

Price Monitoring and Analysis Country Brief

Yemen

January-April 2011

Key Messages

- **Food security and livelihoods are threatened by high food prices and persistent conflict and civil unrest which also limit access to food assistance.**
- **Despite the good harvests of the 2010 season, different agencies are extremely concerned about the hunger situation which is reported as alarming or very high.**
- **Insecurity and violence have increased in the last few months as protests in major cities are taking place against the governments.**
- **The Government is supported by international agencies in assisting food insecure people, IDPs and refugees.**

Background

In Yemen total population was 23,58 million with an annual growth rate of 2%. Although rural population is 68%, agricultural contribution to GDP is 14%. The proportion of undernourishment is reported at 31% of the population.

Economic Indicators	View Data
Total Population (millions) - 2009 (WB)	23.58
Population growth rate - 2009 (WB)	2%
GNI per capita, \$ PPP - 2009 (WB)	2330
Population below 1\$ PPP per day - 2005 (MDGI)	17%
Rural population - 2009 (WB)	68%
Agriculture, value added (% of GDP) - 2003 (WB)	14%

Food Consumption	
Undernourished Population - 2005/2007 (FAO)	31%
Cereal share in total dietary energy consumption - 2007 (FAO)	61%
Meat share in total dietary energy consumption - 2007 (FAO)	4%

Health Indicators	
Pop. with sustainable access to improved sanitation - 2008 (WHO)	52%
Life expectancy at birth (years) both sexes - 2008 (WHO)	64
Pop. with access to improved drinking water sources - 2008 (WHO)	62%
Prevalence of HIV among adults aged >= 15 years	n.a.

Prices

According to FEWSNET, as of April 2011, food prices significantly increased due to high level of insecurity. Moreover, as the country heavily relies on wheat imports, local wheat prices reflect the prices on the international markets. In April, wheat prices have risen by 10% compared to March 2011. The same trend has been observed in Shabwah, Aden, and Al Hudaydah. As of the second week of April 2011, retail prices for imported wheat in Aden had risen by 12% and in Al-Hodeidah by 27% compared to March 2011, despite good harvests and adequate availability.

Food Security Situation Assessment

The political crisis and continued conflicts in Yemen have severely affected food security. Interruption of agricultural and trade activities, high food prices, lack of security, increased numbers of IDPs and restriction of access by aid agencies, all contribute to a deterioration of food security in spite of the high 2010 crop production. According to OCHA, about 7.2 million people were estimated to be food insecure of which about 2.7 million people were in a severe food insecurity situation. These numbers are likely to have increased in recent months due to high food prices and renewed unrest in many parts of the country. GIEWS estimates severe localized food insecurity, FAO hunger map reports high prevalence of undernourishment, and IFPRI describes the situation in Yemen as alarming hunger.

CURRENT EMERGENCY ASSESSMENT

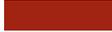
			FAO/GIEWS CPFS 2010
Exceptional shortfall in aggregate food production supplies	Widespread lack of access	Severe localized food insecurity	

There continues to be limited information about the proximate causes of food insecurity in Yemen because of the high levels of insecurity and uncertainty in the future. Farmers reported a late onset of rains in the highland zones...[more](#) [FEWSNET](#)

SCALE OF HUNGER (% of Undernourishment)

					FAO Hunger Map
Very high (>= 35%)	High (25-34%)	Moderately high (15-24%)	Moderately low (5-14%)	Very low (< 5% under.)	

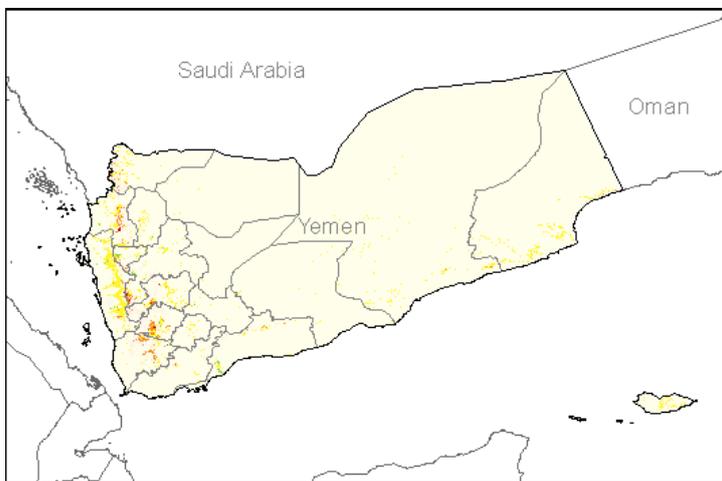
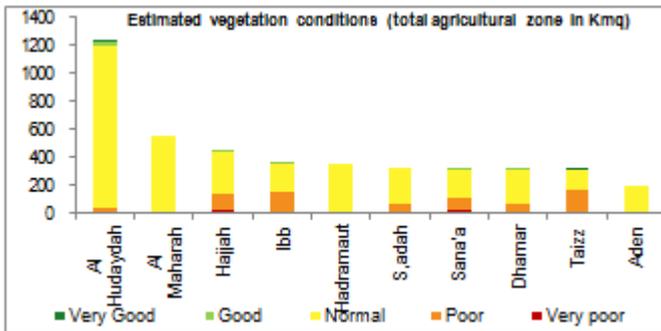
FAO Hunger Map classifies all countries of the world into five based on % of population undernourished.

