

# Settlement-Based Assessment, Area Profile: Al Habelien

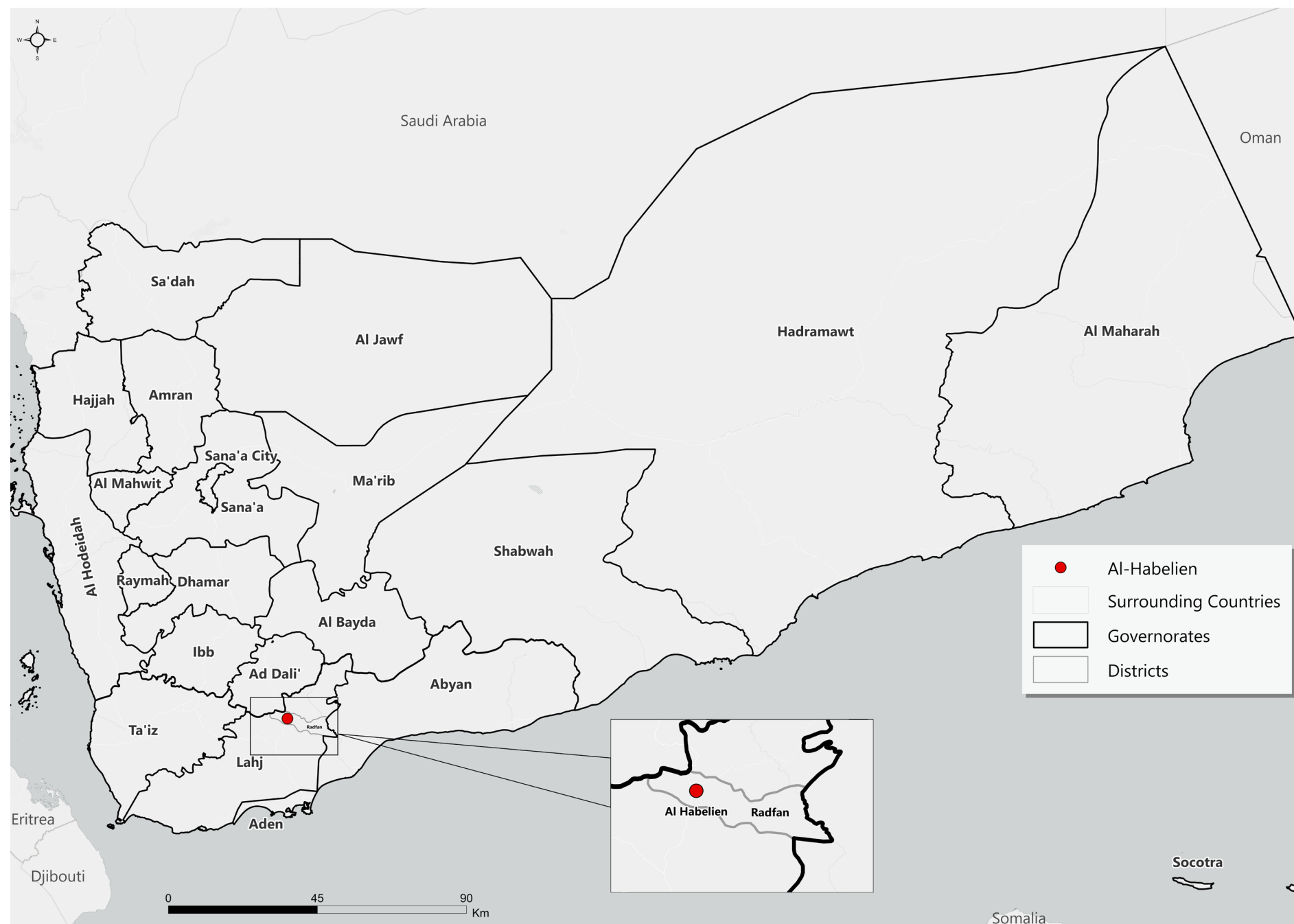
2023 | Yemen | Pilot Assessment in Radfan district, Lahj governorate

