

Yemen – Complex Emergency

SEPTEMBER 23, 2021

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

<p>30.8 MILLION</p> <p>Population of Yemen</p> <p><i>UN – February 2021</i></p>	<p>20.7 MILLION</p> <p>People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance</p> <p><i>UN – February 2021</i></p>	<p>4 MILLION</p> <p>IDPs in Yemen</p> <p><i>UN – February 2021</i></p>	<p>16.2 MILLION</p> <p>Projected Acutely Food-Insecure Population</p> <p><i>IPC¹ – December 2020</i></p>	<p>2.3 MILLION</p> <p>Children Projected to Face Wasting from January to December 2021</p> <p><i>IPC – February 2021</i></p>
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- The U.S. Government (USG) announces nearly \$291 million in additional humanitarian funding to enable partner organizations to continue delivering life-saving assistance to vulnerable communities as the crisis in Yemen enters its seventh year.
- Clashes in Marib Governorate persist, resulting in additional casualties and displacement; humanitarian officials reiterate calls for all parties to cease hostilities.
- USG-provided coronavirus disease (COVID-19) vaccines reach Yemen as authorities warn of a third wave of the outbreak.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the Yemen Response in FY 2021	USAID/BHA ²	\$710,705,848
	State/PRM ³	\$95,200,000
Total		\$805,905,848

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

USG Announces Additional \$291 Million in Humanitarian Assistance for Yemen

On September 22, the USG announced nearly \$291 million in additional humanitarian assistance for Yemen as ongoing hostilities, a deepening economic crisis, acute food insecurity, and the spread of COVID-19 continue to generate humanitarian needs in the country. The newly announced funding includes nearly \$209 million from USAID/BHA and approximately \$82 million from State/PRM that will enable partners to continue providing life-saving assistance to internally displaced and conflict-affected Yemenis, as well as vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers in Yemen. The funding will support urgently needed food and nutrition assistance; health and protection support; and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services, including those related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The additional USAID/BHA funding will also support the UN World Food Program (WFP), which is currently providing food assistance to approximately 11.5 million people each month throughout Yemen, where an estimated 16.2 million people are experiencing Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity.

The USG remains the largest single donor of humanitarian assistance in Yemen, with the newly announced funding bringing total USG assistance to Yemen to nearly \$3.9 billion since the start of the crisis. The USG announcement was part of a reported \$600 million pledged by international donors during the September 22 high-level event on Yemen, convened on the side of the UN General Assembly. However, the USG continues to underscore calls for more donors to urgently increase funding. In an earlier event on September 14, USAID Administrator Samantha Power, U.S. Special Envoy to Yemen Timothy A. Lenderking, and WFP Executive Director David Beasley participated in a virtual discussion to draw attention to the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Yemen and call on international donors to scale up funding to meet growing needs. As of September 22, the 2021 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan was 54 percent funded.

Escalated Conflict in Marib Results in Civilian Casualties and Displacement

Intensified fighting continued in Marib in September, damaging houses, driving displacement, and resulting in one civilian casualty, according to relief actors. Seven airstrikes between September 2 and 8—the highest weekly total since the last escalation of fighting in mid-July—affected residential areas in Jabal Murad, Medghal, Rahabah, and Sirwah districts. Between September 9 and 14, additional airstrikes resulted in the death of a child in Rahabah and impacted houses in Jabal Murad, Majzar, Medghal, and Sirwah districts. Since escalating in late August, the fighting in Marib has displaced nearly 650 households, primarily in Jabal Murad and Rahabah, according to USAID/BHA partner the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Between January and mid-September, IOM reports that conflict displaced more than 3,980 households in Marib—generally considered the epicenter of hostilities between the Republic of Yemen Government (RoYG) coalition and Al Houthi forces in recent months. Humanitarian actors anticipate persistent hostilities in Marib will continue to threaten civilians and civilian infrastructure and likely lead to further displacement.

Newly appointed UN Special Envoy for Yemen Hans Grundberg called for an end to the fighting in Marib during a mid-September UN Security Council briefing, in which he highlighted the thousands of civilians affected by the ongoing clashes, including individuals previously displaced to Marib by conflict elsewhere in the country.

Protests Turn Violent as Economic Crisis in Southern Yemen Worsens

Security conditions in southern Yemen deteriorated in mid-September amid widespread protests—concentrated in Aden city—related to poor economic conditions, electricity outages, and lack of public

services, according to international media. Demonstrations in several Aden districts, as well as other areas of southern Yemen, turned violent when protestors clashed with security forces affiliated with the Southern Transitional Council (STC)—the entity controlling Aden and Lahij Governorate—that resulted in at least three deaths and injured dozens of civilians, as well as some security forces. The STC declared a state of emergency across southern governorates on September 15 in response to the deteriorating security situation, international media report.

The protests are the latest illustration of growing frustration with continued economic decline. Although conflict is the main driver of food insecurity across Yemen, the worsening economic crisis is creating a significant burden for many Yemenis, especially poor households, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). As of mid-September, the exchange rate in RoYG-controlled areas of southern Yemen reached more than 1,100 Yemeni *riyal* (YER) per \$1—approximately 60 percent higher than the exchange rate in northern Yemen and the highest recorded exchange rate to date in southern Yemen. The continued high exchange rate is increasing food prices and reducing household purchasing power. For example, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) recorded a further 7 percent increase in the average cost of the minimum food basket (MFB) in southern Yemen during the first three weeks of August compared to the average MFB cost in July.

