



# WFP Yemen

## Country Brief

October 2018

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

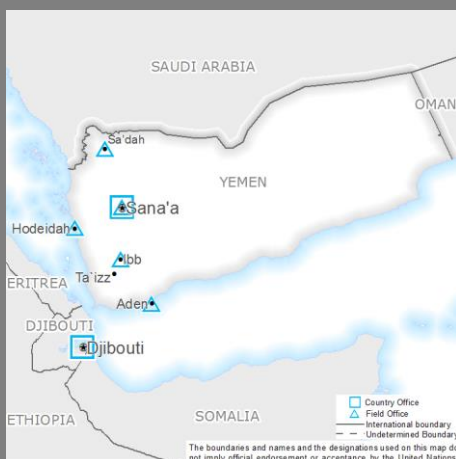


### Operational Context

Yemen is classified as a low-income, food-deficit country, ranked 178th 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 non-payment of salaries of most 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 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: **29.3 million**

2018 Human Development Index: **178 out of 189**

Income Level: **Low**

**Chronic malnutrition:** 47% of children between 6-59 months

### In Numbers

**99,345 mt** of food assistance distributed

**93,192 households** received Immediate Response Rations between June and October 2018

**US\$ 412 million** six months (December 2018 – May 2019)

**7.2 million people assisted** in October 2018



### Operational Updates

- The value of the Yemeni riyal continued to weaken in October 2018, losing over 200 percent of its pre-crisis purchasing power. In addition, retail food prices increased by 9-17 percent in September compared to August 2018 and were 65-136 percent higher than the pre-crisis period (March 2015). The price of fuel was 24-41 percent higher in September compared to August 2018 and was 101-232 percent higher than the pre-crisis period.
- As a result of the strong depreciation of the Yemeni riyal, as well as intensification of the conflict, WFP is anticipating the latest results from the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), scheduled to be released in early December 2018, which are expected to show an increase in the number of severely food insecure persons in the country. WFP has developed various operational plans to ensure that the most food-insecure persons in the country receive life-saving food assistance. In December 2018, WFP plans to scale up to provide life-saving food assistance to 10 million people throughout the country and then will plan for January 2019 onward based on the results of the IPC.
- Starting from January 2019, and subject to the approval of the Executive Board in late November 2018, WFP plans to transition from the current Emergency Operation (EMOP) to the Interim Country Strategic Plan (ICSP) to focus on achieving WFP Strategic Objective 1 related to achieving zero hunger and protecting access to food, WFP Strategic Objective 2 related to ending malnutrition, and WFP Strategic Objective 8 related to improving partnerships.
- In October, WFP provided General Food Assistance (GFA), comprising of either in-kind food assistance or commodity vouchers, to 7.2 million people, of which 6.2 million people received in-kind food and another 1 million people received commodity vouchers.

	Total Requirements (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	6 Months (December 2018 – May 2019) Net Funding Requirements (in USD) *
<b>Immediate, Integrated and Sustained Response to Avert Famine in Yemen</b>			
<b>EMOP 201068</b> (April 2017-December 2018)	<b>1,142.4 m</b>	<b>878.3 m</b>	<b>412.0 m</b>
<b>Logistics &amp; Emergency Telecommunications Augmentation and Coordination to Support Humanitarian Operations in Yemen and Provision of Humanitarian Air Services in Yemen</b>			
<b>SO 200841 and SO 200845</b> (May 2015-December 2018)	<b>58.7m</b>	<b>55.1 m</b>	<b>3.6 m</b>

- In response to the increased fighting in Hodeidah governorate, a Rapid Response Mechanism has been established to accelerate the humanitarian response for newly displaced persons and to ensure their most basic needs are addressed during their displacement. In particular, WFP is providing displaced families with Immediate Response Rations (IRR), which are sufficient for five days through Humanitarian Service Points and Humanitarian and Humanitarian Transit Sites. From the start of the large-scale IDP response in June until October, WFP has provided IRRs to 93,192 households through various service points.
- In addition to the IRRs provided to displaced persons fleeing violence from Hodeidah, WFP is also providing a one-off GFA ration – either in-kind or commodity voucher – to all newly displaced persons, sufficient for one month. Thus far, WFP has provided 317,748 people with a one-off GFA ration, of which 195,258 IDPs have received in-kind food and another 122,490 have received commodity vouchers in 14 governorates.
- Between January and September 2018, WFP has admitted 288,097 children aged 6 to 59 months, and 217,996 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) into WFP's Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programme to treat moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). During the same period, WFP also admitted 248,293 children aged 6 to 23 months and 318,098 PLW into the Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme (BSFP) to prevent acute malnutrition.
- WFP has started to scale up its TSFP for children under the age of five and PLW. Starting in October, WFP began implementing TSFP in 3,008 health facilities in 287 districts, an increase of 574 health facilities over the previous six months. In addition, WFP has created different scenarios to increase BSFP programmes throughout the country based on the results of the IPC.

- The high levels of insecurity in Hodeidah city have put humanitarian infrastructure at risk. In particular, the Red Sea Mill silos, responsible for milling a quarter of WFP's wheat and currently storing 51,000 mt of wheat – enough to assist 3.7 million severely food insecure people for one month – have been inaccessible since September. WFP is currently working to gain access to the Red Sea Mill silos.
- While the Red Sea ports of Hodeidah and Saleef have been operating, disruptions to the ports could seriously hamper commercial and humanitarian flows of food and fuel which could result in even more widespread hunger in northern and western areas of Yemen. In addition, due to the fact that containerized cargo vessels have not been calling on Hodeidah Port since November 2017, commercial and humanitarian containerized cargo vessels have been redirecting to Aden port. This has created about a two-month backlog of inspection and clearance of containerized cargo at Aden port. Not only does this delay commercial food from getting to the markets, but it may result in shipping companies diverting their containerized cargo to other ports such as Salalah, which will further increase the amount of time it takes for food to get to the markets and could further increase market prices.

## Funding and Pipeline Update

- Based on the current EMOP, WFP urgently needs an additional USD 412 million to meet critical funding gaps over the next six months (December 2018 – May 2019).
- WFP currently has 227,203 mt of cereals in country, sufficient to feed 6.8 million people throughout the country for over two months. WFP also has 100,000 mt of wheat and 60,000 mt of wheat flour expected to arrive at Aden, Hodeidah, Saleef and Salalah (in Oman) ports in December and January which can cover WFP's wheat requirements until the end of March 2019.

## Donors

[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](#), [Saudi Arabia](#), [Slovenia](#), [Sweden](#), [Switzerland](#), [UN CERF](#), [United Arab Emirates](#), [United Kingdom](#), [United States](#) and private sector donors.

Photo credit: WFP/ Fares Khoailed

Caption: WFP beneficiary monthly WFP food rations.