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Yemen

Country Profile



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Summary Indicators

Indicator	Value	Year
Population number (last census)	19,684,603	2004
Population number (projection)	24,968,508	2014
Population growth rate	2.72%	2014
Population density	45.56/km ²	2010
Urban composition	32.3%	2011
Average household size	7	2012
Net migration rate	0.26%	2014
People with disabilities	7.7%	2014
Age distribution	41.7% under 15	2014
Life expectancy at birth	64.8 years	2014
Under-five mortality	60/1,000 live births	2012
Maternal mortality	270/100,000 live births	2013
Chronic malnutrition	57.7%	2008–2012
Acute malnutrition	15.2%	2008–2012
HDI ranking (value)	154/187 (0.500)	2014
Corruption Perceptions Index ranking (value)	161/174 (19/100)	2014
People below the poverty line	54.5%	2012
Hunger Index value	23.4	2014
World Risk Index ranking (value)	97/171 (6.03)	2014
Gender Inequality Index ranking (value)	152/152 (0.733)	2013
Literacy rate	65.3%	2011

Sources: World Bank 2015, HEWS 25/09/2012, WHO 2010, UNDP 2014, UNFPA 2012, UN Data, Transparency International 2014, CIA Factbook, Trading Economics 2013, World Economic Forum 2014; WHO 01/2015; World Economic Factbook 2014; Human Development Index 2014; Global Hunger Index 2014; World Risk Report 2014; Gender Inequality Index 2013; World Bank 31/03/2015

The Republic of Yemen is located on the southwestern end of the Arabian Peninsula. It is the second largest country on the peninsula, occupying 527,970km². Yemen borders the Arabian Sea, and is located between Oman and Saudi Arabia. Yemen has a varied geography, with coastal plains and highland areas in the west, highlands and desert areas in the east, and a central plateau at over 2,000m elevation. With renewable water resources of only 125m³/capita/year, Yemen is one

of the most water-scarce countries in the world. Oil was found in Yemen in the 1980s, in Marib governorate in North Yemen, and in Shabwa and Hadramaut governorates in South Yemen.

The Republic of Yemen was created in 1990, with the unification of Yemen Arab Republic (North Yemen) and People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (South Yemen). Yemen is divided into 21 governorates and one municipality. The governorates are divided into 333 districts. See map page 10 (CIA Factbook 2014; UNICEF 2014; UNEP/WMO 2001; CIA 2015; Encyclopaedia Britannica 2015; NOREF 2013).

Hazard Profile

Natural hazards: The most common natural hazards are sand storms and dust storms in summer, from April to August (CIA Factbook 2015). Yemen also experiences landslides and floods, and, less frequently, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions (Asian Disaster Reduction Centre 2014). 50,000 people in the southern and central regions of Yemen were affected by flash floods caused by heavy rain in August 2013 (OCHA 16/09/2013). The 1982 North Yemen earthquake with an epicentre close to Dhamar city killed 2,800 people and displaced an estimated 700,000 (USGS 2010). Yemen has 12 volcanoes, with around four million people living within 30km of a volcano (Preventionweb 2015). In 2007, at least four people were killed when a volcano on Jabal al Tair island, off the coast of Al Hudaydah, erupted (IRIN, 03/10/2007).

Drought will be an increasing problem due to water scarcity (Asian Disaster Reduction Centre 2014). Yemen's economic vulnerability in combination with its natural disaster exposure has led to a high score on the World Risk Index (UN 2014).

Environmental issues: Yemen has very limited natural freshwater; its renewable water resources are about 2% of the global per capita average (UNEP/WMO 2001). Desertification (land degradation caused by aridity) and overgrazing are problems (Library of Congress 2008).

Society and Communities

Yemen's population is mostly rural: around 70% of people live in rural areas, distributed over most of the country. Villages are mostly small (Encyclopaedia Britannica 2015). Yemen's major cities include the capital Sanaa, the southern city Taizz, the western port city Al Hudaydah, and the southern port city of Aden. In 2011, 2.4 million people lived in Sanaa (UNdata 2011). Before unification, the population of South Yemen was about a quarter of North Yemen's population (Rabi 2014).

Language and ethnic groups: Arabic is the official language of Yemen. The population is predominantly Arab, while there is a small presence of Afro-Arabs (belonging to the Muhamasheen minority group), South Asians, and Europeans (CIA Factbook 2015).

Tribes: Tribes in Yemen retain close to state-like functions, as state structures are weak and security is fragile. The tribal leaders, *sheikhs*, have varying degrees of power and influence (Dawsari 2012; Pillai 2015). Tribes have throughout history fought each other and the state over territory and taxes, among other issues. The three major tribal confederations are the Hashid in Amran governorate; the Bakil in the north of Sanaa, and the Madhaj, which is mostly concentrated in the central regions. Bakil has the largest population, while both the Bakil and Hashid confederations are believed to number several hundred thousand. Tribal structures are particularly strong in the north. Southern tribes generally have less influence on the national level as South Yemen pursued detribalisation before unification (Ismail 2007; Horton 2011; GIZ 2013; Pillai 2015; The National 27/02/2015; Colburn 2002)

Religion: 99.1% Muslim (official religion; an estimated 65% are Sunni and 35% are Shia); 0.9% other (includes Jewish, Baha'i, Hindu, and Christian; mostly refugees or migrants) (2010 est.) (CIA Factbook 2015).

Main minority groups: Zaidi Shia (35%), living mainly in Dhamar governorate and to the north; Muhamasheen (2–5%), mostly on the outskirts of major cities; and Ismailis (a few thousand), mainly in Jabal Haraz, a mountain region close to Sanaa (Minority Rights Group International 2012).

