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**BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)  
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

## **Yemen – Complex Emergency**

Fact Sheet # 3, Fiscal Year (FY) 2010

September 16, 2010

*Note: The last fact sheet was dated August 11, 2010.*

### **KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

- Following a visit to Yemen in April by Walter Kälin, Representative of the U.N. Secretary-General on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), the Republic of Yemen Government (RoYG) established the IDP Strategy Task Force, which plans to coordinate with the U.N. and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to develop a national strategy to address internal displacement. The task force also anticipates releasing data in mid-October on internal displacement in Sa’ada Governorate, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Since August 2009, when fighting resumed between RoYG forces and al-Houthi opposition members, access restrictions have impeded efforts by international relief agencies to identify IDPs and comprehensively assess humanitarian needs in Sa’ada.
- Despite a February 11 ceasefire<sup>1</sup>, clashes between al-Houthi members and government supporters continued as of early September, primarily concentrated in Sa’ada and Al-Jawf governorates, according to OCHA.
- While insecurity continues to hinder humanitarian assistance delivery in many areas of northern Yemen, relief agencies have made incremental progress in expanding service provision to previously inaccessible host communities and remote areas.
- In FY 2010, seven USAID/OFDA grantees improved and expanded services, shelter, and access to essential household items in IDP camps, and provided support to host communities in accessible areas to improve humanitarian indicators in health and nutrition among the larger conflict-affected population. USAID/OFDA funding also supports humanitarian coordination, data collection and analysis, and trainings to improve community disease and nutrition surveillance and case management.

<b>NUMBERS AT A GLANCE</b>		<b>SOURCE</b>
<b>Total Registered and Verified Displaced Individuals</b>	329,021	UNHCR <sup>2</sup> – August 15, 2010
<b>Total Registered Returnees</b>	16,651 <sup>3</sup>	UNHCR – August 15, 2010

### **FY 2010 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE**

<b>USAID/OFDA Assistance to Yemen .....</b>	<b>\$10,928,640</b>
<b>USAID/FFP<sup>4</sup> Assistance to Yemen.....</b>	<b>\$12,497,100</b>
<b>State/PRM<sup>5</sup> Assistance to Yemen.....</b>	<b>\$10,900,000</b>
<b>Total USAID and State Humanitarian Assistance to Yemen .....</b>	<b>\$34,325,740</b>

### **CONTEXT**

- Since 2004, conflict between RoYG forces and al-Houthi opposition members has repeatedly displaced populations in northern Yemen and resulted in humanitarian needs. Since August 2009, when the sixth round of fighting began, the displaced population has more than doubled to approximately 329,000 people. In the last year, conflict has affected at least one million people in total and significantly reduced humanitarian access. In late 2009, humanitarian access expanded in all four conflict-affected areas of northern Yemen: Sa’ada, Al-Jawf, Hajjah, and Amran governorates. In addition, a February 11, 2010, ceasefire between RoYG forces and the al-Houthi opposition further improved security, increased humanitarian access, and prompted limited population returns to areas of origin.
- Sporadic and isolated security incidents, however, continue to result in irregular humanitarian access and hinder large-scale population returns, according to U.N. agencies. IDPs also cite destroyed houses, lack of employment opportunities, and asset losses as factors discouraging return. Approximately 135,000 IDPs, or more than 40 percent

<sup>1</sup> RoYG and al-Houthi representatives met in Qatar on August 26 to agree on a timetable for implementing 22 components of a plan to end the conflict. The plan was originally brokered by the Qatari government in 2007.

<sup>2</sup> Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

<sup>3</sup> Returnee figures are not available for Sa’ada, Al-Jawf, and Sana’a governorates.

<sup>4</sup> USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

of the displaced population in Yemen, reside in Hajjah Governorate. Sa'ada Governorate hosts the second largest IDP population, comprising 110,000 IDPs, or 33 percent of the total displaced population.

### ***Emergency Food Assistance and Nutrition***

- U.N. Food Security Cluster members, including USAID/FFP grantee the U.N. World Food Program (WFP), plan to provide monthly food rations to 2,000 conflict-affected families, or 14,000 individuals<sup>6</sup>, in six northern districts of Al-Jawf Governorate who have not received assistance regularly due to insecurity and access constraints. Since the resumption of fighting in August 2009, more than 13,000 IDPs—or nearly 80 percent of the governorate's displaced population—have received food assistance. Most of these beneficiaries reside in Al-Jawf's southern districts, to which humanitarian agencies maintain better access.
- In May, WFP and partners reduced by half monthly food rations for IDPs, returnees, and other conflict-affected groups due to insufficient funding. Subsequently, agencies reported demonstrations by beneficiaries and anecdotal evidence of rapid, albeit unquantifiable, increases in acute malnutrition rates. While a number of donors have provided additional funding to support food assistance programs, WFP and partners do not anticipate restoring rations to full size before October due to delays in receiving stocks procured from outside the country. However, the Food Security Cluster plans to continue to provide some level of assistance to at least 300,000 conflict-affected people in Yemen's four northern governorates and Sana'a Governorate.
- The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) projects an improvement in medium-term food security countrywide, despite the persistence of emergency food needs in northern Yemen. As a result of above-average rainfall, FAO expects cereal production to increase in 2010 by 22 percent over 2009 and to meet nearly 20 percent of the national requirement. If favorable weather conditions continue and fertilizer and pesticide use increases, production could exceed the five-year average.
- In response to reports of increased acute malnutrition rates, U.N. Nutrition Cluster members, including USAID/OFDA grantee the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), are supporting the RoYG Ministry of Health in training 360 health practitioners to support 20 nutrition clinics and 300 community volunteers to manage severe acute malnutrition.

