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UN YEMEN

Country Results Report 2020



UNITED
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Participating Agencies



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



United Nations Development
Programme



World Health
Organization



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

UN HABITAT
UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME



**World Food
Programme**

unicef



UNOPS



International
Labour
Organization



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

UN WOMEN



UN Country Team

The Yemen UNCT consists of 19 team members and are presented by the head of agencies in country. Out of the 19 UNCT members 5 members do not have physical presence in country. Below table summarizes the agencies by their physical presence in country.

Agency	Presence in country
FAO - FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS	YES
IFC - INTERNATIONAL FINANCE CORPORATION	NO
ILO - INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION	YES
IMF - INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND	NO
IOM - INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION	YES
OHCHR - UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS	Capacity embedded in another UN entity
UNDP - UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME	YES
UNDSS - UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY	YES
UNESCO - UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANISATION	NO
UNFPA - UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND	YES
UN HABITAT - UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENT PROGRAMME	YES - Separate liaison office/project office
UNHCR - UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES	YES
UNICEF - UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND	YES
UNOCHA - UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS	YES
UNODC - UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME	NO
UNOPS - UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR PROJECT SERVICES	YES
UN WOMEN - UN WOMEN	YES - Separate liaison office/project office
WB - THE WORLD BANK	NO
WFP - UNITED NATIONS WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME	YES
WHO - WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION	YES



Key developments in the context of Yemen

For many years Yemen has been the poorest country in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). Since the outbreak of the civil war in 2015, the situation is now critical. The prolonged conflict has had a devastating impact on civilian life, public institutions, and infrastructure.

The war in Yemen has decimated the economy, destroyed critical infrastructure, and has resulted in food insecurity verging on famine. It is estimated that around 24 million people need some form of assistance and around 14.4 million are in acute need.

In 2020, humanitarian and development need further increased due to the emergence of COVID-19 and natural disasters such as heavy rains, flooding, and a desert locust infestation.

Man-made crises including a failure of the parties to negotiate a peace deal, a political dispute over the use of fuel import revenue which caused a fuel crisis, and extensive access obstructions and challenges, that continue to hinder the principled delivery of assistance, have subsequently impacted donor confidence.



The protracted conflict and multiple shocks that characterized 2020 contributed to a further increase in food insecurity levels in Yemen as compared to the already extremely high levels observed in 2018/2019, with nearly 16.2 million people (54% of the total population) likely to experience high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) between January and June 2021^T

To further understand the severity of the food security situation in country, the UNCT conducted an Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Acute Malnutrition analysis in 133 districts in southern parts of Yemen.

16 million at high levels of food insecurity.

47,000 catastrophic food insecurity

5 million emergency phase.

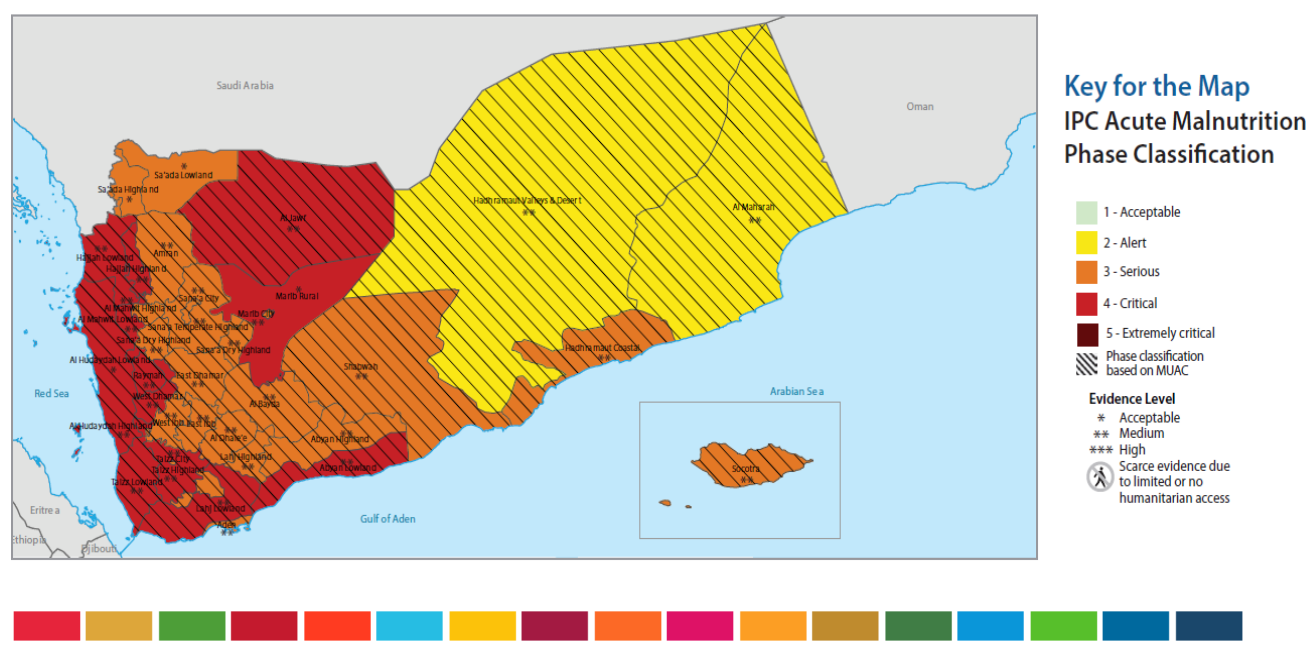


FOOD SECURITY

Nationwide, over 325,000 children suffered from Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) in 2020. This was in addition to an estimated one million Pregnant and Lactating women (PLW) suffering from acute malnutrition. Humanitarian interventions to treat and prevent malnutrition, as well as provide emergency food assistance, helped to prevent an even more severe deterioration.

