Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC)

Yemen 22 Governorates Current	**IPC INDICATIVE Acute Food Insecurity Situation Overview in YEMEN – June 2015**	**Created on: 10/06/2015** **Valid for: 1June 2015–31 August 2015**

NOTICE: Area Classification endorsed by the IPC Global Support Unit (GSU) as *Indicative IPC Acute Phase Classification**. Population table represents the best estimate done by the Yemen IPC TWG and it is not endorsed as an IPC Outcome due to lack of sufficient and up to date outcome evidence.

Key Outcomes for the Worst affected Area

The ten (10) Governorates, Aden, AlDhale'e, Lahj, Taiz, Abyan, Sa'ada, Hajjah, Hodeida, Al Bayda, Shabwa are facing a food insecurity Emergency (IPC Phase 4). These governorates are currently among the worst affected by the conflict.Dhale'e

Nine governorates are classified as facing a food security "Crisis" or IPC Phase 3. These are Amran, Dhamar, Sana'a, Sana'a city, Ibb, Mareb, Rayma, Al Mahweet, Al Jawf.

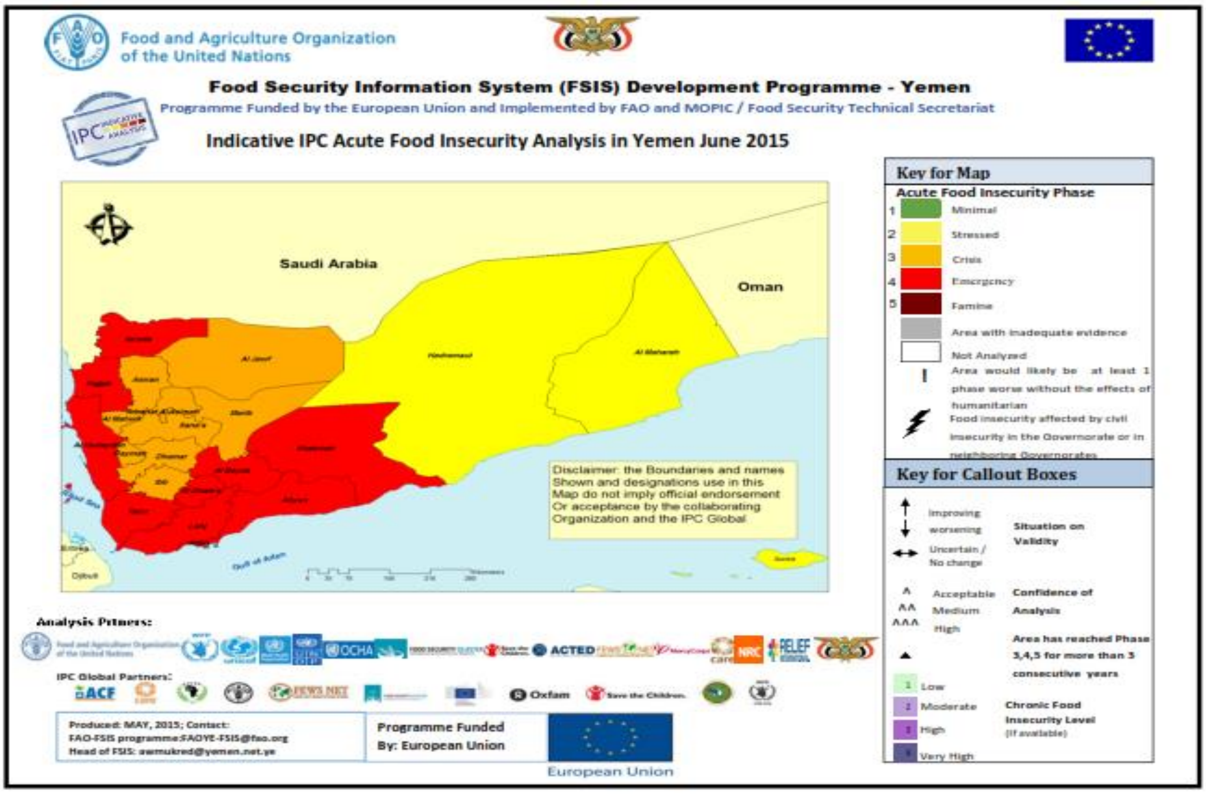
It is estimated that currently at least six million people are identified as being in need of emergency live-saving assistance. While about 6.8 million people require urgent livelihoods saving assistance, bringing to a total of about 12.9 million who require urgent food and livelihoods assistance. With the escalation of the conflict and insecurity, the food security situation in expected to deteriorate significantly unless food access improves dramatically through access to the affected population and their access to food and incomes.

