In April 2016, 57 vessels berthed at the Yemeni ports of Al Hudaydah, Saleef and Aden, resulting in a 16% increase from the 49 berths in March 2016. Additionally, 54 new vessels were granted access to Yemeni Port-anchorage areas, a significant increase on the 22 vessels of the previous month. Humanitarian berths accounted for 12% of all berths in the Yemeni ports, with 7 dhows and vessels carrying food and non food items.

In the last months of 2015, import supplies of food increased. However, from February 2016 a decrease in the importation of food supplies was reported. General food imports in April decreased by 21% compared to March 2016, and by 47% compared to February 2016. On average, wheat flour prices in April were 154 YER/KG, which is 12% higher than pre-crisis level (137 YER/KG).

The need to import fuel increased in 2015 due to the temporary suspension of operations in the refinery ports of Aden and Al Hudaydah for several months due to the conflict. While fuel needs increased, fuel imports declined compared to previous years (April 2015, 4,983 mt of fuel imported), mainly as a result of import restrictions and limited foreign exchange necessary to import fuel. Consequently, local markets witnessed fuel shortage.* April 2016 saw fuel importations reaching 67,217 mt. Despite the increase, fuel imports in April 2016 represent only 12% of the monthly fuel needs which are estimated at 544,000 mt.

Significant delays are still experienced in all major ports in Yemen. The main reasons for the delays are the reduced operational capacities of the seaports and the rapidly changing security situation. The longest delay at anchorage in April was recorded for Al Hudaydah port with a vessels waiting for berth for 24 days. Delays at the port can be attributed to the lack of infrastructure caused by damaged cranes to discharge containers vessels.

Data on cargo imports included for the month of April do not include imports in Aden ports due to unavailability of information. The imports figures included are from Al Hudaydah and Saleef ports. Figures are rounded to tenths.

Sources: MCCC, WFP, Williamsen ports updates, OCHA, Yemen Ministry of planning and International cooperation

*Yemen Socio- Economic Update, Ministry of planning and International cooperation (Issue 14, May 2016)