



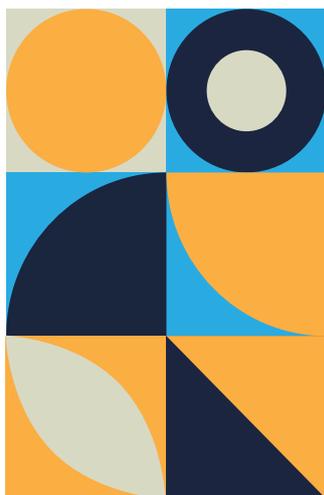
**2023 UNFPA  
HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE  
IN YEMEN**



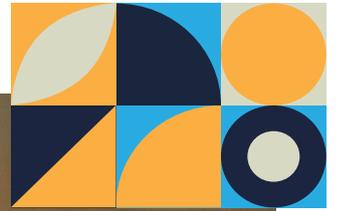


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**JANUARY 2023**



# 2023 UNFPA HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE IN YEMEN

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## WOMEN AND GIRLS THE HARDEST HIT

**Yemen** remains one of the world's largest humanitarian crises. A staggering 21.6 million people require some form of humanitarian assistance in 2023, and 80 per cent of the country's population struggles to access food, safe drinking water and adequate health services. These are the results of multiple overlapping emergencies that have pummeled the country: violent conflict, economic collapse, recurrent natural disasters and severely disrupted public services.



Women and girls are bearing the brunt of the crisis. An estimated 80 per cent of the 4.5 million people displaced in Yemen are women and children. Approximately 26 per cent of displaced households are headed by women.

Discriminatory societal attitudes towards women's movement and economic and social engagement remain entrenched, and worsening existing inequalities and hindering women's access to basic services. The 'mahram' (male guardian) requirement, increasingly imposed in northern parts of the country in 2022, whereby women must be accompanied by a male family member to travel, also applied to female national aid workers, not only restricts the ability of the humanitarian community to deliver life-saving assistance, particularly to women and girls but also serve to exacerbate women's economic insecurity and access to health and protection services, with resulting repercussions for their physical and mental health. Access to basic rights and freedom of movement are even more challenging for women and girls who lack access to legal documentation due to discriminatory laws and procedures.

## Protection for women and girls remains urgent

Women and girls also continue to suffer disproportionately from gender-based violence. While this situation existed prior to the conflict, it is now greatly exacerbated as communities and families increasingly resort to negative coping strategies to survive. With limited shelter options and a breakdown in formal and informal protection mechanisms, girls are increasingly vulnerable to child marriage, human trafficking, begging and child labour, among others. Women and girls with disabilities face an even greater risk of gender-based violence in the communities and available services are not equipped logistically to accommodate their needs.

An estimated 7.1 million women and girls will require services to prevent and address gender-based violence in 2023. However, such services remain overstretched across Yemen, and completely absent in some hard-to-reach areas. At the same time, data on gender-based violence remains extremely thin and unreliable due to fear of reporting, stigma and lack of legal redress mechanisms, among other factors.

## Maternal mortality rates at a high

Maternal mortality rates in Yemen remain extremely high; the highest in the Middle East and Northern Africa region. One woman dies in childbirth every two hours in Yemen, mostly from causes that are entirely preventable. Less than half of births are assisted by skilled medical personnel and only one third of births take place in a health facility. Women of childbearing age, particularly pregnant and lactating women, have limited or no access to reproductive health services, including antenatal care, safe delivery, postnatal care, family planning and emergency obstetric and new-born care.

Poor coverage, lack of specialized staff, inadequacy of essential medical supplies and a lack of female doctors, particularly at primary health care facility level, affects three-quarters of rural women's access to maternal health services. Without access to lifesaving medicines, about 1 million women who are estimated to deliver in 2023 are particularly at risk. Another 1 million women who would want to use family planning to postpone or avoid pregnancy will be at risk of unwanted pregnancies. Lack of access to other reproductive health medicines, including for prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections and gender-based violence exacerbates reproductive health morbidity and mortality for both women and men.

Over 1.5 million pregnant and breastfeeding women are projected to experience acute malnutrition sometime in the course of 2023. They risk giving birth to newborns with severe stunted growth, and nursing malnourished infants, as a result of rising food insecurity.

