

2024 FACTSHEET Yemen



Context

The humanitarian crisis unfolding in Yemen due to the ongoing armed conflict has reached unprecedented levels, impacting millions of people in dire need. The staggering statistics speak for themselves – In 2024, 18.2 million people need humanitarian assistance and protection services, 4.5 million people remain displaced, many of whom have experienced multiple displacements over several years. 1,675 civilian casualties were reported in Yemen as a direct result of armed violence in 2023. Armed violence was responsible for 284 child casualties in Yemen in 2023. For the third consecutive year, explosive remnants of warfare (ERW) were responsible for more child casualties than any other type of armed violence, accounting for 152 child casualties, 54% of the total child casualties reported.

This multi-decade armed conflict has resulted in extensive Explosive Ordnance (EO) contamination throughout the country. The current conflict has intensified this contamination in scale and complexity, with the complete extent yet to be determined. Landmines, improvised landmines, improvised explosive devices (IEDs), cluster munitions, and various conventional EO employed by ground forces contribute to this hazardous contamination. This extensive EO contamination poses a daily threat to the lives of Yemeni civilians, obstructs humanitarian access, and creates challenges for effective programming and aid delivery.

The Republic of Yemen signed the Mine Ban Treaty (MBT) on 4 December 1997 and has requested multiple extensions for their mine clearance deadlines. The most recent extension, granted at the Fourth Review Conference of the States Parties in Oslo, Norway, sets a new deadline for 1 March 2023. Yemen is now planning to submit a fourth extension request, proposing a new deadline of 1 March 2027.

These ongoing efforts to address the EO contamination and the humanitarian challenges faced require continued international support and collaboration. Through collective action and sustained commitment, we can strive towards alleviating the suffering of the Yemeni people and paving the way for a more secure and prosperous future.

PROGRAMME

In 2017, Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) conducted an initial assessment visit to Yemen and subsequently engaged in a collaborative project with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to train mine detection dogs (MDDs) and dog handlers for the Yemeni Executive Mine Action Centre (YEMAC). This project enabled NPA to establish its mine action operational capacities while also supporting YEMAC, the main national mine action operator in Yemen.

NPA's support to YEMAC has taken various forms, including equipping 14 demining teams, training 12 mine-detection dogs and their handlers for humanitarian demining operations, and providing ongoing training and capacity development to strengthen the use of dogs in demining operations.

Another significant aspect of NPA's partnership with YEMAC is training 20 seconded team members on Explosive Ordnance Risk Education and Conflict Preparedness & Protection (EORE/CPP) starting in 2022. NPA supported the seconded EORE team from YEMAC in implementing EORE and CPP sessions by providing technical and financial assistance. This approach is particularly valuable in active conflict environments as it enhances public awareness of ERW threats, reduces associated risks, and provides high-quality EORE training to civilians.

Following the successful completion of legal registration and necessary accreditations, NPA began directly implementing

mine action activities in March 2022. The program currently deploys 4 CPP/EORE teams in Al Hudaidah, Marib, Taiz, and Ad Dali governates, 3 NTS survey teams in Aden and Taiz, 20

deminers, 3 medics, and 10 mine-detection dogs and their handlers to support the clearance teams.

Overall programme updates

- The country office in Aden has been registered and operational since August 2022
- NPA-trained MDDs and dog handlers for YEMAC
- 12 mine detection dogs deployed to Yemen
- 14 YEMAC operators were trained in November 2021; 12 of them have been deployed from March 2022 as handlers and 2 as team leaders (with the total capacity deployed by August 2023)
- 20 EORE/ CPP team members trained in August 2022 and operational since mid-August 2022
- 44,801 people reached with EORE/ CPP training
- NPA has ongoing operations in Aden, Abyan, Taiz, Ad Dali, Marib, and Al Hudaidah
- The programme's next step is to expand operational activities in Non-technical Survey, EORE, with technical survey and clearance

2023 operational results

- 2184 sqm of hazardous area processed through clearance and technical survey
- 55 Deminer, 12 dog handlers, and 8 medics have been trained on basic demining for five weeks starting from November 2023
- 26,303 people reached with EORE/ CPP training
- 8,000 EORE / CPP posters and 12 billboards have been distributed and installed in 4 governates across Yemen
- 8,000 Children Emergency Contact Cards were delivered to boys and girls in Maqbanah, Hays, Harib, and Qaatabh

DONORS and FUNDING

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Contact

Anthony Wyles, Country Director:

antwyl869@npaid.org

Jon Arne Andersen Wilhelmsen, Advisor

JonWil846@npaid.org

Jon Juul Jensen, Regional Director

jonjen983@npaid.org

MORE INFORMATION

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NPA/ YEMAC male instructors delivering an EORE and CPP session to a group of students in Hays District, Al Hudaidah Governorate