

Education Data Snapshot

Yemen Conflict



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Conflict Summary

Following the Arab Spring uprisings in 2011, President Ali Abdullah Saleh handed over power to his deputy, Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi. The new government quickly faced challenges, including a movement of Houthis, an Islamic revolutionary group, in the north that eventually took control of the capital of Sana'a in 2014. The conflict between the Yemeni government and Houthi forces escalated in March 2015, leading Saudi Arabia and eight other Arab nations to begin military operations in Yemen.ⁱ Simultaneously, Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) and its rival, the Islamic State, exploited the protracted and chaotic nature of conflict, carrying out deadly attacks and seizing territory in the southern and eastern parts of the country. In 2016, the Central Bank of Yemen moved to the southern city of Aden, resulting in two governments: A Houthi-led Northern government based in Sana'a, with territories including four northern governorates home to 80% of Yemen's population, and the Yemeni government in the South.ⁱⁱ Despite steps towards political resolutions in the 2018 Stockholm Agreement in the 2019 Riyadh agreement, 2019 was the second deadliest year of the conflict and violence has continued in 2020. As a result, 190,000 Yemenis fled to neighboring countries, including Djibouti, Egypt, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Jordan, Ethiopia, and Sudanⁱⁱⁱ, and, within Yemen, humanitarian needs are greater than anywhere else in the world. More than three million IDPs and one million returnees remain vulnerable, and over 260,000 people from other emergency situations have sought refuge in Yemen. The gravity of the situation is compounded by health crises, including a severe cholera outbreak, a declining economy, and environmental issues that contribute to famine and a lack of clean water. With more than half of the health facilities in Yemen closed or only partially functioning, the COVID-19 pandemic looks certain to worsen the humanitarian situation.^{iv}

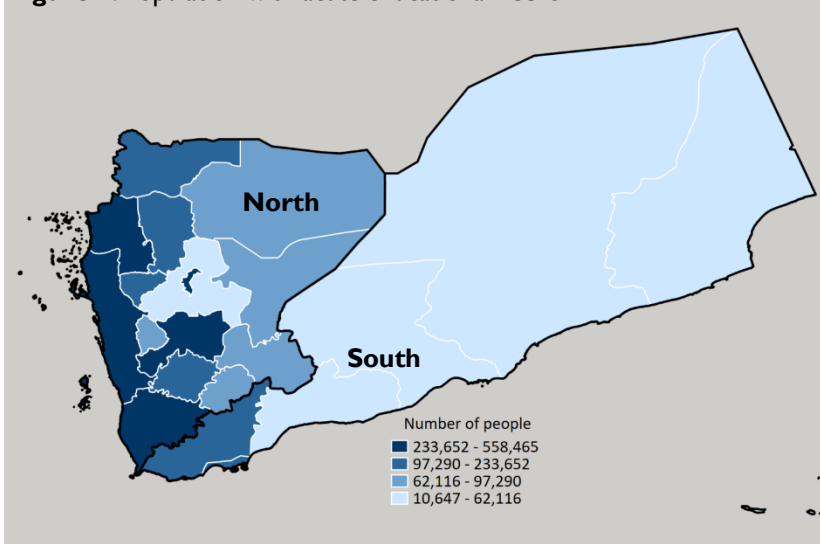
Timeline

2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Arab Spring protests undermine President Saleh's rule	Hadi becomes interim president	Al-Qaeda attacks continue across Yemen	Houthis seize Sana'a, capital of Yemen	Civil war intensifies	Central Bank moved to Aden, creating two gov'ts	Saleh is killed by Houthi rebels following rift	Stockholm Agreement between Hadi gov't and Houthis	Riyadh Agreement between Hadi gov't and STC	Saudi announces unilateral ceasefire but fighting continues

See [Humanitarian Needs Overview \(HNO\)](#), [Humanitarian Update 2020](#), [BBC Yemen timeline](#), [Reuters timeline](#) and [ACLED](#) resources for more.

