

NRC's operations in

Yemen

Humanitarian overview

Humanitarian action in Yemen faced unprecedented challenges in 2025 which will continue and predictably worsen in 2026 if no immediate action is taken by the humanitarian community. Aid organisations are grappling with drastic cuts to their funding, forcing them to substantially scale back and cut critical programming. The Yemen 2025 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan was just 28 per cent funded, with US\$687.9 million received out of a \$2.48 billion requested. This is the lowest funding coverage in well over a decade.

Yemen continues to be one of the world's worst humanitarian crises. In 2026, more than 22 million people – including 10.95 million women and girls – will require humanitarian assistance and protection services. This includes 5.2 million IDPs, 329,000 migrants, and 63,000 refugees and asylum seekers. More 18.3 million people are food-insecure, and 19.3 million people lack adequate access to health services, putting their lives in jeopardy. This was further complicated by the exit of many INGOs from the north of Yemen in early 2025 followed by the exit of the UN in early 2026. The few remaining INGOs in the north, where majority of urgent needs are, face an overwhelming stretch to respond considering the limited available resources.

Despite the truce-like conditions, the impact of regional tension and the economic crisis have aggravated Yemenis needs. Most critical public services had collapsed with public employees not receiving regular salaries. Funding cuts exacerbate the situation as the humanitarian community is unable to address the immediate needs. Yemenis remain without the safety and services they need to survive and live in dignity. Continued support from the international community is crucial for NRC to support the millions in need.



Our core activities



Education



Information, counselling and legal assistance (ICLA)



Livelihoods and food security



Protection from violence



Shelter and settlements



Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

NRC in Yemen

Established	2012
International staff	12
National staff	167

Our areas of operation

- Sana'a
- Hajjah
- Hodeida
- Amran
- Aden
- Lahj
- Abyan
- Taiz
- Marib
- Al-Dhale'e



Our activities in detail

NRC assists people who have fled their homes as well as host communities and those who wish to return home.

We are often one of the first responders after a crisis, providing critical emergency aid and programming that aims to promote self-reliance, and working in partnership with affected communities to find durable solutions.

We respond in a holistic manner to ensure a principled, efficient, effective and accountable response and encourage all stakeholders and duty bearers to uphold their legal obligations towards people affected by displacement.



20,047 people reached in 2025 ▼

Education

The education sector is one of the most neglected areas within Yemen's humanitarian crisis. In 2025, the education sector received only 39 per cent of the \$74.9 million that was requested, leaving millions of children without adequate access to proper education. In 2026, the education cluster is requesting \$52 million to reach 1.6 million children with education services out of 6.6 million children in needs of education assistance. The education cluster has identified that 0.6 million children are prioritised for urgent education assistance.

As of January 2026, nearly 11.7 million school-aged children are deprived of their right to education. Critical infrastructure remains devastated, with over 18,443 schools damaged, destroyed, or used for non-educational purposes.

Even where schools are open, the learning environment lacks basic WASH facilities, and suffers from a shortages textbooks and furniture, and overcrowded classrooms. Approximately two-thirds of the teacher workforce have not been receiving salary or incentive. This has forced negative coping mechanisms, including a rise in school dropouts, child labour, and early marriage. Displaced children, those from marginalised communities, and an estimated 599,270 children with disabilities face disproportionate barriers.

We focus on children who have had their education interrupted or denied, via the provision of multiple, tailored pathways back to learning for displacement and conflict-affected children, adolescents, and youth. NRC is recognised as a leading education partner in Yemen. We work with children, teachers, communities, ministries and other authorities, as well as national and international education partners, to ensure children in Yemen are able to learn in a safe and protected environment.

We do this by:

- promoting children's right to education via community mobilisation, awareness raising and advocacy
- ensuring learning environments are safe and accessible to all children by repairing old and damaged classrooms, constructing learning spaces, latrines and handwashing facilities, and implementing classroom-based psychosocial support
- incentivising, equipping and training teachers and other education staff to provide quality, safe and inclusive education
- ensuring all children have the resources they need to fully participate in lessons through the provision of teaching, learning and recreational materials
- establishing multiple pathways back to formal education through providing a range of non-formal and technical and vocational education opportunities for children, adolescents and youth who may need more specialised or intensive education support
- activating or reinvigorating parent-teacher associations and other community support structures, to promote community ownership and sustainability
- advocating for the right to education through clusters and different education platforms at the Yemen and global level



9,047 people reached in 2025 ▼

Information, counselling and legal assistance (ICLA)

Displacement-affected communities and individuals in Yemen often face difficulties due to unfamiliar legal systems during displacement. This can be complex and overwhelming – further exacerbating their situation. NRC's legal assistance play an important role in protecting the rights of IDPs, refugees and returnees, and ensures they have equitable access to essential services and legal procedures.

