

An Urgent Appeal to all government authorities, financial institutions, and regional and international humanitarian partners.

IDPs in Marib confront a humanitarian crisis amidst severe food scarcity.

With sincere regards,

Based on credible field reports from information providers and camp management teams affiliated with the Executive Unit, the Executive Unit is issuing an urgent humanitarian appeal, warning of an imminent humanitarian catastrophe threatening the lives of thousands of IDPs due to a severe shortage of food and the skyrocketing prices of food commodities caused by the collapse of the local currency and the cessation of the distribution of WFP rations.

Ma'rib Governorate is experiencing a severe humanitarian crisis characterized by acute food insecurity and malnutrition. Most of the governorate's districts have been classified as being in Phase 4 (Emergency) of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC). Approximately %50 of Ma'rib's population live in a situation of acute food insecurity as a result of the ongoing conflict, economic deterioration, and a significant increase in the number of IDPs, which has led to a severe deterioration of living conditions.

Reports indicate that %42 of IDPs in Ma'rib camps are deprived of life-saving monthly food assistance, leaving them at risk of famine. Moreover, the prices of basic food commodities have surged by %210 over the past two years, exacerbating the inability of IDP households to meet their basic needs.

According to the Integrated Phase Classification of malnutrition report (August 2024), Ma'rib is classified in Phase 4 & 3 of malnutrition, with children and pregnant women suffering from critical levels of malnutrition.

The soaring food prices have led to a deterioration of living conditions at all levels, with %45 of IDP HHs experiencing near-famine conditions due to their complete inability to secure the necessities for their families. This situation is a harbinger of an impending humanitarian catastrophe.

From May to August, a significant increase in both severe and moderate malnutrition cases was observed in Ma'rib, necessitating a comprehensive coordination of efforts from various stakeholders to address this crisis and its severe humanitarian consequences. According to field assessments and monitoring, indicators reveal that the prevalence of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) among children in Ma'rib city reached %18.2, placing it in Phase 4 (Emergency). In rural areas (Ma'rib Al-Wadi, Harib, Ragwan), the severe malnutrition prevalence reached %14.3, classifying it in Phase 3 (Emergency), with projections indicating a potential escalation to Phase 4 by July-October, in accordance with reports issued by Public Health and Population Office.

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis suggests that the prevalence of malnutrition in Ma'rib city may exceed %15 during this period, implying that the city could enter Phase 4 (Emergency). Indicators further revealed that the prevalence of severe malnutrition among pregnant and lactating women reached %14.4 according to an August 2024 survey in rural areas. Regarding children under five in Ragwan and Harib districts, the first phase of medical team activities from June to August showed a severe malnutrition prevalence of %19, also placing them in Phase 4 (Emergency). This indicates that the nutritional situation in these areas is more severe compared to others. These alarming indicators necessitate an immediate response and enhanced coordination of efforts among partners and the local community to prevent further deterioration of the nutritional situation and avert its severe consequences on the most vulnerable groups.

Based on comprehensive surveys, assessments, and reports, the following data and findings are presented :

120,000 displaced HHs are experiencing food insecurity in Ma'rib Governorate, of which 72,400 HHs were benefiting from World Food Programme assistance before the cessation of food ration distributions since the last distribution cycle in March 2024.

The standard food basket sufficient to feed a family of five for one month has surged by nearly \$99 (189,111 riyals), marking a staggering increase of 37,422 riyals compared to January 2024.

234,000 displaced HHs in Ma'rib Governorate face difficulties in securing their food security needs, a %44 increase compared to last year, with an expected further increase of %25.4 by the end of this year amid a "massive shortfall" in humanitarian response.

Tens of thousands of IDP HHs are now resorting to reducing the number and size of daily meals to afford basic necessities, taking another step towards the abyss and widening the gap.

17,680 pregnant women are suffering from malnutrition.

87,447 IDP HHs are on waiting lists to be added to the World Food Programme's target beneficiaries.

120,344 displaced children and women are suffering from malnutrition.

16,530 individuals with disabilities require economic empowerment.



- The Executive Unit calls upon all parties, particularly OCHA, humanitarian funds, and donors, to increase funding allocated to Ma'rib Governorate to cover urgent food needs and prevent a further deterioration of the humanitarian situation.
- The Executive Unit urges all international and humanitarian organizations, as well as Food Security Cluster, to take immediate action to save the lives of displaced HHs, meet their urgent needs, and provide essential food assistance to the IDPs in Ma'rib.
- We urge the World Food Programme (WFP) to accelerate the necessary procedures to ensure the regular distribution of food rations, enhance humanitarian assistance programs to cover %100 of displaced HHs in and out of camps, and expand its targeting to include all IDPs and vulnerable households with no income from the host community. We also call for expediting the distribution and increasing the food rations for targeted displaced HHs, while ensuring quality, diversity, and adherence to minimum standards.