2024 UNFPA HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE IN YEMEN
ENSURING RIGHTS AND CHOICES FOR ALL
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WOMEN AND GIRLS AT 
HEIGHTENED RISK

After nine years of conflict, the needs in Yemen remain immense. Over half of the country’s population, 18.2 million people, require some form of humanitarian assistance in 2024.

This is the result of multiple, overlapping emergencies pummelling the country: Violent conflict, economic collapse, recurrent climate-change induced disasters, and severely disrupted public services, with recent regional conflict dynamics adding further layers of vulnerability.
Women and girls hardest hit

Women and girls continue to bear the brunt of the crisis. An estimated 80 per cent of the 4.5 million people displaced in Yemen are women and children and around one quarter of displaced households are headed by women.

Early and child marriage puts women and children at further risk of health complications, especially those who are malnourished. Going into labour when too young puts enormous strain on a girl’s body, which can lead to debilitating conditions like obstetric fistula, and even death.

Child marriage also casts a long shadow on mental well-being of both women and their children. More than 30 per cent of girls in Yemen are married before the age of 18, and the highest death rates of children under five years old are among mothers who are younger than 20 (54 per 1,000 live births), which serves as another stark reminder of the consequences of early marriage.

Gender-based violence has become endemic in Yemen, with more than 6.3 million women and girls at heightened risk of its various forms, including harmful traditional practices such as female genital mutilation. With limited shelter options and a breakdown in formal and informal protection mechanisms, girls are increasingly vulnerable to child marriage, human trafficking, forced begging and child labour, among others. Women and girls with disabilities and marginalized groups face an even greater risk of gender-based violence, available services are not equipped to accommodate their needs.

Access to comprehensive gender-based violence response remains insufficient across Yemen, with 90 per cent of rural areas lacking these services. Female heads of households, women with disabilities, and those belonging to minority or migrant communities often face even greater obstacles due to compounded vulnerabilities and discrimination, further limiting their access to life-saving support and pursuing justice.

Health needs of women and girls remain urgent

Of the 17.8 million in need of health assistance in 2024, one quarter are women. Some 5.5 million women of reproductive age, including pregnant and lactating women, face challenges accessing reproductive health services, especially in rural and frontline districts. This is due to the non-availability of specialized female doctors and nurses, insufficient essential medical supplies, and limited access to services. Restrictions on the movement of female aid workers across governorates has further compounded the situation in northern parts of the country.

Maternal mortality rates in Yemen remain high, with one woman dying in childbirth every two hours, mostly from causes that are entirely preventable. Fewer than half of all births are assisted by skilled medical personnel and only one third take place in a health facility. Women of childbearing age, particularly pregnant and lactating women, have limited or no access to reproductive health support, including antenatal care, safe delivery services, postnatal care, family planning and emergency obstetric and newborn care.

Over 2.7 million pregnant and breastfeeding women are projected to require treatment for acute malnutrition in 2024. They risk giving birth to newborns with severely stunted growth and nursing malnourished infants due to rising food insecurity.

This is compounded by extreme shortages of essential medicines, supplies and specialized staff, as only one in five of functioning facilities is able to provide maternal and child health services.

Mental health needs soar

The cumulative impact of conflict and deprivation has also taken a heavy toll on the mental health of Yemenis, particularly its women and girls. Mental health care remains scarce, and psychological illness is highly stigmatized. An estimated 7 million people require mental health treatment and support, but only 120,000 have uninterrupted access to these services.
UNFPA HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE IN YEMEN

CRISIS IN NUMBERS

- **18.2 M** In need of some form of assistance
- **17.6 M** In acute need
- **16.4 M** Food insecure
- **4.5 M** Internally displaced persons
- **17.8 M** In need of health care services
- **5.5 M** Women of reproductive age (15-49 years)
- **2.7 M** Acutely malnourished pregnant and lactating women
- **20%** Health facilities providing maternal and child health services
- **6.3 M** Women in need of GBV protection
STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR UNFPA IN YEMEN 2024

