



*IDP shelters affected by flooding in Al Khalaq district, Al Jawf Governorate. © UNHCR/YARD*

# Flood Flash Update #3

UNHCR Yemen - 27 August 2024

## Situation overview

This week, heavy rains continue to cause flash floods across Yemen's arid climate areas and inland desert. Some areas are expected to see 30mm of rain in one day. The extensive damage caused by rain and flash floods is exacerbating the shelter, infrastructure, and protection concerns of thousands of forcibly displaced families and vulnerable Yemenis. The floods have disrupted livelihoods by submerging farmlands, severely harming livestock, and washing away small shops. There are significant concerns about potential outbreaks of waterborne diseases due to contaminated water sources and mold on the walls. Additionally, unexploded ordnances are being unearthed and moved by the floods, hampering movements by affected communities and partners delivering the response.

According to the UNHCR-led Shelter/Non-Food Items (NFI) Cluster, since July 2024, 42,334 families have been affected by the rains and flooding across 16 Governorates, with Al Hudaydah and Hajjah the most affected, representing 54% of the affected families. Marib, Sa'ada, and Al Jawf are the next most severely impacted Governorates.

UNHCR, as the lead agency of the Protection, Shelter/NFI, and Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Clusters, is coordinating with local partners and humanitarian actors to provide immediate assistance to internally displaced people (IDPs). UNHCR is also providing emergency assistance to refugees and asylum-seekers. UNHCR and partners continue to receive requests from local authorities for emergency support as the rains continue and the full extent of damage is seen.

## Humanitarian impact and UNHCR response

### Humanitarian response:

In Sana'a, from January to 18 August, 195 refugee families reported being affected by the heavy rains and floods in Amanat Al Asimah and Sana'a. After assessments, UNHCR and partners provided 151 of the most vulnerable refugees families with emergency cash assistance to address their immediate needs like patching their roofs, repairing water damage, and purchasing NFIs.

### IDP response:

UNHCR, as the lead coordination agency of the Protection, Shelter/NFI, and CCCM Clusters, is coordinating with local partners and humanitarian actors at the sub-national and national level to provide immediate assistance to affected populations through shelter, NFIs, protection services, and cash assistance. UNHCR is rolling out a new conditional cash programme aimed at essential shelter items. This is in addition to the current provision of emergency cash assistance.

Women and children are particularly vulnerable, facing protection risks, health issues, and limited access to education and safe water. Post-flood response actions are being planned to mitigate potential protection and health risks. According to the Shelter Cluster, since July 2024, 42,585 IDP families had their shelters affected by the heavy rains and flash floods, of which 35% of families have received shelter or NFI support.

In March in preparation for the rainy season, the CCCM Cluster's 2024 flood preparedness exercise found that 48% of CCCM-managed IDP sites appeared to be at critical or medium risk of flooding. CCCM partners could construct flood mitigation projects in 70 of the 348 prioritized IDP sites, most of which were community-driven, before the July rains. Data-driven coordination continues with flood mapping and hazard modeling of IDP sites.

**In Marib**, in addition to the previously affected Marib City, Marib Al Wadi, and Raghwan districts, Harib district was recently hit with heavy rains. The storms caused significant damage to IDP shelters and belongings. The CCCM Cluster published high-resolution flood hazard assessments for five IDP sites to inform potential flood mitigation measures by partners and other actors.

Based on the assessments done earlier, 40 of the most vulnerable households (275 individuals) were supported with 40 NFI kits and 746 plastic sheets were distributed. In addition, UNHCR will provide 800 families with a conditional cash programme for shelter maintenance.

**In Al Hudaydah**, recent heavy rains and flash floods continued to cause extensive damage in Al Hudaydah, Hajjah and Al Mahwit Governorates. Raymah Governorate is also now affected. Tragically, deaths due to flash flooding were reported in Bait Al Faqih district in Al Hudaydah.

**In Al Hudaydah Governorate**, UNHCR and partners conducted over 3,000 assessments in the last two weeks in six flood-affected districts to evaluate the humanitarian impact of the floods. Two additional districts are currently undergoing assessments. The floods have caused significant damage to properties, shelters, and displacement sites, leaving many IDPs and vulnerable communities without essential necessities. The urgent needs identified are shelter repair, emergency shelter, NFIs, legal support, psychosocial support, identity documents, health, water, sanitation, and livelihood support. The humanitarian situation is further complicated by limited aid access and the presence of mines in certain areas. Almost 4,000 NFIs were distributed in four districts (Al Hali, Al Qanawis, Az Zuhrah).

**In Hajjah Governorate**, displaced families found shelter in schools with other families requiring temporary relocation until the rains subside. There are flood mitigation projects being built, such as sand barriers and gabion walls.

**In Ta'iz Governorate**, the floods in Maqbanah district washed away crops and destroyed farms and where many IDPs have found work. Livestock – another source of income - were also killed in the floods. Unable to work to pay rent, some families now reside in makeshift shelters that became damaged recently. UNHCR will support 210 families with the conditional cash programme for shelter maintenance. Since the end of July, when the heavy rains started, UNHCR and its partner assessed 272 displaced and Yemeni affected households in Maqbanah district and provided up-to-date information, NFIs, emergency shelter kits and legal documentation.

**In Al Dale'e Governorate**, UNHCR and its partner conducted assessments for 172 IDPs families affected by the heavy rains and floods. The main needs identified were shelter, NFIs, documentation and psychosocial support.

**In Ibb Governorate**, Al Mashanah district was affected by floods from heavy rains. Assessments found 123 affected families lost their shelters and vital items such as mattresses, blankets, clothes, and food. UNHCR will support all 123 families with conditional cash for shelter maintenance.

**In Sa'ada Governorate**, UNHCR and its partner assessed 711 families affected by flooding in Sa'ada city. The assessed families were referred to Shelter Cluster partners for shelter and NFI assistance. In Al Jawf, 175 households were assessed.

**In Sana'a Governorate**, heavy rains each day continued to cause flash floods with severe damage to shelters and belongings for 1,966 households across the governorate: 471 shelters were destroyed, 1,432 were partially damaged and 63 suffered minor damage. UNHCR's response plan includes the distribution of plastic sheets of 2,472 for 1,236 families in the sites. Cash for emergency shelter kits has been allocated for 310 households for families in three districts, and technical assessments are ongoing.



UNHCR partner conducting an assessment at Dar salm IDP site in Sana'a. © UNHCR/SDF

**In Albayda Governorate**, on 23 August, 96 shelters at Alhadiqah IDP site were submerged and essential items destroyed. UNHCR and its partner undertook assessments and responded with 100 NFI kits.

**In Dhamar Governorate**, Wusab As Safil district was the most affected district with 350 homes damaged. UNHCR has allocated emergency response for 200 families which will be distributed once the assessments have concluded.

**In Amanat Al Asimah**, heavy rains on 15 August resulted in partial damage to over 1,000 shelters. In response, UNHCR is distributing 2,000 plastic sheets to 1,000 families across the governorate and conducting assessments for cash for emergency shelter kits with affected families.

**In Amran Governorate**, approximately 300 households in Beer Athlah, Al Sherhi, and Al Mahm IDP sites, and 500 surrounding homes were severely affected. Families suffered significant property losses, and infrastructure such as roads and water systems sustained damage. Assessments indicate that immediate needs are food, NFIs, hygiene supplies, clean water, and provisional shelter for IDPs. UNHCR's partner responded with 180 NFI kits and a further 235 families will receive emergency shelter kits.

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