



**2024 UNFPA  
HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE  
IN YEMEN**

**ENSURING RIGHTS AND CHOICES FOR ALL**



UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

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A young girl with a serious expression is looking directly at the camera. She is wearing a yellow headscarf with a dark pattern and a yellow garment with dark floral or leaf-like patterns. She is standing in front of a wooden structure, possibly a doorway or a wall, in a dimly lit, cluttered interior space.

## WOMEN AND GIRLS AT HEIGHTENED RISK

After nine years of conflict, the needs in Yemen remain immense. Over half of the country's population, 18.2 million people, require some form of humanitarian assistance in 2024.

This is the result of multiple, overlapping emergencies pummeling the country: Violent conflict, economic collapse, recurrent climate-change induced disasters, and severely disrupted public services, with recent regional conflict dynamics adding further layers of vulnerability.

### Women and girls hardest hit

Women and girls continue to bear the brunt of the crisis. An estimated 80 per cent of the 4.5 million people displaced in Yemen are women and children and around one quarter of displaced households are headed by women.

Early and child marriage puts women and children at further risk of health complications, especially those who are malnourished. Going into labour when too young puts enormous strain on a girl's body, which can lead to debilitating conditions like obstetric fistula, and even death.

Child marriage also casts a long shadow on mental well-being of both women and their children. More than 30 per cent of girls in Yemen are married before the age of 18, and the highest death rates of children under five years old are among mothers who are younger than 20 (54 per 1,000 live births), which serves as another stark reminder of the consequences of early marriage.

Gender-based violence has become endemic in Yemen, with more than 6.3 million women and girls at heightened risk of its various forms, including harmful traditional practices such as female genital mutilation. With limited shelter options and a breakdown in formal and informal protection mechanisms, girls are increasingly vulnerable to child marriage, human trafficking, forced begging and child labour, among others. Women and girls with disabilities and marginalized groups face an even greater risk of gender-based violence, available services are not equipped to accommodate their needs.

Access to comprehensive gender-based violence response remains insufficient across Yemen, with 90 per cent of rural areas lacking these services. Female heads of households, women with disabilities, and those belonging to minority or migrant communities often face even greater obstacles due to compounded vulnerabilities and discrimination, further limiting their access to life-saving support and pursuing justice.

### Health needs of women and girls remain urgent

Of the 17.8 million in need of health assistance in 2024, one quarter are women. Some 5.5 million women of reproductive age, including pregnant and lactating women, face challenges accessing reproductive health services, especially in rural and frontline districts. This is due to the non-availability of specialized female doctors and nurses, insufficient essential medical supplies, and limited access to services. Restrictions on the movement of female aid workers across governorates has further compounded the situation in northern parts of the country.

Maternal mortality rates in Yemen remain high, with one woman dying in childbirth every two hours, mostly from causes that are entirely preventable. Fewer than half of all births are assisted by skilled medical personnel and only one third take place in a health facility. Women of childbearing age, particularly pregnant and lactating women, have limited or no access to reproductive health support, including antenatal care, safe delivery services, postnatal care, family planning and emergency obstetric and newborn care.

Over 2.7 million pregnant and breastfeeding women are projected to require treatment for acute malnutrition in 2024. They risk giving birth to newborns with severely stunted growth and nursing malnourished infants due to rising food insecurity.

This is compounded by extreme shortages of essential medicines, supplies and specialized staff, as only one in five of functioning facilities is able to provide maternal and child health services.

### 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 psychological 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



**18.2 M**

In need of some form of assistance



**17.6 M**

In acute need



**16.4 M**

Food insecure



**4.5 M**

Internally displaced persons



**17.8 M**

In need of health care services



**5.5 M**

Women of reproductive age (15-49 years)



**2.7 M**

acutely malnourished pregnant and lactating women



**20%**

Health facilities providing maternal and child health services



**6.3 M**

Women in need of GBV protection



## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR UNFPA IN YEMEN 2024

- 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.