## CONTEXT & RATIONALE

The conflict in Yemen entered its ninth year in 2023. A first UN-brokered truce was agreed upon between the warring parties in April 2022 and lasted until October of the same year. The truce resulted in decreased levels of fighting across the country, while needs remained high nationwide. According to the 2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview, 17.3 million people are estimated to be experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity (AFI) and 15.3 million people need water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance in Yemen.<sup>1</sup> This assessment was carried out in Al Habelien, Radfan district, Lahj governorate (see Map 1). The 2023 IPC Acute Food Insecurity (AFI) analysis classified Radfan district as a phase 3 (Crisis) and data for the IPC were collected during November-December 2022, post-harvest.<sup>2</sup> The main drivers for food and WASH insecurities are the protracted conflict, climatic hazards, and the economic crisis, including a general lack of income-generation opportunities for the population. As Yemenis remain vulnerable, there is a need for localized information and data across Yemen to inform the response. The focus of this settlement-based assessment (SBA) is food security and livelihoods (FSL) and WASH. Cash and markets is a secondary sector included to inform the understanding of FSL and WASH in Al Habelien and the analysis is supported by dimensions of accountability to affected populations (AAP), climate, and gender throughout. This SBA aims to inform programmatic planning of localised FSL and WASH interventions in Al Habelien by providing information on demographics and displacement, critical FSL and WASH indicators, the socio-economic situation of Al Habelien's population, provision of and access to basic services, and capacity of key local stakeholders involved in service provision and infrastructural management and maintenance related these sectors. The SBA will provide solid evidence for REACH's partners of this assessment, CARE and Field Medical Foundation Yemen (FMF) to tailor their programs in Al Habelien as indicators were selected based on the partner's sectoral information needs. CARE implements WASH, FSL, and Protection programs in Radfan, reaching 3,222 HHs and FMF is one of the World Food Program's (WFP) partners in reaching the 1,730 beneficiaries in Al Habelien with monthly food and cash distribution along with ADRA, Danish Refugee Council (DRC), and Oxfam.<sup>3</sup> Data were collected utilizing three data collection tools, one household (HH) survey, quantitative key informant (KI) interviews, and one Mapping Group Discussion (MGD). All data were collected between the 15-21 of March 2023, before the start of Ramadan, this is normally a time of peak water prices across the country, and usually marks the first month of the rainy season.<sup>4</sup> Radfan is part of Internationally Recognized Government (IRG) territory and part of the Western Central Highland livelihood zone where coffee and qat are commonly grown and people are engaged in livestock activities.<sup>5</sup>

## KEY MESSAGES

- An estimated 81% of Al Habelien's population has never been displaced, 9% are returnees and 10% Internally Displaced Persons (IDP), secondary data reported that the IDPs are also part of Yemen's Muhammasheen population.
- Al Habelien's main employment sector is the military, youth reportedly often join the service or go to conflict fronts due to lack of other opportunities.
- 85% of HHs reported salary, 23% reported casual labour and 7% reported humanitarian assistance as primary source of income for HH.
- There are challenges to generate sufficient HH income for all population groups in Al Habelien. Some sectors and types of work are deemed either "men's" or host-community jobs, excluding IDPs, youth, and women.
- KI reported that the food in Al Habelien markets is imported and that road blockages is a main shock to markets, impacting food quality.
- Water trucking is the primary drinking water source for 89% of Al Habelien HHs, despite presence of a piped water network in Al Habelien, the network is not fully functioning due to damages and require maintenance.
- Women's access to food security and WASH services and infrastructure, and livelihood activities is marginalized due to local gender norms as women are commonly more engaged in domestic labour than to generate income.
- Food is generally available at Al Habelien's markets but inaccessible as 93% of HHs reported to purchase food on credit and 90% reported HH debt.
- According to HH Food Consumption Score data 40% of HHs reported to achieve acceptable food consumption, 27% borderline, and 33% reported poor food consumption in the 7 days prior to data collection.
- Household Hunger Scale data reported 73% of HHs experienced no-little hunger, 26% have moderate hunger, and 1% experienced severe HH hunger.
- Drought and lack of water is the main reported shock among HHs and KI, impacting agricultural activities and ability to generate income for HHs.

**Map 1: The location of Al Habelien in Yemen**

## METHODOLOGY OVERVIEW

REACH, CARE, and FMF utilized three different data collection methods developed by REACH and reviewed by CARE and FMF. CARE and FMF collected the data between March 15-21, and REACH cleaned, analysed, and reported on the data. The HH survey was conducted with area-level representative sampling and 95% confidence level and a 7% margin of error. Due to a lack of updated population data, the sample size was based on partner estimates of # of HHs in the area, used for their programming, which was 4,995. The sample for Al Habelien was 199 interviews, 201 interviews were carried out. The KI survey tool consisted of 6 separate sectors. One sectoral expert per sector was interviewed, covering Demographics and Displacement, Market, WASH, Livelihoods, Agriculture, and Livestock with a focus on service provision, infrastructure management, and shocks. The third assessment tool was a Mapping Group Discussion (MGD), with one session conducted in Al Habelien, mapping city and community boundaries, main roads and their availability, agricultural zones, markets, water points, and sanitation facilities and areas impacted by drought and/or floods. The specific focus was to understand the accessibility and availability of the infrastructures and services for the population [Link to full methodology.](#)

## Demographics and Displacement

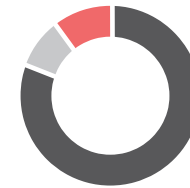
According to partner and MGD data, an estimated 4,995 households (HHs) currently live in Al Habelien across 24 communities.<sup>6</sup> The uniting factors among communities were a mix of access to agricultural and livestock herding zones, general services, and social or cultural identity. MGD data state that the community location characteristics are a mix of urban, semi-urban, and rural. Population groups residing in Al Habelien are non-displaced host-community, returnees, and IDPs. There have not been any major IDP arrivals to Radfan district since 2015, report IOM Area Assessment (AA) KI data.<sup>7</sup> MGD data state there are 3 managed IDP sites in the area and REACH and Yemen camp coordination and camp management (CCCCM) cluster Site Monitoring Tool (SMT) data report a fourth, unmanaged, IDP site just outside of the mapped boundaries of Al Habelien (see map 2) and that the IDP population is commonly part of Yemen's marginalized Muhammasheen population.<sup>8</sup> Most IDP HHs reside in the IDP sites in the area, two of the sites are incorporated within host-communities, albeit with clear boundaries and with host-communities aware of the site locations. Of the IDP HHs responding to the HH survey, the first IDP HH arrived in 2008, and the latest in 2021. All but one surveyed IDP HH reported to have arrived from other districts in Lahj, as one HH mentioned Al Jarrahi district in Al Hodeidah. The demographics and displacement (D&D) KI reported that IDPs in Al Habelien have also arrived from Ad Dali' and Aden governorates and that IDPs were displaced due to conflict, drought, and a lack of employment. Al Habelien's pull factors for IDPs have reportedly been access to work and water, family ties, and the security situation, reported the D&D KI.

