

IOM YEMEN QUARTERLY UPDATE

QUARTER 3 JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2021



A child migrant during a regular health check-up carried out by IOM mobile medical team in Ma'rib © IOM 2021/E. Al-Oqabi

SITUATION OVERVIEW

In the third quarter of 2021, millions in Yemen continued to face the world's worst humanitarian crisis. The continued depreciation of the Yemeni Riyal triggered rapid inflation prompting the prices for basic goods to soar across the south and in Ma'rib, worsening the risk of famine and leaving many unable to meet their basic needs. On the other hand, an uptake in clashes and civil unrest resulted in many being forced to flee with little means to survive. The displacement situation in Ma'rib in particular greatly deteriorated, with [nearly 10,000 households being displaced](#) in September alone while simultaneously an increase was observed in returnees from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). Despite the challenging environment the conflict poses, migrant arrivals to Yemen increased by the end of the quarter, with over 6,000 arriving between July and September. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Yemen is providing essential assistance and services to address the needs internally displaced persons (IDPs), migrants and other vulnerable and crisis affected populations in the country.

Civil unrest in parts of the country related to the economic crisis and difficult living conditions, coupled with an escalation in clashes in locations such as Lahj, Al Baydah and Shabwah continued to be drivers of displacement, heightened insecurity and humanitarian concerns. The hostilities are in parallel to several political developments, notably the appointment of new UN Special Envoy to Yemen, Hans Grundberg, who began his term in September and the return of the IRG Prime Minister Saeed and cabinet member's to Yemen.

Between July and September 2021, Yemen faced a spike in COVID-19 cases with over 2,000 reported, prompting local authorities to reimpose certain restrictions and encourage the public to adhere to prevention measures. Vaccination efforts continued, with the country receiving over 500,000 vaccine doses during the third quarter through the global COVAX vaccine sharing programme, in which over 355,000 doses have been administered in Internationally Recognized Government (IRG) controlled areas. IOM continued advocating for more equitable access to vaccines for migrants and IDPs. By the end of the third quarter, IOM was able to secure doses for migrants in the south of the country and began raising awareness among migrant populations on the opportunity to be vaccinated.

MA'RIB DISPLACEMENT CRISIS

By the end of August, a significant escalation of conflict was observed in Ma'rib, Yemen's most conflict-affected governorate. Among the 34 displacement sites managed by IOM alone, an 11 percent increase in IDP arrivals during the third quarter has further heightened the urgency to respond to the needs of crisis affected populations in the governorate. By the end of the quarter, local authorities estimated that nearly 1 million IDPs are hosted in Ma'rib, and IOM and partners estimated that at least 190,000 of the most vulnerable individuals are living in 148 IDP sites across the governorate.

In September, increased fighting particularly in the south of Ma'rib [led to the displacement of nearly 10,000 individuals](#), the highest rate recorded in Ma'rib in a single month this year. During the third quarter, many began moving from areas previously considered safe, such as Sirwah district where at least eight displacement sites have become desolate due to increased conflict in the area. The majority of affected persons fled to safer areas in Ma'rib city and Ma'rib Al Wadi, settled with relatives in nearby communities, unfinished dwellings or displacement sites where overcrowded conditions, lack of livelihood opportunities severe lack of resources increases their vulnerabilities.

Many routes have been cut off – obstructing the movement of people and essential supplies. The Al-Abdiyah district, one of the largest in the governorate, has become completely isolated, leaving the estimated 31,500 individuals residing there with little to no access to essential supplies. Nearly 29,000 are affected by similar challenges in Harib, Al Jubah and Rahabah districts, where the destruction of bridges and roads has made access to basic services extremely difficult. In addition, heavy rains at the end of July destroyed shelters and belongings of over 800 households in Ma'rib Alwadi.

As the situation shows no signs of improvement, IOM and humanitarian actors are advocating for an end to hostilities to avert a humanitarian disaster. IOM continues to expand its response to meet the urgent needs of vulnerable populations in Ma'rib, having covered 34 sites hosting a total of 17,457 households during the reporting period with a team of 18 international, 246 national, 200 community mobilizers and enumerators. IOM provides emergency health care consultations, access to safe water, multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA), NFI kits and supports rehabilitation works in the governorates. The team is leading response activities, prioritizing critical needs assessments and registering newly arrived IDPs for assistance through the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM). Together with local authorities, the Organization is coordinating response efforts in Ma'rib through its leadership of the CCCM and Health sub-national clusters, co-leadership of the WASH sub-national cluster, Ma'rib-based focal point of the protection cluster, and as S-NFI Contingency Pipeline Manager.

