Chapter 3 | Major food crises in 2022 | Yemen

Acute food insecurity forecast, 2022

19.01M people were forecast to be in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in June–December 2022

In June–December 2022, a Risk of Famine is projected under the worst-case scenario in Abs and Heyran districts (Hajjah governorate). Due to insufficient evidence during data collection, further assessment was recommended in Midi and Haradh districts to ascertain the Risk of Famine. Al Hafi and Al Hawak districts (Al Hudaydah governorate) are not forecast to be at Risk of Famine within the projection period, but the analysis determined that, should a worst-case scenario apply for a protracted period beyond the projection period, these districts will likely shift into Famine.

60% of the analysed population was forecast to be in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above)

In 2022, Yemen’s food crisis is expected to deteriorate further in the absence of improvements in conflict, economic growth and available humanitarian funding.

Economic shocks, including COVID-19

Due to the impacts of protracted conflict and foreign reserve shortages, macroeconomic conditions are likely to continue deteriorating, leading the national currency to depreciate further (IPC, March 2022). Payment of pensions and civil servant salaries will likely remain intermittent or absent in many areas because of persistent government revenue shortages, with SBA areas worst affected. Real income will remain significantly below pre-conflict levels. Driven by currency depreciation, increased costs of imports, and increasing fuel prices, prices of essential food and non-food items are expected to increase, with southern areas worst affected (FEWS NET, December 2021).

The IPC projection did not take account of the impact of the war in Ukraine, which is expected to further increase fuel and food prices, given that Yemen imports 95 percent of its wheat, and more than 30 percent of it comes from the Russian Federation and Ukraine (WFP, February 2022; Save the Children, March 2022).

Weather extremes

The confluence of droughts, floods and cyclones expected in 2022, combined with crop pests and livestock diseases, are expected to impact livelihoods and constrain incomes and food availability, particularly for fishing-based livelihoods (IPC, March 2022).

Humanitarian assistance

In March 2022, additional contributions were confirmed that will likely provide varying levels of support to 13 million people until May. These contributions were provided after the completion of the IPC analysis and were not factored into the IPC results. However, current funding levels for June–December indicate that without further resources, 8 million beneficiaries will not receive assistance from June onwards (IPC, March 2022).