

YEMEN - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #1, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2019

OCTOBER 19, 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

- Ongoing insecurity in Al Hudaydah limits humanitarian access, results in civilian casualties and infrastructure damage
- Deteriorating economic conditions contribute to worsening household vulnerability, civil unrest in Aden
- Tropical Cyclone Luban makes landfall in southeastern Yemen, results in at least three deaths

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

FOR THE YEMEN RESPONSE IN FY 2018

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

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Fighting continues in eastern and southern areas of Al Hudaydah Governorate's Al Hudaydah city and along the governorate's western coastline, resulting in civilian casualties and damage to civilian infrastructure, the UN reports. Since June, insecurity in Al Hudaydah Governorate has contributed to more than 170 deaths and the injury of at least 1,700 people, according to the UN World Health Organization (WHO).
- Areas of southern Yemen, including Aden Governorate, have experienced increased civil unrest in recent weeks due to deteriorating economic conditions, with early October public demonstrations in Aden city resulting in humanitarian movement restrictions, according to the UN.
- Depreciation of the Yemeni riyal (YER) and resulting increases in the prices of essential food and fuel commodities continue to reduce the purchasing power of vulnerable Yemeni households, prompting some to adopt negative coping strategies, the UN reports.
- The second round of an oral cholera vaccine (OCV) campaign in three districts in Al Hudaydah and Ibb governorates reached more than 306,000 people from September 30 to October 5. As of early October, nearly 70 percent of Yemeni districts continued to report suspected cholera cases, according to the UN.
- Tropical Cyclone Luban made landfall on Yemen's southeastern coast on October 14, bringing heavy rain, strong winds, and widespread flooding to Al Mahrah Governorate, the UN reports. The storm resulted in at least three deaths, injured more than 100 people, and significantly affected or displaced more than 3,000 households.

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

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

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

CURRENT EVENTS

- Tropical Cyclone Luban, which weakened to a tropical depression before making landfall on Yemen’s southeastern coast on October 14, brought heavy rain, strong winds, and widespread flooding to Al Mahrah’s Al Ghaydah, Al Hawf, Huswain, Al Masilah, Qishn, and Sayhut districts, the UN reports. As of October 17, the storm had resulted in at least three deaths, injured 100 people, and significantly affected or displaced more than 3,000 households, including 550 households that have sought shelter in local schools. Relief actors expect the recorded numbers of people affected by the storm to increase as response efforts continue and relief organizations reach areas currently inaccessible due to flooded roads.
 - Humanitarian actors are coordinating with local authorities in flood-affected areas of Al Mahrah to provide emergency assistance. Reports indicate that rains have destroyed underground water wells, with local authorities and rescue teams highlighting an urgent need for food, medicines, relief commodities, safe drinking water, and shelter supplies. As the lead agency coordinating the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM), the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) has sent 750 RRM kits—containing immediate response rations and dignity and hygiene kits—to Al Mahrah and other relief actors have dispatched an additional 3,450 RRM kits to the governorate, according to the UN.
-
-

INSECURITY, POPULATION DISPLACEMENT, AND PROTECTION

- Between June and mid-October, WHO recorded more than 170 deaths and the injury of 1,700 people in Al Hudaydah Governorate amid ongoing conflict throughout the governorate. In Al Hudaydah’s Khawkhah District, mortar shells hit an internally displaced person (IDP) camp on October 6, resulting in the death of one civilian and the injury of 12 others, including eight children. In addition, October 13 airstrikes in Al Hudaydah’s Jabal Ras District hit two buses transporting IDPs, resulting in at least 15 deaths and the injury of 20 people, according to the UN. UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Yemen Lise Grande issued statements condemning both incidents and calling on parties to the conflict to ensure the protection of civilians.
 - Fighting continues in eastern and southern areas of Al Hudaydah city, and the primary eastern road between the city and Yemen’s capital city of Sana’a remains inaccessible to relief actors, the UN reports. Security-related concerns have prevented the UN World Food Program (WFP) from accessing approximately 51,000 metric tons (MT) of bulk wheat—capable of producing enough flour to feed 3.5 million people for one month—stored in the Red Sea Mills facility, located near frontlines east of the city.
 - Armed clashes and airstrikes also persist along Al Hudaydah’s western coastline in Ad Durayhimi, At Tuhayat, and Bayt Al Faqiah districts, with airstrikes damaging factories, health facilities, and houses in Ad Durayhimi and At Tuhayat, the UN reports.
 - Areas of southern Yemen, particularly Aden and Ta’izz governorates, have experienced increased civil unrest in recent weeks amid deteriorating economic conditions. Early-October public demonstrations in Aden resulted in humanitarian movement restrictions, according to the UN.
-
-

