



UNFPA RESPONSE IN YEMEN

Monthly Situation Report #05 – May 2017



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A mobile team operating in Al Hudaydah with support from the King Salman Centre Humanitarian and Aid and Relief Centre, treats Ehsan, an 18-year-old girl expecting her first child. “I did not go to school, I married a year ago and now I am expecting my first child. I would like to give birth in a hospital but even for a check-up, I need to travel for over two hours to reach the nearest hospital. I heard about this mobile service from my neighbour. I come here regularly for check-ups and don’t have the fears about giving birth like I did before”, says Ehsan.

Situation Overview

The recent **cholera outbreak of an unprecedented scale** has resulted in more than 100,000 suspected cases, 789 associated deaths, and is threatening the lives of an estimated 1.1 million malnourished pregnant women. This rapid spread of the disease in 19 governorates is a manifestation of the dire humanitarian catastrophe in Yemen where more than half of all health facilities no longer function due to conflict. Health and sanitation workers have not been paid for over eight months, only 30 per cent of required medical supplies are being imported into the country, and more than eight million people lack access to safe drinking water and proper sanitation.

Humanitarian partners have developed an integrated response plan to contain and prevent the further spread of cholera, seeking \$66.7 million. As of 30 May, the **2017 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan is 23 per cent funded**, with the Health Cluster funded at 13 per cent.

Key Figures

18.8 million
People in need

10.3 million
People in acute need

14.8 million
People lack access to basic health services

8.8 million
People targeted for life-saving interventions with acute needs

2.0 million
People internally displaced

2.2 million
Women of girls of reproductive age

352,000
Pregnant women

52,285
Women of reproductive age at risk of sexual violence, including rape

Highlights of UNFPA Response

- **Mobile clinics reached 16,348 people** (women: 8,252, men: 1,627, girls: 3,503, boys: 2,966) with reproductive health services in conflict-affected governorates of Aden, Al Bayda, Al Hudaydah, Amran Lahj and Taizz. The mobile clinics integrate reproductive health services with nutrition counselling, screening and referral of malnourished mothers and babies.
- **More than 20,000 (20,175) dignity kits** also containing information on **cholera prevention** were distributed to women and girls across 11 governorates, including in areas with high numbers of suspected cholera cases.
- **A total of 1,334 multi-sectoral services were provide for gender-based violence survivors** in May with the highest being for psychosocial support services (549) and health services (264).
- **Hundred and sixty-two reproductive health kits** were distributed to 24 health facilities in 12 districts in Sa’ada Governorate, benefiting nearly 40,000 women and girls at reproductive age. The health facilities targeted include cholera treatment centers where resources have been overstretched by the epidemic.
- The **new UNFPA Representative to Yemen**, Ms. Anjali Sen, assumed office and arrive in Sana’a in May. Meetings were held with key local entities to position UNFPA as a key humanitarian partner, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Planning, national and international NGOs and UN agencies.

Challenges

- **Continuing fluctuation in the exchange rate** of the Yemeni Riyal against the US Dollar and a **cash deficit** in the country has made programme and procurement activities more costly.
- Difficulty in **organizing services for reproductive health and gender-based violence in conflict-affected areas** due to damaged or non-operating health structures, limited movement of partners and limited transportation of supplies to health facilities.

Funding Status

- The UNFPA response is currently **funded at 21.5 percent** with a funding gap of **\$17.4 million**.
- Two-year proposal (\$6.8 million) to support UNFPA’s **response on gender-based violence** was submitted for a tripartite contribution from the Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland.
- Funding for the **famine response in Yemen** (\$5.6 million) submitted through a proposal for the Horn of Africa.