

UNFPA Response in Yemen

SITUATION REPORT



Protection services and awareness raising for displaced women and girls provided by UNFPA-supported safe spaces in camps, Aden, Yemen ©UNFPA Yemen

FAST FACTS



21.6M

In need of humanitarian assistance



13.4M

In acute need



20.3M

In need of health assistance



17.7M

In need of protection



4.5M

Internally displaced



5.5M

Women of reproductive age (15-49 yrs)



1.5M

Malnourished pregnant & lactating women



7.1M

Women in need of GBV protection

HIGHLIGHTS: OCTOBER-DECEMBER

Yemen remains one of the world's largest humanitarian crises, with an estimated 21.6 million people requiring humanitarian assistance or protection in 2023. The humanitarian crisis is primarily driven by a continued conflict and the impact of climate change leading to severe economic challenges, which has been exacerbated by critical funding gaps and access challenges.

In 2023, the protracted crisis was compounded by climate change induced natural disasters, forcing 319,445 people to flee their homes, many who have been displaced multiple times. In November 2023, Cyclone Tej that struck southern coastal areas of Yemen, affected an estimated 100,000 households, including 3,000 pregnant women.

The UNFPA-led Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) stepped up its response, expanding its operational presence across 19 severely-affected governorates to ensure the timely and efficient delivery of lifesaving assistance to over 300,000 people. Seventy-five percent of the assisted through the RRM were displaced due to climate related natural disasters, while 25 percent were individuals displaced due to the conflict.

Shortages in funding continued to force aid organizations to reduce or close critical assistance programmes during the year. The 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan, seeking US\$4.34 billion to assist 17.3 million people, was only 39 per cent funded by December 2023.

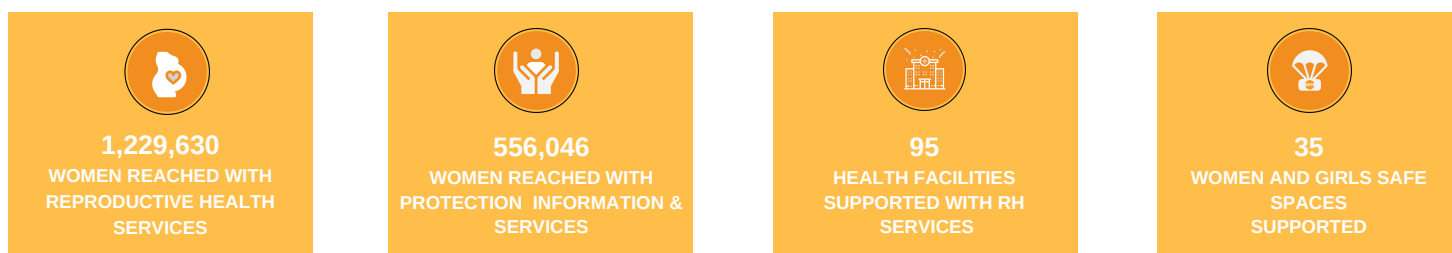
UNFPA's appeal of US\$70 million to sustain programmes for women and girls in 2023 was only funded at 57 per cent by the end of the year.

In 2023, UNFPA's response reached more than 2 million individuals with life-saving reproductive healthcare, protection information and services and emergency relief, with support to 95 health facilities, 35 safe spaces, eight shelters and eight specialized mental health centres.

UNFPA GOVERNORATE RESPONSE

UNFPA's interventions cover 20 of the 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 from January to December are detailed below:

HIGHLIGHTS: JAN- DEC 2023



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

Abyan	46,837	7,898	3	1
Aden	40,354	8,658	2	1
Al Bayda	66,127	5,993	4	1
Al Dhale'e	23,546	0	1	0
Al Hudaydah	111,069	59,927	15	5
Al Jawf	55,077	3,551	4	1
Al Maharah	13,251	14,417	1	1
Al Mahwit	32,805	5,365	3	1
Amanat Al Asimah	49,591	33,040	6	1
Amran	15,685	11,048	3	1
Dhamar	25,113	11,214	2	0
Hadramaut	41,672	32,693	4	2
Hajjah	135,621	26,300	8	3
Ibb	10,974	64,449	3	3
Lahj	14,667	13,162	1	1
Marib	135,200	66,774	6	5
Sa'ada	32,358	5,900	4	1
Sana'a	4,049	5,095	2	1
Shabwah	45,910	21,110	3	1
Taizz	329,724	159,452	20	5
Raymah	0	0	0	0
Socotra	0	0	0	0

DOUBLE THE JOY, AFTER A HARROWING JOURNEY TO GIVE BIRTH IN YEMEN

"I felt death every kilometer to the hospital," tells Halimah, 35, from a remote village in Al Dhahi District, in Al Hudaydah Governorate. Halmiah, eight months pregnant and severely malnourished, was in intolerable labour pain, when her husband used up all his savings to hire a motorcycle – the only quick mode of transport available take Halimah to a health facility. The closest facility was 43 kilometers away.

More than eight years of conflict has impoverished Halimah and her family. "The roads were very rough. I cannot describe the pain. I was holding on to my husband with all the strength left in me so I could save my child," adds Halimah.

Four hours later, Halimah reached Al Dhahi Rural Hospital – a UNFPA supported health facility with funding from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). The health team rushed Halmiah for delivery. Halmiah safely delivered twin girls.

"Thank you for saving my daughters, if not for this hospital and its staff, I don't know if me and my daughters would be alive today" tells a joyful Halimah.

