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YEMEN FOOD SECURITY UPDATE

October 2024

Household Access to Food



Food consumption

After reaching a historic record in August 2024, the prevalence of inadequate food consumption in Yemen decreased from 64 percent in August to 60 percent in September 2024. This is primarily associated with seasonal patterns related to cereal harvest season, the decreased severity of floods in September compared to August, the start of the third food assistance cycle in areas under the internationally recognized Government (IRG), and the food distribution through the Rapid Emergency Response (RER) operation in areas under the Sana'a-based authorities (SBA).

Nonetheless, the food security situation remained at alarming level across the country, with the 2024 Global Hunger Index (GHI) ranking Yemen as the second highest GHI score in the world. At the end of Q3 2024, the share of households with inadequate food consumption was 20 percent higher in Yemen compared to the same quarter in 2023, with severe levels of food deprivation (poor food consumption) soaring over the past year and reaching 33 percent in September 2024. Key drivers include economic challenges in IRG and SBA areas, funding shortages, and prolonged pause of food assistance in the north. Limited income-generating activities is also a key challenge, as reported by 67 percent of the interviewed households in the north and 59 percent in the south.

At regional level, the prevalence of inadequate food consumption was higher in IRG areas, however the annual deterioration was sharper in SBA areas. Nearly two-thirds of the surveyed households (64 percent) in IRG controlled areas were unable to meet their minimum food needs in September 2024, down by merely one percent month-on-month while being 15 percent higher compared to a year before. Severe levels of food deprivation remained unchanged from the previous month; however, it saw a 39 percent rise year-on-year, reaching 35 percent in September. Among the southern governorates, this trend peaked in Shabwah, Lahj, Ad Dali', and Abyan, with poor food consumption nearly doubling over the past year in Abyan and Hadramawt. Additionally, around 17 percent of households in the south reported having at least one member who went an entire day and night without eating due to food shortages. [Click Here](#)

The recent partial Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) acute food insecurity [analysis](#) for IRG areas indicated that nearly half of the population in IRG-controlled areas (4.7 million people) experienced high levels of acute food insecurity between July and September 2024, including 1.2 million people in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency). With a modest improvement during the projection period (October 2024 – February 2025), the situation is expected to remain at equally concerning levels where 4.6 million people anticipated to be in IPC Phase 3 or above. This is based on the assumptions of providing food rations with higher caloric value to the most vulnerable households, along with improved seasonal crop and livestock conditions during the projection period. However, these gains are likely to be offset by a worsening economic crisis, which is expected to sustain high levels of acute food insecurity.

On the other hand, the share of households lacking access to adequate food reached 57 percent in September in SBA areas, down by 10 percent from the previous month while increasing by 21 percent year-on-year and by 25 percent from November 2023. Nearly one-

third of households (32 percent) reported severe food deprivation in the north in September 2024. Despite the 14 percent monthly decline, the prevalence of poor food consumption remained 51 percent higher than a year before and up by 65 percent from November 2023. All governorates in the north exceeded the "very high" threshold of ≥ 20 percent for poor food consumption in September, except for Sana'a City. The peaks were recorded in Al Bayda, Al Jawf, Amran, Raymah, and Hajjah, with nearly a two-fold year-on-year increase observed in Al Bayda, Al Hodeidah, Al Jawf, and Al Mahwit. Furthermore, one in every five households in SBA areas (21 percent) indicated having at least one member who went an entire day and night without eating due to a lack of food. [Click Here](#)



Coping strategies

In September 2024, more than half of the surveyed households in Yemen (52 percent) adopted extremely negative food-coping behaviours corresponding to IPC Phase 3 level and above ($rCSI \geq 19$), with a higher share observed in the north (54 percent) compared to the south (49 percent). This trend was more pronounced among households in Hajjah, Al Jawf, and Sa'dah governorates. Nationally, limiting meal portion size and consuming less expensive or less preferred food were the most frequently used strategies, indicated by 77 percent and 71 percent of the interviewed households, respectively. [Click Here](#)

The dire living conditions and the limited income-generating activities led to widespread reliance on crisis or emergency livelihood coping strategies to meet essential needs, with a higher proportion recorded in the north (79 percent) compared to the south (75 percent). Begging and selling home were indicated by six percent and nine percent of the surveyed households in the north, respectively, in order to cover their food needs. In the south, these strategies were reported by four percent and seven percent, respectively. [Click Here](#)



Access to food for IDPs

IDPs are one of the worst affected groups in Yemen. In September, nearly two-thirds of the surveyed IDPs (64 percent) were unable to meet their minimum food needs, compared to 57 percent among residents. Severe level of food deprivation (poor food consumption) increased by 61 percent over the past year among IDPs, reaching 36 percent in September 2024. This level is also higher compared to residents (31 percent in September 2024). Additionally, the share of households facing severe hunger (Phase 4 and above), as measured by household hunger scale, reached nine percent among IDPs versus five percent of residents. [Click Here](#)

In order to meet food shortages, around 59 percent of the surveyed IDPs resorted to extremely negative food-based coping mechanisms ($rCSI \geq 19$), compared to 49 percent among residents. The continued disruption of livelihoods has compelled 81 percent of IDPs to adopt crisis or emergency livelihood coping strategies to cover their essential needs in September, while 76 percent among resident households reported such behaviours. Of these, begging was indicated by nine percent of IDPs versus three percent among residents.

Key Drivers of Food Insecurity



According to the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data (ACLED), the number of political violence events inside Yemen saw a 31 percent decline during Q3 2024 compared to the same quarter in 2023. IOM estimated that approximately 6,618 people in Yemen were displaced at least once during Q3 2024, which is nearly the same level recorded in Q3 2023. Beyond the internal conflict, geopolitical tensions in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region continued to introduce additional risks, particularly in SBA areas. ACLED reported 385 violent events in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden between October 2023 and September 2024, including 76 events recorded during Q3 2024. The 2024 Global Peace Index (GPI) ranked Yemen as the least peaceful country in the world.



In IRG-controlled areas, the Yemeni rial experienced a 25 percent depreciation against the US dollar year-on-year, reaching YER 1,902/USD by the end of September 2024. The rial has now lost more than two-thirds of its value (68 percent) over the past five years. This depreciation is mainly attributed to low foreign currency reserves and revenue shortages resulting from the suspension of crude oil exports. Reduced government revenues have impacted the delivery of essential services in IRG areas, including the payment of salaries for public sector employees. Yemen's gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to contract by one percent in 2024, following a two percent contraction in 2023, according to the World Bank. In SBA-controlled areas, the value of the rial remained relatively steady at YER 533/USD, with only a two percent depreciation over the past year. Nonetheless, there are concerns about liquidity and declining foreign currency reserves in SBA-controlled areas. [Click Here](#)



Fuel imports via all Yemeni seaports between January and September 2024 was nearly unchanged compared to the same period last year. Fuel imports via the Red Sea ports saw a three percent increase year-on-year, while the southern ports of Aden and Mukalla experienced a seven percent decline during the same period. Al Hodeidah port has been subject to airstrikes twice during Q3 2024 (in July and September). No fuel tanker has entered the port since the first attack, and all fuel shipments have been diverted to Ras Issa port. It is crucial to closely monitor the situation in the coming months since Al Hodeidah port serves as a critical importation hub for Yemen. [Click Here](#)



Despite a 21 percent annual decline in global crude oil prices, local fuel prices have reached their highest levels on record in IRG-controlled areas due to the ongoing currency depreciation. In September 2024, pump prices for petrol and diesel increased by 16 percent in IRG area (from YER 1,097/liter to YER 1,273/liter) and by 11 percent (from YER 1,366/liter to YER 1,519/liter), respectively, compared to the previous year. However, they were still below local fuel prices in black markets in 2022. WFP has been unable to collect market price data in SBA areas since June 2024 due to security concerns. [Click Here](#)



Despite the Red Sea crisis, food imports through Yemeni seaports increased by 18 percent from January to September 2024 compared to the same period in 2023. Food imports via the Red Sea ports rose by 26 percent in the first nine months of 2024 compared to the same period last year, while the southern ports of Aden and Mukalla witnessed an eight percent decline during the same period. Essential food items were available in the Yemeni markets during Q3 2024, however food remained beyond reach for most vulnerable households due to higher prices in IRG areas and low purchasing power countrywide. [Click Here](#)



In September 2024, the global FAO Food Price Index (FFPI) saw a three percent increase from the previous month, representing the largest month-on-month rise since March 2022. This was triggered by monthly increases in all sub-indexes, particularly sugar (up by 10 percent) due to concerns over tighter global availabilities in the upcoming 2024/25 season and unfavourable weather conditions that affected sugarcane fields. Year-on-year, the FFPI value rose by two percent, with the FAO Vegetable Oil Price Index increasing by 18 percent, reaching its highest level since early 2023. This rise is primarily attributed to tightening global supply conditions. [Click Here](#)



WFP continues to provide food assistance to around 3.6 million people in IRG-controlled areas, although with reduced rations due to funding shortages. The third food assistance cycle of 2024 started in September 2024, with 96 percent of distributions completed by end-October. In SBA areas, the food assistance pause which started in December 2023 led to a significant increase in acute food deprivation. In response, WFP completed food distributions in September under a Rapid Emergency Response (RER) operation targeting 1.4 million people in 34 highly vulnerable districts across eight northern governorates. In addition, WFP is preparing its new targeted emergency food assistance programme (TEFA), a geographically targeted food assistance programme assisting the most food insecure areas of northern Yemen. The first TEFA cycle, which started in early November, is planned to assist 1.4 million people in SBA areas. [Click Here](#)



The cost of the minimum food basket (MFB) has been steadily increasing in IRG-controlled areas since the beginning of 2024, reaching unprecedented level in September. At the end of Q3 2024, the monthly average cost of the MFB (YER 20,103/person/month) experienced a 23 percent rise compared to the same period in 2023 while remaining 17 percent higher than the previous all-time high recorded in March 2022. This is primarily due to the ongoing currency depreciation and higher fuel prices. Essential food items followed in cue, with a year-on-year increases in the prices of vegetable oils, red beans, sugar, and wheat flour (up by 39 percent, 25 percent, 23 percent, and 18 percent, respectively). According to the latest [IPC analysis](#), prices of staple foods are anticipated to continue rising until February 2025 and remain above 2024 levels. In the southern governorates, Ma'rib experienced the highest annual increase in MFB costs (52 percent), followed by Socotra and Hadramawt. The windy season in Socotra during Q3 2024 has affected food supplies, leading to price increases. [Click Here](#)

