

# YEMEN - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #7, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2019

MAY 3, 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

**3.6 million**

Estimated IDPs in Yemen  
IOM – November 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

- April 7 explosions kills at least 12 civilians, including children, in Sana'a
- Number of suspected cholera cases recorded continues to grow; relief actors report nearly 278,600 cases as of April 28
- WFP reaches more than 10.5 million people with food assistance in March

## 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
<b>\$720,854,296</b>	

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Violence continues to fluctuate in Yemen, alternately flaring and subsiding along front lines between Republic of Yemen Government (RoYG)- and Al Houthi opposition-controlled territory. The cyclical nature of the conflict continues to fuel the ongoing complex emergency, displacing civilian populations, disrupting livelihood activities and contributing to food insecurity, and increasing protection concerns for vulnerable persons throughout the country.
- Hostilities between Al Houthis and tribal militias in northern Yemen's Hajjah Governorate continued throughout April, while insecurity also flared in Ad Dali' Governorate during the month. In both governorates, the conflict has displaced civilians and impeded humanitarian access to populations in need. The fighting in Hajjah displaced as many as 476,000 people within and from the governorate between mid-February and the end of March, while the violence in Ad Dali' displaced an estimated 19,300 people from late March–mid-April, relief actors report.
- Many households in northern Yemen's conflict-affected Hajjah and Sa'dah governorates will likely continue to experience Emergency—IPC 4—levels of acute food insecurity, associated with large food deficits and extreme depletion of assets essential for livelihoods, until at least September, according to the Famine Early Warnings Systems Network (FEWS NET).<sup>4</sup>

<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—IPC 5—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.

## **INSECURITY, DISPLACEMENT, AND HUMANITARIAN ACCESS**

- Fighting between Al Houthi forces and militias loyal to the RoYG intensified in Ad Dali' in late March, displacing nearly 2,800 households—approximately 19,300 people—between late March and mid-April, according to the UN. Late April clashes also destroyed a bridge in Ad Dali', further impeding the movement of critical commercial and humanitarian goods between RoYG-controlled Aden and Al Houthi-controlled Sana'a governorates, media sources report. Although shifting front lines have complicated the humanitarian operating environment throughout Ad Dali', relief actors are assessing humanitarian need where security permits.
- An explosion from an undetermined source in a residential area of Yemen's capital city of Sana'a significantly damaged a school and resulted in at least 12 civilian deaths and as many as 100 injuries on April 7, according to media sources. UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Lise Grande called for all parties to the conflict to abide by international humanitarian law and refrain from targeting civilians and civilian infrastructure in an April 8 statement.
- Non-governmental organization (NGO) Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) suspended patient admissions to Aden's Al Sadaqah hospital on April 4 following the abduction and death of a patient. In 2018, MSF increased the hospital's capacity to respond to heightened violence in the governorate; throughout the year, the NGO provided more than 6,000 emergency consultations and performed approximately 5,400 surgeries at Al Sadaqah. Since January, patients and hospital staff have faced increasing security threats as hostilities have escalated in Aden, MSF reports.
- Fighting among armed groups in Hajjah between mid-February and the end of March displaced as many as 68,000 households—approximately 476,000 people—within and from the governorate, the UN reports. Relief actors are closely monitoring dynamic front lines within Hajjah and warn that continued southward movement of fighting towards Al Hudaydah Governorate could displace an additional 400,000 people. An interagency UN mission traveled to accessible areas of Hajjah from March 30–April 2 to assess humanitarian conditions and found critical gaps in responding to the needs of displaced populations. The UN and other humanitarian actors were negotiating with local officials to provide assistance to vulnerable populations as of April 17.
- Marib Governorate hosted an estimated 750,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs), nearly 20 percent of whom were sheltering at informal sites where little to no humanitarian assistance was available, according to the results of an International Organization for Migration (IOM)-led interagency mission in March. In the governorate's capital city of Marib, large numbers of IDPs were sheltering in public buildings without government approval or legal documentation, placing households at risk of eviction. IDPs and host community members struggle to meet basic needs or access basic services in Marib, where humanitarian presence is nominal and continued population displacement has strained local resources and officials' ability to provide basic services, IOM reports. In response, the UN agency plans to scale up emergency response activities and establish a humanitarian hub in Marib for further coordination of relief activities.

