

# 2025 UNFPA HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE IN YEMEN



United Nations Population Fund

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2025

UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

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# THE CRISIS IN YEMEN, A CRISIS FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

Now in its tenth year, the crisis in Yemen continues unabated. The deteriorating economic outlook, protracted conflict, and crumbling basic services are exacerbating humanitarian needs across the country.

Meanwhile, climate shocks, increased regional tensions, and chronic underfunding of critical humanitarian sectors are further worsening people's vulnerability and suffering. In 2025, an estimated 19.5 million people across Yemen need humanitarian assistance and protection services—1.3 million more than last year.





## Women and girls at the epicentre of the crisis

Women and girls continue to be disproportionately impacted by the humanitarian crisis in Yemen. They face severe protection risks, as well as limited access to basic services such as healthcare, especially maternal and reproductive care. Nearly 80 per cent of the 4.8 million people displaced in Yemen are women and girls. A quarter of displaced households are headed by women, compared to 9 per cent before the escalation of the conflict in 2015.

In 2025, an estimated [6.2 million women and girls are at risk of gender based violence](#), while over 90 per cent of rural areas lack the necessary services to respond to and prevent these acts of violence. Survivors without access to psychosocial support, referrals to health centres, legal aid and other services risk long-term physical, emotional, social and economic impacts, with potentially life-threatening consequences. Female heads of households, women with disabilities, and those belonging to minority or migrant communities often face even greater obstacles, due to compounded vulnerabilities and discrimination that further limit their access to life-saving support and pursuing justice.

With limited shelter options and a breakdown in formal and informal protection mechanisms, girls are increasingly vulnerable to child marriage, human trafficking, begging and child labour. Yemen is one of the few countries in the Arab region without a legal minimum age of marriage, and almost one third of [women are married before the age of 18](#). Early and child marriage puts women and children at further risk of health complications, especially those who are malnourished. Going into labour when too young puts enormous strain on a girl's body, which can lead to debilitating conditions like obstetric fistula, and even death. Child marriage also casts a long shadow on mental and financial well-being of both women and their children.

## Maternal health for women and girls hangs in the balance

Yemen has one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the region, at 183 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births. Reproductive health services are severely limited, with many women and girls lacking access to maternal care and family planning resources. Six out of 10 births take place without a skilled birth attendant, and four out of 10 women do not receive antenatal care from a skilled provider.

Nearly [5 million women](#) of childbearing age, including pregnant and lactating women, face challenges accessing reproductive health services, especially in rural and frontline districts. This is due to the non-availability of specialized female doctors and nurses, insufficient essential medical supplies, and limited access to services. Restrictions on the movement of female aid workers across governorates has further compounded the situation in northern areas.

Over [1.3 million pregnant and breastfeeding women](#) are projected to require treatment for acute malnutrition in 2025. They risk giving birth to newborns with severely stunted growth and nursing malnourished infants due to rising food insecurity.

Yemen's healthcare system remains extremely stretched. Some [40 per cent](#) of Yemen's health facilities are partially functioning or completely out of service due to shortages in staff, funding, electricity, medicines and equipment, leaving millions without adequate care. Only one in five of functioning facilities is able to provide maternal and child health services.

In addition, [7 million people](#) are grappling with psychological trauma and stress that requires specialized health support, yet only 120,000 have consistent access to these services. This gap further highlights the overall fragility of Yemen's health system and the urgent need for sustained funding and support.

## Climate shocks hitting women and girls the hardest

Climate-related disasters are compounding the vulnerabilities faced by women and girls. Yemen is among the world's most vulnerable countries to climate change, and among the least prepared to mitigate or adapt to its impacts. The [INFORM Risk Index](#) ranks Yemen as the fourth most at-risk country globally to humanitarian crises and disasters, and as the third most vulnerable to climate change. Around half of Yemen's population is exposed to at least one significant climate hazard, such as extreme heat, drought or flooding. Climate-related emergencies have become the leading cause of new displacements inside the country, accounting for over 90 per cent of people supported through the UNFPA-led Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) in 2024.

For women and girls, the fallout of extreme weather conditions has wide-ranging and life threatening consequences. New [UNFPA research](#) shows that climate extremes and the disasters that follow have a disproportionate impact on the mental and physical health of women, girls and newborns, including anxiety, hypertensive disorders, preterm and low weight births and stillbirths.





**PEOPLE IN NEED**

**19.5 M**

In need of some form of assistance

**17.1 M**

Food insecure

**4.8 M**

Internally displaced persons

**19.7 M**

In need of health care services

**5 M**

Women of reproductive age (15-49) in need

**1.3 M**

acutely malnourished pregnant and lactating women

**20%**

Health facilities providing maternal and child health services

**6.2 M**

Women in need of GBV protection



# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR UNFPA IN YEMEN 2025

**3.7 M**

Targeted Population

**US\$70 M**

Total Funding Requirement 2025



Provision of lifesaving protection services for women and girls with emphasis on prevention and response to different forms of violence.

