In Numbers*

24.1 million people in need of humanitarian assistance

3.3 million people internally displaced

20.1 million people are food insecure

*According to the 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP)

Highlights

- WFP distributed food assistance to 9.3 million people in February, achieving 80 percent of the planned 11.7 million.
- The 2019 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) has been published stating that, after four years of continuous conflict, the humanitarian crisis in Yemen is the worst in the world.
- For the first time in a year, WFP entered Hudaydah port with containerized cargo, carrying 440 containers of WFP vegetable oil from Salalah Port to Hudaydah Port.

Situation Update (including security)

Air Strikes

- On 9 February, an airstrike struck a sub-contracted truck carrying WFP commodities (and two other commercial vehicles) in Kitaf district in north-eastern Sa'ada governorate. The truck contained 50 cans of vegetable oil, 50 bags of wheat flour and 50 bags of lentils. All commodities are reported to have been destroyed.
- Similarly, on 12 February, an airstrike struck a sub-contracted truck that was transporting WFP commodities in Sha'ad'a district in Sa'ada governorate. A total of 2.13 mt of mixed commodities was destroyed in the incident.

Security

- In February, an escalation of conflict between Houthi forces and the Internationally Recognized Government of Yemen (IRG) in Hajjah governorate, led to the de-facto local authorities restricting WFP food deliveries to Kushar and Abs districts in Hajjah. As of March, the restrictions have been relaxed although four districts remain inaccessible for humanitarians: Haradh, Mustaba, Midi and Hayran. During the last six months, the number of people displaced by violence across the governorate has increased sharply from 203,000 to around 420,000 people. IDPs are scattered in more than 300 settlements in different districts.

Access to the Red Sea Mills

On 26 February, a UN joint mission (WFP, OCHA, DSS, UNDP) escorted by the United Nations Mission to support the Hudaydah Agreement (UNMHA) crossed conflict lines and visited the Red Sea Mills on the outskirts of Hudaydah city, which have been damaged in fighting and inaccessible to WFP since September 2018. Analysis confirmed that of the 51,000 mt of WFP wheat stored in the mills, WFP will need to fumigate the wheat before being milled and safe for consumption. WFP is now liaising with the authorities on the ground to access the mills again.
WFP’s Response

- During the February cycle, WFP delivered food assistance to 9.3 million people in 21 governorates. Of these, 6.8 million people received food assistance via in-kind commodities, 2.5 million people received assistance via the commodity voucher traders’ network modality and almost 115,000 people received cash-based transfers.

- In response to the increased fighting in Hudaydah governorate, a Rapid Response Mechanism was established in June 2018 to assist newly displaced persons and ensure their most basic needs are met. Displaced families are provided with Immediate Response Rations (IRR) sufficient for five days. Since the start of the large-scale IDP response in June until February, WFP has provided IRRs to 230,998 households.

Cash-based Transfers

- In February, WFP continued delivering food assistance via the cash-based transfer modality in Aden governorate, reaching almost 115,000 people, 91 percent of the planned 126,045 beneficiaries.

- Preparations for SCOPE registration in the northern governorates are ongoing to register 1.3 million households. The targeting process is scheduled to start in April. In the southern governorates, registration is ongoing in Aden, and has been completed in Lahj and Shabwa governorates.

Livelihood and Resilience Projects

- The Enhanced Rural Resilience programme in Yemen (ERRY) programme was completed in December. Preparations for the second phase, expected to start in April 2019, are ongoing.

- In February, 3,600 people participated in the Food Assistance for Assets programme. Of these, 1,800 in Bani Qais district in Hajja, and 1,800 in Bilas Ar Rus in Sana’a received cash transfers, benefitting a total of 25,200 beneficiaries. The numbers have decreased from the previous month as works undertaken in Aden have been completed. Assets focused on the rehabilitation of schools and roads, as well as building/rehabilitation of water harvesting assets.

School Meals Programme

- Under the school feeding programme, in February WFP dispatched 467 mt of fortified date bars to 462,000 children attending schools in the North in 19 districts in 10 governorates (Hudaydah, Mahweet, Amran, Sa’ada, Amant Al Asimah, Sana’a, Dhamar, Hajjah, Ibb, and Taiz). In the South, 924.7 mt of high-energy biscuits (HEBs) were dispatched in January for two months (January and February). The HEBs targeted 203,000 children attending schools in 13 districts in six governorates (Aden, Lahj, Hadramout, Abyan, Ad Dhale and Shabwa).

- During February, the school feeding programme has managed to reach its highest target of students. A total of 665,000 students were reached.

Nutrition Assistance

- During January 2019, WFP scaled-up its operation to admit 32,326 children aged 6 to 59 months and 27,767 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) into its Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programme (TSFP) to treat moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) out of the total monthly target of 130,957. For MAM prevention, WFP admitted 271,314 children aged 6 to 23 months and 325,770 PLW into its Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme (BSFP) out of the total monthly target of 1,623,710. As the scale-up of the operation is ongoing and cooperating partners submit more distribution reports to WFP, the numbers are expected to increase in the coming months.

Supply Chain

- In February, WFP has dispatched 106,645 mt of commodities under the general food assistance program throughout the country, representing 98 percent of the 108,415 mt planned dispatch target.

Clusters and Common Services

Food Security and Agriculture Sector

- The humanitarian situation in Hajjah governorate has significantly deteriorated due to the ongoing conflict and lack of humanitarian access to many districts. Most of the affected districts are already in Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Phase 4 and any further deprivation of assistance will lead them to a catastrophic situation. FSAC is coordinating the food response where WFP will provide assistance to the most vulnerable persons through the RRM together with UNFPA, UNICEF and partners which has been mobilized to address the most urgent needs and assist approximately 145,000 IDPs.

Logistics Cluster

- In February, the Logistics Cluster facilitated the overland transport of 1,951 m³ of relief items on behalf of FHI 360, OHCHR, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF and WFP.

- In February, the Logistics Cluster accepted 1,678 m³ of relief items into storage on behalf of FHI 360, UNICEF, UNFPA, WFP and WHO.

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Resourcing Update

- The Yemen ICSP has a budget of USD 3.34 billion for 2019-2020, with average monthly funding requirements of about USD 175 million. To meet gaps over the next six months, WFP urgently needs USD 603.3 million.
WFP would like to thank all 27 government donors, two UN funds, and private sector donors for their contributions to EMOP 201068.

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