For more on the developing situation in Marib, please refer to IOM Yemen's monthly updates on the situation, for [July](#), [August](#) and [September](#).



A newly displaced woman collects clean water from an IOM-supported water tanker in Ma'rib © IOM 2021/E. Al-Oqabi

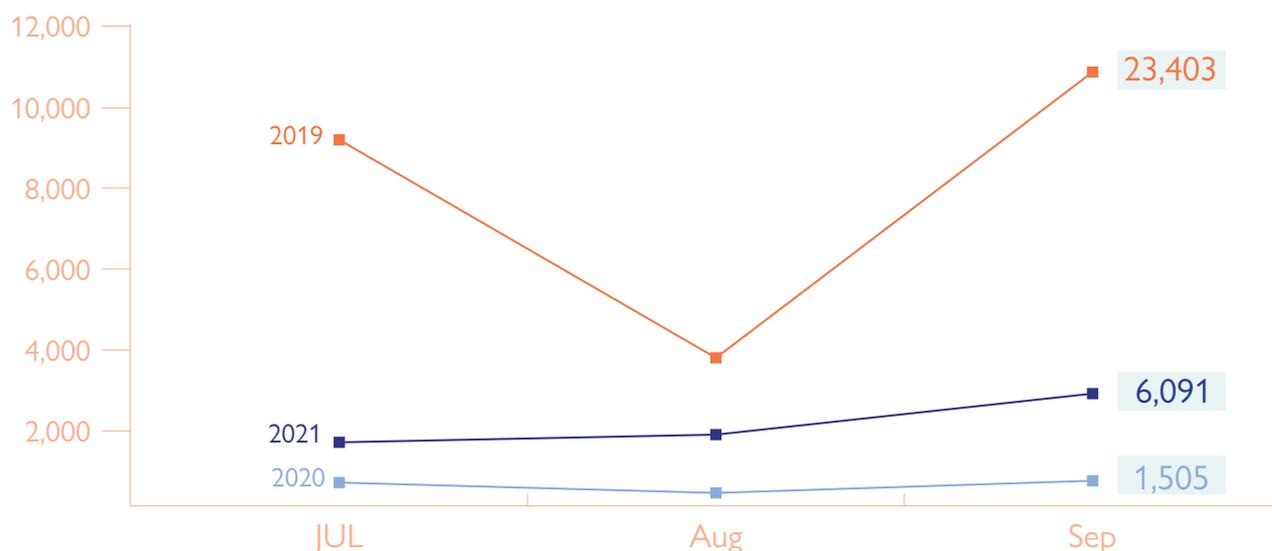
MIGRANTS IN YEMEN

For migrants seeking to reach the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), Yemen continues to be a key transit point. IOM’s Flow Monitoring activities implemented as a part of the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) provides key data on migrant arrivals and returning Yemeni nationals. The mission expanded these activities in the third quarter through establishing a flow monitoring point (FMP) in Hadramawt near the KSA border. IOM DTM estimates that 6,091 migrants arrived in Yemen between July and September 2021, with an estimated total of 16,349 new migrant arrivals since the beginning of the year. Although arrivals along the traditional route from Djibouti to Lahj slightly slowed in July and August due to difficult weather conditions, by the end of the quarter an increase was observed as weather conditions improved.



The majority of migrant arrivals continue to be men and young boys from Ethiopia and Somalia in search of economic opportunities in KSA. However, migrants often become stranded in the Yemen, facing dire conditions without little to no access to food, water, shelter and essential services. Migrants report cases of abuse and exploitation by smugglers, with women and children notably prone to forced labor and sexual violence. Migrants also face long periods of detention in centers where humanitarian actors have little to no access. IOM estimates that at least 5,000 are currently detained in the country, while tens of thousands have been pushed across the frontlines. In addition, migrants face further risks near border areas, where cross border hostilities result in civilian casualties. In particular, during in the Sa’dah governate, [conflict experts](#) reported the highest number of civilian casualties than any other governate for the second consecutive quarter this year, many of whom are suspected to be migrants.

