

# 2019 YEMEN COUNTRY REPORT



including protection, service provision and monitoring.

The work of UNHCR partners would not have been possible without the extremely generous support of Donors. The above contributors during 2019 are gratefully acknowledged.

UNHCR Partners are also grateful to private donors, charities and other organizations for their contributions.

### **UNHCR Yemen 2019**

#### **Operational context**

According to the United Nations, Yemen has been the "Worst humanitarian crisis in the world," for the past two years. Despite the Hudaydah Agreement signed in December 2018, the fighting continued in many areas of the country, such as Hajjah in the north, Al Dhale' e in the south and Hudaydah along the west coast. Within a year, another 400,000 Yemenis were forced to flee their homes, eventually adding up to one-eighth of the entire Yemeni population who had become displaced at least once, over the last five years.

In 2019, unprecedented heavy rain and flooding from May onwards caused catastrophic damage to homes and the families' livelihoods, adding to their misery. Thousands of families who had already lost their home due to the fighting had yet again, their temporary shelters, beddings and essential kitchen supplies, destroyed.

Political differences led to renewed fighting around Aden in the south of Yemen from August when the Southern Transitional Council took control of the city. The power-sharing deal brokered by Saudi Arabia that was signed in November 2019, is yet to be fully implemented.

Despite the ongoing fighting and uncertainties related to peace processes, a record-high number of refugees and asylum-seekers arrived in Yemen to seek protection and safety. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) estimates that around 132,200 individuals, mostly Ethiopians, reached Yemen in 2019, as well

as a record-high number of 37,000 individuals between April and May. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) encourages newcomers to register their status as asylum-seekers if they wish with authorities to legalize their stay, protect them against forced returns, and give them access to health and education services. In 2019, the Government, along with UNHCR, registered a total of 8,436 refugees through four registration centres in the south of Yemen. However, it is estimated that a staggering 150,000 refugees and asylum-seekers remain unregistered, which is leaving them at higher risk of abuse and lack of access to essential services such as health and education. By the end of 2019, Yemen was hosting an estimated 280,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, mainly from Somalia (96 per cent) and Ethiopia (3.8 per cent).

In terms of coordination mechanisms for the humanitarian and protection response by national and international partners as well as relevant authorities, UNHCR leads the Protection, Shelter/NFIs (Non-Food Items), Camp Coordination and Camp Management clusters for Internally Displaced People (IDPs), and co-leads with IOM the Refugee and Migrants Multi-Sector (RMMS) for refugees and asylum-seekers. UNHCR also ensures that humanitarian interventions contribute to the overall development of the country. UNHCR supports IDPs and refugees' resilience from the early stages of our humanitarian response.



Zakaria Zaki near a destroyed house in Sana.a. He recalls the incident that happened, and the civilians who died after an airstrike targeted the area. Zakaria comments on what he needs by saying" we need the economic situation to get better and this dispute has to stop immediately". Zakaria lives in Sana'a, and has witnessed, and still witnessing many incidents in due to the unsettled conflict. ©UNHCR/Shohdi Alsofi

**24.1** M People in Need

14.4 м

In need of protection assistance and services

A Returnees IDPs

**7**→ 3.6 M<sub>IDPs</sub>

Asylum-seekers

**267,244** Refugees

90.7 % Of which are Somalia.

IDPs trend 2.51 M 2.01 M 2.00 M 2.14 M 2015 Source: DTM/IOM 2019 66,499 families newly displaced in 2019 of which Hajjah 26%

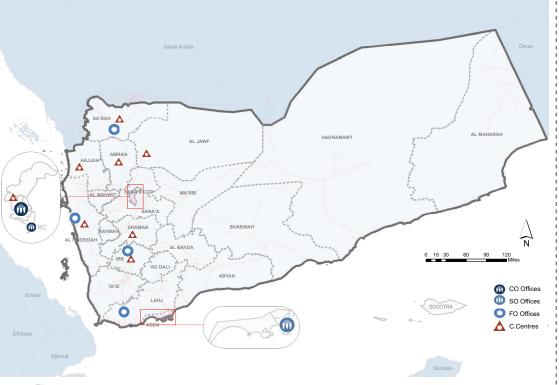
17%

Al Dale'e

Al Hudaydah 16%

A

#### **Operational presence**





Yemeni children do morning physical exercises at a displacement site in Amran, north of the capital Sana'a. ©UNHCR/YRC

### UNHCR YEMEN IDPs Response Prioritized response

#### **Priority 1: Protection**

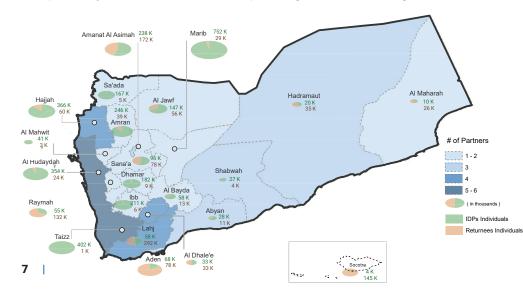
UNHCR advocates for the centrality of protection in all humanitarian interventions in Yemen. Core protection values include a strong community network, rights-based approach, incorporating the experience of varied age, gender and diversity in designing our programmes. UNHCR supports those who need support with legal issues including civil documentation, dealing with trauma and emotional abuse, survivors of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and children. These services centre around community centres, mobile support, and extensive networks. UNHCR also facilitates the most extensive cash programme for IDPs in Yemen to self-support their immediate needs, such as rent and food.

