



**World Food  
Programme**

**Programme  
Alimentaire  
Mondial**

**Programa  
Mundial de  
Alimentos**

**برنامج الأغذية  
العالمي**

# WFP News Video

## WFP Warns Lack of Access and Funding Could Create the Possibility of Famine in Yemen

WFP News Video:  
Aden/Sana'a, Yemen  
Shot: 17-18Aug2015  
TRT: 2:20

### **Shotlist:**

:00-:21

Aden, Yemen

Shot: 18Aug2015

WFP Executive Director Ertharin Cousin (in middle) arrives in Aden airport, airport destruction, Aden destruction

:21-:42

Sana'a, Yemen

Shot: 17Aug2015

Various GV's destruction Sana'a

:42:-1:01

WFP/UNICEF nutrition center

Sana'a, Yemen

Shot: 17Aug2015

WFP Executive Director Ertharin Cousin with malnourished child at WFP/UNICEF nutrition center. WFP estimates that the number of food insecure people in Yemen is now close to 13 million, including 6 million who are severely food insecure and in urgent need of external assistance – that is one in five of the country's population. More than 1.2 million children are suffering from moderate acute malnutrition and over half a million children are severely malnourished.

1:01-1:08

WFP/UNICEF nutrition center

Sana'a, Yemen

Shot: 17Aug2015

Child being measured for malnutrition with middle upper arm circumference (MUAC) measuring tape

1:08-1:14

WFP/UNICEF nutrition center

Sana'a, Yemen

Shot: 17Aug2015

Child being vaccinated



1:14-1:28

WFP/UNICEF nutrition center

Sana'a, Yemen

Shot: 17Aug2015

WFP Executive Director Ertharin Cousin holding malnourished child at the hospital.

Cousin: " This child is suffering from MAM or SAM (Moderate Acute Malnutrition or Severe Acute Malnutrition)?"

Nutritionist: "SAM..This is SAM case"

Cousin: "How long have you been treating her?"

WFP staff: There's no strength"

Cousin: " I know, They're so tiny.. wrap your finger around her"

1:28-1:58

SOT: WFP Executive Director Ertharin Cousin

Sana'a, Yemen

Shot: 17Aug2015

"Even before this crisis began, Yemen had one of the highest malnutrition rates in the entire world. What we're seeing now is an increase in the number of severe malnutrition cases because of lack of access of our programme operators to provide the support that is necessary. So what we're seeing now is we're trying to play catch-up, we're trying to play catch-up to save the lives of these children and to ensure the opportunity for them to receive the nutritious food that they require."

1:58-2:20

WFP food distribution

Sana'a, Yemen

Shot: 17Aug2015

Families receiving one month WFP food ration of mainly wheat flour and oil.

ENDS

## **WFP News Release**

19 August 2015

**WFP HEAD WARNS OF A GROWING FOOD CRISIS IN  
YEMEN AMID CHALLENGES IN REACHING PEOPLE AND  
SHORTAGE OF FUNDING**

**SANA'A/ADEN** - Seeing first-hand the challenges facing millions of people affected by the ongoing crisis in Yemen, the UN World Food Programme (WFP) Executive Director Ertharin Cousin, warned that lack of immediate and unhindered access to people who urgently need food assistance and the shortage of funding create the possibility of famine for millions, mostly women and children already hungry in this war-torn country.

The conflict exacerbates the country's extremely fragile food security situation. WFP estimates that the number of food insecure people in Yemen is now close to 13 million, including 6 million who are severely food insecure and in urgent need of external assistance – that is one in five of the country's population.

“Right now the conflict-driven convergence between the lack of staple food, access to clean water, and a diminished fuel supply create the dawn of a perfect storm for the most vulnerable Yemeni people,” said Ertharin Cousin, WFP Executive Director.

“The disruption in the commercial food sector creates significant reductions in imports which causes an inflationary effect on market prices for food and other basic commodities. As a result, we are starting to see the double effect of the conflict as even the people who could previously afford to meet their food needs are today unable to buy food.”

During a three-day visit, Cousin, travelled to Sana'a, Amran and Aden. She met with displaced families taking refuge in school buildings, mothers and their young malnourished children at health centres and hospitals, as well as families at food distribution sites. She also held meetings with the authorities on both sides of the frontlines, WFP staff, UN sister agencies and NGO partners.

More than 1.2 million children are suffering from moderate acute malnutrition and over half a million children are severely malnourished. “The damage to Yemen's next generation may become irreversible if we don't reach children quickly with the right food at the right time. We must act now before it is too late,” said Cousin.

The recent fighting around major ports will stall the commercial and humanitarian supplies to the country mainly food and fuel. Shortages of fuel are not only impacting the food distribution system of both the humanitarian and the private sector but will have a devastating effect on access to clean water, health, electricity and other basic services.

WFP has already reached 3.5 million people with food since the beginning of the conflict but the fighting makes deliveries difficult and dangerous. Many road networks in the hardest hit

areas of the country are still not operational making communities in conflict-areas inaccessible for aid workers.

A recent vulnerability assessment conducted by WFP using mobile phone technology, reaching some of the households in areas inaccessible by teams on the ground, reflected that the deteriorating food security situation is particularly affecting the internally displaced families. Many families are existing on bread, rice and tea. The most common themes mentioned by the people interviewed for the assessment are “high food prices”, “shortages”, “lack of water” and a “deteriorating” situation.

The assessment showed that emergency food security conditions currently prevail in conflict-affected governorates. This phase is one step away from famine levels. Food security is most severe for the country’s 1.3 million internally displaced people.

Shortage of drinking water is also currently a critical issue. The price of water in Sana’a had tripled since the start of the conflict because pumping systems have been hit by the lack of diesel fuel. Water is very critical for families to prepare food with an impact on people keeping livestock, which is very important for livelihood in the country.

WFP implores the entire global community to recognize the urgency of the Yemeni crisis. Specifically calling on those who have made commitments to expeditiously fulfil their pledges. WFP is grateful the donors who have financially contributed or pledged support to the Yemen response including Germany, the USA, DFID, the UAE and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

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WFP is the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide, delivering food in emergencies and working with communities to build resilience. Each year, WFP assists some 80 million people in around 80 countries.

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Link to videos

Link to the mVAM report

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