

Overview

The IPC AFI updated analysis conducted in September 2022 indicates that for the period October to December 2022, approximately 17 million people or over half of the population in Yemen, will likely experience high levels of Acute Food Insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above). The primary concern is the 6.1 million people classified in IPC Phase 4.

This analysis update indicates improvement in the food security outlook compared with the previous projection (June to December 2022), where over 19 million (60 percent) people were estimated to be food insecure, including over 160,000 classified in IPC Phase 5, Catastrophe. While this analysis update shows that IPC Phase 5 Catastrophe has been prevented, close monitoring is essential.

Despite the improvement, Yemen remains one of the most food-insecure countries in the world. For nearly a decade – even before the war – more than half of the population has consistently been food insecure, mainly driven by structural instability aggravated by human-induced factors and climate change. This analysis, therefore, emphasises that the improvement is a temporary reprieve and further efforts need to be put in place to sustain and completely reverse this trend.

The IPC AMN update was conducted only for 125 districts in the governorates under the Internationally Recognized Government (IRG). The reason for the partial analysis update was primarily due to restrictions to conducting virtual analysis and lack of data. The recommended practice for IPC updates is virtual analyses which take advantage of multiple participants in a limited amount of time. This was the case for this update, apart from AMN in the north.

Out of the 125 districts, 26 are classified as Emergency (IPC Phase 4), 83 in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and 16 in Stressed (IPC Phase 2). The analysis update indicates an increase in severity, with 17 districts having changed to a worse Phase compared to the February projection – 9 districts in Al Mahara moved from Stressed to Crisis, while 8 districts in Aden moved from Crisis to Emergency.

A similar trend is expected nationally for all 333 districts, with most remaining as projected in the February analysis. Overall, it is expected that 44 districts will be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4), 200 in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) and 85 in Stressed (IPC Phase 2). Due to a lack of data for Midi and Haradh, the two districts remain unclassified for both AFI and AMN scales. The severity of acute malnutrition is worse in the peak period between July to December due to the high prevalence of the underlying causes of malnutrition persistent during this period coupled with high levels of food insecurity. For this reason, there is no expectation of any district improving in severity.

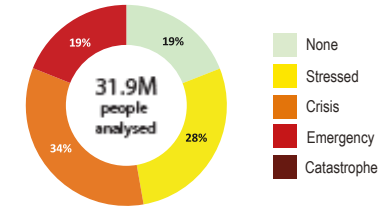
The caseload, therefore, remains as estimated in the February analysis, with approximately 2.2 million children under the age of five, including 538,000 severely malnourished, and about 1.3 million pregnant and lactating women are projected to suffer from acute malnutrition over the course of 2022.



Nearly 17 million people in Yemen are likely to experience high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) between October and December 2022.