#### **Priority 2: Cash-Based Intervention (CBI)**

Out of some 130 countries where UNHCR is present, Yemen manages one of the most extensive cash programmes. Last year in Yemen, more than 167,800 families received cash to cover their needs. Cash assistance is a practical way of helping families who have been affected by the crisis, especially those who are living in rented homes or adjacent markets. UNHCR's cash support gives families the chance to plan their priorities - may it be food, clothes for winter, medicine, or paying back debt according to their preferences. Cash helps people in Yemen regain control of their lives and dignity.

#### Priority 3: Emergency distribution (Shelter and basic household items)

When families have fled with few belongings, and no chance of renting a home, they have no choice but to live in a makeshift shelter in open areas. They sometimes occupy abandoned buildings or other public structures. Adequate and decent shelters are paramount to ensure the well-being, privacy and safety of those displaced, in particular women and children, as well as people with disabilities and the elderly. UNHCR is the leading provider of shelters in IDP hosting sites throughout the country. UNHCR supports the rehabilitation of public buildings hosting families displaced by the conflict, in addition to providing them with bedding items and kitchen sets.





In 2019 there were 66,500 families displaced in a year. Throughout the year, the Community-Based Protection Network (CBPN) performed a household-assessments, close to a triple of that number- some 174,000 families. This included impoverished Yemeni families, recently displaced families, and those who have displaced for many years. After the house-hold-assessments, most (80 per cent) of the families were referred to specialized services or support, such as receiving ID cards or birth certificates that allows access to health care, education, legal aid to solve marital law issues, to overcome trauma linked to the conflict, forced displacement, and various forms of abuse through psychosocial sessions.



This year, more than 86,000 families received NFIs such as bedding material, kitchen sets and solar lamps, and more than 17,000 families received shelter kits. Emergency shelter kits are designed to provide support to families who are displaced. Furthermore, in the west-coast area where the climate is hot and humid all year round, extra efforts were made to design an alternative weather-adapted shelter. Moreover, for families who have displaced for more than a year, 1,100 shelters were upgraded to guarantee longer-term durability.



In 2019, UNHCR directly distributed some USD 43 million to more than 167,800 Yemeni families, including the economically challenged host communities. Also, UNHCR developed an online verification system where the potential beneficiary families in need are selected automatically. In contrast, previously, the process of verifying, crosschecking, and following-up for missing information was done manually, which eliminated up to five per cent of fraudulent cases or double-registrations, helping the impartial identification of the families that need cash.



The Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster was activated in July so that the 130,000 families living in some 1,700 IDP hosting sites receive continuous, essential services such as shelter, basic household kits, water, hygiene kits, education and awareness sessions. By the end of 2019, UNHCR was working with 21 partners, making sure that services and aid supplies were reaching displaced families in need, including women, children, people with disabilities, the elderly, as well as those living in remote areas.

### **PROTECTION KEY FIGURES**





Ahmed Soliman Ali (80) and his family fled their home from of Bani Hassan, Hajjah governorate in March 2019. With no belongings or documentation, he and his family found themselves living in an open field, in need of immediate help.

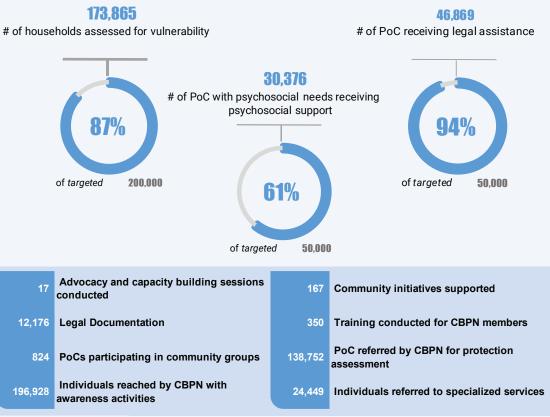
Ahmed and his sons now live in the Almerdah IDP hosting site, in the same governorate.

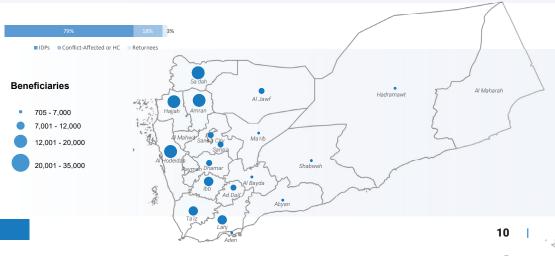
In January 2020, his sons received a Tehama emergency shelter kit (TESK), which is an emergency shelter adjusted to the local climate of the west coast (Tehama region), specially designed in Yemen by UNHCR.

