

YEMEN - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #3, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2016

DECEMBER 30, 2015

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

26 million

Estimated Population of Yemen

OCHA – November 2015

21.2 million

People in Need of Urgent Humanitarian Assistance

OCHA – November 2015

19.3 million

People in Need of WASH Services

OCHA – November 2015

14.1 million

People in Need of Basic Health Care

OCHA – November 2015

6 million

People in Need of Emergency Food Assistance

FEWS NET – November 2015

2.5 million

IDPs in Yemen

UNHCR, IOM – December 2015

11.7 million

People Targeted with Humanitarian Assistance in 2015

OCHA – November 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

- UN-led peace talks adjourn; additional negotiations scheduled to begin in mid-January
- Humanitarian organizations increase operations during the ceasefire despite numerous violations
- Displacement in Yemen increases, with more than 2.5 million IDPs countrywide

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

FOR YEMEN RESPONSE IN FY 2015

USAID/OFDA ¹	\$62,029,644
USAID/FFP ²	\$71,486,457
State/PRM ³	\$45,300,000
\$178,816,101	
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING	

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- UN-sponsored peace negotiations between Republic of Yemen Government (RoYG) officials, Al Houthi leadership, and other stakeholders began in Biel, Switzerland, on December 15 and concluded on December 21 with UN Special Envoy Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed announcing another round of talks scheduled to begin January 14. According to the UN, the parties identified a framework for negotiations to move toward a comprehensive settlement and defined a set of confidence-building measures related to prisoner releases, social services, and humanitarian access and assistance. The ceasefire between the RoYG, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)-led Coalition, and Al Houthi and allied forces that accompanied the talks experienced numerous and widespread violations. However, humanitarian organizations maintained operations and provided assistance to vulnerable conflict-affected populations across many Yemeni governorates despite ongoing hostilities.
- Given the importance of a cessation of hostilities to the success of peace negotiations, the Special Envoy scheduled the next round of talks for mid-January to allow time for preparatory negotiations in Yemen and the region to ensure the sustainability of and adherence to a ceasefire, according to the UN.
- Following the Special Envoy's briefing to the UN Security Council on December 22, U.S. Ambassador to the UN Samantha Power also addressed the Council, emphasizing the importance of a de-escalation of hostilities and a lasting ceasefire. Ambassador Power reiterated that all parties to the conflict must fully adhere to international humanitarian law and urged all sides to refrain from indiscriminate attacks against civilians.

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, POPULATION DISPLACEMENT, AND HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

