

# YEMEN - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #5, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2019

FEBRUARY 26, 2019

## NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

**30.5 million**

Estimated Population of Yemen  
UN – December 2018

**24.1 million**

Estimated Number of People in  
Need of Humanitarian Assistance  
UN – December 2018

**3.3 million**

Estimated IDPs in Yemen  
UN – December 2018

**20.1 million**

Estimated Number of People in  
Need of Food Assistance  
UN – December 2018

**19.7 million**

Estimated Number of People in  
Need of Basic Health Care  
UN – December 2018

**17.8 million**

Estimated Number of People in  
Need of WASH Assistance  
UN – December 2018

## HIGHLIGHTS

- USG announces nearly \$24 million in critical humanitarian assistance for Yemen
- Nearly 80 percent of Yemen's population requires humanitarian assistance
- Number of people in acute need of assistance increases by 30 percent
- UN launches largest humanitarian appeal to date in Yemen, requests \$4.2 billion to respond to growing humanitarian needs

## HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

FOR THE YEMEN RESPONSE IN FY 2018–2019

USAID/OFDA <sup>1</sup>	\$193,042,542
USAID/FFP <sup>2</sup>	\$498,911,754
State/PRM <sup>3</sup>	\$28,900,000

**\$720,854,296**

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On February 26, the U.S. Government (USG) announced nearly \$24 million in humanitarian assistance for the Yemen response, including \$13.9 million from USAID/OFDA to support humanitarian coordination and logistics activities and \$10 million from State/PRM to provide emergency assistance to displaced populations throughout Yemen.
- Approximately 24.1 million Yemenis require humanitarian assistance, including 14.3 million people in acute need, according to the 2019 Yemen Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO). On February 19, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) launched the 2019 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), requesting \$4.2 billion to provide life-saving assistance in response to the needs identified in the 2019 HNO. The request represents a more than 40 percent increase from the \$2.96 billion appeal issued for 2018.
- International donors pledged \$2.6 billion to humanitarian response efforts in Yemen during a February 26 High-Level Pledging Event in Geneva, Switzerland.

<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)

## CURRENT EVENTS

- A mortar shell struck a market in Al Hudaydah Governorate’s At Tuhayat District on February 19, killing eight civilians and injuring 10 others, according to the UN. Despite ongoing UN-led negotiations between parties to the conflict, fighting in Al Hudaydah’s Ad Durayhimi, At Tuhayat, and Bayt Al Faqiah districts has continued in recent months, with hostilities impeding humanitarian access to vulnerable populations in the districts. Countrywide, hostilities resulted in at least 271 civilian casualties, including 96 fatalities, between January 1 and February 14. In a February 22 statement, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Yemen Lise Grande called on all parties to Yemen’s conflict to protect civilians.
- On February 14, following extensive needs-based assessments, OCHA released the 2019 Yemen HNO. The HNO identifies approximately 24.1 million people—nearly 80 percent of Yemen’s population—who will require humanitarian assistance in 2019, including an estimated 14.3 million people who are in acute need of assistance, a nearly 30 percent increase from the 11.3 million people in acute need in 2018. The number of people in need of assistance represents a nearly 10 percent increase compared to 2018. Agriculture and food security, health, protection, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) remain the priority areas of need in 2019.
- On February 19, OCHA launched the 2019 Yemen HRP, requesting \$4.2 billion to provide life-saving assistance to people in need across Yemen. The 2019 request is the largest appeal since the crisis began in 2015 and represents a more than 40 percent increase from the \$2.96 billion requested for 2018. In response to needs identified in the 2019 HNO, the HRP aims to address the food assistance needs of more than 20 million Yemenis and mitigate outbreaks of communicable disease. In addition, the HRP underscores the particular vulnerability of women and children, as well as displaced and conflict-affected populations in Yemen, emphasizing the need for humanitarian protection and psychosocial support services.
- On February 19, Under-Secretary-General and Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC) Mark Lowcock briefed the UN Security Council (UNSC) on the humanitarian situation in Yemen, highlighting the most urgent humanitarian needs from the 2019 HNO. ERC Lowcock implored UNSC member states to pledge funding for the 2019 Yemen HRP at the February 26 pledging event in Geneva.

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## DISPLACEMENT AND PROTECTION

- The 2019 HNO identifies more than 3.3 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Yemen, more than half of whom are living in Amanat Al Asimah, Hajjah, Al Hudaydah, Ta’izz, and Sa’dah governorates. In addition, the HNO identifies more than 685,000 people newly displaced in 2018, including people displaced by fighting in Al Hudaydah. Nearly 75 percent of IDPs in Yemen live outside of formal camps, further challenging their ability to access essential services, including food assistance, health care, and protection services.
- With State/PRM support, implementing partners of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) continue to operate numerous community centers in Hajjah Governorate, where conflict has displaced approximately 150,000 people within and to the governorate since June 2018. In Hajjah, UNHCR partners provide outreach and psychosocial support services to IDPs from neighboring Amran, Al Hudaydah, and Sa’dah governorates. Following the recent arrival of an estimated 2,100 IDPs to Hajjah’s Abs District, a UNHCR partner provided psychosocial support and health care referral services to more than 350 newly arrived IDPs through a community center.
- On February 26, State/PRM contributed \$10 million to UNHCR to provide emergency assistance—including protection services, relief commodities, and shelter materials—to IDPs and refugees throughout Yemen. The funding is also supporting coordination and management activities at displacement camps countrywide.

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## FOOD SECURITY

- More than 20 million people require emergency food assistance in Yemen, representing a more than 10 percent increase from the 17.8 million people in need of food assistance in 2018. Food insecurity is most severe in Amran, Hajjah, Al

Hudaydah, Ta'izz, and Sa'dah, the UN reports. With support from USAID/FFP, the UN World Food Program (WFP) continues to scale up operations to assist 12 million people on average monthly in 2019, representing a 50 percent increase from the 8 million people WFP assisted on average monthly in 2018.

