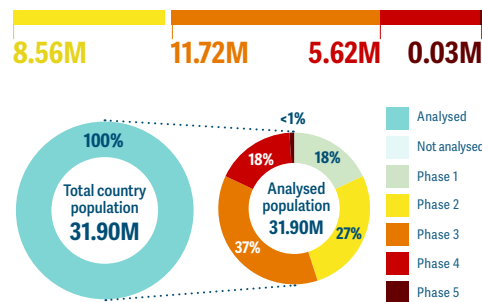


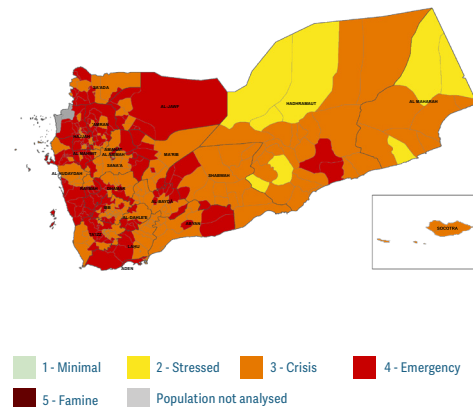
# Yemen

## ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY PEAK 2022

**17.37M** people or **55%** of the analysed population in IPC Phase 3 or above, January–May 2022



## IPC acute food insecurity situation, January–May 2022



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on these maps do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.  
Source: Yemen, IPC TWG, March 2022.

## Food crisis overview

During the first five months of 2022, over 1 million additional people were in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) compared with the same period in 2021, bringing the total to over 17 million people or 55 percent of the population.

Around 31 000 people were in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) in Abs, Aslem and Al Maghrabah districts in Hajjah governorate, and 5.6 million people were in Emergency (IPC Phase 4), representing 18 percent of the population (IPC, March 2022).

The situation is driven by nine years of protracted armed conflict and ensuing economic collapse aggravated in 2022 by the ripple effects of the war in Ukraine, and the inconsistent humanitarian assistance (OCHA, December 2022). The increase also reflects a rise by almost 2 million people in the country population estimates and thus the population analysed between January–June 2021 and January–May 2022.

At least 65 percent of the population was in IPC Phase 3 or above in Al-Hudaydah, Raymah, Hajjah,

Sa'ada and Al-Jawf governorates, while population-dense governorates facing conflict and increased displacement, such as Al-Hudaydah, Hajjah, Ta'izz and Sana'a City, hosted about half of the total population in these phases. Nearly half of all districts were classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) (IPC, March 2022).

## Acute food insecurity since 2016

For nearly a decade – even before the conflict – more than half of the population has consistently been in IPC Phase 3 or above, mainly driven by structural instability aggravated by human-induced factors and weather extremes (IPC, November 2022).

Yemen has been listed as a 'major' food crisis in all seven editions of the GRFC, and from 2016 to 2019, it was the country with the highest numbers of people in IPC Phase 3 or above in the report.

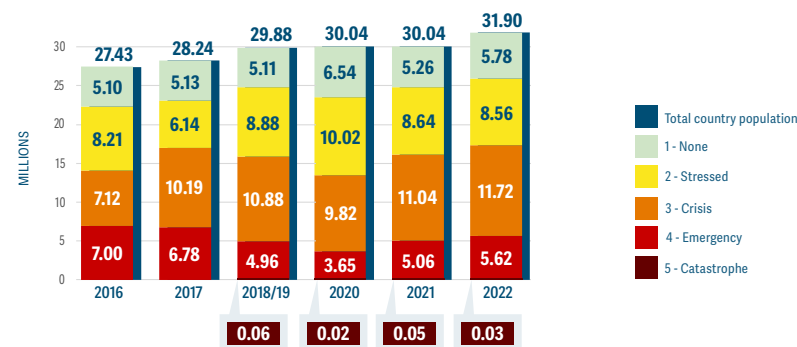
It remains among the five worst food crises in the world, with a consistent increase in the numbers of people in IPC Phase 3 or above since 2020. It is also one of the very few countries with populations in Catastrophe

(IPC Phase 5) every year since 2018, with the highest figure being reported in December 2018–January 2019 (64 000 people).

