

# UNFPA Response in Yemen

## SITUATION REPORT



UNFPA Executive Director visits a maternity ward at Al Shaab Hospital in Aden during a visit to Yemen in March 2021.

## FAST FACTS



**20.7M**  
In need of some form of assistance



**12.1M**  
In acute need



**20.1M**  
Lack access to basic health services



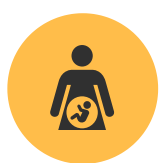
**15.8M**  
In need of protection



**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: JANUARY - JUNE

Yemen remains the world's largest humanitarian crisis and aid operation. **A staggering 20.7 million people, 66 percent of the population, require some form of humanitarian assistance in 2021.** 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.

Women and girls are acutely vulnerable. **An estimated 73 percent of the over 4 million people displaced in Yemen are women and children, while approximately 30 per cent of displaced households are now headed by women,** compared to 9 per cent before the escalation of the conflict in 2015.

**An estimated 5 million women and girls of childbearing age, and 1.7 million pregnant and breastfeeding women, have limited or no access to reproductive health services.** Over 1 million pregnant and breastfeeding women are projected to suffer from acute malnutrition in the course of 2021.

**COVID-19, continues to spread across the country.** By end June 2021, a total of 6,910 cases of COVID-19 and 1,359 associated deaths were reported. However, health partners remain concerned of significant under-reporting of cases. By end June, some 270,601 people in southern parts of Yemen received the first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. Vaccination campaign in the northern parts of the country also commenced in June 2021 but limited to only health workers. **UNFPA is a frontline partner of the COVID-19 response in Yemen.** Since January 2021, more than 200,000 PPE items were provided to 50 hospitals and 100 health workers were trained on infection prevention and control.

**Funding for the aid operation in Yemen remains limited,** despite donors stepping up support compared to 2020. The 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan appeal of \$3.85 billion has received less than 48 percent of the requirement. **UNFPA's \$100 million humanitarian appeal for 2021 remained funded at 39 percent by mid-year.**

**Since January 2021, UNFPA's response has reached more than 1.2 million individuals with lifesaving reproductive health services, protection information and services and emergency relief,** with support to 118 health facilities, 47 safe spaces, 8 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 June are detailed below:

## HIGHLIGHTS: JANUARY - JUNE 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      | 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            | 28,150  | 12,292   | 4  | 1                                     |
| Aden             | 24,851  | 1,502  | 6  | 0                                     |
| Al Bayda         | 20,584  | 6,492  | 3  | 1                                     |
| Al Dhale'e       | 11,279  | 1,289  | 2  | 1                                     |
| Al Hudaydah      | 84,938  | 68,954   | 19   | 8                                     |
| Al Jawf          | 19,066  | 40   | 7  | 1                                     |
| Al Maharah       | 4,876   | 3,995  | 1  | 1                                     |
| Al Mahwit        | 16,560  | 10,058   | 4  | 1                                     |
| Amanat Al Asimah | 31,566  | 16,199   | 6  | 1                                     |
| Amran            | 15,619  | 6,566  | 4  | 2                                     |
| Dhamar           | 30,001  | 6,600  | 5  | 1                                     |
| Hadramaut        | 22,832  | 22,566   | 5  | 2                                     |
| Hajjah           | 76,428  | 18,095   | 8  | 1                                     |
| Ibb              | 26,458  | 33,006   | 7  | 3                                     |
| Lahj             | 2070  | 13,227   | 1  | 4                                     |
| Marib            | 30,567  | 17,023   | 7  | 2                                     |
| Sa'ada           | 18,526  | 1,911  | 4  | 1                                     |
| Sana'a           | 7,784   | 8,065  | 3  | 4                                     |
| Shabwah          | 13,769  | 15,092   | 3  | 1                                     |
| Taizz            | 211,742   | 101,644  | 17   | 11                                    |
| Raymah           | 0   | 0  | 0  | 0                                     |
| Socotra          | 2,746   | 0  | 2  | 0                                     |