Of paramount concern was the estimation that 11 million people were in Crisis (IPC Phase 3), five million to be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and 47 000 to be in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5). At the same time, acute malnutrition continued to worsen.

The malnutrition situation deteriorated rapidly during the period August to December 2020 compared to the first half of 2020. During this period, over 90% of the survey zones were projected to be in IPC AMN Phase 3 or worse.



Economy

The Yemeni economy further declined in 2020. Driven by a combination of the COVID-19 crisis, reduced oil revenue, reduction in remittances, and a decline in international humanitarian assistance. Consequently, the Yemeni Rial continued to depreciate, resulting in an increase in commodity prices. Further, public sector salary payments remain irregular especially in the southern governorates, affecting service delivery¹ and impacting purchasing power.

COVID-19 Socio-Economic Impact

The socio-economic situation in Yemen deteriorated significantly due to the economic effects of COVID-19, including a reduction of remittances, business closures and livelihood losses.

Lower oil revenues due to reduced global oil prices and conflict-related disruption in oil production and exports also contributed.

Importantly, Yemen witnessed a significant reduction in foreign aid - only 40% of the 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan was funded by September 2020.

Across every sphere, from health to economy, security to social protection, the impacts of COVID-19 were exacerbated for women and girls in relation to the following: Incidence of gender-based violence (GBV); Gender inequalities and vulnerabilities for income generation; Access to lifesaving reproductive maternal and new-born

health services; and Women's participation in and capacities for inclusive humanitarian action, peacebuilding and decision making.

With the emergence of COVID-19, most population-based interventions, were put on hold for several months. Many aid agencies were forced to scale down humanitarian operations due to funding shortfalls, access constraints posed by the conflict, COVID-19, and bureaucratic impediments imposed by parties to the conflict. As a result, over 10.4 million people were impacted by the reduction of assistance².

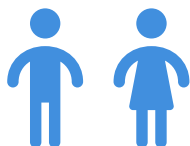
Education

The delivery of education services continued to face significant challenges in 2020. Of 7.8 million school-aged children, an estimated two million children were out of school (400,000 because of the conflict).

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, schools closed between mid-March to October 2020, causing significant disruption to the learning of 5.8 million enrolled children.

Schools also continued to come under attack. This included over 2,000 schools fully or partially damaged or occupied by armed groups or forces. Further, 8,247 refugee students in primary, secondary, and tertiary education were denied support. UNHCR assisted enrolment of 7,297 refugee children in primary schools and 782 refugee children in secondary schools.

ACCESS TO EDUCATION SERVICES



7.8 Million

Children affected by the education services disruption.

5.8 Million

Children affected by COVID-19.

2 Million

Children out of school because of conflict, economic situation etc.

2000 Schools

Fully/Partially damaged or occupied by armed groups.

¹ [Yemen Monthly Economic update](#)

² [Humanitarian Update September 2020](#)



Monitoring and Reporting Mechanisms (MRM)

Many girls have been, and are, subjected to early marriage, gender-based violence and pregnancy. Literacy and school enrolment rates are also lower for women and girls than they are for men and boys, even before the conflict started in 2015.

With the conflict entering its sixth year, the situation has become more acute. Child marriage is increasingly used by families as a negative coping mechanism. Significantly, and despite barriers in reporting and challenges to accessing services, there was a 13% increase in survivors accessing Gender-Based Violence (GBV) services in 2020 compared to 2019.

During the period January to November 2020, the Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting Mechanisms (MRM) documented 910 incidents of grave violations against 1,233 children, of which 97% were verified.

The verification of grave violations, perpetrated by various parties to the conflict, included 1,045 children killed and maimed (750 boys; 295 girls), 89 boys and 34 girls recruited and used by various parties to the conflict, and 30 attacks on schools and hospitals. Mortar and artillery shelling were the highest causes of killing and maiming throughout 2020.

Conflict Displacement

Displacement continued during 2020 and large-scale movements were seen in Ma'reb where an escalation in hostilities began in January and is expected to continue into 2021. It is estimated that some 172,000 individuals (28,750 HHs) were newly displaced in 2020 largely in Ma'reb Governorate, which accounted for 45% of all new displacements recorded countrywide.

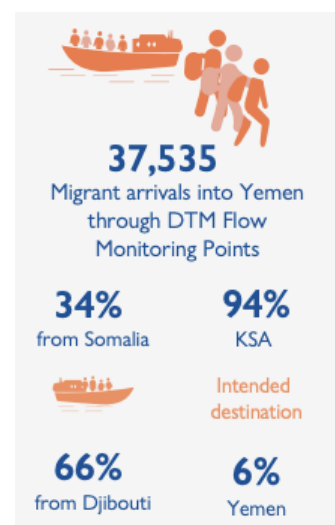
The Inter-Agency Population Taskforce noted that Yemen hosted 4,002,012 IDPs in 2020, making it the fourth-biggest internal displacement, due to conflict globally. This

number corresponds to around 13% of Yemen's population. Nearly 63% of the IDPs reside in the areas controlled by the DFA.

In addition to IDPs, Yemen has been receiving migrants from the Horn of Africa who pass through the country enroute to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). However, international, and domestic travel restrictions imposed because of the COVID-19 pandemic did result in a 73% reduction of migrants to Yemen (from 138,000 in 2019 to around 37,500 in 2020).

While the number of migrants significantly decreased, the asylum space remained constrained, particularly in the North. The registration and documentation of refugees and asylum seekers by the DFA did not resume, leaving 95% of refugees in the North without valid documentation.

At the end of 2020, Yemen hosted 177,628 refugees and asylum seekers. To overcome the issue of documentation, UNHCR implemented a population review exercise. The review focused on persons who had never visited a UNHCR or official registration centre, and so were officially unregistered³. The review also considered the spontaneous return of 36,886 unregistered Somali nationals from Yemen to Somalia between 2016 and 2019, as confirmed by the UNHCR Office in Somalia.



³While these persons were unregistered, they were accounted for in IOM migration statistics.