Summary of Causes, Context and Key Issues

Political instability, civil insecurity, an intensified war, and localized conflicts have plunged the country into a serious food security and humanitarian crisis, and put into further jeopardy an already precarious food security situation of Yemen. The June 2015 IPC analysis determined that about 6.07 million people (22.7% of the population) face food insecurity 'Emergency' while 6.8 million people are in 'Crisis' (25.57%). The level of food insecurity has increased by 21% compared to the previous year (IPC 2014). Around 158,887 households are displaced representing 1,019,762 individuals. Food Shortages and poor access to markets, reduced access to healthcare and sanitation, reduced income options and disruption of livelihood opportunities are the main causes of the spiraling food insecurity. The scarcity of fuel, electricity, gas, water and other services and utilities is further exacerbating the situation.

Yemen imports 90-95% of its staple foods. The current air and ground war and the restrictions on importation have negatively affected food imports and is affecting the functioning of the markets and the transportation and distribution and therefore availability of food and essential commodities. As a result, prices have gone up significantly and rapidly both for imported staple foods and for local agricultural produce. Yemen relies heavily for foreign exchange on oil and gas exports. This is causing serious budgetary difficulties for the government. Oil production and exports, which provide about 70% of government revenue, have been largely suspended, forcing the government to institute austerity measures that are affecting government employees through the loss of their regular incentives.

The war has caused a disruption of livelihoods and a reduction in household incomes due to a reduction or loss of casual labor opportunities and jobs in the agriculture, small and large private enterprises and the public sector. Despite the government sources, indicating that food stocks could last 3-4months, the severe market and movement disruptions is causing a serious shortage of staple foods and other essential commodities. Staple food prices are up by 40-100 percent, with the worst scarcity and price rises in the southwestern governorates. During the last week of April 2015, the fuel prices have risen by nearly six folds from February 2015 and over three fold compared to the 2011 crisis period. Employment opportunities and livelihood options have shrunk due to the disruption of businesses, oil industry, maritime and agriculture-based activities. The shortages of fuel, electricity and gas are also crippling the economy and shrinking employment options. Humanitarian access and assistance remain severely constrained despite rapidly increasing needs. All these have resulted in the sharp increase in the population in the emergency phase from just over four million to at least six million.



***Indicative IPC Acute Phase Classification** *is a new pilot initiative by the IPC GSU to allow classification of areas when (i) the minimum confidence level of analyses is not reached due to absence of reliable or up to date outcome evidence as a result of lack of humanitarian access and (ii) the area classification is reviewed and cleared as plausible by the IPC GSU Quality Review team.*

