



World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES



# YEMEN FOOD SECURITY QUARTERLY REVIEW Q2-2023



## Key messages

- Most of the key drivers of food insecurity were less severe during the first half of 2023. This includes reduced level of hostilities, improved fuel supply and the partial ease of inflationary pressures in local and global food and fuel markets.
- While food insecurity has slightly improved during Q2-2023, adequate food was beyond reach for 46 percent of the surveyed households nationwide and Yemen remained among the most concerning food insecurity crises in the world.
- WFP is facing a crippling funding situation at a critical time when food insecurity is prevailing and likely to worsen over the rest of 2023. Without new funding, significant proportion of the assisted population could be impacted.



## Summary<sup>1</sup>

**Conflict:** The warring parties in Yemen have shown restraint during the truce period and beyond. As a result, Q2-2023 marks the lowest quarterly civilian casualty count in the country since 2018. The de-escalation of military operations has also led to decrease the number of people who displaced at least once during Q2-2023 by 59 percent compared to the previous quarter and by 51 percent year-on-year. However, localized clashes continued to be reported along several frontlines, particularly in Ad Dali', Ta'iz, Al Hodieda, Ma'rib and Shabwah.

<sup>1</sup> For more details, you can visit: [WFP Yemen food security and market monitoring dashboard](#)

**Exchange rate:** The Yemeni riyal in IRG-controlled areas has depreciated by nine percent compared to the previous quarter and by 19 percent compared to June 2022, reaching YER 1,371/USD. This is largely owing to the ongoing decrease in foreign currency reserves and crude oil exports, compounded by the reported decline in remittance inflows. On the other hand, the exchange rate in areas under Sana'a-based authorities appreciated by three percent compared to the previous quarter, and by six percent year-on-year, reaching YER 526/USD by the end of June 2023.

**Fuel imports:** Fuel supply has significantly improved since the signing of the truce agreement. During the initial half of 2023, the total volume of fuel imports via Red Sea ports increased by 63 percent compared to the same period last year. Moreover, Saudi-led coalition eased the restrictions on the Yemeni sea ports starting April 2023. The vessels are now allowed to enter the southern ports without being inspected in a transit port and also sail to the northern ports following the UNVIM approval without a secondary inspection.

**Fuel prices:** Improved fuel supply into Yemen, coupled with the decline in global crude oil prices, has resulted in a notable reduction in local fuel prices when compared to the previous year. This trend is particularly evident across the northern governorates. Pump prices for petrol and diesel<sup>2</sup> decreased year-on-year by three and 14 percent respectively in IRG-controlled areas, and by 31 and 39 percent respectively in areas under Sana'a-based authorities.

**Food imports:** During the first half of 2023, the total volume of food imports saw an annual decrease by eight percent through Red Sea ports, when contrasted with the corresponding period in 2022. This decrease is partly associated with the imposed restrictions by CBY-Sana'a that prevent commercial traders in the north from purchasing US dollars through CBY-Aden's auctions. On the other hand, food import level has increased by 13 percent via the southern ports of Aden and Mukalla. Essential food items were available in the markets across the country during Q2-2023.

**Humanitarian food assistance:** WFP continued to target 13 million people each distribution cycle, however with a reduced ration equivalent to 41 percent of the standard food basket per cycle. Due to the ongoing critical shortages in funding, WFP was compelled to shift more than 900,000 beneficiaries from cash-based to in-kind food assistance starting the fourth distribution cycle. Further cuts in assistance could impact significant proportion of the assisted population unless urgent additional funding is secured. WFP already initiated a vulnerability-based retargeting exercise in areas under IRG and the process is underway in areas under Sana'a-based authorities. This will help prioritizing the most vulnerable population for the general food assistance.

<sup>2</sup> Pump fuel price: the average of official price and commercial price of fuel sold through the gas stations



**Global food prices:** The global FAO Food Price Index (FFPI) continued to decrease during Q2-2023. In June, the average value of the FFPI declined by 21 percent year-on-year, reaching its lowest level recorded over the past two years. Increased global food supplies coupled with the Black Sea Grain Initiative (BSGI) to facilitate grain shipments from Ukraine have largely alleviated the pressures on global food prices. However, uncertainty prevails with regards to the outlook for global food prices during the rest of 2023, especially with the continuation of Ukraine-Russia conflict and the announced termination of the BSGI by mid-July 2023.



**Minimum food basket:** During Q2-2023, the monthly average cost of MFB slightly increased by one percent in IRG-controlled areas compared to the previous quarter, while it decreased by five percent in areas under Sana'a-based authorities. Year-on-year, the MFB cost experienced a higher decrease in the north (down by 20 percent) compared to merely one percent across those in the south. Conversely, in USD basis, the annual decline was higher in the south (down by 20 percent) than in the north (16 percent). The yearly decrease in local prices of fuel and the downward trajectory of global food prices have partly mitigated the inflationary pressures on domestic food prices countrywide.



**Food insecurity:** At the end of Q2-2023, around 46 percent of the surveyed households in Yemen were unable to meet their minimum food needs, with a higher proportion reported among households in IRG-controlled areas (51 percent) compared to those in areas under Sana'a-based authorities (43 percent). At national level, the data shows a two percent decrease in the proportion of households reporting inadequate food consumption compared to the previous quarter, and an eight percent decrease year-on-year. Similarly, the reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI), which reflects the households' purchasing power, decreased by three percent from the previous quarter and by 13 percent from a year before. The slight improvement in food insecurity is partly associated with the decrease in local and global prices of fuel and food items, as well as the post-truce gains on reducing the level of hostilities. Nonetheless, food insecurity in Yemen remains at highly concerning levels and likely to deteriorate further during the second half of 2023, as projected by the 2023 IPC results for areas under IRG.

### **Key drivers of food insecurity**

Most of the key drivers of food insecurity were less severe during the first half of 2023. Local and global prices of food and fuel witnessed a downward trend over the past year. The truce continued to bring some relief to the Yemeni population even after its official expiration in early October 2022, including the de-escalation of armed violence, the regular

flow of fuel vessels to Red Sea ports, and resuming commercial flights between Amman and Sana'a airports.

However, Yemen remains one of the most concerning food security crises in the world still, primarily due to the protracted conflict, the ongoing economic turmoil, limited food affordability in international and local markets, global supply chain challenges, the ramifications of Ukraine-Russia war, as well as the concerningly low pledges for life-saving assistance.

### **Conflict**

The truce in Yemen continues to deliver well even after its official expiration in October 2022. The de-escalation in military operations inside Yemen and across its borders has led to decrease the number of civilian casualties during Q2-2023 by 28 percent compared to the previous quarter and by nine percent compared to the same quarter last year.<sup>3</sup> It is noteworthy to mention that Q2-2023 marks the lowest quarterly civilian casualty count in the country since 2018.

During the truce period and beyond, explosive remnants of warfare were responsible for the highest share of civilian casualties, largely linked to increase people's mobility towards de-escalating combat areas that were not yet cleared from unexploded ordnances. This trend saw a decrease for the third consecutive quarter (down in Q2-2023 by 45 percent from the previous quarter and by 66 percent year-on-year), mainly influenced by the widespread awareness-raising campaigns and the increased clearance efforts.<sup>4</sup>

The reduced levels of hostilities has led to decrease the number of people who displaced at least once during Q2-2023 (6,072 people), down by 59 percent compared to the previous quarter and nearly half the record observed in Q2-2022.<sup>5</sup> Moreover, nearly 900 conflict-related detainees have been released during April following a cooperative negotiation between the warring parties in Yemen.<sup>6</sup>

Nonetheless, conflict remains one of the primary drivers of acute food insecurity countrywide since 2015. During Q2-2023, localized clashes continued to be reported along several frontlines especially in Ad Dali', Ta'iz, Al Hodieda, Ma'rib and Shabwah.<sup>7</sup> A number of facilities has been impacted by the armed violence during Q2-2023, including two medical centres, two mosques and one school.<sup>8</sup> Meanwhile, diplomatic efforts are ongoing to broker a sustainable agreement between the warring parties in Yemen to consolidate the post-truce gains and reach a durable settlement to end all conflict across the country.

