

**YEMEN**

An escalating humanitarian crisis is devastating the lives, health and stability of millions of people, with 80% of the population in urgent need of aid, including 2 million children suffering from acute malnutrition



The situation in Yemen is the world's largest humanitarian crisis, according to the United Nations. Photo courtesy of the European Union/Peter Biro

**OVERVIEW**

A humanitarian crisis has devastated the lives of families across Yemen as a five-year war continues between Houthi and forces loyal to the government, backed by a Saudi Arabia-led coalition. With a blockade and insecurity severely limiting people's access to food and income, 80% of the population is in urgent need of aid, including 2 million children suffering from acute malnutrition. Health systems have collapsed, along with access to clean water and sanitation, which has led to deadly cholera outbreaks and other diseases. An estimated 3.3 million people have been displaced, and more than twice that number have lost their livelihoods.

**CRS AND PARTNER RESPONSE**

CRS has been working closely with local partners since the onset of the crisis to provide vital water and sanitation support to prevent the spread of disease. The needs have been compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic.

CRS is expanding programs with two partners in Yemen to address the diverse needs of people who face extreme hunger and hardship. CRS is working with Caritas Poland and Education for Employment to strengthen health systems, support youth livelihoods, rehabilitate water and sanitation infrastructure, and prevent the spread of COVID-19. Programs will take place in Sana'a and Aden governorates, and ideally reach 200,000 people.

**CRS is working with partners to strengthen health systems, support youth livelihoods, rehabilitate water and sanitation infrastructure, and prevent the spread of COVID-19.**



A job training session for young adults who have medical certifications but are unemployed. Some 50% of the trainees are women.

Photo courtesy of Education for Employment



## EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

### 1. Strengthening the capacity of medical facilities through job training and placement

In partnership with the Middle East-focused job training network Education for Employment, CRS is addressing the dual challenges of a lack of qualified medical professionals in medical facilities and the country's high unemployment rate among young adults. Activities include:

- Designing a youth training and jobs program based on the staffing needs of partner medical facilities.
- Identifying 100 to 400 highly vulnerable, unemployed young adults (50% women) who have academic certificates in healthcare fields.
- Providing trainings on key skills needed in healthcare, such as social skills, English for medical purposes and information technology.
- Facilitating technical apprenticeships to build practical experience, along with on-the-job trainings.
- Partnering with local organizations that have strong networks of women, to work with employers to ensure a culturally appropriate work environment.
- Matching trainees with job opportunities at partner medical facilities, with the goal of exceeding 85% job placement and retention rates.
- Carrying out COVID-19 prevention campaigns and providing families with hygiene items.

**Impact to date:** We have successfully placed 196 young adults in jobs at 46 healthcare facilities. We are also supporting five local vocational training centers to build their training capacity to better prepare students and connect them to healthcare job opportunities. We have also provided 2,200 families with hygiene supplies.

Tahani, one of the trainees on the CRS-supported EFE program became her family's only breadwinner when her father lost his livelihood. Her training helped her find a job as a physician's assistant in the nursery unit of a hospital in Taiz.

### 2. Strengthening health facilities

With Caritas Poland, CRS is supporting up to 10 health facilities to resume critical health care services amid the pandemic. Activities include:

- Improving medical facilities' water and sanitation infrastructure, as well as providing soap, disinfectants, gowns, uniforms, masks, gloves and waste management containers.
- Training staff in infection prevention and control protocols, including screening, triage and referral of COVID-19 cases to specialized facilities.

**Impact to date:** CRS has supported six health facilities serving 40,000 people.

### 3. Improving water, sanitation and hygiene

With Caritas Poland, CRS is aiming to reach 150,000 people through the following activities:

- Rehabilitating water infrastructure by adding new pipelines and increasing pipe diameter to expand water flow. We are also renovating and repairing internal plumbing networks.
- Providing key hygiene supplies, such as soap, to families in vulnerable areas, paired with information about infectious diseases and hygiene.
- Conducting information campaigns that raise awareness of COVID-19 and other health and hygiene challenges, such as cholera prevention.

**Impact to date:** CRS has rehabilitated three water points and provided hygiene kits to 1,650 families.



“ I am the only breadwinner in my family, since my father lost his job. This job has helped me to provide for my family's basic needs. I am also helping people, especially children, and that is a wonderful feeling.

Tahani  
CRS-supported EFE  
program trainee