

HUMANITARIAN UPDATE



Amal, an 8-year-old girl fetches water for her family in Al Makha District in Tai'z Governorate, Yemen, 3 February 2022. Photo: Malka Mohammed/NRC

Issue 11/ November 2022

HIGHLIGHTS

Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) threats prevalence, funding gaps hamper lifesaving assistance

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OVER 21 MILLION PEOPLE ESTIMATED TO NEED HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN 2023

In March 2023, Yemen enters its ninth year since the escalation of the conflict in 2015. The impacts of the prolonged conflict, compounded by the ongoing macroeconomic crisis, high levels of food insecurity, recurring natural disasters, such as droughts and floods, and lack of access to basic services, have continued to drive humanitarian needs in Yemen.

The 2023 [Humanitarian Needs Overview](#) shows that some 21.6 million people will need humanitarian assistance next year, including

some 13.4 million in acute need. Compared to 2022, when some 23.4 million people were identified with humanitarian needs, this is a 1.8 million decrease. A marginal improvement in the food security outlook in the last quarter of 2022, with 17 million people with acute food needs, compared to 19 million estimated in the second half of 2022, and the lowered severity of living conditions of people across different sectors contribute to a decrease in people in need.



PEOPLE IN NEED

21.6M

TOTAL POPULATION

32.6M

PEOPLE IN ACUTE NEED

13.4M

BY AGE & SEX

MALE 51%

FEMALE 49%

5.7M
BOYS

5.3M
MEN

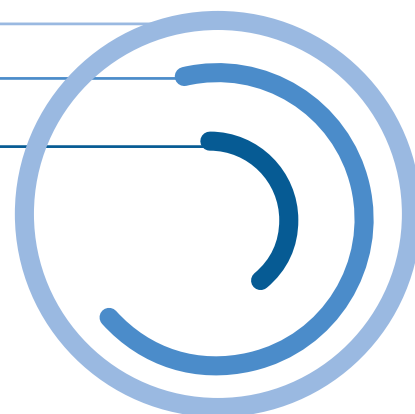
5.4M
GIRLS

5.2M
WOMEN

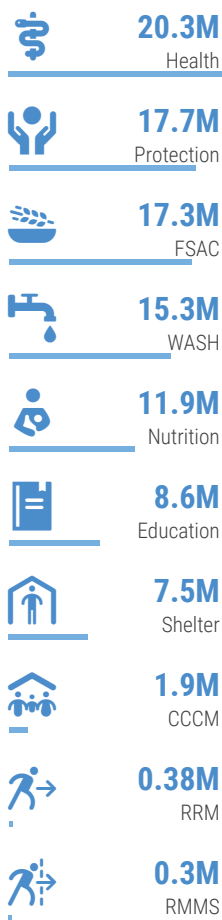


OCHA

YEMEN



People in need per cluster



The overview is informed by the findings of rigorous assessments conducted by aid agencies, in collaboration with the authorities, to understand the extent and severity of humanitarian needs in Yemen. The humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable population groups, including internally displaced people, refugees, migrants and asylum seekers, across Yemen's 333 districts were analyzed through the enhanced global Humanitarian Planning Cycle (HPC) approach and the corresponding Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Joint Inter-sector Analysis Framework (JI AF) global guidance, with 22 intersectoral indicators.

The main drivers behind these figures are food insecurity, high prevalence of malnutrition among children under the age of 5, and pregnant and breastfeeding women, as well as the lack of access to health care, water and sanitation, and protection services. Needs remain high across sectors: 20.3 million people will need support to access critical health services; some 17.3 million people are estimated to need food assistance; some 15.3 million people will require support to access clean water and meet basic sanitation needs; and some

2.2 million children will need nutrition support. Across Yemen, protection needs remain extremely high as a result of the deteriorating humanitarian context, which has continued to force people increasingly to resort to negative coping strategies. Some of the highest levels of vulnerability are concentrated in displacement hosting sites, where very few services are available.

At the same time, people across the world are facing the deadly combination of war, hunger and disease outbreaks. The United Nations and partners estimated that 339 million people in 69 countries will need humanitarian assistance in 2023, an increase of 65 million people, compared to 2022. The [Global Humanitarian Needs Overview](#)—an annual assessment of global humanitarian needs and how to respond to them—that was launched on 1 December seeks a record US\$51.5 billion to help 230 million of the world's most vulnerable people, a 25 per cent increase compared to the beginning of 2022. This record appeal is a stark reminder of how fast humanitarian needs are accelerating, as well as a reflection of higher operational costs, commodity prices and high inflation.

EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR (ERW) THREATS PREVALENCE, FUNDING GAPS HAMPER LIFESAVING ASSISTANCE

Yemen has seen an alarming number of civilian ERW casualties in the previous months, especially since the UN-brokered truce came into effect on 2 April, increasing the movement of civilians and returns. The impact of the widespread ERW contamination such as landmines, Unexploded Ordnance (UXO), and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) go beyond killing and maiming. Their presence also prevents safe movements, restricts income generation and livelihood activities – including fishing and farming, and limits access to basic services.

Simply put, ERW convert daily activities into possible life-or-death scenarios for Yemeni women, girls, boys and men, as well as livestock. For example, in September, 17-year-old Yousef was walking to his home

in the Al Mandhar area in Al Hodeidah Governorate when he stepped on a landmine, losing his left leg. Amina, 14 years old, from Al Hodeidah Governorate was herding goats when a landmine exploded. Unfortunately, she lost both her legs and was hospitalized for a month.



A 14-year-old girl receives health care in a UN-supported hospital after she was injured in a mine explosion in Al Hodeidah. Photo: OCHA/YPN

Total ERW reported cases (Jan-Nov 2022)



968

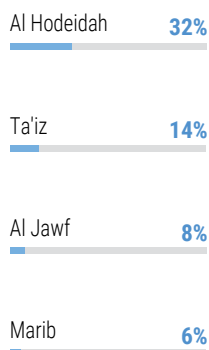
Total reported ERW cases



321

Total fatalities

Top reported governorates



Source: CIMP

The Civilian Impact Monitoring Project (CIMP) – an open, unverified source – recorded 968 civilian ERW cases, including 321 fatalities, between January and November 2022. Governorates like Al Hodeidah, Al Jawf and Ta'iz with active frontlines have typically seen the highest civilian ERW cases. Thirty-two per cent (305 cases) of the total ERW civilian cases were recorded in Al Hodeidah, including 111 fatalities, but Ta'iz (139 cases), Al Jawf (73 cases) and Marib (54 cases) governorates have seen a high number of ERW civilian cases in 2022.

People injured by landmines and UXOs often do not have access to victim assistance and other relevant support services. Victim assistance support, including specialized protection services and referrals to the health sector, is often limited due to a lack of funding and capacity. Furthermore, victims themselves often face challenges related to societal gender norms. This is the case, for example, when female survivors cannot perform certain household duties or male survivors are not able to work and be the household's main breadwinner.

Humanitarian and development organizations with mine action activities also face challenges to provide lifesaving support like medical and rehabilitation costs, as well as longer-term assistance. In the Al Hodeidah Governorate, for example, an International Non-Governmental

Organization (INGO) that provides support to ERW survivors reported that the victim assistance support was suspended despite a spike in ERW incidents. This was because the project funding was exhausted and the new funding was delayed due to a pending sub-agreement.

Mine action activities, including clearance, risk education and victim assistance, are urgently needed. A family member of 26-year-old Mohammed, who is looking after him at the hospital, said, "we hope all these contaminated locations are cleared soon. We do not want anyone to repeat this tragedy." Mohammed lost his leg while stepping on a landmine in Al Hodeidah.

Conducting a country-wide assessment, especially in the areas controlled by Ansar Allah (AA), to identify contaminated areas and efficiently prioritize the areas that need to be cleared first is a challenge. Constant shifting of frontlines and lack of access continue in high-risk areas, posing a high threat for civilians in those locations. Non-technical and technical surveys, along with mine clearance and explosive ordnance disposal, are required to allow safe passage of civilians and humanitarian access for the provision of life-saving assistance. However, the drastically reduced 2023 funding will further increase the gaps between the needs and the mine action intervention across the country.

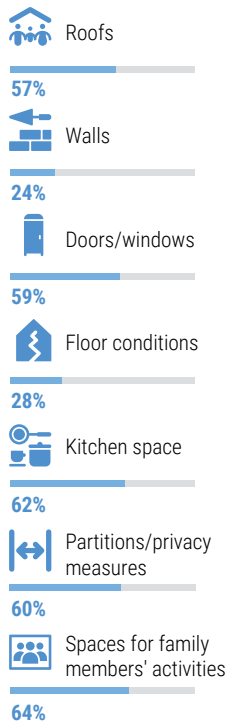
DURABLE SOLUTIONS NEEDED TO ADDRESS THE SHELTER NEEDS OF DISPLACED PEOPLE

The Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI) Cluster estimated that 7.5 million people reside in inadequate shelter conditions, often without essential household items, a 2 per cent increase since early 2022. The shelter severity of needs witnessed a significant increase, with over 5.3 million people in acute shelter needs (52 per cent in extreme situations and 48 per cent in catastrophic situations).

