

FSAC MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO (11) | NOVEMBER 2023 | VOLUME (01)

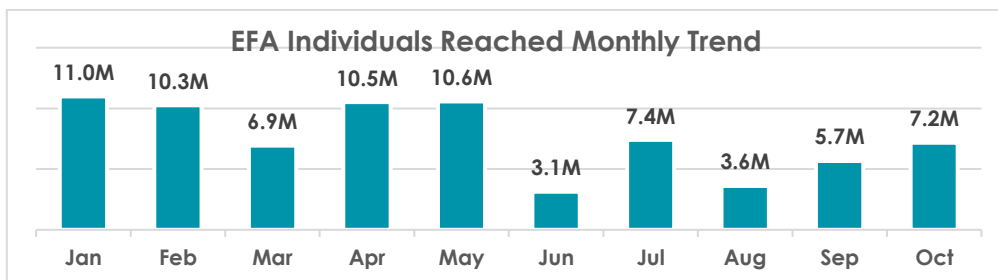
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SUMMARY



In October 2023, a total of **7.2M** 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. **Of these 6.8 million people received rations equivalent to less than 50 percent (less than 1,050) Kilo Calories of the recommended FSAC reference minimum food basket.** **69K** individuals were reached with emergency livelihood support, **81K** individuals reached with Conditional Cash Transfers and **20K** individuals were supported to restore livelihood assets and establish micro businesses alongside training to enhance employability.

 **Funding Required**
 \$ 2.2 Billion

 **Funding Received**
 \$ 775.3 Million
 (35.2%)

 **Fund Gap**
 \$ 1.42 Billion
 (64.8%)

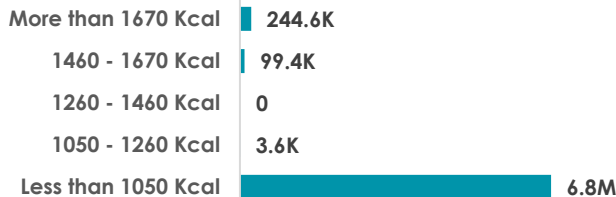
FSAC October 2023 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Summary of FSAC Achievements

		Target 2023	Reached in October	Total Reached 2023	%
SO1		14,037,253	7,160,191	13,694,201	98%
		2,230,248	69,288	333,688	15%
SO2		2,785,121	81,470	465,976	17%
		779,511	19,954	39,640	5%

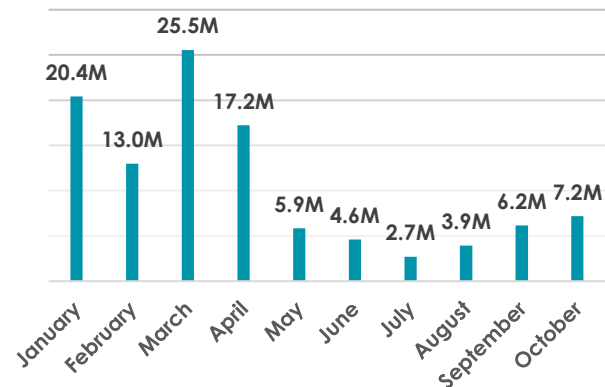
6.8 million people received less than 1,050 Kcal compared to 1,680 Kcal which is the FSAC reference minimum food basket.

Individuals reached by Kilocalories



	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

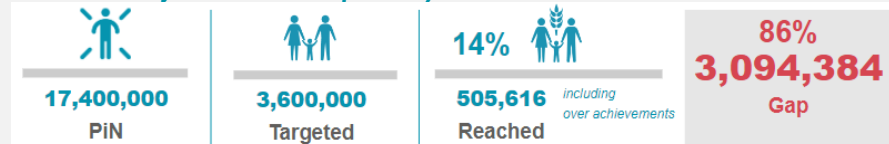
MONTHLY DISBURSED AMOUNT THROUGH CASH ASSISTANCE (SO1 + SO2) (USD)