NRC Yemen works to ensure that displacement-affected communities and

individuals have access to quality and free legal representation, quality legal counselling, and interpretation support in their interviews with lawyers, including for vulnerable groups such as victims of forced evictions and related HLP violations, persons in need of legal identity documents and civil registration *et al.* Legal assistance is provided in various forms, including legal interventions, representation, individual advice, and awareness-raising sessions. It aims to support vulnerable individuals, especially those facing protection concerns, limited legal knowledge, or financial constraints. Assistance is often delivered through community centres, mobile teams and partner legal offices, with volunteers playing a key role in disseminating information and identifying those in need.

Similarly, access to housing, land and property (HLP) rights is a critical challenge. Displaced Yemenis are exposed to various protection risks including evictions from sites where they have settled and from housing they are renting.

The year 2026 is expected to witness a significant rise in eviction threats for IDPs across Yemen, attributed to worsening housing security, lack of access to income, economic deterioration, and rising land and rent values. Simultaneously, eviction threats in displacement sites remain critical. This is compounded by landowners reclaiming land due to increased demand, ownership disputes, community-IDPs conflict and prolonged use by IDPs without compensation.

NRC's ICLA services help Yemeni people – particularly women and children – access legal and civil documentation (LCD) and HLP rights.

Our ICLA services are focused on:

- awareness-raising on legal rights-related civil documentation and housing, land and property rights
- providing legal counselling and assistance to access critical legal and civil documentation
- providing legal assistance to displaced communities on housing, land and property rights, through negotiation with authorities and landowners to mitigate evictions and related risks
- pre- and post-eviction support

- providing technical support and training to clusters, authorities and partners on housing, land and property rights
- capacity building of local authorities, including the Civil Registry Authority and community leaders
- advocating for positive policy changes that affect peoples' rights

NRC is also the co-chair of the HLP Working Group and of the Legal Aid Technical Working Group, seeking to promote coordination amongst actors on these issues.



555,463 people reached in 2025 ▼

Livelihoods and food security

The food security and livelihood sector is facing a severe funding gap. In 2025, the sector received only 22 per cent of the \$1,104.3 million that was requested to reach 12 million food-insecure people who were prioritised out of the total estimated 17.1 million food-insecure people across the country.

In 2026, the food security cluster estimates that 18.3 million people will need some form of food security or livelihood support. A total of \$900 million is requested to reach 8.8 million priority people with food security and livelihood assistance.

Food insecurity in Yemen is at critically high levels and faces a high risk of further deterioration. An estimated 18.3 million people (52 per cent of the population) face acute food insecurity. Compared with 2025, an additional 55 districts, representing 1.2 million people, have shifted from IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) to IPC Phase 4 (Emergency). Catastrophic condition (IPC Phase 5) pockets were projected in several locations, affecting 41,000 people.

Yemen is now the world's fourth most food-insecure country in terms of population in IPC Phase 3 or above (Crisis or worse) and ranks first globally for the size of its population in IPC Phase 4 or above (Emergency). The crisis is driven by conflict-induced economic collapse and financial restrictions that eroded purchasing power, and mounting climate

pressures – high input costs, desertification, water scarcity, and seasonal natural disasters. The most affected are IDPs, Muhamasheen, smallholder farmers, and households with disrupted incomes, with heightened vulnerability among women, children, and persons with disabilities.

The consequences are stark: 74 per cent of IPC 4 districts also face critical or extremely critical malnutrition; 24 districts are at very high risk of worsening nutrition outcomes, and 12 districts could tip into catastrophic (IPC 5) conditions beyond February 2026 if humanitarian food assistance is curtailed.

The objective of NRC's Livelihood and Food Security programming is to protect the rights, dignity and livelihoods of vulnerable people affected by the conflict and displacement in Yemen, in addition to saving lives.

NRC uses a market systems approach to respond to emergencies and promote sustainable livelihoods where market systems are functional. In emergency situations, we support improved access to safe food by providing cash and voucher assistance where markets are functional. We support livelihood restoration and resilience building by:

- providing training in modern production technologies and livelihood kits (agricultural inputs, tools) to small-scale farmers and fishery communities
- providing training in livestock management and provision of small ruminants to vulnerable households to increase their asset base
- supporting rehabilitation and/or installation of agricultural infrastructure including solar irrigation systems
- providing business management training and start-up capital for youth and female entrepreneurs
- providing vocational skills training to support viable market-driven self-employment activities based on a thorough understanding of the local market conditions



54,653 people reached in 2025 ▼

Protection from violence

Similar to other sectors, the Protection sector is also facing a severe funding gap. In 2025, the sector received only 29 **per cent** of the \$170.9 million that was requested to reach 6.3 million people in need of protection out of the total estimated 17 million people facing protection risks across the country.

