

YEMEN - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #5, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2020

MARCH 6, 2020

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

30.5 million

Population of Yemen
UN – December 2018

24.1 million

People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance
UN – December 2018

3.6 million

IDPs in Yemen
UN – December 2018

17 million

People in Need of Food Assistance
FEWS NET – December 2019

17.8 million

People in Need of WASH Assistance
UN – December 2018

HIGHLIGHTS

- USG notifies partners of planned partial aid suspensions due to Al Houthi-imposed bureaucratic constraints on relief operations
- Escalated conflict in northern Yemen results in civilian casualties, increases humanitarian needs, and prompts new and secondary displacement
- No confirmed COVID-19 cases in Yemen as of March 6

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

FOR THE YEMEN RESPONSE IN FY 2019

USAID/OFDA ¹	\$102,058,924
USAID/FFP ²	\$594,548,790
State/PRM ³	\$49,800,000
\$746,407,714	

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Despite extensive advocacy efforts by donors, international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), and UN agencies, Al Houthi officials in northern Yemen continue to interfere in relief operations, including by impeding critical needs assessments, imposing extreme bureaucratic demands, and obstructing monitoring and oversight activities. In response, USAID has notified INGO partners it plans to partially suspend humanitarian programming in northern Yemen starting in late March, and State/PRM has informed partners of the potential for aid suspensions, barring sufficient improvements in the operating environment. The U.S. Government (USG) continues to coordinate with other donors and relief actors to monitor the situation and support strong advocacy efforts for the principled delivery of humanitarian assistance.
- Escalated hostilities between Al Houthi and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)-led Coalition forces in Al Jawf, Marib, and Sana'a governorates displaced at least 35,000 people in affected areas between January 19 and February 17 and continued to cause civilian casualties and mass displacement as of early March, according to the UN. With USG and other donor support, UN agencies have scaled up assistance to meet the immediate needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in affected areas.
- As of March 6, there were no confirmed cases of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Yemen, according to the UN World Health Organization (WHO). Relief actors are implementing preparedness measures and closely monitoring the situation, including some confirmed cases in neighboring countries.

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)

HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

- The USG is supporting robust advocacy efforts for Al Houthi officials to remove constraints on humanitarian operations and allow relief actors to identify and reach the millions of vulnerable Yemenis in need with life-saving assistance. However, barring demonstrated improvements in the humanitarian operating environment, USAID/FFP and USAID/OFDA will be forced to partially suspend USAID humanitarian activities in Al Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen starting in late March due to continued Al Houthi-imposed bureaucratic impediments that prevent USAID programs from being implemented in adherence to humanitarian principles and in compliance with terms and conditions of USAID awards. In addition, State/PRM continues discussions with its partners regarding potential activity reductions or suspensions if the organizations are unable to implement programming in adherence to humanitarian principles due to Al Houthi-imposed constraints. USAID/FFP, USAID/OFDA, and State/PRM anticipate continuing to support limited life-saving activities that partners can conduct without Al Houthi interference.
 - During a mid-February meeting in Brussels, USAID, State/PRM, and other humanitarian actors—including donors, INGOs, and UN agencies—discussed strategies to address the deteriorating operating environment in northern Yemen and agreed to intensify engagement with authorities on the need to improve the operating environment. Attendees also agreed to move forward with a common plan to recalibrate humanitarian activities, including a phased scale-down, if Al Houthi-imposed impediments continue to violate donor regulations and humanitarian principles. Attendees reiterated their commitment to dialogue to support humanitarian operations and reach people in acute need.
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DISPLACEMENT AND INSECURITY

