



Situation Report #04

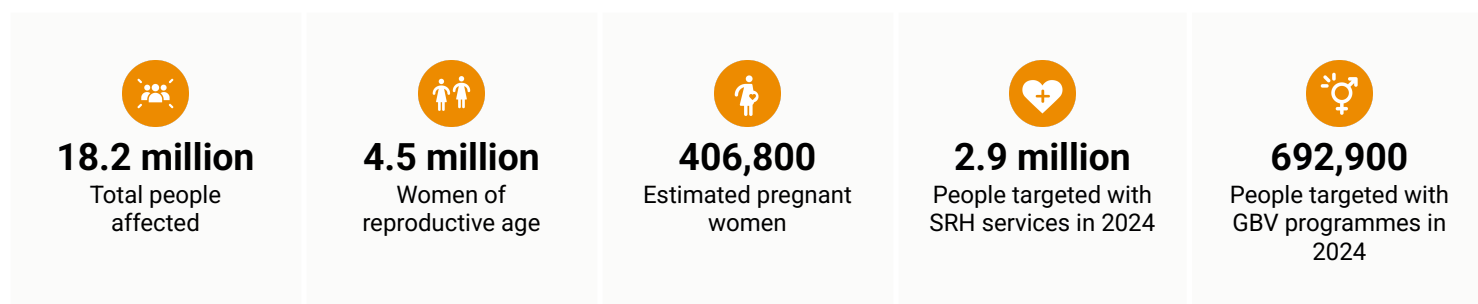
Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen



Photo: © UNFPA/Yemen

Country:	Yemen
Emergency type:	Conflict and natural disasters
Start Date of Crisis:	March, 2015
Date Issued:	January 28, 2025
Covering Period:	October 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024
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Key Figures



Highlights

- 2024 was another challenging year for the people of Yemen. Economic contractions, weakened essential services, and climate shocks compounded the decade-long protection and humanitarian crisis. This was in spite of a decrease in conflict-induced displacement and new road openings that helped to increase civilians' freedom of

movement, the flow of commercial goods, and facilitated better access to public services and returns across frontlines.

- The ongoing regional tensions and escalation in the Red Sea, with airstrikes on Red Sea ports and Sana'a International Airport, continue to endanger the vital flow of food, fuel, and medical supplies, including essential reproductive health commodities, that support life-saving care for millions of women and girls. Yemen relies on imports for over two-thirds of its food and some 90 per cent of all medicines and medical supplies.
- In 2024, UNFPA reached more than 2.5 million people with life-saving reproductive healthcare, protection information and services, and emergency relief, supporting 124 health facilities, 44 safe spaces, eight shelters, six youth spaces, and seven specialized mental health centers.

Situation Overview

- **Yemen is one of the world's largest humanitarian crises**, with over half of the country's 34.4 million people requiring humanitarian assistance. The economic situation across the country has deteriorated and basic services have faltered. With families struggling financially, many are resorting to desperate measures to survive, including child marriage. In addition, a liquidity crisis in 2024 prevented people from accessing banking deposits, further straining fragile business operations and also delaying major humanitarian programmes.
- **Yemen ranks as the world's third most vulnerable country to climate shocks**. Around half of the population is already exposed to at least one significant climate hazard, including chronic flooding, which affected 1.3 million people and displaced half a million people in 2024. Of the nearly 516,000 people displaced between January and November, nearly all (93 per cent or approximately 480,000 individuals) were displaced by climate-related shocks.
- The deteriorating health system is struggling to provide basic healthcare services, especially for reproductive health in remote and underserved areas. **Only 45 per cent of births are attended by trained personnel**, with significant disparities in health outcomes between urban and rural areas. **Yemen has borne the heaviest global burden of cholera, responsible for 35% of the world's cases and 18% of global reported mortality. By the end of December 2024, the World Health Organization (WHO) reported over 235,000 cases of acute watery diarrhea and cholera in the country.**
- The implementation of the humanitarian response, especially for UNFPA, continues to be challenged by limited humanitarian access, restrictions of the movement of female national staff, and security and bureaucratic impediments.