The displaced families and the local communities themselves weave the palm-leaf mats that cover the shelters, as a source of income.

Ahmed also hopes to receive a new ID card soon with the help of the legal services provided by UNHCR. This would help him get access to regular food distributions and to cash support programmes. Above all, Ahmed wishes peace in Yemen so his sons can return to their normal lives. ©UNHCR/Anwar Al Ameri

UNHCR - IDPs





### **SHELTER/NFI KEY FIGURES**

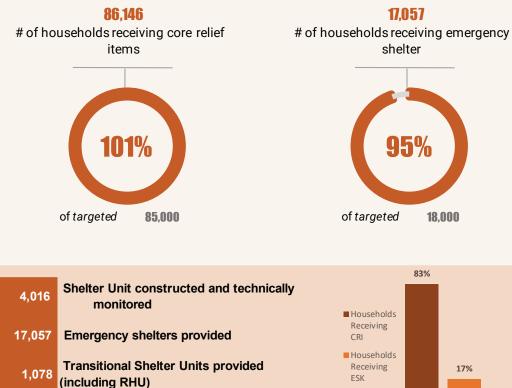


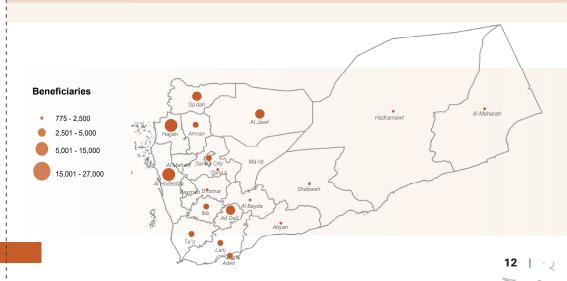


Ghassan(11) and his family were displaced from Hajjah governorate, one of the flashpoints in the northern frontlines.

He did not have time to collect much of his belongings and sought shelter in other areas that are known to be safer where UNHCR is providing emergency distribution and managing support programmes.

Ghassan's family is one of the 86,000 families who received UNHCR's emergency distribution of bedding materials, kitchen sets and a solar lamp, to help them get back on their feet. © UNHCR/Rashed Al Dubai





UNHCR - IDPs



Two months ago, Anwar Ali and his family of 14 escaped the northern frontlines and settled in Sa'adah city, north of Yemen.

UNHCR's partner surveyed his home and noticed that Anwar and his family might soon have to evict due to accumulated unpaid rent.

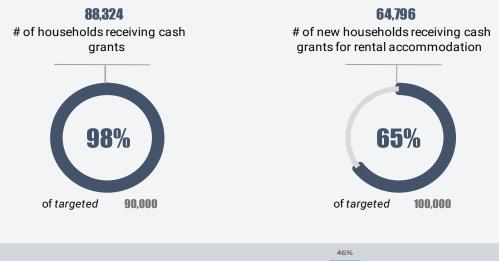
After a few steps to make sure that the information gathered on Anwar's family was correct, UNHCR provided Anwar's family with cash to pay his rent and his other pressing financial needs. ©UNHCR/Jamal Al-Barea

43 M USD disbursed

**UNHCR - IDPs** 

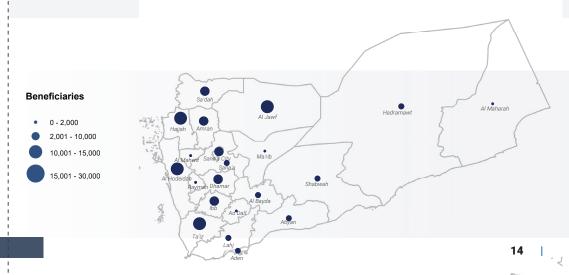
### CASH ASSISTANCE KEY FIGURES





2,818 households receiving emergency cash
29,129 households receiving cash grants for Winterization





UNHCR, with partners and local officials, participated in the opening of four additional temporary building structures in Kharif hospital. The hospital is in the rural area of Amran governorate, neighbouring Sana'a, and currently serves a population of 70,000 people which steeply grew over the years due to the conflict has displaced a large number of families. The supplementary temporary building structures provided by UNHCR immediately doubled the operational capacity of the hospital by adding consultancy and emergency treatment rooms and a surgery theatre. Also, UNHCR gave to the hospital an X-rav machine, which now allows patients to be examined there, rather than having to travel to Sana'a.

©UNHCR/Damien Mc Sweeney



In 2019. UNHCR installed a total of some 210 light poles using recyclable energy in two IDP hosting sites that host a total of 1,700 persons. There was no systematic electricity provided in any of the 1,750 sites in Yemen before UNHCR's project. The women, children, the elderly and the disabled in particular, feared going out at night to play, or go to the bathroom in fear of harassment. Next year, UNHCR is scaling up its efforts to install 23,400 light poles in refugee camp and other impoverished neighbourhoods with a high number of refugees and IDPs.