## The health system has cratered

Less than half of Yemen's hospitals remain functional with an estimated 11 per cent fully or partially damaged due to the conflict. This is compounded by extreme shortages of essential medicines, supplies and specialized staff, only 1 in 5 of the functioning facilities is able to provide maternal and child health services. Nineteen out of 22 governorates face severe shortages in available maternity beds – less than six beds per 10,000 people, half of the WHO standard. In addition, an estimated 42 per cent of Yemen's population lives more than one hour away from the nearest fully or partially functional public hospital.

## Mental health needs soar

The cumulative impact of conflict and deprivation has also taken a heavy toll on the mental health of Yemenis, particularly its women and girls. Mental health care remains scarce, and mental illness is highly stigmatized. An estimated 7 million people require mental health treatment and support, but only 120,000 have uninterrupted access to these services.

# CRISIS IN NUMBERS



**21.6 M**

In need of some form of assistance



**13.4 M**

In acute need



**17.3 M**

Food insecure



**17.7 M**

In need of protection



**4.5 M**

Internally displaced persons



**20.3 M**

In need of health assistance



**5.5 M**

Women of reproductive age (15-49 years)



**1.5 M**

Malnourished pregnant and lactating women



**20%**

Health facilities providing maternal and child health services



**7.1 M**

Women in need of GBV protection



## 2023 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR UNFPA

- Provision of vital lifesaving reproductive health services with emphasis on emergency obstetric and neonatal care to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity.
- Provision of lifesaving protection services for women and girls with emphasis on prevention and response to different forms of violence.
- Reaching all newly displaced persons with emergency lifesaving packages through the Rapid Response Mechanism.

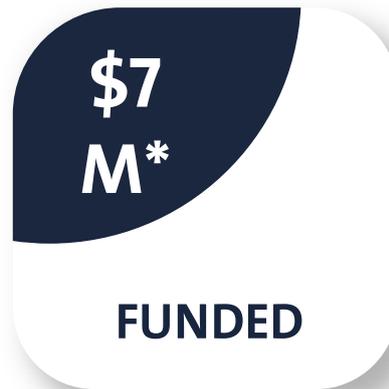
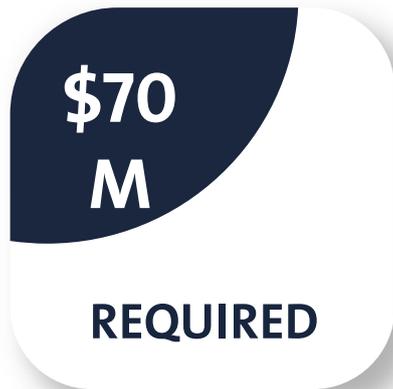
**\$70 M**

2023  
Total Funding  
Requirement

**3.9 M**

Targeted  
Population

## 2023 FUNDING REQUIREMENT OVERVIEW



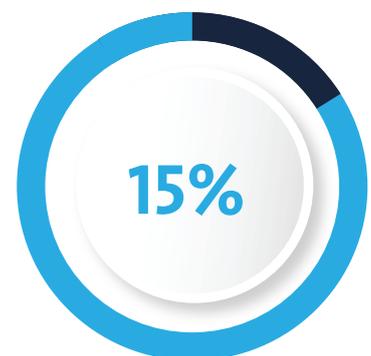
### DISTRIBUTION OF REQUIRED FUNDS BY PROGRAMME AREA



Reproductive  
Health



Protection of Women  
and Girls



Rapid Response  
Mechanism

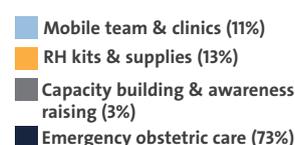
\* Funded as of January 2023

# 2023 UNFPA HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE: PROGRAMME PRIORITIES

## REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

- Ensure availability of lifesaving reproductive health commodities, medicines, supplies and equipment in health facilities.
- Ensure qualified health personnel are in place to provide reproductive health services in health facilities.
- Support mobile medical teams and clinics to enable them to provide reproductive health services that include; safe deliveries integrated with nutrition services for pregnant women as well as disease prevention information.
- Make family planning and birth spacing methods available and accessible to people through health facilities and mobile clinics.
- Provide skilled healthcare personnel, particularly midwives, at the community level.
- Lead coordination of reproductive health response through the Reproductive Health Inter-Agency Working Group under the Health Cluster.

