

UNFPA Response in Yemen

SITUATION REPORT



A midwife holds a newborn baby after a successful cesarean section at a UNFPA-supported health facility in Aden, Yemen

FAST FACTS



20.7M

In need of some form of assistance



12.1M

In acute need



20.1M

Lack access to basic health services



15.8M

In need of protection



4.0M

Internally displaced



5.0M

Women of reproductive age (15-49 yrs)



1.2M

Pregnant & lactating women malnourished



6.0M

In need of GBV protection

HIGHLIGHTS: JULY - SEPTEMBER

The humanitarian crisis in Yemen continues to deepen. More than 20 million people – about two-thirds of the population – need humanitarian assistance. The country situation, which is primarily driven by conflict and an economic blockade, has been exacerbated by COVID-19, heavy rains and flooding, escalating hostilities, currency collapse, decreased government capacity and access challenges.

Renewed hostilities since early September 2021 have significantly impacted civilians living in parts of Marib, Shabwah and Al Bayda Governorates. In Marib Governorate, fighting forced nearly 10,000 people to flee their homes in September, the highest monthly figure this year. In some areas, the fighting has also disrupted the delivery of life-saving humanitarian assistance, including food and medicines. **Since January 2021, the UNFPA-led Rapid Response Mechanism in partnership with WFP and UNICEF has provided emergency relief to nearly 43,000 people displaced from Marib.**

COVID-19, continues to place additional pressure on a health system devastated by conflict. It is estimated that some 15 per cent of the functioning health system has been repurposed for the COVID-19 response, which contributed to reducing overall health coverage by 20 to 30 per cent. Only 0.1 per cent of Yemen's population have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 as of September 2021. **UNFPA is a frontline partner of the COVID-19 response in Yemen.** Since January 2021, more than 9750,000 people have been reached with personal protection equipment (PPE), with nearly 9 million PPE materials distributed to health facilities to ensure the safe provision of reproductive health services.

Funding for the aid operation in Yemen remains limited. A side event during the U.N. General Assembly raised approximately US\$600 million in additional pledges. However, the 2021 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan, which seeks \$3.85 billion to provide life-saving humanitarian assistance and protection to 16.2 million people in need, was only 55 per cent funded by end September. **UNFPA's \$100 million humanitarian appeal for 2021 remained funded at 41 percent by end September.** **UNFPA estimates that nearly 1.5 million women and girls will lose access to life-saving health and protection services in the next three months** as funding dries up, forcing emergency relief operations to be dramatically scaled back at the same time as needs continue to grow.

By end September, **UNFPA's response has reached nearly 2 million individuals** with life-saving reproductive health services, protection information and services and emergency relief, with support to 126 health facilities, 51 safe spaces, 9 shelters and 8 specialized mental health centres.

UNFPA GOVERNORATE RESPONSE

UNFPA's interventions cover 21 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 from January to September are detailed below:

HIGHLIGHTS: JAN. - SEPT. 2021



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	43,353	17,165	4	1
Aden	40,903	2,551	6	0
Al Bayda	32,422	9,270	4	1
Al Dhale'e	18,821	2,217	3	1
Al Hudaydah	137,113	96,526	19	8
Al Jawf	39,207	7,620	8	1
Al Maharah	7,605	6,488	1	1
Al Mahwit	29,235	14,757	4	1
Amanat Al Asimah	48,907	23,128	6	1
Amran	28,094	10,445	4	2
Dhamar	48,473	8,059	5	1
Hadramaut	34,280	55,378	5	2
Hajjah	130,228	30,064	8	1
Ibb	38,981	51,965	7	3
Lahj	3,127	21,597	1	4
Marib	66,070	40,971	9	6
Sa'ada	28,661	3,611	4	1
Sana'a	13,272	10,733	3	4
Shabwah	24,280	29,377	3	1
Taizz	307,880	147,125	20	11
Raymah	0	0	0	0
Socotra	4,300	0	2	0

UPGRADING HEALTH FACILITIES TO SAVE LIVES

Huda, prepared to give birth to her first child at home with the assistance of a midwife. Huda's husband was at home after contracting COVID-19; their earnings had diminished and they could no longer afford the transportation cost or the hospital chargers.

