



[International Aid Groups and U.N. Agencies Warn That 161,000 People in Yemen are Likely to Experience Famine Over the Second Half of 2022](#)

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) expressed earlier this week that an estimated 161,000 people in Yemen are likely to experience famine over the second half of 2022. Most alarming, is the fact that this number is 5 times larger than the current figure of around 30,000. The sharp rise in projected famine cases has been extremely worrying for many aid and humanitarian organizations. The increase has been partly linked to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, as the latter supplies nearly a third of wheat imported to Yemen. The country has already been subject to mass starvation and famine due to the Saudi-led coalition's ongoing war in Yemen, and the Russia-Ukraine crisis has now exacerbated the issue as well. The conflict in Yemen has had a devastating toll on the nation's civilian population and infrastructure, with the IPC report stating that 19 million of its 30 million people will likely not be able to meet their minimum food needs in the second half of this year – a troubling recent increase of more than 3 million.

The IPC is a global partnership of 15 United Nations agencies and humanitarian organizations. They operate in Yemen and receive funding from USAID, UKAID, and the European Union. One of the other harrowing figures included in their report details that an estimated 2.2 million children in Yemen are acutely malnourished. "More and more children are going to bed hungry in Yemen," said UNICEF chief Catherine Russell. This lack of nutrition also affects their development and health as they grow. Another factor contributing to the worsening of the food insecurity crisis is a lack of funding to aid groups. Many have been forced to scale down or entirely abandon programs in Yemen. The United Nations aimed to raise \$3.85 billion for aid, but only raised \$1.7 billion. Food aid has been drastically cut for 8 million people and nearly 4 million will lose access to clean water in the near future.

The war in Yemen has been raging for nearly 7 years between the country's Houthi rebels and its government, which is supported by a Saudi-led coalition. The Houthis currently control the northwestern part of the country, including the capital city of Sanaa, while government forces have relative control over the rest of the nation. The Saudi-led coalition has created a debilitating blockade around Yemen, which also continues to hamper any efforts at offering much-needed humanitarian relief and assistance to the civilian population. Peace talks have also shown little progress. Meanwhile, aid groups have at least called for an end to the destructive blockade that by all impartial accounts is certainly worsening the ongoing humanitarian crisis in the country.

The people of Yemen continue to face what has been called the worst humanitarian crisis in the world, which includes not only famine but cholera outbreaks and medicine shortages as well. Many civilians have been forced to flee their homes to escape the brutal violence. The COVID-19 pandemic has also compounded the suffering of the Yemeni people by slowing foreign aid. Additionally, the backing of other groups by external forces like the United Arab Emirates has even further complicated the situation. To try and alleviate the dire circumstances, the IPC is working to provide emergency relief and build up food production in order to offset reliance on imports.