<sup>3</sup> CIMP, Q2-2023

<sup>4</sup> Ibid

<sup>5</sup> IOM, July 2023

<sup>6</sup> OSESGY, April 2023

<sup>7</sup> OSESGY, July 2023

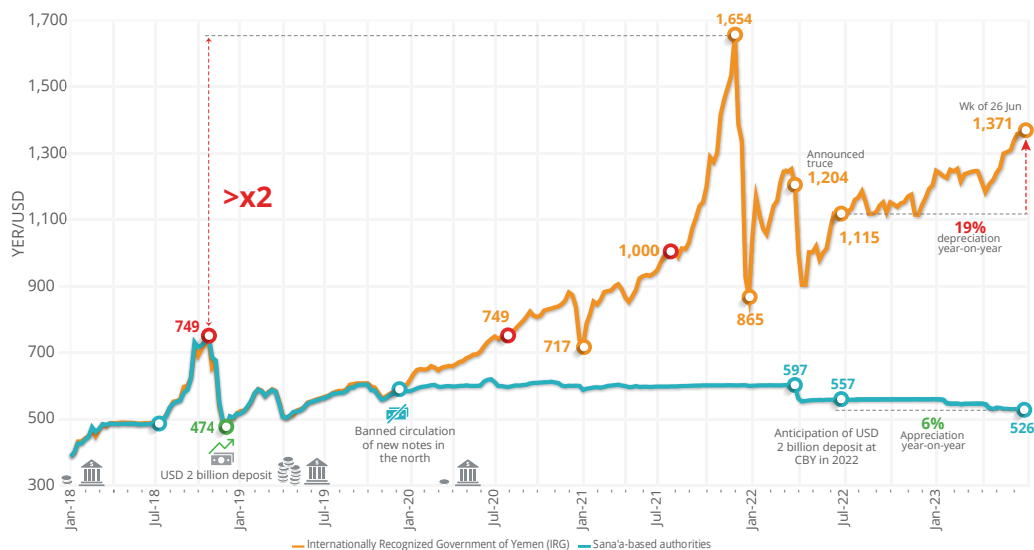
<sup>8</sup> CIMP, Q2-2023

### Exchange rate

The prolonged conflict in Yemen has devastated its economy and as reported by World Bank real GDP contracted by around 50 percent between 2011 and 2022.<sup>9</sup> The fragmented institutional capacity, the conflicting policy decisions and the growing fiscal deficit have compounded the profound economic crisis countrywide, leaving Yemen one of the poorest countries in the Middle East and North Africa.<sup>10</sup>

In IRG-controlled areas, the Yemeni riyal experienced a depreciation by nine percent compared to the previous quarter and by 19 percent year-on-year, reaching YER 1,371/USD by end of June. Several factors triggered this depreciation, including the ongoing decrease in foreign currency reserves and crude oil exports, coupled with the reported reduction in remittance inflows. However, the currency auctions introduced by the Central Bank of Yemen (CBY) in Aden since late 2021 have partly relieved the pressure on the riyal.

By the end of Q2-2023, the one-billion-dollar deposit announced by KSA in early 2023 had not yet been transferred to CBY-Aden. The current economic situation poses an urgent need for structural reforms, yet financial support from the Arab Gulf and IMF's announced deposit in the form of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) are critically important to be



Data source: WFP monitoring data

<sup>9</sup> The World Bank, May 2023  
<sup>10</sup> The World Bank, March 2023

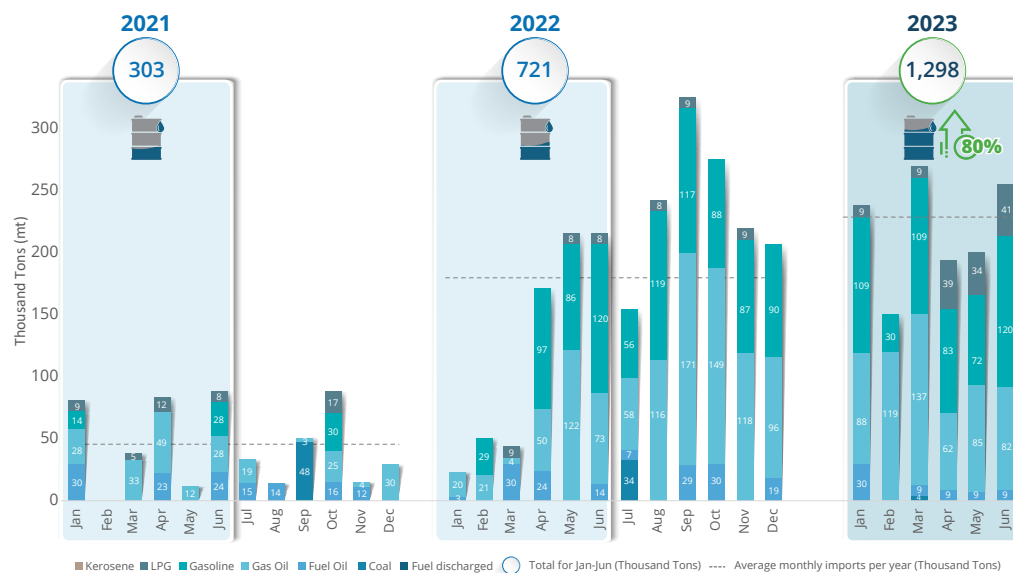
materialized in CBY-Aden, in order to reinforce the macroeconomic framework, secure the country's food import needs and avoid a large widening in the financing gap. The economic prospects during the rest of 2023 remain highly volatile and are expected to deteriorate further unless a political settlement to the conflict is reached.<sup>11</sup>

On the other hand, the exchange rate appreciated by three percent during Q2-2023 in areas under Sana'a-based authorities compared to the previous quarter, and by six percent year-on-year, reaching YER 526/USD by the end of June 2023. The Sana'a authorities' control measures, such as banning the circulation of new banknotes printed by CBY-Aden and restricting the transfer of foreign currency to areas outside their control, have largely contributed to the currency appreciation in the north.

### Fuel imports

Fuel supply has significantly improved since April 2022 when the truce agreement facilitated the entry of fuel vessels into Red Sea ports. During the initial half of 2023, the total volume of fuel imports through the northern ports of Al Hodeidah and Salif increased by 80 percent compared to the same period last year.<sup>12</sup>

Fuel imports through Red Sea ports



Data source: UNVIM

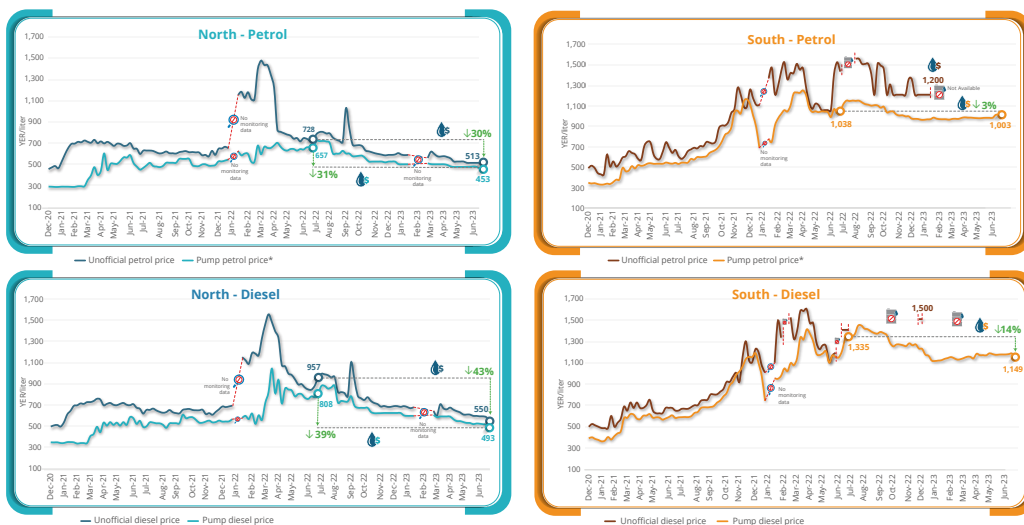
<sup>11</sup> IPC Yemen, June 2023  
<sup>12</sup> UNVIM, May 2023

This increase has compensated the 42 percent decrease in fuel import levels via the southern ports of Aden and Mukalla, as the traders in the north are currently relying on Red Sea ports thanks to the truce.

In April, Saudi-led coalition eased the inspection restrictions on the Yemeni sea ports. Vessels are currently allowed to enter the southern ports without being inspected in a transit port as it was the case before escalating the conflict in 2015.<sup>13</sup> Similarly, ships could also sail to the northern ports following the UNVIM approval without a secondary inspection.<sup>14</sup> Easing restrictions on imports is another positive measure while will support the political negotiations between to reach a peaceful settlement between the warring parties are still ongoing.

