

# UNFPA Response in Yemen

## MONTHLY SITUATION REPORT



UNFPA-supported health facility in Hajjah safely delivers twins. ©BFD

## 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)



**1.0M**

Pregnant women malnourished



**120,000**

Women and girls at risk of violence

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

**The humanitarian crisis in Yemen continues to worsen;** characterized by increasing needs – including hunger and COVID-19 – escalating conflict, and a collapsing economy. An estimated 24 million people – about 80 per cent of the population – is in need of humanitarian aid and protection. Millions of Yemenis who depend on aid for survival are now hanging by a thread as humanitarian agencies, including UNFPA, run out of money to fund lifesaving assistance, while humanitarian needs continue to grow.

**COVID-19 continued to spread across the country in July.** By 31 July 2020, 1,732 confirmed cases of COVID-19 had been reported with 494 deaths and 864 recoveries. **UNFPA remains a frontline partner to the COVID-19 response,** ensuring the protection of health workers and women and girls accessing reproductive health services.

**A fuel crisis that hit northern governorates in July added another shock to the humanitarian situation.** If the fuel crisis continues, it poses a serious risk for the operation of services and programmes which are likely to reduce or shut down, including healthcare and protection services.

**More than US\$3.2 billion is required for the humanitarian response in Yemen in 2020.** With only around \$650 million of the \$1.35 billion pledged received by the end of July, the aid operation in Yemen is teetering on the brink of collapse with grave ramifications for millions of Yemenis who rely on humanitarian assistance for survival.

**UNFPA's appeal for \$100.5 million in 2020 received only 53 per cent by end July.** If this funding trajectory continues, UNFPA will be forced to suspend operations further, including operations of the rapid response mechanism by August and women's protection programme by October 2020. To keep reaching the most vulnerable women and girls up to the end of the year, **UNFPA requires \$47.1 million with an additional \$20 million to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.**

Despite limited funding and challenges in operation on the ground, since the beginning of the year, **UNFPA's response has reached over 1.3 million women and girls with lifesaving reproductive health and protection information and services,** with support to 56 health facilities, 48 safe spaces, 8 shelters and 7 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 July is detailed below:

## HIGHLIGHTS: JULY 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
Abyan	886	1,406	1	1
Aden	1,903	611	4	0
Al Bayda	1,635	1,733	1	1
Al Dhale'e	1,954	401	1	1
Al Hudaydah	16,793	5,427	15	7
Al Jawf	1,292	464	3	1
Al Mahwit	2,165	475	1	1
Al Maharah	1,052	1,056	1	1
Amanat Al Asimah	2,830	4,855	1	1
Amran	3,017	1,830	3	2
Dhamar	1,136	2,977	1	1
Hadramaut	2,381	5,976	2	2
Hajjah	11,793	6,476	6	4
Ibb	435	8,759	1	3
Lahj	0	3,152	0	2
Marib	4,790	4,935	2	2
Sa'ada	1,558	2,486	1	2
Sana'a	522	1,578	1	3
Shabwah	0	5,663	0	1
Taizz	12,426	73,890	11	11
Raymah	0	1,685	0	1
Socotra	0	0	0	0

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

## RESUMPTION OF REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES IN HAJJAH HELPS TO SAVE LIVES

Eltaf was ready to deliver at home, when she started to experience severe bleeding and needed urgent access to a health facility.

"When Eltaf arrived at the Al-Shael Health Centre, she was in a critical condition and needed referral to a tertiary health facility. Yet, there was no time. I was afraid that she and her baby would die before they reached the referral hospital. My team and I took a decision to save Eltaf and her baby at all cost," said Dr. Eshraq, the gynaecologist at the health centre.

"First we worked to stop the bleeding and then we helped to deliver her baby, who was suffering from asphyxia," she explained.

"Our health centre only provides basic emergency obstetric and newborn care. It is like a miracle that we saved Eltaf and her baby with the resources we have. I am proud of my team; midwife Huda and nurse Raya," tells Dr. Eshraq.

In mid-May, just as the COVID-19 pandemic arrived in Yemen, funding for UNFPA's life-saving reproductive health services dried up. UNFPA was forced to suspend the provision of reproductive health care in 140 out of 180 health facilities, one of which was the Al-Shael Health Centre in Hajjah. With funding from European Union Humanitarian Aid, UNFPA was able to resume the provision of reproductive health services at the Centre in July and support health workers like Dr. Eshraq and her team. Yet, reproductive health services in 124 health facilities across the country remain suspended until new funding becomes available.

# 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

- UNFPA has availed its 40 ventilators for the humanitarian response to the pandemic and another 40 ventilators have been shipped into the country. This month, UNFPA distributed 100 oxygen cylinders to COVID-19 dedicated hospitals.
- Infection prevention and personal equipment provided to 200 health facilities.
- A national manual/guidelines developed for healthcare providers for the provision of reproductive health services under COVID-19 in partnership with the Ministry of Health and UN agencies.
- Training on infection prevention control for the delivery of reproductive health services was conducted for 48 reproductive health workers across 14 health facilities in July.
- 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.
- Online infection prevention and control training for reproductive health working group members and health personnel continued in July.

## 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 July.
- 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 July, 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

1,732 cases of COVID-19 and 494 deaths were reported by 31 July 2020.

