



YEMEN – COMPLEX EMERGENCY

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- A week-long strike by petroleum workers in Aden Governorate, southern Yemen, in mid-March exacerbated fuel shortages, quadrupling the price of fuel on the informal market, according to international media. To ensure continuity of relief operations, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP)-led Logistics Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian logistics activities in Yemen—provided 1,000 liters of petrol and 2,245 liters of diesel to humanitarian organizations between March 16 and 22. On March 27, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia pledged to supply 500,000 metric tons (MT) of oil products to Yemen to meet domestic fuel needs in April and May.
- In early April, U.N. Assistant Secretary-General (ASG) for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator for the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Catherine Bragg traveled to Yemen to assess the humanitarian situation and meet with partners, including the Republic of Yemen Government (RoYG) and other donors, to discuss ways to strengthen the humanitarian response in the country. Following her two-day trip to Yemen, ASG Bragg noted concern over the worsening humanitarian situation in the country and underscored the need for a stronger commitment from the international community to support affected populations in the country.
- Escalated fighting between RoYG forces and armed groups in Abyan Governorate, southern Yemen, has displaced approximately 56,000 people since early March, according to the U.N. Approximately 28,000 people, or one-half of the displaced population, have fled to areas within Abyan, while an estimated 28,000 people have fled to nearby Aden and Lahij governorates, the U.N. reports. In total, more than 200,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) are currently residing in Abyan, Lahij, and Aden governorates, according to OCHA.
- In response to the ongoing food security crisis, USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) is providing more than \$36 million in additional humanitarian assistance to Yemen. The new funding includes approximately \$25 million in Title II emergency food assistance for WFP’s Emergency Operation in Yemen, as well as approximately \$11.2 million for regionally procured food, food vouchers, and health and nutrition training programs implemented by non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The additional USAID/FFP Title II assistance—including 23,900 MT of wheat, 2,900 MT of beans, and 920 MT of vegetable oil—is estimated to arrive in Yemen by late August.
- The U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) recently announced an additional \$3.6 million contribution to the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and \$8.3 million contribution to an international organization partner to provide assistance to IDPs and other vulnerable populations. State/PRM assistance supports the distribution of emergency relief supplies and health care, water and sanitation interventions, and cash-for-work activities, among other types of assistance.
- To date in FY 2012, the U.S. Government (USG) has provided more than \$67.2 million for humanitarian assistance in Yemen, including more than \$5.3 million from USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA), approximately \$14.2 million from State/PRM, and nearly \$46.7 million from USAID/FFP. USG humanitarian assistance to Yemen supports IDPs 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 – December 2011 and February 2012

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED IN FY 2012²	
USAID/OFDA Assistance to Yemen	\$5,348,067
USAID/FFP Assistance to Yemen	\$47,643,630
State/PRM Assistance to Yemen	\$14,238,178
Total USAID and State Assistance to Yemen	\$67,229,875

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. U.N. agencies report that more than 100,000 refugees, migrants, and asylum seekers from the Horn of Africa arrived in Yemen in 2011.
- 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. Presidential elections on February 21, 2012, prompted skirmishes in southern Yemen; however, Vice President Hadi ran uncontested and officially assumed the presidency on February 27.

Food Security and Nutrition

- Ongoing conflict and insecurity, population displacement, rising food and fuel prices, and limited access to basic services continue to contribute to deteriorating food security and nutrition conditions among impoverished populations in Yemen.
- More than 60 percent of the population in Al Bayda’ Governorates—or an estimated 350,000 individuals—are food insecure, representing the highest level of food insecurity in Yemen, according to WFP’s Comprehensive Food Security Survey conducted in November and December 2011. The survey also documented that more than one-half of the San’a’ Governorate households reported reduced access to food due to insecurity.
- Results from a recent U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF) Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transition Nutrition Survey conducted in Ta’izz Governorate indicated a global acute malnutrition (GAM) prevalence of 15.1 percent—above the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) emergency threshold of 15

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

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

percent—in the coastal plains zone and 9.4 percent in the mountain zones. USAID/FFP is providing approximately \$4.8 million to Mercy Corps for food voucher programs in Ta'izz to address the high GAM prevalence.

