

YEMEN - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #11, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2016

JUNE 10, 2016

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

26 million

Population of Yemen
UN – February 2016

21.2 million

People in Need of Urgent
Humanitarian Assistance
UN – February 2016

19.4 million

People in Need of WASH Services
UN – February 2016

14.1 million

People Lacking Adequate Access to
Health Care
UN – February 2016

6+ million

People in Need of Emergency Food
Assistance
FEWS NET – November 2015

2.1 million

IDPs in Yemen
IOM, UNHCR – May 2016

3.6 million

People Reached with Humanitarian
Assistance in 2016
OCHA – February 2016

HIGHLIGHTS

- Reduced imports and increased prices constrain access to food and fuel
- The UN condemns violence against civilians in the city of Ta'izz
- Peace negotiations continue in Kuwait; cessation of hostilities remains in effect

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE YEMEN RESPONSE IN FY 2016

USAID/OFDA ¹	\$22,135,071
USAID/FFP ²	\$105,025,450
State/PRM ³	\$11,750,000
\$138,910,521	

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Peace negotiations continue in Kuwait as Republic of Yemen Government (RoYG), Al Houthi, and other stakeholder representatives discuss economic, humanitarian, and political challenges, the UN reports. As of mid-May, UN Special Envoy for Yemen Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed had expressed optimism that parties to the conflict could reach agreement on all terms of the negotiations if constructive engagement continues.
- The International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) recently released a report estimating that conflict in Yemen had internally displaced approximately 2.1 million people as of April 30, representing a 25 percent decrease from the nearly 2.8 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) reported in March. IOM and UNHCR attribute the decrease primarily to improved tracking methodology and significant IDP returns, particularly in Aden and Lahij governorates, as well as the city of Sana'a. The decrease in IDPs may be linked to the early April implementation of the cessation of hostilities agreement; however, the Task Force for Population Movement reports that this remains an assumption and the full effect of the agreement on displacement within Yemen remains unclear.
- The partial suspension of oil production, decreased exports, and a reduction in tax revenue have contributed to an approximately 54 percent decline in total public revenue in Yemen since the escalation of the conflict in March 2015, according to the RoYG Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation. In addition, conflict-related market disruptions, the depreciation of the Yemeni rial, and increasing inflation rates have halted the implementation of public social welfare programs and significantly reduced household purchasing power, exacerbating the humanitarian situation for conflict-affected populations.

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)

INSECURITY AND HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

- An Al Houthi attack on residential areas of the city of Ta'izz on June 4 resulted at least eight civilian deaths, including three children, and injured at least 13 others, according to international media. In a June 4 statement, UN Secretary-General (SYG) Ban Ki-moon called for a prompt and thorough investigation into the attacks and underscored that targeting civilian areas is a violation of international humanitarian law. In addition, the UN special envoy denounced the attacks, urging all parties to the conflict to adhere to the cessation of hostilities agreement to avoid further civilian casualties and preserve the stability of ongoing peace negotiations.
- The UN Security Council (UNSC) recently released a list of states and armed groups that violate children's rights during armed conflict, including Al Houthi and RoYG forces, pro-RoYG militia, and other parties to the conflict in Yemen. The corresponding report estimates that the number of children injured or killed in Yemen increased six-fold between 2014 and 2015. Although the UNSC originally included the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)-led Coalition, the UN later removed it from the list. In a June 9 press conference held to address international criticism regarding the Coalition's removal, SYG Ban highlighted that the decision reflected the intent of some donors to defund UN humanitarian programs if the Coalition remained on the list.
- According to media reports, the UN noted that the enactment of a cessation of hostilities agreement in early April has led to modest improvements in humanitarian access; however, overall impacts are difficult to quantify. UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Yemen Jamie McGoldrick stated that the humanitarian crisis in Yemen requires the urgent attention of the international community, underscoring the tremendous scale of the emergency and the significant impact of the conflict on civilians.
- Notwithstanding reports of modest humanitarian access improvements in some areas, increasing impediments—including threats to humanitarian workers, challenges obtaining visas, complicated process requirements, and requests from national and local authorities for detailed daily humanitarian travel plans—continue to restrict humanitarian access in other areas.
- Despite ongoing humanitarian needs, particularly in the food security and health sectors, and numerous access constraints, nearly 100 operational humanitarian organizations had reached more than 3.6 million people with at least one form of direct assistance as of April, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY, AND LIVELIHOODS