- Despite reports of numerous ceasefire violations and intermittent hostilities across many areas of the country, UN agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) provided humanitarian assistance to conflict-affected communities during the cessation in hostilities, which began December 15. During the talks, parties to the conflict agreed to allow safe and unhindered humanitarian access to all affected areas, including the city of Ta'izz, according to the UN. However, humanitarian organizations reported that access to the city remained irregular and interrupted by active ground fighting, limiting humanitarian operations and relief supply distributions.
- Prior to the ceasefire, months of heavy fighting and access restrictions severely constrained humanitarian and commercial deliveries to the besieged city of Ta'izz, resulting in a severe deterioration of humanitarian conditions. On the first day of the ceasefire, a USAID/OFDA-supported NGO deployed six mobile medical teams to the city—including to Salh District, which had been inaccessible for three months—to provide basic health care services and pre- and ante-natal care, treat common illnesses, and conduct nutrition screenings. As access and security allowed, the NGO's medical teams returned to the city and surrounding areas throughout the week of the ceasefire, providing essential health support to vulnerable communities.
- During the ceasefire and as of December 21, USAID/FFP partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) dispatched 155 trucks carrying more than 3,900 metric tons (MT) of wheat, pulses, oil, and sugar to Ta'izz city, offloading the supplies in partner warehouses for onward distribution. Although WFP partners completed some food distributions, insecurity and ongoing hostilities have affected WFP's planned operations, which remain ongoing. The UN World Health Organization (WHO) also delivered diarrheal kits to the main hospitals in two districts in the city; however, the resumption of localized violence prevented additional planned deliveries. In addition, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) distributed 60,000 liters of fuel to the local water and sanitation company to support the resumption of basic public services in the city.
- UN agencies, their implementing partners, and other humanitarian organizations also provided emergency relief items to other communities in Ta'izz Governorate. As of December 24, WHO reported it had distributed more than 100 MT of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies to 13 hospitals and health centers across eight districts of Ta'izz Governorate, supporting more than 1 million people. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) also distributed relief supplies to the governorate, reaching internally displaced persons (IDPs) in southern areas. IOM, UNICEF, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and WHO also reached communities in Aden, Al Hudaydah, Amran, Hajjah, and Ibb governorates, distributing emergency relief commodities and providing health, nutrition, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) interventions.
- IOM and UNHCR report that conflict in Yemen has internally displaced more than 2.5 million people, a nine percent increase since mid-October; improved access to some populations accounts for a portion of the higher figure. The report estimates that 45 percent of IDPs have fled to areas within their governorate of origin, while 55 percent have sought refuge in other governorates. Ta'izz Governorate hosts the highest number of IDPs—with more than 392,000—while the number of IDPs in Dhamar and Sana'a governorates remains high and continues to grow. As of mid-December, the number of IDPs countrywide was eight times higher than the pre-crisis figure.
- Amid the overall increase in displacement, IOM, UNHCR, and other members of the Protection Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian protection activities comprising UN agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other stakeholders—note that 210,000 IDPs have returned to home areas in Aden over recent months. Humanitarian organizations highlight that the needs of returnees in Aden and other southern governorates remain high, with most requiring humanitarian assistance, including shelter and livelihood support.
- On December 2, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) reported that airstrikes in Al Houban District in the city of Ta'izz hit and damaged its health facility, injuring nine individuals. People injured in the airstrike, including two MSF staff, were transferred to nearby MSF-supported hospitals to undergo treatment. MSF has operated its Al Houban clinic since October and supported other health sites in Ta'izz with emergency medications and surgical supplies since May 2015.

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

- Commercial food imports to Yemen grew in November, marking a 25 percent increase from the previous month, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Although the November total of 560,000 MT reached pre-crisis food import levels, the price of wheat flour remains 53 percent higher than pre-crisis. A recent WFP market survey reports that flour was available in 11 governorates as of the end of November; however, continuing high prices coupled with decreased purchasing power made it difficult for many people to access the staple food. According to OCHA, high fuel prices have increased the cost of milling and transporting wheat and other grains, contributing to continued high food prices.
- WFP reached nearly 1.9 million people across 19 Yemeni governorates with food assistance in November, with plans to target 3 million people in December. Due to a shortage of wheat and pulses in stock, WFP has reduced the household ration of wheat and pulses by 25 percent, while the other commodities in the food parcel have remained unchanged.
- In November, the presence of landmines impeded a USAID/FFP partner from providing food voucher assistance to nearly 1,600 households in three districts of Ta'izz. However, by partnering with local communities to identify safe and accessible areas, the partner distributed vouchers to 715 households in two of the districts in early December.
- In late November, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) cautioned that heavy rainfall and flooding from tropical cyclones Chapala and Megh had resulted in favorable conditions for locust outbreaks; on December 13, the UN agency reported that the first locust hatches had occurred in Al Hudaydah Governorate. According to FAO, locust hatches are likely to continue through mid-January, potentially resulting in outbreaks that could destroy crops, impact agricultural livelihoods, and exacerbate food insecurity in the coming months. To mitigate the potential effects, FAO recommends implementing a comprehensive survey of hatching areas and distributing pesticides to affected farmers. The mid-November USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) food security outlook, which analyzed data collected prior to the tropical cyclones and did not account for the potential impact of a locust outbreak, projected that an increasing number of people in Yemen would experience Crisis or Emergency—IPC 3 or 4—levels of food insecurity in the coming months.⁴

