

Field Office (FO) Sa'ada

June 2020

UNHCR FO Sa'ada covers both Sa'ada and Al Jawf governorates. The area borders with Saudi Arabia to the north and has more than 15 active frontlines. It is also a frequent target of airstrikes and shelling.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, the area frequented with mixed population movements including refugees and asylum-seekers. UNHCR monitored the movements and provided support and guidance.

There are 111 IDP sites (11,900 IDPs) in Sa'ada Hub, scattered in a wide area with lack of partners on ground. UNHCR focuses on identifying and enhancing capacity of the humanitarian partners.

KEY INDICATORS

320,634

Number of internally displaced persons in areas under FO Sa'ada DTM March 2019

192,702

Number of returnees in areas under FO Sa'ada DTM March 2019

71,245

Number of IDPs under FO Sa'ada who received service, cash or in-kind support UNHCR June 2020



A displaced man receives basic household items for his whole family in Rajuzah district of Al Jawf governorate. ©UNHCR/Jamal Al-Barea

UNHCR PRESENCE

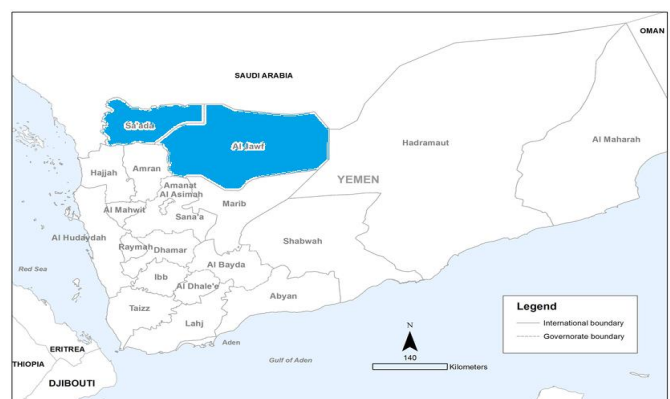
Staff:

13 National Staff

1 International Staff

3 National partners

- Yemen development foundation (YDF)
- YARD (Yemen AL Khair for Relief and Development)
- BFD (Building Foundation for Development)



The area of operation, as covered by Field Office Sa'ada

The Sa'ada Hub and the tri-clusters (Protection, Shelter and CCCM Cluster) led by UNHCR UNHCR with other Clusters' partners under the inter-agency framework is responsible for coordinating three clusters: protection, CCCM and shelter, ensuring that humanitarian assistance reaches the neediest families in a coordinated and effective manner.

Given the limited presence of active and qualified humanitarian actors in Sa'ada Hub, UNHCR, besides coordinating response efforts being the lead agency of the three mentioned sub-clusters, is considered the most active member in response to the needs pertaining to the three sectors.

Main activities



Protection

REFUGEES

- There is a small refugee community under the area of responsibility of FO Sa'ada, who are integrated in the IDP.
- The border areas with Saudi Arabia was always frequented by mixed population movements, however the lack of registration policies in the region had narrowed the most basic protection spaces for refugees and asylum-seekers. Especially at the second quarter of 2020 during movement regulations related to COVID-19, UNHCR deployed partners for rapid assessments and provided guidance to those who need protection.

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

- UNHCR FO Sa'ada through its partners and its community-based protection network, carries out monitoring to identify vulnerable families, including the impoverished local host community. The families identified in need of support are referred to two community centres in Sa'ada and Al Jawf governorates. UNHCR through its protection partners, provide various services such as legal assistance, psychosocial counselling and special support for children and survivors of physical and psychological violence. Emergency cash assistance is provided to extremely vulnerable families who need immediate intervention.
- So far this year, some 9,364 individuals were assessed, of which 4,400 families were provided with cash support for their food, rent and medicine and 1,840 individuals received legal assistance including assistance with issuing their IDs or birth certificates. Psychosocial counselling was provided to 27 persons and 52 children benefited from child protection programmes.
- Last year, several **Quick-Impact Projects to benefit both the displaced and hosted communities were carried out** such as support to the civil registration authority, refurbishment of water pumps and building classrooms for girls. However this year, similar activities have deferred for other emergency interventions due to lack of funds.



Emergency distribution

- Sa'ada and Al Jawf is a highly volatile region with multiple active frontlines. So far in 2020, 1,800 IDP families received basic household items such as beddings and kitchen set to sustain their daily lives after they had to flee their homes. Furthermore, 170 families who have been sheltered immediately with emergency shelter kits.



Cash support

- CBI is the most appreciated form of assistance by the IDPs, given its positive impact in providing instant relief to the displaced families. Cash also helps improving their protection and resilience by minimising negative coping mechanisms such as begging, child labour and dropping out of school. It also contributes to the local economy, and thus strengthens opportunities for social cohesion between displaced and host communities. Until June 2020, some 4,380 IDP families were given cash support which they primarily used for food, rent, medicine and other essential services at their own discretion.



Camp Coordination & Camp Management (CCCM)

- The 111 IDP hosting sites under Sa'ada Hub is scattered in a broad area of Sa'ada and Al Jawf governorates, including unfinished buildings and open areas in substandard living conditions with inadequate access to basic services such as water and health. All humanitarian response such as basic service monitoring is done in coordination with the local authority and other humanitarian members to ensure the most effective use of resources.



COVID-19 response

- Prior to COVID-19 reaching Yemen in April 2020, UNHCR actively raised awareness of IDP communities on prevention and precautionary measures as recommended by WHO and the MOPH. A total of 10,200 leaflets were distributed through door-to-door and small-group gatherings while observing COVID-19 Protocols.
- UNHCR in partnership with CCCM partners devised a community-based action plan in case of an outbreak of COVID-19 in the IDP hosting sites. Throughout its implementation, UNHCR's CCCM partners maintained a close coordination with WASH & Health service providers to distribute hygiene kits, conducting awareness-raising, covering WASH gaps and support emergency transportation to health facilities.
- Emergency distributions of shelter and basic household items also incorporated [physical distancing measures and adapted door-to-door deliveries](#) wherever possible. Hand-washing basins were installed at major distribution points.



Challenges and Gaps

- **Difficulty in accessing areas in need** due to ongoing airstrikes and fighting
- **Limited presence** of Cluster members due to limited capacity and funding and **inadequate response, feedback and referrals.**
- **Lack of projects that promotes peaceful coexistence** between the displaced and local host community.

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