



YEMEN

ECHO FACTSHEET

Facts & Figures

- Number of people in need of humanitarian assistance: over 14.5 million (about 62% of total population)
- Number of refugees / internally displaced people/migrants/ returnees:
 - 245 801 refugees
 - 65 000 migrants and asylum seekers (UNHCR, IOM , UNOCHA)
 - 334 512 IDPs
 - 226 803 returnees (UNHCR)
- Food insecure population: 10 500 000
- Total ECHO funding to date for 2014: €33 million



Key messages

- Humanitarian actors in Yemen need to maintain their focus on emergency, life-saving aid, as well as continuing to advocate for coordinated funding, assessments and activities.
- Stronger coordination among humanitarian partners and effective actions are needed to cover the nutritional needs and reduce the high levels of acute malnutrition, in particular among children under the age of five and vulnerable pregnant and lactating women.
- Stronger efforts to negotiate neutral access for humanitarian partners are needed, as the eruption of conflicts and clashes in several regions of the country are further hampering access for thousands of people to basic services.
- It is vital to monitor the possible deterioration of the alarming food insecurity of the most vulnerable people who have recently been affected by new waves of conflict and/or displacement.
- The Government of Yemen and relief agencies need to seek durable solutions to support a safe return for the many displaced families to break the cycle of dependency on relief assistance.
- Between June 2013 and July 2014, a total of 485 547 Yemenis have been expelled from Saudi Arabia in a law enforcement by the government on illegal migrant workers. The new challenges facing their families who relied on remittances as their main source of income needs to be closely monitored.
- There are almost one million refugees, migrants and asylum seekers from the Horn of Africa in Yemen. Some 65 000 of the migrants and asylum seekers are in need of humanitarian assistance.

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Humanitarian situation and needs

Background

Yemen is the **poorest country in the Arab Peninsula**. Over 47 per cent of the population lives below the poverty line on **less than €2 a day**. It has the world's **third highest rate of malnutrition**. It is estimated that one million children under the age of five are acutely malnourished and in need of direct nutritional support. Poverty combined with conflict, refugee and migrant flows and rising food prices, have aggravated an already serious humanitarian crisis over the past years.

Assessing humanitarian needs and bringing aid to those who need it is extremely difficult in Yemen as a worsening security situation means that aid workers struggle to reach many areas. This leaves large numbers of vulnerable people isolated from essential humanitarian aid.

Major needs and related problems

Malnutrition and food insecurity

Access to nutritious food is vital to vulnerable families with children at risk of malnutrition. An estimated 1 060 000 girls and boys (6-59 months old) will be acutely malnourished over 2014, out of which approximately 280 000 severely malnourished. This adds to an estimated 2.2 million children in the country chronically malnourished (stunted).

Being able to afford nutritious food is a major challenge for 10.5 million Yemenis. A locust invasion during the winter which led to a dramatic loss in crops will increase the vulnerability of 2.8 million people in the western governorates of Taiz, Hodeida and Hajjah. In Hodeida the entire sesame crop and 95 per cent of millet has been lost.

In addition, the increase in the cost of diesel (up from YER 100 to YER 190 per liter) instigated by the Government in July 2014 will lead to an increase in the prices of food and will have a major negative effect on the availability of food for poor Yemenis.

Displacement

Between 2004 and 2011 recurring armed clashes in the north have seen six major cycles of fighting and the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people. In the past year, **a dramatic upsurge of clashes has led to the displacement** of an additional 42 000 people, further reducing the possibility for more than 292 000 to return to their homes. Those who have returned now struggle with slow reconstruction and a lack of even the most basic services. The conflict has also had a severe impact on the livelihoods of a million people living close to the former fighting zones.

In the past years, fighting had also displaced over 162 000 people in the south. With the exception of around 7 000, all of them have now returned home but struggle with difficult living conditions where reconstruction has not yet started, basic services are hardly available and landmines are still a threat.

Influx of migrants and refugees

Yemen is also directly affected by the humanitarian crisis in the Horn of Africa. More than 243 000 Somali refugees are stranded in the country and live in precarious conditions either in Kharaz camp (the only refugee camp) or in poor urban areas. Yemen also hosts unregulated Ethiopian migrants. The Government estimates there are one million of them in Yemen. However, many of these migrants are smuggled across borders, mainly into Saudi Arabia, in search of work, but, due to stricter border controls, very few actually make it. **They find themselves stranded in Yemen with no resources and without protection.** UNOCHA claims that almost one million refugees and migrants in Yemen altogether are in need of humanitarian support.

Based on a new legislation in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) regulating the foreign labour force, 485 547 Yemeni workers have been expelled from KSA since June 2013. Yemenis forced across the border are increasingly vulnerable, physically as well as psychologically. The loss of remittances due **to their expulsion is likely to have a severe negative impact on the lives of thousands of families**, unless the Government-run Social Welfare Fund is able to restructure and restart its disbursement of grants to the most vulnerable families.

The European Union's Humanitarian Response

Funding

European Commission

In 2014, the European Commission has allocated €33 million to assist populations across the country mainly to those affected by malnutrition, food insecurity or armed clashes. The bulk of the funding is used for food as well as supplementary feeding for the growing number of extremely vulnerable families with small children that are at risk of becoming malnourished. The remaining funding goes to providing water and sanitation, basic health care, shelter and basic household items for the affected communities, including those hosting uprooted people. A small portion of the Commission funding will be used to ensure monitoring of the rapidly evolving humanitarian situation and security, as well as coordination among humanitarian organisations and donors. Advocacy work, disseminating information about the principles of humanitarian aid - neutrality, impartiality and independence - is also being conducted.

Member States

In 2014, the EU Member States have allocated €91 million to cover humanitarian needs in Yemen. This comes in addition to €89.5 million allocated in 2013.

Outreach and coordination with humanitarian partners

The Humanitarian Country Team of Yemen presented the 2014 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan (YHRP) to donors in Geneva in early February. The plan requires less funding than in last year (USD 592 million compared to USD 706 million in 2013) and includes a strong call to address gender inequalities in Yemen.

The National Dialogue Conference (NDC), launched in March 2013, concluded its deliberations in late January 2014 after months of delay. The political transition process is continuing with the establishment of the Constitution Drafting Committee.