### Fuel prices

After reaching a ten-year peak in June 2022, global crude oil prices sustained the downward trajectory since then. At the end of Q2-2023, global fuel prices witnessed a decline by five percent compared to the previous quarter and by 39 percent year-on-year.<sup>15</sup> Prices are expected to remain below the 2022 average levels for the rest of 2023.<sup>16</sup> Nonetheless, concerns over global fuel prices continue to prevail, particularly considering the continuation of Ukraine-Russia conflict and the recent scale-down of oil production by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its partners (OPEC+).<sup>17</sup>



Data source: WFP monitoring data

<sup>13</sup> Sana'a Centres for Strategic Studies, April 2023

<sup>14</sup> Ibid

<sup>15</sup> Energy Information Administration, June 2023

<sup>16</sup> FEWS NET, June 2023

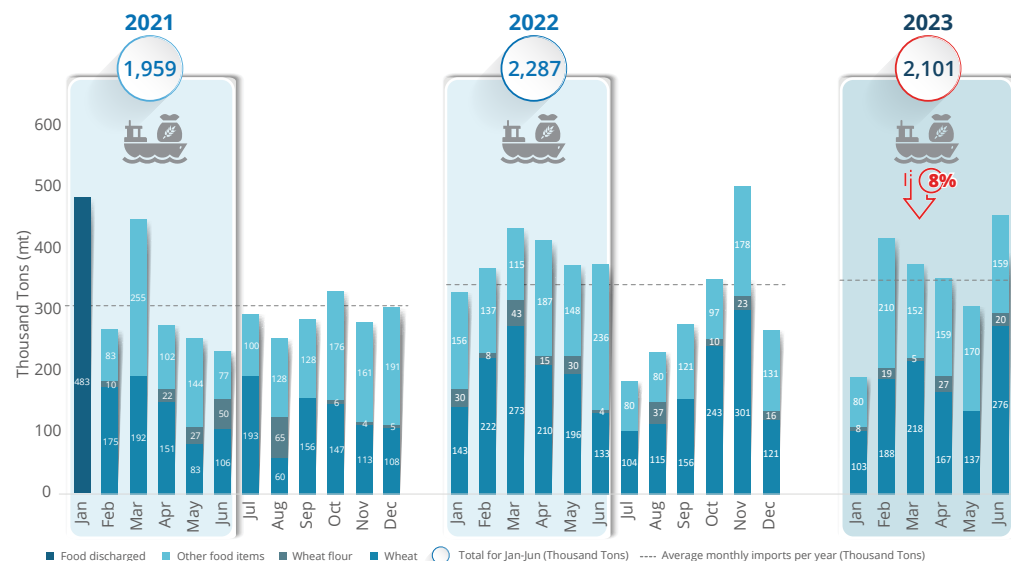
<sup>17</sup> Reuters, April 2023

In Yemen, local fuel prices behaved differently across the regions compared to the previous quarter; pump prices for petrol and diesel<sup>18</sup> saw a slight increase between one to three percent in IRG-controlled areas largely due to the currency depreciation in the south, while the prices decreased in areas under Sana'a-based authorities by nine percent for petrol and by 17 percent for diesel. However, fuel prices exhibited a substantial drop nationwide compared to a year before, with the northern governorates reflecting the most significant decline as illustrated in the charts. The annual decrease was largely attributed to the decline in global crude oil prices, coupled with the improved fuel supply into Yemen.

### Food imports

During the initial half of 2023, the total volume of food imports decreased by eight percent through the northern ports of Al Hodeidah and Salif, when contrasted with the same period in 2022.<sup>19</sup> This decrease is partly associated with the strict restrictions imposed by CBY-Sana'a in early 2023 that prevent commercial traders in the north from purchasing foreign currencies through the auctions implemented by CBY-Aden.<sup>20</sup>

#### Food imports through Red Sea ports



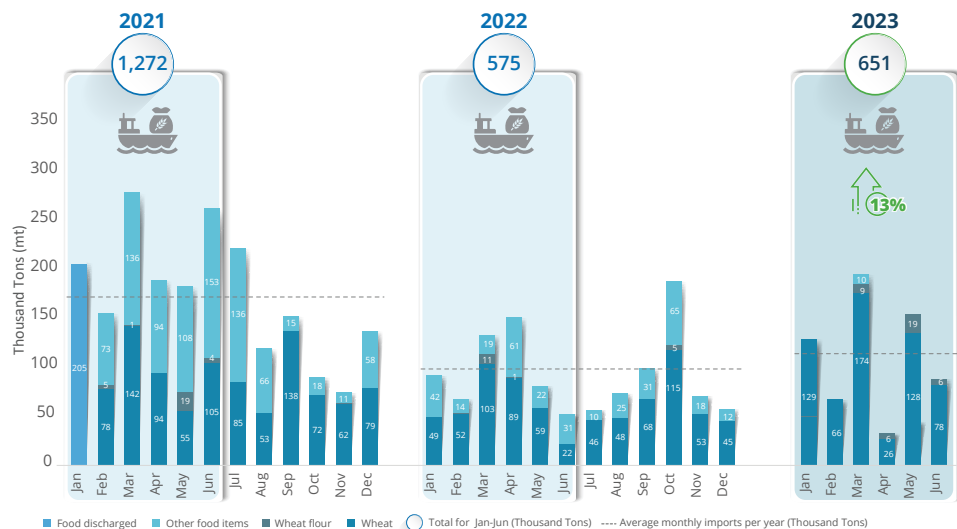
Data source: UNVIM

<sup>18</sup> Pump fuel price: the average of official price and commercial price of fuel sold through the gas stations

<sup>19</sup> UNVIM, May 2023

<sup>20</sup> ACAPS, April 2023

### Food imports through Aden and Mukalla ports



Data source: Aden Ports Authority

At the same time, food imports decreased by five percent via the land ports of Shahan and Alwadeah,<sup>21</sup> while they increased by 13 percent via the southern ports of Aden and Mukalla. Overall, the net volume of food imported through all ports in Yemen was four percent lower than its level during the first half of the previous year. Close monitoring is necessary over the upcoming months. Nonetheless, essential food commodities were reportedly available across the markets during the first half of 2023.

The Ukraine-Russia conflict continued to provoke concerns over the dynamics of global food supply. This is compounded by the export restrictive measures imposed from other countries since the beginning of war that were still in effect by early June,<sup>22</sup> as well as the announced termination of the Black Sea Grain Initiative (BSGI) by mid-July.<sup>23</sup> Under the BSGI that enacted in July 2022, approximately 259,618 metric tons of Ukrainian grains have been shipped into Yemen until the end of Q2-2023.<sup>24</sup>

<sup>21</sup> [FTST-Aden, June 2023](#)  
<sup>22</sup> [The World Bank, July 2023](#)

<sup>23</sup> [UN News, July 2023](#)  
<sup>24</sup> [Black Sea Grain Initiative Joint Coordination Centre, June 2023](#)

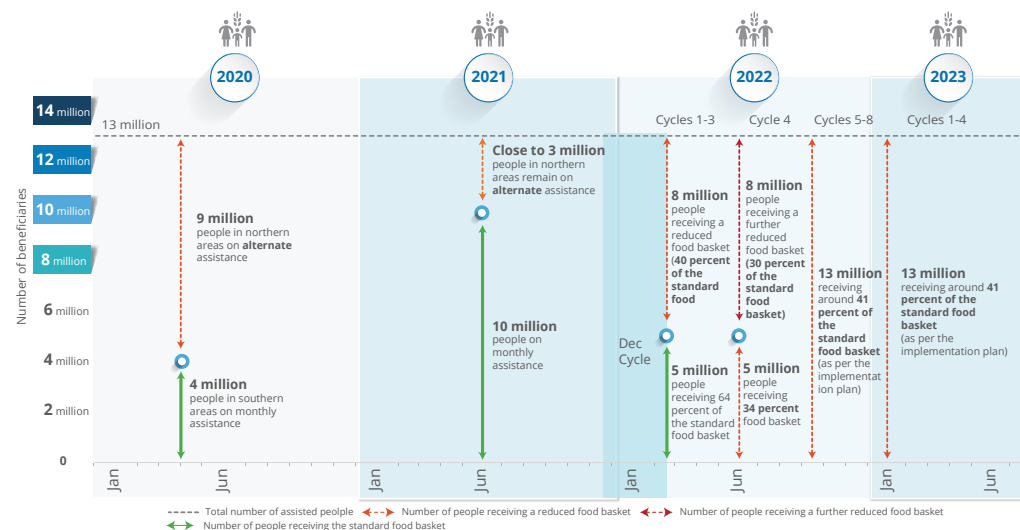
### Volume of humanitarian food assistance

The Humanitarian Needs Overview estimates that around 21.6 million people need humanitarian assistance in Yemen during 2023.<sup>25</sup>

WFP is targeting 13 million people per each distribution cycle, where one distribution cycle spans at least 45 days. However, people are still receiving reduced ration due to critical shortages in funding. With the generous pledges from the donors in September 2022, WFP slightly increased the quantity of the dispatched food ration since then, up to 41 percent of the standard food basket per cycle.

