In 2019, the conflict continued to disrupt economic activity and hydrocarbon exports, damage infrastructure and destroy basic public services (WB, October 2019). It continued to restrict people’s access to markets and services, particularly in Aden, Hodeidah, Ad Dhali’ and Hajjah (ACAPS, October 2019). September was one of the worst months for civilian casualties with an average of 13 killed or injured daily (OCHA, November 2019).

Some 3.6 million people are internally displaced, with over 390,000 displaced during 2019 (IOM, 2019).

Humanitarian access continued to be very challenging. Over 6 million people live in 75 hard-to-reach districts, with bureaucracy and conflict the main impediments to meeting their humanitarian needs (ACAPS, October 2019). June-July saw the highest number of violent incidents against humanitarian workers and assets, particularly in northern areas (OCHA, November 2019) and WFP suspended food distribution in Sana’a for over a month due to Houthi restrictions on beneficiary selection and monitoring (ACAPS, October 2019).

Economic shocks

The acute shortages of foreign exchange and fall in government revenues have interrupted the purchase of essential imports and payment of public sector salaries and pensions (WB, October 2019).

An estimated 40 percent of Yemeni households have lost their primary source of income and find it difficult to buy the minimum amount of food (WB, October 2019). Limited employment and depressed wages and salaries further increased reliance on humanitarian assistance (IPC, July 2019). Food prices in the third quarter were well above the five-year average – rice by 83 percent and wheat by 50 percent (WFP, October 2019). Sorghum, millet and maize prices were 140–170 percent higher than pre-crisis levels (FAO and FSTS, October 2019).

Fuel and gas shortages disrupted electricity, water, sanitation and health services and raised the cost of basic goods. In October, black market fuel prices were nearly three times higher than the official price (NRC, October 2019). Petrol prices were around 22 percent higher in the third quarter of 2019 compared with the same period in 2018 (WFP, October 2019).

Weather extremes and crop pests

In June, rains and flash flooding affected close to 70,000 people, including IDPs, in over 10 governorates (OCHA, June 2019). Rains further intensified across the country and affected mostly western governorates, while Hodeidah and Al Mahwit suffered the most damage with housing, livestock and livelihoods washed away and IDP sites damaged (OCHA, August 2019). In September and October, further heavy rains, thunderstorms and flooding hit southern areas, including IDP sites and some central areas (OCHA, October 2019).