

YEMEN - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #10, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2019

AUGUST 29, 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 – November 2018

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

- WFP resumes emergency food distributions for 850,000 people in Sana'a city following agreement with Sana'a-based officials
- Escalated violence in Aden city results in civilian casualties, no major effects on humanitarian operations
- Flooding affects more than 59,000 people across western Yemen; USAID partners provide humanitarian assistance to affected populations

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

FOR THE YEMEN RESPONSE IN FY 2019

USAID/OFDA ¹	\$31,291,435
USAID/FFP ²	\$433,795,726
State/PRM ³	\$34,950,000
\$500,037,161	

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- The UN World Food Program (WFP) resumed food assistance distributions in Yemen's capital city of Sana'a on August 21 after reaching a final agreement with Sana'a-based officials on independent targeting and beneficiary registration, international media reports. The agreement will also allow WFP to begin the process of independently retargeting and registering approximately 9 million people in areas controlled by Sana'a-based officials.
- From August 8–11, clashes between Republic of Yemen Government (RoYG)-aligned forces and the Southern Transitional Council (STC) in southern Yemen's Aden city, Aden Governorate, resulted in an unknown number of civilian casualties, according to the UN. In addition, the violence prompted the temporary closure of Aden airport, caused overcrowding at local hospitals, and restricted access to safe drinking water, the UN reports. Security conditions remained tenuous as of late August, with active clashes continuing in Aden and other areas of southern Yemen. USAID partners report no major impacts on relief activities, but remain concerned that continued conflict between RoYG-aligned forces and the STC could result in further civilian casualties, disruption to services, and adverse effects on humanitarian programming.

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)

FLOODING

- Heavy rains and flooding affected more than 59,000 people across Amran, Dhamar, Hajjah, Al Hudaydah, Ibb, Al Jawf, Al Mahwit, Sana'a and Ta'izz governorates in late July and August, according to the UN. The floods particularly affected internally displaced persons (IDPs), many of whom reside in shelters unsuitable for severe weather conditions or located in flood-prone areas. In Al Hudaydah, the flooding damaged shelters, destroyed food items, or disrupted access to safe drinking water for more than 7,900 households. The floods also damaged health and sanitation facilities at several IDP sites. The latest floods follow early June flooding that affected an estimated 70,000 people, primarily in Hajjah, the UN reports. Humanitarian actors, including USAID partners, are repairing damaged health facilities and distributing food, hygiene kits, shelter supplies, and other relief items to affected populations.

INSECURITY AND DISPLACEMENT

- Security conditions in Aden city remain tenuous following a series of clashes from August 8–11 between RoYG-aligned forces and the STC, which resulted in an unknown number of civilian casualties, according to the UN. The violence largely subsided on August 11 following a ceasefire brokered by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)-led Coalition. While de-escalation talks remain ongoing, media and relief actors reported additional clashes in Abyan and Shabwah governorates from August 18–24 and renewed violence in Abyan and Aden beginning on August 27.
- While some relief agencies temporarily relocated staff or imposed movement restrictions during the fighting, USAID partners and other relief organizations reported no major effects on relief operations, as many organizations had paused operations through August 15 in observance of Eid Al Adha. During the week of August 18, humanitarian agencies began re-opening offices in close coordination with the UN Department of Safety and Security to ensure staff and operational safety. While several USAID partners issued additional staff movement restrictions due to renewed clashes in late August, humanitarian programs in southern Yemen largely continued to operate as planned as of August 29.
- During the early August clashes, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) reported civilians trapped in residences, lack of access to safe drinking water due to shellfire damage to main water tanks, and overcrowding and dwindling supplies at local hospitals due to the influx of patients with conflict-related injuries. NGO Médecins Sans Frontières reported treating nearly 120 people on August 10 alone. Aden International Airport temporarily closed from August 9–13 due to insecurity, while the city's seaport remained open and under the control of the Aden Port Authority.
- Ongoing insecurity continues to endanger civilians throughout the country. In Hajjah's Mustaba District, an alleged airstrike hit a house on August 11, resulting in 12 civilian deaths and injury to 16 civilians, according to the UN. The Civilian Impact Monitoring Project—a monitoring mechanism led by the Protection Cluster⁴—reports that Hajjah faces a relatively high rate of airstrikes, which pose an ongoing threat to civilians and civilian infrastructure. On August 12, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordination (RC/HC) Lise Grande condemned the attack and the ongoing violence against civilians in Yemen, noting that as many as 230,000 people have died since the conflict began, either directly from conflict or from indirect causes, including lack of food and medical services.
- In Sa'dah Governorate's Qatabir District, reported shelling struck a market on July 29, resulting in at least 14 civilian deaths and injuring 26 civilians, according to local authorities and media. Sa'dah remains one of the most conflict-affected governorates in Yemen, with civilians facing daily threats from airstrikes and shelling, protection actors report. RC/HC Grande denounced the attack on July 30 and called on parties to the conflict to promote civilian protection.
- Hostilities in Ad Dali' Governorate also continue to impact civilian populations, with more than 9,700 households—approximately 68,000 people—displaced from and within the governorate between January 1 and June 16, primarily due to conflict, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Displacement Tracking Matrix.
- Approximately 440,000 IDPs were sheltering in 1,350 identified sites across Yemen as of July 19, according to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). However, the UN agency posits the number is significantly higher as IDPs are residing in a variety of other settlements throughout the country and have not been included in current estimates of the displaced population. The UNHCR-led Camp Coordination and Camp

