

1. Summaryⁱ

3	22.3 million	151 MSEK	0 MSEK	0 MSEK	151 MSEK
Humanitarian crisis ranking (Sida's initial allocation analysis) ⁱⁱ	Number of people with humanitarian needs (Sida's initial allocation analysis) ⁱⁱⁱ	Initial allocation for 2026	Additional allocation in 2026	Flexible funding in 2026	Total Sida funding in 2026

The complex humanitarian situation in Yemen is a protracted crisis driven by conflict, recurring climate shocks, displacement, diseases and economic collapse. The outlook for 2026 has significantly worsened due to drastic reductions in overall funding, including for specific sectors such as health, and the US Foreign Terrorist Organisation (FTO) designation of Ansar Allah (Houthis) – the de facto authorities in northern Yemen - that has led to many humanitarian organisations ceasing operations in the group’s areas of control. Raids and detentions of staff of UN agencies and civil society organisations are also significantly affecting humanitarian operations in northern Yemen.

According to Sida’s latest initial allocation analysis, there are 22.3 million people with humanitarian needs in Yemen. This is an almost 15 per cent increase from last year. The majority of people with humanitarian needs, an estimated two thirds, live in the North.

Sida’s initial allocation to Yemen in 2026 is SEK 151 million, which will be allocated to five partners that deliver multi-sectorial response focusing on health, WASH, protection, food security and nutrition to people with severe humanitarian needs. Due to the increasingly challenging humanitarian operating environment and negative outlook for the North, partners that are still able to operate both in the North and in the South of Yemen have been prioritized for funding.

2. Humanitarian needs & affected population

Access to independent, qualitative and up-to-date data is a key challenge in the Yemeni context and all figures presented in this document should therefore be seen as an estimation based on the most reliable data available. Data gathering has not been conducted as frequently as the severity of the situation demands, partly as a result of impediments imposed by the authorities, in particular in the North. This challenges principled, needs-based targeting of people to assist, as many of the beneficiary lists are not regularly updated.

In 2026, an estimated 22.3 million (compared to 19.5 million in 2025) out of Yemen's population of about 40 million are in need of humanitarian assistance and protection services. Overall, while humanitarian needs are higher in the North, there are also areas of severe needs in the South, with for example a number of governorates being vulnerable to severe weather events.

An estimated 18.1 million people are acutely food insecure, of which 5.3 million people are experiencing emergency levels (Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) phase 4), and an estimated 41,000 people are likely to be experiencing catastrophe levels of food insecurity (IPC phase 5).¹ These figures have worsened compared to the previous year and are expected to further worsen due to reductions in humanitarian funding and suspended UN activities in the North. As a consequence, Yemen has been elevated to the hotspots of highest concern in the latest FAO-WFP report on hunger hotspots.² In addition, about 15 million people are water insecure and 17.4 million people lack access to adequate sanitation and hygiene.³

At least 4.8 million people are internally displaced as a consequence of the armed conflict as well as natural disasters.⁴ The *Muhamasheen*, an ethnic minority that experiences systematic discrimination, constitutes a significant part of the IDP population, in particular among those living in displacement sites. This minority group has been under-served or sometimes excluded from humanitarian aid despite severe needs, due to issues of non-registration with authorities both in the South and the North.

Despite the decreased levels of conflict-related violence in recent years, the number of returnees has remained low. UNHCR Regional Perception and Intention surveys have consistently shown that safety and security, as well as a lack of livelihood opportunities, are key reasons for why IDPs choose not to return to their areas of origin. In addition to the large IDP population, there are more than 62,000 refugees and registered asylum seekers in the country, mainly from Somalia and Ethiopia.⁵

¹ IPC, [Yemen: Acute Food Insecurity Situation for May - August 2025 and Projection for September 2025 – February 2026 | IPC - Integrated Food Security Phase Classification](#), including the specific analyses for GoY and SBA areas, (accessed on 2025-12-12)

