



# Humanitarian Action for Children

unicef 

## Yemen

Yemen remains the worst humanitarian crisis in the world with 80 per cent (24.3 million people) of the country's population in need of humanitarian assistance.<sup>1</sup> After five years of conflict, 3.6 million people, including 2 million children, are internally displaced in addition to 422,000 migrants and asylum seekers.<sup>2</sup> Children continue to bear the brunt of the violence: at least 2,000 children have been killed and 4,800 maimed, while some 2,700 boys have been recruited into armed forces and groups.<sup>3</sup>

With more than 40 active front lines across the country humanitarian access remains severely constrained, while vulnerable communities struggle increasingly with a lack of basic services and public goods. An estimated 9.6 million people—nearly a third of Yemen's population—face severe food insecurity, while at least 325,200 children under 5 years are suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM).<sup>4</sup> Water supply and sanitation systems have also been decimated and an estimated 20.5 million people require water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) assistance—including 10.9 million in acute need.<sup>5</sup> Over 109,500 suspected cases of acute watery diarrhoea/cholera and 27 associated deaths were recorded in the first six months of 2020.<sup>6</sup> Immunization coverage has also stagnated, leaving thirty-seven per cent of children under 1 year old not fully vaccinated and resulting in outbreaks of polio, measles, diphtheria and other vaccine-preventable diseases.<sup>7</sup>

The COVID-19 outbreak is dramatically exacerbating humanitarian needs for children and families in Yemen, which has seen over 1,100 confirmed cases and 300 related deaths—the highest case fatality rate in the world, at 24 per cent.<sup>8</sup> The pandemic threatens to collapse an already fragile health system, while global shortages and supply chain breaks are leading to further loss of household income, increasing food prices and skyrocketing inflation.<sup>9</sup> The damage and closure of schools pose a severe threat to children's access to education—5.8 million children are now out of school, compared to 2 million prior to the pandemic. The dropout rate is expected to increase, particularly for girls, as vulnerable families struggle to cope with the consequences of COVID-19—rendering them vulnerable to serious protection concerns, including gender-based violence.

### Humanitarian strategy

UNICEF's humanitarian strategy in Yemen is aligned with the Humanitarian Needs Overview, Humanitarian Response Plan and cluster and programme priorities. UNICEF leads the nutrition and WASH clusters, co-leads the education cluster and the child protection sub-cluster, and provides dedicated full-time support to coordination and information management. Humanitarian operation in Yemen is decentralized through five field offices that manage local responses with partners. In 2020, UNICEF efforts will focus mainly on the COVID-19 response and the continuing support to vital services which includes strengthening systems, improving access to primary health care, as well as malnutrition management and disease outbreak response, including maintaining vaccination coverage. Emergency WASH interventions will be delivered alongside durable, cost-effective solutions that strengthen the resilience of local institutions and communities. Acute watery diarrhoea/cholera prevention and response—including oral cholera vaccination—will continue in high-risk areas. Vulnerable women and children will receive survivor assistance, resilience building and mine risk education, including materials for the hearing

impaired and those with disabilities. UNICEF will focus on keeping the education system functioning through provision of incentives to teachers and school-based staff, providing access to formal, non-formal and/or alternative learning opportunities, provision of learning materials and ensuring a conducive learning environment. The Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting will engage with parties to the conflict to prevent and halt grave violations of children's rights. UNICEF will pursue gender-sensitive planning and provide partners with training on preventing sexual exploitation and abuse. Given the widening gender disparities and lack of equal access for women and men to economic and social opportunities—both of which are tied to the security and economic situations—in 2020, UNICEF will use a cross-sectoral approach to leverage its existing programmes to mitigate, prevent and respond to gender-based violence. Poor and marginalized children and families will receive integrated social protection services. Working with partners, UNICEF will deliver life-saving supplies to areas impacted by armed violence through the inter-agency Rapid Response Mechanism.