### Area demographics

**4,995** Estimated Number of HHs (partner estimate)

**7,1** Average # of HH members (all surveyed HHs)

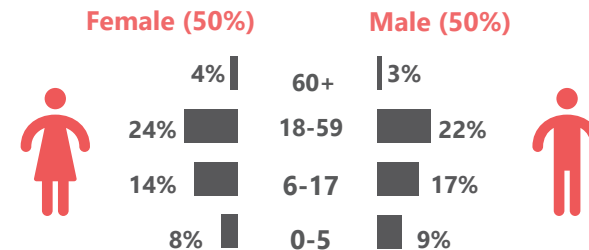
### Estimated proportion of HHs by residence status (KI estimate)



**81%** Non-displaced residents  
**9%** Returnees<sup>33</sup>  
**10%** IDPs

KI estimated % female-headed HHs:	KI estimated % HHs headed by older persons:	KI estimated % child-headed HHs:
<b>13%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>3%</b>

### Age and gender distribution of surveyed HHs (by % of all HH members across all surveyed HHs)



The D&D KI indicated that those returning to Al Habelien after displacement have been able to return to the same house as before displacement, however, no HH data is available on this. The pull factors of years past have turned to push factors as lack of employment and lack of basic services are stated to be the main reasons for expected movement for host-community and returnees, according to the D&D KI. Thus, HHs that came back to Al Habelien to access services and find employment might leave the area again due to the lack of this. While not a reason to migrate, there are indications of tensions between IDPs and host-communities over land ownership. The KI stated that the groups have not been able to agree on a solution to the tensions, this might lead to IDPs having to leave their site of residence.

**Map 2: city and community boundaries, IDP site locations, and main roads of Al Habelien**



This map shows the boundaries of Al Habelien, as well as community and IDP site boundaries, and is based on the MGD session in Al Habelien. Participants mapped out the main roads used for the transportation of goods and people. The IDP site location for Thumair Wa Al Malha camp was added based on secondary data when digitizing the findings from the MGD.

The areas on the map that are not part of a community are not commonly inhabited, with only a few buildings, dominated by vegetation.

All roads in Al Habelien are used for transportation of the population, water, and food delivery and are all fully accessible, meaning that the road is accessible to all types of vehicles and there are no major damages to the road. The main road running through the city of Al Habelien is a road going through IRG and Sana'a Based Authority territories. The market KI mentioned that closures or blockades of roads leading to Al Habelien were a challenge for market supply to the area.

There were three IDP sites mapped out within the city boundaries during the MGD sessions in Al Habelien with a fourth IDP site situated just outside of the mapped-out city borders, according to secondary data. Yemen CCCM cluster IDP Hosting Site Master List data for managed IDP sites, from May 2023 report that the three sites mapped out by MGD participants are managed by DRC, housing around 280 IDP HHs. The fourth IDP site on the map, marked with an **X**, was identified using REACH and Yemen CCCM Site Report Tool (SRT) data, Thumair Wa Al Malha camp, is unmanaged and hosts an estimated 10 IDP HHs.<sup>9 10</sup> MGD data report that the IDPs living in the sites of Upper Al Mawha camp, Lower Al Mawha camp, and Al Kahraba camp are also part of Yemen's Muhammasheen population, aligning with previously mentioned secondary data. All four sites have been populated since before the conflict, according to REACH and CCCM SRT data. Thumair Wa Al Malha camp and Lower Al Mawha camp have reportedly to some extent been populated since 1986, Upper Al Mawha camp since 1996, and Al Kahraba camp have been populated since 2002.<sup>11</sup>

