

YEMEN

People in need¹

18.2 million

People targeted¹

11.2 million

Funding requirement

US\$77 022 000

¹ Data provided for People in need and People targeted is taken from the [Global humanitarian Overview 2024](#), these figures may be subject to change as part of the HRP process throughout the year.

CONTEXT

In 2024, Yemen faces an acute humanitarian crisis, with approximately 17.8 million individuals requiring health assistance, including 3.2 million internally displaced persons (IDPs). Despite a 12% decrease compared to 2023, likely attributable to revised vulnerability criteria, the situation remains dire. Vulnerable groups, such as IDPs, children, women, the elderly, individuals with disabilities and mental health conditions, marginalized communities, and those affected by conflict-related injuries, continue to bear the brunt of the crisis. Among the affected, 24% are women, necessitating access to diverse medical and reproductive healthcare services. This includes 4% of pregnant women requiring emergency obstetric care. Children constitute 50% of those in need, highlighting the precarious health situation of the youngest population. In 71% of Yemen's 333 districts, severe and extreme health needs persist. The economic crisis compounds the health crisis, jeopardizing the continuity of care for individuals with chronic health conditions.

Only 55% of health facilities are operational, and there's an ongoing need for a reliable supply chain of medicines, equipment, fuel, water, oxygen, and other medical supplies. Damaged and closed facilities require urgent repair and rehabilitation to restore functionality. Yemen is grappling with a rising trend of infectious diseases, including measles, polio, dengue, pertussis, and diphtheria. The rate of unvaccinated children (0 dose) has reached 28%, increasing susceptibility to preventable outbreaks. Additionally, the UN Refugee Agency documented 90 000 migrants arriving in Yemen in 2023, amplifying the demand for health support in 2024.

Yemen faces a double burden of disease and armed conflict, with 16% of people with disabilities requiring rehabilitative assistance. Women of reproductive age, particularly in rural and frontline districts, encounter challenges accessing reproductive health services due to a shortage of specialized female healthcare professionals, limited essential medical supplies, and restricted service access.

The combined impact of economic catastrophe and climate change-spurred disasters will further exacerbate health vulnerabilities in Yemen. Food insecurity, malnutrition, inadequate water and sanitation access, and crowded living conditions stand to worsen - disproportionately afflicting the vulnerable. Constrained healthcare access drives risks of obstetric complications and life-threatening conditions for newborns and low vaccination coverage and hesitancy threaten preventable disease outbreaks. Communicable diseases like dengue, malaria and cholera are likely to persist and intensify as climate change propagates vectors and waterborne pathogens - severely jeopardizing vulnerable lives and escalating morbidity and mortality. Urgent, comprehensive intervention remains essential to mitigate Yemen's impending health crisis within this challenging landscape.

A child at a WHO-supported therapeutic feeding centre.

Photo: WHO Yemen

WHO’S STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- Strengthen health system capacity
- Sustain the health system functionality
- Reduce food insecurity and malnutrition
- Prevent poliovirus transmission and outbreaks
- Scale-up Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) service

WHO 2024 RESPONSE STRATEGY

In response to the widespread needs of the Yemen crisis, WHO outlines its 2024 response strategy to guide the integrated approach and implementation of humanitarian programming and stabilization efforts. This strategy aims to mitigate risks, ensure effectiveness, and uphold humanitarian principles.

WHO has adopted a multisectoral, needs-based, and area-based approach to address the greatest vulnerabilities across Yemen. In 2024, WHO will coordinate and strategically respond to meet the acute needs of those affected by the crisis. The organization will provide health and nutrition services based on and in response to the Humanitarian Response Plan 2024 to reduce suffering and decrease the prevalence of infectious diseases.

To avoid duplication of efforts, WHO will establish coordination mechanisms with relevant stakeholders, including the Health Cluster, the Ministry of Public Health and Population (MoPHP), and UN agencies. We will contribute to fostering localization by prioritizing capacity strengthening and coordination, including building the capacities of healthcare workers for a comprehensive and sustainable response. We will work directly with MoPHP, identifying existing gaps, conducting in-depth discussions, and making informed decisions regarding targeted interventions.

WHO will enhance the health system’s capacities in preparedness, readiness, response, and recovery, providing operational support to health facilities. The organization will increase access to the health services delivery mechanism, the Minimum Services Package, and strengthen accessibility to emergency and specialized health services. Additionally, WHO will continue to apply evidence-based planning and results-based monitoring during emergency response. It will strengthen operational capacities, information management, and emergency preparedness to ensure rapid detection and response to health emergencies, preventing epidemics and pandemics.

Significantly, WHO will prioritize the centrality of protection across all proposed interventions and work towards increasing access to Mental Health and Psychosocial Support services at primary healthcare levels.

