

# UNFPA Response in Yemen

## MONTHLY SITUATION REPORT



A safe delivery at a UNFPA-supported health facility in Al Dhale'

### FAST FACTS



**24.1M**  
In need of some form of assistance



**14.3M**  
In acute need



**19.7M**  
Lack access to basic health services



**14.4M**  
In need of protection



**3.3M**  
Internally displaced



**6.0M**  
Women of reproductive age (15-49 yrs)



**1.0M**  
Pregnant women malnourished



**120,000**  
Women and girls at risk of violence

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

**The humanitarian crisis in Yemen remains the worst in the world;** driven by five years of conflict and political instability. Humanitarian conditions continue to deteriorate, including internal displacement, famine, outbreaks of cholera and COVID-19. An estimated 24.1 million people – over 80 per cent of the population – are in need of some form of assistance, including 14.4 million who are in acute need.

**COVID-19 continued to spread across the country in August.** By 31 August, 1,962 confirmed cases of COVID-19 had been reported in Yemen, including 567 deaths and 1,133 recoveries, since the first case was reported on 10 April 2020. The number of reported cases has slowed, and the official epi-curve continues to underestimate the extent of COVID-19 in Yemen; due to lack of testing facilities and official reporting, people delaying seeking treatment because of stigma, difficulty accessing treatment centres and the perceived risks of seeking care. UNFPA remains a frontline partner to the COVID-19 response, ensuring the protection of health workers and women and girls accessing reproductive health services.

**In August, for the third time in 2020, torrential rains and flooding hit governorates across Yemen,** damaging infrastructure, destroying homes and shelters, causing deaths and injury; affecting more than 62,000 families, of whom many were already displaced. In response, the UNFPA-led, UN Rapid Response Mechanism was activated in flood-affected areas. More than 46,000 people have been reached within 48 to 72 hours of displacement through the Mechanism, while referring those in more critical need to health and protection services.

**UNFPA's appeal for \$100.5 million in 2020 received only 62 per cent by end August.** Seventy per cent of UNFPA's life-saving reproductive health programme remains suspended due to the lack of funding, while fifty percent of UNFPA's gender-based violence programme will be suspended by end September if no funding is received. This would result in an estimate 350,000 women losing access to specialized protection services and 40,000 highly vulnerable people losing access to psychological services. To keep reaching the most vulnerable women and girls up to the end of the year, UNFPA requires \$38.7 million with an additional \$20 million to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**By August, UNFPA's response has reached over 1.5 million women and girl with life-saving reproductive health and protection information and services,** with support to 61 health facilities, 49 safe spaces, 8 shelters and 7 specialized mental health centres.

# UNFPA GOVERNORATE RESPONSE

UNFPA's interventions cover all 22 governorates in Yemen. Overall coordination is handled by UNFPA's office in Sana'a. In other governorates, joint UN humanitarian hubs coordinate. UNFPA has presence in all operational UN humanitarian hubs. Services provided and people reached in August is detailed below:

## HIGHLIGHTS: AUGUST 2020



GOVERNORATE	PEOPLE REACHED		SERVICES DELIVERED	
	Women reached with reproductive health services	Women reached with protection information & services*	Health facilities supported with RH services	Women and girls safe spaces supported
Abyan	1,237	1,162	1	1
Aden	2,422	511	3	0
Al Bayda	1,113	1,057	1	1
Al Dhale'e	1,392	575	1	2
Al Hudaydah	13,768	6,774	15	7
Al Jawf	946	501	3	1
Al Mahwit	956	1,341	1	1
Al Maharah	1,052	412	1	1
Amanat Al Asimah	3,232	1095	2	1
Amran	3,935	1618	3	2
Dhamar	374	5,060	1	1
Hadramaut	2,548	5,285	2	2
Hajjah	9,811	2,651	6	4
Ibb	377	6,270	1	3
Lahj	372	4,050	2	2
Marib	4,008	4,627	2	2
Sa'ada	1,354	1,885	1	2
Sana'a	944	2,899	1	3
Shabwah	0	3,086	0	1
Taizz	11,872	48,779	12	11
Raymah	0	1,752	0	1
Socotra	351	0	2	0

\*Physical provision of services reduced due to COVID-19 mitigation measures with alternative modalities of delivery in place.

### AN ABANDONED HEALTH CENTRE, NOW A LIFELINE FOR WOMEN IN SOCOTRA

"Thank you for saving my baby. I am grateful to you all," Noor, a 20-year-old mother from Socotra, tells the midwife at Nawjad Health Centre, soon after delivering a health boy.

