



YHF

Yemen
Humanitarian
Fund

YEMEN HUMANITARIAN FUND IN BRIEF 2021

Issued February 2022

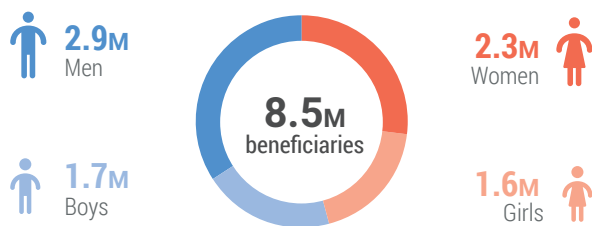


YHF KEY FIGURES 2021

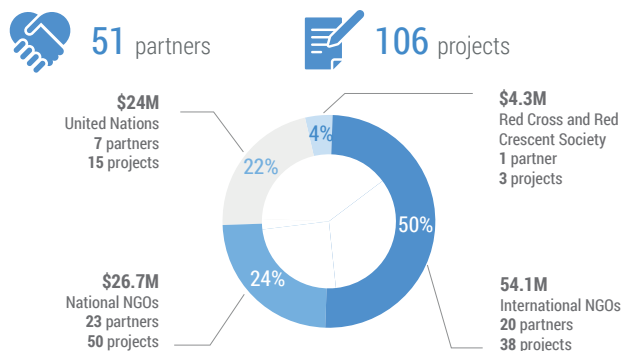


*80 partners eligible for funding but 51 partners received funding for their projects in 2021

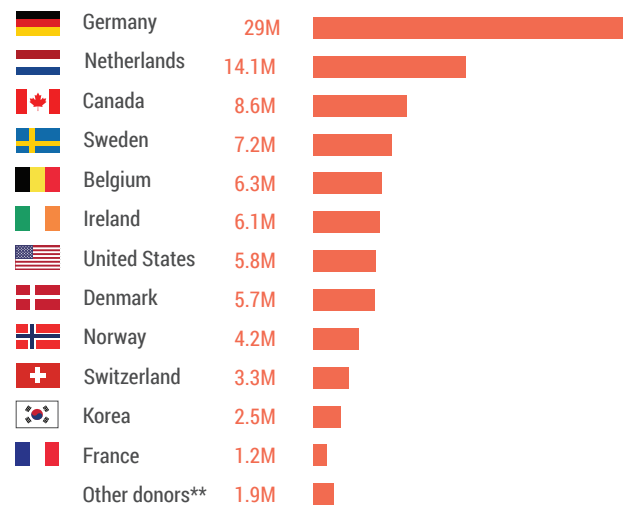
2021 YHF BENEFICIARIES BREAKDOWN



FUNDING PER ORGANIZATION TYPE IN 2021

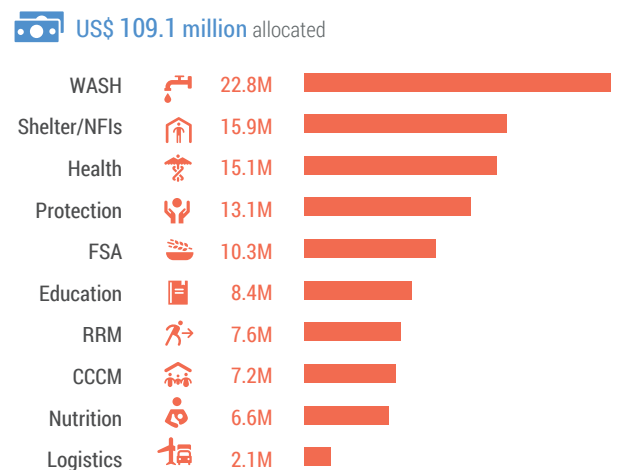


US\$ 96M TOTAL 2021 CONTRIBUTIONS



**Azerbaijan, AGFUND, Brunei Darussalam, Cyprus, Greece, Iceland, Jersey, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, the Philippines and private donations.

FUNDING PER CLUSTER IN 2021



Who we are

The Yemen Humanitarian Fund (YHF) is an OCHA-managed Country-Based Pooled Fund (CBPF) under the leadership of the Humanitarian Coordinator that makes funding directly available to humanitarian partners operating in Yemen, enabling them to deliver timely and effective life-saving assistance to people who need it most. The OCHA Humanitarian Financing Unit (HFU) manages the day-to-day operations of the YHF.

