

YEMEN - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #4, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2020

FEBRUARY 12, 2020

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

30.5 million

Population of Yemen
UN – December 2018

24.1 million

People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance
UN – December 2018

3.6 million

IDPs in Yemen
UN – December 2018

20.1 million

People in Need of Food Assistance
UN – December 2018

17.8 million

People in Need of WASH Assistance
UN – December 2018

HIGHLIGHTS

- Conflict between Al Houthi and KSA-led Coalition forces displaces nearly 26,800 people in northern Yemen in early 2020
- USAID/FFP partner WFP reaches 12.7 million people with food assistance for second consecutive month
- Suspected cholera cases decline nearly 60 percent since September 2019

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

FOR THE YEMEN RESPONSE IN FY 2019

USAID/OFDA ¹	\$102,058,924
USAID/FFP ²	\$594,548,790
State/PRM ³	\$49,800,000

\$746,407,714

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Hostilities between Al Houthi and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)-led Coalition forces since mid-January in Al Jawf, Marib, and Sana'a governorates has displaced nearly 26,800 people in northern Yemen, according to the UN. In response, USAID partner the International Organization for Migration (IOM) scaled up emergency food and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance through the USAID-funded Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) to support the immediate needs of more than 3,000 displaced persons from January 22 to February 4.
- On December 26, artillery shelling at Al Hudaydah Governorate's Red Sea Mills prompted USAID/FFP partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) to temporarily halt operations at the facility, according to the agency. Following repairs, staff resumed milling on December 30, dispatching nearly 3,500 metric tons (MT) of wheat flour to WFP warehouses in Ibb and Sana'a governorates the following day. Prior to the incident, WFP had restarted operations in mid-December, after losing access to the facility in September 2018, to mill and transport the facility's remaining 50,000 MT of wheat—sufficient to meet the food needs of approximately 3.6 million people for one month.
- Food security conditions may worsen in Yemen in the coming months, as foreign currency shortages and a northern *de facto* authority ban on new, Republic of Yemen Government (RoYG)-issued banknotes are anticipated to increase food and fuel prices and disrupt imports, the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) reports. USAID/FFP partner WFP continues to provide emergency food assistance to bolster food security for conflict-affected populations, reaching more than 12.7 million people respectively in November and December.

¹ USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)

² USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

³ U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

DISPLACEMENT AND PROTECTION

- Conflict between Al Houthi and KSA-led Coalition forces in northern Yemen—which followed an Al Houthi missile strike on a RoYG military base in Marib that resulted in more than 100 deaths—displaced approximately 26,800 people from January 19 to February 2, according to the UN. The clashes—including artillery shelling impacting an internally displaced persons (IDP) site in Marib on January 26—displaced nearly 15,000 people in Marib and approximately 5,900 people in both Al Jawf and Sana’a, many of whom had already been displaced by prior conflict. Before the recent outbreak of violence, Marib had experienced relative peace and economic stability compared to other parts of the country, which had led many IDPs to seek shelter in the governorate, according to the UN.
- In addition, ongoing clashes between Al Houthi and Coalition forces damaged two hospitals in Marib’s Majzar District on February 7, the UN reports. The violence resulted in injury to one paramedic at Al Saudi field hospital as well as damage to parts of Al Saudi field hospital and Al Jafra Hospital, the primary hospital in Majzar. The two hospitals, which collectively serve an estimated 15,000 people in the district, suspended operations following the incidents due to insecurity. UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Lise Grande issued a statement condemning the attacks as an unacceptable violation of international humanitarian law while highlighting the continuing adverse effects of conflict on the Yemeni health system.
- In response to the violence in northern Yemen, IOM has scaled up assistance for displaced populations in Marib with USAID/OFDA and other donor support. IOM has distributed multipurpose cash and RRM kits—providing recently displaced populations with immediate food, water, and hygiene assistance within 72 hours of displacement—to more than 3,000 newly displaced people and is transporting 3,000 emergency shelter and relief item kits from Aden Governorate to Marib for distribution. Additionally, the organization continues to operate a mobile health clinic and support two hospitals in Marib city to ensure IDPs have access to vital health services.
- Artillery shelling in late December damaged infrastructure at Al Hudaydah’s Red Sea Mills, prompting WFP to temporarily suspend operations at the facility, the UN agency reports. Following repairs to infrastructure, staff resumed operations at the facility as of December 30; the UN agency reported no damage to recently produced wheat flour. In mid-December, WFP began processing the 50,000 remaining MT of wheat—sufficient to feed approximately 3.6 million people for one month—contained at the facility after insecurity and bureaucratic impediments limited WFP access to the facility from September 2018 to February 2019.