Sectoral Objective 1 – Gap analysis

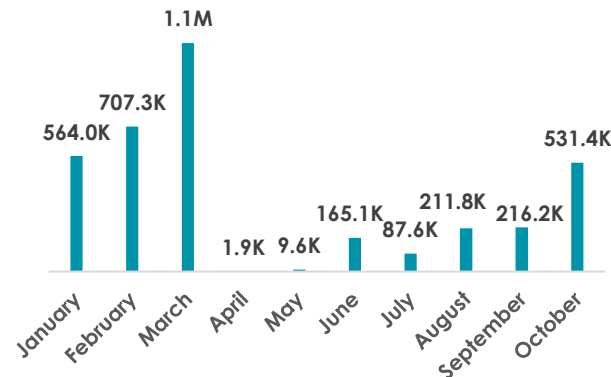


Sectoral Objective 2 – Gap analysis



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

MONTHLY DISBURSED AMOUNT THROUGH VOUCHER ASSISTANCE (SO1 + SO2) (USD)



[Read more ...](#)



WFP Yemen Food Security Update, November 2023



The local currency exchange rate continued to worsen in IRG-controlled areas. The Yemeni riyal lost 24 percent of its value against the US dollar compared to the previous year, reaching YER 1,518/USD by the end of October 2023. This is

mainly linked to the low level of foreign currency reserves and the decline in crude oil exports and inflows from remittances. The disruption of crude oil exports since October 2022 has resulted in financial losses exceeding one billion dollars (based on FEWS NET's estimates until July 2023). On the other hand, the exchange rate in areas under Sana'a-based authorities –which is controlled by authorities in the north- experienced a seven percent appreciation on annual basis, reaching YER 525/USD by end of October.



In IRG-controlled areas, pump prices for petrol and diesel slightly decreased by less than one percent compared to a month earlier, however they remain higher than the observed levels during October 2022; by 12 and 10 percent, respectively.

This annual increase is largely due to the ongoing currency depreciation in the south. On the other hand, pump prices remained unchanged for petrol in areas under Sana'a-based authorities, while decreasing by three percent for diesel month-on-month. Both have exhibited an annual decline by 14 and 26 percent respectively in the north.



In October 2023, the global FAO Food Price Index slid down by merely 0.5 percent from the previous month, while remaining 11 percent lower than October 2022. All sub-indexes registered an annual decrease except for sugar, which increased by 47 percent on year-on-year basis. This is largely attributed to the tighter global supply outlook amid the adverse weather conditions associated with El Niño event. In Yemen, sugar prices also experienced an annual increase by four percent in the north, and by 44 percent in the south.



The cost of the minimum food basket (MFB) decreased by merely one percent in IRG-controlled areas during October 2023. However, the observed price levels of MFB have been elevated over the course of the last twelve months. WFP mVAM data revealed that around 17 percent of the surveyed households in the south indicated high food prices as a main impediment to access adequate food. At the same time, the cost of MFB slightly decreased in areas under Sana'a-based authorities during October 2023 (by one percent), while remaining 17 percent lower than the same month in 2022. This is mainly driven by the annual drop in prices of vegetable oil and wheat flour in the north, which decreased by 26 and 20 percent, respectively. This annual decline was more evident in Hajjah, Dhamar and Ibb (down by 24, 24 and 22 percent, respectively).



During January-October 2023, the aggregate volume of imported fuel via the northern ports of Al-Hodeidah and As-Salif increased by 21 percent compared to same period in 2022. It is worth noting that the mounting tensions in the MENA region, coupled with the recent seizure of a vessel near Yemen's Red Sea coasts, could result in increased costs of insurance and shipping into Yemen.



The cumulative volume of food imports during January-October 2023 increased by four percent through Red Sea ports and by six percent via the southern ports of Aden and Mukalla, when contrasted with the corresponding period in the previous year. Essential food items were available across the Yemeni markets.