1.747 IDPs hosting sites



### **Camp Coordination and Camp Management** (CCCM) KEY FIGURES



#### **QIPs Implemented**

QIPs (Quick Impact Project) are designed to foster social cohesion, enhance community resilience and improve living standards of displaced and host communities. They are implemented to improve socio-economic conditions, build capacities, mobilize the community, expand service facilities, accelerate service delivery and promote peaceful coexistence/social cohesion between host community and persons of concern. QIPs benefit all population groups and contribute to reduce the level of hostility.

UNHCR implements QIPs in health, education, water and sanitation, protection, community rehabilitation, community stabilization and early recovery.

# of IDPs hosting site 4 - 15 Al Maharah Al Jaw 16 - 50 51 - 100 101 - 363 Sana'a Cit Δ Δ Shabwai Δ Δ 16

Families who escaped from the northern frontlines now live in an IDP hosting site that once used to be a stadium, in Hajjah city. The site currently hosts 76 displaced families. The stadium was rehabilitated by UNHCR by constructing partitions and doors, thus making space for 40 rooms in the basement alone, ensuring privacy and safety, especially for women and children. UNHCR also coordinated efforts from other humanitarian agencies to install latrines and ensure regular distributions of food. ©UNHCR/Rashed Al Dubai



### UNHCR YEMEN Refugees Response Prioritized response

#### **Priority1: Protection**

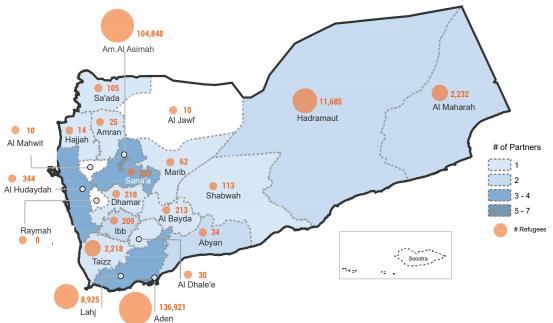
Yemen is the only country in the Arabian Peninsula, which is a signatory to the Refugee Convention (1951) and its Protocol (1967). It currently hosts some 280,200 refugees and asylum-seekers, within, the world's second-largest Somali refugee population (254,000). Despite UNHCR's continuous advocacy efforts for their rights to be fully respected and fulfilled, the ongoing conflict and political, social and economic difficulties continue to hinder their well being and the search for dignified durable solutions. An increasing number of refugees and asylum-seekers are dependent on external support or forced to resort to harmful coping strategies such as begging or offers for recruitment with the militia.

#### **Priority 2: Durable solutions**

Since 2017, UNHCR has been facilitating the return of Somali refugees in Yemen under its Assisted Spontaneous Return (ASR) programme in collaboration with IOM, the Government of Yemen, NGO partners, and the Somali authorities. So far in March 2020, more than 5,400 Somalis have returned through this programme. UNHCR hopes to initiate a similar programme of Voluntary Return for Ethiopians in 2020, with sufficient information campaigns to help returnees make informed decisions. However, many choose not to return home, given the lack of viable local integration options in Yemen. As a last resort to a growing number of refugees who have needs that cannot be addressed locally would need to be resettled to third countries. However, the quota for resettlement is extremely low - 75 in 2018, 100 in 2019, and none so far in 2020.

#### Priority 3: Enhanced partnerships & collaboration

UNHCR adopted a global strategy to work across the full spectrum of forced displacements and to promote socioeconomic inclusion of refugees, asylum-seekers and IDPs in a given operational context. The aim is to deliver assistance, and services based on an area covered by its programmes. In particular, UNHCR mainstreamed its refugee response in national development plans through partnerships and collaboration with key ministries and local authorities. UNHCR also worked with development partners so that refugees receive similar assistance as the rest of the population in need. Such examples include working with United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and UN-WOMEN (on GBV), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF- on child protection and education); United Nations Development Programme –(UNDP-livelihoods and the rule of law), and International Labour Organization (ILO -livelihoods).





A view of Yemen's Kharaz Refugee Camp in Lahj governorate. ©UNHCR/Shabia Mantoo



For the refugees and asylum-seekers in Yemen, UNHCR manages a community outreach programme to ensure all our programmes have extensive coverage, which includes reaching people with restricted mobility, or those living in remote areas. This particular mechanism links refugees and asylum-seekers who need support with comprehensive services and solutions. Throughout the year, more than 5,200 individuals received legal help, including settling of disputes, representation in court, and facilitating ID issuance. And 3,300 people suffering from trauma, or emotional abuse received counselling. Some 10,500 refugees and asylum-seeking families received cash up to roughly 200 USD per case to support their livelihoods.



