

# YEMEN - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #4, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2019

FEBRUARY 8, 2019

## 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

**15.9 million**

Estimated Number of People  
Experiencing Severe Acute Food  
Insecurity  
IPC – December 2018

**63,500**

Estimated Number of People  
Experiencing Catastrophe Levels  
of Food Insecurity  
IPC – December 2018

**16.4 million**

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

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Fragile Al Hudaydah Governorate ceasefire between Al Houthi and Coalition-backed forces remains in effect
- Approximately 15.9 million Yemenis—more than 50 percent of the country’s population—are severely food-insecure
- Health actors record 75 percent fewer cholera-related deaths in 2018 compared to 2017

## HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

FOR THE YEMEN RESPONSE IN FY 2018–2019

|                         |               |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| USAID/OFDA <sup>1</sup> | \$179,130,277 |
| USAID/FFP <sup>2</sup>  | \$498,911,754 |
| State/PRM <sup>3</sup>  | \$18,900,000  |
| <b>\$696,942,031</b>    |               |

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Al Houthi and Republic of Yemen Government (RoYG) representatives agreed to withdraw forces from Al Hudaydah city and port during UN-led consultations in mid-December. Although the deadline for forces to depart Al Hudaydah city has passed, the ceasefire remained in effect as of February 7.
- Fighting between Al Houthi forces and those backed by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)-led Coalition in Hajjah Governorate has intensified in recent weeks, resulting in at least 30 civilian deaths from January 5–30, the UN reports. Shelling killed eight civilians sheltering at a collective center for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Hajjah’s Haradh District on January 26.
- On January 25, mortar shells caused a fire at Al Hudaydah city’s Red Sea Mills facility—a UN World Food Program (WFP)-utilized milling facility that has been inaccessible due to fighting since late September. The fire damaged one silo containing approximately 4,500 metric tons (MT) of WFP-supplied wheat; however, insecurity continues to prevent WFP from visiting the facility to assess damage to the UN agency’s commodities.
- Approximately 63,500 people in Yemen are experiencing Catastrophe—IPC 5—levels of severe acute food insecurity and require humanitarian food assistance for survival, according to a December IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analysis.<sup>4</sup> The IPC report indicates the number of people experiencing Catastrophe levels of severe acute food insecurity would be higher in the absence of humanitarian assistance.

<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. A Famine classification applies to a wider geographical location, while the term Catastrophe refers to an extreme lack of food at the household level even with full employment of coping strategies. Famine is determined when more than 20 percent of households in an area are experiencing Catastrophe, when global acute malnutrition levels exceed 30 percent, and when the crude mortality rate exceeds two people per 10,000 persons per day.

## CURRENT EVENTS

- Following UN-led negotiations in mid-December near Stockholm, Sweden, Al Houthi and RoYG representatives agreed to a ceasefire in Al Hudaydah Governorate, including the removal of forces from Al Hudaydah city and port. While parties to the conflict continue to negotiate the terms of the Stockholm Agreement, the ceasefire remained in effect as of February 7. Before the ceasefire, intense hostilities in Al Hudaydah city posed a significant risk to Al Hudaydah Port, Yemen's most critical entry point for commercial and humanitarian goods.
- In a February 4 press statement, the UN Security Council (UNSC) reiterated its support for the Stockholm Agreement, stressing the need for parties to the conflict to reach a political settlement to end Yemen's conflict and the ongoing humanitarian emergency. The UNSC expressed concern regarding alleged ceasefire violations and called on all parties to ensure the protection of civilians and facilitate the rapid, safe, and unhindered flow of commercial and humanitarian supplies and personnel into Yemen.