- Conflict, insecurity, and limited port operations continued to constrain food imports, contributing to significant increases in food prices and limiting access to basic commodities in several conflict-affected governorates. Prices for cooking oil, rice, and sugar in Aden increased between 10 and 20 percent from May 16 to 23, while the price of vegetables increased approximately 50 percent in Sana'a Governorate, according to respondents surveyed during the time period. Higher food prices and below-average household incomes as a result of the conflict have limited household purchasing power and contributed to widespread food insecurity in Yemen. The USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) also cautions that food prices could continue to increase in the coming months should high fuel prices and increased transportation costs persist.
- A heavy reliance on imports, paired with a below-average wheat harvest in 2015, is contributing to price increases for both imported staple foods and locally-produced commodities. On average, Yemen imports 2.8 million metric tons (MT) of wheat per year—nearly 95 percent of the country's total wheat utilization of 3 million MT; in 2016, Yemen will need to import an additional 1.3 MT of grains in 2016 to meet domestic consumption needs, according to USAID/OFDA partner the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
- USAID/FFP partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) reports that food security indicators remained poor in April, with nearly 65 percent of IDP households and more than 40 percent of non-displaced households reporting poor or borderline food consumption. Additionally, nearly 70 percent of households are resorting to negative coping mechanisms, including borrowing food or consuming smaller portions, in response to food shortages.

- Between April 15 and 30, a USAID/FFP partner distributed electronic food vouchers to nearly 1,700 households—approximately 11,750 individuals—in Dhamar Governorate. The partner also conducted awareness campaigns regarding optimal breastfeeding and complementary feeding practices at food-voucher distribution sites.
- According to FAO, ecological conditions are contributing to the increased presence of locust swarms in Yemen. Multiple locust bands have formed in the southern and interior desert regions of the country, where heavy rainfall associated with two November 2015 cyclones contributed to locust breeding conditions. Insecurity and remoteness limit the ability of surveyors to access the most locust-affected areas; as a result, the extent of the current locust infestation remains unknown. FAO plans to mobilize additional field survey and control operation teams to support locust management efforts aimed at reducing the effects of locust bands on cropland in Yemen.

HEALTH AND WASH

- Following recent assessments of the water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) needs of affected populations in Ad Dali', Lahij, and Sana'a governorates, a USAID/OFDA partner reports that conflict-related damage to water and sanitation systems in Ad Dali'—particularly in Ad Dali' District, where conflict has destroyed approximately 90 percent of public WASH facilities—has resulted in sewage buildup and well contamination, limiting access to safe drinking water. Water access is also significantly constrained in Lahij's Tuban District, where the lack of water points and non-operational public water systems require residents to travel long distances to obtain safe drinking water. In two Sana'a districts, residents report contaminated drinking water and inadequate access to sanitation facilities, as well as increased incidence of vector-borne diseases, including dengue fever and malaria. The partner reports that difficulties in obtaining approvals from local authorities, government office closures, and recent heavy rains have inhibited staff movements and humanitarian response operations, particularly in Ad Dali' and Sana'a. USAID/OFDA is providing the non-governmental organization (NGO) with more than \$1.5 million in FY 2016 funding to respond to the WASH needs of more than 246,000 people, including nearly 150,000 IDPs.
- Despite ongoing clashes, USAID/OFDA partner IOM is providing WASH assistance to conflict-affected populations in Ta'izz Governorate, including Ta'izz city. Since the enactment of the cessation of hostilities agreement in early April, IOM has completed 11 water infrastructure rehabilitation projects—in close coordination with local WASH authorities—benefitting approximately 50,000 people in five Ta'izz districts. IOM also trained local committees in each district on the safe operation and maintenance of the new water systems. In addition, IOM is providing nearly 200,000 liters of water per day through daily water trucking to community water points throughout Ta'izz, maintaining access to water for approximately 30,000 people. IOM is also supporting critical health facilities throughout the governorate, including Al Tahwra Hospital, the only operational hospital in Ta'izz.
- IOM is also providing WASH assistance to IDPs in Lahij, where ground fighting has displaced more than 100 households since February, through daily water trucking and the distribution of hygiene kits and household water tanks. Since the escalation of the conflict in March 2015, IOM has provided WASH assistance to more than 635,000 people in ten governorates, including IDPs.