- In a January 27 report to the UN Security Council, the UN Panel of Experts on Yemen highlighted increasing international humanitarian law (IHL) violations—including threats and violence affecting aid workers and bureaucratic impediments to relief operations—throughout Yemen in 2019. Notably, the report stated that Coalition airstrikes from December 2018 to December 2019 resulted in nearly 50 civilian deaths and injured more than 90 civilians, and an August 2019 airstrike on an Al Houthi detention facility in Dhamar Governorate resulted in approximately 100 deaths and injured 40 individuals, all identified as prisoners of war. The report also highlighted ongoing arrests and arbitrary detention of civilians by Coalition, Al Houthi, and Republic of Yemen Government (RoYG) forces. In addition, the report documented Al Houthi obstruction of humanitarian assistance across Yemen in 2019, including Al Houthi arrests and intimidation of aid workers, illegal seizure of relief organization property, and bureaucratic impediments, such as delays in sub-agreement approval and manipulation of beneficiary lists, in northern Yemen.
- Heavy fighting erupted in Al Jawf's capital city of Al Hazm on March 1 amid ongoing hostilities between Coalition and Al Houthi forces that escalated in mid-January, according to the UN. Initial field reports indicate massive displacement from Al Hazm District, where many IDPs from Marib and other districts within Al Jawf had been sheltering. The UN reports that the number of civilian casualties and IDPs related to the Al Hazm clashes remains unknown due to continued fighting in the affected areas; however, the RoYG Executive Unit for IDPs in Marib reported that approximately 2,100 households arrived in Marib on March 1. Prior to these clashes, the UN estimated at least 35,000 households had fled affected areas in Al Jawf, Marib, and Sana'a between January 19 and February 17.
- In addition to mass displacement, the recent escalation of violence in northern Yemen has also reversed the trend of decreasing civilian casualties across the country in recent months. The UN estimates that conflict resulted in more than 160 civilian casualties during January. Additionally, a suspected Coalition airstrike on February 15 resulted in at least 34 civilian deaths and injured at least 23 civilians in Al Jawf's Al Maslub District, according to the UN. Relief actors condemned the attack as a violation of IHL and raised concerns that the recent escalation of violence could hamper the political peace process and exacerbate dire humanitarian conditions throughout the country.
- Many IDPs, particularly in frontline areas, require urgent assistance to meet immediate needs, including food; health care services; relief items; shelter and settlements support; and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) reports. In response, through USG and other donor support, IOM is providing assistance to IDPs in northern Yemen through the UN inter-agency Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM). From January 21 to March 5, IOM distributed more than 2,400 RRM kits—containing clothing, dignity, food, and

hygiene items—to support approximately 16,900 IDPs in northern Yemen. IOM also supplied 396,400 liters of safe drinking water and distributed critical relief items and shelter supplies to nearly 2,000 households in approximately 20 IDP sites in Marib during the period.

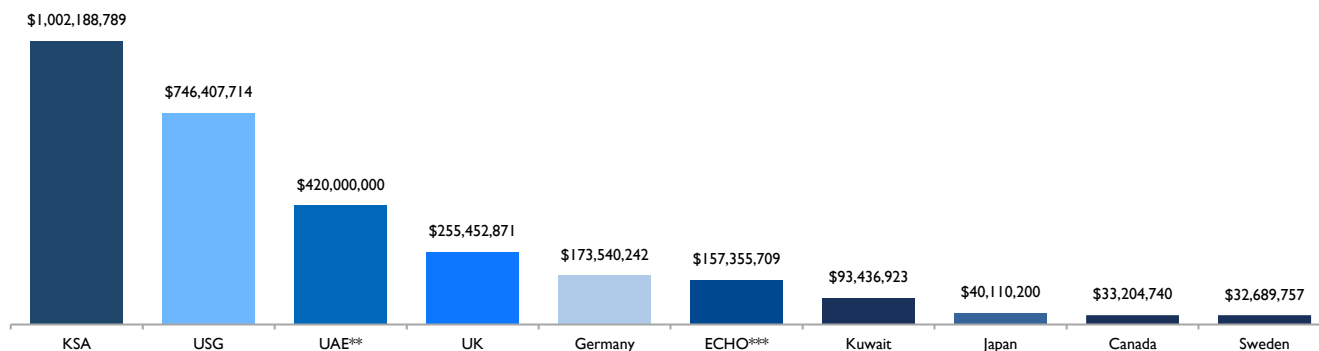
FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

- Despite continued access constraints, USAID/FFP partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) provided emergency food assistance to more than 12.7 million people across Yemen in January. The assistance included more than 123,400 metric tons (MT) of in-kind food assistance to support 9.6 million people, food vouchers for 2.5 million people, and cash-based transfers for food for approximately 609,100 people.
- WFP also reached approximately 226,000 children ages 6–59 months and nearly 194,500 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) across Yemen in January through the UN agency’s targeted supplementary feeding program to treat moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). In addition, WFP supported nearly 350,300 children ages 6–23 months and nearly 520,500 PLW through its blanket supplementary feeding program aimed at preventing MAM during the month. However, lack of approvals from Al Houthi officials have stalled many critical nutrition programs in recent months, impeding the delivery of nutrition assistance to approximately 250,000 children ages two years and younger and PLW.
- WFP continued milling operations at Al Hudaydah Governorate’s Red Sea Mills during January. As of January 31, WFP had produced more than 16,300 MT of wheat flour at the facility, including approximately 16,100 MT of wheat flour dispatched to food assistance warehouses in Ibb and Sana’a governorates for onward distribution.
- With USAID/FFP support, an INGO partner distributed food vouchers to nearly 12,500 households across southern Yemen’s Abyan, Ad Dali’, and Lahij governorates in January despite insecurity in Ad Dali’ city in late December and mid-January that limited the INGO’s ability to deliver assistance in the area. The INGO also reached nearly 7,300 households across the three governorates with nutrition messaging and conducted malnutrition screening that resulted in the referral of approximately 300 children younger than five years of age and PLW for MAM treatment and 25 children for severe acute malnutrition (SAM) treatment.