Key Statistics (2017-2020)

Figure I. Population with acute educational needs ^{A1}



An estimated **24.1 million people are in need**, with **14.3 million in acute need**. 4.7 million children (<18 years old) require educational support.^{A4}

See [2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview \(HNO\) report](#) for more.

By late 2017, **256 schools had been destroyed** and **1,413 schools damaged** by air strikes and shelling. **National school closures began in March 2020** for the COVID-19 pandemic.^{A5}

See [GCPEA Education Under Attack 2018 Yemen profile](#) and the [UNESCO COVID-19 Educational Disruption and Response](#) resource for more.

In 2019, **128 humanitarian organizations** were based within Yemen, including **19 with an education focus**.^{A6}

See [UN OCHA dashboard on organizations implementing humanitarian activities in Yemen](#) for more.

US\$335.9 million in funds provided in 2020 so far. In 2019, 85.88% of the US\$4.19 billion HRP was funded.^{A7}

See [UN OCHA Financial Tracking Service Yemen resources](#), including [2020](#) and [2019 snapshots](#), for

There are **3,647,250 IDPs** in Yemen as of November 2018. **More than one million are under age 18**.^{A2}

See [IOM resources](#), especially [DTM visualizations](#), and [IDMC estimates on displaced youth](#) for more.

There are **280,199 refugees in Yemen** as of January 2020. Approximately **19% are children under age 18**.^{A3}

See [UNHCR Operational Portal resources on Yemen](#) for more.^{B3}

How have the crisis and impact on education evolved over time?

Figure 2. Conflict events: Attacks against civilians, battles, and remote violence (ACLED)^{B1}

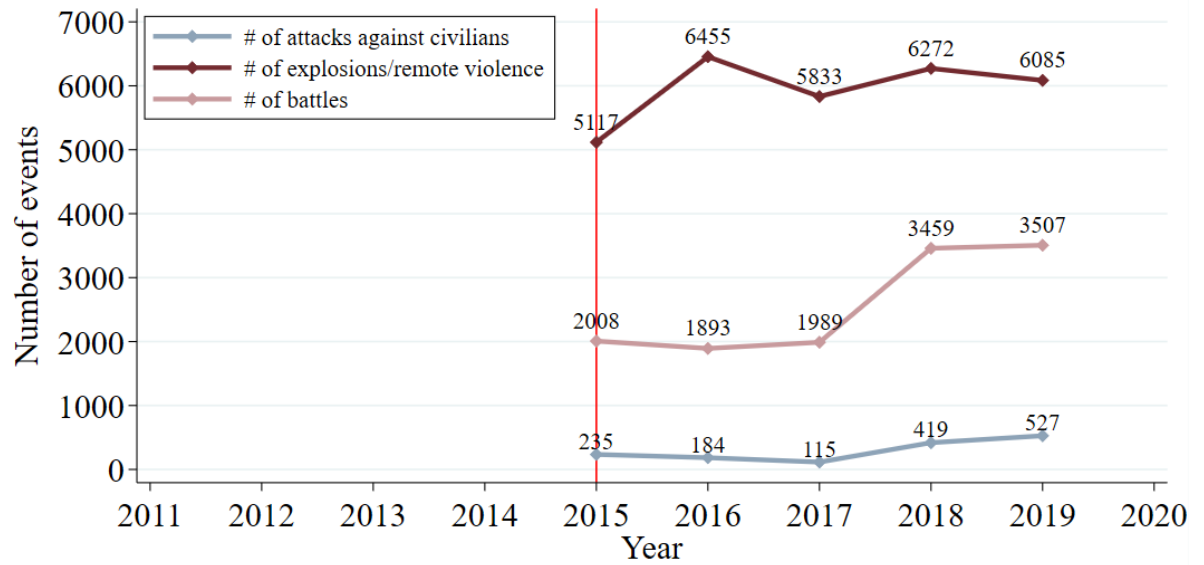


Figure 3. Out of school children of primary and secondary school ages (UIS)^{B2} and children in need of education assistance (HNO reports 2014-2019)^{B3}