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## DISPLACEMENT, INSECURITY, AND HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

- Between June 2018 and mid-January 2019, fighting between Al Houthi and Coalition-backed forces in Al Hudaydah Governorate displaced more than 1 million people within and from the governorate, including more than 194,000 people since mid-December, the UN reports. The majority of the IDPs—more than 659,000 people—were sheltering in Hajjah, Al Hudaydah, Al Mahwit, and Raymah governorates as of mid-January, according to the UN.
- Cumulatively the number of IDP sites across Hajjah, Al Hudaydah, and Al Mawhit increased sixfold to more than 410 sites in 2018, according to the Shelter/Non-Food Item/Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster.<sup>5</sup> The number of sites increased from nearly 70 to more than 300 between July 2018 and January 2019 in Hajjah alone, likely due to the high number of people displaced by fighting in neighboring Al Hudaydah Governorate, the cluster reports. Shelter actors in Yemen note that capacity limitations and lack of sufficient services hinder their ability to meet the needs of the country's growing displaced population.
- Intensified fighting in Hajjah resulted in at least 80 civilian casualties, including 30 fatalities, from January 5–30, according to the UN. On January 26, shelling struck an IDP collective center in Haradh, killing eight civilians and injuring 30 others, the UN reports. The shelling incident followed another that occurred in a nearby location in Haradh on January 11 that resulted in eight civilian deaths. UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC) in Yemen Lise Grande condemned the incidents and called for all parties to Yemen's conflict to protect civilians. Despite ongoing access and security challenges, relief actors continue to assist vulnerable populations throughout Hajjah.
- On January 25, mortar shells caused a fire at Al Hudaydah city's Red Sea Mills facility. The fire damaged one silo containing an estimated 4,500 MT of WFP-supplied wheat, and another silo containing a similar quantity of commercial wheat. Insecurity continues to prevent WFP from visiting the Red Sea Mills facility to assess damage to the UN agency's commodities, which were funded by the Government of the KSA. WFP continues to store approximately 51,000 MT of wheat—sufficient to feed 3.7 million people for one month—at the facility. RC/HC Grande expressed concern regarding the potential damage of commodities and called for unhindered humanitarian access to the Red Sea Mills facility in a January 25 press release.

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## EMERGENCY RELIEF COMMODITIES

- In response to humanitarian needs resulting from conflict in Al Hudaydah Governorate, relief actors delivered more than 166,000 Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) kits—comprising emergency food rations, hygiene supplies, and other relief commodities—to nearly 997,000 Al Hudaydah IDPs from June to mid-January.
- As insecurity increased in Hajjah during December, humanitarian organizations provided RRM kits to more than 149,000 IDPs in the governorate, while WFP increased its monthly beneficiary caseload in Hajjah to nearly 1.4 million

<sup>5</sup> The Shelter/Non-Food Item/CCCM Cluster is the coordinating body for humanitarian shelter and CCCM activities, comprising UN agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other stakeholders.

people. In addition, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) continues to construct shelters, operate community centers, provide psychosocial support, and distribute cash and in-kind assistance to IDPs in Hajjah.

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## FOOD SECURITY

- Approximately 15.9 million Yemenis—more than one-half of Yemen’s population of 29.3 million people—are experiencing Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of severe acute food insecurity despite receiving humanitarian assistance, according to a December IPC report. Approximately 63,500 Yemenis are currently experiencing Catastrophe levels of severe acute food insecurity in 25 districts across eight governorates; this population is at the highest risk of death resulting from starvation or preventable diseases and urgently requires emergency food assistance for survival, according to the report. The report estimates that 240,000 Yemenis would experience Catastrophe levels of severe acute food insecurity in the absence of ongoing humanitarian assistance; many of these are IDPs, marginalized groups, or people in insecure areas. The December IPC report is the first standardized, district-level measurement of food insecurity in Yemen and the first IPC assessment to identify Catastrophe-level severe acute food insecurity in the country since the crisis escalated in 2015.
- Populations across large areas of Yemen will likely continue experiencing Crisis levels of severe acute food insecurity through May 2019, and sustained humanitarian assistance is likely preventing populations in Amran, Al Hudaydah, Al Jawf, Lahij, Al Mahwit, and Ta’izz governorates from experiencing Emergency or worse levels of severe acute food insecurity, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). Without the timely delivery of emergency food assistance in 2019, the risk of Famine and the number of people experiencing Emergency or worse levels of severe acute food insecurity would likely increase.
- Despite the Al Hudaydah ceasefire, humanitarian actors remain concerned that conflict could disrupt access to Yemen’s Red Sea ports, FEWS NET reports. Disrupted access to the Red Sea ports, including Al Hudaydah Port, could significantly restrict staple food availability and lead to sharp increases in food prices across the country. FEWS NET projects that a significant decline in commercial or humanitarian imports for an extended period could prompt Famine levels of severe acute food insecurity.
- Yemen’s total cereal production meets less than 20 percent of the country’s needs, highlighting the country’s continued dependency on international imports to meet food needs, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The UN agency projects current stocks of locally produced and commercially imported food are sufficient to meet national consumption requirements through mid-March, despite FAO estimates that the total cereal production in Yemen for 2018 was more than 30 percent below the five-year average.
- The average cost of the minimum survival food basket—comprised of the minimum items required for a household to survive for one month—decreased by approximately 13 percent from November–December, FAO reports. However, the minimum survival basket cost remains more than 110 percent higher than prior to the conflict’s escalation in March 2015. High costs of essential food commodities have undermined access to food for millions of people across Yemen who lack sufficient income, threatening household food security.
- USAID/FFP partner WFP provided emergency food assistance to approximately 7.9 million people across 19 of Yemen’s governorates in December. This figure includes monthly in-kind food distributions to support 5.9 million people, food vouchers to support 1.8 million people, and immediate response rations—each sufficient to feed a household of seven people for five days—to support 190,000 IDPs in areas of displacement. The number of beneficiaries reached was well-below WFP targets, due to access constraints and other delays. WFP continues to expand food aid operations countrywide, aiming to reach 12 million people, including 2 million IDPs, per month in 2019.
- From January 5–15, WFP delivered more than 3,300 MT of emergency food assistance to approximately 19,000 and 57,000 people in Al Hudaydah Governorate’s Ad Durayhimi and At Tuhayat districts, respectively, representing the first deliveries of emergency assistance to the districts since June, when intensified clashes disrupted humanitarian access.