Gender equality: Yemen is ranked as the least gender-equal society in the world (Gender Inequality Index 2013). Yemen's Personal Status Law contains provisions that discriminate against women in relation to marriage, divorce, custody of children, and inheritance (Human Rights Watch 2015). It also bars women from leaving their house without permission from their husband (Human Rights Watch 2015). There is no legislation in place addressing domestic violence, which is believed to be widespread, although accurate figures are not available. According to a 2011 study, 90% of women face sexual harassment in the streets (Social Institutions & Gender Index 2014). 25% of women take part in the labour force (UNdata 2012). In 2014, one out of the 303 seats in the national parliament was held by a woman (Al Jazeera 02/09/2014). In court, a woman's testimony is in some cases considered to be worth half of a man's, and in other cases not accepted at all (UNICEF 2011).

Protracted displacement: There are 257,645 registered refugees: most are Somalis (236,803); 5,934 are Ethiopians (RMMS 28/02/2015). Additionally, Yemen hosts an estimated one million migrants (OCHA 12/06/2015). Migrants and refugees are overwhelmingly male, with women comprising about 20% of the population (HNO

2014). Yemen is the only country in the Arabian Peninsula that is a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol (RMMS 04/2015).

Prior to the 2015 escalation of the crisis, 306,964 people were internally displaced (HNO 2014). Over 2014, localised conflicts displaced approximately 100,000 Yemenis, mostly for a matter of days (USAID 13/02/2015).

Yemen is reportedly the second most heavily armed society in the world. 11 million firearms are estimated to be in civilian ownership, although the claim is hard to verify. Norms and social practices around weapon ownership and use appear to be weakening as insecurity grows (Yemen Armed Violence Assessment 2010).

Historical Background

Administrative Divisions of Yemen and Former Border



Source: Carnegie Endowment, 2010

Unification: The Republic of Yemen was formed in May 1990, following the unification of the Yemen Arab Republic (North Yemen) and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (South Yemen). South Yemen was a part of the British Empire from 1839 to 1967, while cities in North Yemen were under the control of the

Ottoman Empire until its dissolution in 1918. Rural areas had until that point been governed by Zaidi imams, and in 1918 the Zaidis seized control of the whole of North Yemen. Following the end of British rule, South Yemen aligned itself with the Soviet Union and implemented socialist policies, while North Yemen kept a market economy and forged ties with Saudi Arabia and the West. The 1970s and 1980s were marked by periods of conflict between North and South Yemen. With the fall of the Soviet bloc in the late 1980s, South Yemen lost an important source of financial aid and the ruling Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) lost important political support. The discovery of oil fields that stretched through both countries was another incentive for unification. North Yemen's President Saleh became head of state of the unified country, and remained so for more than 20 years (Encyclopaedia Britannica 2015; Library of Congress 2008; Majed 2005).

Southern secessionist movement: In May 1994, a civil war began between North and South. The southern and northern militaries remained separate entities following unification, and the stronger northern military defeated the southern forces in July 1994. An estimated 10,000 people were killed, and the war proved highly damaging to the Yemeni economy. Southerners have continued to seek a separate state in the south since the war, and in 2007 the Southern Movement was formed (Horton 2015; Encyclopaedia Britannica 2015; Rabi 2015).

Houthi insurgency: The Houthi insurgency began in June 2004, with the Houthis stating that their aim was to end government discrimination against Zaidi Shias. Initially, fighting took place mainly in Sa'ada governorate in northwestern Yemen, the Houthis' stronghold. The conflict began to escalate in 2009, when more than 250,000 people were displaced (International Crisis Group 2014; BBC 16/06/2015).

2011 uprisings: Protests erupted in 2011, as the ruling General People's Congress moved to extend, or completely remove, presidential term limits, potentially enabling President Saleh to become president for life (International Crisis Group 2011). The Hashid tribal confederation, previously aligned with President Saleh, supported the protesters and were for several months involved in armed clashes with pro-Saleh forces (BBC 28/05/2011). President Saleh eventually stepped down and his former deputy Abd Rabbuh Mansour Hadi took over (BBC 16/06/2015). A transitional phase began, in a deal brokered by the Gulf Cooperation Council and supported by the United States (Dawsari 2012). From the first, the transitional Government was challenged by the Houthis, tribal groups, Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), and southern separatists (Freedom House 2015). The Houthis took advantage of state weakness and gained *de facto* control over large areas of the north; taking over local administration and collecting taxes. AQAP gained control over several cities in the southern governorate of Abyan (International Crisis Group 2014; Encyclopaedia Britannica 2015)

2014–15 escalation of conflict: In September 2014, conflict escalated further. Houthi forces advanced to the capital and took control. Former President Saleh aligned himself with the Houthis and used his influence to convince tribes formerly a part of the Hashid confederation also to join forces with the Houthis. In January 2015, the Houthis rejected a proposed new constitution, and the following month President Hadi fled to Aden. In March, Houthi forces advanced south, and President Hadi escaped to Saudi Arabia. On 25 March, a Saudi-led coalition began airstrikes in support of pro-government forces. As of July 2015, Houthi insurgents control large parts of the country. Islamist groups, including AQAP and Ansar al Sharia, have exploited the power vacuum to take control of large areas in southeastern Yemen. As of end of June 2015, more than one million people are internally displaced (International Crisis Group 2015; Al Jazeera 27/03/2015; CNN 27/03/2015; New York Times 25/01/2015; UNHCR 26/06/2015).