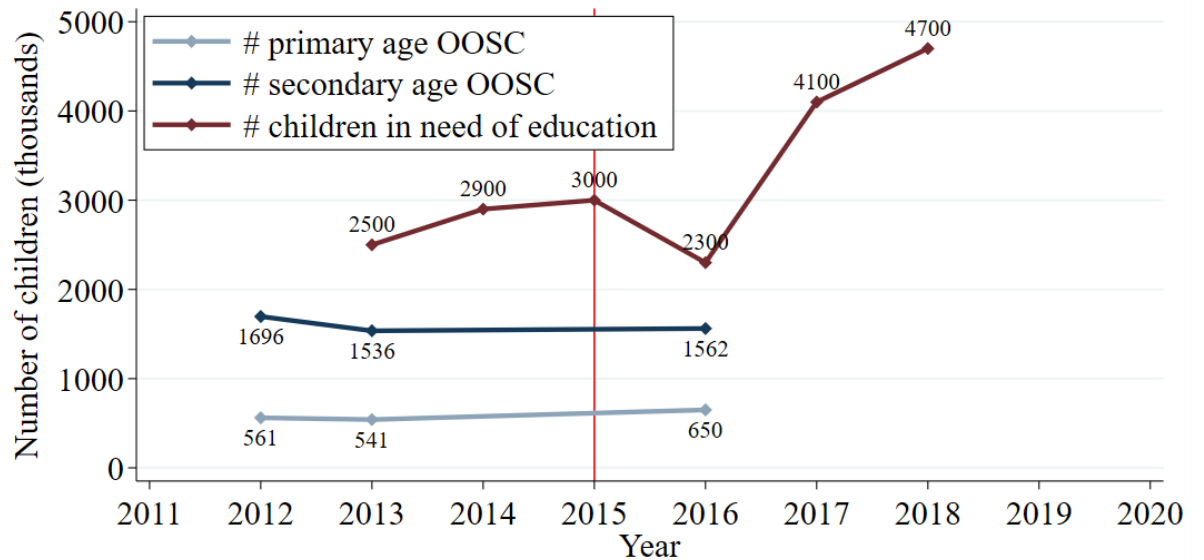
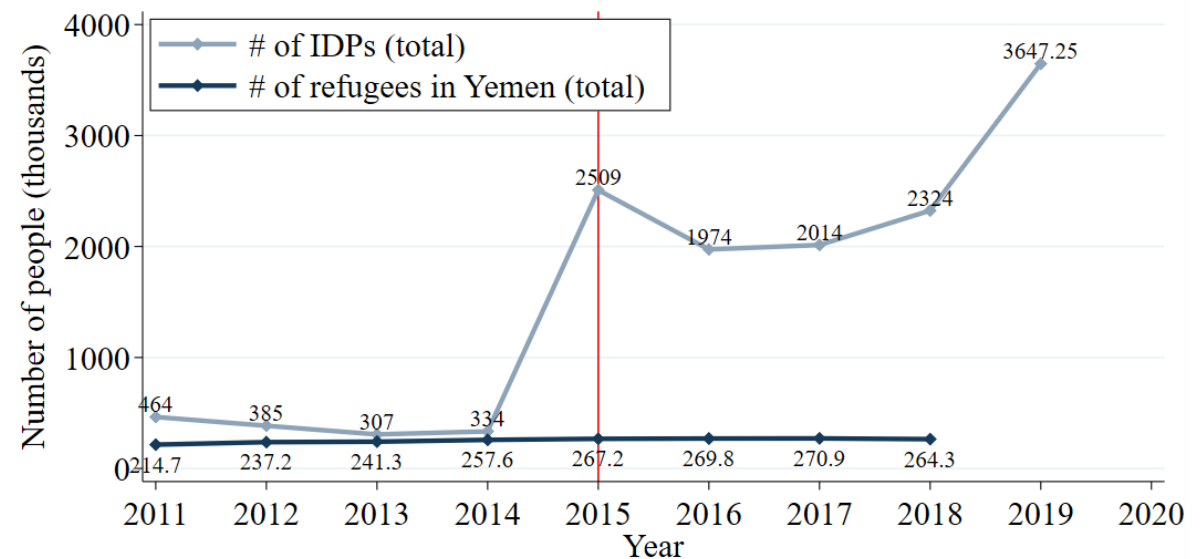


