

# YEMEN - COMPLEX EMERGENCY

FACT SHEET #2, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2020

DECEMBER 11, 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

- Attacks in Sa'dah result in 20 civilian deaths and injure 40 civilians in late November
- Early November strike severely damages MSF hospital and medical warehouse in Ta'izz
- USAID/FFP partner WFP reaches 12.3 million people with food assistance in October

## HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

FOR THE YEMEN RESPONSE IN FY 2019

USAID/OFDA <sup>1</sup>	\$102,058,924
USAID/FFP <sup>2</sup>	\$594,548,790
State/PRM <sup>3</sup>	\$49,800,000

**\$746,407,714**

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Conflict across Yemen during November continued to endanger civilians, damage critical infrastructure, and displace populations. Two reported attacks on Al Raqw market in Sa'dah Governorate's Monabbih District resulted in a total of 20 civilian deaths and injured 40 others on November 20 and 27, according to the UN. In addition, a November 6 attack destroyed a medical warehouse and severely damaged a hospital operated by Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) in Ta'izz Governorate's Al Mukha city, the non-governmental organization (NGO) reports. Insecurity also displaced more than 12,550 people throughout Yemen in November, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM).
- Increased food prices and below-average cereal production—estimated at 30 percent below five-year average levels—have restricted access to food for most vulnerable households, food security actors report. USAID/FFP supports the UN World Food Program (WFP) to respond to acute food needs across Yemen, including by providing food assistance to approximately 12.3 million Yemenis in October.

<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, HUMANITARIAN ACCESS, AND DISPLACEMENT**

- Ongoing conflict in Yemen continues to cause civilian casualties, prompt displacement, and exacerbate humanitarian needs, with the UN reporting 10 civilian deaths—as well as injury to 22 civilians—due to a reported attack on Al Raqva market on November 27. A previous reported shelling attack on the same market resulted in 10 civilian deaths and injured 18 civilians on November 20, the UN reports. UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC) Lise Grande issued statements condemning the attacks, noting that indiscriminate attacks on civilians violate international humanitarian law.
- On November 6, an attack against a military site near Al Mukha severely damaged a hospital operated by MSF, according to the NGO. Approximately 30 patients and 35 staff were present at the time of the attack, though MSF recorded no casualties. Following the attack, MSF transferred critical patients to an alternate medical facility in Al Mukha, as well as relocated some medical staff to Aden Governorate. The NGO reopened the hospital—reportedly the only civilian hospital providing free emergency health services in the area, admitting nearly 1,800 patients since August 2018—on November 19. MSF—noting that the location of the hospital had been communicated to all conflict parties and authorities—also called on conflict actors to take all necessary measures to protect medical facilities. RC/HC Grande also issued a statement condemning the attack.
- Heightened conflict in November displaced more than 570 households in Ta'izz, nearly 510 households in Ad Dali' Governorate, and more than 190 households in Marib Governorate according to IOM. IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix has recorded approximately 64,500 newly displaced households across Yemen in 2019 to date; since the beginning of the year, renewed conflict and shifting frontlines, particularly in Ad Dali', Hajjah, Al Hudaydah, and Ta'izz governorates, has prompted the majority of the displacement recorded by IOM.
- In addition to persistent needs arising from protracted conflict and continued displacement, the operating environment for humanitarian actors has become increasingly constrained across Yemen in recent months, according to the UN. The UN reported approximately 500 humanitarian access incidents across 21 governorates in Yemen in August and September, representing a 90 percent increase from the number of incidents reported across 19 governorates in June and July. The UN attributes the increase in incidents to a deteriorating operational environment for humanitarian organizations in northern Yemen and changing political and security conditions in southern Yemen. In addition, violence against humanitarian personnel and assets increased by 250 percent in August and September compared to June and July, with more than 80 incidents recorded during the reporting period, the UN reports. Finally, movement restriction incidents against relief actors increased by 75 percent to nearly 210 incidents in August and September, while incidents of interference in humanitarian operations by local authorities increased by nearly 20 percent in the same period; approximately 80 percent of the movement restrictions and interference incidents were attributed to Sana'a-based authorities.

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## **FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION**

- Conflict continues to disrupt agricultural and livelihoods activities, resulting in increased food prices and declining cereal production. Yemen is largely dependent on external food assistance and commercial imports to meet the country's food consumption. However, domestic wheat production is approximately 5 to 10 percent of Yemen's total food utilization, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Overall, cereal production decreased to a level 30 percent below the five-year average in 2019, compounding the effects of the already below-average harvest in 2018 and severely restricting access to food among vulnerable populations, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). Declining agricultural production of food crops, combined with high market prices for food, is constraining households' ability to access regular food supplies across the country, according to FEWS NET.
- Despite persistent access constraints, USAID/FFP partner WFP continues to respond to acute food needs across Yemen, providing food assistance to approximately 12.3 million Yemenis in October—an increase from the 12.2 million people reached in September. Overall, WFP reached 9.2 million people with in-kind food aid, 2.7 million people with food vouchers, and nearly 470,000 people with cash transfers for food in October.