## HEALTH AND NUTRITION

- In 2018, health actors recorded more than 368,000 suspected cholera cases and 502 related deaths across Yemen, according to the UN World Health Organization (WHO). The total number of cholera-related deaths in 2018 represents a more than 75 percent decrease from the 2,223 cholera-related deaths in 2017, while the number of suspected cholera cases in 2018 represents a nearly 65 percent decrease from the more than 1 million suspected cholera cases recorded in 2017. In FY 2017 and FY 2018, USAID/OFDA supported relief actors to mitigate the risk of cholera by providing emergency health, nutrition, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance in Yemen.
  - A USAID/OFDA partner provided primary health care consultations to more than 24,100 people through 10 mobile health teams and 90 static health facilities across seven governorates during December. The NGO also reached more than 1,750 women with antenatal care and 1,030 women and newborns with postnatal care in the governorates, and trained 45 community midwives in Abyan and Al Hudaydah governorates.
  - In December, the same USAID/OFDA partner screened 5,400 children ages five years and younger for acute malnutrition at health facilities, admitting more than 490 children experiencing severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and 1,250 children experiencing moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). Of patients discharged in December, the partner reported cure rates of 90 percent for SAM and 80 percent for MAM, surpassing the minimum Sphere standard of a 75 percent cure rate.<sup>6</sup>
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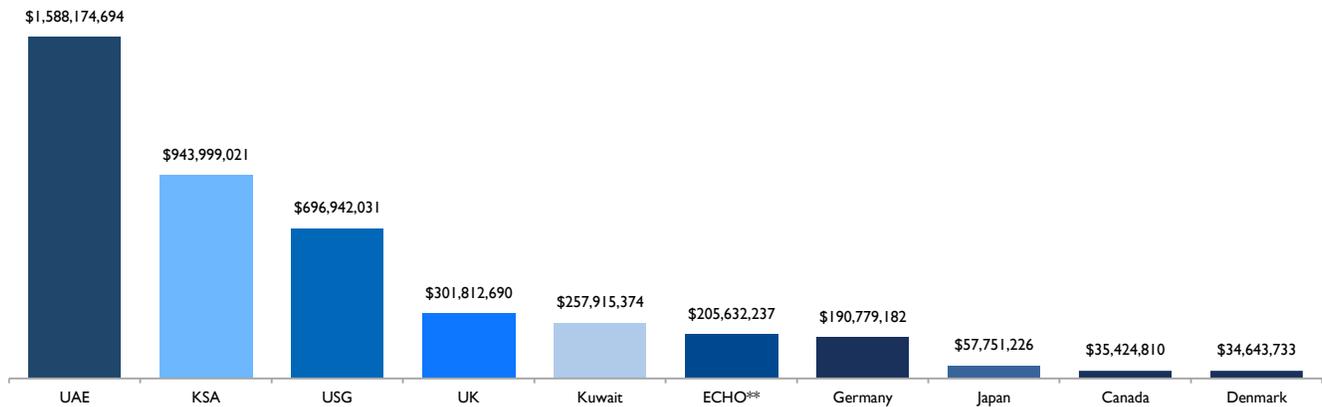
## OTHER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- On January 9, Royal Court Advisor and Supervisor General of the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center Dr. Abdullah Al Rabeeh signed six agreements totaling \$6 million to support humanitarian operations in Yemen. The funding will support a rehabilitation program for child soldiers, water supply and sanitation projects in Hajjah and Al Hudaydah, and health programs in Hajjah and Marib governorates. The new funding is in addition to the \$500 million the KSA and United Arab Emirates (UAE) pledged in November to improve food security conditions for 13 million Yemenis in the coming months.
- In November, the Yemen Humanitarian Fund (YHF)—managed by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)—launched an initiative to provide \$4 million in winterization assistance to more than 15,000 displaced households, or approximately 106,000 people, from Al Hudaydah Governorate residing in nine governorates in Yemen. The allocation will support four relief organizations to distribute \$230 one-time cash grants for heating fuel, mattresses, and winter clothing. Through international donor contributions, the YHF directs funding to relief actors to respond to critical humanitarian needs throughout Yemen; in FY 2018, USAID/OFDA contributed \$5 million to the YHF.