Meanwhile, WFP is facing severe funding shortfalls. The ongoing shortages in funding have compelled WFP to shift more than 900,000 beneficiaries from cash-based to in-kind food assistance starting the fourth distribution cycle in 2023. Unless urgent additional funding is secured, further cuts in assistance could impact significant proportion of the assisted population. In addition, WFP has already initiated a vulnerability-based targeting exercise across the country in order to prioritize the most vulnerable population for general food assistance.

### Level of humanitarian food assistance



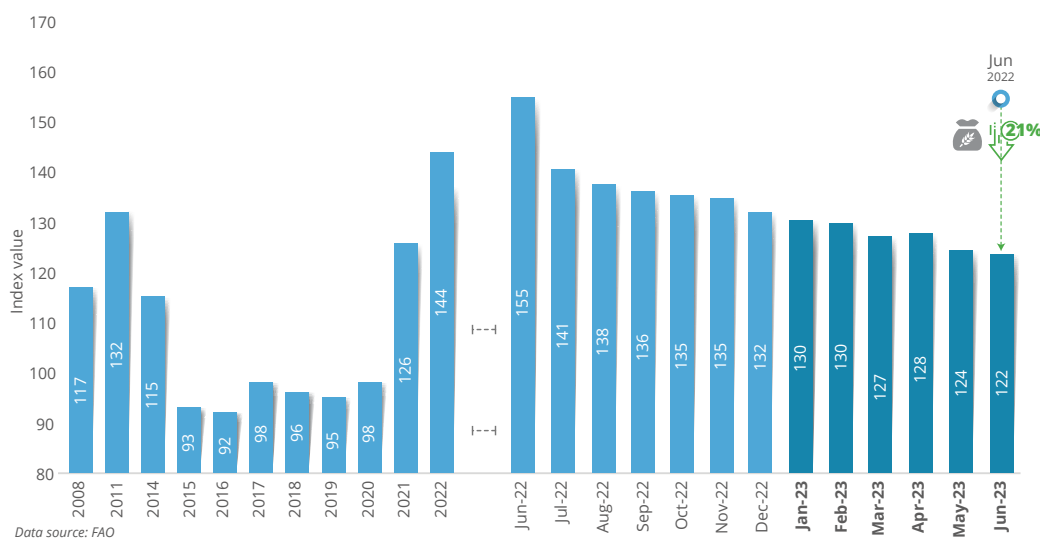
<sup>25</sup> [Yemen HNO, December 2022](#)



## Global food prices

Following the all-time high level of March 2022, the global FAO Food Price Index (FFPI) continued its downward trend until the end of Q2-2023.<sup>26</sup> In June, the average value of the FFPI decreased by 21 percent on annual basis, reaching the lowest level recorded over the past two years. This decline was mainly driven by the marked drop in all sub-indices particularly for oils, cereals and dairy (down by 45, 24 and 22 percent respectively) except for sugar which witnessed an annual rise of 30 percent. The increase in the global prices of sugar is mainly because of the limited global availabilities as the adverse weather conditions have negatively impacted sugarcane production in some of the largest sugar-producing countries, including India, Thailand and China, during the 2022/23 season.<sup>27</sup> This was also compounded by the slow start of the 2023 harvest in Brazil.

Global food price index (FFPI)



Overall, the ample global food supplies coupled with the Black Sea Grain Initiative to facilitate grain shipments from Ukraine have largely alleviated the pressures on global food prices until the end of Q2-2023. This was also in association with the observed decline in global prices of fertilizers which decreased by 42 percent year-on-year.<sup>28</sup> Nonetheless, growing concerns remain about the outlook for global food prices over the rest of the year,

especially with the announced termination of the Black Sea Grain Initiative by mid-July 2023.<sup>29</sup> Following the termination, the wheat prices reached their largest one-day rise since February 2022.<sup>30</sup>

## Local food prices (based on minimum food basket)<sup>31</sup> MFB in areas under control of the IRG

The monthly average cost of the MFB increased by one percent from the previous quarter in areas under IRG, while being one percent down the level recorded in a year before. Nonetheless, the MFB cost in IRG-controlled areas during June (YER 15,913/person/month) was still nearly seven times the pre-crisis level. Food affordability continues to be a major challenge for people in the south; 24 percent of the surveyed households in IRG-controlled areas reported high food prices as a principal shock that hindered them from consuming an adequate diet during Q2-2023, an increase of 20 percent from the previous quarter.

In terms of essential food items, the prices of wheat flour remained unchanged compared to the previous quarter while a slight increase was recorded in vegetable oil and red beans (between two to three percent). At the same time, the prices of sugar during Q2-2023 were notably higher than Q1-2023 and a year before (15 and 27 percent respectively). This is largely associated with the ongoing upward trend of the global prices of sugar which increased by 20 percent between March-June 2023 and by 30 percent year-on-year.

All governorates in IRG saw an annual decline in the MFB cost, except for Al Maharah governorate where the cost of MFB increased by 11 percent year-on-year. This increase could be explained by the low pricing level of commodities in Al Maharah last year, which was due to the cap on food prices implemented by the authorities in Al Maharah during Q2-2022.

According to the 2023 IPC resulting in IRG-controlled areas, domestic food prices in the south are likely to exceed the 2022 price levels.<sup>32</sup> This is partly influenced by the projected currency depreciation in IRG-controlled areas during June-December 2023, coupled with the authorities' plans to further increase the prices of electricity and fuel.<sup>33</sup>

## MFB in areas under control of the Sana'a-based authorities

The cost of MFB continued to decline in the areas under Sana'a-based authorities for the eleventh consecutive month, reaching YER 7,103/person/month at the end of Q2-2023.

<sup>26</sup> FAO, July 2023

<sup>27</sup> CNBC, April 2023

<sup>28</sup> Index Mundi, June 2023

<sup>29</sup> UN News, July 2023

<sup>30</sup> BBC, July 2023

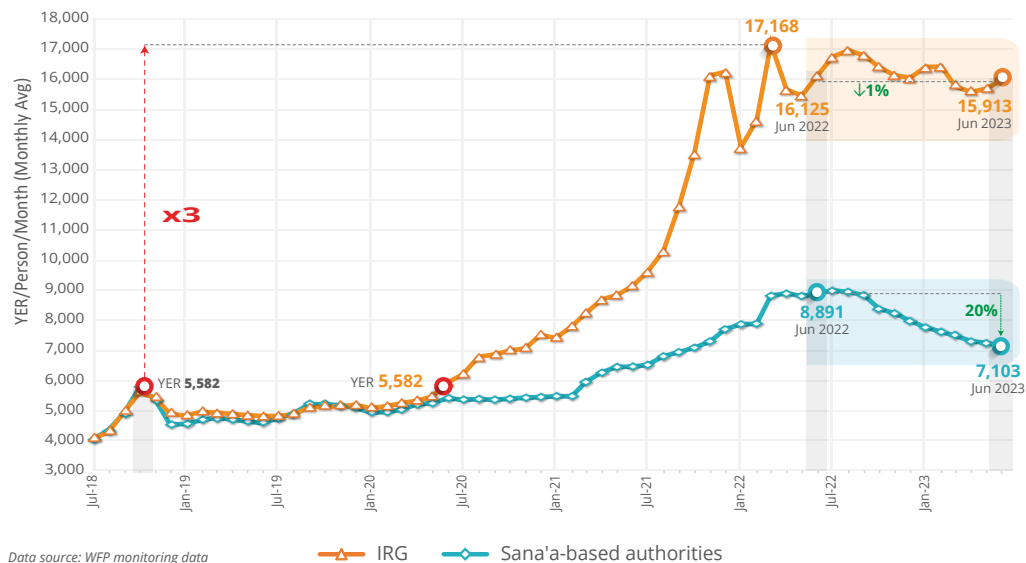
<sup>31</sup> The minimum food basket includes 10.71 kg wheat flour, 1.43 kg red beans, 1.14 L vegetable oil, 0.36 kg sugar and 0.14 kg salt per person per month

<sup>32</sup> IPC Yemen, June 2023

<sup>33</sup> Ibid

This represents a decrease of five percent compared to the previous quarter, and down by 20 percent year-on-year. The annual decline was influenced by the decrease in the prices of vegetable oil, wheat flour and red beans (down by 35, 22 and 11 percent year-on-year).

