

Yemen – Complex Emergency

FEBRUARY 10, 2023

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

32.6
MILLION

Population
of Yemen

UN – December 2022

21.6
MILLION

People in Need
of Humanitarian
Assistance

UN – December 2022

4.5
MILLION

People Internally
Displaced in Yemen
since March 2015

UN – December 2022

17
MILLION

People Projected to
Face Acute Food
Insecurity in 2022

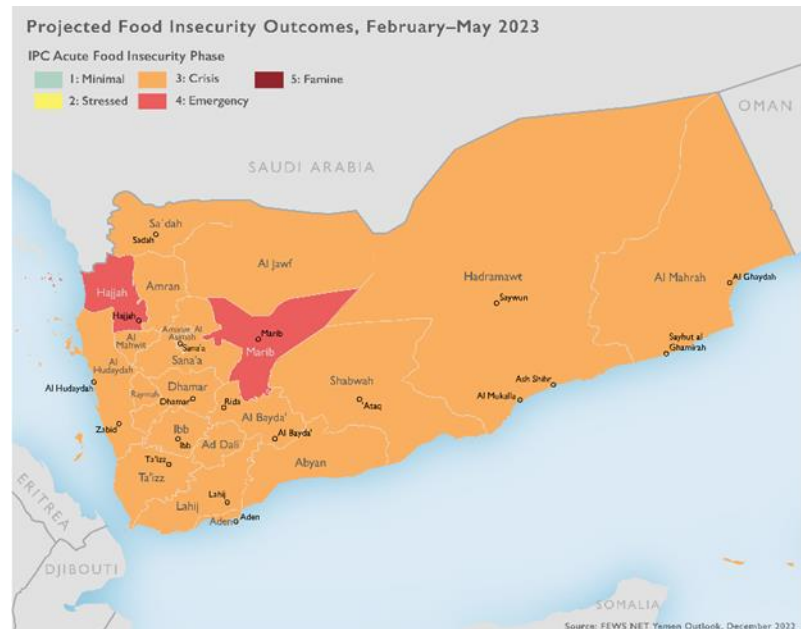
IPC – November 2022

99,877

Estimated Number of
Refugees and Asylum
Seekers in Yemen

UNHCR – November
2022

- The UN's 2023 HRP for Yemen aims to reach approximately 17.3 million people with life-saving humanitarian assistance in response to food, health, nutrition, and protection needs amid continuing access constraints.
- Civilians continue to experience new displacement within Yemen, with more than 250 households displaced within and to Marib Governorate during December 2022, IOM reports.
- State/PRM partner UNHCR assisted more than 600 Somali refugees to voluntarily return to their country of origin from September through December 2022.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

USAID/BHA¹

\$87,844,790

For the Yemen Response in FY 2023

For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 5

Total

\$87,844,790

¹ USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

2023 HRP Aims to Reach 17.3 Million People for Humanitarian Aid in Yemen

The UN's 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for Yemen released on January 25 requests \$4.3 billion to provide life-saving assistance to 17.3 million people—or approximately 80 percent of the 21.6 million people whom the UN identifies as in need of humanitarian aid in 2023—with at-risk populations facing significant food, health, and nutrition needs during the year. While the funding request is comparable to the 2022 HRP, which requested \$4.3 billion to reach 17.9 million people, the number of people it seeks to assist is lower by 600,000 individuals. This difference results from technical changes in the needs assessments methodologies and food security projections used to calculate the number of people in need, rather than improvements in humanitarian conditions in Yemen, the UN reports. The HRP calls upon humanitarian organizations to integrate protection work throughout the response and strengthen activities in the sector related to child protection, coordinated mine action, and preventing gender-based violence (GBV). It also highlights the need to improve coordination among humanitarian actors and engagement of Al Houthi and Republic of Yemen Government (RoYG) officials to ensure meaningful humanitarian access, as access constraints remain the most significant barrier to effective delivery of humanitarian assistance across the country. Relief actors reported more than 3,500 humanitarian access-related incidents, including bureaucratic impediments, movement restrictions, and security incidents, which hindered the delivery of life-saving assistance to approximately 10.1 million people in need across Yemen during 2022, according to the UN.