Top to bottom: Distribution of oxygen cylinders to COVID-19 dedicated hospitals, awareness raising in displaced camps and training on mitigation measure among health workers.

# 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 5,300 RRM kits were distributed in July 2020. Other highlights for the period June 2018 to July 2020 include:

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM JUNE 2018 TO JULY 2020

Since June 2018, RRM kits were delivered to **392,217 families (over 2.35 million individuals)**.

202,656 RRM kits distributed through the **Al Hudaydah** humanitarian hub from June 2018 to July 2020

69,413 RRM kits distributed through the **Aden** humanitarian hub from June 2018 to July 2020.

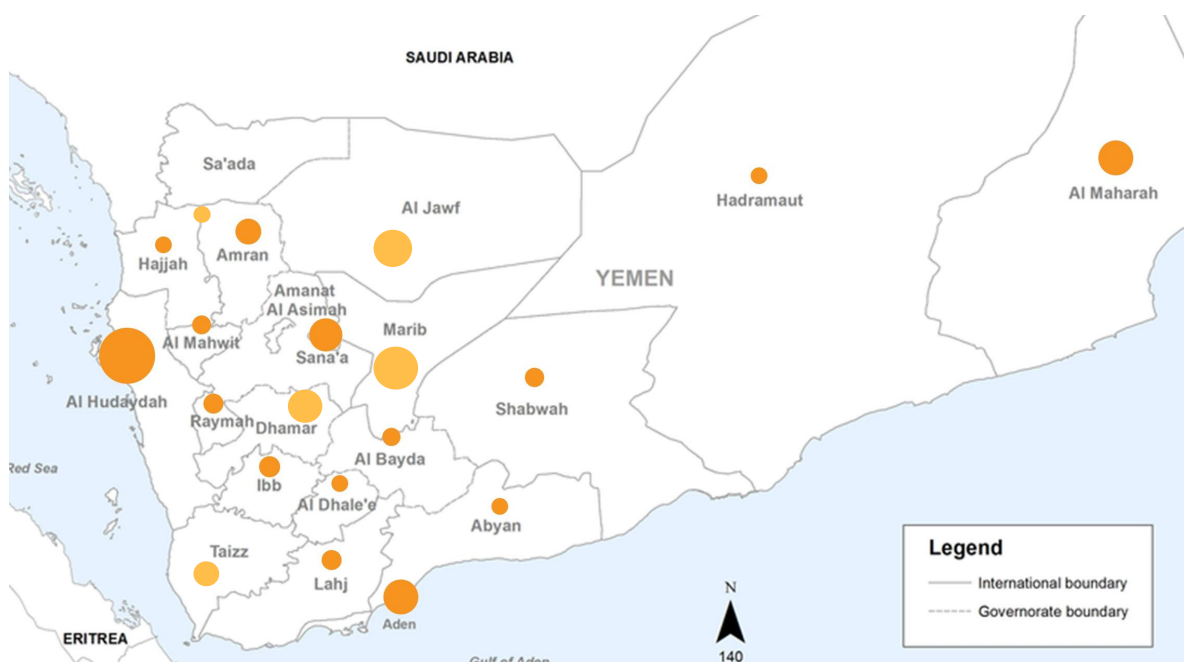
71,816 RRM kits distributed through **Sana'a** humanitarian hub from June 2018 to July 2020.

20,601 RRM kits distributed through the **Ibb** humanitarian hub from June 2018 to July 2020.

27,731 RRM kits distributed through the **Sa'ada** humanitarian hub from June 2018 to July 2020.



Distribution of rapid response kits to displaced families in Al Jawf Governorate.



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

Donors to the RRM: European Union Humanitarian Aid

## IN THE NEWS

### PEOPLE REACHED

	NO.
No. of people reached with reproductive health services	628,624
No. of safe deliveries supported	87,988
No. of cesarean sections supported	18,324
Individuals reached with Family Planning services	195,064
Dignity kits distributed	44,694
No. of women reached with protection information & services	679,909
No. of health facilities supported with reproductive health services	56
No. of safe spaces supported	48
No. of women shelters supported	8
No. of specialized psychological care centres	7
No. of mobile protection teams in collective sites	88



European Union provides vital funding to sustain life-saving services for women and girls in Yemen  
**Read more...**



Saudi Arabia Supports UNFPA to meet the Urgent Reproductive Health Needs in West Coast of Yemen  
**Read more...**



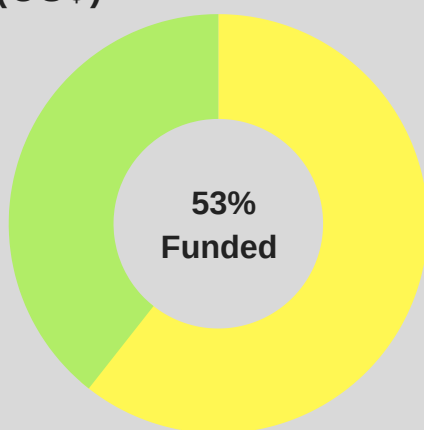
Yemeni women join the fight against COVID-19  
**Watch...**

### 2020 HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN FUNDING STATUS (US\$)

**\$100.5 M**  
REQUIRED

**\$53.4M**  
FUNDED

**\$47.1 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, European Union Humanitarian Aid, Denmark, Iceland, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, UNICEF, WHO, Yemen Humanitarian Pooled Fund