UN Support to national priorities

Overview of Cooperation Framework results

In 2019, the United Nations Development Assistance framework (UNDAF) was renamed and reconfigured to the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (SCDF) to reflect the current international environment and relationship between Governments and the UN development system in responding to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Essentially the SCDF has been developed to serve as a more robust accountability tool between the UNCT and host governments.

It also forms a key component of the Secretary General's commitment to member states to reposition the United Nations development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda

However, given the context of Yemen and the sensitive political and security environment, the UNCT does not have a SCDF. The current UNDAF, developed in 2015 has had several extensions. Importantly, while the objectives and results in the document may not be reflecting the actual needs in the country due to the protracted conflict, the UNCT Country Program Documents (CPDs) do reflect actual needs.



The UNCT has also worked to progress the Humanitarian Development Peace Nexus (HDPNx). The outcomes of the HDPNx discussions have also informed the work of the UNCT Programme Management Team (PMT). In September 2020, the PMT developed and published the “Strategic Framework for an Immediate Socio-Economic Response to COVID-19 in Yemen (2020-2021)”.

Priorities, outcomes, and outputs

COVID-19 Response

With the outbreak of the global COVID 19 pandemic, the UNCT redirected several projects to ensure access to medicines, health, and essential services. The UN in Yemen scaled up its emergency response and rural resilience building interventions to mitigate the impacts of the crisis and COVID-19 on households and communities, reaching all 22 governorates and 95% of the 333 districts in Yemen.

Through the UN COVID-19 Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) intervention and in partnership with local authorities, civil society organizations and key national institutions, 25.8 million people were reached through a mix of mass media and interpersonal communication interventions.

This included activities in schools and mosques to ensure that individuals and communities had comprehensive knowledge on COVID-19 to safeguard themselves and their families against infection.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) was distributed to the medical staff in the supported medical facilities and front-line personnel, ensuring a safe and conducive working environment and continuity of service delivery to refugees, asylum seekers, IDPs and host communities.

To address the psychological distress caused by COVID-19 pandemic, and in coordination with the Mental Health Psychosocial Support Technical Working Group, key messages for children and caregivers on how to manage stress

related to COVID-19 were developed and disseminated. A total of 305,520 people, including 117,062 children, were reached with these messages. Remote modalities were also developed which reached 31,027 children and caregivers at homes, including provision of a home-based psychosocial kit as well as counselling through hotlines.

SDG Implementation

Livelihoods

Building on the investments made by the UN in the past years, and to continue efforts to preserve national systems and help prevent Yemen from falling further behind in the SDGs, the UN supported rehabilitation works in more than 300 communities, through Cash for Work projects targeting social and productive community assets and infrastructure, such as water facilities, roads, agriculture land and education facilities. These efforts benefited millions of Yemenis with improved services.

The projects also specifically targeted the most vulnerable segment of the population (youth and women), to build economic resilience, transfer skills to young workers, and foster employability in the cultural heritage sector in anticipation of when the country enters a recovery phase.

Through its cultural programming component, projects also sought to promote income generation in the creative sector and enhance social cohesion in a context where unemployed and vulnerable youth may be radicalized. These projects promoted a human-centered approach and focused on private houses and commercial areas and to ensure continuity of social and economic life.

Agriculture

In addition to the already complicated humanitarian working environment, the de facto authorities established the supreme Agriculture and Fisheries Committee, in 2020. The Committee is a separate body from the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, and was granted the authority to accept and reject the





implementation of any agriculture interventions (i.e. distributions of seeds, Cash For Work and Cash activities, livestock distributions, etc.). This further limited the UNCT's ability to implement humanitarian and resilience-building activities in the agriculture sector in several districts.

Gender Responsive Governance

One priority program undertaken by UNDP has reached over 1.3 million Yemenis across 7 governorates. This project works to ensure that "Yemenis contribute to and benefit from inclusive, accountable and gender-responsive governance, at local and central levels".

This programme:

1. Rehabilitated and maintained sanitation facilities in Mukalla, which improved access to basic sanitation for 250,000 people.
2. Rehabilitated water works in Aden, which is improving access to clean water for almost 1.1 million Yemenis.
3. Enhanced the capacity of the rule of law sector through targeted training of more than 460 rule of law personnel on critical areas of their work
4. Rehabilitated and improved functionality of key security and rule of law infrastructure damaged by the conflict and rendered

obsolete due to lack of maintenance and years of neglect. As a result, the programme enabled the delivery of rule of law and access to justice services to about 1.3 million Yemenis across seven governorates both in the north and south of Yemen.

5. Created eight safe spaces and two community protection-based networks which enabled the provision of protection and referral services to survivors of conflict and psychosocial support sessions to 500 vulnerable people.

Food and Nutrition

The UNCT provided life-saving assistance to over 13 million people affected by conflict to enable them to meet their food and nutrition needs.

Severely food insecure people were targeted to ensure that they can meet their basic food requirements through Unconditional Resource Transfers (general food assistance, GFA) in an aim to achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 (Zero Hunger). The food distribution was provided in 331 out of Yemen's 333 districts.

Mine Clearance

Mine clearance activities released over 2.2 million square meters of previously land-mine



contaminated land for productive use in 19 governorates and 199 districts.

This led to improved security of persons and livestock and enabled communities to work their land, and aid organisation to deliver the much-needed humanitarian support. Over 400 survivors of mine explosion were also screened for support – rehabilitation and provision of livelihood options; and more participated in mine-risk education activities.

A total of 265,832 community members, including 187,311 children, received mine risk education through awareness raising campaigns in schools, Child Friendly Spaces, and communities across 8 governorates. TV and radio flashes were developed to overcome the challenges of movement restrictions.

2.2 million square meters of mine cleared

265,835 community members educated.

187,311 children educated.

400 survivors supported.

19 governorates.

199 districts.

