

# YEMEN - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #9, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2019

JULY 12, 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

- In May, WFP delivers emergency food assistance to an estimated 11.3 million people—the highest number of beneficiaries reached in a single month
- WFP regains access to wheat flour stored at the Red Sea Mills facility near Al Hudaydah city
- May–June flooding across Yemen affects 80,000 people

## 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

- On June 22, the UN World Food Program (WFP) activated a partial suspension of emergency food assistance in Yemen’s capital city of Sana’a. The suspension, which remains in place as of July 12, follows extended discussion and a lack of agreement with Al Houthi officials on the introduction of controls to prevent the diversion of food assistance. The partial suspension of general food distributions, which affects approximately 850,000 food-insecure people in Sana’a city, does not include WFP’s ongoing nutrition activities. High-level negotiations between WFP and Al Houthi officials on independent beneficiary identification and the implementation of a biometric beneficiary registration system continue.
- From January 1–July 5, health actors recorded nearly 462,000 suspected cholera cases, surpassing the approximately 371,000 suspected cases recorded in all of 2018, according to the UN World Health Organization (WHO). Lack of safe drinking water and adequate sanitation and hygiene services throughout Yemen are driving the high numbers of suspected cases. Additionally, flooding across much of the country in May and June may have accelerated the disease’s spread following a temporary decrease in the number of suspected cases recorded in May. The U.S. Government (USG) continues to support partners to provide water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) and health care services throughout Yemen to prevent and track the further spread of cholera and provide care to affected populations.

<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, DISPLACEMENT, AND HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

- Conflict in Hajjah Governorate displaced approximately 33,900 households between February and May, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Hajjah are sheltering in more than 300 different sites throughout the governorate, resulting in challenges accessing populations in need with humanitarian assistance. Despite access challenges, relief actors reached more than 30,500 households in the governorate with assistance through the USAID-supported Rapid Response Mechanism, which provides immediate food, water, and hygiene assistance to recently displaced populations.
- In Ibb and Ta'izz governorates, where active front lines between Republic of Yemen Government (RoYG)- and Al Houthi-controlled territories continue to result in additional displacement, IDPs were sheltering in 29 schools as of June 28, preventing the resumption of classes. IDPs surveyed by State/PRM partner the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) expressed a desire to relocate from the schools, but lacked sufficient resources to leave the sites. In response, relief actors are providing households with a one-time cash grant to facilitate relocation to another IDP site or return to areas of origin.
- The number of migrants detained by RoYG authorities in sites in Aden, Abyan, and Lahij governorates decreased from an estimated 5,000 individuals across three detention sites in early May to approximately 1,500 individuals at a single site in Aden in late June, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) reports. Since April, State/PRM partner IOM has coordinated the response to the humanitarian needs of detained migrants in southern Yemen, including emergency food, health care, and WASH services at the remaining site, a stadium in Aden Governorate's Aden city. However, IOM continues to advocate migrants' right to freedom of movement and express concerns that RoYG migrant detention facilities are not suitable for habitation. IOM is phasing out humanitarian services at the Aden site to avoid promoting permanent emergency response or RoYG policies of migrant detention.
- IOM has provided transport for vulnerable migrants at the Aden stadium wishing to voluntarily depart Yemen and return to countries of origin through the Voluntary Humanitarian Return process. Between May 28 and June 20, IOM assisted more than 2,130 migrants through 18 flights to Ethiopia, the country of origin of the majority of the detained migrants. UNHCR also provides Somali migrants in Yemen the opportunity to voluntarily return to Somalia through the Assisted Spontaneous Return program, which transported nearly 120 people from Aden to Somalia on June 25; the program has supported 4,300 people to return to Somalia since 2017.

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## FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

- USAID/FFP partner WFP activated a partial suspension of food assistance operations in Sana'a city on June 22, due to lack of agreement following extended discussions with Sana'a-based authorities on the introduction of controls—including independent beneficiary identification and the implementation of a biometric beneficiary registration system—to prevent the diversion of food. The partial suspension affects approximately 850,000 food-insecure people in Sana'a. To mitigate the effect of the partial suspension on vulnerable households in Sana'a city, WFP is maintaining its nutrition activities for acutely malnourished children and pregnant and lactating women, the UN agency reports.
- The Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) expects that the impact of an absence of emergency food assistance in Sana'a city for several months may lead to a deterioration in food security outcomes among some populations, likely leading to an increase in the number of households facing Emergency—IPC 4—levels of acute food insecurity, increased prevalence of acute malnutrition, and increased use of negative livelihood-based coping strategies, such as purchasing food on credit, borrowing money, and selling household assets.<sup>4</sup>
- Throughout Yemen, approximately 17 million people will continue to require emergency food assistance through early 2020, according to FEWS NET. Significant populations in Hajjah and Sa'dah governorates will likely experience Emergency levels of acute food insecurity until at least January 2020. Households in Hajjah and Sa'dah continue to experience large food deficits and extreme depletion of essential livelihood assets, FEWS NET reports.