Part 2: Summary of Findings, Methods, and Next Steps

Key Findings and Issues

Conflict and food insecurity: The escalating conflict in Yemen involving coalition air strikes and intensified ground fighting came at a time when there was already increased civil insecurity and political instability in the country - since September 2014. The intensified conflict situation has so far affected more than 19 of the 22 governorates of Yemen. The effects of the war is very severe in the southern and the northwestern governorates. It is estimated that currently at least six million people are in urgent need of food and life-saving assistance. The assessment also estimated about 6.8 million people as facing food security 'Crisis', which also require food and livelihood protection assistance. The food security situation in Yemen has sharply deteriorated since March 2015. Further deterioration is likely unless there is an immediate and lasting end to the conflict. The analysis identified severity of food insecurity among households classified as poor including women and children from among the small-scale farmers and sharecroppers, landless laborers, artisanal fisher men and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) which significantly affected children, elderly and disabled people. In addition, government employees are affected by the reduction in their remuneration (by an estimated 30%) after austerity measures removed their monthly incentives/allowances in March 2015. About 26% of households in the country depend on government salaries.

Market and commodity price trends: Market infrastructure, food production and distribution facilities were seriously disrupted the conflict, and this is contributing to a sharp increase in food prices across the country. The situation is worst in the southwestern Governorates of Aden, Lahj, Abyan , Taiz, Al Al Dhale'e and Al Baida and Shabwa where most of the basic food commodities are not available in the local markets. The damage to or disruption of the key port facilities in Aden and Al Hodieda - despite the recent opening during the humanitarian pause to the conflict - has reduced food importation and the disruption of the market system and sharp increases in fuel prices have reduced the distribution and availability of food in the markets. This conflict caused suspension of most of petroleum production and import process as well as production of gas and contributed to the breakdown of electricity supplies for the most part. The resultant shortages of fuel including diesel, petrol, kerosene and cooking gas, and the emergence of parallel markets have caused a sharp increase in their prices, and this has had a serious knock-on effect across the sectors of the economy - affecting transportation, agricultural production, commercial activity, food processing and industry, among others. These, and the direct damage on infrastructure and risks from the conflict have contributed significantly to the scarcity of food and other essential commodities and services, and making their prices to rise sharply. The current conflict and the disruption to transportation and commercial activities have negatively affected food distribution and availability in the country, raising the price of food and basic commodities compared to the pre-crisis period (Feb. 2015). According to WFP market watch and other markets information, the retail price of wheat reached to 93% in Aden, 70% in Al Dhale'e, 68% in Abyan, 59% in Saada, 32% in Hajja, 34% in Hodeida, and 12% Al Baida, 23% in Shabwa, 72% in Rayma in the 4th week of May compared to the pre-crisis month of February. Similarly, the retail price of cooking gas has reached 208% in Aden, 199% in Al Dhale'e, 229% Lahj , 186% in Taiz, 308% in Abyan, 174% in Sa'ada.

The sharp decline in food insecurity in the country is therefore, for the most part due to the negative impacts of the above disruptions to the market (affecting food availability and physical access), and the accompanying loss in incomes of households. The severe food access is affecting the poorest segments of the population the most.

Food availability and Stocks: Staple food in Yemen is largely imported and all imports are by commercial importers who hold the stocks and are responsible for distribution within the country. Local production accounts for some 20-25% of all food availability in the country. According to the Ministry of Trade Industry records 1,380 thousand MT of wheat and wheat flour were imported during January to May 2015, with just over 400 thousand MT imported in April and May. Some 736,972 MT of these imports were distributed to different governorates but the amount that reached the districts outside of the governorate capitals is limited especially in the south-eastern governorates where there is a ground war. The commercial monthly average of wheat grain imports for Yemen is about 350,000 MT in normal times. Any disruption of imports would have significant humanitarian consequences. Moreover, the current WFP Stocks are 12,213 MT enough for 733,000 people for one month (as of 10th June 2015). Although the government records shows enough food stocks in the country, there is a severe shortage, especially of staple wheat, because the risks and challenges of transportation and distribution to different governorates, with the southwestern governorates reporting almost non-availability of these basic food commodities in the market. This has led to sharp increase of the price of wheat and wheat flour in the parallel markets especially in some main cities. Food crop production and incomes from agriculture have reduced due to a disruption in the irrigated agriculture due to lack of fuel, and reduced field activities. Agricultural production has also suffered directly from damage to greenhouses, a major source of vegetable production in the northwestern governorates, and the disruption of exports to the Saudi Arabia markets, causing a reduction of income for farm households. Livestock production is facing critical shortages of feed and forage supplies and a disrupted marketing chain.