MINE CLEARANCE



Health Care

The limited testing, monitoring, and reporting on the COVID-19 has meant that its true impact remains unknown. The health situation also posed a challenge for the humanitarian community, which needed to continue a largescale response that millions of people rely on for survival while incorporating new COVID-19 related interventions.

Only half the health facilities in Yemen are fully functioning, and at least one child dies every 10 minutes due to preventable diseases. Yemen experienced outbreaks of infectious diseases in 2020, namely cholera, malaria, dengue, polio, and COVID-19. Health and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services – which could mitigate

the prevalence of such outbreaks – have been severely underfunded.

In 2020, the UNCT maternal and newborn health care and integrated management of childhood illnesses supported programmes, treated 11 million children for common illnesses, including pneumonia and diarrhea through primary and secondary health facilities. Over 8.4 million children were vaccinated for Measles, and full vaccination dosage, in addition to two rounds of Polio vaccination campaigns and Diphtheria Outbreak response. Additionally, a total of 646,610 of women of childbearing age (15-49 years) received Tetanus-Diphtheria vaccines.

The UNCT in Yemen has led and coordinated the response to different disease outbreaks that occurred in 2020, including COVID-19, cholera, polio, dengue and other outbreak prone diseases. To support this, the UNCT positioned the Minimum Service Package (MSP) as one of the means to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 3 (Ensure healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages), focusing on the most vulnerable groups to leave no one behind.

Efforts were also exerted to ensure that the Primary Health Care (PHC) approach is viewed as the cornerstone of the health system of Yemen. In this regard, WHO has encouraged Yemen to join other countries of the region to implement the Global Action Plan (GAP) on SDG 3 and other Health related SDGs (SDG 3+). The PHC approach will gradually contribute to Yemen's health system's resilience and prepare it for a smooth post-conflict recovery and transition.

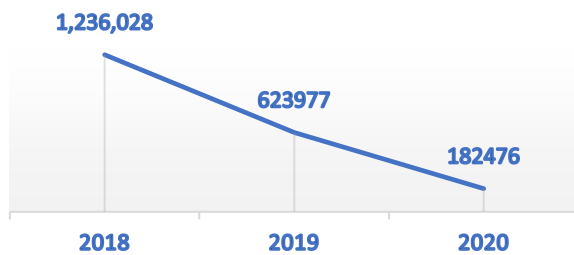
On a positive note, Yemen witnessed a drastic reduction in cholera cases seen since the height of epidemic in 2017. A total of 182,476 suspected cholera cases were reported in 2020 against 623,977 in 2019, representing a 78% reduction.

Operationalizing the SG's Prevention Vision

In 2020, almost one-third of all health supplies provided by the WHO Office for the Eastern



Cholera Cases

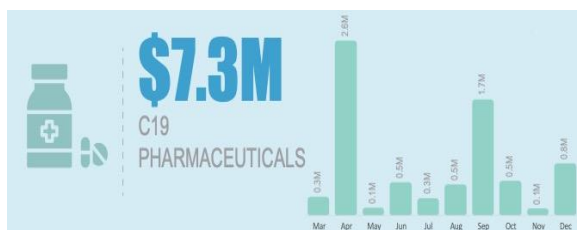


Mediterranean Region were shipped to Yemen, ensuring essential medicines and equipment were available to support WHO's critical work on the ground.

A nationwide nutrition surveillance system to detect early malnutrition cases in children under five, was set up. Through a network of sites located in areas with the highest burden of malnutrition, health workers could find, refer, and treat children. A total of 147 nutrition surveillance sites across 21 governorates were supported and are currently functional with more than 307,000 children screened and referred for further treatment.

Over \$103 million worth of aid to 1,470 locations across Yemen (159% more than 2019) were distributed through WHO, including ambulances, CT-scanners, vaccine refrigerators, dialysis material, hospital and laboratory equipment, medicines for various diseases and nutrition kits. In addition to some \$7.3 million of pharmaceuticals were provided to the country.

Regular food security updates through the FAO Monthly Price Monitoring Bulletins based on real time and robust market monitoring data was critical to raise awareness on the evolving precarious food security situation in the country. FAO also provided weekly updates of the impacts of COVID-19 on food supply chain through a weekly bulletin.



Strategic Financing and Partnerships

The UNCT makes a concerted effort to build partnerships and undertake resource mobilization. The goal is to continue to work through strategic partnerships to build confidence in the operation, mobilize resources, consolidate joint positions on sensitive policy issues and support and protect groups that are committed to peace and inclusion.

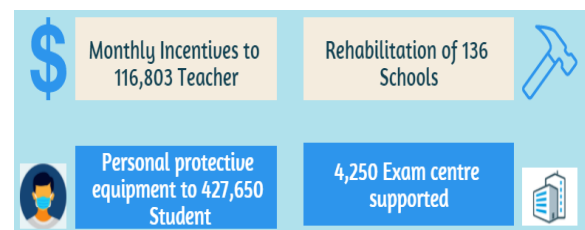
During the reporting period, UNCT significantly strengthened peacebuilding efforts in Yemen in collaboration with peace actors.

Specifically, UN Women managed to increase the leverage and capacities of Yemeni women and youth to be meaningfully engaged in official peace processes and work directly with official peace brokers like the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary General for Yemen (OESGY), members state representatives and the leadership of the parties to the conflict at national and governorate levels.

UN Women also succeeded in strengthening women and youth leadership in implementing peacebuilding initiatives at local level as well as in building strategic partnerships at national and international level to support each other's work and jointly advance the implementation of Women Peace and Security (WPS) and Youth Peace and Security (YPS) Agendas.

Education

To prevent the Education system from collapse, monthly incentives were provided to 116,803 teachers and school-based staff. In addition, 2,212 Rural Female Teachers (RFTs) in 16 governorates received incentives. Support to RFTs is aiming at investing in the female work force as well as attracting more girls to come and stay in school. Technical and financial support



was provided for the training of 1,200 teachers in 247 schools on safe school protocols.

