



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Yemen Country Brief March 2020

In Numbers



12.8 million people assisted
in March 2020

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

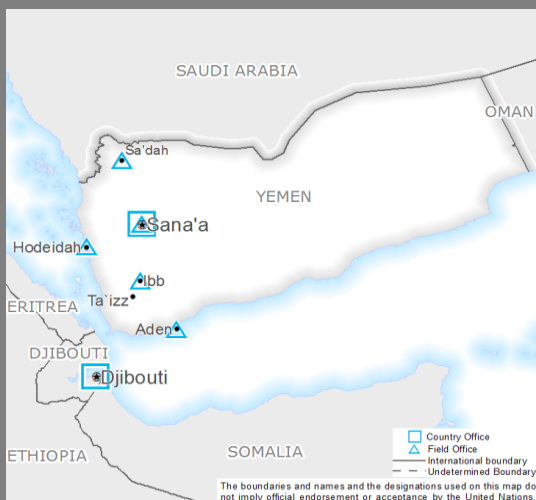
USD 535 million six-month net funding
requirements (May – October 2020)

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).



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

- 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 Sana'a, 850 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.

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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

Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019-2020)	
Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
4.82 b	2.2 b
2020 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (May – October 2020)
2.5 b	535 m

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 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 535 million to ensure operations can continue unimpeded over the next six months as per the following:

Activity	Funding requirement in USD
General food assistance	363 million
Nutrition	57 million
Livelihoods	78 million
UNHAS	4 million
Logistics Cluster	2 million
Emergency Telecommunications Cluster	2 million

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.