



UNFPA RESPONSE IN YEMEN

Monthly Situation Report #08 – September 2016

Key Figures

21.2 million
People in need

15.2 million
People lack access to basic health services

12.6 million
People targeted for life-saving interventions

3.1 million
People displaced by conflict

3.4 million
Women of girls of reproductive age

400,800
Pregnant women

68,000
Women of reproductive age at risk of sexual violence, including rape



Reproductive health kits that arrived through the first cargo plane carrying emergency health supplies since the crisis in Yemen have arrived in Sa'ada Governorate. These would be distributed among health facilities and midwives, reaching an estimated 90,000 women and girls in Sa'ada.

Situation Overview

The humanitarian situation in Yemen continues to deteriorate with four out of five people needing humanitarian assistance. The breakdown in the healthcare system, in particular, is denying thousands of Yemenis access to essential health services. More than 70 health centres have been damaged or destroyed by the conflict. Health facilities in 16 out of 22 governorates are either not functioning or partially functioning. The UN Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Stephen O'Brien, during a three-day mission to Sana'a condemned attacks on medical facilities. He stated, "the best humanitarian relief that can be provided is an end to the conflict. I urged the authorities, as I urge other parties to the conflict, to return to political negotiations without delay to reach a negotiated solution."

In addition, violence against aid workers and civilians continue to characterize the conflict in Yemen, hindering the delivery of urgent humanitarian assistance. Since March 2015, 13 health workers have died and 31 have been injured.

So far this year, the humanitarian community has reached some 4 million people with assistance and protection. However, the Humanitarian Response Plan for 2016 is only 46 per cent funded, leaving a gap of US\$880 million.

Highlights of UNFPA Response

- **Cargo plane carrying life-saving emergency medicines and reproductive health supplies** - benefiting nearly 500,000 Yemenis, with more than 80,000 women and girls across 14 governorates - were delivered in Sana'a on 21 September 2016. This is a major breakthrough in delivery of life-saving humanitarian assistance. Previous supplies have taken up to five or seven months to reach Sana'a from ports in Al Hudaydah and Djibouti due to air and naval blockades.
- **Comprehensive and basic emergency obstetric care equipment** was distributed to health facilities in Sana'a and Al Hudaydah Governorates. These would benefit an estimated 45,800 pregnant women.
- **Reproductive health kits** were distributed to 24 health facilities across 12 districts in Sa'ada Governorate. These will address the reproductive health needs, including complicated deliveries of some 43,000 women and girls of reproductive age (15 to 49 years). In addition, 50 midwives have been equipped with clean delivery kits to assist in home deliveries.
- The recent **mission of the UN Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator** included a visit to the Althowrah Hospital in Al Hudaydah Governorate where UNFPA has provided reproductive health kits and equipment for basic and comprehensive emergency obstetric care, aimed at serving approximately 170,000 women and girls of reproductive age.
- The development of a **reproductive healthy strategy** for Yemen is currently under way. UNFPA is advocating for the inclusion of humanitarian and gender-based violence issues in the strategy.
- A **joint meeting between UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO** was held to improve coordination, build synergies, and compliment maternal health interventions between the agencies.
- **Mainstreaming of gender-based violence** as a prevention measure across WASH, shelter and health clusters was successfully advocated with guidelines developed to be adopted in the coming months.
- A total of 321 beneficiaries (274 female, 47 male) were reached with **gender-based violence services** in September, with the highest being for psychosocial support services (202) followed by health services support (96).
- In **resource mobilization efforts**, proposals were submitted in September to the United Arab Emirates, Kingdom of Kuwait, and King Salaman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre, amounting to a total of \$11.5 million.
- UNFPA continues to face long delays in receiving supplies from the port in Al Hudaydh and securing visa for staff to travel to Yemen. These pose significant **challenges** for an effective humanitarian response.