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YEMEN FOOD SECURITY UPDATE

October 2016

Food Security Situation continues worsening due to the escalation of the conflict, high price of food commodities and depreciation of the Yemeni Rial despite the above average rainfall in all governorates, which offers good prospects of agricultural production!

The Yemen Food Security Information Systems (FSIS) Development Programme is funded by the European Union and implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Food Security Technical Secretariat (FSTS) of the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MoPIC).

The Objective of the FSIS Development Programme is to assist and support the efforts of the Government in establishing a conducive institutional set up for food security decision-making, supported by a relevant, effective, and sustainable National Food Security Information System. The programme is being implemented at national and governorate levels.

This document presents an overview of the food security situation in Yemen as of October 2016, proposing actions to develop a sustainable Food Security Information System in the country.

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Highlights

- The food insecurity situation has further worsened since the last IPC analysis conducted in June 2016. More than half (51%) of the population (14 million Yemenis) are food insecure either in crisis (Phase 3) or Emergency (Phase 4) according to Yemen June 2016 IPC analysis results.
- The ongoing conflict is worsening food security situation by dwindling employment opportunities, deteriorating the economy and exchange rate of Yemeni Rial against the US dollar. In the past 4 months, Yemeni Rial exchange dropped from 250 YR/USD (official exchange rate) up to 300YR/USD in the parallel market.
- Despite above average rainfall reported in nearly all governorates since June 2016, prospects of good agricultural production is not as expected due to the escalation of conflicts in August 2016 affecting especially cereal growing areas of Taiz, Sa'ada and Sanaa rural Governorates.
- The agriculture production performance in 2016 is expected to be similar to the 2015. Local cereal production estimates of 2015 as compared to the good year of 2012 production season have decreased around by 50%. Similarly, when compared to 2014 production season has decreased by 30 35% (MAI Statistics).
- Nearly 3 million people (74% children under 5 and 26% pregnant and lactating women) require humanitarian nutrition assistance. Almost 1.3 million children are acutely malnourished.
- Prices of imported food commodities Wheat, Wheat flour, Sugar and Rice have remained stable; however, prices remained very high above pre crisis levels by 25.7%, 21.6%, 46.2%, and 48.4% respectively. The trend is similar to locally produced foods commodities Sorghum, Millet, Maize, and Barley with September prices higher than pre-crisis by 58.2%, 51.7%, 63.8%, and 69.2% respectively.

1. Overview

Yemen is one of the strategic countries in the Arabian Peninsula, overseeing the Babel Mandab Strait, and has great economic potential with its large labor force, long costal area with ample fish wealth, agricultural resources and diversified economic opportunities. Nonetheless, despite all these potentials and opportunities it is one of the poorest and most fragile state in the region. The country is marked by prolonged food insecurity, malnutrition, chronic poverty, widespread unemployment, displacement, and loss livelihoods.

The ongoing conflict in Yemen is aggravating an already fragile socio economic context, effecting the overall economic, and livelihood situation and negatively affecting the agricultural sector and other non-agriculture livelihoods resulting to protracted and continuous worsening of food insecurity situation in Yemen. June 2016 IPC result indicated the food security and nutrition situation is under continuous deterioration. Key contributing factors to the country's food insecurity are conflict-



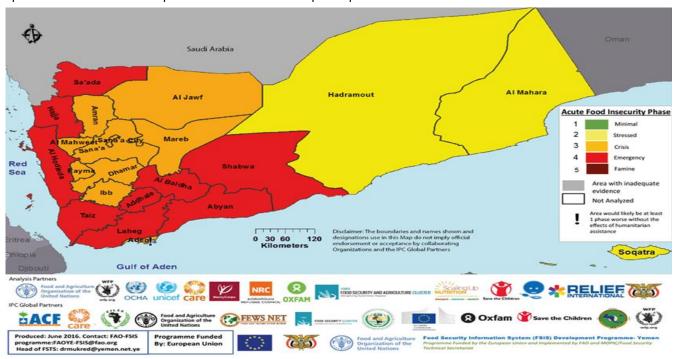




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related displacement, disruptions in livestock and crop based production, high staple food prices, depreciation of Yemen Rial against the US dollar, lack of employment opportunities and income. An estimated 14,119,280 people (7.1 million in Crisis and 7.0 million in Emergency) equivalent to 51% of Yemen population being food insecure or with inadequate food to eat – 9.4% increase since June 2015 Indicative IPC analysis results. Nevertheless, 19.4 million lack or have no access to clean water and sanitation, and 14.1 million go without adequate healthcare according to the Humanitarian Response Plan 2016 by UNOCHA.