Provision of vital lifesaving reproductive health services with emphasis on emergency obstetric and neonatal care to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity.

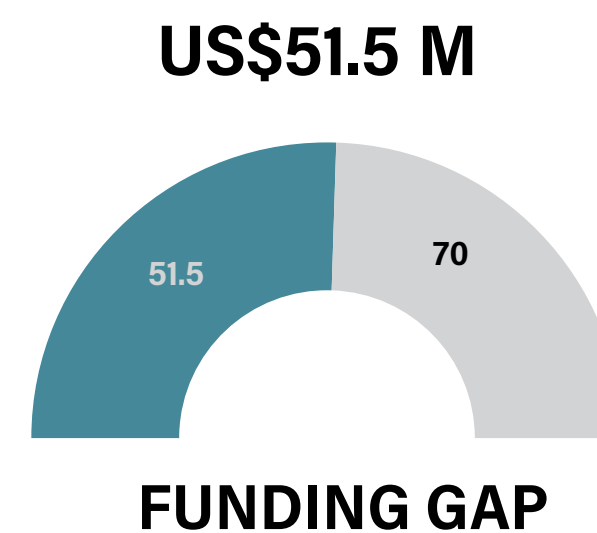
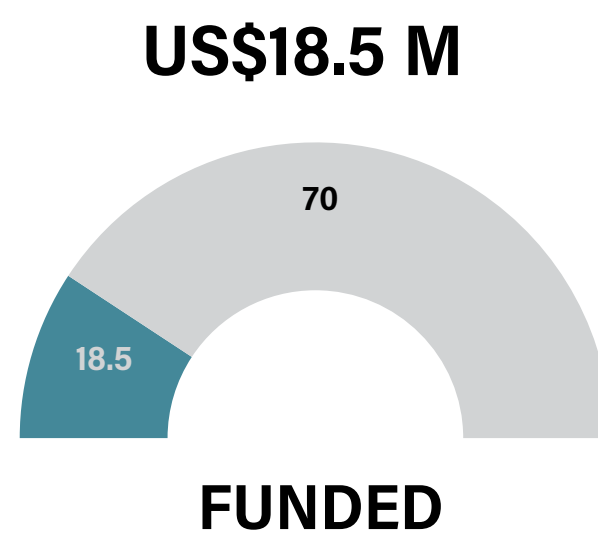
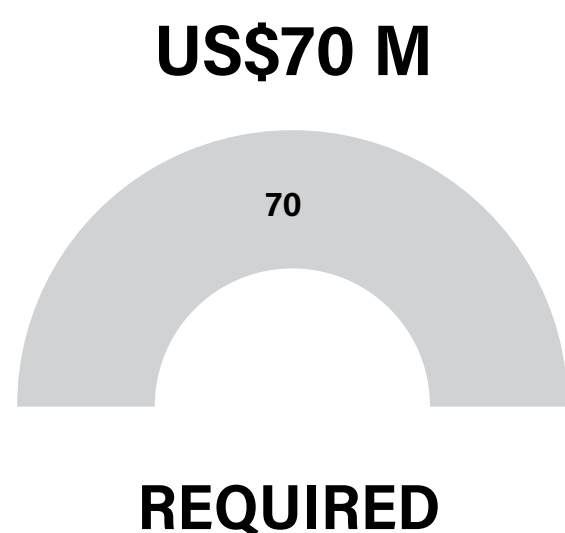


Reaching all newly displaced persons with emergency lifesaving packages through the Rapid Response Mechanism.

