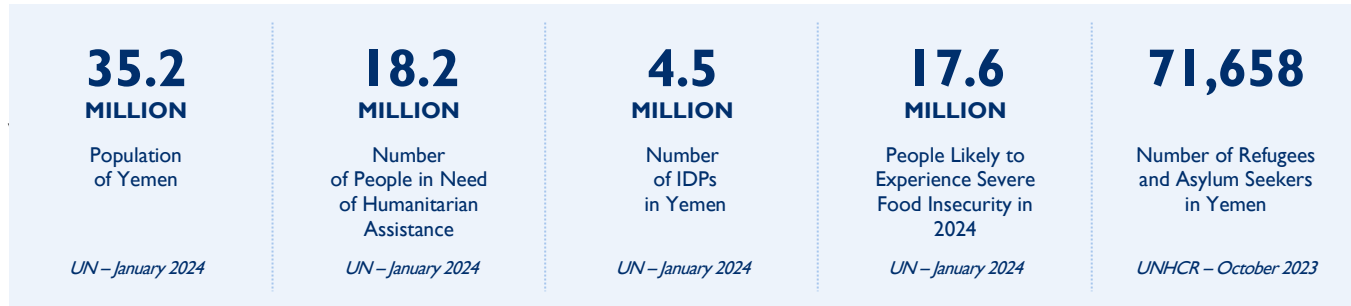


Yemen – Complex Emergency

APRIL 5, 2024

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- An estimated 90 percent of assessed IDP households across Yemen were unable to meet daily food needs from January to March, prompting widespread adoption of negative coping mechanisms, according to a UNHCR survey.
- Approximately 57 percent of households in southern Yemen experienced inadequate food consumption in February as economic deterioration has inflated prices and constrained household purchasing power, WFP reports.
- Red Sea hostilities threaten to constrain food availability and humanitarian imports, with potential ramifications for food security in the coming months, according to a late February FAO report.



KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Nearly 90 Percent of IDPs Unable to Meet Daily Food Needs in Early 2024

Internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Yemen faced high levels of food insecurity from January to March, with widespread adoption of negative coping mechanisms to meet daily food needs, according to a survey of more than 21,000 households conducted by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Approximately 85 percent of respondents were IDPs, almost all of whom had been displaced by conflict and more than one-third of whom had been displaced multiple times. Nearly 90 percent of assessed households reported being unable to meet their daily food needs, prompting up to 83 percent of respondents to adopt negative coping mechanisms such as relying on less preferred or less expensive foods, borrowing food from friends or relatives, reducing portion sizes of meals, or reducing the number of meals consumed per day. Households identified basic relief items, food assistance, and livelihood opportunities as key humanitarian needs. Notably, more than 50 percent of respondent households did not intend to return to their places of origin, with long-term safety and security identified as the primary barrier to return for nearly 90 percent of those households.

USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) partners continue to respond to the needs of displaced households throughout Yemen. With support from USAID/BHA and other donors, the Yemen Rapid Response Mechanism—which provides populations with immediate assistance within 72 hours of their displacement—reached approximately 2,100 recently displaced individuals with multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) and an estimated 9,400 recently displaced individuals with food assistance in March.

Economic Deterioration Compounds Food Insecurity in Southern Yemen

Economic deterioration in Republic of Yemen Government (RoYG)-controlled areas of southern Yemen has increased food prices and constrained households' ability to purchase essential food items in recent months, according to the UN World Food Program (WFP). Approximately 57 percent of southern Yemeni households were experiencing inadequate food consumption as of February, a 10 percent increase compared to February 2023, with high food prices representing a main barrier to accessing sufficient food for nearly 20 percent of households. The average price of the minimum food basket—a standard set of basic food items, comprising beans, salt, sugar, vegetable oil, and wheat flour, to feed a seven-member household for one month—reached nearly \$70 in southern Yemen in February, its highest value on record, after more than tripling between mid-2020 and early 2022 and remaining elevated throughout 2022 and 2023. Meanwhile, the value of the Yemeni riyal in southern Yemen lost more than one-quarter of its value against the U.S. dollar between February 2023 and February 2024 due to a decline in crude oil exports, low levels of foreign currency reserves, and reduced remittances, further constraining household purchasing power.

Humanitarian assistance continues to play a critical role in alleviating food insecurity in southern Yemen, as high food prices and the depreciation of the Yemeni riyal limits Yemenis' ability to afford essential food items. With support from USAID/BHA and other donors, WFP continued efforts to mitigate the impacts of food insecurity in January, distributing food assistance to nearly 3.6 million people in southern Yemen. In addition, a USAID/BHA nongovernmental organization (NGO) partner reached approximately 30,000 food-insecure individuals—including an estimated 3,800 recently displaced individuals—in Ad Dali' Governorate with in-kind food during February.