HEALTH AND WASH

- On December 15, WHO appealed for \$31 million to support the deteriorating health care system in Yemen and ensure the maintenance of critical services—including casualty management, chronic disease treatment, and disease surveillance and vaccinations—for approximately 15 million conflict-affected people. WHO reports that conflict has damaged health facilities, disrupted the supply of fuel, medicine, and safe drinking water, and resulted in limited access to medical treatment. The situation is particularly critical in Aden and Ta'izz governorates, where 100 and 75 percent of the population, respectively, requires humanitarian assistance.
- Despite persistent insecurity, a USAID/OFDA partner continued to provide health and nutrition support to conflict-affected populations in Ta'izz Governorate throughout November. Between November 15 and 30, the partner provided health care consultations and nutrition interventions for more than 920 children. The NGO also held nearly 25 community health and nutrition education sessions, reaching more than 800 people.
- In early December, USG partner IOM provided primary health care services to nearly 800 IDPs in Al Hudaydah Governorate via two mobile clinics, and reached nearly 180 IDPs in Sana'a Governorate with basic health services and mental health support. Through USG support, the organization has provided health assistance to more than 55,100 IDPs across seven governorates in 2015.
- With USAID/OFDA support, NGOs continued to provide health, nutrition, and WASH assistance to conflict-affected households in Yemen between mid- and late November. Community volunteers, trained by a USAID/OFDA partner, conducted WASH promotion sessions, reaching approximately 17,000 IDPs and host community members across four districts in Sana'a; the partner is also working with community volunteers on WASH programs in Aden, Hadramawt, and Ta'izz governorates. Additionally, the USAID/OFDA partner distributed household hygiene kits and emergency

⁴ The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a standardized tool that aims to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5.

relief items to populations in Aden, Hadramawt, and Sana'a, with additional distributions planned for Ta'izz in the coming weeks, access and security permitting. Another USAID/OFDA-supported NGO is implementing health interventions—including primary health care consultations, infant and young child feeding sessions, and outpatient therapeutic programs for children under the age of five experiencing severe acute malnutrition—in Aden, Abyan, and Shabwah governorates, with plans to provide similar services in Lahij Governorate.

- Between November 29 and December 5, a State/PRM partner delivered medical supplies from Aden to three health facilities in Ad Dali' and Hadramawt to support basic health care services. In addition, the State/PRM partner provided medical supplies to a hospital in Sana'a Governorate; coordinated with community leaders to deliver essential relief items to approximately 1,400 households in Al Jawf Governorate; and supported waste collection efforts in Aden.

LOGISTICS SUPPORT AND RELIEF COMMODITIES

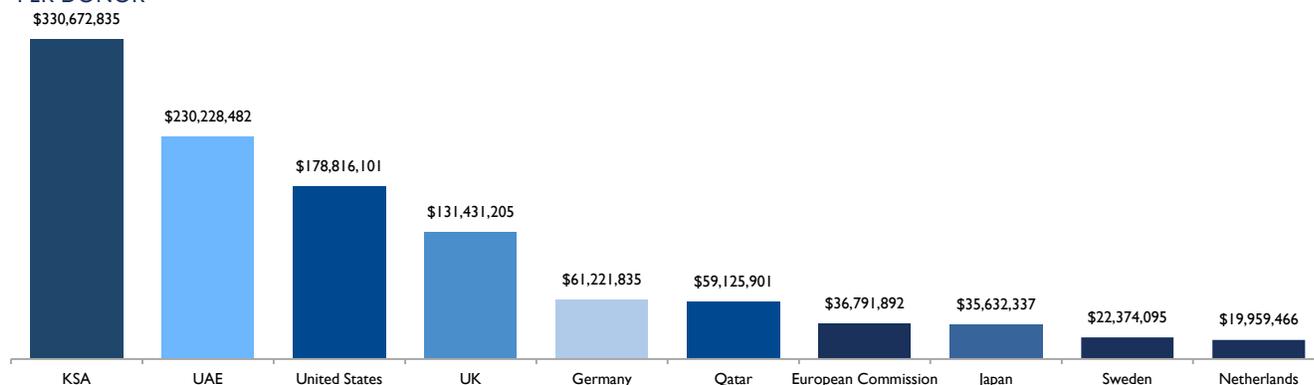
- November commercial fuel imports totaled nearly 250,000 MT, representing a more than 300 percent increase compared to October levels. Despite the increase, OCHA reports that fuel imports remained nearly 50 percent below monthly needs and that ongoing scarcity continues to result in elevated food and fuel prices. OCHA also reported that 72 vessels berthed in Aden, Al Hudaydah, Al Mukalla, Nishtun, and Saleef ports in November, marking a 24 percent increase as compared to October. However, fuel shortages and infrastructure damages continue to limit discharge capacity at seaports, with damaged and destroyed roads also impeding overland commodity transport. In October, ships experienced an average offloading delay of 11 days, whereas in November, OCHA reported average offloading delays of 14 days.
- From December 13–19, a USAID/OFDA partner provided safe drinking water to more than 80 sites across Abyan, Aden, and Lahij governorates, reaching 3,200 households. The NGO also distributed emergency relief commodities to more than 1,200 households in Abyan, 800 households in Aden, and plans to begin relief item distributions to 1,200 households in Lahij the first week of January.
- The Logistics Cluster continues to support logistics coordination and humanitarian operations across Yemen and the region, distributing more than 146,500 liters of fuel in October to support humanitarian operations in Aden, Al Hudaydah, and Sana'a. Since the beginning of April, the cluster has distributed more than 2.3 million liters of fuel to more than 60 organizations conducting humanitarian operations in Yemen.