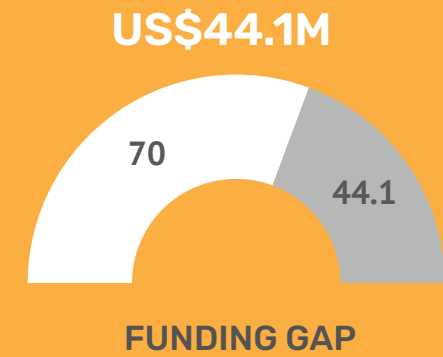
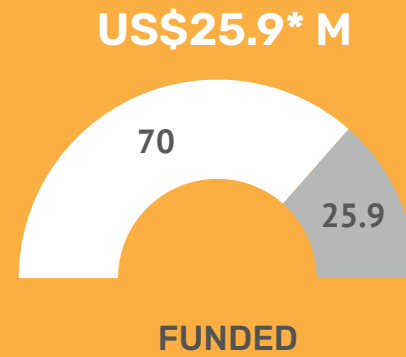
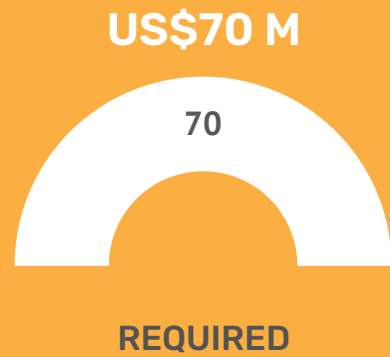
**US\$70 M**

**Total Funding  
Requirement  
2024**

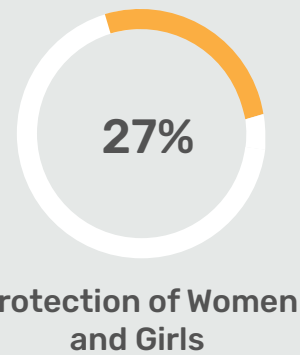
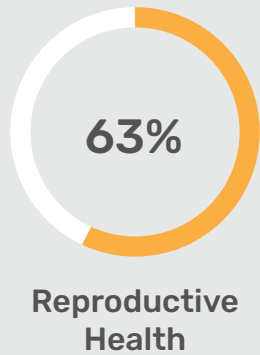
**3.8 M**

**Targeted  
Population**

## FUNDING REQUIREMENT OVERVIEW



## DISTRIBUTION OF REQUIRED FUNDS BY PROGRAMME AREA

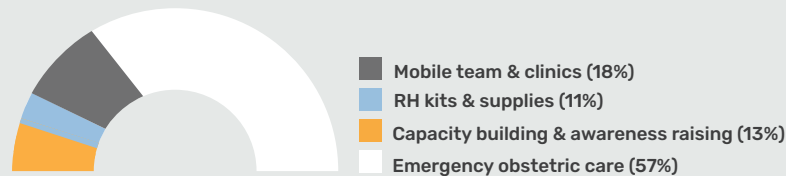


\* Funded as of March 2024



## UNFPA HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE: PROGRAMME PRIORITIES

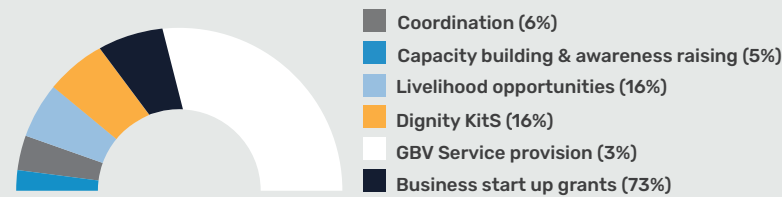
### Requirement: US\$43.8 M



### 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.

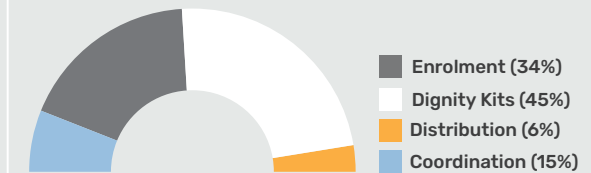
### Requirement: US\$19.1 M



### 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.

### Requirement: US\$7.1 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.

## FUNDING REQUIREMENTS BY PROGRAMME AREA\*

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH		PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS		RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM	
PROGRAMME AREA	US\$	PROGRAMME AREA	US\$	PROGRAMME AREA	US\$
Emergency obstetric care	25,000,000	GBV service provision	8,000,000	Transit/dignity kits	3,182,983
Reproductive health kits & supplies	5,000,000	Capacity building & awareness raising	1,000,000	Coordination	1,063,168
Mobile teams and clinics	8,000,000	Dignity kits	3,000,000	Enrollment	2,420,000
Capacity building & awareness raising	5,812,407	Livelihood opportunities	3,000,000	Distribution	421,442
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>43,812,407</b>	Bussiness start up grants	3,000,000	<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>7,087,593</b>
		GBV coordination	1,100,000		
		<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>19,100,000</b>		
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>70,000,000</b>

