Yemen remains one of the world’s largest humanitarian crises, with an estimated 21.6 million people needing humanitarian assistance or protection in 2023. The humanitarian crisis, primarily driven by continued conflict and an economic collapse, has been exacerbated by critical funding gaps, global inflation, and access challenges.

The knock-on effects of the war in Ukraine have worsened global food shortages and impacted many households in Yemen as food prices become unaffordable for vulnerable families; particularly households headed by women. An estimated 26 per cent of displaced households in Yemen are now headed by women.

Extreme weather conditions across Yemen, including heavy rains and flooding led to increased displacement in the second quarter of the year. The majority of those affected resided in areas that are hard-to-reach and host families displaced by conflict. The UNFPA-led Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) stepped up its response to assisted flood-affected families in 18 affected governorates. More than 73,000 people affected by flooding were assisted up to June 2023, with sixty-six percent of individuals targeted for RRM assistance consituting those affected by floods.

Shortages in funding continue to force aid organizations to reduce or close critical assistance programmes. The 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan, seeking US$4.34 billion to assist 17.3 million people, was only 29.1 per cent funded by June.

UNFPA’s appeal of US$70 million to sustain programmes for women and girls in 2023, remains funded at 46 per cent.

In the first half of the year, UNFPA’s response reached nearly a million individuals with life-saving reproductive health services, protection information and services and emergency relief, with support to 88 health facilities, 29 safe spaces, eight shelters and five specialized mental health centres.
Hayat Ahmed Saleh, 32, from Al-Suqya District in Lahj Governorate, suffers from severe anemia. The family survive with the little income they make from rearing sheep, which is barely enough to have one meal a day. Hayat has already lost two children, who were born prematurely. Hayat was undernourished during her pregnancies and delivered at home with the help of an unskilled birth attendant. They did not have enough money to hire a car to go to a health facility - the closest facility was 40 kilometers away - or pay for the health care.

“I was determined to have a child. I did not want to give up. I prayed daily for a solution to carry to term and give birth to a healthy baby,” Hayat told UNFPA. Hayat heard from people in her village about Al Ara Rural Hospital that provides free reproductive health services. Al Ara Rural Hospital is supported by UNFPA to provide reproductive health services with the financial assistance of King Salman Humanitarian Aid & Relief Centre (KSrelief).

“When I heard about free reproductive health services being provided at Al Ara Rural Hospital, and the availability of a female doctor and midwives, I decided to walk there and explain my situation,” tells Hayat.

A month later, Hayat fell pregnant. She adhered carefully to the instructions given by the doctor even if it meant walking hours on foot to reach the hospital. When the delivery date drew close she stayed with a relative residing close to the hospital. “When I was ready to give birth I was nervous but confident because I was in the hands of specialists inside a health facility, which I never thought was possible,” tells Hayat.

Since January 2023, nearly 56,000 women have been able to give birth safely at 88 health facilities UNFPA supports across the country with the generous support of CERF, EU Humanitarian Aid, KSrelief, Netherlands, Qatar, USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance and the Yemen Humanitarian Fund.
RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM (RRM)

UNFPA is leading the efforts of three agencies i.e. UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP to distribute immediate, most critical life-saving emergency supplies to families who are newly displaced, on the move, in hard-to-reach areas or stranded close to the front lines. The RRM minimum assistance package is comprised of these components: (1) ready to eat food provided by WFP; (2) family basic hygiene kits provided by UNICEF; and (3) one female dignity/transit kit provided by UNFPA. A total of 15,390 RRM kits were distributed from January to June 2023. Other highlights for the period June 2018 to June 2023 include:

Since June 2018, RRM kits were delivered to 614,275 families (4.4 million individuals).

249,904 RRM kits distributed through the Al Hudaydah humanitarian hub from June 2018 to June 2023.

150,244 RRM kits distributed through the Aden humanitarian hub from June 2018 to June 2023.

99,620 RRM kits distributed through the Sana'a humanitarian hub from June 2018 to June 2023

30,873 RRM kits distributed through the Ibb humanitarian hub from June 2018 to June 2023

96,211 RRM kits distributed through the Sa'ada humanitarian hub from June 2018 to June 2023

The RRM is operational country-wide. The map indicates RRM distribution by governorate and volume of distribution.

Donors to the RRM: European Union Humanitarian Aid, USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance and Yemen Humanitarian Fund
**HIGHLIGHTS OF OVERALL RESPONSE JAN - JUNE 2023**

**PEOPLE REACHED**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No. of people reached with reproductive health services</td>
<td>619,221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of safe deliveries supported</td>
<td>55,938</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of cesarean sections supported</td>
<td>11,795</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individuals reached with family planning services</td>
<td>76,104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dignity kits distributed</td>
<td>15,394</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individuals reached through the Rapid Response Mechanism</td>
<td>107,730</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of women reached with protection information &amp; services</td>
<td>235,959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of health facilities supported with reproductive health services</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of safe spaces supported</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of women shelters supported</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of supported specialized psychological care centres</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**2023 UNFPA RESPONSE FUNDING STATUS (US$)**

- **$70 M** REQUIRED
- **$32 M** FUNDED
- **$38 M** FUNDING GAP

46% Funded

**2023 Donors** (alphabetical order): Canada, CERF, European Union, Iceland, KSrelief, Netherlands, Norway, Qatar, Sweden, Switzerland, USAID, Yemen Humanitarian Fund

**IN THE NEWS**

- BBC News: The woman who travelled seven hours by camel to give birth
  Read more...

- Tamani, a midwife from Yemen, tirelessly saving lives
  Watch...

- After eight years of conflict and despite a fragile truce, childbirth still a matter of life and death in Yemen
  Read more...

**KEY CHALLENGES**

- A non-permissive operating environment with limited humanitarian access and shrinking humanitarian space.
- Limited funding available for the continued provision of humanitarian services.
- Lack of national resources for the provision of basic social services.
- Lack of health workers in severely conflict-affected areas.
- Increasing restrictions imposed on implementing partners for humanitarian operations in conflict-affected areas.
- Delays in transportation of supplies due to bureaucratic impediments.