



### [The World Food Programme \(WFP\) Announces Cuts in the Aid it Sends to Yemen as a Result of a Lack of Funding and Other Factors](#)

The World Food Programme (WFP) recently announced that it will again have to drastically cut assistance for its emergency food delivery operations in Yemen. This is the second cut to the program that the United Nations body has signaled this year. In a tweet unveiling the cuts, the WFP cited gaps in funding, global inflation, and the negative ramifications of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. All of these factors culminated in the WFP cutting a majority of food aid for the 13 million Yemenis it currently serves. 5 million people will now only receive 50% of their daily requirements, while the remaining 8 million will receive 25% of their nutritional needs. The group will also be ending several other programs including “livelihood activities, and school feeding and nutrition programs” for an estimated 4 million people. The WFP has stated that they hope these cuts will not be permanent, as they are aware of the dire impact that the cuts will have on vulnerable civilians in Yemen.

The ongoing war in Ukraine has undoubtedly played a significant role in this decision that was undertaken by the WFP. Ukraine supplied a large amount of wheat that was used in Yemeni humanitarian efforts. Now that they are at war, they are unable to produce at the scale that they did in peacetime. Mines in the Black Sea have also prevented them from exporting any wheat. As a result, India, another large producer of wheat, implemented an export ban to secure their supply. This has left a large hole in the global wheat market that has yet to be filled. These developments, along with many private donors redirecting some of their funds to the crisis in Ukraine, leaves the WFP with little choice but to initiate major cuts in the Yemeni aid programs. The planning minister of the Saudi-backed government has warned that Yemen’s wheat stockpile could be entirely depleted by mid-July, and that new markets need to be secured to prevent an even worse situation from unfolding. Experts point out that securing new markets, however, will only be a temporary solution. The only real long-term solution is an end to the conflict in Yemen, resulting in a comprehensive peace deal between the warring parties involved.

Yemen has been engulfed in a state of conflict since 2015 when a Saudi-led coalition launched a brutal and ruthless military operation in support of the Yemeni government to fight back against the Houthi rebels. The Saudi coalition initiated its destructive war efforts when the Houthi rebels took the country's capital city of Sanaa. As a part of their operation, the Saudis implemented a devastating blockade of the already poor country of Yemen, making it extremely difficult to get any food goods and other essential supplies.

Now, in the face of the WFP cuts, humanitarian conditions in the country are only expected to get worse, as it is anticipated that 7 million people will be subjected to near-famine conditions by the second half of 2022. A fragile truce is currently in place; however, difficulties still remain in getting what aid can be afforded to Yemeni civilians at all. There is a hope and possibility that the truce may become permanent, but people on the ground remain skeptical. The involvement of many parties in the conflict makes negotiations even more complex.