Last year, the Nawjad Health Centre was not functional and Noor had to travel hundreds of miles to deliver in the city centre. When she arrived at the health facility, it was too late and she lost her baby. "I am happy to come to this health centre. If it was not here, we would have to make the long journey again to the city; it would have cost me sixty thousand Yemeni Riyal (US\$100)," tells Noor husband.

Noor was treated for anemia, low blood pressure and assisted by a midwife during delivery, free of charge. "This health center was abandoned for a long time, we did not receive any pregnant women, but these days it has become a lifeline in Socotra for many women. Women do not have to travel long distance any more to seek life-saving reproductive health services," states the director of the health centre.

With the generous contribution from the King Salman Humanitarian Aid And Relief Centre, UNFPA has been able to support reproductive health services at two health facilities in Socotra. Since July 2020, nearly 400 women were reached with a wide range of reproductive health services. Prior to this support, women and girls in Socotra didn't have access to reproductive health services.

# CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) RESPONSE

UNFPA is among the frontline responders, working closely with the Ministry of Public Health and Population and the World Health Organization; helping to mitigate the spread of the disease, while prioritizing to sustaining current humanitarian operations. Main areas of support include:

## REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

- This month, 92 reproductive health kits were distributed to 32 health facilities in southern governorates of Yemen to continue provision of reproductive health services, including in COVID-19 dedicated hospitals.
- In August, training for 164 health workers (mostly midwives) was conducted on infection prevention control and response mechanisms to provide reproductive health services during the pandemic.
- UNFPA has availed its 40 ventilators for the humanitarian response to the pandemic and another 40 ventilators have been shipped into the country.
- Infection prevention and personal equipment has been provided to 200 health facilities.
- A national manual/guidelines has been developed for healthcare providers for the provision of reproductive health services under COVID-19 in partnership with the Ministry of Health and UN agencies.
- Provision of reproductive health services in all UNFPA-supported health facilities across the country continue, including in facilities where COVID-19 cases have been isolated.

## WOMEN'S PROTECTION

While the physical provision of women's protection services through women and girls safe spaces, shelters and mobile teams has been scaled down to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19, awareness raising and other activities for the prevention of COVID-19 are in progress. These include:

- Operation of 18 hotlines that provide telecounseling of women's protection services and information on COVID-19 prevention.
- Awareness campaigns and large-scale distribution of information on protection and prevention of COVID-19, including in IDP camps continue.
- Public service announcements on prominent locations to increase public understanding on COVID-19 prevention measures continued in August.
- Survivors of violence are being trained on production of cotton face masks and hand sanitizers, which are being distributed free-of-charge among displaced persons and within communities. More than 50,000 masks have been produced and distributed.
- Critical services such as specialized psychological care centres and shelters continue running, with distancing measures in place.



## RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM

- The UNFPA-led Rapid Response Mechanism in partnership with UNICEF and WFP has provided more than 10,000 people at quarantine centres with emergency relief assistance. Rapid response mechanism teams also raise awareness on the risks of COVID-19 during verification, registration and distribution stages of the response.



## FUNDING REQUIREMENT

As of end August, UNFPA, is appealing for USD **\$20 million** to respond to COVID-19 in Yemen as part of UNFPA's [global appeal](#) to respond to the disease.

## NUMBER OF CASES

1,962 cases of COVID-19 and 567 deaths were reported by 31 August 2020.

# 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, as well as most vulnerable returnees. 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. More than 9,628 RRM kits were distributed in August 2020. Other highlights for the period June 2018 to August 2020 include:

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM JUNE 2018 TO AUGUST 2020

Since June 2018, RRM kits were delivered to **401,845 families (over 2.4 million individuals)**.

206,261 RRM kits distributed through the **Al Hudaydah** humanitarian hub from June 2018 to Aug. 2020

70,950 RRM kits distributed through the **Aden** humanitarian hub from June 2018 to Aug. 2020.

