WFP Yemen
Situation Report #8
August 2019

In Numbers

24.1 million people in need of humanitarian assistance*
3.65 million people internally displaced
20.1 million people are food insecure

*According to the 2019 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP)

Highlights

• WFP distributed general food assistance to 12.43 million Yemeni people in August.
• WFP signed an agreement with the Sana'a based authorities detailing a new and independent beneficiary selection and biometric registration process in early August.
• WFP is facing a major funding shortfall of USD 601 million for the next six months (September 2019 – February 2020).

Situation Update (including security)

• In early August, WFP signed an agreement in Sana'a with the National Authority for Management and Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Response (NAMCHA) detailing a new and independent beneficiary selection and biometric registration process. On 09 August, WFP released a statement announcing the resumption of humanitarian food assistance in Sana'a city affected by the partial suspension since 20 June. Dispatches to Sana'a city commenced on 13 August.
• In August, the security situation in the southern governorates remained volatile. Since 10 August, armed clashes between the Southern Transitional Council (STC) and the Internationally Recognized Government of Yemen (IRG) forces erupted in Aden and spread to Abyan and Shabwa governorates, with control of key facilities shifting continuously and affecting WFP operations. To ensure staff safety and security, national staff worked from home while a total of 101 UN and international NGO staff were relocated to Djibouti via trips on a WFP chartered vessel. As of 31 August, all WFP staff remaining in Aden are safe and accounted for and the situation is being closely monitored.
• On 07 August, NAMCHA called on local and international humanitarian agencies to assist families affected by heavy rains and floods, with Al Mahweet and Hudaydah governorates particularly affected. In addition to damage to shelter and infrastructure, OCHA estimated that 5,300 families are affected. WFP is coordinating with partners to provide immediate response rations to those displaced through the rapid response mechanism. The rations cover the needs of a family for five days.
• On 20 August, the UN Security Council convened to discuss the situation in Yemen. The UN Special Envoy to Yemen stated that the peace process is more urgent than ever, while The Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs...
stressed the urgent humanitarian funding needs due to pledges not being allocated and disbursed.

WFP Response

- During the August cycle, WFP delivered food assistance to a total of 12.43 million people in 21 governorates. Of these, 9.33 million people received in-kind food assistance, 2.74 million people received commodity vouchers and over 357,744 people received cash-based transfers. This is the highest number of reached people in the Yemen operations to date.

- In response to the increased fighting and large-scale population displacement in Hudaydah governorate last year, the UN established a Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) in June 2018 to assist newly-displaced persons and ensure their most immediate needs are met. Displaced families are provided with WFP Immediate Response Rations (IRR) sufficient for five days. In August, WFP distributed 9,508 IRR kits through UNFPA and its cooperating partners.

- Preparations for registration in the northern governorates are ongoing to register 1.3 million households. In the southern governorates, registration is ongoing in Aden and has been completed in Lahj and Shabwa governorates. A total of 712,000 people have been registered so far.

FFA Livelihood and Resilience Projects

- In August, WFP assisted 54,522 beneficiaries through 9,087 participants in 16 districts of Al Mahweet, Hudaydah, Dhamar, Ibb and Lahj governorates via its asset creation project. Food assistance for training (FFT) activities commenced in five districts of Al Mahweet and Lahj governorates. 500 participants were targeted in literacy and numeracy skills, as well as sewing activities.

School Feeding Programme

- The School Feeding programme will resume assistance with the start of the new academic year in September 2019, with the aim to reach 900,000 students across 43 districts in 18 governorates during the first semester, and 1.2 million students during the second semester.

Nutrition Assistance

- During August 2019, WFP reached 13,167 children aged 6 to 59 months and 138,717 pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLWG) with its Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programme (TSFP) to treat moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). For MAM prevention, WFP reached 217,467 children aged 6 to 23 months and 163,667 PLW with its Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme (BSFP).

Supply Chain

- Under the August distribution cycle, WFP dispatched 116,332.4 mt of commodities under the general food assistance programme, representing 100 percent of the 116,332.4 mt planned dispatch target.

- Logistics operations in Aden were suspended during most of August due to the volatile security situation. All warehouses were closed; however, commodities were accounted for and dispatches have resumed.

- WFP purchased equipment to upgrade the labs of the Yemen Standardization, Metrology and Quality Control Organisation (YSMO) which is currently under shipping arrangements. The project aims to improve the capacity of the government bodies food analysis labs in Sana’a, Aden and Hudaydah governorates.

Clusters and Common Services

Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC)

- WFP, FAO and FSAC have finalized the Expanded Famine Risk monitoring (EFRM) questionnaire and methodology and are in the final stages of getting the necessary approvals from the relevant authorities to commence the assessment in September.

- The FSAC has been involved in discussions with OCHA and the Inter-Cluster Coordination Mechanism (ICCM) on the new Joint Inter-Sectoral Analysis Framework (JIAF) to be utilized in the 2020 Humanitarian Programme Cycle.

Logistics Cluster

- The Logistics Cluster facilitated four airlifts for a total of 71 mt of humanitarian cargo, from Djibouti to Sana’a, on behalf of partners.

- The Logistics Cluster is closely coordinating with partners to rapidly explore different or new options for both upstream and downstream cargo (sea and road transport) in order to limit partner’s supply chain bottlenecks in Aden as well as in other strategic locations. This includes alternative sea transport routes (potentially from Jeddah or Salalah).

- The Logistics Cluster invited the humanitarian logistics community to shift to longer-term planning and the sharing of dispatch, transport and distributions plans to ensure an effective and efficient overall supply chain for humanitarian relief.

Resourcing Update

- Based on the ICSP, WFP urgently needs an additional USD 601 million to ensure operations can continue unimpeded over the next six months.

- WFP is expecting a series of serious pipeline breaks for a number of programmes; The food vouchers and cash assistance pipeline will begin breaking in October. Nutrition interventions are anticipated to break in October. School feeding is covered only until the end of the year, with breaks expected in October due to late arrivals. The pipeline breaks for the wheat commodity is expected in October with a limited milling capacity in northern Yemen.

- On 20 August, the Executive Director (ED) signed and sent a letter to all donor counterparts calling for greater funding to support life-saving activities. The letter thanked the donors for their support and highlighted WFP’s urgent need for funds.
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<th>WFP Interim Country Strategic Plan</th>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>ICSP TOTAL* (Jan 2019 – Dec 2020)</td>
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<tr>
<td>General Food Assistance</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Meals**</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food for Assets (FFA)</td>
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<td>Nutrition (Prevention)***</td>
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<td>Nutrition (Treatment)***</td>
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* The total beneficiary figure includes beneficiaries of all activities as there is almost a complete overlap between activities.
** No beneficiary data for School Meals is presented in August as preparations are ongoing for next round of planned assistance.
*** Nutrition Prevention and Treatment figures are for August 2019 and are based on dispatch.

WFP would like to thank all government donors, UN funds, and private sector donors for their contributions to ICSP YE01.

Contacts
- WFP Representative and Country Director: Laurent Bukera
- Reports Officer Yemen: Laura PHILLIPS laura.phillips@wfp.org
- National Reports Officer Yemen: Tamer RASHAD tamer.rashad@wfp.org
- Food Security Cluster: Gordon DUDI gordon.dudi@fao.org
- Logistics Cluster: Gilles CIMETIERE gilles.cimetiere@wfp.org
- Emergency Telecommunication Cluster: Wali NOOR wali.noor@wfp.org