### The cost of the minimum food basket (MFB)



Data source: WFP monitoring data

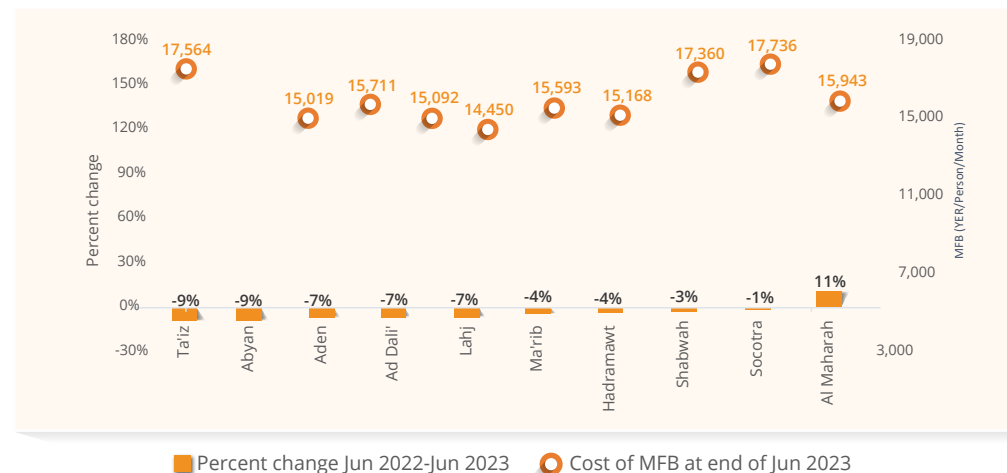
The overall decrease in the cost of MFB was associated with currency appreciation in the north, the ongoing downward trend of global food prices, the decrease in local fuel prices, and the frequently spot checks by the authorities for price caps in the northern markets.

All governorates in the north witnessed a notable decrease in the cost of MFB compared to last year, with the highest decline recorded in Al Hodeidah governorate (down by 34 percent) and the lowest decline was in Al Jawf (down by nine percent). It is worth to mention that the prevalence of inadequate food consumption in Al Hodeidah reflected also the highest annual decline nationwide (down by 39 percent).

While the cost of MFB in areas under Sana'a-based authorities reached its lowest level since October 2021, food prices during Q2-2023 remain three times as high as pre-crisis level. According to WFP mVAM monitoring results, around 16 percent of the surveyed households

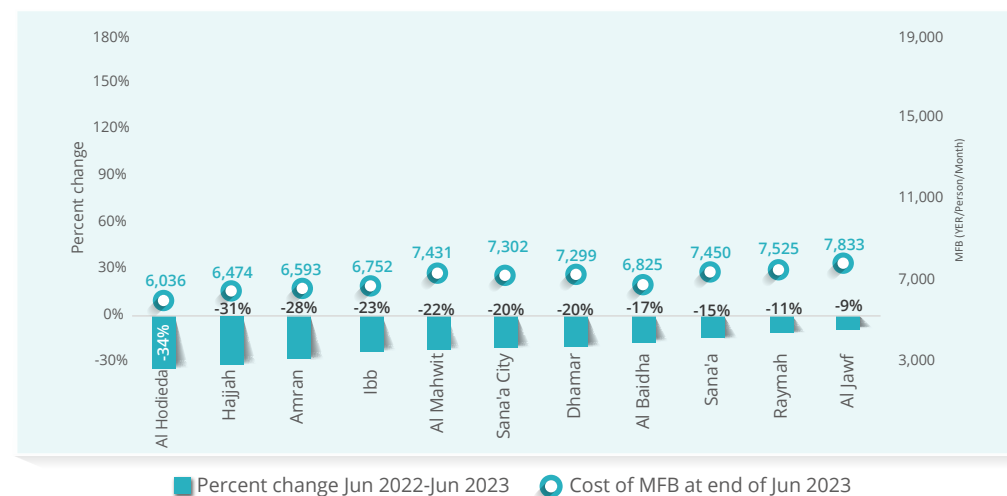
in the north reported high food prices as a main impediment limiting their access to adequate food. In addition, more than four in every five of the interviewed households in areas under Sana'a-based authorities (86 percent) indicated buying food on credit due to their dwindling purchasing power.

### South



Data source: WFP monitoring data

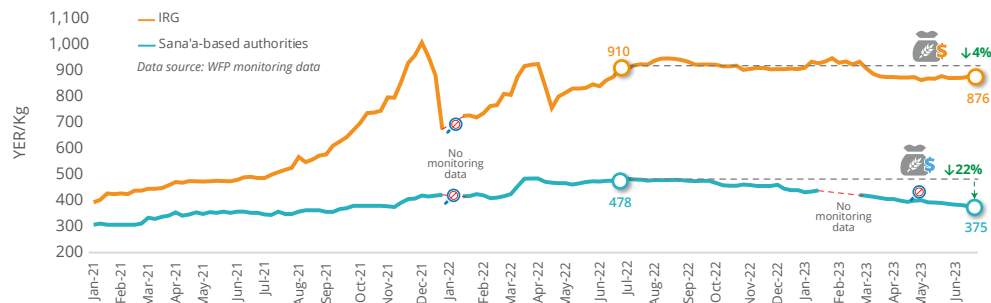
### North



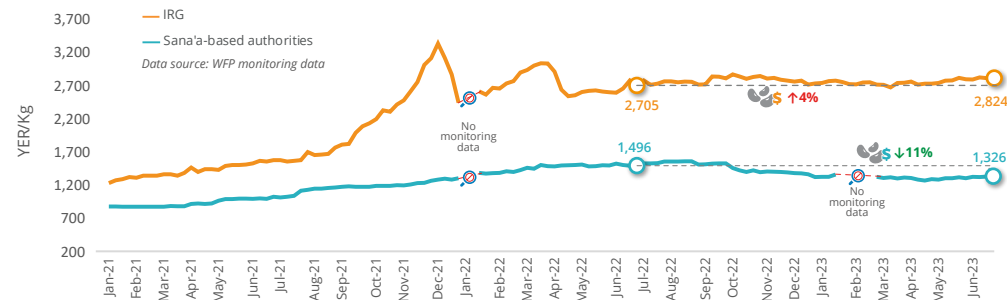
Data source: WFP monitoring data



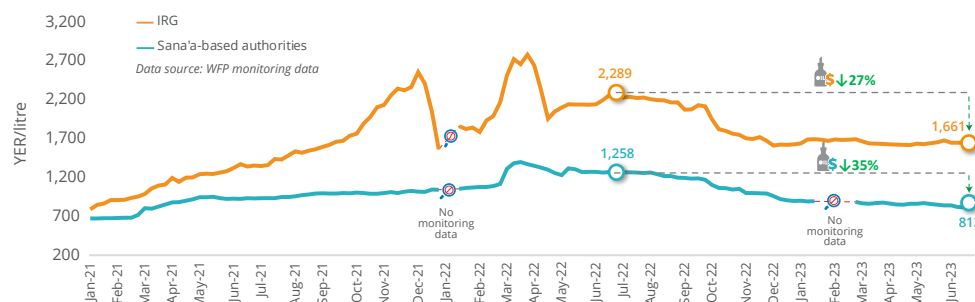
 Average prices of wheat flour



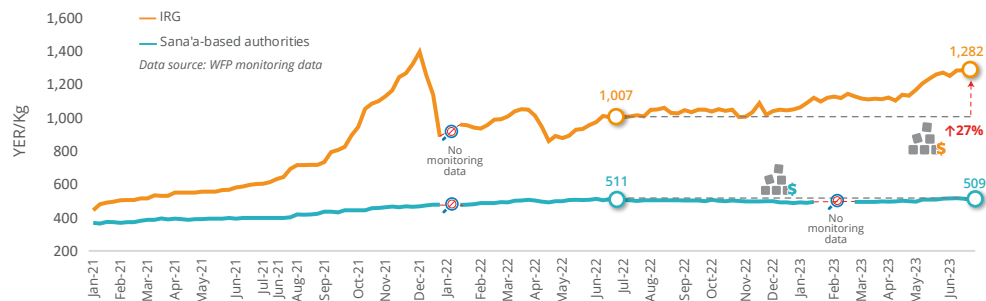
 Average prices of red beans



 Average prices of vegetable oil



 Average prices of sugar



### Household access to food<sup>34</sup>

The prevalence of inadequate food consumption in Yemen has decreased compared to the previous quarter and a year before. This is mainly due to the seasonal improvement during Ramadan and Eid, and partly associated with the decline in domestic and global prices of food and fuel, as well as the impact of the truce on reducing conflict incidents.

