

# YEMEN - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #2, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2016

DECEMBER 3, 2015

## NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

**26 million**

Estimated Population of Yemen

OCHA – November 2015

**21.2 million**

People in Need of Urgent Humanitarian Assistance

OCHA – November 2015

**19.3 million**

People in Need of WASH Services

OCHA – November 2015

**14.1 million**

People in Need of Basic Health Care

OCHA – November 2015

**6 million**

People in Need of Emergency Food Assistance

FEWS NET – November 2015

**2.3 million**

IDPs in Yemen

UN – November 2015

**11.6 million**

People Targeted for Humanitarian Assistance in 2015

OCHA – November 2015

## HIGHLIGHTS

- OCHA releases 2016 HNO for Yemen, estimates that 21.2 million people require urgent assistance
- High levels of food insecurity across the country; at least 6 million people continue to require emergency food assistance
- Humanitarian organizations deliver essential relief supplies to conflict-affected communities amid growing insecurity

## HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR YEMEN RESPONSE IN FY 2015

USAID/OFDA <sup>1</sup>	\$62,029,644
USAID/FFP <sup>2</sup>	\$71,486,457
State/PRM <sup>3</sup>	\$45,300,000
<b>\$178,816,101</b>	
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR YEMEN AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES	

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On November 23, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) released the 2016 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) for Yemen. The HNO estimates that 21.2 million people in Yemen, approximately 82 percent of the population, require humanitarian assistance to meet their basic needs—an increase of 30 percent since the crisis began in mid-March. More than 19 million people lack adequate access to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services and an estimated 14.1 million people are in need of health care support. The HNO also estimates that 12.4 million people live in conflict-affected areas and 2.3 million people are displaced throughout the country—an increase of 1.3 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) since June.
- On November 24, UN Under-Secretary-General and Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) Stephen O'Brien issued a statement on Yemen to emphasize the worsening humanitarian situation in the city of Ta'izz and call for safe and unhindered humanitarian access to populations in need. ERC O'Brien reported that intensified fighting since September has besieged an estimated 200,000 civilians who require safe drinking water, food, medical treatment, and other life-saving assistance. The statement also highlighted that civilian neighborhoods, medical facilities, and other sites around the city are continually hit by shelling, and checkpoints are preventing people from moving to safer areas and seeking assistance.
- On November 17, President Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, along with several Republic of Yemen Government (RoYG) ministers, returned to the city of Aden from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) to meet with military personnel and discuss intensified fighting in Ta'izz. President Hadi's return marked his first visit to Aden since late September.

<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)

## INSECURITY, POPULATION DISPLACEMENT, AND HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

- The recently released HNO highlights four key areas of concern: protection of civilians, basic survival needs, access to essential services, and the effects of displacement. The report notes that import restrictions and localized obstructions have hindered the rapid delivery of critical humanitarian supplies to conflict-affected populations throughout Yemen. Additionally, airstrike damage to port infrastructure has hampered humanitarian and commercial food and fuel imports into the country, compounding the worsening humanitarian situation. According to the UN, Yemen imported more than 90 percent of its staple food prior to the crisis, which began in March, and consumed an estimated 544,000 metric tons (MT) of fuel per month. In October, however, commercial fuel imports represented only 23 percent of the country's monthly fuel requirements.

Humanitarian needs remain acute in several areas of Ta'izz Governorate, with few commercial and humanitarian deliveries entering the city of Ta'izz and Al Mudhaffar, Al Qahirah, and Salh districts over the past several weeks. The UN reports that conflict has severely limited medical and water supplies in these areas, food prices have markedly increased, and all public hospitals remain non-functional. Clashes and fuel shortages on November 22 and 23 forced the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to temporarily suspend water trucking activities in the city of Ta'izz. Although daily water trucking services resumed on November 24 and IOM is providing 24,000 liters of water per day to 3,000 people across two districts, it is insufficient to meet the recommended minimum of 15 liters of water per person per day. USAID/FFP partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) reported limited access to the city of Ta'izz in November, providing food assistance to approximately 5,600 people.

- The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) reported that an unidentified armed group detained two ICRC staff in Yemen's capital city of Sana'a on December 1. The group released one staff member unharmed a few hours later, but has yet to release the other. ICRC has temporarily halted all field movements in Yemen following the incident
- The Logistics Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian logistics activities, comprising UN agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other stakeholders—reports that road conditions, checkpoint clearance delays, and ongoing insecurity remain the primary challenges to overland transport of humanitarian supplies. The Cluster facilitated the attempted transport of health and WASH items provided by the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) from Aden to Ta'izz, although the trucks returned to Aden due to security incidents while en route.
- Amid increasing insecurity, at least 85 humanitarian agencies—including 45 national NGOs, 33 international NGOs, and several UN agencies—were conducting operations in Yemen in mid-November, according to OCHA. This represents a 12 percent increase in the number of humanitarian organizations, primarily local NGOs, operating in Yemen between June and November. Despite ongoing clashes and active conflict, Aden and Ta'izz governorates host the highest number of UN agencies and their humanitarian partners, with 36 and 47 organizations operating in each governorate, respectively.

