Overview of the Situation

The acute food insecurity and malnutrition situation in Yemen has deteriorated further in 2022, with 17.4 million people (IPC Phase 3 and above) in need of assistance as of June, an increase of 1.6 million from January. Of greatest concern is the 31.0 million people facing extremely high levels (IPC Phase 5) of acute food insecurity, representing 50% of the population. Conflict and economic crisis remain the main drivers of acute food insecurity and malnutrition, with 86 districts moving to higher IPC Phases, 82 of which move from Phase 3 to Phase 4.

Acute Malnutrition Situation: Out of the 43 zones (333 districts) analyzed, 40 districts (12 percent) are classified as Critical (IPC Phase 5), 31,000 people in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 4), 5.6 million people in Emergency (IPC Phase 3), and 3.2 million people in Stressed (IPC Phase 2). In the projection period, similar to 2021, 1.6 million people (IPC Phase 3 and above) are predicted to face acute malnutrition, with 53% of the population at risk of severe acute malnutrition (IPC Phase 4 or above).

Current Acute Malnutrition Situation | January - May 2022

- Nearly 17.4 million people in Yemen will experience high acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 and above) through June 2022
- 31.9 million people will experience severe acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 4 or above)

Current Acute Food Insecurity Situation | January - May 2022

- Nearly 17.4 million people in Yemen will face extremely high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 5) through June 2022
- 519,000 people will experience severe acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 4 or above)

Increased Burden and Severity

Acute Food Insecurity: 151 of the 330 districts (45 percent) are currently classified in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency), representing a staggering 5.6 million people in the same phase. This increases to 233 districts (70 percent) in the projection period, representing 7.1 million (an increase of 1.6 million) starting June. In addition, three districts are currently identified to have pockets of population in IPC Phase 5 (Catastrophe), totaling 31,000 people, increasing to 161,000 people in 23 districts during the second half of 2022.

Acute Malnutrition Situation: Out of the 43 zones (333 districts) analyzed, 40 districts (12 percent) are classified as Critical (IPC Phase 4) and 199 (60 percent) in Serious (IPC Phase 3), with the remaining 94 (28 percent) in Alert (IPC Phase 2). In the projection period, similar to 2021, food insecurity is expected to increase in severity, with 72 districts moving from Serious to Critical to Catastrophe up to 108 districts (32 percent) and 66 districts moving from Alert to Serious up to 199 districts (60 percent). Of greatest concern are the two districts in Hajjah (Ahsa and Hayyan) classified as Extremely-Critical (IPC Phase 5) by June.

Key Drivers

Conflict

Conflict remains the primary driver of acute food insecurity and malnutrition in Yemen. Port restrictions have led to severe fuel shortages and a further increase in the price of food and essential non-food items. Furthermore, the conflict has led to increased displacement and disruption of public services, civil unrest linked to the economic deterioration and the lack of public services is also rising. Without a permanent solution, it is unlikely that all other mitigation measures will have long-lasting effects.

Economic shocks

Several economic factors are at play, including the depletion of foreign reserves and the volatile exchange rate, which has led to a high exchange rate. As a result of the protracted conflict, access to public services has been severely reduced, and any sudden shocks at unprecedented levels would further worsen food insecurity and acute malnutrition to extreme levels.

Risk of Famine

Given the current food insecurity and acute malnutrition levels, in four districts of Hajjah, namely Ahsa, Haradh, Hayyan, and Midi, the Risk of Famine (RoF) is forecasted under the worst-case scenario.

The majority of the populations in these districts are already exposed to severe levels of food insecurity. The conflict has caused widespread displacement, disrupted services, and reduced access to livelihoods and basic needs. Without immediate humanitarian assistance, the situation is likely to worsen, leading to a risk of famine in these districts.

In addition, the Ukraine-Russia conflict will lead to further import and price shocks, adding to the existing economic challenges. The continuing political instability and the lack of international engagement further exacerbate the situation. Without a comprehensive and sustained humanitarian response, the risk of famine in these districts is expected to increase significantly.
YEMEN: Food Security & Nutrition Snapshot | March 2022

Population displacement | February 2022

4.3M

Yemen’s conflict has had a devastating impact on the civilian population, with nearly 4.3 million** people displaced, about half of whom are women, with 27% currently below the age of 18.