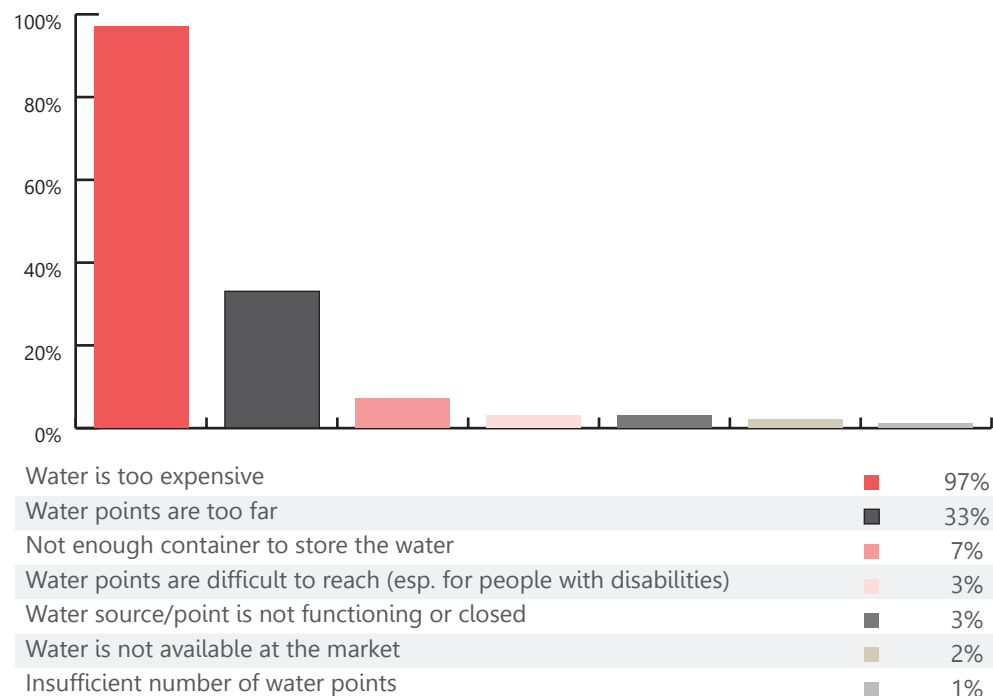


## WASH

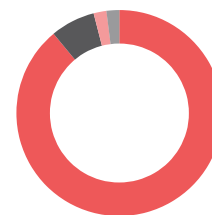
### Primary water sources, water availability, and water access

HH survey data reported that the majority of HHs in Al Habelien rely on water trucking initiatives for both drinking and domestic purposes. 89% of HHs responded that they rely on water trucking initiatives for drinking, 7% rely on piped water into dwelling, and 4% on other water sources, such as purchasing water from a store or kiosk, rainwater collection, or surface water. Furthermore, 85% of HHs reported relying on water trucking for domestic purposes (e.g. cleaning, washing). KI data from IOM AA, REACH, and the CCCM cluster SMT also reported high reliance on water trucking in Al Habelien, both among IDPs and host community.<sup>12 13 14</sup> While HH data stated that water trucking overall represents a reliable alternative for HHs, 97% of HHs reported that water is too expensive, aligning with REACH WANTS and Yemen WASH cluster (YWC) data from November 2021.<sup>15</sup> KIs reported that water trucking is also commonly used for agriculture in Al Habelien, this reliance adds another expenditure for agricultural HHs, with indications of a lack of water within livestock and agriculture sectors in Al Habelien and minimal rainfall was reported in February and March.<sup>16</sup>

**% of households by reported water access barriers** (results exceed 100% as households could provide multiple answers)



**% of households by primary water source for drinking**



Water trucking	89%
Piped water to HH	7%
Water kiosk	2%
Other sources <sup>19</sup>	2%

