

UNFPA Response in Yemen

MONTHLY SITUATION REPORT



Training on COVID-19 mitigation measures for reproductive health workers in UNFPA-supported health facilities ©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

Yemen remains the world's worst humanitarian crisis. The cumulative impact of more than five years of conflict, economic decline and institutional collapse has left 24 million people – about 80 per cent of the population – 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.

More than \$3.2 billion is required for the Yemen humanitarian response in 2020. At the **High-Level Pledging Event** in Riyadh held on 2 June, donors pledged only US\$1.35 billion of the \$2.41 billion needed to cover essential humanitarian activities between June and December, leaving a gap of more than \$1 billion. With only \$558 million provided so far, the aid operation is on the brink of collapse. The situation compares unfavourably with this stage in 2019, when \$2.6 billion had been received for the aid operation. Without funding, the aid operation is expected to shrink further in August; 19 million people will lose access to healthcare, including pregnant women and children.

UNFPA's appeal for \$100.5 million in 2020 has received only 52 per cent thus far; forcing UNFPA to suspend 80 per cent of its reproductive health programme in May. The UNFPA-led Rapid Response Mechanism will stop by August if more funding does not become available in the coming weeks. **UNFPA requires \$68.4 million for the humanitarian and COVID-19 response up to the end of the year.**

COVID-19 continued to spread rapidly and with deadlier consequences in Yemen. Between 10 April, when the first COVID-19 case was reported, and 30 June, the authorities announced 1,132 cases, 305 deaths, and 432 recoveries. About 25 per cent of Yemenis confirmed to have the disease have died, 5 times the global average. **UNFPA is a frontline partner to the COVID-19 response** ensuring the protection of health workers and women and girls accessing reproductive health services.

Despite limited funding, **UNFPA's reached over a million women with lifesaving reproductive health and protection services within the last six months.**

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 June is detailed below:

HIGHLIGHTS: JUNE 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	709	1,949	1	1
Aden	971	659	3	0
Al Bayda	1,191	3,771	1	1
Al Dhale'e	905	753	1	1
Al Hudaydah	15,862	7,206	14	7
Al Jawf	0	6,975	0	1
Al Mahwit	1,979	337	1	1
Al Maharah	796	1,097	1	1
Amanat Al Asimah	2,822	5,103	2	1
Amran	2,698	797	2	2
Dhamar	0	2,981	0	1
Hadramaut	1,995	4,898	2	2
Hajjah	10,773	8,135	4	4
Ibb	392	8,746	1	3
Lahj	305	9,065	1	2
Marib	4,887	5,346	2	2
Sa'ada	1,198	2,519	1	2
Sana'a	0	1,430	0	3
Shabwah	0	2,443	0	1
Taizz	8,273	121,606	7	11
Raymah	0	3,259	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.

GRAVE CONSEQUENCES FOR PREGNANT WOMEN AS FUNDING RUNS OUT

Mariam, a war widow with four daughters, had been receiving antenatal care at the UNFPA-supported BaniShamakh health centre – the only health centre in the district.

Mariam had visited the centre after hearing about the presence of a female doctor providing free services for pregnant women. At the centre Mariam had learnt that she was pregnant with a boy. She rejoiced at the thought of having a son to look after the family, having lost her husband to the conflict.

But when she arrived with heavy bleeding a month later, she found that maternal services had ceased and the doctor had departed. Mariam subsequently died of haemorrhage.

In mid-May, just as the COVID-19 pandemic arrived in Yemen, funding for UNFPA's life-saving reproductive health services dried up. UNFPA has been forced to suspend the provision of reproductive health care in 140 out of 180 health facilities. Now only 40 health facilities across the country will continue to provide these services until new funding becomes available. The consequences of such a funding shortage are grave for women of childbearing age. UNFPA estimates that around 320,000 pregnant women will be cut off from lifesaving reproductive health services, while 48,000 women, like Mariam, could die from complications of pregnancy and childbirth.

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 have been shipped into the country.
- By June, infection prevention and personal equipment provided to 200 health facilities, with \$4 million received funding towards procurement of PPE.
- 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.
- Reproductive health service providers, including 164 midwives trained on the national manual for provision of reproductive health services under COVID-19.
- 100 community midwives were provided with personal protection equipment following the training to allow them to continue service provision.
- 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 June.

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 June.
- 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 June, 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

1,132 cases of COVID-19 and 305 deaths were reported by 30 June 2020.

Top to bottom: COVID-19 mitigation training for midwives in Lahj, mobile reproductive health teams in Marib, mitigation measures during RRM distribution.

