



# Yemen – Complex Emergency

DECEMBER 17, 2021

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE

<p><b>30.5</b> MILLION</p> <p>Population of Yemen</p> <p><i>UN – February 2021</i></p>	<p><b>20.7</b> MILLION</p> <p>People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance</p> <p><i>UN – February 2021</i></p>	<p><b>4</b> MILLION</p> <p>IDPs in Yemen</p> <p><i>UN – February 2021</i></p>	<p><b>16.2</b> MILLION</p> <p>Projected Acutely Food-Insecure Population</p> <p><i>IPC<sup>1</sup> – December 2020</i></p>	<p><b>2.3</b> 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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- Hostilities in Al Hudaydah displaced more than 25,000 people between mid- and late November.
- Fighting between Al Houthi and RoYG forces in and around Marib continues to displace civilians, limit civilian movement, and restrict humanitarian access.
- Increasing food prices and diminishing purchasing power exacerbate food insecurity throughout Yemen, according to FEWS NET.



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

*For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 5*

<sup>1</sup>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.

<sup>2</sup>USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)

<sup>3</sup>U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

### Al Hudaydah Hostilities Displace More Than 25,000 People

Hostilities in Al Hudaydah Governorate displaced more than 25,000 people following the mid-November withdrawal of Tareq Saleh's National Resistance Forces—affiliated with the Republic of Yemen Government (RoYG)—from Al Hudaydah city and nearby districts, the UN reports. As of early December, relief actors were conducting needs assessments and positioning supplies to address remaining needs in Al Hudaydah, including emergency latrines, medical supplies, multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA), shelter assistance, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance. The hostilities contravene the 2018 Stockholm Agreement, which stakeholders designed to avert military escalation in Al Hudaydah and Ta'izz governorates and safeguard the movement of goods and humanitarian aid in areas of western Yemen near the Red Sea coast. In a mid-December joint letter, seven international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) called on the international community to urge parties to the conflict to implement a nationwide cessation of hostilities; uphold obligations under international human rights and humanitarian law; refrain from reprisal attacks; and facilitate unimpeded humanitarian access to and within areas where control has recently shifted. Relief actors continue to respond to increased humanitarian needs among internally displaced persons (IDPs) in and around Al Hudaydah Governorate.

### Violence in and Around Marib Displaces Civilians, Limits Movement

Fighting between Al Houthi and RoYG forces in and around Marib Governorate continues to displace civilians and limit the movement of civilians and relief actors. Between September and early December, violence in Marib displaced more than 45,000 individuals, according to the UN. Displacement in Marib has exacerbated humanitarian needs, overwhelmed existing services, and strained host communities, while ongoing hostilities have adversely affected IDP sites. In a December 9 attack, a missile struck Marib Al Wadi's Al Hamma IDP site, injuring five individuals, U.S. Government (USG) partner the International Organization for Migration (IOM) reports. The UN agency, which has provided emergency relief items; shelter supplies; and WASH services at the Al Hamma site since 2019, is helping IDPs injured by the December 9 attack receive medical treatment. More broadly, IOM has provided humanitarian assistance—including health services, household items, MPCA, protection support, shelter supplies, and WASH services—to approximately 200,000 people at 65 IDP and migrant sites in Marib since the beginning of 2021. Since September, IOM has registered more than 1,600 households, or approximately 10,000 individuals, in more than 30 IOM-managed sites in the governorate to ensure that new arrivals receive assistance based on their needs. Separately, a State/PRM partner is supplying major hospitals in Marib with medical supplies, surgical materials, and other medical support.

### Increasing Prices, Diminishing Purchasing Power Heighten Food Insecurity

Rising food prices and diminishing purchasing power continue to exacerbate food insecurity throughout Yemen, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). Food prices have continued to increase in both northern and southern areas of the country in recent months, with individuals in RoYG-held areas experiencing significant price increases due to rapid depreciation of the Yemeni riyal (YER). Despite control measures imposed by the Central Bank of Yemen, the YER has continued to depreciate in RoYG-held areas, raising food import costs. In contrast, the YER has remained relatively stable in Al Houthi-held areas since January 2020. Fuel price increases in 2021 have further contributed to the rise in food prices across Yemen and have approximately doubled transportation costs for households in RoYG-held areas since the start of the year, FEWS NET reports. In Al Houthi-held areas, the monthly average cost of the minimum food basket (MFB) in September 2021 was more than 20 percent higher than in September 2020, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Meanwhile, in RoYG-held areas, the monthly average

cost of the MFB in September 2021 was more than 65 percent higher than in September 2020. Amid rising food prices, USAID/BHA partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) continues to provide food assistance, including cash for food, in-kind rations, and vouchers. The UN agency reached an estimated 12.2 million people across Yemen with food assistance in October.