## Drivers of the crisis, 2022–23

**Conflict/insecurity** The Global Peace Index 2022 ranked Yemen as the second least peaceful country in the world, after Afghanistan, and the least peaceful country in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region for the second consecutive year (IEP, July 2022). The conflict between the Houthis and the Internationally Recognized Government escalated during the first quarter of 2022, as new operations and renewed violence occurred in the Shabwah, Ma'rib, Hajjah and Sana'a governorates (ACLED, August 2022). The parties to the conflict agreed to a United Nations-mediated truce on 2 April, 2022 that allowed for a halt in hostilities, entry of fuel ships into the Al-Hudaydah ports, resumption of commercial flights from and to Sana'a airport, and the reopening of closed roads (OESG, April 2022). The truce was extended twice through 2 October, 2022.

## Numbers of people by phases of acute food insecurity, 2016–2022



Source: Yemen IPC TWG.

## Populations in Catastrophe

In February 2022, the Yemen IPC Technical Working Group (TWG) had projected that 161 000 people would be in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) in the second half of the year and the total number of people in IPC Phase 3 or above would reach 19 million. Furthermore, given the acute food insecurity and acute malnutrition levels of the time in a few districts of Hajjah governorate, a Risk of Famine was forecast under the worst-case scenario. However, the scenario was averted due to an improvement in the security situation in conjunction with humanitarian assistance. The analysis conducted in August 2022 found no populations in IPC Phase 5 for the rest of the year (IPC, November 2022).

Despite the six-month truce, decreased household purchasing power, extremely limited livelihood options and lack of public services and infrastructure continued to drive very high levels of acute food insecurity (FEWS NET, October 2022). Funding shortages, climate-induced weather events and rising costs of food and fuel constrained humanitarian operations (OCHA, December 2022).

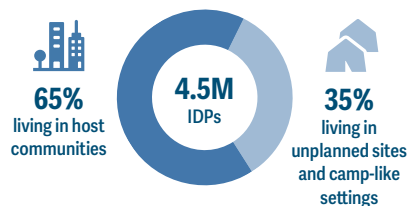
**Economic shocks** Yemen imports over 85 percent of its food requirements, making the country extremely vulnerable to global market fluctuations, import restrictions and currency fluctuations (FAO, October 2022). In 2022, already elevated domestic food prices rose higher due to the continued depreciation of the local currency (despite a short rebound in April 2022) and high global commodity prices partially supported by uncertainty related to export prospects from Ukraine (OCHA, December 2022). Traditional sources of foreign currency, such as remittances, oil and gas exports and bilateral funding streams, remained low (OCHA, December 2022).

These high prices compounded the erosion of livelihood opportunities and incomes from the previous nine years of conflict, which led to more households taking on higher levels of debt to cover basic needs (IPC, March 2022).

**Weather extremes** Although landscape and natural conditions constrain agricultural production, agriculture remains a crucial source of rural livelihoods. Moderate-to-severe drought conditions with unprecedented temperature rises during the first half of the year followed by heavy rainfall in August 2022 affected all cropped regions (IPC, November 2022). Out of the 76 percent of crop producers who faced difficulties during production, the majority cited insufficient irrigation or rainwater. Of those who planted crops, 37 percent reported a decrease in the area planted, and 55 percent expected a reduced harvest compared with a typical year. In Aden, Hajjah, Al-Hudaydah, Al-Jawf, Ibb, Ma'rib and Sana'a, the reduction in the area planted was higher than the national average (FAO, August 2022).

DISPLACEMENT

IDP numbers continued to increase in 2022



Source: HNO 2023, December 2022.

**IDPs** By the end of 2022, Yemen had about 4.5 million IDPs, representing the sixth largest internal displacement crisis in the world, with most of them being displaced for over a year and many of them more than once (HNO 2023, December 2023). About 1.6 million IDPs were living in 2 431 camp-like hosting sites across the country, and the remaining 2.9 million were living in host communities.

