Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/Yemen

In Numbers

9 million people targeted
in February 2021

74,400 mt of general food assistance

US$14.5 million cash-based transfers

US$9.8 million food vouchers

US$479.5 million six-month net funding requirements (March – August 2021)

Operational Updates

- Under the February cycle, WFP targeted 9 million people with general food assistance. Of these, 6.1 million people were targeted with in-kind food assistance, around 1.7 million people with food vouchers and over 1.2 million people with cash assistance.

- In the southern areas, 4.25 million beneficiaries are to be biometrically registered. By the end of February, over 1.66 million beneficiaries have been biometrically registered in the areas under the Internationally Recognized Government of Yemen (IRG). In November 2020, WFP launched the provision of general food assistance through cash transfers in the areas under the Sana’a-based authorities. As of 28 February, around 18,800 people have been biometrically registered and activities are proceeding in three districts in Sana’a city, with the aim to reach over 140,000 people within the first phase.

- On 21 February, the 2021 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) for Yemen was published. With 20.7 million people in need (66 percent of the population), including 12.1 in acute need (60 percent of those in need) and over 4 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), Yemen remains the world’s largest humanitarian crisis. Food insecurity and malnutrition are the main drivers of the needs with 16.2 million people facing high acute food insecurity, Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) 3 or higher.

- The IPC nutrition analysis was released on 12 February. The report revealed that in 2021 nearly 2.25 million Yemeni children under the age of five are threatened to suffer from acute malnutrition. During this year, WFP is targeting 3.3 million children and mothers with services to treat and prevent malnutrition in all priority districts, including IDP sites.

- The US Department of State revoked the designation of Ansar Allah as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) on 16 February. The UN and aid organizations welcomed the decision as it will provide profound relief to millions of Yemenis who rely on humanitarian assistance and commercial imports for their basic survival needs.

- The military escalation in Ma’rib governorate in February led to the displacement of more than 8,600 people. WFP is working with OCHA and other UN agencies to respond to the increased humanitarian needs via a coordinated plan.

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).

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Photo Caption: Intisar giving her son Rafiq Acha nutritious food at the health center. Photo: ©WFP Alaa Noman
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>3.4 b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021 Requirements (in USD)</td>
<td>Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (March – August 2021)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.91 b</td>
<td>479.5 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 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 3:** Everyone has access to livelihoods

**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.

**Funding and Pipeline Updates**

- WFP urgently needs an additional USD 479.5 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>397 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>53 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Feeding</td>
<td>11 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livelihoods</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNHAS</td>
<td>12 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logistics Cluster</td>
<td>5.5 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Telecommunications Cluster</td>
<td>1 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Challenges**

- In the areas under the Sana’a-based authorities, the fuel crisis continued in February as no fuel vessels have been permitted to berth by the Saudi-led Coalition (SLC) since 03 January 2021. While there was no major interruption to WFP’s operation due to the fuel crisis, a three-four days delay was reported at 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+) and nutritious commodities continued in February. The pipeline situation is expected to improve starting from March to enable a gradual resumption of the prevention of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) activity across the country. WFP is prioritising the available stocks for the treatment of 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 866/USD 1 on 28 February. 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 601/USD 1.

**Donors** (supporting WFP Yemen’s ICSP 2021 in alphabetical order): Germany, private sector donors, Saudi Arabia, UN Country Based Pooled Funds, United States, UN other funds and agencies, and the World Bank.

**Monitoring**

- In January and February 2021, WFP and third-party monitoring (TPM) companies conducted around 2,700 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 26,900 calls to verify the receipt of assistance, food delivery to distribution sites and to collect data on food security indicators.