

Food Security Situation in Yemen

- ❖ The food insecurity situation in Yemen has been a chronic problem for a long time, but it has deteriorated to alarming levels over the past few years. Conflict remains the main driver worsening the situation.
- ❖ The accumulated shocks and increase of different food and livelihood coping strategies, as well as very low economic activities, absence of public services, and high food prices, led to a significant loss of income and livelihoods.
- ❖ The economic situation and food access for the majority of the affected households is further exacerbated by the high food prices. The cost of a minimum/ survival food basket remains (**in August 2020 was 43,050 YER equivalent to value of 63 USD**) unaffordable for many households, leading to over-dependency on humanitarian food assistance.
- ❖ Yemen's economy has suffered a serious decline over the years with a **36.2%** depreciation of the national currency since December 2019, at least a 20 percent drop in remittances, while fuel exports have also reduced by **18%**. Public sector workers are not receiving their salaries and more than **600,000** people have lost their job. The conflict has caused severe damage to the economic infrastructure of the country, causing its GDP to contract by more than **50% (2014-2020)**.
- ❖ As a result of conflict and natural disasters such as floods about **80%** of the population, **24 million** people, requires some form of humanitarian or protection assistance, including **14.3 million** who are in acute need. More than **20 million** Yemenis are food insecure including **10 million** who are close to famine. More than **3.6 million** people have been internally displaced.
- ❖ The COVID-19 pandemic is rapidly spreading in Yemen, exacerbating the country's economic problems. As of 5 October 2020, the number of reported confirmed COVID-19 cases in Yemen had reached **2,041** with **592 associated deaths** and **1,323 recoveries**. Effects of COVID-19 in Yemen and abroad have led to loss of income, a sharp drop in remittances reducing purchasing power, and increased food expenditure.

Government actions and interventions to improve food security:

- Application of a preferential exchange rate to importers of basic food commodities.
- Establishing an agricultural and fisheries support fund to increase local production.
- Establishing food security information system with the support of the European Union.
- Support farmers with customs exemption for agricultural inputs.
- Facilitating and supporting local and international agencies working in the field of humanitarian aid.
- Encouraging and supporting investors in the food industry sector.
- Supporting the health sector and encouraging investors in the health sector.

Humanitarian assistance for 2020:

People in need: 24.3 million or 81% of Yemen's population.

Funding: As of August 4, 2020, total funding received from donors reached \$ 708.8 million, only 22% of the total funding requirements for humanitarian and relief assistance in Yemen, which amount to \$ 3.38 billion for the year 2020.

This brief is issued by Food Security Technical Secretariat (FSTS)-Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC), supported by FSIS-FAO Program funded by the European Union. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of FSTS. For more information please contact:
Email: kbatroosh@hotmail.com
Mobile: 734673266/ 773229056