UNFPA Response

Reproductive Health

- UNFPA, in close coordination with local authorities and humanitarian partners, is focused on improving the delivery of maternal and neonatal health services to those most in need. This includes the provision of reproductive health commodities, medicines, cash assistance, equipment, and incentives for health care workers to ensure the sustained provision of reproductive health services.
- Following severe floods across Yemen in the last quarter of 2024, UNFPA is supporting the rehabilitation and maintenance of 31 flood-affected health facilities.
- In November, UNFPA, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health in Aden, launched a six-day campaign to increase demand for reproductive health



Map Sources: UNICEF, ESRI. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Map created in Sep 2013.

services in south Yemen, starting with 13 districts in Aden and Ta'izz Governorates. Within six days, more than 150,000 women and girls of childbearing age accessed reproductive health services. The campaign has been able to garner the support of governmental bodies, decision-makers, and the community at large, in turn helping to create a more enabling environment for the provision of quality reproductive health services.

- UNFPA continues to support health institutes with pre-service training for students, on-the-job training for midwives, as well as anatomical models for training purposes to improve the quality of service delivery.
- Two mobile clinics deployed to Marib governorate are providing an integrated package of reproductive health, medical consultations, nutrition services, and immunizations for women and children in remote and underserved areas, including camps for displaced persons.
- UNFPA is supporting 60 midwifery students and 50 midwives operating out of home-based clinics to improve access to reproductive health services in remote and hard-to-reach areas. During the reporting period, 143 midwives were trained in maternal and newborn care, reproductive health counselling, and family planning methods.
- Forty-seven women are receiving treatment and care following surgical repairs for obstetric fistula at UNFPA-supported fistula centers in Sana'a and Aden Governorates. The most common cause of obstetric fistula is lack of access to comprehensive emergency obstetric care when women experience prolonged labor, highlighting the challenges pregnant women face in obtaining skilled and timely obstetric care in Yemen.
- UNFPA is continuing to invest in the provision of essential medical support services, such as medical counseling and referral services for reproductive health, in addition to the integration of women's protection and reproductive health services, in order to enhance the overall quality of health service delivery.

Women's Protection

- Nearly 11,000 women were reached with multisectoral services through the UNFPA-implemented case management system across 20 governorates. Services provided include psychosocial support, specialized psychological services, medical assistance, and legal aid.
- Since October, nine new women and girls' safe spaces have been established. UNFPA also supported the renovation of a safe space established by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour in Aden. In total, 44 safe spaces are supported by UNFPA in 20 governorates of Yemen, providing multisectoral protection services for women and girls, including life skills, vocational training, and awareness raising. More than 8,200 women were supported with life skills and vocational training in the reporting period.
- Eight shelters, established by UNFPA in seven governorates, continue to provide gender-based violence (GBV) survivors with immediate shelter and safety to escape abuse and protection from further violence. In addition, life-saving protection services are provided to ensure survivors' healing and recovery.
- During the reporting period, more than 110,000 women, men, boys, and girls were reached with awareness-raising sessions on a range of topics including GBV risk mitigation, prevention, and response across 62 districts. In addition, six community dialogues were conducted with the participation of religious leaders and public figures to build community engagement in women's protection. Six advocacy documents at the grassroots level were signed by tribal leaders, local governing councils, and religious leaders, pledging their support to advocate for women and girls' rights, including girls' education and ending child marriage.
- Under the UNFPA-UNICEF Joint Programme on the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), UNFPA advocated for the prevention of FGM through collaborations with grassroots networks, including religious leaders, men's groups, women's networks, and peer groups in universities. Such collaborations help to increase sustainable community-led interventions for the elimination of FGM.
- From October to December, more than 150,000 people received mental health services through seven psychological care centers supported by UNFPA – over three quarters of them were GBV survivors.

- Ongoing response challenges, particularly in the north, include restrictions on protection interventions for implementing partners and “Maharam” restrictions, where women must be accompanied by a close male family member to travel.

