

# YEMEN - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #2, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2019

NOVEMBER 9, 2018

## NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

**29.3 million**

Estimated Population of Yemen  
UN – December 2017

**22.2 million**

Estimated People in Need of  
Humanitarian Assistance  
UN – December 2017

**2 million**

Estimated IDPs in Yemen  
UN – June 2018

**17.8 million**

Estimated Food-Insecure People  
UN – December 2017

**8.4 million**

Estimated Severely Food-Insecure  
People  
UN – December 2017

**16.4 million**

Estimated People Lacking Access  
to Basic Health Care  
UN – December 2017

**9.9 million**

Estimated People Reached with  
Humanitarian Assistance in 2017  
UN – December 2017

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Heightened insecurity in Al Hudaydah continues to result in civilian casualties, constrain humanitarian access, and threaten infrastructure
- More than 20 million Yemenis relied on negative coping strategies to feed their households in October
- USAID partners provide assistance to address food insecurity, including critical health, nutrition, and WASH services

## HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

FOR THE YEMEN RESPONSE IN FY 2018

USAID/OFDA <sup>1</sup>	\$179,130,277
USAID/FFP <sup>2</sup>	\$368,242,992
State/PRM <sup>3</sup>	\$18,900,000
<b>\$566,273,269</b>	

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Fierce fighting and airstrikes intensified near Yemen's Al Hudaydah city and in neighboring districts following the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)-led Coalition's deployment of additional forces to Al Hudaydah Governorate in early November. Airstrikes and ground clashes resulted in at least 100 casualties—including approximately 40 civilian deaths—and damaged civilian infrastructure in the governorate during October, humanitarian actors report.
- In October 30 statements, U.S. Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo and U.S. Secretary of Defense James N. Mattis urged for a cessation of hostilities within 30 days and called on all parties to support UN Special Envoy for Yemen Martin Griffiths' efforts to reach a peaceful resolution to the conflict through third-country consultations starting in November.
- The Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) anticipates that food security in Yemen will likely deteriorate further in the coming months, with the potential for Famine—IPC 5—levels of acute food insecurity to develop in areas dependent on imports or affected by conflict and population displacement.<sup>4</sup> The number of Yemenis exhibiting poor or borderline levels of food consumption increased by nearly 50 percent between mid-July and October, from 8.1 million people to nearly 12 million people, according to the UN World Food Program (WFP) Mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM) unit. On October 23, UN Under-Secretary-General and Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) Mark Lowcock informed the UN Security Council that relief actors are conducting an IPC assessment that will likely yield more conclusive data on food security in Yemen.

<sup>1</sup> USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)

<sup>2</sup> USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

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

<sup>4</sup> The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a standardized tool that aims to classify the severity and magnitude of acute food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5.

## CURRENT EVENTS

- On October 30, U.S. Secretary of State Pompeo and U.S. Secretary of Defense Mattis called on all parties to support a peaceful resolution to the conflict in Yemen by commencing UN-led consultations in November to address the drivers of the conflict. Secretary Pompeo underscored that a cessation of hostilities—including KSA-led Coalition airstrikes and attacks launched from Al Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen into the KSA and United Arab Emirates—and a resumption of political dialogue would help alleviate the humanitarian crisis in Yemen. Multiple international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) released statements in response, welcoming the call for a cessation of hostilities and asserting that a political solution to the ongoing conflict is the only way to mitigate deteriorating security conditions and stem the economic crisis in the country.

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## INSECURITY AND POPULATION DISPLACEMENT

- Escalating insecurity in Yemen's Al Hudaydah Governorate continues to result in civilian casualties, constrain humanitarian activities, and threaten civilian and humanitarian infrastructure, such as health facilities and markets. Across the governorate, 15 security incidents occurred from October 11–17, resulting in 78 civilian casualties, including 36 deaths, according to the Protection Cluster.<sup>5</sup> In Ad Duryahimi and At Tuhayat districts, relief actors reported approximately 60 airstrikes from October 9–14, with fighting damaging health facilities, housing, and a factory in the districts on October 3 and 10. Airstrikes and ground clashes continued in areas surrounding Al Hudaydah city and in Ad Durayhimi, At Tuhayat, and Bayt al Faqiah districts in Al Hudaydah as of early November, the UN reports.
- On November 8, multiple INGOs issued a joint statement condemning intensified violence in Al Hudaydah and highlighting destruction to civilian infrastructure and occupation of residential areas by armed forces. The statement also raised concerns that violence is preventing civilians from fleeing the fighting and humanitarian agencies' ability to deliver assistance to populations across Yemen.
- Following multiple airstrikes on October 24 in Al Hudaydah's Bayt Al Faqiah and Al Hali districts that resulted in 24 deaths and injured 16 people, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Lise Grande issued an October 25 statement highlighting the conflict's impact on civilians and calling for an end to the fighting.
- During the escalation of fighting in Al Hudaydah between June and mid-October, Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) partners identified nearly 525,000 persons displaced within Al Hudaydah Governorate and to neighboring Hajjah, Al Mahwit, and Raymah governorates. As of October 17, more than 450,100 internally displaced persons (IDPs)—approximately 85 percent of people displaced from and within Al Hudaydah—had received assistance via the RRM, including multi-purpose cash assistance, emergency relief commodities, or emergency shelter assistance, according to the UN.

