

💰 Cash assistance in the time of COVID-19

AUGUST 2020



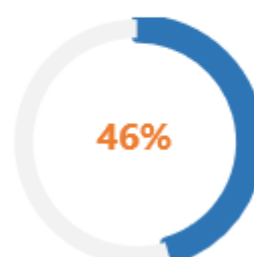
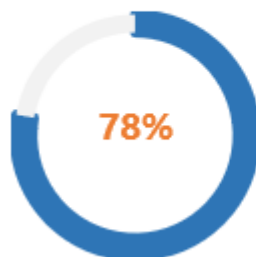
UNHCR's partner Yemen General Union of Sociologists, Social Workers and Psychologists (YGUSSWP) is providing emergency cash assistance to displaced families who has no means for livelihood support, largely driven by the COVID-19 related measures © UNHCR/ YGUSSWP, August 2020.

Refugee and IDPs, Cash for COVID-19

Displaced communities are disproportionately affected by COVID-19. Refugees and IDPs are among the first victims of COVID-19's socio-economic consequences as (a) the economy slows down, (b) greater restrictions of movement limit opportunities to find livelihoods, (c) discrimination due to their status as 'on the move', and (d) limited purchase power to buy hygiene items and access medical treatment. **So far in August, UNHCR's cash programme supported more than 505,000 refugee and IDPs with their daily needs,** such as rent, food, medicine

clothes and hygiene materials. Direct financial support through cash empowers the families including women and people with disabilities as dignified economic entities, to mitigate the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19, maintain acceptable health and hygiene conditions and a more balanced food intake, contributing to better immunity against diseases.

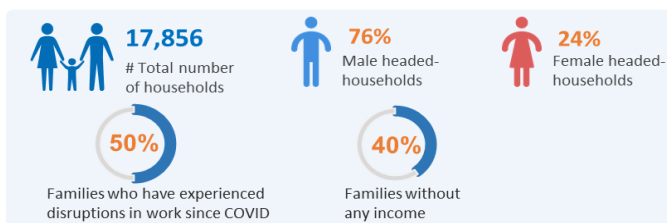
UNHCR expanded its cash programme beneficiary criteria especially to those affected by COVID-19 through ongoing assessments and included more vulnerable IDPs and refugee families as possible as a response to their growing needs. UNHCR's preliminary assessments with the partners on ground identified a total of 49,200 refugee and IDP families that need support.



Until the end of August, 55 per cent of the entire targets were reached. UNHCR will continue to support the vulnerable families affected by COVID-19 such as **those with underlying protection vulnerabilities exacerbated by the COVID-19 and those living in high-risk IDP hosting sites or overcrowded urban centres.**

COVID-19 Prevention Measures for Cash Distribution

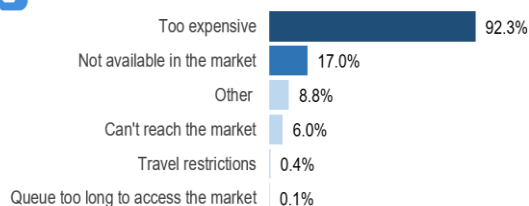
- **Staggered timing** of payment plans and alert for better crowd control.
- **Increasing the payment points** for faster services
- Hiring a **crowd-control manager** and installing **handwashing station**
- Disseminating **awareness-raising leaflets** and displaying the toll-free number of financial service provider's call centre at every payment point



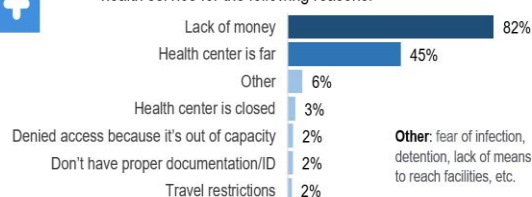
An assessment of over 33,000 families over various population profiles was carried out to better understand the impact of COVID-19 their daily lives., UNHCR identified some 18,000 families particularly affected: half responded having their daily income

had been impacted by COVID-19-related measures and restriction of movements, whilst 40 per cent answered they never had any income to begin with. Three-fourths of the respondents indicated they could not afford appropriate hygiene items due to their scarcity on the market and high costs. Nearly half reported difficulties in accessing health services due to lack of transportation, amplified by the fuel crisis. Through this process, UNHCR was also able to strengthen its IDP data base by referring 1,140 IDP families to community centers to update their information and receive further support such as legal, psychosocial support and referrals to specialized services.

78% Of all households verified are unable to purchase hygiene items for the following reasons:



44% Of all households verified were experiencing challenges in accessing health service for the following reasons:



WORKING WITH PARTNERS



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