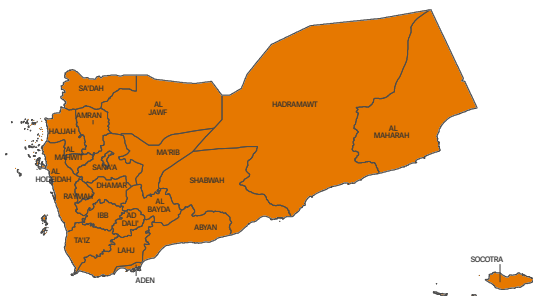


ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY | Localized conflict, economic warfare and paused humanitarian assistance are driving this alarming food crisis.

PEAK 2023 (JULY–AUGUST)

18.0M people or **56%** of the total population faced high levels of acute food insecurity. This FEWS NET analysis is not directly comparable with the IPC analysis for the January–May 2022 peak, which found 55 percent of the population faced high levels of acute food insecurity. Yemen remained one of the three worst food crises in terms of prevalence of high acute food insecurity, driven by persistently elevated food and fuel prices amid low purchasing power in Internationally Recognized Government (IRG)-controlled areas, economic warfare and localized conflict in frontline districts in central and southwestern Yemen, including Ta'iz and Ma'rib.



Source: FEWS NET, June 2023.

PROJECTION 2024 (JUNE)

Up to 19.0M people or **60%** of the total population projected to face high levels of acute food insecurity.

In areas controlled by the IRG, rising food prices and declining access to income will likely impair food access. In Sana'a-based authorities (SBA) areas, a pause in humanitarian assistance for 9.5 million people began in December 2023 due to funding cuts (WFP, January 2024).

Source: FEWS NET, December 2023.

A protracted major food crisis A low-income country, Yemen has been included in all GRFC editions as one of the five worst food crises in terms of numbers and share of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity. Conflict/insecurity has been the primary driver of acute food insecurity and malnutrition since 2015 when active fighting broke out. According to IPC analyses, populations faced Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) during the peak period each year between 2018 and 2022 primarily in SBA-controlled areas. Even before the conflict, more than half of the population was in IPC Phase 3 or above, mainly driven by structural instability aggravated by human-induced factors and weather extremes (IPC, November 2022).



DRIVERS OF THE CRISIS 2023–2024

Conflict/insecurity Despite relative stability in 2023 between the IRG and SBA, localized violence continued. In 2023, IOM Yemen tracked 59 000 individuals who experienced displacement at least once from IRG-controlled areas (IOM, December 2023), which is similar to 2022. Economic warfare between the IRG and SBA thwarted the recovery of livelihoods. Most notably, the SBA blocked oil exports from IRG areas, denying the IRG its most important source of revenue and foreign exchange (FEWS NET, December 2023).

Rising tensions in the Red Sea in late 2023 threatened to destabilize the uncertain truce (ACLED, January 2024).

Economic shocks The overall volume of food and fuel imports increased by 6 percent during 2023. However, imported food items declined by 17 percent via Red Sea ports and 62 percent via Aden and Mukalla ports in December 2023 compared with November, mainly associated with geopolitical tensions in the region increasing shipping and insurance costs. Some key traders anticipated shortages in food supply in 2024 if tensions escalated in the region (WFP, January 2024).

In SBA-controlled areas, local currency appreciation eased food price increases, while in IRG areas currency depreciation contributed to increasing food prices. In the last quarter of 2023, the cost of the Minimum Food Basket was 9–23 percent higher in IRG areas and 3–18 percent lower in SBA areas (FAO, Government of Yemen,

December 2023).

A pause in humanitarian assistance for 9.5 million people in the north from December 2023 due to funding cuts was expected to lead to widening food consumption gaps and/or severe coping strategies for millions of poor households (WFP, January 2024).

In IRG areas, the SBA's blockade of oil exports exacerbated pre-existing shortages of government revenue and foreign exchange. The local currency was anticipated to continue depreciating in 2024, driving further food and fuel price increases (FEWS NET, December 2023).

Weather extremes Spring rains that were nearly double historical precipitation averages caused widespread flooding across the central highlands and western regions, including Sana'a, affecting over 165 000 people with damage to infrastructure and crops (UNDP, December 2023; EC, June 2023).

Cyclone Tej, which struck the southern Yemen coast in late October 2023, destroyed homes and public infrastructure, displaced thousands and disrupted livelihoods (FAO, Government of Yemen, December 2023).

DISPLACEMENT

2.9M forcibly displaced people by 2023

2.8M IDPs **70 600** refugees and asylum-seekers

Source: IOM, September 2023. Source: UNHCR Nowcasted estimate, December 2023.

ACUTE MALNUTRITION

0.5M children under 5 years old with acute malnutrition in October 2022–September 2023

0.3M pregnant and breastfeeding women with acute malnutrition in October 2022–September 2023



Source: Yemen IPC TWG, June 2023.

Acute malnutrition has worsened in IRG-controlled areas since 2022 with Critical levels in parts of Abyan, Shabwah, Al Hodeidah, Southern Lowlands, Ta'iz, Ad Dhalī' and Lahj (IPC, June 2023).

DRIVERS OF ACUTE MALNUTRITION 2023–2024

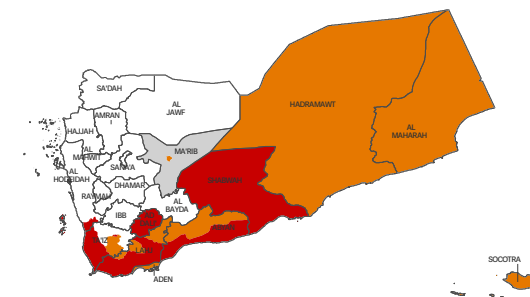
Inadequate practices Amid instability and a worsening economy, mothers and caregivers prioritize survival, and struggle to seek and follow recommended child-feeding practices (IPC, June 2023). Only 20 percent of children were exclusively breastfed in the first six months of life in two-thirds of analysed areas, considered a Critical level. About 40 percent of children received a minimally diverse diet (SMART 2022).

conflict have reduced the quality of health and WASH services and extent of immunization coverage. Increased incidence of waterborne diseases such as diarrhoea – especially in areas affected by flooding – as well as fever, acute respiratory infection and the persistent measles outbreak (since 2022) underlie high levels of acute malnutrition (IPC, June 2023).

Inadequate services Government and humanitarian financing shortfalls and

Lack of food The ongoing conflict disrupts markets, livelihood opportunities and access to humanitarian assistance with severe repercussions for food intake (IPC, June 2023).

PEAK 2023 (JUNE–SEPTEMBER)



Source: Yemen IPC TWG, May 2023.

