

# UNFPA Response in Yemen

## MONTHLY SITUATION REPORT



A medical doctor gives the thumbs-up after a successful caesarean section 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

Yemen continues to be the world's worst humanitarian crisis with over 24 million people – 80 per cent of the population – in need of some form of humanitarian assistance or protection. In 2020, the situation, which is primarily driven by conflict and an economic blockade, was exacerbated by COVID-19, heavy rains and flooding, escalating hostilities and currency collapse.

At the end of December, 2,101 cases of COVID-19 and 611 deaths were reported. However health partners remain concerned that there has been significant under-reporting of COVID 19 cases. Though the extent of COVID-19 in Yemen remains unknown, research has highlighted the potential socio-economic impact of the virus, which has added to the country's existing challenges. **UNFPA is 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; while strengthening remote programming and reducing physical interaction in all UNFPA supported facilities.

An alarming increase in levels of food insecurity and acute malnutrition was forecasted by the year end. An Integrated Food Security Classification assessment showed that 13.5 million people are already at risk of starvation and facing acute food insecurity, and this could rise to at least 16 million – over half the population – by June 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.

In parallel, **funding for the aid operation plummeted in 2020**. The 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan remained hugely underfunded – US\$1.69 billion of the \$3.23 billion needed was received by the end of the year, while a fuel crisis had increased needs and restricted response activities, with issues of access continuing to hinder the aid operation. By the end of the year, more than 190 humanitarian organizations continued to deliver aid to an average of 10.4 million people a month.

**Three-quarters of UNFPA's \$100.5 million humanitarian appeal for 2020 was received by December 2020.**

Despite a significant funding shortage mid-year, **UNFPA's response reached over 3 million individuals** with lifesaving reproductive health, protection information and services and emergency relief in 2020, with support to 101 health facilities, 51 safe spaces, 8 shelters and 8 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 December is detailed below:

## HIGHLIGHTS: DECEMBER 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	4,198	1,101	4	1
Aden	4,031	464	6	0
Al Bayda	1,695	715	3	1
Al Dhale'e	2,135	300	2	2
Al Hudaydah	14,218	11,515	18	8
Al Jawf	1,847	0	5	1
Al Maharah	903	3,200	1	1
Al Mahwit	1,342	962	3	1
Amanat Al Asimah	3,507	2,205	1	1
Amran	5,084	1,995	4	2
Dhamar	196	1,953	1	1
Hadramaut	3,784	3,386	4	2
Hajjah	11,681	5,875	8	4
Ibb	3,158	7,426	7	3
Lahj	388	3,871	1	4
Marib	5,870	5,975	4	2
Sa'ada	2,983	761	4	1
Sana'a	3,108	1,043	4	3
Shabwah	1,439	7,326	3	1
Taizz	52,793	42,175	16	11
Raymah	0	0	0	1
Socotra	527	0	2	0

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

## TRANSFORMING HEALTH FACILITIES TO SAVE LIVES OF WOMEN

Rania, a 20 year old girl, pregnant for the first time was trying to give birth at home for two days, when her labour pains became unbearable and her family had to rush her to the nearest Al Nasr Shamir Hospital in Taizz Governorate.

After a harrowing journey along narrow and bumpy roads, Rania was told that she needed a caesarean section at Al Nasr Shamir Hospital. However, the hospital did not have the facilities or the medical staff to perform a caesarean section and referred Rania to UNFPA-supported Hajdah Hospital, where such services were provided free of charge. The family had to return home to collect enough money for the journey to Hajdah Hospital; by this time Rania's condition had worsened and she began to lose consciousness.

"Rania arrived at exactly 5pm. Her condition was critical. We decided to perform an emergency c-section because her uterus was about to explode. We managed to take the baby out carefully and Rania was placed in intensive care. She came to the hospital right on time and thankfully we had all the necessary equipment to treat her. If not the situation would have been very tragic," tells Dr. Suad Al Haidari, the obstetric gynecologist at the hospital.

In 2020, over 155,000 safe deliveries and 25,000 caesarean sections were successfully carried out with UNFPA support to 101 health facilities and incentives for 3,000 essential reproductive health care workers.

# 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 December, more than 9,700 PPE items were distributed to health facilities across the country. Over 200 health facilities have been provided with PPE by the end of the year.
- Training of health workers (mainly midwives) on infection prevention control and response mechanisms to provide reproductive health services during the pandemic continued in December. Over 300 health workers have been trained up to the year end.
- 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 continue.

These include:

- Operation of 18 hotlines that provide tele-counseling of women's protection services and information on COVID-19 prevention.
- In December, nearly 4,000 women were reached with awareness campaigns on protection and prevention of COVID-19, including in IDP camps.
- Training for 60 journalists on reporting of women's protection issues within the context of the pandemic was conducted.
- Survivors of violence continued production of cotton face masks and hand sanitizers, to be distributed among displaced persons and communities. More than 80,000 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 December 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

2,101 cases of COVID-19 and 611 deaths were reported by end December 2020.

Top to bottom: COVID-19 precautionary measures during RRM distribution, psychosocial support sessions being undertaken with COVID-19 measures in place and trainings on infection prevention control for the medical teams.

