

# Yemen – Complex Emergency

NOVEMBER 15, 2022

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- Al Houthi forces claimed responsibility for an October 21 drone attack on an oil tanker in Hadramawt Governorate, following the expiration of the UN-brokered truce between Al Houthi forces and the KSA-led coalition.
- Incidents involving ERW increased since September, affecting civilians near frontlines, including along the west coast of Yemen, according to IOM.
- More than 15,700 migrants arrived in Yemen between July and September, bringing the total number of arrivals to more than 42,000 individuals in 2022, according to IOM.



<sup>1</sup> FY 2023 funding for Yemen will be included in future products when committed/obligated. For information on the U.S. Government's funding toward the response in FY 2022, refer to Yemen Fact Sheet #12 released on September 30, 2022, available on the USAID website at <https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work>.

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

### **Truce Between Parties to the Conflict Ends, Al Houthis Claim First Attack**

The UN-brokered truce that began in April between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)-led coalition and Al Houthi officials expired on October 2, without the parties reaching an agreement for its extension. The truce contributed to reduced civilian casualties, increased fuel imports, and enabled commercial flights both into and out of Sana'a city. Following the expiration of the truce, Al Houthi forces claimed responsibility for an October 21 drone attack on an oil tanker preparing to dock in Hadramawt Governorate and reiterated a warning to companies to cease exporting crude oil from Republic of Yemen Government (RoYG)-controlled territory, according to the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED). While the ship and its crew were unharmed in the attack, the incident has deterred oil tankers from calling on government-controlled ports, which, according to some estimates, has resulted in approximately \$207 million in lost government revenue, USAID sources report. The revenue from oil exports provides the RoYG with the requisite foreign exchange required to issue letters of credit needed to import essential commercial goods, including the food and fuel required to meet humanitarian needs in Yemen. Furthermore, Al Houthi drone activity has increased since the attack, with drone interceptions recorded in Hadramawt, Al Hudaydah, Lahij, Marib, Shabwah, and Ta'izz governorates, according to ACLED.

### **Underfunding and Flooding Exacerbate High Levels of Food Insecurity**

Flooding in August exacerbated existing food insecurity in Yemen amid continued humanitarian funding shortfalls, the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) reports. The flooding damaged household assets, health services, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure and disrupted livelihoods, amplifying the conditions contributing to food insecurity across Yemen. As of late September, the WASH, nutrition, food security and agriculture, and health clusters had received 23 percent, 32 percent, 49 percent, and 64 percent, respectively, of the funding requested under the 2022 HRP, affecting these clusters' ability to distribute humanitarian food assistance and provide services critical for food insecure populations, including acute malnutrition prevention and treatment activities, health services, and WASH infrastructure support. In addition, wet conditions following floods in August encouraged the resurgence of Fall Armyworms in Yemen, threatening staple crops including barley, maize, millet, sorghum, and wheat, FEWS NET and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization report.

### **ERW Threaten Civilians on West Coast After Floods, Increases Casualties**

While the six-month UN-brokered truce beginning in April led to decreased civilian casualties in Yemen, the number of incidents involving explosive remnants of war (ERW) increased, affecting civilians near frontlines, including along the west coast of Yemen, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Both former and current conflict frontlines contain ERW; while local communities are often aware of the locations of ERW, the heavy rains and flooding in August shifted ERW to unknown locations, including agricultural areas, residential neighborhoods, and roads. Children and mobile populations, including internally displaced persons (IDPs)—some of whom were able to return home due to the increased freedom of movement and decreased violence delivered by the truce—are uniquely vulnerable to the threats posed by ERW. Between late September and late October, the UN reported 20 civilian casualties from ERW in western Yemen's Al Hudaydah Governorate alone, including 10 children, the highest weekly total since May. As of September, the UN had recorded a total of 242 civilian casualties related to ERW and landmines in Al Hudaydah since November 2021, more than any other governorate, according to the UN.

## Elevated Humanitarian Needs Persist Among Refugees and Migrants

More than 15,700 migrants arrived in Yemen between July and September 30, bringing the total number of arrivals to at least 42,000 individuals in 2022, IOM reports. This figure surpasses the total annual recorded arrivals in Yemen during 2020 and 2021, with more than 90 percent originating from Ethiopia and Somalia and approximately 98 percent reporting the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as their intended destination, according to IOM. The rise in migrants arriving in Yemen has been attributed to loosening coronavirus disease (COVID-19) mobility restrictions, more favorable weather conditions, and the security situation and drought in Ethiopia and Somalia, the UN reports. Migrants—especially women and children—face protection risks, such as abduction, detention, forced labor, and gender-based violence (GBV), and lack adequate access to basic services including WASH facilities. Among population groups surveyed, refugees and migrants remained the least assisted groups in Yemen in 2021—only 6 percent of refugee households and 15 percent of migrant households reported receiving assistance—due to a lack of information on how to access assistance and funding constraints, according to the UN.

