WFP Yemen
Country Brief
December 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

- 13 million people targeted for general food assistance in December
- 86,800 mt of in-kind general food distributions
- 18,500 mt through commodity vouchers
- US$15.1 million in cash transfers
- US$765 million six-month net funding requirement (January 2022 – June 2022)

Operational Updates

- Under the December cycle, WFP targeted 13 million people for general food assistance (GFA). Of these, 9.4 million people were targeted with in-kind food assistance, 2.3 million people with commodity vouchers and more than 1.3 million people with cash assistance.

- According to the December WFP food security update, the nationwide average rate of inadequate food consumption in Yemen stands at 48 percent, above the “very high” threshold of 40 percent. The rate of inadequate food consumption remains notably higher in areas under the Internationally Recognized Government-IRG (53 percent) as compared to areas under the Sana’a-based authorities (46 percent).

- Data collection for the nationwide 2021 Food Security and Livelihoods Assessment (FSLA) was completed in December. The FSLA results will inform the forthcoming Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis, will support WFP programmatic planning for 2022 and will feed into the 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview and Humanitarian Response Plan.

- Flights of the United Nations and other international humanitarian organizations to and from Sana’a International Airport, including flights of the WFP-managed United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS), were temporarily suspended from 19 to 27 December due to technical issues with airport communications equipment.

- Conflict continued in Ma’rib governorate in December, and according to IOM Rapid Displacement Tracking more than 91,000 people were displaced in the governorate in 2021. WFP in December worked to finalize the review of the vulnerability status of internally displaced people (IDPs) in Ma’rib governorate, ahead of their possible inclusion in WFP’s regular GFA activity. Concurrent with this verification process, WFP concluded a second round of food distributions to the IDPs, with 110,000 IDPs assisted.

- Due to severe funding shortfalls, WFP in December announced rations cuts affecting 8 million people in Yemen. Starting in January 2022, 8 million people will receive reduced rations, while 5 million people living in areas of highest concern will continue to receive regular rations.
**WFP Country Strategy**

**Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019-2022)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>Total received* (as of 31 December)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2021 requirement</td>
<td>8.71 b</td>
<td>4.59 b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022 requirement</td>
<td>1.91 b</td>
<td>1.80 b</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six-month net funding requirement (January–June 2022)</td>
<td>765 m</td>
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*Source: WFP FACTory

**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:**
- Provides 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:**
- Provides nutrition assistance to treat and prevent malnutrition.
- Provides 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, WFP and third-party monitoring companies conducted 1,760 monitoring exercises, including in-person visits and remote monitoring calls.
- Activities monitored included general food assistance (in-kind, commodity vouchers, and cash-based transfers), nutrition prevention and treatment programmes, school feeding, and resilience and livelihood interventions.
- WFP’s call centres conducted 36,700 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 765 million to ensure operations can continue unimpeded over the next six months:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Requirement January – June 2022</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Food Assistance</td>
<td>632.7 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>84 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Feeding</td>
<td>27.1 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livelihoods</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNHAS</td>
<td>19.5 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logistics Cluster</td>
<td>0.5 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emergency Telecommunications Cluster</td>
<td>1.3 million</td>
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**Challenges**

- As of the end of December, four commercial vessels carrying a combined 111,000 mt of fuel were held in the Saudi-led Coalition Holding Area (CHA) awaiting clearance to proceed to Al Hodeidah port. While there was no major interruption to WFP’s operation due to the ongoing fuel crisis, one-two day delivery delays were reported at district level where fuel was not always available.
- The number of new daily COVID-19 cases in Yemen has gradually decreased after spiking in mid-September. As of the end of December, 10,123 cases and 1,984 deaths had been recorded by WHO. WFP continues to implement safety measures to minimize the risk of infection among its beneficiaries, cooperating partners, and staff.
- In December, the value of the Yemeni riyal (YER) fluctuated significantly in areas under the IRG. On 01 December, the riyal reached a new record low of YER 1,680/USD 1. Following the appointment of the new leadership at the Central Bank of Yemen on 06 December, the currency appreciated significantly, and by the end of the month, the Yemeni riyal had reached YER 914/USD 1. Before the recent appreciation, the riyal had stayed above the YER 1,000/USD 1-level for nearly four months, from late August to mid-December. Meanwhile, the YER remained stable in the areas under Sana’a-based authorities and averaged YER 600/USD 1, approximately the same as in January 2020.

**Donors** (2021, in alphabetical order):

Australia, Austria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Iceland, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, the United States, the European Commission, the World Bank, UN CERF, UN Other Funds and Agencies (excl. CERF), UN Country-Based Pooled Funds, flexible funding, miscellaneous income, and private donors.