

# UNFPA Response in Yemen

## MONTHLY SITUATION REPORT



A father seeing his newborn child for the first time at UNFPA-supported Hagdah Hospital, Taizz

## 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



**3.6M**  
Internally displaced



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



**1.2M**  
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;** further deteriorating in 2020, driven by an escalating conflict, collapsing economy, a depreciating currency; exacerbated by torrential rains and flooding, COVID-19 and a fuel crisis. 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.

A new Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis for Yemen signals that **pockets of famine-like conditions** (IPC Phase 5) have already returned to Yemen for the first time in two years and that the number of people experiencing such catastrophic levels of food insecurity could nearly triple from 16,500 currently to 47,000 people between January and June 2021. At the same time, the IPC analysis warns that the number of people facing emergency food insecurity is poised to increase from 3.6 million to 5 million people in the first half of 2021. As caregivers in families women are disproportionately impacted by food insecurity, particularly pregnant women. An estimated 1.2 million pregnant and lactating women are found to be acutely malnourished in Yemen.

**Partners prepare for a second wave of COVID-19 in Yemen.** As of 30 November, the number of reported confirmed COVID-19 cases had reached 2,077 with 607 associated deaths and 1,381 recoveries. While it is unclear when a second wave will occur, it is likely to peak in the winter months, and it could be more robust and sustained than the initial wave, especially if it overlaps with the influenza season. UNFPA remains a frontline partner in the COVID-19 response in Yemen, having provided PPE items to over 200 hospitals, reaching over a million people, and training more than 300 health workers in infection prevention and control.

**UN humanitarian operation in Yemen remained funded below 50 per cent** by end of November, of the \$3.23 billion required for the Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan in 2020. **Three-quarters of UNFPA's \$100.5 million humanitarian appeal for 2020** had been received by end November. The **Central Emergency Relief Fund** made the highest ever annual allocation to Yemen of \$30 million, with UNFPA receiving \$10 million towards its reproductive health response.

By October, **UNFPA's response has reached over 2.7 million** individuals with lifesaving reproductive health and protection information and services, with support to 100 health facilities, 51 safe spaces, 8 shelters and 6 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 November is detailed below:

## HIGHLIGHTS: NOVEMBER 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

| GOVERNORATE      | PEOPLE REACHED                                  | PEOPLE REACHED  | SERVICES DELIVERED                           | 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            | 4,463   | 1,031   | 4  | 1                                     |
| Aden             | 4,667   | 443   | 6  | 0                                     |
| Al Bayda         | 1,897   | 635   | 3  | 1                                     |
| Al Dhale'e       | 2,442   | 599   | 1  | 2                                     |
| Al Hudaydah      | 13,004  | 12,726  | 17   | 8                                     |
| Al Jawf          | 1,342   | 0   | 5  | 1                                     |
| Al Maharah       | 952   | 1,645   | 1  | 1                                     |
| Al Mahwit        | 1,513   | 1,507   | 3  | 1                                     |
| Amanat Al Asimah | 3,799   | 2,307   | 2  | 1                                     |
| Amran            | 4,684   | 1,512   | 4  | 2                                     |
| Dhamar           | 3,845   | 785   | 4  | 1                                     |
| Hadramaut        | 3,698   | 8,244   | 2  | 2                                     |
| Hajjah           | 11,937  | 5,318   | 8  | 4                                     |
| Ibb              | 2,726   | 5,022   | 7  | 3                                     |
| Lahj             | 421   | 4,022   | 2  | 4                                     |
| Marib            | 6,577   | 4,165   | 5  | 2                                     |
| Sa'ada           | 1,867   | 480   | 1  | 1                                     |
| Sana'a           | 1,877   | 2,038   | 1  | 3                                     |
| Shabwah          | 1,659   | 3,799   | 3  | 1                                     |
| Taizz            | 42,038  | 37,162  | 19   | 11                                    |
| Raymah           | 0   | 0   | 0  | 1                                     |
| Socotra          | 42,038  | 0   | 2  | 0                                     |