Fuel availability and prices: Acute shortage of fuel and consequent high prices are disrupting most economic activities and basic services, including transportation of goods from the seaports to the other governorates and district market centers; milling of available grains; delivery and monitoring of humanitarian assistance; pumping water for irrigation; and domestic water and sanitation supply systems. Although Yemen produces oil, it imports around 544,000MT of refined fuels per month. Due to the conflict and crisis, the country imported only 23% of the monthly requirement of fuel in March 2015, 1% in April and 18% in

May. Moreover, the humanitarian organizations imported 400 MT fuel during May 2015. The total shortfall in fuel imports during March- May 2015 is estimated around 1.4 million MT. As a result, fuel remains scare and high prices continue to be seen in different parts of the country. The situation is more severe in areas with heavy ground fighting in Aden, Abyan, Al Dhale'e, Lahj, Shabwa, Sa'ada and Taiz. Fuel importation has shown improvement in May compared to the previous three months. According to WFP market watch, as of 2nd June, diesel imports are estimated at 77,260 MT. Three major importers have imported an additional 96,914 MT of petrol and 42,257 metric tons of Gasoline. A summary of the price rises of fuel is as follows:

- The price of diesel in May 2015 compared to the pre-crisis (February 2015) reached 500% in Aden, 488% in Al Dhale'e, 551% in Lahj, 488%in Taiz, 400% in Abyan, 550% in Sa'ada, 683% in Hajja, 317% in Hodeida, 733% in Al baida, Amran, Dhamar and Rayma,.
- The price of petrol reached 689% in Abyan and Rayma, 674% in Amran, 532% in Aden, Al Dhale'e, Lahj, Dhamar and Taiz, 500% in Sa'ada, 326% in Hajja, 200% in Hodeida, 374% in Al baida, 489% in Shabwa, Amran, Dhamar and Rayma and 205% in Sana'a rural and 117% in Sana'a city.
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Food consumption and nutrition: The already precarious food security situation was sharply worsened by the intensified conflict, which disrupted economic activities and the market system, and caused soaring of the prices of food and non-food commodities. It has also severely disrupted humanitarian operations in the country. The deterioration of the food security situation of Aden from Phase 2 to Phase 4, Sana'a city from Phase 2 to Phase 3 and 4 governorates (Taiz, Al Bayda, Al Dhale'e and Hodeidah) from Phase 3 to Phase 4 is a reflection of serious effects of the conflict and related aggravating factors, which have resulted in further limiting the access to food and other basic services for millions of Yemenis. The lack of food availability and physical access to food, water and basic services in the Governorates of Aden, Taiz, Lahj, Al Dhale'e and Al Bayda is so severe and serious that unless there is unfettered physical access is made possible to enable the functioning of the market and the free flow of humanitarian assistance, as well as the resumption of basic services, there is a high risk of deterioration of further deterioration of the situation in the near/medium term. High fuel price and tense civil insecurity situation in the Governorates resulting in poor food access and consumption and depleting livelihoods of the poor households. Many of the governorates classified as being in Emergency are still facing extreme deprivation and food insecurity challenges due to the presence of IDPs and returnees who require an integrated assistance and continued engagement to help recover their livelihood. There are increasing health risks too. A recent report from WHO shows that total of 3,026 suspected dengue cases and 3 confirmed deaths from the Governorates of Hodeidah, Lahj, Aden, Shabwa, Haidramout and Taiz. The report also indicated there is unverified report that suggests this figure could be higher.