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

## TARGETED DIRECT BENEFICIARIES \*

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH		PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS		RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM	
PROGRAMME AREA	NO.	PROGRAMME AREA	NO.	PROGRAMME AREA	NO.
Female	2,200,000	Female	609,752	Individuals	232,000
Male	700,000	Male	83,148		
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,824,900</b>

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



## 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.

# MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS 2023



**2.1 M**  
People reached  
with lifesaving  
assistance

**116,964**  
Safe deliveries  
assisted

**650,189**  
Unintended  
pregnancies  
averted

**101, 883**  
Survivors of violence  
assisted

## OVERVIEW OF HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT 2023

## PEOPLE REACHED



**1,229,630**  
People received  
reproductive  
health services



**135,941**  
People received  
Family Planning  
services



**116,964**  
Safe deliveries  
assisted with  
UNFPA support



**115,612**  
Women and girls  
received with  
dignity kits



**312,690**  
People received  
rapid response  
mechanism kits



**101,883**  
Survivors of  
violence received  
support services



**556,046**  
Women and girls  
received GBV-  
related services and  
information



**290,793**  
People reached with  
specialized mental  
health services

## CAPACITIES STRENGTHENED

**85**

Personnel trained  
on Minimum Initial  
Service Package

**461**

Personnel trained  
on provision of  
women's protection  
services

## SERVICES DELIVERED

**95**

Health facilities  
supported to deliver  
reproductive health  
services

**35**

Women and  
Girls Safe Spaces  
supported

**8**

Specialized mental  
health centres  
supported

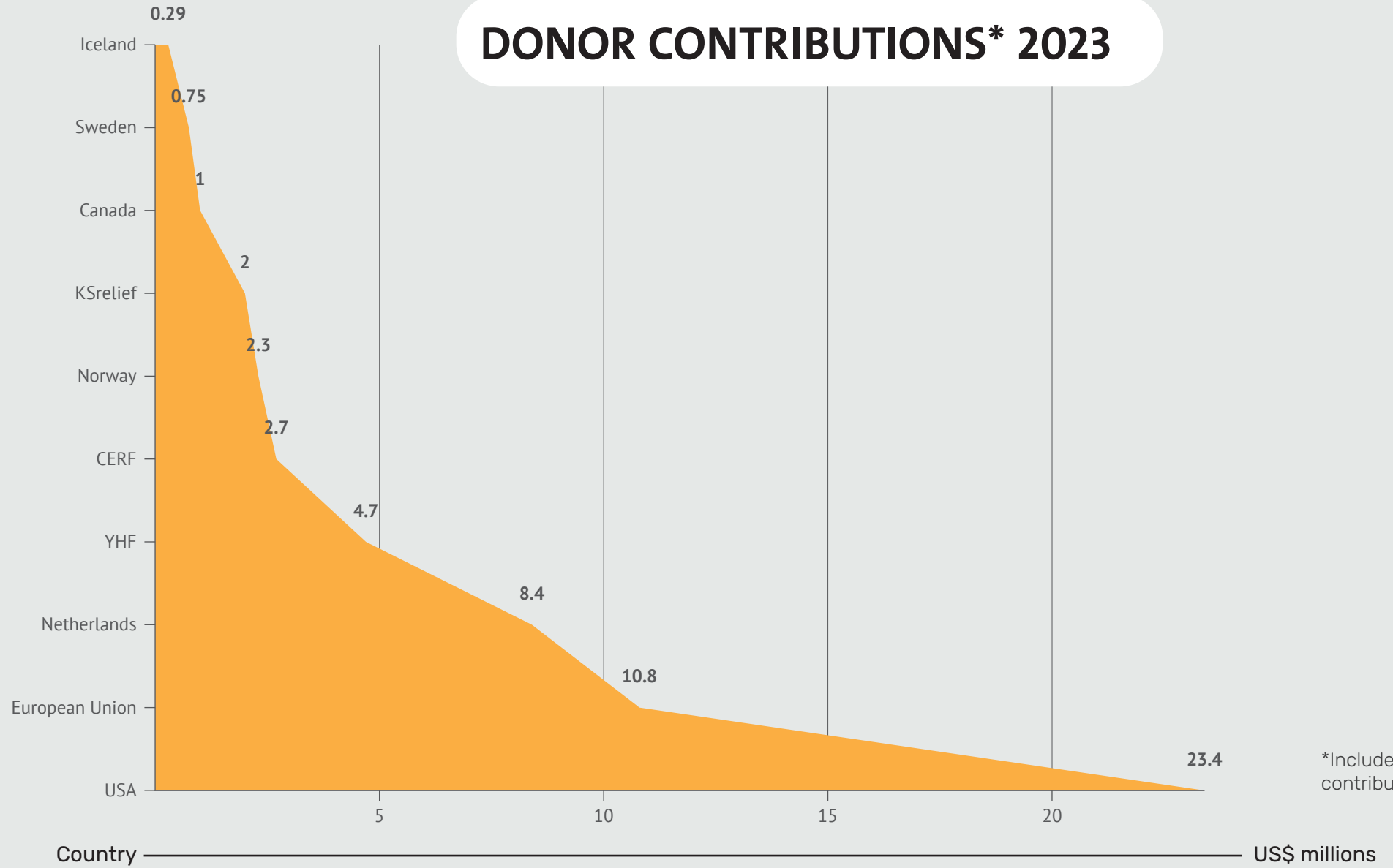
**8**

Women's  
shelters  
supported by  
UNFPA

**3**

Mobile health &  
protection teams  
supported

## DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS\* 2023

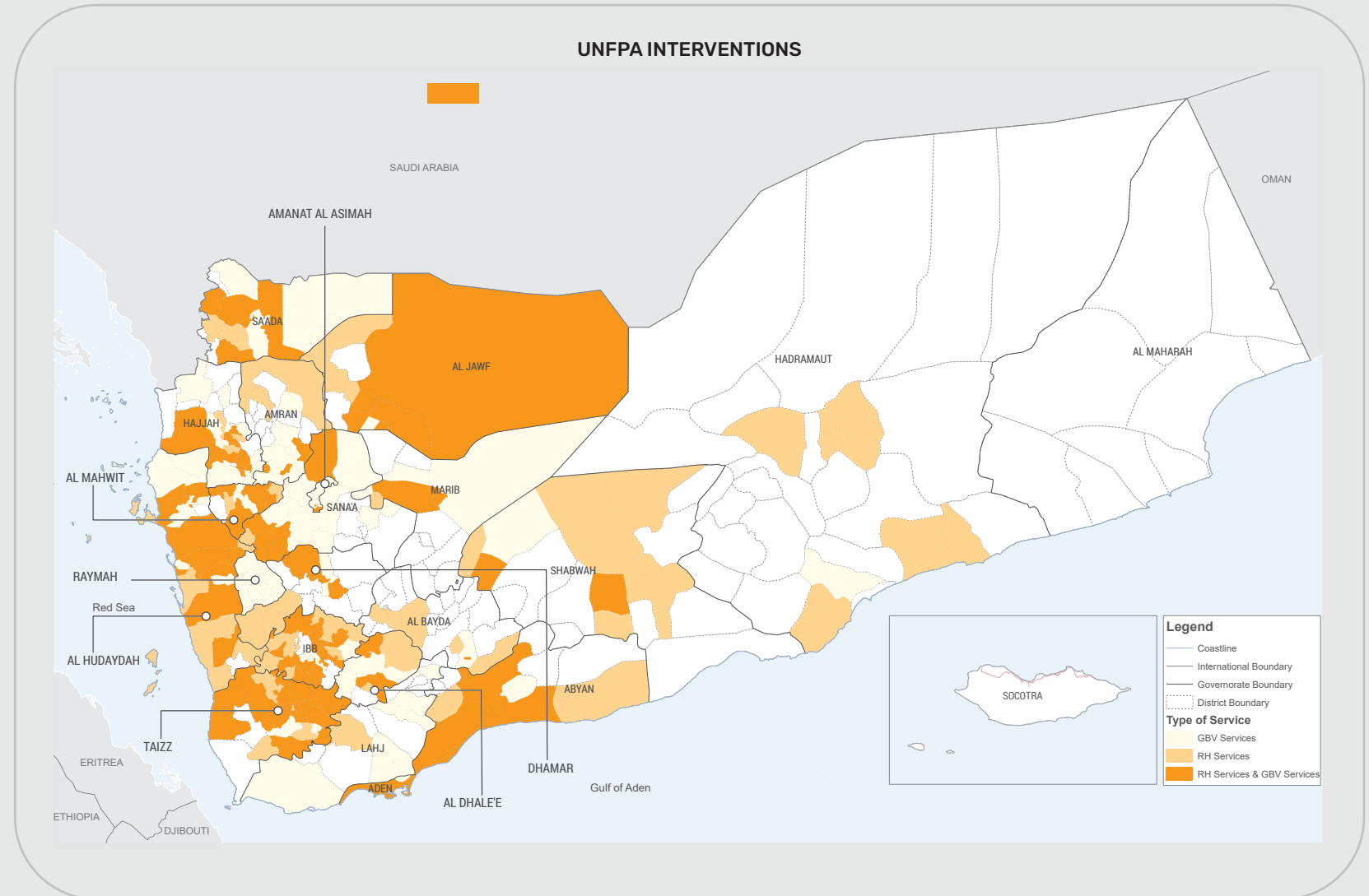


\*Includes new donor contributions in 2023 only.

# 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.



## CHANGING LIVES



**Zahra, 30**, is a mother of four from the village of Wusab Al Safil in Yemen's Dhamar Governorate.

Nine years ago, as the war escalated and health facilities were barely functioning or standing due to violence and insecurity, Zahra went into early labour with her third child.