Acute Food Insecurity and Acute Malnutrition Projection Overview

Between June and December 2022, the number of people in Yemen likely to experience high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) will increase by 1.6 million to 19.0 million (60 percent of the total population). Out of these, 11.7 million people are estimated to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3), 7.1 million in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and 161,000 in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5).

For acute malnutrition, the situation is projected to deteriorate further from June to December 2022. Two districts in Hajjah (Abs and Haydan) are classified as Extremely Critical (IPC Phase 5). Approximately 2.2 million children under the age of five, including 538,000 severely malnourished, and about 1.3 million pregnant and lactating women are projected to suffer from acute malnutrition over the course of 2022.

People in IPC Acute Food Insecurity Crisis, Phase 3 or above

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>People in millions</th>
<th>Jun - Dec 2022</th>
<th>Jan - May 2022</th>
<th>Jan - Jun 2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.9M</td>
<td>5.2M</td>
<td>5.5M</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Humanitarian Food Assistance

Humanitarian assistance plays a vital role in Yemen, with a large proportion of the population relying on assistance as the primary source of staple foods. In 2021, 13 million people were reached with varying levels of humanitarian food assistance on a varying scale. Food assistance was significantly reduced in the first half of the year due to funding; however, in the second half of the year, a considerable scale-up reached more than three-quarters of the caseload with their monthly requirements.

Different from the assumptions on levels of assistance at the time of analysis, additional contributions were confirmed at the beginning of March, translated into likely continued support to 5 million people with full rations and 8 million with reduced rations per month until May. From June to December, anticipated resources are estimated to assist 5 million people per month. As these increased resource confirmations came after the completion of the analysis, they were not factored into the IPC results. It is important to note that without further resources, 8 million people in the current beneficiaries will not receive any assistance starting June.

Recommended Actions

Ending the war and economic stabilisation

Parties involved in the conflict to immediately cease armed activities and hostilities to protect Yemen's lives and livelihoods. All stakeholders to lift the restrictions on the importation and movement of much-needed goods which would result in lower prices. There is a further urgent need to allow and advocate for an unimpeded flow of humanitarian and commercial imports that serve essential needs into and within the country. Ending the war in Yemen will also pave the way to reconstruction and focus on longer-term investments to tackle the underlying causes of food and nutrition insecurity. Furthermore, an urgent review of the economic and fiscal policies is required to restore confidence and support the regeneration of the rial.

Provide life-saving humanitarian assistance

To stop and reverse inexcusable deterioration, donors to provide urgently needed resources to enable sourcing and delivery of critical life-saving food assistance to populations facing large food consumption gaps.

Provide livelihood support and diversification

Considering the diminished resilience of people, the high level of vulnerability to shocks, and the chronic nature of food insecurity and malnutrition, close collaboration between humanitarian & development programmes are needed to tackle the underlying causes of food insecurity and malnutrition and enhance resilience.

Improve inter-sectoral programming

Advocate for and support an integrated multi-sectoral approach for programming focused on the four key sectors: food security, nutrition, health and WASH. These would include: continuing integrated primary health care services including immunisation, hygiene promotion and WASH interventions at facility and community level; supporting integrated livelihood and nutrition preventive and curative programmes as well as programming through general food assistance (food, vouchers and cash) as well as supporting livelihoods, promoting kitchen gardening at household & community level and supporting cash programming.

Strengthen monitoring and early warning systems

Joint and coordinated efforts in monitoring food security and nutrition indicators for early action/early warning are essential. Given the fragile context, the risk factors and key drivers of food insecurity and acute malnutrition should be monitored regularly. Relevant stakeholders should strengthen their monitoring system in a coordinated manner, improve and expand data collection and sharing, and ensure timely analysis to comprehend the extent of the situation and ascertain when to trigger early action.

* IPC population data is based on population estimates by the Central Statistics Organisation of Yemen.

** Population displacement data is from OCHA Yemen.

Disclaimer: The information shown on this map does not imply official recognition or endorsement of any physical and political boundaries.

Publication date: March 14, 2022.

[Image 358x366 to 730x581]

[Image 753x366 to 1124x580]
Between January and December 2021, 2.3 million children and 1.2 million women suffered from acute malnutrition, among those, 395,000 children suffered from Severe Acute Malnutrition.

Between January and May 2022, it is projected that 2.2 million children and 1.3 million women will suffer from acute malnutrition, among those, 538,000 children will likely suffer from Severe Acute Malnutrition.

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