

Northern Yemen Humanitarian Response Strategy



The UK humanitarian strategy will focus on the needs of vulnerable civilians on the ground, while also engaging at a political level to support the international community in providing a coordinated approach. **The UK (DFID) will contribute £2 million towards the humanitarian response to the current crisis**, for urgent assistance to displaced persons, and for capacity building of United Nations (UN) and coordination structures.

The **Goal** of the DFID response is to improve the lives of the internally displaced persons (IDPs) and conflict-affected populations of northern Yemen.

The **Purpose** is to ensure that all displaced persons and others affected by the northern conflict have adequate access to assistance with basic services. Indicators against which to measure success will include:

- Safe and predictable access to victims
- Assistance provided to vulnerable IDPs and affected people
- Protection by reduced threats and increased respect for International Humanitarian Law (IHL)
- Effective coordination between elements of the humanitarian community, including with the Government of Yemen (GoY) and donors

The main **Outputs** will be:

1. Advocacy on access, coordination and political engagement

Implementation of the humanitarian response to the northern conflict is maximised, and political engagement has the best possibility of success through:

- Advocating for free and unfettered humanitarian access to affected areas of northern Yemen, including immediate access to vulnerable IDPs and host communities, whether in Government or Al-Houthi controlled areas

- Working closely with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), advocating for political engagement in the crisis, in Yemen itself, regional capitals, London, New York and Geneva (UN), and key international capitals
- Deploying a DFID humanitarian specialist to follow up with implementation of the strategy and advocacy.

2. Access, protection and assistance to IDPs and vulnerable civilians

Needs-based assistance provided to vulnerable people affected by the conflict, coordinated well, in a safe enabling environment, with improvements in 'humanitarian space' and compliance with international law and norms by parties to the conflict through:

- Support to urgent protection activities such as tracing of separated families, and protection monitoring in camps or registration of IDPs.
- Funding of UN agencies, the Red Cross and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to provide assistance to IDPs, host communities and vulnerable conflict-affected populations in the areas of shelter, non-food items, water, sanitation, camp management, nutrition and hygiene promotion.
- Support to an internationally mandated organisation – the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) - in their work to protect and assist IDPs and other victims of conflict

3. Coordination and capacity building of the humanitarian system

Strategic support designed to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the overall response through:

- Advocating for and funding coordination and common service and information management mechanisms for the UN and humanitarian community
- Funding of UN agencies and NGOs to build their own or their partners' competencies and capacities in key areas
- Providing communication equipment to ensure better safety and security for humanitarian staff in the field.

This strategy has been devised to meet immediate needs, but also to allow for building capacity for a longer-term operational response. All activities undertaken by DFID through this strategy will comply with the Good Humanitarian Donorship initiative and conform to DFID's Humanitarian Policy.

The programme funding period is estimated at six months and the overall envelope is currently proposed at **£2 million**, with the possibility to re-assess this at a later date if the situation deteriorates, or if access improves. Funding decisions will be in line with this strategy, and in coordination with other key donors.

The priorities given within this funding package are based on three strands:

- a. support to organisations or activities which can **deliver quality assistance** or protection services to vulnerable populations now (within security or access constraints);
- b. support for **capacity building** to organisations or activities which are vital to the high (and improving) **quality of the overall humanitarian response** going forward; and
- c. support to organisations and activities based on coordination with other key donors to **avoid duplication and maximise effectiveness**.

In addition, the strategy is compatible with a future support to recovery and reconstruction activities, in the event of a lasting ceasefire or political settlement.

Each proposed project is listed below.

OUTPUT	DESCRIPTION
1. Assistance and Protection of IDPs	Shelter, Non-Food Relief Items and Camp Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Camp management at Al-Mazrak (Islamic Relief, as partner of UNHCR); and ○ Shelter, Non-Food Relief Items and IDP registration at camp and non-camp IDP locations in Hajjar, Al Jawf, Amran and Sa'dah (International Organisation for Migration)
	Nutrition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Treatment of malnourished children under 5 (Unicef) ○ Child-focused Health & Nutrition Education (Save the Children)
	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provision of drinking water to IDPs, including extra staff costs (Unicef, who will use NGO partners)
	Food <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Supplementary feeding for children (Islamic Relief)
	ICRC (<i>not in Flash Appeal</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assistance and protection activities for victims of conflict in Sa'dah and Amran Governorates
2. Coordination & Capacity Building	Coordination and Support Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recruitment of additional staff & upgrade of the Information Management (IM) function (OCHA)
	WASH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Scaling up to provide WASH services to IDPs in northern Yemen (OXFAM)

	Security <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Communications equipment for security (WFP)
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