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.
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 healthy 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.
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.

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)
**PEOPLE REACHED**

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

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

- **$100.5 M REQUIRED**
- **$61.8 M FUNDED**
- **$38.7 M GAP**

**IN THE NEWS**

- From child bride to fearless face mask maker: Yemen’s safe spaces help women reclaim their lives
  - Read more...

- Sweden provides much need humanitarian assistance to protect vulnerable women and girls across Yemen
  - Read more...

- #RealLifeHeroes: Support midwives like Khadeeja in Yemen
  - Watch...

**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.