Political Stakeholders and Background

General People's Congress (GPC): Yemen's ruling political party was also the ruling party of the North before unification. It was founded by former President Saleh in 1982 as a party of national consensus, and does not adhere to a specific ideology. It won a majority of seats in the House of Representatives in 1993, 1997, and 2003. Saleh remains leader of the GPC, which continued to hold a majority in the Assembly under Saleh's successor, President Hadi. The GPC remains influential in local politics (Al Yemeni 2003; Berkley Center for Religion, Peace & World Affairs; Phillips 2007).

Al Islah: Also known as the Yemeni Congregation for Reform, the conservative Islamic Al Islah Party is the largest political opposition party. Formed in 1990, after unification, the party adheres to a socially conservative ideology based on Islamic principles. With an estimated five million supporters, Al Islah is supported by the Yemeni Muslim Brotherhood and the Hashid confederation. Al Islah members took part in organising protests and pressuring then-president Saleh to resign in 2011 (Al Yemeni 2003; Berkley Center for Religion, Peace & World Affairs).

Tribal confederations: While the Bakil is the largest tribal confederation, the Hashid is more politically active and has been influential in Yemeni politics. Compared to the other tribal confederations, the Hashid tribes are less scattered, and have generally been more united and better organised. Former President Saleh's tribe was a member of the Hashid confederation, and his reliance on tribal bonds to consolidate his authority gave the Hashid a strong influence throughout his presidency, in particular in northern Yemen (Horton 2011; Burrowes 2010).

Houthis: The Houthis, also referred to as Ansar Allah, are a tribal movement of Zaidi Shias based in Sa'ada governorate. Zaidi communities were discriminated against through both religious and social policies during Saleh's presidency, and Houthis have been fighting the central government for the last decade. They take their name from their first leader, Hussein al Houthi, who was killed by government forces in September 2004 (BBC 16/06/2015). During the 2011 transition process, the Houthis in particular objected to the proposed transformation of Yemen into a federal state of six regions, and demanded a greater share of power in the federal government. Houthis took control over large areas of the north in 2011. Estimates put the number of Houthi militants at around 20,000–30,000 (NOREF 2013; Al Jazeera 29/03/2015; 04/03/2015; International Crisis Group 2015; Foreign Affairs 25/03/2015).

Southern Movement: Southern secessionism was revitalised in 2007, initially in the form of protests by pensioners not receiving their benefits. The Southern Movement, also referred to as Al Hirak, was formed by a loose coalition of political, tribal, and religious groups, with the stated aim of re-establishing South Yemen as a separate state. The Southern Movement gained more ground during the 2011 uprisings, as much of the south was left ungoverned. As the Houthis push south, the Saudi-led coalition is supporting southern militias through airstrikes (Day 2010; Al Jazeera 14/08/2014; Horton 2015; Stracke et al. 2010).

AQAP, Ansar al Sharia, and more recently Islamic State (IS) have exploited insecurity in Yemen to expand their presence. AQAP is based in the south and east. Ansar al Sharia has gained a foothold in the south and is believed to be a local branch of AQAP. It has gained popularity in rural areas by providing electricity and water to the population. The Yemeni Government, in alliance with the United States, has been fighting Al Qaeda since 1998 (International Crisis Group 2015; Berkley Center for Religion, Peace & World Affairs).

Governance

State institutions have traditionally been weak in Yemen, and tribes have generally had great autonomy. Tribal law has established justice and regulated conflict for centuries in the absence of a strong centralised legal system, and it remains the main source of legislature outside of major cities (Pillai 2015; Dawsari 2012).

Legal system: The 1991 Constitution designated Sharia as the principle source of legislation, while a 1994 amendment declared Sharia as the "basis of all laws" (USIP 2011). Yemeni state law also incorporates elements from tribal laws, Egyptian and other Arab laws, and international principles (USIP 2011). In rural areas, tribal law is the predominant arena of justice, and according to a Yemeni NGO, up to 90% of conflicts are resolved by tribal law structures (Dawsari 2012; USIP 2011).

Political institutions: Yemen's bicameral structure was put in place by the 1991 Constitution. The Shura Council has 111 members, appointed by the President, and the House of Representatives has 301 seats, with members elected by popular vote to serve six-year terms. The President is directly elected for a seven-year term. Government authority is centralised, and district and governorate councils have had limited authority due to the dominance of the General People's Congress at both local and national levels. Local government is divided into governorate councils and district councils, with 431 seats and 6,896 seats, respectively (CIA Factbook 2015; Yemen Embassy Washington 2014; Al-Yemeni 2003; Library of Congress 2008; Freedom House 2015).

The Houthis dissolved Parliament in February 2015 (Reuters 06/02/2015).

Elections: Elections have been judged to be relatively free and fair, with some instances of irregularities. After unification, the GPC and the South's Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) agreed on a fifty-fifty power-sharing arrangement, despite South Yemen's much smaller population. In the first parliamentary election after unification, held in 1993, the GPC won 122 of 301 seats. President Saleh won the first presidential election, in 1999. He was again easily re-elected in 2006. The 2009 parliamentary elections were postponed as opposition parties threatened to boycott them, and put off again in 2011 as a result of the uprising against President Saleh. In February 2012 President Hadi ran unopposed, originally intending to hold the position as interim president for two years. Hadi's term was extended in early 2014 in order for a new constitution to be finalised. In the last local elections in 2006, GPC won 85% of seats at the governorate level and 76% of district-level seats (Day 2010; Library of Congress 2008; Freedom House 2015; Pillai 2015; Yemen Embassy Washington 2014; Minority Rights Group International 2012; Al-Yemeni 2003; Phillips 2007).