Despite the overall decrease in the reported levels of food insecurity across the country, the situation remains dire during Q2-2023, especially in governorates of Lahj, Ad Dhali', Shabwah and Ma'rib, Raymah and Al Bayda, where more than 60 percent of households were unable to meet their minimum food needs.

The lack of income-generating activities and high food prices are still crucial factors impacting people's ability to access adequate diets. Both were reported respectively by 57 and 18 percent of the surveyed households nationwide. WFP monitoring data revealed that breadwinners relying on casual labour would need to work at least nine days per month in the south and seven days per month in the north to merely defray the MFB cost for their households.<sup>35</sup> This is very challenging especially considering that it does not cover the expenditures of the other essential needs.

### Inadequate food consumption

At the end of Q2-2023, more than two in every five of the surveyed households in Yemen (46 percent) were unable to meet their minimum food needs, down by two percent from the previous quarter and by eight percent year-on-year. Despite this slight improvement, food insecurity remained at alarming levels during Q2-2023 and Yemen is identified as one of the most concerning humanitarian crises in the world.<sup>36</sup>

<sup>34</sup> WFP mVAM

<sup>35</sup> The average household size is estimated at seven.

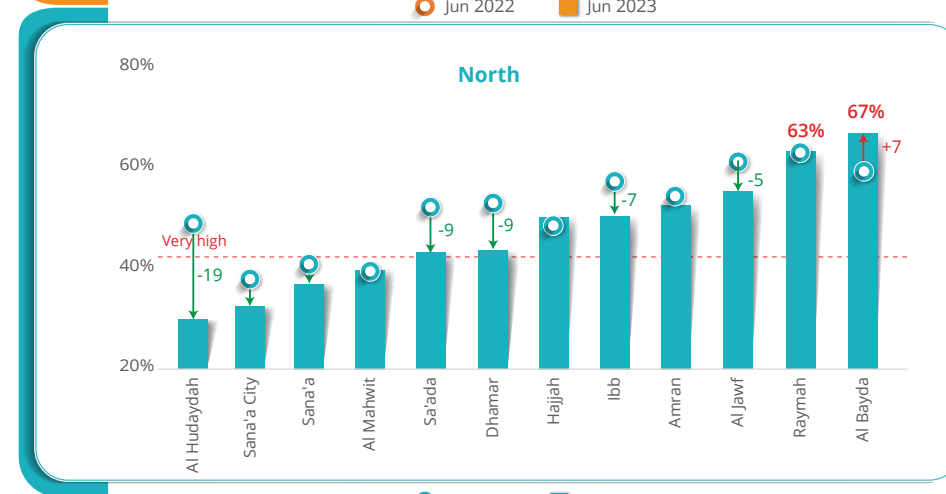
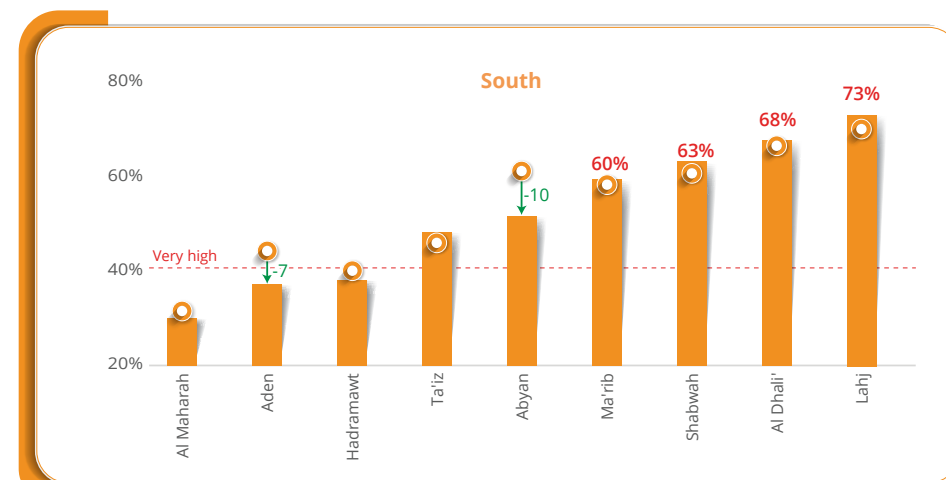
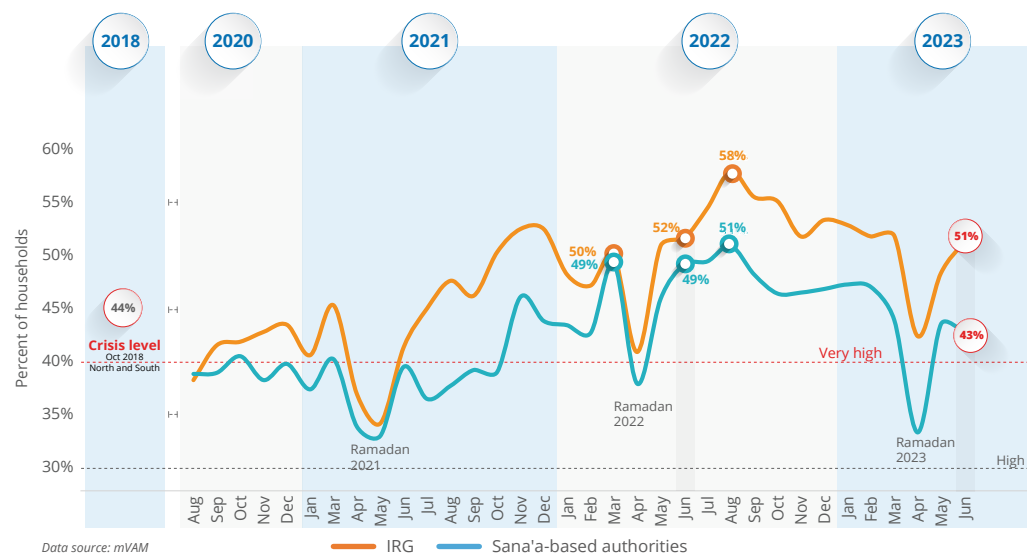
<sup>36</sup> [The World Bank, March 2023](https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2023/03/23/yemen)

In line with the previous years, the prevalence of inadequate food consumption temporarily declined during the holy month of Ramadan in April (down from 46 percent in March to 36 percent in April), largely due to the social solidarity and generosity from charities. Nonetheless, this trend bounced back to pre-Ramadan levels, increasing again to 46 percent in May and June 2023. Worryingly, the consumption pattern of families with poor food consumption did not show any sign of improvement during Ramadan, except for a slight increase in the consumption of vegetables while those families were still hardly eating any pulses, meat, dairy or fruits at all. These findings highlight the dire nutritional situation, even in the optimum month for households to obtain better food.

While people's access to food remained constrained nationwide, households in the south fared even worse. Around 51 percent of the surveyed households in IRG-controlled areas reported lacking access to adequate diet, slightly down by two percent from the previous quarter and year-on-year. The IPC results also show a slight improvement in the level of food insecurity in the south during January-May 2023 compared to 2022.<sup>37</sup> However, the number of people facing severe acute food insecurity remained very high in IRG-controlled areas over the first half of 2023 (3.2 million people), and that level is projected to increase by 20 percent during June-December 2023.<sup>38</sup>

Among the southern governorates, households in Lahj, Ad Dhali', Shabwah and Ma'rib experienced the highest prevalence of inadequate food consumption during Q2-2023 (between 60 and 73 percent). Two of these governorates (Ma'rib and Ad Dhali') also reflected the highest share of population in IPC Phase 3 or above, with 49 percent and 42 percent of their population respectively being food insecure during January-May 2023 and increasing to over 50 percent in both during the projection period (June-December 2023).<sup>39</sup>