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## **FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS**

- Significant populations in Hajjah and Sa'dah will likely continue to experience Emergency levels of acute food insecurity until at least September, according to FEWS NET. Households in the governorates are experiencing large food deficits and extreme depletion of assets essential for livelihoods, FEWS NET reports. In response, the UN World Food Program (WFP) recently provided food rations to more than 60,000 conflict-affected people in Hajjah.
- Five factors are the primary causes of acute food insecurity in districts with households experiencing Catastrophe—IPC 5—levels of acute food insecurity in Yemen, according to an April analysis by the Assessment Capacities Project (ACAPS). The direct effect of conflict on local businesses, markets, and trade routes was the foremost cause of acute food insecurity in 24 of the 45 districts where Catastrophe outcomes are already present or ongoing emergency food assistance is preventing deterioration to Catastrophe conditions. Pre-existing household-level poverty and a historic lack of development countrywide; non-payment of public servant salaries; reduction of remittances by Yemenis working in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA); and pre-existing vulnerability due to marginalization are the other key drivers of acute food insecurity in the districts, ACAPS reports.
- In March, USAID/FFP partner WFP reached more than 10.5 million people with food assistance, including 7.9 million people with in-kind food distributions, 2.5 million people with food vouchers, and more than 120,000 people with cash

transfers for food. The March distributions represent WFP's highest caseload reached to date in Yemen. Thus far in FY 2019, USAID/FFP has contributed approximately \$119 million to support WFP's food voucher and in-kind food assistance distributions.

- In mid-April, a USAID/FFP NGO partner began distributing monthly food vouchers to nearly 3,000 displaced and food-insecure people in Hajjah's Abs District, nearly doubling the NGO's monthly beneficiary caseload in the district. The partner plans to distribute the vouchers for three months, providing critical assistance to recently displaced households unable to return to their areas of origin. Hajjah has the highest percentage of people affected by acute food insecurity countrywide, with approximately 19,000 people experiencing Catastrophe conditions, according to the IPC.
- From April 1–15, a USAID/FFP NGO partner provided food vouchers to nearly 2,400 individuals in Abyan Governorate's Ahwar and Khanfir districts. Populations in Abyan are projected to experience Crisis—IPC 3—levels of acute food insecurity—associated with household food consumption gaps, acute malnutrition, depletion of essential livelihoods assets, and an urgent need for emergency food assistance—until at least September, FEWS NET reports. More than 209,000 people in Abyan would likely be experiencing Emergency or Catastrophe levels of food insecurity in the absence of humanitarian assistance, according to an IPC assessment released in December.
- With USAID/OFDA support, an NGO provided vocational training to nearly 300 people in Ad Dali', Aden, and Lahij governorates in March. The partner also began more than 60 cash-for-work projects that employed approximately 1,900 people to rehabilitate community infrastructure, such as health care facilities and schools, across the three governorates during the month.
- From September 2018–March 2019, a USAID partner conducted a study of its programs in Yemen, identifying successful outcomes amongst vulnerable populations benefiting from emergency interventions. The partner assessed the living conditions and income sources of more than 2,600 beneficiaries, finding that debt decreased while food accessibility and income reliability increased across participating households in the aggregate. USAID/FFP and USAID/OFDA support the partner to provide emergency food security, health, and nutrition assistance to approximately 200,000 people in Yemen.

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## HEALTH, NUTRITION, AND WASH