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

## HELPING TO CLOSE THE MENTAL HEALTH GAP

Suad was forced to marry a cousin two decades earlier. She has lived a life of misery and pain at the hands of a physically and emotionally abusive husband. He made their children abandon their studies to work, and if they did not return home with money, he would imprison them in a room for days without food or water. At her lowest, Suad contemplated killing her children before committing suicide. Before that could happen, her husband kicked her and the children out. Emotionally scarred, she suffered from depression until she was persuaded by a woman in her village to call a tele-counseling hotline. Eventually she began to attend psychotherapy sessions, and after six months of treatment, she is set on the road to recovery.

Suad is one of thousands of Yemeni women who have received psychological support at UNFPA-supported specialized psychological care centres. Along with its partners, UNFPA operates six specialized psychological care centers across the country, with funding from European Union Humanitarian Aid and Norway; helping to fill an urgent gap in mental health services, with only one psychiatrist for every 600,000 people, while studies show that 1 out of 5 people suffer from a mental health disorder in Yemen.

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, UNFPA has increased the number of professional counselors, who provide emergency services through 18 toll-free tele-counseling hotlines. Almost 18,000 people have received specialized psychological support through the toll-free hotline since 2018, and more than 25,000 survivors of violence have had psychological support through in-person counseling.

# 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

- In November, more than 600 PPE items were distributed to health facilities across the country. Over 200 health facilities have been provided with PPE to date.
- Training of health workers (mainly midwives) on infection prevention control and response mechanisms to provide reproductive health services during the pandemic continued in November. Over 300 health workers have been trained to date.
- UNFPA has availed its 40 ventilators for the humanitarian response to the pandemic and another 40 ventilators have been shipped into the country.
- 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 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.
- In October, 7,000 women were reached with awareness campaigns on protection and prevention of COVID-19, including in IDP camps.
- Public service announcements in prominent locations to increase public understanding of COVID-19 prevention measures as part of 16 days of activism was conducted in November.
- Survivors of violence continued production of cotton face masks and hand sanitizers, to be distributed among displaced persons and 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 raise awareness on the risks of COVID-19 during verification, registration and distribution stages of the response. COVID-19 prevention and mitigation measures are adhered to during distribution of rapid response kits.

## FUNDING REQUIREMENT

As of end November, 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

2,077 cases of COVID-19 and 607 deaths were reported by 30 November 2020.



Top to bottom: Production of face masks at UNFPA-supported women safe spaces in Taizz and trainings on infection prevention control for the medical team at Al Mokha Hospital in West Coast Yemen

# 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 7,500 RRM kits were distributed in November 2020. Other highlights for the period June 2018 to November 2020 include:

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM JUNE 2018 TO NOVEMBER 2020

Since June 2018, RRM kits were delivered to **428,417 families (over 2.5 million individuals)**.

216,346 RRM kits distributed through the **Al Hudaydah** humanitarian hub from June 2018 to Nov. 2020

75,917 RRM kits distributed through the **Aden** humanitarian hub from June 2018 to Nov. 2020.

