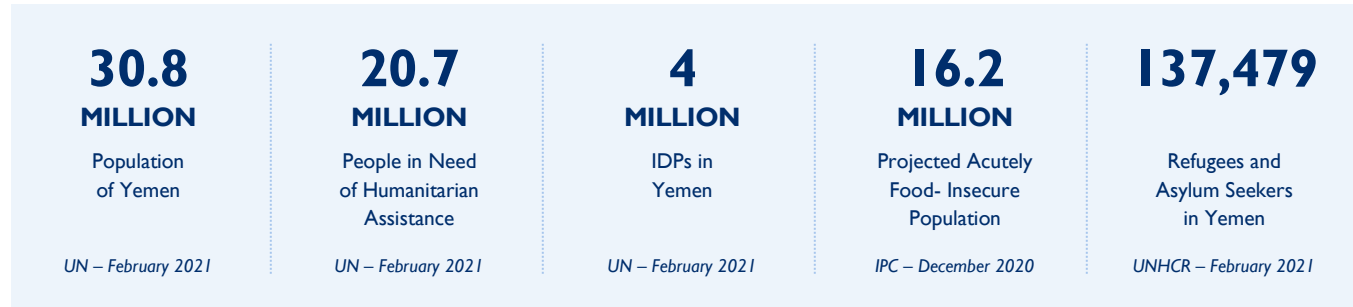


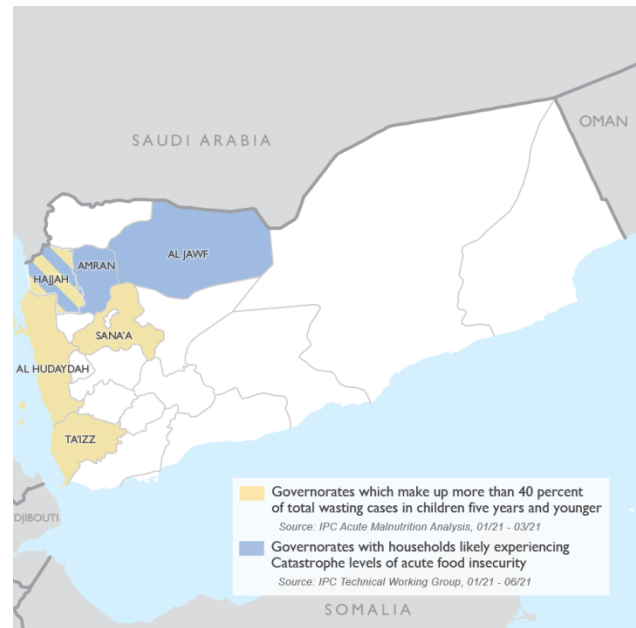
# Yemen – Complex Emergency

March 8, 2021

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- The USG announced nearly \$191 million in additional humanitarian assistance at a High-Level Pledging Event for the Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen on March 1.
- Escalating conflict across Marib Governorate continues to generate displacement and compound humanitarian needs, including straining limited resources at IDP sites.
- Approximately 2.3 million children younger than five years of age are projected to face wasting—the deadliest form of malnutrition—during 2021, according to a February IPC Report.
- On February 16, the USG officially revoked the designation of Ansarallah—also known as Al Houthis—as an FTO and SDGT entity due to adverse effects on the humanitarian situation in Yemen.



|  |                        |                      |
|--|------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING</b><br>For the Yemen Response in FY 2021 | USAID/BHA <sup>1</sup> | \$336,760,221        |
|  | State/PRM <sup>2</sup> | \$13,500,000         |
| <b>Total</b>   |                        | <b>\$350,260,221</b> |

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

<sup>1</sup> USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA).  
<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM).

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

### USG Announces \$191 Million at Humanitarian Pledging Conference

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the governments of Sweden and Switzerland virtually hosted a High-Level Pledging Event for the Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen on March 1. At the event, U.S. Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken announced nearly \$191 million in additional FY 2021 U.S. Government (USG) humanitarian assistance, including more than \$177 million from USAID/BHA, and urged regional donors to increase aid to Yemen. Secretary Blinken also called on all parties to cease interference in humanitarian aid operations, allow the unhindered importation and distribution of fuel, and adhere to international humanitarian law. To date, the USG has provided more than \$350 million in FY 2021, all recently, and more than \$3.4 billion to save lives and alleviate the suffering of the people of Yemen since the crisis began in 2015. Donors pledged approximately \$1.7 billion during the conference, representing approximately 44 percent of the \$3.85 billion requested for the 2021 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), which aims to reach an estimated 16 million people with humanitarian assistance. UN Secretary-General António Guterres encouraged donors to promptly disburse pledged funding while expressing concern that the \$1.7 billion pledged was a reduction compared to funds allocated towards the 2020 HRP at the 2019 pledging event.