Maternal mortality rates in Yemen remain extremely high; one of the highest in the Middle East and Northern Africa region. Less than half of births are assisted by skilled medical personnel and only one third of births take place in a health facility. Only one in five of the functioning facilities is able to provide maternal and child health services.

UNFPA supports 95 health facilities across the country to provide lifesaving reproductive health services with the financial support of Canada, CERF, European Union, Netherlands, Qatar, USAID and Yemen Humanitarian Pooled Funds.

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. 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 44,670 RRM kits were distributed from January to December 2023. Other highlights for the period June 2018 to December 2023 include:

HIGHLIGHTS FROM JUNE 2018 TO DECEMBER 2023

Since June 2018, RRM kits were delivered to **656,134 families (4.6 million individuals)**.

257,476 RRM kits distributed through the **Al Hudaydah** humanitarian hub from June 2018 to September 2023.

166,061 RRM kits distributed through the **Aden** humanitarian hub from June 2018 to September 2023.

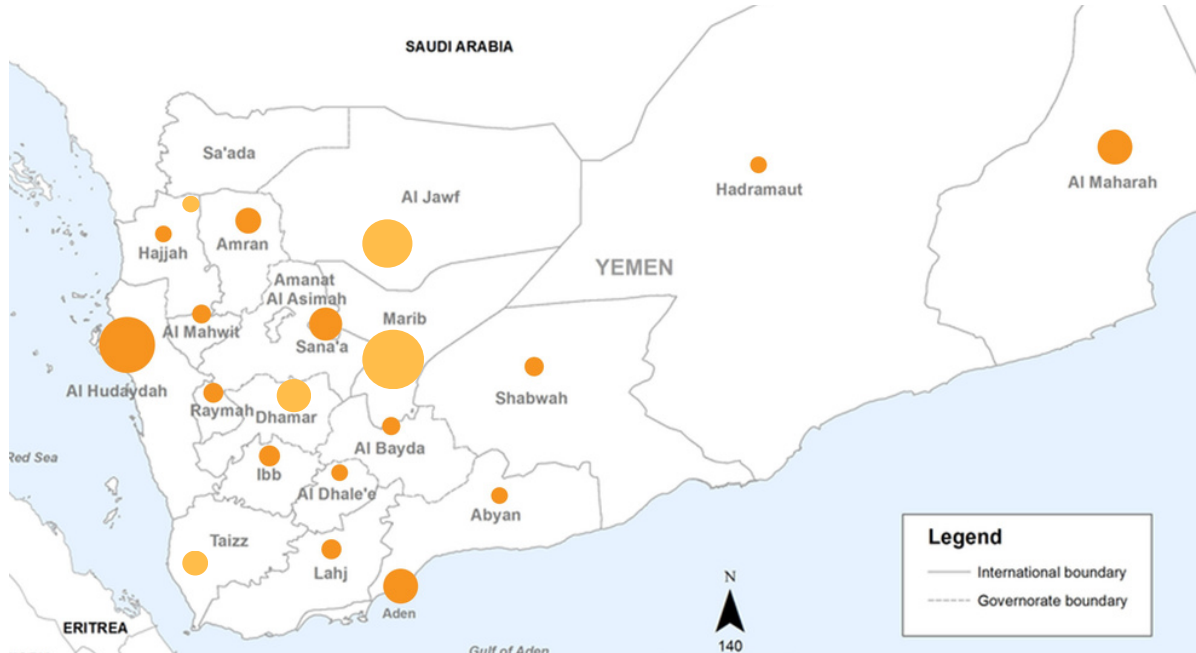
102,019 RRM kits distributed through the **Sana'a** humanitarian hub from June 2018 to September 2023.

33,014 RRM kits distributed through the **Ibb** humanitarian hub from June 2018 to September 2023.

97,564 RRM kits distributed through the **Sa'ada** humanitarian hub from June 2018 to September 2023.



Distribution of rapid response kits to flood-affected families. ©UNFPA Yemen



The RRM is operational country-wide. The map indicates RRM distribution by governorate and volume of distribution.
Donors to the RRM: European Union Humanitarian Aid, USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance and Yemen Humanitarian Fund

PEOPLE REACHED

	NO.
No. of people reached with reproductive health services	1,229,630
No. of safe deliveries supported	116,964
No. of cesarean sections supported	11,795
Individuals reached with family planning services	135,941
Dignity kits distributed	28,903
Individuals reached through the Rapid Response Mechanism	312,690
No. of women reached with protection information & services	556,046
No. of health facilities supported with reproductive health services	95
No. of safe spaces supported	35
No. of women shelters supported	8
No. of supported specialized psychological care centres	8



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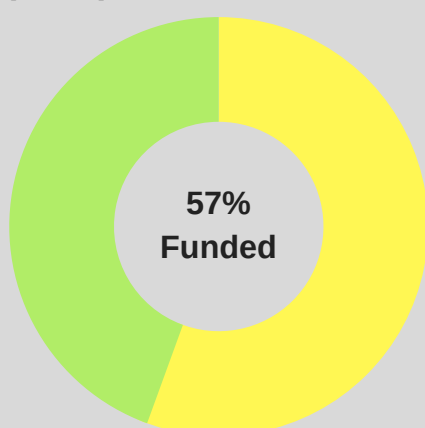
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2023 UNFPA RESPONSE FUNDING STATUS (US\$)

\$70 M
REQUIRED
\$40 M
FUNDED
\$30 M
FUNDING GAP



2023 Donors (alphabetical order): Canada, CERF, European Union, Iceland, KSrelief, Netherlands, Norway, Qatar, 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 .
- 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 for humanitarian operations in conflict-affected areas.
- Delays in transportation of supplies due to bureaucratic impediments.