According to Yemen nutrition cluster nearly 3 million people require urgent nutrition assistance. About 2.1 million people are currently acutely malnourished, including 1.5 million children - 370,000 of whom are suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM). This represents a 65% rise in people in need since late 2014. In terms of imports, Yemen is one of the countries that are most dependent on food imports in the world. In Yemen, 55 percent of food products consumed are imported¹, with 90 percent of wheat and wheat products consumed from imported products.



On the other hand, the local production, which account for an estimated 30-35% of food consumed in Yemen has had many challenges: scarcity and high price of agricultural inputs, farm labor and machinery expenses in addition to the accessibility to the land that was complicated by the current security situation.

Although in 2016 Yemen has received above average rainfall in all agricultural production zones (central highlands, coastal areas, and southern upland governorates), the challenge to overcoming food insecurity lies with ongoing protracted conflict, which has curtailed the enabling environment for the farmers to cultivate and to source for agricultural inputs on time. The compounded effects of internal displacements, outwards migration and diminishing livelihoods options for the rural and urban Yemenis has literally crippled the agricultural sector which is the main economic sector for more than 50% of the rural folks or work force. The political stalemate after the collapse of Kuwait peace talks in August 2016 has led to escalation of the conflict. This further paints a possibility of experiencing more devastating food insecurity not unless donors provide additional humanitarian support to avert possibility of further worsening of the food insecurity and malnutrition in the country. Moreover, destruction of public and private infrastructures, loss of livelihoods, depreciation of Yemeni Rial against the dollar, blockades on importation and high prices of essential food commodities has further plugged households to limited access to food and hence to dire food security needs.

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¹IFPRI Discussion Paper 00955 (February 2010): Impacts of the Triple Global Crisis on Growth and Poverty in Yemen (Clemens Breisinger et.al)







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2.0 Agriculture Production and Fish Wealth

Agriculture is the single most important livelihood sector that employs more than 50% of the rural Yemenis. This year, this sector has suffered immensely from effects of conflicts despite above average rainfall that could have favored high agricultural production. Most of the households that depend on agricultural labour in the highlands and in Tihamma regions lacked employment opportunities because of the escalation of the conflict especially in populous Taiz Governorate and Sa'ada. Fishing sector has also had equal share of challenges. The number of fishermen reduced by nearly half (50%) from the total number of fishermen estimated to ranging from 65000 to 75000 as per the different statistics at the national level in the fishing areas in both Red and Arabian seas. The reduction in the number of fishermen was mainly related to increased prices of fuel and lack of cold storage facilities due to absence of electric power, blockage of fish export to neighboring countries, destruction of fishing equipments, limited access to fishing areas and conflicts which has led to closure of fishing sites in many of the coastal areas.

2.1 Crop Production:

The current production season started early with above average rainfall compared to the previous season in 2015. The amount rainfall and timing favored flooding which led to destructions of agricultural fields, public, and private infrastructures. In some governorates especially in the southern uplands², for instance lbb governorate, the cumulative rainfall recorded more than 1000 mm (normally 561 mm). The sorghum and millet farmers are expecting good harvest if the rains continue up to the end of the production season - November 2016. However, the continued insecurity and related problems pose a major challenge to all farmers especially in the escalated conflict affected areas/districts of Taiz, Sa'ada, Marib, Hajjah, and Sana'a rural Governorates.

The agriculture production performance in 2016 is expected to be similar to the 2015. According to the MAI statistics, the 2015 production estimates of sorghum, maize, millet, wheat and barley compared to the good year of 2012 production season has decreased by 52%, 46%, 43%, 50%, 40%, and 50% respectively. Similarly, the production estimate of Sorghum, Maize and Millet, Wheat and Barley compared to 2014 production season has decreased by 35%, 35%, 33%, 35%, and 25% respectively.