Security forces: As of 2013, Yemen had land forces, naval and coastal defense forces (includes marines), air and air defence forces, border guards, police forces and strategic reserve forces. In 2014, Yemen's military expenditure amounted to 4.02% of GDP (CIA Factbook 2015). The Yemeni army is deeply divided. During the 2011 protests, hundreds of troops and officers defected to the side of the protesters. Following the escalation of conflict in 2015, certain factions in army allied themselves with the Houthis against President Hadi, with the result of a current relatively weak Yemeni army (ISS 04/2015; Reuters, 12/03/2015). Paramilitary security forces affiliated with the Political Security Office and the Interior Ministry reportedly torture and abuse detainees (Freedom House 2015).

Corruption: Yemen ranks very low on Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index, at 161 out of 175 countries. The public sector is perceived to be highly corrupt. Transparency regarding public funds is measured to be minimal (Transparency International 2015). Auditing and investigative bodies are not sufficiently

independent of executive authorities. Most legal safeguards against conflicts of interest are lacking (Freedom House 2015).

Freedom of expression: Freedom of expression and freedom of the press is limited. The Press and Publications Law specifically bans criticism of the head of state and publication of material that "might spread a spirit of dissent and division among people". Yemen has two specialised courts that deals with the prosecution of journalists. 17 journalists were arrested during 2013 (Freedom House 2014; Freedom House 2015; Phillips 2007). 268 attacks against journalists and media workers were reported in 2013 (Reporters Without Borders 2014).

Foreign Relations

Yemen is a member of the United Nations, the Arab League, and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (University of Michigan 2015).

US: Yemen has been an important ally to the US in the fight against Al Qaeda. The US has waged a longstanding drone campaign against AQAP in Yemen, and the US has provided both military and economic support to Yemen. The US supported the transition that began in 2011 (AFP 25/03/2015; NOREF 2013).

Saudi Arabia: A strong supporter of both President Saleh and his successor President Hadi, Saudi Arabia is Yemen's largest provider of development assistance. It has demanded that the Houthis step down and President Hadi be reinstated. A Saudi-led coalition began airstrikes on Houthi positions in March 2015.

Saudi authorities claim that Iran supports the Houthis both financially and militarily, and are concerned about the possibility of increased Iranian influence in Yemen. Iran has refuted the claims (Al Jazeera 26/03/2015; NOREF 2013; IRIN 26/03/2015).

Humanitarian and Development Stakeholders

As of June 2015, a number of large NGOs and most UN agencies are present in Yemen (MSF 25/06/2015; ICRC 25/06/2015; OCHA 02/06/2015).

Many organisations previously present in Yemen suspended activities or moved to remote operations after the escalation of the conflict (OCHA 31/03/2015). Due to severe access issues caused by insecurity, limited assistance gets through to the affected population. As of April 2015, about 90 national and international agencies were delivering assistance in Yemen, mostly through national staff (OCHA 21/04/2015).

National NGOs and authorities' capacity varies widely. Concerns persist about the independence and neutrality of some local organisations and their ability to deliver principled humanitarian aid (HNO 22/12/2014).

Economy

Yemen is a low-income country that is highly dependent on declining oil resources for revenue. Oil and gas income accounts for roughly 25% of GDP, and 65% of government revenue (CIA Factbook 2015). Revenues were appropriated by President Saleh to enhance his power through a personalised patronage system. Oil-rich regions remain among the least developed areas in the country, which has led to attacks on installations by tribal groups. Attacks on oil infrastructure by Islamist groups have led to significant short-term disruptions in recent years (NOREF 2013; EIA 2014; Zambelis 2008).

Compared to most of its Gulf neighbours, Yemen's oil reserves are smaller (Riniker 2012). Two-thirds of known oil reserves were depleted by 2003 and it is estimated that crude oil reserves will be exhausted in a decade (USAID 2008; World Bank 2012).

Yemen's support for Iraq during the 1990–91 Gulf War had significant economic consequences as it alienated Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, which had provided critical financial assistance to Yemen. The 1994 civil war further adversely impacted the Yemeni economy (Library of Congress 2008).

Gross national income per capita: USD 1,330 (World Bank 2013).

Gross domestic product (GDP) per capita: USD 1,376 (2012) (UNdata 2012).

GDP real growth rate: 1.9% (2014 est.) (CIA Factbook 2015).

GDP composition by sector of origin: agriculture: 9.2%; industry: 26.8%; services: 64% (CIA Factbook 2015).

Currency: Yemeni Rials (YER). 1 USD = YER 214 (June 2015) (OANDA 18/06/2015).

Inflation: Inflation of consumer prices was 19.5% in 2011; 9.9% in 2012; 11% in 2013. Inflation was 15.3% in 2011; 1% in 2012; 7.9% in 2013 (World Bank 2013).

Budget: In 2014, government revenue was USD 10.26 billion; expenditure was USD 14.34 billion (CIA Factbook 2015).

Unemployment: In 2010, unemployment was estimated at over 52% (UNFPA 2015). The 2014 estimate was 27% (CIA Factbook 2015).

Labour force per occupation: Most people are employed in agriculture and herding; services, construction, industry, and commerce account for less than 25% of the labour force (CIA Factbook 2015).

Main export products: crude oil, coffee, dried and salted fish, liquefied natural gas (CIA Factbook 2015).

Main export partners: China 29.4%, South Korea 16%, Thailand 14.7%, India 8.8%, Japan 6.1%, UAE 5% (2013) (CIA Factbook 2015).

Main import products: Food and live animals, machinery and equipment, chemicals (CIA Factbook 2015).

