Eight years on, Yemen remains one of the world’s largest humanitarian crises. A staggering 21.6 million people require some form of humanitarian assistance in 2023, and 80 per cent of the country’s population struggles to access food, safe drinking water and adequate health services. These are the results of multiple overlapping emergencies that have pummeled the country: violent conflict, economic collapse, recurrent natural disasters and severely disrupted public services.

Women and girls are bearing the brunt of the crisis. An estimated 80 per cent of the 4.5 million people displaced in Yemen are women and children. Approximately 26 per cent of displaced households are headed by women.

Without access to lifesaving medicines, about 1 million women who are estimated to deliver in 2023 are particularly at risk. Another 1 million women who would want to use family planning to postpone or avoid pregnancy will be at risk of unwanted pregnancies. Over 1.5 million pregnant and breastfeeding women are projected to experience acute malnutrition sometime in the course of 2023.

An estimated 7.1 million women and girls will require services to prevent and address gender-based violence in 2023. However, such services remain overstretched across Yemen, and completely absent in some hard-to-reach areas.

On 27 February, the UN and the Governments of Sweden and Switzerland co-hosted a High-Level Pledging Event for the Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen bringing together representatives of Member States, international organizations, UN Agencies, NGOs and civil society to raise funding to meet the humanitarian needs of Yemenis affected by the conflict. At the event, USD $1.16 billion was pledged, almost 30 per cent of the 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan appeal for $4.3 billion.

In 2023, UNFPA is appealing for US$70 million to sustain programmes for women and girls in Yemen. Only 12 percent of this funding appeal has been received by March 2023. Lack of funding is forcing UNFPA to scale back lifesaving services. In turn, thousands of women will lose access to reproductive healthcare facilities and more than a million women could lose access to gender-based violence services and mental health care.

In the first three months of the year, UNFPA’s response reached nearly half a million individuals with life-saving reproductive health services, protection information and services and emergency relief, with support to 84 health facilities, 29 safe spaces, eight shelters and five specialized mental health centres.
Najiba, 35, a mother to five girls, was abused and abandoned by her husband when the conflict in Yemen escalated. “Eight years ago, my husband came up to me and said he is travelling abroad to find a job. We have not heard from him since then,” tells Najiba. “Our lives turned upside down. I was left with many responsibilities. I hardly had any income to feed my five girls,” added Najiba.

Najib tried very hard to find a job to support herself and her girls. She found work in a relative’s farm, which could only cover the food expenses for the family. The trauma of her husband’s departure and her new role as the breadwinner of the family, took a serious toll on Najiba’s mental and physical health.

A mobile protection team, reached out to Najiba in her village in Taizz Governorate; providing her with psychosocial support and referral to medical services. Najiba was also provided with a livelihood kit and an economic empowerment grant consisting of two goats.

“I am so thankful. I am feeling much fitter both in my mind and body. Although I still work on my relative’s farm, the goats I received are helping me to make extra money, by selling goat milk and making cheese. I can now support myself and my girls without having to ask help from people,” tells Najiba with a smile.

Since January 2023, nearly 8,000 survivors of violence were provided with livelihood support, through 29 safe spaces and eight shelters across the country that UNFPA supports with the generous contributions from Iceland, Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance and the Yemen Humanitarian Fund.
Since June 2018, RRM kits were delivered to 614,275 families (4.3 million individuals).

244,731 RRM kits distributed through the Al Hudaydah humanitarian hub from June 2018 to March 2023.

145,888 RRM kits distributed through the Aden humanitarian hub from June 2018 to March 2023.

98,271 RRM kits distributed through the Sana’a humanitarian hub from June 2018 to March 2023.

29,538 RRM kits distributed through the Ibb humanitarian hub from June 2018 to March 2023.

95,847 RRM kits distributed through the Sa’ada humanitarian hub from June 2018 to March 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 - MAR 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>332,330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of safe deliveries supported</td>
<td>28,147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individuals reached with family planning services</td>
<td>44,348</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dignity kits distributed</td>
<td>2,848</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individuals reached through the Rapid Response Mechanism</td>
<td>20,335</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of women reached with protection information &amp; services</td>
<td>126,575</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of health facilities supported with reproductive health services</td>
<td>84</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>

IN THE NEWS

- Violence plagues women and girls amid Yemen’s relentless conflict
  [Read more...]

- 8 years of conflict in Yemen, 8 things you need to know
  [Watch...]

- 12.6 million women and girls in Yemen need life-saving support
  [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.

2023 UNFPA RESPONSE FUNDING STATUS (US$)

- $70 M REQUIRED
- $8.5 M FUNDED
- $61.5 M FUNDING GAP

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