VEMEN FOOD SECURITY & AGRICULTURE CLUSTER FSAC MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO (06) | JUNE 2023 | VOLUME (01)



SUMMARY



In May 2023, a total of 10.6 M individuals were reached with emergency food assistance (EFA). **Of these 10.4 million people received rations equivalent to only 50-60 percent (1,050-1,260) Kilo Calories of the recommended standard food basket**. 39.3 K individuals were reached with emergency livelihood support, 99.3K reached with Conditional Cash Transfers and 12.5 K people were supported to restore livelihood assets and establish micro businesses alongside training to enhance employability.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- FSAC MAY 2023 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS
- CLUSTER COORDINATION
 PERFORMANCE MONITORING
- YEMEN FOOD SECURITY UPDATE
- AGROMETEOROLOGICAL
 EARLY WARNING BULLETIN
- YEMEN PRICE BULLETIN
- FOOD SECURITY AND
 LIVELIHOODS ASSESSEMENT
- FSAC PARTNER CONTRIBUTION
 - o FMF
 - o BFD

Funding Required

Funding Received

\$ 612.1 Million

(27.8%)

Fund Gap

\$ 1.59 Billion

(72.2%)

\$ 2.2 Billion

- FSAC MEETING MINUTES
- FSAC CONTACTS

ABOUT FSAC

The Yemen Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC) was activated in 2012 and has over 120 partners including UN agencies, NGOs, donors, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)/Red Crescent Movements, and relevant technical line ministries. FAO and the WFP Co-lead the FSAC with NRC as the current Co-Chair.

The main objective of the FSAC is to provide an action-oriented forum for bringing together national and international humanitarian partners to improve the timeliness and impact of humanitarian assistance on the lives of food insecure, conflict-affected and vulnerable populations in Yemen. 17 million, or nearly half of the population in Yemen are food insecure with conflict, insecurity and climate change being the main drivers spiraling food insecurity levels in the Country.

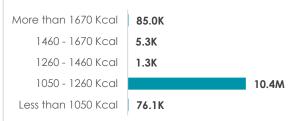
FSAC MAY 2023 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Summary of FSAC Achievement

Strategic Objective 1: Increase availability and access to secure, safe, and life-saving food for the most vulnerable households through provision of emergency assistance.

Activity	Target	Reached in May	Total Reached	%
Emergency Food Assistance (EFA)	14,037,253	10,570,810	13,514,583	96%
Emergency Livelihood Assistance (ELA)	2,230,248	39,298	134,396	6%

Individuals reached by kilo calories



Strategic Objective 2: Protect and promote livelihoods and build assets to enhance resilience.

Activity	Target	Reached in May	Total Reached	%
Rehabilitation of community assets, provision of seasonal employment and increase of HH incomes through Conditional Cash Transfers	2,785,121	99,345	438,832	16%
Provision of support to restore livelihood assets, assistance to establish micro businesses and trainings to enhance employability	779,511	12,459	31,889	4%

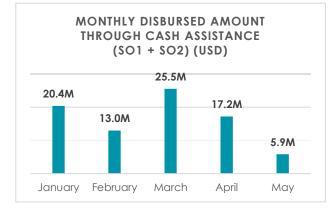


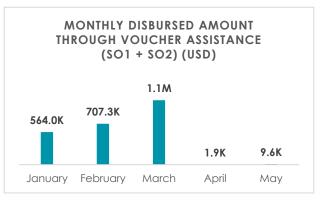


Sectoral Objective 2 – Gap analysis



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





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1

2022 FSAC Cluster Coordination Performance Monitoring Workshop in Sana'a, held on 21st June 2023



The FSAC Cluster Coordination Performance Monitoring (CCPM) is a self-assessment of cluster performance against the six core cluster functions (support service delivery, inform the HC/HCT's strategic decision-making, strategy development, advocacy, monitor and evaluate performance and capacity building in preparedness and contingency planning) and the accountability to affected people. FSAC CCPM 2022 exercise was launched in February 2023, covering the period from January 2022 to December 2022. A total of 97 participants from UN agencies, INGOs, NNGOs, Donors, and ICRC/IFRC participated in the survey.

Recognizing the importance of this exercise to improve overall FSAC coordination performance, FSAC Yemen organized the FSAC CCPM 2022 workshop virtually in Sana'a on 21 June 2023, for one day to discuss with its partners the findings of CCPM 2022, recognize how well FSAC has achieved.

Its core functions (as determined by the IASC) and identify areas of improvement.

The workshop was virtually attended by 37 partners, ranging from FSAC Co-led agencies, UN agencies, national and international NGOs, and Qatar Red Crescent Society.

In the first half of the workshop, the FSAC partners were well-oriented on the FSAC core functions, objectives, and CCPM exercise through dedicated sessions delivered by Yemen Food Security and Agriculture Cluster Coordinator and Global Food Security Cluster.