Until end of October, WFP continued to assist 13 million people each distribution cycle as per the implementation plan, however with reduced rations equivalent to 41 percent of the standard food basket per cycle. The WFP's needs-based plan is only 11 percent funded for the period from December 2023 to May 2024.

Starting December 2023, General Food Assistance (GFA) has been paused until further notice in areas under Sana'a-based authorities, mainly due to limited funding and the absence of an agreement with the authorities on a smaller programme that matches available resources to the neediest families.



Food security slightly improved during October 2023, compared to the previous month and compared to October 2022. Nonetheless, food insecurity remains widely prevalent across Yemen; approximately 51 percent of the surveyed households in IRG-controlled areas and 46 percent in areas under Sana'a-based authorities exceeded the "very high"

were unable to meet their minimum food needs during October. The proportion of households reporting inadequate food consumption threshold of ≥ 40 percent in 17 out of the 22 governorates, with peaks recorded in Al Bayda, Al-Jawf, Lahj and Al Dali'. Furthermore, the 2023 Global Hunger Index (GHI) indicated that Yemen reached the third highest GHI score in the world this year.

[Read More...](#)



Yemen: High-Frequency Monitoring (HFM) Snapshot, October 2023



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

DIEM – Data in Emergencies Information System

Yemen

High-Frequency Monitoring (HFM) Snapshot

October 2023

Issued on 3 December, 2023

Household food security improves in October 2023 compared to the previous month

- Food security improved in October 2023 compared to last month (September). This is mainly because of increased food availability and better access to income following the start of main seasonal harvests in October/November in most of the crop livelihoods.

The prices of essential food items also remained relatively stable during the reporting month.

- In line with food security improvements, the proportion of households resorting to emergency livelihood coping strategies was the lowest of all the monitoring rounds, at 13 percent. Four percent of the households shifted from emergency to crisis coping strategies. The percentage of households often resorting to food-based coping strategies went down by 5 percentage points from September to October.

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Agrometeorological update – November



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

FOOD SECURITY & NUTRITION INFORMATION SYSTEM PROJECT (FSNIS)

AGROMETEOROLOGICAL EARLY WARNING BULLETIN

Agricultural activities are highly susceptible to changes in weather and climate which impose major implications on livestock health, crop yields, food security, and ultimately livelihoods. This is because when climate hazards occur, they strain livelihoods even outside primary areas of occurrence.

Agrometeorological early warnings lead to early actions that can protect vulnerable communities from climate-related hazards.

A close assessment of agrometeorological indicators for the period 01 – 10 October 2023 across Yemen shows that near-surface minimum temperatures across the highlands will decrease to around 18°C and as low as 14°C on the Northern Highlands of southern Amran, as such, low temperature-related hazards are unlikely. However, much of eastern Yemen is still expected to experience high temperatures which will range between 35 and 40°C and slightly over 40°C across north-eastern parts of the country, therefore, heat remains a hazard across this area (though reducing). High temperatures impact crop growth in several ways and these can include enhanced soil moisture uptake which in turn stunts root and plant growth. Continued irrigation of crops and gardens in

- For more information, please visit FSAC website: <https://fscluster.org/yemen>

spite of the light rains that may be experienced is, therefore, recommended.

Further rainfall decreases are forecasted across the country. Notwithstanding the decreases, the borders of Taiz and Ibb will likely receive up to 40 mm cumulatively. Although significant flooding is not expected, rainwater pooling is still possible.

Regarding Desert Locusts (DL), breeding is forecasted especially in the interior where some of them have started developing the first coat of feathers (fledging). As the rainfall withdrawals further, vegetation will quickly dry up and most of

the DL will likely migrate to the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden coasts; these areas are usually affected by FAW Armyworms during this time of the year. There is therefore potential for increased risk of crop damaging pests. However, on-the-ground operations remain limited and as such, vigilance is encouraged.

