



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Yemen Operational Update

January - October 2025

Children in Ibb Governorate help carry plastic sheeting provided to their families to reinforce shelters after heavy rains.

UNHCR/ YGUSSWP

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

Yemen remains one of the world's most acute and complex humanitarian crises. In 2025, protracted conflict, economic decline, and extreme weather driven by climate change have left more than 19.5 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. Nearly 4.8 million Yemenis remain displaced within the country—many for years—while over 62,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, primarily from Somalia and Ethiopia, have sought safety in Yemen, the only country in the Arabian Peninsula that is a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol.

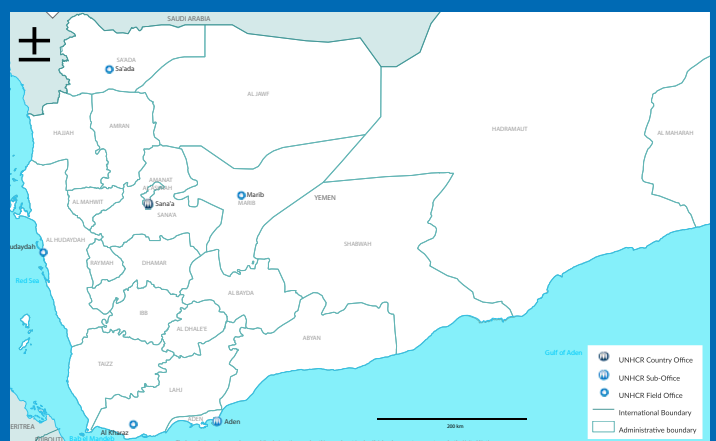
UNHCR, with offices in Sana'a and Aden and field presence in Al-Hudaydah, Marib, and Sa'ada, ensures operational coverage across most of Yemen's 22 governorates and 333 districts, working closely with authorities, local partners, and affected communities to deliver protection and assistance.

As the United Nations agency mandated to protect and assist refugees and asylum-seekers, UNHCR is the sole agency responsible for refugee protection and assistance in Yemen. For internally displaced Yemenis, UNHCR is part of the broader humanitarian system and leads the Protection, Shelter/Non-Food Items (NFI), and Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) clusters. UNHCR also co-leads the Refugee and Migrant Multi-Sector (RMMS) and the Cash

Working Group, ensuring coordinated and effective assistance across sectors.

Together with partners, UNHCR provides refugees with protection and essential services including legal assistance, documentation, shelter, education, health care, WASH, and energy. For IDPs, UNHCR delivers life-saving assistance for those most in need, including protection services such as legal support and documentation, shelter and NFIs, multi-purpose cash assistance, and coordinates site management through the CCCM cluster.

Beginning in early October, the operating context in Sana'a evolved in ways that required the humanitarian community to adapt how certain activities were carried out. This update reflects work undertaken from January to October 2025.



FLOOD RESPONSE

Between August and September, torrential rains and flash floods affected more than **67,000** families—approximately **470,000** people—across **20** governorates, according to United Nations Office of Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The floods resulted in **82** deaths and over **100** injuries, destroyed homes and infrastructure, and disrupted access to basic services. Families already displaced by conflict were among the worst affected, as floodwaters swept through informal settlements in Hudaydah, Hajjah, Dhamar, Marib, and Taiz, washing away shelters and belongings. In some areas, floodwaters also unearthed unexploded ordnance, heightening protection risks.



A street in Hudayda flooded with water during the heavy rains of August.

UNHCR

As lead of the Protection, Shelter/NFI, and CCCM Clusters, UNHCR coordinated with authorities and partners to support the emergency response.. UNHCR has assisted over **5,500** families – approximately **33,000** people – received emergency NFI assistance. In Hudaydah, gabion walls and drainage barriers were constructed to protect over **400** families, while Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) in Azraqeen (Sana'a) and Saylat Al Kherba (Ibb) reinforced flood drainage and embankments to prevent future damage. Flood mitigation assessments were also conducted across five IDP sites to inform longer-term solutions.

