

Yemen – Complex Emergency

JANUARY 21, 2022

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- Conflict drives significant increase in civilian casualties across Yemen between October and December.
- Access constraints and bureaucratic impediments challenge the ability of humanitarian actors to deliver assistance.
- WFP reduces full food rations for 8 million individuals in December due to a funding shortfall.
- State/PRM partner UNHCR and USG partner IOM assist displaced populations in December and January.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

For the Yemen Response in FY 2021

USAID/BHA² \$710,705,848

State/PRM³ \$95,200,000

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

Total \$805,905,848

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 Drives Increased Civilian Casualties From October to December

Yemen recorded nearly 960 civilian casualties—278 deaths and nearly 680 injuries—between October and December 2021, representing a more than 80 percent increase in civilian casualties and a more than 60 percent increase in civilian deaths compared with those recorded between July and September, according to the Protection Cluster-led Civilian Impact Monitoring Project (CIMP). Notably, the number of civilian casualties recorded between October and December was the highest civilian casualty count in a single quarter since mid-2019 and significantly higher than the average of approximately 710 civilian casualties recorded quarterly since CIMP commenced monitoring in early 2018. Of the nearly 960 civilian casualties reported during the most recent quarter, more than 140 were children, approximately double the 70 child casualties recorded during the previous quarter. Moreover, the child casualty figure included 43 deaths, a more than 150 percent increase from the 17 child deaths recorded between July and September.

Violence and resultant civilian casualties increased significantly in multiple governorates—including Aden, Al Hudaydah, Marib, Sa'dah, and Ta'izz—compared to the previous quarter. Sa'dah alone reported nearly 340 civilian casualties, due largely to daily hostilities along the Saudi Arabia–Yemen border. Migrants were among the casualties, as Sa'dah hosts at least three informal border crossing points with Saudi Arabia, according to CIMP. Additionally, continued hostilities and shifting frontlines in and around Al Hudaydah, Marib, and Ta'izz resulted in high civilian casualty figures. Al Hudaydah reported nearly 120 civilian casualties during the quarter, representing the highest quarterly total in the governorate since late 2020 and a nearly 65 percent increase from the approximately 70 civilian casualties reported during the previous quarter. Meanwhile, neighboring Ta'izz recorded more than 140 civilian casualties, a more than 50 percent increase from the 90 civilian casualties recorded during the previous quarter. The majority of civilian casualties in Ta'izz—approximately 70 percent—occurred in the final five weeks of the quarter, coinciding with an escalation in violence in the governorate's Maqbanah District.

Access Constraints, Bureaucratic Challenges Impede Humanitarian Actors

Access constraints and bureaucratic impediments continue to challenge humanitarian actors' ability to deliver assistance in Yemen. Between December 19 and 27, Al Houthi officials' temporary suspension of humanitarian flights through Sana'a International Airport due to telecommunications issues temporarily limited the movement of aid workers critical for humanitarian operations. While flights resumed on December 27, the underlying telecommunications equipment issue that Sana'a-based officials cited as the reason for the suspension remained unresolved as of mid-January; Al Houthi officials await authorization from the Republic of Yemen Government (RoYG) and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)-led Coalition to import new telecommunications equipment for the airport from Djibouti. Separately, following increased Al Houthi maritime activities and the January 2 Al Houthi seizure of a United Arab Emirates-flagged commercial vessel off the coast of Al Hudaydah, the KSA-led Coalition warned in an early January statement that Al Hudaydah and Al Saleef ports could become military targets, according to international media. The ports, which are protected under the 2018 Stockholm Agreement, remain vital entry points for commercial and humanitarian supplies into Yemen.

Meanwhile, continued bureaucratic hurdles from Al Houthi and RoYG officials—including significant delays in approving relief projects, facilitating staff movement within Yemen, importing necessary equipment, and issuing humanitarian staff visas—have made it more difficult for relief actors to provide humanitarian assistance throughout the country. Additionally, Al Houthi and RoYG officials' attempts to interfere—including by altering beneficiary lists, determining geographic locations for activities, and influencing the selection of implementing partners—have also obstructed assistance.

Funding Shortfall Pushes WFP to Reduce Food Aid for 8 Million Individuals

As a result of a funding shortfall, the UN World Food Program (WFP) began distributing partial food rations—rather than full monthly rations—to approximately 8 million of the 13 million individuals targeted for food assistance in Yemen each month. WFP plans to continue distributing full rations to the UN agency’s remaining 5 million beneficiaries. Food assistance requirements across Yemen remain high amid armed conflict and poor macroeconomic conditions, according to relief actors. During the last several months of 2021, rates of inadequate food consumption—exacerbated by currency devaluation, hyperinflation, and increased food prices—rose rapidly, adversely affecting approximately one-half of all households in the country, the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) reports.

USG Partners IOM, UNHCR Provide Aid Amid Increased Displacement

U.S. Government (USG) partner the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and State/PRM partner the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) continued to provide multi-sector assistance to newly displaced households amid heightened conflict across Yemen in December and January. Between early and mid-January, UNHCR and its partners provided more than 260 recently displaced households in Al Hudaydah’s Jabal Ras District with emergency relief items. Additionally, two UNHCR partners distributed emergency relief items to nearly 1,700 displaced households in Aden during the first week of January. UNHCR also continued to support the construction of emergency shelters in Hajjah and Al Hudaydah governorates, with nearly 2,500 shelter units completed as of mid-January. Meanwhile, the UN agency supported the construction of five community facilities—designed to host awareness sessions, coordination meetings and focus group discussions with community committees, recreational activities for children, and other activities such as registration and vaccination events—at internally displaced person (IDP) sites in Dhamar Governorate in early January, benefiting nearly 770 IDP households. Separately, IOM continued to provide camp coordination and camp management; multipurpose cash; protection; shelter; and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance in Marib, providing a comprehensive package of assistance across 24 IDP sites and at least one form of assistance across 35 IDP sites in December and January.

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 health programming

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY

USAID/BHA provided more than \$500 million to WFP in FY 2021 and supports 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 aim to provide emergency food assistance to 13 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 coronavirus disease (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 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 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, benefiting 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 repeated and widespread 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 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^{1,2}

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
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
UN Food and Agriculture Organization	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
UNFPA	Health, Protection	Aden, Amanat Al Asimah, Al Hudaydah, Marib, Shabwah, Ta'izz	\$5,000,000
UNICEF	1,390 metric tons (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—Nutrition and Logistics Support; Vouchers	Countrywide	\$68,543,045
	Program Support		\$467,949
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$710,705,848
STATE/PRM			
Implementing Partner	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 staff time, transportation routes, 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)