In 2026, the protection cluster estimates that 17.9 million people will need some form of protection support. A total of \$158.5 million is requested to reach 4.5 million priority people with protection assistance.

Protection risks and challenges are expected to remain severe in 2026, driven by continued conflict, protracted displacement, economic deterioration, and limited access to justice. Civilians continue to face persistent threats to their safety, dignity and access to basic rights, with cumulative impacts on physical security, psychosocial wellbeing, and coping capacities.

Protection concerns affect all population groups, including children, older persons, persons with disabilities, internally displaced persons, migrants, and refugees. Within this broader protection environment, women and girls experience specific and intersecting risks, particularly in contexts of displacement, service collapse, and insecurity, where gender inequality and harmful social norms shape exposure to harm and constrain safety, mobility, and access to support.

NRC Yemen delivers programmes that aim at reducing, mitigating and responding to protection risks faced by the population in Yemen. NRC also responds to heightened risks facing specific groups, particularly women and girls, persons with disabilities (PWDs), and marginalised groups such as the Muhamasheen. Protection risks also include child recruitment, family separation, and exposure to gender-based violence (GBV), especially in IDP sites, informal settlements, and areas of return, where access to protection services remains limited.

Our programming is implemented through three interlinked outcomes:

- **Individual protection services:** general protection case management (PCM), individual protection assistance (IPA), cash and voucher assistance for protection outcomes, protective accompaniment, psychological first aid (PFA), referrals and facilitated cash referrals.
- **Community level protection services:** community-based protection networks, trainings and regular engagement, community level protection monitoring and analysis of trends, peaceful coexistence and community initiative (pilot project).
- **Protection leadership and evidence-based advocacy:** protection monitoring and advocacy, national protection cluster co-ordination role.

The NRC protection team coordinates with other sectors to provide an effective, rapid response to support at-risk individuals in coping with their specific protection situation and strengthening their resilience.

NRC is also co-chairing the national protection cluster offering both coordination and capacity support to other protection services providers in Yemen.



14,402 people reached in 2025 ▼

Shelter and settlements

The Shelter and Settlements sector is one of the most underfunded sectors in Yemen. In 2025, the sector received only 13 per cent of the \$170 million that was requested to reach 1.8 million people in need of shelter and non-food items out of the total estimated 7.5 million people requiring shelter support across the country.

In 2026, the shelter cluster estimates that 7.6 million people will need some form of shelter support. A total of \$152.3 million is requested to reach 0.7 million priority people with shelter and non-food items assistance.

An estimated 7.6 million vulnerable people (54 per cent IDPs and 46 per cent non-IDPs, including returnees and host communities) need shelter and NFIs, with 68 per cent in critical or catastrophic shelter conditions. Approximately 1.7 million IDPs live in informal sites as a last resort and 3.5 million are in family or rental accommodation. Climate shocks (cyclones, flooding, storms, extreme temperatures and landslides) amplify needs: nearly 6 per cent of those in need live in areas with extremely low winter temperatures, and many IDP sites sit in flood paths and face HLP challenges. Thirty-six percent of 1,907 sites are frequently affected by severe flooding; in 2025, over 500,000 people were severely impacted by flash floods, prompting the high need for life-saving disaster risk reduction interventions.

NRC's shelter services offer:

- support access to essential non-food and energy items
- provision of enhanced emergency shelter
- construction/rehabilitation of transitional shelter
- provision of sustainable housing solutions
- provision of cash assistance for rental subsidies
- provision of winterisation assistance
- rehabilitation of partially damaged houses for returnees
- construction, rehabilitation and expansion of temporary learning spaces in collaboration with the education sector



141,819 people reached in 2025 ▼

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

The WASH sector is also severely underfunded. In 2025, the sector received only 20 per cent of the \$176.9 million that was requested to reach 6.6 million people in need of WASH services out of the total estimated 15.2 million people requiring WASH assistance across the country.

In 2026, the WASH cluster estimates that 14.4 million people will need some form of WASH assistance. A total of \$178.7 million is

requested to reach 4.6 million priority people with WASH assistance.

