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# WFP Yemen

## Update & Strengthening Assurance Mechanisms

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## YEMEN FOOD SECURITY OVERVIEW

- 20 million Yemenis are food insecure (IPC Phase 3 and above) – a staggering 68 percent of the population .
  - This includes 9.6 million people who are severely food insecure (IPC Phase 4) and 238,000 people facing famine-like conditions (IPC Phase 5).
- Some 1.8 million children under the age of five (representing 15 percent of all children under 5) and 1.1 million pregnant and lactating women and girls suffer from acute malnutrition.
- An estimated 2 million children are out of school
- Worsening economic factors are driving food insecurity, including:
  - Irregular payment of civil servant salaries and eroded livelihoods
  - Fluctuating Yemeni Riyal
  - Increased costs of imports due to currency issues
  - Collapsing banking system



# WFP OPERATIONS OVERVIEW

- **Goal of WFP Assistance:**
  - Improve food security of 12 million people and nutrition security of 3 million women and children in Yemen
- **Foundation for achieving this plan**
  - Improved and sustained access
  - Strengthened needs assessments
  - Improved beneficiary selection mechanisms
  - Use of biometric based beneficiary identity and redemption management systems
  - Strengthened monitoring and reporting
- **Key risks in delivering WFP Yemen's programme goals:**
  - Risk of pipeline break due to uncertain funding prospects and logistics constraints
  - Risk of misuse of food assistance due to interferences and access constraints
  - Risk to staff safety and well-being due to insecurity and lack of adequate mitigating measures



# WFP OPERATIONS UPDATE

## In January 2019:

- WFP aligned family size with other agencies, resulting in an adjusted baseline of 9.3 million beneficiaries.
- So far, in January, WFP has reached 9.1 million people with general food assistance (GFA).
- WFP is extending its reach to additional displaced people in Hudaydah and to particularly vulnerable people in 45 districts where there are pockets of IPC 5. Food assistance in these areas will be accompanied by additional monitoring controls and complemented by other clusters.
- WFP dispatched 133,000 metric tons of food to 21 Yemeni governorates via 19 cooperating partners.
- WFP diversified its GFA distribution modalities, and has begun cash-based transfers in Aden, reaching 124,000 people.



## WFP OPERATIONS CONTAINER ACCESS TO HUDAYDAH PORT & RED SEA MILLS

- WFP is making internal preparations to conduct an assessment mission of Red Sea Mills from Hudaydah city, with the Aden route as a second option. The date of the mission is still to be finalised and would be conducted in cooperation with the Redeployment Coordination Committee (RCC).
- Since November 2017, 27 WFP chartered vessels have been able to access Hudaydah and Saleef ports. WFP is chartering a vessel to shift containers from Salaah Port to Hudaydah Port to ease congestion.



## RESOURCE UPDATE

### 6 MONTH OVERVIEW

- Budget Revision in February 2019 to increase beneficiaries from 8 million to 12 million people.
- Revised 2019 ICSP budget requirements from USD 1.6 billion to USD 2.1 billion
- Urgent need for funds due to lead time of four months of food procurement. Otherwise:
  - General Food Distribution will break in June
  - Commodity Vouchers through Traders Network will break in March
  - Nutrition will break in April
  - School Meals will break in October
- 6 month net requirement: USD 464.3 million

# OPERATING ENVIRONMENT IN YEMEN

- **Access remains a key challenge for humanitarian actors – especially to front line areas**
  - 7.5 million Yemenis are most difficult to access, with 1.4 million highly vulnerable Yemenis in hard-to-reach areas
- **UN and NGO Partners face numerous bureaucratic and administrative impediments reducing operating capacity**  
**Interferences in programme implementation by authorities**
- **Needs are growing exponentially, and operating capacity is not increasing at the same pace**
- **Logistical constraints impede timely provision of assistance**
- **Lack of salaries impacts operating capacity of technocrats and civil servants**



