

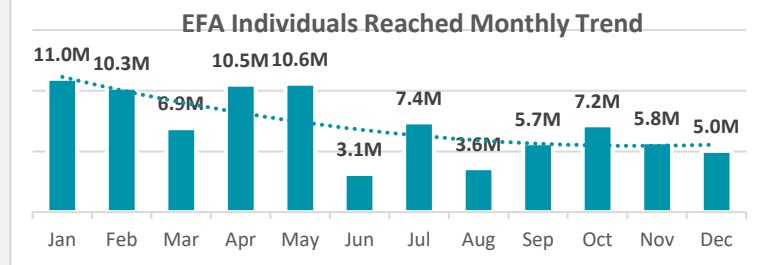


FSAC MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO (13) | January 2024 | Yemen FSAC Team

Key Achievements

In December 2023, a total of **5.0M** individuals were reached with humanitarian food assistance (HFA). WFP Yemen continues to face severe funding shortfalls and is just 12% funded for the November 2023 - April 2024 six-month period. **Whilst each cycle provided 55-60% (906-1,015 Kcal) of FSAC Reference Food MFB for 4.6M people, the average Kcal provided per person per day was 40% (640 Kcal) of FSAC Reference MFB due to the duration of the cycles. 209K individuals were reached with emergency livelihood support, 81K individuals reached with Conditional Cash Transfers and 19K individuals were supported to restore livelihood assets and establish micro businesses alongside training to enhance employability.**



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- FSAC DECEMBER 2023 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS
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		Target 2023	Reached in December	Total Reached 2023	%
SO1		14,037,253	5,039,989	13,863,161	99%
		2,230,248	209,712	513,915	23%
SO2		2,785,121	81,470	497,431	18%
		779,511	19,954	40,802	5%



Emergency Food Assistance (EFA)



Rehabilitation of community assets, provision of seasonal employment and increase of HH incomes through Conditional Cash Transfers

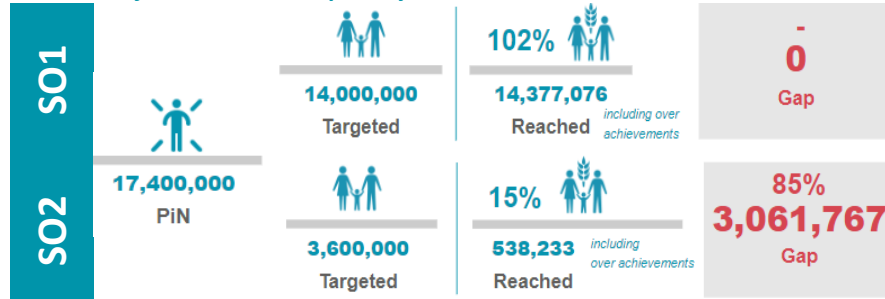


Emergency Livelihood Assistance (ELA)