She was acutely malnourished – a dangerous condition that affects some 2.7 million pregnant and breastfeeding women in Yemen – and

without any health staff to support the premature delivery, her situation was life-threatening.

Both Zahra and her baby survived but the child suffers from congenital heart disease. When she fell pregnant a fourth time, she was again acutely malnourished and underweight, her body growing increasingly weak and prone to diseases. One morning she collapsed with abdominal pain and bleeding, and her husband, Anwar, rushed her to a nearby but poorly equipped clinic.

She was advised to have an ultrasound to check for further complications, but the family had no means to pay for one. A nurse then told her about the UNFPA-supported Al Ahad Hospital, which was offering free reproductive health services. "I was so relieved," said Anwar. "Yet I had no money to afford a car to travel to the hospital."

Anwar and a heavily pregnant Zahra decided to walk the seven hours to reach the facility. The medical team treated Zahra's malnutrition, performed the ultrasound and conduct a series of medical tests.

Zahra safely delivered a healthy baby with the help of the medical team at Al Ahad Hospital.



**Hiam, 15** was forced to make ends meet for her family.

When war in Yemen escalated in 2015, her father's less than a dollar-a-day job of carrying goods by donkey went with it, and despite his best efforts, there was no more work to be found.

Her mother, gravely ill with cancer, required constant care herself, so as the eldest child in a family of nine, Hiam stepped up to care for her siblings, and to ensure the family survived.

"Giving up on school was the hardest part for me," says Hiam.

"I still feel deep sadness, but fate takes you down paths you don't want, so I learned to live, fight, and strive to reach my goals."

She trekked out to distant farms to buy vegetables and sell them in her neighbourhood. The money covered her family's basic needs, yet the work came with hidden, cumulative costs.

"As the only girl in the market, there was so much abuse, every single day. This all added to my sadness. It had a significant effect on me," says Hiam.