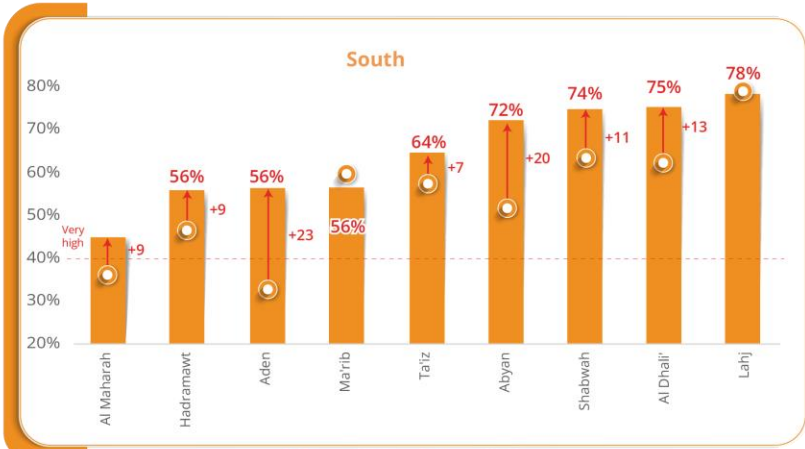
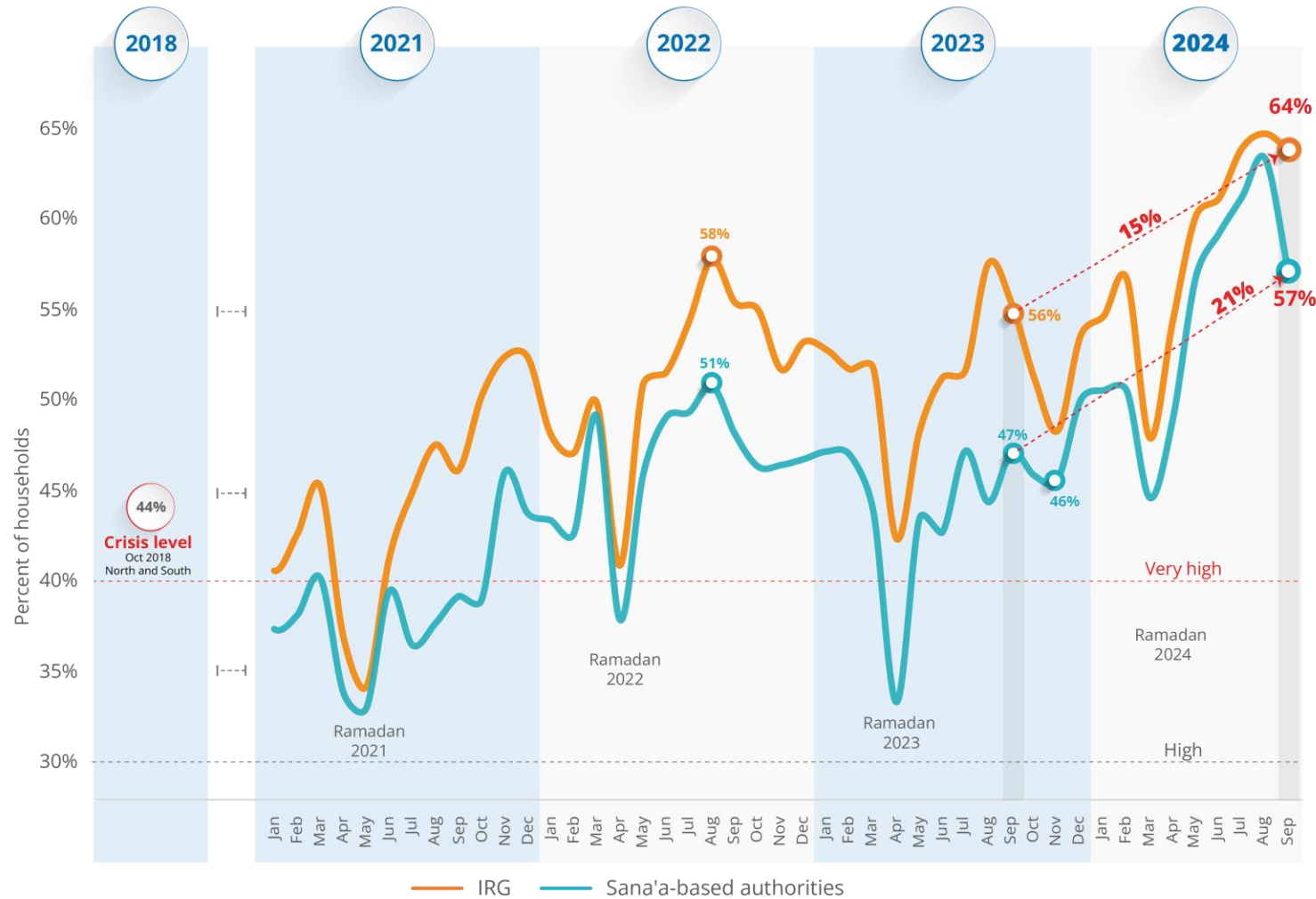


For more details, you can visit:

[WFP Yemen food security and market monitoring dashboard](#)



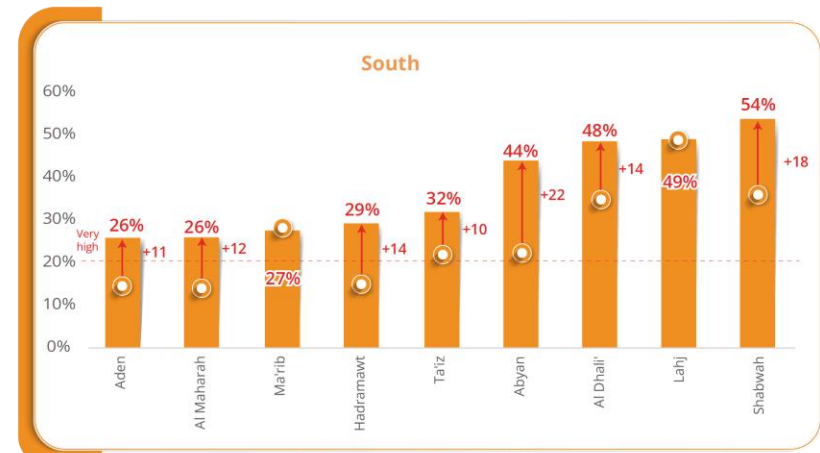
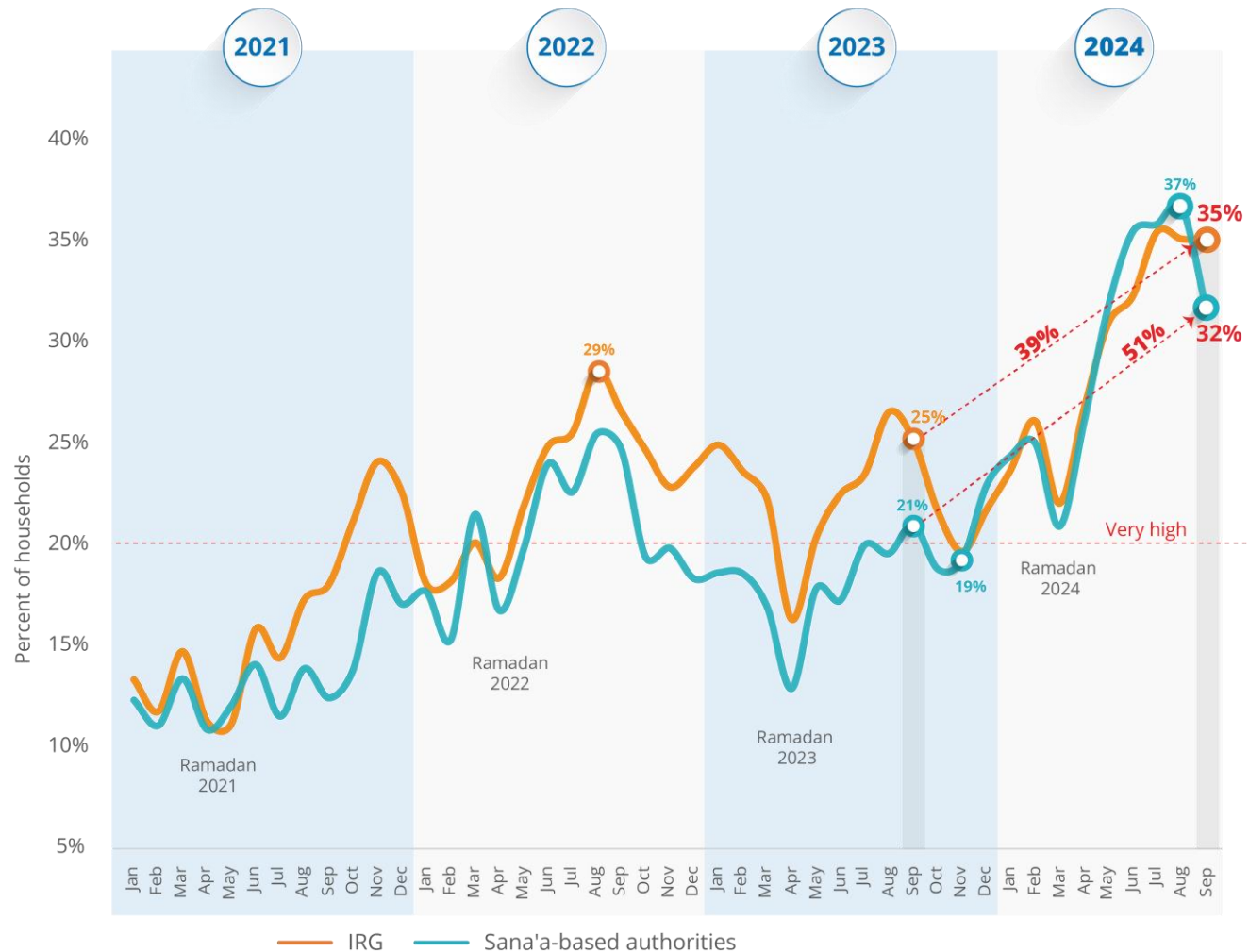
Food Security Outcomes (Inadequate Food Consumption)