In governorates with a relative improved security, the production of cereals mainly sorghum and millet is expected to be better than last year because of adequate rainfall even though the other production factors are still affecting the sector-high cost of inputs such as seeds, fertilizer, fuel, farm labour, etc. This year production of vegetables and fruits was good as compared to 2015. Nevertheless, farmers have not enjoyed the benefits of improved production due to several factors. Key among others includes: high transportation cost to the market, farmers had no opportunity to export (all production was sold in the local market which resulted in to low prices at the farm gate), increased supply of fruits in the markets lowered the prices and lack of storage facilities as a result of the ongoing conflict and lack of electricity or shortage of the fuel leading to increased loses of revenue.

2.2 Livestock production:

Above average rainfall in 2016 led to improved availability of pasture and water for the livestock, which led to improved livestock production when compared to same season last year. As a result, most livestock owners opted to keep their animals for the good marketing seasons, specifically Eid celebrations (big number of animals were consumed during Eid Al Adha, in September). Due to the wet and hot weather conditions, a number of external and internal parasites are activated and affecting the livestock particularly with the current challenges of weak veterinary services. In addition, there have been ongoing cases of endemic diseases such as PPR, sheep and goat pox due to the lack of vaccines in the country. Due to the crisis in the country and scarcity of the operating cost for the vaccinations campaigns. Therefore livestock in particular the small ruminants are facing huge health problems, which in return is threatening the main livelihood assets of the most vulnerable rural groups (landless livestock owners and other smallholders).

² Southern Uplands governorates lbb, Al-Beidha, Al-Dhalaa and highlands of Taiz, Abyan and Lahj







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On the other hand, the wet conditions in Tihamah served as a suitable environment for mosquito borne epidemics, which require good surveillance services to be in place, as an early warning for timely response and avoid the negative impact on the livestock at national and regional level. Similarly, some animal medicines are missing from the markets in particular those used to be supplied through the private sector such as anti-clostridium drugs, foot and mouth disease (FMD) vaccines and anti-parasites medicines. The current prices increased by 75% to 100% depending on the origin of the available drugs which further affects the veterinary services, provided by both the public and private sector.

2.3 Poultry production:

Poultry production improved starting from the fourth quarter of 2015 and more improvements were realized in 2016 particularly during the ceasefire period (March to July 2016)³. Some importations for poultry inputs such as vaccines were brought through airports and other entry points. These imports positively led to improved availability of poultry sector inputs such as, vaccines, medicines, feed, and even diesel and gas used in the sector. Although there is improvement in the supply of inputs, shortage of the hard currency and the devaluation of the YR against the USD, the cost of poultry feed is still high compared to the pre-crises period. According to the commercial farmers and importers, there are other outstanding complications with importation such as, high cost of the shipments, high insurance costs and the delay during the offloading process in Hodaidah sea port, which can take more than 40 days.

Currently one MT of broiler feed cost 156,000 YR, which increased by 25% compared to Jan 2016 and 11% compared to August 2015, while when compared to pre-crises the increase is 36%. The price of layers feed currently is 132,000 YR/MT, which increased by 2% compared to Jan 2016, by 25% compared to August 2015, and increased by 51% compared to pre-crises period. The vaccines and medicines comparatively are more available due to the improvement of the importation, but the prices remained high almost 100% increase compared to the pre-crises period.

As compared to March 2015 and with the above stated constraints in 2016, poultry production is better for both layers and broilers although needs more time to reach full scale recovery as it used to be before the crisis period. Although there are variations in prices of key inputs in poultry production, overall the sector is slightly better than last year. However, with the ongoing conflicts targeting hatcheries especially in conflict-affected areas of Taiz the probability of poultry farmers making huge loses is higher than it was in the previous months. Overall, the ongoing conflict and the challenges in the importation of inputs in particular after the closing of the airport and the decline of private and public services; high cost of fuel and transportation cost will continue challenging the sector and contribute to high prices of the products in the local, market in coming months.