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 3,082 RRM kits were distributed in June 2020. Other highlights for the period June 2018 to June 2020 include:

HIGHLIGHTS FROM JUNE 2018 TO JUNE 2020

Since June 2018, RRM kits were delivered to **387,821 families (over 2.32 million individuals)**.

201,156 RRM kits distributed through the **Al Hudaydah** humanitarian hub from June 2018 to June 2020

68,336 RRM kits distributed through the **Aden** humanitarian hub from June 2018 to June 2020.

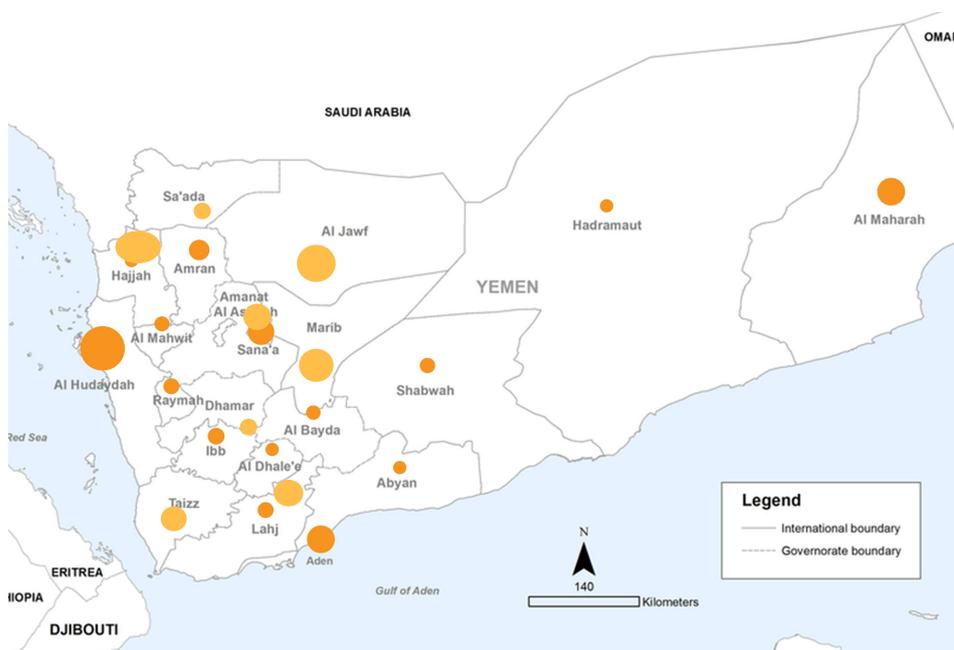
71,643 RRM kits distributed through **Sana'a** humanitarian hub from June 2018 to June 2020.

20,481 RRM kits distributed through the **Ibb** humanitarian hub from June 2018 to June 2020.

26,205 RRM kits distributed through the **Sa'ada** humanitarian hub from June 2018 to June 2020.



Distribution of rapid response kits to displaced families in Sa'ada Governorate.



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



77,790 individuals assisted with Rapid Response Mechanism



13,303 displaced people assisted with mobile reproductive health services



12,257 displaced women assisted with protection services

*Cumulative totals from 28 January to June 2020

The RRM is operational country-wide. The map indicates RRM distribution by governorate and volume of distribution in June 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	560,056
No. of safe deliveries supported	81,679
No. of cesarean sections supported	16,771
Individuals reached with Family Planning services	181,334
Dignity kits distributed	39,394
No. of women reached with protection information & services	544,074
No. of health facilities supported with reproductive health services	44
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



A matter of life and death for Yemen's women and girls as funding dries up
Read more...



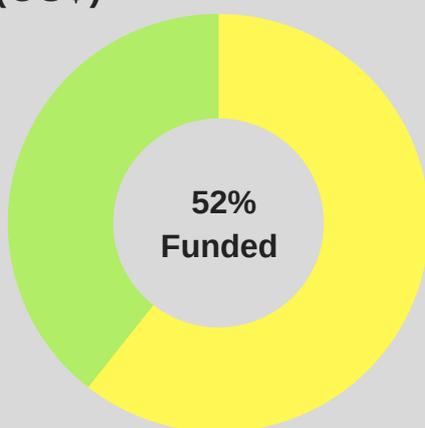
In Yemen and around the world, obstetric fistula strikes the most vulnerable women
Read more...



Lives of Yemen's women and girls on the brink as funding runs out
Watch...

2020 HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN FUNDING STATUS (US\$)

\$100.5 M
REQUIRED
\$52.1M
FUNDED
\$48.4 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