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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 # 1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2011

December 15, 2010

*Note: The last fact sheet was dated September 16, 2010.*

### **KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

- In early November, a USAID/OFDA Regional Advisor (RA) visited Sana'a, Yemen, to review the humanitarian situation and response in northern Yemen. During the visit, the RA met with USAID/Yemen staff and other U.S. Government (USG) officials, and representatives from U.N. agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the Government of Yemen (RoYG).
- On November 30, 2010, the U.N. launched the 2011 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan (YHRP). In the humanitarian appeal, the U.N. requested nearly \$225 million to support vulnerable populations in northern conflict-affected governorates, refugee-hosting areas, and other host areas. As of November 15, the 2010 YHRP had received 63 percent of requested funding, or nearly \$142 million. U.S. Government funding accounts for nearly 35 percent of contributions to date.
- The February 11, 2010, ceasefire<sup>1</sup> remains in effect, despite multiple violations. As many as 350,000 people in the north remain displaced and humanitarian access to the majority of internally displaced persons (IDPs) remains restricted due to ongoing insecurity. The Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that 6 percent of 300,697 registered IDPs, or approximately 18,041 people, had returned to areas of origin as of September 30. IDPs indicated insecurity and a lack of housing, infrastructure, employment, and basic services as the primary reasons for not returning to areas of origin.
- Nearly \$11 million in FY 2010 funding continues to support the efforts of seven USAID/OFDA grantees to improve and expand basic services, respond to the health and nutrition needs of conflict-affected individuals, provide shelter and access to essential household items for more than 444,000 beneficiaries. In addition, USAID/OFDA FY 2010 programs support humanitarian coordination, data collection and analysis, and training 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>	300,697	UNHCR – September 30, 2010
<b>Total Registered Returnees</b>	18,149 <sup>2</sup>	UNHCR – September 30, 2010

### **CONTEXT**

- Since 2004, conflict between RoYG forces and al-Houthi opposition members has affected more than 1 million people and repeatedly displaced populations in northern Yemen, resulting in the need for humanitarian assistance. Since the sixth round of fighting began in August 2009, the displaced population has more than doubled to approximately 350,000 people, including unregistered IDPs.
- Although the overall security situation has improved in northern Yemen since late 2009, sporadic and isolated incidents—including blocked roads and low-level clashes—continue to result in irregular humanitarian access and hinder large-scale population returns in Sa'ada and Al-Jawf governorates, as well as northern areas of Amran Governorate, according to U.N. agencies. Despite ongoing security and access constraints, humanitarian agencies continue to provide emergency assistance to conflict-affected populations in northern Yemen.
- In FY 2010, USG humanitarian assistance to Yemen totaled more than \$37 million, including nearly \$11 million from USAID/OFDA, more than \$12 million from USAID's Office of Food for Peace, and nearly \$14 million from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM).

<sup>1</sup> On August 26, 2010, RoYG and al-Houthi agreed to a 22-point plan to guide both parties toward meeting obligations under a February, 11, 2010, ceasefire agreement.

<sup>2</sup> Returnee figures are not available for Sa'ada, Al-Jawf, and Sana'a governorates.

### ***Security and Access***

- Humanitarian access remains limited in the north due to insecurity, including hijackings, crossfire, and unauthorized checkpoints, which prevent the delivery of humanitarian aid.
- Of the four conflict-affected governorates in north Yemen, only Hajjah remained fully accessible to all humanitarian organizations, as of late November. Relief agencies continue to work in the capital of Sa'ada Governorate, Sa'ada City, central and southern Amran Governorate, and western Al-Jawf.

### ***Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management***

- As of late November, humanitarian coordination in Sana'a remained strong; however, agencies continued to encounter challenges outside the capital. In Sana'a, nine clusters hold regular meetings involving U.N. agencies, national and international NGOs, and representatives from the RoYG. Cluster lead agencies have highlighted the importance of RoYG counterparts to assuming roles as cluster co-leads. Approximately \$500,000 in USAID/OFDA FY 2010 funding continues to support humanitarian coordination and information management through the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).
- Limited access and opportunity to verify information on humanitarian needs and gaps has led humanitarian agencies to employ new methods of gathering information on vulnerable populations in inaccessible areas. For example, the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) has employed former RoYG health workers living in target areas to gather and share relevant data on the needs and conditions vulnerable populations.