- Provision of vital lifesaving reproductive health services with emphasis on emergency obstetric and neonatal care to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity.
- Provision of lifesaving protection services for women and girls with emphasis on prevention and response to different forms of violence.
- Reaching all newly displaced persons with emergency lifesaving packages through the Rapid Response Mechanism.
FUNDING REQUIREMENT OVERVIEW

US$44.1M

70

US$25.9M

25.9

US$70M

70

DISTRIBUTION OF REQUIRED FUNDS BY PROGRAMME AREA

63%

Reproductive Health

27%

Protection of Women and Girls

10%

Rapid Response Mechanism

* Funded as of March 2024
UNFPA HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE: PROGRAMME PRIORITIES

**REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH**
- Ensure availability of lifesaving reproductive health commodities, medicines, supplies and equipment in health facilities.
- Ensure qualified health personnel are in place to provide reproductive health services in health facilities.
- Support mobile medical teams and clinics to enable them to provide reproductive health services that include: safe deliveries integrated with nutrition services for pregnant women as well as disease prevention information.
- Make family planning and birth spacing methods available and accessible to people through health facilities and mobile clinics.
- Provide skilled healthcare personnel, particularly midwives, at the community level.
- Lead coordination of reproductive health response through the Reproductive Health Inter-Agency Working Group under the Health Cluster.

**PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS**
- Provide medical supplies including post-rape treatment kits.
- Respond to different forms of violence through the provision of psychosocial support, legal aid, access to safe houses and referrals to health and other services.
- Engage men and boys to enhance mitigation of different forms of violence at the community level.
- Strengthen community awareness about issues related to different forms of violence, and available relevant services.
- Establish referral pathways, protocols and build capacity of service providers and responsible institutions to address challenges for the protection of women and girls.
- Provide support services and livelihood opportunities for survivors of various forms of violence.
- Lead coordination of women’s protection response through the women’s protection sub-cluster within the Protection Cluster.

**RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM**
- Lead response to distribute immediate, most critical, lifesaving emergency supplies to newly displaced families on the move, who may be in hard-to-reach areas or stranded close to the front lines.
- Ensure provision of a minimum assistance packages comprising of (1) WFP ready-to-eat food rations (2) UNICEF family basic hygiene kits (3) UNFPA female transit/dignity kit.
- Enrollment of newly displaced persons and referral to other actors for further assistance.

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<tr>
<td>Mobile team &amp; clinics (18%)</td>
<td>Coordination (6%)</td>
<td>Enrolment (34%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>RH kits &amp; supplies (11%)</td>
<td>Capacity building &amp; awareness raising (5%)</td>
<td>Dignity Kits (45%)</td>
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<td>Capacity building &amp; awareness raising (13%)</td>
<td>Livelihood opportunities (16%)</td>
<td>Distribution (6%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emergency obstetric care (57%)</td>
<td>Dignity Kits (16%)</td>
<td>Coordination (16%)</td>
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<td>RH kits &amp; supplies (11%)</td>
<td>GBV Service provision (3%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capacity building &amp; awareness raising (13%)</td>
<td>Business start up grants (73%)</td>
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**Requirement:**
- US$43.8 M
- US$19.1 M
- US$7.1 M

**Business start up grants (73%)**
### FUNDING REQUIREMENTS BY PROGRAMME AREA*

<table>
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<tr>
<th>PROGRAMME AREA</th>
<th>US$</th>
<th>PROGRAMME AREA</th>
<th>US$</th>
<th>PROGRAMME AREA</th>
<th>US$</th>
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<tr>
<td>Emergency obstetric care</td>
<td>25,000,000</td>
<td>GBV service provision</td>
<td>8,000,000</td>
<td>Transit/dignity kits</td>
<td>3,182,983</td>
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<td>Reproductive health kits &amp; supplies</td>
<td>5,000,000</td>
<td>Capacity building &amp; awareness raising</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td>Coordination</td>
<td>1,063,168</td>
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<td>Mobile teams and clinics</td>
<td>8,000,000</td>
<td>Dignity kits</td>
<td>3,000,000</td>
<td>Enrollment</td>
<td>2,420,000</td>
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<td>Capacity building &amp; awareness raising</td>
<td>5,812,407</td>
<td>Livelihood opportunities</td>
<td>3,000,000</td>
<td>Distribution</td>
<td>421,442</td>
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<td><strong>SUB-TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>43,812,407</strong></td>
<td>Bussiness start up grants</td>
<td>3,000,000</td>
<td><strong>SUB-TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>7,087,593</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>GBV coordination</td>
<td>1,100,000</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>SUB-TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>19,100,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>70,000,000</strong></td>
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*Operations and programme support costs are included in overall costs.