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## FOOD SECURITY

- Food security in Yemen will likely deteriorate further in the coming months, with the potential for Famine in vulnerable areas if imports through Red Sea ports are disrupted or reduced for a prolonged period, according to an October 24 report by FEWS NET. Areas that are highly dependent on imports and affected by active conflict and population displacement, including Hajjah, Sa'dah, and Ta'izz governorates, are most at risk. Further depreciation of the Yemeni riyal (YER)—prompted by ongoing conflict, depleted foreign currency reserves, and reduced oil revenues—could result in additional price increases, reduced household purchasing power, and shortages of essential commodities that may contribute to Famine even without a significant disruption to imports, according to FEWS NET. In an October 23 briefing to the UN Security Council, ERC Lowcock noted that relief actors are conducting a countrywide IPC assessment that will likely yield more conclusive data on the food security situation in Yemen.

<sup>5</sup>The coordinating body for humanitarian protection activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders.

- The number of Yemenis exhibiting poor and borderline levels of food consumption increased from 8.1 million people to nearly 12 million people—representing a nearly 50 percent increase—from mid-July to October, according to WFP’s mVAM unit. During the same period, the number of people relying on negative coping strategies to feed their households—such as limiting portion size or skipping meals—increased from 18.4 million to more than 20 million people, representing nearly 70 percent of Yemen’s total population of 29.3 million people. If economic conditions continue to deteriorate, the UN estimates that an additional 3 million to 5.6 million Yemenis, including up to 2.8 million children, may experience severe food insecurity in the coming months, which would increase Yemen’s total severely food-insecure population to up to 14 million people.
- The UN and humanitarian actors estimate that in a worst-case scenario—marked by continued depreciation of the YER and declining purchasing power among households—relief actors would require at least \$500 million and several months to scale-up food security, health, nutrition, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) operations across Yemen. To mitigate the humanitarian impacts of economic instability, relief actors continue to call for an injection of liquidity into the Central Bank of Yemen (CBY), accelerated approval of CBY lines of credit for importers of core commodities, and payments to civil servants and pensioners who have not received regular salaries or pensions since August 2016.
- In September, USAID/FFP partner WFP reached more than 7.1 million people across 20 of Yemen’s 22 governorates with food assistance—including nearly 6.3 million people through general food distributions and more than 859,000 people with food vouchers—representing nearly 98 percent of the UN agency’s planned monthly beneficiary caseload.

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## HEALTH, NUTRITION, AND WASH

- During a food crisis, malnutrition weakens the immune system and increases the susceptibility of vulnerable populations to preventable disease, making health, nutrition, and WASH programs critical to addressing the underlying causes of food insecurity. In line with the Yemen Integrated Famine Risk Reduction Strategy for 2018, which the Food Security and Agriculture, Health, Nutrition, and WASH clusters jointly developed, USAID partners have been providing multi-sectoral assistance in areas identified as most vulnerable to Famine.
- In FY 2018, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$101 million to 17 UN and INGO partners to provide health, nutrition, and WASH assistance in 20 governorates of Yemen. Life-saving activities include rehabilitation and installation of water infrastructure to improve access to safe drinking water; hygiene promotion sessions and distribution of hygiene supplies; malnutrition screening and treatment of severe and moderate acute malnutrition, particularly for children and women; and support for health workers and medical supplies to fight the spread of disease.
- From April to September, a USAID/OFDA partner supported more than 50 fixed and mobile medical teams to provide nutritional support in three governorates. Community nutrition volunteers screened nearly 40,000 children ages five years of age and younger for severe acute malnutrition; nearly 900 children were subsequently admitted to health facilities and mobile medical clinics to receive treatment.
- During October, relief actors continued to conduct cholera response activities in priority districts reporting the highest numbers of suspected cases per week. From October 1–15, a USAID/OFDA partner provided WASH assistance to communities in Abyan, Ad Dali’, Amanat al-Asimah, Al Jawf, Lahij, Marib, and Sana’a governorates, pumping more than 9.9 million liters of chlorinated drinking water and trucking nearly 751,000 liters of safe drinking water per week, as well as rehabilitating 125 water source points. Health actors reported nearly 160,700 suspected cholera cases and 269 related deaths from July 15–November 9, the UN World Health Organization (WHO) reports.