2.4 Fish Wealth

Fishing is a key livelihood sector in Yemen especially among the coastal communities in the Red and Arabian seas. At different stages of the fish value chain, there are important income sources and self-employment opportunities in the coastal governorates of Hajjah, Hodeidah, Taiz, Aden, Lahaj, Abyan, Almahrah, Hadramout and Shabwa. Yemeni waters constitute a complex and unique tropical marine ecosystem. The length of Yemen coasts is 2,350 km. In addition, the Republic of Yemen possesses many islands in the Red Sea, in the Gulf of Aden and in the Arabian Sea, which enhances fishing opportunities.

The high winds in 2016 that accompanied cyclones and the resulting floods had devastating impact on fish production. Majority of fishermen lost their fishing capital such as boats, nets and fishing gear and also essential fishing infrastructure. The current season is not favorable for the traditional fishing areas due to the strong monsoon winds in both Red sea and Arabian seas. The good fishing season in the southeast part of the country is during October to April; while in the western part of the country (Red Sea) is during January to May. It is worth noting that fishing activities are totally stopped in the coastal areas of Taiz Governorate as a result Taiz fish market is supplied from Aden. The fishing areas are limited and fishermen cannot move freely within the normal fishing zones

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³ The Yemen peace negotiations in Kuwait







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Fuel price is another issue affecting traditional fishing practices, despite improvement in the availability of fuel; the price remained very high compared to the pre-crisis. Storage facilities are also an issue during the fishing, transport and marketing due to lack of electricity and high prices of the fuel. In addition, some loading sites were damaged during the conflicts and most of the facilities are missing and/or vandalized. In general, the population living along the coastal areas whose livelihood depends on is severely affected which compromised their income, purchasing power and access to food.

2.5 Severe flooding and landslides in several governorates

The food security situation in Yemen is highly vulnerable to shocks such as food price surges and climate variability including floods. Yemen is high vulnerability and low resilience to flooding which is recurrent seasonal disaster in country. Although heavy flooding results to losses of croplands uproot fruit trees, death of animals, destruction of public and private infrastructure, it is also beneficial for agricultural practices and also pasture for livestock in the rangelands.

The April 2016 floods in the governorates, mainly Hajjah, Hodeidah, Amran, and Dhamar were putting lives of the thousands of people in some of the districts at risk. The flooding not only washed away crops, soil, beehives, and livestock, but also several coastal villages in Az Zuhrah and Wadi Mour (Hodeidah) were completely flooded. According to OCHA: Flash floods caused by heavy rains on 13 and 14 April have inundated areas in the Al Hodeidah, Amran, Hajjah, Sana'a, Al Mahwit, Aden and Marib governorates, affecting an estimated 4,000 families (24,000 people). Agricultural infrastructure was severely damaged and many of the farmers lost their livelihoods. According to the GFUs reports, majority of farmers in those governorates have been affected by the loss of crops, livestock, agricultural equipment, and even irrigation wells.

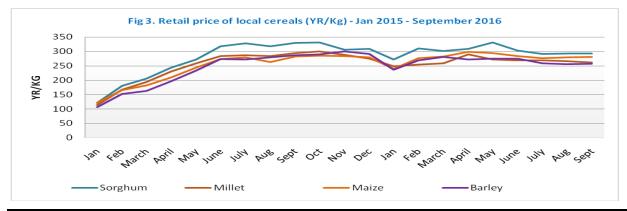
The different climatic and metrological information sources are no longer functional as a result of conflict and loss of the equipment and services except CAMMA. As a result, there is no early warning or predication for heavy rains and floods in the country. Many lowland areas are exposed to heavy flooding, losses from recent flooding calls for improved preparedness and establishment of early warning systems to avoid similar risks and losses of lives and livelihoods.

3.0 Markets Situation and Prices of commodities

In general, the availability and supply of important food and non-food commodities have improved in the local market in the six targeted governorates (Hajjah, Hodeidah, Dhamar, Taiz, Lahje and Hadramout) compared to the period since June 2016. However, the continuing conflict and different forms of blockades have contributed to the disruption of food supplies and essential commodities in almost all governorates. This has limited free movement of basic food and non-food commodities on time and created scarcity especially in conflict affected parts of some governorates like Taiz, Saa'dah, Al Bayda, Al-Jawf and Marib.

