

# Yemen – Complex Emergency

April 13, 2021

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- The first fuel shipments since January entered Al Hudaydah Port in northern Yemen in late March. The fuel is expected to sustain humanitarian operations for only a few weeks, and the need for sustained, unhindered delivery of fuel for general and commercial use, as well as humanitarian operations, remains urgent.
- The COVAX facility delivered an initial batch of approximately 360,000 COVID-19 vaccines to Aden city as WHO recorded a more than 1,000 percent increase in reported COVID-19 cases in Yemen from February to March.
- Ongoing fighting in Marib and Ta'izz governorates continues to drive displacement, destroy civilian infrastructure, and generate civilian casualties as the conflict in Yemen enters its seventh year.



<b>TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING</b> 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

### Vessels Discharge Fuel at Al Hudaydah Port as Fuel Crisis Continues

On March 24, the Republic of Yemen Government (RoYG) and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)-led Coalition approved four fuel vessels—including two ships carrying a total of nearly 45,000 metric tons (MT) of gas oil, one ship carrying approximately 23,000 MT of fuel oil, and one ship carrying 5,000 MT of liquefied petroleum gas—to berth at Al Hudaydah Port in northern Yemen. The RoYG and KSA-led Coalition had last authorized commercial fuel vessels to discharge fuel at Al Hudaydah Port on January 3. The gap in commercial fuel imports to Al Hudaydah—which receives more than half of commercial fuel imports in Yemen—was the longest since the start of the conflict in 2015, according to the UN. The four fuel vessels discharged less than half the monthly volume of fuel recorded in Al Hudaydah in previous years, and less than 15 percent of the fuel that the port would have expected to receive between January 3 and mid-April, according to donor analysis. The recent fuel shipment can support reduced commercial and humanitarian operations for up to four weeks, although an additional 10 fuel ships carrying nearly 238,000 MT of fuel remained in the Coalition Holding Area (CHA) as of April 13, according to the UN. The recently berthed vessels and the 10 ships currently in the CHA constitute less than 70 percent of the fuel normally expected to enter Al Hudaydah between January and mid-April, a reduction partly due to vessels canceling requests to berth and sailing to other ports.

The fuel crisis in northern Yemen continues to adversely affect the commercial and private sector, essential services, and critical humanitarian operations in Yemen, where 20.7 million people—nearly 67 percent of the population—require humanitarian assistance, according to the 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview. Fuel shortages have led humanitarian actors to reduce or suspend water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) projects and safe drinking water deliveries, adversely affecting at least 3 million people across northern Yemen, according to the UN. The increased price of safe drinking water across northern Yemen—which has risen up to 50 percent in Hajjah and Al Hudaydah governorates in recent months—is increasing the risk of waterborne diseases, including acute watery diarrhea, cholera, and other infectious diseases, according to the UN. The UN World Health Organization (WHO) reports that fuel shortages have caused nearly 200 health facilities in northern Yemen to reduce operating hours, suspend health services, and receive fewer patients due to the dramatic increase in transportation costs. The lack of fuel for trucks to transport commodities also threatens to delay the dispatch of food distributions by USAID/BHA partner the UN World Food Program (WFP), potentially impacting millions of vulnerable individuals in the coming months. In addition, outpatient therapeutic feeding, targeted supplementary feeding, and blanket supplementary feeding programs have been negatively affected by fuel shortages; the UN estimates that the fuel crisis is expected to impact more than 860 nutrition sites and affect nearly 139,000 children five years of age and younger and pregnant and lactating women.

Humanitarian actors continue to advocate for the unhindered import and unfettered distribution of fuel in northern Yemen to support commercial activity, sustain critical infrastructure and services including hospitals and water systems, and allow for the continuation of humanitarian operations. U.S. Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken called on all parties to allow the unhindered import and distribution of fuel in Yemen—emphasizing that ongoing fuel shortages only worsen the humanitarian crisis—in early March.

