

# Yemen – Complex Emergency

AUGUST 13, 2021

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE

<b>30.8</b> MILLION	<b>20.7</b> MILLION	<b>4</b> MILLION	<b>16.2</b> MILLION	<b>2.3</b> MILLION
Population of Yemen	People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance	IDPs in Yemen	Projected Acutely Food-Insecure Population	Children Projected to Face Wasting from January – December 2021
<i>UN – February 2021</i>	<i>UN – February 2021</i>	<i>UN – February 2021</i>	<i>IPC<sup>1</sup> – December 2020</i>	<i>IPC – February 2021</i>

- USAID/BHA announces \$165 million in additional funding to WFP amid continued food insecurity.
- Heavy rains and associated flooding in late July adversely affect approximately 28,000 people across Yemen, including an estimated 4,600 IDPs in Al Jawf, Marib, and Ta'izz governorates.
- Hostilities in Al Bayda', Marib, and Ta'izz governorates result in displacement since mid-July. USG partners continue to respond to humanitarian needs of conflict-affected IDPs across Yemen, including with emergency food, protection, and shelter support.



### TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

For the Yemen Response in FY 2021

USAID/BHA<sup>2</sup> \$501,746,967

State/PRM<sup>3</sup> \$13,500,000

For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 6

**Total \$515,246,967**

<sup>1</sup> The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a multi-partner initiative that developed a standardized scale to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries and time, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5—for acute food insecurity.

<sup>2</sup> USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA).

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

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

### **USAID/BHA Announces \$165 Million for WFP Amid Continued Food Insecurity in Yemen**

Ongoing conflict, rising commodity prices due to the sharp depreciation of the Yemeni *riyal* (YER), and recent flooding continue to contribute to acute food insecurity in Yemen, where an estimated 16.2 million people are likely experiencing Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity. The cost of the minimum food basket—the price of the minimum food items that a household requires to meet basic food needs for one month—has increased by more than 20 percent between the beginning of 2021 and late June, reaching levels nearly 30 percent higher than the average cost in 2020, the USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) reports. The continued depreciation of the YER has further reduced household purchasing power, preventing many Yemenis from accessing food and other essential commodities. Following a brief appreciation of the YER in Republic of Yemen Government (RoYG)-controlled areas of southern Yemen during the July 19 to 23 Eid Al Adha holiday, the exchange rate again depreciated to levels beyond the record low of 1,000 YER/\$1 in late July, according to FEWS NET. Meanwhile, the YER maintained its value of approximately 600 YER/\$1 in Al Houthi-controlled areas in northern Yemen.

In response to continued food insecurity in Yemen, USAID/BHA announced on August 9 an additional \$165 million in funding to the UN World Food Program (WFP) to support the continued provision of emergency food assistance in Yemen, where WFP reaches approximately 11 million people countrywide each month. USAID/BHA remains WFP's largest donor for Yemen and has provided nearly \$465 million to the UN agency in FY 2021 to date.

### **Flooding Affects an Estimated 28,000 people Across Yemen in July**

Heavy rains and associated flooding in late July resulted in at least 14 deaths and adversely affected approximately 28,000 people across Yemen, according to the UN. The floods also damaged and destroyed crops, roads, telecommunications networks, and other infrastructure across Abyan, Ad Dali', Al Hudaydah, Al Jawf, Al Mahrah, Marib, Shabwah, and Ta'izz governorates. Flooding has affected approximately 4,600 internally displaced persons (IDPs) across Al Jawf, Marib, and Ta'izz, exacerbating existing vulnerabilities and further constraining access to shelter and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services, according to relief actors. Flooding also affected IDPs in Dhamar and Sana'a governorates; in response, State/PRM partner the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) provided plastic sheeting to reinforce shelter units for more than 440 IDP households in the two governorates. FEWS NET projects above-average rainfall across Yemen from July to October, which will likely increase the risk of flooding in the coming months.

### **Hostilities Drive Displacement in Al Bayda', Marib, and Ta'izz in July**

Fighting in Al Bayda', Marib, and Ta'izz governorates continued to drive population displacement in Yemen in July. Escalated hostilities in Al Bayda' between July 11 and 17 resulted in the secondary displacement of approximately 440 individuals within the governorate and prompted approximately 8,400 people to flee to Lahij Governorate; 160 people to Marib; and 70 people to Dhamar Governorate, according to UN agencies and the Protection Cluster. Before the recent escalation in hostilities, Al Bayda' hosted approximately 20,000 IDPs, according to local officials. While Marib witnessed an overall decrease in hostilities in July compared to June, airstrikes and fighting displaced an estimated 60 households—approximately 420 people—and damaged agricultural land and residences during the month, according to relief actors. In addition, nearly 120 incidents of armed violence have directly

affected civilian houses in Marib as of early August, relief actors report. Meanwhile, renewed hostilities in Ta'izz between July 15 and 28 resulted in at least 17 civilian casualties, including four deaths, according to CIMP. Conflict and natural hazards have displaced more than 50,900 people across Yemen from January 1 to August 7, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

USG partners continue to respond to the urgent needs of IDPs in Yemen. With USAID/BHA support, WFP is providing one-month of emergency food rations to newly displaced households in Marib while verifying more than 20,000 recently displaced persons in the governorate for inclusion in its monthly food assistance programs. Additionally, State/PRM partner UNHCR distributed emergency food assistance, dignity kits, and hygiene kits to nearly 380 individuals displaced due to fighting in Al Bayda' and provided approximately 110 emergency shelter kits to newly displaced households in Marib in July. UNHCR also provided shelter support and relief items to IDPs identified in its protection assessments in Marib city between July 23 and 29.

