

WFP News Video:
Rare Video From the Frontlines of The Conflict in Yemen Shows Escalating Violence is Increasing Hunger, Displacement and Desperation

Saada and Hodeidah Yemen

Shot: 23-26 July 2018

TRT: 4:00

Shotlist:

:00-:11

Bombed gateway to Saada city, destroyed homes in the old town. Saada, on the border with Saudi Arabia, is the Houthi heartland and one of the areas most affected by the conflict. Food markets, municipal buildings and transport have been destroyed from the fighting.

Saada

Shot: 23 July 2018

:11-:24

23 people were killed when this house was hit in an airstrike. Only the father, a barber, survived.

Saada

Shot: 23 July 2018

:25-:30

Bombed bridge in rural Saada. Most of the bridges in the area have been damaged by the ongoing conflict. Rural Saada, the “fruitbasket” of Yemen, has been affected by the conflict too. Infrastructure like roads, wells and farms have been heavily damaged limiting crucial supplies like fuel getting in and farm produce getting out as well as displacing people from this vital food producing area.

Saada

Shot: 23 July 2018

:30-:37

The remains of Al Sharf health center damaged by the fighting in rural Saada

Saada

Shot: 23 July 2018

:37-:43

Shack serving as temporary Al Sharf health center. The rural areas of Saada have always had some of the highest rates of malnutrition in Yemen but destruction of infrastructure and displacement of people in the area has made childhood malnutrition worse.

Saada

Shot: 23 July 2018

:43-:57

11 month old Malak is tested for malnutrition at Al Sharf health center and found to be severely malnourished. She is being treated with a special peanut based food provided by the World Food Programme.

Saada

Shot: 23 July 2018

:57-1:24

Severely malnourished children at Saada City Main Hospital

Saada

Shot: 23July2018

1:24-1:40

Adel Abdullah, a 43-year-old fisherman from Hodeidah. He fled the fighting with his extended family of 11 people. They sold everything they had to finance the journey and are now destitute living in makeshift shelters in a trash strewn empty lot in Saada city. The women are begging on the streets of Saada to survive.
Saada

Shot: 23July2018

1:40-2:01

SOT Adel Abdullah (Arabic)

“The women are scared to death...ever hour we see a plane. I’m not lying .. we wish peace and safety”

Saada

Shot: 23July2018

2:01-2:06

GV Port of Hodeidah. The port of Hodeidah is Yemen’s lifeline and the only way that food and fuel get into the country. Yemen imports 90 percent of its food needs.

Hodeidah

Shot: 26July2018

2:06-2:17

Unloading ship carrying wheat from Australia.

Hodeidah

Shot: 26July2018

2:17-2:22

WFP warehouse destroyed in the fighting.

Hodeidah

Shot: 26July2018

2:22-2:44

GV’s streets of Hodeidah city. The city has become militarized, trenches dug in the streets blocked by barricades and roadblocks. About ½ the population has fled and those that remain are bracing for more fighting.

Hodeidah

Shot: 25-26July2018

2:44-3:07

WFP’s country director Stephen Anderson visits Naema and her family of 11 who were displaced by the fighting. Her husband is a fisherman but its too dangerous to fish now. One of her son’s has disappeared and she is extremely worried about him. They are all staying in 2 rooms in a relatives’ house. WFP provides them with food including beans, tuna and peas.

Hodeidah

Shot: 26July2018

3:07-3:22

SOT Stephen Anderson, WFP Yemen Country Director (English)

“More than anything else now, the Yemeni people now desperately need peace”... “with peace and stability we can start to get people back on their feet start to rebuild their livelihoods”

Hodeidah

Shot: 26July2018

3:22-4:02

Anxious and nervous displaced people at a humanitarian aid distribution site where WFP provides households with food including beans, peas and tuna and FPA and UNICEF provide sanitary kits. Many people have been displaced from their homes to different parts of the city without income or means of survival except for WFP food aid...they are becoming increasingly desperate and afraid as the conflict heats up around the city.

Hodeidah

Shot: 25July2018

ENDS

Over three years of conflict and destruction have pushed Yemen to the brink of famine, resulting in the world's largest hunger crisis.

Nearly 18 million people don't know where their next meal is coming from. More than 8 million of them live in extreme hunger and depend entirely on external food assistance. Each year of conflict has pushed a further million or more people towards extreme hunger. Seven governorates are in 'emergency' phase - one step below 'famine'.