A complex set of factors continue to drive humanitarian needs countrywide, according to the UN. Persistent conflict and recurrent climatic shocks have driven displacement across the country, with approximately 4.5 million people internally displaced as of late January. More than 80 percent of the country's population faces challenges to access food, health services, and safe drinking water. Reduced livelihood opportunities amid Yemen's economic decline and increased prices of food and other commodities continue to drive widespread acute food insecurity in Yemen, with 17.3 million people projected to be in need of emergency food assistance in 2023. The average cost of the minimum food basket—a group of essential food commodities including pulses, flour, oil, salt, and sugar for a seven-person household—was approximately double compared with the five-year average in Aden Governorate's Aden city during December 2022, while the average cost in Sana'a city during the same month was more than 30 percent higher than the five-year average, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). Women and girls face additional challenges due to significant movement restrictions, with the introduction of the *mahram* requirement—mandating women to travel with a close male relative—in Al Houthi-controlled areas in 2022 exacerbating preexisting inequalities in their access to services and livelihoods.

IOM Reports Urgent Needs Among Newly Displaced Civilians in Marib

Economic conditions and intermittent conflict continue to drive displacement in central Yemen. More than 250 households—approximately 1,500 individuals—experienced displacement within or to Marib Governorate during December 2022, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Priority needs identified among these newly displaced households include cash, food, and shelter assistance. The onset of winter conditions in the governorate exacerbated humanitarian needs among many internally displaced persons (IDPs) who lack adequate items and shelter for cold weather and rainfall. Fewer than 100 of the nearly 200 IDP sites in Marib receive site management support from relief actors, and IDPs living on private land often face tensions with landowners. In some instances, landowners have reportedly prevented IDPs from building water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities or suitable cooking facilities to lower the risk of fire.

State/PRM Partners Assist Voluntary Returns of Somali Refugees

U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) partner the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) had helped approximately 600 Somali refugees voluntarily return to their country of origin by boat since the resumption of the Assisted Spontaneous Return program on September 29, 2022, as of December 2022. The initiative, which had been suspended since early 2020 due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, offers documentation, financial, and transportation support to Somali refugees in Yemen who choose to return to their country of origin, in addition to providing reintegration assistance in Somalia. Moreover, UNHCR and IOM jointly repatriated nearly 120 Somalis on an IOM voluntary repatriation flight from southern Yemen to Somalia. Somalia was the country of origin for approximately 70 percent of the nearly 100,000 asylum seekers and refugees across Yemen as of November 2022, UNHCR reports. Asylum seekers, migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers in Yemen face discrimination, limited access to safe shelter and essential services, and insufficient livelihood opportunities due to the country's economic decline and legal barriers to formal employment, according to the 2023 HNO.

KEY FIGURES



7.8 Million

People in Yemen reached with WFP food assistance in December



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USG partners supporting HCIMA programming



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USG partners supporting health programming

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY

USAID/BHA supports the UN World Food Program (WFP) and seven non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to implement food assistance activities in Yemen. USAID/BHA partners are providing emergency food assistance through in-kind food aid, including U.S.-sourced commodities, and cash and vouchers for individuals to buy food in local markets. USAID/BHA partner WFP reached approximately 7.8 million individuals with food assistance across Yemen in December, including an estimated 6.4 million people with in-kind food assistance and 1.4 million people with cash-based transfers.

HCIMA

The USG supports the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), IOM, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), and five NGO partners in providing humanitarian coordination, information management, and assessments (HCIMA) services to relief actors operating in Yemen. HCIMA services help humanitarian organizations understand the needs of affected populations and prioritize response activities. In December, a USAID/BHA international NGO (INGO) partner continued to provide information management support—including data collection, analysis, and visualization—to relief actors, with a focus on strengthening response monitoring and assisting in the finalization of the 2023 HRP.

HEALTH

The USG supports IOM, UNHCR, the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) and 13 NGOs to conduct life-saving health care interventions. USG partners provide primary health care services—in coordination with nutrition and WASH programming—through static health facilities and mobile medical teams serving hard-to-reach areas. USG partners also support community health volunteers to provide health services at the community level, thereby

promoting better health outcomes. In addition, USAID/BHA partners provide medical supplies and pharmaceuticals to health facilities to expand access to quality medical services. During December, a USAID/BHA INGO partner provided medical equipment to a health center in Ad Dali' Governorate to respond to an increase in the caseload of female patients and improve reproductive health services, while also conducting health and nutrition training for 30 community health volunteers and family planning training for 13 health care providers.