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

- Large populations in Yemen will likely continue experiencing Crisis—IPC 3—or Emergency—IPC 4—levels of acute food insecurity through January 2019, while poor households in northern and western governorates could experience Famine—IPC 5—levels of food insecurity if conflict cuts off access to humanitarian assistance and food imports for an extended period, the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) reports.⁴
- Depreciation of the YER continued in early October, contributing to increased prices of basic commodities and reduced purchasing power of vulnerable Yemeni households; the UN has warned that continued depreciation could

⁴ 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.

result in an additional 3.5–4 million people experiencing severe food insecurity and requiring humanitarian food assistance in Yemen. An estimated 8.4 million people in Yemen are already classified as severely food insecure. The cost of a basic food basket, sufficient to feed seven people for one month, increased by 25 percent in the first week of October compared to September and 142 percent compared to the cost before the crisis erupted in March 2015, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reports. Petrol prices similarly increased by 23 percent from September levels while fuel commodities, including diesel and petrol, increased by 140–204 percent from pre-crisis levels.

- Increasing commodity prices and declining purchasing power have forced households to adopt negative coping strategies, such as buying less food or cheaper and less nutritious staples; purchasing on credit resulting in debt; or spending more money on food supplies at the expense of other needs, such as health care. Economic instability is also contributing to uncertainty among traders and importers, leading to a scarcity of supplies in local markets, the UN reports.
- The Red Sea ports of Al Hudaydah and Al Saleef remain operational and continue to receive commercial and humanitarian food imports. Fuel imports through the Red Sea ports in September declined 17 percent from August levels, while September food imports increased 54 percent from August levels, according to the UN Verification and Inspection Mechanism for Yemen. Three WFP-chartered ships carrying approximately 82,000 MT of USAID/FFP-funded wheat—sufficient to feed more than 7 million people for one month—discharged cargo in Yemen’s Aden, Al Hudaydah, and Al Saleef ports during September.
- USAID/FFP partner WFP initiated blanket food distributions to nearly 96,000 people in Hajjah Governorate’s Aslem District on October 1, following an assessment in response to media reports of severe food insecurity and malnutrition in the district. WFP also provided supplies for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition to health facilities in Aslem.
- In addition to general monthly food distributions, WFP provided food assistance to more than 107,000 displaced individuals in Al Hudaydah, Al Mahwit, Hajjah, and Raymah governorates from September 27–October 3.

HEALTH AND WASH

- Nearly 70 percent of Yemeni districts continued to report suspected cholera cases as of early October. In addition, 12 governorates reported an increase in suspected cases throughout September and early October, with the greatest increases recorded in Aden, Amran, and Ibb governorates, respectively, according to the UN. Health actors recorded an average of 10,000 new suspected cases per week countrywide in September, nearly double the average weekly cases from January–August. WHO attributes the increase to lack of access to health and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services; the effects of conflict; population movement; and seasonal increases in transmission. Between July 1 and October 14, health actors recorded more than 128,100 suspected cholera cases and 251 associated deaths, WHO reports.
- From September 30 to October 5, the second round of an OCV campaign in Al Hudaydah’s Al Hali and Al Marawiah districts and Ibb’s Hazm Al Udayn District reached more than 306,000 people, representing nearly 60 percent of the 540,000 people targeted, according to the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF). The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) and United Arab Emirates observed four “days of tranquility” from September 30 to October 4, enabling approximately 3,000 health workers to carry out the campaign. The first round of the OCV campaign in early August reached more than 387,000 people in the three districts.
- Health actors continue to monitor an increase in suspected dengue fever cases in Ta’izz, with more than 1,500 suspected cases, including 15 associated deaths, recorded from September 1–27 in 14 districts across the governorate. Response efforts are ongoing, including treatment, awareness raising, and insecticide-spraying campaigns, the UN reports.
- With State/PRM support, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) provided health care services—including health promotion sessions, mental health care services, and psychosocial support—to more than 15,700 IDPs and approximately 520 migrants across Yemen from September 30 to October 6, according to the UN agency. IOM