[Read More...](#)

Adjusting CVA Transfer Values for Inflation “Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for Food Security Cluster Coordinators”



Workstream contributors: This document is a product of the Global Food Security Cash and Market Working Group and was developed by Sonja Perakis (Catholic Relief Services, CRS), Corrie Sissons (CRS), Alessia Volpe (CashCap), Rami Beirkdar (previously with CRS), Guadalupe Galambos (World Food Programme, WFP), Christopher Paci (REACH), and Sapezie Ojiambo (CALP Network).

Since the first quarter of 2020, the global community has experienced a series of unanticipated, challenging, and interrelated shocks now commonly referred to as the 4 C's (COVID-19, conflict, climate change, and rising costs). During this time, many countries experienced substantial levels of local currency depreciation coupled with high inflation, thereby putting pressure on everyone's purchasing power. Global levels of food insecurity reached unprecedented levels, resulting in record levels of assistance needs. The donor and humanitarian community responded to this challenge by availing resources in support of various transfer modalities, including record resourcing for Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA), at a time when operational costs soared. Indeed, the COVID 19 pandemic

accelerated the uptake of CVA through humanitarian channels and social assistance. CVA, including both sectoral CVA for food security and MPCA has long been used to meet food security needs in humanitarian responses. As CVA activities have expanded, there have been important learning curves for all actors involved, ranging from donors to local governments, implementing partners, vendors, and the beneficiaries themselves.

It is vital that all stakeholders, and particularly CVA actors, understand how to manage the risks associated with economic volatility - including inflation, currency depreciation, among others - to ensure people's purchasing power is protected and CVA operations remain efficient through periods of economic volatility. Over the past years of increased global economic distress, different institutions have developed policies, guidelines, and documented best practices in this regard.

This resource responds to one such learning agenda relating to the technical and operational processes for Food Security Clusters (FSCs) associated with *adjusting CVA transfer values* for food security to help maintain purchasing power for people receiving food assistance in contexts characterized by high inflation and depreciation. As funding streams allow, such revisions are often possible and preferable to modality shifts, when both CVA and in-kind food assistance are feasible and

The document responds directly to frequently asked questions (FAQs) posed by Food Security Cluster Coordinators ranging from data quality concerns to the timing and frequency of or (2)

transfer value revisions, to how to navigate complex working relationships among cluster partners. Food Security Cluster Coordinators and their close collaborators are therefore the intended users of this resource.

As this is an FAQ document with a very narrow audience, the authors do assume prior knowledge before it is consulted.

The timing of this effort coincides with ongoing efforts by contributing agencies. For example, FAQs were identified through a FSC coordinator survey implemented by the authoring working group and coordination and collaboration with a parallel effort by the CALP Network on “Adapting cash and voucher assistance (CVA) in contexts of high inflation and depreciation in Africa.” As this is an evolving area of work learning, this FAQ reflects the most recent guidelines and best practices at the time of writing (November 2023).

In addition to the narrow target audience, the FAQ deliberately

addresses the process of adjusting the ideal transfer value with a focus on food security associated with a given expenditure basket, not (1) the process of revising the definition of the expenditure basket underpinning the transfer value the process of determining which percentage of the S/MEB should be transferred to beneficiaries as part of a given response (either multisectoral or food security focused). As discussed in CALP’s Good Practice Review on Cash Assistance in Contexts of High Inflation and Depreciation, full revisions of existing MEBs are necessary only in situations where local consumption patterns have changed significantly; if they have not, FSCs and cash actors usually just need to update their estimates of the cost of the MEB and conduct related revisions of transfer values.

FSAC COORDINATION TEAM KEY VISITS/MISSIONS

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Acute Food Insecurity (IPC AFI) Analysis Workshop in Aden – from 16 to 29 October 2023



Yemen IPC National Technical Working Group (NTWG) – Aden – October 2023

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Acute Food Insecurity (IPC AFI) analysis workshop was successfully held in Aden from 16th to 29th October 2023. The workshop was organized by the Yemen IPC National Technical Working Group (NTWG). The workshop aimed to provide an updated analysis of the food security situation in the districts of the International Recognized Government (IRG) Area of Control (AoC). A total of 118 districts under IRG AoC, were included in the analysis.