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## FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

- According to the USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), a significant number of people across Yemen continue to face Emergency—IPC 4—levels of food insecurity.<sup>4</sup> FEWS NET estimates that at least 6 million people continue to require food assistance, highlighting that the present scale of food-related humanitarian needs in Yemen is beyond international response capacity. If livelihood opportunities remain limited and food price increases continue, food security conditions could deteriorate further in the coming months, FEWS NET reports.
- According to WFP, the availability of essential food commodities and fuel continued to decrease between early and mid-November, despite increases in imports, particularly in the conflict-affected governorates of Al Bayda, Al Jawf, Marib, Sa'dah, and Ta'izz, as well as in cyclone-affected areas of Socotra Island and southern Yemen. In addition, already-high prices of staple foods—such as red beans, vegetable oil, and wheat flour—continued to increase from pre-crisis levels in March, with Ta'izz experiencing a wheat flour price increase of 134 percent; countrywide, the average

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

price of wheat flour as of mid-November was 57 percent higher than pre-crisis. Although most commercial import restrictions eased during October and the level of wheat imports returned to pre-crisis levels, OCHA reports that food insecurity remains high. Given the deteriorating food security situation in Yemen, the UN and its partners are prioritizing emergency food and livelihoods assistance for an estimated 7.6 million people.

- According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), delayed rains and high seed costs have worsened the food security situation in Yemen. Domestic agricultural production, which engages more than half of Yemen's population, is expected to fall by 30 percent due to poor rains and the high cost and unavailability of fertilizer, fuel, seeds, tools, and other agricultural inputs. FAO also reports that conflict has affected Yemen's fisheries, reducing production by an estimated 50 to 75 percent in coastal governorates.
- Yemeni households more frequently resorted to negative food-related coping strategies in October as compared to September, according to the October WFP mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM) report, which used mobile phones to collect data from 2,400 people across all 21 governorates. More than 60 percent of respondents reported eating less-preferred foods and limiting portion sizes. The mVAM data also suggested that more than 22 percent of households had poor food consumption, and an additional 20 percent had borderline food consumption. IDP households continued to be worse off than non-displaced households, consuming poorer diets and more frequently using negative coping strategies.
- According to UNICEF, the number of children ages five years and younger at risk of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) has tripled in Yemen in 2015. Humanitarian organizations continue to support Community-Based Management of Acute Malnutrition programs across the country through more than 1,900 outpatient treatment programs and 70 mobile teams. From November 3 through 17, UNICEF and its partners screened more than 14,000 children for acute malnutrition, identifying and admitting more than 2,600 SAM cases to therapeutic feeding programs.
- WFP reported that moderately improved logistical capacities and fuel availability, alternative methods for transporting supplies, and increased access to Yemeni ports facilitated the distribution of 30,700 MT of emergency food assistance in October. WFP October food distributions exceeded targets and reached more than 2.8 million beneficiaries across 15 governorates, including populations in Al Bayda and Marib governorates for the first time since March. However, due to renewed access constraints, fewer people received WFP food assistance in November. WFP plans to reach approximately 3 million people in December and 4 million in January.

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## **NATURAL DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE**

- The UN reports that tropical cyclones Chapala and Megh, which made landfall over Yemen on November 3 and 10, respectively, resulted in 26 deaths, 78 injuries, and the displacement of nearly 6,000 households—approximately 42,000 people—across six Yemeni governorates. As of November 30, many storm-displaced households had returned to their residences, according to the UN.
- UN agencies, humanitarian NGOs, and neighboring countries continued delivering food, medical supplies, safe drinking water, shelter materials, and other emergency relief items to storm-affected communities through the beginning of December. As of November 19, UN agencies had transported approximately 186 MT of medical supplies and relief commodities from Aden to the city of Al Mukalla, Hadramawt Governorate, and 95 MT of hygiene kits and other relief items had arrived in Al Mukalla and Shabwah Governorate. WFP also supported a 10-truck convoy carrying UN relief supplies to affected communities in Hadramawt and Shabwah. OCHA reported that as of late November local authorities continued to restore basic services, infrastructure, and livelihoods on Socotra Island, where cyclone-affected households, particularly in remote areas, remained in need of services.
- The KSA, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, and other neighboring countries have transported an estimated 58 planeloads of food, safe drinking water, medical supplies, shelter materials, and other emergency relief items to Socotra Island since early November. The KSA's King Salman Relief also dispatched nearly 130 MT of emergency relief supplies, such as blankets and tents, to communities in Al Mahrah, Hadramawt, and Shabwah governorates, the UN reports.