### TARGETED DIRECT BENEFICIARIES *

<table>
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<tr>
<th>PROGRAMME AREA</th>
<th>NO.</th>
<th>PROGRAMME AREA</th>
<th>NO.</th>
<th>PROGRAMME AREA</th>
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<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>2,200,000</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>609,752</td>
<td>Individuals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>700,000</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>83,148</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>3,824,900</strong></td>
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*Includes targeted direct beneficiaries only, does not include indirect beneficiaries.
UNFPA HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE IN YEMEN

WHY UNFPA MATTERS FOR YEMEN?

• UNFPA is the sole provider of essential reproductive health medicines and leads reproductive health service provision in Yemen. The reproductive health supply chain being supported by UNFPA serves as lifeline for millions of women and girls in Yemen.

• UNFPA leads coordination and provision of lifesaving women’s protection services throughout Yemen, reaching thousands of survivors of different forms of violence.

• UNFPA leads the multi-agency Rapid Response Mechanism across the country, providing lifesaving assistance to displaced persons at the frontlines and referring them for further assistance.
UNFPA HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE IN YEMEN

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS 2023

- 2.1 M People reached with lifesaving assistance
- 116,964 Safe deliveries assisted
- 650,189 Unintended pregnancies averted
- 101,883 Survivors of violence assisted
OVERVIEW OF HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT 2023

PEOPLE REACHED
- 1,229,630 People received reproductive health services
- 135,941 People received Family Planning services
- 116,964 Safe deliveries assisted with UNFPA support
- 115,612 Women and girls received with dignity kits
- 101,883 Survivors of violence received support services
- 556,046 Women and girls received GBV-related services and information
- 290,793 People reached with specialized mental health services

CAPACITIES STRENGTHENED
- 85 Personnel trained on Minimum Initial Service Package
- 461 Personnel trained on provision of women’s protection services

SERVICES DELIVERED
- 95 Health facilities supported to deliver reproductive health services
- 8 Specialized mental health centres supported
- 8 Women’s shelters supported by UNFPA
- 3 Mobile health & protection teams supported
- 115,612 Women and girls received dignity kits
- 312,690 People received rapid response mechanism kits
- 101,883 Survivors of violence received support services
- 290,793 People reached with specialized mental health services
- 255,046 Women and girls received GBV-related services and information
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- 95 Health facilities supported to deliver reproductive health services
- 8 Specialized mental health centres supported
- 8 Women’s shelters supported by UNFPA
- 3 Mobile health & protection teams supported
UNFPA HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE IN YEMEN

DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS* 2023

*Includes new donor contributions in 2023 only.

Country

USA
European Union
Netherlands
CERF
YHF
KSrelief
Norway
Canada
Sweden
Iceland

US$ millions

0.29
0.75
1
2
2.3
2.7
4.7
8.4
10.8
23.4
UNFPA's interventions cover all 22 governorates in Yemen, with a team of 101 personnel (14 international and 87 national). Overall coordination is handled by UNFPA office in Sana’a. In other governorates, joint UN humanitarian hubs coordinate.

UNFPA has presence in all seven operational UN humanitarian hubs (Aden, Al Hudaydah, Al Mukalla, Ibb, Sa’ada and Sana’a), an arrangement that relies on closely monitoring evolving needs to ensure a flexible and appropriate response to the changing demands of the humanitarian dynamic.
Zahra, 30, is a mother of four from the village of Wusab Al Safil in Yemen’s Dhamar Governorate.