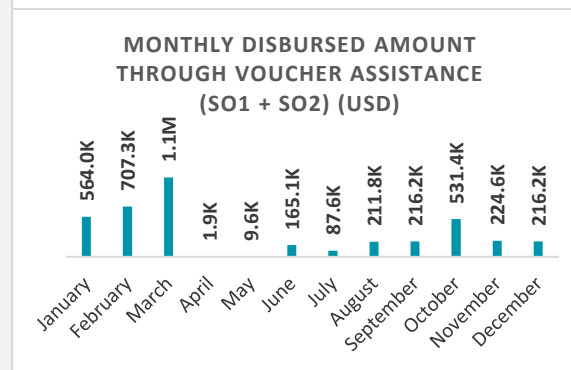
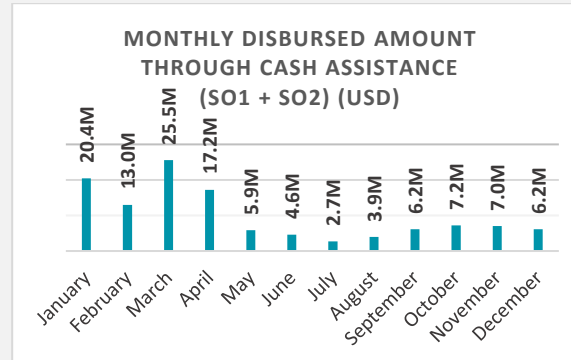
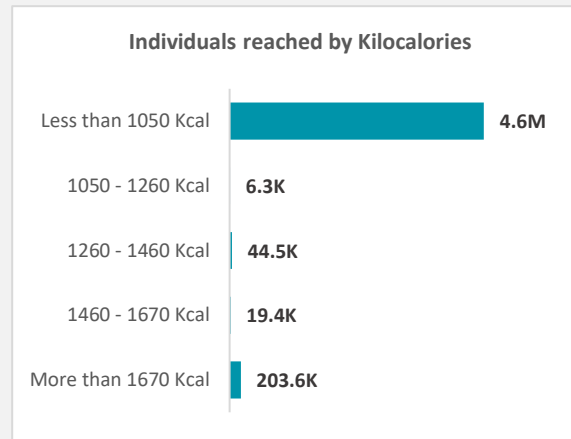
Provision of support to restore livelihood assets, assistance to establish micro businesses and trainings to enhance employability

Sectoral Objective 1 & 2 – Gap analysis

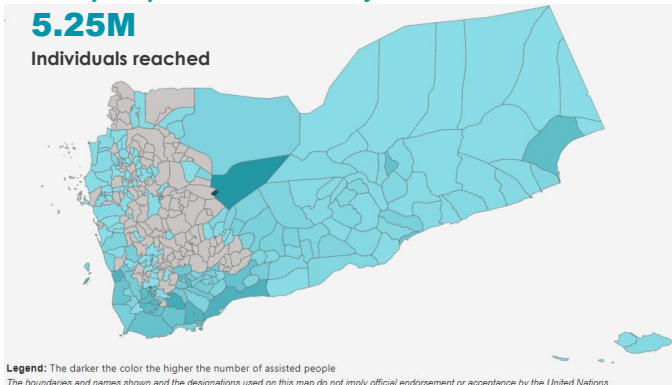


The under-achievement in livelihood related activities is majorly attributed to funding constraints.

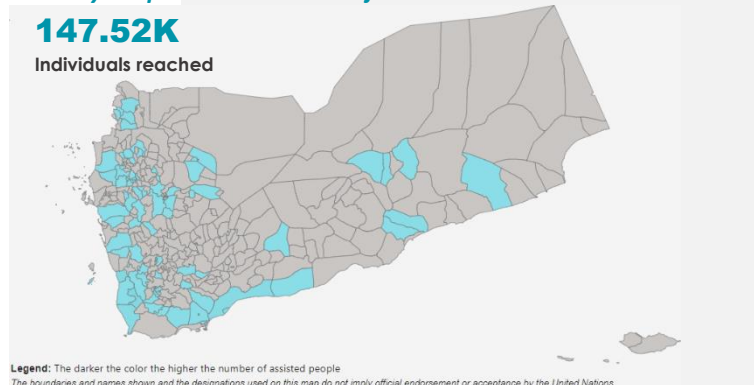
4.6 million people received less than 1,050 Kcal compared to 1,680 Kcal which is the FSAC reference minimum food basket.



Monthly Response – Sectoral Objective 1



Monthly Response – Sectoral Objective 2





SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

YEMEN FOOD SECURITY UPDATE

January 2024



The local currency exchange rate continued to deteriorate in IRG-controlled areas. The Yemeni riyal experienced a 21 percent depreciation against the US dollar throughout 2023, reaching YER 1,526/USD by the end of December 2023. This decline is primarily attributed to low levels of foreign currency reserves and the reduction in crude oil exports and remittances inflows. It is noteworthy that CBY- Aden refrained from conducting foreign currency auctions in November and December, indicating concerns about the diminished foreign currency reserves.