Afraid and under immense pressure, Hiam was close to breaking point when she heard about a UNFPA-supported safe space for women and girls. In desperation, she reached out for help. Hiam received counseling from a group of trained professionals for a month, and having built back her confidence, she took classes in sustainable farming to secure her family's future.

Through the safe space, Hiam learned to cultivate and care for land, vegetables and fruits, and went on to receive a grant of US\$500 to start her own green farming business.

Today, she makes around \$30-50 a month, which keeps her six siblings in school. Her home farm also produces enough food for three meals a day for the whole family.

"Now I'm an agriculturalist, and my life and economic situation have really improved. Everyone calls me 'the agricultural girl' and I love that," Hiam says.



A photograph showing a man in a brown shirt and vest leading a camel across a rocky riverbed. Two women in dark blue traditional clothing are seated on the camel. The background is a dry, rocky landscape with some green vegetation on the right.

## 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 500,000 women of childbearing age would lose access to reproductive health services, increasing the risks of morbidity, mortality, and childbirth complications.
- Support to 95 health facilities will come to a halt. Only one in five 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.
- 900,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women who are acutely malnourished will face an elevated risk of morbidity and mortality resulting from malnutrition-related complications.
- Over 232,000 individuals displaced by conflict or climate-induced disasters will face heightened risks of exploitation, harm, and health issues without a prompt multi-sectoral rapid response mechanism.



**THANK YOU**

UNFPA would like to express its sincere gratitude to the generous support of the following donors, listed in alphabetical order, for their contributions to the its response to the crisis in Yemen since 2015:



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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*



## UNFPA HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE IN YEMEN 2024





United Nations Population Fund



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