- On February 11, the UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) released a Famine Prevention Plan for Yemen aimed at improving food security and nutrition conditions for an estimated 1.6 million vulnerable people through cash and agricultural livelihoods assistance. From January–June 2019, proposed interventions will target Yemen's most vulnerable and food-insecure households in districts at risk of famine, as identified in the December 2018 Integrated Food Security Phase Classification analysis.
- As of January, the average price of the minimum survival food basket—comprising the minimum items required by a household for survival for one month—remained 96 percent higher than the pre-crisis cost, according to WFP. Amid limited livelihood opportunities and decreasing purchasing power, the high cost of food continues to limit access to staple food items for millions of vulnerable households.
- The depreciation of the Yemeni *riyal* (YER) is expected to continue to undermine food security conditions for vulnerable Yemeni households in the coming months, according to a February Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) report. Despite improvements in the YER exchange rate in late 2018, FEWS NET anticipates that the Yemeni economy will likely not generate sufficient currency reserves to stabilize the YER. Additionally, FEWS NET expects staple food prices to continue increasing while household purchasing power continues to decline.

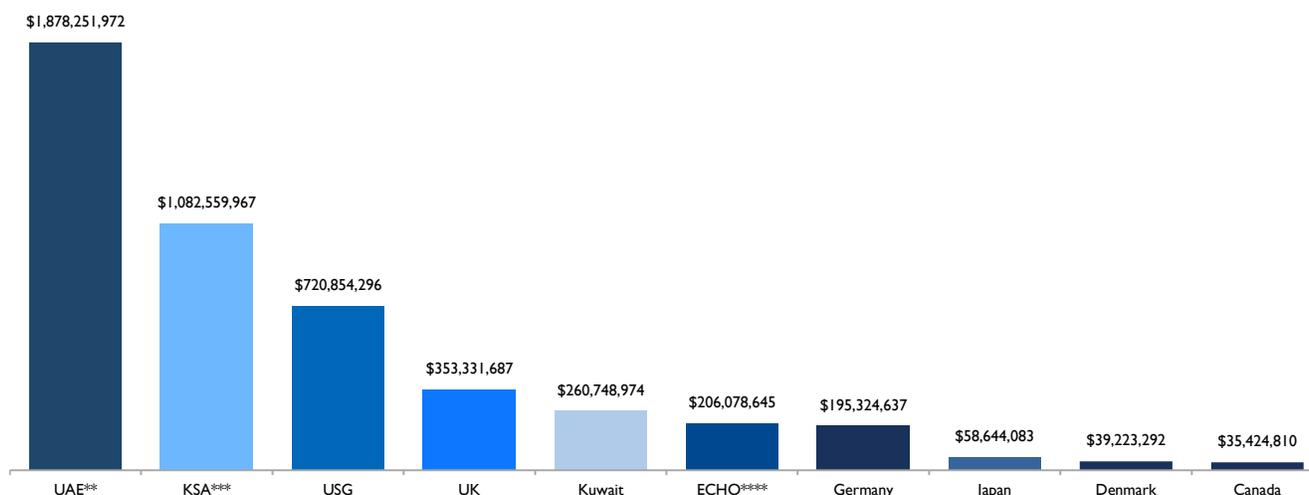
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## HEALTH AND WASH

- An estimated 19.7 million people lack access to adequate health care, including 14 million people who are in acute need of health services, according to the 2019 HRP. Furthermore, fewer than 50 percent of health facilities countrywide are fully functional, often due to high operating costs, staff shortages, and lack of equipment, medicine, and other supplies, the 2019 HNO reports. Limited access to health care services and poor sanitation conditions increases the risk of communicable disease outbreaks among vulnerable populations. Due to the continued deterioration of health and WASH facilities, the UN estimates health actors could record 250,000–350,000 suspected cholera cases in 2019. To date in 2019, health actors have recorded more than 52,000 suspected cases of cholera, including 49 related deaths, according to the UN World Health Organization (WHO).
- A USAID/OFDA partner provided WASH assistance to populations in Ad Dali', Lahij, and Al Mahwit governorates in January. The partner employed more than 20 people to rehabilitate the main sewage system in an Ad Dali' town; the system serves more than 800 people. The partner also employed nearly 70 people to rehabilitate the main water network in one town in Lahij. In Al Mahwit, where health actors recorded nearly 1,600 suspected cholera cases in January, the organization provided cholera prevention kits—comprising cleaning cloths, detergent, soap, and sponges—to 850 IDPs in tandem with hygiene-promotion activities to limit the spread of waterborne diseases.

## 2018–2019 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING\* PER DONOR



\*Funding figures are as of February 26, 2019. All international figures are according to the 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 and FY 2019, which spans October 1, 2017, to September 30, 2019.

\*\*United Arab Emirates (UAE)

\*\*\*Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)

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

### CONTEXT

- Between 2004 and early 2015, conflict between 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 approximately 24.1 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, including more than 20 million people in need of emergency food assistance. In addition, the conflict had displaced more than 4.3 million people, including approximately 3.3 million IDPs and 1 million people who had returned to areas of origin, as of December. 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, Multipurpose Cash Assistance, 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	\$11,000,000
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	\$12,617,500
WHO	Health	Countrywide	\$5,241,259
	Program Support		\$3,542,983
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$193,042,542</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	\$23,900,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>			<b>\$28,900,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE YEMEN RESPONSE IN FY 2018–2019</b>			<b>\$720,854,296</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 February 26, 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>