



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# YEMEN

PLAN TO REACH **5.1 MILLION PEOPLE** AT RISK OF FAMINE

**Yemen remains one of the world's most concerning humanitarian crises.** Protracted conflict and the destruction of infrastructure and basic public services, coupled with economic collapse and pre-existing structural issues such as widespread poverty exposed large segments of the Yemeni population to unprecedented levels of food insecurity, malnutrition and disease. Since the start of the conflict the economy in Yemen has imploded, salaries for health and education employees remain unpaid, remittances from overseas have ceased, the value Yemeni Riyal has halved against the US dollar since the start of 2021 which has been compounded by food price increases of between 30 and 70 percent, eroding household purchasing power for even basic needs. **Over 20 million people** need humanitarian assistance or protection.

Urgent life-saving assistance remains critical, while significant investments in economic and infrastructure and institutional rehabilitation are needed to prevent further destitution and help the country recover from seven years of conflict. The economic crisis, an outcome of the protracted conflict, is another key driver of food insecurity. High levels of food insecurity persist as the crisis has devastated livelihoods and the economy and pushed households to exhaust coping strategies.

Yemen is living on the brink of famine. An estimated **16.2 million people**, 45 percent of Yemen's population, are acutely food insecure even with the presence of food assistance. Of those, 11 million people have reached 'crisis' levels of food insecurity, classified as Phase 3 in the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC); another 5 million people have reached 'emergency' levels (IPC Phase 4); and 47,000 people have reached 'catastrophe' or famine-like levels (IPC Phase 5). This is the first return of IPC 5 conditions in Yemen in the last two years. Compared to 2018, the number of districts in IPC Phase 4 conditions tripled, from 49 to 154, out of 333 in Yemen. Manifestations of the severity of acute food insecurity for households in IPC phases 3-5 included: skipping days without eating, scavenging for wild or harmful foods, sending children to relatives, selling household and productive assets for food, begging, seeking illicit employment opportunities, becoming a combatant or economic migration to the Gulf countries or Europe.

WFP currently provides nearly **13 million people** with food assistance through three modalities: (a) in-kind rations of flour, pulses, oil, sugar and salt, (b) food vouchers with the same commodities purchased from local traders, or (c) cash transfers. Such assistance aims to contain and reduce the number of people at risk, preventing an increase in populations experiencing famine-like and emergency conditions. In response to high acute, moderate and severe malnutrition rates among children, WFP is also providing nutritional support to 3.3 million pregnant and nursing women and children under.

WFP also aims to reduce dependency on food assistance and contributes to helping Yemen build a sustainable future through livelihoods support. Reaching 1.2 million people with projects to rebuild productive assets such as roads, agricultural land, irrigation systems presenting the opportunity for employment and new income opportunities. WFP also provides schools feeding to 1.5 million school children in a bid to enhance learning and attendance rates.

In 2021, WFP's requirement to avert famine stood at **US\$ 1.91 billion**. In 2022, the requirements to do the same are **US\$ 1.98 billion** with US\$ 965 million required to prioritise assistance to populations one step away from famine (IPC 4+).

## WHAT IS THE TOTAL COST OF YEMEN OPERATIONS IN 2021 AND EXPECTED IN 2022?



12-month requirements  
for IPC4+ only  
(as of 10 Nov 2021)

**US\$ 965M**

### COST FOR BENEFICIARIES AT RISK OF FAMINE (for 12 months)

In-Kind Food

**US\$ 728M**  
(771,752 mt)

4M Beneficiaries

Cash-based transfers

**US\$ 237M**

1.1M Beneficiaries

Total

**US\$ 965M**

5.1M Beneficiaries

### RATIONS OVERVIEW

FOOD				CASH BASED ASSISTANCE		
COMMODITY	GRAMS/ PERSON/DAY	MT	US\$ MILLION	ITEM	US\$/ PERSON/DAY	US\$ MILLION
Wheat Flour	417	606,065	162	Cash & Voucher	0.46	189
Iodized Salt	3	4,360	1			
Sugar	14	20,348	10			
Vegetable Oil	41	59,589	72			
Peas	56	81,390	65			
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>771,752</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>0.46</b>	<b>189</b>
<b>Transport &amp; Delivery</b>			<b>300</b>	<b>Transfer &amp; Delivery</b>		<b>10</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>771,752</b>	<b>610</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>199</b>

### BREAKDOWN BY COST CATEGORY

COST CATEGORY	US\$ MILLION	%
<b>FOOD (INCLUDING DELIVERY)</b>	610	63%
<b>CASH-BASED TRANSFERS</b>	199	21%
<b>IN-COUNTRY OPERATING COSTS</b>	97	10%
<b>OVERHEAD COSTS</b>	59	6%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>965</b>	<b>100%</b>

In-country operating costs refer to country-specific costs to design, scale-up, and manage efficient and effective programmes. These costs are adapted to the in-country conditions and operational risks and include office and satellite-office facilities and their security and are used to effectively monitor distributions and results ensuring the assistance reaches the most vulnerable.