## SAFE SPACES HELP WOMEN FACED WITH VIOLENCE TO REBUILD THEIR LIVES

Samar was married at 15 years of age. At 16 years she was pregnant with her first child. Escaping death due to complications during her first pregnancy, Samar consequently went on to have three more children. After the birth of her fourth child, Samar's husband became very ill and turned abusive towards her. The husband's health condition deteriorated drastically and with that the violence and abuse also increased. Soon Samar found herself responsible for the entire family. The pressure of taking care of the family by herself took a toll on Samar's mental health.

"I did not know where to go or what to do. My husband became more and more abusive to the point he threatened to kill me and my children. I was on the verge of collapse when I discovered a safe space for women like me," says Samar.

"Samar arrived at the safe space in a miserable state. I immediately transferred her for psychosocial support. Then we enrolled her in several livelihood skills training courses. During her training period, the safe space gave her a monthly salary that helped her to cover the living costs for her family until she was able to earn for herself," said the safe space manager. After several months of training, Samar was ready to start her own food business.

"I am no longer the weak person I was in the past. I feel like a new person. I have graduated from my last training course. I am preparing to start my own business in manufacturing cakes and sweets," added Samar.

Livelihood support in the form of skills building for women to start their own income generating activities is a key service provided at the safe spaces. This helps to empower women, especially female-headed households to build the skills they need to enter the labour market or start their own business and support their families.

Since the beginning of the year, nearly 15,000 women received livelihood assistance across the 47 safe spaces supported by UNFPA, with the generous contributions from CERF, Iceland, KSRelief, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland.

# 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 200,000 PPE items were distributed to health facilities across the country. Over 50 health facilities have been provided with PPE by mid-year.
- Training of health workers (mainly midwives) on infection prevention control and response mechanisms to provide reproductive health services during the pandemic continued. Nearly 100 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.
- Since January 2021, over 280,000 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

6,910 cases of COVID-19 and 1,359 associated deaths were reported by end June 2021.

**200,000**

PPE items distributed

**80**

Ventilators availed to the pandemic response

**50**

Health facilities provided with PPE

**3**

Telephone hotlines providing tele-counseling services

# 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 19,518 RRM kits were distributed from January to June 2021. Other highlights for the period June 2018 to June 2021 include:

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM JUNE 2018 TO JUNE 2021

Since June 2018, RRM kits were delivered to **459,128 families (over 2.8 million individuals)**.

22,1640 RRM kits distributed through the **Al Hudaydah** humanitarian hub from June 2018 to June 2021

90,927 RRM kits distributed through the **Aden** humanitarian hub from June 2018 to June 2021.