### Total people in need

24.3 million<sup>10</sup>

### Total children (<18) in need

12.4 million<sup>11</sup>

### Total people to be reached

11.3 million<sup>12</sup>

### Total children to be reached

8 million<sup>13</sup>

### 2020 programme targets

#### Nutrition

- 263,430 children aged 6 to 59 months affected by SAM admitted for treatment<sup>14</sup>
- 1,800,000 children under 5 years given micronutrient interventions, including vitamin A

#### Health

- 5,500,000 children under 5 years vaccinated against polio
- 1,700,000 children under 5 years receiving primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities
- 972,142 children under 1 year vaccinated against measles (measles-containing vaccine) through routine immunization

#### WASH

- 6,800,000 people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene<sup>15</sup>
- 5,000,000 people provided with standard hygiene kits

#### Child protection

- 1,054,008 children and community members reached with life-saving mine risk education messages
- 517,077 children and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support<sup>16</sup>
- 55,000 children and women accessing gender-based violence response interventions

#### Education

- 1,000,000 children provided with individual learning materials
- 350,000 children accessing formal and non-formal education, including early learning
- 120,000 teachers receiving teacher incentives each month

#### Social policy

- 150,000 marginalized/excluded people benefiting from emergency and longer-term social and economic assistance (through case management)

#### Communication for development

- 4,500,000 people reached with key life-saving/behaviour change messages through communication for development interpersonal communication interventions

#### Rapid Response Mechanism

- 945,000 vulnerable displaced people who received Rapid Response Mechanism Kits

## Results from 2020

As of 1 July 2020, UNICEF had US \$185.9 million available against the revised appeal of US \$452.8 million appeal (41 per cent funded). This ensures access to primary healthcare services to children and women, including the provision of common childhood illnesses, antenatal care, delivery and UNICEF's response to the AWD/suspected cholera outbreak through an integrated health, nutrition, WASH and communication for development plan. As of 31 May 2020, over 3.7 million people accessed safe drinking water and over 1 million people were engaged in awareness and behaviour change activities. Although the COVID-19 situation impacted supply delivery, health facilities continued receiving supplies and operational support. Over 1 million children under 5 received primary healthcare and more than 83,883 children with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) received treatment. Child Protection services have so far reached over 85,000 children with psycho-social support and over 342,800 people were reached with mine/unexploded ordinance risk education. 80 per cent of reported incidents of grave violations against children were verified through Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism. 111,550 teachers and school-based staff and 437 temporary teachers collected their cash incentives, including 23,384 beneficiaries who collected their incentives through an e-payment modality covering 5 months of the 2019-2020 school year; 2,086 rural female teachers benefited from teacher salaries. Furthermore, over 7,000 schools were requested to assign two signatories for the opening of a bank account, which will enable the transference of the cash (US \$1,500 per school in 2 tranches) to the school upon approval of the school development plan. 18,705 children accessed education services; training of teachers on psycho-social support benefited more than 6,515 students. Several planned targets, particularly in education and child protection, under-performed due to COVID-19, funding shortages, and other operational constraints.

	Revised Sector 2020 targets	Sector total results	Revised UNICEF 2020 targets	UNICEF total results
<b>NUTRITION</b>				
Children aged 0 to 59 months with SAM admitted to therapeutic care	263,430	88,883	263,430	88,883
Children under 5 years given micronutrient interventions, including vitamin A	N/A	N/A	1,800,000	19,553 <sup>i</sup>
<b>HEALTH</b>				
Children under 1 year vaccinated against measles (measles-containing vaccine 1) through routine immunization			972,142	247,267
Children under 5 years vaccinated against polio			5,500,000	0 <sup>ii</sup>
Children under 5 years receiving primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities			1,700,000	1,129,740
<b>WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)</b>				
People accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene	10,700,000	5,045,240	6,800,000	3,696,875
People provided with standard hygiene kit	5,500,000	1,156,972	5,000,000	965,889 <sup>iii</sup>
<b>CHILD PROTECTION<sup>iv</sup></b>				
Children and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support	N/A	195,667	517,077	194,500
Children and community members reached with life-saving mine risk education messages	1,684,106	237,008	1,054,008	237,008
Children and women accessing gender-based violence response interventions			55,000	2,283
<b>EDUCATION<sup>v</sup></b>				
Children provided with individual learning materials	1,748,927	318,168	1,000,000	246,194
Children accessing formal and non-formal education, including early learning	N/A	201,354	350,000	115,693
Teachers receiving teacher incentives each month	142,000	111,548	120,000	111,548
<b>SOCIAL POLICY</b>				
Marginalized/excluded people benefiting from emergency and longer-term social and economic assistance (through case management)			150,000	54,920
<b>RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM (RRM)</b>				
Vulnerable displaced people receiving Rapid Response Mechanism kits	840,000	375,052	945,000	298,346
<b>COMMUNICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT</b>				
People reached with key lifesaving/behaviour change messages through communication for development interpersonal communication interventions			4,500,000	2,484,386

\* Results are as of 31 May 2020 unless otherwise noted.

<sup>i</sup> Vitamin A supplementation was to be implemented jointly with national polio campaigns; however, the planned 2020 immunization campaign did not materialize due to the COVID-19 pandemic. UNICEF is exploring ways to provide Vitamin A through alternative platforms.

