From October to December 2020, 13.5 million people in Yemen are facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above), despite ongoing humanitarian food assistance (95%). This includes 9.8 million people (31% of the population) in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis), 3.6 million (12 percent) in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) and of greatest concern, approximately 16,500 people in IPC Phase 5 (Catastrophe).

Between January and June 2021, the number increases by nearly 3 million to 16.2 million people (54% of the total population). This number is likely to increase to 16,700,000 people within the next 6 months, with the highest levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) between January and June 2021.

Food insecurity is more severe in areas with active fighting or bordering areas with limited access, and is particularly affecting internally displaced persons (IDPs) and marginalized groups. The case in point is the city of Taiz (IPC Phase 3), where the estimated population is 3 million, and the number of those in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5), will likely increase to 47,000.

An emerging concern is the projected deterioration in the nutrition situation in at least 15 out of 33 districts, more than 25 percent of the population receiving food assistance, due to rising inflation and reduced availability of relief items. In addition, the rising number of those classified in IPC Phase 4 is also a concern, as it indicates that more people are facing severe food insecurity. In total, 13.5 million people are currently targeted for food assistance.

**Population in IPC Phase 3, 4 & 5 by Governorate | 2018 - 2021**

**Recommended Actions**

- **De-escalation of Violence and Ceasefire**
  - Urgent cessation of conflict to protect lives and livelihoods, immediate lifting of ports blockade and restrictions, to expedite the movement of goods and ease prices, and unrestricted humanitarian access to reach the most vulnerable households, including marginalized persons.

- **Life-saving Humanitarian Assistance**
  - To stabilize the exchange rate and bolster liquidity within the economy, an injection of foreign currency reserves is urgently required. Famine was prevented two years ago when member states and donors provided urgently needed resources, and we can do it again.

- **Injection of Foreign Currency Reserves**
  - To stabilize the exchange rate and bolster liquidity within the economy, an injection of foreign currency reserves is urgently required.

- **Livelihood Diversification**
  - To prevent the protracted dire situation, efforts should be made to diversify livelihoods, reduce vulnerability, and facilitate access to alternative income sources. This includes identifying and facilitating access to alternative sources of income, such as agriculture, livestock, and small-scale enterprises.

**MAP KEY**

- **IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Classification**
  - (Map by Phase represents highest severity affecting at least 25% of the population)
  - 1 - Minimal
  - 2 - Stressed
  - 3 - Crisis
  - 4 - Emergency
  - 5 - Famine
  - Areas not analysed

**Humanitarian Food Assistance**

- 13.5 million people are currently targeted for food assistance. In 2020, an estimated 11 million people will likely be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3), 5 million in Emergency (IPC Phase 4), and 16,500 people in IPC Phase 5 (Catastrophe).

**Trend Analysis**

- Food insecurity in Yemen shows an increasing trend compared to the extremely high levels observed in 2018/2019 with an increase of nearly 300,000 people in need of urgent humanitarian assistance in the first six months of 2021. In terms of severity (IPC Phase), the number of districts on Phase 4 are threshold those in 2018/19 (from 94 to 154). In 14 out of 22 total governorates analysed, the population classified in IPC Phase 3 and above increased compared to the 2018/19 period.

- Peaks of increased severity are observed in Al Jawf, Hajjah, Bani, Raymah and Sa'da governorates.

- The protracted dire situation is exacerbated by a fragile livelihoods, especially when combined with increasingly negative coping mechanisms, reducing income opportunities and the impacts of COVID-19 on livelihoods.

- It is important not to forget that for most of 2019, the food security situation was stable as a result of generous contributions from donors who provided urgently needed resources to significantly scale-up food assistance and stabilise the economy, thus preventing a famine in early 2019.