

Highlights

- Despite a highly volatile security situation, WFP succeeded in providing emergency food assistance, in-kind and commodity vouchers, to just under 7 million Yemenis across 19 governorates during January. Due to funding shortfalls, only 3.69 million people of the total received the full entitlement, while the remaining 3.29 million received a reduced entitlement (60 percent).
- Thanks to support from member states and facilitation by all parties to the conflict, [WFP delivered to the port of Hodeidah four mobile cranes](#) on 15 January 2017. These cranes will double the port's capacity to handle containerized cargo, boosting humanitarian discharge efficiency, and easing port congestion. Ultimately, this will facilitate the faster delivery of food and medicine to those people most in need of humanitarian assistance.
- According to the [2018 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan](#), released in January 2018, 17.8 million people are now food insecure of which 8.4 million are severely food insecure. To respond to the increased levels of food insecurity, starting February 2018 WFP will begin providing monthly emergency food assistance to 7.4 million people.

WFP Yemen Country Brief

Immediate Integrated and Sustained Response to Avert Famine in Yemen 201068 (April 2017 – March 2018)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6 Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
1.2 b	804.5 m	295 m (44%)

*(Feb - July 2018)

In April 2017, WFP launched a 12-month emergency operation (EMOP 201068) that aims to help prevent famine in Yemen by scaling up to assist 9.1 million food and nutritionally insecure people through a combination of general food assistance (GFA: in-kind food assistance and commodity vouchers under its Commodity Vouchers through Traders Network (CV-TN) programme), nutrition interventions to treat and prevent moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) in children and pregnant and nursing women, and general food assistance to refugees and vulnerable economic migrants from the Horn of Africa. The emergency operation is in the process of being extended until the end of 2018 with an increased commitment which also reflects a monthly beneficiary target of 7.4 million.

EMOP 201068 is predicated on an integrated approach that works with other agencies to maximise the impact of food and nutrition assistance, water and sanitation (WASH), and livelihood interventions. Through the operation, WFP implements GFA in 19 of Yemen's 22 governorates, including some of Yemen's most hard-to-reach areas. Moreover, the programme's targeting strategy assists the districts with the highest levels of food insecurity and global acute malnutrition (GAM) rates.

In order to ensure that our programmes are comprehensively monitored despite security challenges, WFP contracts third-party monitoring (TPM) companies to conduct on-site distribution monitoring and post-distribution monitoring (PDM).

Throughout 2017 and into January 2018, WFP conducted approximately 150 TPM surveys per month and plans to scale-up to implement 250 TPM visits a month.

WFP's Amman-based call centre also conducts remote PDM through mobile phone surveys, calling between 1,500-1,600 beneficiaries a month. Since the launch of the beneficiary feedback hotline in 2016, WFP has received a total of 8,281 calls; the majority of the calls concerned CV-TN and GFA (in-kind). In January 2018, the hotline received 731 calls (580 male and 151 female) from 20 governorates – 319 calls were related to CV-TN, 405 GFD, 2 were related to Emergency Response, and five were related to Nutrition.

In January 2018, UNHAS operated 27 flights transporting a total of 426 passengers on behalf of 33 agencies (13 UN Agencies and 20 INGOs).

In January, the WFP-led Logistics Cluster-operated vessel transported 56 passengers from 14 humanitarian organizations between Djibouti and Aden. In addition, the WFP-led Logistics Cluster facilitated the transport of 208 mt (1,276 m³) of relief items on behalf of partners on board the vessel.