Huda attempted to give birth naturally but failed. "The pain I endured was unbearable. I was desperate to go to a hospital to give birth but we could not afford it," tells Huda.

Her husband tried for several days to secure funds to cover the transportation cost to travel to Hadja Hospital, where advanced health services were available. He then took her to the nearest health centre, but the centre did not have the facilities to assist Huda. "There was nothing more I could do, Huda urgently needed a caesarean section. Time was running out. It was a life or death situation," told the midwife that assisted Huda at home.

Finally, Huda's husband found the money for transportation and took Huda to Hajda Hospital in Taizz. "I was really broken when we could not find the money. As soon as we entered the hospital I told the medical staff to save my wife first. Huda's life mattered the most," said Huda's husband.

The medical team quickly intervened and performed a caesarean section. Huda came out of the operating theatre with a healthy boy. "I am so grateful to the medical staff, the nurses, the midwives and the doctors. They saved my life and my baby," told Huda with a smile.

"Many people, especially women die because of the lack of health services in remote areas. Having the medicines, supplies and facilities, provided free of charge like at this district hospital is helping us to save lives," said the gynecologist at Hajda Hospital.

With support from the Qatar Fund for Development, UNFPA has been able to upgrade and offer free health services at Hajda Hospital. The Qatar Fund for Development supports 10 health centres and district hospitals across three governorates in Yemen.

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

- Since January 2021, nearly 9 million PPE items were distributed to 126 health facilities to allow for the safe provision of reproductive health services for a period of one year.
- More than 975,000 people have been reached with PPE since January 2021.
- Training of health workers (mainly midwives) on infection prevention control and response mechanisms to provide reproductive health services during the pandemic continued. Nearly 150 health workers have been trained so far.
- UNFPA has availed 80 ventilators to the pandemic response.
- 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 continued, including in facilities where COVID-19 cases have been isolated.

WOMEN'S PROTECTION

COVID-19 awareness raising and other activities for the prevention of COVID-19 continued in sites providing women's protection services.

These include:

- Operation of 3 hotlines that provide tele-counseling of women's protection services and information on COVID-19 prevention.
- From January to September 2021, nearly 460,000 women were reached with awareness campaigns on protection and prevention of COVID-19, including in IDP camps.
- Survivors of violence continued the production of cotton face masks and hand sanitizers, to be distributed among displaced persons and communities.
- Critical services such as specialized psychological care centres and shelters continued running, with COVID-19 precautionary measures in place.

RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM

- The UNFPA-led Rapid Response Mechanism in partnership with UNICEF and WFP raised awareness on the risks of COVID-19 during verification, registration and distribution stages of the response. COVID-19 prevention and mitigation measures were adhered to during distribution of rapid response kits.



NUMBER OF CASES

9,000 cases of COVID-19 and 1,700 associated deaths were reported by end September 2021.

9 MILLION

PPE items distributed to health facilities

975,000

People reached with PPE

460,000

women reached with COVID-19 information

80

Ventilators availed to the pandemic response

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. A total of 33,788 RRM kits were distributed from January to September 2021. Other highlights for the period June 2018 to September 2021 include:

HIGHLIGHTS FROM JUNE 2018 TO SEPT. 2021

Since June 2018, RRM kits were delivered to **525,785 families (over 3.2 million individuals)**.

223,889 RRM kits distributed through the **Al Hudaydah** humanitarian hub from June 2018 to Sept. 2021

98,268 RRM kits distributed through the **Aden** humanitarian hub from June 2018 to Sept. 2021.