Source: WFP monitoring data



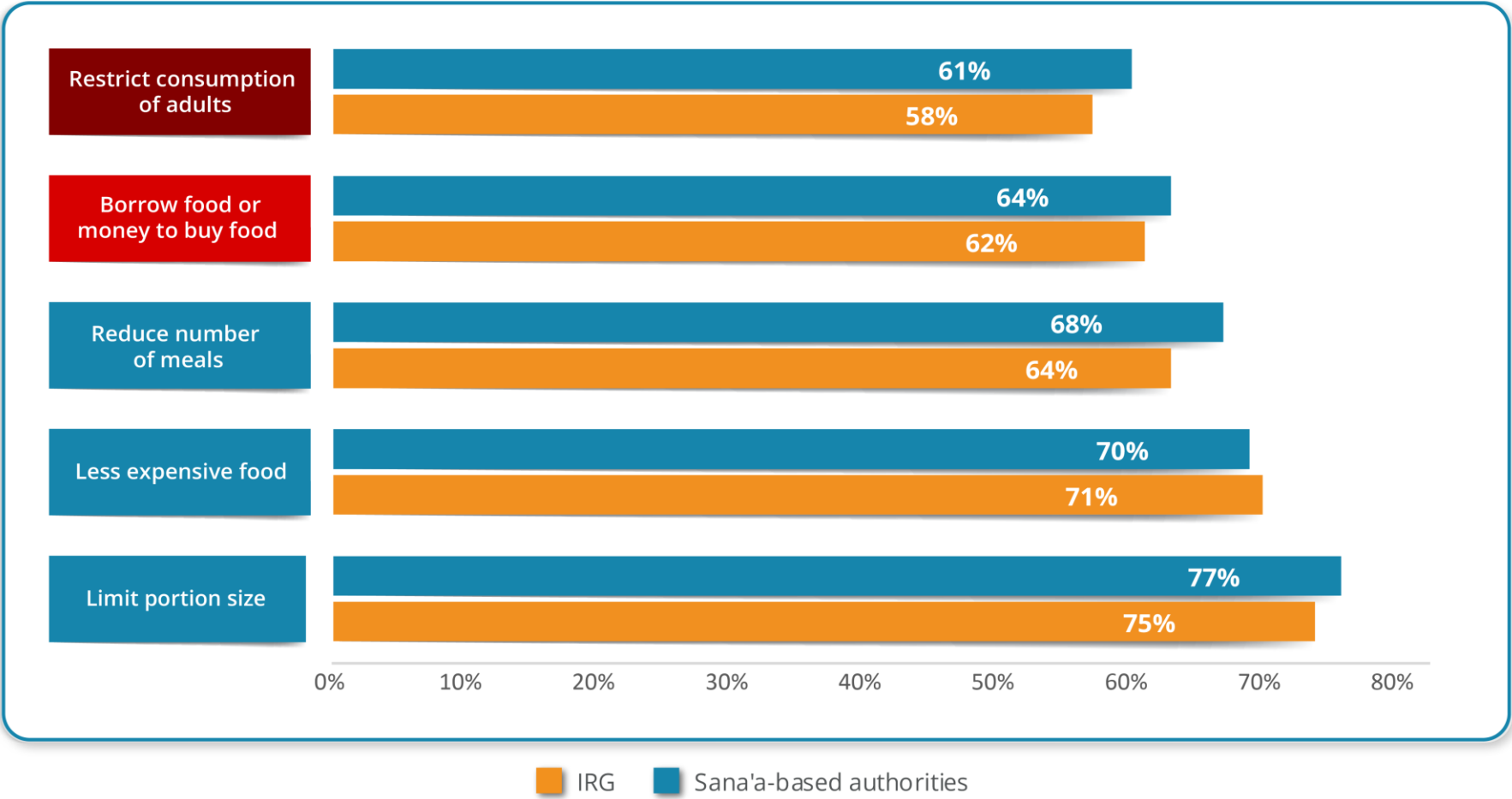
Food Security Outcomes (Poor Food Consumption)



Source: WFP monitoring data

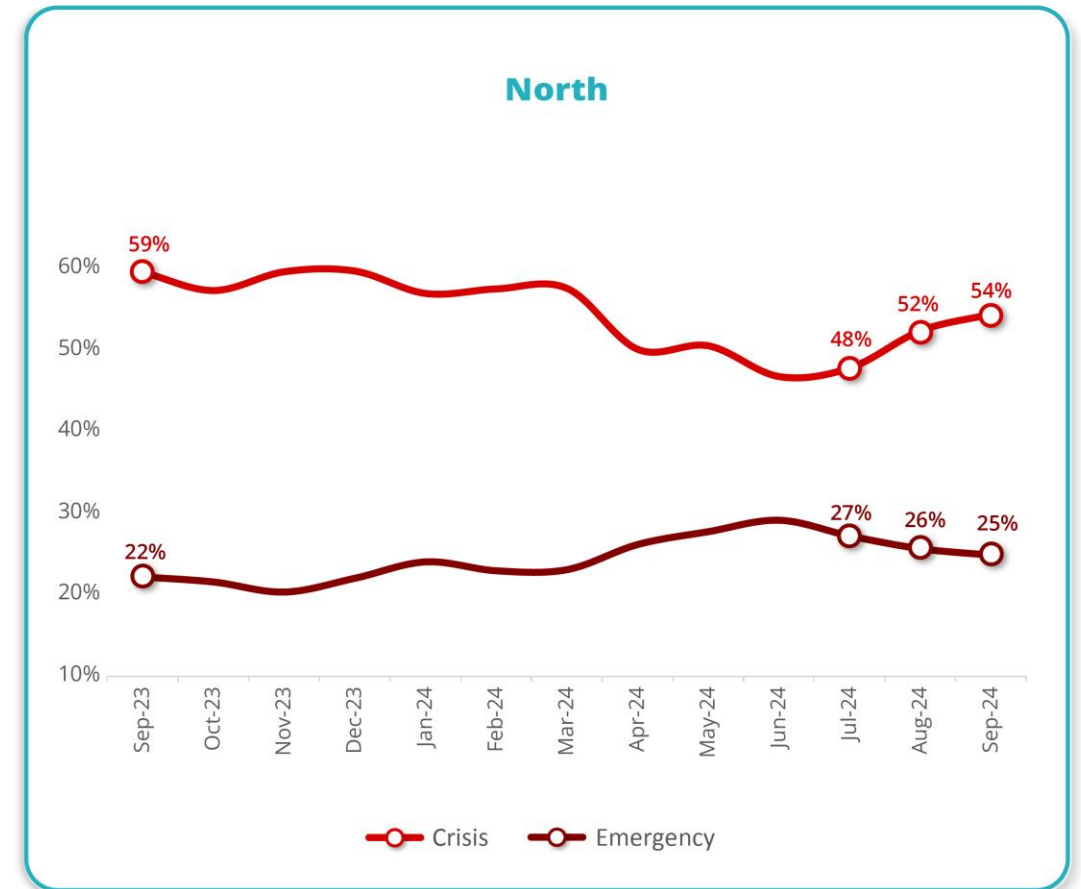
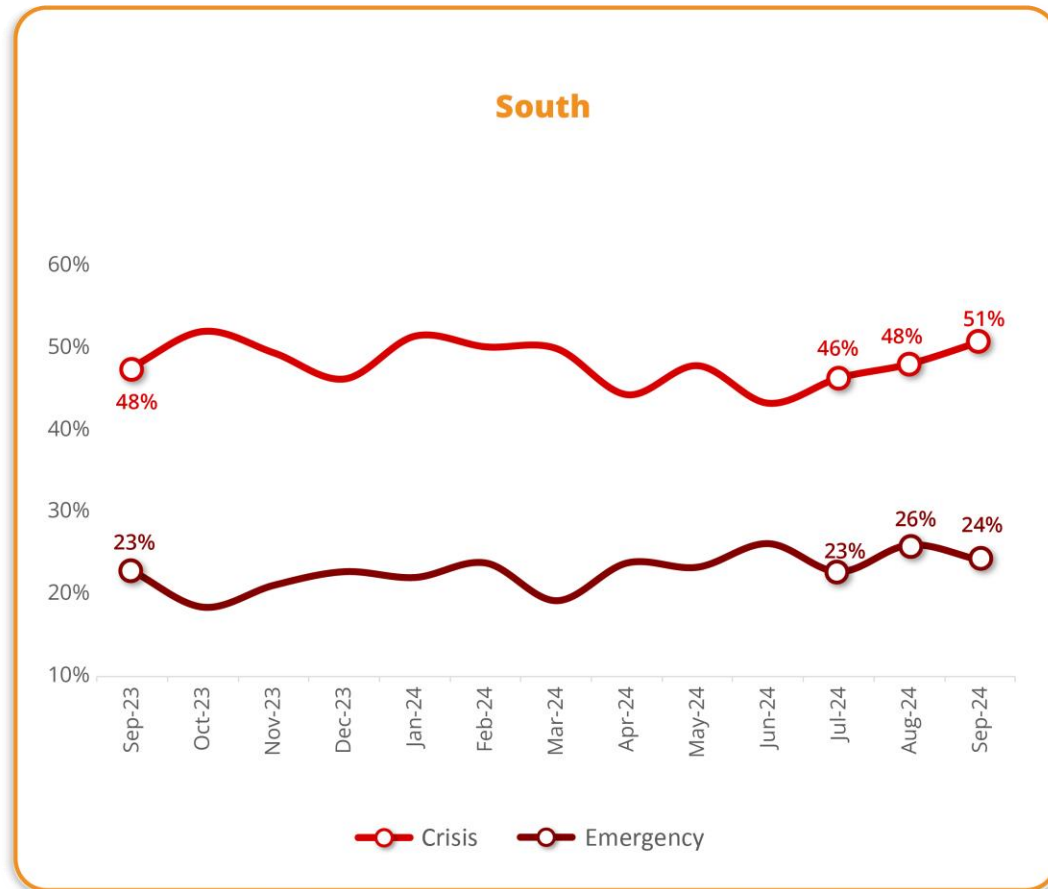