Yemen is among the most water-scarce countries in the world, and water availability, for various competing uses, continues to decline. Similarly, the public sewage system has suffered from direct war damage, poor operation and maintenance of key equipment, intermittent electricity supply. Lack of access to adequate sanitation services remains one of the most serious challenges with adverse impacts on the population.

Limited access to sanitation services and safe drinking water remains a major obstacle to improving health, wellbeing and saving lives. It underpins many problems, contributing to spread of diarrheal diseases, malnutrition, increased GBV risks, decreased school attendance and other public health and environmental risks. Climate-related shocks, specifically incidents of flooding in Yemen have increased and will likely occur with greater intensity and frequency in the future. Drought episodes and water scarcity risks are also projected to intensify.

To address this, our WASH team, in collaboration with other sectors, aims to address acute WASH needs and reduce protection risks through delivery of life-saving assistance and restoring and sustaining existing WASH facilities which are inclusive.

We achieve this by:

- rehabilitating and constructing water supply systems and facilitating their governance to improve sustainability
- strengthening community-based water resource management to improve resilience and climate change adaptation
- promoting safe excreta disposal through improved access to sanitation facilities
- promoting positive hygiene practices through hygiene promotion campaigns with the aim of changing behaviour
- providing inclusive sanitation facilities with appropriate disposal and treatment mechanisms
- improving WASH services in schools to strengthen better learning outcomes in collaboration with the education sector

- improving living environments through community and government-supported solid waste management

Advocacy

NRC is strategically placed to influence broader local, national and international discussions, policies and practices that impact the humanitarian situation in Yemen. NRC actively engages in key coordination mechanisms including the Humanitarian County Team (HCT), the cluster, the Humanitarian Access Working Group (HAWG), and the NGO Advocacy Working Group (AWG).

We base our advocacy and influencing on the needs of the communities we work with as expressed directly to us by them and elevate their voices into decision-making spaces. The most critical themes running across our advocacy include access to aid and protection and the removal of barriers to self-reliance and durable solutions. Our advocacy is also designed to help ensure a principled, efficient, effective and accountable humanitarian response.

Camp coordination and camp management (CCCM)

The CCCM sector was the most underfunded sector in 2025, with only 6 per cent received of the \$55.1 million that was requested to support 0.744 million people living in collective sites and informal settlements. This number is out of the total estimated 1.9 million people in need of CCCM assistance across the country.

In 2026, the CCCM cluster estimates that 1.9 million IDPs will continue to reside in collective sites and informal settlements and will need some form of CCCM assistance. A total of \$46.5 million is requested to reach 0.6 million priority people with CCCM services.

According to the CCCM cluster, across 201 districts hosting IDP sites, an estimated 1.9 million people (IDPs and about 287,000 affected host community members) require CCCM support. About 56 districts are classified under severity 4, with approximately 1.65 million people facing compounding vulnerabilities. 41 districts are assessed as high/very high risks in multi-hazard. Assessments indicate a decline in sectoral

service capacity in displacement camps, with the proportion of sites reporting no services rising to 48 per cent. Findings underscore the need for the rapid restoration of essential services, with a particular emphasis on addressing critical NFI shortages, emergency shelter rehabilitation and replacement, and urgent WSH support for sites lacking sanitation capacity.

Cross-cutting vulnerabilities remain high, with 91 per cent of sites hosting multiple vulnerable groups; persons with disabilities report lower access to facilities; and child labour exceeds 50 per cent in parts of Al Hodeidah. While site management structures are in place in 445 sites (as of October 2025), 1,462 sites remain unsupported and two-way accountability mechanisms are applied inconsistently.

NRC CCCM teams aim to improve coordination structures, information management systems, and access to equitable services and assistance in displacement sites with a focus on moving towards durable solutions with full participation of the displaced and host communities using both mobile site management (MSM) approach and area-base site management (ABSM) approach

Our camp management team is focused on:

- supervising, monitoring and coordinating safe and dignified access to multi-sectoral service at site level and area-based level
- establishing camp governance mechanisms and enabling community participation
- ensuring the care and maintenance of camp infrastructure
- managing information on the camp population's changing needs
- disseminating information both to the camp population and to other stakeholders
- participating in strategic planning with relevant stakeholders around issues of contingency planning, environment, and exit strategy
- advocating on behalf of/with the camp community to external stakeholders

Our donors

We are grateful for the generous support from our donors:

- EU – European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO)
- EU – International Partnerships (INTPA)
- Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (NORAD)
- Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA)
- UKAID – Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)
- UN – United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- Yemen Humanitarian Funds (YHF)
- The French Crisis and Support Centre (CDCS)
- Education Cannot Wait (ECW)

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