FAO Assesses Red Sea Hostilities Are Likely to Exacerbate Food Insecurity Countrywide

Yemen's high dependence on imports to meet food needs may pose risks for food security countrywide in the coming months amid persistent hostilities in the Red Sea, according to a UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) report released in late February. Although WFP reports that Yemen had not yet experienced significant impacts from Red Sea hostilities on in-country food supply as of March, imported foods account for more than 80 percent of the average Yemeni's diet, ACAPS reports, and the food security situation in Yemen is already precarious, with an estimated 17.6 million people—52 percent of the total population—likely to experience severe levels of food insecurity during 2024, according to the UN. Al Houthi attacks against commercial vessels in the Red Sea since November 16 have resulted in increased shipping costs and significant delays in the import of commodities into Yemen, including by humanitarian organizations, which heavily depend on maritime routes to import life-saving food, medicine, and other essential supplies. Conflict-related insurance costs for vessels traveling through the Red Sea had risen to an average of \$1.3 million per vessel as of January 17, an increase of more than 3,200 percent since December 1. Increased insurance costs and security risks have prompted several shipping companies to adopt an alternate route around South Africa's Cape of Good Hope rather than through Egypt's Suez Canal, adding up to 14 days to a vessel's journey to Yemen, delaying the arrival of goods and increasing associated shipping costs, with the potential of increasing prices for imported goods within Yemen and straining humanitarian budgets amid global funding shortfalls. FAO assesses these impacts may culminate in food shortages within the country in the coming months should in-country stocks maintained prior to the escalation of hostilities be depleted. USAID/BHA and the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) continue to monitor for disruptions to humanitarian programming resulting from the Red Sea escalation and support partners to ensure assistance continues to reach vulnerable populations in Yemen.

NGOs Issue Joint Statement Highlighting Dire Humanitarian Needs as the Conflict in Yemen Enters Tenth Year

Nearly 70 NGOs, including more than 30 Yemeni civil society organizations, issued a joint statement on March 26 highlighting the dire economic and humanitarian situation as the escalated conflict between RoYG and Al Houthi forces entered its tenth year. The statement called for urgent action from stakeholders to address the escalating crisis and ensure the continued provision of critical aid to the most vulnerable populations across the country. Nearly 18.2 million people—more than 55 percent of the country's population—are in need of humanitarian assistance in 2024 due to effects of the growing economic crisis and localized conflicts, according to the UN. USAID/BHA and State/PRM continues to support partners in Yemen to provide life-saving cash, food, health, nutrition, protection, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance to at-risk populations across the country.

KEY FIGURES



30,000

People in Dali' reached with food baskets by a USAID/BHA INGO partner in January



15

USG partners supporting health interventions



5

USG partners supporting MPCA programming



14

USG partners supporting nutrition programming

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY

To address acute food insecurity in Yemen, USAID/BHA supports WFP and seven NGOs to implement food assistance activities. 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 support, an international NGO (INGO) reached approximately 30,000 food-insecure individuals in Ad Dali' with emergency food baskets to help them to meet their basic food consumption needs in January.

HEALTH

The USG supports the International Organization for Migration (IOM), UNHCR, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), the UN World Health Organization (WHO), and 11 NGOs to conduct life-saving health interventions in Yemen. USG partners provide primary health care services—in conjunction with nutrition and 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. In January, a USAID/BHA INGO partner provided outpatient consultations to nearly 3,500 patients through support to three health facilities in Ta'izz Governorate.

MPCA

With USG support, IOM, UNHCR, and three NGOs provide 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. USAID/BHA partners distribute MPCA to vulnerable households, including conflict-affected, newly displaced, and other at-risk households, to help meet basic needs and develop linkages with longer-term programming.

NUTRITION

USAID/BHA-supported nutrition assistance aims to identify, prevent, and treat wasting—the deadliest form of malnutrition—across Yemen. Through support for UNICEF, WFP, WHO, and 11 NGOs, USAID/BHA supports partners in preventing and responding to malnutrition, including by addressing the drivers of malnutrition. USAID/BHA partners also help reduce morbidity and mortality resulting from malnutrition, particularly among children and pregnant and lactating women, through community- and facility-level malnutrition screenings conducted by community health and nutrition volunteers, community health workers, and community midwives.

USAID/BHA partners provide nutrition support through static facilities and mobile teams by integrating food assistance, health, and WASH interventions to comprehensively assist vulnerable populations. For example, USAID/BHA partners conduct hygiene promotion campaigns and ensure adequate sanitation and water supply in nutrition treatment facilities in Yemen. In addition, USAID/BHA supports the nutrition stock pipeline for treatment of moderate and severe acute malnutrition cases.



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USG partners supporting protection interventions

PROTECTION

The USG is responding to critical protection needs across Yemen through support to IOM, UNFPA, UNHCR, and seven NGOs. Through community mobilization activities, risk mitigation efforts, and specialized case management services, USG partners address child protection and psychosocial support needs, prevent and respond to gender-based violence, and respond to other protection risks and violations. Between January and March, State/PRM partner IOM supported 2,300 migrants to safely return to their country of origin via 15 charter flights and more than 100 commercial flights from Aden, Marib, and Sana'a cities.



370,000

Liters of safe drinking water delivered by a USAID/BHA INGO partner to IDPs in Abyan

WASH

The USG supports IOM, 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 IDPs and other at-risk populations across the country. In January, IOM's WASH teams continued to respond to new and protracted IDP influxes in Yemen. In addition, with USAID/BHA support, an INGO provided more than 370,000 liters of safe drinking water to IDPs in Abyan Governorate and approximately 54,000 liters of safe drinking water to nine health facilities in Ad Dali' via water trucking during February.

CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Between mid-2004 and early 2005, 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 Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (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 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 18.2 million people

require humanitarian assistance, according to the 2024 Humanitarian Needs Overview. Moreover, approximately 4.5 million people remain internally displaced in the country since 2015, while an additional 1.9 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 October 9, 2023, U.S. Ambassador Steven H. Fagin reissued a declaration of humanitarian need for Yemen for FY 2024 due to continued humanitarian needs resulting from the complex emergency and the impact of the country's economic and political crises on vulnerable populations.

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)