

YEMEN



Since 2015, Yemen's brutal war has seen a disregard of international and humanitarian norms, leaving over 75% of the country in need of assistance.

Country Context

In 2015, an internal armed conflict in Yemen between the government of Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi and an alliance of forces led by the Houthi movement dramatically escalated when Saudi Arabia mobilized a coalition of foreign military forces to support the Hadi government. Parties to the conflict have caused civilian casualties, destroyed vital health and education infrastructure, and laid waste to Yemen's economy, leaving millions vulnerable to hunger, disease, and violence, demonstrating little regard for the welfare of civilians—3.2 million people require treatment for acute malnutrition, including 2 million children under five and 1.14 million pregnant or lactating women. Internationally supported negotiations have made sporadic progress which has yet to end the conflict.

Key Figures



24 million

in need of humanitarian assistance



17 million

people in crisis or emergency levels of food insecurity



An estimated 85,000

children have died of starvation since 2015



764,000

cases of cholera reported in 2019



\$3.2 billion

requested for humanitarian response in 2020

How is the U.S. Involved?

The United States is both a leading donor to the U.N.'s humanitarian appeal and a significant supporter of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, including through arms sales that have been opposed by the U.S. Congress.

On-the-Ground Perspective

- The Saudi-led coalition has implemented secondary screening of all shipments of commercial and humanitarian goods into Yemen, delaying shipments up to 141 hours, as of June 2019.
- Delays in official approval of NGO projects from parties to conflict affected over 4 million people in need during two months in 2019.
- While security remains a challenging factor facing humanitarian operational organizations, only a small percentage of NGO activities are being slowed down by security as bureaucratic impediments restrict the majority of operations on the ground.

Responses and Actions

- Analysis shows that 20.1 million people (67% of the total population) would be in crisis levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 and above), including 238,000 people in IPC Phase 5 (catastrophe), had assistance not been delivered.
- Despite ongoing access and logistical constraints, every month some 250 national and international humanitarian partners reach 13 million people across the country.

InterAction has a Yemen working group; to request a briefing, contact policy@interaction.org. References available at [interaction.org/2020globalsituationreport](https://www.interaction.org/2020globalsituationreport).