Main import partners: China 15.5%, UAE 13.4%, India 9.5%, Saudi Arabia 6.3%, Kuwait 4.7%, Turkey 4.4% (2013) (CIA Factbook 2015).

Key industries: The economy is founded on revenue from oil and natural gas. Smaller industries include small-scale production of cotton textiles, leather goods, food processing, handicrafts, aluminium products, cement, and commercial ship repair (CIA Factbook 2015).

Remittances: USD 3.343 billion in personal remittances in 2013 (World Bank 2013). Mass expulsions of Yemeni workers from Saudi Arabia, following a campaign to deport undocumented migrants which began in 2013, could result in estimated USD 1 billion in lost remittances over the coming years (Human Rights Watch 2015). In 1991, unemployment became a major issue when hundreds of thousands of Yemenis returned from the Gulf states (Minority Rights Group International 2012; Library of Congress 2008).

Infrastructure

Airports: As of 2013, Yemen had 57 airports, including 17 with paved runways. The country's main airport is in Sanaa (CIA Factbook 2015).

Roadway: 71,300km; 6,200km are paved (CIA Factbook 2015). Roads in the north are generally in better condition than those in southern parts of Yemen (Library of Congress 2008). In 2014, the World Bank granted funds for a 710km highway that would run from Sa'ada to Aden; as of June 2015 the project is on hold (World Bank 16/06/2015).

Ports: Yemen's main ports are Aden, Al Hudaydah, Al Mukalla, and Mocha; Aden is the primary port. Ras Isa is the loading point for oil exports, and a small amount of cargo passes through Nishtun (Library of Congress 2008).

Electricity: In 2010, 45% of the population had access to electricity (World Bank 2014).

Pipelines: According to the US Government, as of 2007 Yemen had 1,402km of pipelines: 1,309km of oil, 71km of gas, and 22km of liquid petroleum gas (Library of Congress 2008).

Media and Communication

Yemen was ranked 168 out of 180 in the 2015 World Press Freedom Index (Reporters Without Borders 2015). Low literacy rates mean that the majority of Yemenis get their news from TV or radio, which is mostly state-controlled (Freedom House 2014).

TV: In 2002, 43% of households had a TV (NationMaster 2015). In 2014, the government controlled four TV stations (Freedom House 2014). Stations from Oman and Saudi Arabia can also be accessed (CIA 2015). Houthi forces took over the state-run TV station and news agency when they seized control of Saana in January 2015 (The Guardian 19/01/2015).

Radio: In 2014, the government controlled 12 radio stations, while seven private radio stations were on air (Freedom House 2014).

Print: Yemen has a number of newspapers; many are owned by the government or opposition parties. Yemen's two daily newspapers, *Al Thawra* and *Al Jumhuriya*, are both government-owned. In 2003, only 4.4% of the population read one newspaper on a weekly basis (Rugh 2004; Phillips 2008). Print media is strictly regulated. Continued insecurity and lack of resources such as fuel and paper are major challenges in printing and distributing newspapers (Freedom House 2014; International Media Support 2012).

Internet: As of 2013, 20% of the population had access to the Internet (World Bank 2015). The Government owns Yemen's two internet service providers (Freedom House 2014). Authorities block websites deemed offensive and some websites with political discussions (Freedom House 2015).

Telephone: 1.1 million land lines in use as of 2012 and 13.9 million mobile cellular users (CIA Factbook 2015).

Food Security and Livelihoods

Yemen is the poorest country in the Middle East, with more than half of the population living below the poverty line in 2014 (WFP 2014; World Bank 31/03/2015)

Food security: In 2014, 10.6 million people were in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or Emergency (IPC Phase 4) food security (FAO 16/09/2014). Since the escalation of conflict, almost 13 million people are facing Crisis or Emergency food security outcomes (FAO 18/06/2015). Only 3% of the country is considered arable land (FAO 2011;

16/09/2014). As a result of low levels of rainfall, agriculture is highly dependent on the extraction of groundwater, a resource that is being depleted (Library of Congress 2008). 90% of Yemenis depend on commercial food imports (FAO 16/09/2014).

Livelihoods: Agriculture employs more than 54% of the work force, and two-thirds of the population depend on agriculture for income and food (FAO 2012). Food production includes barley, wheat, and sorghum (FEWSNET 2010). Other production includes coffee and *khat* (chewing khat produces a mild high; a majority of Yemenis use it) (FEWSNET 2010; WHO 2008). The remaining work force is employed in the service, construction, commerce, or industry sectors (Library of Congress 2008). Other sources of income include beekeeping and petty trading (FAO 2011).

Coping mechanisms: Coping mechanisms in Yemen are limited after years of instability and poor existing levels of resources (OCHA 19/06/2015). The Yemeni population's coping mechanisms include rationing of water consumption; reducing living expenditures to a minimum; spending savings; selling assets, including livestock; and seeking alternative livelihood options (UNDP 06/2015; UNDP 07/2015). Available coping mechanisms have decreased following the escalation of conflict, and many households are resorting to unsustainable coping mechanisms to survive (OCHA 17/06/2015).

Health

As of June 2015, WHO estimates that more than 15 million people are in need of basic health services (WHO 19/06/2015). More than half of the population lacked access to healthcare before the recent escalation in conflict, because of a lack of facilities in rural areas and the inability of the poor to pay for healthcare (WHO 2005). Health facilities were under-equipped, understaffed, and subject to persistent supply shortages (USAID 2008).