Competition over access to and use of land and water resources in and around these sites resulted in disputes between displaced people and host communities, hampering the provision of shelter, health and WASH services, as well as humanitarian assistance (HNO 2023, December 2022). Levels of wasting were higher among IDP children (12.3 percent) than among host community children (9.8 percent) (SMART 2022).

More than two-thirds of IDPs were living in rental accommodation or hosting arrangements, most without rental agreements – exposing them to arbitrary price increases. Eighty-two percent of displaced people reported serious difficulties in paying rent, leading to a drastic increase in evictions in 2022 (HNO 2023, December 2022).

While conflict-related displacement reduced significantly between April and October, disaster displacement increased, especially in July and August due to flooding during the rainy season. In 2022, IOM recorded 60 810 new IDPs. Around 49 percent of them were driven from their homes by combat and shelling,

36 percent by general insecurity conditions, 13 percent for economic reasons including unemployment and salary cuts, and 3 percent by rain and flooding. Ma'rib continued to receive more IDPs than any other governorate in 2022 (29 percent) – mainly from other governorates – although it received a lower percentage than in 2021 (50 percent). Both Ma'rib and the state of Al-Hudaydah reported multiple displacements as more common than new displacements (IOM DTM, December 2022).

At the country level, the self-reported priority needs among IDPs were shelter (41 percent), food (24 percent) and financial assistance (23 percent). However, in Al-Hudaydah the priority need was food assistance (35 percent), followed by shelter (26 percent) and financial support (20 percent).

For returning IDP households, food was the highest cited priority need, reaching 96 percent in Ma'rib, 92 percent in Al-Hudaydah and 86 percent in Aden (IOM DTM, December 2022).

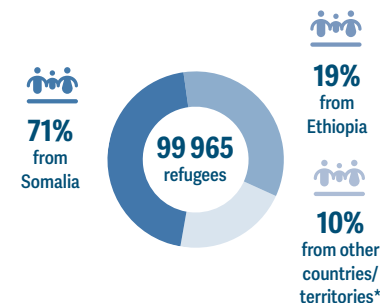
Most IDPs living in displaced sites belonged to the marginalized Muhamasheen community, who have been systematically excluded from accessing formal land and housing markets (UNHCR, February 2023).

In 2023, 378 000 people are expected to be newly displaced due to fighting, weather extremes and increased pressure on informal settlements, with children accounting for over half of them. Rental costs could rise as demand increases (HNO 2023, December 2022).

**Refugees** Yemen hosts almost 100 000 refugees, mainly from Somalia, living in overcrowded spaces without access to water or sanitation, particularly in urban areas. Nearly 28 000 people arrived in 2022 and 63 000 are expected to arrive in 2023. The collapse of the economy and public services, and legal barriers to formal employment, have severely affected refugees' capacity to become self-reliant. Informal sector work has plummeted, with the equally destitute Yemeni population competing for a limited number of jobs (HNO 2023, December 2022).

Community support structures have been fragmented to such an extent that non-Yemenis can no longer rely on the assistance and goodwill of host communities

Refugees are mainly from Somalia



\* Eritrea, Iraq, Palestine, the Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic. Source: HNO 2023, December 2022.

that have long supported them. They are often subject to high levels of stigma and discrimination and excluded from local systems of support and community-based protection mechanisms. Migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers frequently find themselves without access to essentials required for survival, including food, water, healthcare, shelter or cash (HNO 2023, December 2022).

**NUTRITION**

**Number of children under 5 years old with wasting, 2023**



**1.30M pregnant and lactating women acutely malnourished, 2022**

Source: IPC TWG, November 2022.

The prevalence of acute malnutrition among children under five years of age and women in Yemen remained among the highest in the world in 2022. The number of children with wasting under 5 years was 2.2 million, including 0.54 million who suffered from severe wasting (IPC, November 2022).

The acute malnutrition analysis from November 2022 provided an update of a previous IPC assessment in March 2022, indicating a worsening nutrition situation in 17 districts compared with the March projection with 26 districts classified as in Critical (IPC AMN Phase 4), 83 in Serious (IPC AMN Phase 3) and 16 in Alert (IPC AMN Phase 2) (IPC, November 2022).