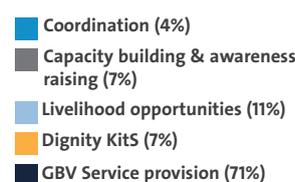
**2023 Requirement:  
\$38.2 M**



## PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

- Provide medical supplies including post-rape treatment kits.
- Respond to different forms of violence through the provision of psychosocial support, legal aid, access to safe houses and referrals to health and other services.
- Engage men and boys to enhance mitigation of different forms of violence at the community level.
- Strengthen community awareness about issues related to different forms of violence, and available relevant services.
- Establish referral pathways, protocols and build capacity of service providers and responsible institutions to address challenges for the protection of women and girls.
- Provide support services and livelihood opportunities for survivors of various forms of violence.
- Lead coordination of women's protection response through the women's protection sub-cluster within the Protection Cluster.

**2023 Requirement:  
\$20.8 M**



## RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM

- Lead response to distribute immediate, most critical, lifesaving emergency supplies to newly displaced, families on the move, who may be in hard-to-reach areas or stranded close to the front lines.
- Ensure provision of a minimum assistance packages comprising of (1) WFP ready-to-eat food rations (2) UNICEF family basic hygiene kits (3) UNFPA female transit/dignity kit.
- Enrollment of newly displaced persons and referral to other actors for further assistance.

**2023 Requirement:  
\$11 M**



## 2023 Requirements by Programme Area\*\*

PROGRAMME AREA	USD
<b>REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH</b>	
Emergency obstetric care	28,000,000
Reproductive health kits & supplies	5,000,000
Mobile teams and clinics	4,000,000
Capacity building & awareness raising	1,200,000
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>38,200,000</b>
<b>PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS</b>	
Service provision	14,700,000
Capacity building & awareness raising	1,500,000
Transit/dignity kits	1,500,000
Coordination	800,000
Livelihood opportunities	2,300,000
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>20,800,000</b>
<b>RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM</b>	
Transit/dignity kits	3,600,000
Coordination	2,000,000
Enrollment	4,000,000
Distribution	1,400,000
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>11,000,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>70,000,000</b>

## 2023 Targeted Direct Beneficiaries \*

PROGRAMME AREA	NO.
<b>REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH</b>	
Female	2,220,000
Male	600,000
<b>PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS</b>	
Female	750,000
Male	38,000
<b>RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM</b>	
Individuals	375,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,983,000</b>

\* Includes targeted direct beneficiaries only, does not include indirect beneficiaries.

\*\* Operations and programme support costs are included in overall costs.



## WHY UNFPA MATTERS FOR YEMEN?

- UNFPA is the sole provider of essential reproductive health medicines and leads reproductive health service provision in Yemen. The reproductive health supply chain being supported by UNFPA serves as lifeline for millions of women and girls in Yemen.
- UNFPA leads coordination and provision of lifesaving women's protection services throughout Yemen, reaching thousands of survivors of different forms of violence.
- UNFPA leads the multi-agency Rapid Response Mechanism across the country, providing lifesaving assistance to displaced persons at the frontlines and referring them for further assistance.

## 2022 MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS



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People reached  
with lifesaving  
assistance