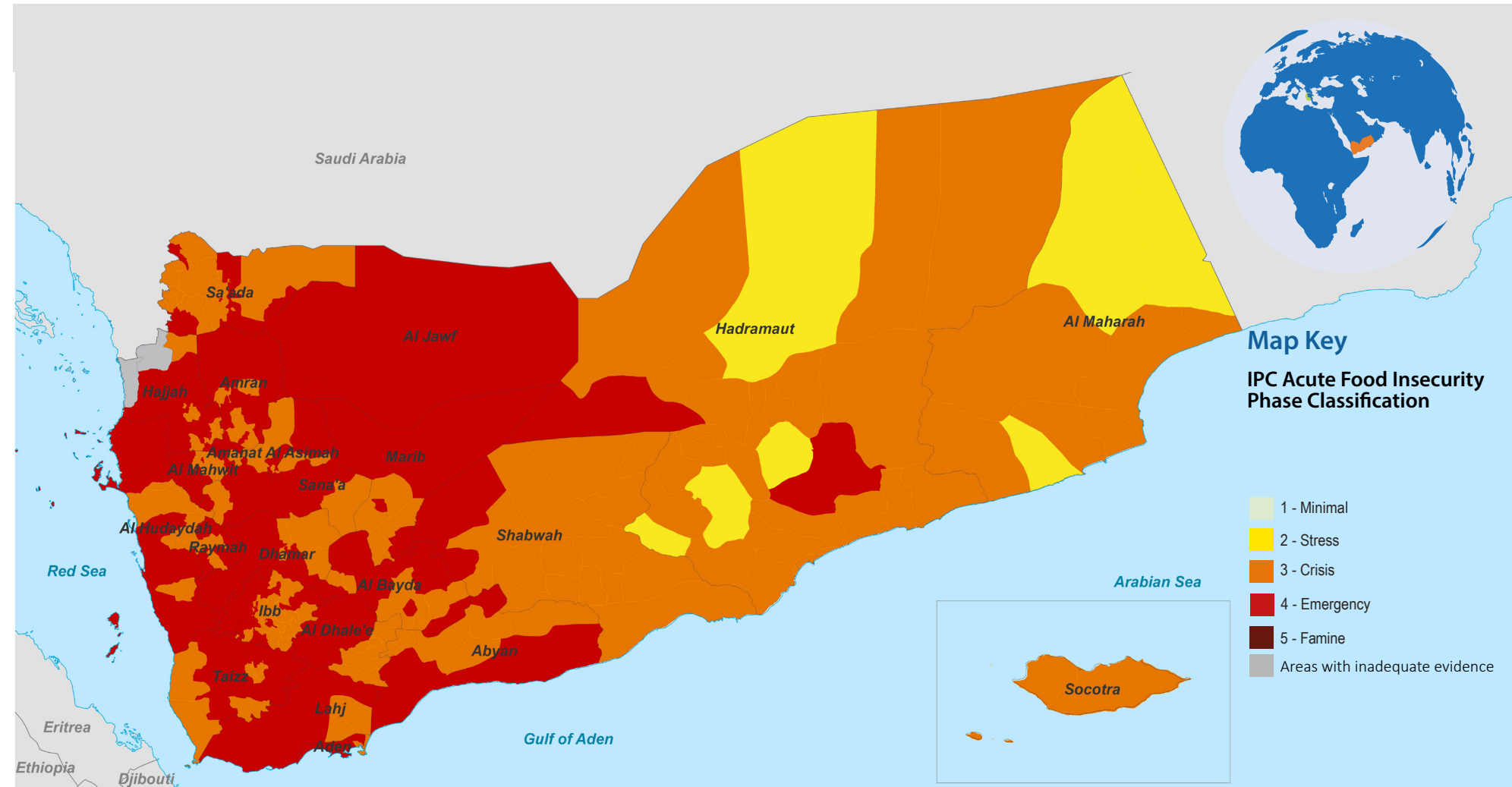


53 percent of the analysed population (31.9* million) will likely experience high acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3+)



4.3 million people** internally displaced. Many conflict-affected families don't have formal rental agreements and face threats of eviction.

Projection Update Acute Food Insecurity Situation | October - December 2022



Map Key
IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Classification

- 1 - Minimal
- 2 - Stress
- 3 - Crisis
- 4 - Emergency
- 5 - Famine
- Areas with inadequate evidence

Key Drivers

Conflict



Despite the lull in hostilities, the impact of Yemen's conflict – the loss of life, disruption of livelihoods and crippling of the economy – has caused unprecedented levels of acute food insecurity with long-term effects.

Climate Change



Between January and June 2022, the country experienced moderate-to-severe drought conditions. These were coupled with an unprecedented rise in temperatures, affecting all cropped regions of Yemen. From July, heavy downpours caused flooding, destruction of property and loss of livelihoods. The impact of climate change is becoming a major driver of food insecurity in the country and the region at large.

Economic Decline



Yemen's economy remains frail. According to the World Bank, economic and social prospects for 2022 and beyond remain highly unstable and hinge on a resolution to the conflict and the overall security conditions. A halt in oil exports continues to cause wide-scale suspension of public services and civil service salaries.

High Food & Fuel Prices



The war in Ukraine has triggered spikes in international prices of wheat and other basic food commodities in addition to fuel commodities. Despite recent easing of these international prices, their high level has contributed to local food inflation with prices of the minimum food basket having increased to very high levels.



