COVID-19 Status
As of 7 May 2020, Yemen has 25 confirmed COVID-19 cases. Five COVID-19 related deaths and one recovery were officially announced in Aden and Ash Shiher in Hadramout Governorate, respectively.

Availability and prices of food commodities
During last seven days, the national average cost of Yemen’s Minimum Food Basket (MFB) for an average family of seven members was over YER 40 000 (approximately USD 67). This was a 4 percent increase compared to the third week of February 2020, in comparison to pre-COVID-19 conditions.

The MFB cost
In Socotra Island and Taiz governorates is YER 51 000 and 48 300, respectively – already higher than the existing cash value of the Food Security and Agriculture cluster MFB (YER 45 000). Last week’s increase was 24 percent in Amanat Al Asimah (Sanaa city), 12 percent in Lahj governorate and 10 percent in Socotra governorate. Although imported and locally produced food commodities are available in all markets – and all points of entry (sea and land ports) remains open – food is increasingly becoming inaccessible for vulnerable households as prices soar. The graph alongside shows since Oct 2018, the monthly price differences for key imported food commodities are directly proportional to exchange rates.

In the last week, well-wishers, private donors, faith based charitable organizations and associations have distributed Ramadan food baskets to vulnerable households in different locations across the country. To a certain extent, such charitable donations have cushioned vulnerable households from adopting negative coping strategies to bear the higher food prices. Traditionally, during the holy month of Ramadan, households consume different varieties of food, but this year higher food prices and lower-income levels – mainly brought on by COVID-19 control measures – are limiting that dietary diversity. The likelihood of the current situation continuing, or worsening, after Ramadan remains very high. This will in turn affect the nutrition status of most vulnerable groups, especially children under five, pregnant and lactating women and the disabled.

Labour and income
Casual labour opportunities continued to decrease and household income levels are now falling to lower levels since COVID-19 restrictions came into force. Many interviewed described the current situation as worse than 2015 when Yemen’s conflict started. The drop in casual labour opportunities, irregular or no salary for civil servants and retirees, and continuous local currency depreciation are compounding effects that might lead to severe food consumption gaps as the COVID-19 crisis continues.
• **Remittances**

Remittances from migrant Yemeni workers are also severely affected by the global economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Remittance flows are one of the most important sources of income for the country, contributing to an estimated USD 3.8 billion in 2019, with 90 percent coming from workers in Gulf countries. The impact of COVID-19 on the oil-economies of the Gulf are causing a sudden drop in the remittance flow to Yemen, reducing the availability of hard currency in the country and further weakening the exchange rate. Although the drop in remittances is yet to be fully calculated and understood, it will further reduce the income of 80 percent of the population who rely on humanitarian aid.

• **Flash floods and Desert locust impacts**

An estimated 21,000 families (about 150,000 people) have been affected by flooding in 13 governorates since mid-April. The floods have devastating impacts on infrastructure and particularly agricultural farmlands, further decreasing harvest expectations for 2020. The impact on agriculture production in 2020 is further exacerbated by desert locust infestations and an increase in the prices of main agricultural inputs and availability, especially at the beginning of the season.

• **Preparedness**

To combat COVID-19’s impacts on food availability (production/supply side), FAO estimates it will require approximately USD 30 Million to support the agriculture sector in the current growing season.