3.1 Locally Produced cereals prices

Data from the monitored markets across the six targeted governorates and Sanaa City by FAO-FSIS program, indicate the retail prices of the locally produced cereals mainly sorghum, millet, maize and barley, remained relatively stable from governorate to another since June 2016. In September, all targeted governorates reported availability of food commodities in local markets. Similarly, the off-season vegetable prices started to rise sharply, in almost all target governorates to reach 50.68% in Hodeidah for pepper, 39.37% for potatoes in Dhamar and 36.68% for tomatoes in Lahej.







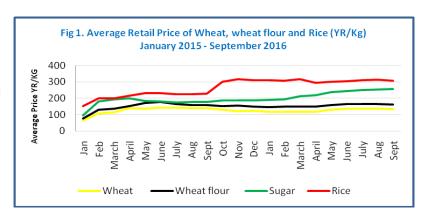


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3.2 Imported cereals prices

According to FSIS-FSTS price data, imported food commodities prices -Wheat, Wheat flour, Sugar and Rice have remained stable in month of September, as has been the trend since June 2016. However, September prices remained above precrisis levels by 25.7%, 21.6%, 46.2%, and 48.4% respectively. The trend is similar to locally produced foods commodities - Sorghum, Millet, Maize, and Barley with September prices higher than pre-crisis by 58.2%, 51.7%, 63.8% and 69.2% respectively.

Although the nominal prices of key food commodities shows a reduction compared to the previous months, it is still high compared to the prices in pre-crisis. Moreover, the alarming economic and financial crisis, the deteriorating trend of Yemeni Rial against the US Dollar and other currencies, delay of salaries and payments to civil servants, deterioration of income and employment opportunities affects the purchasing power of the ordinary population for food and basic services.



3.3 Fish Market

The ongoing conflict has significantly affected fishing sector in terms of human and physical resources. Fishing activities and job opportunities in fishing sector has declined with fish export suspension since the start of the conflict in Al Hodeidah seaport. With coming season of autumn, the supply of local fish will further decline due to surge in sea waves that prevents fisherman from going to the sea. At the moment there is significant reduction in the quantities of fish produced/ available in the local markets of Hadramout Governorate resulting to higher prices in all types of fishes ranging from 13.8 % to above 46% in July 2016. The four common fish types (Thamad, Bagha, Gahsh and Sakhla) availability in Dhamar and Lahej is also affected by seasonality, which includes winds and sea wave movement in addition to the fuel costs. Compared to June 2016, fish prices sharply increased almost in all monitored governorate markets. In Al Hodeidah the increase was 60.14% for Sakhla type, 40% for Bagha and 47% for Jahsh while the increase in Hajjah Governorate ranged from 4 to 18% and in Dhamar Governorate from 2- 4%. Yemen Fish market and supply chain has suffered huge loss due to the conflict and blockage of the export market to neighboring countries and Europe. A swift action is required to lift the blockage and support the actors along the fish value chain.

3.4 Fuel prices

In addition to the price fluctuation, fuel imports remain insufficient and scarce across all governorates. The shortages is

severely hampering everyday activities, including the delivery of commercial supplies of food and other essentials services such as humanitarian aid and medicines to the vulnerable/conflict affected population. Equally affected is operation of water pumps for domestic water supply, cooling, sanitation, and irrigation for agriculture. The fishery sector is also affected due to the shortage and high price of fuel for generators in the absence of normal electric power for storage and preservation of the fish products from the source up to the final destination market centers.









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Despite the latest price improvement in some fuel stations in Sana'a city, Dhamar and Hajjah in July – August 2016, the retail price of diesel and petrol vary widely across the six targeted governorates by FAO –FSIS program. The highest price in July was registered in Taiz Governorate (Diesel 270 YR/liter and Petrol 327 YR/liter) and the lowest was recorded in Hadramout (Diesel 160 YR/liter and Petrol 190 YR/liter). The graph alongside shows the price trend of fuel (diesel and petrol) and cooking gas since January 2015 to September 2016.