Households Reporting Food-Based Coping Strategies in September 2024



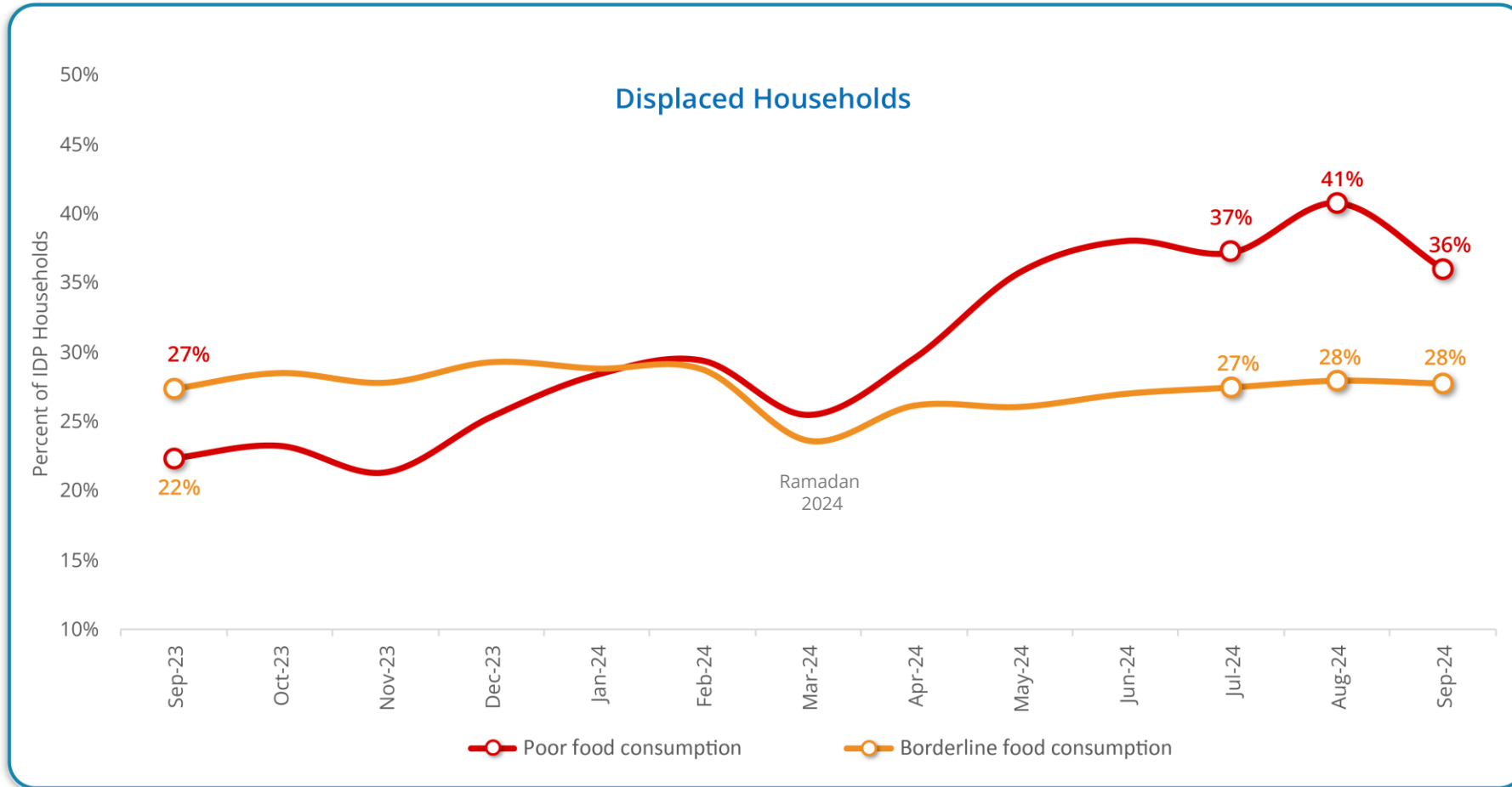


Households Reporting Livelihood-Based Coping Strategies





Access to Food for IDPs

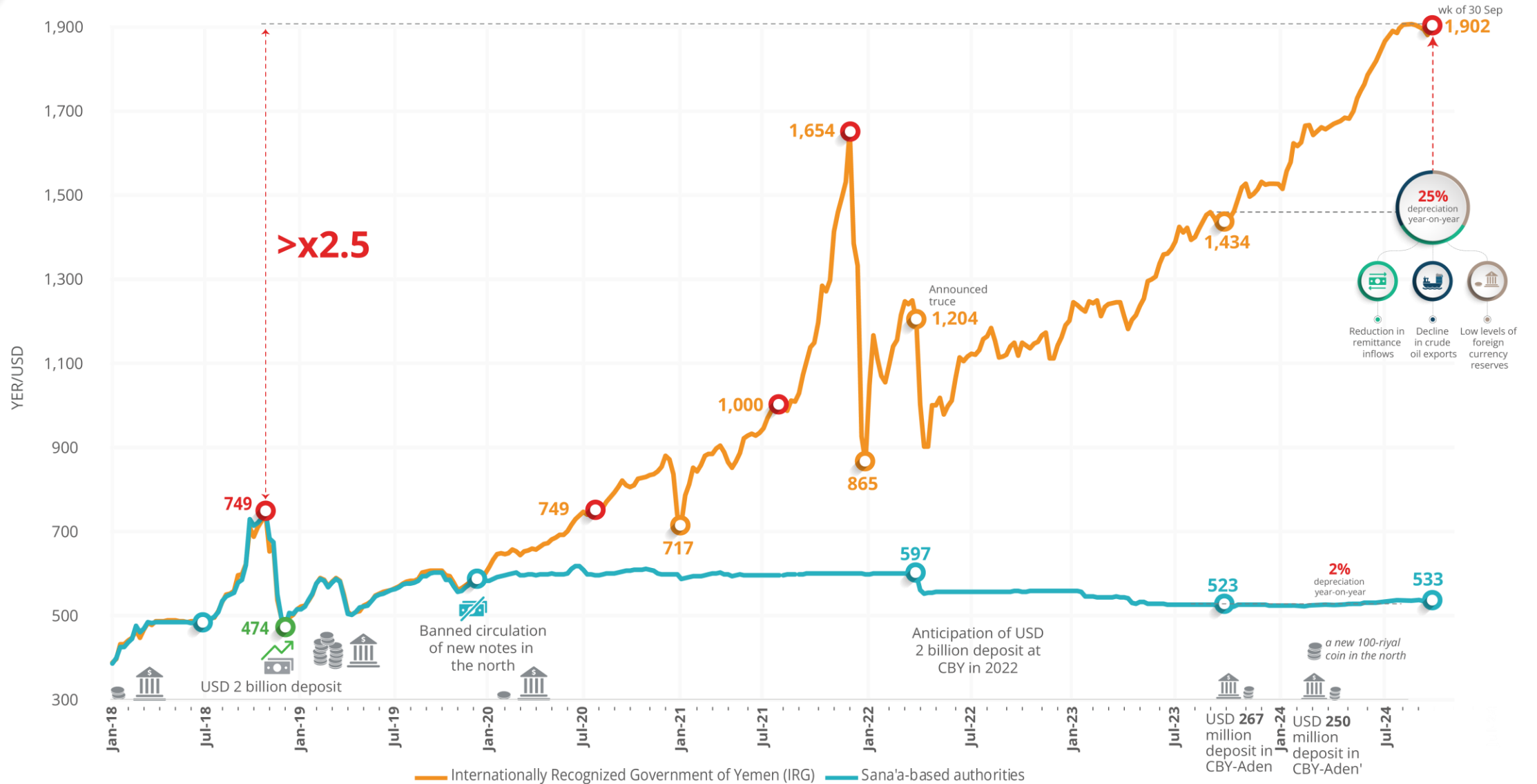


Drivers of Food Insecurity, beyond Conflict





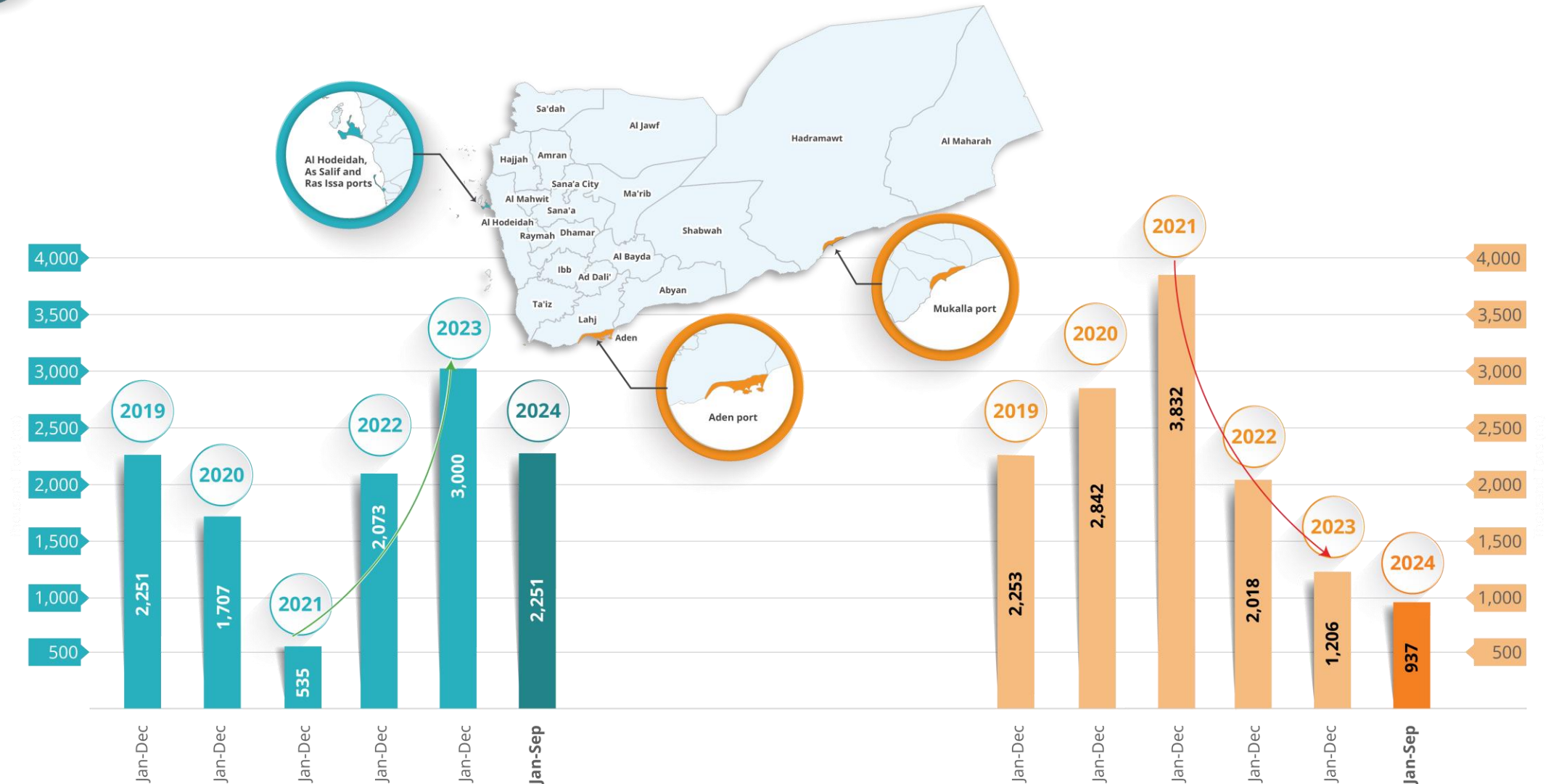
Exchange Rate



Source: weekly WFP monitoring data (average weekly exchange rates)