The projection update covered the period from October 2023 to February 2024, enabling stakeholders to anticipate the level of severity in the food security situation for the upcoming months.

During the workshop, a wide range of data was utilized to inform the analysis. Various factors and hazards were taken into consideration, such as conflict, displacement, economic instability, currency fluctuations, rising food prices, climate change risks, limited access to basic services, etc. These factors played a crucial role in supporting the IPC analysts to classify the severity of food insecurity and magnitude for each district.

The workshop provided a platform for different stakeholders and experts to collaborate, share insights, and conduct analysis based on consensus. By engaging IPC analysis partners from diverse sectors and different governorates, including MoPIC, MIT MoAIFW, FSTS, CSO, IDPs EXu, FAO, WFP, FSAC, OCHA, FEWS NET, SHS, GC, War, BCHR, MFD, ACF, with support of IPC GSU, the workshop facilitated a more comprehensive understanding of the complex dynamics that impact food security in the IRG AOC areas.

FSAC Partners Contribution

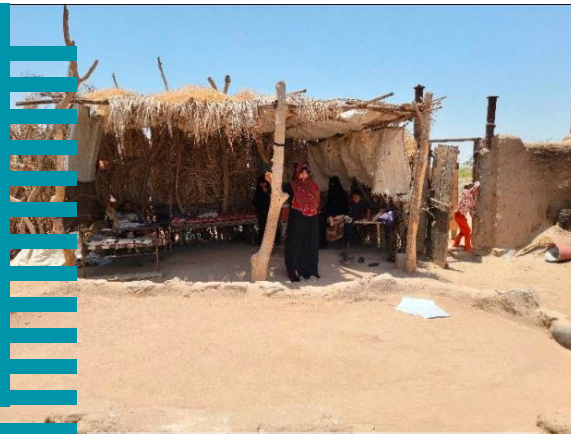
Aden Hub



ADRA INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE
AT: <https://adra.org>

Sa'id Fatini is the head of a displaced family from Al Hudaydah governorate, who has been living in one of the tents in the Saleh Ali farms camp, Ja'wala area, Dar Saad district in Aden governorate for four years.

“Thank you, ADRA. As a mother, I can now feed my children sufficient meals” said the wife of Mr. Sa'id Fatini when the ADRA team visited her.



The Food Basket Distribution FBD activity is a part of Enhanced life conditions for the most vulnerable communities (ELC II) September 2023

MORE DETAILS

Fatini's family, consisting of him, his wife, and their seven minor children, was severely affected by the conflicts in Yemen. They were forced to flee after their home in Al Hudaydah was destroyed. Here, he began another phase of struggle, where he was diagnosed with a chronic disease and found it difficult to secure a job that could provide him with daily sustenance. He was forced to work in carrying ceramics for a meager daily wage, which barely provided one meal a day for his family.

However, hope was never lost. Through the ELC II project, ADRA included Fatini's family in a new intervention for 515 families. This involved distributing food vouchers and cooking demonstration sessions for mothers and caregivers using the available resources to reach dietary diversity. This initiative played a pivotal role in effectively using food aid and reducing hunger rates among the targeted families, particularly for the residents of Ja'wala in Aden.



The Food Basket Distribution FBD activity is a part of Enhanced life conditions for the most vulnerable communities (ELC II), a project of the donor DANIDA, conducted by ADRA, September 2023.

His wife speaks, "Before ADRA helped us with food baskets, we used to eat one or two meals consisting only of bread and tea, but now we eat three varied and satisfying meals." The food assistance helped Fatini's family save money and purchase four sheeps, benefiting from their milk for their children. He hopes that they will multiply, and he can sell them and earn some money to help with his treatment.