4.0 Food imports

The estimated wheat grain requirement for 2016 is around 3,024,827 MT, which is 5.4% higher than 2014/2015 (Ministry of Trade & Industry, December 2015), under the current economic situation and deterioration the value of national currency import of the total wheat requirement will be very challenges. The exchange rate of national currency (Yemeni Rial) is deteriorating against US Dollar and other currencies. In the past 4 months, Yemeni Rial exchange dropped from 250 YR/USD (official exchange rate) up to 300YR/USD in the parallel market.

Besides, the recent decision of transferring the Yemen Central Bank without putting essential preconditions for handling the nation's money supply (monetary policy), managing interest rates, setting the reserve requirement, and acting as a lender of last resort to the banking sector during times of bank insolvency or financial crisis will have a devastating effect to the already deteriorating economic performance. Information from traders who are engaged in importing food are worried that, unless, alternative arrangement is foreseen, this decision will leave them financially exposed and make it harder to bring in supplies in Yemen.

- Offloading goods from the ships in Hodeidah seaport use to take 1-2 days in the past, however, due to the
 destruction of the cranes, it takes about 6-8 days resulting long queue of the Ships taking about 30-40 days, which
 brings additional expense and increased the cost commodities in the local market.
- Traders used to import commodities using the hard currency from the parallel market, which puts additional costs and makes the price of commodities more expensive in the local market.
- The Insurance cost of ships has significantly increased due to associated risks of sailing to Yemen ports.

According to the UN OCHA snapshot, the total food commodities imported from January up to June 2016 was 3,491,010 metric tons, of which 2,990,797 were imported by the commercial sector and 500,213 imported by the humanitarian actors. At the same time, fuel imports for commercial use 1,560,690 metric tons and 439 metric tons by the humanitarian actors. Same source mentioned that, in June 333,643 MT of food imported through the ports of Aden, Al Hodeidah and Salif. Wheat flour imports constituted 58% of the overall food imports, with 196, 684 metric tons. Food commodity importation according to sources from GFU of Hodeidah, 680,066 tons of Wheat grains, 86,925tones of Wheat flour, 117,648 tons of Rice, 193,793 tons of Sugar was imported during January – September 2016. On the other hand, in total , 164,116 MT of food commodities arrived through Al Mukalla port during (May – August 2016), of which, 4210 MT of wheat flour, 9534 MT of wheat grains,23186 MT of sugar and 14492 MT of rice in addition to assortment of other goods. Live animals imported through the same port for the same period were 105,135 small ruminants, 11,598 cattle, and 1839 camels.

5.0 Nutrition and Health Situation

The worsening food security situation, limited access to food, clean water and sanitation and lack of or limited access to healthcare services have contributed to increased levels of malnutrition and morbidity, especially among children below age of five years and IDPs (estimated to be around 2,205,102 individuals).⁵ According to UNICEF, the malnutrition situation in Yemen is getting worse. The nutrition cluster estimates that nearly 3 million people (74% children under 5 and 26% pregnant and lactating women) require humanitarian nutrition assistance. About 2.1 million people are currently acutely malnourished, including 1.5 million children under five years, 320,000 of them are suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM). This represents a 65% rise in people in need since late 2014(Yemen Nutrition Cluster Advocacy Paper, August 2016). According to the UNICEF reports, at least 192 nutrition centers across Yemen are closed either due to insecurity or

⁴ http://www.logcluster.org/sites/default/files/logistics cluster yemen snapshot june v2 160715.pdf

⁵ http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/task force on population movement 10th report - july 2016.pdf



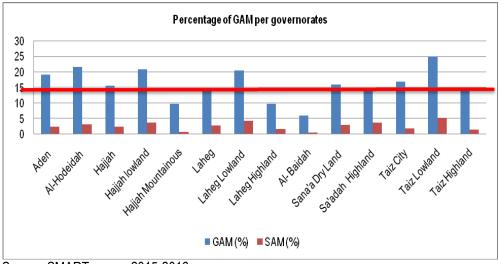




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due to lack of key supplies such as fuel (OCHA Yemen Humanitarian Bulletin 31 May 2016). In addition, Yemen's Ministry of Public Health and Population (MOPHP) has confirmed through laboratory-testing, the occurrence of 11 cholera cases among population from one of the areas of Sana'a city. Moreover, more suspected cases are reported from different governorates such as Al Bayda, Al Hudaydah, Taizz, Lahj and Aden (WHO, October 2016).

The Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions (SMART) nutrition surveys conducted by UNICEF and the MoPHP in Aden, Laheg, Hajjah, Al Hodeidah, Al Bayda, Sana'a, Taiz and Sada'a Governorates from August 2015 - May 2016 shows alarming levels of malnutrition. The highest malnutrition prevalence was recorded in Al Hodeidah Governorate with the Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) of 31.0% The Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) in other governorates remained above emergency WHO threshold of >15%. In Taiz City GAM is 17%, and in Taiz Lowland is 25.1% and in Aden 19.2%. Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) rates also above the 2% crisis threshold in most Governorates reaching 5.3% in Taiz lowland. The Malnutrition situation is more severe in lowland as compared to highlands. See graph below

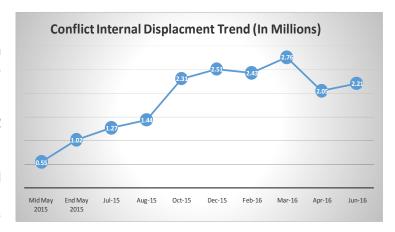


Source: SMART survey 2015-2016

Healthcare system is affected by a combination of factors, including limited importation of medicines, destruction of medical facilities, displacement of medical personnel and the current economic crisis, leaving health institutions on the brink of collapse. WHO estimates that only 30% of the medicine needed is being imported into Yemen. The stock of insulin is estimated to run out in three months if pipelines are not replenished. The critical lack of fuel, electric power, water and oxygen is severely affecting almost all hospital services and particularly Intensive Care Units and dialysis centers.

6.0 Civil Insecurity and Internal Displacement

According to the 10th Report of Task Force on Population Movement (TFPM) in July 2016, the total number of IDPs due to conflict across the 22 Governorate is 2,205,102 individuals (367,517 households) mainly in the following governorates:- Taiz (532,992 individuals), Hajjah (444,372 individuals), Sana'a (227,892 individuals), Amanat Al Asimah (149,994 individuals), and Dhamar (129,594 individuals) representing 67% of the total conflict displaced population. In addition, 24,744 individuals (4,124 households) remain displaced because of natural disasters across 13 governorates. Food and access to income is the top needs for the IDPs.



Source: 10th Report of Task Force on Population Movement (TFPM) in July 2016







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Around 71% (263,643 households) of the IDPs, displaced for more than one year are living with their relatives and/or friends thus increasing the burden on the host community. Majority of the IDPs have lost their livelihood assets during displacement with no opportunity for employment and income, which severely compromised their economic access to food.

7.0 Summary and action points

- The overall humanitarian situation and the food insecurity in the country is still worsening and require concerted efforts to address it. The continued escalation of the conflict will seriously deteriorate the food security outcomes for populations under crisis (IPC Phase 3) and emergency (IPC phase 4) in the active conflict areas of Taiz, Saada, Hajjah, Aljawf, Marib and Shabwa.
- To save life, there is urgent need to provide food and cash based life-saving assistance as appropriate to people in need, prioritizing the most vulnerable, malnourished children under fives and pregnant and lactating women.
- To recover livelihoods, the humanitarian and government entities should focus their emergency programs towards resilience and sustainable recovery of livelihoods especially for agriculture and fishing dependent communities.
- ♣ The insecurity and continued challenges of conducting assessments and humanitarian services will further compromise the quality of the interventions across the country. This includes assessing the food and nutrition security situation, agriculture, livestock, fisheries, markets and the overall macro and micro economic indicators.
- The current economic situation in Yemen is worrisome and requires urgent attention to resolve further depreciation of Yemeni Rial against the US dollar. This would require promotion of conducive environment for resuscitation of import of the key food and essential commodities, facilitate the export business for fish, fruits, and vegetables, and help resolve lost livelihoods.
- The ongoing conflict and the challenges associated with importation of inputs and services; high cost of fuel and transportation will continue challenging all sectors and further contribute to high prices of the basic products in the local market.