Background

General Food Assistance is WFP’s primary modality of food assistance in Yemen and currently accounts for 85 percent of WFP activities in the country. WFP rolled out General Food Assistance in October 2015 under the Emergency Operation (EMOP 200890) through which WFP distributes a food basket consisting of six commodities: wheat, pulses, fortified vegetable oil, iodized salt, sugar and wheat-soya blend.

Since the beginning of the crisis, WFP has been working with 22 Cooperating Partners, providing lifesaving food assistance to 7 million severely food insecure and vulnerable individuals.

The most recent assessment, March 2017 Integrated Phase Food Security Classification (IPC) analysis, reported an overall deterioration in the food and nutrition situation. Almost two-thirds of the population (17 million people) are food insecure, of which 6.8 million are severely food insecure and dependent on food assistance with no other means to secure their basic food needs. Given the dire humanitarian situation, WFP will prioritise the most severely food insecure. Under the new Emergency Operation, WFP will target 6.8 million severely food-insecure people through General Food Assistance and commodity voucher through Trader’s Network (CV-TN) modalities. Beneficiaries of both modalities will receive a food basket of similar entitlements and nutritional value.

Under the General Food Assistance, WFP will target 6 million individuals across some 2,700 food distribution points in 19 IPC phase 4 and 3 governorates, distributing a 100 percent entitlement, comprising 75 kg of wheat, 10 kg of pulses, 8 litres of vegetable oil, 0.5 kg of salt and 2.5 kg of sugar per person per month.

In line with the targeting criteria outlined by the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster in Yemen - co-led by WFP and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations - WFP has established a prioritization plan in case sufficient funding is not received to cover all needs, ranking districts by level of severe food insecurity and Global Acute Malnutrition rates. For instance a 65 percent funding level (US$773 million against US$1.2 billion needs) would oblige WFP to cut off 3 million severely food-insecure people from General Food Assistance in lower priority districts – while maintaining nutrition activities throughout the year in all districts to avoid any further deterioration in the nutrition situation across the country. Further prioritization, using the same criteria, would be pursued should funding levels fall below 65 percent.

In May 2017, WFP reached 3.6 million people with General Food Assistance in Abyan, Aden, Al Bayda, Al Dhale‘a, Al Hudaydah, Al Mahwit, Amanat Al Asimah, Amran, Dhamar, Hajjah Ibb, Lahj, Raymah, Sa‘ada, Sana’a, Shabwah and Taiz (60 percent achieved against the target of 6,066,060 this month).