Inadequate food consumption by region

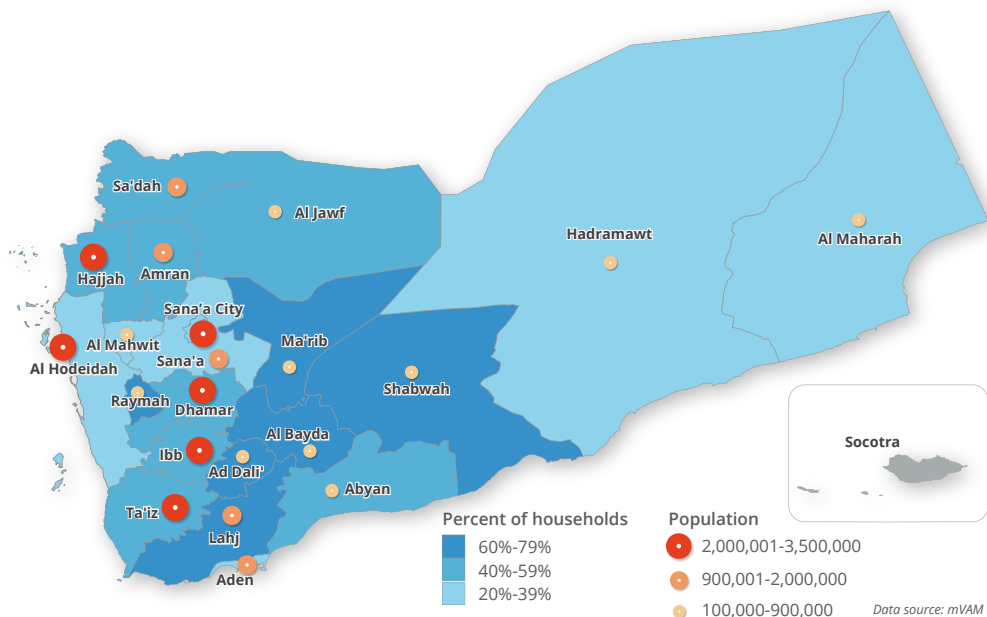


<sup>37</sup> IPC Yemen, June 2023

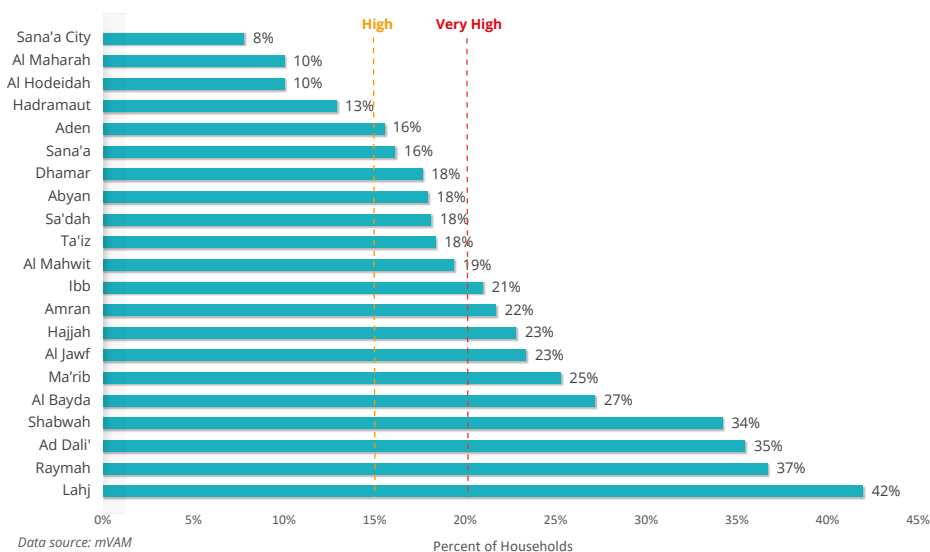
<sup>38</sup> Ibid

<sup>39</sup> Ibid

Map 1: Inadequate food consumption (June 2023)



Poor food consumption (June 2023)



Food consumption patterns



Households with Acceptable food consumption



Households with Borderline food consumption



Households with Poor food consumption



Number of days of consumption/week



Data source: mVAM

On the other hand, the share of households reporting inadequate food consumption reached 43 percent in areas under Sana'a-based authorities, down by two percent from the previous quarter and by 12 percent year-on-year. The peak was recorded in Raymah and Al Bayda, where approximately two-thirds of the surveyed households indicated having an inadequate diet. These governorates also reflected the highest prevalence of poor food consumption in the north (around 37 and 27 percent respectively).

### Food-based coping strategies

Similar to the food consumption trend during Q2-2023, the reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI), which outlines the level of stress that households experience when they could not access adequate food, saw a slight decrease from the previous quarter (down by three percent) while being 13 percent lower than a year before. However, nearly half of the surveyed households in Yemen (48 percent) reflected rCSI equivalent to IPC Phase 3 and above,<sup>40</sup> with a higher proportion recorded amongst households in areas under Sana'a-based authorities (50 percent) compared to 43 percent in IRG-controlled areas.

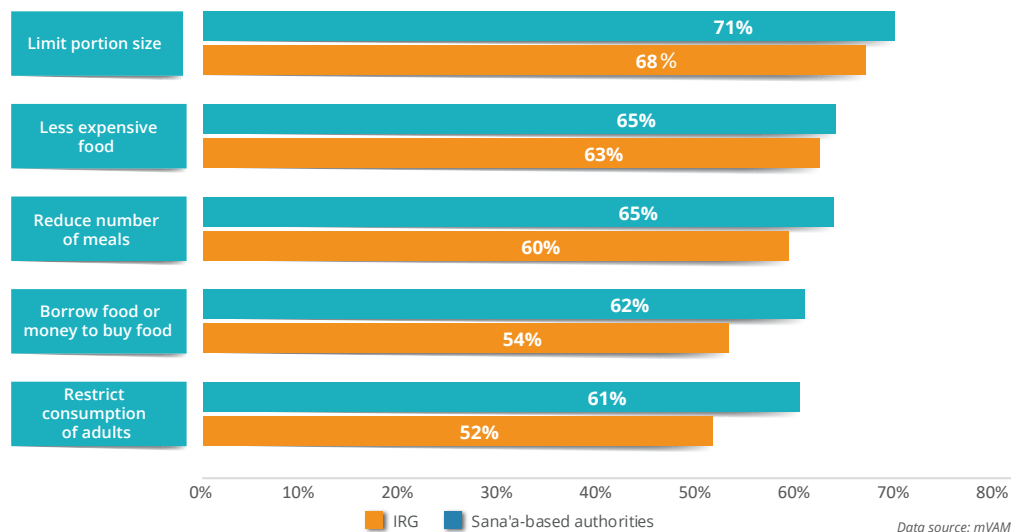
<sup>40</sup> rCSI >= 19



The erosion of households’ purchasing power has pushed 88 percent of the surveyed families to resort on at least one food-based coping strategy by the end of Q2-2023. Limiting meal portion size and consuming less expensive or lower quality food were the most frequently used strategies nationwide, adopted by 70 percent and 64 percent of the interviewed households respectively. In addition, 58 percent of the surveyed families restricted their adults’ food consumption in favour of children to cope with food shortages. The widespread reliance on this strategy is concerning since this is the most severe coping behaviour when food is scarce.

Furthermore, WFP mVAM monitoring data revealed that around two-thirds of households in Yemen (67 percent) were casual labourers. The lack of income opportunities coupled with the unaffordable food prices have resulted in prevailing the adoption of “crisis” or “emergency” livelihood coping strategies (72 percent of the surveyed households) in order to meet essential needs. Buying food on credits and borrowing money were widely practiced by the families, respectively by 86 and 79 percent. These findings show that the majority of Yemenis are embedded in a network of debts and coping behaviours that drain people’s resilience and increase their vulnerability to shocks.<sup>41</sup>

### Households reporting food coping strategy in June 2023

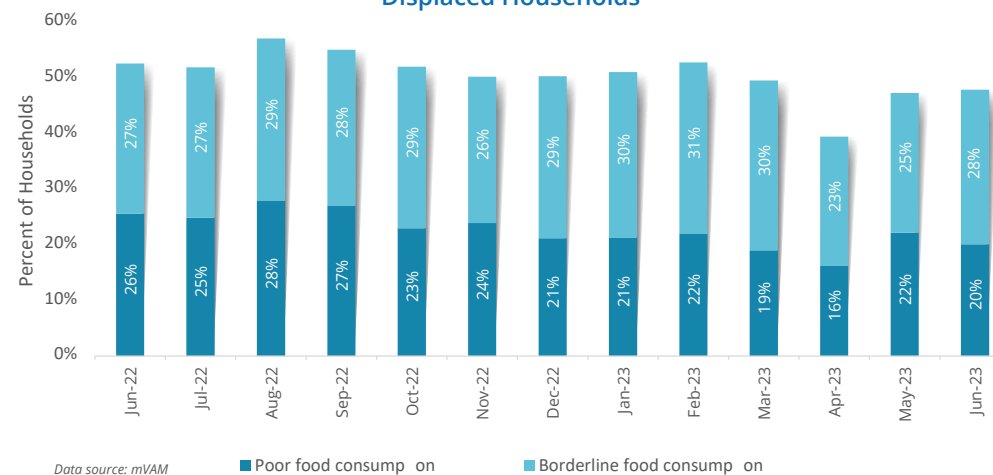


<sup>41</sup> Crisis strategies include selling productive assets, reducing medical/educational expenditures or withdrawing children from school. Emergency strategies include selling house/land/last female animal or begging.