Health system: The Ministry of Public Health and Population is responsible for Yemen's health sector. According to government data from 2013, Yemen has 4,162 health facilities: two referral hospitals, 54 general hospitals, 185 district hospitals, 873 health centres, 3,007 health units, and 41 health complexes (UNICEF 2014). The majority of health facilities are located in towns and cities (Lackner 2014). In 2010, only 35% of the rural population was covered by health services (Al Serouri et al. 2011). In 2013, per capita expenditure on health was USD 200, and total expenditure was 5.4% of GDP (WHO 2013).

Since the escalation of conflict, health facilities have closed due to insecurity and fuel shortages, people cannot access health facilities that remain open, and medical supplies and vaccines are in short supply (OCHA 19/06/2015).

Maternal health: The maternal mortality ratio is 270 per 100,000 live births: women between the ages of 15 and 49 face a 14% chance of dying from maternal causes (WHO 2013; WHO 2012). Yemen has among the highest fertility rates in the world, with each woman having an average of 5.1 children (UNICEF 2011). Yemen also has a high rate of adolescent fertility and very low rate of births attended by skilled birth attendants. One in five women between the ages of 20 and 24 had given birth by the time they turned 18 (UNICEF 2014). 86% of women deliver at home without the presence of skilled birth attendants (UNICEF 2013).

Vaccination: 78% of children aged 12–23 months have been immunised against measles (World Bank 2013). Coverage for DTP3 (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis) is 88%, with 4% of districts achieving less than 50% coverage. Polio coverage is 88% (WHO/UNICEF 2014; GAVI 2013). Disaggregated data on immunisation rates shows approximately equivalent coverage for boys and girls (OECD 2014). Vaccination programmes have been disrupted in 2015 due to insecurity, and lack of fuel and electricity (UNICEF 30/06/2015).

Dengue is endemic in Yemen, and usually follows seasonal patterns, with high incidence between April and August. Between 2000 and 2011, Yemen faced repeated dengue outbreaks (WHO 12/06/2015). In 2015, a significant increase in the rate of dengue has been reported in Al Hudaydah, Taizz, Aden, Lahj, Shabwah, and Hadramaut (OCHA 06/07/2015). More than 3,000 cases of dengue were reported between March and June 2015 (WHO 21/06/2015).

Measles: Measles is the fourth leading cause of death among children under the age of five, constituting 12% of deaths (WHO 2013).

Waterborne disease: According to a 2005 report, 75% of the population were at risk of waterborne diseases due to water contamination (IRIN 09/04/2009). Every year, 14,700 people die of diarrhoea (Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves 2015).

HIV: The prevalence of HIV in Yemen is relatively low. An estimated 0.2% of the population live with HIV (UNAIDS 2013).

Tuberculosis: Rates of tuberculosis have declined significantly since 1990. In 2013, 10,367 cases of tuberculosis were registered (WHO 2013). About 1,400 people die every year from tuberculosis (Yemen Times, 28/05/2012).

WASH

Access to WASH: As of 2012, 55% of the population had access to improved water sources (World Bank 2012). Access to WASH facilities significantly decreased in 2015. As of June 2015, WHO estimates that more than 20 million people, 80% of the population, lack access to safe water and sanitation (WHO 19/06/2015). Increased rates of waterborne disease are a significant concern (OCHA 12/06/2015).

Water supply: Unlike other countries in the Middle East, Yemen has no rivers to depend on for water resources. Estimates suggest that the capital might run out of water within a decade (Glass 2010). Water availability has further decreased in recent years as the population has grown. A 2012 survey found that 30% of the water supply systems in Yemen were not functional, due to depletion of water sources, disrupted power supplies, and lack of resources for repairs (OCHA 12/06/2012). More than half of Yemen's water resources are used to grow *khat*, which has also depleted water resources (Glass 2010).

Sanitation: As of 2012, 53% of the population had access to improved sanitation facilities (World Bank 2012). In 2008, the majority of villages in rural areas were found to be dumping sewage in watercourses or piping it onto open ground (IRIN 05/03/2008). In most rural areas, no government body is in charge of providing sanitation services (OCHA 2013). Diarrhoea rates are high in Yemen, and waterborne disease outbreaks are common, particularly in rural areas (OCHA 17/02/2014).

Shelter and NFIs

As of June 2015, 1.2 million people are in need of shelter or NFIs, including 200,000 vulnerable people in host communities (OCHA 12/06/2015). Lack of adequate shelter does not only affect the newly displaced, but also those displaced prior to the escalation of conflict, migrants in Yemen, and Yemeni workers who have been deported from Saudi Arabia. Many migrants and refugees in Yemen live in substandard conditions in camps, reception centres and poor urban areas (OCHA 12/06/2015).

While many displaced people are staying with friends or family, others are staying in public buildings, makeshift structures, or out in the open (OCHA 12/06/2015). Conditions in camps are often poor, and the displaced live without adequate protection from the weather. People living in spontaneous settlements, often out of doors, are at risk of exploitation and insecurity (UNICEF 2014). Hundreds of schools are used for shelter, and both overcrowding and lack adequate WASH facilities is a concern (WHO 03/06/2015).

The influx of displaced people into less conflict-affected areas has increased rental prices, affecting both displaced and host communities (OCHA 12/06/2015). Returnees often return to communities where buildings have been severely damaged by airstrikes and fighting. Many communities lack the capacity to rebuild or prepare for potential future shocks (UNICEF 2014).

Education

Educational attainment in Yemen is low: in 2011, 86% of women and 60% of men reported that they had less than a secondary-level education. The rate of female participation in educational activities has been improving in recent decades: 29% of women aged 18–24 have no formal education, compared to 98% of women 65 or older (IWPR 12/2010). Adult literacy rates are 43% for women and 77% for men (UNICEF 2014). According to the 2013 Demographic and Health Survey, only 6% of women have achieved an educational level higher than secondary school (Human Rights Watch 2015).