					IFPRI/2010 GHI
Extremely alarming	Alarming	Serious	Moderate	Low	

Information required to draw this chart is not available.

Vegetation Condition

At the beginning of the rainy season, normal to poor vegetation conditions are observed throughout the country. The general indicator of vegetation condition provided below is the relative difference between the NDVI for April 2011 and the average of the last 10 years, calculated on the agricultural zones derived from the GLOBCOVER 2005 database (ESA).



Source: JRC MARS – FoodSec

Crop phase in the reference period

Sowing	No data available
Growing	No data available
Harvesting	No data available

Natural Disasters, Drought and Conflicts

Yemen is currently faced with civil insecurity, frequent protests and violence. High insecurity limits access of aid agencies especially in the northern governorates and particularly to Sa'ada Governorate. According to OCHA there are at least 300,000 IDPs, with some 75% in Sa'ada and Hajjah.

Refugees and IDPs	2007	2008	n.a.
Total in the country	195080	241000	n.a.
Total outside the country	78952	102250	252554

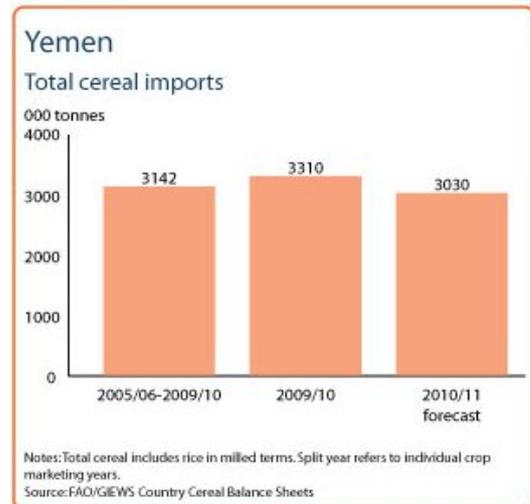
Source: UNHCR Statistical Online Population Database, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Data extracted on 01/12/2010.

Disaster Type (last year)	Date	Location	Alert
Earthquake	2011-04-30	Al Hudaydah Province	1/3
Earthquake	2011-04-29	Al Hudaydah Province	1/3
Flood	2010-07-10	Northwest Yemen	1/3

Source: Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System - 3 = 1000 or more people killed or 800000 or more people displaced. 2 = 100 or more people killed or 80000 or more displaced.

Food Balance Sheet

Cereal production is estimated at 821,000 tonnes, some 22% above the 2009 production and about 15% above five year average. Wheat production was also higher in 2010 at 269,000 tonnes, representing a 21% increase over the 2009 wheat output. Total cereal import requirements for 2010/11 marketing year are estimated at 3 million tonnes, slightly lower than 2009/10 and the five year average imports.



Source: GIEWS Country Briefs

Government Policies

According to OCHA, the Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan launched on 18 Dec 2010 estimates to assist 1.8 million food insecure people, 1.5 million children suffering from malnutrition, 225,000 IDPs, 97,000 returnees and 239,100 refugees, asylum seekers and migrants.

Consumer and market oriented measures	n.a.
Producer oriented measures	n.a.
Trade policy measures	n.a.
Safety net (increased or introduced)	Food assistance

Different sources

Current events to watch (Click to see the full report)

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[Analysis - Yemen needs transition deal to draw cash, f...](#)
[UK aid for children caught up in Yemen's humanitarian ...](#)
[Middle East & North Africa: Civil Unrest Revised Emerg...](#)
[Timeline of protests since 5 April 2011](#)

For more information, contact: Information-for-action@fao.org
 Website: www.foodsec.org

Powered By the [GIEWS Workstation](#)

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