<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.

- In May, WFP regained sustained access to the Red Sea Mills facility near Al Hudaydah city, where approximately 51,000 metric tons of WFP wheat flour—sufficient to feed 3.7 million people for one month—was largely inaccessible since September 2018 due to insecurity and delayed clearance from local authorities, the UN agency reports. Following a May 5 interagency mission to the Red Sea Mills, a technical team began fumigation and rehabilitation efforts on May 17; the activities are expected to continue for several weeks in order for the food to be fit for consumption.
- During May, WFP provided emergency food assistance, including in-kind food, cash-based transfers, and food vouchers, to an estimated 11.3 million food-insecure people in Yemen, representing 95 percent of the UN agency’s monthly target of 12 million people and the highest number of people reached by WFP since the conflict began.
- With USAID/FFP support, a non-governmental organization (NGO) distributed food vouchers to more than 7,300 households—approximately 51,000 people—in Abyan, Ad Dali’, and Lahij governorates from May 16–31. Additionally, the NGO is providing food vouchers to newly displaced populations in Ad Dali’ in coordination with the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster.<sup>5</sup> During the same reporting period, USAID/OFDA funding enabled the NGO to support management of acute malnutrition in 50 health facilities in Abyan, Ad Dali’, and Lahij and provide nutrition awareness sessions to nearly 900 people in the three governorates.
- A second USAID/FFP NGO partner distributed food basket vouchers—redeemable for food commodities sufficient to meet the food and nutritional needs of a household for one month—to approximately 5,000 households in Lahij, Al Mahwit, and Ta’izz governorates in May. The organization conducts orientation sessions at distribution points to instruct beneficiaries on distribution protocols, food basket items, and voucher redemption.

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## HEALTH, SHELTER, AND WASH

- Heavy rain and flooding in late May and early June impacted more than 80,000 people in Yemen, with the most significant effects recorded in Aden, Abyan, Hajjah, Ibb, and Ta’izz, according to IOM. Displaced households residing in tents and other weakened shelters were particularly vulnerable; flooding directly affected at least 2,700 IDPs, UNHCR reports. In response, relief organizations provided severely affected households—primarily IDPs residing in displacement sites—with emergency shelter materials and relief items such as blankets, buckets, kitchen sets, mattresses, and sleeping mats.
- Recent flooding, compounded by a lack of access to safe drinking water and insufficient sanitation and hygiene systems, has promoted the continued spread of cholera, according to OCHA. As of July 5, health actors had recorded nearly 462,000 suspected cholera cases in 2019, well above the 371,000 suspected cases recorded in all of 2018. The weekly number of suspected cholera cases has fluctuated in recent months, with the number of suspected cases decreasing in May following the peak of the outbreak to date in 2019 in April. In June, however, weekly totals increased once again, with relief actors recording nearly 21,900 suspected cases from June 24–30, WHO reports.
- USAID/OFDA continues to support partners to provide health care and WASH assistance across Yemen. From May 15–30, a USAID/OFDA partner in Ta’izz facilitated the delivery of critical medicine to three health facilities, provided new medical equipment for a health center, and completed the installation of upgraded WASH infrastructure, including toilets, handwashing points, and septic tanks, at three health facilities in the governorate. Additionally, USAID/OFDA supported a second partner in the governorate to rehabilitate a water pump and improve sanitation systems at a hospital in May. The partner also provided multi-purpose cash assistance to 1,600 vulnerable households in Ta’izz to allow the households to purchase food, safe drinking water, and shelter supplies to meet basic needs.

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## HUMANITARIAN PROTECTION

- In May, a USAID/OFDA partner organization reached 1,600 people in Abyan, Aden, and Ad Dali’ through information sessions and discussions on a range of topics, including consequences of early marriage, reproductive health, and the importance of psychosocial support (PSS) services and how to access such services in a safe and

<sup>5</sup> The coordinating body for emergency food security activities in Yemen, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders.

confidential manner. The partner also conducted more than 60 PSS group sessions, reaching nearly 400 women and girls, and helped nearly 30 women and girls access gender-based violence response services in the three governorates.

## 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 Kingdom of Saudi Arabia-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, former 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, and Ta'izz governorates	\$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
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$193,042,542</b>
<b>USAID/FFP<sup>2</sup></b>			
UN Food and Agriculture Organization	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
WFP	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, 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>