

WFP News Video: WFP Planning to Feed Up to 14 Million in Yemen as Fighting Intensifies in Critical Port of Hodeidah

Shotlist:

TRT: 02:30

Location: Hodeidah, Yemen

Shots: July 2018/July 2017

00:00 - 00:24

Shot: 25-26 July 2018

General view of 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.

00:24 - 00:33

Shot: 26 July 2018

Port of Hodeidah.

00:33 - 00:38

Shot: 26 July 2018

WFP warehouse destroyed in the fighting.

00:38 - 01:05

Shot: 26 July 2018

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.

01:05 - 01:33

Shot: 8 Nov 2018

Rome, Italy

SOT Amer Daoudi, WFP Sr. Director of Operations

"Hodeidah has the capacity to handle almost 70 per cent of all the imports for Yemen; if that access is not available, we will see a catastrophic situation inside Yemen and the lives of the people will be at stake.

WFP is scaling up to meet the needs of 14 million people and Hodeidah is a critical pipeline for us to meet the needs of those people."

01:33 - 01:59

AL Thawara hospital, Hodeidah

Shot 26 July 2017

Children in Hodeidah where malnutrition rates are among the worst in Yemen are sometimes too weak to open their mouths and eat the special food they are given to treat malnourishment. WFP provides special nutrition to children for the treatment and prevention of malnutrition in Yemen.

Mothers with their babies in the Severely Acute Malnutrition Treatment Center
Malnourished baby with nasogastric feeding tube.

01:59 - 02:30

Shot: 25 July 2018

Displaced people at a humanitarian aid distribution site.

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.

ENDS

- **Yemen is the largest hunger crisis in the world. Millions of people are living on the edge of famine and the situation is getting worse by the day.** *An Integrated Phase Classification assessment done in October and to be published this month will give a more precise picture of food insecurity in Yemen. The last IPC report (March 2017) put the numbers in the Emergency category of food insecurity (Phase 4) at 6.8 million people. It is expected that, **in the forthcoming IPC, the number could rise to 12 or even 14 million people** – this would mean nearly half the population having so little to eat that they are just one step away from starvation.*
- **WFP is providing massive levels of food assistance to those most in need and is putting plans in place to reach up to 14 million people a month (mostly with food but, where possible, via cash-based transfers).** *WFP is providing food assistance to 7 – 8 million of those most in need, every month, but the situation has now got so dire that WFP is preparing to scale up. WFP Food and other humanitarian support has been instrumental in helping to prevent famine, but the indications are that even greater efforts will be needed to avert mass starvation.*
- **The food security crisis is man-made. It is the result of conflict, economic collapse, rising prices, and problems of supply and distribution. Many food items are beyond the reach of most Yemenis.** *The value of the Yemeni Riyal has halved since July, losing 21 percent of its value in September alone and over 200 percent of its pre-crisis purchasing power. The price of most basic food items has increased by more than 30 percent in just four months. More than half a million jobs have been lost since the beginning of the*

conflict and an estimated 1.2 million government employees have not received their salaries for more than two years.

- **Intense fighting in and around the port city of Hodeidah has caused major delays to the arrival of humanitarian and commercial cargo. As a result, the price of food in shops has shot up beyond the reach of many people.**
The Red Sea port receives about 70 percent of imports into the country which depends on imports for nearly all its commercial food requirements. It is also vital to keep open the supply routes out of the city so that north and central Yemen can be provisioned with food and other vital supplies.
- **WFP is grateful for the support of donors but, as the situation gets worse, it has become apparent that our funding needs are set to rise.**
WFP's current target of providing food assistance to 8 million people is budgeted at US\$125 million per month. As the food security situation deteriorates and WFP prepares to scale up its food and nutrition programmes, it is clear our funding requirements are set to increase accordingly.

Hodeidah:

- A major government offensive is underway with shelling and aerial bombardment of rebel positions around Hodeidah. The fighting threatens the provision of humanitarian assistance to the city as well as its flow to parts of north-western Yemen where needs are among the highest.
- Critical to both humanitarian operations and to the commercial sector are the Red Sea Mills which have been cut off by the fighting. They currently store enough wheat for WFP to assist 3.7 million people in northern and central Yemen for one month and represent one quarter of WFP's wheat flour milling capacity in the country. WFP needs immediate access to this facility.

WFP RESPONSE:

- WFP is doing everything it can to avert famine in Yemen. We are currently providing more than seven million people with food assistance every month and are ready to scale up to respond to worst-case scenarios should it be confirmed by

the forthcoming IPC report that the food security situation has deteriorated significantly.

- WFP currently has enough cereals in the country to assist 6.8 million of the hungriest people over two months. As of early November, we have several food shipments en route to various ports in the country and we have started to use the port of Salalah, in neighboring Oman, as a supplementary route.
- In mid-September and in view of the precarious food situation, WFP, in collaboration with our international NGO cooperating partner, Vision Hope International, undertook a one-off emergency food distribution for all 225,000 remaining residents in Hodeidah city. We are also providing enough emergency food rations for five days to all families fleeing Hodeidah as well as a one-off monthly food ration.
- WFP in September provided comprehensive food assistance to the entire population of Aslam in Hajjah – that is more than 100,000 people – based on the extreme food scarcity in the area. We are also working with other UN agencies to provide a coordinated response to treat and prevent malnutrition among children under 5 years of age and among pregnant and nursing women.
- WFP launched a school feeding programme this year to provide nutritious, ready-to-eat food to school children. With the start of the new school year in September, WFP has been aiming to assist 600,000 students a month.

IN NUMBERS (Note: this data is from the UN Humanitarian Needs Overview of December 2017)

Population:	29.3 million
People needing some form of humanitarian assistance	22 million
Internally displaced people including returnees	3.5 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

- **The violence must stop now to give Yemen a chance to pull back from the brink. Unless it does, this will become a country of living ghosts, its people reduced to sacks of bones. Humanitarians can only do so much in the face of relentless bombing and unconscionable war tactics that spare no one.**
- **The fate of Hodeidah makes a mockery of warring parties' claims that the lives of civilians are precious. WFP needs safe, immediate and unimpeded access for food and other vital supplies into Hodeidah and everywhere where lives can be saved. All harassment of humanitarians, all restrictions on their movements, and all targeting of their facilities must cease.**
- **WFP joins the call for emergency measures, by Yemen's Central Bank and in partnership with international financial institutions such as the IMF, to stabilize prices and rebuild Yemenis' capacity to secure the basics of life.**
- **WFP urges the immediate unfreezing of public salaries to begin restoring badly eroded livelihoods. Waging war through withheld wages is intolerably cruel and unacceptable by any ethical standards.**

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