Figure 4. Yemeni IDP population (IDMC/IOM DTM)^{B4} and refugee population in Yemen (UNHCR)^{B5}



Publicly available data resources for Yemen education and conflict

Data source	Key resources and tools	Illustrative indicators	Data coverage Annual (●)/Monthly (*) National (●)/Subnational (*)
Humanitarian education response data and resources (available during conflict years)			
UN OCHA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Humanitarian Needs Overviews (HNO) ➤ Humanitarian Response Plans (HRP) ➤ Humanitarian Programme Cycle Microsite 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Population in need: # of people in need; in need of education assistance ➤ Population reached: # of people reached with education assistance ➤ Contextual information: displacement, resource needs, access, partners 	2014-2020 ● ●
UN OCHA/Yemen Cluster	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Yemen 3Ws ➤ 2018 Yemen Multi-Cluster Location Assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Operational & partner presence: # and location of education partners, types of activities being implemented ➤ Contextual information: # of IDPs, returnees, refugees; needs by sector 	At least 2015-2019 * ● *
Yemen National Education Cluster	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Live 2020 Yemen Education Cluster 4W Matrix ➤ PDF Humanitarian Dashboards ➤ HDX - Yemen Education Cluster 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Education response: # of children targeted, # of children reached, education response indicators (i.e. # of children provided with school supplies) 	2014-2019 * ● *
UN OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Yemen 2020 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Funding: humanitarian response funding requirements, funding provided, funding provided to the education sector, funding provided by donor 	2010-2020 * ●
Population movement and forced displacement data and resources			
UNHCR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ UNHCR Population Statistics Reference Database (PopStats) ➤ UNHCR Global Focus - Yemen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Populations of concern: # of refugees, # of IDPs, # of returnees, # of asylum seekers (by status determination)—all by country of residence & country of origin 	At least 2000-2018 ● ●
UNHCR Operational Portal: Yemen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Document Library 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Contextual information: # of Yemeni refugees by location in the region 	2015-2019 * ● *
IDMC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Global Internal Displacement Database (GIDD) ➤ Country Profile: Yemen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ IDP populations: # of IDPs, # of new displacements due to conflict ➤ Country profile: key figures and overview; risks of future displacement; drivers, patterns, and impacts of population movement; analytical reports (2017, 2018) 	2008-2018 ● ●
IOM DTM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Yemen Overview ➤ Displacement Data Portal: Yemen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ IDP and returnee populations: total # of IDPs/returnees, IDP/returnee movement, IDPs/returnees by location 	2015-2019 * ● *
IOM's Global Migration Data Analysis Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Migration Data Portal: Yemen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Migration and forced displacement: total population (UN DESA), # of international migrants (UN DESA), # of refugees (UNHCR), # of IDPs (IDMC), youth unemployment rate (ILO) 	At least 2000-2019 ● ●

