

Yemen – Complex Emergency

JULY 26, 2024

SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- Airstrikes damaged Yemen’s Al Hudaydah port, a vital conduit for humanitarian assistance and commercial goods in Yemen, according to the UN.
- Al Houthi authorities have detained at least 24 humanitarian staff since early June, according to the UN.
- WFP conducted a one-off food distribution targeting approximately 664,000 people in eight districts in northern Yemen in May, resulting in positive food security and nutrition outcomes.
- The RoYG MoPHP, with support from UNICEF and WHO, reached an estimated 1.3 million children ages five years and younger with the oral polio vaccine between July 15 and 18.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the Yemen Response in FY 2024	USAID/BHA ¹	\$199,893,358
	State/PRM ²	\$19,846,000
Total		\$219,739,358

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

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

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

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Gol Airstrikes on Yemen's Al Hudaydah Port Cause Nearly 100 Casualties

Government of Israel (GoI) airstrikes in Al Houthi-controlled northern Yemen's Al Hudaydah port resulted in at least nine deaths and injury to 87 people as of July 26, according to international media. The July 20 strikes, which followed a drone attack claimed by Al Houthi forces on Israel's Tel Aviv city on July 19, damaged fuel tanks, port infrastructure, and power facilities. Al Hudaydah port is a key entry point for commercial imports and humanitarian assistance, such as food, fuel, and medicine to the country. The port is equipped to receive large amounts of goods and is close to population centers, making it strategically located for facilitating humanitarian aid to people in need in Yemen, according to international media. Yemen is highly reliant on imports for the country's food supplies, increasing its vulnerability to supply disruptions and international price hikes, ACAPS reports. Imports account for approximately 90 percent of the country's staple cereals, according to a February UN Food and Agriculture Organization report. Notably, 40 percent of Logistics Cluster partners—who heavily rely on ports for importing humanitarian assistance—reported using Al Hudaydah port as of July, according to a cluster survey.³

Al Houthi Officials Have Detained Humanitarian Staff Since June

Al Houthi authorities have detained at least 13 UN and 11 nongovernmental organization (NGO) staff since early June, according to the UN. Al Houthi security forces detained the humanitarian workers during raids conducted in several governorates, including Hajjah, Al Hudaydah, and Sana'a, throughout June, Amnesty International reports. Although the total number of detainees—which includes civil society, humanitarian, and private sector staff—remains unconfirmed, various international media sources had estimated between 30 and 60 detentions as of July 9. However, the number of recently detained NGO staff is likely higher, as national NGOs are less likely to report staff detentions due to security concerns related to UN affiliations. Moreover, Al Houthi authorities had not formally levied charges against the detainees as of June 26, according to Human Rights Watch. One month after the first detentions occurred in early June, UN Special Envoy to Yemen Hans Grundberg issued an appeal on July 7 for the immediate and unconditional release of the detained aid workers, while three international NGOs (INGOs)—including CARE International, Oxfam, and Save the Children Federation—released a statement on the same day urging for the release of the detainees and noting that the targeting and detainment of humanitarian staff will delay relief commodity deliveries to populations in need of humanitarian assistance in Yemen. The detentions exacerbate ongoing concerns for the safety and security of aid workers in Yemen and contribute to mistrust between Al Houthi officials and the humanitarian community, further hindering aid efforts and shrinking the humanitarian operating space. USAID/BHA and its partners continue to monitor the situation in Yemen in coordination with the international community and the UN.

Inadequate Food Consumption Continues to Increase Throughout Yemen

Deteriorating economic conditions, limited livelihood opportunities, and the ongoing pause in the UN World Food Program's (WFP) general food assistance (GFA) in northern Yemen have contributed to poor food consumption levels and high levels of food deprivation across Yemen, according to a June WFP report that examined food security conditions between April and May. WFP reported historically high food insecurity levels across Yemen during May, with 60 percent of households in Republic of Yemen Government (RoYG)-controlled areas of southern Yemen and 57 percent of households in Al Houthi-controlled northern Yemen reporting inadequate food consumption levels, defined as low levels

³ The Logistics Cluster is the coordinating body for humanitarian logistic activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders.

of dietary diversity and inadequate nutrient intake during a specified time and area. Moreover, the nationwide rate of inadequate food consumption increased from 51 percent in April to 58 percent in May following a seasonal decrease in March due to the holy month of Ramadan. The severity of food deprivation—or insufficient nutritional and caloric intake—also increased in May, with 32 percent of households in northern Yemen and 31 percent of households in southern Yemen reporting severe food deprivation. This trend significantly worsened in the north, increasing by 78 percent year-on-year, compared to a 52 percent increase in the south.

