



YEMEN – COMPLEX EMERGENCY

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Relief agencies have expressed concern that intensified fighting in Abyan Governorate between Republic of Yemen Government (RoYG) security forces and militant groups may lead to civilian casualties and population movements out of the area. Relief agencies are preparing contingency plans to respond to potential humanitarian needs.
- On May 15, the Yemen Humanitarian Country Team (HCT)—which consists of U.N. and non-governmental relief agencies—issued a statement calling for the protection of civilians in Abyan affected by military operations in southern Yemen. The HCT urged all involved parties to avoid civilian casualties and allow safe passage for those fleeing the conflict. In a May 16 statement, the International Committee of the Red Cross called upon all actors to spare civilian lives and respect medical staff and facilities.
- At the Friends of Yemen meeting held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on May 23, international donors pledged \$4 billion in additional assistance to Yemen, including more than \$3.2 billion from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, according to international media reports.
- On May 6, a USAID Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) regional advisor attended a meeting on the humanitarian crisis in Yemen hosted by the League of Arab States, Organization of Islamic Cooperation, and The Humanitarian Forum in Cairo, Egypt. In a joint statement, participants, including donors and relief agencies, expressed grave concern over Yemen’s deteriorating humanitarian situation, which affects millions of people throughout the country. The meeting’s hosts presented a full list of recommendations at the Friends of Yemen conference on May 23.
- In late April, USAID/OFDA provided \$750,000 to support reporting, advocacy, assistance coordination, and resource mobilization activities in Yemen through the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).
- To date in FY 2012, the U.S. Government (USG) has provided nearly \$73.5 million in humanitarian assistance to Yemen, including nearly \$6.1 million from USAID/OFDA, more than \$47.6 million from USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP), and approximately \$19.7 million from the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM). USG humanitarian assistance to Yemen targets internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees, and other vulnerable individuals throughout the country.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		Source
IDPs in Sa’dah Governorate	110,000	OCHA – January 2012
IDPs in Hajjah Governorate	140,695	OCHA – March 2012
IDPs in ‘Amran Governorate	40,529	OCHA – January 2012
IDPs in San’a Governorate	35,598	OCHA – January 2012
IDPs in Al Jawf Governorate	24,700	OCHA – January 2012
IDPs in Abyan Governorate	51,802	OCHA – March 2012
IDPs in Aden Governorate	108,117	OCHA – March 2012
IDPs in Lahij Governorate	40,286	OCHA – March 2012
IDPs in Shabwah Governorate	2,108	OCHA – January 2012
IDPs in Hadramawt Governorate	4,194	OCHA – January 2012
IDPs in Al Bayda’ Governorate	1,649	OCHA – January 2012
Total Number of IDPs in Yemen¹	559,678	OCHA – January and March 2012
Total Number of Refugees in Yemen	217,677	UNHCR – February 2012

¹The total IDP figure includes IDP populations identified by Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) assessments in northern and southern Yemen.

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED IN FY 2012²	
USAID/OFDA Assistance to Yemen	\$6,098,067
USAID/FFP Assistance to Yemen	\$47,643,630
State/PRM Assistance to Yemen	\$19,738,178
Total USAID and State Assistance to Yemen	\$73,479,875

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 April 2011, a fragile February 2010 ceasefire collapsed when al-Houthi groups took control of Sa’dah Governorate and the majority of Al Jawf Governorate. Sporadic clashes and isolated violent incidents continue to result in insecurity and limited humanitarian access, hindering large-scale population returns to Sa’dah and Al Jawf governorates, as well as northern areas of ‘Amran Governorate. In September 2011, al-Houthi leadership announced new conditions under which all humanitarian organizations are required to operate in Sa’dah, further restricting relief activities in the area. Humanitarian organizations continue to negotiate with al-Houthi leadership to gain increased access to vulnerable populations in Sa’dah.
- Between February and November 2011, anti-government protests throughout Yemen resulted in clashes among RoYG security forces, pro-government demonstrators, and opposition demonstrators. The resulting political instability has limited the RoYG’s capacity to provide basic services, contributing to increased humanitarian needs among vulnerable populations. In addition, increased fighting between RoYG military forces and rival tribal and militant groups has exacerbated conditions among chronically impoverished populations and resulted in displacement in northern, central, and southern Yemen.
- In addition to IDPs, Yemen hosts a significant number of refugees and migrants, the majority from the Horn of Africa, who are also in need of humanitarian assistance. There are over 200,000 Somali refugees living in Yemen. U.N. agencies report that more than 100,000 migrants and asylum seekers from the Horn of Africa arrived in Yemen in 2011. In the first two months of 2012, there were approximately 43,400 new arrivals, the majority Ethiopian.
- On October 20, 2011, U.S. Ambassador Gerald M. Feierstein redeclared a disaster due to continued humanitarian needs resulting from conflict and associated displacement in Yemen.
- On November 23, 2011, after signing an agreement in Saudi Arabia brokered by the Gulf Cooperation Council, RoYG President Ali Abdullah Saleh transferred power to Vice President Abdrabuh Mansur Hadi, officially ending Saleh’s 33-year rule of Yemen. Following presidential elections, Vice President Hadi officially assumed the presidency on February 27.