Data source	Key resources and tools	Illustrative indicators	Data coverage Annual (●)/Monthly (*) National (●)/Subnational (*)
Conflict data and resources			
<u>Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP)</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset ➤ Country Profile: Yemen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Armed conflict: years of conflict, type of conflict, location, actors involved ➤ Country profile: provides conflict summary and key figures (i.e. # of fatalities) by actor, type of violence, and location 	At least 2000-2018 ● ●
<u>ACLED</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ ACLED Database ➤ Data Dashboard: Yemen ➤ Analysis: Yemen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Conflict events: # of conflict events, type of conflict events, locations, dates, actors involved, # of fatalities ➤ Data dashboard: # of conflict events by type, # of fatalities ➤ Analysis: reports and briefs on conflict in Yemen 	2015-2020 * ● *
<u>GCPEA</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Education Under Attack 2018: Yemen ➤ HDX Education Under Attack 2018 datasets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Attacks on education: # of attacks on schools, students, and education personnel, military use of education facilities, attacks on higher education 	At least 2013-2017 ● ● *
<u>Yemen Data Project</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Data: Airwar, Political Violence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Airwar: # of air raids, target location, actors involved, # of fatalities (totals, women, children), # of injured people (totals, women, children) ➤ Political Violence: see ACLED 	2015-2020 * *
<u>HDX Education Insecurity (ACLED, Twitter)</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Education Insecurity Tweet Counts ➤ Education Insecurity Events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Social media: # of tweets about education insecurity (Twitter) ➤ Education insecurity: # of education insecurity events (ACLED) 	2019-2020 * *
International educational development data and resources (mostly available pre-conflict)			
<u>UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS)</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ UIS.Stat ➤ Yemen country page 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ School access, retention, completion: intake, enrollment, repetition, dropout, completion, survival, transition, OOSC, pupils, attendance ➤ Educational resources: Schools, teachers, pupils, pupil-teacher ratio, trained teachers as a % of all, public expenditure per pupil ➤ Literacy and learning outcomes: literacy rate (15-24 years old) 	At least 2000-2016 (multiple gaps) ● ●
<u>Household surveys</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ MICS 2006 ➤ DHS 2013 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ School access: attainment, attendance, transition, completion ➤ Literacy: literacy rate (15-24 years old) 	2000-2013 (~5-year gaps) ● ● *
<u>International large-scale assessments</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ TIMSS 2007, 2011 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Learning outcomes: mathematics and science 	2007, 2011 ● ●
<u>International education databases/data aggregators</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ World Inequality Database on Education (WIDE) ➤ World Bank EdStats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ School access, retention, completion: intake, enrollment, repetition, dropout, completion, survival, transition, OOSC, pupils, attendance ➤ Educational resources: Schools, teachers, pupils, pupil-teacher ratio, trained teachers as a % of all, public expenditure per pupil ➤ Literacy and learning outcomes: literacy rate (15-24 years old) 	Coverage reflects availability from primary data sources, especially those listed above.

Acronyms

3W	Who's doing What, Where
ACLED	Armed Conflict Location and Event Data
AQAP	Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
DTM	Displacement Tracking Matrix
EMIS	Education Management Information System
FSMT	Formal Site Monitoring Tool
FTS	Financial Tracking Service
GCPEA	Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack
GIDD	Global Internal Displacement Database
HNO	Humanitarian Needs Overview
HPC	Humanitarian Programming Cycle
HRP	Humanitarian Response Plan
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IS, ISIS, ISIL, Daesh	Islamic State
MCNA	Multi-Cluster Needs Assessment
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
OOSC	Out of school children
STC	Southern Transitional Council
UCDP	Uppsala Conflict Data Program
UIS	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
UN DESA	UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UN OCHA	UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UNHCR	UN High Commissioner for Refugees
UNHCR PopStats	UNHCR Population Statistics Reference Database
USIP	United States Institute of Peace
WIDE	World Inequality Database for Education

Further reading

[GCPEA. Education Under Attack 2018: Yemen. 2018](#)

[Global Education Monitoring Report. Migration, displacement and education: Building bridges, Not walls. 2019.](#)

[Human Rights Watch. Yemen. In World Report 2020. 2020.](#)

[IDMC. Twice invisible: Accounting for internally displaced children. 2019.](#)

[Save the Children. Five years of war in Yemen: More than half of children feel sad and depressed.](#)

[UN OCHA. Humanitarian Response Plan 2019. February 2019.](#)

[War Child. Being kept behind: The impact of conflict on the education of Yemen's children: UK. 2019](#)

Data notes

❖ Resource updated multiple times per year. ◆ Resource updated annually. ✕ Resource updated occasionally, not every year.