These interventions helped families restore safer living conditions and reduce the risks of future flooding, while partners continue to monitor the long-term impact of the disaster.



“The flood took everything—our entire life.”

In Hudaydah, [#Yemen](#) displaced families watched their homes, food & belongings wash away in minutes.

UNHCR teams are responding, but the scale of need is overwhelming.

See their story & stand with Yemen's displaced.



UNHCR / October 2025

Parts of UNHCR's flood response click to know more.

REFUGEES AND ASYLUM-SEEKERS RESPONSE

UNHCR continued to protect and assist refugees and asylum-seekers throughout Yemen. So far in 2025, **2,350** newly registered asylum-seekers and refugees, bringing the total number recorded in Yemen to more than **62,000**.



PROTECTION SERVICES

- Legal aid and documentation remained central to maintaining refugees' rights and access to services. **3,889** refugees received legal counselling and representation, and **2,247** participated in legal awareness sessions. UNHCR partners also carried out **819** detention monitoring visits, advocating for the release of unlawfully detained persons and supporting **571** detainees.
- More than **3,650** refugees and asylum-seekers obtained or renewed identity documents with support from UNHCR, while authorities issued an additional **10,397** identity documents. **504** refugee and asylum-seeker children were issued documentation under regular birth registration procedures. Over **918** older persons and **739** persons with disabilities received targeted assistance, while **1,923** individuals received psychological first aid (PFA).
- In Aden, UNHCR and partners expanded mobile protection monitoring across Basateen and Khor Maksar to identify urgent cases and strengthen community referrals. Help desks at protection centres registered an increase in documentation and legal inquiries, reflecting community trust in UNHCR-supported services.
- In Al-Mahrah Governorate, UNHCR and the Immigration, Passport and Naturalization Authority (IPNA) launched a joint mobile registration mission to support refugees and asylum-seekers with limited access to regular

services. Engagement with authorities ensured security arrangements and community outreach, and the mission has registered **174** individuals to date, including new cases, renewals, and child additions.



CHILD PROTECTION AND GBV

- UNHCR continues to strengthen child protection among refugees and asylum seekers in Yemen, supporting **1,288** children at heightened risk through Best Interest Procedures and Assessments, providing legal assistance to 286 children, psychosocial support to **2,046** children, and recreational activities for **1,760** children. **287** unaccompanied and separated children have been placed in caregiving arrangements and are monitored regularly, while community-based protection is reinforced through training on child rights and protection principles.
- For GBV prevention and response, **269** survivors received case management and psychosocial support, while **876** individuals participated in awareness sessions.



HEALTH AND NUTRITION

- UNHCR and health partners continued providing free health assistance to refugees and asylum-seekers, including through **87,300** health consultations and medicines in five partner clinics and hospitals. **3,242** medical referrals for specialized care were supported, and **461** safe deliveries were assisted. Over **1,129** mothers and children were enrolled in nutrition and feeding programmes, and **34,415** people were reached through health awareness campaigns.



In Basateen, I met the dedicated team at a UNHCR-supported clinic serving refugees, displaced Yemenis, and the local community.

Their work is a testament to what's possible with the right support.

This #WorldRefugeeDay, I'm proud to stand with them—and with those we serve.



For refugees in Al Mahra, renewing their certificates means access to basic services, education, healthcare and freedom of movement.



Stitch by stitch, Sabreen and Eman are rebuilding their lives — and their community. Through UNHCR’s vocational training, the sisters gained skills, confidence, and a renewed sense of dignity. ‘Without those six months of training, we wouldn’t have had food on the table,’ Eman says. ‘They gave us more than skills — they gave us dignity.’

📷 UNHCR/ Zeyad Sulaihi



EDUCATION

- UNHCR supported six schools in Aden, Kharaz, and Mukalla that serve both refugee and host community children. By October, **6,982** children were enrolled in primary school, **983** children were provided with material support to access secondary school, and **53** students continued tertiary education through the DAFI scholarship programme. Over **534** out-of-school children re-enrolled through UNHCR-supported accelerated learning and awareness initiatives, while another **1,319** children joined language, literacy and numeracy classes. UNHCR also distributed **4,497** school kits, rehabilitated **9** classrooms, and worked with the Ministry of Education to include refugee children in the new academic year.