Food Security and Nutrition

- Rising food prices and widespread unemployment have contributed to high malnutrition levels throughout Yemen, putting vulnerable populations at increased risk of disease, as well as permanent physical and cognitive impairment, according to the U.N. Of the more than 967,000 children under the age of five currently suffering from acute malnutrition, more than 267,000 are severely malnourished, according to OCHA. Malnutrition continues to be the most common cause of child mortality in the country, according to the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO).
- In Al Hudaydah, Yemen’s second most populous governorate, the global acute malnutrition level is 31 percent, more than double the WHO emergency threshold of 15 percent, according to the U.N. The U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF) has scaled up nutrition activities in 2012; as a result, new enrollment of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in outpatient therapeutic programs (OTPs) has significantly increased—for example, the number of SAM cases in Al Hudaydah has increased by 400 percent since 2011.
- As of mid-May, USAID/OFDA had provided nearly \$1.8 million to the International Medical Corps (IMC), and more than \$1.9 million to Save the Children/U.S. (SC/US) for nutrition interventions, targeting vulnerable populations in Aden, ‘Amran, Al Hudaydah, Lahij, Sa’dah, and Sana’a governorates.
- USAID/OFDA partners support the treatment and prevention of acute malnutrition through stabilization centers, OTPs, and mobile medical clinics.

² Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

- USAID/FFP has provided more than \$47.6 million in FY 2012 to support food insecure populations in Yemen, including nearly \$36.5 million for wheat and other Title II food commodities, and nearly \$11.2 million for food vouchers and basic health and nutrition training.

Health

- Widespread insecurity and associated fighting has damaged health infrastructure and restricted access to critical health care facilities and services, rendering populations in conflict-affected areas extremely vulnerable to a range of communicable diseases, including cholera, polio, dengue fever, and measles, according to the U.N.
- In mid-April, health agencies reported approximately 30 suspected cases and two resulting deaths of dengue fever or Chikungunya virus in the northwestern governorate of Hajjah, according to WHO. The cause of the deaths has not been confirmed. In addition, local media reported several suspected cases of dengue fever in Al Hudaydah Governorate in early May. WHO and MoH officials are currently conducting laboratory testing to identify the cause of illness in Hajjah and Al Hudaydah.
- To date in FY 2012, USAID/OFDA has provided approximately \$1.7 million to address health-related humanitarian needs throughout Yemen, including training for health care workers and the provision of medical supplies to primary health care facilities. State/PRM also continues to support health activities throughout Yemen through UNHCR and other partners.

WASH

- Frequent power outages and poor infrastructure maintenance have resulted in weakened water and sanitation systems in urban areas, particularly in southern Yemen's Aden and Ta'izz governorates, diminishing populations' access to safe drinking water and facilitating the spread of waterborne disease, UNICEF reports. Relief agencies anticipate that increased internal displacement and the onset of the summer season may further contribute to the spread of waterborne disease.
- USAID/OFDA has provided approximately \$660,000 for water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance in Yemen in FY 2012 including infrastructure refurbishment and the provision of safe drinking water to IDPs and other vulnerable populations. State/PRM also continues to support WASH activities throughout Yemen through UNHCR and other partners.

Other Humanitarian Assistance

- In May, the European Commission's Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection committed to providing 5 million euros—approximately \$6.3 million—in additional humanitarian assistance to Yemen to improve access to clean water, support feeding programs, develop cash-for-work schemes, and provide cash grants.
- As of May 24, international donors had committed more than \$210 million in support of the 2012 U.N. Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan (YHRP), in addition to nearly \$39.1 million for humanitarian assistance activities not included in the YHRP, according to OCHA. The 2012 YHRP requests approximately \$459 million to respond to humanitarian needs in Yemen. USG funding currently represents nearly 28 percent of contributions to the YHRP, making the USG the largest single donor to the plan, the U.N. reports.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO YEMEN PROVIDED IN FY 2012¹

Implementing Partner	Activity	Location	Amount
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE²			
ACTED	Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), WASH	Ad Dali', Ibb, Raymah Governorates	\$1,594,812
IMC	Health, Nutrition, WASH	Sana'a Governorate	\$1,799,909
SC/US	Health, Nutrition	'Amran, Aden, Al Hudaydah, Lahij, Sa'dah Governorates	\$1,943,656
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$750,000
	Program Support	Countrywide	\$9,690
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE			\$6,098,067
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE³			
U.N. World Food Program (WFP)	1,250 MT of Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Aden Governorate	\$1,490,400
WFP	35,710 MT of Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$34,975,400
Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)	Food Vouchers, Health and Nutrition Training	Abyan and Lahij Governorates	\$6,389,941
Mercy Corps	Food Vouchers	Ta'izz Governorate	\$4,787,889
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			\$47,643,630
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	Health, Protection	Hajjah Governorate	\$338,406
Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)	Livelihoods, Education for Somali refugees	Sana'a	\$499,772
UNHCR	Health, Shelter, WASH, Protection	Countrywide	\$10,600,000
Other Partners	Health, WASH, Livelihoods	Countrywide	\$8,300,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			\$19,738,178
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO YEMEN IN FY 2012			\$73,479,875

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 May 24, 2012.

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 response efforts in Yemen 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:
The 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