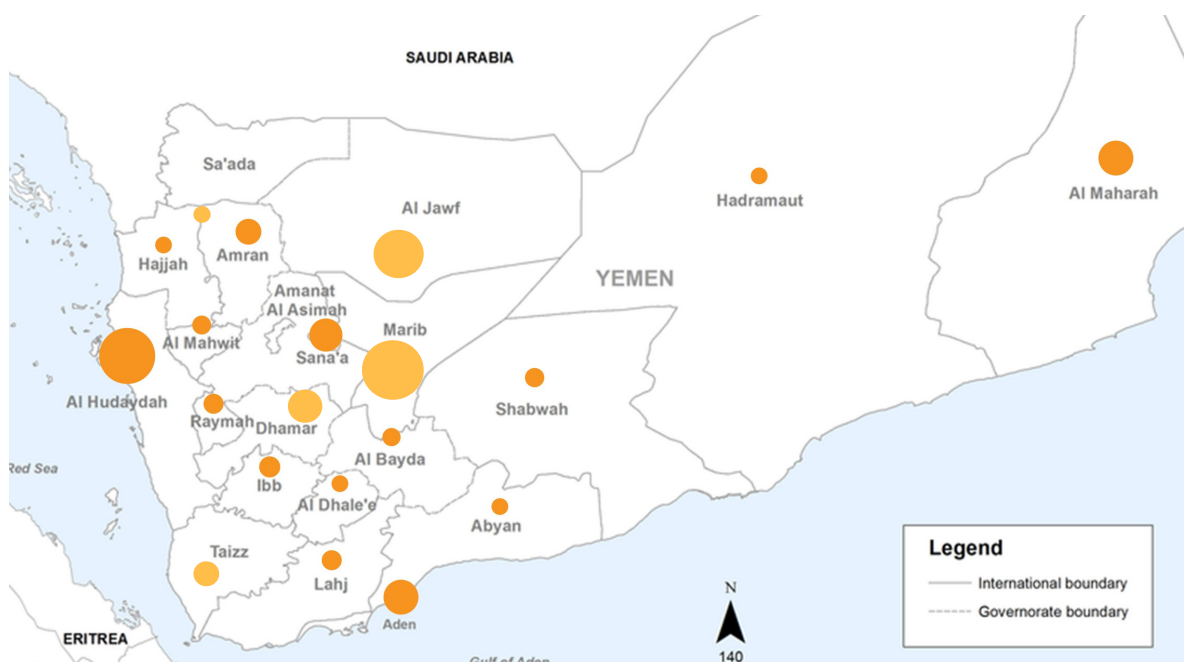
86,996 RRM kits distributed through **Sana'a** humanitarian hub from June 2018 to June 2021.

25,432 RRM kits distributed through the **Ibb** humanitarian hub from June 2018 to June 2021.

34,13 RRM kits distributed through the **Sa'ada** humanitarian hub from June 2018 to June 2021.



Distribution of rapid response kits in Al Jawf and Marib Governorates.



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 (CERF) European Union Humanitarian Aid (ECHO), YHF, HPF

## IN THE NEWS

### PEOPLE REACHED

|  | NO.     |
|--|---------|
| No. of people reached with reproductive health services              | 700,412 |
| No. of safe deliveries supported                                     | 67,154  |
| No. of cesarean sections supported                                   | 10,983  |
| Individuals reached with Family Planning services                    | 132,919 |
| Dignity kits distributed   | 19,938  |
| Individuals reached through the Rapid Response Mechanism             | 136,570 |
| No. of women reached with protection information & services          | 364,616 |
| No. of health facilities supported with reproductive health services | 118     |
| No. of safe spaces supported   | 47      |
| No. of women shelters supported                                      | 8       |
| No. of supported specialized psychological care centres              | 8       |
| No. of mobile protection teams in collective sites                   | 88      |



Pandemic, conflict continue to upend life for women in Yemen  
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UNFPA Executive Director appeals for peace and increased support during mission to Yemen  
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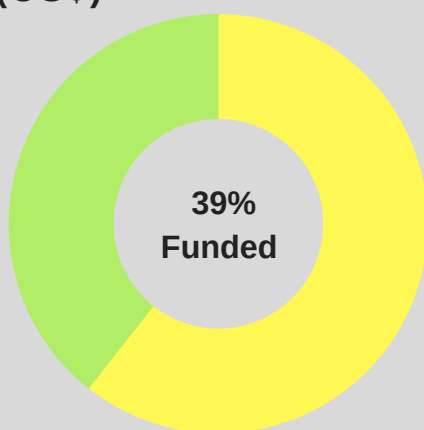
The Republic of Korea partners with UNFPA to improve access to maternal health services  
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### 2021 HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN FUNDING STATUS (US\$)

**\$100 M**  
REQUIRED

**\$39.3M**  
FUNDED

**\$60.7M**  
FUNDING GAP



**2021 Donors** (alphabetical order): CERF, European Union, Humanitarian Pooled Fund, Iceland, Netherlands, Norway, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Switzerland, 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.