Young People

- In the fourth quarter, 121,200 young people were reached with reproductive health information and services, awareness sessions, psychosocial support, and skills building through two youth centers and four mobile youth health clinics, operational in Aden, Ta’izz, and Hadramout Governorates.
- Fifty young people (25 women, 25 men) benefitted from entrepreneurial skills building in northern parts of Yemen.
- Thirty members of the Youth, Peace, and Security Pact were trained in dialogue and mediation to advance youth leadership in peace and security. The Pact, established in 2020, seeks to enhance the role of youth in peace-building and decision-making processes at the national and sub-national levels.

Rapid Response Mechanism

- From October to December 2024, the UNFPA-led multisectoral Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) delivered life-saving assistance to more than 43,000 individuals affected by conflict and natural disasters. Among those assisted, 81 per cent were impacted by climate-induced events, while 19 per cent were affected by the conflict.

Results Snapshots (October - December 2024)



487,182
 People reached with **RH services**
 86% Female, 14% Male





124
 Health facilities supported







293,108
 People reached with **GBV prevention, mitigation and response activities**
 87% Female, 13% Male



44
Safe Spaces for women and girls supported

	4,622	Dignity kits distributed to individuals
	6,210	People reached with Humanitarian Cash and Voucher Assistance for GBV and reproductive health (RH)

	6	Youth spaces and youth health clinics supported by UNFPA
	8	Women's shelters supported by UNFPA
	6	Specialized psychological care centers supported by UNFPA
	2	Mobile reproductive health clinics supported by UNFPA

Coordination Mechanisms

Women's Protection:

- UNFPA leads the Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility (AoR) under the Protection Cluster with the Yemeni Women Union, a women-led organization as its co-coordinator. The AoR operates at the national and sub-national levels with a presence in five UN hubs.
- UNFPA leads the implementation of core cluster functions, bringing together partners working on women's protection, including UN agencies and international and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The AoR aims to address both immediate humanitarian service delivery and effective prevention and risk reduction strategies for women's protection.
- UNFPA also leads information gathering to inform strategic decisions related to GBV prevention and mitigation through data collection, analysis, and a dashboard. UNFPA leads the process of GBV humanitarian planning (Humanitarian Response Plan), implementation, resource mobilization, training, and monitoring of activities under the GBV AoR.

Reproductive Health:

- UNFPA co-leads the Reproductive Health Working Group with the Ministry of Health under the health cluster at the national and governorate level (coordinated through the UN hubs).
- UNFPA maintains a physical presence in all UN hubs, each staffed with a reproductive health coordinator, who leads the coordination of reproductive health interventions under the working group, provides technical support to implementing partners, and conducts on-the-ground monitoring. This ensures adherence to quality standards, a commitment to the "leave no one behind" principle, while focusing on reaching the most vulnerable populations.

✦ Other working groups led by UNFPA

- UNFPA chairs the inter-agency working group on youth alongside UNDP.
- UNFPA leads the UN Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM), a coordinated inter-agency platform that includes UNICEF, WFP, and IOM, to deliver immediate, life-saving assistance to displaced families within 72 hours of activation following conflict or climate-induced crises. UNFPA's role involves overseeing strategic coordination, resource mobilization, and the development of implementation strategies. UNFPA leads the flow of information, the pre-positioning of supplies in collaboration and coordination with local authorities and partners, and the delivery of RRM kits, which include emergency ready-to-eat rations, basic hygiene items, and dignity kits tailored to women's needs.
- UNFPA also ensures the integration of protection and gender considerations into the RRM mechanism while enabling cohesive inter-agency collaboration and long-term recovery planning.

Funding Status

In 2024, UNFPA appealed for US\$ 70 million in funding to maintain its critical support for women and girls aligning to the Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan.

UNFPA's appeal for 2024 was 69 per cent funded by December 2024.

Donors to UNFPA's humanitarian response in 2024 include Canada, the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), European Union, Iceland, Japan, Netherlands, Norway and USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance.