Prior to the IPC analyses in 2022, a SMART survey conducted in 2021 concluded that the wasting prevalence for children under age 5 was 10 percent – although the survey was not conducted during the peak acute malnutrition season (July–October) when it was likely to be higher. Children aged 6–11 months had the highest prevalence, at over 15 percent, and boys were significantly more likely to suffer wasting than girls (11.1 percent versus 8.6 percent). At the governorate level, Al-Hudaydah had ‘very high’ severity at 18.5 percent, while seven other governorates had ‘high’ levels (10–<15 percent), namely Abyan, Hajjah, Socotra, Ta’izz,

Hadhramaut, Shabwah and Aden. All other governorates are classified as in ‘medium’ severity. The prevalence of severe wasting was nearly 1.5 percent, and was above the Emergency threshold in Aden (2.5 percent) and Al-Hudaydah (2.4 percent) governorates (SMART 2021).

The survey highlighted ‘very high’ levels of stunting across the country, with 45 percent of children under the age of 5 stunted. The prevalence was 30 percent or higher in 18 out of the 21 governorates surveyed. Stunting was shown to be more prevalent among boys (48 percent) than girls (42 percent), a trend also seen in wasting (SMART 2021).

**Drivers of undernutrition**

**Food insecurity and lack of access to healthy diets** Access to an adequate amount of healthy and diverse food has been severely curtailed by the economic deterioration, displacements and insecurity, especially in conflict-affected areas (HNO, December 2022). The situation is further exacerbated by the instability of humanitarian assistance (IPC, March 2022).

In the second quarter of 2022, households reported more difficulty coping with food shortages than at any other point over the previous three years. Food consumption gaps were concentrated in seven governorates: Al-Hudaydah, Hajjah, Ibb, Amran, Abyan, Ta’izz and Lahij, with particularly high food consumption gaps in Ta’izz and Lahij (HNO, December 2022).

**Limited access to health and nutrition services** Access to health facilities has remained severely restricted, which meant that approximately 42 percent of the population had to travel more than an hour to reach the nearest fully or partially functional public hospital. Almost half of health facilities are either partially functional or non-functional due to a lack of staff, funding, basic equipment and medicines, as well as due to power shortages. Another 11 percent of health facilities were either fully or partially damaged due to the conflict (HNO, December 2022).

In addition to rising prices of medicines and transportation, currency depreciation and lack of disposable income have reduced access to health services and contributed to people’s increased vulnerability to disease. For instance, immunization

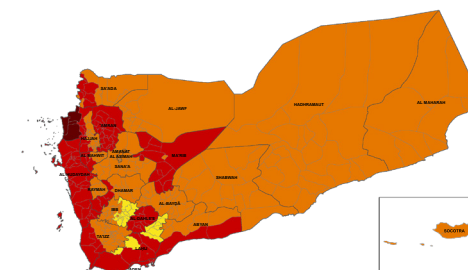
coverage has deteriorated, with 28 percent of children under 12 months of age missing routine vaccinations, which made Yemen the country in the MENA region with the highest number of children aged under 5 who aren’t vaccinated or are undervaccinated for the third consecutive year (HNO, December 2022).

**Poor household environment** An underlying driver of acute malnutrition was the lack of access to appropriate WASH services, which caused vulnerable households to use unprotected and unsafe water sources.

The 2021 SMART survey showed that only 24 percent of households in Yemen had at least basic drinking water services. Others, mainly in urban areas, were forced to rely more on water-trucking services since water demand has increased beyond water service capacity due to the influx of displaced persons (HNO, December 2022). Climate change also drove increased water demand, as inadequate rainfall led households that depend on rainwater harvesting to use unprotected water sources.

**Inadequate maternal and child-feeding practices** The SMART survey showed only 11.5 percent of children aged 6–23 months met their minimum dietary diversity requirements, with the lowest prevalence in Shabwah (3 percent), Al-Jawf (4.2 percent), and Al-Baydā (5.8 percent). Furthermore, the percentage of children under 6 months old who were exclusively breastfed declined to 20 percent.

**IPC acute malnutrition situation, October–December 2022**



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Source: Yemen, IPC TWG, November 2022.