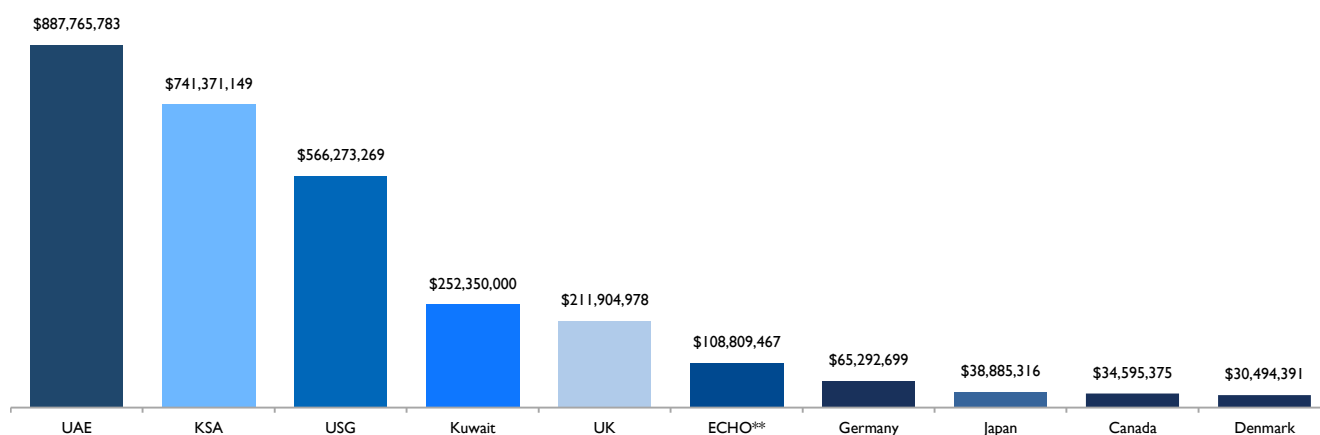
also delivered 270,000 liters of safe drinking water to locations across Abyan, Lahij, Ta'izz, and Shabwah governorates, benefitting approximately 34,000 people in late September.

- A USAID partner rehabilitated 90 water access points and continued construction on an additional 35 points in targeted communities across Abyan, Amanat al-Asimah, Ad Dali', Lahij, Al Jawf, Sana'a, and Marib governorates from September 16–30. Another USAID partner reached more than 15,000 people with hygiene promotion sessions in Al Mahwit and Ta'izz governorates and distributed family hygiene kits to more than 4,900 households in Ad Dali', Lahij, and Hadramawt governorates in September. The partner also transported 8.3 million liters of safe drinking water to support 12,600 households in Ta'izz, as well as nearly 405,000 liters of safe drinking water to support IDPs from Al Hudaydah sheltering in Al Mahwit.

EMERGENCY RELIEF COMMODITIES AND CASH ASSISTANCE

- On October 1, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and an implementing partner distributed relief commodities, including more than 1,000 emergency shelter kits, to nearly 5,000 displaced households that had recently fled fighting near Al Hudaydah city. UNHCR also supported verification of more than 3,900 households to receive multi-purpose cash assistance in Hajjah and Al Hudaydah governorates from September 25–26. As of mid-October, UNHCR and partners had provided multi-purpose cash grants and cash for rental subsidies to more than 66,400 households in Yemen, including more than 62,000 households in northern governorates.
- On October 7, UNICEF commenced the third cycle of World Bank-funded emergency cash transfers for 1.5 million households—approximately 9 million people—across all 333 Yemeni districts. The first and second cycles of the multi-purpose cash transfers took place in August 2017 and May 2018 and reached 1.3 million and 1.5 million households, respectively.

2018 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PER DONOR



*Funding figures are as of October 19, 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 ¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA			
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
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING			\$179,130,277
USAID/FFP²			
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
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING			\$368,242,992
STATE/PRM			
IOM	Evacuation and Humanitarian Assistance	Regional	\$5,000,000
UNHCR	Camp Coordination and Camp Management, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Refugee Response	Countrywide	\$13,900,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$18,900,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE YEMEN RESPONSE IN FY 2018			\$566,273,269

¹ 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.

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 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 or +1.202.661.7710.
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at 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>