**% of HHs that reported sufficient water availability all year**

Yes, 79% No, 21%

**Top 5 most commonly reported ways of disposing garbage among HHs**

1. Designated open area	33%
2. Burn it	26%
3. Undesignaten open area	24%
4. Bin in household	9%
5. Communal & HH pit	8%

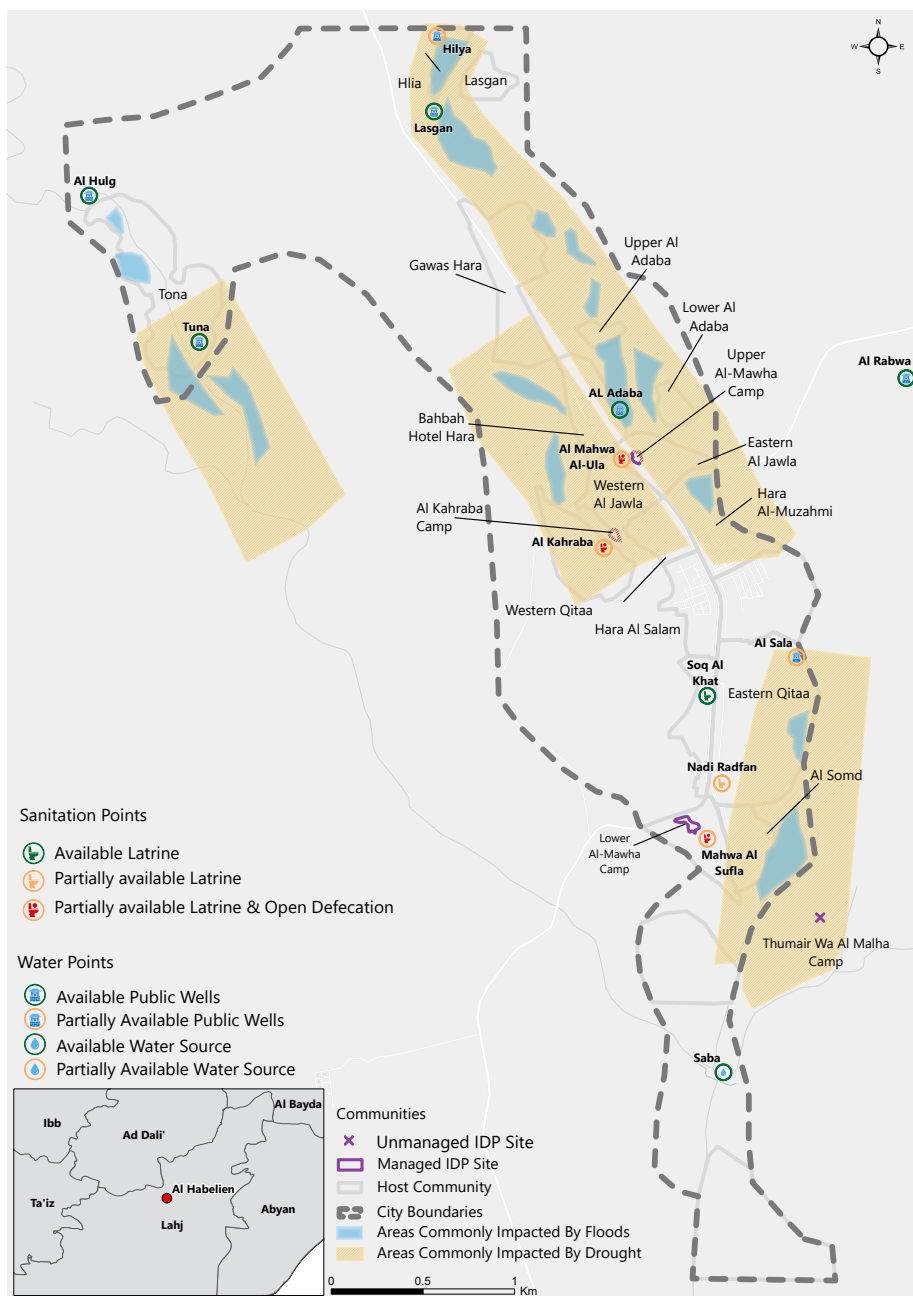
HH and KI data report that there is a present piped water network in Al Habelien. According to the WASH KI the water network requires rehabilitation and estimated that 1-20% of HHs are connected to the network operating 1-2 days per week. The number of days of operation pose availability challenges to HHs primary relying on the network. Most HHs and the WASH KI reported that water is often accessible during the rainy summer months.<sup>17</sup> When water is inaccessible, HHs report to rely on less preferred sources, with the water network mentioned as such a source. The WASH KI reported that there is no knowledge gap on the maintenance or management of water services in the area but the lack of a functioning, low-cost water alternative impacts HHs and livelihoods in Al Habelien. As the WASH KI reports that area water boreholes and piped water network are no longer functioning due to damages, these water sources need rehabilitation for more sustainable water options across all types of use.

### Sanitation and waste management

According to MGD data, approximately 1-25% of HHs in Al Habelien use the public sanitation facilities in the city (see Map 2). MGD and KI data stated these are mostly used by IDPs, and there is a need for more facilities due to over-crowdedness. Host communities often have access to private sanitation facilities according to WASH KI data. REACH and YWC WANTS KI data report that the main type of sanitation facility in Al Habelien is pit latrine without a slab.<sup>18</sup> WASH KI and MGD data stated that the city lacks a functioning sewage system. Service of sanitation facilities is organized through a private actor or community members (see Map 3) and KI data indicate there is no gap in available tools or skills for management or maintenance of WASH infrastructure. The WASH KI reported that local authorities are responsible for the city's free public waste collection with garbage collected more than once a week. The most common ways of disposing of garbage as reported by surveyed HHs, indicated that free public waste management is not directly linked to HHs' way of disposing waste and garbage.



**Map 3: Al Habelien water points, sanitation facilities, and areas affected by climatic shocks floods and droughts**



Apart from showing areas commonly impacted by droughts and floods, this map shows the approximate locations of water points and sanitation facilities in and around Al Habelien.

Upper Al Mawha, Al Kahraba, and Thumair Wa Al Malha camps were all mapped close to areas commonly impacted by both floods and droughts. This aligns with REACH and CCCM cluster SRT KI data that report floods as the main threat to these sites.<sup>20</sup>

The majority of the mapped-out water points in Al Habelien were deemed available to the population to use by the MGD participants. The available water points are reportedly managed by both a local company and local authorities. As shown on the map, two water points, situated in Eastern Qitaa and Hliia communities, are deemed partially available due to a lack of pumps or modernization of existing pumps. These wells are managed by local authorities and are used for domestic purposes but are not deemed safe to drink, even after treatment.

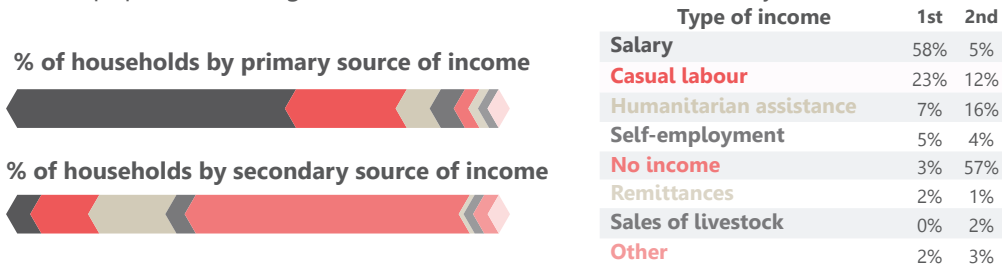
Most water points are public wells, with one water point being a place of rainwater collecting. Lasgan, Tuna, and Al Hulq wells are all superficial wells. All these wells are managed by both local authorities and private actors. The water is used for drinking, domestic, and agricultural purposes with the selling company treating the water to make it safe to drink for the population.