Internal Displacement: According to the Government's Executive Bureau for IDPs and task force on population movements (protection cluster May 31, 2015) report, over 158887 families (over one million individuals) have been internally displaced by the escalating conflict and their livelihoods are disrupted. The direct impact and the fear of being affected by the internal ground fight and aerial bombardment have exacerbated the displacement and caused desperate movements of people, especially in the north western and southern governorates where the fighting has been intense. The cities of Aden, Taiz, Lahj, Al Dhale'e and Sa'ada that provided sources of income and employment for many Yemenis are deserted. Many displaced civilians especially in urban centres like Aden, who sought refuge among relatives found themselves frequently re-displaced as the fighting spreads to calmer parts of the cities. These groups need immediate life-saving and humanitarian assistance. Moreover, the report indicated around 27,120 people migrated to neighbouring countries: Djibouti, Saudi Arabia, Somalia and Oman.

Agriculture and fisheries: Agriculture play significant role in the economy and employ more than 50% of the workforce. The first season rain started late in both Central highlands and Southern uplands. The civil insecurity, fuel shortages and the high prices have negatively affected agriculture land preparation and irrigation. Areas that produce fruits and vegetable using irrigation in the western Tihama area, Sa'ada, Dhamar, and some parts of southern Governorates are highly affected by the recent fuel crisis. Scarcity and high prices of fuel have resulted in high costs of irrigation, transportation, and marketing of agriculture products, making the returns from these products less than the production cost. Therefore, the agriculture production has deteriorated and some crops were damaged because of inadequate irrigation. Additionally, it became difficult to store and transport perishable agriculture produce due to constant power outages and lack of fuel. Livestock production and trade is a livelihood for many people in Yemen. The conflict has severely affected the value chain due to the problem of access to the markets, insecurity and shortage of fuel. The average price of live animals for the producers dropped by 30-50% due to the obstruction of livestock trade inside Yemen and the difficulty of transporting trade animals to neighbouring countries. Fishing in the coastal governorates is highly affected due to insecurity, the shortage of fuel and electricity, which are affecting the traditional type of fishing and causing spoilage and reducing quality. This has disrupted fish marketing internally and for export.

Methods, Process & Key Issues

The Yemen IPC Technical Working Group (TWG) is made up of multiple agencies representing different governmental and non-governmental sectors, including UN agencies, resource partners and international non-governmental agencies. The TWG convened on May 25 – 28, 2015 to conduct the acute food insecurity analysis for June 2015 covering the 22 governances of Yemen using the IPC Acute Food Insecurity Classification Protocols. This IPC process has brought together available food security information in a systematic manner to produce the best possible estimate of the food security situation under the circumstances. Despite the difficult conflict period, the IPC exercise had the full participation of the Yemen IPC Technical Working Group (TWG) members, including from government ministries, UN agencies and non-governmental organizations, and was led by MoPIC/FSTS and the EU funded FAO/FSIS programme. Information resources on food availability, access, utilization and stability from assessments carried out in 2014 (CFSS 2014, IPC 2014, OCHA, UNICEF, WHO, and other sources) and recent humanitarian assessments findings (during January to May 2015) and market monitoring reports, etc. were made available to the IPC TWG in Sana'a. The TWG used the latest reports from the different governorates, and the local knowledge of the TWG members to carry out systematic IPC analysis and classified the governorates using IPC protocols.

The analysts included experts from agriculture, livestock, nutrition, food security, statisticians, engineers, economists and other persons familiar with the governorates. Seven groups were formed to work on governorate level meta-analysis. Each group had a combination of experts from the different sector together with other experts familiar with the socio economic and other contributing factors of the governorates. There were food security experts and a nutritionist, statisticians, market experts who shared their expertise with the rest of the groups. The small groups conducted the analyses and presented to the plenary discussion using the IPC analysis worksheets and framework. Finally, the phase classification map was produced through an intensive discussion and technical consensus among the members of the National Technical Working Group (NTWG). The TWG area classification updates the IPC classifications done in 2014 using convergence of evidence of contributing factors and displacement collected in the first quarter of 2015 and inference of outcomes. In order to provide a second layer of checks a technical team in Amman composed (UN agencies, NGOs and the FSAC) and selected members of the IPC TWG in Sana'a worked together to provide a systematic qualitative review of the area classification. Population estimates for each phase and governorate were also computed using the general principles of the IPC, and used the 2014 IPC estimates as a baseline.

