



YEMEN - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #7, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2017

MARCH 10, 2017

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

27.4 million

Population of Yemen
UN – November 2016

18.8 million

People in Need of
Humanitarian Assistance
UN – November 2016

14.8 million

People Lacking Access to Basic
Health Care
UN – November 2016

17.1 million

People who are food insecure
UN – February 2017

7.3 million

People in Need of Emergency Food
Assistance
FAO – February 2017

2 million

IDPs in Yemen
IOM – March 2017

5.6 million

People Reached with Humanitarian
Assistance in 2016
UN – December 2016

HIGHLIGHTS

- UN declares Yemen the largest food security emergency in the world
- Persistent fighting along the western coast displaces more than 48,000 people in Ta'izz Governorate
- Insecurity at ports and overland transportation routes blocks medical supplies and other humanitarian assistance

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

FOR THE YEMEN RESPONSE IN FY 2016–2017

USAID/OFDA ¹	\$111,877,579
USAID/FFP ²	\$264,988,400
State/PRM ³	\$55,050,000
\$431,915,979	

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reports that nearly 65 percent of the population in Yemen is facing food insecurity due to the lack of access to affordable and quality food commodities. The number of food-insecure people in Yemen has increased by 3 million from August–February, bringing the total to 17.1 million food-insecure people as of February 21.
- Food prices increased in January amidst food and fuel shortages, which could exacerbate the already dire food security situation, according to USAID/FFP partner the UN World Food Program (WFP).
- As of March 1, escalated conflict along Yemen's western coast had displaced more than 48,000 people from and within Ta'izz Governorate, including at least 25,000 people from Al Mocha and Dhubab districts, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Humanitarian agencies have scaled up response operations across six governorates in recent weeks.
- The UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) began weekly flights between Djibouti and the city of Aden, Aden Governorate, during the first week of March, providing an additional access route for the delivery of humanitarian aid.
- On February 22, the UN requested \$4.4 billion by April to meet the emergency food needs of an estimated 20 million people at risk of starvation in Yemen, Somalia, Nigeria, and South Sudan. The \$1.7 billion request for Yemen is a component of the \$2.1 billion funding request for the 2017 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) released by the UN on February 8. The 2017 HRP was approximately 6 percent funded as of March 10.

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)

INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT, AND HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

- Increased airstrikes and fighting between the Kingdom of Saudi (KSA)-led Coalition and Al Houthi forces along Yemen's western coast have displaced more than 62,000 people, including an estimated 48,000 people from and within Ta'izz Governorate, as of March 10, according to the UN. The majority of internally displaced persons (IDPs) have fled within Ta'izz, while thousands of others have fled to Al Hudaydah and other surrounding governorates. Furthermore, insecurity and obstructed port access, customs obstacles, and energy outages are complicating the ability of humanitarian agencies to reach populations in need of life-saving commodities.
 - Between March 2015 and February 2017, conflict had displaced more than 3 million people according to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). OCHA reports that approximately half of the IDP population is located in three governorates—Hajjah, Sana'a, and Ta'izz—and nearly 90 percent of IDPs have been displaced in excess of 10 months, overextending resources in host communities.
 - More than 1 million IDPs had returned to their areas of origin along the western coast from March 2015–November 2016 to find their communities heavily damaged by the conflict. Infrastructure damage has also led to extended disruptions in electricity, leaving approximately 90 percent of the population in Yemen without public electricity access, according to a USAID/OFDA partner.
 - Overland transport regulations, including checkpoints and bureaucratic impediments, are delaying the transport of humanitarian and commercial commodities throughout Yemen. Sustained delays could negatively affect the availability and price of basic items on the local market. A USAID/OFDA partner reported that shipments of medical supplies to address the needs of 40,000 people, including 14,000 children under five years of age, were delayed for more than two months en route to Al Hudaydah port. In addition to intensified airstrikes, a recent surge in ship attacks in the Bab al-Mandab maritime passage has further compromised safe passage for fuel and humanitarian deliveries to Al Hudaydah Port, according to international media.
 - As of March 2, roads were open for humanitarian deliveries in Al Mocha; however, insecurity in the coastal district of Al Khawkah in Al Hudaydah Governorate and along the road connecting the city of Al Hudaydah to Mocha town posed a risk to humanitarian staff, according to a non-governmental organization (NGO).
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FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

