

**YEMEN  
HUMANITARIAN  
FUND  
IN BRIEF**



**OCHA**

United Nations Office  
for the Coordination of  
Humanitarian Affairs



Yemen  
Humanitarian  
Fund

## KEY FIGURES 2018

### YHF overview 2018

<b>US\$ 209 M</b> CONTRIBUTIONS	<b>US\$ 188 M</b> ALLOCATED
78 partners eligible 53 partners funded	<b>112</b> PROJECTS

### Top 10 donors 2018

(in million US\$)



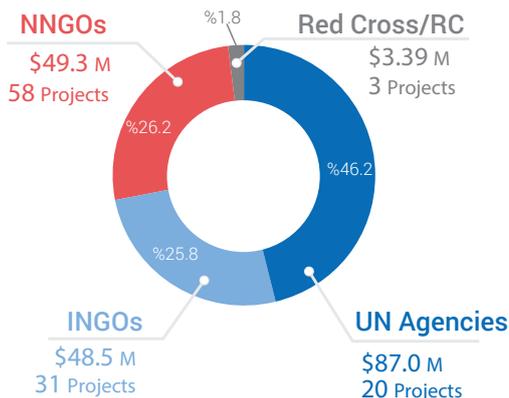
\* Other: Belgium, Canada, Norway, Switzerland, Korea, Spain, Qatar, France, Luxembourg, Portugal, Colombia, Cyprus, Malta, Lithuania, Montenegro, Philippines

### Allocation per cluster

(in million US\$)



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

The YHF has two types of allocations: Standard Allocations and Reserve Allocations. The Fund will issue a Standard Allocation once or twice per 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 are driving the prioritization exercise, while the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) in consultation with the 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, empowering humanitarian leadership and fostering collaboration and collective ownership of the emergency response.

To ensure fairness, project proposals are assessed by an 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 based on 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 2019, the YHF will focus the following priorities:

- Cover funding gaps in support of YHRP's first-line of response activities. This includes - but is not limited to - emergency life-saving assistance and protection of most vulnerable people.
- Promote integrated programmes in districts with extreme levels of multiple vulnerabilities. To this end, the YHF will prioritize support for multi-cluster programmes in Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) Level 3, 4 and 5 districts and other high-risk districts as determined through assessments.
- Address new priorities and covering critical gaps in the humanitarian operation as identified by the HC and HCT.
- Building the capacity of front-line national partners delivering assistance in line with commitments of the Grand Bargain.
- Expanding evidence-based programming and ensuring that the partners best able to provide services receive funding.
- Strengthening risk management.

## What we achieved in 2018

In 2018, 2018 donors contributed a total of US\$209 million to the YHF, making it the largest CBPF in the world for a third consecutive year. Eight new donors (Colombia, France, Kuwait, Luxemburg, Montenegro, Portugal, Qatar, UAE) contributed to the Fund for the first time.

The Fund allocated 188 million US\$ to 112 humanitarian projects implemented by 03 partners through one Standard Allocation and three Reserve Allocations.

This includes \$97.7 million to NGOs (52 per cent of the total amount), of which half went to national NGOs (\$49.3 million). The YHF provided the humanitarian community with the capacity to respond to emerging needs at any given time. In 2018, this was demonstrated through a Reserve Allocation to cover the gaps in clusters' preparedness activities and a Standard Allocation supporting clusters' first-line response.

The monitoring capacity of the YHF was strengthened with a second Third Party Monitoring service provider contracted which expanded the YHF reach and timely monitoring of projects. The YHF also increased its Accountability to Affected

Population by ensuring the existence of systematic complaint and feedback mechanisms in each partner's project and by introducing the Beneficiary Verification Mechanism (BVM). BVM is used to directly contact more beneficiaries by phone in remote villages and eventually increase the volume of beneficiaries interviewed to verify the quality of services provided by YHF partners. The YHF further rolled out the financial spot checks; on-site financial reviews undertaken by OCHA's HFU. These risk management measures are designed to improve accountability and decrease the risk of aid diversion.

## TOP TEN REASONS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE YHF

### 1. REACH

In 2018, our 53 partners reached almost 9 million Yemenis (cumulatively), up from 6.2 million in 2017, in 21 out of Yemen's 22 Governorates. In 2018, the YHF also provided dedicated funding to frontline responders who could expand humanitarian service delivery into hard-to-access high needs areas, including areas of conflict.

### 2. INCLUSIVENESS

As of January 2019, 78 UN agencies, international and national NGOs, and Red Crescent societies are eligible to receive YHF funding, with new organizations joining regularly (eight new in 2018). Beyond 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 equal representatives from donors, UN agencies, 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 2018 OCHA has trained over 600 partner staff on YHF procedures, allocations, operational manual and 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>) and is fully compliant with the standards of the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI). Transparency is at the core of the allocation process: priorities for allocations are discussed collectively by the Advisory Board and explained in publicly-available allocation strategy papers. Projects are selected after a collective strategic and technical review process that includes UN, NNGO, INGO, cluster and HFU representatives, and partners are provided with individual feedback. 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 achievements of the YHF.

### 4. LOCALIZATION

The YHF is one of the largest sources of direct funding for national NGOs in Yemen, with almost \$50 million allocated to them in 2018 (26% of total allocations) and close to \$100 million since 2017. This amount does not include funds NNGOs received as sub-implementing partners through YHF grants to UN agencies and international NGOs. In 2018, NNGOs also benefited from a dedicated funding window in the Standard Allocation, combined with a mentorship programme for new NNGOs. NNGOs are represented on the YHF Advisory Board and allocation review committees, giving them an active voice in the fund's governance and decision-making. They receive training and support throughout the project cycle.

### 5. ACCOUNTABILITY

The YHF builds on a comprehensive accountability framework enshrined in the Operational Manual of the YHF and adapted to the Yemen complex emergency. These accountability management efforts include:

- A risk Management Strategy, identifying risks to the YHF, including fraud and aid diversion, analyzing their potential impact, and creating strategies to mitigate them;
- 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; Tracking performance of each grant recipient throughout the project implementation and closeout;
- A comprehensive monitoring system, combining field monitoring missions by OCHA and Clusters and the support of two external service providers for Third Party Monitoring (TPM). 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 & vouchers assistance, small and large organisations, start-up or running costs. It also supports common services such as logistics, telecommunications, coordination, or 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 the first-half of 2018, the YHF funded the Clusters' humanitarian preparedness plan for Yemen, which allowed partners to respond immediately to crises such as in Al-Hudaydah thanks to YHF pre-positioned food and emergency supplies. In November, the Fund rapidly came in to fill a critical and time-sensitive gap in the winterization response, allowing displaced people in nine governorates to survive the harsh winter. It took eight days on average to release payments to partners.

## 8. ANALYSIS

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

## 9. COST-EFFICIENCY

OCHA's HFU direct cost of running the YHF is less than 1.3 per cent of funds received in 2018, making it the most cost efficient CBPF in the world.

## 10. RISK-SHARING

The YHF offers an opportunity for donors who do not have in-country presence or the capacity to manage multiple grants to channel funding towards a wide range of partners, while OCHA handles grant management, 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.

## Overview of the Yemen Humanitarian Fund 2014 - 2018

From January 2014 to December 2018, the YHF received \$571 million from 31 donors and allocated a total of \$478 million to 367 projects implemented by 68 partners, including UN agencies, NGOs and one Red Crescent Society.

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

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

THE YHF THANKS ALL OF ITS DONORS FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT.