OTHER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- On December 10, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) pledged approximately \$20 million to address health care, food, nutrition, and other humanitarian needs of conflict-affected communities in Yemen, particularly in Aden, Lahij, and Ta'izz. Of the total, the UAE has allotted \$10 million to the International Committee of the Red Cross, \$6 million to WFP, and \$2 million each to UNICEF and other international organizations.
- On December 14, the European Commission's Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO) announced an additional €15 million, nearly \$16.5 million, in humanitarian assistance for Yemen. The new funding will support emergency interventions—including health care services, food support, and access to safe drinking water—targeting conflict-affected populations throughout the country. As of mid-December, ECHO had contributed more than \$56 million for humanitarian response efforts in Yemen in 2015.

2015 TOTAL HUMANITARIAN FUNDING*

PER DONOR



*Funding figures are as of December 30, 2015. All international figures are according to OCHA's 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 based on the fiscal year, which began on October 1, 2015.

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 had affected more than 1 million people and repeatedly displaced populations in northern Yemen, resulting in humanitarian needs. Fighting between RoYG military 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, the 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 nearly half of Yemen's 26 million people food-insecure and 6 million people in need of emergency food assistance.
- In early 2015, Yemen hosted approximately 248,000 refugees and a substantial population of third-country nationals (TCNs). The escalation in hostilities has internally displaced an estimated 2.5 million people in Yemen and prompted IOM to organize large-scale TCN evacuations from Yemen. The volatility of the current situation prevents relief agencies from obtaining accurate, comprehensive demographic information.
- On October 12, 2015, U.S. Ambassador Matthew H. Tueller reissued a disaster declaration for Yemen for FY 2016 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 PROVIDED IN FY 2015¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY		AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA²			
Implementing partners	Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Health, Nutrition, Risk Management Policy and Practice, WASH	Abyan, Aden, Amran, Al Hudaydah, Al Jawf, Hajjah, Ibb, Raymah, Sana'a, Sa'dah, Tai'izz governorates	\$27,895,625
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security	Countrywide	\$500,000
IOM	Health, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Abyan, Ad Dali', Aden, Lahij, Sana'a, Shabwah governorates	\$5,000,000
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$2,750,000
UNICEF	Health, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$15,006,600
WFP	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
WHO	Health	Countrywide	\$8,000,000
	Program Support		\$877,419
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING			\$62,029,644
USAID/FFP³			
Implementing Partners	Food Vouchers, Health, Nutrition	Dhamar, Ibb, Lahij, Raymah, Sana'a, Tai'izz governorates	\$14,814,528
UNICEF	Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Foods	10 governorates	\$1,661,579
WFP	59,940 MT of Title II In-Kind Emergency Food Assistance	19 governorates	\$55,010,350
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING			\$71,486,457
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE YEMEN RESPONSE IN FY 2015			\$133,516,101
STATE/PRM			
Implementing Partners	Food Assistance , Health, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, WASH	Countrywide	\$10,800,000
IOM	Health and Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Djibouti, Somalia	\$6,000,000
UNHCR	Health, Protection, Shelter, WASH	Countrywide Djibouti, Somalia	\$22,400,000 \$6,100,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$45,300,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE YEMEN RESPONSE IN FY 2015			\$178,816,101

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

² USG funding totals represent committed amounts as of September 30, 2015.

³ Estimated value of food assistance.

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:
 - The 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>