Through six formed groups discussions of participants, all six core functions and sub-activities were discussed by FSAC partners themselves, to reweight the scores of FSAC coordination performance against each core function as per the detailed discussion, highlight what went well, constraints and areas of improvement and key recommendations. At the end of the workshop, FSAC partners agreed on a set of actions that needed to be undertaken over the next 6 months deadline and responsible actors. which will significantly contribute to improve the collective Yemen FSAC Coordination Performance.

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Yemen Food Security Update. Issued in May 2023.



Yemen Food Security Update

May 2023

The value of Yemeni riyal in IRG-controlled areas appreciated by three percent month-on-month against the US dollar, while it depreciated by 18 percent compared to previous year, reaching

YER 1,214/USD during the last week of April 2023. In areas under Sana'a-based authorities, the exchange rate saw a slight appreciation by one percent from a month earlier and by five percent year-on-year.

In IRG-controlled areas, pumping prices for petrol remained almost unchanged month-onmonth, while prices increased by three percent for diesel. At the same time pumping prices in areas under Sana'a- based authorities decreased between five to seven percent. In general, fuel prices saw a notable decline since last year, particularly in the north.

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The global FAO Food Price Index slightly increased by less than one percent month-on-month during April 2023, driven by the steep increase in prices of sugar. However, global food prices remained 20 percent lower than the level recorded in April 2022.

The cost of the minimum food basket (MFB) continued to decrease in Yemen compared to previous month. Year-on-year, the annual decline in the cost of MFB was more evident in areas under Sana'abased authorities (down by 18 percent) while remaining almost unchanged in IRG-controlled areas.

April marks one year since the truce agreement was announced in Yemen. Improving fuel supply has been one of the most tangible benefits. During January-April 2023, the total volume of imported fuel through Red Sea ports was nearly three times the level of imports in the same period last year.

During January-April 2023, the total volume of food imports decreased by 34 percent via Red Sea ports and by five percent via the southern ports of Aden and Mukalla compared to same period last year. While essential food items were available in Yemeni markets, close monitoring is necessary for the upcoming months in light of the low levels of food imports.

WFP is currently targeting 13 million people each distribution cycle, however with reduced rations equivalent to 65 percent of the standard food basket. The pledges to fund food assistance are concerningly low. This could force humanitarian programmes to scale down in the coming months, leading to increased gap in food consumption amongst households relying on food assistance as main source of food.

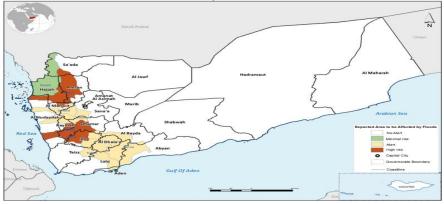
The prevalence of inadequate food consumption decreased by 22 percent during the holy month of Ramadan in April, due to social solidarity and support from communities and charity organizations. Around 42 percent of the surveyed households in IRG-controlled areas and 33 percent in areas under Sana'a-based authorities were unable to meet their minimum food needs during April 2023, similar to the levels observed during last Ramadan in areas under IRG, yet lower than the levels observed in areas under Sana'a-based authorities.

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Agrometeorological Early Warning Bulletin (21-30 June 2023).

Climate change is having a profound impact on food security by altering agricultural production, leading to decreased crop yields and increased food scarcity in Yemen. Droughts, floods, and extreme weather events are becoming more frequent, thus further compromising the stability of food systems. This is particularly detrimental to vulnerable communities that rely heavily on agriculture for their livelihoods and food supply. By providing insights into weather patterns, agrometeorological information helps farmers make informed decisions about how to manage their agro activities. This bulletin acts as a decision-making support tool by providing early warning agrometeorological information and thus contributing, to the extent possible, to safeguarding Yemeni food security.

Areas forecasted to be affected by floods



Floods: In the past week, heavy rainfall continued to affect much of western and southern Yemen, especially in Mudiyah District in Abyan Governorate where a total of 80 households were affected, leading to dire food and shelter shortages. In the coming week, flood risk is expected to linger as torrential rains are forecasted and likely to affect over 1,000 people in Tuban catchment (Lahj/Aldhali/Ibb), over 600 in Banna (Abyan/Lahj/ Al Dhale'e), over 500 in Harad (Sadah/Hajjah), over 800 in Mour (Hajjah/ Al Huday-dah), over 400 in Sordud (Al Mahwit/ Sana'a), over 700 in Siham (Sana'a/ Raymah/ Al Hudaydah), over 300 in Rimah (Raimah/Dhamar), and over 1500 in Zabid (AlHudaidah/Dhamar/ Ibb).

Early action to serve as a foundation for building resilience against floods in these areas is strongly advised. As an example, the movement of livestock and people from flood-prone lowland areas is encouraged. Reinforcement of weak shelters, especially for internally displaced people, is also recommended.

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3

Yemen Price Bulletin. Issued in May 2023

The Price Bulletin provides a set of charts showing monthly prices in the current marketing year in selected urban centers and allowing users to compare current trends with both five-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 markets 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, and increased foreign trade and trade policy.