Children are prevented from receiving education for financial, access and socio-cultural reasons (UNICEF 2014). Only 27% of teachers are women and most schools do not employ women, which is an obstacle for parents in sending their daughters to school (UNICEF 2014).

Protection

Mixed migrants: Migrants arriving or transiting in Yemen by the Gulf of Aden or the Red Sea are at risk of dehydration, physical abuse, sexual abuse, kidnapping, arbitrary arrest, detention, and deportation. The use of detention for irregular migrants, including asylum seekers, has increased in recent years: migrants are regularly arrested and detained upon arrival (RMMS 04/2015). Migrants are also at risk of trafficking, forced labour, or other methods of exploitation (OCHA 2013). Yemeni migrants deported from Saudi Arabia are subject to human rights abuse and receive little aid from the authorities upon arrival in Yemen (Human Rights Watch 2015).

Muhamasheen: Also referred to as Akhdam, the Muhamasheen are a small minority group that live on the outskirts of major cities and are subject to discrimination (Freedom House 2015). Many Muhamasheen lack identification papers, and have lower rates of education and employment than other Yemenis (New York Times 2008). Accurate figures on the size of the Muhamasheen population are not available, with an estimate ranging from 500,000–3.5 million (International Dalit Solidarity Network 2014).

Child recruitment: All major armed groups and state forces are recruiting children (Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict 2014). Analysts estimate that around 30-40% of Houthi fighters are under the age of 18, with around 15-25% under the age of 16 (Al Jazeera 04/03/2015).

Early marriage: There is no minimum legal age for marriage. 54% of female respondents in a 2010 survey reported they were married at the age of 16 or younger. 67% of male respondents reported being married at age 20 or older. The adolescent birth rate is 80 births per 1,000 girls aged 15–19 (Social Institutions & Gender Index 2014).

Female genital mutilation (FGM): Data from 2003 shows that 40% of women aged 15–49 had undergone some form of FGM. The practice is believed to be most prevalent in urban areas and along the coast. Women's right groups report that prevalence of FGM in Al Maharah and Al Hudaydah governorates may be as high as 90% (Social Institutions & Gender Index 2014).

Arbitrary detention and torture: Arbitrary detention is common. Security forces affiliated with the Political Security Office and the Interior Ministry reportedly torture and abuse detainees (Freedom House 2015).

Key Documents

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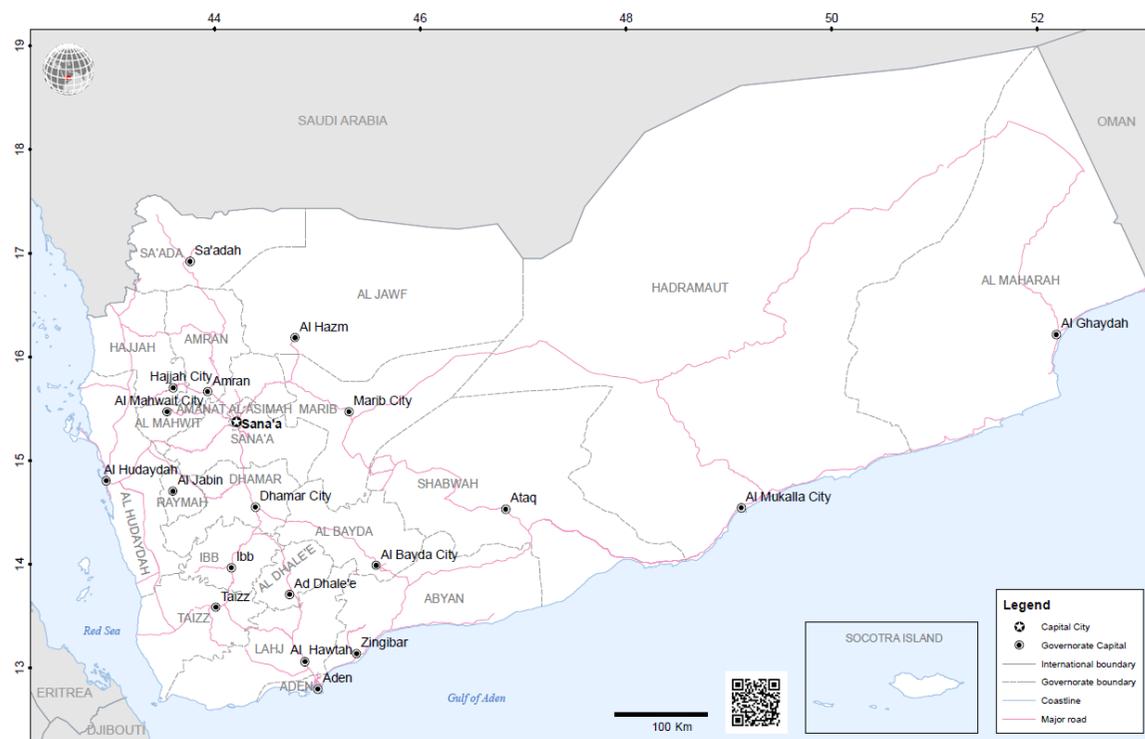
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UNICEF (2014) *Situation Analysis of Children in Yemen 2014*

WHO (2015) *Yemen: WHO Statistical Profile*

Yemen Governorates



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Creation date: 13 March 2013 File name: A4_Yemen_Administrative_Map_with_Roads Sources: GoY/MoLA/CSO Feedback: yemen@humanitarianresponse.info http://yemen.humanitarianresponse.info