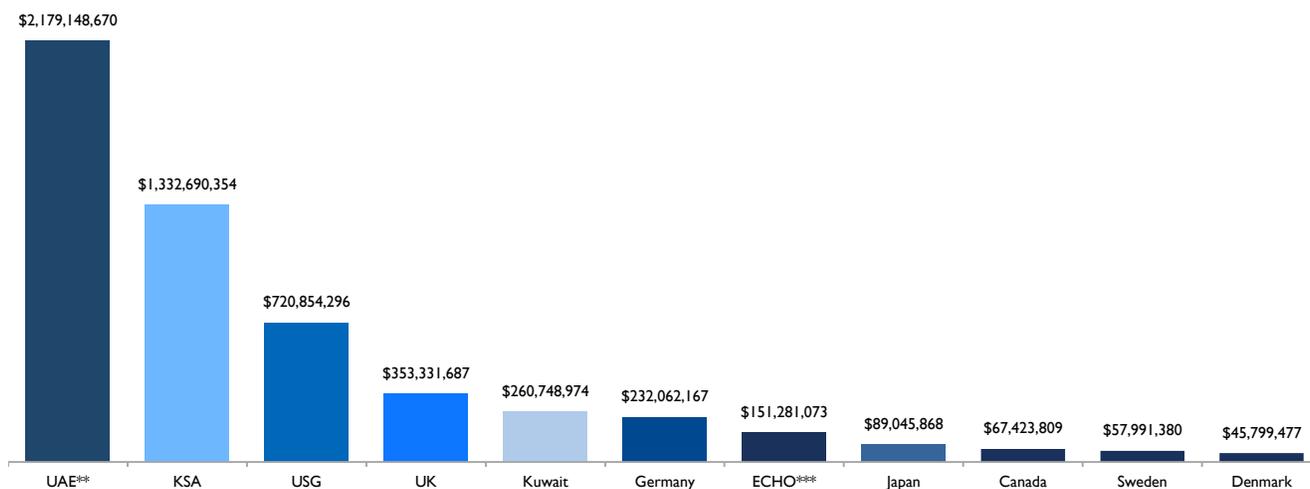
- Relief organizations recorded nearly 278,600 suspected cholera cases, including 556 related deaths, from January 1–April 28, a nearly 290 percent increase from the more than 71,800 suspected cholera cases and 13-fold increase from the 39 related deaths recorded during the same period in 2018, according to the UN World Health Organization (WHO).
- As of April 17, health and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) actors were operating nearly 170 diarrhea treatment centers and more than 1,000 oral rehydration centers; had activated more than 300 health rapid response teams (RTTs) and 750 WASH RRTs; and were pre-positioning and distributing supplies such as cholera response kits, hygiene kits, and water purification tablets.
- A USAID/OFDA partner conducted health, hygiene, and nutrition lessons for nearly 6,000 people in Ad Dali', Aden, and Lahij in March. Following the sessions, attendees received WASH kits that included laundry detergent, soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste, and other basic items.
- In February, a USAID/OFDA partner supported nearly 100 community health volunteers in Sana'a and Ta'izz governorates to screen and treat more than 2,700 children ages 0–59 months for diarrhea, malaria, and other diseases. Community health volunteers also screened 13,100 children for acute malnutrition during the month, subsequently admitting 140 children experiencing severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and 450 children experiencing moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) to the partner's health facilities for treatment. Outpatient therapy for patients experiencing SAM resulted in recovery rates of approximately 90 percent in Sana'a and 94 percent in Ta'izz, while

targeted supplementary feeding programs for patients experiencing MAM resulted in recovery rates of approximately 96 percent in Sana'a and 93 percent in Ta'izz, surpassing the minimum Sphere standard of a 75 percent recovery rate.<sup>5</sup>

## HUMANITARIAN PROTECTION

- The ongoing crisis in Yemen continues to weaken traditional coping mechanisms, including community and family support systems, leaving individuals in need of psychosocial support, as well as legal assistance to ensure civil registration and thereby access support platforms. In collaboration with partner organizations, State/PRM partner the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is providing psychosocial support, legal assistance, landmine risk education, and emergency cash assistance to vulnerable and conflict-affected populations. From January–March, UNHCR provided legal assistance to nearly 3,500 people; psychosocial support to nearly 2,400 people; and civil registration assistance to nearly 1,000 people through eight community centers in Yemen. In addition, UNHCR provided cash assistance to more than 48,900 displaced households—an estimated 342,400 people—to address protection, relief commodity, and shelter needs.
- A USAID/OFDA partner conducted 10 awareness raising sessions aimed at increasing women’s participation in household decision making and community engagement for 150 women in Al Hudaydah’s Al Khawkhah District in March. The partner also established community groups to help refer women to the partner’s community center for gender-based violence response services, psychosocial support activities, and legal assistance.

### 2018–2019 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING\* PER DONOR



\*Funding figures are as of May 3, 2019. 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 U.S. Government (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)

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

<sup>5</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.

## 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 southward 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—along 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 has displaced more than 3.6 million people; approximately 1.3 million people have returned to areas of origin, according to data collected by IOM in November 2018. The volatility of the current situation prevents relief agencies from obtaining accurate, comprehensive demographic information.
- On December 4, 2018, U.S. Ambassador to Yemen Matthew H. Tueller reissued a disaster declaration for Yemen in 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>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>USAID/OFDA</b>			
Implementing Partners (IPs)	Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Health, Multipurpose Cash Assistance, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, 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	Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$15,488,216
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management (HCIM)	Countrywide	\$11,000,000
UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)	HCIM, 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

TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING			\$193,042,542
USAID/FFP <sup>2</sup>			
UN Food and Agriculture Organization (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
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING			\$498,911,754
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	\$23,900,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$28,900,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE YEMEN RESPONSE IN FY 2018–2019			\$720,854,296

<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, 2019.

<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, dietarily, 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>