

## Sa'ada Field Office

June 2024

UNHCR's Office in Sa'ada covers Sa'ada and Al-Jawf governorates, which host an estimated 280,717 internally displaced people (IDPs).

Of these, over 122,000 live in over 150 sites and locations for IDPs.

Only a few actors provide services in these sites.

Marginalized communities with limited access to basic services constitute around 35% of IDPs living in sites.

To-date in 2024, UNHCR and partners have provided assistance in various forms to almost 14,000 IDPs in these governorates.

UNHCR partners are monitoring eight IDP sites on a continuous basis.

### Focus in 2024

UNHCR in Sa'ada implements a tri-cluster approach, working across protection, shelter, and non-food items (NFIs), and camp coordination and camp management (CCCM).

While UNHCR and its partners used to manage 22 IDP sites, from 2024 UNHCR is shifting to site monitoring and improvement. Greater focus is being placed on [capacitating national partners and actors to address humanitarian needs](#).

UNHCR will work in locations which are conducive to [safe and sustainable return](#). Focus will be placed on shelter activities and quick impact projects to improve living conditions and promote integration.

### Key 2023 Achievements

**NFI 2,620**

Internally displaced families (15,465 individuals) supported with core relief items.



**11,274**

Internally displaced families (77,656 individuals) assessed to identify needs and vulnerabilities and to refer for assistance.



**8,808**

Internally displaced families (over 50,000 individuals) received multi-purpose cash assistance.

#### Right:

Bani Saiyah subdistrict, on the border with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Parts of Sa'ada and Al-Jawf are incredibly remote with severe access challenges.

Populations often have limited access to services and assistance, despite being heavily impacted by conflict.

Due to their remoteness and extensive border, mixed movements occur in these governorates.



## Service and assistance provision

### → Protection services:

UNHCR and partners undertake assessments and protection monitoring with a view to identifying vulnerable individuals and referring to assistance and services internally and externally.

Available services include legal assistance (counselling, mediation and issuing national IDs), emergency cash assistance, and referral pathways and recreational activities for children.

In 2023, 11,274 families were assessed and assisted or referred as needed.

### → Legal assistance and documentation:

UNHCR provides legal services in Sa'ada and Al-Jawf, including legal counselling, legal representation, and mediation on a range of topics. These services are available through protection teams.

In 2023, UNHCR and its partners provided 842 IDPs, returnees, and host community members with legal assistance in Sa'ada and Al-Jawf.

In cooperation with the Civil Registration Authority (CRA), UNHCR supports the issuance of civil documentation to ensure access to services and reduce the risk of statelessness. In 2023, 371 individuals received national ID cards in Sa'ada and Al-Jawf.

### → Support to Persons with Specific Needs

UNHCR provides a wide range of protection assistance for vulnerable persons with specific needs including through emergency cash, social and legal counselling, and referral to health care facilities.

In 2023, 2,610 people with specific needs were identified and provided with or referred to relevant assistance.

Emergency cash assistance (ECA) is one of the tools used to support persons with specific needs. In 2023, ECA was used to support 938 cases.

UNHCR works to ensure protection for women. In addition to broader protection service provision, in 2023, UNHCR empowered 55 women and girls with vocational and livelihood support.

### → Cash based interventions:

UNHCR uses cash as a tool to mitigate the need for vulnerable people who rely on harmful coping mechanisms, such as selling household items or engaging in child labour.

Cash is one of the most efficient and effective ways to support vulnerable people. It respects independence and dignity, allowing individuals and families to determine what they need most.

In 2023, UNHCR supported 8,808 households with multi-purpose cash assistance, and 646 households with winterization cash assistance.

## Quick impact projects

With a view to promoting peaceful coexistence between IDPs and their host communities, while addressing identified protection and other immediate needs and improving quality of life, UNHCR identifies and implements small scale projects.