Source: OCHA 2013

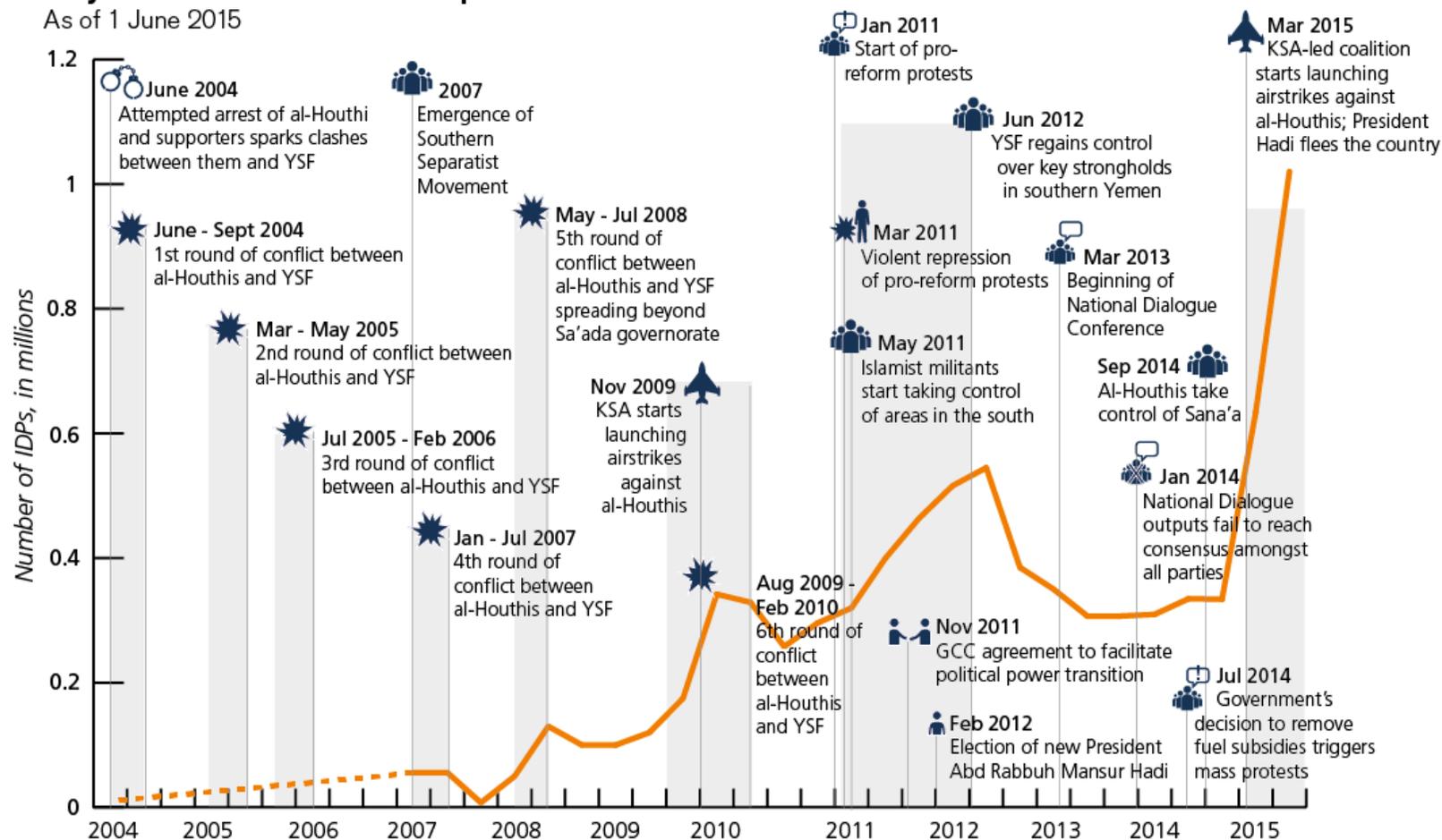
Governorate	Capital	Population (2004.)	Area (km ²)	Pop. density (/km ²)
Abyan	Zinjibar	433,819	21,939	19.8
Aden	Aden	598,419	1,114	537.2
Amran	Amran	877,786	9,587	91.6
Al Bayda	Al Bayda	577,369	11,193	51.6
Al Dhalee	Al Dhalee	470,564	4,786	98.3
Al Hudaydah	Al Hudaydah	2,157,552	17,509	123.2
Al Jawf	Al Hazm	443,797	30,620	14.5
Al Mahrah	Al Ghaydah	88,594	82,405	1.08
Al Mahwit	Al Mahwit	494,557	2,858	173.0
Dhamar	Dhamar	1,330,108	9,495	140.0
Hadramaut	Mukalla	1,028,556	191,737	5.7
Hajjah	Hajjah	1,479,568	10,141	145.9
Ibb	Ibb	2,131,861	6,484	328.8
Lahj	Lahj	722,692	15,210	47.5
Marib	Marib	238,522	20,023	11.9
Raymah	Raymah	394,448	2,442	161.5
Sa'ada	Sa'ada	695,033	15,022	46.3
Sanaa	Sanaa	919,215	15,052	61.0
Sanaa municipality	Sanaa	1,747,834	126	13,871.7
Shabwah	Ataq	470,635	47,728	9.8
Socotra	Hadibu	42,842	3,796	11.3
Taizz	Taizz	2,393,425	12,605	189.9

Source: Geohive; Yemen National Information Center

Timeline of Major Events

Key events and internal displacement in Yemen

As of 1 June 2015



Disclaimer: These are projections based on the best information available to IDMC by various sources.
YSF = Yemeni Security Forces; KSA = Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; GCC = Gulf Cooperation Council