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## EMERGENCY RELIEF COMMODITIES

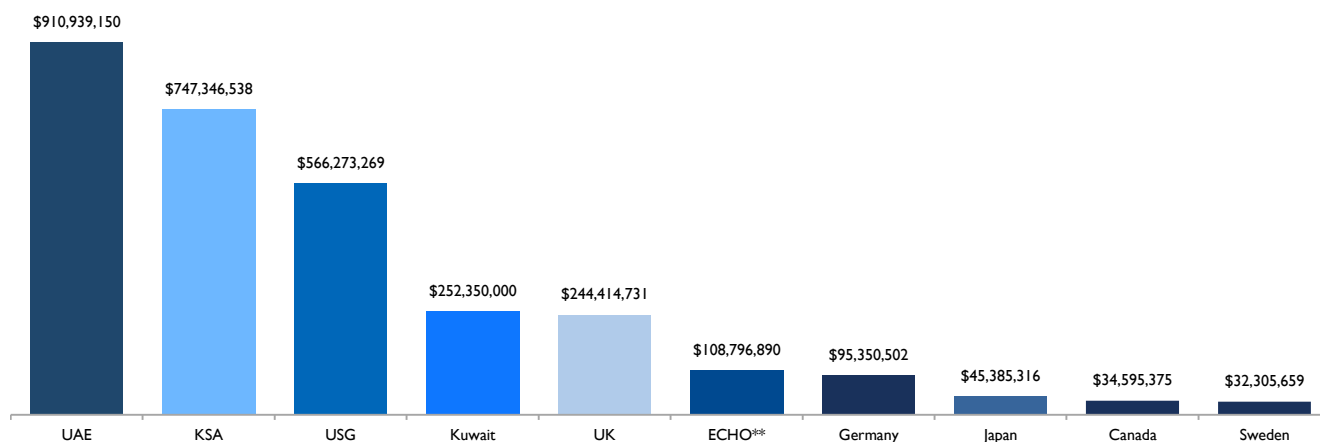
- Tropical Cyclone Luban, which made landfall on October 14, had resulted in 11 deaths, injured more than 120 people, and displaced more than 15,400 people throughout Al Mahrah Governorate as of October 21, the UN reports. With USAID funding, UN agencies responded immediately with emergency assistance and by positioning supplies for

delivery to areas affected by flooding and storm-related damage. The UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) pre-positioned more than 180 water tanks and 1,000 hygiene kits and disseminated cholera prevention messages to IDPs sheltering in 25 schools in Al Mahrah. WHO delivered 60,000 liters of diesel, as well as trauma kits and intravenous fluids, to hospitals in Al Mahrah and neighboring governorates, while the International Organization for Migration (IOM) retains stocks of 2,000 relief commodity kits; 2,000 emergency shelter kits; and 500 tents prepared for distribution to affected areas of Al Mahrah and Hadramawt governorates. Additionally, WFP has provided more than 3,700 immediate response ration (IRR) kits—each sufficient to feed a household of seven people for five days—to a local partner for distribution across affected governorates; the partner had distributed more than 900 IRR kits as of October 21.

## OTHER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- On November 6, the European Commission pledged €90 million—or more than \$103 million—to fund humanitarian assistance across Yemen, bringing the total amount of European Union humanitarian assistance in Yemen to €118 million, or nearly \$135.1 million, for 2018. Approximately 8 million conflict-affected Yemenis are expected to benefit from the additional European Commission assistance, which will fund health, nutrition, protection, and WASH activities across the country.

### 2018 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PER DONOR



\*Funding figures are as of November 9, 2018. All international figures are according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Financial Tracking Service and based on international commitments during the current calendar year, while USG figures are according to the USG and reflect publicly announced USG funding for FY 2018, which ran from October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018.

