

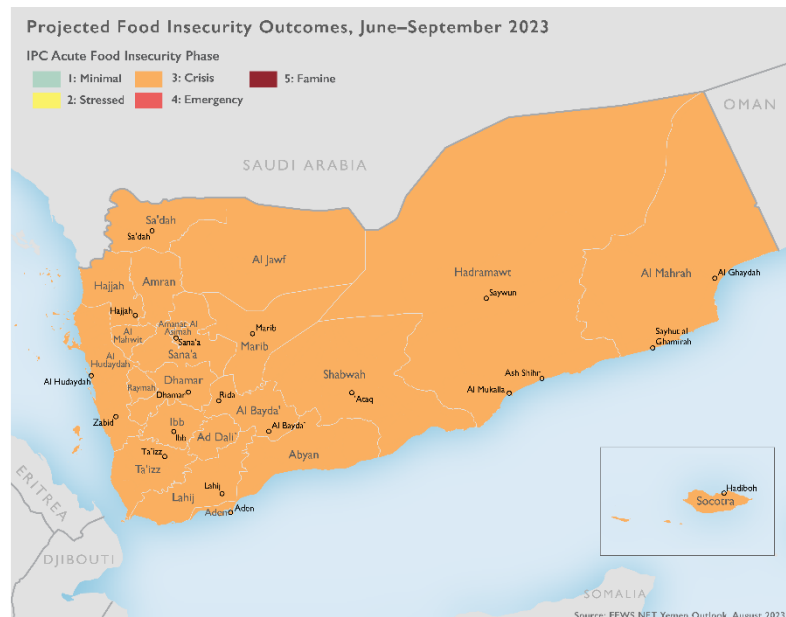
# Yemen – Complex Emergency

AUGUST 18, 2023

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE

<p><b>32.6</b> MILLION</p> <p>Population of Yemen</p> <p><i>UN – December 2022</i></p>	<p><b>21.6</b> MILLION</p> <p>People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance</p> <p><i>UN – December 2022</i></p>	<p><b>4.5</b> MILLION</p> <p>Internally Displaced Persons in Yemen</p> <p><i>UN – December 2022</i></p>	<p><b>17</b> MILLION</p> <p>People Estimated to Have Faced Acute Food Insecurity October–December 2022</p> <p><i>IPC – November 2022</i></p>	<p><b>9,500</b></p> <p>Migrants Entering Yemen in July</p> <p><i>IOM – July 2023</i></p>
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- Approximately 3.9 million people in RoYG-controlled southern Yemen are projected to face Crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity between June and December amid continued insecurity, economic deterioration, and the ongoing lean season.
- In response to southern Yemen’s ongoing economic crisis, KSA pledged a \$1.2 billion grant to the RoYG Ministry of Finance on August 1 to improve macroeconomic stability and food security outcomes in southern Yemen.
- The UN-coordinated operation to transfer more than 1.1 million barrels of oil from the abandoned tanker *Safer* was completed on August 11, averting the risk of an environmental and humanitarian disaster.



<b>TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING</b>	USAID/BHA <sup>1</sup>	\$662,065,098
For the Yemen Response in FY 2023	State/PRM <sup>2</sup>	\$3,700,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$665,765,098</b>

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

<sup>1</sup> USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

### Food Security Crisis in Southern Yemen Continues to Worsen Amid Ongoing Lean Season

An estimated 3.9 million people in Republic of Yemen Government (RoYG)-controlled areas of Yemen—representing approximately 41 percent of the population in these areas—are expected to face Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity between June and December, according to an IPC analysis released on June 7.<sup>3</sup> Despite improved food security conditions compared to the same period in 2022, high levels of food assistance needs persist in southern Yemen. The depreciation of the Yemeni riyal (YER) against the U.S. dollar (USD) in RoYG-held areas has reduced households' purchasing power and ability to afford food, according to an ACAPS analysis. Concurrently, agricultural losses from floods, continued insecurity along the front lines of the conflict, limited livelihood opportunities, and reduced humanitarian assistance are estimated to be further exacerbating food insecurity during the ongoing July-to-September agricultural lean season, when food is already most scarce, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Notably, the price of imported wheat—a key staple food—in RoYG-controlled areas has remained above the international market price since June 2022, according to ACAPS and FAO. The average consumer price of wheat in RoYG-held areas increased by 357 percent between 2018 and 2023, primarily due to the depreciation of the YER against the USD during the period. Moreover, humanitarian food imports to Yemen also decreased by 9 percent between 2019 and 2022, ACAPS reports. The Government of the Russian Federation's (GoRF) withdrawal from the Black Sea Grain Initiative (BSGI) on July 17 and subsequent destruction of food in Ukrainian ports are also expected to contribute to further decreased availability and increased prices of wheat in Yemen, according to the UN. Prior to the GoRF's withdrawal from the BSGI, the UN World Food Program (WFP) imported 87,000 metric tons of wheat from Ukraine under the agreement with funding from USAID/BHA and other donors, reaching approximately 8.2 million people in Yemen. The withdrawal—coupled with a projected 20 percent shortfall in humanitarian assistance in 2023—is anticipated to contribute to further deteriorating food security outcomes through the end of the year, relief actors report.

