Background

Since 2015, armed conflict has fuelled a crisis of unprecedented magnitude in what was already the poorest country in the Arab region. In a country of 30 million, nearly 80% of Yemenis need assistance.

The crisis is the world’s greatest humanitarian and development disaster that is being exacerbated by the unmitigated spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19). Yemen’s case fatality rate is projected to be between 25% - 40%, four to six times higher than the global average.

Conflict is the main driver of hunger with 20 million severely food insecure, 10 million acutely, and nearly 7.4 million are malnourished. The situation has driven 4.3 million from their homes and 3.7 million are still displaced.

What we do

UNDP assists vulnerable Yemenis to meet their most urgent needs, restoring livelihoods, strengthening resilience to future challenges, and preparing for long-term development. Engaging local capacities, systems and institutions, UNDP helps Yemen build back better. Our work is framed around three interlinked and mutually reinforcing pillars.

1. Economic Recovery and Development

The protracted conflict has pushed Yemen deeper into poverty and increased Yemenis’ vulnerability. Since 2015, the economy has shrunk nearly 50% - leaving many unpaid or without livelihoods. State institutions lack revenue and are challenged to pay salaries and other costs, while public infrastructure deteriorates. Violence and instability impede access to basic services including education, health, water, and sanitation.

To help limit the crisis’ impact, UNDP creates livelihoods and income-generating opportunities that enable homes to purchase basic needs – e.g. food, healthcare, clothing, and water – while also stimulating the economy.

Key Programme Results (January 2019 – June 2020)

- Over 2.3 million employment workdays created for crisis-affected people
- Nearly 102,000 from vulnerable household people employed in cash-for-work programmes (indirectly benefiting over 600,000)
- Over 2.2 million people received water, education and improved roads
- Nearly 1,600 classrooms refurbished
- 191 kilometres of roads improved
- Over 8,529 hectares (approximately 10 acres) of farmland built or improved
- Over 342,900 people gained access to solar power (including 35 schools and 101 health facilities)
- Cleared 4.8 million square meters of land and over 100,000 explosive remnants of war
- Hodeidah Training Centre repaired and equipped
- Red Sea Ports assessed
- Procuring urgent Hodeidah Port equipment including repairing two gantry cranes

COVID-19 Related Key Results (March 2020 - Current)

- 1.5 million Yemenis expected to be reached through COVID-19 community outreach
- 145,000 communities in all governorates reached to raise COVID-19 awareness
- 42,500 people received COVID-19 prevention kits
- Over 1,600 water stations provided
- 9 isolation units established and equipped
- Launched 2000 SMEs for local production of COVID-19 prevention items (August 2020 expected 50,000 masks and 4,000 litres of soap a day)

We support market-based skills development to: (a) prepare vulnerable groups like women and youth for self and formal employment; (b) enable microfinance institutions to provide start-up funding; (c) deliver working capital to micro, small and medium enterprises while providing debt relief to the most severe crisis-affected small businesses.
With growing demand for green energy sources, UNDP offers solar power solutions for services in sectors such as health, water and sanitation and education, as well as for livelihood initiatives.

UNDP helps rebuild locally prioritised physical infrastructure to protect and improve delivery of critical services such as education, road transportation, clean water, and healthcare. We strengthen local authorities’ capacity to better plan, coordinate and provide effective services in areas like water and sanitation.

2. Governance and Rule of Law

Yemen’s weak central State has been weakened with local governance conducted by local authorities with varying functional levels and informal and formal ad-hoc coalitions. Sustaining local structures, enhancing their inclusiveness, and increasing their effectiveness is essential.

We work to build and promote responsive and accountable institutions, support inclusive political processes, foster resilient state-society relations, restore accountable local governance, and strengthen partnerships and participation. Our support is demand driven, evidence-based and backed by consultations, analyses and assessments of safety, security, protection, and justice needs and institutional capacities.

UNDP supports community and institutional access to justice for all, promotion and protection of human rights, transitional justice and reconciliation processes by working with justice institutions, traditional conflict resolution mechanisms, and national human rights institutions.

We also help support education professionals and volunteers to receive psychosocial counselling training, ensure people receive legal support, and local policing and justice services are improved.

3. Peace Support Operations

We work to advance Yemen’s overarching peace agenda by encouraging extensive and inclusive participation and promoting local ownership for peace agreement implementation, such as the Hodeidah Agreement. Doing so provides the ability to better deliver humanitarian assistance.

Much of the country is contaminated with unexploded ordnance – including the west, where most of the population resides. Nationwide, UNDP supports mapping and clearance of unexploded ordnance, risk awareness-raising, and socio-economic rehabilitation for explosion survivors. In the last year, UNDP cleared nearly 66,000 Explosive Remnants of War and helped households move away from frontlines to more secure areas.