By the end of the quarter, a notable increase was observed in the number of Yemeni returnees from neighboring KSA. Among the estimated 10,050 returnees who have arrived since January 2021, nearly 9,000 returned during the third quarter alone. In September, reports indicated that Yemeni nationals are finding it difficult to remain in KSA amid increased visa restrictions. It is expected that the rate of Yemeni nationals returning to the country will increase as these restrictions persist, raising humanitarian concerns as remittances from these individuals are a lifeline for many and returnees face the deteriorating situation in the country.



MIGRANT VOICE

Fatma, Ma'rib:

"I came from Ethiopia to Yemen in hopes of reaching Saudi Arabia, where I could work and improve my living conditions. As soon as we arrived in Ma'rib, the smugglers stopped us and asked for more money on top of what we paid them. Of course, I didn't not have any more money, so they threatened to kill me, and they filmed that and sent it to my family. I had already spent all my family's savings on this trip and there was no way they could afford sending more money. The smugglers then told me they have no choice but to sell me to a man, who will become my husband. I became a housekeeper for my husband who was working on a farm. The first two months were fine but then he changed and became aggressive, and I was living in constant fear. One day I was beaten and left unconscious near the farm. A passerby took me to the hospital and saved my life. Soon after that, IOM knew about my case, and they have been providing me with healthcare, psychosocial support and essential life needs. I am feeling better now but I hope no other woman will have to go through what I went through."

HELPING MIGRANTS RETURN HOME

IOM continued prioritizing [Voluntary Humanitarian Return \(VHR\)](#) flights, which provide a safe passage to home for many migrants. By the end of this quarter, IOM facilitated the voluntary returns of 1,144 stranded migrants – of whom 1,132 were Ethiopian – from Aden, bringing the total number of Ethiopian migrants who were assisted through VHR to 1,457 since March 2021.



1,507

Ethiopian and stranded migrants of other nationalities assisted through VHR

IOM also expanded protection services through establishing a new Migrant Response Point (MRP) in Ma'rib city and protection desk in Al Jufainah IDP site, the largest displacement site in Ma'rib. During the third quarter, a total of 6,779 migrants received case management, non-food items kits and referral services in Sana'a, Aden and Ma'rib. Since the beginning of 2021, over 48,000 vulnerable persons have benefitted from critical protection services.



Stranded Ethiopian migrants prepare for their journey home from Aden © IOM 2021/E. Al-Oqabi

STRENGTHENING OPERATIONS IN THE WEST COAST REGION

IOM continues to expand its operations on the west coast region to address critical needs of displaced and host populations, where severe gaps in humanitarian programming have left crisis affected individuals with little to no access to essential services. In the third quarter, as a result of clashes in east At Tuhayta, hundreds of newly displaced families have arrived to IDP sites, further exacerbating humanitarian needs.

Over the course of the third quarter, IOM utilized an integrated approach to address multi-sectoral needs including CCCM, SNFI, WASH, Health and cash-based activities. Between July and September 2021, IOM provided 8,750,000 litres of safe drinking water, installed 28 water points, distributed nearly 500 emergency shelter kits, conducted nearly 9,000 health consultations, and provided over 3,500 households with multipurpose cash assistance. IOM also supported the construction of a water tower, and improvement of the COVID-19 testing lab and the Diarrhea Treatment Unit (DTU) at Al Makha hospital.

IOM's operational presence on the west coast is based in Al Makha, where more than 40 national staff and five international staff are present to support IOM's multi-sectoral operations. In the next quarter, IOM aims to further expand its response in the region, through supporting additional sites and scaling up its cash-based interventions (CBI) and protection activities.