UNHCR's child protection programme identifies those who may be at risk of exploitation and abuse from fragile families and arranges an alternative living environment depending on the case and other potential risks. Out-of-school children are reintroduced to schooling, and those with medical issues or disabilities receive treatment, therapy, or assistive devices. Separated children are arranged with foster care while waiting for family reunification. A total of 109 unaccompanied children benefitted from alternative care arrangements. UNCHR's informal education - such as computer, literacy and numeracy classes - benefitted 1,220 children. In 2019, UNHCR and partners visited more than 1,700 homes for close monitoring and follow-up of the cases.



UNHCR funds health care services including providing medications in five hospitals and clinics country-wide that cater for refugees, asylum-seekers, and also surrounding communities. In 2019, primary health care centres served close to 90,000 patients, and some 5,000 referrals to secondary and tertiary medical care. UNHCR covered the costs of rehabilitation, and physiotherapy treatment, as well as providing prosthetic limbs for Yemeni civilians injured in the conflict. UNHCR also rehabilitated 19 health centres and continued to advocate for the inclusion of refugees and asylum-seekers in national campaigns against measles, cholera and polio.



For refugees, UNHCR coordinates with the Ministry of Education to facilitate refugee children's access to public schools and quality education. In Kharaz camp, more than 90 per cent of primary-aged children attend camp schools. Rehabilitation work has also taken place in ten schools with improvements made to classrooms, washrooms, and shaded outdoor areas. Country-wide, 15 schools that also accommodate host refugee students were given equipment, teacher training, and school maintenance. UNHCR also supports an Early Childhood Education programme which helps out-of-school children to continue their education. Country-wide, 205 refugee students are also supported to be studying at tertiary levels.



UNHCR continues to assist refugee women and girls with a comprehensive SGBV case management package that includes psychosocial first aid and counselling, legal assistance, medical assistance and cash-based interventions.

Some 1,200 survivors of SGBV were helped by UNHCR and our partners through psychosocial counselling, medical help, and legal support including working with relevant authorities, or mediation in cases of domestic abuse.



UNHCR set up pilot projects to help refugees start or expand their businesses to facilitate their livelihoods and self-sufficiency. The pilot projects have helped support a total of 510 entrepreneurs in 2019. Furthermore, 340 refugees and asylum-seekers received short, and long-term certified skills training, and 210 received small business kits from UNHCR to kick-start their business. UNHCR's 'Cash-for-Work' programme is a monthly community clean-up scheme, benefitting a total of 360 people in 2019, including Yemenis in dire need of income. Lastly, refugees and Yemenis in the recycling industry received 164 tricycles and safety gear from UNHCR to enhance their productivity.



The protection space of the refugees and asylum-seekers continue to narrow in Yemen, worsened by the ongoing fighting, lack of livelihoods and opportunities for resettlement. UNHCR helps by offering solutions such as return programmes to the country of origin. In 2019 alone, UNHCR with IOM assisted the return of some 1,700 Somali refugees to Somalia through ASR, and submitted more than 140 individual cases for resettlement, mostly for those were at risk by staying in Yemen, or survivors of torture.



Registration for a refugee is vital to protect their rights in the host country, ensure freedom of movement, have access to public services, and prevent refoulement,.

The registration procedure differs depending on the authorities in action. In the south of Yemen, there are three main registration centres issuing documentation for Somali refugees, and one reception centre for refugees and asylum-seekers from other countries such as Ethiopia, Syria and Iraq. In the north of Yemen, the Bureau of Refugees Affairs (BRA) is responsible for the registration and issuance of documentation for all refugees and asylum-seekers. UNHCR provides advice including technical and financial support to all facilities.

UNHCR also conducted mobile registration visits to remote areas in central Yemen, and south of Hudaydah governorates where they do not have these services.

UNHCR must maintain an up-to-date, quality registration for refugees and asylum-seekers, which is crucial in helping authorities and humanitarian partners to design their programmes. UNHCR continues to advocate for easy-to-reach registration services for all refugees and asylum-seekers - including making sure that newborns and new arrivals are documented, and renew expired documents. ©UNHCR/Marie-Joelle Jean- Charles

<sup>1</sup>The forcible return of refugees or asylum-seekers to a country where they are liable to be subjected to persecution.

### **PROTECTION KEY FIGURES**

2,718
# of PoC receiving legal assistance



**21,276** # of identity documents issued for PoC



**8,893** # of PoC receiving cash grants (unconditional)



**UNHCR - Refugees** 

737	border guards and government officials trained
73	government staff trained
7,693	PoCs registered on an individual basis with minimum set of data required
1,536	PoC with specific needs receiving assistance

Refugees response



Fatoon (37), a Somali Refugee, arrived in Yemen just seven months ago. Her relatives gave her 150 USD for the crossing. Once onboard, the crewmen beat her and the others. The crossing lasted for 24 hours.

When she arrived, she was kept for another 2 weeks until she paid extra. Her wounds got severely infected.