PROTECTION AND SHELTER

- A May 23 Amnesty International report indicates that the presence of unexploded ordnance (UXO) continues to endanger civilians despite decreased airstrikes following the enactment of the cessation of hostilities agreement. The report, which is based on civilian testimony collected during a recent assessment in northern Yemen's Hajjah, Sa'dah, and Sana'a governorates, documents 10 separate incidents in which UXO killed or injured civilians, including children, between July 2015 and April 2016. Amnesty International reports that UXO are often small and easily mistaken for toys, putting children at higher risk of injury. During the first three weeks of April, the Yemen Executive Mine Action Center—the official RoYG demining agency—cleared more than 1,350 pieces of UXO in Hajjah and Sa'dah; however, the agency recently suspended operations after three staff members were killed while removing munitions in Hajjah.

Amnesty International urges the humanitarian community to support local efforts to educate communities on UXO avoidance via mine awareness campaigns and urgently identify and clear mine-affected areas.

- Large-scale, long-term population displacement triggered by conflict has increased protection concerns for both IDPs and host community populations throughout Yemen, according to a May UNHCR report. The report, which summarizes needs assessment data from 10 governorates, indicates that IDPs have experienced decreased food consumption, diminished livelihood opportunities, and lack of access to adequate health care services since the escalation of the conflict in March 2015. Most IDPs shelter with host families, suggesting that host community populations—particularly households hosting IDPs—are also in need of humanitarian assistance. In addition to persistent food, health, shelter, and WASH needs, the report also emphasizes the need for multi-sector protection interventions for vulnerable populations, particularly female-headed households, individuals with disabilities, and pregnant women. Despite access constraints and bureaucratic challenges posed by local authorities, UNHCR has provided targeted protection services—including cash assistance, legal counseling, and psychosocial support—to more than 5,000 vulnerable people throughout the country and continues to engage in displacement tracking and protection monitoring to enhance response efforts.
- IOM is providing shelter assistance to IDPs in Lahij, where ground fighting has displaced more than 100 households since February. In mid-May, IOM distributed emergency shelter kits—including blankets, mattresses, and plastic sheeting—and other emergency relief commodities to 30 vulnerable households, with distributions to additional households planned for the coming days.

LOGISTICS SUPPORT AND RELIEF COMMODITIES

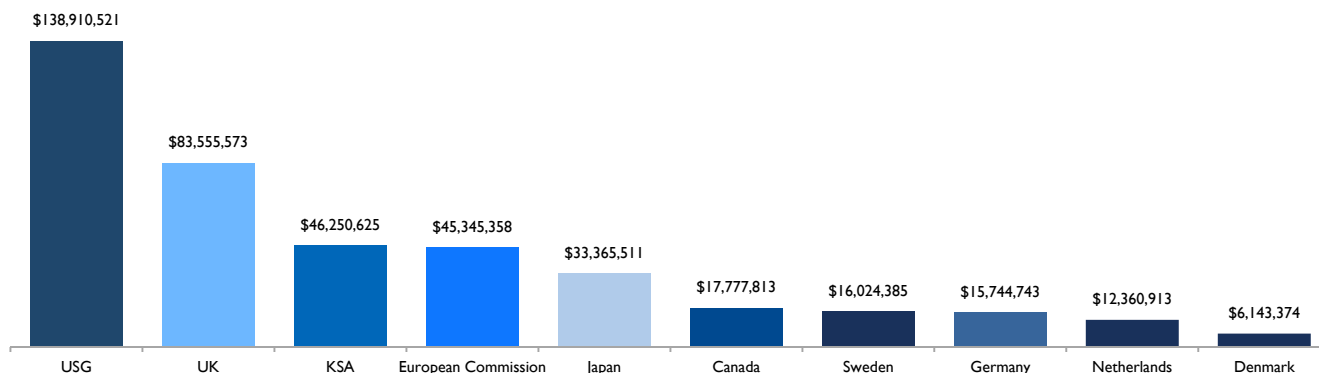
- The Logistics Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian logistics activities, comprising UN agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders—reports that Yemen imported approximately 67,000 MT of fuel in April, representing a more than 54 percent increase from the approximately 43,500 MT of fuel imported in March. Despite the increase, fuel imports met only 12 percent of Yemen’s monthly fuel requirement of 544,000 MT; insufficient fuel imports and the continued depreciation of the Yemeni rial caused fuel prices to increase significantly—by up to 50 percent in some areas—in May, FEWS NET reports.
- Rapidly changing security conditions and reduced operational capacity at seaports continued to cause delays at all of Yemen’s major ports in April, impeding the flow of commercial and humanitarian goods into the country, according to the Logistics Cluster. Vessels have reported anchorage delays averaging 24 days at Al Hudaydah Port due to significant conflict-related damage to port infrastructure.
- The number of berthed vessels in Aden, Al Hudaydah, and Saleef ports increased 16 percent, to 57 vessels, between March and April, according to the Logistics Cluster. The number of vessels granted permission to anchor across the three ports more than doubled during the same period, from 22 vessels in March to 54 in April. Despite these improvements, the number of berths and anchorages remains nearly 26 percent and 40 percent lower, respectively, compared to totals recorded in January 2016.

