



Yemen

ECHO FACTSHEET

Facts & Figures

- **over 18.8 million** in need of humanitarian assistance
- **2 million** internally displaced persons
- **1 million** returnees
- **17 million** people food insecure (IPC phases 3 and 4)
- **6.8 million** severely food insecure (IPC phase 4)
- **14.8 million** people in need of basic health care

Funding

EU humanitarian assistance in Yemen

- In **2015 and 2016: €120**
- **Allocation in 2017: €51million**

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Key messages

- After over two years of widespread armed conflict, Yemen is today considered the largest humanitarian crisis in the world. . Since the conflict started in March 2015, the humanitarian situation has been further aggravated by fighting, forced displacement, shortages of basic commodities and economic collapse.
- Besides being **the largest food insecurity emergency in the world with almost 7 million people at risk of famine, Yemen is confronted since late April 2017 with an unprecedented cholera outbreak**
- The EU calls on all parties to the conflict to **abide by International Humanitarian Law and ensure protection of civilians** by refraining from direct and indiscriminate targeting of civilians and civilian infrastructure, allowing commercial import of basic commodities, payment of salaries to public officials offering basic services such as health and education and facilitate unrestricted humanitarian access to population in need .
- During 2015 and 2016, ECHO has allocated **€120 million for to the Yemen crisis. For 2017, ECHO is providing €51 million of life-saving** assistance to the Yemeni populations, bringing the humanitarian total allocation since the start of the conflict to **€171 million**.

Humanitarian situation and needs

Background

Before the escalation of the conflict Yemen was already considered the poorest country in the Arabian Peninsula. Nearly 50 per cent of the population was living below the poverty line and the country was recording one of the highest rates of malnutrition in the world. **The current conflict has exacerbated the existing humanitarian crisis** bringing the country to the brink of collapse accounting for 18.8 million people in need of humanitarian assistance (2/3 of the population).

In March 2015, **Saudi Arabia with the support of a coalition of nine Arab states launched an air campaign on Yemen** with the aim to push back Houthis and pro-Saleh forces and reinstate President Hadi's Government. Following months of airstrikes and heavy fighting, the coalition and forces loyal to president Hadi regained control of Aden in July 2015. Since then, the **frontlines have shifted northwards to Taiz, al-Dhale, al-Bayda, Marib, al-Jawf and Sana'a**. Recently, the coalition started a major **military operation along the Red Sea coast**, slowly moving from the south west of the country towards the port city of Hodeida. Two years into the conflict, neither side has been able to achieve a military victory. Analysts indicate that only a political settlement will bring the conflict to an end.

Despite diplomatic efforts by the UN Special Envoy Ould Cheikh Ahmed and the international community, there are no signs for a resumption of the peace negotiations. Three unsuccessful rounds of peace talks and several attempts to cease hostilities have so far not managed to achieve a lasting ceasefire and peace agreement.

Major humanitarian needs

Over two years into the conflict, **the already dire humanitarian situation in the country continues to deteriorate**. Line ministries and **government institutions are no longer able to deliver basic services to people in need**, including provision of basic healthcare and nutrition services, water and electricity supply, and social safety net services. Import of basic food items and medicine has significantly reduced since the start of the conflict; food imports, factories, markets and shops stopped functioning in many locations; and the economic and financial sector is collapsing, resulting in further challenges to import essential goods, including food and medical supplies. In December 2016, major importers have indicated that they are no longer able to import food due to lack of financial guarantees.

In January 2017, the coalition temporarily halted all shipments into Hodeida as part of the military operation along the Red Sea coast. Since then, some shipments have resumed, but **hindered access to Hodeida port represents another serious shock to the food security situation of a country relying for more than 90% on importations..** As a result of the conflict, food imports, food production and functioning markets have decreased resulting in **reduced food availability and increased prices**. Further escalation into Hodeida Governorate could displace up to 500 000 people and cut access to Hodeida port, key entry point for essential commercial and humanitarian goods into Yemen. **The protection of Hodeida port is essential to ensure food imports into the country and prevent people from slipping into famine.** Should Hodeida port stop operations famine could materialize in 2017.



On 1 July 2015 the IASC declared the humanitarian situation in Yemen as an **L3 emergency**. By now, **more than 3 million people have been displaced of whom 2 million remain in protracted displacement; 11.3 million people need protection services; 17 million people need food assistance; 14.5 million people need WASH; 14.8 million people need access to healthcare; 4.5 million people need nutrition services; and 4.5 million people need access to shelter and NFI.**

Adding to the suffering of Yemenis, since end of April an **unprecedented cholera outbreak has been reported in 20 out of 22 governorates of Yemen**. In only 2 months, over 210 000 suspected cholera cases and over 1 340 deaths. The near collapse of health facilities, lack of payment of salaries for medical staff during 8 months, limited import of basic commodities for provision of health and WASH services compounded with hindered humanitarian access are preventing humanitarian actors and national stakeholders from controlling the cholera outbreak.

The last IPC report released in March 2017 shows that **17 million people, 60% of the total Yemeni population, are food insecure and require urgent humanitarian assistance**. Of those, **6.8 million people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4)** acute food insecurity with at least two million in critical condition and 462 000 children are affected by severe acute malnutrition. The UN has warned that some **7 million people are at risk of slipping into famine**.

The effects of the armed conflict on the civilian population are a major concern. Civilian homes, schools, health facilities and other civilian infrastructure have been damaged, destroyed and occupied. Since the start of the conflict, according to the UN, **at least 10 000 people have been killed and 44 000 wounded**.

The immediate needs of the people are growing continuously. In case no progress is made on reaching a cease fire and a durable political solution, the food security situation will further deteriorate, cholera will be difficult to contain, more children will become malnourished and civilian deaths will rise sharply in a spiral of hunger and disease which consequences exceed the capacities of humanitarian actors and public services close to collapse..

The **2017 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan amounts to US\$ 2.1 billion** and targets 12 million people. **As of mid-June 2017, a total of \$ 920 million has been committed towards the YHRP 2017, i.e. 30%.**

The European Union's Response

Since the start of the conflict in 2015, the European Commission provided humanitarian assistance for **a total allocation of €171 million**.

During the April Pledging Conference in Geneva, Commissioner Christos Stylianides announced an additional allocation of **€51 million under ECHO's 2017 Humanitarian Implementation Plan**. ECHO prioritizes life-saving assistance in the sectors of health, nutrition, food security, protection, shelter/NFI, and water and sanitation, as a mean to respond to the effects of the conflict and the collapse of basic public services.

An additional €70 million is expected to be mobilized in development aid in 2017 to support resilience and early recovery, and further commitments of are foreseen to be decided later in 2017 following a mid-term review of the development cooperation with Yemen.