² FAO-WFP, [Hunger Hotspots: FAO-WFP early warnings on acute food insecurity, November 2025 to November 2026 outlook | World Food Programme](#), (accessed on 2025-12-12)

³ GHO 2026, [Middle East and North Africa | Global Humanitarian Overview 2026 | Humanitarian Action](#), (accessed on 2025-12-12)

⁴ UNHCR, [Yemen: UNHCR Operational Update, January - October 2025 - Yemen | ReliefWeb](#), (accessed on 2025-12-12)

⁵ UNHCR, [Yemen: UNHCR Operational Update, January - October 2025 - Yemen | ReliefWeb](#), (accessed on 2025-12-12)

The shrinking protection space and humanitarian support has bred a negative atmosphere towards refugees among the Yemeni public and authorities who increasingly call for their return to their country of origin. Though refugees and asylum-seekers can access public health and education, they suffer from discriminatory attitudes, legal barriers and protection risks.

Yemen is undergoing a complex protection crisis and about 16 million people are expected to face protection risks in 2026.⁶ While the positive effects of the de facto continuation of the UN-brokered truce in 2022 are still present and conflict-induced displacement has decreased, civilian casualties stemming from the breakdown of law and order, landmine-related incidents and localised conflicts persist. Some of the most severe protection risks include targeted and indiscriminate physical attacks on civilians and infrastructure; widespread gender-based violence (GBV) and other specific risks to women, girls and persons with disabilities; child recruitments and other forms of violence against children; contamination of civilian areas with landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERWs); lack of civil documentation; lack of housing, land, and property (HLP) rights; forced evictions and forced displacements. Following the Houthi ballistic missile attack on Israel in the spring of 2025, there have also been numerous Israeli airstrikes against targets in the North, affecting both civilians and critical infrastructure.

3. The humanitarian response

The HNRP 2026 is going to target 12 million people, of which 9.4 million people are categorised as urgently prioritised. At the same time, the humanitarian response is under increasing constraints. Hyper-prioritization is already in place since

12 million	\$2.16 billion	9.6%
People targeted in the response plan (HNRP 2026)	Required to reach the target (HNRP 2026)	Of the funding secured (HNRP 2026)

2025 with funding cuts resulting in the lowest coverage of the HNRP in several years.⁷ Moreover, at the end of 2025, several humanitarian organisations had to cease operations in the North, following the US designation of Ansar Allah as a FTO. This came on top of the sharp reduction in UN presence in the North over the course of 2025, due to deteriorating security conditions, including detentions of UN personnel. In the South, insecurity, political instability and economic decline heavily impacts the humanitarian operations.

According to the 2026 HNRP, food security and agriculture, health, WASH, nutrition and protection will be especially targeted, prioritising the delivery of live-saving assistance in the highest-severity areas. It is still an ongoing discussion within the HCT and between humanitarian actors how the humanitarian response for 2026 will be carried out, including by what means and in which sectors it will be possible to support and scale up the INGO & NGO response in the North. Needs

⁶ GHO 2026, [Middle East and North Africa | Global Humanitarian Overview 2026 | Humanitarian Action](#), (accessed on 2025-12-12)

⁷ OCHA, [Yemen 2025 | Financial Tracking Service](#) (accessed 2026-03-25)

related to health are expected to worsen due to recent funding cuts affecting the health system, but it may not be feasible for INGOs to adopt the same role in supporting the health system as the UN previously did. Issues related to infringements on the operating space continues to be a key challenge. Increased harassment and insecurity, movement restricts for female humanitarian staff, bureaucratic and administrative impediments severely limits access to assistance and undermines the humanitarian response and the assessment of needs. Due to the drastic changes in the humanitarian landscape humanitarian organisations will need additional time to be able to present in-detail plans on the response and planned scale up of INGO activities within different sectors. In 2025, the largest donors of the HNRP were UK, ECHO, Saudi Arabia and Germany. Sweden was the 15th largest donor.

