

Yemen – Complex Emergency

JUNE 15, 2021

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- Fighting continues in Yemen, particularly in Al Hudaydah, Al Jawf, and Marib governorates, resulting in civilian casualties and displacement. Relief actors report an increased number of civilian casualties in 2021, heightened risks for IDPs, and ongoing barriers to humanitarian access.
- Fuel shortages in northern Yemen remain a persistent and serious problem, worsening the humanitarian crisis. Relief actors continue to call for RoYG and KSA authorization of consistent discharge of fuel shipments at Al Hudaydah Port.
- RoYG and WHO officials resumed COVID-19 vaccinations in southern Yemen after Ramadan. The first vaccines reached northern Yemen in late May. The USG announced plans to allocate additional vaccines worldwide; an initial 6 million vaccine doses designated for regional priorities will include Yemen.



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

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

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Conflict in Al Hudaydah, Al Jawf, Marib Results in Casualties, Displacement

Fighting and drone strikes in Al Hudaydah Governorate resulted in civilian casualties and significant damage to infrastructure in late May, according to the Protection Cluster-led Civilian Impact Monitoring Project (CIMP). In 2021 to date, drone strikes in Al Hudaydah have resulted in five times as many casualties as were reported in the governorate in all of 2020, CIMP reports. In addition, shelling in Al Hudaydah's At Tuhayat District and Hays city from late May to early June caused displacement and interrupted livelihoods. Hostilities in Al Hudaydah have displaced nearly 2,400 individuals since January 2021, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). U.S. Government (USG) partners continue to provide coordination, health, multipurpose case assistance (MPCA), nutrition, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services to affected populations throughout the governorate.

Additionally, fighting escalated in Al Jawf Governorate in the second half of May, with intensifying clashes threatening the safety of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Al Jawf's eastern district of Khabb wa ash Sha'af near Al Khanjar IDP camp, and along the southern border with Marib Governorate near Al Labanat IDP camp, CIMP reports. USG partners continue to provide life-saving assistance, including health care, to displaced households in Al Jawf. Amid rising protection risks in the governorate, State/PRM partner 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.

Fighting also continued in Marib through early June, posing risks for civilians in both Al Jawf and Marib. Airstrikes in Marib's Majzar, Medghal, and Sirwah districts hit an estimated 20 houses on May 29, according to CIMP. In addition, a missile struck a fuel station in Marib city's Al Rawdha neighborhood on June 5, killing at least 17 civilians and injuring several others, according to international media. Hostilities in Marib have displaced more than 20,000 people since February 2021, according to IOM. Working through the USAID/BHA-supported Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM), humanitarian partners provided approximately 13,600 newly displaced households in Marib with assistance, including cash, health, shelter, and WASH assistance, from January to May, according to IOM.

Restrictions Across Yemen Continue to Impede Humanitarian Access

Restrictions on the movement of relief organizations, personnel, and goods continue to constrain humanitarian access across Yemen, according to the UN. Conflict-related insecurity in Al Hudaydah, Al Jawf, Marib, and Ta'izz governorates and fuel import restrictions at Al Hudaydah Port continue to limit humanitarian operations and essential services for affected population in Houthi-controlled areas of northern Yemen, the UN reports. Bureaucratic impediments to humanitarian access remain a significant concern in both northern and southern Yemen, with relief actors reporting ongoing visa and travel restrictions, interference in humanitarian operations by local authorities, and slow implementation of non-governmental organization (NGO) operating agreements. Relief organizations reported more than 480 access incidents across Yemen between January and February 2021, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

Fuel Shortages Continue in North; Three Additional Vessels Discharge Fuel

On June 3, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) and the Republic of Yemen Government (RoYG) authorized three fuel vessels in the Coalition Holding Area (CHA) located in the Red Sea to enter Al Hudaydah Port and unload shipments, according to the UN World Food Program (WFP). One ship,

carrying diesel, completed fuel discharge as of June 8. A second, carrying the first discharge of gasoline for 2021 to Al Hudaydah Port, is expected to finish discharging fuel in the coming days. The third, carrying fuel oil, is expected to finish discharging fuel in the coming week. KSA and RoYG authorized a fourth ship, carrying cooking gas, to enter Al Hudaydah Port as of June 11. Two additional ships, carrying approximately 57,000 metric tons (MT) of fuel, remain in the CHA awaiting authorization to berth as of June 8. Prior to the authorization of the four fuel ships, KSA and RoYG authorities had not authorized any vessels to discharge fuel at the port since May 4. Even the immediate discharge of fuel on all six vessels would still only bring the total discharged at Al Hudaydah this year to approximately 42 percent of the total fuel supply normally expected between January and mid-May, according to donor analysis. The unhindered and sustained importation and distribution of fuel in northern Yemen remains vital for the continuation of commercial activity, essential services, and humanitarian operations for millions of people in northern Yemen, according to the UN. In addition, the high price of fuel has increased prices of staple foods in Yemen, where approximately 16 million people are acutely food-insecure and urgently require emergency food assistance to meet basic needs. Ongoing fuel shortages due to restrictions on fuel imports to Al Hudaydah have led to the delay or suspension of health, nutrition, protection, shelter, and WASH activities across northern Yemen in recent months, according to the UN.

COVID-19 Vaccinations Resume in Southern Yemen

Following delays during Ramadan, the RoYG, in coordination with the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and UN World Health Organization (WHO), is continuing its coronavirus disease (COVID-19) vaccination campaign in southern Yemen, according to relief actors. The RoYG, UNICEF, and WHO plan to administer 350,000 AstraZeneca vaccines—procured via the UN-led COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access (COVAX) initiative—in southern Yemen through the vaccination campaign, which was launched on April 20. As of June 9, the RoYG, UNICEF, and WHO had administered more than 221,000 vaccines across southern governorates. In northern Yemen, Sana'a-based officials and WHO plan to launch a COVID-19 vaccination campaign in the coming weeks with priority given to health care workers. WHO reported more than 6,800 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 1,350 related deaths in Yemen as of June 15, although the number of cases is likely underreported due to low testing capacity and lack of information-sharing by officials.

International Actors Affirm Commitments at SOM III in Early June

Donors, UN agencies, the World Bank, and international and Yemeni NGOs virtually convened for the third Senior Officials Meeting (SOM III) for the humanitarian crisis in Yemen on June 1. The participants assessed the deteriorating humanitarian situation alongside progress since the previous SOM in November 2020 and expressed their continuing commitment to support access and advocacy efforts. Participants also highlighted the need to continue advocating collectively for critical issues, including increasing humanitarian access across Yemen, improving the quality and impact of humanitarian programs, integrating both short-term and long-term resilience activities around food security, disbursing donor pledges made during the High-Level Pledging Event in March 2021, and coordinating engagement with officials to end restrictions on imports, especially fuel.

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 WFP in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 and supports nine 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, with State/PRM support, 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 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, UNHCR, UNICEF, and five INGOs, the USG is furthering critical protection interventions across Yemen. USAID/BHA partners work to address child protection and mental health and psychosocial support (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 provides protection services to meet the needs of IDPs, refugees, and other populations countrywide, including through MHPSS activities and legal assistance to facilitate access to identity documentation and public assistance. The USG requires all partners to incorporate protection principles into all USG-supported interventions 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 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 conduct critical WASH interventions—including distribution of hygiene kits, promotion of hygiene activities, rehabilitation of water systems damaged by conflict, and the provision of 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^{1, 2}

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY ³	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
Implementing Partners (IPs)	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	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
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 June 11, 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)