Key to ending hunger is ending the fighting. As conflict continues in Yemen, more people are in danger of falling victim to hunger and disease.

Even before the conflict Yemen was the poorest country in the Arab world, with rampant hunger and poverty. Now, 22 million out of the country's 29 million people are in need of some form of humanitarian assistance.

WFP is extremely concerned about the upsurge in fighting in Hodeidah governorate close to the city and its port. Hodeidah port is a lifeline for millions of Yemenis who are on the brink of famine.

WFP estimates that the upsurge in fighting could result in up to 1.1 million people being either displaced or trapped within Hodeidah city and outlying districts and in need of emergency food assistance. WFP is working around the clock to provide emergency rations to people fleeing violence and to ensure that wheat and other food stocks are available.

Conflict and insecurity often prevents food assistance from reaching the people who need it. It is crucial that unimpeded access to all ports in Yemen continues – so vital supplies such as food and fuel can be delivered

Severe restrictions on port access in November 2017 led to soaring food and fuel prices. Yemen has always imported most of its food – most of it by sea, with the majority through the Red Sea ports of Hodeidah and Salif. It is vital that all shipments of food and fuel get timely clearances and facilitation before arriving at port and while being dispatched.

The success of WFP's response hinges on receiving sufficient funds for needs that are expected to extend well into 2019. Starting in September, we plan to scale up to provide 8 million people a month with life-saving food and nutrition assistance. WFP is also providing emergency food assistance to IDP families from Hodeidah and increase nutrition support nation-wide.

Despite recent substantial contributions from donors (including US\$442 million from the United Arab Emirate and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, earlier this year) WFP needs an additional **US\$107 million** over the coming six months to scale up and sustain assistance to 8 million people a month and ensure new IDP families from Hodeidah receive assistance.

YEMEN IN NUMBERS:

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Population: | 29.3 million |
| People needing some form of humanitarian assistance | 22 million |
| People in acute need | 11 million |
| Internally displaced people including returnees | 3 million |
| People in need of humanitarian assistance | 22.2 million |
| People who are food-insecure | est. 17.8 million |
| People who are severely food-insecure | est. 8.4 million |
| Acutely malnourished children six months to five years | est. 1.8 million |
| Acutely malnourished pregnant or nursing women | est. 1.1 million |
| Children under 5 suffering from severe acute malnutrition | est. 400,000 |
| Funds needed by WFP July– December (opweb.wfp.org 17 July) | US\$9 million |

According to the 2018 [Humanitarian Needs Overview](#) (December 2017), more than 22 million people in Yemen need some kind of humanitarian assistance, including 11 million in acute need – an increase of more than one million people in acute need since June 2017.

ACCESS:

- The closure of Yemen’s ports (sea, land and airports) for nearly three weeks in November 2017 had a dramatic humanitarian impact. Within 24 hours, prices for food, fuel and water had soared. Since the end of the blockade, twelve WFP-chartered vessels have offloaded over 270,000 metric tons of wheat. Another WFP-chartered vessel carried four US-funded mobile cranes into Hodeidah port early this year.
- WFP welcomes the official announcement from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia declaring all Yemeni ports, including Hodeidah and Saleef, as open. WFP encourages all parties to the conflict to allow continuous, unfettered access to all Yemeni ports to ensure that necessary food and non-food commodities are brought into the country, particularly commercial which are important for markets, but also humanitarian supplies for the poorest and most vulnerable communities.
- In May, Hodeidah port received its first vessel carrying containerized cargo since the end of the temporary blockade in November 2017 –a WFP-chartered vessel carrying 11,700 metric tons of mixed food in some 700 shipping containers. It is crucial that vessels carrying containerized cargo receive continuous access to Hodeidah port as it decreases shipping transit time and reduces the cost of diverting vessels with containerized cargo to Aden port.
- WFP and humanitarian partners need every road, bridge, port and airport to be able to deliver food and humanitarian aid to the millions of people in Yemen who need food, health and humanitarian assistance. Greater access to more people would speed up the delivery of humanitarian supplies to every area in the country where there are needs. We are ready to assist using our logistics expertise.

We will have available for interview WFP’s Yemen Country Director Stephen Anderson as well as WFP’s Head of TV Communications Jonathan Dumont who is filming in Yemen.

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The United Nations World Food Programme - saving lives in emergencies and changing lives for millions through sustainable development. WFP works in more than 80 countries around the world, feeding people caught in conflict and disasters, and laying the foundations for a better future.

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