### Conflict in Marib Prompts Displacement, Exacerbates Humanitarian Needs

Escalating conflict across Marib Governorate continues to generate displacement and compound humanitarian needs, particularly in western Marib's Sirwah District, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). As of February 27, fighting had displaced more than 8,000 people in the governorate since fighting began in early February, although humanitarian organizations estimate the actual number of displaced households is much higher, according to the UN. Hostilities, including indiscriminate missile fire, have also directly impacted at least three internally displaced person (IDP) sites in Sirwah, prompting site residents to flee further east.

Increased displacement within Marib has placed additional strains on the limited resources available at IDP sites in the governorate, IOM reports. An estimated 60 percent of those recently displaced have arrived at overcrowded settlements with limited access to essential services; approximately 95 percent of IDP sites in the governorate lack adequate safe drinking water and latrines. IOM reports that priority needs among IDPs remain food, health care, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance. Relief actors continue to scale up operations—including conducting critical needs assessments and registering new IDPs—in the governorate. In late February, State/PRM partner the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other actors distributed emergency tents and relief commodities to 1,400 individuals fleeing hostilities in Marib.

### UN Releases 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview

On February 20, OCHA released the 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) for Yemen, estimating that 20.7 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance in the country. The population in acute need increased from 11.2 million in 2020 to 12.1 million in 2021, underscoring the severity of the crisis as humanitarian conditions worsened in Yemen during 2020. Emergency food and nutrition assistance remain the most significant humanitarian needs in Yemen, with 16.2 million people estimated to face Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity and nearly 2.3 million children younger than five years of age projected to experience wasting in 2021.<sup>3</sup> In addition, nearly 20.1 million people are in

<sup>3</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.

need of improved access to health care, and more than 15.4 million individuals require WASH assistance, heightening the risk of communicable disease transmission and malnutrition.

### **One-Half of Children Under Five to Experience Wasting in Yemen in 2021**

Approximately 2.3 million children younger than five years of age and approximately 1.2 million pregnant and lactating women across Yemen are projected to face wasting during 2021, according to a February Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) report on acute malnutrition. The 2.3 million figure represents approximately one-half of all children younger than five years of age in Yemen, and includes nearly 400,000 children expected to experience severe wasting, a life-threatening form of malnutrition, the UN reports. The 2021 IPC estimate marks a 22 percent increase in the prevalence of severe wasting compared to 2020 levels and one of the highest projections for severe wasting in Yemen since the onset of hostilities in 2015. The pervasiveness of communicable diseases—including diarrhea and malaria—remains a key driver of wasting among children in Yemen, along with insufficient food consumption. Elevated levels of acute food insecurity; poor infant and young child feeding practices; limited access to health, nutrition, and WASH services as a result of ongoing conflict; economic shocks, including the economic effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic; natural disasters; and reduced humanitarian food assistance also remain underlying causes of wasting, according to the IPC report. UN Under-Secretary-General and Emergency Relief Coordinator Mark Lowcock has repeatedly warned that many Yemeni children will die unless they receive urgent treatment and that many children who survive will likely continue to suffer from the effects of wasting.

### **USG Revokes Terrorist Designations of Ansarallah**

On February 16, the USG revoked the designation of Ansarallah as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) and Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT) entity, eliminating the need for general licenses issued by the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control that allowed certain approved activities. Secretary Blinken stated that this decision reflected the dire humanitarian situation in Yemen and followed warnings from the UN and humanitarian agencies that the designation might significantly inhibit Yemenis' access to essential commodities such as food, fuel, and medical supplies, potentially affecting 24 million Yemenis and gravely worsening the humanitarian crisis. The UN and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) welcomed the revocation, which will allow the continued flow of commercial imports and humanitarian assistance to Yemen.

## KEY FIGURES



**380,400**

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



**\$4.7 Million**

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



**\$7.8 Million**

In dedicated FY 2021  
USG support for  
WASH programming to  
date

## U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

### FOOD SECURITY

USAID/BHA supports WFP and seven international non-governmental organization (INGO) partners to bolster food security conditions in Yemen. USAID/BHA partners are providing emergency food assistance through in-kind food aid—including U.S.-sourced commodities—and cash and vouchers for people to buy food in local markets, prioritizing households experiencing Crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity. Partners are also working to strengthen household purchasing power and rehabilitate food-security-related livelihoods to increase access to food among vulnerable communities. USAID/BHA partners provide emergency food assistance to a caseload of more than 13 million people, reaching more than 8 million people per month, countrywide.

### HEALTH

The USG supports IOM, UNHCR, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), 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. Often in coordination with nutrition and WASH programming, USG partners are providing primary health care services through both mobile medical teams—serving hard-to-reach areas—and static health facilities, while supporting community health volunteers to encourage people to seek health care services, when needed, to achieve 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. In late February, UNHCR-supported clinics and health care centers assisted more than 2,500 refugees, asylum-seekers, and members of the host community in Aden Governorate. The UN agency reached an additional 5,000 refugees and Yemenis with health and nutrition educational activities, and awareness-raising sessions on COVID-19 prevention.

