WFP Yemen
Country Brief
January 2022

Operational Context
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Figure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>People targeted for general food assistance</td>
<td>12.9 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>of in-kind general food distributions</td>
<td>84,800 mt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>through commodity vouchers</td>
<td>22,300 mt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in cash transfers</td>
<td>US$ 15.6 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>six-month net funding requirement</td>
<td>US$ 806.3 million</td>
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</table>

Operational Updates

- Under the January cycle, WFP targeted 12.9 million people for general food assistance (GFA). Of these, 9.3 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. Of the 12.9 million beneficiaries, eight million received reduced rations due to funding gaps.
- According to the latest WFP data covering the month of December 2021, food security outcomes in Yemen plateaued at very high levels in December. Nearly half of Yemeni households (47 percent nationwide) reported inadequate food consumption in December, significantly above the “very high” threshold of 40 percent.
- Food affordability, as measured by the average cost of the minimum food basket (MFB) worsened significantly in all areas of Yemen over the course of 2021: As of December 2021, the average cost of the MFB had increased by 119 percent since January 2021 in areas under the IRG, and by 41 percent in areas under the Sanaa-based authorities.
- Fuel shortages continued to be reported across Yemen in January. While WFP and major WFP-contracted transporters have dedicated contingency fuel stocks in place, WFP deliveries could be affected if shortages continue.
- In January, conflict continued in Marib governorate, as well as in the neighbouring governorates of Shabwah and Al Bayda, displacing close to 7,000 people according to IOM. WFP is reviewing and verifying the vulnerability status of internally displaced people (IDPs) in Marib governorate ahead of their possible inclusion in WFP’s regular GFA activity. More than 100,000 IDPs had been verified as of early January in the districts of Marib, Ma’rib City, Raghw, and Sirwah district.
- Internet connectivity in Yemen was restored on 25 January following a four-day outage. The outage was caused by an airstrike that hit a key telecommunications hub in Al Hodeidah city on 20 January. While internet services were affected across Yemen, the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) worked to provide internet services to UN agencies and humanitarian partners in all hubs.

Photo Caption: Yasmin, 3.5 years old, is at a WFP supported clinic in Attawahi district in Aden, Yemen. She has been enrolled in the program for treating malnutrition among children under the age of five. Photo: ©WFP Hebatallah Munassar

January figures reflect the planned figures for the January assistance cycle.
**WFP Country Strategy**

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>Total received* (as of 31 January)</th>
<th>Six-month net funding requirement (February-July 2022)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.71 b</td>
<td>4.56 b</td>
<td>806.3 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022 requirement</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1.98 b</td>
<td></td>
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</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 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**
- Under the January monitoring cycle, WFP and third-party monitoring companies had conducted around 1,800 monitoring exercises, including in-person visits and remote monitoring calls (as of 21 February).
- 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 32,200 calls to verify the receipt of assistance, food delivery to distribution sites, and to collect data on food security indicators.

**Funding and Pipeline Updates**
- Further to WFP’s announcement in December of ration reductions for the January general food assistance (GFA) cycle, WFP continues to face severe funding shortages, as contributions received so far in 2022 remain limited.
- WFP urgently needs an additional USD 806.3 million to ensure operations can continue unimpeded over the next six months.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Requirement (February - July 2022)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Food Assistance</td>
<td>661.7 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>101.9 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Feeding</td>
<td>23.8 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livelihoods</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNHAS</td>
<td>17.4 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logistics Cluster</td>
<td>0.1 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emergency Telecommunications Cluster</td>
<td>1.4 million</td>
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**Challenges**
- As of the end of January, seven commercial vessels carrying a combined 174,200 mt of fuel had been 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 increased rapidly in January, possibly related to the spread of the Omicron SARS-CoV-2 variant, and on 26 January reached the highest level seen since the March-April 2021 wave. As of the end of January, 11,019 cases and 2,011 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.
- After a month-long period of rapid appreciation in December (with the Yemeni riyal (YER) reaching YER 800/USD 1 on 28 December), the riyal again depreciated in January in areas under the Internationally Recognized Government of Yemen (IRG). The Yemeni riyal had traded at around 1,040/USD 1 by late January. Meanwhile, the YER remained stable in the areas under Sana’a-based authorities and averaged YER 600/USD 1.

**Donors** (2022, in alphabetical order):
- Canada, Germany, flexible funding, and private donors.