In IRG-controlled areas, pump prices for petrol and diesel experienced a slight increase ranging from one to two percent compared to the previous month. These prices were also higher than the levels observed at the beginning of 2023, rising by 27 and 28 percent, respectively. This increase is primarily associated with the continuous currency depreciation in the south. Conversely, in areas under SBA, pump prices for petrol and diesel remained unchanged on a monthly basis, with a decline of four and 20 percent, respectively, observed throughout 2023.



In December 2023, the global FAO Food Price Index (FFPI) slightly decreased by approximately one percent compared to the previous month, remaining 10 percent lower than in December 2022. All sub-indexes exhibited an annual decline except for sugar, which increased by 15 percent compared to the previous year, primarily due to a tighter global supply outlook. In Yemen, sugar prices also saw an annual increase of 10 percent in the north and 45 percent in the south.



In December 2023, more than half of the surveyed households nationwide (51 percent) indicated lack of access to adequate food; a nine percent increase compared to November and a four percent increase compared to the beginning of 2023. In areas under IRG 54 percent of households reported inadequate food consumption, similarly 50 percent of interviewed households reported inadequate food consumption in areas under SBA.



In IRG-controlled areas, the cost of the Minimum Food Basket (MFB) remained at elevated levels, similar to the observed levels at the beginning of 2023. WFP mVAM data revealed that approximately 19 percent of surveyed households in the south identified high food prices as a significant obstacle to accessing adequate food. Conversely, the cost of the MFB experienced a 12 percent decrease in areas under SBA during 2023. This decline is primarily attributed to currency appreciation, reduced fuel prices, and strict price controls in the north.



In 2023, the cumulative volume of imported fuel through the northern ports of Al- Hodeidah and As-Salif increased by 11 percent compared to 2022. However, there was a significant decline in fuel imports via Red Sea ports in December 2023, which declined by 40 percent compared to the previous month. This decline can be largely attributed to storage capacity, escalating tensions in the MENA region and the rise in shipping and insurance rates along the Red Sea route.



The overall volume of food imports in 2023 increased by four percent during 2023. However, the volume of imported food items saw a month-on-month decline of 17 percent via Red Sea ports and 62 percent via Aden and Mukalla ports in December 2023. This decline is mainly associated with ongoing geopolitical tensions in the MENA region, impacting the rise in shipping and insurance costs via the Red Sea route, along with the WFP's pause of food assistance in the north.



As of December 2023, WFP paused General Food Assistance (GFA) in areas under SBA until further notice, impacting nearly 9.5 million people in the north. This decision is primarily a result of a severe funding crisis. While the full impact of the pause had not yet materialized, there are indications of an increase in levels of severe deprivation amongst beneficiary households in the north; the prevalence of poor food consumption (severe deprivation in food consumption) increased to 31 percent amongst beneficiary households during December, compared to 24 percent in December 2022. Meanwhile, WFP continued to provide assistance to approximately 3.5 million people in IRG areas with reduced rations, equivalent to around 40 percent of the full WFP ration per distribution cycle.

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Market & Trade Bulletin, Yemen - December 2023 – (Issued on 31 January 2024)



Market & Trade Bulletin

- The unofficial exchange rate (buying) of Yemeni Riyals (YER) against US dollars (USD) remained stable in December 2023 under both IRG and SBA areas compared to the previous month's rate.
- The December 2023 monthly cost of the MFB remained unchanged in IRG areas but went down slightly by 4 percent in SBA markets compared to November.

- Despite the availability of imported food and fuel in domestic markets, and declining global food prices, the domestic food prices remain higher than the 3-year average which continues to affect consumer purchasing power and limit access to food for poor households.
- Compared to November, and December wheat grains imports through the Red Sea as well as Aden and Mukalla Ports went down significantly, at 43% and 37%, respectively.
- The monthly CPI indicator for all items rose 7% in the eleven months to December. Food and non-alcoholic beverages rose 6%, with price rises seen across all categories. These increases reflect rising transportation costs, expensive money transfer charges between governorates, and depreciation of the local currency against US dollars (USD) as well as increased seasonal demands.