- The protracted conflict and corresponding economic instability have decreased the country's ability to purchase and import food commodities, leading to declines in agricultural production and food supply. Yemen is now considered the largest food emergency situation worldwide, FAO reports.
- On February 23, the UN reported that nearly 65 percent of the population in Yemen is facing food insecurity stemming from an inability to access affordable and quality food commodities. Of the 17.1 million people who are food insecure, approximately 7.3 million people are severely food insecure and nearly 7.3 million people are in immediate need of emergency food assistance, FAO reports.
- IDPs, returnees, and host community members report access to food and health care as priority humanitarian needs in a recent country-wide assessment. USG partners the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and UNHCR, conducted the assessment from August to September 2016. All surveyed populations indicated food as a critical need, citing high prices, insecurity, long distance to markets, and insufficient or inconsistent food supplies as major challenges to accessing food.
- WFP reached approximately 4.9 million beneficiaries in 17 governorates in February—the highest number of people reached in one month to date—despite WFP delivery trucks experiencing an unusually high number of delays or detentions at checkpoints in some parts of country.
- The UN agency distributed food to 12,000 IDPs from Ta'izz Governorate's Mawza and Al Mocha districts in January and February, as well as to 7,200 people in eight districts in Al Hudaydah. Through commodity vouchers and general food distributions, WFP reached nearly 1 million people in the governorates with the highest displacement levels—Amanat al Asimah, Hajjah, Sana'a, and Ta'izz—as of February 21.

- On February 12, the price of wheat in the city of Ta'izz increased by 40 percent as the value of the Yemeni riyal (YER) declined by 30 percent against the U.S. dollar due to fluctuations in the informal market value of the YER, according to international media. The YER value stabilized following controls on exchange traders set by the Republic of Yemen Government (RoYG) and Al Houthi/General People's Congress, but continued devaluation could intensify the food insecurity crisis.
- WFP warns that in-country stock of wheat and sugar will be depleted within two to three months, and vegetable oil and rice will run out by the end of March without additional imports.
- Approximately 60 percent of people in Yemen depend on agriculture for food consumption and livelihood, which the conflict has disrupted considerably.
- Scarcity of food and increased food import difficulties is contributing to a rise in food prices, particularly in Ta'izz, where the prices of cooking gas and wheat flour have tripled and doubled, respectively, since February 2015. In addition, fuel imports have declined since November, with only 16 percent of Yemen's fuel needs covered in January compared to 40 percent in November and 32 percent in December, according to WFP.
- The Food Security and Agriculture Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian food security and agriculture activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders—had distributed emergency food assistance to more than 21,200 people in As Silw and Mocha districts and eight districts in Al Hudaydah as of February 25 in response to recent displacement.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

- Logistics and transportation obstacles have hindered access to and provision of basic health care services for a growing number of IDP and host community populations. As of October, only 45 percent of health facilities were completely functional due to staff shortages, insufficient funds to provide services, and structural damage, according to USAID/OFDA partner the UN World Health Organization (WHO). WHO also reports that health facility workers are not receiving salaries regularly, ministries of public health are unable to cover operational costs, and the conflict has damaged or destroyed more than 270 health facilities.
- On March 4, WHO delivered eight metric tons of medical supplies—including emergency medicine, pneumonia kits, and trauma kits—to the city of Ta'izz, where more than 350,000 people required urgent medical attention.
- WHO also commenced a national polio immunization campaign in Yemen on February 20, the country's first since April 2016. More than 40,000 health care workers plan to participate in the campaign, which aims to reach more than 5 million children across the country.
- While new suspected cholera cases appear to be declining in most regions, the RoYG Ministry of Public Health and Population (MPHP) reported approximately 1,600 new suspected cases of cholera—including four cholera-related deaths—since January 31, with nearly 80 percent of the new cases originating from 13 districts within Ad Dali', Al Hudaydah, Hajjah, and Ta'izz governorates. The Global Health Cluster, led by WHO, in partnership with MPHP, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), OCHA, and other NGOs, plans to continue bolstering nationwide cholera response programming.
- In January, USAID partner UNICEF and other relief agencies vaccinated more than 11,400 people during a six-day emergency vaccination campaign following reports of increased measles cases in Al Mahrah Governorate.
- Food insecurity and lack of access to adequate health services has left 4.5 million children and pregnant and lactating women in need of nutrition services. Nearly 2.2 million children are malnourished, with more than 462,000 children experiencing severe acute malnutrition (SAM), according to UNICEF.
- From September to December, USAID/OFDA partners treated nearly 13,000 individuals with malnutrition—including more than 2,500 cases of SAM—in Al Hudaydah, Amran, Sa'ada, Sana'a, and Ta'izz. A USAID/OFDA partner provided training for more than 300 community volunteers and 20 health care workers in Al Hudaydah and Sana'a on techniques for preventing and managing acute malnutrition during the same period.

WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE

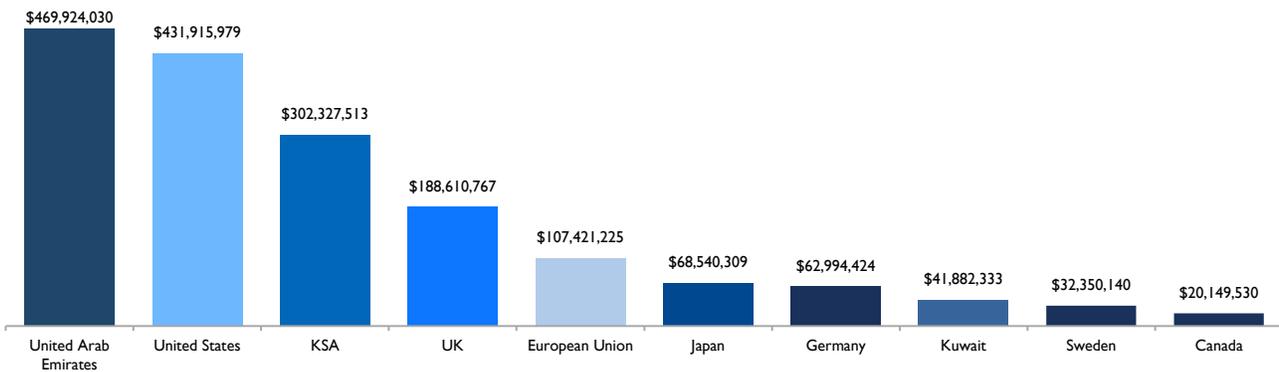
- An estimated 14.5 million people, including 8 million children, lack access to safe drinking water and adequate hygiene and sanitation services, according to the UN. From September to December 2016, USAID/OFDA partners reached nearly 69,000 beneficiaries in eight governorates with emergency water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance. Interventions included rehabilitating WASH infrastructure in Abyan and Lahij and training approximately 250 community members in Al Hudaydah, Abyan, Amran, Lahij, and Sa'ada governorates to conduct hygiene awareness activities. Since October, a USAID/OFDA partner has reached more than 41,000 beneficiaries with approximately 20 liters of safe drinking water per person per day—exceeding the Sphere minimum standard of 7.5–15 liters per day—through rehabilitated water systems in Abyan and Lahij.⁴

PROTECTION & SHELTER

- Increased fighting, particularly in the city of Ta'izz and Dhubab district, has amplified child protection risks in Yemen. As of late February, more than 6.2 million children required protection assistance to address child protection issues, such as abduction, arbitrary detention, child soldiering, and early or forced marriage, according to the UN. Al Houthi forces had conscripted nearly 1,500 children in January, according to the UN. In addition, child marriage appears to be increasingly used as a source of income for households, according to international media.
- In January 2017, airstrikes and shelling damaged two schools in Sana'a and Sa'ada governorates, and ongoing conflict resulted in the death and injury of nearly 40 children throughout Yemen, according to UNICEF; however, the casualty figure is likely higher given the difficulty accessing information from areas with active conflict. UNICEF provided psychosocial support activities through child friendly spaces and mobile protection teams to more than 54,200 children in 66 districts of 14 governorates in January.
- USAID/OFDA partner IOM is distributing 1,200 emergency relief item and shelter kits, containing mattresses, blankets, sleeping mats, water containers, and plastic sheeting, to approximately 8,400 IDPs who were recently displaced from Al Mocha District. IOM is also conducting hygiene awareness sessions and distributing water purification supplies to IDPs and conflict-affected populations in Lahij Governorate.
- UNHCR facilitated emergency assistance deliveries, including shelter and other emergency relief commodities for nearly 4,000 IDPs in Al Hudaydah, Ibb, and Ta'izz governorates as of February 10. UNHCR plans to distribute further emergency assistance to approximately 5,100 newly-displaced individuals in Al Hudaydah and more than 6,300 individuals in Ta'izz.
- International relief organizations have provided emergency shelter assistance and other relief items to approximately 9,300 people in Ad Dali', Al Hudaydah, and Lahij and also aim to assist nearly 36,000 people in Aden, Al Hudaydah, and Ta'izz as of February 10.

