In Numbers

12 million people assisted
so far in March 2020 (distributions are ongoing)

120,300 mt of general food assistance dispatched

USD 6.3 million cash-based transfers made
USD 18.5 million value of redeemed commodities through food vouchers

USD 625 million six-month net funding requirements (April – September 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. It aims specifically to 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).

Operational Updates

- WFP has activated an alternate work arrangement in all WFP offices in Yemen as a precautionary measure against COVID-19 with exceptions necessary for operational continuity.
- To limit exposure to COVID-19, Sana'a airport was closed on 14 March. Airports and land entry points under the control of the Internationally Recognized Government of Yemen (IRG) were closed on 18 March, with the exception of flights for humanitarian purposes. Amman and Djibouti airports, key air hubs for WFP in Yemen, were closed on 17 and 18 March respectively.
- Flooding on 25 and 26 March in southern governorates affected more than 4,625 families in 60 IDP sites in Aden, Lahj, Abyan, Hadramaut, Al Maharah, Al Dhalea, and Taiz governorates. The priority needs observed during rapid assessments are for food, dewatering and desludging, tents, non-food items and plastic sheeting.
- Due to the military escalation in Al Jawf governorate, new waves of displaced civilians arrived to Mareb governorate in March. The Rapid Response Mechanisms (RRM) was activated to provide life-saving assistance to the newly displaced households. In March 2020, WFP and rapid response mechanism partners, provided immediate food assistance package to 10,421 families newly displaced in 18 governorates. A total of 4,867 kits were distributed in Mareb, 1,000 in Al Jawf, 888 in Sa'dah, and 600 in Taiz.
- The WFP training on targeting and biometric registration for the central and governorate committees started in Sana'a in March. The training is a key milestone for the exercise.
- In March, the Food Security and Livelihood Assessment refresher trainings started in Sana'a for data collection teams in the north. The field work for the assessment in the north started early March.

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

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Photo Caption: Amat Allah, 65, receives monthly assistance from WFP while COVID-19 precautionary measures are implemented at the distribution point. Photo: ©WFP Mohammed Nasher
Monitoring

- In March 2020, WFP and third-party monitoring (TPM) companies conducted 1,733 monitoring visits in 22 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 feeding and livelihood activities. WFP’s call centres conducted 17,577 calls to verify receipt of assistance, food delivery to distribution sites and collect data food security indicators.

Funding and Pipeline update

- WFP’s operational needs for 2020 stand 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 625 million to ensure operations can continue unimpeded over the next six months as per the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Funding requirement in USD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General food assistance</td>
<td>441 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>102 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livelihoods</td>
<td>3 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNHAS</td>
<td>1 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logistics Cluster</td>
<td>2 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Telecommunications Cluster</td>
<td>441 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Challenges

- As a COVID-19 precautionary measure enacted by the local authorities, a quarantine restriction has been imposed on all vessels entering all Yemeni ports in the north and south. This could lead to significant delays, and therefore demurrage costs, for vessels linking regional ports, which only spend one or two days at sea between ports.

- The implementation of COVID-19 preventive measures at food distribution sites delayed the conclusion of the March distribution cycle in several locations. WFP extended the March cycle until the end of April 2020.

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.