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USG partners supporting nutrition programming

NUTRITION

USAID/BHA supports partners to identify, prevent, and treat wasting across Yemen. Through its support for UNICEF, WFP, and 11 NGOs, USAID/BHA is helping reduce morbidity and mortality resulting from malnutrition, particularly among children and pregnant and lactating women. USAID/BHA also provides nutrition support for health clinics and mobile health teams, integrating health, nutrition, and WASH interventions to comprehensively assist vulnerable populations. During December, a USAID/BHA INGO partner conducted nutrition screenings of approximately 3,000 children ages five years and younger and 1,100 pregnant and lactating women in Ad Dali', referring all cases of acute malnutrition to health centers for treatment.



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USG partners supporting critical protection interventions

PROTECTION

The USG is responding to critical protection needs across Yemen through support for IOM, UNFPA, UNHCR, and six NGOs. Through community mobilization activities, protection risk mitigation efforts, and specialized case management services, USAID/BHA partners address child protection and psychosocial support needs, prevent and respond to gender-based violence, and respond to other protection risks and violations. In December, a USAID/BHA INGO partner reached more than 260 people with psychosocial support activities at a community center and conducted training sessions focused on obtaining legal documentation for more than 70 people in Lahij Governorate.



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USG partners supporting WASH interventions

WASH

The USG supports IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF, and 16 NGOs to expand access to safe drinking water and prevent and respond to communicable disease outbreaks in Yemen. USAID/BHA partners conduct critical WASH interventions, including distributing hygiene kits, promoting hygiene awareness raising activities, providing water trucking services, and rehabilitating water systems damaged by conflict for IDPs and other vulnerable populations across the country. In December, a USAID/BHA partner delivered 60,000 liters of water to nine health facilities in Ad Dali'; distributed hygiene kits to nearly 700 and 300 individuals in Lahij's Ateera and Um Huraiz IDP camps, respectively; and trained staff in 10 health facilities on waste management.

CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Between mid-2004 and early 2015, conflict between the RoYG and Al Houthi opposition forces in northern Yemen generated widespread and repeated displacement, and exacerbated humanitarian needs. The southward advance of Al Houthi forces in 2014 and 2015 expanded the scope of the armed conflict, further aggravating the humanitarian crisis.
- In March 2015, a Kingdom of Saudi Arabia-led coalition began conducting airstrikes against Al Houthi and allied forces to halt Al Houthi southward expansion. Ongoing conflict since 2015 has damaged and destroyed public infrastructure, interrupted essential services, and reduced commercial imports to a fraction of the levels required to sustain the Yemeni population, as Yemen typically imports much of its food supply.
- Since March 2015, the conflict—along with an economic crisis, high levels of unemployment, protracted instability, and rising food and fuel prices—has left approximately 21.6 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, including approximately 13.4 million people in acute need. In addition, the conflict has displaced approximately 4.5 million people, an estimated 1.3 million of whom have since returned to their areas of origin, according to the 2023 HNO. The volatility of the current situation has impeded relief agencies from obtaining accurate, comprehensive demographic data on conflict-affected populations.
- On September 26, 2022, U.S. Ambassador Steven Fagin redeclared a disaster for Yemen for FY 2023 due to continued humanitarian needs resulting from the complex emergency and the impact of the country’s economic and political crises on vulnerable populations.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE YEMEN RESPONSE IN FY 2023¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
FAO	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$600,000
OCHA	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$3,000,000
WFP	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers for Food, Local, Regional, and International Procurement	Countrywide	\$36,370,567
Implementing Partners	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers for Food, HCIMA, Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Abyan, Aden, Amran, Al Bayda', Ad Dali', Hadramawt, Al Hudaydah, Ibb, Lahj, Marib, Al Maharah, Sa'dah, Sana'a, Shabwah, Socotra Island, Ta'izz	\$47,791,414
	Program Support		\$82,809
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$87,844,790
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE YEMEN RESPONSE IN FY 2023			\$87,844,790

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of January 13, 2023.

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 [interaction.org](https://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: [cidi.org](https://www.cidi.org)
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [reliefweb.int](https://www.reliefweb.int).

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at [usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)