A1 Estimates on the number of people with acute educational needs are taken from the 2019 Humanitarian Needs Overview dataset available at <https://data.humdata.org/dataset/yemen-humanitarian-needs-overview>. Shapefile data taken from <https://data.humdata.org/dataset/yemen-admin-boundaries>. ◆

A2 IDP estimates come from the International Office for Migration's DTM Yemen page available at <https://displacement.iom.int/yemen>. Data accessed on 24 April 2020. ❖ Estimates on numbers of displaced children are taken from p. 11 of the 2019 IDMC report *Twice Invisible: Accounting for Internally Displaced Children*. ✕

A3 Information on refugees and asylum seekers in Yemen comes from UNHCR Operations Portal on refugee situations in Yemen available at <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/country/yem>. Estimates on percentage of children are based on the demographic information in the population pyramid in that resource. Data accessed on 27 April 2020. Data last updated in resource on 31 January 2020. ❖

A4 Estimates on need come from the 2019 HNO report available at <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/yemen/document/yemen-2019-humanitarian-needs-overview-0>. ◆

A5 Numbers of destroyed and damaged schools come from GCPEA Education Under Attack 2018 Yemen profile available at http://protectingeducation.org/sites/default/files/documents/eua2018_yemen.pdf. They are based on data from UNOCHA. The date that Yemen moved to nation-wide school closures comes from the "covid_impact_education.csv" resource available from UNESCO at <https://en.unesco.org/covid19/educationresponse>. ✕

A6 Numbers of humanitarian organizations operating in Yemen come from the OCHA Humanitarian Programming Cycle Interactive Microsite on organizations presence as of December 2019 available at https://hpc.ochayemen.org/PMR_2019. ❖

A7 Funding data for 2020 available at <https://fts.unocha.org/countries/248/summary/2020>. Funding data for 2019 available at <https://fts.unocha.org/appeals/675/summary>. Data accessed 27 April 2020. ❖

B1 Information on attacks against civilians, battles, and remote violence comes from the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data (ACLED) Project. Event level data accessed from <https://www.acledata.com/data/> on 6 April 2020 and aggregated as annual estimates. Data had last been updated by ACLED on 28 March 2020. ❖ Although ACLED updates its data regularly, ACLED data is updated only once per year, at the beginning of the year, in this snapshot, which uses annual conflict estimates.

B2 Information on out of school children of primary and secondary school ages comes from the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS). Data accessed from <http://data.uis.unesco.org/> on 6 April 2020. ❖

B3 Numbers of children in need of education are taken from Yemen HNO reports for 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019. Because estimates of need published in HNO reports are based on data from the previous year, we label estimates for the previous year. For example, data from the 2019 report is labeled as 2018 in the chart. ◆

B4 Information on Yemeni IDP population comes from the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) database, accessed 6 April 2020, for 2011-2018, available at <https://www.internal-displacement.org/database/displacement-data>. Estimates for Yemeni IDPs in 2019 come from the IOM DTM Round 37 report available at <https://displacement.iom.int/reports/yemen-%E2%80%94-displacement-report-round-37-march-2019?close=true>. Data accessed on 6 April 2020. ❖

B5 Numbers of refugees in Yemen are taken from UNHCR Population Statistics database available at http://popstats.unhcr.org/en/persons_of_concern. Data accessed on 6 April 2020. Data last updated in resource on 31 December 2019. ❖

Endnotes

ⁱ "Yemen crisis: Who is fighting who?" BBC. 30 January 2018. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-29319423>

ⁱⁱ "Yemen's Central Bank moves to Aden. So what's next? 24 September 2016. <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20160924-yemens-central-bank-moves-to-aden-so-whats-next/>

ⁱⁱⁱ Maher Farrukh & Zimmerman K. *Yemen Crisis Situation Report*. Critical Threats. March 1, 2018. <https://www.criticalthreats.org/briefs/yemen-situation-report/2018-yemen-crisis-situation-report-march-1>

^{iv} Afrah Nasser. COVID-19 in Yemen – A Perfect Storm. Human Rights Watch. April 14, 2020. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/04/14/covid-19-yemen-perfect-storm>.

About USAID: The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is an independent agency of the United States federal government that is primarily responsible for administering civilian foreign aid and development assistance. Support for this snapshot was provided through USAID's Middle East Education Research, Training, and Support (MEERS) project. More information about USAID is available at www.usaid.gov.