In Numbers

17.8 million people in need of food assistance

8.4 million severely food insecure people

2 million internally displaced people



January 2018

Operational Updates

- Food distribution:** In January 2018, 6,294,751 people are confirmed to have received WFP in-kind food assistance in Abyan, Aden, Al Bayda, Al Dhale'e, Al Hudaydah, Al Jawf, Al Mahwit, Amanat Al Asima, Amran, Dhamar, Hajjah, Ibb, Marib, Raymah, Sa'ada, Sana'a, Shawbah, and Taizz (102 percent achieved against the target of 6,166,986 people for January 2018).
- Commodity Vouchers through Traders Network (CV-TN):** For January 2018, 692,646 people (115,441 households) received assistance through vouchers in the governorates of Amanat Al Asimah, Hodeidah, Sana'a and Taizz. This represents 80 percent of the target of 870,468 people for January 2018.
- Nutrition:** To facilitate a Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition scale-up for preventing and treating moderate malnutrition, WFP is gradually scaling up to provide specialized nutritious foods to 1.83 million people: 990,000 moderately acutely malnourished children between six months and five years old, and 840,000 nursing and pregnant mothers.
- Contingency Plan:** Considering the intensified conflict, contributing to increased insecurity and violence in Hodeidah and other governorates, WFP has developed a contingency plan to provide emergency entitlements, Immediate Response Rations and High Energy Biscuits, for up to 3.2 million persons fleeing violence. Once these IDPs have settled they will be absorbed into WFP's monthly GFA beneficiary assistance.
- Revolving Fuel Facility:** Thanks to a contribution of GBP 10 million from the Government of the United Kingdom, WFP is establishing a revolving fuel facility to support humanitarian operations and essential public services such as hospitals and water treatment plants. The fuel facility is expected to become operational in February 2018.

Challenges

- Intense fighting took place in Aden during 28-31 January between the Southern Transitional Council, a southern separatist group and forces associated to the Government of Yemen. As a result, one WFP-UNHAS flight was cancelled, Aden port was temporarily closed until 31 January, and 4,000 mt of food that was to be transported from Aden to northern corridors and an additional 5,000 mt of daily food distributions in the south, were temporarily delayed.
- Since the end of the temporary blockade on the Red Sea ports (Hodeidah and Saleef) on 22 November, 43 vessels carrying 957,549 mt of food and fuel, including 50,000 mt of WFP emergency food assistance, have discharged at Hodeidah and Saleef ports. On 23 January, the Saudi-led Coalition wrote a letter to the UN stating that the ports would remain open for another 30 days until February. The uncertainty past this date is creating difficulties in planning shipments to the Red Sea ports and creating uncertainty for traders/shipping agents.
- In January 2018, the value of the Yemeni currency (riyal) against the U.S. dollar plunged, reaching 530 YER to 1 USD on 16 January. Following the announcement that USD 2 billion was to be injected into the Central Bank of Yemen, the value of the riyal has stabilized to 430 YER. WFP is closely monitoring the currency rate and its effects on commercial food and fuel market prices.

Impact of Limited Funding

WFP has been forced to prioritize available resources and target 3.4 million people with the full 2,100 Kcal entitlement and 3.6 million people with reduced 60 percent entitlement. In addition, WFP only has a total of USD 5 million, received from UN CERF, to assist additional populations; should the volatile security situation lead to increased food security needs in the country. Considering the delivery lead-times, on average 3 months, and dispatch and delivery difficulties, early confirmation of pledges are urgently required to begin the procurement process, and deliver the commodities in-country in time for planned monthly distributions.

Country Background & Strategy



Yemen is classified as a low-income, food-deficit country, ranked the 168th out of 188 least-developed countries according to the 2016 Human Development Report. According to this report, at least 50 percent of the population is estimated to be living in poverty, and more than 90 percent of food needs in Yemen are imported.

Limited access to food is compounded by a number of factors, including the effects of low incomes, large family sizes, high unemployment, non-payment of salaries of civil servants, gender disparities, inefficient and poorly integrated food markets, limited water and sanitation, and geographic isolation. Yemen's population of 28.2 million has an annual growth rate of 2.6 percent. For several years, Yemen has consecutively ranked highest in the world on the Global Gender Gap Index.

Present in Yemen since 1967, WFP currently aims to save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies, and specifically increase food consumption through the scale-up of life saving emergency food assistance (particularly targeting IPC Phase 4 areas), as well as to expand coverage of nutrition interventions to prevent and treat moderate acute malnutrition (MAM).

Population: 28.2 million	2016 Human Development Index: 168 out of 188
Income Level: Low	Chronic malnutrition: 47% of children between 6-59 months

Donors

EMOP 201068 (in alphabetical order): Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, European Commission, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, UN CERF, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States and private sector donors.

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