FOOD SECURITY, LIVELIHOODS, AND NUTRITION

- Yemen continues to face the world’s largest food security crisis, as economic decline and protracted conflict have disrupted household access to food and significantly elevated food prices compared to pre-crisis levels. Since early January, a ban from northern officials on new banknotes printed by the Aden-based Central Bank of Yemen (CBY) has depreciated the value of the Yemeni Riyal (YER), increasing the price of food and fuel imports on which Yemen depends, according to FEWS NET. In addition, depletion of the KSA \$2 billion foreign currency reserve deposit with the CBY is expected to decrease import flows and further weaken the YER, exacerbating acute food insecurity in the coming months, FEWS NET reports. As a result, the YER has depreciated by approximately 15 percent in northern Yemen and 7 percent in southern Yemen as of late January—diminishing household purchasing power—as market disruptions proliferate due to people refusing to trade in new banknotes, international media report.
- USAID partners continue to provide life-saving food security and nutrition support for conflict-affected people in Yemen. Despite ongoing access constraints, USAID/FFP partner WFP provided food assistance to more than 12.7 million people—more than 60 percent of Yemen’s food-insecure population—in December, matching the agency’s November reach which was the highest monthly number of people to date. The UN agency provided in-kind food assistance to approximately 9.5 million people, food vouchers to 2.6 million people, and cash transfers for food to more than 565,000 people during the month. WFP’s support represents a more than 60 percent increase from the 7.9 million people the agency reached in December 2018.
- With USAID/FFP support, an international non-governmental organization (INGO) partner distributed food vouchers—redeemable for specific food items from local shops—to more than 15,000 households, as well as

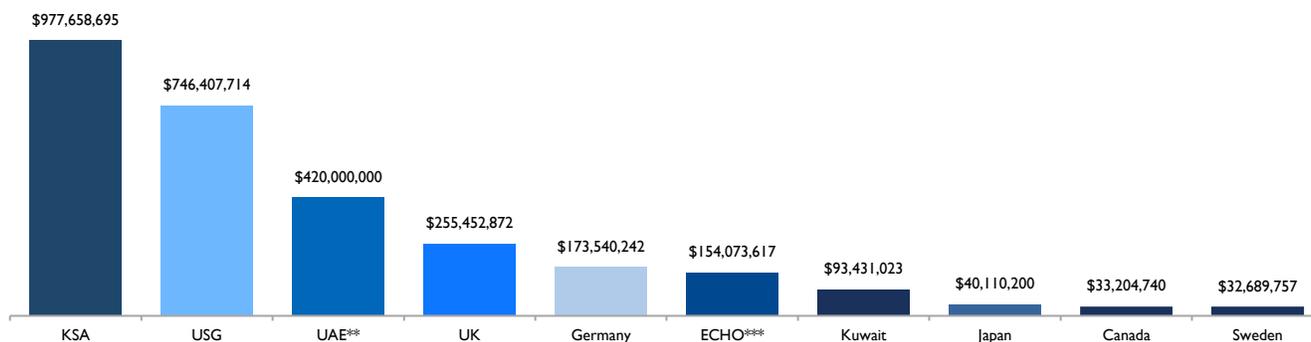
conducted nutrition awareness activities for more than 6,300 households, in Abyan, Ad Dali', and Lahij governorates in December. Two additional USAID partners also distributed approximately 1,700 food baskets—sufficient to meet the food needs of nearly 12,000 people—in Ad Dali', Aden, Dhamar, Al Hudaydah, and Ibb governorates in December.