The authorities both in the North and the South have very limited capacity to meet acute needs. The national response is fragmented and has been under strain due to the reduction in both humanitarian and development funding. Local and national NGOs (L/NNGOs) in Yemen are deemed to have relatively good capacity and long experience working with humanitarian assistance due to the protractedness of the crisis. Enabling a locally led response is critical for an effective humanitarian response, especially in the North, following the scale-back of UN presence.

In light of the Humanitarian Reset, the HCT activated the Localisation Task Force (LTF) in 2025 as a way of committing to the localisation agenda in Yemen. The initiative operates under a joint leadership model co-chaired by Nahda Makers Organization and OXFAM, to ensure official coordination between UN agencies, donors and international and national NGOs and to institutionalize the localisation agenda in Yemen. In 2026, the Yemen Humanitarian Fund (YHF) will continue to strengthen localisation through direct funding of national NGOs. In 2026, 59 per cent of the YHF's allocated funds was provided directly to L/NNGOs.

4. Sida's humanitarian allocation

Sida's initial allocation in 2026 to Yemen will amount to SEK 151 million. The support is in line with the *Strategy for Sweden's humanitarian assistance provided through Sida 2025-2029*, and is protection-oriented while also focusing on food security, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), health, and nutrition responses. With the UN scale-back and as a result of the FTO designation, the humanitarian community has scaled down programming in the North to focus on strictly life-saving activities. Under these challenging circumstances, Sida has selected partners that are assessed as best placed to operate under the different authorities and reach the worst affected people. Based on previous experience, dialogue and the partners' priorities presented in the initial applications, the following allocation has been made:

PARTNER	INITIAL ALLOCATION
Action Against Hunger (ACF)	15,000,000
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	85,000,000
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	22,000,000
Première Urgence Internationale (PUI)	10,000,000
United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR)	19,000,000
TOTAL	151,000,000

The selected five partners are assessed to be the best placed actors in addressing humanitarian needs in an increasingly difficult humanitarian operating environment in Yemen. Particular priority has been assigned to the ability and capacity to operate and deliver humanitarian assistance in both the North and the South as the number of actors with humanitarian access to the North saw a drastic decrease in 2025. This has meant that most UN agencies have not been considered as UN activities in the North have been paused since autumn 2025. It is still unclear what the UN roadmap for future engagement with the North is. UNHCR has however been chosen as a partner due to its special mandate and the fact that some of the major IDP and refugee camps are located in the South.

No multi-year funding will be provided for 2026 due to the ongoing operationalisation of Sweden's new strategy for humanitarian assistance through Sida. It is however recommended that Yemen, as a highly protracted crisis, is considered for multi-year funding further ahead.

Sida does not currently have the capacity to map if targeted operational partnerships would be an option in Yemen, e.g. direct partnerships with local humanitarian NGOs or support to NGO consortia. This should however be a priority from autumn 2026.

ⁱ The 2026 initial allocation of humanitarian funding is based on Sida's humanitarian allocation analysis methodology. The analysis reflects the current humanitarian situation across crises and is being updated continuously with the latest available data. The information in the HCA is based on reports, data, and information from partner organisations and other entities, as well as observations from field visits and dialogue with partners.

ⁱⁱ Sida's initial allocation analysis consists of three dimensions that are assessed for each crisis-affected country: 1) magnitude and severity of humanitarian needs 2) capacity of the humanitarian system to respond to needs and 3) capacity of the crisis-affected country to respond to needs. The qualitative and quantitative analysis produces an index scoring for each country, where the highest ranked country is found to have the greatest proportion of unmet severe humanitarian needs globally, based on available data. Sida's initial allocation for 2026 includes a total of 25 countries with the highest scores. For more information please see Initial Allocation Methodology.

ⁱⁱⁱ The number of people with humanitarian needs according to Sida's allocation analysis is based on the most inclusive estimate of humanitarian needs that is available from recent sources and supported by triangulation. For Yemen, the selected source is GHO 2026.