



# YEMEN – COMPLEX EMERGENCY

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- A Principal Regional Advisor from USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) traveled to Yemen’s capital, Sana’a, in early February to meet with USAID/OFDA grantees, coordinate USAID/OFDA activities with other donors and humanitarian organizations, and assess the humanitarian situation.
- In early February, clashes between opposition group al-Houthi and pro-government militants in northern Yemen’s Hajjah Governorate displaced approximately 7,000 individuals, according to the U.N. The majority of the newly displaced individuals sought shelter in schools or with host families in neighboring districts. Insecurity has displaced more than 100,000 people in Hajjah Governorate since 2004, according to the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).
- In February, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$1.6 million to the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED) and more than \$1.9 million to Save the Children/U.S. (SC/US) for activities in agriculture and food security, economic recovery and market systems (ERMS), health, nutrition, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH).
- To date in FY 2012, the U.S. Government (USG) has provided more than \$18.6 million for humanitarian assistance in Yemen, including more than \$5.3 million from USAID/OFDA, approximately \$1.8 million from the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM), and nearly \$11.5 million in emergency food assistance from USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP), benefiting internally displaced persons (IDPs) and other vulnerable individuals throughout the country.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		Source
IDPs in Sa’ada Governorate	110,000	UNHCR – December 2011
IDPs in Hajjah Governorate	102,346	UNHCR – December 2011
IDPs in Amran Governorate	40,452	UNHCR – December 2011
IDPs in Sana’a Governorate	35,598	UNHCR – December 2011
IDPs in Al Jawf Governorate	24,491	UNHCR – December 2011
IDPs in Abyan Governorate	23,726	UNHCR – December 2011
IDPs in Aden Governorate	101,737	UNHCR – December 2011
IDPs in Lahj Governorate	20,802	UNHCR – December 2011
IDPs in Shabwah Governorate	2,108	UNHCR – December 2011
IDPs in Hadramaut Governorate	1,233	UNHCR – December 2011
IDPs in Al Bayda Governorate	959	UNHCR – December 2011
<b>Total Number of IDPs in Yemen<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>463,452</b>	<b>UNHCR – December 2011</b>
<b>Total Number of Refugees in Yemen</b>	<b>215,707</b>	<b>UNHCR – December 2011</b>

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED IN FY 2012 <sup>2</sup>	
USAID/OFDA Assistance to Yemen	\$5,342,620
USAID/FFP Assistance to Yemen	\$11,484,700
State/PRM Assistance to Yemen	\$1,838,406
<b>Total USAID and State Assistance to Yemen</b>	<b>\$18,665,726</b>

<sup>1</sup> The total IDP figure includes IDP populations identified by UNHCR assessments in northern and southern Yemen.

<sup>2</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

## **Context**

- Since 2004, conflict between the Republic of Yemen Government (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'ada 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'ada 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'ada Governorate, 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'ada Governorate.
- Since February 2011, anti-government protests throughout Yemen have 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, President Ali Abdullah Saleh transferred power to Vice President Abdrabuh Mansur Hadi, officially ending Saleh's 33-year rule of Yemen.
- On February 21, presidential elections took place in Yemen, prompting skirmishes in southern Yemen. Vice President Hadi ran uncontested.

## **Health**

- Ongoing insecurity and uneven humanitarian access continue to contribute to limited health care availability across Yemen. Relief agencies are particularly concerned about the spread of communicable disease.
- In February, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$1.2 million through SC/US for health interventions targeting more than 230,000 people in Aden, Amran, Al Hudaydah, Lahj, and Sa'ada governorates. SC/US health activities intend to increase vulnerable populations' access to reproductive health services and prevent and control the spread of communicable disease. To date in FY 2012, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$1.7 million for health interventions throughout the country.
- In addition, State/PRM has provided nearly \$340,000 to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to date in FY 2012 for health and psychosocial assistance for African migrants in northern Yemen's Hajjah Governorate. State/PRM support will also facilitate dialogue between migrants and host communities to decrease tensions between the two populations. State/PRM also continues to support health interventions countrywide for IDPs and victims of conflict.