- Separately, another USAID INGO partner screened nearly 21,000 children ages five years and younger and nearly 8,600 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) for malnutrition in Amran, Hajjah, Al Hudaydah, Sa'dah, and Ta'izz governorates during the month. The USAID partner also treated nearly 660 children experiencing severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and nearly 1,800 children and approximately 2,400 PLW experiencing moderate acute malnutrition across the five governorates. With USAID/OFDA support, an additional INGO partner distributed multipurpose cash assistance to nearly 1,600 people in Al Mahwit Governorate in December to support households with children facing SAM to improve the children's food consumption.
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HEALTH AND WASH

- Relief actors continue to respond to the cholera outbreak in Yemen, recording nearly 35,000 suspected cholera cases in January 2020, the UN World Health Organization (WHO) reports. The January total represents a more than 20 percent decrease from the more than 44,000 suspected cases recorded in December 2019, marking the fourth consecutive month suspected cases have decreased from the nearly 86,000 recorded in September. In response to the ongoing outbreak, USAID partners are supporting communities across Yemen with WASH interventions focusing on cholera prevention and treatment. In December, four USAID partners conducted hygiene promotion sessions—including cholera awareness education—that reached more than 7,000 people in Dhamar, Ibb, Sana'a, and Ta'izz. Additionally, one USAID partner supported nearly 6,700 IDPs through water trucking services at four IDP sites in Sana'a, while a second USAID/OFDA partner installed solar lights in nearly 140 latrines in Ta'izz to improve latrine safety. Two USAID partners also distributed approximately 460 hygiene kits—comprising basic relief items such as soap and toothpaste—to conflict-affected people in Al Hudaydah and Sana'a.
- Protracted conflict has severely damaged health care systems in Yemen, disrupting people's ability to treat both chronic and communicable diseases and leaving 19.7 million people in need of basic health care, according to the UN. To respond to the severe health needs across the country, USAID partners continue to provide vital health care services to vulnerable communities in Yemen. One USAID partner provided nearly 51,000 medical consultations to conflict-affected people in December—referring nearly 200 emergency cases to local hospitals for further treatment—in Amran, Hajjah, Al Hudaydah, Sa'dah, and Ta'izz. The partner also distributed essential medicines and medical equipment to 45 hospitals and assisted with more than 700 deliveries for pregnant women in the governorates during the month. In addition, a second USAID partner conducted 4,500 medical consultations in Al Hudaydah in December, leading to the diagnosis and treatment of nearly 880 children ages five years and younger for communicable diseases.
- Additionally, parties to the conflict authorized the first two UN-brokered medical air bridge flights carrying more than 30 Yemenis in need of emergency health care services from Sana'a City to Amman, Jordan, on February 3 and 8, according to WHO. Relief actors anticipate the air bridge mechanism—which enables humanitarian organizations to transport Yemenis in dire need of emergency medical assistance—will continue operations in the coming days, transporting patients to either Egypt or Jordan for specialized care. Sana'a airport had previously been closed to civilian flights since 2016, with the Coalition—which controls all Yemeni airspace—allowing only UN-chartered planes to take off from the facility.

2019 HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN FUNDING* PER DONOR



*Funding figures are as of February 12, 2020. All international figures are according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)'s Financial Tracking Service; U.S. Government (USG) figures are according to the USG and reflect publicly announced USG funding for FY 2019, which spans October 1, 2018, to September 30, 2019.