### **Stakeholders Construct Oxygen Stations to Bolster COVID-19 Response**

The Islamic Development Bank Group, the RoYG Ministry of Public Health and Population, and the UN World Health Organization (WHO) are constructing 14 new oxygen production stations in southern Yemen to improve the country's coronavirus disease (COVID-19) response. The oxygen stations—currently under construction in 11 southern Yemen governorates and scheduled for completion in the coming months—will bolster health professionals' capacity to treat patients suffering from the disease, according to the UN. As of mid-December, health authorities had fully vaccinated nearly 367,000 people in Yemen—approximately 1 percent of the country's population—against COVID-19, with nearly 557,000 people receiving at least one vaccine dose, according to WHO. The UN agency reported nearly 10,100 cumulative cases of COVID-19 in Yemen as of mid-December, approximately 200 cases more than in mid-November; however, health actors continue to note that the number of cumulative cases is likely higher than reported due to a lack of testing capacity.

### **State/PRM Partner UNHCR Assesses Vulnerability, Protection Needs**

State/PRM partner the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has conducted more than 176,000 family protection and vulnerability assessments, assessing more than 1 million individuals since the beginning of 2021. As of mid-December, cumulative results indicate that more than 90 percent of assessed families have at least one member with a vulnerability, including children exposed to abuse, exploitation, and neglect. UNHCR continues to provide counseling and legal assistance to displaced individuals in Yemen. In addition, UNHCR has helped issue birth certificates and identification cards to more than 11,000 IDPs and provided legal assistance and representation to more than 25,000 individuals in 2021 as of mid-December.

#### **KEY FIGURES**



**586,780 MT**

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



**\$33.5 Million**

Dedicated FY 2021 USG support for life-saving health programming

#### **U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE**

##### **FOOD SECURITY**

USAID/BHA provided more than \$500 million to WFP in FY 2021 and supports 10 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 12 million people per month.

##### **HEALTH**

The USG supports IOM, UNHCR, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), and 11 INGOs to conduct life-saving health care interventions amid Yemen's ongoing conflict and the COVID-19 pandemic. 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 and pharmaceuticals to health facilities to bolster health care service availability, while State/PRM is supporting IOM and UNHCR to address the specific health care needs of IDPs, migrants, refugees, and other vulnerable populations in Yemen.



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USG partners supporting MPCA programming

### MPCA

The USG supports the provision of 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 increase household purchasing power amid COVID-19-related economic shocks and restrictions. As of November, UNHCR had distributed approximately \$60 million in MPCA across Yemen in 2021, benefitting more than 1 million IDPs and 8,000 refugees in need. USAID/BHA partners are providing MPCA to enable vulnerable households to procure cooking gas, food, hygiene items, and other essential commodities.



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USG 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.



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USG partners supporting critical protection interventions

### PROTECTION

Through support to IOM, UNFPA, UNHCR, and seven INGOs, the USG is furthering critical protection interventions across Yemen. USAID/BHA partners work to address child protection and psychosocial support (PSS) needs, prevent and respond to gender-based violence, 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 leads the Protection Cluster and provides protection services to meet the needs of IDPs, refugees, and other vulnerable populations countrywide, including through PSS 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. 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. 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 northern Yemen 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 3, 2021, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires Catherine Westley redeclared a disaster for Yemen for FY 2022 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<sup>1,2</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/BHA</b>			
Implementing Partners	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	Countrywide	\$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, Amanat 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, Lahij, Al Mahrah, Marib, Shabwah, Socotra, Ta'izz	\$4,890,730
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (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
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$710,705,848</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>			
Implementing Partner	Health, Protection	Countrywide	\$39,600,000
UNHCR	ERMS, HCIMA, Health, Logistics Support, MPCA, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$55,600,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>			<b>\$95,200,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE YEMEN RESPONSE IN FY 2021</b>			<b>\$805,905,848</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 September 22, 2021.

<sup>2</sup> 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)