⁴The coordinating body for humanitarian protection activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders.

Management (CCCM) Cluster continues to identify and assess existing and new IDP sites, and plans to coordinate and standardize basic relief services across all sites. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee—a mechanism to facilitate global humanitarian assistance coordination comprising UN agencies and other humanitarian partners—formally approved activation of an independent CCCM Cluster in Yemen in early July, recognizing the need for improved IDP site management and services in Yemen, according to the UN.

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

- USAID/FFP partner WFP resumed emergency food assistance distributions on August 21 to approximately 850,000 people in Sana'a city, following an August 8 agreement on independent beneficiary targeting and biometric registration with Sana'a based officials, international media reports. WFP suspended food assistance in Sana'a city in June due to a lack of agreement with local officials on the introduction of controls to prevent food assistance diversion. The August agreement, a result of weeks of negotiation, enables WFP to begin the independent targeting and registration process of 9 million people in areas under the control of Sana'a-based officials.
- Food security conditions have improved in at least 29 of the 45 districts since December 2018 when Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) assessments identified households experiencing Catastrophe—IPC 5—levels of acute food insecurity, the most severe designation on the five-tier household-level IPC scale, according to a July 2019 IPC report.⁵ An assessment team based the July 2019 reports' findings on data collected in the 29 districts in April; the team was unable to access the remaining target districts primarily due to conflict. In early 2019, WFP and other relief partners significantly scaled up emergency food assistance in the 45 target districts; in the 29 assessed districts, partners reached an average of 1.3 million people per month from February to April. The July IPC analysis identified approximately 1.2 million people in the 29 assessed districts experiencing IPC 4—Emergency—or IPC 3—Crisis—levels of acute food insecurity and no households facing Catastrophe outcomes, representing an improvement from the December IPC analysis, which identified more than 1.5 million people facing acute food insecurity in the same 29 target districts, including approximately 44,000 people facing Catastrophe levels of acute food insecurity. Scaled up, continuous provision of emergency food assistance and increased household food availability due to seasonal production were key drivers of the improved food security conditions in the 29 districts, according to the report.
- USAID/FFP partner WFP provided emergency food assistance to more than 11 million people in July, including approximately 8.3 million people with in-kind food assistance, nearly 2.5 million people with food vouchers, and approximately 300,000 people with cash transfers for food.
- A USAID/FFP NGO partner provides food vouchers to more than 25,500 households in Hajjah and Al Hudaydah each month, enabling beneficiaries to purchase food baskets comprising beans, iodized salt, vegetable oil, and wheat flour. A second USAID/FFP NGO partner has distributed monthly food vouchers—redeemable for food commodities sufficient to meet 80 percent of a household's food and nutritional needs for one month—to approximately 15,000 households in Abyan, Ad Dali', and Lahij governorates. The NGO also screened children ages five years and younger and pregnant and lactating women for malnutrition and referred acutely malnourished individuals to treatment centers.
- USAID partners the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the UN World Health Organization (WHO), and WFP continue to scale up nutrition assistance in Yemen. From January to June, relief actors admitted nearly 132,000 children experiencing severe acute malnutrition (SAM) to treatment centers and Nutrition Cluster partners enrolled nearly 222,000 children experiencing moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) in supplementary feeding programs.
- In addition, USAID partners provided training in community management of acute malnutrition services across eight governorates. During June and July, the organizations enrolled more than 5,080 children ages five years and younger and pregnant and lactating women into programs to treat SAM or MAM, screened more than 21,240 children ages five years and younger and pregnant and lactating women for acute malnutrition, conducted nearly 4,260 infant and young