**2.7 M**

Safe deliveries  
assisted

**143,200**

Unintended  
pregnancies  
averted

**344,731**

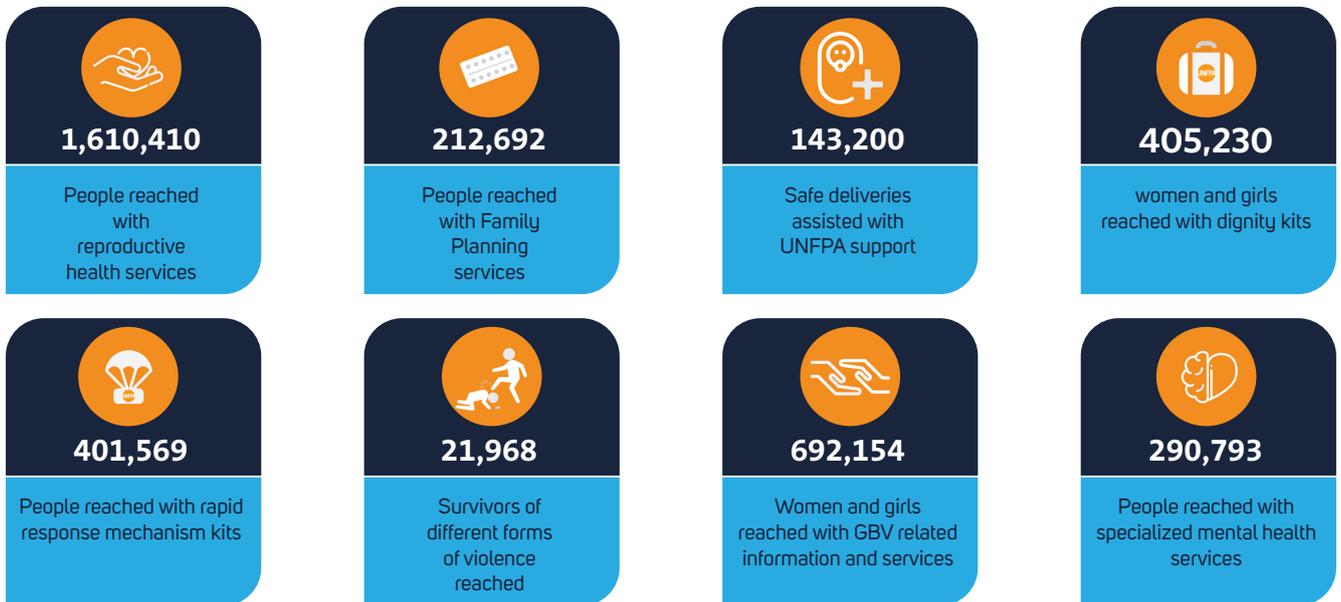
Survivors of  
violence  
assisted

**21,968**

# 2022 OVERVIEW OF HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT



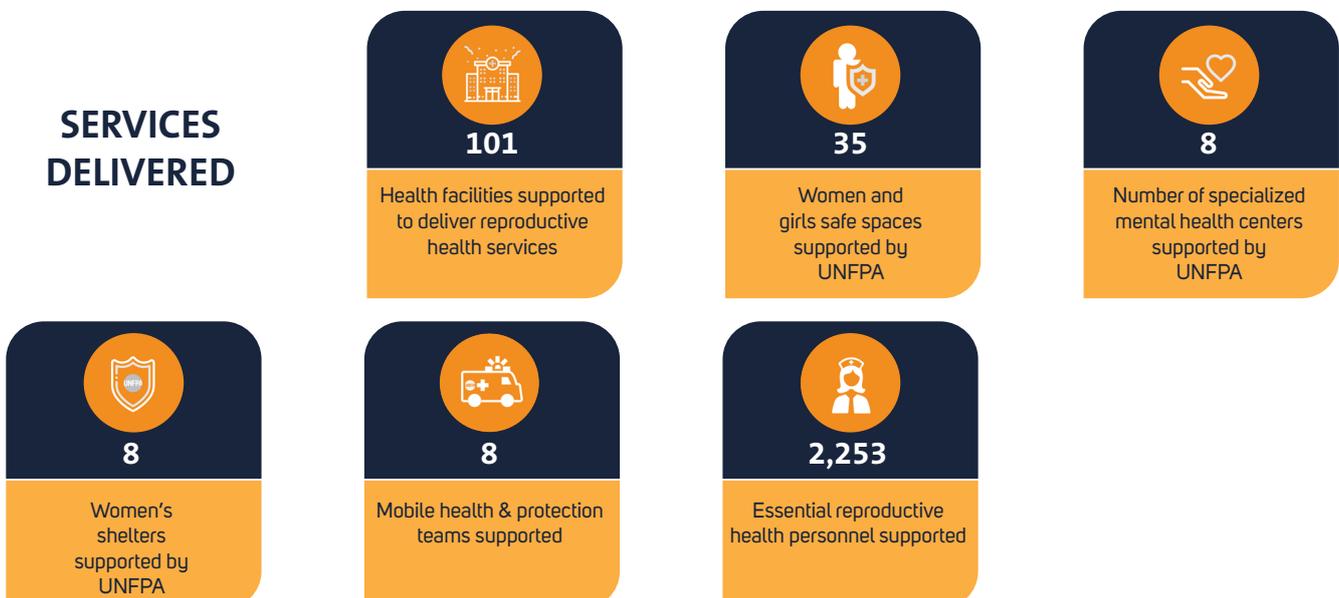
## PEOPLE REACHED



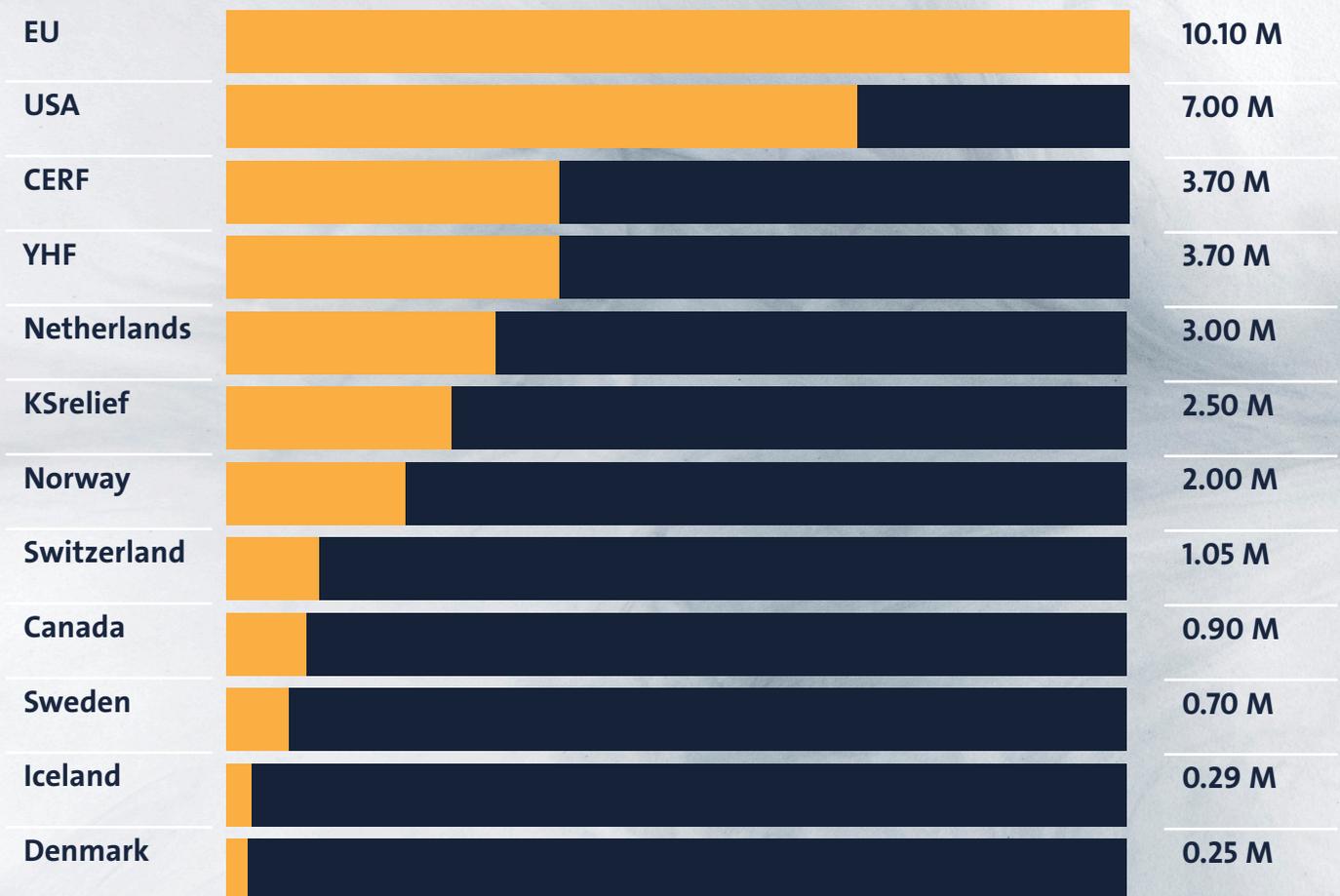
