

YEMEN HUMANITARIAN FUND IN BRIEF



OCHA

YHF

Yemen
Humanitarian
Fund

Credit: Giles Clarke/UNOCHA

Key figures 2019

YHF Overview 2019



US\$ 168.6M
contributions



US\$ 239.4M
allocated

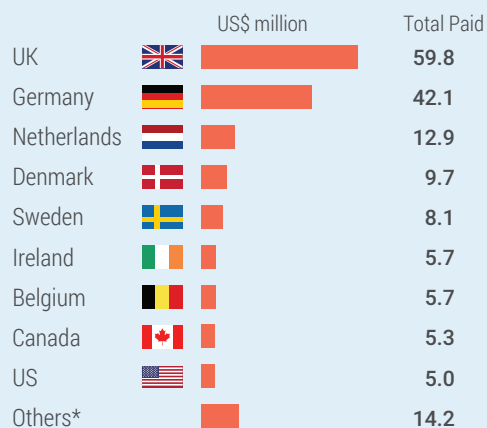


81
eligible partners



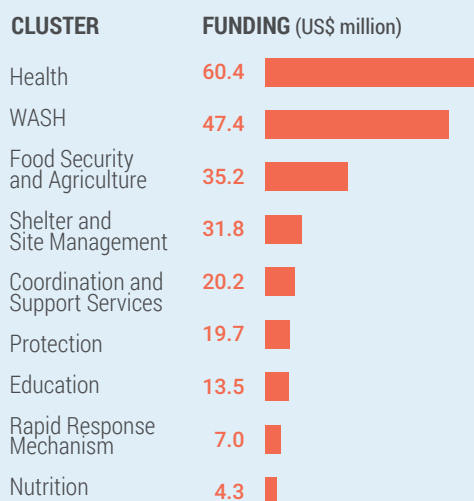
154
projects funded

\$168.6M CONTRIBUTIONS BY DONOR

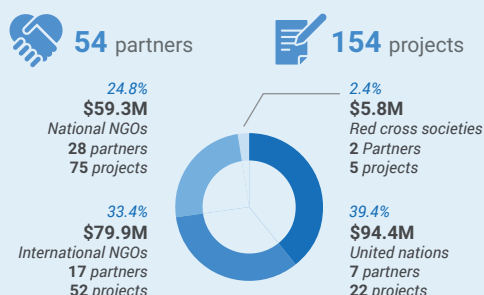


Switzerland, Norway, Korea, Kuwait, Spain, Luxembourg, Ukraine, Monaco, Malaysia, Cyprus, Malta, Lithuania, Azerbaijan, Philippines

ALLOCATIONS PER CLUSTER (7% of HRP funding received)



ALLOCATIONS PER ORGANIZATION TYPE



Who we are

The Yemen Humanitarian Fund (YHF) is a Country-Based Pooled Fund (CBPF) that makes funding directly available to humanitarian partners operating in Yemen so they can deliver timely and effective life-saving assistance to those who need it most.

How we work

Donor contributions are unearmarked and are allocated to eligible partners through an inclusive and transparent process in support of priorities set out in the Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan (YHRP).

There are two types of YHF allocations: Standard Allocations and Reserve Allocations. The Fund holds a Standard Allocation once or twice a year through a call for proposals for collectively identified strategic needs within the context of the YHRP. Reserve Allocations are launched in response to sudden onset humanitarian needs and specific crises.

Cluster Coordinators drive the prioritization exercise, while the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC), in consultation with an Advisory Board (AB), determines the amount available for each allocation. This approach ensures that funding is prioritized at the local level by those closest to people in need, which empowers the leadership of the humanitarian operation and fosters collaboration and collective ownership of the emergency response.

To ensure fairness, project proposals are assessed by inclusive strategic and technical review committee based on a pre-defined scorecard. Funding levels and assurance mechanisms applicable to each successful project are guided by the partner's risk level, which is determined by a capacity assessment and past performance.