Factors Leading to the Improvement in Yemen's Acute Food Insecurity Situation

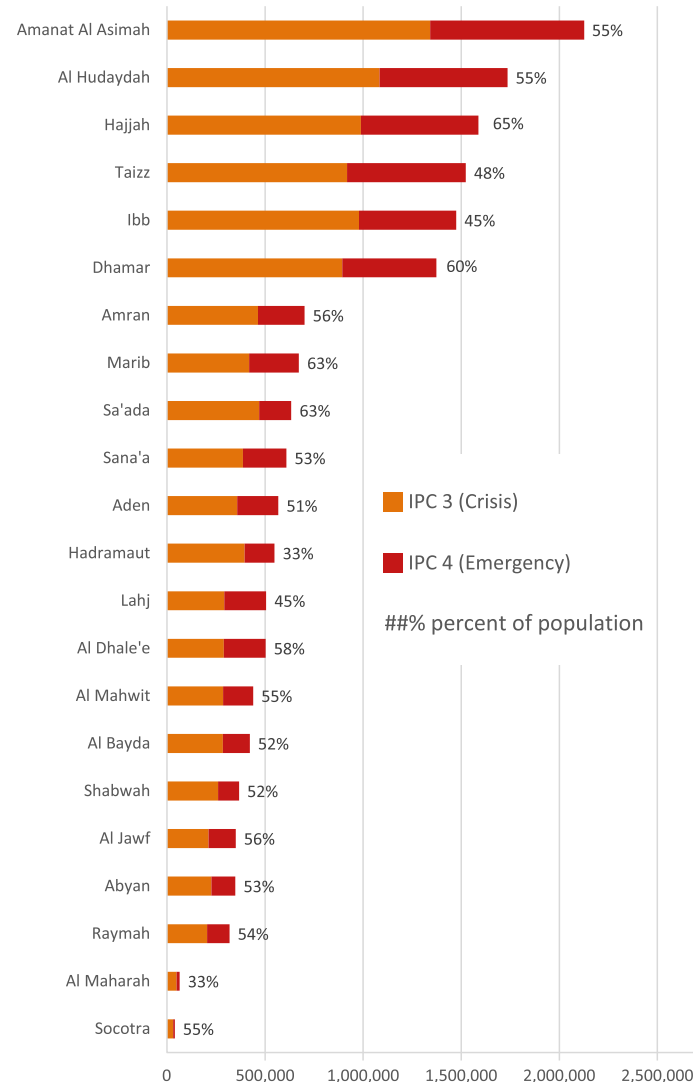
Truce: The historical six-month truce was key for a significant reduction in hostilities, increased availability of fuel - particularly in northern areas, improved humanitarian access, promoted human capital mobility in search of better labour opportunities and enhanced access to goods and services due to ease of transport. Although the truce expired at the beginning of October, major implications of potentially reverting the above improvements are yet to be seen. It is important to recognise the fragility of these conditions, and hence, a return to pre-truce conditions would jeopardize the improvements. Without a doubt, maintaining the truce and committing to peace is vital for relief and development efforts in support of eradicating hunger.

Seasonality: The second half of the year experienced above-normal rainfall leading to improved water and pasture for livestock as well as the production of cash and food crops – mainly fodder, legumes, vegetables, and fruits – providing income to small-scale producers and improving household access to food and non-food expenditure. Seasonal production was also boosted by human capital mobility, with demand for labour increasing from June onwards as farm activities peaked. Increasing demand coupled with availability of seasonal labour opportunities the improved incomes and access to food. Nevertheless, it is worth noting that the first half of the year was hit by a prolonged drought, which led to the loss of first-season cereals affecting food availability and incomes.

Humanitarian Assistance: Greater fuel availability to drive the supply chain coupled with increased funding significantly boosted prospects for Humanitarian Food Assistance (HFA) compared to the assumptions used during February. For this analysis (October to December), the HFA assumptions estimate that beneficiaries receiving HFA will be four-fold the estimated number of beneficiaries during the February projection (June-December) from 2.7M to an average of 11M monthly, noting that the February projection was based on confirmed funding at that time. With the actual confirmed amounts today, one in three Yemeni will likely benefit from humanitarian food assistance between October and December, according to the data available at the time of the update. Humanitarian assistance targeting strategy is reflective of severity, prioritizing the most vulnerable districts, and this rationalizes the fall of the large IPC Phase 5 population estimated in the February projection analysis. While the improved funding allows for maintaining the geographical coverage, including an increased frequency of distribution cycles compared to reality in the first half of 2022, food rations remain reduced compared to the assumption used in February for the projection (-300Kcal/per person/per day) against the per capita average minimum requirement of 2,100 kcal. Humanitarian accessibility remains a crucial element in realizing the gains of the scale-up. The truce, and key feature on fuel imports, has helped solidly these gains more broadly. Between April and September, the improved access to districts facing extreme levels of food insecurity in Hajjah, Al Hudaydah and Amran governorates may be a result of this factor.

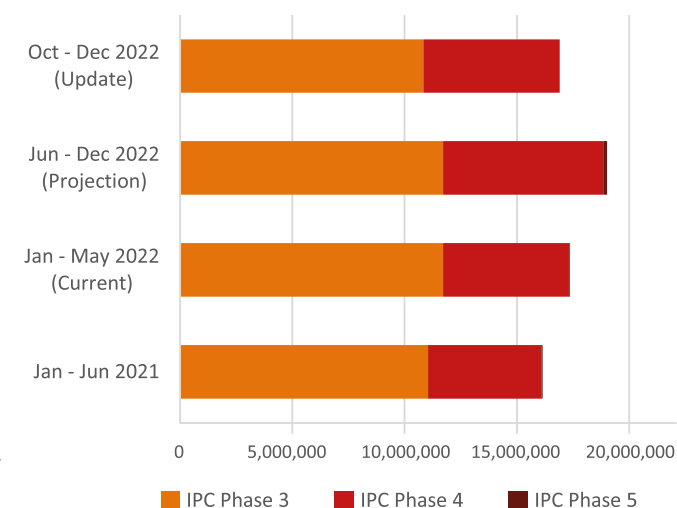
Projection Update Acute Food Insecurity Classification IPC Phase 3 or above