In 2023, the Sa'ada office completed seven quick impact projects. These projects have had positive impact on community, education, health care, and livelihoods, reaching over 7,500 individuals. These include:

- Improved health outcomes through the rehabilitation and maintenance of the health unit in Wadi Jazan-Ghamar district, reaching over 1,400 IDPs, returnees, and host community members.
- Improved access to clean water through the rehabilitation of a well and the construction of a water point and piping, reaching over 2,440 IDPs, returnees, and host community members.
- Enhanced access to education through the construction of three classrooms and provision of furniture and equipment, reaching 126 IDP, returnee, and host community member students.
- Increased economic inclusions and self-reliance through livelihoods projects supporting entrepreneurs, with support to start businesses and through livestock initiatives for IDP, returnee and host community members.
- Improved access in Brat Al-Anan district through road works, reaching over 3,500 IDPs, returnees, and host community members.

## Shelter and non-food items

UNHCR is the lead agency for shelter and non-food items (NFIs). According to needs and context, the response in Sa'ada includes emergency shelter kits, NFIs, conditional cash for shelter maintenance and rehabilitation, and transitional shelter units.

Sa'ada and Al-Jawf are prone to flooding and in 2023, 7,427 families were affected. UNHCR partners assisted 2,620 families with [emergency shelter kits and NFIs](#), designed to achieve a modicum of comfort by providing an emergency family tent, plastic sheeting, mattresses, blankets, and kitchen sets. Shelter Cluster partners were able to respond to the needs of the remaining families. Emergency shelter kits are also used to respond to incidents of fire.

[Transitional shelter units](#) are intended to be longer-term in nature than emergency shelter and provide families with enhanced living conditions and greater dignity. In 2023, UNHCR supported 440 households in this way.

[Cash for shelter maintenance and rehabilitation](#) allows is a cost-effective way to support households to repair or rehabilitate their shelters. This intervention targets structures needing interventions to improve living conditions, enhancing privacy, safety, and protection from the climate and weather. The transfer amount depends on the amount of work needed. In 2023, UNHCR supported 569 households in this way.

## Camp coordination and camp management

In 2023, UNHCR and its partner provided CCCM across 22 IDP sites (11 in Sa'ada governorate and 11 in Al-Jawf) which host 4,733 families. These services, including site improvement works, served to improve living conditions, ensure assistance and protection, and work to seek durable solutions to temporary displacement.

This included coordinating the activities of humanitarian actors present on these sites to avoid duplication and ensure all essential services are provided, ensuring participation of the IDPs who live there in the decisions that affect their lives, and continuous care and maintenance activities, such as ensuring site cleanliness, the proper functioning of site lighting, and road paving.

As the CCCM Sub-National cluster lead, UNHCR convenes frequent monitoring and coordination meetings with CCCM service providers, authorities, and stakeholders.

In 2024, UNHCR is shifting from management of IDP sites to monitoring and improvement of IDP sites. This will include a total of eight sites across Sa'ada and Al-Jawf governorates.

## Community-based approaches

UNHCR applies a community-based approach, working together with [community-based outreach volunteers](#) and community level focal points and community-based protection networks.

These structures support the delivery of protection assistance, work to identify and refer those in need, and build awareness on a range of themes.

Capacity building on topics such as psychological first aid is provided for community-based protection workers.

## Coordination

The tri-clusters (Protection, Shelter, and CCCM Cluster) led by UNHCR are coordinating with other Clusters under the inter-agency framework to respond to the pressing needs of IDPs, returnees and vulnerable host communities, ensuring that humanitarian assistance reaches the neediest families in a coordinated and effective manner. Given the limited presence of active and capacitated humanitarian actors in the three clusters, UNHCR is working on capacity building for national

## Refugees and asylum seekers

There are a limited number of refugees and asylum seekers in Sa'ada and Al-Jawf. Assistance is provided to this population through the UNHCR main office Sanaa.

## UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is grateful for the support of:



### With the support of the following organizations and private sector partners:

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### With additional flexible funding support from:

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### For more details, please contact:

Vi Tran, External Relations Officer, [tran@unhcr.org](mailto:tran@unhcr.org)  
Gregory Doane, Associate External Relations Officer, [doane@unhcr.org](mailto:doane@unhcr.org)