The Yemen IPC TWG requested the IPC Global Support Unit (GSU) to carry out a Real-Time IPC Quality Review as an added quality assurance step in the validation process of this round of the IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analysis in Yemen. The IPC GSU Quality Review team composed of GSU food security officers and IPC Global Partners, WFP and FEWSNET, concluded that the IPC Acute Area Classifications are well-articulated and plausible although the analyses did not meet the acceptable confidence level to be considered an IPC Acute Product. The area classification is however, endorsed by the IPC GSU as an ***Indicative IPC Classification***. There is insufficient up to date data to estimate populations within the IPC analysis framework, therefore the population estimations are not endorsed as an IPC derived Population Table but represent the best estimation by the Yemen IPC TWG. The IPC GSU Quality Review team made further recommendations to improve the analyses, which were mostly considered and used to update the analysis.

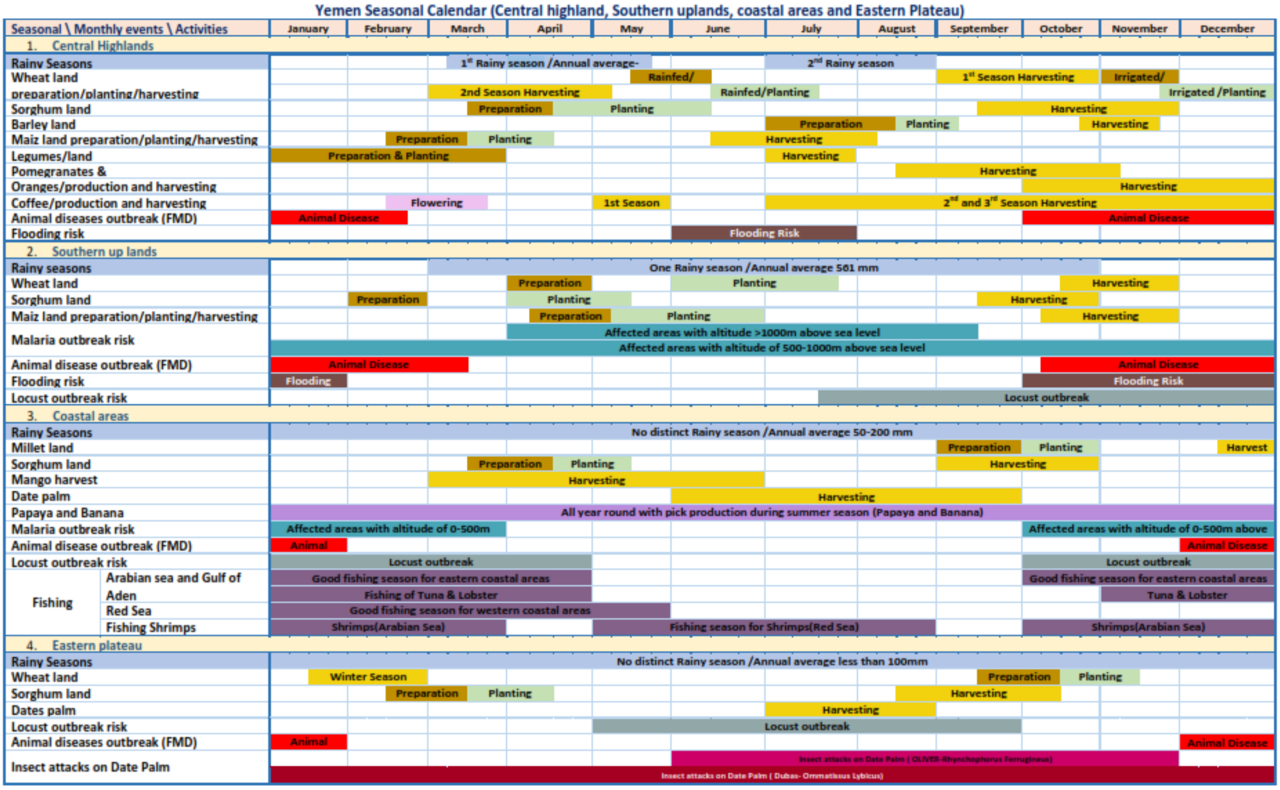
Food Security Seasonal Calendar and Monitoring Implications