How we work

The YHF receives unearmarked contributions from donors throughout the year. Funds are allocated to eligible partners through an inclusive and transparent process. 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 to support collectively identified needs in support of strategic objectives and priorities set out in the Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan (YHRP). Reserve allocations are launched as needed in response to sudden onset humanitarian needs and specific crises.

The Humanitarian Coordinator, in consultation with the YHF Advisory Board, determines the strategic direction of the Fund and the amount available for each allocation. OCHA and the Cluster Coordinators support the prioritization exercise to ensure that priorities reflect needs on the ground. 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.

Project proposals are equally assessed by an inclusive strategic and technical review committee consisting of relevant Cluster Coordinators, UN agencies, NGOs and OCHA 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 their past performance.

Our priorities

In 2021, the Humanitarian Coordinator and the Advisory Board agreed for the YHF to focus on the following priorities, leveraging on the inclusive nature of the Fund and its extensive partnerships with local actors:

- Responding to acute vulnerabilities as identified in the YHRP. This includes emergency life-saving assistance and protection to people most at risk.
- Covering critical gaps with a focus on hard-to-reach areas. In support of this, the YHF allocated funding in 2021 to projects that address strategic needs identified in cluster strategies, especially in remote and hard-to-reach areas.
- Leaving no-one behind by focusing on a range of needs and vulnerabilities specific to different population groups. In support of this, the YHF ensured through its 2021 allocations that funding went to marginalized people in most acute need, including minority groups, people most at risk, people excluded from services and with a view to promote gender equality.

2021 achievements

By the end of 2021, the Yemen Humanitarian Fund was one of the largest CBPFs in the world, with 25 donors contributing a total of \$96 million to the Fund. The YHF allocated over \$109 million to 106 humanitarian projects implemented by 51 partners through two Standard Allocations and four Reserve Allocations between June and December 2021. This included 78 per cent (\$85 million) to NGOs and Red Crescent Society partners, of which 24 per cent (\$26.7 million) was allocated directly to national and local NGOs.

Building on previous years' focus on accountability to affected populations (AAP), the Fund ensured that each YHF-funded project includes the existence of systematic complaint and feedback mechanisms, including the YHF Beneficiary Verification Mechanism (BVM) and the YFH Beneficiary Feedback and Complaint Mechanism (BFCM). The BVM is used to contact beneficiaries by phone in remote villages and increase the number of beneficiaries interviewed as part of the project monitoring to verify the quality of services provided by YHF partners.

Through the BFCM, beneficiaries can provide feedback regarding the implementation process and assistance received through YHF-funded projects by calling a toll-free hotline number set up by third party monitoring (TPM) companies. In 2021, 1,460 feedback and complaints on 95 YHF-funded projects were received from targeted communities through the BFCM. In 2021, 101 monitoring missions were conducted by either the OCHA Humanitarian Financing Unit or TPM companies. 48 per cent of monitoring missions assessed YHF-funded projects as performing well and 46 per cent as underperforming but for reasons beyond the partners' control. The YHF made 674 recommendations from monitoring missions, shared them with implementing partners, and followed up on the actions taken by partners to address them.

The YHF also introduced a mandatory outcome on AAP and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) in the YHF proposal logframe that partners are requested to fill when applying for YHF-funding. This will ensure greater accountability and facilitate tracking as well as reporting on partners' commitment to these principles

Ten reasons to contribute to the YHF

1. Reach

In 2021, YHF-funded projects targeted a total of 8.5 million people in need, including 3.9 million women and girls, across 21 of Yemen's 22 Governorates. The YHF also provided dedicated funding to front-line responders who could expand humanitarian service delivery in hard-to-reach, and high-need areas, including areas of conflict.

2. Inclusiveness

At the end of 2021, a total of 80 UN agencies, international and national NGOs, and Red Crescent Societies were 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 Humanitarian Coordinator, who is supported by an Advisory Board composed of representatives from donors, UN agencies, and international and national NGOs. Project review committees are similarly inclusive, with Cluster Coordinators appoint-

ing representatives from each implementing partner constituency to participate in the process. To ensure all partners have an equal chance of accessing YHF funding, in 2021, HFU trained over 1,000 partners' staff on YHF eligibility procedures, allocation processes, the Operational Manual, narrative and financial reporting as well as cross-cutting programmatic issues including the Gender and Age Marker, PSEA, protection mainstreaming and inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian programming.