Children collect clean water from a water point in Ta'iz ©IOM 2021 /M. Mohammed

ENHANCING ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL SERVICES

Many in Yemen are affected by limited access to essential health and education services as a result of damage to key infrastructure. IOM supports the rehabilitation and construction of schools, health facilities and other infrastructure to restore access to services in Lahj, Aden, Ma'rib and Hadramawt. By the end of the third quarter, IOM completed 19 basic infrastructure projects and works were ongoing on 31 additional projects. As the school year began across Yemen, IOM completed the construction and rehabilitation and furnishing of 13 schools in Lahj and Ma'rib. These included the construction of Al Jeel School in Ma'rib, which will provide education opportunity to more than 2,500 students, including conflict-affected children in Al Jufainah site and inhabitants of the west part of Ma'rib city.

In addition to infrastructure construction and rehabilitation support, IOM also provides medical supplies, equipment, financial incentives, and training to healthcare workers. Between July and September, the 27 IOM-supported health facilities and 11 mobile medical teams in Aden, Lahj, Sana'a, Shabwah, Ta'iz, Al Hodeidah and Ma'rib provided 144,648 health consultations to crisis-affected populations. In Ma'rib, IOM completed rehabilitation and construction works at Al Wadhah hospital enabling the facility to provide 24/7 health services. In rural Ta'iz, IOM rehabilitated Alroos Hospital and supported the addition of an obstetrician, gynecologist and seven midwives to provide enhanced maternal, reproductive and child health services for up to 70,000 patients. The organization also continued to expand support to Al Makha hospital in the west coast to address the rising cases of acute watery diarrhea, providing treatment to nearly 1,000 have been treated. During the reporting period, training sessions were conducted for 48 healthcare workers on topics ranging from psychological first aid to neonatal resuscitation, in addition to sessions on Integrated Community Case Management (ICCM) of Malaria for 38 health workers and onsite training for 63 medical staff on the National Anti-Malarial Drug Policy and Treatment guidelines of severe cases.

Infrastructure damage also has a severe impact on the country's water and sanitation systems. IOM's WASH activities prioritizes interventions to support displaced persons, migrants, host communities, people living in cholera or malaria-affected areas, and those most at risk of contracting COVID-19 or other infectious diseases. In the third quarter of the year, IOM provided over 140,000 individuals with safe drinking water through water trucking and nearly 21,000 with enhanced sanitation systems. In addition, hygiene promotion activities such as handwashing, solid waste disposal and proper use of latrines, reached over 36,000 individuals.

IN FOCUS: IMPROVING ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS: AL AROOS HOSPITAL

Ta'iz – Years of conflict in Yemen has resulted in a near collapse of already fragile public infrastructure,

Yemen's health-care system is not exempt from the deterioration of public services, especially in rural areas of the country. Only half of the health facilities in Yemen are fully or partially functioning, and many of these still lack basic requirements such as fuel, water, essential medical supplies and qualified health staff.

"In the past, health centres and hospitals were not fully equipped. It could take up to an hour to get a sick person to the nearest hospital where they could get the care they needed and the fees were often far too expensive," explained Fouad, who lives with his elderly parents, wife and children in a high, rough mountainous area in Ta'iz governorate.

Alroos Hospital was the only available health facility near Fouad's home, but the hospital was barely functioning with limited resources and could not meet the surging demand for health care in the district. "The hospital lacked the qualified doctors, had no medicine and did not even have a proper a delivery room," said Fouad.

Like many other health-care facilities in war-torn Yemen, Alroos Hospital was suffering from severe shortages in health workers and supplies. The hospital was really just a simple health centre with limited maternal and neonatal services.

To meet the crucial need for health care in Saber Al Mawadem, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) partnered with Qatar Charity to upgrade Alroos Hospital and improve the health services provided to the rural community in that area. "IOM supported the rehabilitation of the facility and supplied it with medical supplies and medicine so the hospital could provide appropriate health care to the community," said Dr. Ahmed, IOM health focal point in Ta'iz.

IOM's support also included training midwives and health workers, as well as providing financial incentives for all medical and administrative staff to overcome the shortage of staff in the hospital. Now, an additional obstetrician, gynecologist and seven midwives are available to receive patients at all times of the day, and women can receive antenatal, delivery and post-natal health care services as well as consultation and treatment for gynecological conditions at all times. Now, more than 70,000 people can access primary and secondary healthcare in Saber Al Mawadem district.



