

The Most Important Obstacles to Food Access and Possible Solutions

Food access:

Individuals and households must be able to acquire sufficient, healthy and nutritious food, or have access to sufficient resources needed to grow their own food (e.g. land). Access can be affected by:

- ❖ The ability to afford the price of food or land for producing food)
- ❖ The economic, social and political mechanisms governing when, where, and how food can be accessed by consumers and on what terms.
- ❖ Preference, social, religious, and cultural norms and values that influence consumer demand for certain types of food.

Challenges in accessing food:

- ❖ Increase in food commodity prices as a result of the instability of the local currency exchange rates against foreign currencies
- ❖ It is expected that imports of food commodities will decrease as a result of the outbreak of the Corona epidemic and the re-closure of all exporting countries of their sea and land ports, which may affect the commodity stock.
- ❖ The high costs of transporting food commodities due to the increase of domestic fuel prices.
- ❖ Weak control over money exchange shops, as there is a conflict over the currency and the presence of informal money exchange shops that manipulate prices and impose high fees on transfers.
- ❖ Decrease in foreign remittances as a result of imposing high residence fees for Yemeni workers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the return of a large part of them to the homeland. In addition to the effects of the Corona pandemic, which led to expatriates losing their work as a result of the embargo imposed by neighboring countries.
- ❖ Lack of work opportunities and widespread unemployment among young people who are able to work.



- ❖ The presence of displaced persons from the governorates in which the war prevails and their impact on the food situation in the governorates to which they were displaced.
- ❖ Failure to provide the governorates with adequate allocations of domestic gas from the Yemeni Gas Company, Marib, which results in the emergence of a parallel market that drains the citizen's income due to the high price of this material. This problem has been plaguing many provinces for years.
- ❖ The increase in the number of the poor and their inability to provide the minimum basic food requirements.

Possible remedies to facilitate access to food:

- ❖ Encouraging merchants to import basic food commodities and providing them with facilities by guaranteeing imports at the official exchange rate.
- ❖ Creating a sufficient strategic stock of basic food commodities for a year by stimulating traders or direct intervention in partnership with the private sector
- ❖ Determine the prices of basic food commodities covered at the official exchange rate and impose strict price control on the market.
- ❖ Increasing the monthly allocations to the provinces of domestic gas, which will lead to price stability and limit manipulation.
- ❖ Strict control over unlicensed exchange houses and find appropriate mechanisms to stop the deterioration of the local currency
- ❖ Requiring transport offices to reduce the prices of transporting food commodities between governorates in line with the decrease in local fuel prices.
- ❖ Activating the role of monitoring and supervising the selling prices of domestic gas cylinders and taking measures to deter violators and price manipulators.
- ❖ Withdrawal of expired household gas cylinders or conducting comprehensive maintenance for them to protect the health of the consumer.
- ❖ Counting the displaced in the governorates to know their status and their impact on the food situation in each governorate.
- ❖ State support for agricultural production, especially cash crops, to increase agricultural exports, as well as local grain crops, and to bring in high-productivity varieties to reduce the cost of the local product.
- ❖ The state adopts the establishment of grain silos in the port of Aden to maintain a strategic stock of wheat to face the crises .