

Yemen – Complex Emergency

MAY 14, 2021

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- Relief actors continue to call on local authorities to reverse West Coast OAO regulations restricting access to vulnerable populations.
- COVID-19 cases are surging across Yemen. While a vaccination campaign has been underway in southern Yemen since mid-April, vaccination rates have slowed during the month of Ramadan.
- Fighting in Al Jawf and Marib governorates continues to result in civilian casualties and displacement. In Marib, relief actors report a high number of civilian casualties in 2021 and heightened risks for IDPs. USG partners are providing life-saving assistance to displaced households in Al Jawf.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the Yemen Response in FY 2021	USAID/BHA ²	\$336,760,221
	State/PRM ³	\$13,500,000
Total		\$350,260,221

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

¹ 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.
² USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA).
³ U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM).

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

OAQ Requirements Impede Humanitarian Assistance in Southern Yemen

Relief actors continue to call on the Organizations' Affairs Office (OAO) to reverse redundant demands for travel permits and other movement restrictions that have limited humanitarian access to approximately 475,000 people across Yemen's west coast region in recent months, according to the UN. Humanitarian organizations have faced obstacles at checkpoints, including demands for sensitive personal information, confiscated identification documents, and detentions for non-compliance with OAO policies. The OAO is part of the West Coast Authority, a regional administrative body established in late 2020 by local armed forces operating in Republic of Yemen Government (RoYG)-held coastal areas of Al Hudaydah and Ta'izz governorates. Although the OAO temporarily suspended restrictions during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, the UN and humanitarian organizations have called on all parties to suspend the requirements indefinitely to ensure access to vulnerable populations and compliance with humanitarian principles.

COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign Commences in Yemen as Cases Rise

On April 20, the RoYG, in coordination with the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and UN World Health Organization (WHO), launched a coronavirus disease (COVID-19) vaccination campaign to administer 350,000 AstraZeneca vaccines in southern Yemen, international media report. The vaccines were procured via the UN-led COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX) initiative. The RoYG projects that the current vaccination campaign will cover more than 300,000 people in the coming months, including health care workers and people older than 60 years of age. As of May 9, the RoYG had vaccinated nearly 19,000 individuals in 11 governorates, according to WHO. Vaccination rates remain low during Ramadan due to reduced daytime turnout and limited capacity for nighttime vaccinations, WHO reports. Moreover, many health care facilities have postponed vaccinations until after mid-May to observe the end of Ramadan. WHO reported more than 6,500 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 1,279 related deaths in Yemen as of May 14, reflecting a more than 200 percent increase in new cases since mid-February. USAID/BHA supports health care centers where the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and partners are conducting the vaccination campaign.

Conflict in Marib Continues to Pose Heightened Risks for IDPs

Fighting in Marib Governorate between January and April resulted in 74 civilian casualties, which represents more than half of the 119 total civilian casualties reported in the governorate in all of 2020, according to the Protection Cluster-led Civilian Impact Monitoring Project (CIMP). Hostilities during the period directly impacted seven internally displaced person (IDP) sites in Marib's Sirwah District—some on multiple occasions—killing one civilian, injuring more than 10 people, and resulting in the secondary displacement of nearly 14,000 IDPs to date in 2021, CIMP reports. Many IDPs have relocated to other IDP sites within Sirwah, resulting in severe overcrowding, strain on facilities and already-limited resources, and increased risk of fires and communicable diseases. Overall, conflict displaced more than 18,000 people in Marib from early February to April. Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) partners provided approximately 18,600 newly displaced persons with food, hygiene kits, and women's dignity kits in the governorate from January to April, according to the UN. Amid rising protection risks in the governorate, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has renewed calls for all parties to the conflict to protect civilians and civilian infrastructure, including IDP sites, and allow for the safe passage of civilians out of conflict zones in accordance with international humanitarian law.