WFP is present in ten offices across Yemen enabling access to remote locations and maintains offices in Djibouti, Jordan and Oman to facilitate operations.

<sup>(1)</sup>IPC classifies food insecurity into five phases depending on the severity: (1) minimal/none; (2) stressed; (3) crisis; (4) emergency; (5) catastrophe/famine. Comparability over time is limited, due to the significant increase of the population analyzed.

## WFP MAIN FINANCIAL INJECTIONS INTO THE LOCAL ECONOMY

ITEM	UNIT OF MEASURE	2020	2021 TO DATE
In-country procurement	US\$ million	21.2	65.3
Cash distribution	US\$ million	251.9	285.2
Salaries	US\$ million	24.2	23.3

### SELECTION OF BENEFICIARIES AND TRANSFER MODALITIES

Food insecure households from crisis to catastrophe are targeted through a combination of quantitative socioeconomic profiling and qualitative community profiling. At a population level, food insecure households along the IPC scale of severity are identified from a comprehensive analysis of household expenditure, consumption, livelihood/economic activity, demographics and social networks. The comprehensive analysis identified 12.9 million as highly vulnerable to food insecurity, including around 6.2 million people internally displaced due to the conflict, marginalized communities and households with acutely malnourished children under five years of age and pregnant and breastfeeding women.

WFP provides people with food assistance as either in-kind rations consisting of flour, pulses, oil, sugar and salt, or through cash based transfers to purchase the same quantity of food.

WFP is expanding cash assistance in areas of Yemen where markets are stable enough to provide for communities' basic food needs. To support this programme WFP is registering beneficiaries on a new biometric platform. Through this system, people receive cash or vouchers equal to the value of the food basket provided to families, which can then be redeemed for food commodities at selected shops. This will inject much-needed liquidity into the economy. Much higher food prices in the south versus the north of Yemen means the cash amount provided differs.

### LOGISTICS CONSIDERATIONS

**Yemen represents a particularly insecure and challenging operating environment.** Conflict, limited infrastructure and extreme terrain requires WFP to maintain substantial agility in how it buys, imports, and transports food to reach those in need across Yemen. Most food is procured from international markets and shipped to Yemeni ports from where WFP trucks it to thousands of locations across the country for distribution to those most in need. The ongoing fuel crisis presents significant challenges for humanitarian operations and it is common for WFP transport operations to experience delays in loading trucks with food and nutrition commodities due to lack of fuel. At district level, delays of 1-2 days have been reported with commodities being transhipped onto smaller trucks, with fuel not always immediately available.

The scale of the supply chain required to achieve this is substantial. In 2020 WFP delivered over **1.1 million metric tons of food** across Yemen. This entailed discharging 117 vessels at Yemeni ports, handling over 10,200 shipping containers, and conducting over **200,000 truck journeys** (equivalent of 550 trucks per day). During the same period WFP also distributed a further 279,000 metric tons of food through its voucher programme.

In 2021 (as of the end of October), WFP has delivered **934,794 metric tons**, discharged 108 vessels and handled over **9,000 shipping containers**. At the same time, WFP has distributed a further **254,000 metric tons** through its voucher programme.

To ensure humanitarian workers can get to and move within Yemen, WFP operates three United Nations Humanitarian Air Services (UNHAS) aircraft. These aircraft link Amman, Addis Ababa and Djibouti with Sana'a and Aden in Yemen, as well as providing in-country air transport between Sana'a, Aden, Seyoun, Ma'rib and Mukalla. They also provide an essential capability for the evacuation of humanitarian workers in the event of insecurity.

In 2020, despite substantial challenges related to COVID-19, these aircraft transported **7,531 passengers** into/within Yemen. So far in 2021 they have transported **10,634 passengers**.