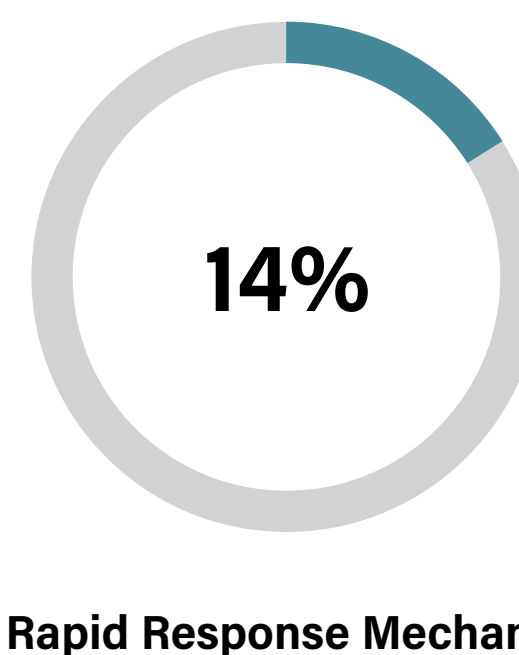
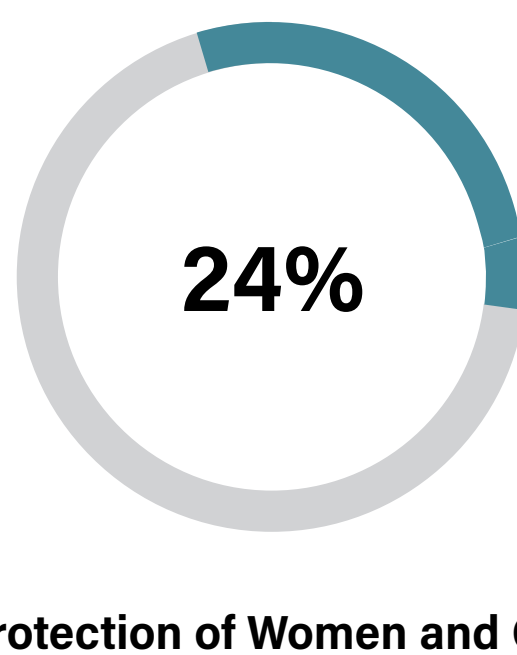
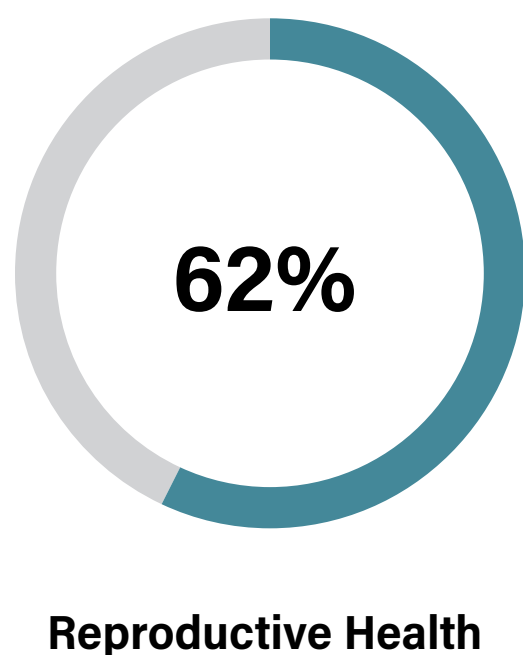




# FUNDING REQUIREMENT OVERVIEW



## DISTRIBUTION OF REQUIRED FUNDS BY PROGRAMME AREA

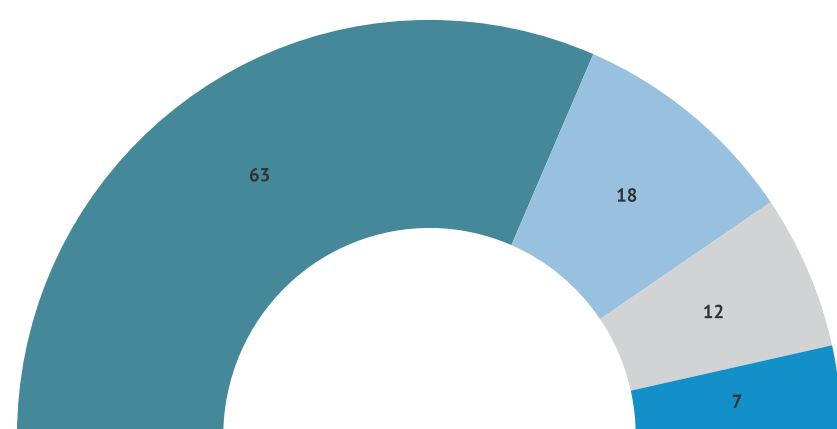


\* Funded as of April 2024



# UNFPA HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE: PROGRAMME PRIORITIES

## Requirement: US\$43 M

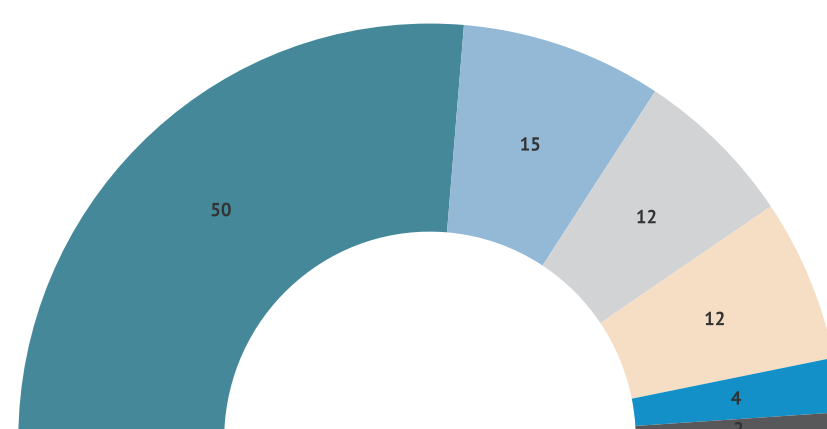


- Emergency obstetric care (63%)
- Mobile team & clinics (18%)
- RH kits & supplies (12%)
- Capacity building & awareness raising (7%)

### REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

- Ensure availability of lifesaving reproductive health commodities, medicines, supplies and equipment in health facilities.
- Ensure qualified health personnel are in place to provide reproductive health services in health facilities.
- Support mobile medical teams and clinics to enable them to provide reproductive health services that include; safe deliveries integrated with nutrition services for pregnant women as well as disease prevention information.
- Make family planning and birth spacing methods available and accessible to people through health facilities and mobile clinics.
- Provide skilled healthcare personnel, particularly midwives, at the community level.
- Lead coordination of reproductive health response through the Reproductive Health Inter-Agency Working Group under the Health Cluster.

## Requirement: US\$17.1 M

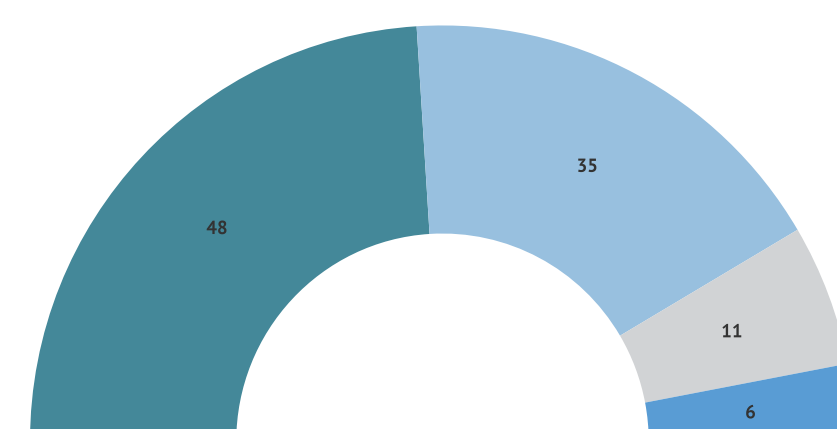


- Service provision (55%)
- Livelihood opportunities (15%)
- Dignity kits (12%)
- Business start up grants (12%)
- Coordination (4%)
- Training & awareness (2%)

### PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

- Provide medical supplies including post-rape treatment kits.
- Respond to different forms of violence through the provision of psychosocial support, legal aid, access to safe houses and referrals to health and other services.
- Engage men and boys to enhance mitigation of different forms of violence at the community level.
- Strengthen community awareness about issues related to different forms of violence, and available relevant services.
- Establish referral pathways, protocols and build capacity of service providers and responsible institutions to address challenges for the protection of women and girls.
- Provide support services and livelihood opportunities for survivors of various forms of violence.
- Lead coordination of women's protection response through the women's protection sub-cluster within the Protection Cluster.

## Requirement: US\$9.9 M



- Enrollment (48%)
- Dignity kits (35%)
- Coordination (11%)
- Distribution (6%)

### RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM

- Lead response to distribute immediate, most critical, lifesaving emergency supplies to newly displaced, families on the move, who may be in hard-to-reach areas or stranded close to the front lines.
- Ensure provision of a minimum assistance packages comprising of (1) WFP ready-to-eat food rations (2) UNICEF family basic hygiene kits (3) UNFPA female transit/dignity kit.
- Enrollment of newly displaced persons and referral to other actors for further assistance.



## FUNDING REQUIREMENTS BY PROGRAMME AREA\*

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH		PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS		RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM	
PROGRAMME AREA	US\$	PROGRAMME AREA	US\$	PROGRAMME AREA	US\$
Emergency obstetric care	27,000,000	GBV service provision	9,500,000	Dignity kits	3,500,000
Reproductive health kits	5,000,000	Capacity building & awareness raising	400,000	Coordination	1,050,000
Mobile teams & clinics	8,000,000	Dignity kits	2,000,000	Enrollment	550,000
Capacity building & awareness raising	3,000,000	Livelihood opportunities	2,500,000	Distribution	4,800,000
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>43,000,000</b>	Business start-up grants	2,000,000	<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>9,900,000</b>
		Coordination	700,000		
		<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>17,100,000</b>		
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>70,000,000</b>

\*Operations and programme support costs are included in overall costs.