HEALTH AND WASH

- As of March 5, there were no COVID-19 cases in Yemen, despite erroneous local media reports of an infected UN staff member in Yemen’s capital city of Sana’a, WHO reports. WHO identifies Yemen as low risk for COVID-19 given limited international travel in and out of the country, with southern Yemen facing slightly more risk than northern Yemen due to the presence of commercial flights. Some bordering countries have reported cases, with five confirmed cases in KSA and 16 confirmed cases in Oman, WHO reports. USAID/OFDA staff in the region are monitoring the situation and supporting WHO’s preparedness activities.
- Through USAID support, an INGO partner continued to respond to suspected cholera cases in January, reaching more than 15,800 people in Aden Governorate with door-to-door hygiene awareness sessions that addressed hand washing techniques, waste disposal, waterborne disease prevention, and water treatment. The INGO’s community health volunteers also reached more than 5,100 people in Ta’izz Governorate’s Ash Shamaytayn District through door-to-door cholera prevention sessions, including messages on oral rehydration solutions. In addition, the INGO provided hygiene and nutrition messaging through community health volunteers to nearly 5,800 people in Al Mahwit Governorate’s Bani Sa’d District and more than 3,300 people in Manakha District, Sana’a.
- In January, a USAID/OFDA INGO partner reached approximately 3,800 people with water quality training—including techniques for treating water with chlorine tablets—and at least 3,100 people through community hygiene messaging and awareness sessions across Amran, Hajjah, and Al Mahwit governorates. The INGO also treated 12 community water tanks to enable access to safe drinking water for nearly 12,600 people across Amran. In addition, another INGO partner began rehabilitation of WASH facilities at eight health units in Al Mahwit’s Hufash, Milhan, and At Tawilah districts during the month. The organization also distributed chlorine tablets for water treatment to households with people experiencing MAM or SAM, supporting more than 900 people.

2019 HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN FUNDING* PER DONOR



*Funding figures are as of March 6, 2020. All international figures are according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)'s Financial Tracking Service; 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.

**United Arab Emirates (UAE)

***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 affected more than 1 million people and repeatedly displaced populations in northern Yemen, resulting in humanitarian needs. 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 17 million people in urgent 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 IOM in November 2018. The volatility of the current situation prevents relief agencies from obtaining accurate, comprehensive demographic information.
- On December 2, 2019, U.S. Ambassador Christopher P. Henzel reissued a disaster declaration for Yemen in FY 2020 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 2019¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA			
Implementing Partners (IPs)	Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management (HCIM), Health, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Multipurpose Cash Assistance, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Abyan, Aden, Amanat al-Asimah, Amran, Al Bayda', Ad Dali', Dhamar, Hadramawt, Hajjah, Al Hudaydah, Ibb, Al Jawf, Lahij, Al Mahrah, Marib, Al Mahwit, Raymah, Sa'dah, Sana'a, Shabwah, Socotra Island, Ta'izz	\$53,272,978
IP	HCIM	Countrywide	\$837,525
IOM	HCIM	Countrywide	\$1,600,000
OCHA	HCIM	Countrywide	\$8,000,000
UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$4,047,000
WFP	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$6,070,500
WHO	Health, HCIM, Nutrition	Countrywide	\$27,000,000
	Program Support		\$1,230,921
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING			\$102,058,924
USAID/FFP^{2,3}			
IPs	Cash Transfers for Food; Food Vouchers; Local, Regional, and International Procurement; Nutrition; Complementary Services	Abyan, Ad Dali', Aden, Al Hudaydah, Al Mahwit, Dhamar, Hajjah, Ibb, Lahij, Sana'a, Shabwah, Ta'izz	\$54,984,842
UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)	U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Countrywide	\$3,867,800
UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Complementary Services	Countrywide	\$1,500,000
WFP	U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Countrywide	\$442,696,148
	Local, Regional, and International Procurement	Countrywide	\$50,000,000
	Food Vouchers	Countrywide	\$41,500,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING			\$594,548,790
STATE/PRM			
IPs	Agriculture and Food Security, Health, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$10,100,000
Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	Camp Coordination and Camp Management, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Protection, Refugee Response and Returns Support, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$39,700,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$49,800,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE YEMEN RESPONSE IN FY 2019			\$746,407,714

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of September 30, 2019.

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

³ USAID/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.

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.
 - 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>