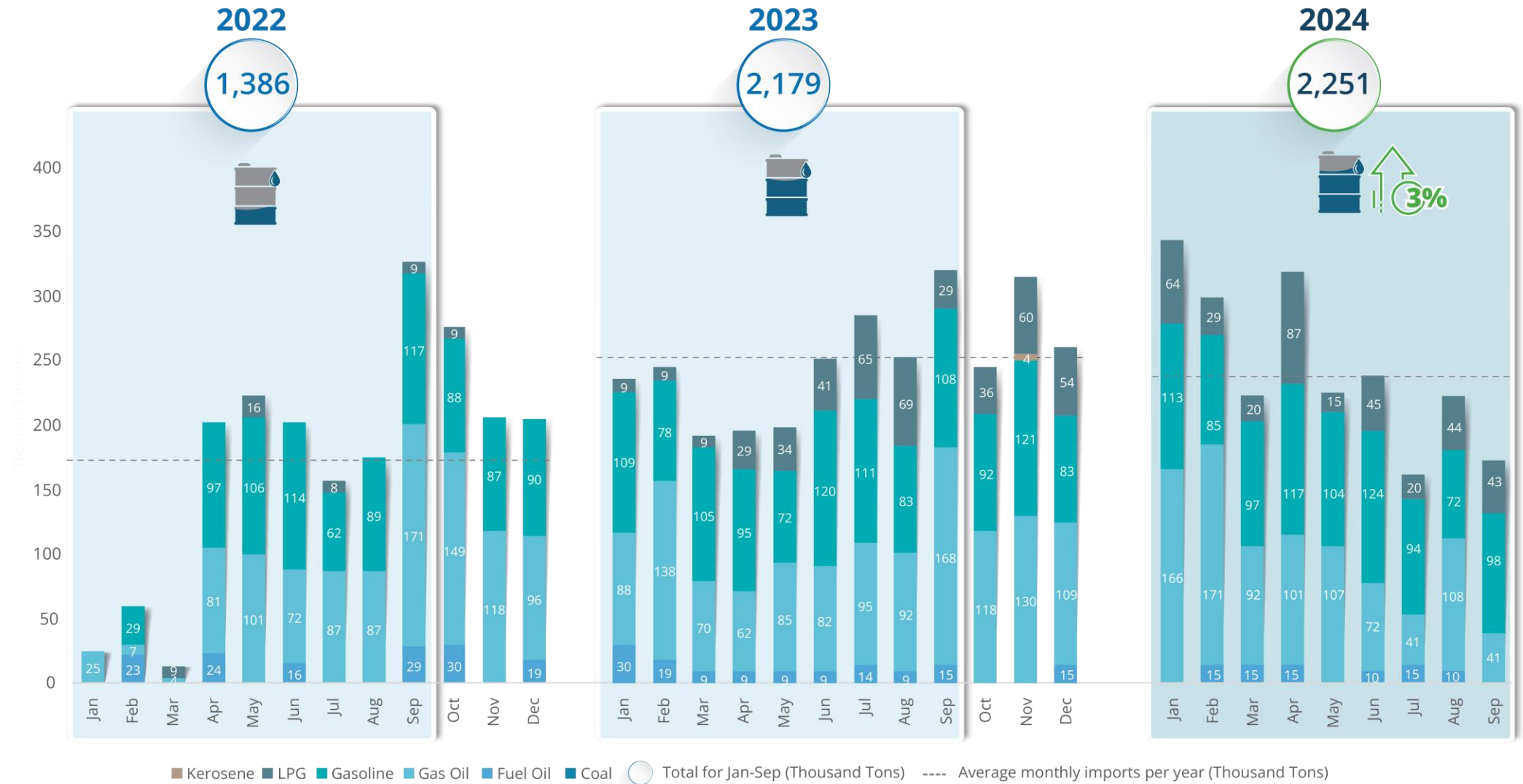
Fuel Imports in Yemen (Al Hodeidah, As Salif, Ras Issa, Mukalla and Aden ports)



Source: UNVIM, Yemen Red Sea Ports Corporation and shipment data from Wilhelmsen
Fuel import data through the Ras Isa port was included, which revised the entire time series.



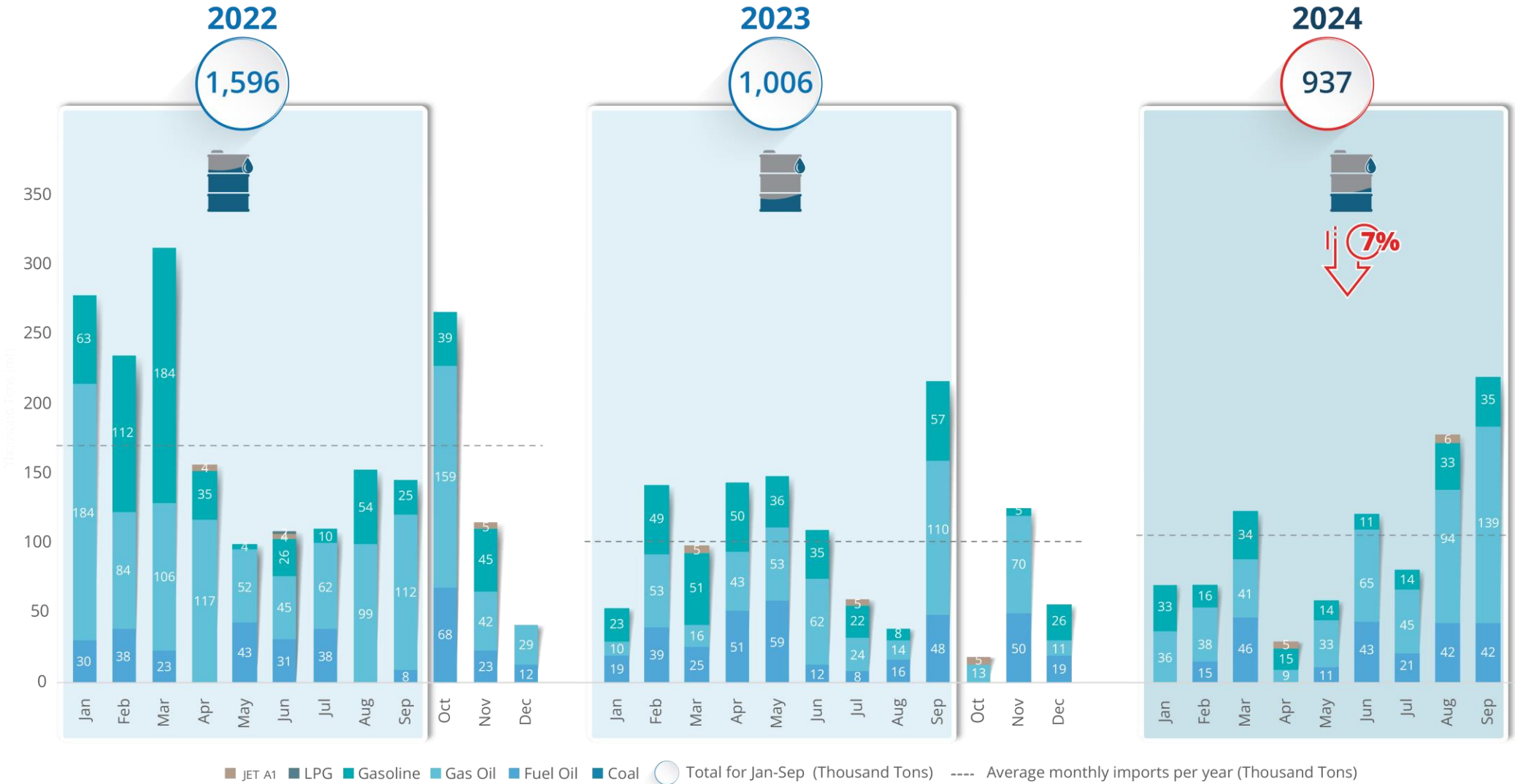
Fuel imports through Al Hodeidah, As Salif and Ras Issa ports



Source: Yemen Red Sea Ports Corporation
The data source since July 2024 is Wilhelmsen
Fuel import data through the Ras Isa port was included, which revised the entire time series.



