



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Yemen Country Brief

March 2022



In Numbers



13.3 million people
targeted for general food assistance

87,300 mt of in-kind general food distributions

21,300 mt through commodity vouchers

US\$ 11.3 million in cash transfers

US\$ 1.28 billion six-month net funding requirement (May – October 2022)

Operational Updates

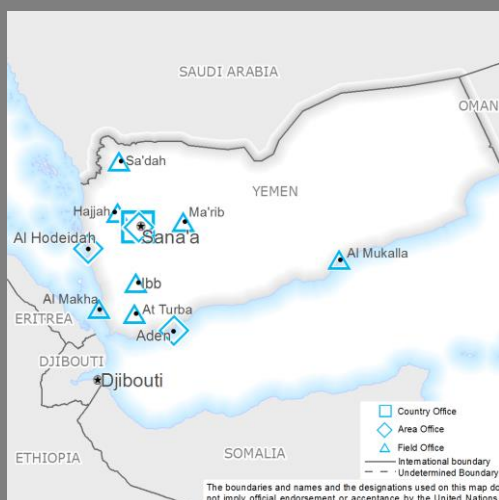
- Under the general food assistance (GFA) programme, WFP is targeting 13.3 million people for general food assistance (GFA) in March: Approximately 9.7 million people with in-kind food assistance, 2.3 million people with commodity vouchers and 1.3 million people with cash assistance. Of the targeted GFA beneficiaries, eight million continue to receive **reduced** rations due to funding shortages.
- USD 1.3 billion was **pledged** towards the inter-agency response in Yemen at the high-level **pledging event** on the humanitarian crisis in Yemen held in Geneva on 16 March. The pledged amount is down almost USD 400 million from the USD 1.67 billion pledged at the **March 2021 Pledging Event**.
- According to the **WFP Yemen March Food Security Update** (covering the month of February), key food security indicators remained critical in February, with nearly half of Yemeni households (44 percent nationwide) continuing to report inadequate food consumption, significantly above the “very high” threshold of 40 percent. Food affordability worsened month-on-month, even before the impacts of the Ukraine crisis have been recorded by WFP food security monitoring.
- The **WFP Yemen 2021 Annual Country Report** was released on 31 March. Overall, WFP transferred 1.2 million metric tonnes (mt) of food and USD 369.3 million in cash and vouchers to 15.5 million people across its activities in Yemen in 2021 and remained WFP’s largest single-country operation.

Operational Context

17.4 million people, more than 50 percent of the population of Yemen, are estimated to be food insecure. Of these, 31,000 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).



Population: **31.9 million**

2020 Human Development Index: **179 out of 189**

Income Level: **Low**

Acute Malnutrition: **2.2 million children between 6-59 months**

Monitoring and Evaluation

- In March, WFP and third-party monitoring companies conducted 3,177 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

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Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019-2022)

Total requirement (in US\$)	Total received (as of end March)
8.71 b	4.95 b
2022 requirement	Six-month net funding requirement (May– October 2022)
1.98 b	1.28 b

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.

livelihood interventions.

- WFP’s call centres conducted 44,900 calls to verify the receipt of assistance, food delivery to distribution sites, and to collect data on food security indicators.

Funding and Pipeline Updates

- In March, US\$ 290.2 million was confirmed for WFP operations in Yemen, through contributions from the United States (USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance, BHA), the European Union (Directorate-General for International Partnerships, DG-INTPA), Switzerland, and Sweden (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, SIDA).
- Despite the recent contributions, WFP continues to face significant funding shortages, and continued in March to implement ration reductions affecting approximately 8 million people. Overall, WFP’s operation in Yemen requires US\$ 1.98 billion to respond to humanitarian needs in Yemen in 2022.
- WFP’s operation in Yemen is just 19 percent funded for the next six month period (May-October), and WFP urgently needs US\$ 1.28 billion to ensure operations can continue unimpeded over the next six months:

Activity	Requirement May – October 2022, in US\$
General Food Assistance	1.09 billion
Nutrition	96.3 million
School Feeding	17.9 million
Livelihoods	56.4 million
UNHAS	17.5 million
Logistics Cluster	-
Emergency Telecommunications Cluster	1.3 million

Challenges

- The ongoing fuel crisis continued to worsen across the country in March, significantly impacting WFP operations. While the fuel shortages are most acute in areas under the Sana’a-based authorities, fuel shortages are also being reported from areas under the IRG.
- Dispatches of WFP commodities are being severely affected by the fuel crisis, as transporters are forced to wait for up to 15 days for the provision of fuel. At the end of March, dispatches for the ongoing second general food assistance (GFA) dispatch cycle (March-April) were only halfway complete, and WFP expects continuing delays in the coming weeks.

Donors (2022, in alphabetical order):

Canada, the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), the European Union, Germany, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Poland, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Switzerland, the United States of America, multilateral donors, and private donors.