In Numbers

8.6 million people assisted
in April 2020

82,203 mt of general food assistance dispatched

USD 6.4 million cash-based transfers made

USD 11.8 million value of redeemed commodities through food vouchers

USD 634 million six-month net funding requirements (June – November 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

- On 10 April, the first confirmed case of COVID-19 in Yemen was diagnosed in Ash Shihr district in Hadramout governorate.

- In April, WFP continued to operate on an alternate remote work arrangement in all WFP offices in Yemen as a precautionary measure against COVID-19 with exceptions necessary for operational continuity. WFP operations remained mostly unaffected in April, except for school feeding due to the early closure of schools, and food assistance for training. Activities are ongoing with precautionary measures set in place to prevent crowding, with distributions staggered over several days.

- During the April distribution cycle in light of anticipated funding shortages and in a bid to stretch available resources, WFP implemented a reduction in the levels of assistance provided in the northern areas. The reduction came as a result of eroded confidence in the operation, following the delays in implementation of some elements required for full assurances. WFP continues to work with the authorities to resolve these issues to allow for a conducive operating environment for both WFP and donors to reinstate full assistance as soon as possible.

- WFP supported the quarantine centres established in Yemen with immediate response rations (IRR) to cover the quarantine period. As of 2 May, WFP and its rapid response mechanism (RRM) partners have assisted 9,080 individuals with 3,061 RRM kits in 38 quarantine centres in nine governorates.

- Heavy rain in mid-April affected thousands of households in Sana’a and Mareb. On 21 April, floods in Aden resulted in eight fatalities, and more than 14,700 people are reported displaced across 21 sites for internally displaced people. WFP provided 18.7 mt of food as one-month ration to 207 households in Sanhan district and 73 mt of mixed commodities to 811 families in Sana’a city. In Aden, WFP assisted 2,000 families with hot meals for three days, followed by 1,500 IRR kits and 2,000 high-energy biscuits.

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

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Photo Caption: WFP food distribution in Hoeren-Lahj governorate.
Photo: ©WFP Hebatallah Munassar
In April 2020, WFP and third-party monitoring (TPM) companies conducted 2,310 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 29,362 calls to verify receipt of assistance, food delivery to distribution sites and collect data on 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 634 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>500 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>64 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livelihoods</td>
<td>62 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNHAS</td>
<td>5 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logistics Cluster</td>
<td>1 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Telecommunications Cluster</td>
<td>2 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.

**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.