<sup>ii</sup> National polio immunization campaigns planned for 2020 have not materialized due to COVID-19 related measures.

<sup>iii</sup> Due to a potential risk on increasing suspected cholera cases following the rainy season during summer, hygiene kits will be distributed during the second half of 2020.

<sup>iv</sup> Under-achievement for child protection activities is due to the COVID-19 mitigation measures, including the closure of schools and child-friendly spaces, restricted movement between governorates and a ban on meetings and public gatherings.

<sup>v</sup> Under-achievement for Education activities is due to the COVID-19 mitigation measures, including the closure of schools and child-friendly spaces, restricted movement between governorates and a ban on meetings and public gatherings.

## Funding requirements

UNICEF requires US \$422.9 million to meet the needs of women and children in Yemen in 2020. The appeal is aligned with the 2020 extended Humanitarian Response Plan for Yemen and costs reflect the needs on the ground, agreed targets and UNICEF/partner capacities to deliver. The revised appeal also reflects a change in the prioritization/redirection of response towards COVID-19, in line with the UNICEF Global COVID-19 HAC appeal. The UNICEF COVID-19 response in Yemen requires an additional \$103 million. Over \$60 million is needed for teacher incentives for the 2020-2021 school year, with \$30 million required in 2020.

Appeal Sector	Original 2020 HAC Requirement (US\$)	Revised 2020 HAC Requirement (US\$)	Funds Available (US\$)	Funding Gap	
				US\$	%
Nutrition	126,103,718	105,108,000	51,268,489	53,839,511	51%
Health	91,190,848	37,682,933	19,789,691	17,893,242	47%
Water, sanitation and hygiene	135,000,000	162,420,298	62,934,198	99,486,100	61%
Child Protection	42,800,150	15,337,294	12,371,425	2,964,869	19%
Education	110,997,852	82,185,184	23,794,201	58,390,983	71%
Social Policy	3,400,000	2,527,471	3,270,359	0	0
Communication for development	11,730,000	3,895,000	7,068,271	0	0
Rapid Response Mechanism	13,760,000	13,760,000	5,692,921	8,067,079	59%
<b>Total</b>	<b>534,982,568</b>	<b>422,916,180</b>	<b>186,189,555</b>	<b>240,641,784</b>	<b>59%</b>

<sup>1</sup> Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 'Extension Yemen: Humanitarian Response Plan – June to December 2020', May 2020.

<sup>2</sup> International Organization for Migration Displacement Tracking Matrix, 'Rapid Displacement Tracking (RDT): DTM Yemen', IOM DTM, February 2020.

<sup>3</sup> United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) estimates as of May 2020.

<sup>4</sup> Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 'Extension Yemen: Humanitarian Response Plan – June to December 2020', May 2020.

<sup>5</sup> Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 'Extension Yemen: Humanitarian Response Plan – June to December 2020', May 2020.

<sup>6</sup> Emergency Operation Centre, 'Yemen: Cholera Outbreak 2017/2019– Interactive Dashboard', EOC, 20 June 2020, <http://yemeneoc.org/bi/>, accessed 30 June 2020.

<sup>7</sup> Government of Yemen Ministry of Health Administrative Data – January to August 2019 – latest data available.

<sup>8</sup> WHO Yemen Covid-19 epidemiological update 29 June 2020, <https://bit.ly/2BTyVem>, accessed 30 June 2020.

<sup>9</sup> Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 'Extension Yemen: Humanitarian Response Plan – June to December 2020', May 2020.

<sup>10</sup> Yemen: 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> This includes 5.5 million children under 5 years targeted for polio vaccination; 2.5 million children aged 5 to 17 years targeted for safe water; and 3.3 million adults targeted for safe water. This includes 5.75 million women/girls and 5.55 million men/boys and an estimated 246,600 people with disabilities.

<sup>13</sup> This includes 5.5 million children under 5 years targeted for polio vaccination and 2.5 million children aged 5 to 17 years targeted for safe water. This includes 4.1 million girls and 3.9 million boys and an estimated 176,000 children with disabilities.

<sup>14</sup> UNICEF is targeting 90 per cent of the total caseload, which is well above the Sphere standard. For planning, implementation and procurement, UNICEF will support the entire caseload.

<sup>15</sup> This includes 6 million people accessing drinking water through support to the operation, maintenance and rehabilitation of public water systems and 800,000 people accessing emergency safe water supply.

<sup>16</sup> This includes 794,000 children and 80,000 caregivers.

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