### **CHA Permits Three Vessels to Discharge Fuel at Al Hudaydah Port in July**

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)-led Coalition and RoYG approved three vessels carrying nearly 48,000 metric tons (MT) of fuel to discharge at Al Hudaydah Port—the primary entry port for fuel in northern Yemen—in July, according to the UN Verification and Inspection Mechanism for Yemen (UNVIM). As of late July, one vessel, the *Hafid*, was still discharging approximately 29,000 MT of fuel oil. Although humanitarian actors welcome the recent approval of fuel vessels, UNVIM reports a nearly 80 percent decrease in fuel discharged at Al Hudaydah in July 2021 compared with the average fuel discharged monthly in 2020. To date in 2021, Al Hudaydah fuel imports represent approximately 20 percent of the total amount of fuel imported at the port in 2020. The reduced fuel supply continues to adversely affect both the food and non-food relief commodity supply chains, according to the UN. Three other fuel vessels carrying more than 47,000 MT of fuel remained in the Coalition Holding Area (CHA) as of July 28, according to the UNVIM. Humanitarian actors continue to advocate for the unhindered import and distribution of fuel in northern Yemen to support the continuation of essential services, commercial activity, and humanitarian operations.

### **IOM Conducts First VHR Flight From Sana'a since 2019**

On August 3, IOM—with State/PRM support—repatriated nearly 80 Ethiopian migrants in northern Yemen to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on the first voluntary humanitarian return (VHR) flight from Sana'a city since 2019. IOM coordinated with the Government of Ethiopia and civil society organizations to provide the migrants with cash assistance, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), protection services, and assistance for onward transportation to their communities of origin in Ethiopia. More than 3,500 migrants from the Horn of Africa arrived in Yemen in June, representing a 600 percent increase in recorded migrant arrivals compared to May, according to IOM. The UN agency attributes the increase in arrival figures to improved monitoring access in the area. Difficulties encountered by migrants in Yemen—including harsh living conditions, protection risks, and the inability to move onward to their preferred destination, often Saudi Arabia—have prompted many to return to the Horn of Africa, frequently using the same network of smugglers that had originally transported them to Yemen. Other migrants have become stranded due to ongoing conflict and coronavirus disease (COVID-19)-related movement restrictions; approximately 32,000 migrants remain stranded across Yemen as of June 30, the Assessment Capacities Project (ACAPS) and IOM report.

## KEY FIGURES



**586,780 MT**

Amount of USG Title II in-kind food assistance provided to Yemen in FY 2021 to date



**\$4.7 Million**

Dedicated FY 2021 USG support for life-saving health programming to date



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USG implementing partners supporting MPCA programming

## U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

### FOOD SECURITY

USAID/BHA has provided approximately \$465 million to WFP in FY 2021 and supports 10 international non-governmental organizations (INGO) to improve food security conditions in Yemen. USAID/BHA partners are providing emergency food assistance through in-kind food aid—including U.S.-sourced commodities—as well as cash and vouchers for people to buy food in local markets, prioritizing households experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity. Partners also work to strengthen household purchasing power and rehabilitate food security-related livelihoods to increase access to food within vulnerable communities. USAID/BHA partners in Yemen provide emergency food assistance to more than 13 million people each year, reaching more than 11 million people per month.

### HEALTH

The USG supports IOM, UNHCR, the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), the UN World Health Organization (WHO), and 10 INGOs to conduct life-saving health care interventions amid Yemen’s ongoing conflict and concurrent cholera and COVID-19 outbreaks. USG partners are providing primary health care services, often in coordination with nutrition and WASH programming, through both mobile medical teams—serving hard-to-reach areas—and static health facilities. USG partner WHO is also distributing COVID-19 vaccine doses, providing nearly 311,500 of approximately 317,300 doses as of July 27. USG partners also support community health volunteers to encourage people to seek health care services when needed, thereby promoting better health outcomes. In addition, USAID/BHA partners are providing incentive payments to health care workers and medical supplies to health facilities to bolster health care service availability, while State/PRM is supporting UNHCR to address the specific health care needs of migrants, refugees, and other vulnerable populations in Yemen.