## CAPACITIES STRENGTHENED



## SERVICES DELIVERED



# 2022 DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS\*

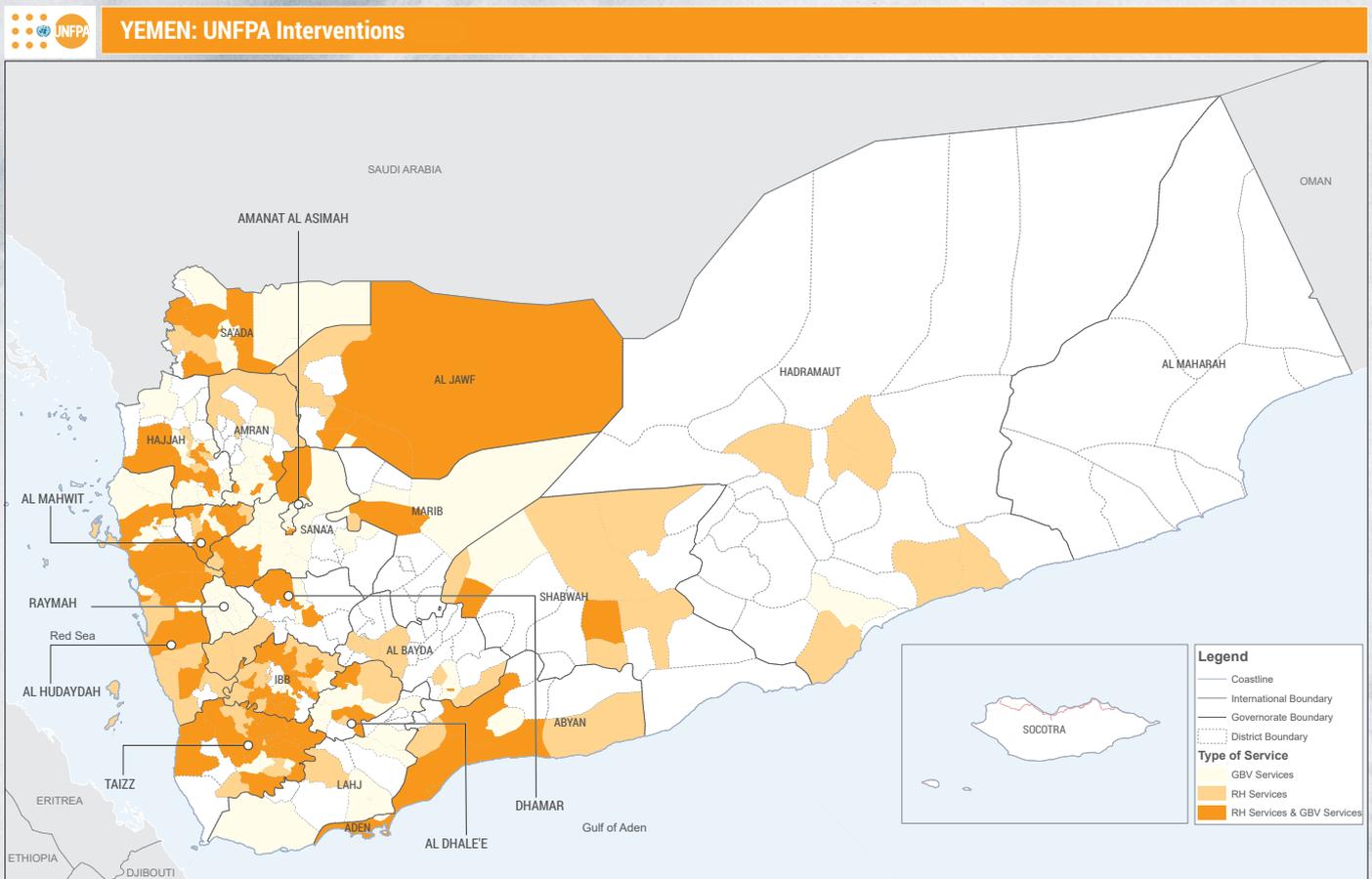


\*Includes new donor contributions in 2022 only.

# GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

UNFPA's interventions cover all 22 governorates in Yemen, with a team of 101 personnel (14 international and 87 national). Overall coordination is handled by UNFPA office in Sana'a. In other governorates, joint UN humanitarian hubs coordinate.

UNFPA has presence in all seven operational UN humanitarian hubs (Aden, Al Hudaydah, Al Mukalla, Ibb, Sa'ada and Sana'a), an arrangement that relies on closely monitoring evolving needs to ensure a flexible and appropriate response to the changing demands of the humanitarian dynamic.



