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# Health Emergency Appeal for Yemen

The World Health Organization (WHO)



World Health  
Organization  
Yemen



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Yemen

# CONTEXT

In 2024, over half of Yemen's population is in desperate need of aid. Deteriorating health outcomes and destroyed infrastructure, emergency health and humanitarian needs control the lives of millions of Yemenis and limit their ability to achieve inclusive sustainable development. This is compounded by a significant decline in international support, leaving communities vulnerable to worsening conditions. Every day under such conditions affects the future of millions for many years to come

## Background

Entering the 10<sup>th</sup> year of conflict, 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 reported 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.

## Critical needs\*



**18.2 million**

people need humanitarian assistance



**17.8 million**

people require health assistance, 50% of them children

## Required funding



**US\$ 77 million**

to reach **1 million** people

*\* Data provided for Critical needs is taken from the Humanitarian Needs Overview Yemen – 2024.*

## Strategic health priorities

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1. Provide health care to promote universal health coverage with a focus on the most vulnerable.
2. Protect the population by preparing for, detecting and responding to health emergencies.
3. Promote healthier lives and well-being using a multisectoral approach to promote community health and address the determinants of health and risk factors.
4. Promote a health and peace dividend to support resilient communities and health systems and foster community engagement, equity, social cohesion, partnerships and collaboration.

## Response strategy

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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, the strategy will align with the Country Cooperation Strategy for Yemen 2024 – 2025.

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. WHO 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:

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

## Achievements in 2023

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**2.6 million**

people reached with overall health assistance



**1.2 million**

children under 5 years vaccinated against polio



**1.1 million**

children aged 6 months to 5 years vaccinated against measles



**4 000**

tonnes of medicines, equipment, medical furniture, IT devices, and other health technologies distributed



**333**

Rapid Response Teams deployed across all districts to respond to disease outbreaks



**245**

health facilities supported providing **6 million** outpatient consultation sessions



**96**

therapeutic feeding centers supported



**47**

mental health units supported in 20 governorates



**8**

disease outbreaks addressed  
(4 dengue fever outbreaks, 2 cholera outbreaks, measles outbreak, and an increase in diphtheria infections)



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For further information, please contact

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Yemen complex emergencies	US\$ '000		
	Yemen	Regional and global support	Total
Leadership, coordination, planning, and monitoring	2 821	20	2 840
Risk communication and community engagement	569		569
Surveillance, case investigation and contact tracing	9 302		9 302
Travel, trade and points of entry	-		-
Diagnostics and testing	3 438		3 438
Infection prevention and control	-		-
Case management and therapeutics	520		510
Operational support and logistics	5 735		5 735
Essential health systems and services	54 618		54 618
Vaccination	-		-
Research, innovation and evidence	-		-
<b>Total</b>	<b>77 002</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>77 022</b>

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
<b>Total</b>	<b>81 708</b>

## Cost of funding shortage

- WHO suspended support for 18 TFCs due to the shortage of funds – those TFCs cover 404 893 children under the age of five from 33 districts. The left-out children include 213 400 with acute malnutrition, 10–15% of whom are estimated to develop medical complications.
- WHO cholera outbreak plan requires US\$ 8 million to cover the response activities efficiently for 6 months, only US\$ 1.7 million was received – a 79% funding gap.
- In 2023, WHO could only sustain providing (compared to 2022):
  - 47.7 million litres of water to 82 health facilities compared to 312.5 million litres to 244 facilities.
  - 6.5 million litres of oxygen to 161 facilities compared to 13.7 million litres per day to 228 facilities.
  - US\$ 9.24 million worth of healthcare workers incentives from 3 883 health facilities compared to US\$ 19.8 million for healthcare workers from 4 569 facilities.