CASH ASSISTANCE AND LIVELIHOODS

- To help vulnerable refugees meet their basic needs such as food, shelter, and hygiene, **9,049** refugees received multipurpose cash assistance, **1,904** received cash-for-protection to mitigate specific protection risks, and **3,784** of the most vulnerable refugees benefited from long-term cash assistance. **1,560** individuals also received emergency cash assistance. In Aden and Taiz, vocational and business-skills training were provided for women, including sewing and leathercraft workshops. Several graduates have since launched small-scale businesses, generating income and promoting community cohesion.



DURABLE SOLUTIONS

- Between January and October, **123** refugees were submitted for resettlement, and **38** departed to third countries. Somali refugees continued registering for voluntary return under the Assisted Spontaneous Return (ASR) programme, supported with counselling, documentation, medical screening, and transport assistance ahead of organized movements to Somalia. So far in 2025, **1,591** refugees have been counselled on return conditions in Somalia, and **365** Somali refugees have been assisted by UNHCR to voluntarily return in safety and dignity via boat to Berbera and flights to Mogadishu.
- UNHCR facilitated one complementary pathway case, enabling a refugee student to begin his studies at Sciences Po University in Paris.



“My children have never seen their country. Today, they’ll set foot in Somalia for the first time.” A new beginning for Somali refugees returning home from Yemen through UNHCR’s Assisted Spontaneous Return programme. Read their story.

📷 UNHCR/ FMF

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPS) AND RETURNEES RESPONSE



For years, 8-year-old Hanadi slept on the streets of Aden with her family. With UNHCR's support — financial assistance, legal documents, and enrollment in Accelerated Classes — she now has a safe home, goes to school every day, and dreams of becoming a teacher.

 UNHCR



PROTECTION SERVICES

- Through legal partners, UNHCR provided counselling, legal aid, and civil documentation support to displaced Yemenis. Between January and October, **2,826** individuals received legal assistance, **3,236** joined awareness sessions, and 116 housing, land and property (HLP) cases were resolved. With UNHCR's support, **5,347** IDPs obtained official documents through the Civil Registry Authority (CRA), including birth and national ID certificates, helping displaced Yemenis access education, healthcare, and public services.
- UNHCR's community protection networks remained essential for early identification and referrals, conducting **513** awareness sessions and referring **15,207** individuals to specialized services. A total of **18,983** feedback cases were processed through the community feedback mechanism, ensuring accountability to affected populations.
- In Marib, protection teams monitored over **48,000** individuals since February, identifying persons with specific needs and providing psychosocial support to **3,199** individuals.



CHILD PROTECTION AND GBV

- Across Yemen, **594** displaced children were referred to critical child protection services, **3,289** joined recreational activities, and **722** received psychosocial support. In Marib, two child-friendly spaces reached over **2,300** children with learning and play activities to restore a sense of normalcy amid displacement.
- UNHCR and partners referred **374** GBV survivors for specialized services, while **3,384** individuals participated in GBV awareness sessions and community discussions. In Taiz, women's community groups supported under UNHCR's GBV programme organized leadership and confidence-building activities that promoted inclusion and solidarity among displaced and host community women.



Eviction is a hidden crisis in Yemen.

Displaced families—many led by women & children—face losing their shelters with no notice. UNHCR & partners are working to prevent forced evictions and help families keep a safe place to live.

 UNHCR /YGUSSWP

Families in Marib continue to live in displacement, facing heat, wind and rain. With support from UNHCR and partners, a new shelter — built with local materials and community input — offers stronger protection from the elements.