After she was released, Fatoon made her way to Mukalla, weak and traumatized. In Mukalla, her friend Fatma took her to UNHCR's partner INTERSOS' office. They gave her medical care and cash for her treatment.

While running medical exams, the doctors discovered that Fatoon had breast cancer. She needed surgery urgently. Fatma mobilized the community. She went door to door and to places where refugees gathered to ask for help. Together they raised the money Fatoon needed.

UNHCR through INTERSOS provided her with additional cash so can rent a place and cover her food, water and clothing. She was also visited by a professional to talk about her difficulties.

Fatma and the other refugee women took turns after the surgery to ensure that Fatoon always had someone by her side.

Last week (25 February), Fatoon went for a third visit to the doctor. The cancer cells were regressing. "I feared that I would not see my children again; now, I am hopeful I will live to see them again." ©UNHCR/Marie-Joelle Jean-Charles

JNHCR - Refugees

### **PROTECTION KEY FIGURES**

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3.298
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# of PoC with psychosocial needs receiving psychosocial support



851 # of children registered and issued documentation under regular birth



#### 461

# of PoC with disabilities receiving specific support (including Assistive devices)



Refugees response

recorded by age and sex



Best friends Sara and Leila (both 9) share a special moment in the Early Intervention Centre playground in Kharaz Refugee camp. They both joined the centre around the same time and have since become inseparable. When asked what is it that they love most about the place, both replied, "Each other."

Sara also likes to come to the centre to watch TV as has not TV at home she said. Leila loves the drawing classes offered from the centre. Sara and Leila both have developmental delays that slow their ability to learn. UNHCR's partner runs the centre and welcomes children who need additional support before joining the formal education.

The Early Intervention Centre is one of the many education programmes by UNHCR that provides learning support for young refugees who may have missed years of schooling, or need language support in their new environment. The most advanced classes prepare the students in integrating into the formal education system.

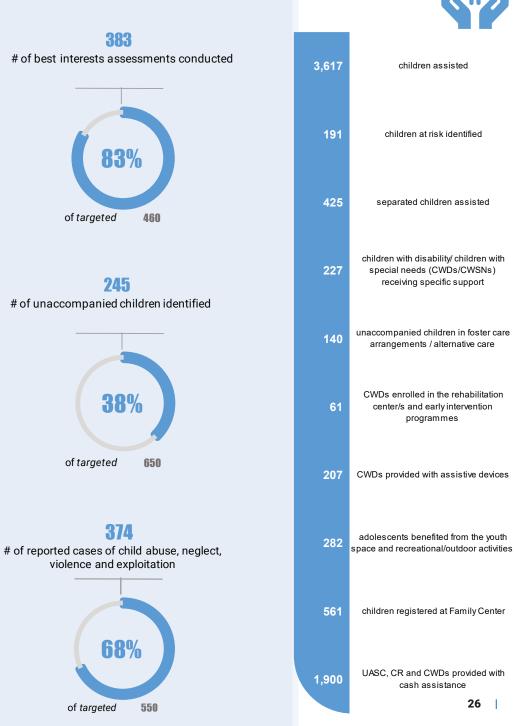
In 2019, UNHCR enrolled 570 children in numeracy and literacy classes country-wide, while the Early Intervention Centre located in the Kharaz refugee camp supported some 90 children. The centre also manages home-schooling for more than ten children with mobility challenges. © UNHCR/ Marie-Joelle Jean-Charles



### CHILD PROTECTION KEY FIGURES

Refugees response

26



Nasra\* arrived in Yemen two years ago after a treacherous journey during which she was subjected to serious human rights violations. Since then, she does not shy away to tell her story of how she fled from injustice and frustration.

Nasra was a bright ninth-grade student when she fell victim to assault. With no parents nor siblings, and the authorities threatening her to stay silent, she had nowhere to turn. She joined a group of people travelling to Yemen. Upon arrival, she was assaulted again.

Narsa was depressed, traumatized and needed medical care. She reached out for counselling to UNHCR's partners and received cash for her medical treatment in the language she is comfortable with. Now she is married with children. But she still is disturbed by her experience and sometimes has difficulty sleeping. There are days when she would fall in a deep depression. When she is better, she actively shares her story with other women's groups to advocate against harmful practices and raise awareness on protection of women and children.

"I believe that what I do is protecting the next generation and helping other survivors. People are all different. Some understand some don't. Some appreciate that I speak up and cries with me. Still, there is an underlying sadness in my life that does not go away".