### KSA Pledges \$1.2 Billion Grant to RoYG as Economic Crisis Continues

Deteriorating economic conditions—prompted by protracted insecurity and domestic and external shocks—have driven significant increases in humanitarian need, deepening the humanitarian crisis in southern Yemen. In response, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) announced a \$1.2 billion grant to the RoYG Ministry of Finance on August 1, which is intended to improve macroeconomic stability and household food security in southern Yemen, according to international media. The funding will support government operational costs—including fuel for electricity generation and public sector salaries—and aim to support the stabilization of food prices, international media report. The RoYG has become increasingly dependent on external financial assistance amid diminished oil export revenues—the government's primary source of revenue and a major source of foreign currency—following a series of Al Houthi drone attacks and the subsequent closure of oil terminals in Hadramawt and Shabwah governorates in October 2022, according to ACAPS. The RoYG has also received reduced import and tax revenue due to the reauthorization of fuel shipments directly to Al Houthi-controlled ports as part of the UN-brokered truce in April 2022, following a period in which imports were required to enter via the RoYG-controlled port of Aden, ACAPS reports. A sustained lack of government revenue has

<sup>3</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.

contributed to a continued inability to pay public sector salaries and inconsistent delivery of public services. Additionally, inflation in southern Yemen has rapidly increased since 2021 as the Central Bank of Yemen in Aden has continued printing new currency to finance debts and pay operating costs, international media report.

## UN-Led Oil-Transfer Operation Averts Humanitarian Disaster

On August 11, the UN safely completed the transfer of more than 1.1 million barrels of oil from the floating storage and offloading unit (FSO) *Safer*—a deteriorating and abandoned tanker vessel at high risk of breaking apart and leaking oil into the Red Sea—to a suitable UN-purchased carrier. The process took nearly 20 days to accomplish and marks the completion of the emergency phase of the UN-coordinated operation that began in late May, an effort which was supported by international donors including the United States. Less than 2 percent of the FSO *Safer*'s oil remains aboard the vessel—as it is mixed with sediment and cannot be easily extracted—but will be removed during a decontamination process planned for late August. Following final oil extraction, the UN Development Program (UNDP) will oversee the towing, scrapping, and recycling of the *Safer*. The UN projected that an oil spill from the vessel would have resulted in significant environmental and humanitarian consequences for the Yemeni population and the Red Sea region—including contaminating food supplies and safe drinking water and exposing millions of people to polluted air—and cost approximately \$20 billion to clean up. While the RoYG owns the majority of the salvaged oil, parties to the conflict have not yet agreed how to divide profits from the sale of the oil, according to international media. UNDP will manage and maintain the oil transferred to the UN-purchased vessel through December, after which the agency plans to transfer management to the RoYG.

### KEY FIGURES



**2.9 Million**

People in Yemen reached with WFP food assistance in June



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USG partners supporting health programming

## U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

### FOOD SECURITY

USAID/BHA supports WFP and eight nongovernmental 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, and cash and vouchers for individuals to buy food in local markets. With USAID/BHA and other donor support, WFP reached approximately 2.9 million people with in-kind food assistance and 46,800 people with cash-based transfers in June.

### HEALTH

The U.S. Government (USG) supports the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), the UN World Health Organization (WHO), and 12 NGOs to conduct life-saving health interventions. USG partners provide primary health care services—in conjunction with nutrition and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programming—through static health facilities and mobile medical teams serving hard-to-reach areas throughout Yemen. USG partners also support local health volunteers to provide health services at the community level, thereby promoting better health outcomes. In addition, USAID/BHA partners equip health facilities with medical supplies and pharmaceuticals to

expand access to quality medical services. With USAID/BHA support, an NGO partner provided primary health care consultations to more than 23,100 people at supported health facilities and mobile clinics in Abyan, Aden, Amanat Al Asimah, Ad Dali', and Shabwah governorates in June. Additionally, the partner supported nearly 800 safe deliveries attended by skilled birth attendants across the five governorates.



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USG partners supporting MPCA programming

## MPCA

The USG supports IOM, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and four NGOs to provide multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) to conflict-affected households in Yemen to meet their basic needs and reduce the use of negative coping strategies, while also supporting local markets. By providing MPCA, USG partners enable households to procure cooking gas, food, hygiene items, and other essential commodities. A USAID/BHA partner provided financial literacy training and delivered MPCA to more than 660 households in Ad Dali' in June.



