

## Strategic- Policies Recommendations Related to Food Security

### Introduction:

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.

Food Security Information System (FSIS) project Funded by European Union (EU) and implemented by FAO in coordination and cooperation with Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC) was helped in conceptualize some strategic policies related to food security for the Yemeni government. This report is summarizing the main food insecurity drivers with main policy recommendations as the results of the long process of sectoral meetings/seminars of experts and relevant technical officers from related institutions.

### Methodology:

Based on data / information that were gathered from different sources with support and facilitation of the Food Security Technical Secretariat (FSTS) in particular:

- Data collected by GFUs that supported by FSIS project as part of the Food Security Information System institutional set up within government existing structures;
- Data/ information and research papers obtained from related partners;
- Reports , briefs and updates produced by the FSTS/MOPIC
- Outcomes of the technical thematic working groups that were formed from various relevant sectors in coordination and consultation with leaders of the related ministries in particular MAI and MoPHP.

The above-indicated sources have gone through number of discussions with related technical experts from related sectors, where it were held a series of meetings and seminars. As the result, a set of possible strategic policies to improve the food security and nutrition situation recommended and submitted to the decision makers at the related ministries and relevant partners.

## **Main Food Insecurity Drivers (The Main Findings)**

- ❖ The economic situation and food access for the majority of the affected households is further exacerbated by the high food prices.
- ❖ Yemen's economy has suffered a serious decline over the years with a 225.6% depreciation of the national currency since pre-crisis 2015, 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).
- ❖ Because 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 under risk of 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 23 November 2020, the number of reported confirmed COVID-19 cases in Yemen had reached 2,072 with 604 associated deaths and 1,379 recoveries. Effects of COVID-19 worldwide and especially in Yemen, which was exaggerated by other endemic diseases such as Acute Diarrhea and Mosquito borne diseases have led to loss of income, a sharp drop in remittances reducing purchasing power and increased food and health expenditure.

### Strategic- Policies Recommendations by Sectors

	Recommended strategies	Recommended policies/Interventions	Remarks
		<b>A. Agriculture sector</b>	
1	<b>Increase wheat production</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Vertical expansion of wheat cultivation by improving crop management, increasing productivity, and benefiting from the outputs of agricultural research in this aspect.</li> <li>❖ Horizontal expansion through reclamation of new agricultural lands, where the appropriate environment is available for cultivation and production of wheat.</li> <li>❖ Paying attention to agricultural research centers and activating their role in developing wheat cultivation and production through the implementation of genetic improvement programs to produce improved wheat varieties with high productivity and resistance to drought and heat as well as resistance to agriculture diseases and pests, and to achieve the optimal use of resources.</li> <li>❖ Encouraging the establishment of agricultural societies to provide agricultural inputs, agricultural machinery and provide guidance and training.</li> <li>❖ Limiting the expansion of qat cultivation at the expense of wheat cultivation.</li> <li>❖ Providing incentives to attract private investment in agriculture, particularly grain production and providing facilities for reclamation of new lands.</li> </ul>	
2	<b>Rationalize of Wheat Consumption</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Production of compound flour from sorghum, millet and wheat to facilitate the marketing of locally produced grains (high-quality and good-tasting protein) to compete with imported wheat, and to establish agricultural marketing associations as an intermediary between grain producers and mills.</li> <li>❖ Motivate the oven owners to mix the wheat flour with the rest of the locally produced grains.</li> <li>❖ Raise awareness of the importance of changing food consumption patterns by returning to the consumption of locally produced grains such as millet and sorghum or mixing them with flour and wheat in order to reduce the flour and imported wheat.</li> </ul>	

3	<b>Reducing the burden of wheat imports on the consumer</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Sustaining the access of foreign currency to wheat importers from the Central Bank of Yemen and simplifying procedures for opening documentary credits and paying international suppliers.</li> <li>❖ Rehabilitating the ports of Al Hudaydah, Saleef and Mukalla and developing the port of Aden to facilitate the entry of commercial and non-commercial shipments.</li> <li>❖ The appropriate choice for concluding wheat import deals to take advantage of seasonal price declines on global stock market.</li> </ul>	
<b>B. Health and nutrition</b>			
1	<b>Acute diarrhea (AD</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Strengthening the health and nutritional education system with regard to personal hygiene and food safety.</li> <li>❖ Controlling the common worms in the community by distributing anti-worms every 6 months.</li> <li>❖ Coordination with the relevant sectors to remove garbage and withdraw sewage from streets and lanes.</li> <li>❖ Providing clean and safe water.</li> </ul>	
2	<b>Dengue fever (PDF</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Strengthening the health education system regarding mosquito control</li> <li>❖ Combating mosquito reproduction by closing breeding centers</li> <li>❖ Distribution of the impregnated bed nets for the most affected governorates</li> <li>❖ Coordination with the relevant authorities to create a comprehensive plan to eliminate diseases transmitted through mosquitoes (health - water and environmental sanitation - hygiene fund - ....)</li> </ul>	
<b>C. Trade issues (food access)</b>			
1	<b>Food imports and national stock</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Encouraging merchants to import basic food commodities and providing them with facilities by guaranteeing imports at the official exchange rate.</li> <li>❖ Creating a sufficient strategic stock of basic food commodities for a year by stimulating traders or direct intervention in partnership with the private sector</li> <li>❖ The state adopts the establishment of grain silos in the port of Aden to maintain a strategic stock of wheat to</li> </ul>	

		<p>face the crises</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ 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.</li> </ul>	
2	<b>Exchange rate and prices monitoring</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Determine the prices of basic food commodities covered at the official exchange rate and impose strict price control on the market.</li> <li>❖ Requiring transport offices to reduce the prices of transporting food commodities between governorates in line with the decrease in local fuel prices.</li> <li>❖ Strict control over unlicensed exchange houses and find appropriate mechanisms to stop the deterioration of the local currency</li> <li>❖ Increasing the monthly allocations to the provinces of domestic gas, which will lead to price stability and limit manipulation.</li> <li>❖ Activating the role of monitoring and supervising the selling prices of domestic gas cylinders and taking measures to deter violators and price manipulators.</li> <li>❖ Withdrawal of expired household gas cylinders or conducting comprehensive maintenance for them to protect the health of the consumer.</li> </ul>	

**Dr. Khader Atroosh**  
**Head of FSTS-Aden**  
**Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation**  
**Email: [kbatroosh@hotmail.com](mailto:kbatroosh@hotmail.com)**  
**Mobile: 734673266 or 773229056**

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**Email: [kbatroosh@hotmail.com](mailto:kbatroosh@hotmail.com)**  
**Mobile: 734673266/ 773229056**