





KEY FIGURES


 **22.2M**
People in need

 **2M** IDPs
89% of IDPs displaced for more than a year

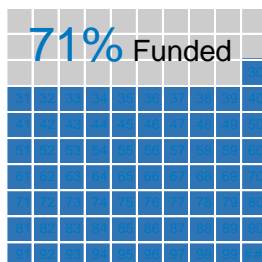
 **956K**
IDP returnees

608K IDPs have been assisted in 2018, of whom **100K** were reached through the Hudaydah response

 **280k**
refugees and asylum seekers

 **\$198.7M**
requested in 2018

\$141M received as of 28 August 2018



OPERATIONAL UPDATE

UNHCR is dismayed by the recent escalation of hostilities in Al Hudaydah Governorate. UNHCR is following with concern the unfolding of events and the resulting surge in humanitarian and protection needs. While UNHCR continues to advocate for a peaceful resolution to the conflict and for all parties to adhere to their obligations under International Humanitarian Law, the UNHCR-led Protection Cluster's Civilian Impact Monitoring Project reported two incidents in September, targeting a fishing community and which resulted in 22 civilian casualties.

Since the onset of the Al Hudaydah Offensive in June 2018, more than 76,500 households have been internally displaced. UNHCR assisted some 100,000 people as part of the Al Hudaydah response, and will continue to scale-up as more civilians flee their homes and humanitarian and protection needs grow. In parallel, strengthening the protection response for persons of concern, including through the expansion of UNHCR's cash assistance programme, remains a priority.

The impact of the Yemeni Riyal's rapid devaluation sparks civil unrest and compounds coping abilities of persons of concern. In a country where most food is imported, the population is losing its ability to purchase basic food items due to the steep devaluation of the currency. UNHCR's multi-purpose cash distributions enable persons of concern to meet their families' most basic needs during this time of crisis. Without adequate financial support, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees alike are exposed to increased protection risks (such as exploitation), and resort to negative coping mechanisms (such as begging, child labour and early marriage).



UNHCR partner, Hudaydah Girls Foundation (HGF), conducts protection monitoring for IDPs in Al Garrahi district of Al Hudaydah Governorate. Photo: HGF, Anwar.

IDP Response

The recent escalation in hostilities in Al Hudaydah resulted in the displacement of 500 families. UNHCR observed displacement from villages in Ad Durayhimi District into Al Hudaydah city. On 16 September, UNHCR's partner JAAHD commenced a needs assessment of families displaced from Al Hudaydah to Asukhna, Bajel and Al-Mansoria districts. Furthermore, in Ibb Governorate, UNHCR and its partner the Yemen Women's Union distributed core-relief items (CRIs) to some 450 displaced families from Al Hudaydah.

As part of the Al Hudaydah response, since June, UNHCR and its partners conducted protection monitoring assessments of over 57,000 households. The assessments have allowed UNHCR and partners to determine displaced persons' emergency shelter and protection needs. The Agency also continues to distribute CRIs and emergency shelter kits (ESKs) to families in areas of displacement and is offering protection services, such as legal assistance and psychosocial counselling in eight IDP community centres countrywide. Since June, UNHCR has reached 100,000 IDPs through the Al Hudaydah response.

Responding to the growing needs, UNHCR distributed much needed cash assistance to some 22,000 families (140,000 individuals) in August alone. The value of the cash assistance disbursed totalled over two billion Yemeni Riyals (some four million US Dollars). Given their pressing shelter needs, some 73 percent of the cash assistance was disbursed for use by IDPs as rental subsidies. In September, UNHCR also started cash distribution activities for CRIs, targeting nearly 1,800 displaced families in Aden and Lahj Governorates. Some 600 families already received the 'Cash for CRIs' and another 927 families in Aden, Lahj and Al Hudaydah Governorates have been referred to UNHCR for similar assistance.

In preparation for the 2018/19 school year, UNHCR, in cooperation with local authorities, progressed with vacating nine schools in Sana'a that used to host some 300 displaced families from Al Hudaydah. Six of the nine schools were vacated, and protection assessments were conducted to assess the IDPs' imminent needs. So far, UNHCR provided

280 affected families with cash grants for rental subsidies. UNHCR and its partner ADRA are now managing the refurbishment of the vacated schools for the impending school year.

In Ibb Governorate, UNHCR responded to needs arising from floods and heavy rainfall that damaged houses and roads. On 13 September, UNHCR participated in a joint assessment mission with OCHA, the National Authority for the Management and Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, ACTED and the Yemen Women's Union to the affected Al-Saddah district. Most assessed houses were deemed uninhabitable. As a result, UNHCR supported 203 out of 225 households with CRIs and ESKs.

UNHCR through its partner Yemen Al Khair for Relief and Development commenced the implementation of two Quick Impact Projects in Al Jawf Governorate, north of Yemen. The projects will train women, both displaced and from the host community who are supporting displaced families, on sewing and on making handmade accessories and ornaments. The courses, expected to last for a month, aim to strengthen ties between the displaced and host communities, and to increase women's skills and provide a means for generating income. Once completed, the project participants will receive basic tools and materials to help them start a micro-business.

Refugee Response

On 16 September, the Migration and Refugee Studies Centre at Sana'a University held an opening ceremony to commence the start of a three-week course, supported by UNHCR. The course syllabus includes sessions on principles of international protection, statelessness, refugees and their rights in Islamic Law, as well as legal concepts under International Refugee Law. Some 40 students from the Faculty of Sharia and Law are participating in the course.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Population, a three day awareness-raising workshop on potential outbreaks of diseases during the rainy season was held in Aden by UNHCR's partner CSSW. As fears of another outbreak prevail, some 20 participants from UNHCR-supported health clinics attended the session and discussed matters relating to diseases in Yemen (such as cholera).