

#FightingFamine

Update on Northeast Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen

16.06.2017

Funding Requirements in USD

| Country | Total 2017 requirements | 2017 confirmed contributions | % funded | Net funding requirements June to November (unfunded) |
|-------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|----------|--|
| NE Nigeria | 416 million | 135 million | 32% | 172 million |
| Somalia | 492 million | 170 million | 35% | 308 million |
| South Sudan | 784 million | 234 million | 30% | 120 million |
| Yemen | 1,079 billion | 228 million | 21% | 442 million |
| Total | 2,771 billion | 767 million | 28% | 1,042 billion |

Key Messages

- 1. WFP and partners need funding and unrestricted access to save the lives of 20 million people at risk of famine in Northeast Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen. Famine is already present in three counties of South Sudan.
- 2. WFP is fighting famine every day but needs more than US\$1 billion over the next 6 months to save the millions of lives at stake. Delays in funding cost lives and make the response more expensive.
- 3. About 5.4 million children are dangerously malnourished. Of these, 1.4 million children are at risk of starvation, with some 600,000 at imminent risk of death in the next 3-4 months unless they receive treatment and care.

The Situation

- Conflict has created a humanitarian crisis of monumental proportions and many people affected are unable to access assistance. In Somalia, the crisis is compounded by drought.
- Northeast Nigeria, Somalia and South Sudan are in the hunger season, the period each year when food from the last harvest runs out and children are more susceptible to disease and death.
- Conflict and hunger are main drivers of displacement. For every 1 percentage point increase in food insecurity, refugee outflows increase by 2 percent. Nearly 1 million South Sudanese fleeing from fighting and hunger are now sheltering in Uganda.
- Alleviating hunger supports peace. In a climate of perpetual hunger, young people lose faith in the future. If they do not know where their next meal is coming from, they become targets for those who would recruit them into conflict.
- Using food as a weapon of war is unacceptable. All parties to conflict – and those with influence over them - must abide by International Humanitarian Law and allow aid workers access to those in need.

Achievements and Needs

- Where WFP and partners have sufficient funding and access, lives are saved and we have been able to prevent famine. More than 10 million people were assisted in May.
- Urgent action is crucial to prevent more deaths. Half of the 260,000 people who died in the 2010/11 Somalia famine died before famine was officially declared in July 2011.
- Preventing famine requires more than just food. Malnourished children and adults die not only from hunger but from disease or dehydration. With cholera outbreaks in Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen, healthcare, sanitation and clean water are also vital to save lives.
- Underfunding forces WFP and partners to decide who receives food and other life-saving help – and who must go without, sometimes a choice between life and death.
- WFP is grateful to all donors for their contributions to saving lives in the four countries. We call on all Member States must do their part to fight famine, through financial contributions to relief or peace-making efforts.
 Peace is the most fundamental element to bring an end to these crises.

Summary of People in Need and Reached by WFP

| Country | Total people in need (IPC*3,4,5) | Total targeted by WFP (June) | Total reached (May) |
|-------------|--|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| NE Nigeria | 5.2 m | 1.36 m | 1.2 m |
| Somalia | 3.2 m | 2.46 m | 2.4 m |
| South Sudan | 5.5 m | 2.9 m | 2.2 m ** |
| Yemen | 17 m | 6.8 m | 4.5 m |

^{*} Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (see definition on page 2)

This document provides key messages and information for briefings with partners; it should be considered complementary to the detailed operational information provided

^{**} Preliminary estimate

The Response

WFP and partners provide an integrated food security and nutrition response, comprising both treatment and prevention and covering food security, nutrition, health, water, sanitation and hygiene and livelihoods support. In May, the response reached more than 10 million people with assistance, including:

- General food distribution.
- Cash-based transfers. In Somalia, more than 1 million people have been assisted, and in NE Nigeria 164,000 have received transfers.
- Treatment and prevention of moderate malnutrition among children under age five and pregnant and new mothers, linked with UNICEF's treatment of severe malnutrition. WFP targets 6.3 million for these programmes.
- Rapid Response Teams assist people in hard-toreach areas. In 2017 in South Sudan, 110 missions have been completed, reaching 1.1 million people; 34 of these were deployed in famineaffected areas, reaching 410,000 people.

WFP works closely with UN partners on an integrated approach that spans humanitarian action and development, peace and security, each of us working towards collective outcomes. WFP is investing in national responders to broaden our collective reach.

Country Contexts

Northeast Nigeria

Conflict has disrupted food production, trade and markets. The situation is expected to deteriorate as families exhaust their last reserves and the lean season progresses. Working with government and partners, WFP is responding with food or cash-based transfers to target the most vulnerable, but has limited or no access to three areas of Borno State which are at risk of famine-like conditions. Access to people in need will likely to decrease during the current rainy season.

In recent months, WFP has faced critical funding constraints. Consequently, WFP reduced the number of people it aimed to reach in June to 1.36 million, from an earlier target of 1.8 million.

WFP and partners are forging ahead with a New Way of Working together: a Rapid Response Mechanism of UN agencies and NGOs, an Emergency Tracking Tool for population movements, and a new partnership between WFP and FAO combining food assistance and food production support.

Somalia

The crisis is caused by three consecutive seasons of poor rainfall, and a severe and extended drought resulting in failed harvests and livestock deaths. Vulnerable people are suffering hunger, malnutrition, disease. From 2.9 million in January, 3.2 million are now severely affected and need life-saving assistance. While there are similarities to the conditions that led to the famine in 2011, WFP is in a stronger position to respond, and has reached 2.4 million people. Food is being distributed in more places than before, and WFP provides cash based assistance through a digital platform that was introduced two years ago. However, there are still some areas of the country with significant access challenges and the risk of famine can only be mitigated through continued humanitarian assistance.

South Sudan

The famine in South Sudan is man-made. Conflict and displacement has eroded people's capacity to provide for themselves, driving food insecurity to its highest levels since Independence in 2011. Cholera continues to spread since last year's outbreak. WFP is actively engaging with the health and water and sanitation clusters to better support the cholera response.

In response to the drastic increase in humanitarian needs, WFP continues to scale up its assistance, reaching more than 2.8 million people in 2017. WFP successfully pre-positioned more than 100,000 tons of food before the current rainy season, when up to 90 percent of roads are impassable. WFP carries out air operations to areas cut off by rain or conflict.

Relief alone is not enough. The people of South Sudan urgently need peace and security to rebuild their lives and livelihoods. Conflict has forced more than 900,000 to flee, many of them into neighbouring Uganda.

Yemen

The conflict in Yemen is a man-made disaster that could reach a point of no-return in 2017 if sustained financial support and access is not received. Until WFP receives sufficient funds, assistance will be prioritized to the 6.8 million in most need, of whom only 3.3 million will receive full rations.

In Yemen, a child dies every ten minutes of preventable causes including malnutrition, diarrhoea and respiratory infection, challenging our collective commitment to humanity.

A cholera outbreak has reached crisis proportions, with more than 100,000 suspected cases since late April. The medical system is unable to cope following two years of conflict. WFP is providing logistical support to WHO and UNICEF, responding to the outbreak.

Meanwhile, free access to the port of Hudaydah must be safeguarded. At least 70% of food imports arrive via the port. The port is already operating at reduced capacity and any decision to further slow the operations would have grave consequences for Yemen.

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Stage 5 Definition of Famine:

- At least 20% of the population face extreme food shortages
- 2. At least **30%** of children under 5 suffer from **Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM)**
- Daily deaths are occurring at double the normal rate—more than 2 deaths/10,000 adults/day or more than 4 deaths/10,000 children/day

http://www.ipcinfo.org/