- During October, a USAID partner and implementing organizations continued to conduct monthly food voucher distributions—redeemable for food items from local businesses—which reached approximately 56,900 people in Ad Dali’, Lahij, Sana’a, and Ta’izz governorates. In addition, a second USAID partner delivered food vouchers to approximately 44,200 people in Ad Dali’, Al Mahwit, Sana’a, and Ta’izz governorates during October. USAID/FFP supports NGOs to provide monthly humanitarian food assistance to the most food-insecure households via the Integrated Famine Risk Reduction initiative led by the UN’s Food Security, Health, Nutrition, and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) clusters in Yemen.<sup>4</sup>
- With USAID support, an NGO partner distributed food vouchers and conducted health and nutrition awareness sessions for nearly 12,600 households in Abyan, Ad Dali’, and Lahij governorates in October. During the month, the partner also held cooking demonstrations for 170 caregivers and conducted malnutrition screenings, identifying people in need of nutrition assistance and referring approximately 570 individuals for additional treatment. Further, the partner continued to implement community-based management of acute malnutrition services at approximately 50 health facilities in three governorates, as well as provided consultations to pregnant and lactating women in more than 40 locations across Yemen. Finally, the NGO provided nearly 300 infant and young child feeding consultations to caregivers and conducted home awareness visits to nearly 2,800 households to disseminate critical nutrition messages during the month.

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## HEALTH AND WASH

- A recent uptick of suspected dengue fever, malaria, and other vector-borne disease cases across northwestern Yemen prompted the Sana’a-based Ministry of Health to declare a health emergency on November 12, according to international media. However, the UN World Health Organization (WHO) reported that the increase is likely due to seasonal conditions, noting that dengue fever and malaria are both endemic to Yemen. Overall, WHO reported more than 29,500 suspected cases and at least 100 associated deaths from dengue fever, as well as more than 700 suspected malaria cases across Yemen, from January to mid-November. In response, USAID/OFDA supported WHO to distribute health supplies sufficient for treating approximately 15,000 people and deploy technical teams to investigate suspected cases. USAID/OFDA assistance also supported capacity-building for local health officials to conduct community awareness sessions and mosquito spraying campaigns across Yemen.
- In addition to vector-borne diseases, humanitarian organization continue to monitor and respond to cholera across Yemen. Health actors have recorded nearly 824,900 suspected cholera cases, as well as 1,017 associated deaths to date in 2019. In response, USAID/OFDA partners continued to conduct critical cholera treatment and prevention activities in affected and high-risk areas, with one NGO partner training more than 2,200 community health workers and volunteers on hygiene best practices in Sana’a and treating more than 230 cholera cases across Ad Dali’, Lahij, Sana’a, and Ta’izz. The partner also conducted awareness sessions on disease transmission, hygiene practices, and nutrition for approximately 43,300 people across the four governorates and distributed hygiene commodities to approximately 800 people in Lahij. A second NGO partner conducted more than 5,200 household-level hygiene awareness visits during the month and distributed water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH)-related relief items to more than 400 people in Lahij. Additionally, the NGO supplied safe drinking water to an internally displaced person (IDP) camp in Sana’a through water trucking services, providing a total of 80,000 liters to nearly 6,700 people. USAID/OFDA also supported an NGO partner to distribute hygiene kits to nearly 400 households in Al Mahwit.
- Another USAID/OFDA NGO partner conducted approximately 150 hygiene awareness sessions for more than 2,400 IDPs and constructed approximately 250 latrines for displaced households in Al Hudaydah’s Al Khawkha District during October. The partner also conducted health, hygiene, and nutrition awareness sessions for more than 180 women in the district. In September, a second USAID/OFDA partner reached more than 3,700 people in Ibb and Ta’izz governorates with WASH assistance, including through hygiene promotion sessions focused on cholera

<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.

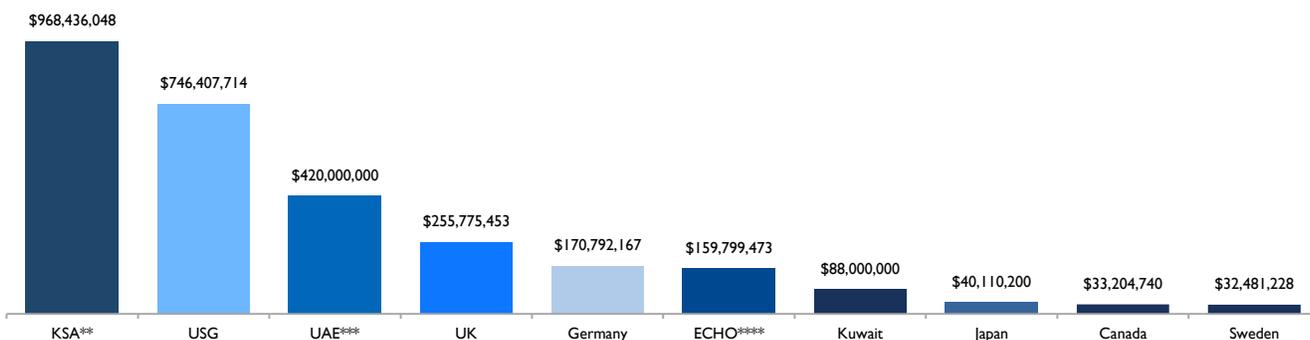
prevention and rehabilitation or installation of water supply systems, enabling vulnerable households to access safe drinking water.

