



Yemen

ECHO FACTSHEET

Facts & Figures

- **over 21.1 million** in need of humanitarian assistance
- **over 1.2 million** internally displaced persons (OCHA – June 2015)
- **6 million** severe food-insecure people
- **15.2 million** people in need of basic health care
- **US\$ 1.6 billion** requested by the revised Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan

(OCHA)

Funding

European Commission humanitarian assistance to Yemen in 2015:

€35 million



Photo: Oxfam

Key messages

- Yemen is the poorest country in the Arab Peninsula, with over **47% of the population living below the poverty line**. It has the world's third highest rate of malnutrition. Conflict combined with poverty, forced displacement and rising food prices have aggravated an already serious humanitarian crisis during the last year.
- Yemen descended into **widespread armed conflict** in March, causing a major deterioration of the humanitarian situation. Yemen is now classified by the United Nations as a Level 3 emergency – the most severe, large-scale humanitarian crisis.
- Government institutions are **no longer able to deliver basic services to people in need, including basic healthcare and nutrition services, water and electricity supply**. Lack of fuel is hampering the processing and transportation of food; import of basic food items and medicine has significantly reduced since the start of the conflict due to the import restrictions
- EU humanitarian aid is **assisting populations across the country affected by conflict and forced displacement as well as acute malnutrition**. The European Union calls on parties to the conflict to abide by International Humanitarian Law and ensure protection of civilians by refraining from direct targeting of civilian infrastructure.

Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection

B-1049 Brussels, Belgium

Tel.: (+32 2) 295 44 00

Fax: (+32 2) 295 45 72

email:

echo-info@ec.europa.eu

Website:

<http://ec.europa.eu/echo>



* All the latest ECHO Factsheets:
bit.ly/echo-fs

Humanitarian situation and needs

Background

Yemen is the poorest country in the Arab World. Almost 50 per cent of the population lives below the poverty line on less than €2 a day. **Poverty combined with political instability, conflict, economic collapse, rising food prices, and refugee and migrant flows** have aggravated an already-serious humanitarian crisis over the past years.

The conflict is politically complex, with fighting between **forces loyal to the beleaguered President, Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi**, and those allied to Zaidi Shia rebels known as **Houthis**, who forced the former president to flee the capital Sanaa in February. Yemen's security forces have split loyalties, with some units backing Mr Hadi, and others the Houthis and Mr Hadi's predecessor **Ali Abdullah Saleh**. **Saudi Arabia** with the support of **coalition of nine Arab states** launched an air campaign on Yemen in March, with the aim to push back the Houthis. The Saudi airstrikes are targeting Houthi and pro-Saleh forces. Meanwhile, Houthis and pro-Saleh forces are fighting pro-Hadi forces on the ground in the south. There has also been a gradual expansion of Islamist forces, including Islamic State (IS) and al-Qaeda in the Arab Peninsula (AQAP).

Major humanitarian needs

Four months into the conflict, the already dire humanitarian situation in the country continues to deteriorate. Government institutions are no longer able to deliver basic services to people in need, such as **basic healthcare and nutrition services, water and electricity supply**. The **lack of fuel is hampering processing and transportation of food**, and import of basic food items and medicine has significantly gone down due to restrictions on import restrictions imposed by the coalition. Markets, shops and bakeries have stopped functioning in many locations. The Social Welfare Fund, providing cash assistance to extremely poor families, has also stopped functioning.

Humanitarian organisations estimate that **12.2 million people have been directly affected by the conflict and 21.1 million people (80% of the total population) are in need of humanitarian assistance**. Some 15.2 million people are in need of healthcare and 20.4 million people are in need of water and sanitation.

Large-scale internal displacement is taking place throughout the country as a result of the conflict.

Around **12.9 million people are food insecure**, with over 6 million people (22.7% of the population) identified with severe food insecurity and in need of emergency life-saving assistance. The nutrition situation, already above the 10% national emergency threshold before the crisis, has significantly deteriorated as a result of breakdown of health and nutrition services, massive displacement, and livelihoods disruption.

The effects of the armed conflict on the **civilian population** remain a major concern. Civilian homes, schools, health facilities and other civilian infrastructure have been damaged, destroyed and occupied.

According to UNHCR, as of 26 June **over 51,646 people of mixed nationalities have left Yemen** for Djibouti, Ethiopia, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, and Sudan mainly by sea or overland. These are mainly Djiboutian, Somalian and Ethiopian returnees, and Yemeni



nationals. There are also Syrians and Iraqis who have reached Saudi Arabia from Yemen. The influx of people from Yemen is putting strain on the hosting capacities of these already fragile countries.

The European Union's Humanitarian Response

The European Commission is responding to the dramatic humanitarian crisis in Yemen with an **additional €12 million in humanitarian funding**. This funding will help address the most pressing humanitarian needs, by providing nutrition and food, health, water, sanitation and hygiene, shelter and emergency household supplies, and protection. This includes €2 million in humanitarian funding to meet the basic needs of thousands of refugees and returnees fleeing from Yemen to the **Horn of Africa**.

In 2015, the European Commission has therefore allocated **€35 million in humanitarian funding** to assist populations across the country affected by acute malnutrition, conflict and forced displacement. A smaller portion of this funding will be used to ensure monitoring of the rapidly evolving humanitarian and security situation, as well as coordination among humanitarian organizations and donors.

In 2014, **total EU funding (Member States and the Commission combined) for humanitarian assistance in Yemen amounted to €100.8 million** (€33 million in European Commission humanitarian aid).

The UN launched the **revised 2015 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan (YHRP)** in June 2015 to reflect the changing situation in the country since the escalation of conflict and increased needs for humanitarian assistance. The funding required for the plan amounts to US\$ 1.6 billion of which US\$ 758 million are allocated to critical and life-saving activities. To date, donor contributions are covering about 15% of the total need outlined by the YHRP.

In response of the classification of the humanitarian situation in Yemen as an **L3 emergency**, humanitarian agencies are preparing to **significantly scale-up humanitarian presence and operations**. The UN is planning to increase its staff in Sana'a in August 2015. The UN is also planning to establish an operational hub in Hodeida and offices in Aden, Taiz and Sa'ada, to cover the different regions of the country. The expansion of these field locations will make it easier to implement programs across the country. Similarly, INGOs are looking into options to enhance security measures, open new field offices and deploy international staff to field locations to rapidly scale-up humanitarian operations.

