

Are you ready to be a voice crying out in the wilderness to make a way for the Lord?

Yemeni Shia

Who are the Yemeni Shia?

Although the peoples of Yemen date back to ancient times, they did not become the modern nation known today until 1990 when the north and the south united forming the Republic of Yemen. However, the country has seen little peace and prosperity in its young life and has been in a state of unrest and civil war since 2011. The civil war has been a power struggle between the various tribal groups and has grown to be a proxy war for regional superpowers, with Iran backing the Houthi rebels and Saudi Arabia supporting the Hadis. These outside forces have intensified the devastation of the conflict.

35% of the 30.4 million Yemeni practice Shia Islam, found mostly in the north/northeast region. There are two different branches of Shia in Yemen, the Zaidis (aka the fivers) who have been the traditional branch in Yemen, and the Twelvers who are historically foreign to Yemen but have recently increased due to influence from Iran. These two branches were named after the number of Imams, or spiritual leaders, the group believes are historically legitimate.

The UN has stated that the situation in Yemen is the world's worst humanitarian crisis. The conflict has caused 235,000 deaths and 131,000 have been from lack of food and medical care. The war made imports, the primary source of food for Yemenis, virtually impossible. Twenty million people are in need of humanitarian aid, 5 million are on the brink of starvation, and 2.3 million children are suffering from malnutrition. 50% of the country does not have clean water, and there have been devastating outbreaks of cholera and Covid

Eighty percent of Yemenis live in poverty, and many are fleeing the country to find opportunities for survival. They are a people in great need, both physically and spiritually.

I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

— Isaiah 43:19 —



 **10.6 million** yet to be reached
 **4 million** currently displaced



Quick Facts

Population- 10,640,000

Progress- Unengaged and Unreached

Language- Arabic

Bible Translation, and Gospel Recordings,- Available

Radio Broadcast and Jesus

Film- Not Available

A voice cries out in the wilderness,
"Clear the way for the Lord in the wilderness;
Make straight in the desert a highway for our God...
And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed."
— Isaiah 40:3,5 —



Pray

- Pray and ask for peace in this war torn land.
- Pray for relief agencies to have the resources and access to help this desperate situation. .
- Ask that He would
- Pray for those who have been displaced to find Jesus as their sure foundation.
- Pray for a swift end to the civil war, and for people of peace to rise up to places of leadership.
- Pray for dreams and visions for the Yemani people and for them to encounter believers to help them understand.
- Pray for the small group of Yemeni believers that the Lord would give them the strength and ability to be a light in the midst of great darkness.



Engage

Due to the continuing civil war, access into the mainland is not yet feasible, so now is the time to pray and prepare for the time when the Lord will open doors.

While we are waiting for doors to be open on the mainland, there are many opportunities to minister to Yemeni refugees in neighboring countries such as Cairo, Somaliland, Djibouti, or Saudi Arabia. In Cairo, there are over a million Yemeni refugees and team leaders have expressed there is a great spiritual hunger and a need for a team to minister directly with Yemenis.

There is much need for relief and humanitarian work as well as trauma care. Those with experience working with poverty-stricken and traumatized people would be a great asset, as would older individuals, whose years give them a pearl of culturally respected wisdom.

Language learning is the critical first step to working with Yemenis, and there are many opportunities to begin language learning in the region.



Is God calling you to live among the Muslim peoples of the Middle East? Contact us.
We would love to help you get there!