WFP Yemen Country Brief July 2021

Operational Context

As of early 2021, 16.2 million people, more than 50 percent of the population of Yemen, are estimated to be food insecure. Of these, 47,000 people are estimated to live in famine-like conditions (IPC Phase 5). 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.

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.

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).

In Numbers

11.3 million people targeted for general food assistance in July 2021

90,300 mt of general food assistance

US$13.2 million in cash transfers

US$20.1 million in commodity vouchers

US$470.4 million six-month net funding requirement (August 2021 – January 2022)

Operational Updates

- Under the July cycle, WFP targeted 11.3 million people for general food assistance (GFA). Of these, 7.8 million people were targeted with in-kind food assistance, around 2.3 million people with commodity vouchers and more than 1.2 million people with cash assistance.
- On 30 July, WFP and FAO released their latest “Hunger Hotspots” early warning analysis. The analysis notes Yemen as one of five “highest alert level” hotspots. WFP projects that from August to November 2021, the factors that drive food insecurity suggest a further deterioration is likely, as the economic decline will continue to affect people’s purchasing power and access to food.
- The military escalation in Ma’rib governorate, which started in February 2021, has led to a wave of population displacement, and by the end of July, around 24,800 people had been displaced. Through its Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) partners, WFP is providing an immediate emergency assistance package, as well as a one-month food ration to newly displaced households. In addition, WFP has completed the verification of new IDPs and has included some 35,000 new IDPs in its regular assistance since the beginning of 2021.
- In the southern areas, WFP is in the process of biometrically registering 4.2 million beneficiaries. By the end of July, around 1.8 million beneficiaries have been biometrically registered in the areas under the Internationally Recognized Government of Yemen (IRG). In November 2020, WFP launched biometric registration and the provision of cash through GFA in the areas under the Sana’a-based authorities. By the end of July, around 118,600 people have had their biometric data registered into SCOPe (WFP’s beneficiary and transfer management platform), and nearly 52,000 people were biometrically registered and were either enrolled or ready to be enrolled for cash assistance.
- Heavy rains over the coastal Tehama plains during July has triggered flash floods that have inundated vast swathes of land. Initial reports indicate that around 7,766 households (approximately 38,800 people) have been affected by floods in a number of governorates. The full extent of the floods and their impact is not yet determined as the heavy rains continue and assessments are still ongoing. WFP stands ready to respond if needed.

Contact info: daniel.johansen@wfp.org, agnes.semaan@wfp.org
waad.almagaleh@wfp.org
Country Director: Laurent Bukera
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/Yemen

Photo Caption: Ali, 26, at a WFP cash-based transfer distribution point in Dar Sa’id district, Aden governorate. Photo: ©WFP Hebatallah Munassar
As of the end of July, over 600 WFP staff and their dependents continued to be held in the Saudi Arabia. Based on 2 April, approximately the same number of WFP staff has been vaccinated in the areas under the Sana’a-based authorities, the vaccination campaign that started in mid-June continued in July. The 10,000 vaccine doses available will only target healthcare workers at this stage. As of the end of July, over 600 WFP staff and their dependents have been vaccinated under the UN staff vaccination campaign.

On 27 July, the Yemeni Riyal (YER), for the first time, reached a record low of 1,000 YER/USD 1 in areas under the IRG. In the areas under the Sana’a-based authorities, the vaccination campaign started in mid-June and continued in July. The 10,000 vaccine doses available will only target healthcare workers at this stage. After the end of July, over 600 WFP staff and their dependents have been vaccinated under the UN staff vaccination campaign.

Yemen’s COVID-19 vaccination campaign, which started on 20 April, is ongoing. As of the end of July, around 311,500 doses had been administered in the areas under the IRG. In the areas under the Sana’a-based authorities, the vaccination campaign started in mid-June and continued in July. The 10,000 vaccine doses available will only target healthcare workers at this stage. After the end of July, over 600 WFP staff and their dependents have been vaccinated under the UN staff vaccination campaign.

WFP urgently needs an additional USD 470.4 million to ensure operations can continue unimpeded over the next six months as per the following:

### Monitoring
- In June and July 2021, WFP and third-party monitoring (TPM) companies conducted around 1,900 monitoring activities, including in person visits and remote calls.
- 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 37,500 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 470.4 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>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Food Assistance</td>
<td>379.3 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>48.9 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Feeding</td>
<td>5.7 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Livelihoods</td>
<td>25 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNHAS</td>
<td>9.3 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Logistics Cluster</td>
<td>2.2 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emergency Telecommunications Cluster</td>
<td>-</td>
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### Challenges
- In the areas under the Sana’a-based authorities, the Yemen Petroleum Company (YPC) continued to provide gasoline at their stations during the month of July. In July, only one fuel vessel completed its discharge of fuel at Al Hodeidah port, while a total of three vessels of fuel continued to be held in the Saudi-Led Coalition (SLC) holding area. While there was no major interruption to WFP’s operation due to the fuel crisis, a one-two days delay is still reported at district level where fuel was not always available.
- Yemen’s COVID-19 vaccination campaign, which started on 20 April, is ongoing. As of the end of July, around 311,500 doses had been administered in the areas under the IRG. In the areas under the Sana’a-based authorities, the vaccination campaign started in mid-June and continued in July. The 10,000 vaccine doses available will only target healthcare workers at this stage. After the end of July, over 600 WFP staff and their dependents have been vaccinated under the UN staff vaccination campaign.
- On 27 July, the Yemeni Riyal (YER), for the first time, reached a record low of 1,000 YER/USD 1 in areas under the IRG. In the areas under the IRG, the YER has lost some 79 percent of its value in areas under IRG compared to pre-crisis levels. Meanwhile, the YER remains stable in the areas under Sana’a-based authorities and averaged YER 597/USD 1 in July 2021, approximately the same as in January 2020. Compared to pre-crisis levels, the YER has lost 64 percent of its value in areas under the Sana’a-based authorities.

### Donors (supporting WFP Yemen in 2021 in alphabetical order): Australia, Canada, Croatia, Estonia, European Commission, France, Germany, Iceland, Japan, Leichtenstien, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, private donors, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, UN CERP, UN Country-Based Pooled Funds, UN other funds and agencies, the United Arab Emirates, the United States, and the World Bank.