### ***Emergency Relief Supplies and Shelter Assistance***

- RoYG authorities administering the Sa'ada Reconstruction Fund (SRF) recently completed damage assessments in Sa'ada city, where frequent fighting since August 2009 damaged or destroyed approximately 2,000 houses and other critical infrastructure, including water points and health centers. Damage to houses affected approximately 14,000 people. Reconstruction supported by the SRF commenced in Sa'ada city following the assessment, according to OCHA. Authorities also plan to provide SRF monies to families who require assistance in repairing or reconstructing houses.
- The number of humanitarian flights to and from Sa'ada Governorate continues to increase due to security improvements and efforts by the U.N. Logistics Cluster. With a regular flight schedule established, humanitarian agencies report prepositioning additional emergency relief supplies and shelter kits in Sa'ada Governorate.
- Contingency planning such as stockpiling remains critical due to reports of growing tensions in Sa'ada and Al-Jawf governorates between pro-government supporters and al-Houthi members, according to OCHA. The assistance will also support IDPs leaving Hajjah Governorate to return to areas of origin in Sa'ada Governorate. Humanitarian agencies plan to establish a distribution point in Al-Malaheet town, Sa'ada Governorate, due to the town's proximity to Haradh District in Hajjah, which hosts significant numbers of IDPs. Residents of Al-Malaheet, where fighting destroyed 80 percent of houses, will also benefit from the prepositioned shelter kits and relief supplies.
- Heavy rains and wind during August damaged structures in two of three IDP camps in Haradh District, Hajjah Governorate. Al Mazrak camps I and III required nearly 130 new tents and minor repairs to one women's center. Overall, only minimal damage occurred, primarily as a result of preparedness measures implemented by humanitarian agencies in advance of the July-to-September rainy season.

### ***Health and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)***

- In mid-July, U.N. Health Cluster partners completed the measles vaccination campaign in all districts of Sa'ada Governorate, achieving 85 percent coverage of children between the ages of 6 months and 15 years, OCHA reported.
- Since the resumption of conflict in August 2009, humanitarian agencies have often encountered difficulties in identifying and accessing displaced persons living outside IDP camps. As of July, approximately 85 percent of the IDP population resided outside formal and informal settlements, typically in host communities, makeshift settlements, and rented accommodations. Only 49,000 people resided in Yemen's seven formal camps and eight informal settlements, as estimated by OCHA.
- However, OCHA notes recent progress in expanding health services to previously inaccessible host communities. Agencies deployed four mobile medical clinics to Al-Malaheet town, Sa'ada Governorate, and to areas outside the formal camps in Haradh District, Hajjah Governorate. In addition, mobile teams offering child protection and

<sup>6</sup> Average household size is estimated at seven people.

psychosocial services expanded coverage to other scattered and remote host communities in Hajjah Governorate. In late August, humanitarian agencies also completed construction of a new water network in Haradh District, which will benefit more than 32,000 IDPs living in host communities. In the second phase of the project, all villages in the area will be connected to the network.

- As of the end of June, U.N. Health Cluster members, including USAID/OFDA grantees the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) and Relief International (RI), had achieved 100 percent primary health care coverage for individuals residing in camps and 20 percent coverage for individuals residing outside of camps.

### USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO YEMEN

FY 2010			
Implementing Partner	Activity	Location	Amount
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>			
Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)	Health, Logistics and Relief Commodities, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, and WASH	Al-Jawf	\$826,253
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	Health, Logistics and Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, and WASH	Al-Jawf and Sa'ada	\$3,000,375
RI	Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Health, Shelter and Settlements, and WASH	Amran and Hajjah	\$1,352,253
Save the Children (SC)	Health and Nutrition	Amran and Hajjah	\$1,649,759
UNICEF	Nutrition and WASH	Al-Jawf, Amran, Hajjah, and Sa'ada	\$1,900,000
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	All Affected Areas	\$850,000
WHO	Health	Al-Jawf, Amran, Hajjah, and Sa'ada	\$1,350,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA</b>			<b>\$10,928,640</b>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE<sup>2</sup></b>			
WFP	6,400 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	All Affected Areas	\$12,497,100
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP</b>			<b>\$12,497,100</b>
<b>STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE</b>			
UNHCR	Camp Management and Camp Coordination, Logistics and Relief Commodities, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Shelter and Settlements, and Protection	All Affected Areas	\$4,900,000
WFP	IDP Feeding Operations	All Affected Areas	\$6,000,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM</b>			<b>\$10,900,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO YEMEN IN FY 2010</b>			<b>\$34,325,740</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of September 16, 2010.

<sup>2</sup> Estimated value of food assistance as of September 16, 2010.

### 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. Information on organizations responding to the humanitarian situation in Yemen may be available at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int).
- 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, warehouse space, etc); 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: [www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov) – Keyword: Donations
  - The Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org) or (703) 276-1914
  - 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 web site at [http://www.usaid.gov/our\\_work/humanitarian\\_assistance/disaster\\_assistance/](http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/)