1.194 Cases have been assisted

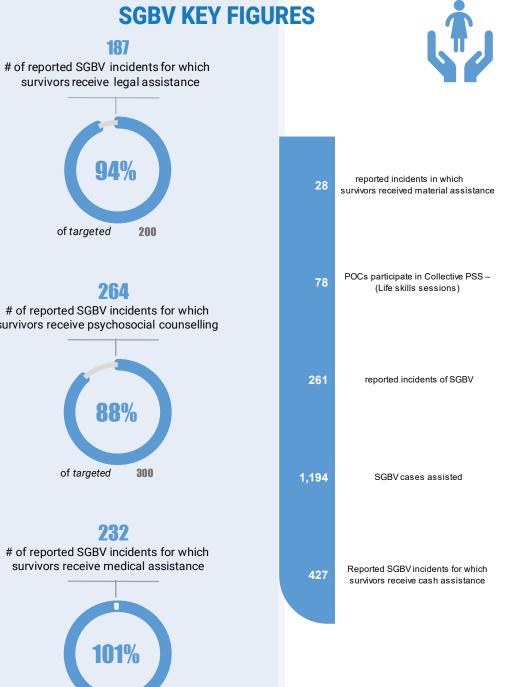
through UNHCR's partners.

**UNHCR** - Refugees

©UNHCR/Won-Na Cha

\*Name has been changed.

## **SGBV KEY FIGURES**



# of reported SGBV incidents for which survivors receive psychosocial counselling

264

187

94%

200

of targeted

# 88% of targeted 300

#### 232

# of reported SGBV incidents for which survivors receive medical assistance



Refugees response



In 1991, the war in Somalia had been raging for years. Nadifa was abducted and forced to work in a hospital. After a few days, she escaped with the help of a friend and returned home. However, the militias broke into her home and physically assaulted her, with brutal injuries.

Fearing for her life and the future of her six children, she decided to leave Somalia. She and her husband, Omer, sold their belongings, and within days they were on a boat heading to Yemen.

"Life was tough for us," she remembers. "I couldn't work because of my injuries. We struggled to support our family," said Nadifa.

After years of hardship, Nadifa eventually found work at the Kharaz camp clinic in 2001.

"I've been fortunate to be able to practice again and work for such a long time. I have helped women deliver their babies, and now after they have become adults themselves, helping to give birth to their children. That's a blessing and God willing I hope to continue for as long as I can. I wish for a better future for all my children. The life in the camp can be harsh, with few jobs. I wish they all could find opportunities for a better life," she said.

© UNHCR/Marie-Joelle Jean-Charles



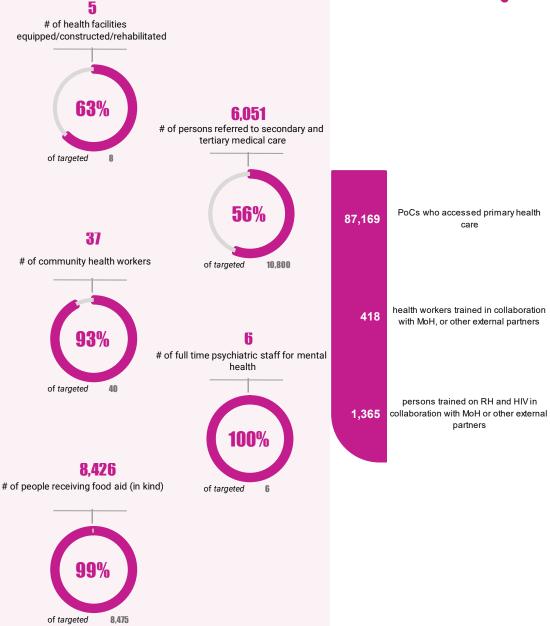
POC received essential, NCD and psychotherapeutic medicines

**UNHCR** - Refugees

### **HEALTH & NUTRITION KEYS FIGURES**

\$

Refugees response



29



Fatima (7) does her classwork in the Kharaz refugee camp school. She is one of the most active, hard-working, and helpful students in the school.

She wants to become a teacher when she grows up. Fatima is full of energy and is not afraid to ask questions to her teacher and classmates when she is stuck.

She lives with her grandmother and 15-month-old sister in the camp, as her mother has health difficulties that make it challenging for her to supporting her family.

In Kharaz, UNHCR partners with the Ministry of Education and runs two primary schools, and a secondary school for children living in the camp.

Over 2,500 primary and 400 secondary school students attend the refugee schools in Kharaz refugee camp for the 2019/2020 academic school year. There are currently some 9,000 refugees and asylum-seekers living in Kharaz refugee camp. UNHCR/Marie-Joelle Jean-Charles



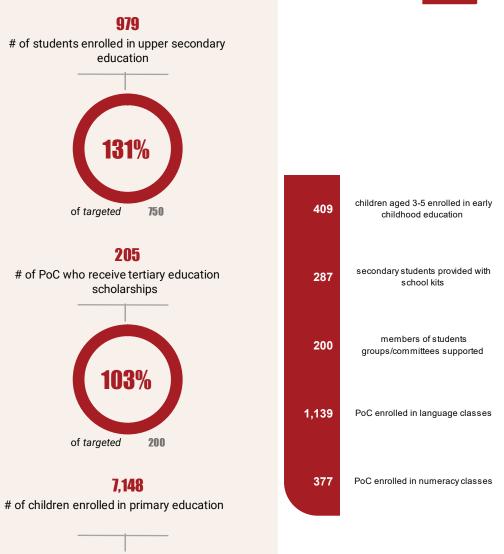
### **EDUCATION KEY FIGURES**

42%

of targeted

17.000

Refugees response





UNHCR supports the independence and self-reliance of refugees through micro-loan programmes that help them establish and promote their businesses.