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From Farm to Factory: Investing in Yemen's Food value Chain for Sustainable Food Security (November 2023)



- According to the UN's World Food Programme, 17.4 million Yemenis are food insecure and malnutrition rates among women and children remain among the highest in the world with 1.3 million pregnant or breastfeeding women and 2.2 million children under the age of five requiring treatments for acute malnutrition.
- In these conditions, small changes can make a big difference allowing people to be able to feed their families. In partnership with the World Bank's International Development Association and the United Nations Development Programme, the Yemen's Small and Micro Enterprise Promotion Service (SMEPS) have previously supported livestock smallholders. But now, a new approach led by SMEPS joins the food value chain from the breeder to the veterinarian, and from intermediaries to the factory, in a bid to further support those most in need.

[Read more...](#)

New approach brings together various elements of food value chain to yield results.

- Because of Yemen's protracted conflict, millions suffer from extreme hunger. Two-thirds of the country's population need humanitarian support to improve their living standards. In a country that imports nearly 90 percent of its food, other factors like climate change, COVID-19, and global supply-chain issues have put even more pressure on households facing significant economic challenges. These include rising inflation, lack of job opportunities, non-payment of salaries, low incomes, and skyrocketing prices of even the most basic essentials.



Yemen Price Bulletin, January 2024



The Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) monitors trends in staple food prices in countries vulnerable to food insecurity. For each FEWS NET country and region, the Price Bulletin provides a set of charts showing monthly prices in

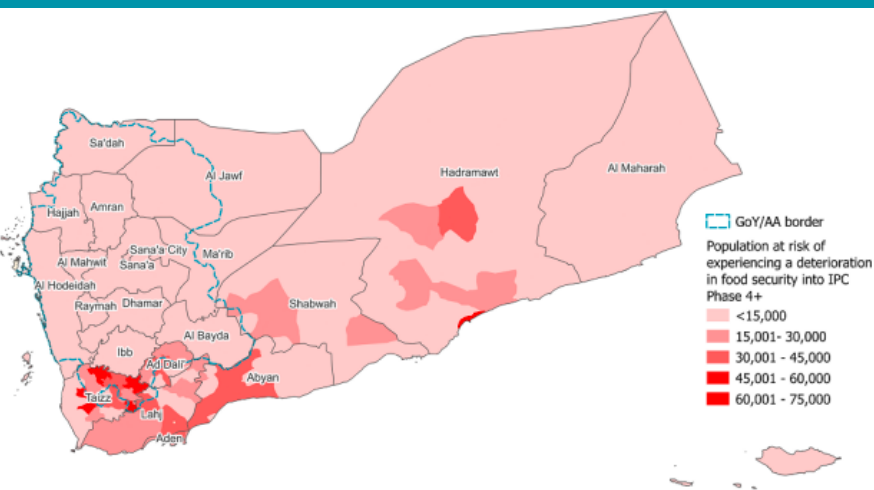
the current marketing year in selected governorates and allowing users to compare current trends with 5-year and 2-year average prices, indicative of seasonal trends, and prices in the previous year.

Wheat flour is the staple food for most households in Yemen; sorghum and rice are most often consumed as a substitute. Households are heavily dependent on imported wheat supplies reaching the regional trading centers of Sana'a City, Al Hudaydah City, and Aden City— critical markets that supply other urban and rural districts. Aden City, located in a trade deficit zone, is the reference market for the southern region and the largest wholesale market with significant storage capacity. Al Hudaydah is an important assembly, wholesale, and retail market in the most populous region in the country where most households are dependent on markets for staple foods. Sana'a City serves as a wholesale and retail market for households in northern and central Yemen, and Sayoun serves as a reference market of the east. Wheat grain and flour prices are susceptible to the exchange rate of the Yemeni Rial (YER) and US Dollar (USD). There are currently two exchange rates split by monetary governance between the Sana'a-based authorities (SBA) and the internationally recognized government (IRG). YER currency valuation has fluctuated in recent years due to foreign intervention in monetary policy, high seasonal demand, increased foreign trade and trade policy. Purchasing power is a significant food security constraint, as incomes from casual labor and livestock, the main income-generating activities for households and poor households, tend to fluctuate. Terms of Trade serve as proxy indicators for purchasing power by measuring the relative value of these income-generating activities (wages and livestock prices) to the cost of purchasing staple foods (staple food prices).