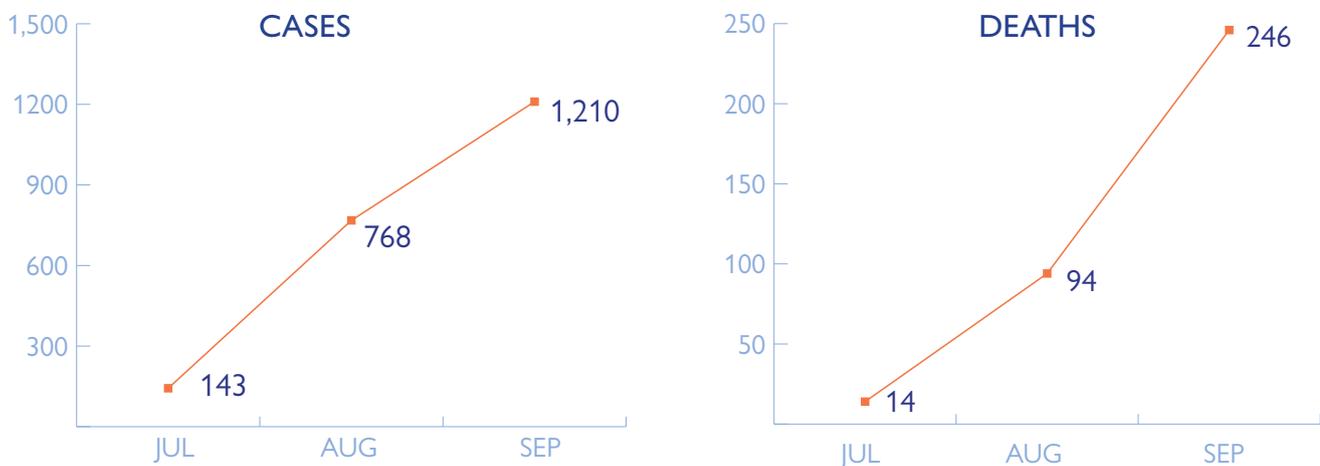
A baby receives medicine from an IOM health staff in Saber Al Mawadem district in Ta'iz ©IOM 2021/Majed Mohammed

COVID-19 RESPONSE

9,214 Reported cases | 1,743 Reported deaths | 308,025 Reported Vaccinations

During the third quarter, COVID-19 cases spiked across the country with 2,121 cases being reported by the end of September. The increase in cases makes ongoing vaccination efforts even more crucial, as the country's health sector remains severely weakened by conflict and economic crisis. IOM works with local authorities and other humanitarian actors as a part of the COVID-19 response through support to increase surveillance, awareness raising, boost testing capacity, ensure the continuation of essential health services and capacity building training to public health workers. To further testing capacity, IOM established a laboratory at the Aden Migrant Response Point (MRP), in which over 1,400 have been administered for migrants since August 2021. As a result of advocacy efforts with the Ministry of Health and the Technical Working Group on Vaccinations, IOM was able to secure plans to provide vaccination opportunities to migrant populations in the South. In the final quarter of 2021, IOM intends to begin administering doses to migrants at the MRP and an IOM supported health centre in Aden. Advocacy efforts will also continue to provide access to vaccinations for migrants in Ma'rib.

REPORTED COVID-19 CASES

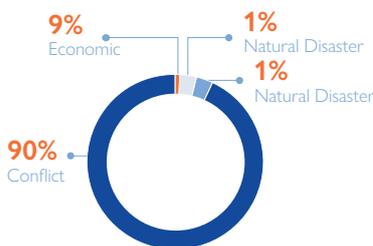


An IOM team member carries out a shelter-to-shelter COVID-19 sensitization campaign in Ma'rib ©IOM 2021/E. Al Oqabi

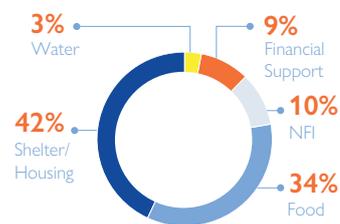
DISPLACEMENT TRENDS

IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) utilizes the Rapid Displacement Tracking tool to monitor the number of Yemenis displaced internally on a daily basis to better inform humanitarian programming. DTM publishes reports on the number, location, reasons for displacement and needs of displaced individuals throughout the country. IOM estimates that over 70,000 individuals have been displaced at least once since January 2021, among whom over 29,000 during the third quarter. The majority (93%) of those displaced during the reporting period fled due to conflict, a slight increase (4%) from the previous quarter. Interviews with IDPs also indicated economic reasons (3%) such as unemployment and unpaid salaries and 3% due to natural disaster. The majority of displaced populations were in Ma'rib, Shabwah and Lahj. Among the immediate needs reported, the most frequently cited were shelter or housing (42%), followed by food (34%), non-food items (10%), financial support (9%), and water (3%).

