Ongoing clashes between Republic of Yemen Government (RoYG) forces and al-Houthi insurgents in northern Yemen’s Al Jawf, Amran, Sadah, and Sana’a governorates have hampered humanitarian access to conflict-affected and vulnerable populations. In mid-September, al-Houthi insurgents took control of much of the capital city of Sana’a; violence resulted in an estimated 270 fatalities and displaced an unknown number of individuals, according to the U.N.

The U.N. estimates that 14.7 million people in Yemen require humanitarian assistance. USAID/FFP provides $70 million to support food assistance operations in Yemen.

USAID/OFDA provided $34.858 million to Yemen in fiscal year (FY) 2014. USAID/FFP provided $70 million in emergency food assistance. The U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) provided $8.9 million.

Key developments:

- Ongoing clashes between Republic of Yemen Government (RoYG) forces and al-Houthi insurgents in northern Yemen’s Al Jawf, Amran, Sadah, and Sana’a governorates have hampered humanitarian access to conflict-affected and vulnerable populations. In mid-September, al-Houthi insurgents took control of much of the capital city of Sana’a; violence resulted in an estimated 270 fatalities and displaced an unknown number of individuals, according to the U.N.
- The U.N. reports that approximately 14.7 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance in Yemen, including 8 million people in northern and central governorates, as a result of widespread insecurity. Since the end of January 2014, an estimated 2,980 people have been killed in fighting between RoYG forces and al-Houthi insurgents, secessionist forces in southern Yemen, and Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) militants.
- On July 1, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) initiated a Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) for Yemen to meet humanitarian needs during the next two years. USAID/FFP has committed $55 million in emergency food assistance to support this PRRO.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

1. USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)
2. USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)
INSECURITY AND HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

- Outbreaks of violence continue to result in insecurity and impede humanitarian access to conflict-affected areas. In mid-September, al-Houthi insurgents took control of much of the capital city of Sana’a, displacing 21,000 residents and limiting humanitarian access, according to the Yemen Red Crescent Society. While residents are returning to their homes, at least 50 percent remain displaced, according to media reports.
- Approximately 8 million people in northern and central Yemen remain in need of humanitarian assistance, while in these areas of the country the security situation continues to deteriorate due to clashes between RoYG forces, pro-government militias, and insurgent forces, according to the U.N.
- An ongoing fuel shortage and insecurity on roads in crisis-affected areas have contributed to limited humanitarian access, exacerbating conditions for vulnerable populations also struggling with recent food price increases.
- In mid-July, the RoYG and al-Houthi insurgents signed a ceasefire for Amran Governorate. While al-Houthi forces remain in overall control, the security environment has stabilized since the signing of the agreement. As of mid-August, most of the 35,000 people displaced by the clashes had returned. Improved humanitarian access has allowed relief actors to provide assistance to affected populations, according to the U.N.
- In Al Jawf and Marib governorates, clashes between al-Houthi militants, Sunni tribesmen, and RoYG forces have escalated despite a ceasefire signed in August. Since mid-September, clashes have displaced approximately 10,500 people, according to the U.N. Humanitarian actors are currently providing food and emergency relief commodities to 8,400 IDPs in Al Jawf.
- In FY 2014, USAID/OFDA provided $1.5 million to U.N. partners to strengthen Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management capacity in Yemen.

POPULATION MOVEMENTS

- Yemen continues to receive migrant returnee populations, while a fluid security environment in conflict-affected areas continues to result in new displacement and simultaneous returns. As of September, 335,000 people remain displaced and in need of humanitarian assistance. The majority of IDPs live in the three northern governorates of Amran, Hajjah, and Sadah, according to the U.N. In Hajjah Governorate, 12,000 IDPs are living in two camps at Al Mazraq. The majority of IDPs in the Al Mazraq camps are Muhamashin—a marginalized and particularly vulnerable group. During July and August, armed entities disrupted food distribution and damaged the water supply infrastructure at the Al Mazraq camps, according to the U.N.
- Nearly 40,000 migrants arrived in Yemen from the Horn of Africa during the first six months of 2014. Comparatively, however, the number of migrants arriving from the Horn was less than in the first six months of 2013.
- The U.N. estimates that 685,000 Yemeni migrant workers returned from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) between January 2013 and July 2014 as a result of restrictions placed on foreign workers by the KSA. The U.N. projects that in 2014 approximately 400,000 Yemenis will return from KSA, placing an increased burden on infrastructure and services in Yemen and significantly reducing remittances—a key source of income for many Yemeni households.