### KEY FIGURES



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USG partners supporting emergency food assistance activities



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USG partners supporting health programming

## U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

### FOOD SECURITY

USAID/BHA supports the UN World Food Program (WFP) and seven non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to implement food assistance activities in Yemen. USAID/BHA partners are providing emergency food assistance through in-kind food aid, including U.S.-sourced commodities, as well as cash and vouchers for individuals to buy food in local markets. USAID/BHA partner WFP reached more than 13 million individuals through the most recently completed round of assistance, which took place in September and October.

### HEALTH

The U.S. Government (USG) supports the IOM, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), and 13 NGOs to conduct life-saving health care interventions. USG partners provide primary health care services—in coordination with nutrition and WASH programming—through static health facilities and mobile medical teams serving hard-to-reach areas. USG partners also support community health volunteers to identify and provide health services at the community level, thereby promoting better health outcomes. In addition, USAID/BHA partners are providing medical supplies and pharmaceuticals to health facilities to expand access to quality medical services. For example, in September, a USAID/BHA partner provided health support in seven health facilities across Ibb, reaching approximately 5,500 individuals with primary health care and more than 600 individuals with secondary health care.



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USG partners supporting MPCA programming

## MPCA

The USG supports the provision of multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) to help conflict-affected households in Yemen meet their basic needs while also supporting local markets. By providing MPCA, USAID/BHA partners enable vulnerable households to procure cooking gas, food, hygiene items, and other essential commodities. A USAID/BHA NGO partner provided MPCA to more than 4,000 households—more than 30,000 individuals—in seven governorates in September.



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USG partners supporting nutrition programming

## NUTRITION

USAID/BHA supports partners to identify, prevent, and treat wasting—the deadliest form of malnutrition—across Yemen. Through its support for UNICEF, WFP, and eleven NGOs, USAID/BHA is helping reduce morbidity and mortality resulting from malnutrition, particularly among children and pregnant and lactating women. USAID/BHA also provides nutrition support for health clinics and mobile health teams, integrating health, nutrition, and WASH interventions to comprehensively assist vulnerable populations. During September, a USAID/BHA NGO partner screened more than 5,600 individuals for malnutrition, including nearly 4,000 children ages five years and younger and more than 1,500 pregnant and lactating women, across Ibb.



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USG partners supporting protection programming

## PROTECTION

The USG is responding to critical protection needs across Yemen through support for IOM, UNFPA, UNHCR, and six NGOs. Through community mobilization activities, protection risk mitigation efforts, and specialized case management services, USAID/BHA partners address child protection and psychosocial support needs, prevent and respond to GBV, and respond to other protection risks and violations. In September, a USAID/BHA partner provided psychosocial first aid and psychosocial counseling to more than 80 individuals and assisted 15 GBV survivors.



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USG partners supporting WASH interventions

## WASH

The USG supports IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF, and 16 NGOs to expand access to safe drinking water, as well as prevent and respond to communicable disease outbreaks in Yemen. USAID/BHA partners conduct critical WASH interventions, including distributing hygiene kits, promoting hygiene activities, providing water trucking services, and rehabilitating water systems damaged by conflict, for IDPs and other vulnerable populations across the country. In September, a USAID/BHA partner provided nearly 8,500 gallons of safe drinking water to IDP camps in Lahij through water trucking, while also reaching more than 3,000 individuals with hygiene promotion awareness sessions.

## CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Between mid-2004 and early 2015, conflict between the RoYG and Al Houthi opposition forces in northern Yemen generated widespread and repeated displacement, and exacerbated 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 conducting 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—has left approximately 23.4 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, including approximately 12.9 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 the 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO). The volatility of the current situation has impeded relief agencies from obtaining accurate, comprehensive demographic data on conflict-affected populations.
- On September 26, 2022, U.S. Ambassador Steven Fagin redeclared a disaster for Yemen for FY 2023 due to continued humanitarian needs resulting from the complex emergency and the impact of the country's economic and political crises on vulnerable populations.

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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://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://cidi.org)
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [reliefweb.int](https://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)