



Since 2015, conflict in Yemen has devastated civil infrastructure, displaced millions of people, and prompted an economic crisis, causing widespread severe acute food insecurity.

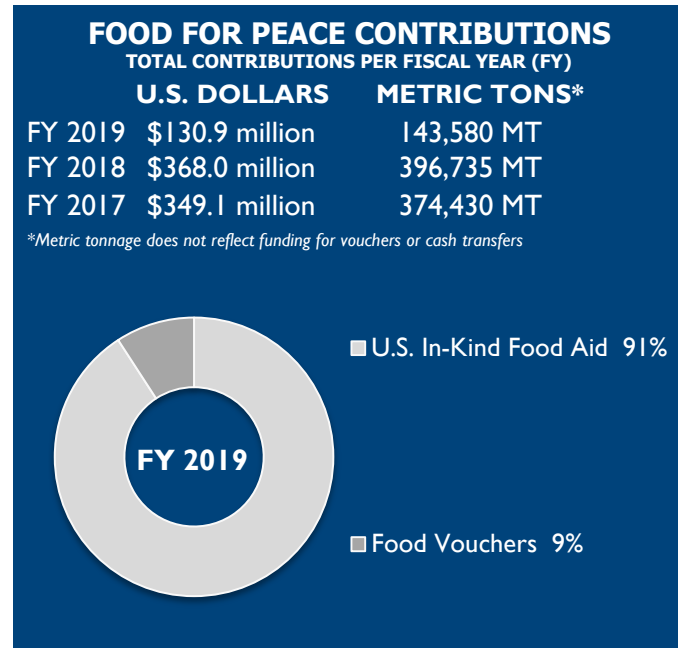
SITUATION

- Due to ongoing conflict, Yemen hosts the largest food security emergency in the world. Nearly 16 million people—approximately 53 percent of Yemen’s population—face Crisis (IPC 3) or worse conditions countrywide, according to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC).* An end to the conflict is the only solution to the root issues driving food insecurity in Yemen, according to international relief actors.
- As of December, the IPC identified more than 63,000 people experiencing Catastrophe (IPC 5) conditions across 25 districts in eight of Yemen’s 22 governorates. Food insecurity is most severe in areas with active fighting and is particularly affecting internally displaced persons, host families, marginalized groups and landless wage laborers who have limited ability to work and lack access to basic services.
- While ongoing humanitarian assistance is likely preventing millions more people from experiencing worse levels of food insecurity, famine remains a credible threat in Yemen in 2019. Prolonged disruption of operations at the country’s critical ports would likely result in Famine (IPC 5) conditions, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). Additionally, the UN reports further deterioration of macroeconomic conditions could push millions of additional Yemenis into food insecurity.

*The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a standardized tool that aims to classify the severity and magnitude of acute food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries, ranges from Minimal (IPC 1) to Famine (IPC 5). A Famine classification applies to a wider geographical location, while the term Catastrophe (IPC 5) refers to an extreme lack of food at the household level even with full employment of coping strategies. Famine is determined when more than 20 percent of households in an area are classified as experiencing Catastrophe, when the global acute malnutrition level exceeds 30 percent and when the crude mortality rate exceeds two people per 10,000 persons per day.

RESPONSE

- USAID Office of Food for Peace (FFP) funding enables UN agency and non-governmental organization (NGO) implementing partners to provide emergency food assistance, including U.S.-sourced wheat, beans and vegetable oil, and food vouchers for Yemen’s most vulnerable populations.
- FFP support also provides ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) to the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) for the treatment of children suffering from severe acute malnutrition in Yemen. Additionally, FFP supports the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) as the lead coordinating body for the cluster of international organizations responding to food insecurity in Yemen.
- FFP contributions in Fiscal Year 2019 to date include nearly \$119 million to the UN World Food Program (WFP). WFP aims to reach approximately 8 million of Yemen’s most severely food-insecure individuals monthly with in-kind food assistance and food vouchers. In response to increasing needs, WFP is scaling up operations in 2019 to reach Yemen’s most food-insecure populations countrywide.



Pictured: A child eating RUTF Credit: UNICEF