



SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES



## WFP Yemen Country Brief March 2019

## In Numbers



**10.6 m people assisted**  
in March 2019

**109,518 mt** of general food assistance dispatched

**US\$ 20.5 m** cash-based and commodity transfers made

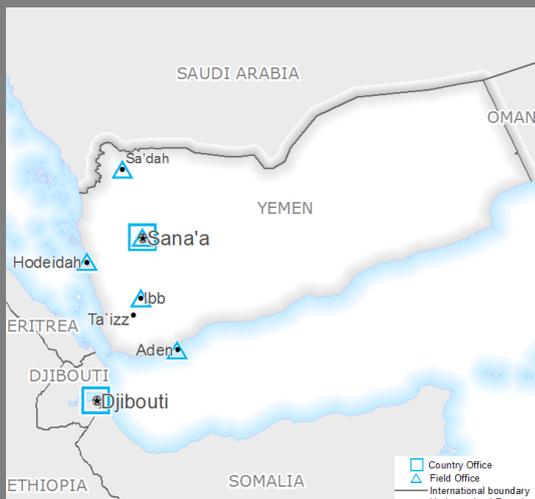
**US\$ 609 m** six months (April - September 2019) net funding requirements

## Operational Context

Yemen is classified as a low-income, food-deficit country, ranked 178<sup>th</sup> out of 189 countries, according to the 2018 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.

Limited access to food is compounded by several factors, including 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.

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



Population: **30.5 million**

2018 Human Development Index: **178 out of 188**

Income Level: **Low**

Chronic malnutrition: **2 million children between 6-59 months**

## Operational Updates

- In March, the Office of the United Nations Special Envoy to Yemen [announced](#) that there has been significant, yet [slow](#), progress towards a first phase of the redeployment agreement in Hudaydah governorate. On 25 March, intensive clashes with heavy weapons, the most intense since the ceasefire, erupted in several locations in Hudaydah City with unconfirmed casualties. WFP staff are safe and accounted for, and operations proceeded unaffected.
- The fourth anniversary of the conflict in Yemen was observed on 26 March, with demonstrations across the country. The conflict has now entered its fifth year.
- On 10 March, the Saudi-led Coalition conducted airstrikes in Kushar district, Hajjah governorate, with casualties reported. On 28 March, WFP received reports indicating that the humanitarian situation in the Bani Hassan area of Hayran district, Hajjah governorate had significantly deteriorated following an Internationally Recognized Government of Yemen offensive on the area. Local authorities and UN partners have confirmed that families are fleeing towards Abs city. Over 420,000 people were displaced in the last six months. In response, WFP has scaled up its assistance to Kushar district to include 22,000 households via the in-kind food distribution. Also, 8,647 rapid response mechanism (RRM) kits were distributed to newly displaced families.
- WHO reports that as of 27 March, the number of suspected cholera cases in Yemen had increased to 138,000, including 266 associated deaths, since January 2019. WFP and WHO are distributing oral rehydration salts (ORS), as well as five litre jerry cans and aqua-tabs for chlorination, to over 1.7 million people in 48 districts deemed at high risk of cholera.

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**Photo Caption:** A Yemeni family preparing food with WFP assistance. WFP/Marco Frattini

## Interim Country Strategic Plan (2019-2020)

Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)
<b>3.34 b</b>	<b>555.5 m</b>
2019 Requirements (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD) (April – September 2019)
<b>2.1 b*</b>	<b>609 m</b>

\* According to ICSP budget revision, which incorporates the needs to scale-up operations to reach up to 12 million people monthly.

### Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

**Strategic Outcome 1:** Food insecure people affected by crises across Yemen, have access to life-saving, 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 2020.

**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.

## Monitoring

- In March 2019, WFP and third-party monitoring (TPM) companies conducted 258 monitoring visits in 18 governorates. The monitored activities included in-kind General Food Distributions (GFA), commodity vouchers, cash-based transfers (CBT), prevention and treatment of MAM programmes, school meals and livelihoods. In areas where the UN has access, WFP staff monitored 75 distribution sites under GFA, CV-TN, nutrition programmes and school feeding.

## Funding and Pipeline update

- WFP's operational needs for 2019 stand at USD 2.1 billion. Based on the Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP), WFP urgently needs an additional USD 702.7 million to ensure operations can continue unimpeded over the next six months. Of which, an immediate USD 207.9 million is needed for April and May.
- Pipeline breaks are anticipated nutrition interventions in May and in-kind food distributions in June. WFP's cash-based transfer modality has already begun breaking. Given the long lead-times to bring food into the country, WFP urgently needs funds to ensure that operations can continue uninterrupted until September 2019.

## Challenges

- In March, a Saudi-led Coalition air-strike struck a WFP sub-contracted truck 20 metres away from a WFP food distribution point (FDP) in Al Dhafer district in Sa'ada governorate. No casualties were reported. This is a worrying trend, with two similar incidents reported in the last two months. On 29-30 March, the WFP Country Director, Stephen Anderson met with de-facto officials in Sa'ada governorate regarding the issue of deconfliction, with progress on deconflicting FDPs and trucks made.
- WFP is experiencing delays in deliveries, as WFP trucks face delays at de-facto authorities' custom and security checkpoints across Ibb, Taiz, Al-Bayda, Amran and Abyan governorates. Whilst the detention of trucks is not unusual in Yemen, it has a significant impact on WFP's operations and programme implementation, leading to additional costs for unnecessary delays and postponed deliveries to food distribution points. WFP is liaising with the authorities for the expedited release of all trucks.

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