### Conflict in Marib and Ta'izz Results in Civilian Casualties and Displacement

Ongoing hostilities in Marib and Ta'izz continue to cause civilian casualties and drive displacement as the conflict in Yemen enters its seventh year. Shelling and other hostilities have directly impacted IDP sites in 10 incidents in Marib's Sirwah District to date in 2021, resulting in 13 civilian casualties and further displacing camp residents, according to the Protection Cluster-led Civilian Impact Monitoring Project

(CIMP). More than 18,000 individuals have fled the conflict in Marib since the beginning of the year, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) reports. According to the UN, Marib currently hosts more than 1 million IDPs, the largest IDP population in Yemen. On March 18, the UN Security Council condemned the escalation in fighting and called on Al Houthi officials to cease their offensive. Meanwhile, escalated conflict in Ta'izz since early March has resulted in 15 civilian deaths and injury to 55 civilians, as well as the displacement of approximately 3,800 people, CIMP and IOM report. March 26 marked the sixth anniversary of the Yemen conflict; the conflict has displaced at least 4 million people within Yemen and resulted in more than 20,000 civilian casualties since 2015, according to the UN.

### **COVID-19 Cases Rising As First Vaccine Shipment Arrives in Aden**

As of April 13, WHO reported more than 5,400 confirmed coronavirus disease (COVID-19) cases and 1,069 related deaths in Yemen, compared to more than 2,100 cases and 619 deaths as of mid-February. The UN agency reported nearly 2,000 cases in March, compared with approximately 150 cases in February, representing a more than 1,000 percent increase in reported cases from February to March. Although these figures constitute the highest reported case increase in months, the number of cases is likely underreported due to low testing capacity and lack of information-sharing among authorities; official figures do not include data for northern Yemen, where Al Houthi officials have reported only four cases in Sana'a city since May 2020, according to international media. Humanitarian actors remain concerned regarding limited health care capacity across Yemen to respond to the rise in cases, while increased displacement and poor WASH services could exacerbate the spread of the disease. The COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX) facility delivered an initial batch of approximately 360,000 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine to Aden on March 31, according to the UN. RoYG officials announced a countrywide vaccination campaign that will likely begin in mid-April.

### **Fire at Sana'a Migrant Holding Facility Results in More Than 170 Injuries**

On March 7, an explosion and ensuing fire at a migrant holding facility in Sana'a Governorate resulted in the deaths of at least 45 people and injury to more than 170 people. The facility—which had a maximum capacity of 300 people—was holding more than 900 migrants at the time. The cause of the explosion remains unclear, although reports indicate that the fire broke out as a result of teargas canisters intended to disperse migrants protesting conditions in the facility, according to the UN. To respond to immediate needs, U.S. Government (USG) partner IOM deployed staff and medical supplies to the migrant center and local hospitals, and provided emergency food and relief items to more than 170 injured individuals. Yemen remains a transit country for migrants traveling from the Horn of Africa to Saudi Arabia.

### **USAID/BHA Shifts Approach to Partial Aid Suspensions in Northern Yemen**

On March 11, USAID/BHA announced a policy shift in its partial suspension of aid in northern Yemen, implemented in March 2020 in response to Al Houthi interference in humanitarian operations. USAID/BHA plans to resume full support to previously suspended international non-governmental organization (INGO) partner programs under new operational parameters, including monitoring requirements to track attempted interference. The shift in approach follows USAID's assessment that the humanitarian community has made progress in advocating for reduced Al Houthi interference in aid operations. Despite the partial suspension of approximately \$50 million in humanitarian programming in March 2020, USAID remained the single largest donor to the Yemen humanitarian response in 2020, continuing support for INGO partners' most critical life-saving interventions and for UN agencies in northern Yemen. In addition, USAID/BHA has continued to provide full support for humanitarian operations across southern Yemen.

## KEY FIGURES



**381,790**

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 has provided more than \$300 million to WFP in FY 2021 and supports seven INGO partners 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—and cash and vouchers for people to buy food in local markets, prioritizing households experiencing high 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 in Yemen provide emergency food assistance to more than 13 million people, reaching more than 8 million people per month.

### HEALTH

The USG supports IOM, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), 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.

### 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.



**9**

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

## MULTI-PURPOSE 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 mid-2004 and early 2015, conflict between the RoYG and Al Houthi opposition forces in the north affected more than 1 million people and repeatedly displaced populations in northern Yemen, resulting in widespread 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 poor humanitarian conditions.
- In March 2015, the KSA-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, as Yemen typically imports much of its food supply.
- Since March 2015, the 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 displaced more than 4 million people, an estimated 1.3 million of whom have since 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 data.
- 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 political and economic crises on vulnerable populations.

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

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY <sup>3</sup>	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 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, 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>\$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 April 13, 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.

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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)