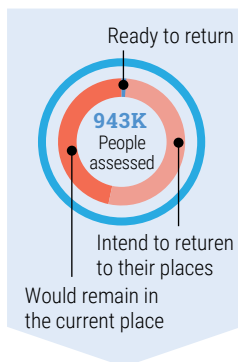
Internally displaced people (IDPs) continue to face a myriad of challenges, with the average household displacement being eight

years and at least 25 per cent displaced two times or more. Of the 4.5 million displaced people, over two-thirds are living in rental accommodation or hosting arrangements. In a recent study, 82 per cent of IDPs interviewed reported serious difficulties in paying rent. Some 76 per cent did not pay rent for more than three months, thus heightening the risk of eviction, particularly in low-income households whose ability to meet basic needs (such as rent) diminished due to deteriorating economic conditions and increased cost of basic necessities. It has been found that the lack of sustainability

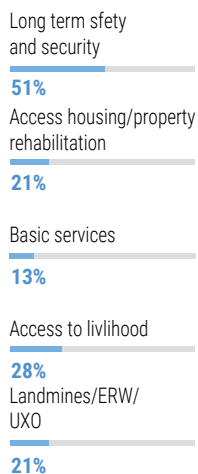
Immediate maintenance needed in IDP sites



IDPs' intention to return



Main factors



of the host family arrangement due to the protracted nature of the crisis and increased rent prices resulted in more families resorting to seeking shelter in camp-like settings (1.6 million IDP in 2,431 sites).

IDPs in camp-like settings are often exposed to hazards such as flooding, landslides, fire risks, landmines and unexploded ordnances. The situation of IDPs in sites is also worsening and immediate shelter maintenance and upgrades needs include 57 per cent in roofing, 24 per cent walling, 59 per cent doors/windows, 28 per cent floor conditions, 62 per cent kitchen space, 60 per cent partitions/privacy measures and 64 per cent space for family members and activities. Records show that 22 per cent of IDPs interviewed received notification of eviction in the last 6 months, of which 5 per cent were written and 92 per cent verbal, with 37 per cent given less than a month to vacate the premises.

Generally, the population in need of shelter has increased to 6 million people. A recent assessment revealed that at least 56 per cent of IDP shelters are in poor condition (need major repair or replacement). The population in need of NFI has increased to 4.1 million people and is expected to surge if a further worsening of the family's economic situation continues. Access to affordable essential household items, a prerequisite for a minimum standard of living, continues to be challenging, with about 81 per cent of the affected population reporting that they do not have minimum household items and 38 per cent resort to reduced expenditures on essential household items. Harsh winters continue to threaten the lives and well-being of the affected population, particularly for 91,000 families facing extreme temperatures

during the winter season in 59 districts. Such extreme conditions exacerbate the humanitarian needs of conflict-affected people due to a significant decline in the household's economic capacity to afford essential winter items.

Results from a recent assessment showed that at least 19 per cent of IDP houses in their places of origin are destroyed, 32 per cent are damaged, 37 per cent do not know and 2 per cent are occupied. Generally, 47 per cent of the 943,000 displaced people interviewed intend to return to their place of origin if the situation improves and 42 per cent would remain in the current place of displacement due to unclarity on the country's situation and other reasons, while 9,750 people of the assessed population are ready to return immediately. The main enabling return factors expressed by IDPs include 51 per cent long-term safety and security, 21 per cent access to adequate housing or property rehabilitation, 13 per cent access to basic services, 28 per cent access to livelihood opportunities and 21 per cent clearance of landmines/ERWs/UXOs.

The latest figures indicate approximately 1.3 million returnees. At least 55 per cent of returnees interviewed live in substandard, damaged, inadequate shelter conditions or are unable to rebuild their houses, with nearly 84 per cent stating an inability to meet their basic needs. Those who return to their areas of origin often face immediate housing, land and property challenges, such as secondary occupation or missing ownership documentation. In addition, the presence and exposure to explosive hazards in returnee areas and damages to houses pose further obstacles, impacting prospects for return.



Shelters in Al Qanawis IDP site in Al Hodeidah, 14 October 2022. Photo: OCHA/YPN

Due to significant funding shortages, the Shelter and NFI Cluster, through 44 humanitarian organizations, assisted over 1 million out of the 3.1 million people targeted in 2022. The cluster has received only \$50 million of the required \$225 million this year, leaving a 77 per cent funding gap. Aid agencies continue to call on donors to increase funding to the

shelter programs to ensure the affected population access to adequate housing and scale-up durable shelter solutions, such as transitional shelters and house rehabilitation/reconstruction. In parallel, additional resources for the Shelter/NFI Cluster Common Pipeline are required to ensure a predictable emergency response.

