



The country has been engaged in a protracted conflict that has resulted in displacement of the population. The number of children comprises more than 50% of the displaced population in Yemen. The usage of negative coping mechanisms like violence against children by adolescents and caregivers is widespread. Girls in particular face sexual and gender-based violence in multiple settings.

The IRC in Yemen

The IRC Child Protection Program has been providing child protection services to children in need in the Southern governorates of Aden and Al Dhale'e in Yemen since 2019. The Program aims to protect children from various forms of violence, neglect, exploitation, and abuse, provide individualized support to children according to their protection needs and help realize their rights to safety at home and in their communities. Changing social norms is also an integral component of achieving this.

IRC's Child Protection Program focuses on five programmatic pillars: (1) **Community-based child protection**, (2) **Case Management** response for children that are at risk or have experienced family separation, abuse, exploitation, neglect or violence, and children formerly associated with armed forces/groups, (3) **Provision of Psychosocial Support and life skills education for children and adolescents** through Social Emotional Learning (SEL), Now I am Stronger and Supporting Adolescents and their Families in Emergencies (SAFE) curriculum, (4) **Caregiver support** through the Families Make the Difference parenting program, and (5) **Integrated child protection services in health and nutrition facilities** through Brighter Future parenting program.

1. Community Based Child Protection: IRC's Child Protection Program in Yemen seeks to ensure that children are safe and cared for in an environment that promotes their wellbeing, and that they receive support when they experience harm through the establishment and support to Community Based Child Protection Committees (CBCPC) to facilitate community sensitization and implement early identification and referral for children at risk of or experiencing harm. Members of the committees are trusted individuals selected by the community to serve as focal persons on matters concerning children's safety and linkages to available services.

2. Child Protection Case Management: To ensure children's immediate safety and address their specific protection needs, IRC's Child Protection Program offers child protection case management services to unaccompanied, separated, and other at-risk children eligible for case management. Between 2019 to 2022

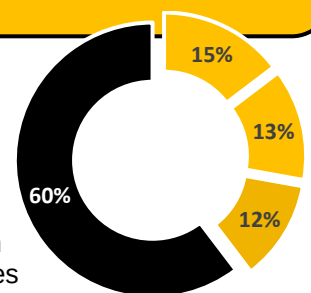
Yemen Country Context

Yemen is in the middle of a war that had dragged on for years because of a continuous volatile and complex political context resulting in the worlds largest humanitarian crisis . The military and political control is divided by various zones, with the north and south of the country continue to operate as independent government.

The conflict coupled with a collapsed economy and hike in fuel prices and cost of goods has led to structural problems in the country. These include limited access to basic services, insufficient public development and social protection policies, and deep gender inequalities.

Violence, neglect, exploitation, and abuse against children is widespread in different settings like in families, schools, and communities. Grave violations of children's rights remain a major problem: In 2021, the UN verified 4,418 grave violations affecting 1,287 children (944 boys, 343 girls). These verified cases often underrepresent the scale of the issue due to barriers to safe reporting of violations.

1,133 children (446 girls, 687 boys) have benefited from this service with Children with Functional difficulties (15%), Child Labor (13%), and Separated (12%) being the three major concerns recorded while other protection concerns such as out of school, Serious medical condition, Unaccompanied, etc. making the remaining (60%) as shown on the chart above. An emergency fund also exists to support particularly vulnerable and urgent cases in need with non-food items, transportation to access medical services and payment of vital services.



Caring for Child Survivors of Sexual Violence: The IRC is currently scaling up to offer specialized case management services to child survivors of sexual violence and other forms of gender-based violence with the support of child protection case workers trained to

respond to child sexual abuse cases in humanitarian settings. Child survivors of sexual violence have specific needs and require a specific response that promotes and protects their short- and long-term physical and emotional safety. Throughout the case management process, close coordination is ensured with all relevant sectors, particularly IRC's Women's Protection and Empowerment (WPE) and Health departments.

3. Psychosocial Support: IRC's Child Protection Program seeks to strengthen families and communities to help prevent child protection violations and respond to them when they occur. While some of the following explained approaches may be classified as solely "preventive", others may be classified as "preventive and responsive when violence occurs".

Safe Healing and Learning Spaces (SHLS):

The [SHLS](#) is a secure and caring space where children aged 6 to 11 years can heal from psychological distress, learn, and feel protected. Within the SHLS, the IRC trains community facilitators to implement **social-emotional learning (SEL) sessions for children**. The SEL program is adapted to the Yemen context to help children acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions. **1,199 children (506 girls, 693 boys)** have so far participated in this session.

Adolescent programming: Adolescent's boys aged 12 to 17 who show increased signs of psychological distress are taken through focused psychosocial support (PSS) curriculum "**Now I'm Stronger**". **649 boys** have been engaged in this curriculum that promotes active participation of adolescents and the development of their basic life skills to support positive coping and resilience capacities, by reinforcing various skills, such as to be self-reflective, to believe in strengths rather than to focus on wounds, to encourage empathy and to function and belong within a collective system

The IRC will be scaling up its adolescents programming with the implementation of the **Supporting Adolescents and their Families in Emergencies (SAFE)** which aims to support adolescent girls and boys (ages 10 to 19 years) to be safer, feel more supported, and better equipped with positive coping strategies in acute emergencies.

IRC's child protection programs at the global level aim to ensure that children are safe, can exercise their rights and are cared for, ideally in a family or family-like environment promoting their physical, social, emotional, cognitive and economic well-being. For more information on IRC's global child protection work, visit <https://childprotectionpractitioners.org>

4. Parenting Interventions: To help strengthen families to be able to prevent and respond to child protection violations, the IRC implements the **Families make the Difference** parenting intervention in Yemen for

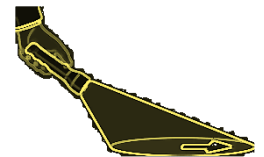


1,030 (637 female, 393 male) parents and caregivers with children participate in SEL sessions in the SHLS (explained above) and those without in the targeted locations, so that parents and caregivers can help their children reintegrate into their family and community and promote their well-being by strengthening positive parenting skills, improving their stress management skills and using strategies to support children with psychosocial needs. During these sessions **1,008** out of **1,030** reported the use of at least one positive parenting strategy.

5. Brighter Future: The IRC is also planning to scale up its program model developed to address long and short-term implications of acute malnutrition on a child's growth, motor and cognitive development, by moving away from the more traditional medical treatment models and integrating the overall safety and development of the child through improved parental practices, decreased perinatal stress, and provision of individual support for high risk protection cases identified at the Stabilization Centers (SC) and Out Patient Therapeutic program (OTP).

Way Forward

- ✓ Scaling up PSS interventions, for example by implementing IRC's "**SAFE**" and "**Drawing**" session
- ✓ Strengthening case management services to better support child survivors of sexual violence and prevent child GBV violations
- ✓ Scaling up brighter future intervention to support care givers of children with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) and their children at risk or experiencing child protection concerns.
- ✓ With available funding, launch the **growing stronger together** programming to promote the re-integration of children formerly associated with armed forces or group and prevent possible recruitment.



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