



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Yemen Country Brief January 2021

In Numbers



8.1 million people targeted
in January 2021

66,000 mt of general food assistance

US\$11.6 million cash-based transfers

US\$10.6 million commodity vouchers

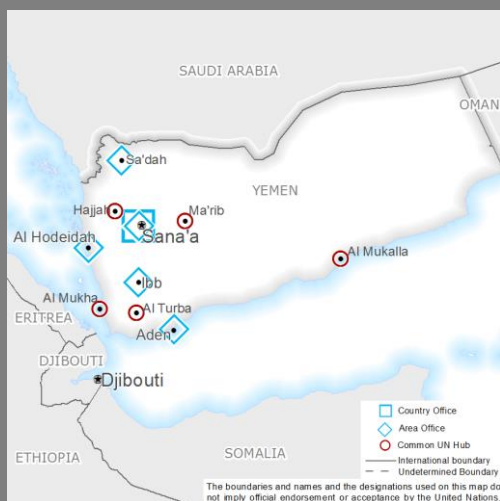
US\$519 million six-month net funding requirements
(February – July 2021)

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).



The boundaries and names and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Population: **30.5 million**

2019 Human Development Index: **177 out of 189**

Income Level: **Low**

Chronic malnutrition: **2 million children between 6-59 months**

Operational Updates

- Under the January cycle, WFP targeted 8.1 million people with general food assistance. Of these, 5.3 million people were targeted with in-kind food assistance, around 1.6 million people with food vouchers and over 1.1 million people with cash assistance.
- In the southern areas, 4.25 million beneficiaries are to be biometrically registered. To date, over 1.6 million beneficiaries in Internationally Recognized Government of Yemen (IRG) areas have been biometrically registered. In areas under the Sana'a-based authorities, WFP launched in November 2020 the provision of general food assistance through cash transfers. As of 31 January, around 1,680 people are biometrically registered and activities are proceeding in three districts in Sana'a city, with the aim to reach 150,000 people within the first phase.
- In January, WFP targeted over 1.38 million students across 56 districts in 20 governorates through its School Feeding Programme (SFP), of which, around 10,000 students received freshly prepared meals via the healthy kitchens programme in Aden. The SFP supports children to become better learners in school and improves their overall wellbeing by making sure they are well-nourished. Moreover, well-designed school meals help set the children on the path towards healthier diets and behaviours in addition to offering a safety net for vulnerable families.
- On 19 January, the US Department of State Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) designated Ansar Allah as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO). To date, five General Licenses have been issued for "Official Business of the United States Government", "Official Activities of Certain International Organizations", "Certain Transactions in Support of Nongovernmental Organizations' Activities in Yemen", "Transactions Related to the Exportation or Re-exportation of Agricultural Commodities, Medicine, Medical Devices, Replacement Parts and Components or Software Updates", and "Authorizing Transactions Involving Ansar Allah" with all transactions with Ansar Allah forces to be authorised through February 26 at 12:01 am.
- Under the Stockholm Agreement, on 24 January, the fifth meeting of the Supervisory Committee on the Implementation of the Prisoners and Detainees Exchange Agreement started in Jordan. The committee resumed discussions regarding the release of more detainees following the release of 1,065 detainees in October 2020.

Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP 2019-2021)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
6.73 b	2.6 b
2021 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (February – July 2021)
1.91 b	519 m

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 2021.

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 January 2021, WFP and third-party monitoring (TPM) companies conducted over 2,600 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 24,500 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 519 million to ensure operations can continue unimpeded over the next six months as per the following:

Activity	Funding requirement in USD
General Food Assistance	383 million
Nutrition	76 million
School Feeding	11 million
Livelihoods	31 million
UNHAS	12 million
Logistics Cluster	5 million
Emergency Telecommunications Cluster	1 million

Challenges

- In the areas under the Sana'a-based authorities, the fuel crisis continued in January 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 January. Impacting WFP's nutrition programme from the August distribution cycle, the shortfalls are expected to continue through the first half of 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 power-sharing cabinet in the South and speculation of a possible renewed deposit from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), the exchange rate in the areas under the IRG appreciated to Yemeni Rial (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. However, following the attack on Aden International Airport on 30 December and the uncertainty regarding the KSA deposit, the exchange rate has progressively depreciated, reaching YER 863/USD 1 on 31 January. Overall, the exchange rate remains unstable in the south and susceptible to fluctuations. In the areas under the Sana'a-based authorities, the exchange rate remains stable at around YER 595/USD 1.

Donors (supporting WFP Yemen's ICSP 2021 in alphabetical order): Germany, private donors, UN Country Based Pooled Funds, and the World Bank.