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

- Humanitarian actors continue to address significant nutrition needs in Yemen, where 43 percent of children under the age of five are underweight and 19 percent are severely underweight. The U.N. estimates that stunting—a sign of chronic malnutrition—has affected the development of more than 40 percent of children in Yemen and that more than 1 million children under 5 years of age were acutely malnourished, or underweight, in 2014.
- Although the USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) forecasts average to above-average agricultural production for the latter half of 2014—particularly in crop-producing areas of western Yemen—conflict continues to disrupt agricultural livelihoods. Persistent insecurity has also hampered access to markets, which negatively affects food security given that Yemen imports more than 90 percent of its food staples and people depend...
on market access for food. FEWS NET projects that Crisis—IPC 3—levels of food insecurity will likely continue through December 2014 for households in conflict-affected areas.4

- With joint support from USAID/FP, USAID/OFDA, and USAID/Yemen, WFP recently conducted a comprehensive countrywide food security survey to identify the underlying causes of food security and assess vulnerability in Yemen. In the survey, 75 percent of participants cited economic concerns among the primary causes of food distress. In Al Jawf, Hajjah, Lahj, and Raymah governorates, more than 80 percent of households surveyed depleted their assets to meet food needs.
- In FY 2014, USAID/FP provided $55 million to WFP for the provision of food assistance and $15 million for food vouchers for assets activities implemented by partners Global Communities (GC/CHF), Mercy Corps, and Save the Children/U.S. (SC/US).

HEALTH AND WASH

- In September, the U.N. estimated that 13.1 million Yemenis do not have access to safe drinking water, and that 8.6 million people have limited access to health services due to an ongoing shortage of trained medical staff and medical equipment.
- In mid-September, health-focused relief actors reported that health facilities in Sana’a received a number of injured persons due to conflict in Sana’a. According to media reports, relief actors delivered dressing kits for more than 350 patients, as well as medications, anesthesia, and other medical supplies to facilities treating the injured.
- Between February and July 2014, conflict in Amran Governorate damaged water supply infrastructure and disrupted other basic services. An estimated 63 percent of residents currently lack access to safe drinking water as a result of conflict, according to the U.N.
- Many Yemeni migrant workers returning from KSA require humanitarian assistance as they arrive in Yemen. In August, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) provided nearly 45,000 migrant laborers with water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance upon crossing the border into Hajjah Governorate. Between October 2013 and August 2014, IOM provided food and WASH assistance to more than 380,000 migrant worker returnees.
- In July, the U.N. Health Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian health activities, comprising U.N. agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders—completed the second nationwide polio vaccination campaign, resulting in an estimated 96 percent coverage rate. Due to the continued movement of large populations of IDPs, migrants, and refugees, particularly from the Horn of Africa, health actors plan to continue polio vaccination efforts in the coming months.
- According to the U.N., nearly 165,000 people will benefit from rehabilitated water and sanitation services in health facilities in the southern governorates of Al Dhale, Lahj, and Shabwah, while relief partners provided more than 6,000 IDPs access to safe drinking water in the Al Mazraq camp in the northern governorate of Hajjah.
- In FY 2014, USAID/OFDA provided more than $17 million to support health activities and WASH interventions across Yemen. USAID/OFDA partners implemented a range of programs aimed at improving access to primary care, treating malnutrition, and addressing the incidence of water-related disease through community-level hygiene promotion and by incorporating WASH activities into health clinics. State/PRM partners also support WASH activities throughout Yemen.

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4 The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a standardized tool that aims to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5.
2014 TOTAL HUMANITARIAN FUNDING*  
PER DONOR

$113,758,350

USG  European Commission  Germany  U.K.  Japan  Sweden/Central Emergency Response Fund/Canada  Switzerland  Denmark

$46,815,664  $32,140,102  $29,800,454  $26,500,000  $17,360,065  $13,897,833  $11,567,202  $5,492,376  $3,639,566

*Funding figures are as of September 30, 2014. 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, 2013.

CONTEXT

- Since 2004, conflict between the RoYG and al-Houthi opposition forces has affected more than 1 million people and repeatedly displaced populations in northern Yemen, resulting in the need for humanitarian assistance. In addition, increased fighting between RoYG military forces and tribal and militant groups since 2011 has limited the capacity of the RoYG to provide basic services and exacerbated deteriorating humanitarian conditions among impoverished populations.
- Following the end of major fighting from the 2011/2012 conflict in Abyan Governorate, the overall security situation has improved in southern Yemen, facilitating the return of the majority of IDPs to areas of origin. Despite increased security, sporadic outbreaks of violence continue to result in smaller-scale displacement.
- Recent political instability, economic crisis, rising fuel and food prices, high levels of unemployment, conflict, and conflict-related displacement have left nearly half of Yemen’s 24.8 million people food insecure. According to WFP, child malnutrition levels in the country are among the highest in the world, with more than 1 million children nationwide suffering from acute malnutrition.
- Yemen hosts an increasing number of migrants and refugees—the majority from the Horn of Africa—who are also in need of humanitarian assistance. Yemen currently hosts approximately 246,000 refugees, a significant increase from the 150,000 refugees hosted in 2009.
- On September 26, 2013, U.S. Ambassador Gerald M. Feierstein reissued a disaster declaration for Yemen for FY 2014 due to continued humanitarian needs resulting from conflict and the impact of the country’s political and economic crises on vulnerable populations.
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<th>AMOUNT</th>
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<td><strong>TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE</strong></td>
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**USAID/FP**

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**TOTAL USAID/FP ASSISTANCE**

$70,000,000

**TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO YEMEN IN FY 2014**

$104,858,350

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**STATE/PRM**

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**TOTAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE**

$8,900,000

**TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO YEMEN IN FY 2014**

$113,758,350

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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 September 30, 2014.

3. Estimated value of food assistance.

**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:
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at: www.reliefweb.int.