## **Nutrition**

- More than 6 million children in Yemen are chronically malnourished, reflecting the second highest level of chronic malnutrition in the world, according to the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF). UNICEF estimates that several hundred thousand children will suffer from severe acute malnutrition in 2012.
- In February, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$700,000 through SC/US to address acute malnutrition in Amran, Al Hudaydah, Lahj, and Sa'ada governorates, bringing total funding for nutrition activities in Yemen to more than \$1.9 million. USAID/OFDA-funded nutrition programs provide treatment for acute malnutrition in children under five years of age and pregnant and lactating women through mobile and fixed health care facilities. USAID/OFDA also supports community trainings on healthy feeding practices, benefiting more than 200,000 individuals in northern and southern Yemen.
- Through UNICEF, USAID/OFDA continues to respond to urgent nutrition-related needs countrywide. In January, UNICEF distributed nutritional supplies, sufficient to treat 27,500 severe acute malnutrition cases.

### **Agriculture and Food Security and ERMS**

- Continued insecurity and prolonged displacement have limited income-generating opportunities for vulnerable individuals across Yemen, straining households' financial resources and ability to purchase basic food commodities.
- In FY 2012 to date, USAID/OFDA has committed more than \$490,000 to ACTED to improve food security among more than 30,000 rural individuals by distributing farming inputs for cereal and vegetable cultivation and conducting farming and livestock training.
- In addition, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$500,000 to ACTED to increase livelihoods opportunities and access to cash for rural families in central Yemen. USAID/OFDA support will provide cash-for-work opportunities and vocational training, benefiting more than 5,000 individuals. Cash-for-work activities include rehabilitation of key infrastructure sites and small-scale food processing initiatives.
- To date in FY 2012, USAID/FFP has provided nearly \$11.5 million for 9,240 metric tons (MT) of emergency food assistance for vulnerable populations countrywide.

### **WASH**

- As of January 26, frequent electricity outages continued in Sana'a as a result of ongoing, acute fuel shortages and damaged power infrastructure. The power shortages have impeded the ability of the RoYG to provide a reliable water supply in the capital. As a result, households are purchasing water or receiving donated water from mosques and neighbors, according to international media. Households may spend up to 40 percent of their income buying safe drinking water, according to the U.N. World Food Program (WFP).
- USAID/OFDA partner UNICEF continues to respond to the WASH needs of IDPs and other vulnerable individuals countrywide. In January, UNICEF distributed hygiene kits to more than 7,000 IDPs in Abyan and Aden governorates, provided emergency WASH services for nearly 4,500 IDPs in Amran Governorate, and conducted hygiene promotion activities in schools in Amran and Hajjah governorates. State/PRM also continues to support the provision of WASH-related assistance countrywide.
- In FY 2012, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$600,000 to ACTED for WASH interventions in Dhale'e, Ibb, and Raymah governorates, benefiting more than 26,000 individuals. Through ACTED, USAID/OFDA intends to increase the accessibility of safe drinking water, decrease the prevalence of water-borne diseases, and improve the resiliency of rural communities to cope with emergencies through WASH infrastructure rehabilitation and hygiene promotion. To date in FY 2012, USAID/OFDA has committed more than \$650,000 for WASH interventions in Yemen.

### **Other Humanitarian Assistance**

- As of February 23, the international community had committed nearly \$62.4 million against the U.N.'s 2012 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan (YHRP), according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). The USG had contributed \$14.8 million—or nearly 24 percent—of total committed funding. The 2012 YHRP requests approximately \$447 million to respond to humanitarian needs in Yemen. As of February 23, the international community had also contributed nearly \$21.3 million for humanitarian assistance activities not included in the YHRP.

**USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO YEMEN PROVIDED IN FY 2012<sup>1</sup>**

<b>Implementing Partner</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>2</sup></b>			
ACTED	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS, WASH	Dhale'e, Ibb, Raymah Governorates	\$1,594,812
International Medical Corps (IMC)	Health, Nutrition, WASH	Sana'a Governorate	\$1,799,909
SC/US	Health, Nutrition	Aden, Amran, Al Hudaydah, Lahj, Sa'ada Governorates	\$1,943,656
	Program Support	Countrywide	\$4,243
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE</b>			<b>\$5,342,620</b>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE<sup>3</sup></b>			
WFP	1,250 MT of Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Aden Governorate	\$1,490,400
WFP	7,990 MT of Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$9,994,300
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE</b>			<b>\$11,484,700</b>
<b>STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE</b>			
IOM	Health, Protection	Hajjah Governorate	\$338,406
UNHCR	Health, Shelter, WASH	Countrywide	\$1,500,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE</b>			<b>\$1,838,406</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO YEMEN IN FY 2012</b>			<b>\$18,665,726</b>

<sup>1</sup>Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

<sup>2</sup>USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of February 23, 2012.

<sup>3</sup>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](http://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](http://www.cidi.org) or +1.202.821.1999.  
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/)