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USG partners supporting nutrition programming

## NUTRITION

USAID/BHA-supported nutrition assistance works to identify, prevent, and treat wasting—the deadliest form of malnutrition—across Yemen. Through support for the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), WFP, WHO, and 11 NGOs, USAID/BHA helps reduce morbidity and mortality resulting from malnutrition, particularly among children and pregnant and lactating women (PLW). USAID/BHA also provides nutrition support for health clinics and mobile health teams by integrating health, nutrition, and WASH interventions to comprehensively assist vulnerable populations. During June, a USAID/BHA partner supported health facilities in Al Hudaydah, Raymah, and Ta'izz governorates to screen nearly 1,200 children ages five years and younger and 400 PLW for acute malnutrition and admitted them for treatment as needed.



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USG partners supporting protection interventions

## PROTECTION

The USG is responding to critical protection needs across Yemen through support for IOM, UNFPA, UNHCR, and six NGOs. Through community mobilization activities, risk mitigation efforts, and specialized case management services, USG partners address child protection and psychosocial support (PSS) needs, prevent and respond to gender-based violence (GBV), and respond to other protection risks and violations. In June, a USAID/BHA NGO partner reached nearly 1,400 children with PSS through structured and unstructured sessions in Ta'izz. Additionally, the NGO partner provided case management and specialized services to 52 survivors of GBV.



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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 and prevent and respond to communicable disease outbreaks in Yemen. USG partners conduct critical WASH interventions,

including distributing hygiene kits, promoting improved hygiene practices, providing water trucking services, and rehabilitating water systems damaged by conflict, for internally displaced persons (IDPs) and other at-risk populations across Yemen. In June, a USAID/BHA NGO partner chlorinated 1.6 million gallons of water to provide safe drinking water for more than 63,500 individuals in Ta'izz. The NGO also delivered approximately 149,000 gallons of safe drinking water through water trucking to more than 1,400 individuals.

## 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, damaging and destroying public infrastructure, interrupting essential services, and reducing commercial imports to a fraction of the levels required to sustain the Yemeni population.
- A UN-brokered truce between Al Houthi authorities and the KSA-led coalition from April through October 2022 resulted in a significant reduction in conflict that has since persisted; however, the situation on the ground remains fragile and humanitarian needs remain high due to the economic crisis, high levels of unemployment, protracted instability, and rising food and fuel prices. Approximately 21.6 million people require humanitarian assistance, including approximately 13.4 million people in acute need, according to the 2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview. Moreover, approximately 4.5 million people remain internally displaced in the country since 2015, while an additional 1.3 million IDPs have returned to their areas of origin. The volatility of the current situation has impeded relief agencies' ability to obtain accurate, comprehensive demographic data on conflict-affected populations.
- On September 26, 2022, U.S. Ambassador Steven H. 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.

## USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE YEMEN RESPONSE IN FY 2023<sup>1</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/BHA<sup>2</sup></b>			
FAO	Health; Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA)	Countrywide	\$600,000
IOM	HCIMA, MPCA, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$22,000,000
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$8,000,000
UNFPA	HCIMA, WASH	Countrywide	\$5,621,869
	Health, Protection	Aden, Amanat Al Asimah, Al Hudaydah, Marib, Ta'izz	\$17,778,131

UNICEF	HCIMA, Nutrition, WASH	Countrywide	\$15,700,000
	Nutrition—U.S. In-Kind Specialized Nutrition Products	Countrywide	\$7,162,600
WFP	Food Assistance—Local, Regional, and International Procurement (LRIP), Cash Transfers for Food; Logistics Support; Nutrition	Countrywide	\$75,170,567
	Food Assistance—U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Countrywide	\$360,493,299
WHO	HCIMA, Health, Nutrition	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
Implementing Partners	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers for Food, LRIP; HCIMA; Health; MPCA; Nutrition; Protection; Shelter and Settlements; WASH	Abyan, Aden, Amanat Al Asimah, Amran, Al Bayda', Ad Dali', Dhamar, Hadramawt, Hajjah, Al Hudaydah, Ibb, Al Jawf, Lahij, Al Mahrah, Al Mahwit, Marib, Raymah, Sa'dah, Sana'a, Shabwah, Socotra Island, Ta'izz	\$144,341,414
	Program Support		\$197,218
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$662,065,098</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>			
Implementing Partner	Health, Protection	Countrywide	\$3,700,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>			<b>\$3,700,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE YEMEN RESPONSE IN FY 2023</b>			<b>\$665,765,098</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 May 19, 2023.

<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)