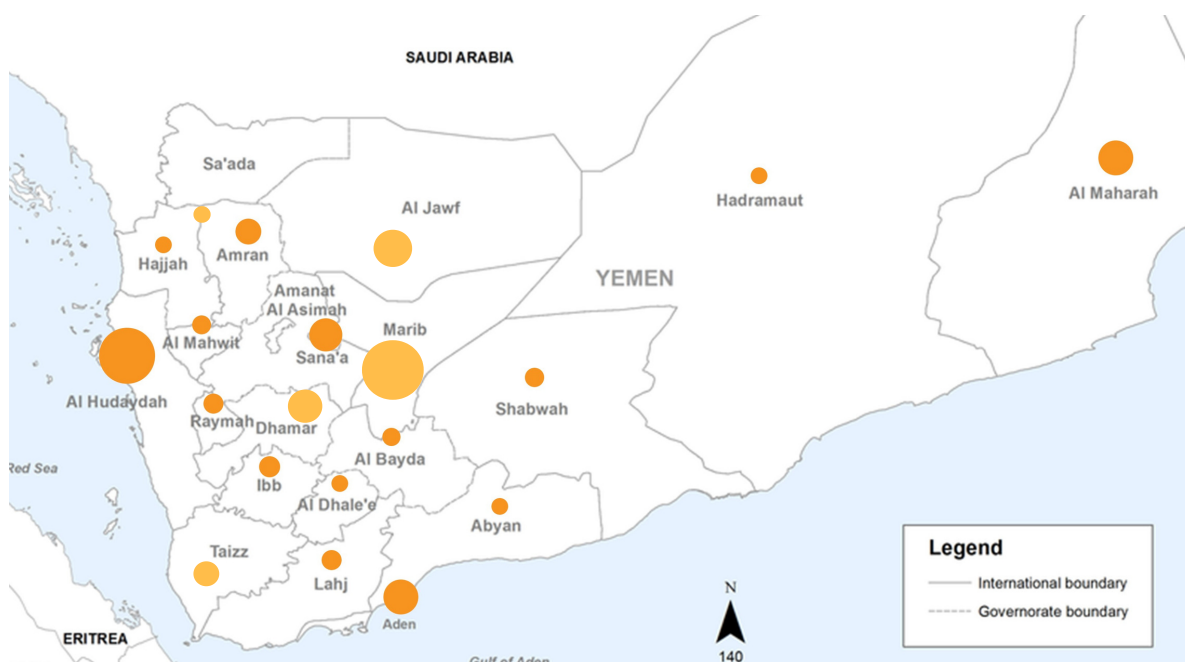
81,299 RRM kits distributed through **Sana'a** humanitarian hub from June 2018 to Nov. 2020.

24,236 RRM kits distributed through the **Ibb** humanitarian hub from June 2018 to Nov. 2020.

30,619 RRM kits distributed through the **Sa'ada** humanitarian hub from June 2018 to Nov. 2020.



Distribution of rapid response kits in Al Jawf Governorate.



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

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

**PEOPLE REACHED**

**NO.**

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| No. of people reached with reproductive health services              | 1,157,116 |
| No. of safe deliveries supported                                     | 143,145   |
| No. of cesarean sections supported                                   | 24,812    |
| Individuals reached with Family Planning services                    | 252,471   |
| Dignity kits distributed   | 70,412    |
| Individuals reached through the Rapid Response Mechanism             | 494,604   |
| No. of women reached with protection information & services          | 1,092,117 |
| No. of health facilities supported with reproductive health services | 100       |
| No. of safe spaces supported   | 51        |
| No. of women shelters supported                                      | 8         |
| No. of supported specialized psychological care centres              | 6         |
| No. of mobile protection teams in collective sites                   | 88        |



A New Youth, Peace and Security Pact for Yemen  
**Read more...**



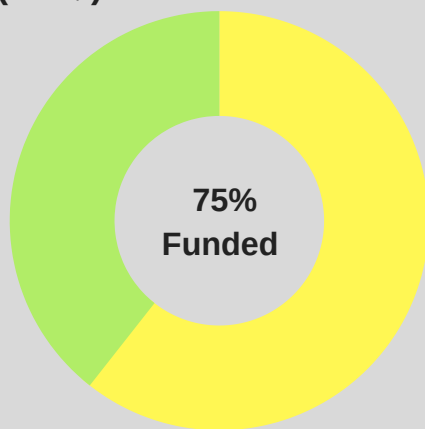
Transforming health facilities in Yemen  
**Watch...**



Strengthening monitoring of maternal mortality in Yemen  
**Read more...**

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

**\$100.5 M**  
REQUIRED  
**\$75.1M**  
FUNDED  
**\$25.4 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, CERF, European Union Humanitarian Aid, Denmark, Iceland, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, UNICEF, WHO, Yemen Humanitarian Pooled Fund