FSAC PARTNERS CONTRIBUTION

Hodayda
Hub

YFCA INFORMATION IS
AVAILABLE AT:
<http://www.yfca.org>

The district of At-Tawilah in Al-Mahwit governorate is one of the most affected areas by the ongoing conflict and economic crisis in Yemen.

The GFA project is part of the broader humanitarian response led by WFP in Yemen, which aims to prevent famine and save lives by providing food assistance to millions of people affected by the conflict and displacement.



The beneficiaries waiting in a line to receive their food rations, At-Tawilah District, Al-Mahwit Governorate, November 2023

MORE DETAILS

Most of the population depends on agriculture and livestock for their livelihoods, but the lack of rainfall, insecurity, and access constraints have severely disrupted these sectors. As a result, thousands of families face acute food insecurity and malnutrition and are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance.

To address this critical situation, YFCA, in partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP), has been implementing the General Food Assistance (GFA) project since 2019, providing monthly food rations to the most vulnerable households in the district. The food rations consist of wheat flour, vegetable oil, and pulses, which provide essential calories, protein, and micronutrients to the beneficiaries.

The GFA project reached 3,890 households, or nearly 27,230 people, in At-Tawilah in May 2023. Food assistance has had a positive impact on the food consumption and dietary diversity of the beneficiaries, as well as their coping strategies and resilience. The beneficiaries have reported that they are able to eat three meals a day and have more variety in their diet.

They have also reduced their reliance on negative coping mechanisms, such as selling assets, borrowing money, or reducing health and education expenditures.

Moreover, some of the beneficiaries have been able to save some money and invest in small income-generating activities, such as poultry, beekeeping, or handicrafts, which have increased their household income and allowed them to buy other food items and essential goods for their families.



The beneficiaries waiting in a line to receive their food rations, At-Tawilah District, Al-Mahwit Governorate, November 2023

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



FSAC coordination meeting for Aden hub, chaired by FSAC SNCC for Aden hub at the **ADRA** office in Aden, November 2023



FSAC coordination meeting for Sana'a hub, chaired by FSAC SNCC for Sana'a hub, held at the **SDF** office in Sana'a, November 2023

Meeting Minutes

For more details:






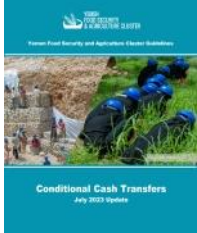






[Events | Food Security Cluster \(fscluster.org\)](https://fscluster.org)

Note: FSAC is resuming its physical coordination meetings at National and hub levels.

October 2023 Meetings			
Cluster/Sub Cluster	Date	Venue	Minutes
National cluster	5.11.2023	Virtual meeting	Click here
Sana'a Hub	01.11.2023	SDF office, Sana'a	Click here
Aden Hub	02.11.2023	ADRA Office	Click here
Ibb Hub	24.10.2023	IMC Office, Ibb	Click here
Marib Hub	2.11.2023	IOM Office, Marib	Click here
Sa'ada Hub	24.10.2023	(Hybrid) UN Compound, Saáda	Click here
Al Mukalla Hub	2.11.2023	Virtual meeting	Click here
Hodaida Hub	29.10.2023	(Hybrid) UNDP, FAO Venue, Hodeida	Click here
AT/AM Hub	1.11.2023	Virtual meeting	Click here
Hajjah Hub	25.10.2023	WFP, Hajjah	Click here

November 2023 Meetings		
Cluster/Sub Cluster	Date	Venue
National cluster	06.12.2023	YLDF Office Sana'a, + Virtual
Sana'a Hub	04.12.2023	Virtual meeting
Aden Hub	05.12.2023	Virtual meeting
Ibb Hub	28.11.2023	Virtual meeting
Sa'ada Hub	04.12.2023	(Hybrid) UN Compound, Saáda
Marib Hub	Postponed to December	
Al Mukalla Hub	Postponed to December	
Hodaida Hub	03.12.2023	Virtual meeting
AT/AM Hub	05.12.2023	Virtual meeting
Hajjah Hub	05.12.2023	(Hybrid) UN Compound, Hajjah