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.

child feeding consultations, reached nearly 3,490 people with nutrition awareness home visits, and provided staffing, supplies, and equipment for effective management of acute malnutrition to three new health facilities.

HEALTH AND WASH

- The number of cholera cases in Yemen continues to rise, with health actors recording more than 593,200 suspected cases between January 1 and August 24, including more than 84,900 cases in Amanat Al Asimah Governorate and approximately 73,800 cases in Sana'a Governorate, where health actors have reported the highest number of suspected cholera cases to date in 2019. In response, a USAID partner conducted cholera prevention awareness sessions July 1–15 for more than 7,600 people in targeted districts of Amanat Al Asimah and Sana'a. A second USAID/OFDA partner also provided water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) supplies, such as soap, water containers, and water disinfection tablets, to more than 3,230 households in three governorates in districts with high cholera prevalence in June.
 - In July, another USAID/OFDA partner constructed nearly 70 emergency latrines in informal IDP sites in Al Hudaydah and reached more than 1,440 people with hygiene promotion messaging, including discussion of personal hygiene, household waste management, open defecation, and safe water collection, storage, and use. Additionally, the organization provided multi-purpose cash assistance to more than 440 households, or approximately 3,120 people, enabling households to purchase food, safe drinking water, hygiene supplies, and cooking fuel.
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EDUCATION AND PROTECTION