Reasons for Displacement



Top 5 Needs of IDPs



During the third quarter, IOM DTM completed that Areas Assessment pilot in Ma'rib governate. The tool is used to collect up to date data on IDP, migrant and returnee populations to provide an overview of areas of origin and displacement or return, priority needs and shelter types. Through data collected in seven governorates in Ma'rib, results highlighted that the needs of IDPs in the governate have changed since as more reported shelter as their principal need, as compared to food being the main reported in 2018. Among IDP respondents, 35 percent more were living in emergency shelters as compared to 2018. Individuals originating from Ethiopia represented 79 percent of all migrants in which food was reported as their primary need.

IOM DTM also continued to lead the implementation of the multi-cluster location assessment (MCLA). The MCLA provides an evidenced-based needs analysis to support humanitarian partners tailor their activities to the needs of the most vulnerable populations. Once completed, the MCLA will provide nationwide data and evidence-based findings for the Humanitarian Needs Overview to better inform the Humanitarian Response Plan in Yemen. By the end of the quarter, data collection was completed in southern governorates and data processing was underway. Moreover, coordination continued with the local authorities to start the process in the northern governorates.



Displaced families receive hygiene kits in Al Rakza site in Ma'rib © IOM 2021 /E. Al Oqabi

ADDRESSING IMMEDIATE NEEDS

Vulnerable migrants, IDPs and crisis-affected host community members are often in urgent need of shelter and non-food items (SNFI), water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), site management and coordination and financial support to meet their basic needs.

IOM provides multi-purpose cash assistance (MCPA) to vulnerable and newly displaced households with extremely limited economic resources. IOM's cash assistance aims to help the households meet their basic needs and reduce their reliance on negative coping mechanisms which have been exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic and a declining economy. IOM also co-leads the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) in Yemen which provides MCPA to vulnerable groups through a harmonized coordination structure. Since January 2021, over 27,000 households have been supported with MCPA, over 13,000 between July and September 2021 alone. A total of 550 families benefitted from RRM kits during the third quarter, totaling over 2,000 since the beginning of the year. IOM also manages the nationwide Multisectoral Contingency Stock Pipeline, a mechanism that helps IOM and partners aid in a timely manner. During the third quarter, IOM provided nearly 2,500 households with emergency shelter materials and over 1,900 families with essential non-food items.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) programming supports overall site improvements, service delivery, community mobilization and maintenance activities. During the third quarter, IOM expanded its CCCM services to 75 sites, implementing flood risks reduction measures to protect shelters, cleaning campaigns, capacity building on mitigating fire hazards, enhancing access to electricity through the installation of solar systems and organizing community engagement activities. In Ma'rib, IOM completed the upgrade of the electrical network in Al Jufainah site, enhancing reliable access to electricity for over 9,000 households. To ensure community participation in site management and coordination services, IOM works with community members to establish community committees who are trained on the basics of CCCM. During the third quarter, 165 committees were established and trained to support in these activities. IOM also provided training opportunities on firefighting to nearly 500 wardens to reduce fire risks in overcrowded sites.



A recently displaced woman receives cash assistance in Ma'rib ©IOM 2021/E. Al-Oqabi

Canada

YHF Yemen Humanitarian Fund

The Global Fund



European Union



From the People of Japan



قطر الخيرية
QATAR CHARITY



Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



german humanitarian assistance
DEUTSCHE HUMANITÄRE HILFE



مركز الملك سلمان للإغاثة والعمليات الإنسانية
KING SALMAN HUMANITARIAN AID & RELIEF CENTRE



المساعدات الإماراتية
UAE AID