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>

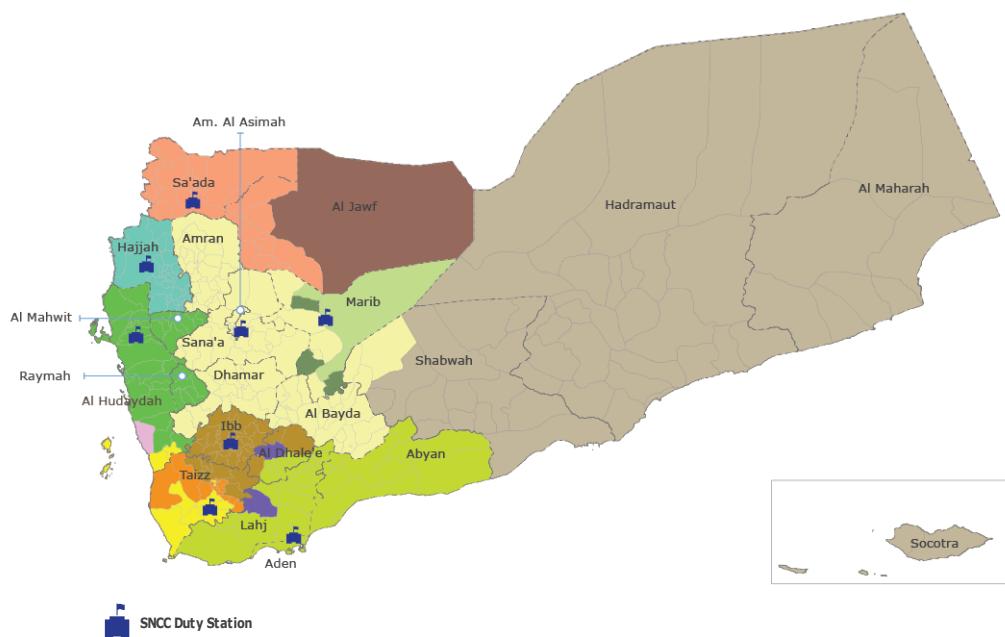
WFP VAM DataViz

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

FSAC COORDINATION AND IM TEAM

Cluster/Sub Cluster	Name	Function	Email
National	Abigael Nyukuri	Technical Advisor	abigael.nyukuri@fao.org
	Musaed Nasser	Food Security Specialist	musaed.nasser@fao.org
		■ FSAC SNCC – Al Mukalla Hub	
	Taha Farea	Senior Information Management Officer	tfarea@immap.org
	Ahmed Al-Musawa	Information Management Officer	Ahmed.Almusawa@fao.org
Ahmed Al-Kherbi	Information Management Officer	aalkherbi@immap.org	
Sub-national	Shadi Abdulgalil	■ FSAC SNCC – Aden Hub	shadi.abdulgalil@fao.org
		■ FSAC SNCC – Al Turbah/Al Mukha Hub	
	Muna Hashem	■ FSAC SNCC – Sana’a Hub	muna.hashem@fao.org
	Hassan Al-Afreet	■ FSAC SNCC – Sa’ada Hub	hassan.alafreet@fao.org
	Ebrahim Saif	■ FSAC SNCC – Marib Hub	ebrahim.saif@fao.org
	Hasan Hagori	■ FSAC SNCC – Al Hudaydah Hub	hasan.hagori@fao.org
	Khalid Al-Shewai	■ FSAC SNCC – Hajjah Hub	khalid.alszewai@fao.org
Adnan Mohammed	■ FSAC SNCC – Ibb Hub	adnan.mohammed@fao.org	

* SNCC: Sub-National Cluster Coordinator



FSAC Team
November 2023
<https://fscluster.org/yemen>