<sup>6</sup> The Sphere Project was launched in 1997 by the International Committee of the Red Cross, UN, NGOs, and donors to develop a set of universal minimum standards for humanitarian assistance and thereby improve the quality of assistance provided to disaster-affected persons and to enhance the accountability of humanitarian agencies.

## 2018–2019 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

PER DONOR



\*Funding figures are as of February 8, 2019. All international figures are according to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service and based on international commitments during the current calendar year, while U.S. Government (USG) figures are according to the USG and reflect publicly announced USG funding for FY 2018 and FY 2019, which run from October 1, 2017, to September 30, 2019.

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

### CONTEXT

- Between 2004 and early 2015, conflict between 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 15.9 million people severely food-insecure and more than 22.2 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. In addition, the conflict had displaced more than 2 million people, including approximately 1 million people who had returned to areas of origin, as of June. 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. With USG support, partners are conducting cholera prevention, preparedness, and response activities.
- On December 4, 2018, U.S. Ambassador Matthew H. Tueller reissued a disaster declaration for the ongoing complex emergency in Yemen for FY 2019 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 2018–2019 <sup>1</sup>**

| <b>IMPLEMENTING PARTNER</b>                                                  | <b>ACTIVITY</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>LOCATION</b>                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>AMOUNT</b>        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <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        |
| International Organization for Migration (IOM)                               | Logistics Support and Relief Commodities                                                                                                                                                                                                | Countrywide                                                                                                                                                                       | \$15,488,216         |
| OCHA                                                                         | HCIM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Countrywide                                                                                                                                                                       | \$8,000,000          |
| UN Children's Fund (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>                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                   |                      |
| FAO                                                                          | Complementary Services                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Countrywide                                                                                                                                                                       | \$850,000            |
| IPs                                                                          | Complementary Services, Food Vouchers, Local and Regional Food Procurement                                                                                                                                                              | Abyan, Ad Dali', Aden, Al Hudaydah, Al Mahwit, Dhamar, Hajjah, Ibb, Lahij, Sana'a, Ta'izz                                                                                         | \$53,000,000         |
| 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                                                                                                                                                                       | \$395,418,690        |
|                                                                              | Local and Regional Food Procurement                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Countrywide                                                                                                                                                                       | \$46,000,000         |
| <b>TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING</b>                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>\$498,911,754</b> |
| <b>STATE/PRM</b>                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                   |                      |
| 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         |
| <b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>\$18,900,000</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE YEMEN RESPONSE IN FY 2018–2019</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>\$696,942,031</b> |

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of November 28, 2018.

<sup>2</sup> Estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.

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## **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)