USAID Delivers COVAX Vaccines as COVID-19 Surges in Late August

On August 29, the RoYG Ministry of Public Health and Population in Aden received approximately 151,200 doses of Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccines provided by USAID through COVAX, the global COVID-19 vaccination distribution program. The shipment is the first tranche of an estimated 504,000 vaccine doses that the USG is providing to Yemen through COVAX. The vaccine shipment arrived amid an increase in COVID-19 cases in Yemen and RoYG health officials warning of a third wave of the virus, international media and the UN report. Yemen previously received 360,000 AstraZeneca vaccines in March through COVAX as part of the 1.9 million doses allocated to the country in 2021. As of September 12, health actors in the country had administered more than 323,000 vaccine doses, according to the UN World Health Organization (WHO).

WHO reported more than 8,700 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 1,654 related deaths in Yemen as of September 22; however, the actual number of cases is likely underreported due to low testing capacity, a lack of information-sharing among authorities, and low health-seeking behaviors among the population due to stigma associated with the virus. RoYG health officials announced that Yemen had entered a third wave of the pandemic following a surge in confirmed cases and deaths southern Yemen in August, and the number of confirmed cases and deaths remained elevated as of mid-September.

KEY FIGURES



586,780 MT

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

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY

USAID/BHA has provided more than \$500 million to WFP in FY 2021 and supports approximately 10 international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) to improve food security 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 people to buy food in local markets, prioritizing households experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity. Partners also work to strengthen household purchasing power to increase access to food within vulnerable communities. USAID/BHA partners in Yemen provide emergency food

assistance to more than 11.5 million people per month.



\$33.5 Million

Dedicated FY 2021
USG support for
life-saving health
programming

HEALTH

The USG supports IOM, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), and 12 other implementing partners 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 static health facilities and mobile medical teams serving hard-to-reach areas. USG partners support community health volunteers to encourage people to seek health care services when needed, thereby promoting 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 and IOM to address the specific health care needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs), migrants, refugees, and other vulnerable populations in Yemen.



8

USG implementing
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. With State/PRM support, UNHCR is distributing MPCA to IDPs and refugees across Yemen to bolster household purchasing power amid COVID-19-related economic shocks and restrictions. USAID/BHA partners are providing MPCA to enable vulnerable households to procure cooking gas, food, hygiene items, and other essential commodities.



14

USG implementing
partners supporting
nutrition programming

NUTRITION

USAID/BHA supports partners to prevent and treat wasting—the deadliest form of malnutrition—across Yemen. Working with UNICEF, WFP, 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.



10

USG implementing
partners supporting
critical protection
interventions

PROTECTION

Through support to IOM, UNFPA, UNHCR, and seven implementing partners, 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 leads the Protection Cluster and provides protection services to meet the needs of IDPs, refugees, and other vulnerable populations countrywide, including through MHPSS activities and legal assistance to facilitate access to identity documentation and public assistance. Moreover, the USG requires all partners to incorporate protection principles into each USG-supported intervention in Yemen and promote meaningful access, dignity, and safety for beneficiaries.



\$29.7 Million

Dedicated FY 2021 USG support for WASH programming

WASH

The USG supports IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF, and 15 INGOs 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 distributing hygiene kits, promoting hygiene activities, rehabilitating water systems damaged by conflict, and providing 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 Kingdom of Saudi Arabia-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 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	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
Implementing Partners (IPs)	Agriculture; Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS); Food Assistance; Health; Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA); Logistics Support; MPCA; Nutrition; Protection; Shelter and Settlements; WASH	Abyan, Aden, Amnat Al Asimah, Amran, Al Bayda', Ad Dali', Dhamar, Hadramawt, Hajjah, Al Hudaydah, Ibb, Al Jawf, Lahij, Al Maharah, Marib, Al Mahwit, Raymah, Sa'dah, Sana'a, Shabwah, Socotra, Ta'izz	\$119,607,180
IOM	HCIMA, Health, MPCA, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Aden, Ibb, Lahij, Marib, Shabwah, Ta'izz	\$18,000,000
FAO	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
UNFPA	Health, Protection	Aden, Amnat Al Asimah, Al Hudaydah, Marib, Shabwah, Ta'izz	\$5,000,000
UNICEF	1,390 MT of U.S. In-Kind Nutrition Aid	Abyan, Aden, Ad Dali', Hadramawt, Al Hudaydah, Al Maharah, Lahij, Marib, Shabwah, Socotra, Ta'izz	\$4,890,730
OCHA	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$8,801,104
WFP	Food Assistance—586,780 MT of U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Countrywide	\$484,395,840
	Food Assistance—Vouchers; Nutrition; Logistics Support	Countrywide	\$68,543,045
	Program Support		\$467,949
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$710,705,848
STATE/PRM			
IP	Health, Protection	Countrywide	\$39,600,000
UNHCR	ERMS, HCIMA, Health, Logistics Support, MPCA, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$55,600,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$95,200,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE YEMEN RESPONSE IN FY 2021			\$805,905,848

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of September 22, 2021.

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

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)