The conflict continues to disrupt livelihoods and access to food. While food prices are decreasing, they remain above pre-crisis levels. In August Raymah Governorate was the most affected with wheat prices 160 per cent above pre-crisis levels followed by Lahj and Aden Governorates which have both reached food insecurity emergency levels. The agriculture sector, which plays a significant role in the economy employing more than 50 per cent of the workforce, has also declined with the late start of the rain season in some areas coupled with insecurity and the lack of fuel necessary to irrigate and prepare land.

In August the incidence of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) among children under five in Al Hudaydah and Aden governorates reached respectively very critical and critical levels*. Some 31 per cent of children in Al Hudaydah were affected by GAM compared to 18 per cent before the crisis escalated in March. In Aden the average prevalence of GAM was 19.2 per cent compared to 10.3 per cent in 2014. The level of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) in Al Hudaydah became dire and surpassed the crisis threshold of 2 per cent affecting 8 per cent of children under five.

* Integrated Food Security Classification (IPC)
GAM among children from 5-59 months (%): >30 very critical; 15-29.9 critical

In addition to growing numbers of people unable to provide for their own food needs, food security indicators have also deteriorated. From five governorates in 2014, five more - Al-Hudaydah, Aden, Taizz, Al Dhale’e and Al Bayda – crossed the threshold from crisis to emergency.

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Close to 13 million people depend on food assistance for their survival compared to 10.6 million in 2014. Among them, 6 million need immediate food assistance as their situation has reached emergency levels. The lack of food, clean water, sanitation and health care services have also aggravated the nutrition situation of children under five. New data in August shows a deterioration of the already precarious nutrition status of children under five in Aden and Al Hudaydah, something that could be indicative of a wider trend nationwide.