### ***Displacement and Population Returns***

- The number of registered IDPs decreased from 329,021 people to 300,697 people between August 15 and September 30, according to UNHCR. However, estimates suggest that the total IDP population may be as high as 350,000 people.
- The majority of IDPs remain in northern Yemen, with only 117,000 people moving south to Sana'a. As of late November, more than 40 percent of the total displaced population resided in Hajjah Governorate, while Sa'ada Governorate hosted the second largest IDP population—approximately 33 percent of total IDPs.
- Although UNHCR is meeting emergency shelter needs for IDPs in camps, approximately 85 percent of IDPs reside outside camps, living with family and friends or in informal settlements.
- Many IDPs do not want to live in formal camps because the lack of space conflicts with cultural norms. Relief agencies have also reported protection concerns in camps, particularly for IDP women. However, camps are located in regions under RoYG control, allowing humanitarians to provide basic services without compromising security. As of late November, humanitarian agencies continued to experience difficulty in reaching IDPs outside camps, including those living with friends and relatives.

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

- Yemen continues to face chronic food insecurity, which has been exacerbated by conflict, qat cultivation, and increased water shortages. Widespread food insecurity and food distributions that target IDPs have raised tension among vulnerable groups, and agencies report an increase in security incidents linked to food aid.
- According to the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), a recent nutrition assessment conducted in five conflict-affected districts in Sa'ada Governorate, found that 16 percent of children examined had severe acute malnutrition, and 29 percent of children examined had moderate acute malnutrition. USAID/OFDA implementing partner UNICEF supports both therapeutic feeding centers and outpatient therapeutic care programs in Yemen, but interventions and exchange of nutrition-related information remained limited as of early November.
- Although the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) provides food rations to approximately 296,000 IDPs per month, the agency reported that, due to funding constraints, approximately 900,000 food insecure individuals did not receive assistance between May and October. However, since October, food assistance beneficiaries have received three-quarter rations.
- Ongoing FY 2010 USAID/OFDA programming supports more than \$1.2 million for nutrition interventions through UNICEF and Save the Children (SC), targeting more than 176,000 beneficiaries, including nearly 72,000 IDPs.
- In FY 2010, USAID/FFP provided over 13,800 MT of food commodities valued at \$12.5 million to meet the nutritional needs of the registered conflict-affected IDPs. In addition, State/PRM provided \$6 million in FY 2010 for local and regional procurement of food commodities.

### ***Health***

- In late November, WHO reported that conflict has damaged or destroyed nearly 80 percent of health infrastructure in Sa'ada Governorate and noted that a lack of healthcare professionals to staff the remaining 20 percent of facilities prevents additional health centers from accepting and treating patients. WHO reported providing 100 percent coverage in primary health care for individuals residing in camps between June and November, but only provided 20 percent coverage for individuals living within a one-hour walk from a camp. To reach displaced and conflict-affected

families outside camps in remote or inaccessible areas, USAID/OFDA implementing partners WHO, SC, and other agencies operate mobile health clinics.

- Ongoing FY 2010, USAID/OFDA programming supports more than \$3.8 million in health activities in Yemen through four partners, benefiting more than 432,000 beneficiaries, including approximately 190,000 IDPs.

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

- Although UNICEF reported meeting WASH needs for residents of IDP camps, WASH assistance for populations outside camps, including those living with host families, remains inadequate, according to OCHA.
- UNICEF reported that more than 15,000 conflict-affected people have fled to Sa'ada City since August 2009, overwhelming the city's water and sanitation infrastructure and leaving many residents without access to potable water. As of late November, USAID/OFDA implementing partner UNICEF had completed repairs to 80 percent of the city's water network.
- More than \$2.7 million in ongoing FY 2010 USAID/OFDA programming supports WASH programs through four partners benefitting more than 196,000 people, including approximately 84,000 IDPs.

#### **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)