Source: FEWS NET gratefully acknowledges FAO/FSTS/MoPIC, Yemen for the market data used to produce this report.

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).

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2023 FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS ASSESSEMENT (FSLA)

Northern Governorates

The 2023 Food Security and Livelihoods Assessment (FSLA) in the North is led by Government (SCHMCHA) and supported by WFP, FAO and FSAC partners. FSLA aims at collecting representative household food security, nutrition (MUAC) and livelihood information at district level which will feed into the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis process planned for early September, feed into the 2024 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and consequently inform FSAC/FSAC partners operational planning for 2024.

The trainings for the FSLA in areas under Sana'a-Based Authorities were conducted in Sana'a City and adopted a two-pronged approach-training of enumerators which was preceded by training of trainers (ToTs), the latter conducted between 7-13th May.



The one-week enumerator trainings were facilitated by the ToTs and conducted in two tranches given the high number of trainees involved. The first batch of enumerator training was conducted between 17–23 May, while the training for the second batch was carried out between 3 – 8 June 2023. ACF representative led the training on MUAC jointly with MoPHP and UNICEF. In total 639 enumerators were trained to participate in the first batch of FSLA training while close to 400 enumerators were trained in the second batch.

The FSLA data collection in all Governorates under the SBA, except in Al Hodeidah, began in the second week of June and will continue through July, although was briefly halted by Eid holidays and celebrations. The data gathering process is planned to continue in mid-July and last until the end of the month, though it may extend into early August due to field logistical issues. This will be followed by data cleaning, analysis, and the creation of output tables for the IPC analysis, with the latter expected to commence by the end of August/beginning of September.

FSAC Partners Contribution



FMF INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE AT: www.fmfyemen.org

"My name is Fatima Jaber Saleh. My family and I live in a tent in the Al Mukha District, Taiz Governorate. My husband works as a motorcycle driver. I am a university graduate, and I did not find a job to help my family in these difficult circumstances".

"I was registered through the community committees in this course. Before this course, I did not know anything in the field of Sewing and embroidery.

From my beginnings, even the needle, I didn't know how to put it on. Also, the thread I didn't know where to put it. I mean, I didn't know the sewing machine's basics and from where to start" Fatima stated To become a dressmaker and embroiderer is a dream to me, and when I heard from one of my relatives that a group of community committees are registering in several areas of vocational training.

MORE DETAILS

I went to the community committees for registration, and thanks to God, I was registered in the sewing and embroidery course, as this course is one of the biggest dreams that I dreamed of, and thanks to God With this training, I have become proficient in this field, and now I am able to work in this field, sewing and embroidery, and I help my family in buying and providing some needs for the house. Through this course, we thank everyone who implemented and participated in it and made it a success.

a Sewing and embroidery trainee. after the project's intervention in Almuka District, Taiz

a Sewing and embroidery trainee, after the project's intervention in Almuka District, Taiz Governorate.

Now, after receiving the grant, we will purchase the necessary equipment in order to continue the journey in this field, and we thank God who helped me in this course.



I feel that I have become a different person, a person with value. I started to know that I can Sew and embroider with creative skills. I sewed jellabiya, carpets, and bags. Even everyone was surprised that I learned Sewing and embroidery very quickly".

FSAC Partners Contribution



BFD INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE AT: <u>http://www.bfdint.org</u>

"I can't bear to see you suffer like this, my sweet Nora. It breaks my heart to feel so powerless, but I won't let this stop me. I will do whatever it takes to get you the surgery you need. I am here for you, always," said Ahmed with a fierce resolve in his voice.

Ahmed Daysh is a 40-year-old man who loves his family more than anything. He is the sole provider for his wife and seven children. He and his family live in Al-Ranfah village – Bajil District of Al Hodaydah Governorate.



Nora Al Hudaydah governorate/ Bajil district _May 2023 (Photo credits, BFD).

MORE DETAILS

His daughter Nora was suffering from earache. She needed surgery to remove a button from her ear, but he had no money to pay for it. He received a lifeline from the project, helping him buy essentials and learn valuable skills. He also earned an income to support his family and he find a way to save his daughter.

"When I started working in this asset, I was thinking of how I could use the cash entitlements to provide for my family," Ahmed said.

"This project not only helped us build and maintain community assets, but also gave us entitlements every cycle. More importantly, it taught us how to work on our own and become self-reliant when the project ends," Ahmed said.

"It was a wonderful experience; I gained so much knowledge and skills by working in the asset and learning from the expert engineers," he added.

Ahmed's story is one of courage and resilience. Despite facing enormous challenges, he was able to overcome them with the help of the project and provide for his family.





His steadfast hope and determination are an inspiration to us all.

Minutes of FSAC meetings, at national and sub-national level

For more details:

(Events | Food Security Cluster (fscluster.org))

Meeting Minutes



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