To ensure continued service delivery, WASH facilities were rehabilitated in 136 schools, including the procurement of classroom furniture. Financial and technical support was also provided to commence grade 9 and 12 national exams benefitting 427,650 student, distributed learning supplies and provided Protective Personal Equipment (PPE) items to 4,250 exam centres.

Additionally, Under the school feeding programme (SFP), WFP assists over 1.3 million students and distributing some 9,000 metric tons of food to primary school children and provided them with fortified date bars or high energy biscuits for every day they attend school.

The programme was expanded to introduce a Healthy Kitchens project, providing locally sourced, healthy, and freshly prepared meals. The activity was implemented in 64 districts in 20 governorates. Following the closure of schools in March as a preventive measure to the COVID-19 pandemic, WFP, in agreement with partners and donors, distributed available commodities as alternative take-home rations, in observance of COVID-19 precautionary guidelines.

In 2020, IOM continued to partner with the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSRelief) on programming to address gaps in access to education for internally displaced persons and returnees. Through programming that concluded in 2020, IOM was able to provide improved access to education to 1,918 individuals through the rehabilitation of schools and capacity building for parents and education providers.

Following the success of this project, IOM began the implementation of two similar projects in the final quarter of 2020 in partnership with KSRelief, addressing education needs through capacity building and school infrastructure rehabilitation in 4 governorates, targeting a total of 9,250 individuals.

Malnutrition

In response to the malnutrition crisis, the UNCT focused on community prevention and management of malnutrition through the scaling up the integrated Community Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM).

This was undertaken in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and active partnerships with local and international NGOs. In addition, in late 2020 an accelerated multi-sectoral integrated scale-up response plan was implemented, which focused on districts with high malnutrition rates as identified in the IPC. At the end of December 2020, 238,084 children under the age of five received treatment for SAM, representing 71% of all children in need of SAM treatment.

Human rights

OHCHR continued to work with the relevant national institutions to prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems. OHCHR focused on building the capacity of civil society organizations through training workshops on monitoring of human rights violations, international and national protection mechanisms, and other human rights issues.

With the emergence of the COVID 19 pandemic, monitoring, documentation and reporting of human rights violations and abuse was partly redirected to monitor and report on access to medicines, health technologies and access to services - as an essential dimension of the right to health. The UNCT also continued to document the impact of COVID 19 on enjoyment of economic and social rights, with special focus on the right to food and the right to work as well as SGBV.

Of concern was the ability of various groups including women and children, Al Muhamasheen, migrants and refugees, persons in institutions and quarantine facilities and persons deprived of their freedom, to gain access to medical services.



Children

In this reporting period, several human rights violations were identified and reported upon.

The ILO identified 300 child soldiers and provided 200 of them with career counselling and skills-based orientation to help with community reintegration.

Some 254 unaccompanied and separated refugee children (UASC) and 316 cases of child abuse, neglect, violence, and exploitation were identified and referred to service providers.

Further, the Protection Cluster identified 118,279 displaced Yemeni children at risk, including:

- Unaccompanied Child (UC)
- Separated Child (SC)
- Children not attending schools
- Child head of Household
- Child engaged in child labor

The Rapid Needs and Vulnerability Assessment ensured child protection support was provided to 4,236 refugee and asylum-seeking children, which included comprehensive case management, psycho-social support, legal counselling, and recreational activities.

United Nations Humanitarian Air Service

The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service continued to adapt its schedule, routes, and aircraft to enable the continuous transport of humanitarian passengers in and out of the country, despite the travel restrictions to contain the transmission of COVID-19. Except for MSF and ICRC, UNHAS was the only available aviation service for humanitarian staff in Yemen, serving 81 different entities in 2020

In total, UNHAS operated 259 flights utilizing two aircraft (Airbus A320 and Embraer EMB135) and transported 6,008 passengers in 2020. This represented a decrease of more than 10,000 passengers compared to 2019.

On average, 628 passengers used the service every month and 25 flights were completed monthly to and from Aden, Addis Ababa,

Amman, Djibouti, Al-Mukalla, Sana'a and Sayoun.

UNHAS also facilitated 31 emergency medical evacuations of humanitarian staff from Sana'a to Amman and from Aden to Djibouti.

A user satisfaction survey launched in December indicated that most users (77%) were satisfied or very satisfied with the services provided by UNHAS.

Leaving No One Behind

While substantive efforts have been made to provide basic essential services to all people in need, the total number of populations that required assistance is extremely high.

Priority has always put-on people with acute needs, particularly those in hard-to-reach areas with the goal to protect the social protection floor and help to buffer and build the resilience of deprived and marginalized groups. Agencies were able to maintain flexibility and respond to the most urgent and dynamic needs of vulnerable populations in Yemen, including host communities, internally displaced persons, and migrants.

The United Nations Children's Fund Yemen promoted an Integrated Model of Social and Economic Assistance and Empowerment (IMSEA). This is a multi-sectoral approach aimed at linking benefits, social services, and other social and economic inputs/interventions to achieve improved outcomes for the poorest and most vulnerable, strengthen their resilience to shocks and stresses, and enhance greater collaboration, and cooperation within and between different sectors.

The Integrated Model for Social and Economic Assistance and Empowerment (IMSEA) became fully functional in 2020. Approximately 100,000 marginalized people benefited from the pilot IMSEA through an integrated package of social services.

People affected by the conflict and COVID-19 directly and indirectly benefitted from livelihood





and income generating initiatives implemented across the country. This provided them with incomes to meet their household needs, mainly food, to help prevent them from falling into famine.

The Yemen Emergency Cash Transfer (ECT) Project continued as a mechanism to prevent the social welfare and economic systems from full collapse. Two cash payment cycles in 2020 were successfully implemented, reaching over 1.43 million households with lifesaving cash transfer, impacting almost a third of the country's population.