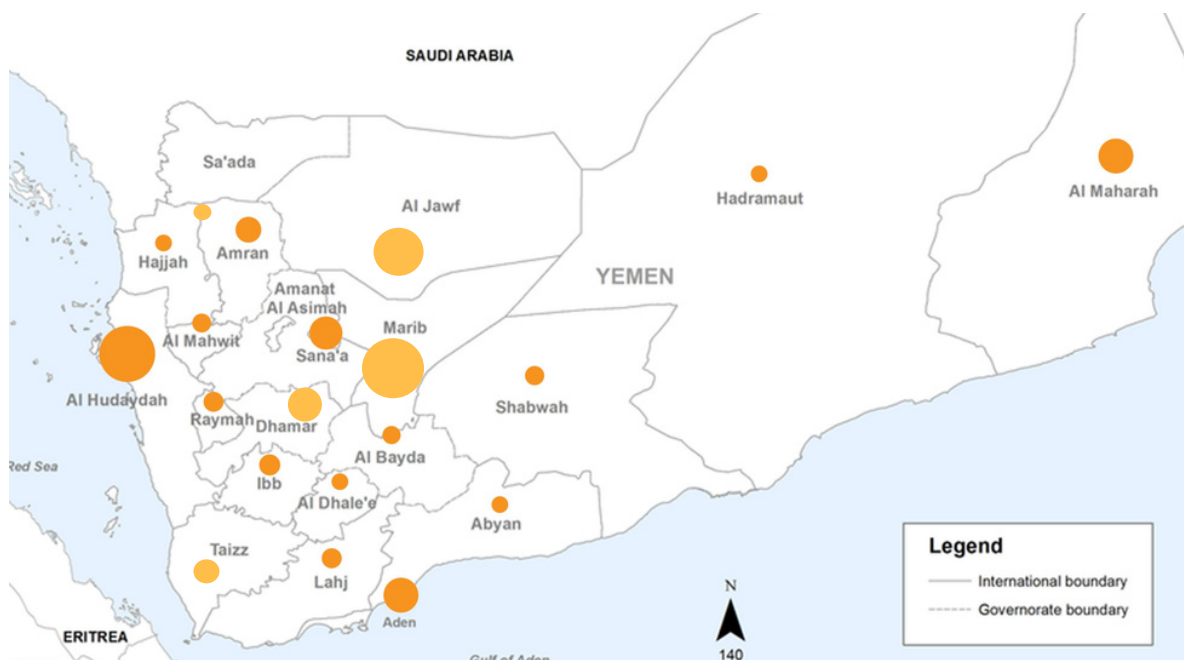
87,418 RRM kits distributed through **Sana'a** humanitarian hub from June 2018 to Sept. 2021.

26,078 RRM kits distributed through the **Ibb** humanitarian hub from June 2018 to Sept. 2021.

90,069 RRM kits distributed through the **Sa'ada** humanitarian hub from June 2018 to Sept. 2021.



Distribution of rapid response kits at camps for displaced persons in Marib Governorate.



The RRM is operational country-wide. The map indicates RRM distribution by governorate and volume of distribution since January 2021.

Donors to the RRM: Central Emergency Response Fund, European Union Humanitarian Aid, YHF, HPF

IN THE NEWS

PEOPLE REACHED

	NO.
No. of people reached with reproductive health services	1,125,212
No. of safe deliveries supported	108,153
No. of cesarean sections supported	17,764
Individuals reached with Family Planning services	189,874
Dignity kits distributed	34,391
Individuals reached through the Rapid Response Mechanism	236,516
No. of women reached with protection information & services	589,101
No. of health facilities supported with reproductive health services	126
No. of safe spaces supported	51
No. of women shelters supported	9
No. of supported specialized psychological care centres	8



UNFPA calls for urgent funding for the health and safety of 1.5 million Yemeni women and girls at risk. [Read more...](#)



UNFPA welcomes \$5million USAID support for the health and protection of vulnerable women and girls in Yemen. [Read more...](#)



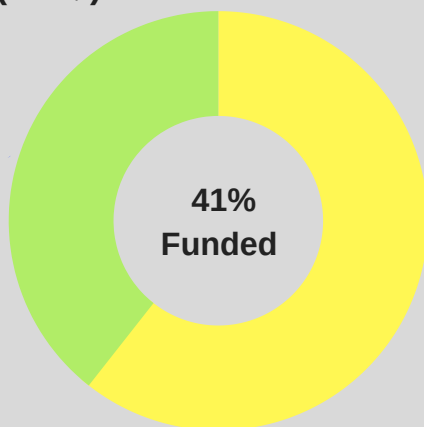
Rising from the ashes: A Yemen family's new home [Read more...](#)

2021 HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN FUNDING STATUS (US\$)

\$100 M
REQUIRED

\$41.2M
FUNDED

\$58.8M
FUNDING GAP



2021 Donors (alphabetical order): CERF, European Union, Humanitarian Pooled Fund, Iceland, KSrelief, Netherlands, Norway, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, USAID, Yemen Humanitarian Fund

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.