

YEMEN - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #6, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2019

APRIL 5, 2019

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

30.5 million

Estimated Population of Yemen
UN – December 2018

24.1 million

Estimated Number of People in
Need of Humanitarian Assistance
UN – December 2018

3.6 million

Estimated IDPs in Yemen
IOM – March 2019

20.1 million

Estimated Number of People in
Need of Food Assistance
UN – December 2018

19.7 million

Estimated Number of People in
Need of Basic Health Care
UN – December 2018

17.8 million

Estimated Number of People in
Need of WASH Assistance
UN – December 2018

HIGHLIGHTS

- Hostilities escalate in Hajjah, prompting population displacement
- Relief actors record nearly 148,000 suspected cholera cases from January–March
- UN verifies nearly 7,100 civilian deaths and nearly 11,200 civilian injuries since March 2015

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

FOR THE YEMEN RESPONSE IN FY 2018–2019

USAID/OFDA ¹	\$193,042,542
USAID/FFP ²	\$498,911,754
State/PRM ³	\$28,900,000
\$720,854,296	

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Escalated conflict in Yemen’s Hajjah Governorate continues to result in civilian casualties and population displacement. Clashes from March 9–10 resulted in at least 22 civilian deaths and injured 30 people in the governorate, according to the UN. Additionally, the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Hajjah increased from nearly 203,000 people to approximately 420,000 people between October 2018 and March 2019, the UN reports. While humanitarian organizations have scaled up response activities to meet the needs of displaced and conflict-affected populations, Hajjah’s Haradh, Hayran, and Midi districts remain inaccessible due to insecurity.
- Health actors are reporting an increase in suspected cholera cases and related deaths across the country since the beginning of 2019, according to the UN World Health Organization (WHO). Between January 1 and March 28, health actors recorded nearly 148,000 suspected cholera cases, including 291 related deaths, compared to the more than 63,200 suspected cholera cases, including 32 related deaths, recorded during the same period in 2018.
- In late February, the UN World Food Program (WFP) gained temporary access to Al Hudaydah Governorate’s Red Sea Mills facility, which stores wheat sufficient to feed 3.7 million people for one month, for the first time since September 2018, the UN agency reports. WFP continues to negotiate with local authorities to allow regular access to the facility to prepare for and resume milling operations.
- With USAID/FFP support, WFP delivered emergency food assistance to approximately 9.3 million food-insecure people in February, reaching 200,000 more people than in January.

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

- As of March 14, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights had verified nearly 7,100 civilian deaths and 11,200 civilian injuries throughout Yemen since the conflict escalated in March 2015. The UN agency estimates the actual civilian casualty toll is likely higher.
- On March 26, an airstrike hit near a health facility in Sa'dah Governorate's Kitaf District, resulting in at least eight civilian deaths, injuring eight people, and damaging medical supplies, prompting the closure of the facility, according to an international non-governmental organization (INGO).
- Intensified fighting in Ta'izz Governorate also damaged a public hospital in Ta'izz City on March 22, causing the facility to close. In a March 27 statement, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC) Lise Grande called on all parties to the conflict to protect health facilities serving vulnerable populations.
- Insecurity in Hajjah, particularly Haradh, Hayran, Kushar, and Midi districts, continues to result in civilian casualties and population displacement. Health actors in the governorate recorded at least 22 civilian deaths and injury to as many as 30 people following hostilities on March 9 and 10. RC/HC Grande condemned the violence in Hajjah in a March 11 statement and called on all parties to the conflict to facilitate unfettered humanitarian access in the governorate.
- As of March 18, conflict had displaced approximately 420,000 people in Hajjah, representing the second highest concentration of IDPs in any governorate in the country, according to the UN. In response to increased humanitarian needs in Hajjah, USAID-supported Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) partners distributed RRM kits—containing emergency food rations, hygiene supplies, and other relief commodities—to more than 3,500 households, and other humanitarian agencies distributed relief commodities to more than 1,900 households and emergency shelter materials to more than 700 households, as of March 19. However, humanitarian actors remain unable to access Haradh, Hayran, and Midi to provide assistance due to insecurity along front lines, raising concerns regarding food security conditions if access constraints continue.
- Recurrent clashes throughout Al Hudaydah since the mid-December signing of a ceasefire agreement between Al Houthi forces and the Republic of Yemen Government (RoYG) continue to result in civilian casualties, the UN reports. On March 18, a mortar shell struck a civilian house in Al Hudaydah's Al Hawak District, resulting in the death of one INGO staff member and injuring another civilian. While civilians continue to be harmed during clashes, the Protection Cluster reports an approximately 30 percent decrease in estimated civilian casualties in the governorate between mid-December and mid-March.⁴
- On February 26, WFP temporarily accessed and assessed the Red Sea Mills facility, where the UN agency stores approximately 51,000 metric tons of wheat sufficient to feed 3.7 million people for one month, for the first time since September 2018. An assessment indicated that the facility remained intact despite lack of maintenance and a late January fire that affected two of the facility's silos; however, WFP found that the facility requires additional maintenance and that the wheat requires fumigation before it can be milled. Insecurity near the Red Sea Mills and delayed clearance from local authorities has prevented WFP from starting the rehabilitation, beginning fumigation, and resuming milling operations, according to the UN agency. The UN continues to call for unimpeded access to the facility, which previously accounted for more than 30 percent of WFP's milling capacity in Yemen.
- U.S. Government (USG) partners continue to provide emergency assistance to meet the needs of populations displaced by insecurity in the worst-affected governorates. From March 12–22, State/PRM partner the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) distributed cash assistance to approximately 5,600 displaced households in Hajjah, nearly 4,000 households in Al Hudaydah, and nearly 3,500 households in both Al Jawf and Sa'dah governorates, the UN agency reports.

