



Profile
at a glance

Yemen

“Because we were not talking only about numbers, but about intentions with regards to durable solutions, the profiling was useful for future planning and will help us to respond to future needs.”

Khaled Fansa, UNHCR Yemen

Six successive rounds of increasingly violent conflict led large numbers of people to flee their homes in the Sa’ada governorate of Yemen. Despite two peace agreements, the displaced population continues to live in challenging conditions and have yet to secure a durable solution.

Following the recommendation by the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights for IDPs, the Government of Yemen, UNHCR and the Danish Refugee Council on behalf of the UNCT and the protection cluster, embarked on a profiling exercise to attain a comprehensive picture of the situation of internal displacement in the affected governorates. The Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS) technically supported this process.



What methods were used?

To help target interventions in support of the displaced communities in Yemen, the profiling process aimed to provide baseline information on disaggregated numbers of IDPs, return movements and intentions, as well as to collect information on alternative durable solutions.

The methodology combined a comprehensive household survey conducted across five governorates and a series of

focus group discussions with both male and female participants. The sample was calculated using a stratified cluster sampling technique based on registered IDPs, lists of non-registered IDPs and enumeration. Certain aspects of the methodology, and therefore the findings, were hampered by restricted access due to insecurity in parts of Sa'ada (this applies especially to the findings about returnees in Sa'ada).

5 Governorates: Sana'a, Amran, Hajjah, Al Jawf and Sa'ada

41 – 45,500 IDP households

286 – 318,000 IDPs

1,683 Household surveys

25 Male focus group discussions

25 Female focus group discussions



What was the impact?

- The profiling exercise informed the Government of Yemen's durable solutions strategy. By listening to the concerns of the IDPs in relation to durable solutions, the findings provided the evidence required for the strategy to promote alternative solutions instead of focusing only on return.
- Through collaborating with a wide range of partners through the UNCT and protection cluster, the findings also fed directly into the CAP process for Yemen.
- Information collected through the profiling exercise was used for planning purposes of humanitarian interventions. In particular profiling reports are being used in the UNHCR IDP operation's annual retreat with government representatives.
- Profiling was used as a 'substitute tool' to find out about the situation in conflict areas with restricted humanitarian access, gathering information from those who have fled the area. It provided a more comprehensive picture of the situation in Sa'ana than other sources could.

What were the findings?

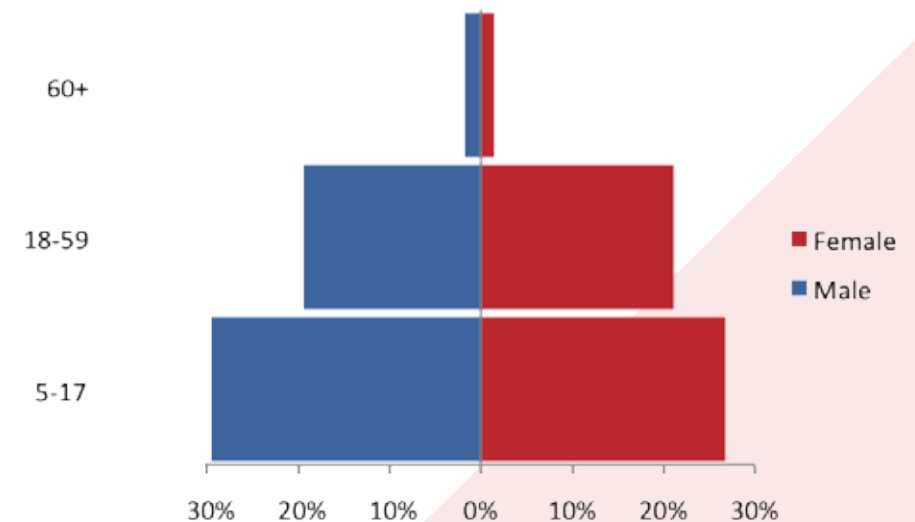
Overall the Yemen profiling demonstrated the detrimental impact of years of conflict on the population. Consistently, IDPs and returnees expressed concerns about insecurity and violence with regards to the cause of displacement, their choice of displacement location, and the obstacles preventing return. Notably, the exercise provided a clear indication of the number of IDPs at risk of protracted displacement, as well as possible avenues for humanitarian and development actors to secure durable solutions.

Over 55%
of IDPs
& returnees
are under
18

Disaggregated numbers

The total estimated population of IDPs in Yemen ranges from 286 - 318,000 IDPs, with the largest proportions residing in Sa'ada and Hajjah governorates. As the below population pyramid shows the vast majority of IDPs are under 18 years of age.

Figure 1: IDPs by age group and sex



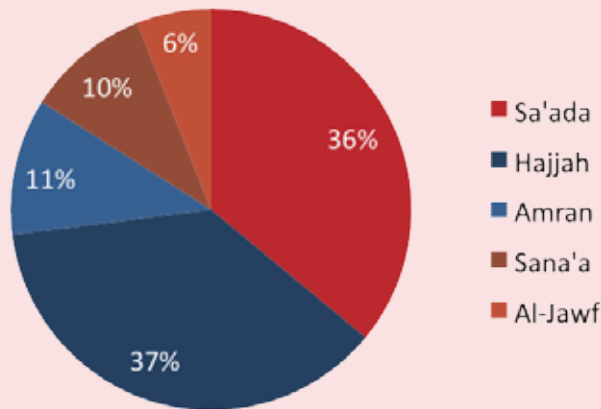
Over 70% of IDPs fled because of armed conflict

Patterns of displacement

The findings show that the highest numbers of IDPs are located in the governorates of Hajjah and the accessible areas of Sa'ada, which helps humanitarian and development actors prioritize their interventions.

