


**World Food  
Programme**
**Programme  
Alimentaire  
Mondial**
**Programa  
Mundial de  
Alimentos**
**برنامج الأغذية  
العالمي**
**WFP News Video: RACE AGAINST TIME TO SAVE MILLIONS OF LIVES IN YEMEN**
**Location: Sana'a City, Manakha district, Aden, Yemen**
**Shot: 12,23 April 2017**
**TRT 02:52**
Shotlist
**:00-:21**
**Al'aghmour Health Center, Manakha district**
**Shot: 23 April 2017**

Exterior Al'aghmour Health Center

Children waiting to be checked for malnutrition

WFP aims to provide direct food assistance to nearly seven million people who are severely food insecure and urgently need food assistance, in addition to providing nutrition support to prevent or treat malnutrition among 2.2 million children. WFP will also assist nursing and pregnant mothers with specialized nutritious foods. WFP will also prioritize districts that have prevalence of severe hunger and where Global Acute Malnutrition rates among children under five are well above the World Health Organization critical threshold of 15 percent. These areas are at risk of deteriorating into famine conditions if they do not receive adequate assistance in time. Since the conflict began in mid-March 2015, the food security and nutrition situation has rapidly deteriorated. Violence has destroyed people's livelihoods and ability to purchase food, making it difficult for many Yemenis to meet minimal food and nutrition needs.

**:21-:49**
**Al'aghmour Health Center, Manakha district**
**Shot: 23 April 2017**

Children being screened for malnutrition.

**:49-01:11**
**Al'aghmour Health Center, Manakha district**
**Shot: 23 April 2017**

Mothers and children receiving WFP nutritious food (Super Cereal Plus), food for children under 5.

**01:11-01:47**
**Sana'a**
**Shot: 23 April 2017**
**SOT Stephen Anderson, WFP Yemen Country Director**

"The World Food Programme is mounting three different types of interventions to help people, general food distribution of in kind food assistance, also commodity vouchers and also specialized nutrition assistance and altogether that is meant to reach 9.1 million people, however due to funding constraints and access restrictions we are unfortunately not able to help the number of people that we would like to."

**01:47-:02:01****Aden****Shot: 12 April 2017**

War damaged buildings in Aden

**02:01-02:19****Aden****Shot: 11 April 2017**

Shokri Hassan, 50, lives in Aden with his wife, two children and sick father. He is a state worker but, hasn't received his salary in seven months. He and his family have received food from WFP.

The purchasing power of households has been significantly reduced, leaving many unable to cope with the high prices of food and other essential commodities. The economic status of nearly 80 percent of households in Yemen is now worse than in the pre-crisis period. This is mainly due to the public budget deficit that has reduced government expenditures, which have delayed or wiped out salaries for government employees since September 2016. Since the conflict began in mid-March 2015, the food security and nutrition situation has rapidly deteriorated. Violence has destroyed people's livelihoods and ability to purchase food, making it difficult for many Yemenis to meet minimal food and nutrition needs. During April and May and until WFP can secure the funds that it needs, WFP will prioritize 6.7 million people for urgent food assistance. Some 2.5 million of them – particularly those in governorates hardest-hit by food insecurity and most at risk of slipping into a famine – will receive a full package of assistance aimed at averting famine.

**02:19-02:23****Sana'a****Shot: 12 March 2017**

GV Sana'a

**02:23-02:52****AlHamzi retail outlet, Sana'a city****23 April 2017**

People redeeming WFP vouchers, getting food from local trader's network.

WFP implements a voucher programme, each voucher provides a one-month supply of wheat grain, pulses, vegetable oil, salt and sugar as well as Wheat Soya Blend – a protein-rich blended food provided by WFP through the local supplier. The monthly entitlement is enough to cover the food needs of a family of six people. WFP will continue providing food assistance through distributions and vouchers. Vouchers will be provided in urban and semi-urban areas through retail outlets, while in-kind food distributions will be carried out mostly in rural areas.

WFP will register families through its innovative SCOPE system – WFP’s digital beneficiary and transfer-management platform – wherever possible with biometric data, in order to ensure the maximum level of accuracy in the distribution of food assistance

**END**

The United Nations will hold a High-Level Pledging Event for the Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen. Co-hosted by UN Secretary General Guterres , the governments of Switzerland and Sweden, the conference will take place at the Palais des Nations in Geneva on 25 April 2017.

