

Field Office (FO) Ibb

June 2020

UNHCR FO Ibb is responsible for the southern regions of Ibb governorate and the northern districts of Taizz and Al Dhale'e governorates. The area covers areas close to active frontlines. The region is characterised by intense fighting severely restricting humanitarian access to one of the highest levels of displacements and impact on civilians.

The areas under the responsibility of the Ibb Hub have the highest numbers of displaced families in proportion to its population (9.5 per cent). Displacements in Al Dhale'e and Taizz amounted to one-third of the new displacements in 2019 (18,379 out of 66,500 families), although the population of these two governorates accounts for only 13 per cent of the entire Yemeni population, as estimated in the YHNO 2019.

KEY INDICATORS

661,170

Number of internally displaced persons in areas under FO Ibb DTM March 2019

188,540

Number of returnees in areas under FO Ibb DTM March 2019

42,000

Number of IDPs who areas under FO Ibb who received service, cash or in-kind support UNHCR June 2020



Basic household items and emergency shelter kits are distributed to families in Mawiyah district, Taizz governorate. Many parts of Taizz and the neighbouring Al Dhale'e are inaccessible due to the insecurity. © UNHCR/ YWU.

UNHCR PRESENCE

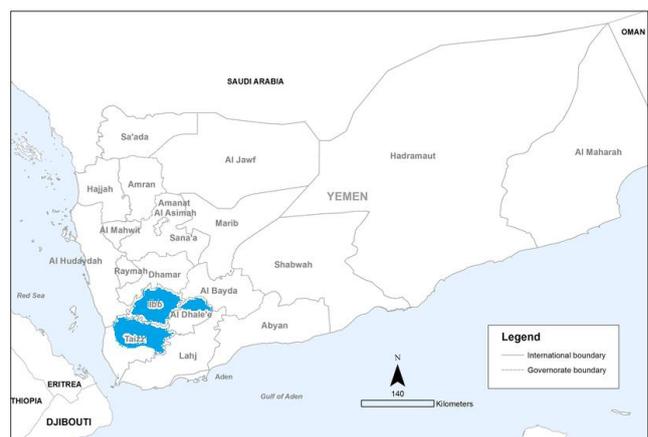
Staff:

12 National Staff

1 International Staff

4 National partners

- Tamdeen Youth Foundation (TYF)
- Yemen Women's Union (YWU)
- Building Foundation for Development (BFD)
- Deem for Development Organization (DEEM)



The Tri-Clusters (Protection, Shelter and CCCM Cluster) led by UNHCR and the Ibb Hub
UNHCR is responsible for coordinating all protection services, distribution and installation of shelters and of basic household items as well as upgrading IDP hosting sites under the humanitarian inter-agency framework.

Main activities

Protection REFUGEES

- There is a small refugee community under the area of responsibility of FO Ibb, whose support programmes are integrated with the regional IDP response as illustrated below.

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

- UNHCR FO Ibb conducts protection monitoring activities with its partners and community-based protection networks to identify the main protection needs of IDPs in the region. In the first half of f2020, UNHCR FO Ibb assisted 5,900 families and 40,100 individuals with various protection services including psychosocial support, legal assistance and tailored assistance for children and survivors of physical and psychological violence.
- UNHCR with its partners manage two community centres in Ibb and Taizz governorates. These centres serve as venues to have awareness-raising and training sessions on services available and ways to protect oneself including civil rights and revention measures against the COVID-19. Cases that cannot be addressed at the centre, such as those requiring medical or psychological support, are referred to specialised services providers. Urgent cases that require immediate intervention such as surgery or families at risk of eviction are also supported through cash.

NFI Emergency distribution

- UNHCR with its partners provide much-needed emergency shelters and basic household kits (mattresses kitchen sets and solar lamps) to some 1,700 displaced families in the first semester of 2020.

The Refugee Housing Units (RHUs)

UNHCR and its partners installed a total of 30 RHUs in Ibb and Taizz governorates for the IDPs, as part of a pilot project to determine the sustainability and adaptability of these structures in the different regions in Yemen. The RHU were designed through a collaboration between UNHCR, the social enterprise Better Shelter and the IKEA Foundation. Displaced families contribute to UNHCR's revisions to the RHUs, such as adding wider windows, enhancing walls for better privacy and adding sewage control systems.

Cash support

- CBI is the most preferred assistance by the IDPs, given its positive impact in providing instant relief to the displaced families. Cash also helps minimising negative coping mechanisms such as begging, child labour and dropping out of school to make ends meet. It also contributes to the local economy, and thus contributes to social cohesion between displaced and host communities. Until June 2020, some 5,000 IDP families were given cash support which they primarily used for food, rent, medicine and other essential services at their own discretion.

Camp Coordination & Camp Management (CCCM)

- Most (70 per cent) IDP families have difficulty in securing regular and adequate water supplies, health, and protection services due to the severe funding shortfall impacting UNHCR's and its partners' capacity to upgrade living conditions in IDPs sites,. Many IDPs live in remote or **hard-to-reach areas** where it is difficult to conduct regular protection monitoring activities or to provide families in need with appropriate services in particular in the health sector.

- UNHCR as the CCCM lead Agency helps coordinating humanitarian partners to devier WASH, food and protection services in 14 IDP hosting sites, home to 6,500 IDPs.
- A Referral and Escalation System (RES) has been established as an online mechanism to monitor and address the IDPs' needs that fall short from agreed standards, such as the distance to the water points and the amount of food distributed regularly. Through this monitoring tool, partners can better coordinate the provision of their services across IDP sites of quality and in sufficient quantity.



COVID-19 response

- Prior to COVID-19 reaching Yemen in March 2020, UNHCR actively raised awareness to IDP communities on prevention and precautionary measures. A total of 8,000 leaflets were distributed through door-to-door and small-group gatherings while keeping physical distancing.
- UNHCR with partner YWU is currently training 20 refugee and IDP tailors to produce some 15,000 reusable masks for both adults and children. Some will be purchased by UNHCR to be distributed to the vulnerable displaced families, and the rest will be sold by the tailors themselves to complement their income.
- Some 20 IDP hosting sites in Ibb Hub out of the 1,700 country-wide, were identified as sites that were most at risk regarding the potential of a COVID-19 outbreak. These sites were enhanced with a community-based action plan such as training community committees to be the first key responders through a safe and humane manner, refer suspected cases to the Rapid Response Teams and if need be, isolate patients in case of an outbreak. Disinfection and cleaning items as well as awareness-raising material on physical distancing and handwashing were distributed. UNHCR through CCCM partner BFD also distributed 750 hygiene kits in the IDP hosting sites consisting of Vitamin, Calcium, powder soap, female sanitary kits, and hand soap.
- Emergency distributions of shelter and basic household items [incorporated physical distancing measures and door-to door deliveries](#), wherever possible. All partners in the field are equipped with masks and gloves.



Challenges and Gaps

- **Unavailability and low stock of basic household items** due to logistical challenges and lack of funding.
- **Limited humanitarian access** due to a volatile security situation, especially close to the active frontlines in Taizz and Al Dhale'e governorates.
- **Increasing number of people in need** beyond the resources available, as Ibb FO is responsible for the highest numbers of displacement in proportion to the local population.

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