October - December 2022

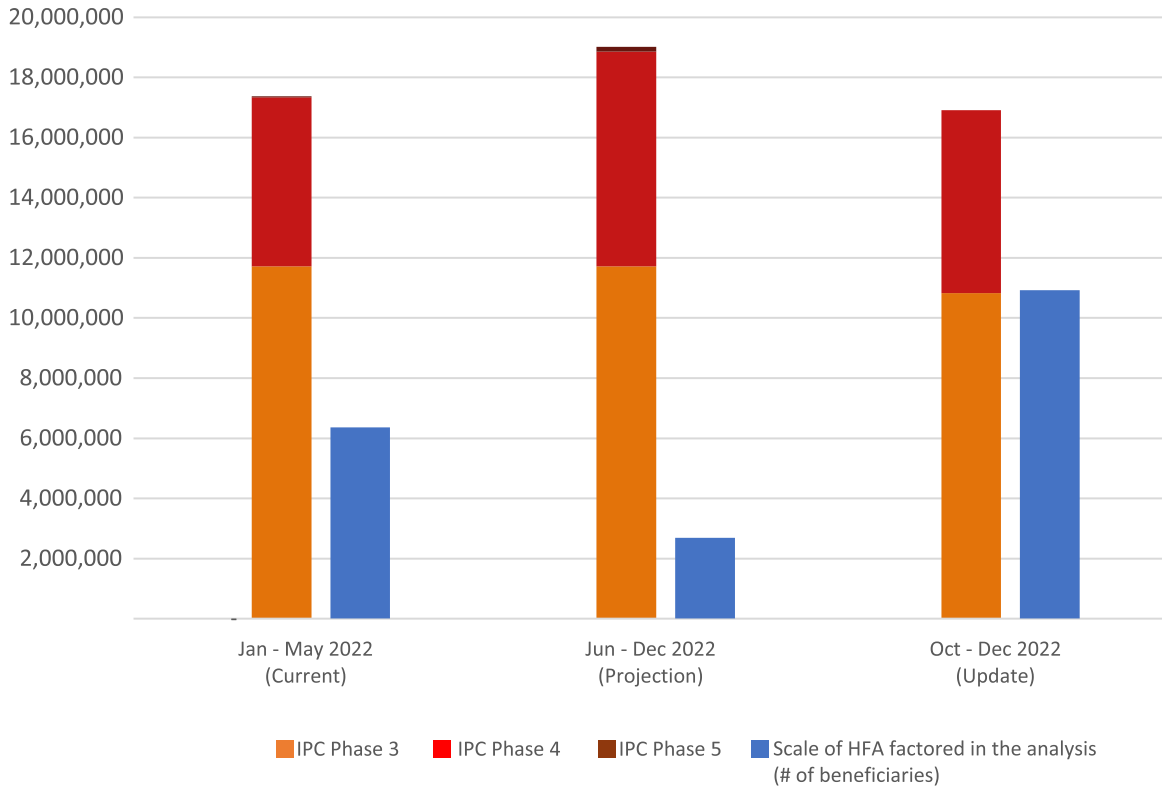


TRENDS: Acute Food Insecurity Classification IPC Phase 3 or above

2021 and 2022



Effect of Humanitarian Food Assistance (HFA) to IPC Analysis Outcome



Recommended Actions



End Conflict

It is vital that all parties to the conflict in Yemen commit to engaging in long-lasting peace. Investments in recovery and development are the only gateway to eradicating hunger in Yemen as relief alone cannot reverse the food insecurity situation.



Provide life-saving humanitarian assistance

To stop and reverse inexorable deterioration, donors to provide urgently needed resources to enable sourcing and delivery of critical life-saving food assistance to populations facing large food consumption gaps.



Provide livelihood support and diversification

To increase resilience and reduce vulnerability to shocks, close collaboration between humanitarian and development actors is essential, focusing on the rehabilitation of community assets and support to livelihoods.



Improve inter-sectoral programming

Advocate for and support an integrated multisectoral approach for programming focused on the four key sectors; food security, nutrition, health and WASH. It is vital to harmonise nutrition services for both severe and moderate acute malnutrition to ensure continuity of care through seamless referral mechanisms.

IPC Analysis Partners



Publication date: October 17, 2022.

*IPC population data is based on population estimates by the Central Statistics Organisation of Yemen.

**Displacement figures are from OCHA Yemen.

Disclaimer: The information shown on this map does not imply official recognition or endorsement of any physical and political boundaries.