Humanitarian assistance continues to play a critical role in alleviating food insecurity throughout Yemen, as high food prices and the depreciation of the Yemeni riyal in southern Yemen limits households' ability to afford essential food items. In RoYG-held areas of Yemen decreased purchasing power prevented households from affording basic food items, despite the availability of food in markets and the overall volume of food imports arriving via Yemeni seaports increasing by 22 percent during the first five months of 2024 compared to the same period in 2023. Additionally, the cost of the minimum food basket (MFB)—which contains the minimum household caloric requirements for one month and includes beans, oil, rice, salt, sugar, and wheat—in southern Yemen was 13 percent higher in May 2024—reaching approximately \$70 U.S. dollars—compared to the MFB cost in May 2023 due to a combination of high fuel prices and a worsening economic situation, according to WFP. Conversely, strict price controls and market caps in Al Houthi-controlled areas have resulted in relatively stable MFB costs across northern governorates from March to April, with the MFB cost decreasing by 7 percent in May 2024 compared to the previous year. In response to food insecurity, USAID/BHA partners are distributing unconditional food assistance equivalent to the MFB, which is designed to meet at least 80 percent of vulnerable households' caloric needs. Additionally, USAID/BHA partners are distributing multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA), which includes the amount of the MFB as well as cash for other costs—including shelter and hygiene items—across Yemen to support food insecurity and improve household-level purchasing power.

WFP Conducts One-Off Food Distribution in Hajjah and Al Hudaydah in May

WFP conducted a one-off food distribution targeting more than 663,600 food-insecure people in eight districts in northern Yemen, including five in Hajjah and three in Al Hudaydah, in May. This distribution occurred six months after WFP announced a pause in GFA in northern Yemen due to unsuccessful negotiations with Al Houthi authorities on targeting assistance to the most at-risk populations. Notably, an early July WFP post-distribution monitoring report—which surveyed nearly 200 households during the GFA pause and again after the one-off distribution—indicated a reduction in the prevalence of food insecurity among beneficiary households in the eight districts immediately after receiving assistance. Following the distribution, assisted households also cited reduced dependency on negative coping strategies, such as decreasing the number of meals per day, reducing food portion sizes, and restricting adult food consumption. Moreover, consumption of essential nutrients improved among the surveyed households who had received one-off assistance in May, with households consuming 20 percent more protein. Conversely, nearly one-half of households in non-assisted districts in Hajjah and Al Hudaydah experienced severe food deprivation during the same period, according to WFP, highlighting the positive effects of the distribution and critical need of ongoing food assistance in Yemen.

WFP's GFA program remains paused in northern Yemen; however, USAID/BHA NGO partners continue to distribute food assistance and other multi-sector support, such as multipurpose cash and nutrition assistance, to vulnerable households in northern Yemen.

Second Polio Vaccine Campaign Implemented Across 12 Governorates

The RoYG Ministry of Public Health and Population (MoPHP), with support from the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the UN World Health Organization (WHO), reached an estimated 1.3 million children ages five years and younger with the oral polio vaccine during the second round of a polio vaccination campaign conducted between July 15 and 18. In addition to providing the polio vaccine, the campaign—which aimed to prevent further spread of the ongoing outbreak of vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2—also provided children in southern Yemen with vitamin A supplements to boost their natural immunity against diseases, according to UNICEF. During July, UNICEF and WHO supported approximately 9,000 health workers to administer vaccines in more than 120 districts across 12 southern governorates. Similarly, the first round of the campaign, which was launched in February, successfully reached 1.3 million children ages five years and younger with the polio vaccine.

