Yemen: Snapshot on Shipping and Food Imports (as of 14 December 2015)

During November, the number of ships berthing, as well as the volume of food and fuel imports continued to increase. Although there have been no reports of ships being denied clearance to enter Yemeni Ports, since mid-October the supply of commodities, particularly fuel, remains insufficient to meet demand.

Monthly food imports and price fluctuation

Commercial food imports increased by 25 per cent compared to October and 137 per cent compared to September and are now at pre-crisis levels. Despite the increase in imported food, wheat prices remain 53 per cent higher than pre-crisis levels, caused in part by disruptions in transportation networks and markets.

Monthly fuel imports

Fuel imports in November increased by 313 per cent over October, with 248,486 MT imported compared to 60,136 MT** in October. Minimal humanitarian fuel imports were recorded this month. November imports represent 46 per cent of the monthly needs.

Status of ships at ports per month (April - November)

Despite the two cyclones that hit Yemen in the beginning of November, the absolute number of ships berthing increased by 24 per cent across all ports. In November, 86 ships were anchored and 74 ships berthed, vs 75 ships anchored and 58 ships berthed in October. This means that 86 per cent of anchored ships reached their destination in November vs. 78 per cent in October.

Average delays in entering ports (October and November)

While the number of vessels berthing at Yemen’s ports is increasing, the capacity of the ports to absorb the increase is not sufficient to meet demand, as can be seen in the increasing delays both at anchorage and berth in the three major ports. The highest delays at anchorage and berth for November were recorded at Saleef Port.

Commodity imports (April - November)

- 3.0m MT of food
- 1.10m MT of fuel
- 529,000 MT of building materials
- 24,000 MT of containers
- 19,000 MT of relief items

** Revised from October snapshot.

Sources:
- Fewsnet, IEA, WFP, IRIN, OCHA, MCCC, APBC, Yemen FSIS.
- Feedback: ochayemen@un.org


Shipping and food imports figures could vary depending on available information. Food and fuel imports include partial figures of Gulf of Aden ports due to lack of information.

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