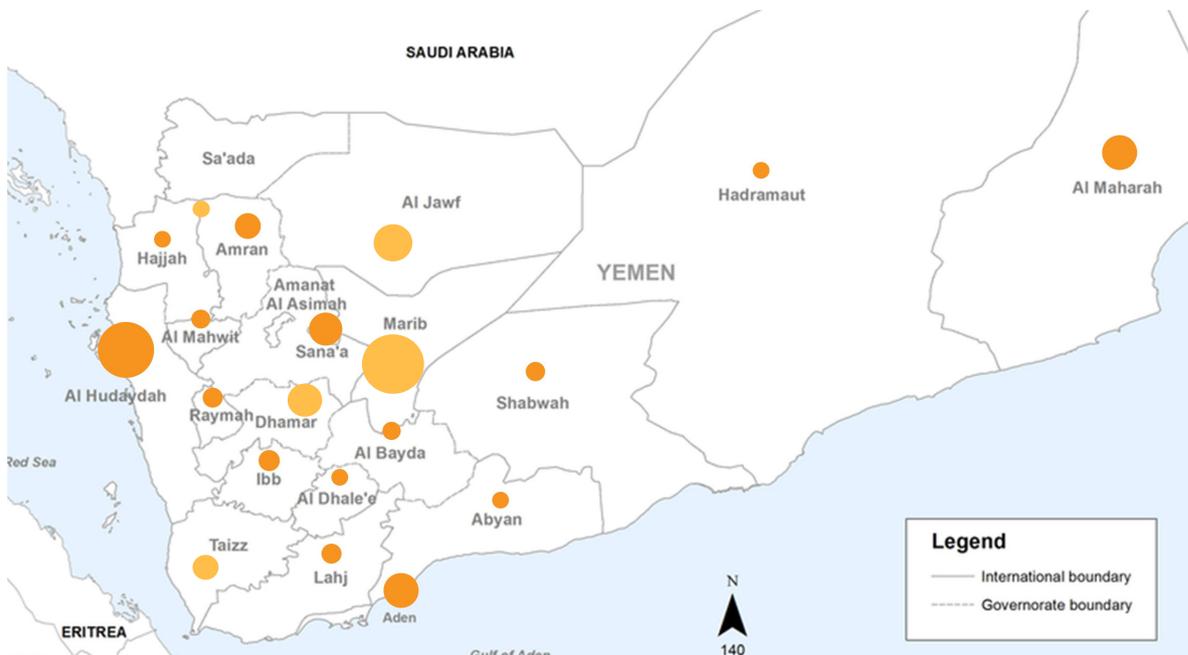
74,687 RRM kits distributed through **Sana'a** humanitarian hub from June 2018 to Aug. 2020.

21,416 RRM kits distributed through the **Ibb** humanitarian hub from June 2018 to Aug. 2020.

28,675 RRM kits distributed through the **Sa'ada** humanitarian hub from June 2018 to Aug. 2020.



Distribution of rapid response kits to flood-affected families in Aden, Al Hudaydah and Ibb Governorates.



The RRM is operational country-wide. The map indicates RRM distribution by governorate and volume of distribution in Aug. 2020.

**Donors to the RRM:** European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid (ECHO)

## IN THE NEWS

### PEOPLE REACHED

	NO.
No. of people reached with reproductive health services	690,688
No. of safe deliveries supported	102,568
No. of cesarean sections supported	20,888
Individuals reached with Family Planning services	208,988
Dignity kits distributed	54,322
No. of women reached with protection information & services	781,299
No. of health facilities supported with reproductive health services	61
No. of safe spaces supported	49
No. of women shelters supported	8
No. of supported specialized psychological care centres	7
No. of mobile protection teams in collective sites	88



From child bride to fearless face mask maker: Yemen's safe spaces help women reclaim their lives  
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Sweden provides much need humanitarian assistance to protect vulnerable women and girls across Yemen  
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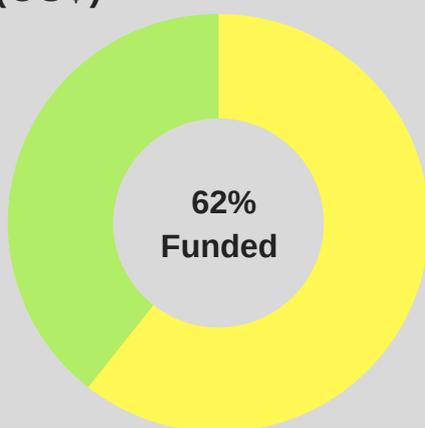
#RealLifeHeroes: Support midwives like Khadeeja in Yemen  
**Watch...**

### 2020 HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN FUNDING STATUS (US\$)

**\$100.5 M**  
REQUIRED

**\$61.8M**  
FUNDED

**\$38.7 M**  
FUNDING GAP



### 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 up to the end of the year.
- 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 to undertake humanitarian operations in conflict-affected areas.
- Delays in transportation of supplies due to bureaucratic impediments.

**2020 Donors** (alphabetical order): Canada, European Union Humanitarian Aid, Denmark, Iceland, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, UNICEF, WHO, Yemen Humanitarian Pooled Fund