3. Localization

The YHF is one of the largest sources of direct funding for national NGOs in Yemen, with almost \$26.7 million allocated to national NGOs in 2021 and a total of approximately \$221 million since 2015 (excluding funds received by national NGOs as sub-implementing partners of YHF-funded UN and international NGO projects). In 2021, the proportion of funding allocated to national partners amounted to almost 25 per cent of all YHF funding, thus, meeting the Grand Bargain target of providing at least 25 per cent of CBPF funding directly, and through sub-granting, to national responders. National NGOs (NNGOs) are also equally represented on the YHF Advisory Board and in allocation Review Committees, giving them an active voice in the Fund's governance and decision-making processes.

The YHF also increased its strategic engagement and partnership with national NGOs by increasing its pool of eligible NNGOs from 10 in 2015 to 35 in 2021 partner-sproactively reaching out to frontline responders. In addition, the YHF encouraged all eligible YHF partners to partner with local women-led organisations with the aim of broadening partnerships and inclusion of different perspectives in humanitarian programming. In late 2021, the YHF Advisory Board endorsed a comprehensive localization strategy to anchor its support for national NGOs over the long-term, including a commitment to strengthen capacity of national partners. Great efforts were already made in 2021, as the YHF introduced a capacity enhancement plan to train newly eligible partners, and those who marginally failed the capacity assessment, with a view to strengthen their chance to successfully apply for the next call for eligibility.

4. Accountability

The YHF builds on a comprehensive accountability framework enshrined in the YHF Operational Manual, which has been adapted to the complex operational environment in Yemen. These accountability 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 enshrined in the Advisory Board and Strategic Review Committees, 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 of grant recipients throughout the project cycle.
- A comprehensive monitoring system, combining field monitoring missions by OCHA, and at times clusters, with the support of two external Third Party Monitoring companies. Audits are performed by an external company.

5. Flexibility

In Yemen's complex environment, flexible humanitarian programming is essential. The unearmarked contributions to the YHF allows it to allocate funding for priority interventions, wherever and whenever they are most needed, and to those best placed to respond. The YHF provides funding for in-kind and cash and voucher assistance, for small and large organisations, and for start-up and operational costs. It also supports common humanitarian services such as logistics, UNHAS, telecom-munications, coordination, and needs assessments. Acknowledging the complex operational environment and access constraints, the Fund provides flexibility to its partners to revise ongoing projects when the circumstances warrant it, and sufficient justification is provided.

With the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic affecting the operational environment throughout 2021, the YHF continued to adapt to the new challenging working environment while maintaining the level of dedicated support to humanitarian partners. The YHF responded with increased flexibility and simplified funding arrangements while retaining accountability measures governing the use of funds. Flexibility measures were introduced at the global level allowing partners to re-programme interventions in support of the COVID-19 response, include a contingency line in their budgets and request no-cost extensions more easily.

6. Timeliness

Through the Reserve Allocation (RA) window, the Humanitarian Coordinator can allocate YHF funding within days, demonstrating the added value of the Fund in ensuring timely and flexible funding when humanitarian needs emerge. Four such allocations were made in 2021. In August 2021, the YHF launched its first Reserve Allocation (RA1) \$5.4 million of to mitigate the negative impact of the fuel crisis through provision of urgent fuel to public health facilities. Within three working days, UNICEF was enabled to continue providing access to water and sanitation services to almost 2.5 million vulnerable people through 34 water facilities across Yemen, while WHO could continue its support to 206 health facilities benefiting five million people across the country***.

The YHF RA2 was launched early November in response to conflict-induced displacement, especially in Ma'rib and neighboring governorates. A total of \$3 million was allocated to UNFPA to provide 147,000 people with lifesaving Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) assistance. In mid-December, the RA3 was launched and \$2.1 million allocated to WFP to support UNHAS operations in Aden, Hadramawt, Ma'rib and Sana'a governorates for three months in view of significant pipeline breaks. By the end of December, \$3.6 million was allocated through the RA4 to provide lifesaving education, health, protection and WASH assistance to 1.1 million of the most vulnerable people affected by conflict in underserved areas with high severity of needs in Al Baydah Governorate and Al Abdiyah District of Ma'rib Governorate. Mine action as an enabling service for humanitarian action in DFA-controlled part of Al Hodeidah Governorate was also supported.

