



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Yemen Country Brief December 2019



In Numbers

12.7 million people assisted in December 2019



123,148 mt of general food assistance dispatched

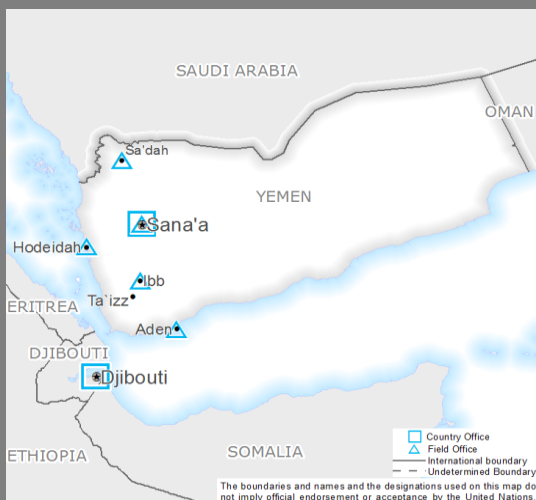
USD 6.4 million cash-based transfers made
USD 18.7 million value of redeemed commodities through food vouchers

USD 665 million six month net funding requirements (February – July 2020)

Operational Context

Yemen is classified as a low-income, food-deficit country, ranked 178th out of 189 countries, according to the 2018 Human Development Report. At least 50 percent of the population is estimated to be living in poverty, and more than 90 percent of food in Yemen is imported. Limited access to food is compounded by several factors, including the effects of low incomes, the depreciation of the Yemeni currency, uncertainty of access to Yemen's Red Sea ports, large family sizes, high unemployment rates, and the irregular or non-payment of salaries of many civil servants.

Present in Yemen since 1967, WFP currently aims to save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies, and specifically increase food consumption through the scale-up of life-saving emergency food assistance (particularly among the most food insecure population), as well as to expand coverage of nutrition interventions to prevent and treat moderate acute malnutrition (MAM).



Population: 30.5 million	2018 Human Development Index: 178 out of 188
Income Level: Low	Chronic malnutrition: 2 million children between 6-59 months

Operational Updates

- Following the trial run of the milling and transportation of 700 mt of wheat flour from the Red Sea Mills (RSM) in Hudaydah to Ibb governorate in October, milling operations for the remaining 50,000 mt of wheat commenced on 12 December with an estimated 2.5 months' timeline. On 26 December, the RSM were damaged following artillery shelling, impacting one production line and some silos, bringing the operations to a halt. The technical team conducted urgent repairs and milling resumed on 30 December. As of 31 December, 3,729 mt of wheat flour was produced. Of which, 3,479 mt were dispatched to WFP warehouses in Ibb and Sana'a governorates.
- On 16 December, WFP Yemen issued a [press release](#) highlighting the significant scale up of assistance in 2019. WFP has centralised all beneficiary lists and boosted monitoring efforts nationwide. Meanwhile, the use of biometric registration continues to be expanded. While 12 million people receive food assistance each month, nutrition support, livelihoods initiatives and school feeding has also increased.
- On 5 December, UNDSS instructed the postponement of all UN missions via/to Mukalla in the South as clashes between the Internationally Recognized Government of Yemen (IRG) and the Southern Transitional Council (STC) erupted in Zinjibar, in Abyan governorate.
- On 21 and 22 December, the offices of five humanitarian organizations were attacked with rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs) by unknown assailants in Al Dhalea city. No casualties were reported except for one security guard sustaining injuries. A third attack occurred on 24 December. As a result, twelve international organizations confirmed total or partial suspension of programmes and movements due to safety concerns. It is estimated that at least 217,000 beneficiaries across all humanitarian sectors will be affected by this suspension.

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Photo Caption: 5-year-old Mohammed eats directly from a sachet of PlumpySup (a ready-to-eat nutritional supplement) at a WFP-assisted nutrition clinic in Al Sabeen Hospital, Sana'a, Yemen. © WFP/Mohammed Awadh

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019-2020)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
4.82 b*	2.1 b
2020 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (February – July 2020)
2.5 b*	665 m

* According to ICSP budget revision, which incorporates the needs to scale-up operations to reach up to 12 million people monthly.

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

Strategic Outcome 1: Food insecure people affected by crises across Yemen, have access to life-saving, safe and nutritious food all year.
Focus area: Crisis response

- Activities:**
- Provide life-saving food assistance to severely food -insecure households (URT: Unconditional resource transfers to support access to food).

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

Strategic Outcome 2: People at risk of malnutrition, especially pregnant and lactating women and girls and children under 5 years old, have reduced levels of malnutrition by 2020.
Focus area: Crisis response

- Activities:**
- Provide nutrition assistance to treat and prevent malnutrition.
 - Provide conditional cash assistance to support access to nutrition and health services.

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food.

Strategic Outcome 3: Vulnerable households across Yemen have access to equitable social safety nets and basic services during and in the aftermath of crises.
Focus area: Resilience Building

- Activities:**
- Provide school meals. WFP will provide school meals to increase the food intake and school attendance of primary school-age children.
 - Support community infrastructure rehabilitation and livelihoods through food assistance for assets.

Strategic Result 8: Sharing of knowledge, expertise and technology, strengthen global partnership support to country efforts to achieve the SDGs

Strategic Outcome 4: International and national partners are supported in their efforts to assist people in Yemen and preserve critical services.
Focus area: Crisis Response

- Activities:**
- Provide humanitarian air services through UNHAS. UNHAS provides safe and reliable air transport services and standby capacity for the evacuation of humanitarian staff if required.
 - Logistics Cluster.
 - Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC).
 - Bilateral service provision.

Monitoring

- In December 2019, WFP and third-party monitoring (TPM) companies conducted 1,198 monitoring visits in 20 governorates. The monitored activities included in-kind general food assistance (GFA), commodity vouchers, cash-based transfers (CBT), prevention and treatment programmes for moderate acute malnutrition, school meals and livelihood activities. WFP’s in-house call centres conducted 9,653 calls to verify receipt of assistance and food delivery to distribution sites.

Funding and Pipeline update

- WFP’s operational needs for 2020 stands at USD 2.5 billion. Based on the Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP) and given the long lead-times to bring food into the country, WFP urgently needs an additional USD 665 million to ensure operations can continue unimpeded over the next six months.
- WFP is expecting a series of pipeline breaks for a number of programmes in 2020. Under the general food assistance, shortfalls are starting as early as March. In April, shortfalls are expected for nutrition interventions, cash assistance under the food for assists activity and the UN Humanitarian Air Services (UNHAS). School feeding programme is covered for the current school year. Shortfalls for the Logistics Cluster are expected in July and for the Emergency Telecommunication Cluster (ETC) in March.

Challenges

- WFP is experiencing delays in deliveries at many security checkpoints across several governorates. Whilst such challenges are not unusual in Yemen, it has a significant impact on WFP’s operations and programme implementation, leading to delayed food deliveries and additional costs. WFP is liaising with the authorities for the expedited release of all detained trucks.

Donors (in alphabetical order): Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, European Commission, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), Kuwait, Luxembourg, Norway, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, UN CERF, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Yemen Humanitarian Fund and private sector donors.