Fuel imports through Aden and Mukalla ports

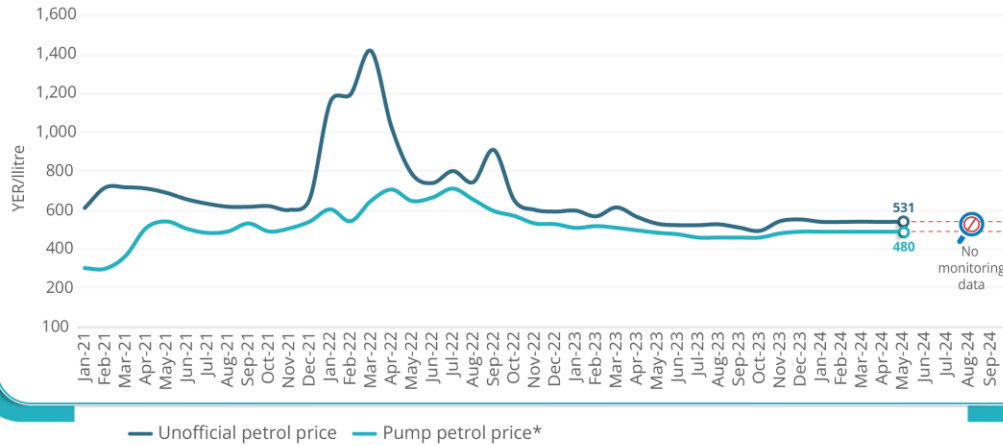


Source: shipment data from Wilhelmsen

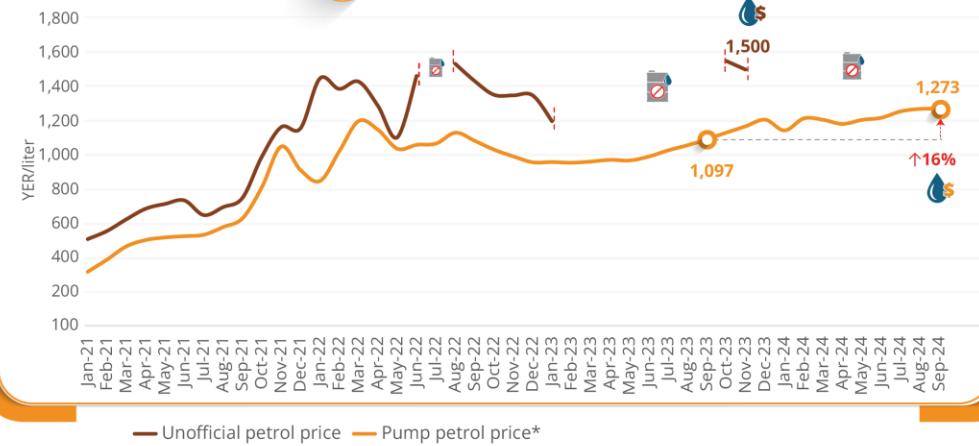


Fuel Prices

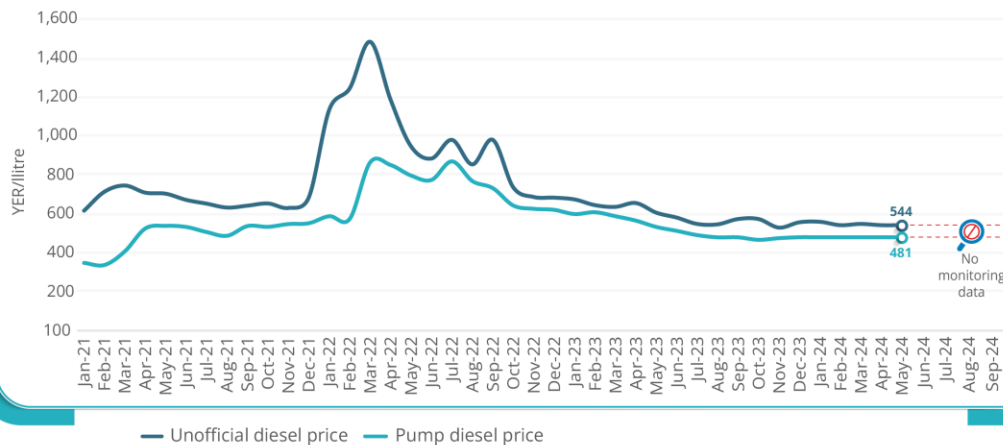
North - Petrol



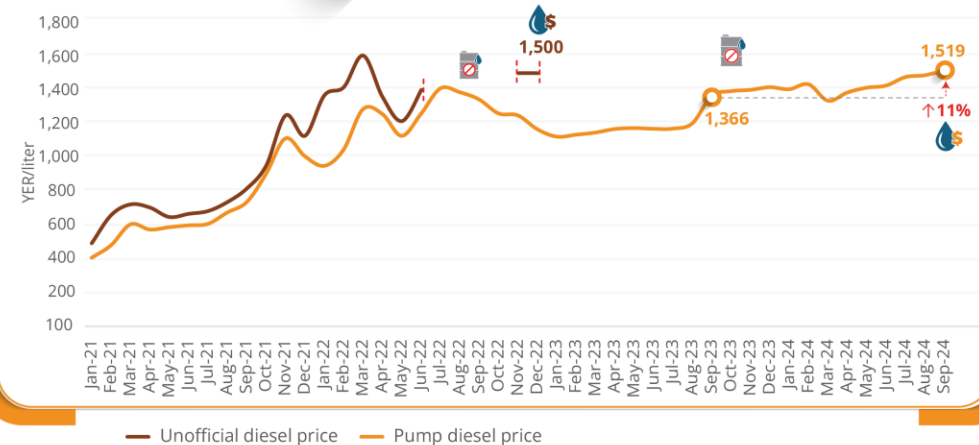
South - Petrol



North - Diesel



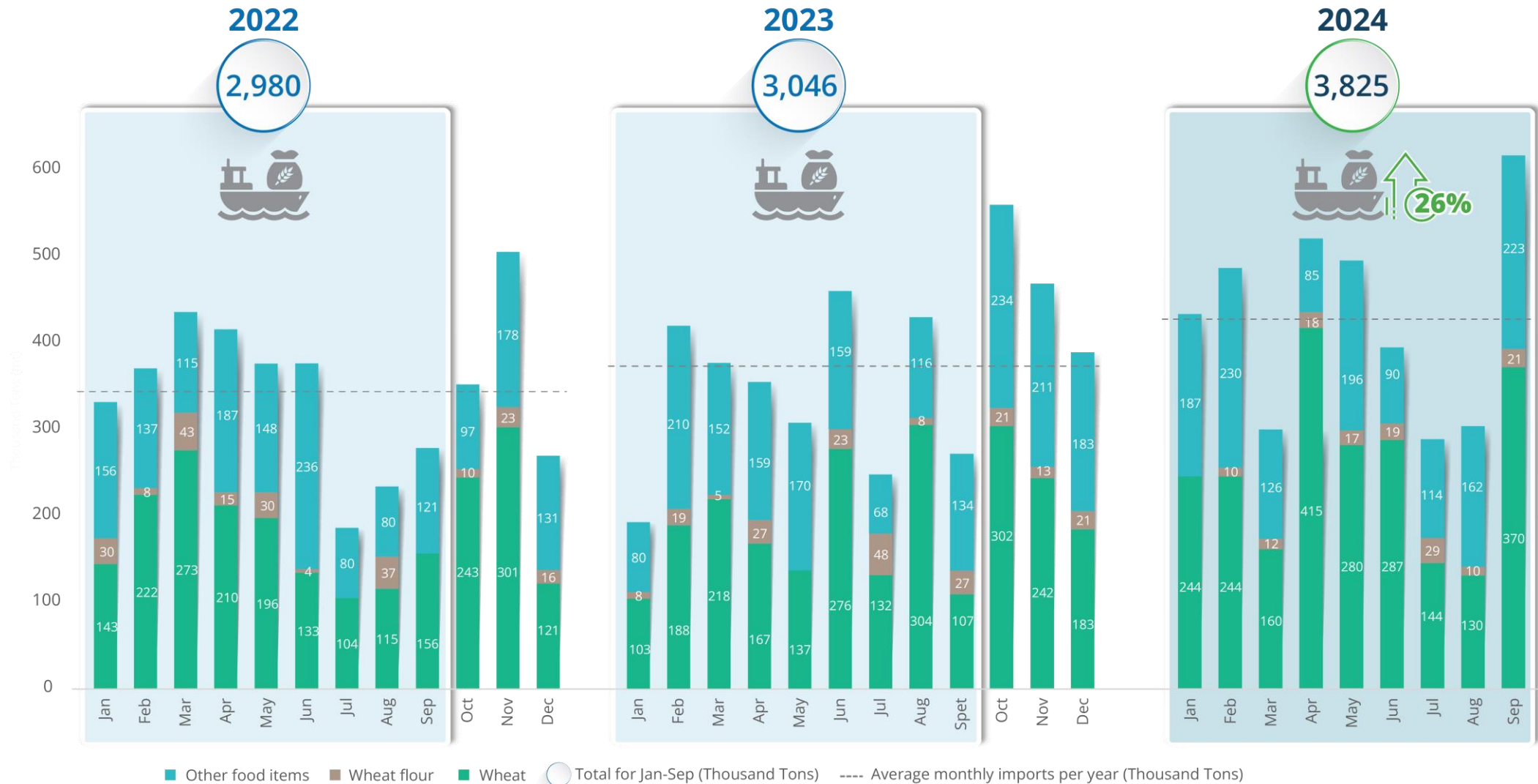
South - Diesel



Pump price: The average price of the official and commercial petrol/diesel sold through the gas stations
In the south, unofficial diesel prices appeared only in Ma'rib governorate between Jan-Sep 2024, reaching YER 1,493/liter in Sep 2024
WFP was unable to collect market price data in the north since June due to security concerns



