Operational Context

Yemen is classified as a low-income, food-deficit country, ranked 179th out of 189 countries, according to the 2020 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 ongoing conflict, 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

- Under the December cycle, WFP targeted 5.3 million people with general food assistance. Of these, 4.3 million people were targeted with in-kind food assistance, around 950,000 people with food vouchers, and some 618,000 people with cash assistance. On 19 November, local authorities in Aden governorate forcibly entered seven WFP warehouses. While five were vacated the same day, as of 31 December two warehouses remained occupied. Due to the access constraints to the warehouses, dispatches under the December cycle in the south could not be undertaken on time. Dispatches resumed on 14 December and were considered under the January cycle.

- On 23 December, the Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP) was extended for one additional year, till 31 December 2021. The structure of the ICSP retains strategic outcomes and existing activities as a continuity. While actual humanitarian needs amount to USD 2.6 billion, WFP, in light of an anticipated reduced funding outlook and continued operational challenges, designed a prioritisation plan to ensure those most vulnerable are assisted first. WFP will assist a total of 12.9 million people with general food assistance while the overall humanitarian response will target 15.6 million people.

- The full report of the countrywide Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) findings was released on 30 December. It estimates that in the first half of 2021, the number of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity is anticipated to reach 16.2 million people. For the first time in two years, pockets of IPC 5 (famine-like) conditions are reported, with 47,000 people set to face catastrophic levels of hunger.

- Targeting and biometric registration activities in Sana’a City continued throughout December. On 26 December, the second round of cash distributions for the targeted households in Azal district commenced where 117,000 people with general food assistance, of these, 17,000 targeted with in-kind food assistance, around 50,000 people with food vouchers, and some 618,000 people with cash assistance.

- On 30 December, an explosion followed by shooting took place at Aden International Airport upon the arrival of the newly formed governmental cabinet, which led to a number of deaths and injuries. On the same day, a scheduled UNHAS flight was en-route to Aden and proceeded directly to Addis Ababa instead. All UN staff were accounted for and reported safe.

In Numbers

5.3 million people targeted in December 2020
53,000 mt of general food assistance
USD 7,000 cash-based transfers
USD 6.8 million commodity vouchers
USD 430 million six-month net funding requirements (January – June 2021)
WFP Country Strategy

Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP 2019-2021)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Requirements (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.73 b</td>
<td>3.1 b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021 Requirements (in USD)</td>
<td>Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (January – June 2021)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.9 b</td>
<td>430 m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Strategic Result 1:** Everyone has access to food

**Strategic Outcome 1:** Food insecure people affected by crises across Yemen, have access to lifesaving, 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 2020, WFP and third-party monitoring (TPM) companies conducted over 2,800 monitoring activities.
- The monitored activities included in-kind general food assistance (GFA), commodity vouchers, cash-based transfers (CBT), nutrition prevention and treatment programmes, school feeding and livelihood activities. WFP’s call centres conducted over 30,000 calls to verify the receipt of assistance, food delivery to distribution sites and to collect data on food security indicators.

Funding and Pipeline Updates

- WFP urgently needs an additional USD 430 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>306 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>65 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Feeding</td>
<td>11 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livelihoods</td>
<td>35 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNHAS</td>
<td>10 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logistics Cluster</td>
<td>2 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Telecommunications</td>
<td>1 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Challenges

- In the areas under the Sana’a-based authorities, the fuel crisis resurfaced in December after it had witnessed a slight improvement in November. While there was no major interruption to WFP’s operation due to the fuel crisis, a three-day delay was reported at the district level where fuel was not always available.

- Following increased demands due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the global shortfall in the production and availability of wheat soya blend (WSB+) continued in December. Impacting WFP’s nutrition programme from the August distribution cycle, the shortfalls are expected to continue until May 2021. WFP is prioritising the available stocks for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) for pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLWG). Children will continue to be supported with supplies for the treatment of MAM.

- Following the formation of the new cabinet in the south and speculation of a possible renewed deposit from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), the exchange rate in the south appreciated to YER 627 against the United States dollar (USD) on 30 December. This comes after having reached a historic all-time low of YER 916/USD 1 on 10 December. Following the attack on Aden International Airport on 30 December and the uncertainty regarding the KSA deposit, the exchange rate has progressively depreciated, and overall remains unstable in the south and susceptible to fluctuations. Meanwhile, the exchange rate in areas under the Sana’a based authorities remained stable at around YER 600/1 USD.

Donors (supporting WFP Yemen’s ICSP 2020 in alphabetical order): Canada, Czech Republic, Estonia, European Commission, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), Kuwait, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, UN other funds and agencies, United Kingdom, United States, Yemen Humanitarian Fund and private sector donors.