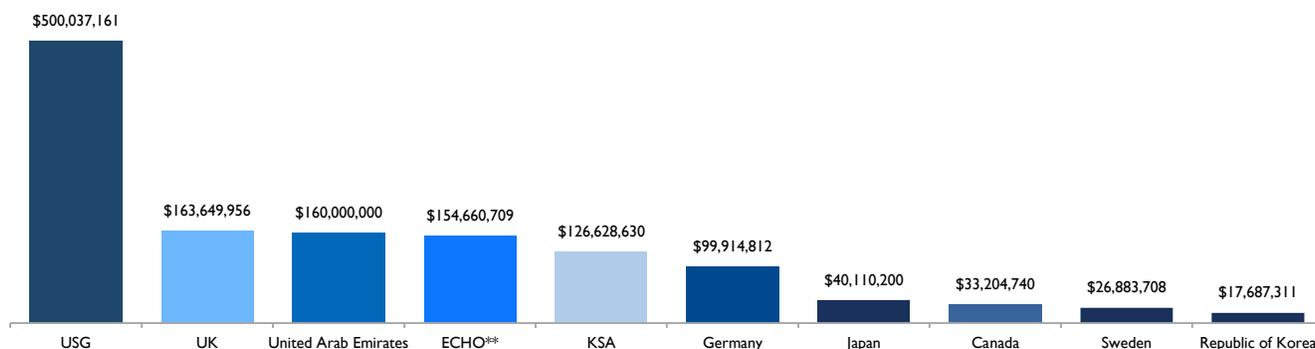
- During July, UNHCR identified nearly 370 refugee children ages 8–15 years out of school in Aden city's Basateen neighborhood. UNHCR plans to assess these children, register them for the next school year, and provide them with school uniforms and supplies. A UNHCR partner plans to monitor approximately 1,500 identified refugee children throughout the school year to provide support if the children unenroll due to poverty, child labor, or early marriage.
 - State/PRM partner UNHCR continues to support civil documentation provision for IDPs. In mid-July, a UNHCR NGO partner distributed 260 identity cards for IDPs in Abyan and Lahij. Loss of civil documentation remains a pressing concern for IDPs across Yemen, as the lack of documentation can hinder access to education and health care services, impede freedom of movement, and prevent formalization of civil status or the ability to receive assistance. With support from UNHCR, legal partners, and local officials, the Civil Registration Authority in Abyan and Lahij issued more than 3,100 national identity cards and approximately 550 birth certificates between January and June.
 - A USAID/OFDA partner continued to conduct critical protection activities—including individual counseling sessions, communications skills training, and referrals for additional treatment or services—at a women's community center in Al Hudaydah's Al Khawkah District in June. During the month, USAID/OFDA supported another partner to provide protection services focused on information, education, and communication sessions for women and girls across Abyan, Aden, and Ad Dali'. Also in June, another partner organization provided protection assistance—including child protection, gender-based violence prevention, and psychosocial support services—in Ibb and Ta'izz. Since FY 2018, USAID/OFDA has provided approximately \$15.6 million in assistance for humanitarian protection activities.
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OTHER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- Between May and August, UN agencies—including FAO, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), and WHO—suspended or postponed five of 34 UN programs in Yemen due to a funding shortfall for the 2019 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), affecting critical health care, livelihoods support, nutrition, and protection interventions. Overall, donors have funded only 34 percent—more than \$1.4 billion—of the \$4.2 billion requirement to support the 2019 HRP, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Financial Tracking Service (FTS). In February 2019, donors pledged \$2.6 billion, but have delivered less than half of the pledge, according to an August 21 statement released by OCHA and RC/HC Grande. OCHA has warned that 22 critical programs will close by October if the funding gap is not addressed. Without urgent support, the UN will reduce food rations for

12 million people and suspend life-saving nutrition services for 2.5 million children experiencing or at risk of acute malnutrition. RC/HC Grande urged donors who pledged funding to the HRP to meet their commitments, noting that without such funds, the lives of millions of Yemenis will be at risk.

2019 HRP FUNDING* PER DONOR



*Funding figures are as of August 29, 2019. All international figures are according to FTS and based on international commitments during the current calendar year, while 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.

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

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE YEMEN RESPONSE IN FY 2019¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA			
Implementing Partners	Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management (HCIM) Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Abyan, Aden, Amanat al-Asimah, Al Bayda', Ad Dali', Dhamar, Hadramawt, Al Hudaydah, Ibb, Lahij, Al Mahrah, Sa'dah, Sana'a, Shabwah, Socotra Island, Ta'izz	\$17,258,333
OCHA	HCIM		\$3,000,000
WFP	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities		\$10,117,500
	Program Support		\$915,602
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING			\$31,291,435
USAID/FFP^{2,3}			
FAO	Complementary Services	Countrywide	\$1,500,000
Implementing Partners	Food Vouchers, Complementary Services	Abyan, Ad Dali', Al Hudaydah, Hajjah, Lahij, Al Mahwit, Sana'a, Ta'izz	\$47,000,000
WFP	U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Countrywide	\$343,795,726
	Food Vouchers	Countrywide	\$41,500,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING			\$433,795,726
STATE/PRM			
Implementing Partners	Humanitarian Assistance	Countrywide	\$10,100,000
UNHCR	Camp Coordination and Camp Management, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Protection, Refugee Response, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$24,850,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$34,950,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE YEMEN RESPONSE IN FY 2019			\$500,037,161

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of August 29, 2019.

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

³ 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.

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 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 the IOM in November 2018. The volatility of the current situation prevents relief agencies from obtaining accurate, comprehensive demographic information.
- On December 14, 2018, U.S. Ambassador Matthew H. Tueller reissued a disaster declaration for Yemen in 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.

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>