The OCHA Humanitarian Financing Unit (HFU) manages day to day operations of the YHF.

What our priorities are

The YHF supports the YHRP's strategic objective to expand the delivery of humanitarian assistance by focusing on critical humanitarian needs. In 2020, the YHF will focus the following priorities:

- Helping cover gaps in first- and second-line activities in the YHRP as identified by the cluster system and addressing new priorities, as identified by the HC and Humanitarian Country Team.
- Promoting integrated programmes in districts with extreme levels of multiple vulnerabilities.
- Building the capacity of front-line national partners in line with commitments made in the Grand Bargain.
- Expanding evidence-based programming and ensuring that the partners best able to provide services receive funding.
- Enhancing risk management.

2019 achievements

In 2019, 24 donors contributed almost \$169 million to the YHF, making it the largest CBPF in the world for a fourth consecutive year.

The Fund allocated almost \$240 million to 154 humanitarian

projects implemented by 54 partners through two Standard Allocations and three Reserve Allocations. This includes \$145 million to NGOs and Red Crescent societies (60 per cent of the total amount), of which half went to national NGOs (\$59.3 million). The YHF provided the humanitarian community with the capacity to respond to emerging needs as they arose. In 2019, this was demonstrated through a Reserve Allocation which provided short-term “lifeline” funding for critical projects at risk of closing due to lack of funding.

The YHF continued to expand accountability to affected populations by ensuring the existence of systematic complaint and feedback mechanisms in each partner’s projects and by introducing the Beneficiary Verification Mechanism (BVM) and Beneficiary Feedback and Complaint Mechanism (BFCM). BVM is used to contact beneficiaries by phone in remote villages and increase the number of beneficiaries interviewed to verify the quality of services provided by YHF partners. Through the BFCM, beneficiaries have the opportunity to provide feedback regarding the implementation process and assistance received from YHF-funded projects by calling a toll-free hotline number set up by Third Party Monitoring (TPM) companies.

Top ten reasons to contribute to the YHF

1. Reach

In 2019, our 54 partners targeted over 3.2 million Yemenis, across Yemen’s 22 Governorates. As in 2018, the YHF also provided dedicated funding to front-line responders who could expand humanitarian service delivery in hard-to-access high need areas, including areas of conflict.

2. Inclusiveness

As of January 2020, 81 UN agencies, international and national NGOs, and Red Crescent societies are eligible to receive YHF funding. The YHF relies on its inclusive governance and decision-making structures to effectively implement its mandate: the activities of the YHF are carried out under the overall leadership of the HC, who is supported by an AB composed of representatives from donors, UN agencies, and international and national NGOs. Project review committees are similarly inclusive, with cluster coordinators appointing representatives from each implementing partner constituency to participate in the process. To ensure all partners have an equal chance of accessing YHF funding, in 2019 OCHA trained over 400 partner staff on YHF procedures, allocations, the operational manual and on project cycle management.

3. Transparency

Real-time information on contributions and allocations,

including projects funded, is publicly available on the global CBPF transparency website (<https://gms.unocha.org/bi>) which is fully compliant with International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) standards. Transparency is at the core of the allocation process: priorities for allocations are discussed collectively by the AB and explained in publicly-available allocation strategy papers. Projects are selected after a collective strategic and technical review process that includes the UN, national and international NGOs, and cluster and HFU representatives, and individual feedback is provided to partners. Finally, OCHA’s HFU generates periodic analytical public information products and the HC, supported by the OCHA HFU and the clusters, prepares the YHF Annual Report which features best practices, lessons learned and challenges, and showcases success stories and the achievements of the YHF.

4. Localization

The YHF is one of the largest sources of direct funding for national NGOs in Yemen, with almost \$60 million allocated to national NGOs in 2019 (25 per cent of total allocations) and \$160 million since 2017 (excluding funds received as sub-implementing partners of YHF-funded UN and international NGO projects), thus meeting the Grand Bargain of aid localisation. In 2019, funding was allocated to a 24-month capacity building project implemented by an international NGO. Under this project, 8 national NGOs will be supported through an intensive capacity building programme while 20 other NGOs will benefit from regular capacity building trainings. National NGOs are represented on the YHF AB and allocation review committees, giving them an active voice in the Fund’s governance and decision-making processes. Training and support is provided throughout the project cycle.