## HEALTH AND WASH

- The UN reports that Yemen's health system is near collapse, highlighting that 14.1 million people are unable to access adequate health care. The UN World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that more than 600 of approximately 4,000 health facilities—at least 15 percent—have ceased functioning due to a lack of fuel, supplies, and personnel. The UN also reports that the absence of reliable electricity in many areas of the country is further straining the health system, with many health facilities now relying on back-up generators to maintain operations. To date in 2015, WHO has delivered 119,000 liters of fuel to maintain health services at some hospitals and health facilities and support ambulance services.
- On November 10, ICRC released a public statement condemning attacks on health care facilities in Yemen, underlining the latest attack on Al Thawra Hospital in Ta'izz Governorate. The hospital, which provides treatment to an estimated 50 people per day and is one of the main health care facilities in Ta'izz, reportedly sustained shelling several times on November 8, according to ICRC. The statement also underscored that the health situation in Ta'izz has been declining for months, with fewer than half of previously functioning health facilities currently operational.
- Between early and mid-November, UNICEF completed the second round of its polio vaccination campaign, targeting more than 5 million children younger than five years of age. UNICEF and partners conducted targeted communication activities and awareness-raising sessions prior to the second round, during which fixed health facilities and mobile health teams provided vaccinations. UNICEF also provided pre- and ante-natal care services to nearly 26,300 women during the reporting period.
- USAID/OFDA partners continue to implement health programs across Yemen despite logistical constraints and supply shortages. One USAID/OFDA-funded NGO is improving maternal and child health care and nutrition services by supporting medical care at health facilities, conducting community and social mobilization activities, and training health providers and community health workers. The program targets 100,000 people across two governorates. Another USAID/OFDA partner provides essential health care supplies and pharmaceuticals to nearly 70 health facilities and hospitals in Aden, Lahij, and Sana'a governorates; the organization also delivers safe drinking water to several sites in Aden and Sana'a.
- U.S. Government (USG) partner IOM continues to provide essential health services to conflict-affected populations in Yemen. Since April, IOM has provided health services to nearly 42,700 IDPs across seven governorates. IOM is also implementing critical WASH activities throughout Yemen, including water trucking, water tank distribution, well rehabilitation, and water point construction. IOM has provided WASH services to more than 186,500 people across eight governorates since the beginning of the crisis.

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## LOGISTICS SUPPORT AND RELIEF COMMODITIES

- According to WFP, fuel prices rose during the first two weeks of November, with average prices approximately 300 percent higher—500 percent higher in Ta'izz—than pre-crisis levels. However, improved berth access at Yemeni ports and more consistent commercial and humanitarian food and fuel deliveries slowed commodity price increases and decreased illicit market fuel prices, according to logistics stakeholders. Although fuel availability has improved slightly, the UN notes that shortages persist in many areas of Yemen as airstrikes, bureaucratic delays, ground fighting, insecurity, and logistical challenges hinder import and distribution processes.

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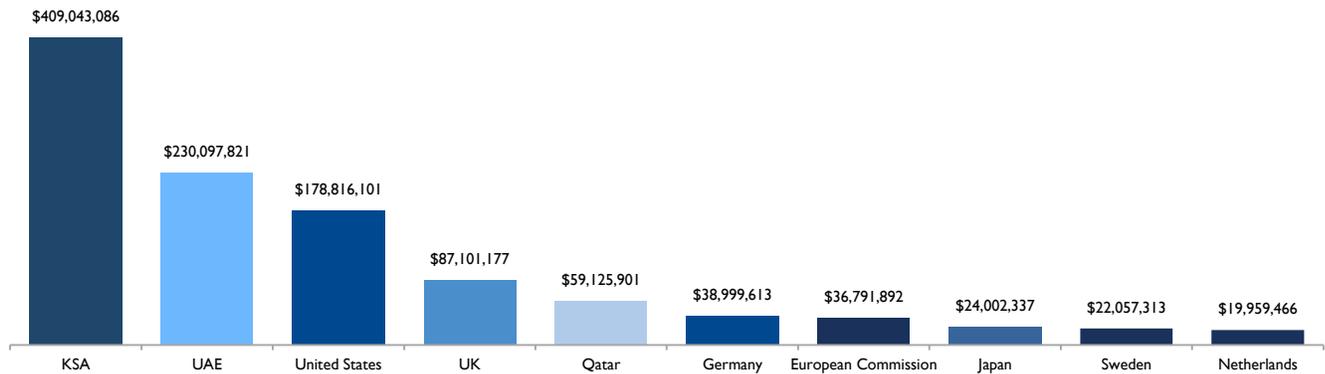
## OTHER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- King Salman Relief completed the distribution of 5,000 food parcels to populations in Ta'izz Governorate on November 21; the delivery is a portion of the 130,000 food parcels allotted by the organization for Ta'izz. King Salman Relief, in collaboration with WFP, has provided more than \$140 million to support food-security programs in Yemen.