None of the five sanitation facilities are stated to be situated close to any of the water points. One of the five facilities is fully available, with the other ones reportedly either being available for women only or missing a sewage network connected to it. REACH and Yemen CCCM cluster SMT KI data report that there are no showers in the managed IDP sites in Al Habelien.<sup>21</sup> The four partially available sanitation facilities mapped out are in proximity or directly connected to the IDP sites of Upper Al Mawha camp, Lower Al Mawha camp, and Al Kahraba camp. MGD data reported that the sanitation facilities connected to the IDP sites have been constructed for women to use, thus being labeled as partially available.

HH and KI data rarely report any usage of the water points and sources on Map 3, indicating that these water points are not sufficient to meet HH needs. The WASH KI reported that there is no functioning sewage network, and that there is a public piped water network present that is not at the required level to cover the whole of Al Habelien. There is a need for reparation, rehabilitation, and management of existing WASH infrastructure in the area and a need for support to responsible actors. A functioning water network and more sustainable water sources would limit the WASH needs among Al Habelien's population, and diminish the reliance on unsustainable sources such as water trucking initiatives.

## Livelihoods

Most Al Habelien HHs have at least one HH member engaged in income-generating livelihood activities. The livelihoods KI reported that the period between April and July is the most stable for work in the area. 65% of HHs reported employment or self-employment, and 38% reported casual/daily labour as the only or one of many livelihood activities. The main employment sectors in the area is reportedly the military (29%) and education (14%). Part-time is the most common type of employment as reported by the livelihoods KI. Among employed, self-employed, or HHs engaged in casual/daily labour, there is a widespread reported lack of work or no work opportunities, as 52% of HHs stated this. 16% of HHs reported delayed, irregular, or insufficient salary as a major challenge, which could refer to the nationwide issues with governmental salaries. REACH and CCCM SMT data state there is a general lack of work opportunities for IDPs, with the livelihoods KI reporting part-time or casual/daily labour as common employment types.<sup>22</sup> The main employment sector for youth is the military and the livelihood KI stated that jobs such as construction or trade are considered men's jobs and that the main coping for the lack of labour opportunities among the whole population is to go to the conflict fronts or enter the army.



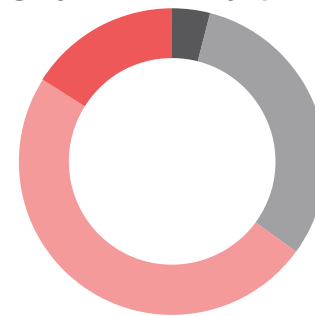
There are 12 zones for agriculture or livestock activities in and around Al Habelien (see map 3), and around 3% of HHs reportedly engaged in growing crops. MGD data indicated that fruit is grown in four agricultural zones, and the agriculture KI indicated that citrus is one type of fruit grown in Al Habelien. MGD and KI data indicated that grains/cereals are commonly grown in Al Habelien, as most crop-growing HHs reported corn and millet grown to use as animal fodder. The HHs that grow animal fodder crops own livestock, such as goats, sheep or chicken. Growing these crops might be due to the high costs of animal fodder, as reported across the HH and KI tools. FEWSNET report that common livelihood activities in Radfan are to grow coffee, qat, and sorghum, and herding livestock. HH and KI data on crops grown in Al Habelien do not align with this information. However, according to MGD data, 6 of the livelihood zones are used for livestock herding as 3% of surveyed HHs reported livestock activities engagement. Goats and sheep are the most owned livestock. The market and agriculture KI call for more agricultural support and more locally produced food to supply the markets for the area to be better equipped to handle food insecurity.

## Livelihood Coping Strategy Index (LCSI)

The most commonly used or exhausted livelihood coping strategy in Al Habelien is to purchase food on credit as 93% of HHs reported this coping strategy, 82% responded to borrow cash, and 55% reported to have cut down HH spending such as education and/or healthcare (for full list of % of HHs using or having exhausted each LCS, see Annex 1). Female-headed HHs in Al Habelien follow the same trajectory, as 88% reported purchasing food on credit, 65% borrow cash, and 53% cut down on spending on education and/or healthcare.

12% of HHs reported 'HH have sold house or land in the past 30 days', which is the most reported emergency livelihood coping strategy in Al Habelien. Overall, HH economies are strained in the area, and as the rainy seasons over the past three years have provided insufficient rainfall, drought has impacted the area, agricultural activities have decreased, with crops such as watermelon, sweet potato, and potato no longer grown according to the agriculture KI. Furthermore, the agriculture KI stated that potato is a crop that Al Habelien was previously famous for. Droughts and lack of rainfall might be one of the reasons to explain the relatively high number of HHs reportedly using or exhausting this coping strategy. The use of negative coping strategies in Al Habelien is currently indicative of an IPC phase 3 (crisis) as at least 20% of surveyed HHs reported crisis coping strategies being used or exhausted.

