



In collaboration with RADF, UNHCR conducted a distribution of Non-Food Items (NFIs) to displaced individuals, including Abdullah, in Shabat Al Sadat in August 2023 | © UNHCR/RADF

YEMEN

Yemen's conflict has wrecked the economy and reversed previous development gains, leaving an estimated 21.6 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. 4.5 million people are internally displaced in the country, and 71,400 people, mainly Somalis and Ethiopians, are registered as refugees and asylum-seekers. There have been breakthroughs in the refugee programme, such as the resumption of new refugee registration in the north mid-2023, and the resumption of registration for children of already registered refugees at the end of 2022. Humanitarian access restrictions, bureaucratic impediments, shrinking humanitarian space and underfunding are all hampering UNHCR's capacity to deliver a comprehensive package of services to refugees, asylum-seekers, IDPs, and IDP returnees.

The one-year anniversary of the truce that was signed in April 2022 and expired in October 2022 has left Yemen in a transitional phase with ongoing talks to renew the ceasefire. With the prospects for peace, there is increasing focus on durable solutions for the internally displaced – voluntary return, local integration and settlement elsewhere – for which UNHCR is playing a leading role.

The protection risks for refugees, asylum-seekers, IDPs and IDP returnees are acute, exacerbated by insecurity, economic collapse, and the limited availability of basic services. According to the

Protection Cluster's analysis, the protection environment did not improve for displaced persons during the truce. Yemenis have long exhausted their savings and are struggling to find livelihood opportunities and ways to cope with soaring food and fuel prices. The protection space continues to shrink, with violations of international humanitarian and human rights law and access to basic services, particularly affecting vulnerable groups among the displaced and marginalised groups. Women and children, who represent an estimated 74% of the displaced population, often have limited access to services and face specific risks linked to prevailing traditional social norms and customs.

UNHCR is the sole provider of support and services to refugees and asylum-seekers, who have little prospect for inclusion/local integration, amidst increasing pressure from the authorities for return to their country of origin.

UNHCR's cash assistance has proved critical for mitigating socioeconomic vulnerabilities, deterring people from harmful coping mechanisms that trigger protection risks, and generating positive outcomes. Cash assistance accounts for 35% of UNHCR Yemen's protection and assistance to vulnerable populations. But chronic underfunding of the response for refugees, mainly Somalis and Ethiopians, continued to leave huge protection and assistance needs unattended.



POPULATION OF FORCIBLY DISPLACED AND STATELESS PEOPLE AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

Overall: **4,616,274**

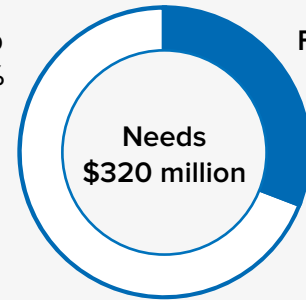
Largest population group: IDP - **4,523,022 / 98%**



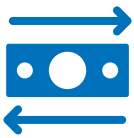
FUNDING

Gap
69%

Funded
31%



AREAS CUT OR SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED



Cash assistance – \$61 million: the funding gap facing the multi-purpose cash and emergency cash assistance is at risk of leaving 1,220,000 refugees and IDPs unassisted. Without additional funds, people in need of this life-saving assistance will be unable to cover their basic needs such as food, shelter or WASH, or mitigate protection risks. They may resort to harmful coping mechanisms such as child labour and reduced food consumption to cover for their basic needs.



Shelter – \$48.4 million: the funding gap for the shelter programme is at risk of leaving 300,000 people unassisted. The continued shortage of shelter assistance exposes the most vulnerable to Yemen's harsh weather, particularly in the winter and summer. In addition, sub-standard living conditions multiply risks such as the spread of communicable diseases, and expose women and girls in particular to protection risks.



Protection – \$21.7 million: the funding gap for protection is putting at risk 480,445 forcibly displaced people. The life-saving protection services in danger of being cut or reduced include psychosocial support; prevention and response to gender-based violence; social and empowerment activities for women and girls; well-being activities for children; legal counselling and assistance.



CCCM – \$2.5 million: the funding gap for camp coordination and camp management is putting at risk 250,000 people. At the beginning of the year UNHCR had to shift from site management to site monitoring and reduce the number of IDP sites being monitored to 158 (out of a total of 2,431 in Yemen). Without additional funds, the lack of adequate management of IDP hosting sites will undermine the presence and quality of on-site WASH, shelter, and protection services, severely affecting the living conditions of Yemenis already living in extremely dire conditions, in makeshift shelters, and exposed to the harsh climate.



Health – \$3.6 million: the funding gap for health services is leaving 10,000 refugees at risk. Rampant inflation has led to increased prices of medicines, and diagnostic and hospital fees. Coupled with underfunding and increased requests for assistance, UNHCR has had to prioritize its primary health assistance to life saving cases. UNHCR may have to further reduce its support to persons living with disabilities in terms of provision of assistive devices such as hearing aids, electronic wheelchairs, and artificial limbs.

AREAS AT CRITICAL RISK AND IN NEED OF URGENT FUNDING



Shelter - \$5.4 million: will help improve the housing conditions of 33,500 forcibly displaced people.



CCCM - \$2.5 million: will provide increased maintenance, infrastructure, and flood mitigation support to those living in IDP sites monitored by UNHCR.



Well-being and basic needs - \$5.3 million: will provide critical assistance to 112,800 of the most vulnerable refugees and internally displaced, returnees and voluntary repatriation.



Protection - \$4.1 million: will provide critical lifesaving protection assistance to 277,000 vulnerable forcibly displaced people.



Health - \$3.6 million: will support 10,000 of the most vulnerable refugees with primary health care assistance.

Funds available to the operation must reach 2021 levels of \$176.38 million, if not more.



Abdul-qader is part of the first group of 150 Somali returnees to leave Aden port by boat | © UNHCR/Dotnotion