OTHER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia’s King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center (KSRelief) recently contributed approximately \$10 million in humanitarian funding to IOM and UNHCR to provide protection and emergency assistance to nearly 20,000 individuals who have fled from Yemen to Somalia. With KSRelief support, IOM and UNHCR plan to implement protection interventions for vulnerable populations, including Yemeni refugees in Somalia, as well as Somali returnees and host communities. The project, implemented in close coordination with the Government of Somalia, will also support the capacity of local authorities to manage migration flows out of Yemen. More than 32,000 people have fled from Yemen to Somalia since the escalation of the conflict, according to IOM.

2016 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING*

PER DONOR



*Funding figures are as of June 10, 2016. All international figures are according to OCHA's Financial Tracking Service and based on international commitments during the current calendar year, while USG figures are according to the USG and reflect the most recent USG commitments based on the fiscal year, which began on October 1, 2015.

CONTEXT

- Between 2004 and early 2015, conflict between the RoYG and Al Houthi opposition forces in the north and between Al Qaeda-affiliated groups and RoYG forces in the south had affected more than 1 million people and repeatedly displaced populations in northern Yemen, resulting in humanitarian needs. Fighting between RoYG military 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 expansion 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 late March 2015, a KSA-led coalition began airstrikes on Al Houthi and allied forces to halt their southward expansion. The ongoing conflict has damaged public infrastructure, interrupted essential services, displaced many people, and reduced the level of 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.
- The escalated conflict, coupled with protracted political instability, the resulting economic crisis, rising fuel and food prices, and high unemployment, has left nearly half of Yemen's 26 million people food-insecure and 6 million people in need of emergency food assistance.
- In early 2015, Yemen hosted approximately 248,000 refugees and a substantial population of third-country nationals (TCNs). The escalation in hostilities, which had internally displaced an estimated 2.8 million people as of April 2016, prompted IOM to organize large-scale TCN evacuations from Yemen. The volatility of the current situation prevents relief agencies from obtaining accurate, comprehensive demographic information.
- On October 12, 2015, U.S. Ambassador Matthew H. Tueller re-issued a disaster declaration for Yemen for FY 2016 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 2016¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA²			
Implementing Partners (IPs)	Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Protection, WASH	Abyan, Aden, Ad Dali', Lahij, Sana'a, Ta'izz governorates	\$7,000,000
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Hadramawt, Shabwah governorates	\$1,000,000
UNICEF	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Abyan, Aden, Al Bayda, Ad Dali', Al Hudaydah, Al Jawf, Amanat al 'Asimah, Amran, Hajjah, Ibb, Lahij, Marib, Sa'ada, Sana'a, Ta'izz governorates	\$10,000,000
WFP	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$2,500,000
UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Aden, Al Hudaydah, Sana'a governorates	\$1,500,000
	Program Support		\$135,071
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING			\$22,135,071
USAID/FFP³			
WFP	121,810 MT of U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	19 governorates	\$105,025,450
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING			\$105,025,450
STATE/PRM			
Implementing Partners	Health, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$6,000,000
UNHCR	Camp Coordination and Camp Management, Protection, Refugee Response, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$5,750,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$11,750,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE YEMEN RESPONSE IN FY 2016			\$138,910,521

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

² USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of April 6, 2016.

³ 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 +1.202.821.1999.
 - 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>