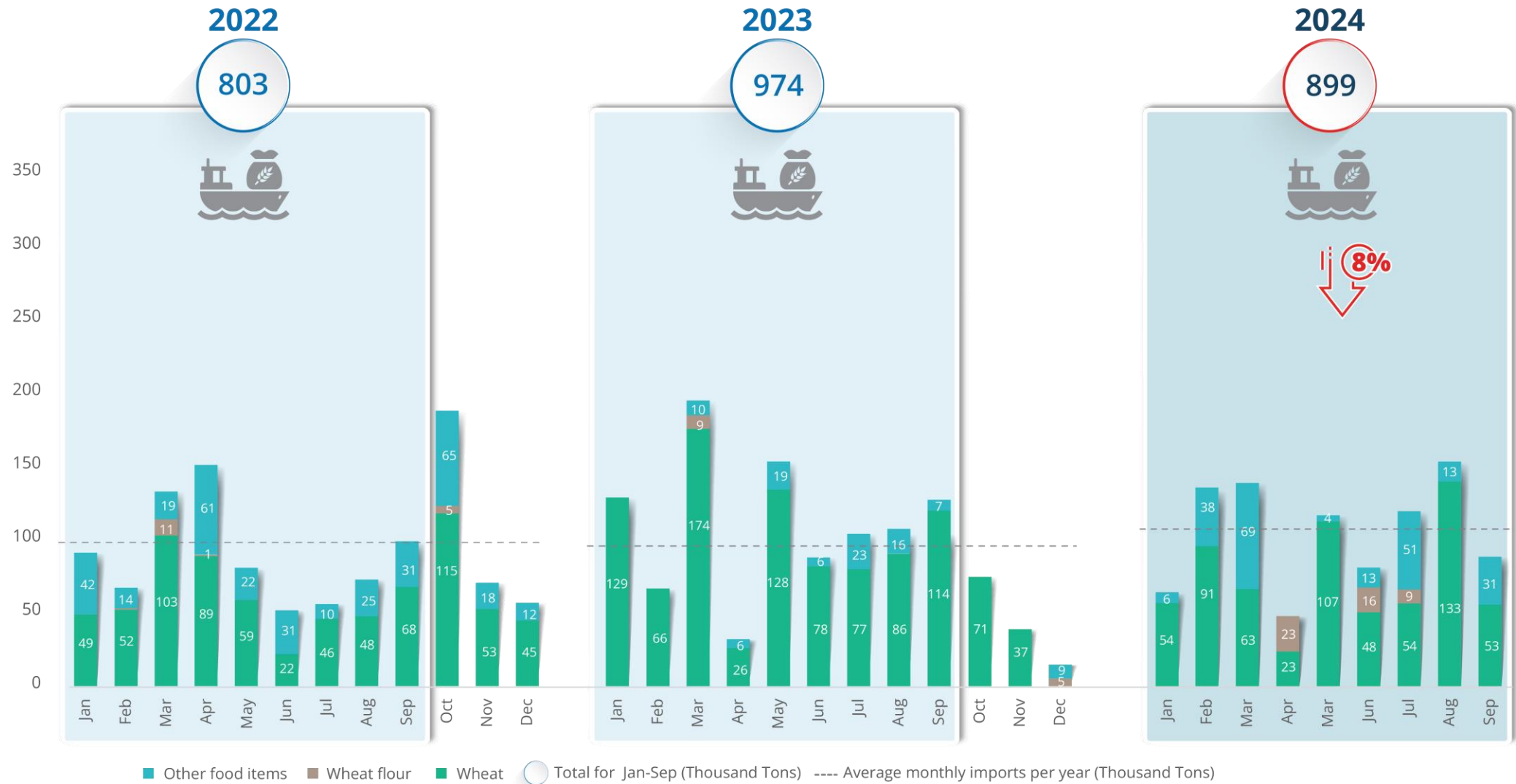
Food Imports (Al Hodeidah and As Salif ports)



Source: UNVIM until Apr 2023. The figures of May 2023 – Jun 2024 are based on the data from Yemen Red Sea Ports Corporation
The data source since Jul 2024 is Yemen Economic Tracking Initiative (YETI)



Food Imports (Aden and Mukalla Ports)



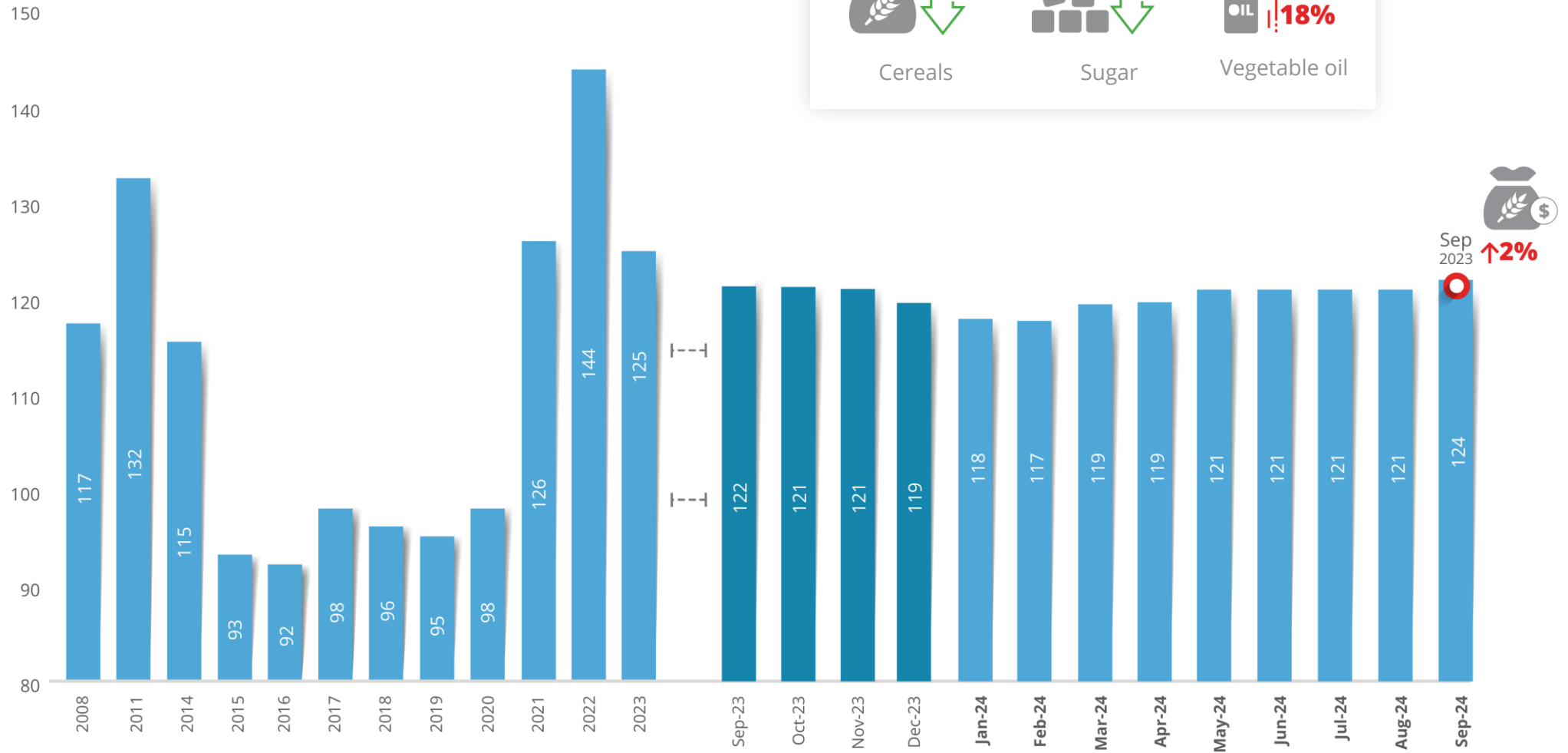
Source: Aden Ports Authority

The figures of December 2023-June 2024 are based on the data from Wilhelmsen due to the absence of data from Aden Ports Authority

The data source since July 2024 is Yemen Economic Tracking Initiative (YETI)



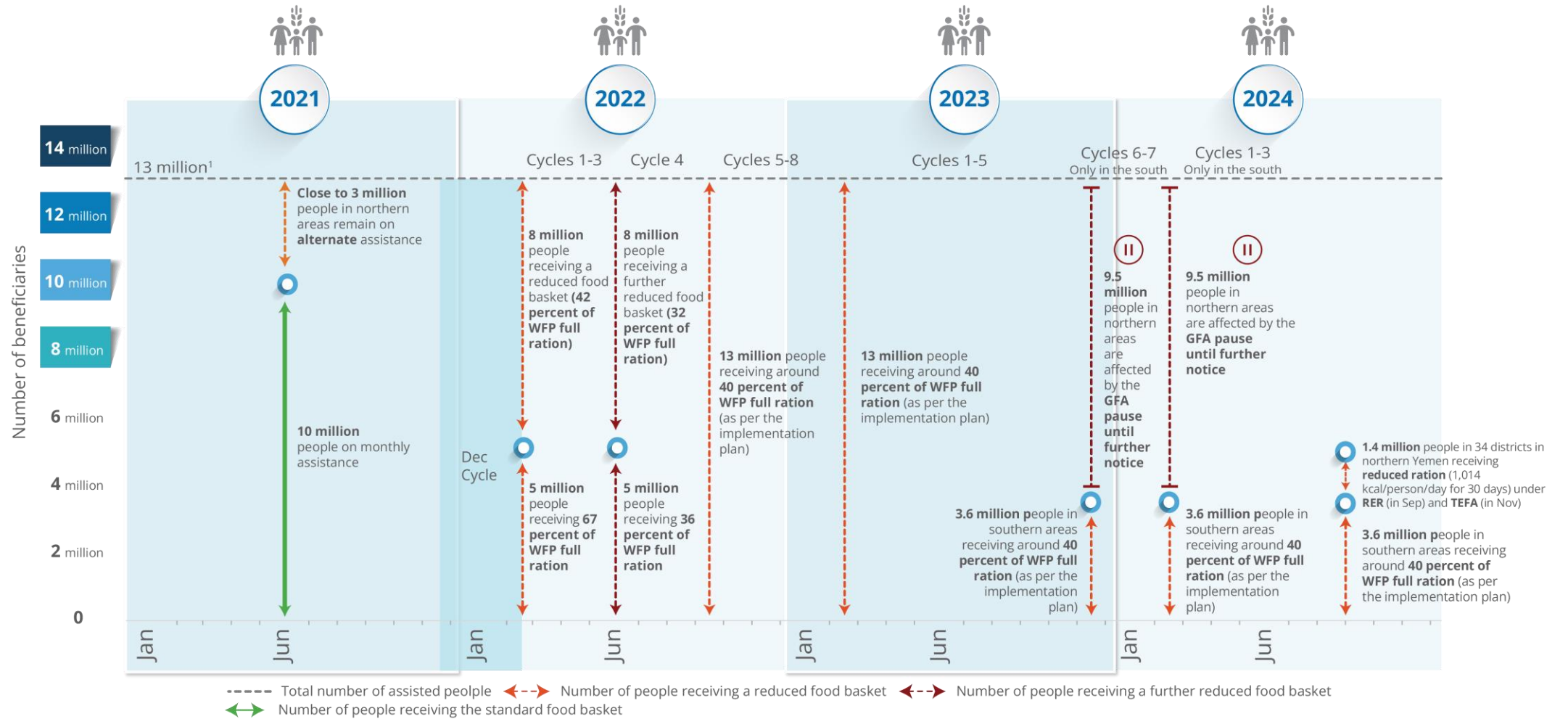
Global Food Prices



Source: FAO global food price index (FPPI)
In September 2024, the FAO Vegetable Oil Price Index reached its highest level recorded since early 2023.