- With USAID/OFDA and other donor support, IOM conducted more than 1 million health consultations for displaced and other conflict-affected populations in Yemen between January and mid-September. The programming included nearly 113,000 reproductive health consultations and more than 19,000 psychosocial counseling sessions, as well as health awareness activities supporting more than 71,000 people. IOM also continues to operate nine mobile health teams and support approximately 90 health facilities across Yemen.

## MULTI-SECTOR ASSISTANCE

- USAID/OFDA continues to support multi-sector assistance in conflict-affected areas of Yemen, with one NGO partner reaching 70 IDPs and host community members in Al Khawkha District with critical education, livelihoods, and protection assistance in October. In addition, the NGO provided IDPs with case management services including legal consultations and assistance in obtaining identity documentation. With USAID/OFDA support, the partner also conducted approximately 150 hygiene awareness sessions for more than 2,400 IDPs and constructed approximately 250 latrines for displaced households in the district during the month. Finally, the NGO conducted additional health, hygiene, and nutrition awareness sessions for more than 180 people in Al Khawkha District, including approximately 80 IDPs.
- USAID/OFDA continues to support the UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) to provide critical logistics support to relief operations in Yemen. UNHAS transported approximately 18,000 humanitarian passengers through nearly 400 flights—which traveled between Yemen’s Aden and Sana’a airports, Jordan’s Amman airport, and Djibouti’s Djibouti city airport—from January to October, representing the highest number of passengers transported in a year since UNHAS commenced operations in Yemen in April 2015. The UN agency increased operational capacity in 2019 by using updated and larger aircraft that no longer needed to refuel at midpoints. In addition, UNHAS commenced weekly service between Aden airport and Al Mukalla city’s Riyan airport in Hadramawt Governorate, which reopened in November following five years of closure due to insecurity.

## 2019 HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN FUNDING\* PER DONOR



\*Funding figures are as of December 11, 2019. All international figures are according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (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 publicly announced USG funding for FY 2019, which spans October 1, 2018, to September 30, 2019.

\*\*Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)

\*\*\*United Arab Emirates (UAE)

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

**USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE YEMEN RESPONSE IN FY 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, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management (HCIM), Health, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Multipurpose Cash Assistance, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Abyan, Aden, Amanat al-Asimah, Amran, Al Bayda', Ad Dali', Dhamar, Hadramawt, Hajjah, Al Hudaydah, Ibb, Al Jawf, Lahij, Al Mahrah, Marib, Al Mahwit, Raymah, Sa'dah, Sana'a, Shabwah, Socotra Island, Ta'izz	\$53,272,978
IP	HCIM	Countrywide	\$837,525
IOM	HCIM	Countrywide	\$1,600,000
OCHA	HCIM	Countrywide	\$8,000,000
UNHAS	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$4,047,000
WFP	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$6,070,500
WHO	Health, HCIM, Nutrition	Countrywide	\$27,000,000
	Program Support		\$1,230,921
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$102,058,924</b>
<b>USAID/FFP<sup>2,3</sup></b>			
FAO	Complementary Services	Countrywide	\$1,500,000
IPs	Cash Transfers for Food; Food Vouchers; Local, Regional, and International Procurement; Nutrition; Complementary Services	Abyan, Ad Dali', Aden, Al Hudaydah, Al Mahwit, Dhamar, Hajjah, Ibb, Lahij, Sana'a, Shabwah, Ta'izz	\$54,984,842
UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)	U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Countrywide	\$3,867,800
	U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Countrywide	\$442,696,148
WFP	Local, Regional, and International Procurement	Countrywide	\$50,000,000
	Food Vouchers	Countrywide	\$41,500,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING</b>			<b>\$594,548,790</b>
<b>STATE/PRM</b>			
IPs	Agriculture and Food Security, Health, Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$10,100,000
UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM), Logistics Support and Relief Commodities, Protection, Refugee Response and Returns Support, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$39,700,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>			<b>\$49,800,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE YEMEN RESPONSE IN FY 2019</b>			<b>\$746,407,714</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 September 30, 2019.

<sup>2</sup> Estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.

<sup>3</sup> USAID/FFP-supported complementary services—which include sector-specific activities such as agriculture, livelihoods, nutrition, and WASH interventions—enhance food assistance programs by strengthening food availability and access.

## 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 needs. 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 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 2, 2019, U.S. Ambassador Christopher P. Henzel reissued a disaster declaration for Yemen in FY 2020 due to continued humanitarian needs resulting from the complex emergency and the impact of the country's political and economic crises on vulnerable populations.

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## 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).
  - 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>