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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 # 2, Fiscal Year (FY) 2011

March 17, 2011

Note: The last fact sheet was dated December 15, 2010.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Since February 2, an escalating series of protests has occurred throughout the country against the government of President Ali Abdullah Saleh. Clashes between opposition demonstrators and government security forces have resulted in the deaths of approximately 30 people and the injury of hundreds more, according to international media reports.
- USAID/OFDA is closely monitoring the security situation and reviewing emergency response contingency plans with grantees and other members of the humanitarian community. Through existing programs and partners, USAID/OFDA is prepared to facilitate a rapid and flexible response to evolving conditions.
- As part of USAID/OFDA’s continuing response to the ongoing conflict in the north, a USAID/OFDA Regional Advisor (RA) visited Yemen in early February to assess humanitarian conditions, monitor ongoing programming, and coordinate response efforts 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). The RA reported that health, nutrition, food security, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) continue to be priority sectors, particularly in Sa’ada, northern Amran, western Al Jawf, and communities hosting conflict-affected populations in Hajjah.
- The RoYG and al-Houthi opposition members continue to uphold the February 2010 ceasefire, facilitating the return of internally displaced persons (IDPs) to areas of origin in northern Yemen. However, aid agencies note sporadic clashes, contributing to ongoing insecurity.
- To date in FY 2011, USAID/OFDA has provided \$2.8 million to support humanitarian coordination and information management and WASH activities in conflict-affected areas, benefiting approximately 160,000 IDPs and other vulnerable individuals. In addition, nearly \$11 million in FY 2010 USAID/OFDA humanitarian funding continues to support more than 440,000 beneficiaries in health, nutrition, shelter, and WASH, including essential support for mobile health clinics operated by Save the Children (SC/US) and emergency relief commodities for returnees to Sa’ada from the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Total Number of IDPs	205,000	UNHCR ¹ – January 2011
Total Number of Returnees	45,000	UNHCR – January 2011

FY 2011 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING TO YEMEN

USAID/OFDA Assistance	\$2,800,000
USAID/FFP² Assistance	\$13,200,000
State/PRM³ Assistance	\$7,500,000
Total USAID and State Humanitarian Assistance to Yemen	\$23,500,000

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.
- Although the overall security situation has improved in northern Yemen since the February 2010 ceasefire, 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 the U.N. Despite ongoing security and access constraints,

¹ Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

² USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

³ U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

humanitarian agencies continue to provide emergency assistance to conflict-affected populations in northern Yemen.

Security and Access

- Barriers to access, including unauthorized checkpoints, trip permit denials, vehicle hijackings, and land mine incidents, continue to impede the delivery of humanitarian aid to the conflict-affected north. Humanitarian organizations face particularly restricted access to districts in Sa'ada, Al Jawf, and Amran governorates, according to OCHA.
- In the south and southeast, relief agencies report violence and insecurity resulting from clashes between RoYG and the separatist movement known as Al-Hirak. In addition, recent insecurity resulting from political demonstrations in the south has prompted several humanitarian organizations to recall staff from affected areas to the capital Sana'a.
- To ensure the continued delivery of aid to conflict-affected areas, USAID/OFDA has provided \$500,000 to OCHA to support the coordination of humanitarian assistance in the northern governorates.

Displacement and Population Returns

- Since 2004, conflict in the north has displaced more than 300,000 people, some multiple times. Approximately 45,000 IDPs had returned to areas of origin as of January 2011, according to UNHCR. Of the remaining 205,000 displaced, approximately 23,000 live in UNHCR-run camps.
- In addition to FY 2011 funding, ongoing FY 2010 USAID/OFDA funding continues to support five organizations operating in conflict-affected areas to improve and expand basic services, address health and nutrition needs, and provide shelter and relief commodities, benefiting more than 118,000 IDPs.
- State/PRM has provided \$7.5 million to date in FY 2011 to support humanitarian organizations working with conflict-affected populations in the north, including UNHCR.

Emergency Food Assistance

- Yemen continues to face chronic food insecurity, exacerbated by conflict, *qat* cultivation, and increased water shortages. Of the approximately 7 million people facing food insecurity in Yemen, 2.7 million are severely food insecure, according to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
- The retail price of wheat in Sana'a has increased by nearly 60 percent as of mid-February compared to the same month last year, potentially causing increased food insecurity in the coming months, according to the USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET).
- To date in FY 2011, USAID/FFP has provided 10,610 metric tons (MT) of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance valued at \$11.6 million to IDPs in the northern governorates of Sa'ada, Hajjah, Amran, and Al Jawf, as well as in the capital city of Sana'a. Additionally, under the Emergency Food Security Program, USAID/FFP provided \$1.6 million for a local procurement and voucher program to address needs of unregistered conflict-affected populations in Sa'ada Governorate.

Health and Nutrition

- Infant and maternal mortality rates for Yemen continue to be among the highest in the world, according to the World Bank. Child malnutrition in particular remains a significant concern. Recent reports from the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) indicate severe acute malnutrition and moderate acute malnutrition rates of 16 percent and nearly 30 percent, respectively, in five districts in Sa'ada. However, U.N. and USAID/OFDA staff note the need for comprehensive nutrition survey data to further inform appropriate response measures.
- In late November, the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) reported that conflict has damaged or destroyed nearly 80 percent of health infrastructure in Sa'ada Governorate. A lack of health care professionals to staff the remaining 20 percent of facilities prevents additional health centers from accepting and treating patients.
- Ongoing FY 2010 USAID/OFDA funding of more than \$3.3 million supports health and nutrition activities in Yemen through four partners, assisting more than 200,000 beneficiaries, including approximately 80,000 IDPs. USAID/OFDA-funded health and nutrition activities include the training of health care staff in preventing and treating malnutrition, and conducting mobile clinic outreach work.

WASH

- U.N. agencies continue to report inadequate water and sanitation facilities for IDPs living with host families, particularly in Sa'ada, where the influx of IDPs and refugees has exceeded the city's capacity. UNHCR reports meeting 100 percent of WASH needs of 23,000 residents in five IDP camps supported by UNHCR.
- To date in FY 2011, USAID/OFDA has provided \$2.3 million to UNICEF to help ensure that 160,000 IDPs and vulnerable individuals have access to safe drinking water. In addition, nearly \$1.2 million in ongoing FY 2010

USAID/OFDA funding supports WASH programs that benefit more than 38,000 IDPs. Program activities include the distribution of hygiene kits and water filters and the installation of water stations in northern governorates. USAID/OFDA WASH activities implemented by the IOM incorporate gender, disability, and child-oriented interventions to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable are met.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO YEMEN

FY 2011			
<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
UNICEF	WASH	Countrywide	\$2,300,000
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$500,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$2,800,000
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
WFP, SC/US	10,610 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Sa'ada, Hajjah, Amran, Al Jawf Governorates, and Sana'a	\$13,200,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$13,200,000
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
UNHCR, Other Partners	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Northern Governorates	\$7,500,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$7,500,000
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO YEMEN TO DATE IN FY 2011			\$23,500,000

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents committed or obligated funds as of March 17, 2011.

² 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. Information on organizations responding to the humanitarian situation in Yemen may be available at 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 – Keyword: Donations
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or (703) 276-1914
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int