Description of Zones

- **The Central Highlands Zone:** The geographical areas that fall under this zone are: highlands of Sa'dah , highlands of Hajjah , Amran, Sana'a, Dhamar, Hihglands of Al Mahweet, Rayemah and highlands of Mareb .
- **Southern uplands Zone:** The geographical areas that fall under this zone are Ibb, highlands of Taiz, Al Dhale', Al Bayeda, highlands of Abyan and highlands of Lahj.
- **Coastal Zone:** The geographical areas that fall under this zone starts from Madi in Hajjah to Hawf in Almahrah. It is known as Western costal area along the Red sea including Tihamah plateau (lowland and coastal areas of Hajjah, Al Hodeidahh, lowland of Al Mahweet, lowland and costal area of Taiz). South east coastal areas along the Gulf of Aden and Arabian sea (lowland and coastal areas of Lahj, Aden, lowland and coastal areas of Abyan, lowland and coast of Shabwa, costal part of Hadramout and costal part of Al Mahrah).
- **Desert Zone** includes the eastern plateau and internal desert areas (Al Jawf, part of Mareb, part of Hadramout , part of Shabwa and part of Al Mahrah)
- Islands: The Islands including Soqotra in the eastern part of Yemen along the Arabian sea and Camaran and other islands in the Red sea.

Indicators to be monitored

Indicator	Period
Civil unrest and internal Conflict (Security)	Weekly
Expenditures trend (Purchasing Power)	Quarterly
Fuel price and availability	Weekly
Main commodities price (cereals and pulses)	Weekly/ Monthly
Rainfall and seasonal performance	Monthly
Casual labor opportunities and rates	Monthly
Terms of trade (wage and animal vis-à-vis food)	Monthly
Human , plant and livestock diseases	Monthly
Water availability	Quarterly
Wind hazard and fishing	Quarterly
Desert Locust	Monthly



Recommendations for Next Steps for Analysis and Decision-Making

- Regular food security monitoring is critically important to ensure that any changes in the food security situation are adequately captured.
- According to the key conclusions and recommendations made by the IPC GSU Quality Assurance Team, strong efforts should be made to actively lobby for collection of primary reliable evidence on food consumption, livelihood changes, nutrition and mortality in order to update the Indicative IPC Acute Food Insecurity analyses.
- In preparation to the next IPC update and analysis there is urgent need to conduct rapid survey for the main food security outcomes indicators. Key stakeholders and partners are expected to streamline their information collection and analysis along the standardized food and nutrition security outcome indicators.
- Sensitize partners and stakeholders to plan district level data collection and sharing to overcome the data gap and strengthen food security analysis at all levels including IPC analysis at district level.
- Humanitarian access and the market system is extremely constrained by insecurity and on ground fighting.
- Advocacy for lifting the sanction imposed on the import of food commodities and lift the blockage of trade movement, which is the extreme limiting factor for the commodity distribution across the country mainly to the Southern governorates affected by heavy on ground fighting like Aden, Lahj, Al-Dhale and Taiz.
- More rapid assessment is required to reflect the real number of IDPs, especially in those Governorates with limited access to the humanitarian organizations.