## PEOPLE TARGETED\*

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH		PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS		RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM	
PROGRAMME AREA	NO.	PROGRAMME AREA	NO.	PROGRAMME AREA	NO.
Female	2,000,000	Female	500,003	Individuals	525,000
Male	700,000	Male	67,090		
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,792,093</b>

\*Includes people directly targeted only, does not included those indirectly targeted.



## WHY UNFPA MATTERS FOR YEMEN?



**UNFPA is the sole provider of essential reproductive health medicines and leads reproductive health service provision in Yemen. The reproductive health supply chain being supported by UNFPA serves as lifeline for millions of women and girls in Yemen.**



**UNFPA leads coordination and provision of lifesaving women's protection services throughout Yemen, reaching thousands of survivors of different forms of violence.**



**UNFPA leads the multi-agency Rapid Response Mechanism across the country, providing lifesaving assistance to displaced persons at the front-lines and referring them for further assistance.**



# MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS 2024

**2.7 M**



People reached  
with lifesaving  
assistance

**440**



Maternal deaths  
averted

**220,714**



Unintended  
pregnancies  
averted

**88,141**



Survivors of  
violence  
assisted

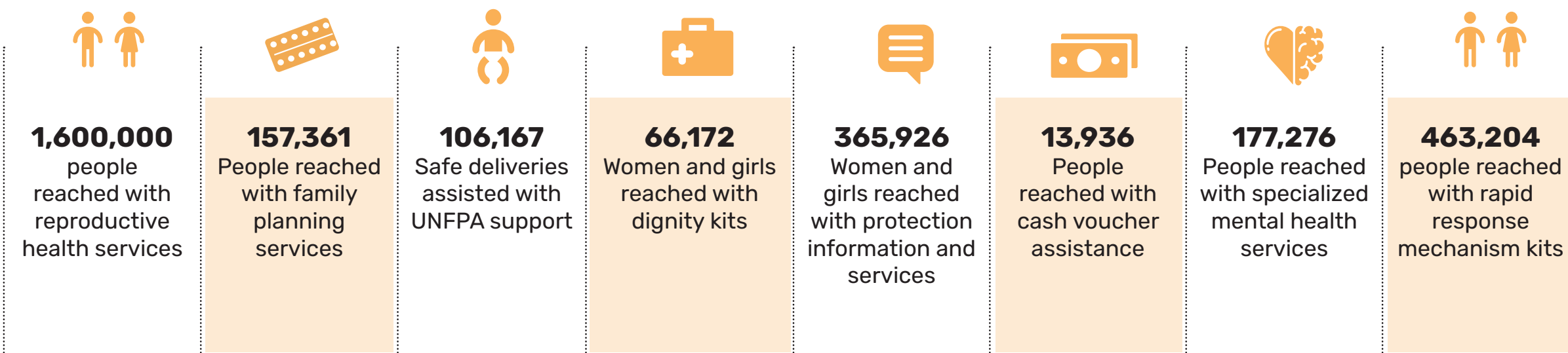




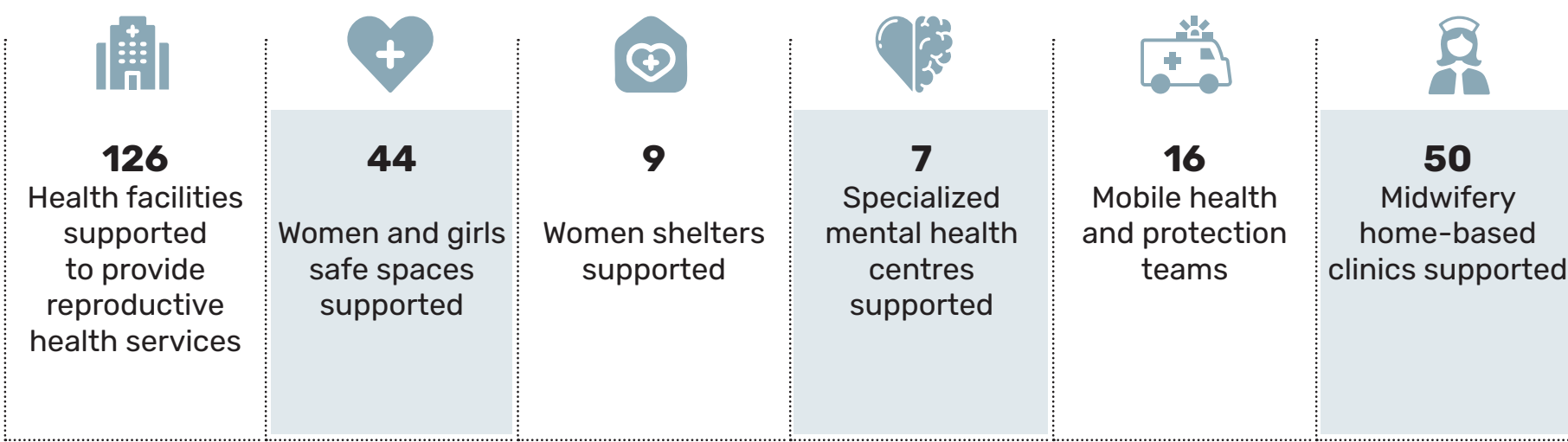


## OVERVIEW OF HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT

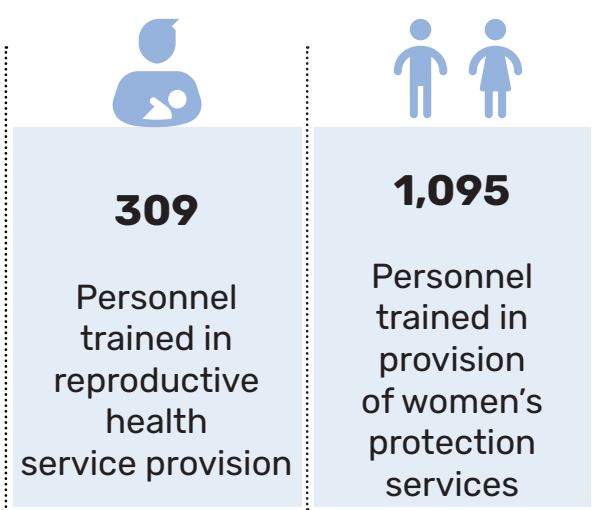
### People Reached



### Services Provided

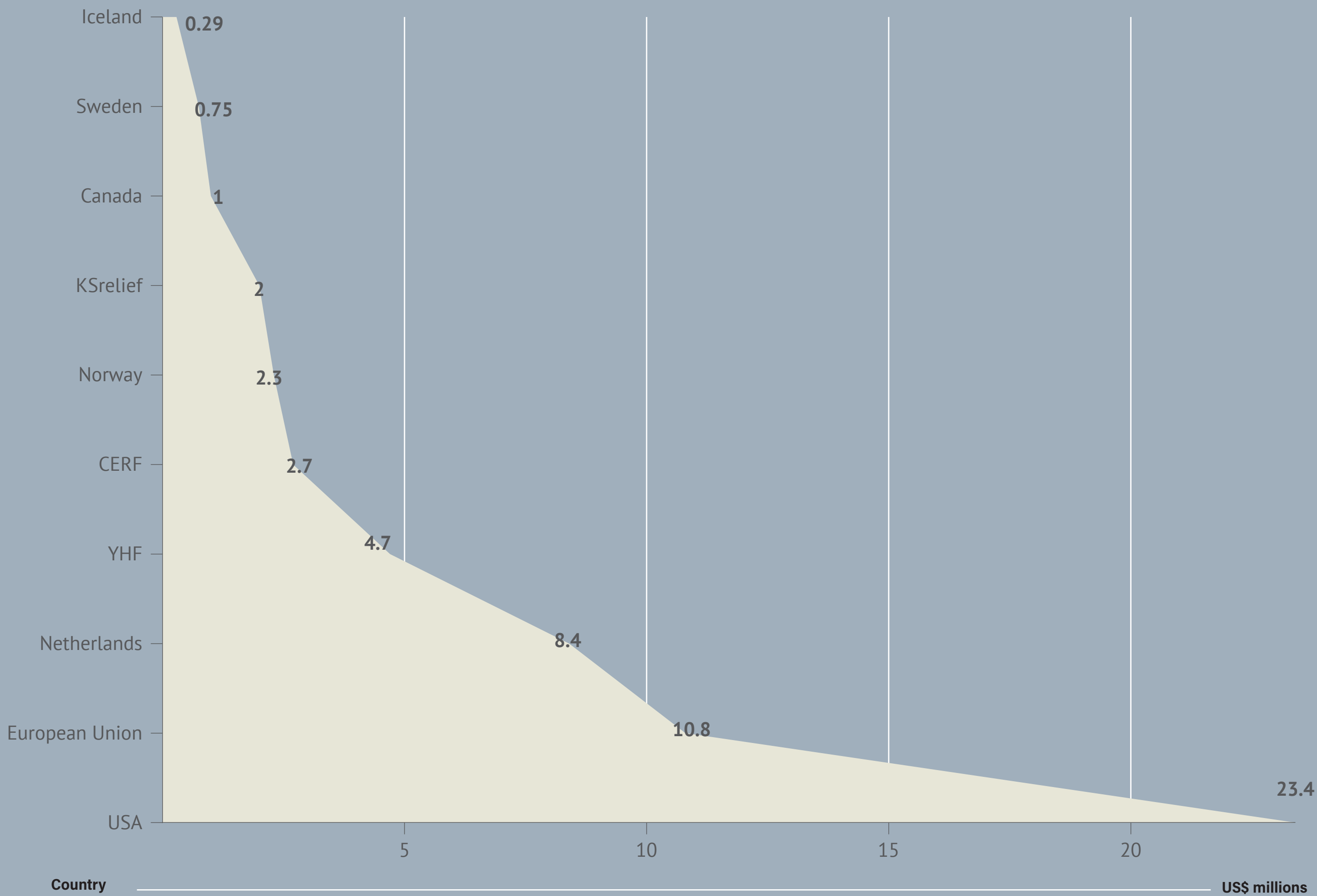


### Capacities Strengthened





# 2024 DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS\*



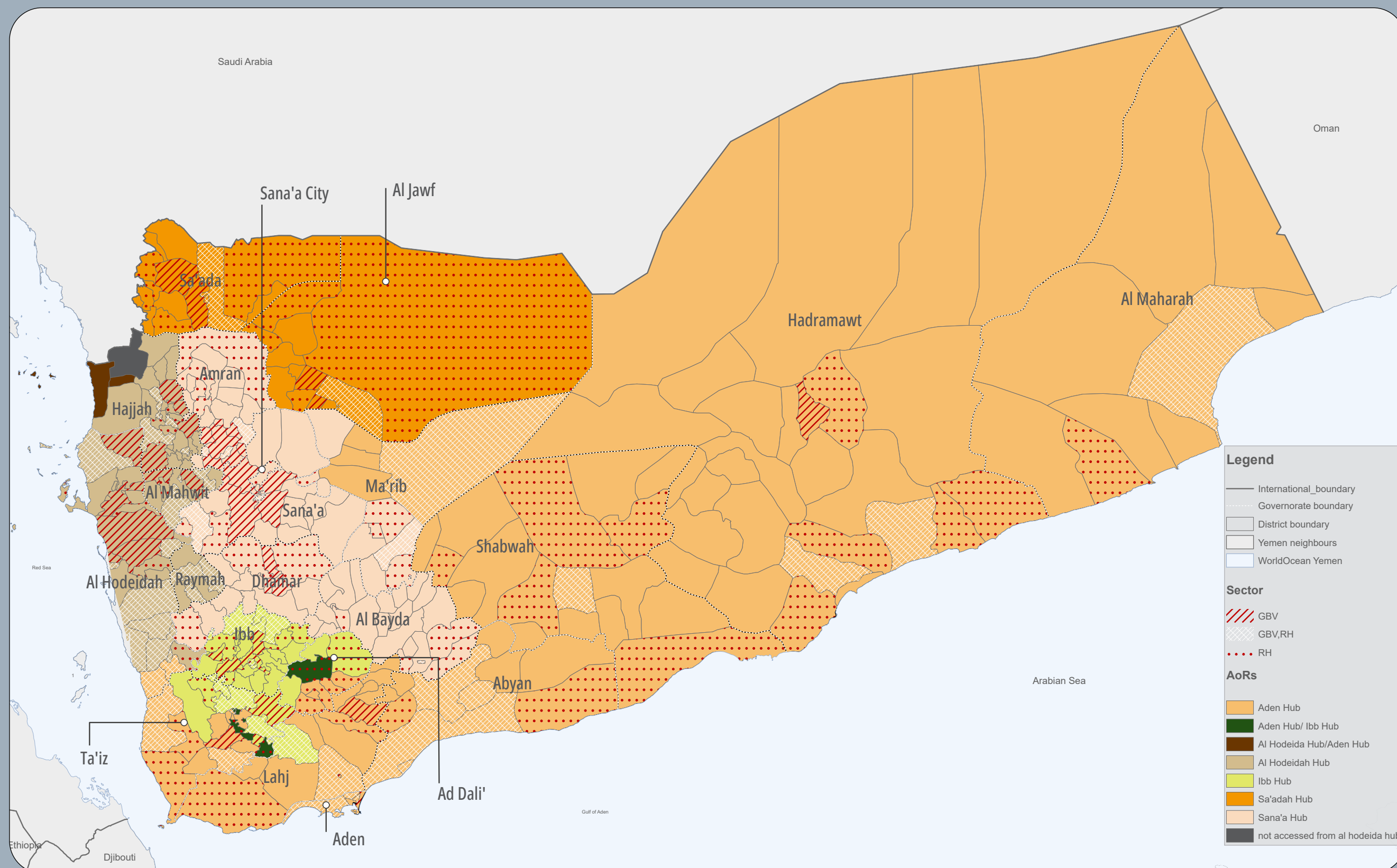
\*Includes new donor contributions in 2024 only.



# GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

UNFPA's interventions cover all 22 governorates in Yemen, with a team of 101 personnel (14 international and 87 national). Overall coordination is handled by UNFPA offices in Aden and Sana'a. In other governorates, joint UN humanitarian hubs coordinate.

UNFPA has presence in all seven operational UN humanitarian hubs (Aden, Al Hudaydah, Al Mukalla, Ibb, Sa'ada and Sana'a), an arrangement that relies on closely monitoring evolving needs to ensure a flexible and appropriate response to the changing demands of the humanitarian dynamic.





# CHANGING LIVES



**Taghreed**, 21 years, from Ibb Governorate carried more than just her pregnancy—she bore the burden of survival. Married as a child, she spent her days fetching water, tending sheep, and managing her home. As her delivery date neared, her body weakened, and fear set in. She had no money for transportation and no health facility nearby.

As labor pains struck, instead of joy, she felt terror—something was wrong. A neighbor's advice changed her fate, telling her about the free maternal health services at UNFPA-supported Mudhaykhirah Hospital. With her last strength, Taghreed made the journey. At the hospital, doctors diagnosed severe anemia—without urgent intervention, she and her baby might not survive. A blood transfusion and emergency care saved her life.

Then, a baby's cry. She had survived. Holding her child, she vowed to tell every woman about the hospital.

"No mother should suffer in silence, thinking she is alone," she stated.

Taghreed's story is one of thousands. Thanks to free healthcare, she survived. But many more still need help—the fight is not over.



**Dina**, 35 years, endured violence, abuse, and forced separation from her children. Emotionally shattered and financially struggling, she had no choice but to return to her overcrowded family home, where poverty made life even harder.

Determined to regain control of her life,, she sought job opportunities despite her limited education. Through a fellow survivor, she learned about a safe space for women and girls supported by UNFPA in Al Maharah Governorate.

At the safe space, she received psychological support that helped her heal from trauma and rebuild her self-worth. She recognized her passion for sewing and was selected for a 20-day sewing training course. She excelled, selling her work, and was later chosen for economic empowerment, receiving a sewing kit to launch her business.

Now, financially independent, Dina supports herself and her family, proving that resilience, not abuse, defines a woman's future. She dreams of expanding her business and empowering other survivors. "I was once broken, but now I am independent, happy, and in control of my future," says Dina with pride.

Her story highlights the life-changing impact of services, turning survivors into self-sufficient women filled with hope.



# THE COST OF INACTION

In the absence of dedicated humanitarian assistance, millions of women and girls will continue to face preventable illnesses, displacement, exacerbated protection risks and death:



More than **1,500,000** women of childbearing age would **lose access to reproductive health** services, **increasing the risks of morbidity, mortality,** and childbirth complications.

Support to **115** health facilities will **come to a halt. Only one in five of the functioning health facilities** currently provides maternal and child health services across the country.

**Failure to address women's protection** risks and provide essential lifesaving response services for survivors will **jeopardize the lives** and futures of more than **1 million** women and girls across Yemen.

**900,000** pregnant and breastfeeding women who are **acutely malnourished** will face an elevated **risk of morbidity and mortality** resulting from malnutrition-related complications.

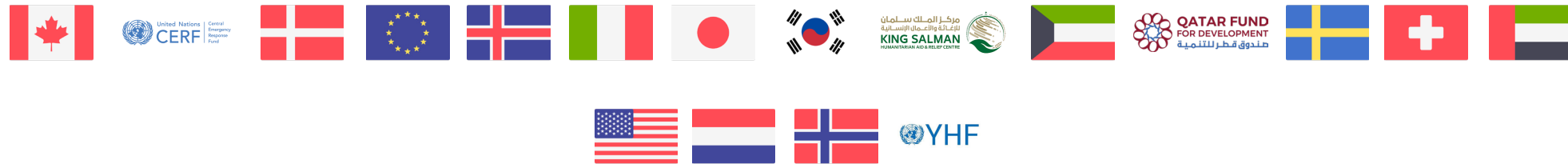
Over **525,000** individuals **displaced** by conflict or climate-induced **disasters** will face **heightened risks of exploitation, harm, and health issues** without a prompt multi-sectoral rapid response mechanism.





# THANK YOU

UNFPA would like to express its sincere gratitude to the generous support of the following donors, listed in alphabetical order, for their contributions to its response to the crisis in Yemen since 2015:



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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ONE  
VISION  
THREE  
ZEROS

- ZERO unmet need for family planning
- ZERO preventable maternal deaths
- ZERO gender-based violence and harmful practices





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