⁴ The coordinating body for humanitarian protection activities, comprising UN agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders.

FOOD SECURITY

- A WFP-chartered vessel completed discharging more than 400 containers of humanitarian cargo at Al Hudaydah Port on March 1. The shipment represented the first discharge of containerized cargo at the port since May 2018, and only the second discharge since the port's temporary closure in late 2017. WFP chartered the vessel to deliver cargo at Al Hudaydah Port in response to containerized cargo backlogs at southern Yemen's Aden Port resulting from infrastructure and logistical constraints, as well as administrative and bureaucratic delays. Prior to March 2015, Al Hudaydah Port received the majority of Yemen's commercial and humanitarian imports, and relief actors continue to call for sustained access to the port due to its operational capacity and proximity to populations in need.
- Rising staple food prices and the depreciation of the Yemeni *riyal* (YER) continue to undermine household food access in Yemen, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). From January–February, the price of locally produced cereals increased by approximately 3–4 percent, and prices have increased by more than 40 percent since February 2018, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). These trends continue to contribute to food insecurity throughout Yemen by limiting the ability of Yemeni households to purchase food; FEWS NET projects continued Crisis—IPC 3—and Emergency—IPC 4—levels of severe acute food insecurity across the country through September.⁵
- USAID/FFP partner WFP delivered emergency food assistance to approximately 9.3 million food-insecure people across 19 governorates in Yemen during February, reaching 200,000 more people than in January. WFP's assistance included in-kind food distributions to 6.8 million people, food vouchers to 2.5 million people, and cash transfers for food to 115,000 people. The UN agency is scaling up operations to reach 12 million people monthly with food assistance in 2019.
- On March 5, FAO released the 2019 Emergency Livelihoods Response Plan (ELRP) for Yemen, which aims to implement agricultural livelihoods activities to address food insecurity and malnutrition. FAO developed the ELRP within the framework of the 2019 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan to improve access to food and livelihoods opportunities in coordination with emergency food assistance efforts. The ELRP aims to assist 7 million Yemenis, particularly displaced populations and host community members, experiencing Stressed—IPC 2—through Emergency levels of severe acute food insecurity.

HEALTH AND WASH

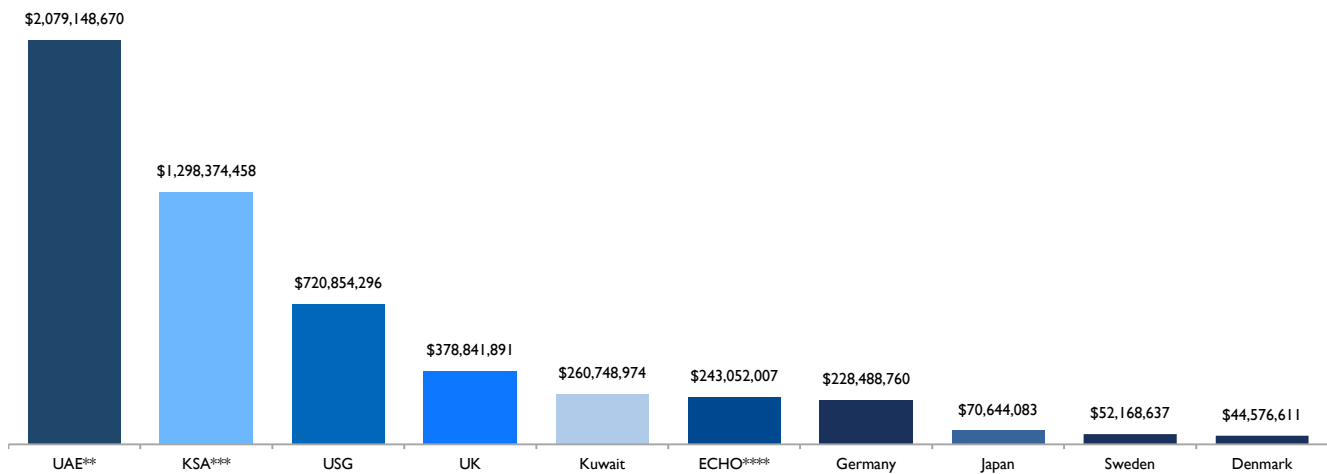
- Relief organizations recorded nearly 148,000 suspected cholera cases, including 291 related deaths, from January 1–March 28, representing an approximately 130 percent increase from the more than 63,200 suspected cholera cases, including 32 related deaths, recorded during the same period in 2018, according to WHO. Relief organizations attribute the increase in cases to several factors, including the early advent of seasonal rains, enhanced surveillance mechanisms, and improved reporting due to more widespread health awareness among the Yemeni population.
- Health and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) actors are coordinating with the RoYG and Sana'a-based Ministries of Health and Water Management to scale up cholera preparedness activities and mitigate further transmission of the disease in nearly 150 priority districts, the UN reports. Relief organizations are activating rapid response teams to investigate suspected cholera cases and conduct immediate response activities, including testing and treatment. As of March 21, health actors had established diarrhea treatment centers and oral rehydration centers in all priority districts, the UN reports. Additionally, a USAID/OFDA partner is providing nearly 1,300 cholera kits—containing medical equipment and supplies to meet initial cholera response needs—to health facilities in Ad Dali', Al Hudaydah, Ibb, Raymah, and Ta'izz governorates.
- In response to ongoing health care needs in Yemen, a USAID/OFDA partner provided primary health care consultations to nearly 32,700 people and vaccinated more than 4,100 children ages five years and younger in seven governorates in February. In addition, the partner administered antenatal care to approximately 2,500 women; child

