

UNFPA Response in Yemen

MONTHLY SITUATION REPORT



Midwife at a UNFPA-supported maternity unity in Al Hudaydah ©UNFPA Yemen

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 scale, severity and complexity of needs in Yemen are staggering; with the crisis into its sixth year, **24 million people, 80 per cent of the entire population, continue to require some form of assistance or protection. The country has lost US\$90 billion in economic output, and gross domestic product has declined by 50 per cent**, one of the steepest declines anywhere in the world. Lack of resources is disrupting core life-saving services for millions of people, including reproductive health and women's protection services.

Funding shortages are making it increasingly difficult for humanitarian actors to meet the staggering needs of the humanitarian crisis, with 31 out of UN's 41 major humanitarian programmes expected to reduce or shut unless funding becomes available within the coming months. **UNFPA's appeal for \$100.5 million towards its humanitarian response in 2020 has thus far received only \$41.7 million.**

On 10 April, Yemen announced its first laboratory-confirmed case of COVID-19. By end of April, six more cases were reported. Epidemiologists warn that the virus could spread faster, more widely and with deadlier consequences in Yemen than in many other countries, resulting from five years of war which has severely degraded the health infrastructure, lowered immunity levels and increased vulnerabilities. UNFPA as a front-line partner to the COVID-19 response in Yemen is working closely with the Ministry of Health, WHO and UNICEF. As lead of the GBV-Sub-cluster and Inter-Agency Working Group on Reproductive Health, UNFPA is positioning reproductive health and gender-based violence into the response. In April, 53 health facilities were provided with infection prevention equipment, including at the health facility where the first case of COVID-19 was isolated and treated.

Torrential rains and flooding since mid-April impacted more than 100,000 people across Yemen. In response, the UNFPA-led UN Rapid Response Mechanism was activated. More than 5,000 flood-affected individuals in Sana'a, Aden City, Mukala and Ibb were assisted with emergency relief.

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 April are detailed below:

HIGHLIGHTS: APRIL 2020



GOVERNORATE	PEOPLE REACHED		SERVICES DELIVERED	
	Women reached with reproductive health services	Women reached with protection services*	Health facilities supported with RH services	Women and girls safe spaces supported
Abyan	2,979	724	6	1
Aden	3,505	374	7	0
Al Bayda	3,453	435	6	1
Al Dhale'e	2,509	-	5	1
Al Hudaydah	15,404	2,432	31	5
Al Jawf	2,090	-	8	1
Al Mahwit	4,080	261	6	1
Al Maharah	609	2,298	2	1
Amanat Al Asimah	5,988	1,636	5	0
Amran	3,447	141	5	1
Dhamar	4,447	1,323	7	1
Hadramaut	5,628	5,943	9	2
Hajjah	12,079	3,139	12	4
Ibb	10,878	2,380	20	3
Lahj	496	472	3	3
Marib	3,595	885	3	2
Sa'ada	2,730	4,306	10	1
Sana'a	2,923	764	6	2
Shabwah	2,777	1,070	8	1
Taizz	23,083	3,181	30	10
Raymah	0	1,246	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.

DISPLACED WOMEN HELPING TO CURB THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

"My husband passed away from the war, and when the fighting in our area escalated, I decided to leave our home in Al Hudaydah Governorate with my three children. We left behind our land, sheep, firewood, my sewing machine and everything we owned. I became a widow, a breadwinner and an IDP."

"Now, I live with my three children in a small shop. Living conditions are very difficult. One of my children has a mental condition and needs medication. When I arrived in Ramyah I had almost no money to keep feeding my children, I was desperate for help. Women in the area referred to me to a safe space. I joined the safe space in order to find a source of income so I can look after my children. Everyone at the safe space was very supportive to me and encouraged me to join a livelihood programme on dressmaking."

At the moment I am sewing masks for families in displaced camps who cannot afford to buy them from the market. I am sewing them with so much care and satisfaction because I can help someone else who is displaced like me." --- Ruba* *name changed for privacy

Women, like Ruba at UNFPA-supported safe spaces are spearheading a community effort to provide face masks to displaced people and their communities to protect themselves from COVID-19. More than 15,000 face masks were produced since the beginning of April. UNFPA currently supports 42 safe spaces with funding from Iceland, Japan, 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

- UNFPA has availed its 40 ventilators for the response to the pandemic, and another 40 ventilators are being shipped to the country. Equipment is pre-positioned and ready to be deployed to health facilities as needed.
- UNFPA provided infection prevention equipment and supplies to Al-Shihr Hospital in Hadramout where the first case of COVID-19 was admitted and isolated. The hospital and the maternity department in particular was disinfected and all nurses and midwives at the hospital provided with personal protection equipment. Reproductive health services at the hospital continued with support from UNFPA.
- In April, infection prevention and personal equipment was provided to 53 health facilities.
- Community awareness sessions are being conducted by UNFPA partners with the production and distribution of 500,000 leaflets on COVID-19 for pregnant and breastfeeding mothers as per WHO guidelines.

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 sessions on protection and prevention of COVID-19 targeting IDP camps.
- Large-scale distribution of information materials on prevention of COVID-19 in markets, qat centres, restaurants and transportation, walls of safe spaces, surrounding buildings and sharing at private women's gathering continued in April.
- Public service announcements on prominent locations to increase public understanding on COVID-19 prevention measures continued in April.
- Individual and group psychosocial support sessions conducted at UNFPA-supported specialized psychological care centres to reduce the state of fear and panic associated with the disease continued.



RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM

- The UNFPA-led Rapid Response Mechanism in partnership with UNICEF and WFP is assisting those in quarantine centres. More than 10,000 people at quarantine centres have been provided with relief assistance. This includes, ready to eat food provided by WFP, hygiene kits provided by UNICEF and transit kit provided by UNFPA.



FUNDING REQUIREMENT

UNFPA, is appealing for USD **\$24 million** to respond to an outbreak of COVID-19 in Yemen as part of UNFPA's [global appeal](#) to respond to the disease.

NUMBER OF CASES

Six cases of COVID-19 and no deaths were reported during the month of April 2020.

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 7,900 RRM kits were distributed in April 2020. Other highlights for the period June 2018 to April 2020 include:

HIGHLIGHTS FROM JUNE 2018 TO APRIL 2020

Since June 2018, RRM kits were delivered to **380,399 families (over 2.28 million individuals)**.

199,561 RRM kits distributed through the **Al Hudaydah** humanitarian hub from June 2018 to April 2020.

66,231 RRM kits distributed through the **Aden** humanitarian hub from June 2018 to April 2020.

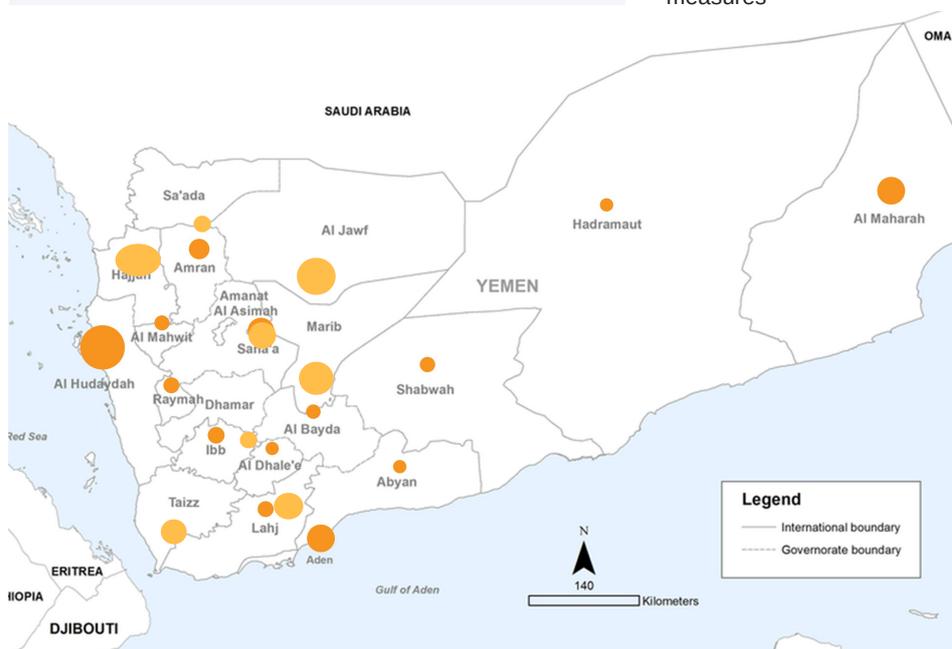
69,772 RRM kits distributed through **Sana'a** humanitarian hub from June 2018 to April 2020.

19,929 RRM kits distributed through the **Ibb** humanitarian hub from June 2018 to April 2020.

24,924 RRM kits distributed through the **Sa'ada** humanitarian hub from June 2018 to April 2020.



Distribution of rapid response kits to displaced families with COVID-19 mitigation measures



FLASH UPDATE Escalation in Marib, Al Jawf and Sana'a Governorates



70,428 individuals assisted with Rapid Response Mechanism



10,981 displaced people assisted with mobile reproductive health services



7,744 displaced women assisted with protection services

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

Donors to the RRM: European Union Humanitarian Aid, Yemen Humanitarian Pooled Fund

IN THE NEWS

PEOPLE REACHED

	NO.
No. of people reached with reproductive health services	411,561
No. of safe deliveries supported	55,882
No. of cesarean sections supported	10,818
Individuals reached with Family Planning services	132,911
Dignity kits distributed	32,037
No. of women reached with protection services	279,817
No. of health facilities supported with reproductive health services	189
No. of safe spaces supported	42
No. of women shelters supported	8
No. of specialized psychological care centres	7
No. of mobile protection teams in collective sites	88



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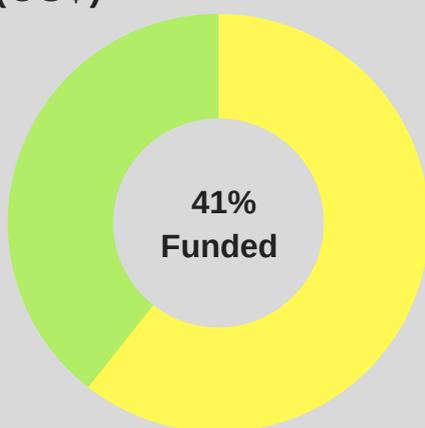
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2020 HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN FUNDING STATUS (US\$)

\$100.5 M
REQUIRED

\$41.7M
FUNDED

\$58.8 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