Unfortunately, inflation continued to rise in 2020 and regional disparities increased with up to 45% divergence in exchange rates between the north and south. The purchasing power of the ECT benefit subsequently declined due to inflation and overall rise in the cost of basic commodities.

In 2020, the ECT benefit covered less than 15% of the survival minimum expenditure basket compared with 25% in 2017. A top-up of approximately 45% of the base benefit amount was provided for the first time during the eighth

payment cycle to help families cope with the impact of COVID-19. All households covered received cash, iodine testing services, educational messages on COVID-19 prevention, and general health and nutrition messages.

With a similar modality, UNHCR distributed Cash assistance to refugees. The programme had the following components: Multi-purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA); Rental Subsidies (Cash for Rent); Cash for COVID-19 and Winterization Cash Assistance. This program reached 25,426 refugees.

Legal assistance and awareness activities served as preventive and responsive protection interventions in a context characterised by a weak rule of law and prevailing socio-cultural norms that failed to protect large segments of society such as women, children, persons with disabilities and marginalised groups. UNHCR further assisted 2,528 individuals with disabilities (1,770 displaced Yemenis and 758 refugees) with legal counselling and documentation in addition to 33,706 individuals from IDP and host communities and 3,441 refugees.



In 2020, a wide range of emergency and resilience interventions were implemented with the aim of enhancing food production capacities and diversifying the incomes and livelihoods of vulnerable households via the provision of emergency agricultural livelihood support. These activities contributed to enhancing the food security and nutritional status of 66 936 conflict-affected households.

Challenges

There were and are several challenges impacting the ability of the UNCT to operationalize and implement work plans.

The ongoing conflict in some parts of the country posed challenges in delivery of services and in supervision and implementation. There were and are pockets of unreachable populations in active the conflict areas of Abyan, Taiz, Dhale, and Marib who are at constant risk of being missed with respect to the delivery of critical services.

This fighting continued to drive displacement, destroy infrastructure, and worsen the overall humanitarian situation for hundreds of thousands of people and severely stretched humanitarian and public resources. These challenges along with humanitarian access issues contributed to a dire situation throughout 2020.

The dual modalities of working in the areas under control of the defacto authorities and those under the Internationally Recognized Government of Yemen places an additional burden. Agencies are required to obtain separate approvals for access and the implementation of activities and programmes. Often this is unsuccessful resulting in the cancellation of some key activities.

Restrictions imposed on the humanitarian and development operation in Yemen remains one of the most significant challenges facing the UNCT. This also extends to constraints on the importation of cargo and commodities,

movement of personnel and denial of visas, and residencies.

Additional restrictions on the ability to conduct independent assessment and monitoring, also had a significant impact on not only programme implementation but also donor confidence.

Adequate and timely funding to the humanitarian response in Yemen is essential to saving lives. In 2020, humanitarian and development operation in Yemen suffered from a lack of funding, while needs, compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic, have only continued to rise.

The UNCT also faces a significant challenge with respect to obtaining concrete population data. The last census was conducted in 2004 and all population data since then has been based on projections. While these projections may have been partially reliable prior to the conflict, the degree of displacement and mortality during the conflict has made it immensely difficult to track the number of people in any given location.

Importantly, there is considerable resistance against protection programming among local authorities. This includes programming to try and address child marriage, recruitment, and Gender-based Violence (GBV). To address this, UNICEF and UNFPA, wherever possible, package child protection awareness raising with other messaging and interventions.

Support to Partnerships and Financing the 2030 Agenda

With the current political situation in Yemen, initiatives, and efforts to build partnerships are affected by the absence of an active diplomatic community in the country.

The prolonged conflict and complex political operating environment have affected the development of an active partnership framework. The UNCT has worked to diversify its resource and partnership base to help try and achieve SDG goals. This includes with the World Bank, European Union, USA, UK, Germany, Japan Kingdom of Netherlands, Canada, Sweden,



Swiss, KSA, and the UAE. Some examples include:

- The UNDP finalized and signed several agreements with key stakeholders including the World Bank (US\$80M); the European Union (EU69.8M). Japan (US\$3.5M); and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (US\$3M).
- FAO Yemen in 2020, strengthened partnerships with various stakeholders including government institutions, community-based organizations and the donor community to address medium and long term objectives in food security and sustainable food systems situation. In partnership with Social Fund for Development (SFD).

FAO has strengthened community land and water management. Rehabilitation works include water infrastructure for production (terraces, on-farm water harvesting and check dikes/gabions) and water infrastructure for households/community consumption (shallow wells and springs, rooftop water-harvesting, and excavation of ponds).

These activities will contribute to building climate resilience of the terrace agricultural system and improve spate agriculture in lowlands and integrated watershed management in communities. Works were implemented as labour-intensive subprojects either through community contracting or cash-for-works mechanisms.

- IOM strengthened engagement with the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KSRelief) on programming to address gaps in access to education for internally displaced persons and returnees.

IOM was able to provide improved access to education to 1,918 individuals in Lahj governorate through the rehabilitation of schools and capacity building for parents and education providers.

Following the success of this project, IOM began the implementation of two similar projects in the final quarter of 2020 in partnership with KSRelief, addressing education needs through capacity building and school infrastructure rehabilitation in Lahj, Ma'rib, Aden, and Hadramawt governorates, targeting a total of 9,250 individuals.

IOM contributed to the Sustainable Development Goals, most notably goals 4, 5, 6 and 11, by increasing access to water, sanitation and hygiene through ongoing emergency and sustainable interventions, through livelihoods generation using Cash-for-Work, vocational training, and small grants and via infrastructure rehabilitation and the construction of key health, WASH, and education infrastructure.

IOM also contributed to SDGs 5 (gender equality) and 16 (peace, justice, and institutions) in coordination with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) through programming to increase the involvement of women in water conflict resolution and climate change mitigation.

