



UNFPA RESPONSE IN YEMEN

Monthly Situation Report #11 – December 2016



Young boys at school express their ideas on reproductive health through art, as part of 10 days of activism organised by Y-PEER Yemen and UNFPA.

Key Figures

18.8 million
People in need

10.3 million
People in acute need

14.8 million
People lack access to basic health services

8.8 million
People targeted for life-saving interventions with acute needs

2.0 million
People displaced by conflict

2.2 million
Women of girls of reproductive age

352,000
Pregnant women

52,285
Women of reproductive age at risk of sexual violence, including rape

Situation Overview

The 21-month conflict has had a disastrous effect on Yemen and its people. Today, Yemen has the weakest health system in the entire Middle East region. Only 45 per cent of health facilities are functional and most are doing so at a reduced capacity due to a lack of resources, of staff, and of medical supplies. In addition, 13 health workers have been killed and 31 injured while serving the injured and sick. The situation is compounded by the closure of the Sana'a airport since August 2016, denying an estimated 22,000 people from accessing life-saving healthcare abroad.

Despite the adversity, out of five operational humanitarian hubs across the country – Aden, Al Hudaydah, Ibb, Sa'ada, and Sana'a –114 humanitarian organizations reached over 5.3 million men, women, and children with some form of direct humanitarian assistance across Yemen's 22 governorates in 2016. The needs far surpass the reach however. Only 60 per cent of the \$1.6 billion funding requirement for the Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan, amounting to \$977 million was received in 2016.

The volatile political climate in Yemen, coupled with strict security measures continues to pose significant challenges in providing humanitarian assistance. This is more so given the sensitive nature of UNFPA's mandate where release of contraceptives has involved months of advocacy efforts with government officials and national security authorities.

Highlights of UNFPA Response

- **Mobile teams** providing reproductive health services reached some 20,000 people in the governorates of Ibb, Sa'ada and Taizz.
- Further to a high-level mission to Sa'ada Governorate in November, the only functioning **referral hospital has been fully equipped with emergency obstetric care equipment** as agreed with local authorities during the mission.
- UNFPA supported the Central Statistics Organization for an advocacy workshop aimed at mobilizing resources for **data collection during humanitarian emergencies**. The workshop was attended by donors, civil society, academics and UN agencies, including the Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator for Yemen.
- An assessment on **reproductive health supply chain management system** was completed. This includes short and long-term interventions towards establishing a fully functional reproductive health supply chain management system in Yemen.
- Y-PEER Yemen, with support of UNFPA, launched **10 days of activism campaign** under the theme "youth initiatives and their role in reproductive health and family care". The campaign reached nearly 600 young people in schools, universities and camps for displaced people across three governorates, through interactive activities, allowing young people to share their understanding of reproductive health.
- A total of **1,130 beneficiaries** (925 female, 205 male) were reached with gender-based violence services in December, with highest being for psychological support services (814) followed by health services support (628).
- **Thirty eight survivors of gender-based violence received cash support** upon the completion of the Springboard Programme. This would go towards designing income generating businesses that would allow these women to be reintegrated into the community as independent and empowered women.
- Successful meetings were held with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Population Council to brief on UNFPA's response and in garnering support towards access and visas for international staff.
- **Funding proposal was submitted to DIFID** amounting to £10.9 million for women and girls' empowerment and protection from gender-based violence in conflict-affected areas .

Challenges

- **Release of reproductive health commodities** (oral pill and male condoms) from Al Hudaydah port is still pending. This poses concerns for the future of the family planning programme in Yemen. UNFPA continues to advocate with national authorities on this matter.