## OVERVIEW

### 2019 INCIDENTS

- **Sa'ada Airstrike Cases:**
  - 9 February: Kitaf district – 6.1 MT of mixed commodities destroyed
  - 12 February: Shaad'a district – 2.13 MT of mixed commodities destroyed
- **Temporary Suspension of Assistance:**
  - Al-Sudah district – Amran
  - 19,000 people impacted
- **Suspected case of aid diversion:**
  - WFP's own monitoring mechanism indicated that there may be a suspected case of aid diversion in Shabwah governorate







## STRENGTHENING ASSURANCE MECHANISMS WAY FORWARD

- WFP Yemen operates in an extremely complex environment and is subject to three key impediments:
  1. Bureaucracy;
  2. Interference with the aim of influencing humanitarian operations in de-facto held areas;
  3. Security constraints as a result of armed conflict.
- As a result, WFP faces a series of challenges, with access to affected populations for assessments, delivery, and monitoring a major constraint.
- WFP has been working with the Internationally Recognized Government of Yemen (IRG) and the de-facto authorities to implement an action plan aimed at mitigating risks of diversion through a new beneficiary selection process and targeting exercise supported by biometrics, to ensure WFP food assistance is provided to the most vulnerable people in need.



## **IMMEDIATE MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN ASSURANCE MECHANISMS**

- **Reduction of SFP&HR (de-facto Ministry of Education) areas of operation by February 2019**
- **Strengthened post distribution monitoring, including calls to beneficiaries to confirm distributions, follow-up of M&E findings, and strengthened hotline functions by March 2019**
- **Implementation of the Holistic Tracking System for commodities by March 2019**
- **Risk analysis, review of red flags, and deconfliction and security management at distribution points by April 2019**
- **Creation of centralized beneficiary lists as part of effort to eliminate beneficiary rotation by April 2019**
- **Strengthened partnership management, evaluation, and reporting by April 2019**
- **Biometric registration in the South completed by May 2019**



## MEDIUM - LONGER TERM MEASURES (I.E. BEFORE END 2019) TO STRENGTHEN ASSURANCE MECHANISMS

- **Improved targeting, verification and beneficiary registration across the country, including:**
  - Three-phase verification exercise by WFP's Cooperating Partners (CPs), Third-Party Monitors (TPMs), and jointly with NAMCHA (in de facto controlled areas)
  - Clear communications strategy through several channels to inform communities on beneficiary selection criteria.
- **Biometric registration, expected to begin in Sana'a by 1 April, to immediately follow the verification exercise.**
  - Trainings for CPs, Financial Service Providers, and CV-TN staff will be conducted
  - Data sharing and data protection agreements will be signed with NAMCHA and with Prodigy prior to the roll-out of biometric registration (in de facto controlled areas).
- **Enhanced monitoring**
  - Increased physical monitoring coverage at Final Delivery Points (75 percent by the end of 2019)
  - Increased WFP monitoring staff and TPMs, as necessary
  - Increased post-distribution calls to beneficiaries.
- **Strengthened staffing capacity, including for compliance function**
- **Capacity building and augmentation for partners**
- **Political bottlenecks (access, visas, equipment, etc.) will continue to be addressed.**
- **Logistics hubs will be established under each Area Office**

# STRENGTHENING ASSURANCE MECHANISMS

## SUCCESS FACTORS & RISKS



- **Critical Success Factors:**

- Continued access, including for third-party monitors
- Security and conducive working environment
- Timely approval of visas and residency permits and timely deployment
- Customs clearance and importation of necessary equipment (IT equipment, security equipment, cars)
- Increased number of UNDSS slots and sufficient accommodation
- Partners' staffing and capacity
- Fully functional Red Sea ports and stable supply chain corridors
- Timely confirmation of funding to support scale-up capacity

- **Key Risks:**

- Staff and partner capacity cannot be scaled up as per plan
- Uncertain or inadequate funding
- Inadequate cooperation from authorities in Sana'a
- Negative media campaigns
- Safety and security risks impacting presence on the ground



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