needs. In

¹ Please see [Volume 1](#) of the Yemen CAP for more information on the crisis, its humanitarian consequences and overall sector response plans.

Yemen, most of the estimated 150,000 displaced persons are women and girls, some of whom suffer violence, exploitation, psychological trauma as a result of the crisis, and limited access to reproductive healthcare. Social norms prevent many women from registering as heads of households, and during the distribution of food and non-food items, priority is often given to the male members of the family. Therefore, it is essential that these vulnerable women and girls, who play such an essential role in the wellbeing of the family, be involved in the planning and coordination of the relief efforts active in their communities. Such involvement will strengthen their ability to recover, improve their quality of life, and generally improve the quality of protection provided to women and girls in the camps.

To help prevent domestic violence and empower 40,000 women and girls living in IDP camps, UNFPA is requesting US \$350,000 for the development of livelihood projects, women's committees and advocacy programmes.

Project activities include:

- Establish and support women committees and networks in the camps to represent women, address their concerns and needs, and ensure their protection. Build their capacity to provide relief planning, coordination and management;
- Organize income generating activities consisting of dignity kits assembly at camp level;
- Support women's committees and networks;
- Strengthen the capacity of local authorities and local NGOs on gender-sensitive emergency programming and women's protection, including gender-based violence;
- Raise awareness among the communities on the vulnerability of women and girls.

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

The population growth rate of 3.02% is one of the highest in the world: the population is expected to double to around 40 million within the next 23 years. Social development indicators such as under-five mortality (73 per 1,000 live births), child malnutrition (46% of children under five are underweight) and maternal mortality (366 per 100,000 live births) remain very high.

There are many reasons for the high maternal and child mortality. As of 2006, in spite of 45% coverage of antenatal care, only 36% of births are attended by skilled health personnel. 23% of newborns are delivered with a low birth weight, and 46% of children are underweight. The vulnerability of women and children may increase substantially due to the current conflict. Availability of comprehensive primary health care services including mother and child health services will be vital for reducing the maternal and child mortality.

UNFPA is asking donors for US \$ 750,926 in order to establish basic reproductive health interventions and address the most urgent needs of approximately 40,000 women and girls in and around the IDP camps. With the support of the Ministry of Public Health, the funds will help ensure commodities and staff are available for the maintenance of the mobile health clinics, and that technical support to health providers is ongoing.

Project activities include:

- Deploy reproductive health coordinators in the major affected areas /camps;
- Provide essential reproductive health commodities to health facilities and mobile clinics serving the IDPs – including drugs and equipments to ensure safe and clean delivery, manage

complications, prevent unwanted pregnancies, treat STIs, reduce HIV transmission and assist victims of sexual violence;

- Provide technical support to Health Offices to ensure that reproductive health services especially for pregnant women are available at primary, secondary and referral health level;
- Facilitate the deployment of 4 mobile clinics providing outreach reproductive health services for hard-to-reach IDPs in remote areas;
- Strengthen referral system to ensure that complications during delivery are referred to functioning emergency obstetric care services in district/governorate hospitals;
- Train health providers - from public sectors and local NGOs – working with the affected population on the use of essential reproductive health supplies & equipment, safe delivery, management of rape survivors, prevention of HIV transmission and referral protocols.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND PROTECTION

In Yemen, most of the internally displaced population fled their homes to escape the fighting, which left the camps as their only available haven. Displaced persons who are cut off from the protection and support of their families and communities become more vulnerable to sexual violence, abuse and exploitation. These victims are usually women and children. During their flight, many of these women have suffered physical and psychological trauma for which medical care is essential. Additionally, with no personal belongings, women and girls must adapt to life in camps, which, if poorly administered, do not afford the hygiene facilities and privacy that a traditionally conservative society such as Yemen requires.

In order to support the physical and psychosocial wellbeing of women and girls living in the camps, UNFPA is requesting US \$426,983 to establish a safe environment, ensure psychosocial support services are available, and distribute dignity kits containing essential and culturally appropriate hygiene items.

Project activities include:

- Deploy a field coordinator to oversee the implementation of the project, support partners in the camps and coordinate with other humanitarian actors;
- Procure and distribute 10,000 dignity kits including appropriate dress-code items (woman dress, scarf, etc.) and personal hygiene items (soap, shampoo, cream for rashes, etc.);
- Build the capacity of local NGO staff, social workers and selected women in the community on psychosocial support and gender-based violence;
- Provide outreach psycho-social support with referral services and raise awareness on Sexual Gender -Based violence (SGBV) among women and girls in the camps;
- Ensure safe spaces in the camps for vulnerable women and girls at risk;
- Establish referral mechanisms for female victims of violence and women with serious psychological disorders;
- Advocate and coordinate with partners including the community to address identified specific needs of women and girls in all sectors especially protection from sexual violence

To improve monitoring and evaluation practices in the protection sector, UNFPA is requesting US \$200,069 that will assist the inter-agency protection monitoring teams in gathering assessment data on the needs of those displaced. This data will then be used to better inform community-level protection interventions.

Project activities include:

- Design a common protection assessment and monitoring methodology, which embraces the protection themes of each participating agency;
- Train participating agencies, and their implementing partners, in specialist protection assessment protocols for use in a common methodology;
- Conduct protection assessment and monitoring field missions by skilled protection personnel in displacement –affected locations;
- Identify, document and report protection risks and protection programming gaps on a systematic basis;
- Enter the collected quantitative data into a database for analysis and statistical reporting;
- Conduct regular monitoring and reporting protection concerns in the IDP camps and IDP locations outside the camp, including producing incident reports;
- Report on issues affecting the fundamental rights of the population and advocate for proper redress of the violations of any group or individual;
- Note that this plan has minimized project costs by assuming that currently employed agency personnel will support this project wherever possible.

Ms. Zeljka Mudrovic, Country Office Deputy Representative, **UNFPA Yemen** – mudrovic@unfpa.org +967 71 176 7474

Matthieu Arrault, Arab States Regional Office, **UNFPA Cairo** - arrault@unfpa.org +202 2 528 1730 ext: 3350

Laila Baker, Humanitarian Response Branch, **UNFPA Geneva**, lbaker@unfpa.org +41 22 917 8280

Jemilah Mahmood, Humanitarian Response Branch, **UNFPA New York** - jmahmood@unfpa.org +1 212 297 5178