# 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 December 2020. Other highlights for the period June 2018 to December 2020 include:

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM JUNE 2018 TO DECEMBER 2020

Since June 2018, RRM kits were delivered to **436,815 families (over 2.6 million individuals)**.

219,735 RRM kits distributed through the **Al Hudaydah** humanitarian hub from June 2018 to Dec. 2020

77,980 RRM kits distributed through the **Aden** humanitarian hub from June 2018 to Dec. 2020.

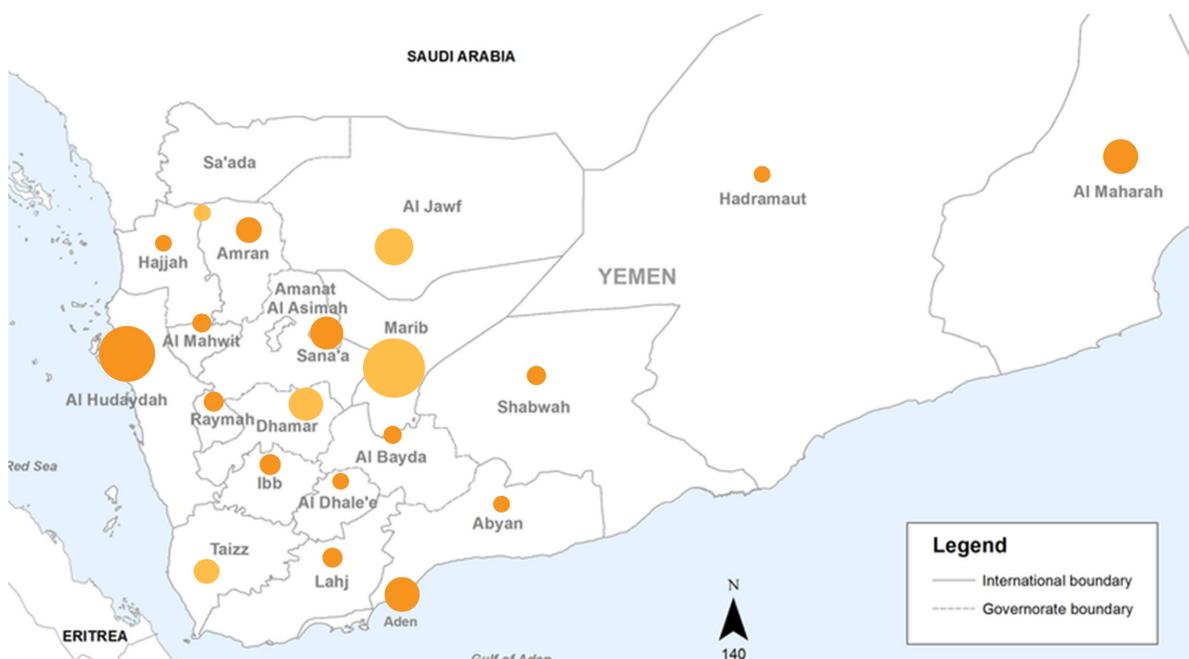
82,671 RRM kits distributed through **Sana'a** humanitarian hub from June 2018 to Dec. 2020.

24,438 RRM kits distributed through the **Ibb** humanitarian hub from June 2018 to Dec. 2020.

31,991 RRM kits distributed through the **Sa'ada** humanitarian hub from June 2018 to Dec. 2020.



Distribution of rapid response kits in Taizz Governorate.



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

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

## IN THE NEWS

### PEOPLE REACHED

	NO.
No. of people reached with reproductive health services	1,262,346
No. of safe deliveries supported	155,231
No. of cesarean sections supported	25,100
Individuals reached with Family Planning services	275,425
Dignity kits distributed	77,984
Individuals reached through the Rapid Response Mechanism	609,434
No. of women reached with protection information & services	1,159,305
No. of health facilities supported with reproductive health services	101
No. of safe spaces supported	51
No. of women shelters supported	8
No. of supported specialized psychological care centres	8
No. of mobile protection teams in collective sites	88



After years of conflict, Yemen remains the world's worst humanitarian crisis, a UNFPA 2021 appeal shows [Read more...](#)



Qatar Fund for Development Cooperates UNFPA to enhance health services in Yemen [Read more...](#)



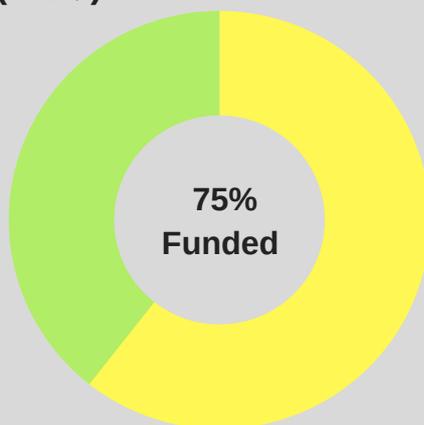
European Union, UNICEF & UNFPA join forces to improve health services for mothers and children in Yemen [Read more...](#)

### 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