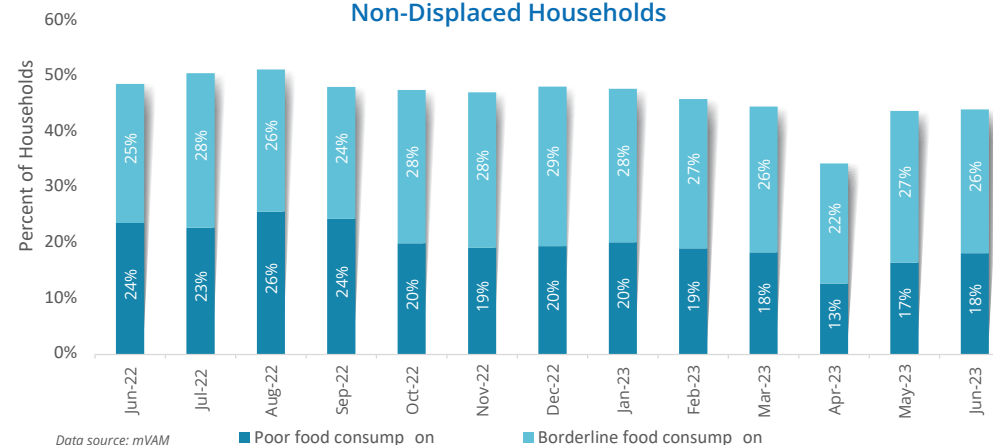
### Access to food for IDPs

Thanks to the truce, the number of newly displaced people continued to decrease in Yemen, reaching 6,072 people during Q2-2023. This level is still less than half the record observed during the previous quarter and also compared to same period last year. Nonetheless, Yemen is ranked as the sixth largest displacement crisis in the world,<sup>42</sup> with nearly 4.5 million people displaced since escalating the conflict in 2015,<sup>43</sup> including 3.1 million IDPs are estimated to be in need of humanitarian assistance.<sup>44</sup>

### Displaced Households



### Non-Displaced Households



<sup>42</sup> IPC Yemen, June 2023

<sup>43</sup> IOM Yemen, June 2023

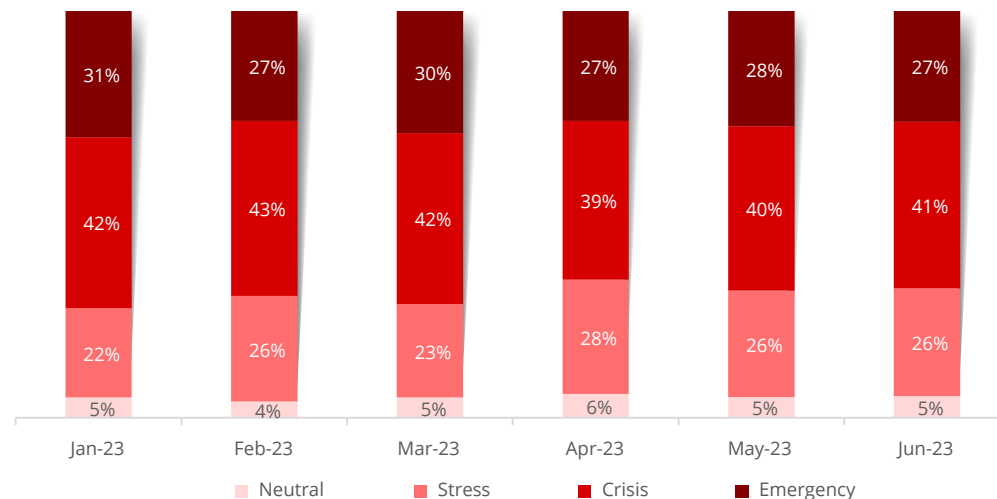
<sup>44</sup> Yemen HNO, December 2022

The recent inter-agency analysis revealed that IDPs are the worst affected group that experience acute food insecurity in the community.<sup>45</sup> This is explained by the continued disruption of their livelihoods and their limited access to income and basic services. WFP mVAM monitoring data also shows the dire food insecurity situation for IDPs. Approximately half of the surveyed IDPs (48 percent) had inadequate food consumption during Q2-2023, nine percent above the level recorded amongst resident households. The prevalence of rCSI at IPC Phase 3 and above<sup>46</sup> reached 55 percent among IDPs, which is 28 percent higher than residents. Furthermore, 76 percent of the surveyed IDPs reported implementing crisis or emergency type livelihood coping strategies<sup>47</sup> in order to cover their essential needs, representing an increase of nine percent compared to resident households.

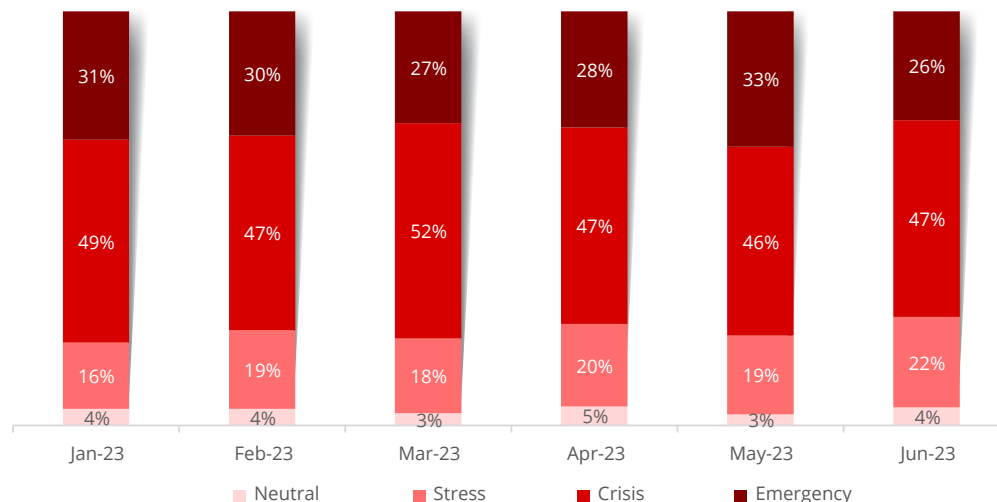


Households reporting livelihood-based coping strategies to cover essential needs

South



North



<sup>45</sup> Food affordability in conflict-torn Yemen in light of the Ukraine war 2023, June 2023

<sup>46</sup> rCSI >= 19

<sup>47</sup> Crisis strategies include selling productive assets, reducing medical/educational expenditures or withdrawing children from school. Emergency strategies include selling house/land/last female animal or begging.





World Food Programme

SAVING  
LIVES  
CHANGING  
LIVES



© WFP 2023, 17 Oct 2023

**Contact information:**

- Richard Ragan, WFP Country Director, ([wfp.sanaa@wfp.org](mailto:wfp.sanaa@wfp.org))
- Riham Abuismail, Head of Research Assessment and Monitoring (RAM), WFP Yemen, ([riham.abuismail@wfp.org](mailto:riham.abuismail@wfp.org))
- Fawad Raza, Head of VAM, RAM Unit, WFP Yemen, ([fawad.raza@wfp.org](mailto:fawad.raza@wfp.org))
- Abdelrahman Hamza, Food Security Analyst, RAM Unit, WFP Yemen, ([abdelrahman.hamza@wfp.org](mailto:abdelrahman.hamza@wfp.org))
- Abdullah Alharazi, Graphic Designer Lead, OIM Unit, WFP Yemen, ([abdullah.alharazi@wfp.org](mailto:abdullah.alharazi@wfp.org))

Photo credit page 1 : WFP/Mehedi Rahman  
Photo credit page 13: WFP/Sayed Asif Mahmud  
Photo credit page 14: WFP/Hani Saleh