[Read more...](#)



Yemen Joint Monitoring Report (JMR), December 2023



- On 5 December, WFP announced a temporary pause in humanitarian food assistance in areas under AA, due to funding issues. The pause in assistance is expected to contribute to increased food and nutrition insecurity levels for several months, especially in districts where IPC Phase 3 and higher levels are already prevalent.
- Increased tensions in the Red Sea shipping corridor in December pose threats to international shipping routes, potentially escalating costs.
- As at the end of October, the Yemeni rial in GoY-controlled areas reached a value of YER 1,518/USD 1 – its lowest since December 2021 – which raised alerts in all 136 GoY-controlled districts.
- The onset of winter is anticipated to curtail employment opportunities in agriculture and fisheries, potentially pushing more households toward food-based coping strategies.
- The prices of essential food items have remained relatively stable month on month.

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- Joint Monitoring Report (JMR) modeling shows that as at October 2023, nearly 2.5 million people were at risk of experiencing a deterioration into IPC Phase 4+ in both Government of Yemen (GoY) and Ansar Allah (AA) controlled areas. Widespread food and nutrition insecurity persists, currently estimated to affect approximately 51 percent of households in areas under the control of the GoY and 46 percent in areas under the control of AA.
- Cyclone Tej made landfall in Yemen on 23 October, displacing over 22,000 people in Al Maharah and Hadramawt governorates; damaging shelter, public infrastructure, and agriculture; and raising alerts in 11 districts.

FSAC Partners Contribution

Aden Hub



Full INFORMATION ARE AVAILABLE AT:
<https://www.fao.org>

Ali Abdoul, a farmer from Al-Bunyah, Yemen, faced a devastating problem when he discovered the Fall armyworm, a destructive pest, in his sorghum crop. The arrival of this pest in the Taiz Governorate added to the already difficult circumstances Yemeni farmers were facing due to the eight-year conflict and rising costs of farming inputs.

“Using biopesticides extracted from mraemrah was something new to us. After spraying, we found that the results were excellent. We were impressed, and we resolved that going forward, we will continue using the pesticide extracted from the mraemrah tree to manage Fall armyworm,” Ali said.



FAO established a farmer field school and taught the farmers to extract a natural oil from a locally available tree. Mixing this oil with garlic and hot pepper serves as an effective biopesticide against the Fall armyworm. ©FAO

MORE DETAILS

Desperate to find a solution, Ali and other farmers attended farmer field schools organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). During these schools, they learned to create natural insecticides using the mraemrah tree, garlic, and hot pepper. The mraemrah tree, abundant in Yemen, produces chemicals that act as a natural insecticide against the Fall armyworm. The farmers were amazed by the effectiveness of the biopesticide and decided to continue using it instead of chemical pesticides. Not only was it cheaper, but it also had no negative impact on the environment or human and animal health.

The FAO project not only trained farmers on alternative pest control methods but also promoted other best agricultural practices through the farmer field schools. This approach fostered social cohesion among Yemeni farmers and allowed them to collectively plan their actions for the fields. FAO also provided monitoring equipment and smartphones with a mobile application to collect and transmit data on pests.

FAO's integrated pest management approach, which emphasizes sustainable practices and reduced reliance on chemical pesticides, has helped Yemen build its capacity to identify, monitor, and manage the Fall armyworm. FAO is now extending this training and promoting the use of biopesticides to other countries struggling with the same pest.