### % of HHs by Livelihood Coping Strategy (LCS) category in the 30 days prior to data collection:

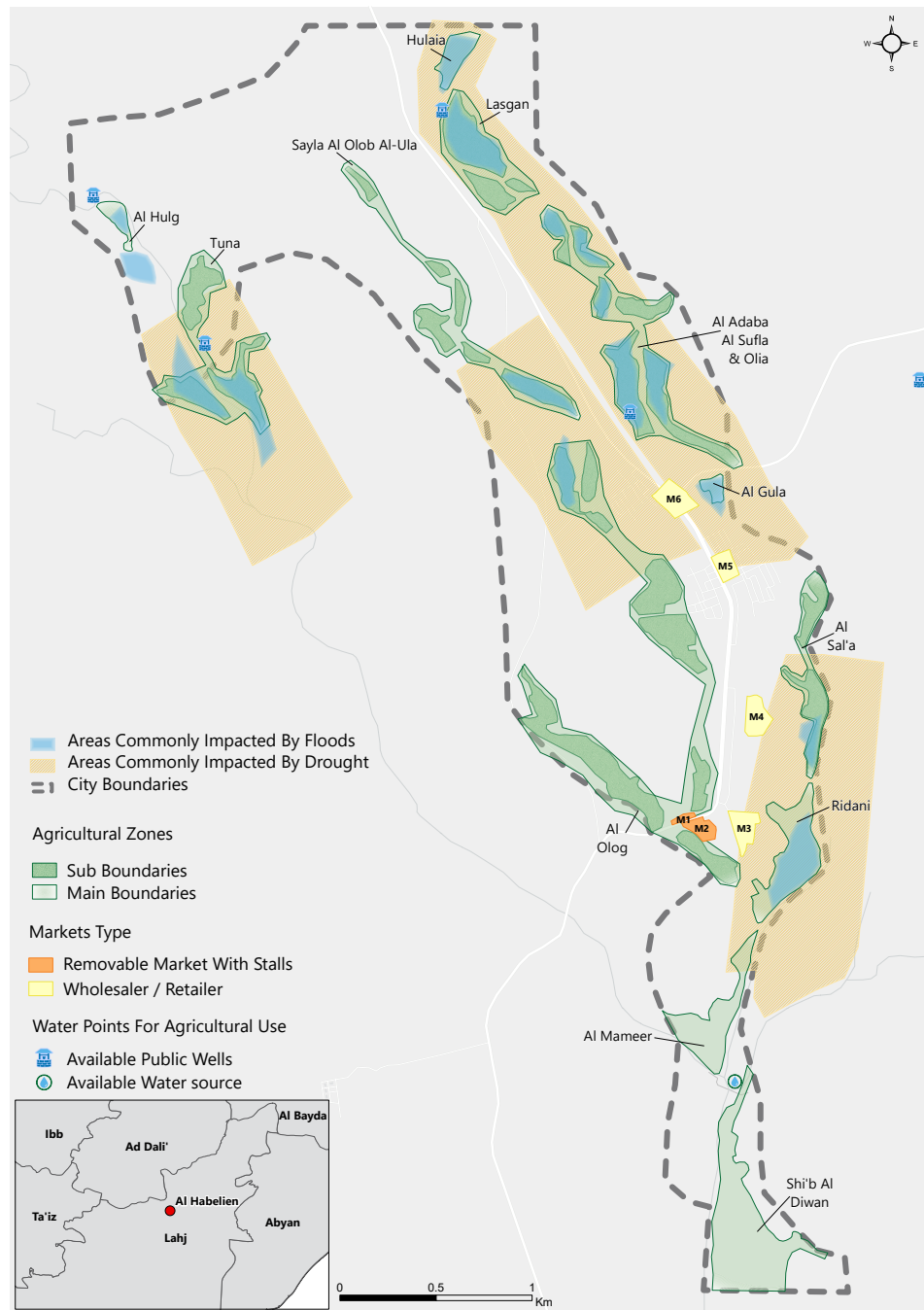


No coping	4%
Stress coping	31%
Crisis Coping	49%
Emergency coping	16%

### The most commonly reported negative livelihood coping strategies adopted because of a lack of food or money to buy food:

- Purchased food on credit (**91% using, 2% exhausted, stress**)
- Borrowed money (**74% using, 8% exhausted, stress**)
- Reduced essential non-food expenditure such as education and health (including medication (**50% using, 5% exhausted, crisis**))
- Sold household assets/goods (radio, furniture, refrigerator, television, jewelry, clothes etc) (**20% using, 13% exhausted, stress**)
- Spent savings (cash savings) (**21% using, 13% exhausted, stress**)

Map 4: Agricultural zones, markets and climatic shocks floods and droughts



This map shows the results from the MGD session in Al Habelien, including the main areas for crop growing and livestock herding activities, the locations of the Al Habelien markets, and the locations commonly impacted by floods and droughts.