- In FY 2012 to date, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$2 million to the International Medical Corps (IMC) and Save the Children/U.S. (SC/US) for nutrition-related assistance in Yemen. USAID/OFDA partners support mobile and fixed health care facilities, as well as community-based stabilization centers and outpatient therapeutic feeding programs. In addition, USAID/FFP has provided more than \$46.7 million in FY 2012 to date to support affected populations in Yemen by providing staple food items to vulnerable populations nationwide.

Health

- As of March 30, the RoYG Ministry of Public Health and Population (MoPHP) had confirmed nearly 4,200 measles cases and 177 resulting deaths since mid-2011, according to UNICEF. The caseload reflects a significant increase compared to the approximately 210 total cases confirmed between 2007 and 2009. UNICEF attributes the spread of the disease to a countrywide reduction in immunizations in 2011 due to conflict.
- On March 24, the RoYG MoPHP, UNICEF, and WHO launched the second phase of a national campaign to provide measles and polio vaccinations and Vitamin A supplements to 8.1 million children between six and 10 years of age. The first phase, conducted in early March, vaccinated children in the seven governorates most affected by measles—Abyan, Aden, Al Bayda', Dhamar, Lahij, Shabwah, and Sa'dah—and had a preliminary coverage rate of 94 percent for measles vaccinations, reaching an estimated 1.7 million of 1.8 million targeted beneficiaries. The second phase plans to target 6.3 million children between six and 10 years of age in the remaining 14 governorates.
- Health care workers at SC/US-supported clinics in 'Amran, Sa'dah, and Aden governorates provided nearly 17,000 patient consultations between January and March, with children under five years of age representing nearly 35 percent of patients. During the same time period, SC/US-trained health care workers provided more than 2,300 antenatal check-ups at mobile and fixed health clinics. The health care workers also safely delivered 240 infants and provided family planning training to more than 1,400 individuals.
- To date in FY 2012, USAID/OFDA has provided approximately \$1.7 million in assistance for health-related humanitarian needs throughout Yemen. In addition, State/PRM partners continue to respond to the health and psychosocial needs of IDPs and conflict-affected individuals.

WASH

- With support from USAID/OFDA, the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED) and IMC are supporting water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) interventions, including infrastructure rehabilitation and hygiene promotion, in Ad Dali', Ibb, Raymah, and San'a' governorates to increase vulnerable populations' access to safe drinking water and decrease the prevalence of water-borne diseases. In addition, the NGOs are promoting water conservation through means that include safe water storage practices and alternative water collection methods, such as rainwater catchments.
- To date in FY2012, USAID/OFDA has provided approximately \$660,000 for WASH assistance in northern and southern Yemen. State/PRM partners are also providing WASH-related assistance countrywide.

Other Humanitarian Assistance

- As of April 19, international donors had committed approximately \$100.5 million in support of the 2012 U.N. Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan (YHRP), as well as more than \$41.4 million for humanitarian assistance activities not included in the YHRP, according to OCHA. The 2012 YHRP requests approximately \$447 million to respond to humanitarian needs in Yemen. USG funding represents approximately 18 percent of the international contribution to the YHRP to date, making the USG the second-largest donor to the plan.

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	San'a' Governorate	\$1,799,909
SC/US	Health, Nutrition	Aden, 'Amran, Al Hudaydah, Lahij, Sa'dah Governorates	\$1,943,656
	Program Support	Countrywide	\$9,690
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE			\$5,348,067
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE³			
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	Health and Protection for African Migrants	Hajjah Governorate	\$338,406
ADRA	Livelihoods and Education for Somali Refugees	San'a' Governorate	\$499,772
UNHCR	Health, Shelter, WASH	Countrywide	\$5,100,000
Implementing Partner	ERMS, Health, Logistics and Relief Commodities, WASH	Countrywide	\$8,300,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			\$14,238,178
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO YEMEN IN FY 2012			\$67,229,875

¹Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

²USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of April 19, 2012.

³Estimated 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

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID web site at http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/