FAO promotes integrated pest management, an approach that reduces reliance on chemical pesticides and encourages regular monitoring for pests. ©FAO, 2023

FSAC Partners Contribution

Sana'a Hub



Ramz INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE AT:
<https://www.rdfyemen.org/>

Nada Saeed - a displaced woman from Taiz and a mother of four children. She used to live with her family in Taiz Governorate, and due to the outbreak of war and the fact that her house was in a dangerous area, Nada was forced to flee to Amanat Al Asimah.

Nada says that before being targeted in the project, she was unable to provide all the necessary needs for her children.



Nada Saeed products. Photo by: Gwahr Hindi, Ramz development foundation, 2023.

MORE DETAILS

With this displacement, Nada left her home and her husband's source of income and found only a small shop in which she and her family could live. Her husband works in cleaning cars, but he suffers from hepatitis, so Nada found herself responsible for her family and found it very difficult to provide for their needs.

Nada says that before being targeted in the project, she was unable to provide all the necessary needs for her children. She wished to give them even the daily allowance to buy the simplest things that any child desires. She could not give them the school allowance and provide the necessary needs for their education. In addition to the care and medicines required by her husband's illness.

After Nada received the requirements for her project (making incense and perfumes), even the beginning of it was difficult for her, as she failed in her first experience in manufacturing incense, and at that time she could not bear it, but the stand of her husband and her parents had a great impact on her getting up again and trying again.

Indeed, she succeeded and started marketing and selling what she produced. According to Nada, she now, praise be to God, finds a source of income for her family, and she was able to provide many of the needs and desires of her children. She began to give them a daily allowance, even if it was simple. Nada believes that this project constituted a major turning point in her life, as her monthly income increased by a large percentage and she became able to produce new types of perfumes and incense that she had never been able to provide before, as well as meet her customers' requests and provide the raw materials needed for that.

Nada dreams that her project will grow and that she will be able to have a small shop to sell what she produces, for her family to live a decent life, and to see the result of her toil and struggle in her children as a good and a prosperous future.



Nada Saeed. Photo by: Gwahr Hindi, Ramz development foundation, 2023.

MINUTES OF FSAC MEETINGS, AT NATIONAL AND SUB-NATIONAL LEVEL



FSAC National coordination meeting, chaired by FSAC coordinator at the **Tamdeen Foundation (TYF)** office, Sana'a, January 2024



FSAC Sub-national coordination meeting, Sana'a hub held at **All Girls foundation (AGF)**, Sana'a office. February 2024

Meeting Minutes

For more details:

[Events | Food Security Cluster \(fscluster.org\)](https://fscluster.org)






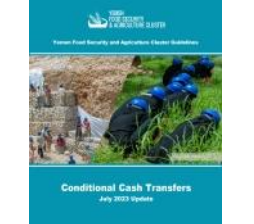

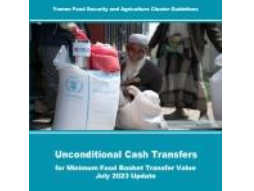




Note: FSAC has resumed its physical coordination meetings at national and sub-national levels.

January 2024 Meetings			
Cluster/Sub Cluster	Date	Venue	
National cluster	31.01.2024	TYF Office Sana'a, + Virtual	
Sana'a Hub	04.02.2024	AGF Office Sana'a,	
Aden Hub	07.02.2024	Virtual	
Ibb Hub	09.01.2024	UN Premises	
Sa'ada Hub	09.01.2024	(Hybrid) ZOOM/UN Compound, Sa'ada	
Marib Hub	28.01.2024	Virtual	
Hodeida Hub	28.01.2024	(Hybrid) Zoom UNDP Venue Hodeida	
AT/AM Hub	07.02.2024	Virtual	
Hajjah Hub	31.01.2024	(Hybrid) Compound, Hajjah	
Al Mukalla Hub	01.02.2024	Virtual	