7. Analysis

The HFU produces periodic analyses, public information products and dashboards including on allocations, monitoring, YHF-funded projects and partners, and operational and bureaucratic impediments that YHF partners face in the field. These analyses inform the YHF Advisory Board decisions and are shared with humanitarian partners in Yemen, published on the OCHA YHF website and ReliefWeb.

8. Cost-efficiency

The HFU's direct costs in running the YHF were approximately 3.3 per cent of funds received in 2021, making it one of the most cost-efficient CBPFs in the world, while maintaining an adequate staffing structure to support YHF partners. The HFU footprint and direct costs are presented to and discussed with the YHF Advisory Board on an annual basis.

***The estimated number of people targeted under this allocation benefiting from fuel support to health and WASH facilities also includes all indirect beneficiaries from the catchment area.

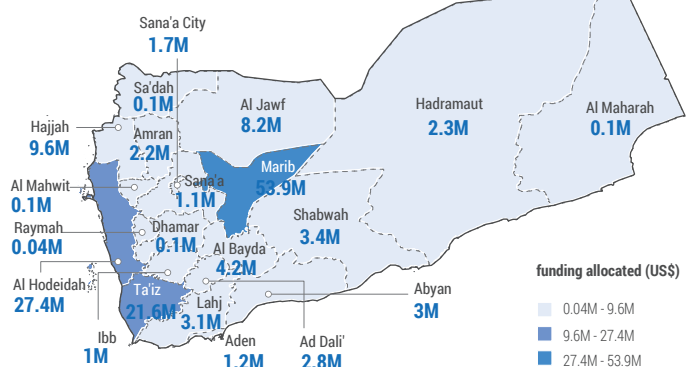
9. Risk-sharing

The YHF offers an opportunity for donors who do not have an in-country presence, an appropriate risk management framework in place, or the capacity to manage and/or monitor multiple grants to channel funding towards a wide range of partners. Through the YHF, donors entrust OCHA to handle the grant management, strategic use of the contribution, as well as monitoring and reporting processes. The pooled nature of the YHF enables donors to maximize impact in a high-risk environment.

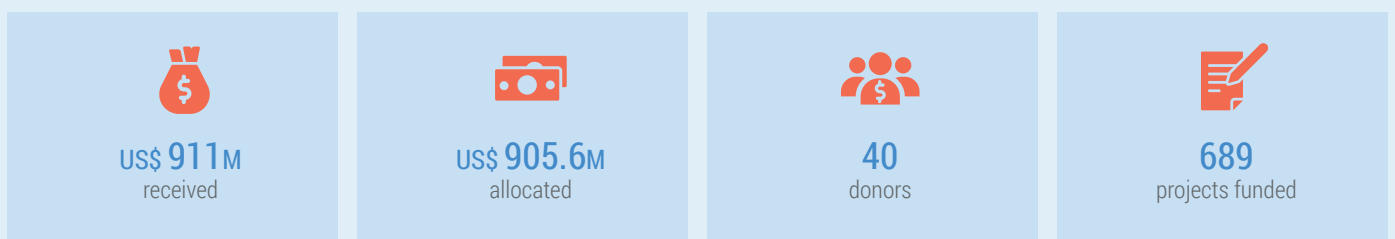
10. Transparency

Real-time information on contributions and allocations, including projects funded, is publicly available on the global CBPF transparency website (<https://cbpf.data.unocha.org>), 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 Advisory Board and in-country Clusters and presented 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, as well as Cluster and OCHA HFU representatives, and individual feedback on the proposal is provided to partners. Finally, the HFU generates periodic public analytical information products and the Humanitarian Coordinator, supported by the HFU and the Clusters, prepares the YHF Annual Report which presents data-driven information on Fund utilization and performance, as well as a strategic and programmatic focus. The Annual Report also features best practices, lessons learned and challenges, and showcases success stories from YHF-funded projects.

2021 funding allocated by governorate



Overview of the Yemen Humanitarian Fund 2015 – 2021



Yemen Humanitarian Fund
Fund Manager YHF
 email: yemenhpf@un.org
 YHF website: <http://www.unocha.org/yemen/about-yhf>
 Twitter: @YHF_Yemen

Donor Relations, Geneva
 Jean Verheyden
 Chief, Donor Relations Section | OCHA
verheyden@un.org
 For real-time updates of contributions and allocations, visit CBPF Data Hub <https://cbpf.data.unocha.org>