⁴ The Sphere Project was launched in 1997 by the International Committee of the Red Cross, UN, non-governmental organizations, and donors to develop a set of universal minimum standards for humanitarian assistance and thereby improve the quality of assistance provided to disaster-affected persons and to enhance the accountability of humanitarian agencies.

2016–2017 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING* PER DONOR



*Funding figures are as of March 10, 2017. All international figures are according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Financial Tracking Service and based on international commitments during the current calendar year, while USG figures are according to the USG and reflect the most recent USG commitments in FY 2016 as well as FY 2017, which began on October 1, 2016.

CONTEXT

- Between 2004 and early 2015, conflict between the 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 expansion 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 late March 2015, a KSA-led Coalition began airstrikes on Al Houthi and allied forces to halt their southward expansion. The ongoing conflict has damaged public infrastructure, interrupted essential services, displaced many people, and reduced the level of 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.
- The escalated conflict, coupled with protracted political instability, the resulting economic crisis, rising fuel and food prices, and high unemployment, has left more than half of Yemen's 27.4 million people food-insecure and more than 7 million people in need of emergency food assistance. In addition, the conflict had displaced a total of 3 million people, including approximately 1 million people who had returned to areas of origin, as of January 2017. The volatility of the current situation prevents relief agencies from obtaining accurate, comprehensive demographic information.
- In early 2015, Yemen hosted approximately 248,000 refugees and a large population of third-country nationals (TCNs). The escalation in hostilities prompted IOM to organize large-scale TCN evacuations from Yemen.
- On October 26, 2016, U.S. Ambassador Matthew H. Tueller re-issued a disaster declaration for the complex emergency in Yemen for FY 2017 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 2016-2017 ¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA²			
Implementing Partners	Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Health, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Protection, Nutrition, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Ad Dali', Abyan, Aden, Al Jawf, Al Hudaydah, Amran, Hajjah, Ibb, Lahij, Raymah, Sa'dah, Sana'a, Shabwah, Ta'izz	\$38,419,020
IOM	Health, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Abyan, Aden, Ad Dali', Al Hudaydah, Al Mahrah, Hadramawt, Hajjah, Ibb, Lahij, Sana'a, Shabwah, Ta'izz	\$7,500,000
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Hadramawt, Shabwah	\$1,000,000
UNHAS	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Aden, Al Hudaydah, Sana'a	\$4,000,000
UNICEF	Health, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Abyan, Aden, Al Bayda', Ad Dali', Al Hudaydah, Al Jawf, Al Mahwit, Amran, Dhamar, Hajjah, Hadramawt, Ibb, Lahij, Marib, Sa'ada, Sana'a, Shabwah, Ta'izz	\$34,000,000
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$3,700,000
UN Population Fund (UNFPA)	Health, Protection	Abyan, Aden, Al Bayda', Ad Dali', Al Hudaydah, Al Jawf, Al Mahwit, Amanat Al Asimah, Amran, Hadramawt, Hajjah, Ibb, Lahij, Marib, Raymah, Sa'dah, Sana'a, Shabwah, Ta'izz	\$1,000,080
WFP	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$9,230,621
WHO	Health, Nutrition, WASH	Countrywide	\$12,282,413
	Program Support		\$754,769
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING			\$111,877,579

USAID/FFP ³			
Implementing Partners	Food Vouchers	Abyan, Al Dali', Al Hudaydah, Al Mahwit, Hajjah, Lahij, Sana'a Ta'izz	\$20,500,000
UNICEF	420 MT of RUTF	Countrywide	\$1,793,900
WFP	U.S. In-Kind Food, Food Vouchers, Local Purchase and Milling	19 governorates	\$242,694,500
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING			\$264,988,400

STATE/PRM			
Implementing Partners	Health, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$6,000,000
IOM	Evacuation and humanitarian assistance for vulnerable migrants	Regional, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Yemen	\$9,500,000
UNHCR	Camp Coordination and Camp Management, Protection, Refugee Response, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$28,800,000
UNHCR	Camp Coordination and Camp Management, Protection, Refugee Response, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements	Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan	\$10,750,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$55,050,000

TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE YEMEN RESPONSE IN FY 2016-2017			\$431,915,979
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¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

² USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of March 10, 2017.

³ Estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.

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, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or +1.202.821.1999.
 - 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>