THE 2022 FLOOD LESSON LEARNED EXERCISE

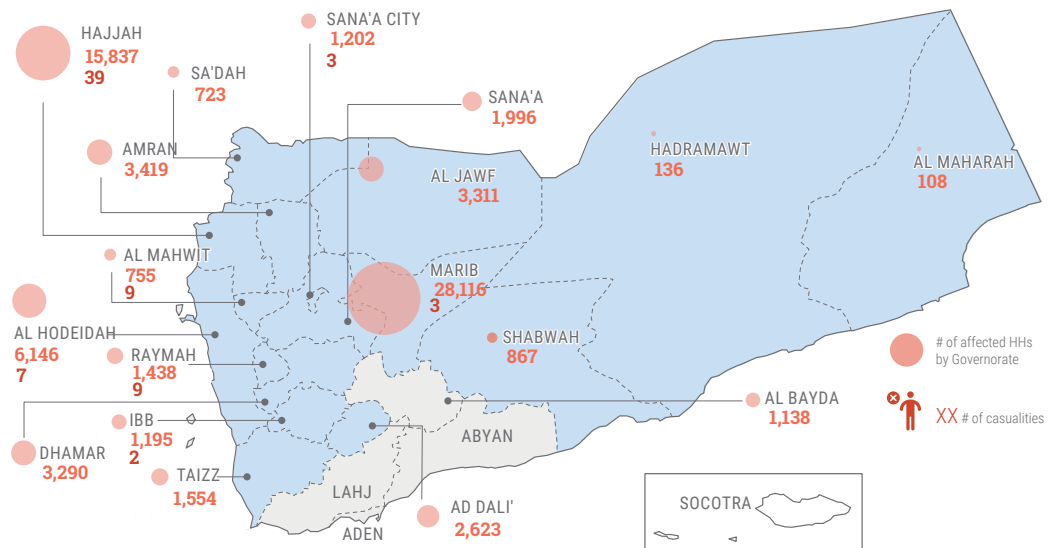
Yemen is prone to recurrent seasonal flooding which results in displacement, disruption to livelihoods, a spike in water-borne diseases, loss of crops and damage to property. To step up flood response preparedness, aid agencies in Yemen developed a floods preparedness plan early in the year, forecasting about 56,000 households would be affected. The process was undertaken through consultation with the Regional Coordination Teams, clusters and partners at the national and hub levels.

Between May and September 2022, flooding devastated 175 districts in 19 governorates across the country, affecting hundreds of thousands of people and their livelihoods, as well as damaging infrastructure and impacting already weakened basic services. Some 74,000 households, most of them living in displacement sites, lost their shelters and livelihoods. Between mid-

May and September, Ma'rib, Hajjah and Al Hodeidah governorates were the hardest hit by the torrential floods, with about 50,000 households affected. At least 72 casualties were reported as a result of flooding across the country. Humanitarian partners responded to the emergency needs of affected people by directing resources from the existing programmes.

Ensuring better preparedness for the next floods season, the humanitarian community conducted a flood lesson learned exercise, including an after-action review, together with authorities. One of the key lessons learned points is the need to find alternative sites for those in flood-prone areas. During the 2022 floods, most of the people affected were in displacement sites as they are settled in waterways prone to flash floods. The Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster is working

NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS AFFECTED PER GOVERNORATE (AS OF 30 SEPTEMBER 2022)



Source: Partners

with the authorities to find alternative sites and build embankments to protect the settlements, while improving the type of shelters they live in.

Coordination with authorities and partners took place at the various affected governorates and the national level, enabling required clearances for the movement of staff and supplies being fast-tracked. The key challenge was the assessment tool used as it was rejected by the authorities in some locations. There is a need to harmonize the initial assessment tool to avoid assessment fatigue among the affected populations. Clusters are working on a unified tool to use.

Though the 2022 floods preparedness plan was in place with a budget requirement of about \$45 million, no resources were dedicated to the response. Humanitarian partners had to use other resources from regular programming to address the needs.

Resource mobilization and allocation of resources for emergency response are key highlights of the exercise.

Humanitarian organizations aim to provide timely collective humanitarian action to people at risk of predicted flooding due to heavy rains and minimize the potential impact of flooding on people. Authorities also requested aid partners to invest more in preparedness activities—an area where humanitarian and development actors can work together. Based on the lessons learned, clusters will plan on principled humanitarian preparedness and response activities ahead of the flooding season.

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