Humanitarian Food Assistance*



*WFP food assistance, all figures are rounded

1 The figures reflect the implementation plan

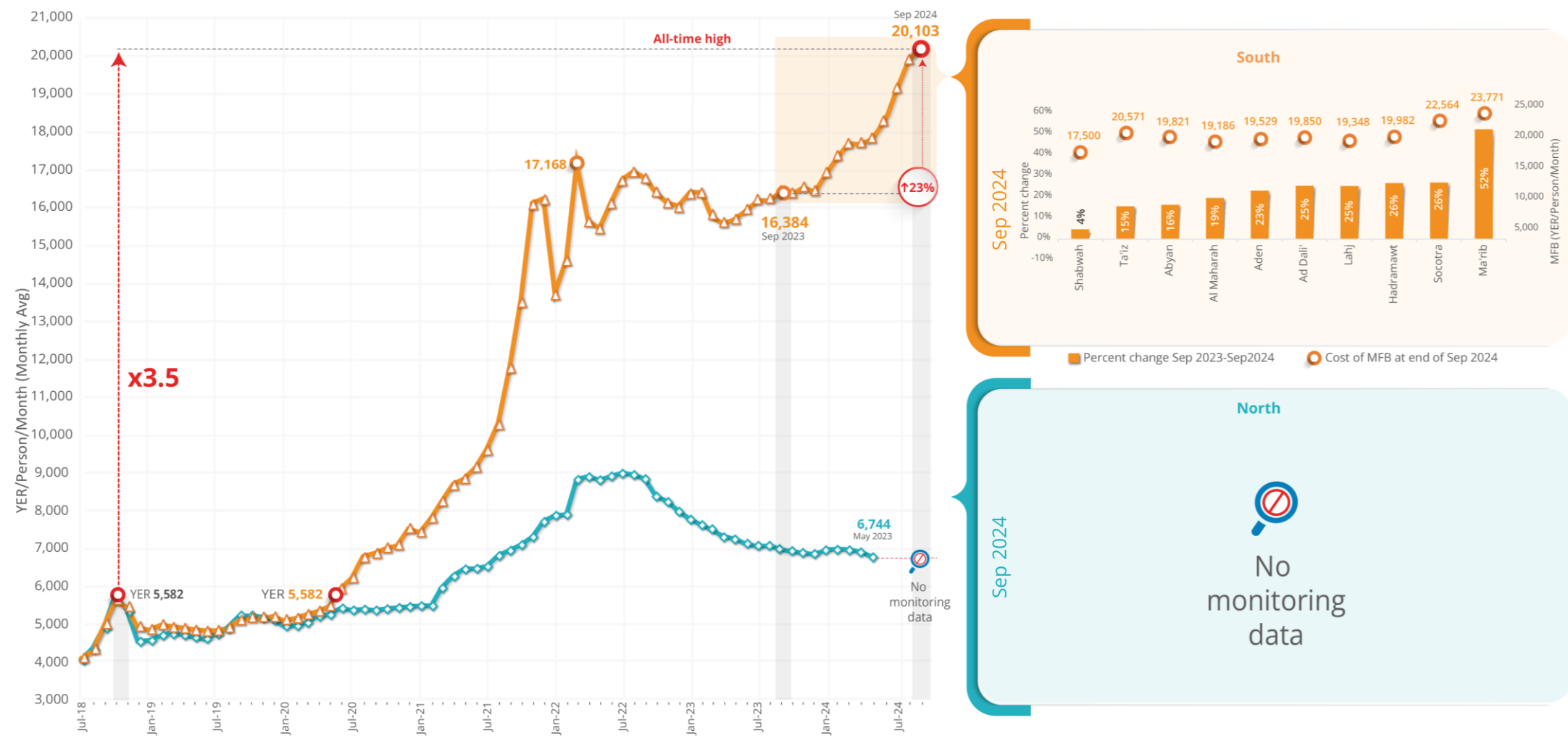
2 WFP full ration is equivalent to 1,650 Kcal per person per day for a period of 30 days. Since 2022, food assistance is provided on a cycle basis rather than monthly basis

3 Starting December 2023, General Food Assistance (GFA) has been paused in areas under Sana'a-based authorities

4 Under a Rapid Emergency Response (RER) operation and the new targeted emergency food assistance programme (TEFA), around 1.4 million people was assisted in northern Yemen with reduced ration.



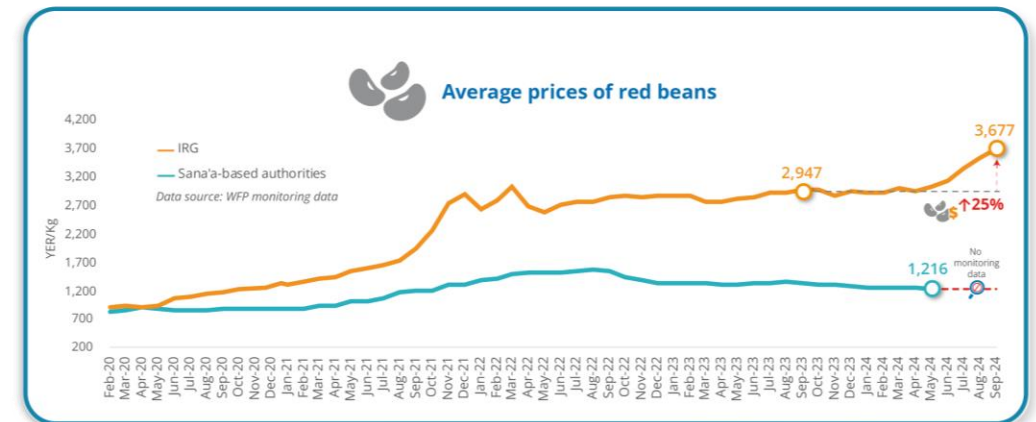
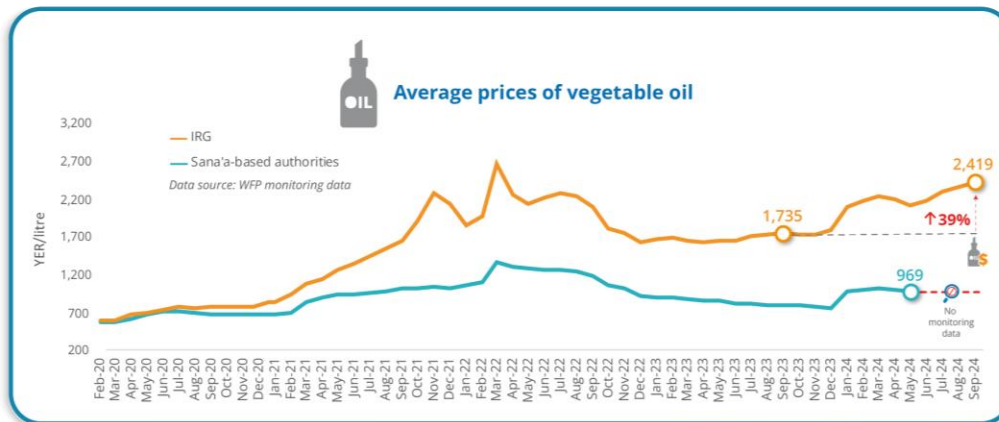
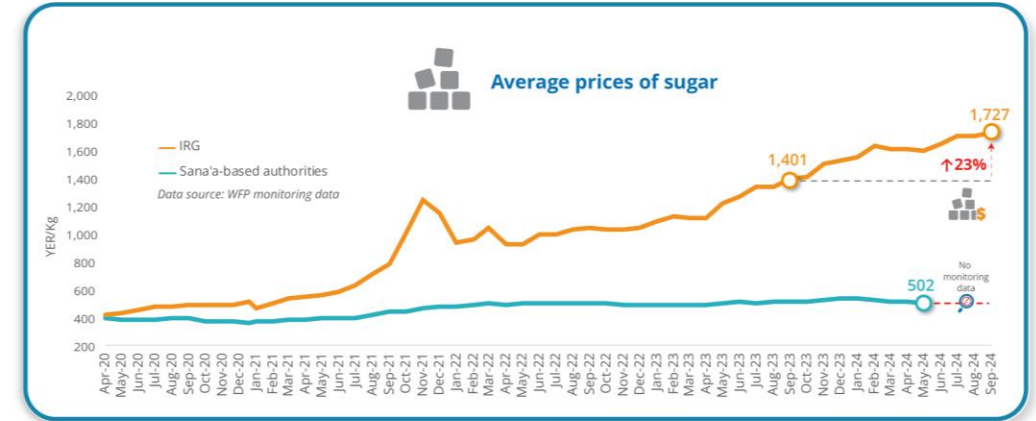
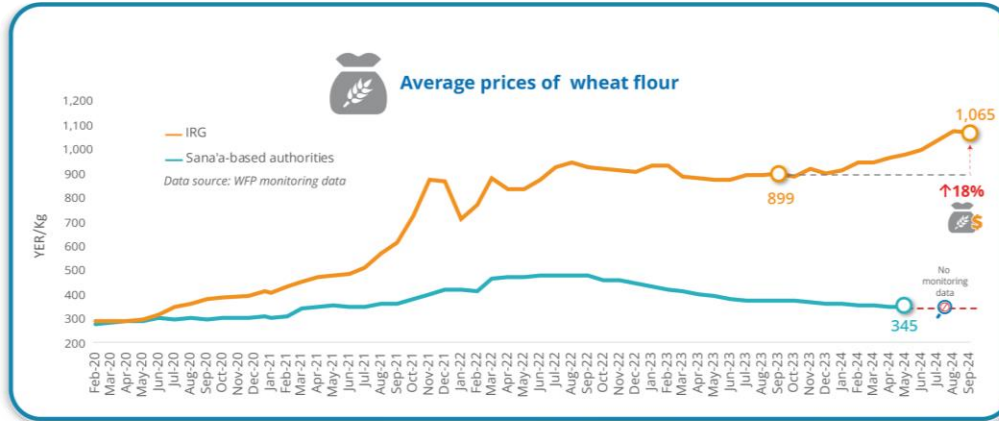
Average Cost of Minimum Food Basket (food affordability)



Source: Weekly WFP monitoring data
The minimum food basket includes 10.71 kg wheat flour, 1.43 kg red beans, 1.14 L vegetable oil, 0.36 kg sugar and 0.14 kg salt per person per month
The price data reflects the prices collected from the main cities in each governorate
WFP was unable to collect market price data in the north since June due to security concerns



Prices of Key Food Items



Source: Weekly WFP monitoring data
WFP was unable to collect market price data in the north since June due to security concerns

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