Nine years ago, as the war escalated and health facilities were barely functioning or standing due to violence and insecurity, Zahra went into early labour with her third child.

She was acutely malnourished – a dangerous condition that affects some 2.7 million pregnant and breastfeeding women in Yemen – and without any health staff to support the premature delivery, her situation was life-threatening.

Both Zahra and her baby survived but the child suffers from congenital heart disease. When she fell pregnant a fourth time, she was again acutely malnourished and underweight, her body growing increasingly weak and prone to diseases. One morning she collapsed with abdominal pain and bleeding, and her husband, Anwar, rushed her to a nearby but poorly equipped clinic.

She was advised to have an ultrasound to check for further complications, but the family had no means to pay for one. A nurse then told her about the UNFPA-supported Al Ahad Hospital, which was offering free reproductive health services. “I was so relieved,” said Anwar. “Yet I had no money to afford a car to travel to the hospital.”

Anwar and a heavily pregnant Zahra decided to walk the seven hours to reach the facility. The medical team treated Zahra’s malnutrition, performed the ultrasound and conducted a series of medical tests.

Zahra safely delivered a healthy baby with the help of the medical team at Al Ahad Hospital.

Hiam, 15 was forced to make ends meet for her family.

When war in Yemen escalated in 2015, her father’s less than a dollar-a-day job of carrying goods by donkey went with it, and despite his best efforts, there was no more work to be found.

Her mother, gravely ill with cancer, required constant care herself, so as the eldest child in a family of nine, Hiam stepped up to care for her siblings, and to ensure the family survived.

“I still feel deep sadness, but fate takes you down paths you don’t want, so I learned to live, fight, and strive to reach my goals.”

She trekked out to distant farms to buy vegetables and sell them in her neighbourhood. The money covered her family’s basic needs, yet the work came with hidden, cumulative costs.

“As the only girl in the market, there was so much abuse, every single day. This all added to my sadness. It had a significant effect on me,” says Hiam.

Afraid and under immense pressure, Hiam was close to breaking point when she heard about a UNFPA-supported safe space for women and girls. In desperation, she reached out for help. Hiam received counseling from a group of trained professionals for a month, and having built back her confidence, she took classes in sustainable farming to secure her family’s future.

Through the safe space, Hiam learned to cultivate and care for land, vegetables and fruits, and went on to receive a grant of US$500 to start her own green farming business.

Today, she makes around $30–50 a month, which keeps her six siblings in school. Her home farm also produces enough food for three meals a day for the whole family.

“Now I’m an agriculturalist, and my life and economic situation have really improved. Everyone calls me ‘the agricultural girl’ and I love that,” Hiam says.
In the absence of dedicated humanitarian assistance, millions of women and girls will continue to face preventable illnesses, displacement, exacerbated protection risks and death:

- More than 500,000 women of childbearing age would lose access to reproductive health services, increasing the risks of morbidity, mortality, and childbirth complications.
- Support to 95 health facilities will come to a halt. Only one in five of the functioning health facilities currently provide maternal and child health services across the country.
- Failure to address women’s protection risks and provide essential lifesaving response services for survivors will jeopardize the lives and futures of more than one million women and girls across Yemen.
- 900,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women who are acutely malnourished will face an elevated risk of morbidity and mortality resulting from malnutrition-related complications.
- Over 232,000 individuals displaced by conflict or climate-induced disasters will face heightened risks of exploitation, harm, and health issues without a prompt multi-sectoral rapid response mechanism.
UNFPA would like to express its sincere gratitude to the generous support of the following donors, listed in alphabetical order, for their contributions to its response to the crisis in Yemen since 2015:

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Enshrah Ahmed
Representative
Email: enahmed@unfpa.org
Tel: +967 712 224 147

Taha Yaseen
Communication Specialist
Email: yaseen@unfpa.org
Tel: +97 712 224 090
ONE VISION
THREE ZEROS

ZERO unmet need for family planning
ZERO preventable maternal deaths
ZERO gender-based violence and harmful practices