Yemen is on the brink of famine with over 17 million people – two-thirds of the country’s population – food insecure. Over 6.8 million people are severely food insecure, do not know where their next meal is coming from, and cannot survive without external food assistance.

WFP is scaling up its emergency operations in Yemen to provide food assistance to up to nine million people who urgently need support in one of the world’s worst hunger crises.

The new emergency operation will cost up to US\$1.2 billion over a one-year period and should allow WFP to scale up assistance to feed the severely food insecure people in Yemen every month. The success of this operation hinges on immediate and sufficient resources from donors.

When a famine is declared, it means that many lives have already been lost. We should act before we reach this catastrophic stage. WFP needs the immediate resources to feed people in districts most at risk of famine where we fear that many more lives will be lost, particularly in Taiz, Hodeidah, Lahj, Abyan and Sa’ada governorates.

It is a race against time. WFP calls for immediate funds and unimpeded access to reach those most in need. WFP requires nearly US\$363 million from April to September to provide vital assistance in Yemen and urges the international community to help avert famine by providing sufficient resources.

**YEMEN IN NUMBERS:**

Population: 28.2 million Internally displaced people including returnees: 3.1 million  
\*(1) People who are food-insecure: estimated 17 million People who are severely food-insecure: estimated 6.8 million \*(2) Acutely malnourished children six months to five

years: estimated 2.2 million \*(3) Acutely malnourished pregnant or nursing women: estimated 1.1 million

WFP Response:

This month, WFP launched its new emergency operation to prevent a famine and support longer-term recovery in Yemen. WFP plans to gradually support a total of 9.1 million people over the coming year.

WFP aims to provide direct food assistance to nearly seven million people who are severely food insecure and urgently need food assistance, in addition to providing nutrition support to prevent or treat malnutrition among 2.2 million children. WFP will also assist nursing and pregnant mothers with specialized nutritious foods.

In addition, WFP seeks to support refugees, economic migrants, and people who require asset rehabilitation and assistance to restore their sources of income.

During April and May and until WFP can secure the funds that it needs, WFP will prioritize 6.7 million people for urgent food assistance. Some 2.5 million of them – particularly those in governorates hardest-hit by food insecurity and most at risk of slipping into a famine – will receive a full package of assistance aimed at averting famine.

This package will include a full food ration, which will cover 100 percent of the food needs of every member of a family for a month, in addition to nutrition support for malnourished children and women. This is the first time that WFP has been able to provide a full food basket in Yemen in more than a year.

A second priority group of 4.2 million people will receive a reduced food ration, which comprises 60 percent of the full food basket.

WFP prioritizes its assistance in consultation with its partners by targeting people in highest priority governorates and districts, particularly those which are already showing signs of famine-like conditions – especially in Taiz, Hodeidah, Lahj, Abyan and Sa'ada.

WFP will also prioritize districts that have prevalence of severe hunger and where Global Acute Malnutrition rates among children under five are well above the World Health Organization critical threshold of 15 percent. These areas are at risk of deteriorating into famine conditions if they do not receive adequate assistance in time. Since the conflict began in mid-March 2015, the food security and nutrition situation has rapidly deteriorated. Violence has destroyed people's livelihoods and ability to purchase food, making it difficult for many Yemenis to meet minimal food and nutrition needs.

In February, WFP provided food assistance to a record number of nearly 5.3 million people in 17 governorates with food assistance – although at a reduced level.

WFP has expanded its operations in Yemen based on the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) released in March 2017, and the Emergency Food Security and Nutrition Assessment (EFSNA) in November 2016. The IPC reported an alarming deterioration in food security, with the number of food-insecure people jumping from 14 million to 17 million people in the second half of 2016. IPC and EFSNA findings helped guide WFP efforts to target and reach the most vulnerable people.

WFP will continue providing food assistance through distributions and vouchers. Vouchers will be provided in urban and semi-urban areas through retail outlets, while in-kind food distributions will be carried out mostly in rural areas.

WFP will register families through its innovative SCOPE system – WFP's digital beneficiary and transfer-management platform – wherever possible with biometric data, in order to ensure the maximum level of accuracy in the distribution of food assistance.

The primary purpose of WFP's work in Yemen is to save lives and address malnutrition.

#### Resourcing

WFP requires a total of US\$1.2 billion to provide food assistance and nutritional support to 9.1 million people from April 2017 through March 2018. WFP's work in Yemen is only 10 percent funded for the coming 12 months. WFP urgently requires US\$363 million from April to September 2017 to be able to cover the food needs of the people it hopes to reach.