⁵ The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a standardized tool that aims to classify the severity and magnitude of acute food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5.

delivery services to nearly 1,300 women; postnatal care to nearly 840 women; and training on care for gender-based violence survivors for more than 20 staff members in seven governorates.

- More than half of Yemen’s districts are in acute need of WASH support, according to the UN. To support WASH assistance and mitigate the further spread of communicable diseases, a USAID/OFDA partner distributed hygiene kits—including laundry detergent, soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste, and other basic items—to more than 900 people in Aden, Ad Dali’, and Lahij governorates in January. Additionally, nearly 20 teachers conducted hygiene awareness sessions utilizing materials provided by WASH Cluster partners, reaching more than 4,500 students in the governorates in February.

2018–2019 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING* PER DONOR



*Funding figures are as of April 5, 2019. 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 publicly announced USG funding for FY 2018 and FY 2019, which spans October 1, 2017, to September 30, 2019.

**United Arab Emirates (UAE)

***Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)

****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 need. 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 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 KSA-led 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—coupled with protracted political 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 resulted in more than 3.6 million IDPs and approximately 1.3 million people who have returned to areas of origin, according to a March 2019 International Organization for Migration (IOM) report. The volatility of the current situation prevents relief agencies from obtaining accurate, comprehensive demographic information.
- In late April 2017, a cholera outbreak that began in October 2016 resurged, necessitating intensive humanitarian response efforts throughout the country, particularly health and WASH interventions. With USG support, partners are conducting cholera prevention, preparedness, and response activities.
- On December 4, 2018, U.S. Ambassador Matthew H. Tueller reissued a disaster declaration for the ongoing complex emergency in Yemen for FY 2019 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 2018–2019 ¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA			
Implementing Partners (IPs)	Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Health, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management (HCIM), Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Multipurpose Cash Assistance, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlement, WASH	Abyan, Aden, Ad Dali', Amanat al-Asimah, Amran, Dhamar, Hadramawt, Hajjah, Al Hudaydah, Ibb, Al Jawf, Lahij, Al Mahwit, Marib, Raymah, Sa'dah, Sana'a, Shabwah, Ta'izz	\$128,002,584
IOM	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$15,488,216
OCHA	HCIM	Countrywide	\$11,000,000
UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)	Protection	Abyan, Aden, Ad Dali', Amanat al-Asimah, Amran, Al Bayda', Dhamar, Hadramawt, Hajjah, Al Hudaydah, Ibb, Al Jawf, Lahij, Al Mahwit, Marib, Raymah, Sa'dah, Sana'a, Shabwah, Ta'izz	\$17,150,000
WFP	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$12,617,500

WHO	Health	Countrywide	\$5,241,259
	Program Support		\$3,542,983
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING			\$193,042,542
USAID/FFP²			
FAO	Complementary Services	Countrywide	\$850,000
IPs	Complementary Services, Food Vouchers, Local and Regional Food Procurement	Abyan, Ad Dali', Aden, Al Hudaydah, Al Mahwit, Dhamar, Hajjah, Ibb, Lahij, Sana'a, Ta'izz	\$53,000,000
UNICEF	U.S. In-Kind Food	Abyan, Ad Dali', Aden, Al Mahrah, Hadramawt, Lahij, Shabwah, Socotra Island, Ta'izz	\$3,643,064
WFP	U.S. In-Kind Food	Countrywide	\$395,418,690
	Local and Regional Food Procurement	Countrywide	\$46,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING			\$498,911,754
STATE/PRM			
IOM	Evacuation and Humanitarian Assistance	Regional	\$5,000,000
UNHCR	Camp Coordination and Camp Management, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Refugee Response	Countrywide	\$23,900,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$28,900,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE YEMEN RESPONSE IN FY 2018–2019			\$720,854,296

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of February 26, 2019.

² 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, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or +1.202.661.7710.
 - 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>