### MULTIPURPOSE CASH ASSISTANCE

The USG supports the provision of multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) to help conflict-affected households in Yemen meet their basic needs while also supporting local markets. With State/PRM support, UNHCR is distributing MPCA to IDPs and refugees across Yemen to bolster household purchasing power amid COVID-19-related economic shocks and restrictions. USAID/BHA partners are providing MPCA to vulnerable Yemeni populations, supporting households to procure cooking gas, food, hygiene items, and other essential commodities.



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USG implementing partners supporting nutrition programming

## NUTRITION

USAID/BHA supports partners to prevent and treat wasting—a severe form of malnutrition—across Yemen. Working with UNICEF, WFP, WHO, and 12 INGOs, USAID/BHA is assisting community- and evidence-based programs to decrease morbidity and mortality resulting from malnutrition. Focusing on children and pregnant and lactating women in particular, USAID/BHA programs help identify, prevent, and treat wasting. Additionally, USAID/BHA provides nutrition support for health clinics and mobile health teams, integrating health, nutrition, and WASH interventions to comprehensively assist affected populations.



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USG implementing partners supporting critical protection interventions

## PROTECTION

Through support to IOM, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, and five INGOs, the USG is furthering critical protection interventions across Yemen. USAID/BHA partners work to address child protection and MHPSS needs, prevent and respond to gender-based violence, and address protection concerns and violations through specialized case-management services, community mobilization activities, and protection risk mitigation efforts. With State/PRM funding, UNHCR leads the Protection Cluster and provides protection services to meet the needs of IDPs, refugees, and other vulnerable populations countrywide, including through MHPSS activities and legal assistance to facilitate access to identity documentation and public assistance. Moreover, the USG requires all partners to incorporate protection principles into each USG-supported intervention in Yemen and promote meaningful access, dignity, and safety for beneficiaries.



**\$7.8 Million**

Dedicated FY 2021 USG support for WASH programming to date

## WASH

The USG supports IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF, and 16 INGOs to expand local access to safe drinking water and prevent and respond to communicable disease outbreaks, such as cholera and COVID-19. USAID/BHA partners conduct critical WASH interventions—including distributing hygiene kits, promoting hygiene activities, rehabilitating water systems damaged by conflict, and providing water trucking services—for IDPs and other vulnerable populations. In addition, State/PRM partners provide WASH interventions to meet the needs of conflict-affected populations, as well as migrants and refugees in Yemen originating from the Horn of Africa.

## CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Between mid-2004 and early 2015, conflict between the RoYG and Al Houthi opposition forces in the north affected more than 1 million people, generating widespread and repeated displacement and exacerbating humanitarian needs. The southward advance of Al Houthi forces in 2014 and 2015 expanded the scope of the armed conflict, further aggravating the humanitarian crisis.
- In March 2015, a KSA-led coalition began to conduct airstrikes against Al Houthi and allied forces to halt Al Houthi southward expansion. Ongoing conflict since 2015 has damaged and destroyed public infrastructure, interrupted essential services, and reduced commercial imports to a fraction of the levels required to sustain the Yemeni population, as Yemen typically imports much of its food supply.
- Since March 2015, the conflict—along with an economic crisis, high levels of unemployment, protracted instability, and rising food and fuel prices, and—has left approximately 20.7 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, including approximately 12.1 million people in acute need. In addition, the conflict has displaced more than 4 million people, an estimated 1.3 million of whom have since returned to their areas of origin, according to a November 2018 IOM assessment. The volatility of the current situation has impeded relief agencies from obtaining accurate, comprehensive demographic data on conflict-affected populations.
- On November 17, 2020, U.S. Ambassador Christopher P. Henzel redeclared a disaster for Yemen for FY 2021 due to continued humanitarian needs resulting from the complex emergency and the impact of the country’s economic and political crises on vulnerable populations.

### USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE YEMEN RESPONSE IN FY 2021<sup>1,2</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/BHA</b>			
Implementing Partners	Agriculture; Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS); Food Assistance; Health; Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA); MPCA; Nutrition; Protection; Shelter and Settlements; WASH	Abyan, Aden, Al Bayda', Ad Dali', Dhamar, Hadramawt, Al Hudaydah, Ibb, Lahij, Al Mahrah, Raymah, Sa'dah, Sana'a, Shabwah, Socotra, Ta'izz	\$31,796,195
UNICEF	Nutrition; 1,390 MT of U.S. In-Kind Nutrition Aid	Abyan, Aden, Ad Dali', Hadramawt, Al Hudaydah, Al Mahrah, Lahij, Marib, Shabwah, Socotra, Ta'izz	\$4,801,390
WFP	586,780 MT of U.S. In-Kind Food Aid; Logistics and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$464,994,752
	Program Support		\$154,630
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$501,746,967</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>			
UNHCR	ERMS, HCIMA, Health, Logistics Support, MPCA, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$13,500,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>			<b>\$13,500,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE YEMEN RESPONSE IN FY 2021</b>			<b>\$515,246,967</b>

<sup>1</sup>Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of August 13, 2021.

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

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## 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 [interaction.org](https://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: [cidi.org](https://www.cidi.org)
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [reliefweb.int](https://www.reliefweb.int).

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at [usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)