**United Arab Emirates (UAE)

***European Commission's Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO)

CONTEXT

- Between 2004 and early 2015, conflict between RoYG and Al Houthi opposition forces in the north and between Al Qaeda-affiliated groups and RoYG forces in the south affected more than 1 million people and repeatedly displaced populations in northern Yemen, resulting in humanitarian needs. Fighting between RoYG forces and tribal and militant groups since 2011 limited the capacity of the RoYG to provide basic services, and humanitarian needs increased among impoverished populations. The southward advancement of Al Houthi forces in 2014 and 2015 resulted in the renewal and escalation of conflict and displacement, further exacerbating already deteriorated humanitarian conditions.
- In March 2015, the Coalition began airstrikes against Al Houthi and allied forces to halt their southward expansion. The ongoing conflict has damaged or destroyed public infrastructure, interrupted essential services, and reduced commercial imports to a fraction of the levels required to sustain the Yemeni population; the country relies on imports for 90 percent of its grain and other food sources.
- Since March 2015, the escalated conflict—along with protracted instability, the resulting economic crisis, rising fuel and food prices, and high levels of unemployment—has left approximately 24.1 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, including more than 20 million people in need of emergency food assistance. In addition, the conflict has displaced more than 3.6 million people; approximately 1.3 million people have returned to areas of origin, according to data collected by IOM in November 2018. The volatility of the current situation prevents relief agencies from obtaining accurate, comprehensive demographic information.
- On December 2, 2019, U.S. Ambassador Christopher P. Henzel reissued a disaster declaration for Yemen in FY 2020 due to continued humanitarian needs resulting from the complex emergency and the impact of the country's political and economic crises on vulnerable populations.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE YEMEN RESPONSE IN FY 2019¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA			
Implementing Partners (IPs)	Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management (HCIM), Health, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Multipurpose Cash Assistance, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Abyan, Aden, Amanat al-Asimah, Amran, Al Bayda', Ad Dali', Dhamar, Hadramawt, Hajjah, Al Hudaydah, Ibb, Al Jawf, Lahij, Al Mahrah, Marib, Al Mahwit, Raymah, Sa'dah, Sana'a, Shabwah, Socotra Island, Ta'izz	\$53,272,978
IP	HCIM	Countrywide	\$837,525
IOM	HCIM	Countrywide	\$1,600,000
OCHA	HCIM	Countrywide	\$8,000,000
UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$4,047,000
WFP	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$6,070,500
WHO	Health, HCIM, Nutrition	Countrywide	\$27,000,000
	Program Support		\$1,230,921
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING			\$102,058,924
USAID/FFP^{2,3}			
IPs	Cash Transfers for Food; Food Vouchers; Local, Regional, and International Procurement; Nutrition; Complementary Services	Abyan, Ad Dali', Aden, Al Hudaydah, Al Mahwit, Dhamar, Hajjah, Ibb, Lahij, Sana'a, Shabwah, Ta'izz	\$54,984,842
UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)	U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Countrywide	\$3,867,800
UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Complementary Services	Countrywide	\$1,500,000
WFP	U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Countrywide	\$442,696,148
	Local, Regional, and International Procurement	Countrywide	\$50,000,000
	Food Vouchers	Countrywide	\$41,500,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING			\$594,548,790
STATE/PRM			
IPs	Agriculture and Food Security, Health, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$10,100,000
Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	Camp Coordination and Camp Management, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Protection, Refugee Response and Returns Support, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$39,700,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$49,800,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE YEMEN RESPONSE IN FY 2019			\$746,407,714

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of September 30, 2019.

² Estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.

³ USAID/FFP-supported complementary services—which include sector-specific activities such as agriculture, livelihoods, nutrition, and WASH interventions—enhance food assistance programs by strengthening food availability and access.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at www.interaction.org.

- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org.
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int.

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID website at
<http://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/working-crises-and-conflict/responding-times-crisis/where-we-work>