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Creation date: 06/02/2020

## TRANSFORMING LIVES



### Hailah, 30

On her way to the health centre to give birth, Hailah almost fell off the back of a borrowed motorbike – twice. A lack of oil has driven up high transportation costs, and the money her husband, Hamid, made in Saudi Arabia where he sought work, was meagre. That is how she ended up on the bike driven by her brother-in-law who eventually tied her to him to prevent her from falling. Traveling from a remote village in Dhamar Governorate, they bumped along poor roads for more than 20 kilometres. “I realized it was the end – there was no way for me and my child to survive,” Hailah, 30, recalled. “But I had to resist. I couldn’t be at home because of the great risk of severe bleeding or death.”

When Hailah arrived at UNFPA-supported Hadaka Health Centre she was quickly transferred to the operating room.

“She reached us at the last minute. She and her baby were about to die,” her doctor said. “The operation was a success — her baby is in the incubator and she is in stable condition.” She added: “The free medical services that we provide are the only hope for women like Hailah. I can hardly imagine how many mothers and babies will die if these services are stopped.”

Hailah had a daughter she named Amal. “We almost lost its meaning in light of this cursed war that turned our lives into tragedy,” she said.

But they didn’t lose the baby, or what her name means: “hope.”

## Ghada\*, 16

Ghada was illiterate, with no work experience, no job prospects – and the mother of three children. Ghada had been married off at 12 years old by her father, a farm day labourer. She became pregnant at 13, but when she had a girl, her husband – who wanted a boy – abused Ghada physically and emotionally, forbidding her to leave the house for a year.

When she got pregnant a second time, there was no health facility nearby to determine the gender of the baby so for nine months, Ghada lived in fear of having another girl. When the baby was a boy, she was finally allowed to leave the house to visit her family.

She hoped that after telling her father about the imprisonment, the beatings and the cruel insults he would provide sanctuary. She was wrong. With no options before her, she returned to her husband, who promised things would change. They didn't, and at 15, Ghada found herself pregnant a third time. Feeling hopeless, she tried to poison herself with pesticide stolen from her husband. Her sister-in-law saved her, reminding her to live for her children and seeking medical attention.

Depressed and fearful, Ghada had reached her lowest until a neighbour took her in and Ghada's mother accompanied her to a UNFPA-supported safe space in Hajjah Governorate.

A lawyer at the safe space helped her secure custody of her two daughters and son, who had been taken away by her husband. She took sewing livelihood training offered at the safe space, where she also learned to read and write. After finishing her training, she was awarded a sewing machine and materials to help provide for herself and her family.

“Education helped me to become economically independent so I can have my freedom of choices,” Ghada said. “I need to get my children an education so they can choose for themselves in their lives.”

She left her husband and is back in her father's house, no longer a pre-teenager considered an economic burden but a 16-year-old provider, a child herself in years only.

*\*Name changed for privacy and protection*





## WHAT IF... WE FAIL TO RESPOND?



In the absence of dedicated humanitarian assistance, millions of women and girls will continue to face preventable illnesses, displacement, exacerbated protection risks and death:

- **More than 2 million women of childbearing age would lose access to reproductive health services, resulting in 4,500 maternal deaths from among 225,000 women at risk of developing complications during childbirth.**
- **Support to 93 health facilities will come to a halt. Only 1 in 5 of the functioning health facilities currently provide maternal and child health services across the country.**
- **Failure to address women's protection risks and provide essential, lifesaving response services for survivors will jeopardize the lives and futures of more than one million women and girls across Yemen.**



UNFPA is grateful for the invaluable support of the following donors for its response to the crisis in Yemen since 2015 (in alphabetical order):



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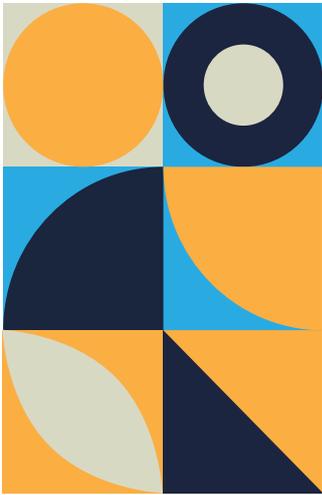


# ONE VISION THREE ZEROS

**ZERO** *unmet need for family planning*

**ZERO** *preventable maternal deaths*

**ZERO** *gender-based violence and harmful practices*



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