WFP has already had to prioritize its operations in Yemen because of funding constraints. Funds are urgently needed to give sufficient time to bring food into the country for distribution. The lead-time for purchase and delivery of food into Yemen is on average more than four months. If WFP does not receive adequate funding now, it runs the risk of a serious shortfall by May that could impact WFP operations in Yemen.

WFP is grateful to donors that have contributed or pledged support. A lack of sufficient and timely funding will result in a reduction in the numbers of people served, and is likely to have a negative impact on their ability to survive, posing a higher risk of famine and an increased number of deaths.

#### Ports

Significant delays continue to affect vessels entering all major ports due to damaged infrastructure, reduced operational capacities and insecurity. While WFP brings in some food assistance via Yemen ports, commercial food and fuel imports are also urgently needed to meet the growing needs of millions of people.

Following the escalation of tensions around Hodeidah port, there is concern that access to the port may be further restricted and commercial shipping lines may stop calling. Any further deterioration of the port's capacity would have a potentially devastating impact on the delivery of humanitarian and commercial supplies into the northern part of the country.

Even before the crisis, Hodeidah and Salif were the main entry points for Yemen's food, accounting for up to 80 percent of imports. Much of the infrastructure for food imports is in the Hodeidah area: four of Yemen's six main grain silos and mills are in Hodeidah and Salif.

In November 2016, 70 percent of all Yemeni imports entered the country through Hodeidah. If it became inaccessible, Aden port could not handle the entire needs for food imports into the country.

Almost 19 million people are in northern opposition-controlled areas of the country, where WFP is targeting 5.2 million with food assistance. These areas can only be reached through Hodeidah and Salif ports. Insecurity and political complexities have so far made alternative land routes from Saudi Arabia or Oman unusable.

WFP urges all parties to the conflict to ensure Hodeidah port remains open to ensure continuity of commercial and humanitarian shipments into the country. Closure of Hodeidah could tip the country into a full-fledged famine.

#### Current Situation and nutritional status (IPC & EFSNA details)

The situation in Yemen is tragic. Mothers, often with little to eat themselves, see their children slipping away and losing weight every day. When famine is declared, it means many lives have been already lost. We are not there yet and we need to prevent this from happening in Yemen.

The March 2017 IPC analysis, reports an overall deterioration in the food security and nutrition situation, with an increase in the total number of food insecure people in Yemen from 14 to 17 million people between June and December 2016. In comparison with the previous IPC analysis in June 2016, food security has deteriorated by 20 percent.

Conflict and civil insecurity are the main drivers of food insecurity, with devastating effects on incomes and the nutrition situation. Out of 22 governorates, seven are in

IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) and another three are in Phase 3!, meaning they would have been the same or worse without humanitarian assistance.

Although there was a relative improvement in the overall food security situation in some districts of Al Dhale and Al Bayda, which contributed to a shift to IPC Phase 3! , this does not mean the two governorates are better off now. The improvement is largely attributable to ongoing and planned food assistance and improved access in some districts within the governorates.

In some of the most affected (IPC Phase 4) districts, global acute malnutrition rates are above 40 percent and poor food consumption (lack of food) scores exceed 50 percent, suggesting that pockets of famine may already exist, even if data on death rates is unreliable.

The purchasing power of households has been significantly reduced, leaving many unable to cope with the high prices of food and other essential commodities. The economic status of nearly 80 percent of households in Yemen is now worse than in the pre-crisis period. This is mainly due to the public budget deficit that has reduced government expenditures, which have delayed or wiped out salaries for government employees since September 2016.

While the country depends almost entirely on imports for its food needs, the agricultural sector is also suffering. Cultivated area and production in 2016 decreased by nearly 40 percent compared to the pre-crisis period, affecting food availability and household stocks.

According to the EFSNA, an estimated 2.2 million children age six months to five years are acutely malnourished and face an increased risk of disease and death.

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

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For more information please contact (email address: [firstname.lastname@wfp.org](mailto:firstname.lastname@wfp.org)):

Abeer Etefa, WFP/Cairo, Tel. +2010 66634352

Reem Nada, WFP/Cairo, Tel. +2010 66634522

Dana Sacchetti, WFP/Rome, Tel. +39 349 980 0442

Bettina Luescher, WFP/Geneva, Tel. +41 22 917 8564, Mob. +41 79 842 8057