Clashes in Al Jawf Exacerbate Needs and Limit Humanitarian Access

Fighting in Al Jawf Governorate continues to exacerbate humanitarian needs among the governorate's substantial IDP population while also limiting relief actors' capacity to respond due to conflict-related access constraints. Since 2018, more than 189,000 people have been displaced within the governorate, which also hosts approximately 125,000 IDPs from Hajjah, Al Hudaydah, Marib, and Sa'dah governorates, according to the UN. Many displaced households across Al Jawf are in urgent need of food assistance, relief commodities, and shelter, according to a non-governmental organization (NGO) needs assessment surveying more than 4,600 households between January and March 2021. Nearly two-thirds of assessed displaced households were residing in tents lacking blankets, kitchen supplies, or mattresses, while the remaining third of displaced households were sheltering in vacant buildings and open areas exposed to harsh weather conditions. In addition, nearly 85 percent did not have access to safe drinking water and sanitation services, while 45 percent lacked access to food assistance and were reliant on food from neighbors. U.S. Government (USG) partners are providing life-saving assistance, including health care, to displaced households in Al Jawf. Conflict across Al Jawf and along the Al Jawf–Marib border continues to limit humanitarian access to vulnerable communities, with the remote locations of some IDP settlements compounding humanitarian access constraints, relief actors report. As of early May, the UN was able to access only half of the 12 affected districts in Al Jawf through local partners. Despite these constraints, UN agencies and NGO partners reached several conflict-affected populations; for instance, UNHCR provided multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) to more than 90,000 displaced people and relief commodities to nearly 2,400 displaced households in the governorate from early 2020 to February 2021.

Flooding Results in Deaths and Displacement as Rainy Season Begins

Widespread, heavy rainfall and resultant flooding since mid-April have led to deaths, injuries, and damage to infrastructure, negatively affecting thousands of displaced households across Yemen. As of May 1, flooding had resulted in the deaths of at least 13 people—including two children—in Al Hudaydah, Ibb, Sana'a, and Shabwah governorates, according to international media. Initial assessments indicate that flooding affected more than 41,000 people—three-quarters of whom are IDPs—as of May 9, according to the UN. The rains negatively affected more than 1,000 displaced households across seven IDP sites in Aden, while more than 800 displaced households in Hajjah Governorate and approximately 700 displaced households in both Ad Dali' and Lahij governorates require multi-sector assistance. Humanitarian actors are providing assistance to flood-affected populations, including emergency food aid and RRM kits, through the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)-coordinated countrywide Flood Preparedness Plan. Much of Yemen will likely continue to face heightened risks related to natural hazards through the end of the April-to-August rainy season.

Fuel Shortages Continue as Blockade Restricts Imports in Northern Yemen

In mid-April, the RoYG and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)-led Coalition granted permission for three fuel vessels carrying more than 53,000 metric tons (MT) of fuel to berth and discharge fuel at Al Hudaydah Port in northern Yemen, the UN Verification and Inspection Mechanism for Yemen reports. Six additional commercial vessels containing more than 136,000 MT of fuel remain in the Coalition Holding Area (CHA) awaiting clearance. In addition, three vessels turned away from Al Hudaydah following a months-long waiting period in the CHA, according to monitors. Ongoing fuel shortages due to RoYG restrictions on fuel imports to Al Hudaydah have led to the delay or suspension of health; nutrition; protection; shelter; and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) activities across northern Yemen in recent months, according to the UN. The unhindered and sustained import and distribution of fuel in northern Yemen is vital for the continuation of essential services, commercial activity, and humanitarian operations.

KEY FIGURES



381,790 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



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USG implementing partners supporting nutrition programming

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY

USAID/BHA has provided more than \$300 million to the UN World Food Program (WFP) in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 and supports seven international NGO (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, UNHCR, UNICEF, 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, 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.

MULTIPURPOSE CASH ASSISTANCE

The USG supports the provision of MPCA to help conflict-affected households in Yemen meet their 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 providing MPCA to vulnerable Yemeni populations, supporting households to procure food, cooking gas, hygiene items, and other essential commodities.

NUTRITION

USAID/BHA supports partners on the forefront of efforts to prevent and treat wasting—a severe form of malnutrition—across Yemen. Working through 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 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.



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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. 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. 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. The USG requires all partners to incorporate protection principles in all USG-supported interventions in Yemen and promote meaningful access, safety, and dignity for beneficiaries.



\$7.8 Million

Dedicated FY 2021 USG support for WASH programming to date

WASH

The USG supports 15 INGOs and three UN partners 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 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 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.

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 population 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 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 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 political and economic crises on vulnerable populations.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE YEMEN RESPONSE IN FY 2021^{1, 2}

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY ³	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
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', Dhamar, Hadramawt, Al Hudaydah, 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
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$336,760,221
STATE/PRM			
UNHCR	ERMS, HCIMA, Health, Logistics Support, MPCA, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$13,500,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$13,500,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE YEMEN RESPONSE IN FY 2021			\$350,260,221

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of May 14, 2021.

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

³ 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.

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)