February 2024 Meetings			
Cluster/Sub Cluster	Date	Venue	
National cluster	28.02.2024	TBD*	
Sana'a Hub	04.03.2024	SFHRP Office, Sana'a	
Aden Hub	29.02.2024	TBD	
Ibb Hub	27.02.2024	UN Premises	
Sa'ada Hub	27.02.2024	(Hybrid) ZOOM/UN Compound, Sa'ada	
Marib Hub	29.02.2024	TBD	
Hodeida Hub	25.02.2024	(Hybrid) Zoom UNDP Venue Hodeida	
AT/AM Hub	29.02.2024	TBD	
Hajjah Hub	28.02.2024	(Hybrid) Compound, Hajjah	
Al Mukalla Hub	15.02.2024	TBD	

TBD: To Be determined

FSAC KEY DOCUMENTS AND GUIDELINES

 <p>Information Management Products 2023</p>	 <p>FSAC Emergency Livelihood Assistance Guidelines (03.2023 update)</p>
 <p>FSAC Newsletters</p>	 <p>Guidance for mainstreaming AAP in Yemen FSAC Response</p>
 <p>Information Management Tools</p>	 <p>FSAC Conditional Cash Transfer Guidelines (07.2023 update)</p>
 <p>FSAC Membership Application Form</p>	 <p>FSAC Unconditional Cash Transfer Guidelines (07.2023 update)</p>
 <p>FSAC 2023 PIN</p>	 <p>FSAC Operational Guidelines for Implementing Income Generation Activities and Micro-Business Programmes- Effective 15 July 2023</p>
 <p>FSAC 2023 Targets</p>	 <p>Food Security and Livelihoods Indicator Handbook</p>

LINKS

FSAC Terminology

<https://sites.google.com/view/fsc-terminology/home>

IPC Global Platform

<https://www.ipcinfo.org/>

IFRR

<https://response.reliefweb.int/yemen/integrated-famine-risk-reduction>

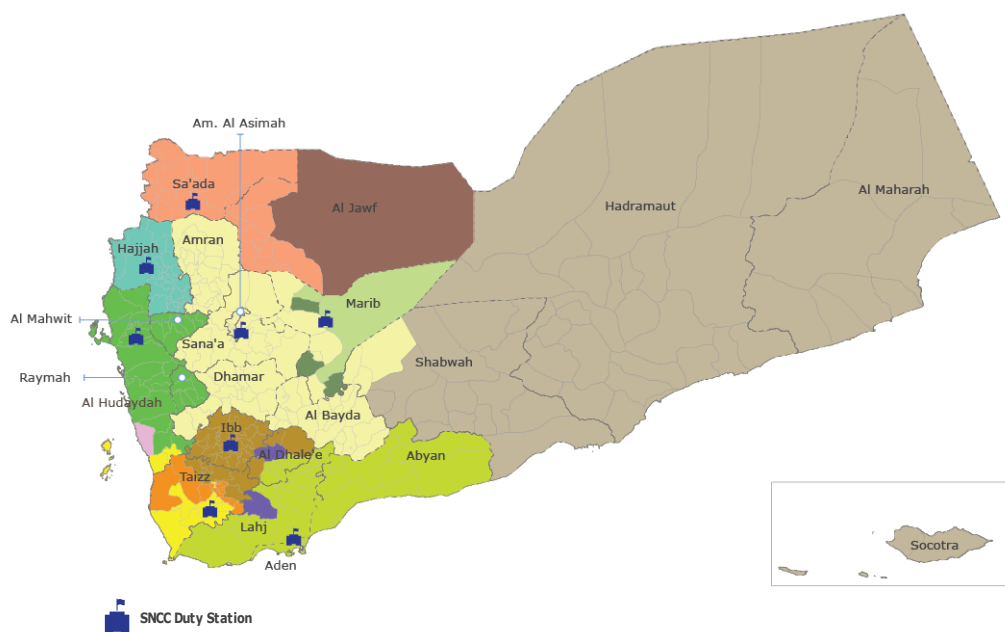
WFP VAM DataViz

https://dataviz.vam.wfp.org/economic_explorer/prices

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* SNCC: Sub-National Cluster Coordinator



YEMEN
FOOD SECURITY
& AGRICULTURE CLUSTER

FSAC Team

January 2024

<https://fscluster.org/yemen>