Part 3: Population Tables

Detailed Population Table

As there was no new food security outcome data available since the CFSS 2014 assessment, the analysis relied on available indirect evidence and contributing factor information that was gathered from various sources, and then measured against the CFSS and IPC findings of 2014, to arrive at the area classification and population estimates. Most of that data is less than one year old. Information resources on food availability, access, utilization and stability from assessments carried out in 2014 (CFSS 2014, IPC 2014, OCHA, UNICEF, WHO, and other sources) were made available to the IPC Technical Working Group in Sana'a. The TWG used the information, the latest reports from the different governorates, and their local knowledge to carry out step-by-step IPC analysis and classified the governorates using IPC protocols. A technical team in Amman and selected members of the IPC TWG members in Sana'a then worked together to provide a systematic qualitative review of the process and findings. In carrying out this qualitative review, all the dimensions of food security (as below) were considered, closely guided by the IPC procedures:

Food Availability -Food availability was determined at governorate-level using a combination of sources including: (i) FAO/FSIS and government partner teams at national and four governorate levels, and (ii) WFP surveillance information.
Food Access - Food access was evaluated using two measures: (i) food prices, and (ii) livelihood/income sources disruption.
Utilization - Availability of water, diesel, petrol, and cooking gas and their prices were also scored – using physical availability and prices to get an indication of access by the population.
Stability - The stability of all the other food security parameters in each of the governorates was also discussed and scored.

A severity factor was then computed and compared with the analysis arrived at by the IPC TWG in Yemen. The factor was then used to adjust the previous IPC population estimates in each phase. This adjustment provided a close match for the area classification and indicative put forward in plenary discussions. The Yemen IPC TWG is confident that with the available information, this population tables provide the best estimation available, and can be used to guide the provision of urgent food and humanitarian and other assistance.

Estimation of Populations in Each Phase of Acute Food Insecurity – Yemen June 2015

Governorate	Population projection 2015	Phase 1 & 2	Phase 3	Phase 4		Phase 3 & 4
Aden	865,000	497,800	157,646	209,555		367,200
Ad Daleh	676,000	190,455	296,267	189,279		485,545
Lahej	939,000	264,468	267,461	407,071		674,532
Taiz	3,051,000	1,363,512	871,056	816,432		1,687,488
Abyan	546,000	206,759	191,871	147,370		339,241
Sa'ada	1,010,000	197,893	301,846	510,262		812,107
Hajja	2,016,000	762,500	491,425	762,074		1,253,500
Hodieda	3,006,000	1,724,683	931,052	350,266		1,281,317
Al Baidha	729,000	253,660	300,168	175,172		475,340
Shabwa	605,000	197,226	176,779	230,994		407,774
Amran	1,026,000	615,560	242,840	167,600		410,440
Dhamar	1,811,000	803,629	592,248	415,123		1,007,371
Sana'a	1,115,000	615,722	253,598	245,680		499,278
Sana'a city	2,956,000	2,168,726	413,122	374,153		787,274
Ibb	2,719,000	1,363,983	716,897	638,120		1,355,017
Mareb	314,000	183,502	54,444	76,054		130,498
Rayma	536,000	291,652	120,598	123,750		244,348
Al Mahweet	660,000	418,311	156,232	85,457		241,689
Al Jawf	564,000	330,646	162,734	70,619		233,354
Hadramout	1,408,000	1,216,000	122,526	69,475		192,000
Soqatra	53,520	39,518	8,112	5,890		14,002
Al Mahra	139,000	127,473	10,090	1,437		11,527
Total	**26,744,520**	**13,833,677**	**6,839,011**	**6,071,831**		**12,910,843**

NOTICE: Population table represents the best estimate done by the Yemen IPC TWG and it is not endorsed by the IPC GSU as an IPC Outcome due to lack of reliable up to date outcome evidence.

Contact for Further Information

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