\*\*European Commission’s Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO)

## CONTEXT

- Between 2004 and early 2015, conflict between the Republic of Yemen Government (RoYG) and Al Houthi opposition forces in the north and between Al Qaeda affiliated groups and RoYG forces in the south affected more than 1 million people and repeatedly displaced populations in northern Yemen, resulting in humanitarian need. Fighting between RoYG forces and tribal and militant groups since 2011 limited the capacity of the RoYG to provide basic services, and humanitarian needs increased among impoverished populations. The advancement of Al Houthi forces in 2014 and 2015 resulted in the renewal and escalation of conflict and displacement, further exacerbating already deteriorated humanitarian conditions.
- In March 2015, the KSA-led Coalition began airstrikes against Al Houthi and allied forces to halt their southward expansion. The ongoing conflict has damaged or destroyed public infrastructure, interrupted essential services, and reduced commercial imports to a fraction of the levels required to sustain the Yemeni population; the country relies on imports for 90 percent of its grain and other food sources.
- Since March 2015, the escalated conflict—coupled with protracted political instability, the resulting economic crisis, rising fuel and food prices, and high levels of unemployment—has left more than 17.8 million people food-insecure and more than 22.2 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. In addition, the conflict had displaced nearly 3 million people, including more than 900,000 people who had returned to areas of origin, as of December 2017. The volatility of the current situation prevents relief agencies from obtaining accurate, comprehensive demographic information.
- In late April 2017, a cholera outbreak that began in October 2016 resurged, necessitating intensive humanitarian response efforts throughout the country, particularly health and WASH interventions. The USG is supporting partners to scale up cholera prevention, preparedness, and response activities.
- On October 24, 2017, U.S. Ambassador Matthew H. Tueller re-issued a disaster declaration for the ongoing complex emergency in Yemen for FY 2018 due to continued humanitarian needs resulting from the complex emergency and the impact of the country’s political and economic crises on vulnerable populations.

### USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE YEMEN RESPONSE IN FY 2018 <sup>1</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/OFDA</b>			
Implementing Partners (IPs)	Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Health, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management (HCIM), Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlement, WASH	Abyan, Aden, Ad Dali', Amanat al-Asimah, Amran, Dhamar, Hadramawt, Hajjah, Al Hudaydah, Ibb, Al Jawf, Lahij, Al Mahwit, Marib, Raymah, Sa'dah, Sana'a, Shabwah, Ta'izz	\$128,002,584
IOM	Logistics Support	Countrywide	\$15,488,216
OCHA	HCIM	Countrywide	\$8,000,000
UNICEF	Protection	Abyan, Aden, Ad Dali', Amanat al-Asimah, Amran, Al Bayda', Dhamar, Hadramawt, Hajjah, Al Hudaydah, Ibb, Al Jawf, Lahij, Al Mahwit, Marib, Raymah, Sa'dah, Sana'a, Shabwah, Ta'izz	\$17,150,000
WFP	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$2,500,000
WHO	Health	Countrywide	\$5,241,259

	Program Support		\$2,748,218
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$179,130,277</b>
<b>USAID/FFP<sup>2</sup></b>			
UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Food Security and Livelihoods	Countrywide	\$850,000
IPs	Complementary Services, Food Vouchers, Local and Regional Food Procurement	Abyan, Ad Dali', Aden, Al Hudaydah, Dhamar, Hajjah, Ibb, Lahij	\$41,211,921
UNICEF	U.S. In-Kind Food	Abyan, Ad Dali', Aden, Al Mahrah, Hadramawt, Lahij, Shabwah, Socotra Island, Ta'izz	\$3,643,064
WFP	U.S. In-Kind Food	Countrywide	\$276,538,007
	Local and Regional Food Procurement	Countrywide	\$46,000,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING</b>			<b>\$368,242,992</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>			
IOM	Evacuation and Humanitarian Assistance	Regional	\$5,000,000
Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	Camp Coordination and Camp Management, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Refugee Response	Countrywide	\$13,900,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>			<b>\$18,900,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE YEMEN RESPONSE IN FY 2018</b>			<b>\$566,273,269</b>

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of September 30, 2018.

<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 [www.interaction.org](http://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, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
  - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org) or +1.202.661.7710.
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID website at <http://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/working-crises-and-conflict/responding-times-crisis/where-we-work>