- UN Women worked to strengthen local partners contributions towards SDGs 1, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 16. This was through the implementation of LEAP (Women's Leadership, Empowerment, Access & Protection in Crisis Response) which aims to ensure that women and girls affected by crisis lead, participate, are empowered by, and benefit from, response and recovery efforts.

The project specifically worked towards achieving gender equality as well as the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provision of access to justice for all, and building effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels.



- UNOPS increased support to the water and sanitation local authority and contributed to the rehabilitation and improvement of nearly 10 kilometers of rainwater drainage and flood channels. As well as this, 47 self-prime sewer pumps and 19 sewer vacuum trucks were provided to the cities of Sana'a, Aden, Hodaidah, Mukalla, Amran, Taiz, Lahij and Zingubar to strengthen emergency flood response.

This value of this work was highlighted when a flash flood caused by the collapse of the Hababah Dam in Amran city was diverted by the newly drainage culverts away from the city centre.

UN working together

To help manage the enormous challenges of operating in Yemen the UNCT works on the principal of solidarity. This enables the UN to leverage the expertise that each agency has, to better identify needs and then collectively address them.

Over the course of 2020, the UNCT increased coherence around access (notably to respond to increased bureaucratic impediments imposed by the defacto authorities) and developed SOPs to help enable the humanitarian and development operation. As well as this the UNCT strengthened coordination mechanisms and scaled up presence in areas controlled by the Internationally Recognized Government.

Importantly, the development of strategic partnerships within the UN, and with INGO/NGO, Civil Society Organizations (CSO), and government ministries helped to leverage more resources and expanded the ability for the UNCT to respond to a broad range of programming. For example:

- WHO and UNICEF worked together to help health authorities mount a rapid response to a polio outbreak which in 2020, which impacted 28 children. In the first round of response, more than 5.1 million children received the polio vaccine.

- WHO and UNOPS established a new partnership to expand therapeutic feeding centres (TFCs). The rehabilitation of 30 TFCs increased safe access and utilization of TFC services, and also expanded the ability of WHO to respond to acute severe malnutrition among children under 5 with medical complications.
- In partnership with the World Bank, WFP, Save the Children, and UNICEF invested US\$153 million in the education sector through the Restoring Education and Learning (REAL) project. This new partnership builds upon the successes of the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) programme and is supported by the Ministry of Education MoE and members of the Local Education Group (LEG).
- UNICEF, UNDP, and UN WOMEN have partnered with a new Rule of Law programme, which works to establish a resilient justice system through capacity building and service provision for children and women.
- UNICEF and UNHCR are working together to support birth registration through legal assistance for civil identity cards.
- UNFPA and UNICEF have partnered to implement joint global programs that work to end Child Marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM). This also includes bringing technical expertise from both agencies together to address the rights of girls through social norm change.
- OHCHR was active in exchanging data and information on civilian casualties and violations of human rights with key protection and humanitarian partners including UNICEF's Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) on Grave Violations of Children's Rights, as well as



with the UNCRO, OHCA, UNCT and the Office of the Special Envoy to Yemen.

OHCHR also engaged closely with humanitarian partners and NGOs to ensure mainstreaming protection concerns in humanitarian action, especially for most vulnerable groups. Furthermore, OHCHR is in touch with several Special Procedures mandate holders in relation to cases related to disappearances and protection of human rights defenders and minority groups.

- The UNRCO and UNDP worked with the UNCT to develop a Strategic Framework for an Immediate Socio-Economic Response to Covid-19 in Yemen (2020-2021).
- UNDP led the Peace Support Facility (PSF), which is a multi-donor platform to support peacebuilding efforts in Yemen. The PSF board includes the Special Envoy to Yemen, the RC/HC, the RCO, and key donors. Projects that have been supported by the PSF include the rehabilitation of the port of Hodeida and efforts to try and assess and repair the SAFER oil tanker to try and avert a potential environmental disaster.

- The UNCT was also supported in 2020 by the program management team (PMT), operations management teams (OMT) and other working groups of the UNCT who developed key strategic products including the programme criticality assessment, business operation strategy, and the business continuity plan, which help enable the work of the UN in Yemen.

Evaluations and Lessons Learned

Yemen has now entered its sixth year of conflict. Over this time, it has become evident that short-term assistance modalities need to be combined with longer-term strategies. Combining these efforts to restore and support resilient livelihoods is critical for peace, sustainable development, and food security.

Such an approach will save lives and lessen the humanitarian caseload in the short term, while at the same time building a foundation for recovery in the medium to long term.

Importantly it is recognized that there is little time to waste. Young men are joining armed groups to secure a source of income in the absence of employment, and because of deep-rooted socio-cultural and economic inequalities.



Alternative income opportunities such as Cash for Work, will quite possibly reduce the numbers of youth and Yemeni families who resort to negative livelihood coping strategies.

Cash assistance remains one of the most critical responses to meet humanitarian needs. It provides an essential lifeline, bringing immediate support to families, provides dignity, and empowers families to meet their basic needs. It also mitigates harmful coping mechanisms and contributes to the local economy.

Further, in crisis situations, women and girls are particularly more vulnerable because of their limited access to resources and cash intervention has proved to be a valid option to reduce gender inequality.

The prevailing water stress in Yemen because of climate change is affecting water management, food production and food security in a cascading manner. Natural resource management integrated with surface and ground water resource management for multiple use (domestic and productive) is crucial and needs to be given priority to enhance food production and food security in Yemen.

Full participation of women in decision making at all levels is essential, due to the enormous ability to effect positive change and prevent or minimise conflict. Despite this, while women have social status in Yemen, they are still largely excluded from political processes, positions in Government, and decision-making.

Financial Overview and Resource Mobilization

Agencies experienced significant funding shortfalls in 2020, which necessitated a reprioritization of needs and a reduction in some programmes and activities. This was largely due to substantially less funding being pledged to Yemen as compared to the preceding year.

The high-level pledging conference on Yemen resulted in donor contributions of US\$1.92 billion by the end of the 2020 to support the humanitarian and development operation. This



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was less than half of what had been pledged in 2019 (in 2019 it was \$4.06 billion).