UNHCR also provides various vocational and on-the-job training such as car maintenance, beauty salon skills, computer maintenance, photography, tailoring, secretarial skills, incense making, electrical wiring, graphic design, sweets making and much more. Lastly, UNHCR provides a three-year, long-term technical education for refugees on subjects such as pharmacy, laboratory, computer sciences and business administration.

IIn 2016, Abdulrahman approached UNHCR's partner, anxiously trying to salvage his olive oil business. With the initial 300,000 YER loan (some USD 500 Abdulrahman restarted his company of importing olive oil from Syria and selling it in Yemen where the product is highly received.

After a total loan of 5,900,000 YER (some USD 9,800) over four years, along with Abdulrahman's hard work, his business was not only back on track, but it also grew dramatically. Abdulrahman is now totally self-reliant to support this six-member family. Abdulrahman continues to import olive oil with large tanks from Idlib, his hometown.

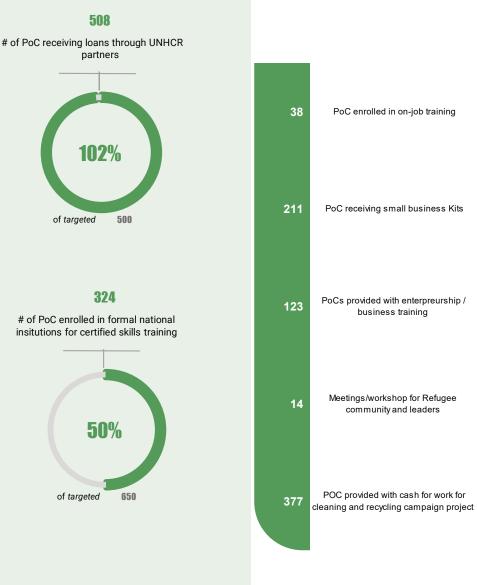
© UNHCR/ CSSW/Ahmed Jubran

**66 M** Yemeni Rial (YER) Total borrowed by PoC **131M** YER Total borrowed by PoC repaid

**UNHCR - Refugees** 







Refugees and asylum-seekers in Yemen are frequently victims of human rights violations and abuse. Askalu,\* a refugee from Ethiopia, was a survivor of both. She eventually delivered a daughter in Yemen, but she could not acquire a birth certificate for her as she was born out of wedlock. Finally, the family of two was accepted for resettlement in a third country, a chance to rebuild their lives where they can obtain documentation, access public services, including education and psychosocial support.

Resettlement continues to be an essential, and preferred solution for many refugees in Yemen as they live in fragility with little hope for improvement. However, the needs are much more than the quotas available.

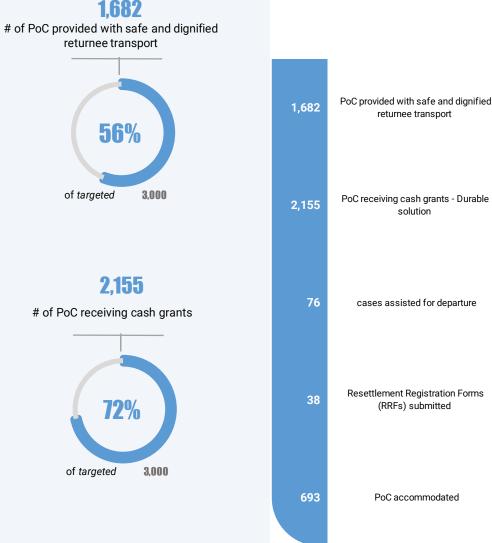
The other solution available for Somali refugees is UNHCR's Assisted Spontaneous Return (ASR) programme. Mohammed arrived in Kharaz refugee camp with his 12 children several years ago. Since then, he was a vital part of the camp - participating in various activities, including assisting with food distribution. But, as the situation in Yemen deteriorated, he decided to return to Somalia.

All of his children received education from UNHCR supported schools in the camp, and expressed their gratitude, and confidence that they will be able to find jobs back in Somalia. Mohammed was one of the first returning families from the ASR programme in 2017. His family received a return grant upon

arrival, which he used to develop a business. Mohammed's business was so successful he was able to buy a house. Before leaving Yemen, Mohammed did not forget to thank the" neighbouring sister country Yemen,[and] how warmly they hosted Somalis, as well as UNHCR and the world who assisted us since the collapse of our central government." © UNHCR

\*name has been changed.





**DURABLE SOLUTIONS KEY FIGURES** 

# o Assisted Spontaneous Returns per Year



35



Group of Yemenis and displaced people play in a playground near the destruction in Aden. © UNHCR/ Saleh Bahulais



### 2019 YEMEN COUNTRY REPORT

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