Over 90% of the IDPs have been displaced from Sa'ada (main conflict area), either to locations within the governorate or into neighboring districts. A number of returnees (12%) were also found located in Sa'ada.

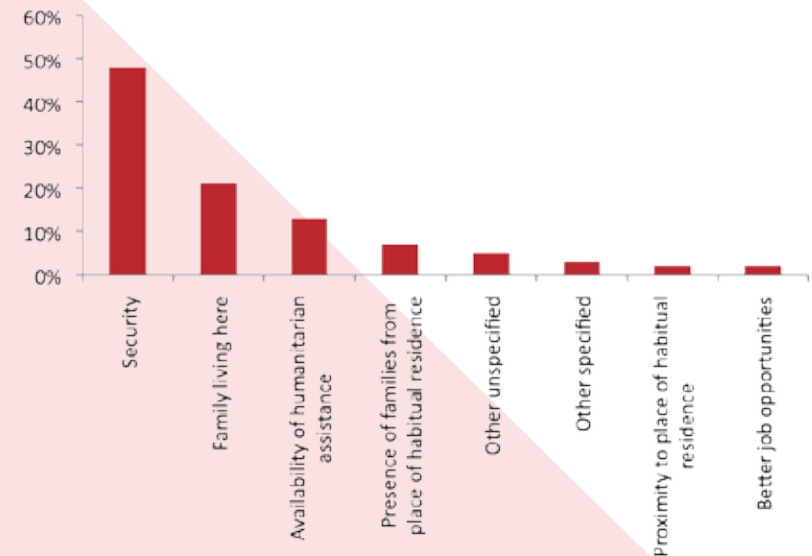
Figure 2: Primary reason for displacement (armed conflict)



Cause of displacement

Over 70% of IDPs ranked armed conflict as the primary cause of their displacement (see Figure 2). It follows that many people chose their place to settle according to feelings of security as the bar chart below shows (Figure 3). Furthermore, many families (14%) moved multiple times before settling in a displacement location.

Figure 3: Reason for choice of displacement location



1/4 IDPs are at risk of protracted displacement

Solutions/ return intentions

A crucial finding of the profiling in Yemen concerned IDPs intentions to return to their place of residence before displacement. As much as 25% of the IDPs were at risk of protracted displacement: they were not intending to return and not interested in - or aware of - alternative solutions.

Of the 72% who do intend to return, the vast majority (over 90%) does not know when. Both male and female-headed households indicated that insecurity and conflict are primary reasons of preventing or delaying return.

Housing & shelter

One of the largest problems facing both IDPs and returnees in Yemen is that of housing and shelter.

Rented dwellings (37%) are the preferred option for those displaced due to the lack of privacy and dignity faced households residing in camps and host families. A significant number lives in rural settlements (22%), which provides space for livestock. 18% of the households lack better options and reside in camps. However, these general patterns take on a different shape when disaggregated by region.

Under 5% of IDPs have an adequate income

Livelihoods and basic needs

Only 39% of IDP households have some kind of income during displacement, with others forced to find alternative means of survival, such as borrowing money, depending on humanitarian assistance, eating less and eating worse, to list some of the strategies indicated.

Returnees & registration

The data collected on returnees in Sa'ada revealed certain drawbacks of the registration system in place, with 43% of returnees un-registered. Notably, of these returnees over 60% indicated that registration was unavailable and almost 18% were not even aware of the possibility to register.

“Profiling can help our thinking go beyond material needs and humanitarian assistance, to garner a full understanding of the situation.”

Doris Knoechel, Profiling Coordinator

What were the profiling lessons?

- The timing of a collaborative profiling exercise should be considered in advance to feed into planned policy or funding initiatives. This is important to ensure the information collected will have the largest impact possible.
- The overview assembled through profiling is significantly enriched by methodologies that combine qualitative and quantitative data. In Yemen, the team conducted many more focus group discussions than initially planned as the information gathered proved to be invaluable.
- Profiling exercises, especially large-scale ones, benefit from a dedicated manager or management team. Ultimately this resource improves the quality of the exercise and the results themselves.
- By engaging with the displacement-affected community, profiling reveals the variety of both the long and short-term challenges they face. This comprehensive picture can inform the joint approach of governments and humanitarian and development actors.
- The importance of comparing findings across geographic locations is crucial for targeted programming. Whilst disaggregating data by sex and age is recognised to be crucial, the exercise shows the relevance of being able to disaggregate by location as well.

“Profiling helped a lot to convince the government that an IDP strategy looking not only at actual assistance but also at durable solutions, was important. It also helped donors to come back and quite generously address the situation.”

Walter Kalin, former SRSG for the Human Rights of IDPs (2004-2010)

The full report, containing further analysis, and the profiling tools can be found at: www.idp-profiling.org/yemen-idp-profiling-report-2.html. The profiling data is also available upon request.

This summary provides a glimpse into a collaborative IDP profiling process. Government, UN agencies and non-governmental organisations contributed to the process, agreeing on its objectives, developing its tools and collecting the required data.

JIPS supported these partners to undertake an in-depth study of individuals displaced from mainly Sa'ada, Yemen, through an internationally endorsed methodology for profiling IDP situations.

This glance into the profile of displaced persons in Yemen hopes to spark interest to spark interest in learning more about the findings and profiling of IDP situations in general.

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