To implement this strategy effectively, WHO adopts these approaches:

- Build Yemen’s public health capacity
- Enhance country preparedness
- Strengthen operational/technical partnerships
- Advocate effectively for health for Yemenis
- Mobilize resources to engage new donors and effectively steward current donors
- Fostering innovation – as part of increasing knowledge management, operationalizing the Humanitarian Development Program (HDP)and innovations, to move towards stabilization and early recovery



*A laboratorian working in a WHO-supported health facility.
Photo: WHO Yemen*



People talk with WHO staff
in a camp for Internally
Displaced Persons.

Photo: WHO Yemen

KEY ACTIVITIES FOR 2024

- Strengthen surveillance, including case investigation, at all levels
- Respond to outbreaks, including preparedness, surveillance, laboratory assistance, response measures, and referrals, while ensuring the procurement of essential supplies for outbreak response, surveillance, and prevention
- Support the deployment of Mobile Medical Teams (MMTs) to enhance access to life-saving healthcare services in hard-to-reach areas and camps
- Provide support for primary healthcare, including the treatment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) cases with complications
- Conduct systematic nutrition status screenings and referrals for children under 5
- Deliver maternal and newborn care, covering antenatal care, Basic Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (BEmONC), and Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (CEmONC)
- Integrate non-communicable disease (NCD) care into the health system, ensuring both curative and preventive impacts. Develop national NCD and cancer control strategies with clear action plans addressing risk factors and improving access to screenings and early diagnosis
- Build the capacity of healthcare workers to enhance technical expertise, reducing morbidity and mortality from communicable diseases
- Focus on rapid response to identify, treat, and control evolving disease outbreaks
- Enhance health information systems at the primary healthcare level
- Scale up Mental Health and Psychosocial Support services by assisting mental health units in hospitals with essential medications, providing financial support to healthcare workers, and facilitating referrals

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2023

THE POWER OF RESILIENCE: YEMENI FAMILIES OVERCOMING CHALLENGES AGAINST ALL ODDS



A young baby receives care
at a Therapeutic Feeding Centre.
Photo: WHO / Nesma Khan



Ahmed Abdel-Jabbar, a five-month-old baby, was admitted to Al-Sadaqa Hospital in Aden, Yemen, lethargic and suffering from severe diarrhea. His mother, Fawzia Jamal, 30, has four children, and Ahmed is the youngest. Her husband washes cars to earn a living, but his work is not consistent. The family's income is unpredictable, and they struggle to make ends meet.

Despite their financial difficulties, Fawzia is determined to do everything she can to keep her family healthy. When Ahmed fell ill, she brought him to Al-Sadaqa Hospital, where he received free medical care and treatment.

At WHO supported Therapeutic Feeding Centres across the country, WHO is helping families afflicted by malnutrition by supplying vital health resources and support, providing a lifeline to those who are most in need. Malnourished children are provided with free nutrition and medical care, and mothers given guidance and advice on how to ensure their children are well-nourished even with minimal resources.

"We are committed to helping children and families impacted by malnutrition in Yemen," said Dr. Athmar Al-Sakkaf head of the Therapeutic Feeding Centres at Al-Sadaqa Hospital. "We are members of our community, working to improve the lives of Yemeni families, and our team of skilled healthcare professionals is committed to offering life-saving treatment to millions of children like Ahmed who need our help to survive and thrive."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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WHO staff member at an
Internally Displaced Persons
camp.
Photo: WHO / Omar Nasr

2024 FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

Emergency Appeal Requirement

Yemen Complex Emergency Funding requirement by response pillar	US\$ '000		
	Yemen	Regional & Global support	Total
P1. Leadership, coordination, planning, and monitoring	2 821	20	2 840
P2. Risk communication and community engagement	569		569
P3. Surveillance, case investigation and contact tracing	9 302		9 302
P4. Travel, trade and points of entry	-		-
P5. Diagnostics and testing	3 438		3 438
P6. Infection prevention and control	-		-
P7. Case management and therapeutics	520		520
P8. Operational support and logistics	5 735		5 735
P9. Essential health systems and services	54 618		54 618
P10. Vaccination	-		-
P11. Research, innovation and evidence	-		-
Total	77 002	20	77 022

The table above presents WHO's funding requirements to respond to the ongoing emergency event in 2024. In addition to this, WHO also requires funding for its core work to support countries to prevent, prepare, detect and respond to emergencies. The table below presents the overall needs for both the ongoing emergency response (included in WHO's 2024 Health Emergency Appeal) and the core budget for WHE in the country, (included in WHO's Programme Budget 2024-2025).

Yemen - Country office requirement	US\$ '000
Yemen Complex Emergencies	77 002
Emergency appeal requirement	77 002
2.1 Countries prepared for health emergencies	1 657
2.2 Epidemics and pandemics prevented	150
2.3 Health emergencies rapidly detected and responded to	2 899
Billion 2 - Base programme requirement	4 706
Total	81 708



WHO staff interact with children at an Internally Displaced Persons Camp.
Photo: WHO/ Omar Nasr