WHO estimates 17.8 million people require health assistance in the country in 2024. Nearly ten years of conflict in Yemen has contributed to a rise in disease outbreaks, including diphtheria, measles, polio, and vector-borne diseases such as dengue and malaria. As a result, Yemen is facing a reemergence and rise in vaccine-preventable diseases in the country, particularly among children, due to insufficient immunization coverage since 2015. Displacement, economic decline, low incomes, and overcrowded living conditions in displacement camps, coupled with an overwhelmed health system and low immunization rates, have also contributed to the re-emergence of vaccine-preventable diseases, according to UNICEF. In response, USAID/BHA partners—including UNICEF and WHO—continue to support vaccination campaigns in southern Yemen, including for measles and rubella. USAID/BHA partners also continue to provide primary health care services, including routine vaccinations, through static health facilities and mobile medical teams serving hard-to-reach areas throughout the country.

KEY FIGURES



1.3 Million

People supported monthly through USG emergency food assistance



15

USG partners supporting health interventions

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY

To address acute food insecurity in Yemen, USAID/BHA supports WFP and six 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. A USAID/BHA NGO partner provided cash distributions to nearly 6,800 host community households and approximately 2,000 internally displaced person (IDP) households to purchase food in RoYG-controlled areas of Abyan, Ad Dali’, and Lahij governorates, as well as more than 1,800 households in Al Houthi-controlled areas of Al Jawf and Marib governorates, during April.

HEALTH

The U.S. Government (USG) supports the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Office of UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), WHO, and 11 NGOs to conduct life-saving health interventions in Yemen. 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. In June, a USAID/BHA INGO partner provided outpatient consultations to nearly 3,000 individuals through support to three health facilities in Ta'izz Governorate.



5

USG Partners supporting MPCA programming

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.



13

USG partners supporting nutrition 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 10 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.



10

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. A USAID/BHA partner provided psychosocial support services (PSS) to at least 170 people in May and continues to provide case management services including referrals to specialized services, including secondary health care, legal support, and psychiatric services, as needed.



3 Million

People supported with
USG-funded WASH
activities

WASH

USAID/BHA and State/PRM support WASH programming throughout Yemen to prevent communicable disease outbreaks, including cholera, and acute malnutrition in children and mothers. State/PRM supports WASH activities that assist IDPs in Yemen and refugees from the Horn of Africa. In addition, through partnership with IOM, UNICEF, and 14 NGO partners, USAID/BHA supports partners to provide critical WASH activities, including conducting hygiene awareness sessions, rehabilitating water systems destroyed by conflict, and providing safe drinking water to 3 million people in need. With USAID/BHA support, an INGO partner provided WASH assistance across southern Yemen in June by delivering more than 647,000 liters of safe drinking water to IDPs in Aden and Lahij governorates via water trucking and installing two water chlorination devices in IDP sites to ensure adequate access to safe drinking water.

CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Between mid-2014 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 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 21.6 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.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE YEMEN RESPONSE IN FY 2024¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			

IOM	Health, Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA), MPCA, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$18,224,300
UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$1,392,000
UNFPA	HCIM; Health; Protection	Countrywide	\$20,789,000
UNICEF	Nutrition—U.S. In-Kind Specialized Nutrition Products	Countrywide	\$30,328,308
	Nutrition, WASH	Countrywide	\$15,700,000
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$2,100,000
WFP	Logistics, Nutrition	Countrywide	\$40,979,450
	Nutrition—U.S. In-Kind Specialized Nutrition Products	Countrywide	\$11,546,800
	Food Assistance—U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Countrywide	\$5,600,000
WHO	Health, Nutrition	Countrywide	\$5,050,000
Implementing Partners	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers for Food, Food Vouchers; HCIMA; Health; Nutrition; Protection; WASH	Countrywide, Aden, Al Bayda', Ad Dali', Dhamar, Hajjah, Al Hudaydah, Ibb, Al Jawf, Lahij, Marib, Sa'dah, Sana'a, Ta'izz	\$48,183,500
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$199,893,358
STATE/PRM			
IOM	Protection	Countrywide	\$3,000,000
UNHCR	Health, MPCA, Protection, Shelter	Countrywide	\$11,646,000
Implementing Partner	Protection	Countrywide	\$5,200,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$19,846,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE YEMEN RESPONSE IN FY 2024			\$219,739,358

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of June 7, 2024.

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.usaid.gov
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at 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)