



Protection Cluster Overview Yemen, August 2021

❖ Protection Situation Overview

The protection situation in Yemen has significantly deteriorated since the start of the conflict in March 2015. After over six years, it is estimated that more than 12,000 civilians have been injured and at least 7,825 civilians have been killed including 2,138 children and 933 women. Most of the civilian casualties are attributed to shelling and airstrikes to civilian-populated areas also causing damage to civilians' homes and infrastructure.

In the first half of 2021, on average, armed violence killed or injured 170 civilians each month, with June seeing a peak of 249 civilian casualties and bringing the total number of casualties to 1,023. In addition to making up 75 percent of the displaced population, women and children face heightened risks of violence and abuse – that are often rooted in patriarchal socio-cultural norms and practices including gender-based violence. Women and girls face inequality/discrimination and limited access to specialized services. Men and boys continue to be particularly affected by forced recruitment, detention and abuse, and exploitation in their search for livelihoods opportunities.

The Protection Cluster includes three Areas of Responsibility i.e. Child Protection, Women Protection (GBV), and Mine Action. At the Sub-national level, the Cluster coordinates with Sana'a, Sa'ada, Ibb, Al Hudaydah, Marib, and Aden hubs.

❖ Priorities

Data collection and analysis: strengthen data collection and analysis of protection risks to better inform programming and evidence-based advocacy especially on the protection of civilians and internally displaced Yemenis, especially through the Civilian Impact Monitoring Project (CIMP) that records on a daily/monthly basis the impact of the conflict on civilians and infrastructure (thematic issues addressed e.g. the threat to Civilians from Explosive Ordnance, the impact of Armed violence on Transport Infrastructure and the Impact of Armed violence on Civilians Dwellings in Yemen, etc).

Service delivery: provide minimum service packages as well as build (especially local) partners' response capacity to provide specialized services such as psychosocial support, mine risk education, unaccompanied and separated children, and GBV prevention and mitigation. Support other Clusters through guidance on ways to integrate protection in their interventions.

Advocacy: increase advocacy on the protection of civilians in collaboration with HCT members, authorities, donors, and relevant stakeholders. Protection Cluster will continue monitoring protection and human rights violations to advocate for the protection of civilians.

Reliable funding: advocate for a more sustainable protection response with an adequate level of specialized services and increased presence of protection actors.

❖ Key Challenges

- Restrictions and challenges imposed by the authorities prevent protection partners from implementing protection projects and providing services, particularly in areas controlled by the de facto authorities in the north.
- Shortage of funding leads to the discontinuation of protection projects and closure of the protection facilities such as Community Centres, Women Safe Spaces, and Child-Friendly Spaces, causing serious disruption of critical services

