

YEMEN

22 - 28 September 2017

KEY FIGURES

20.7 million
people in need

1,980,510
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

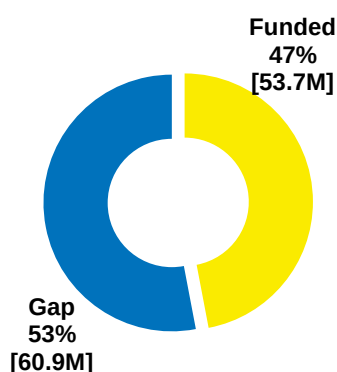
84 percent of IDPs
displaced for more than a year

946,044 IDP returnees

931,846 recipients of
CRIs since March 2015

280,623 refugees and
asylum seekers

Funding
USD **114.6 M**
requested in 2017



Operational Update

The first cohort of Somali refugees returned safely to Somalia as part of UNHCR's assisted spontaneous return (ASR) movement from Yemen. The programme was put in place to support the safe-return of Somalis, as conditions in Yemen remain precarious. The 133 refugees were well received by UNHCR Somalia, Government officials including the Governor of Sahil region, along with UNHCR and IOM partners. Returnees have all been assisted with relief items and have reached their final destinations in safety. Preparations are now underway for the second departure of 150 refugees to Somalia.

The needs of close to two million internally displaced Yemenis continue to outweigh the available resources. IDPs face increased protection risks, in particular those who are newly displaced, as hostilities in border and frontline areas force families to seek safe shelter elsewhere. UNHCR is responding to two recent flash points, resulting in the displacement of families in both northern and central governorates. Access remains a challenge, and UNHCR is working with local authorities in Sa'ada Governorate to address urgent needs for newly displaced in Razih district. A response, including improving shelter conditions, is also underway in Lahj Governorate, where families have fled from conflict in Taizz Governorate.



Shelter assessments take place across Yemen, including in Hajjah Governorate. UNHCR aims to help 50,900 families with shelter interventions by the end of 2017.

Photo: ADO/UNHCR: T Thawab

IDP Response

In light of the increasing need for financial support among displaced Yemenis, UNHCR is expanding the rental subsidies programme. To date, UNHCR has supported 9,200 families (64,400 individuals) with the one-off US \$300 cash grant, with the aim of reaching an additional 9,800 families (68,600 individuals) countrywide by the end of 2017. As with all cash interventions, both a lack of cash liquidity in country and access to persons of concern continue to be challenges. This week, 455 families in Dhamar City received the rental subsidy with distribution to a further 523 families in Amanat Al Asimah currently underway.

UNHCR has completed a distribution of emergency shelter kits (ESK) to a marginalized IDP community in a spontaneous settlement in Khamir district, Amran Governorate. The distribution, carried out by UNHCR partner Yemen Red Crescent (YRC), took place following a number of access challenges to the isolated location, and provided an enhanced ESK to 290 households (1,728 individuals). The provision of ESKs is part of a broader UNHCR shelter response, aimed at reaching 50,900 households this year. Shelter solutions are varied to meet the individual needs of displaced families, including construction of shelters using traditional local materials, rehabilitation of war-damaged homes for returnees in the south, along with the distribution of rental subsidies for IDPs and IDP returnees in urban settings.

This week, 364 vulnerable IDP families (2,280 individuals) were assisted with core relief item (CRI) kits. UNHCR's partner Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), assisted 171 families in spontaneous settlements in Amran Governorate, 142 families in Dhamar City and 16 extremely vulnerable families in Ibb Governorate, with kits that included essential household items such as kitchen sets, blankets, mattresses and wash buckets. UNHCR is working towards the distribution of CRI kits to 50,000 households by the end of the year.

Refugee Response

Preparations are under way for the second departure of Somali refugees from the port of Aden as part of the UNHCR-assisted spontaneous return (ASR) movement from Yemen. At Return Help Desks in Basateen district in Aden and Kharaz camp, over 1,500 individuals have been counselled on the return programme, conditions in return locations in Somalia and the support available for those wishing to travel. Some 917 individuals have confirmed their intention to return, with numbers expected to rise as the first 133 refugees have now safely completed the journey and returned to Somalia. A second departure of 150 refugees is being planned for early October. UNHCR has been working in close partnership with relevant national authorities to facilitate the returns, including Somalia's National High Commission for Refugee and IDPs (NCRI) and Yemen's Immigration, Passport and Naturalization Authority (IPNA). IOM will continue to work in partnership with UNHCR to support those wishing to return as part of a joint ASR programme, which will incorporate the existing IOM evacuation programme for Somalis in Yemen.

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