This substantial decrease was attributed to significant reductions in funding by the operation's largest donors including the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, who reduced from USD \$1 billion in 2019 to \$330 million in 2020; the United States reduced from \$904 million in 2019 to \$562 million in 2020 and the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait who cut their contributions entirely

In response, the UNCT engaged both traditional and new donors to seek funding for humanitarian and development activities Some examples include:

- WHO mobilized over \$123 million for Yemen against a total ask of \$313.5 million (\$149 million under Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and \$164.6 million ask for COVID-19 preparedness and response).

By the end of 2020, WHO funding gap remained at 64% under the HRP and 57% under the COVID-19 appeal. To scale-up the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, WHO established new partnerships with international financing institutions (World Bank and Islamic Development Bank) and the private sector through the WHO Solidarity Fund for COVID-19.

- The International Organization for Migration's total expenditure in 2020 was approximately USD 104 million. However, increasing operating constraints resulted in a reduction of presence and some challenges to the implementation of IOMs mandate. Additionally, the escalating conflict in Yemen has resulted in additional displacement, as well as increasing protection needs of migrants who are transiting through or stranded in Yemen. This also includes migrant assistance programming.

IOM continued to engage with traditional and non-traditional donors on advocacy for the expansion of operational presence in

Ma'reb and to secure funding to address the most pressing needs of vulnerable populations.

- FAO Yemen's Plan of Action (2018-2020) and Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan 2019 (extended to June-December 2020) guided the resource mobilization effort of the organization in 2020. The country program portfolio in 2020 was approximately \$145 million but is expected to reduce to approximately \$122 million by the end of 2021.
- Through a wide range of partnerships, in 2020 UNICEF Yemen mobilized US\$ 261 million. Of this amount, US\$ 116.8 million was from the COVID -19 appeal, \$ 98.6 million from the Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) appeal and US\$ 45.6 million from development grants. With resources mobilized from prior years, UNICEF Yemen had a total of US\$ 663 million available in 2020. Total funds utilized in 2020 was US\$ 431 million. There was a significant downward trend in resources mobilized in 2020 as compared with 2018 and 2019 which put additional pressure on the operation.
- UNDP mobilized US\$109M against the 2020 target of US\$209M. UNDP developed a Resource Mobilization Strategy and Partnership and Communication Action Plan to help solidify and diversify partnerships; foster a culture of accountability and identify and communicate the UNDP's comparative advantage. Through this strategy UNDP seeks to expand partnerships with the private sector and donors as well as academic and research Institutions and foundations.
- UNHCR had a comprehensive budget of USD 251.8 million to respond to the immediate needs of four million IDPs and over 135,000 registered refugees in 2020. By the end of the year, the Operation was only 63%



funded (USD 158.6 million), leaving a critical gap of over USD 93.2 million, which hindered the implementation of certain programmes.

The first half of the year proved to be particularly challenging. Fundraising efforts were hindered by the outbreak of COVID-19, telecommuting arrangements, and the lack of diplomatic missions. Despite this, by the second half of the year, UNHCR was able to secure the necessary resources to implement their most critical activities. By December 2020, UNHCR had raised USD \$20 million more than the previous year.

- In 2021 UN Women will work with partners to increase donor confidence through regularly communicating results as well as

identifying opportunities to balance funding from diverse sources including bilateral and multilateral sources at national, regional and global level.

Interventions to foster the Women Peace and Security (WPS) and Youth Peace and Security (YPS) agendas and strengthening initiatives on women's economic empowerment as well as GBV prevention and response in the COVID-19 context will be prioritized. This will have a particular focus on joint programming and the enhancement of strategic collaborations (including with OSESGY, UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA) to leverage non-core funding and achieve a higher return on investment



UNCT Key focus for 2021

In 2021, the UNCT will continue to address the acute and growing humanitarian emergency through the provision of frontline multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance in locations where needs are high. Key priorities include:

1. The expansion of programming that tackles the pre-existing drivers of fragility, which has been exacerbated by a deteriorating economy, weakened institutions and infrastructure. This also includes supporting efforts to build national capacity (both Government and civil society) for better emergency preparedness, response, and to improve social cohesion and sustain livelihoods.
2. Increasing access to life-saving minimum health service packages. Provision of operational costs to health facilities will be provided and where appropriate and incentives will be given to health service providers, to ensure service continuity. The UNCT will also work on the reduction of excessive mortality and morbidity by improving the nutritional status of vulnerable groups, as well as through the treatment and prevention of acute malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies.
3. Prioritize the most vulnerable including women, children, IDPs and persons with disabilities through the provision of life-saving and critical protection support services. This includes documenting and verifying reported incidents of grave rights violations and to provide psychosocial support to the most affected. As well as this, the UNCT will work to strengthen the civil society role in assisting victims of human rights violations; increasing community awareness on human rights and referral mechanism; promoting and protecting of human rights; and carrying out activities related to monitoring IHRL/IHL violations
4. Ensuring sustained access to learning opportunities for conflict-affected children through the provision of safe and conducive environments, distribution of academic and pedagogical kits for pupils and teachers. In addition, provide incentives to teachers and school-based staff to maintain operations of schools and ensure continuation during the academic year.
5. Continue to strengthen the humanitarian, peace, and development nexus by focusing on local service delivery and empowered communities; transforming the economy for stability and peace; and petitioning for an inclusive peace process. The UNCT will continue to promote that Yemeni women and youth participate in and help to influence the peace and security processes in Yemen. Specifically, UN Women will focus on promoting women's leadership, including in COVID-19 response and recovery and by advancing women and youth's participation in peacebuilding.
6. The UNCT will continue to work with the parties to the conflict to ensure a principled and accountable humanitarian response in accordance with the four guiding humanitarian principles of Humanity, Neutrality, Impartiality, and Independence.

