

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

12.6 million
People targeted for life-saving interventions

3.3 million
People displaced by conflict

3.15 million
Women of girls of reproductive age

504,000
Pregnant women

61,000
Women of reproductive age at risk of sexual violence, including rape



A mother attending to her baby at the Al Jumori hospital in Sa'ada. This is the only existing referral hospital in the governorate. Medical supplies and human resources remain limited with no obstetric gynaecologist despite 600 to 700 deliveries taking place monthly.

Situation Overview

More than 19 months of the conflict in Yemen has left an estimated 18.8 million people in need some kind of assistance or protection in order to meet their basic needs, including 10.3 million who are in acute need. This represents an increase of almost 20 per cent since late 2014, according to the 2017 Humanitarian Needs Overview, released in November 2016. The report also indicates that an estimated 14.8 million people lack access to basic healthcare, including 8.8 million living in severely under-served areas. Medical materials are in chronically short supply, and only 45 per cent of health facilities are functioning.

In November, a peace roadmap containing a set of sequenced security and political steps was presented, helping Yemen to return to a peaceful and orderly transition; with the Special Envoy to Yemen announcing that warring parties have agreed to resume meetings of a "De-escalation & Coordination Committee". Thereafter, a 48 hour cessation of hostilities was announced, however short-lived.

While efforts to negotiate a peace deal between the warring parties and groundwork for an inclusive unity government continue, the Houthi movement and its political allies formed a new government in late November, called the National Salvation Government, which may mean a setback to peace efforts.

Highlights of UNFPA Response

- Mobile teams providing reproductive health services reached some 26,000 people in the governorates of Al-Dhalea, Al Jawf, Amran, Ibb, Sa'ada and Taizz.
- UNFPA undertook a **high-level mission to Sa'ada Governorate** to assess UNFPA's presence and to support implementation of UNFPA programme and coordination efforts. Sa'ada has faced some of the heaviest fighting since the crisis. Almost three or four out of 10 buildings are damaged from air strikes. There is only one referral hospital functioning with 600 to 700 deliveries taking place monthly, emergency obstetric care equipment is limited, with no ultrasound scanner or an obstetric gynecologist. Following meeting with Governor of Sa'ada, it was agreed to strengthen capacity of this hospital. UNFPA has now supported (i) recruitment of female obstetric gynecologist (ii) provision of emergency obstetric care equipment, including ultrasound scanner; (iii) improvement in the coordination of reproductive health services within the governorate; and (iv) scaling-up the gender-based violence coordination mechanisms. Currently UNFPA has two national programme staff in at the UN hub.
- In supporting the Ministry of Health to develop a new **reproductive, maternal and newborn health strategy** for the next five years, extensive consultations with health officials, UN agencies, professional bodies and civil society were held. The new strategy will also aim to ensure that the urgent reproductive health needs during emergencies are adequately strategized, with a special section on reproductive health in humanitarian situations.
- Training on **minimum initial service package for reproductive health** was help in Taizz and Ibb Governorates, targeted at reproductive health coordinators and the Inter-Agency Working Group on Reproductive Health.
- In partnership with the British Council, 40 survivors of gender-based violence and at risk groups of women and girls were trained on the **springboard programme** in Al Hudaydah and Hajjah.
- UNFPA and 30 partners who form the sub-cluster on gender-based violence launched the **16 days of activism against gender-based violence** across 19 governorates. A series of awareness raising initiatives were conducted, including a film competition targeting youth, awareness raising on prevention of violence in schools and a public media campaign through radio, TV and print media.
- A total of 808 beneficiaries (634 female, 174 male) were reached with **services to address gender-based violence** in December, with highest being for psychosocial support services (593) followed by health service.

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.