- The UN reports that the Yemen Humanitarian Pooled Fund (HPF) has received \$57 million in contributions and pledges, bringing total available funding to \$66 million. In November, the UN allocated \$14.9 million from the HPF to 24 humanitarian projects in western Yemen, reaching approximately 580,000 people with assistance in the food security, health, nutrition, protection, and WASH sectors.

## 2015 TOTAL HUMANITARIAN FUNDING\*

PER DONOR



\*Funding figures as of December 3, 2015. All international figures are according to OCHA's Financial Tracking Service and based on international commitments during the current calendar year, while USG figures are according to the USG and reflect the most recent USG commitments based on the fiscal year, which began on October 1, 2015.

## CONTEXT

- Between 2004 and early 2015, conflict between the RoYG and Al Houthi opposition forces in the north and between al-Qaeda affiliated groups and RoYG forces in the south had affected more than 1 million people and repeatedly displaced populations in northern Yemen, resulting in humanitarian need. Fighting between RoYG military forces and tribal and militant groups since 2011 had limited the capacity of the RoYG to provide basic services and increased humanitarian needs among impoverished populations. The expansion 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 late March 2015, the KSA launched airstrikes on Al Houthi and allied forces to halt their southward expansion. The ongoing conflict has damaged public infrastructure, interrupted essential services, displaced large populations, and reduced the level of 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.
- The escalated conflict, coupled with protracted political instability, the resulting economic crisis, rising fuel and food prices, and high unemployment, has left nearly half of Yemen's 26.7 million people food-insecure.
- In early 2015, Yemen hosted approximately 248,000 refugees and a substantial population of third-country nationals (TCNs). The recent escalation in hostilities has internally displaced an estimated 2.3 million people in Yemen and prompted IOM to organize large-scale TCN evacuations from Yemen. The volatility of the current situation prevents relief agencies from obtaining accurate, comprehensive demographic information.
- On October 12, 2015, U.S. Ambassador Matthew H. Tueller reissued a disaster declaration for Yemen for FY 2016 due to continued humanitarian needs resulting from conflict and the impact of the country's political and economic crises on vulnerable populations.

**USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR YEMEN AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES PROVIDED IN  
FY 2015<sup>1</sup>**

<b>IMPLEMENTING PARTNER</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
<b>USAID/OFDA</b>		
NGO partners	Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Health, Nutrition, Risk Management Policy and Practice, and WASH	Abyan, Aden, Amran, Al Hudaydah, Al Jawf, Hajjah, Ibb, Raymah, Sana'a, Sa'dah, and Ta'izz governorates \$27,895,625
IOM	Health, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, and WASH	Abyan, Ad Dali', Aden, Lahij, Sana'a, Shabwah governorates \$5,000,000
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide \$2,750,000
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security	Countrywide \$500,000
UNICEF	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Countrywide
	Health, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Al Hudaydah, Amran, Hajjah, Sa'dah, Sana'a, and Ta'izz governorates \$15,006,600
WFP	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Countrywide \$2,000,000
WHO	Health	Countrywide \$8,000,000
	Program Support	\$877,419
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE</b>		<b>\$62,029,644</b>
<b>USAID/FFP<sup>2</sup></b>		
NGO partners	Food Vouchers, Health, Nutrition	Dhamar, Ibb, Lahij, Raymah, Sana'a, and Ta'izz governorates \$14,814,528
UNICEF	Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Foods	10 governorates \$1,661,579
WFP	59,940 MT of Title II Emergency Food Assistance	19 governorates \$55,010,350
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE</b>		<b>\$71,486,457</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR YEMEN IN FY 2015</b>		
<b>\$133,516,101</b>		
<b>STATE/PRM</b>		
UNHCR	Health, Protection, Shelter, WASH	Countrywide \$22,400,000
		Djibouti and Somalia \$6,100,000
IOM	Health and Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Djibouti and Somalia \$6,000,000
Other Partners	Food Assistance , Health, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, WASH	Countrywide \$10,800,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE</b>		<b>\$45,300,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR YEMEN AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES IN FY 2015</b>		
<b>\$178,816,101</b>		

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. USG funding totals represent actual committed amounts as of September 30, 2015.

<sup>2</sup> Estimated value of food assistance.

## **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:
  - The Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org) or +1.202.821.1999.
  - 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>