

Republic of Yemen



Yemen came into being in 1990 with the unification of North and South Yemen. However, tensions between the two formerly independent countries have remained. A southern separatist movement was defeated in a short civil war in 1994, and tensions re-emerged in 2009 when government troops and rebels, known as the Houthis, clashed in the north, killing hundreds and displacing more than a quarter of a million people. A fresh wave of protests in 2011, inspired by the Arab Spring uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt, forced then-President Ali Abdallah Saleh to resign. Yemen has also become a base for militant groups, like Al-Qaeda and Islamic State, adding to instability in the country. The country spiralled into civil war in 2014 and, despite peace initiatives, fighting continues.

Yemen is a low-income country that faces difficult long-term challenges to stabilizing and growing its economy, and the current conflict has only exacerbated those issues. The ongoing war has halted Yemen's exports, pressured the currency's exchange rate, accelerated inflation, severely limited food and fuel imports, and caused widespread damage to infrastructure. More than 80% of the population is in need of humanitarian assistance and over half are food insecure.

Geography

Official Name: Republic of Yemen

Conventional Short Form: Yemen

Region: Middle East

Area: 527,968 sq km

Bordering Countries:

Climate: Mostly desert, hot and humid along the west coast, temperate in the western mountains which are affected by the seasonal monsoon, extraordinarily hot, dry, harsh desert in the east

Physical Features/Terrain: Narrow coastal plain with flat-topped hills and rugged mountains, upland desert plains

Natural Hazards: Sandstorms and dust storms, limited volcanic activity

People and Society

Population: 27,392,779 (48th in the world)

Ethnic Groups: Predominantly Arab, but also Afro-Arab, South Asian, and European

Official Language: Arabic

Other Languages Spoken: Socotri, Mahri

Religions: Over 99% Muslim

Capital City: Sanaa

Other Major Cities: Aden

Median Age (*half the people are younger than this age and half are older*)

Male: 19.1

Female: 19.3

Total Population: 19.2 (2016 est.)

Literacy Rate (*percentage of the population 15 and older who can read and write*)

Male: 85.1%

Female: 55%

Total Population: 70.1 % (2016 est.)

Life Expectancy at Birth (*average number of years to be lived by those born in the same year*)

Male: 63.4

Female: 67.8

Total Population: 65.5 (2016 est.)

Government

Country Founded: May 22, 1990 (unification of North and South Yemen)

Type of Government: In transition

Country Leaders

President: Abd Rabuh Mansur Hadi

Vice President: **Ali Mohsin al-AHMAR**

Prime Minister: **Ahmad Obaid bin DAGHIR**

Allies: Militarily supported by Saudi Arabian led Sunni dominated coalition of countries including Egypt, Morocco, Jordan, Sudan, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Qatar, and Bahrain

Enemies: Houthi rebels, Shia minority, regional affiliates of IS, Al Qaeda on the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP)

Economy

Currency: Yemeni Rial

GDP: \$73.45 billion (2016 est.)

Natural Resources: Petroleum, fish, rock salt, marble, fertile soil in the west, small deposits of coal, gold, lead, nickel, and copper

Unemployment Rate: 27% (2014 est.)

Population Below Poverty Line: 54% (2014 est.)

Major export and imports

Exports: **Crude oil, coffee, dried and salted fish, liquefied natural gas**

Imports: **Food and live animals, machinery and equipment, chemicals**

Biggest trading partners

Exports: **China, United Arab Emirates, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, India**

Imports: **United Arab Emirates, Oman, China, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, India**

More information can be found at:

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ym.html>