5. Accountability

The YHF builds on a comprehensive accountability framework enshrined in the YHF Operational Manual which has been adapted to the Yemen complex emergency. These accountability management measures include:

- A risk management strategy, identifying risks to the YHF, including fraud and aid diversion, with an analysis of potential impact and mitigation strategies.
- A systematic governance mechanism, ensuring the transparency and quality of allocation decisions.
- Verification of partner eligibility and capacity through clear due diligence and capacity assessment processes, and performance tracking grant recipients throughout project implementation and completion.
- A comprehensive monitoring system, combining field monitoring missions by OCHA and clusters and the support of two external TPM service providers. Audits

are performed by an external company.

6. Flexibility

In Yemen's complex environment, flexibility of humanitarian programming is essential. The unearmarked nature of the YHF allows it to allocate funding for priority interventions, wherever and whenever they are most needed. The YHF provides funding for in-kind and cash and voucher assistance, for small and large organizations, and for start-up and running costs. It also supports common services such as logistics, telecommunications, coordination, and needs assessments. Acknowledging the complex field realities, it allows partners to revise ongoing projects when the circumstances warrant it.

7. Timeliness

The YHF allocates timely funding as humanitarian needs emerge or escalate. In 2019, the YHF supported the Yemen Contingency Plan by providing \$15.2 million to a UN agency to support the humanitarian response with the procurement, pre-positioning and provision of non-food items, basic hygiene kits, mosquito nets, and emergency shelter kits, and with the provision of diesel for water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities across Yemen.

8. Analysis

The HFU produces periodic analysis including on operational and bureaucratic impediments that YHF partners face in the field and audit findings. This analysis informs the YHF AB decisions and is included in YHF's quarterly dashboards.

9. Cost-efficiency

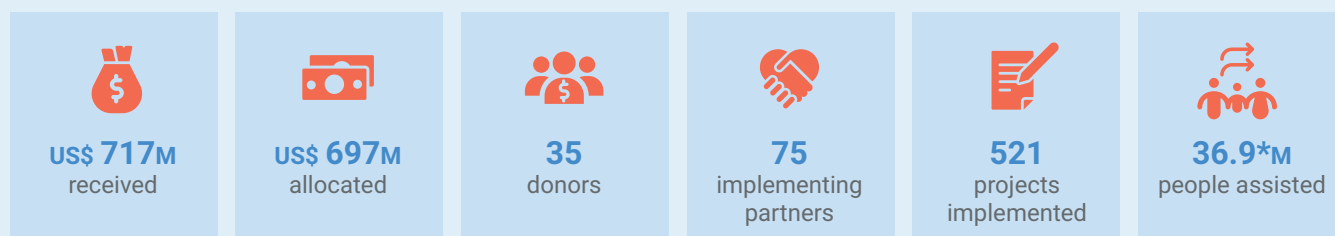
OCHA's HFU direct cost of running the YHF was 1 per cent of funds received in 2019, making it the most cost efficient CBPF in the world, yet with an adequate staffing structure to support YHF partners.

10. Risk-sharing

The YHF offers an opportunity for donors who do not have an in-country presence or the capacity to manage multiple grants to channel funding towards a wide range of partners, while OCHA handles grant management, the strategic use of the contribution, and monitoring and reporting. The pooled nature of the YHF enables donors to maximize impact in a high-risk environment.

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Overview of the Yemen Humanitarian Fund 2015 – 2019



*This represents the cumulative number of beneficiaries in all 521 projects and may include people who received assistance more than once

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For real-time updates of contributions and allocations, visit CBPF Business Intelligence:

<https://gms.unocha.org/bi>