 UNHCR



SHELTER, NFIs, AND CCCM

- UNHCR and partners supported thousands of flood-affected and conflict-displaced families with safer shelter, essential household items, and critical site improvements across Yemen. Between January and October, **1,578** transitional shelters were constructed, **745** homes were repaired, and **400** homes were rehabilitated through conditional cash assistance. More than **9,358** households received core relief items to meet their basic needs. In addition, **3,759** families were supported with shelter maintenance through cash assistance—a significant scale-up from the earlier figure—and **2,116** families received emergency shelter kits, helping them address urgent shelter gaps after floods or displacement. CCCM partners also reached **77,810** individuals with site monitoring and coordination to improve safety and living conditions in displacement sites.
- In Marib, a mud-shelter prototype was completed and handed over as a sustainable, cost-efficient housing solution. In Harib district, **100** returnee households began rehabilitating homes through phased cash instalments. In Hudaydah, solarization of water networks and site improvements helped improve living conditions in flood-prone settlements.



CASH ASSISTANCE AND QUICK IMPACT PROJECTS

- To support the most vulnerable IDPs, **29,507** households — representing **177,539** individuals — were assessed to detect socio-economic vulnerabilities, humanitarian shelter/NFI needs and protection issues. Responding to the needs, UNHCR provided multipurpose cash assistance to **52,377** individuals, helping mitigate serious protection risks and harmful coping strategies while meeting their basic needs. Emergency cash support was also provided to **767** households to address immediate food, health, and shelter needs.
- **14** Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) benefited **72,429** people, improving access to water, electricity, and essential community infrastructure. In Marib, QIPs helped upgrade the electrical network in Al-Nuqia's site and initiated new sanitation and civil registry projects, while cash-for-work activities in flood-affected sites helped families earn income while improving their surroundings.
- In Aden, UNHCR—working with local authorities—continued construction of the Al-Arish Wastewater Pumping Station, a major WASH infrastructure project funded by the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development. Recent progress includes the completion of the pump building foundation, advancement of structural works on key facilities, and ongoing procurement and shipment of essential components. Once operational, the station will significantly improve sanitation and public health for more than **1.5** million people across Aden, including refugees, displaced families, and their host communities.

For the first time in 25 years, every home in Kharaz Refugee Camp shines with light. Through our solarization initiative, the entire camp is now powered by clean energy — safer, sustainable, and cost-effective. A milestone in strengthening dignity, safety, and stability. [click to watch](#)

 UNHCR



In Wusab As Safil, UNHCR cash assistance is helping IDPs returning home to repair conflict-damaged houses.



FUNDING OVERVIEW AND COORDINATION

As of 31 October, UNHCR Yemen was **17 per cent funded**, severely constraining its ability to sustain life-saving interventions such as cash assistance, shelter support, and civil documentation for displaced individuals to access rights and services.

Despite limited resources, UNHCR continued to work closely with authorities, UN agencies, and national and international NGOs under the Humanitarian Country Team framework, leading the Protection, Shelter/NFI, and CCCM Clusters and co-chairing the Refugee and Migrant Multi-Sector (RMMS). Coordination with line ministries and local councils enabled improved access and stronger community engagement across all areas of operation.

Amid persistent challenges, UNHCR and its partners remain committed to protecting and assisting displaced Yemenis, refugees, and asylum-seekers, and to advancing pathways towards dignity, safety, and lasting solutions.



UNHCR IS GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT OF:



Belgium
partner in development



In partnership with
Canada

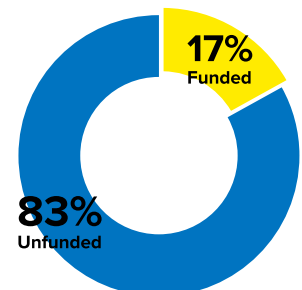


Funded by
the European Union



USD 305 million

UNHCR requested for the operation in Yemen in 2025.



CONTACT: UNHCR External Relations and Public Information Unit:

Tara Fischer, External Relations Officer, fischer@unhcr.org | Abdullah Babrek, External Relations Associate, babrek@unhcr.org
 Mysa Khalaf, Communications Officer, khalafm@unhcr.org | Zeyad Al-Sulaihi, Communications Associate, alsulaihi@unhcr.org

LINKS: [UNHCR website](#) | [UNHCR Yemen Facebook](#) | [UNHCR Yemen X](#) | [UNHCR Data Portal](#)