### WASH

Through USG funding to IOM, State/PRM funding to an implementing partner, and USAID/BHA funding to UNICEF and 14 INGOs, the USG is supporting WASH programming to prevent and respond to communicable disease outbreaks—such as cholera and COVID-19—and provide safe drinking water to displaced and other conflict-affected communities across Yemen. USAID/BHA partners are conducting critical WASH interventions—including distribution of hygiene kits, promotion of hygiene activities, rehabilitation of water systems damaged by conflict, and provision of water trucking services—for IDPs and other vulnerable populations. In addition, State/PRM implementing partners are providing WASH interventions focused on meeting the needs of conflict-affected populations,

as well as migrants and refugees in Yemen originating from the Horn of Africa.



**\$3.9 Million**

In dedicated FY 2021  
USG support for  
Nutrition programming  
to date

## **NUTRITION**

USAID/BHA supports partners on the forefront of efforts to prevent and treat wasting across Yemen. Working through UNICEF, WFP, WHO, and 12 INGOs, USAID/BHA is providing community- and evidence-based programs aiming to decrease morbidity and mortality resulting from malnutrition. Focusing on children and pregnant and lactating women in particular, USAID/BHA programs help prevent, identify, 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. In December and January, a USAID/BHA partner treated nearly 270 children younger than five years of age for severe wasting, 450 children for moderate wasting, and nearly 400 pregnant and lactating women for moderate wasting in Al Hudaydah and Raymah governorates.



**10**

Number of USG  
implementing partners  
supporting critical  
protection interventions

## **PROTECTION**

Through support to IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF, and six INGOs, the USG is furthering critical protection interventions across Yemen. With State/PRM funding, UNHCR provides protection services to meet the needs of IDPs, refugees, and other populations countrywide, including through mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) activities and legal assistance to facilitate access to identity documentation and public assistance. In addition, USAID/BHA partner programs work to prevent and respond to gender-based violence, address child protection and MHPSS needs, and respond to protection concerns and violations through specialized case-management services, community mobilization activities, and protection risk mitigation efforts. The USG requires all partners to incorporate protection principles and promote meaningful access, safety, and dignity for beneficiaries across all USG-supported interventions in Yemen.



**6**

Number of USG  
implementing partners  
supporting MPCA  
programming

## **MULTIPURPOSE CASH ASSISTANCE**

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

## CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Between 2004 and early 2015, conflict between the Republic of Yemen Government 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 led to the renewal and escalation of conflict and displacement, further exacerbating already deteriorated humanitarian conditions.
- In March 2015, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia-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 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 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; 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 November 17, 2020, U.S. Ambassador Christopher P. Henzel redeclared a disaster for Yemen in FY 2021 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 2021<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>

| IMPLEMENTING PARTNER  | ACTIVITY  | LOCATION  | AMOUNT               |
|---|---|---|----------------------|
| <b>USAID/BHA</b>  |   |   |                      |
| Implementing Partners (IPs)   | Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS); Health; Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA); MPCA; Nutrition; Shelter and Settlements; WASH | Abyan, Aden, Al Bayda', Ad Dali', Hadramawt, Al Hudaydah, Dhamar, Ibb, Lahij, Al Mahrah, Raymah, Sa'dah, Sana'a, Shabwah, Socotra, Ta'izz | \$31,240,747         |
| IPs   | Agriculture, ERMS, Food Assistance, Health, Protection, WASH  | Countrywide   | \$555,448            |
| UNICEF  | Nutrition   | Abyan, Aden, Ad Dali', Hadramawt, Al Hudaydah, Al Mahrah, Lahij, Marib, Shabwah, Socotra, Ta'izz  | \$4,801,390          |
| WFP   | 380,400 Metric Tons (MT) of U.S. In-Kind Food Aid, Logistics and Relief Commodities   | Countrywide   | \$300,008,006        |
|   | Program Support   |   | \$154,630            |
| <b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING</b>  |   |   | <b>\$336,760,221</b> |
| <b>STATE/PRM</b>  |   |   |                      |
| UNHCR   | ERMS, Health, HCIMA, 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>\$350,260,221</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 March 5, 2021.

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

<sup>3</sup>USAID/BHA-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.

<sup>4</sup>On March 27, 2020, USAID partially suspended approximately \$50 million in humanitarian NGO programming in Al Houthi-controlled areas due to continued Al Houthi-imposed bureaucratic impediments. USAID continues to fund more than \$13 million in humanitarian NGO activities in northern Yemen for programs that can be conducted without Al Houthi interference and that most directly mitigate the risk of famine and deliver imminently life-saving services, including treatment of acute malnutrition and cholera.

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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)