The livestock and agriculture KIs called for more support for agricultural activities in Al Habelien due to a reported inability to adapt to or recover from shocks and stresses. The main shocks impacting the area's agricultural sector are floods destroying seeded and land droughts killing the plants. To address the lack of water during dry periods, the agriculture KI reported that the introduction of solar energy water pumps has been helpful and that there are needs for drought- and disease-resistant seeds, such as improved potato seeds, and further measures to reduce flood impacts. The agriculture KI further stated that there is a knowledge gap in how potatoes could mitigate hunger levels while increasing HH income among practitioners, and that advocating for farmers to grow food for humans rather than growing animal fodder crops ought to have a positive impact on food security and income levels in Al Habelien. The main gaps in the livestock sector were reportedly quality animal fodder, veterinary equipment, and parasite prevention measures. Due to the lack of animal fodder, livestock owners need to sell their livestock, which was identified in the LCS data. The livestock KI called for knowledge-enhancing initiatives for animal feeding and breeding practices, vaccines, and not cutting down trees where livestock could graze.

According to MGD data, there are six markets in the city. Two of these are single commodity markets operating in other places in the governorate during the weeks as well. These two single commodity markets sell qat (M1) and live animals (M2). Both markets usually operate 1-3 days per week. The other four markets are wholesaler/retailer markets operating every day. All markets usually provide the population with bread, vegetables, non-fresh produce (rice, grains, pulses, etc.), fruit, meat, poultry, dairy, soap, and drinkable water. Additionally, one market reportedly sells fuel (M6), and one market sells fish (M3). The Al Habelien market KI indicated that millet, potato, and milk are common food goods that market customers demand that market actors struggle to supply regularly. The M3 and M4 markets are old and lack sanitation facilities. KI data show that market vendors/retailers find it harder to meet demand during March and April before the rainy season begins.<sup>23</sup> KIs also indicated that September, the period of peak labour demand and the end of the rainy season, is a month when it is hard to meet population demand. According to KI data, authorities practice no governance or provide no support for the market sector in Al Habelien as retailers and suppliers are responsible for market functionality.



## Cash & Markets

According to HH and KI data, the population of Al Habelien is often able to access food at the markets with often well-stocked supplies that commonly cover the populations needs, as also indicated by IOM, REACH and CCCM cluster SMT data.<sup>24</sup> Most food at Al Habelien markets is imported to Yemen, making retailers dependent on stable supply chains. The market KI indicated that markets in Al Habelien is fully unable to cope with shocks and stated border and road closures as a major challenge. This impact food supply to the markets and result in HHs relying food of less quality or only one type of food such as bread. The KI called for more initiatives for locally produced food. Currency depreciation were the other major challenge reported by the KI, as the exchange rate of the Yemeni Rial (YER) has increased by around 50% since January 2020 in Lahj, according to REACH's Joint Market Monitoring Initiative (JMMI) data.<sup>25</sup> The volatile exchange rate of the YER decreases HH purchasing power as HHs need to rely on market actors allowing for credit purchases. HH data show that this payment modality is made available to 84% of HHs. Further economic instability for HHs and service providers risks diminishing the possibilities of credit purchases at the market, as current HH vulnerabilities could lead to increased intersectoral needs.

# 91%

Of households reported financial barriers to both WASH and food items

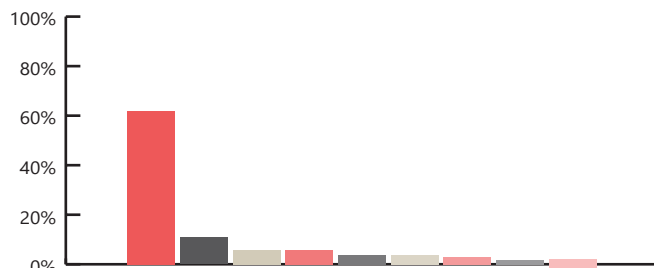
# 90%

Of households reported owing debt

### Top 3 reported reasons for debt

1. Food	96%
2. Purchasing water	48%
3. Non-food items	28%

### Average proportion of HH expenditure per type of item

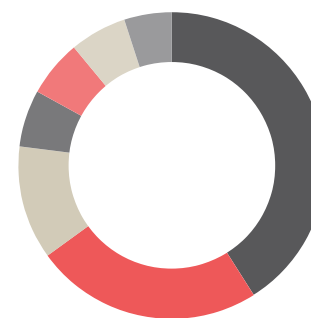


Food items	62%
Water	11%
Rent	6%
Fuel	6%
NFI	4%
Other	4%
Gas	3%
Transportation	2%
Communication	2%

## Gendered dimensions of access to livelihoods, services and infrastructure

There are indications that women have less access to livelihood opportunities than men in Al Habelien. According to KI data, women are mainly responsible for domestic labour in Al Habelien HHs, stating this as the main livelihood sector for women. The other main livelihood sectors are stated to be education and healthcare services. The livelihoods KI stated that the major livelihood sectors in Al Habelien, trade, and construction, are considered men's jobs and that women have family and HH obligations such as child and elderly care as the livelihoods KI stated that it is common practice that families do not allow women to work outside of the home due to local customs in the area. Both the Al Habelien livestock and agricultural KIs mentioned women and girls are among the groups with less or no access to areas for livestock grazing or herding as well as agricultural areas, limiting the possibility for female participation in these livelihood activities.

### % of female-headed households by primary source of income



Salary	41%
Casual labour	23%
Hum. assistance	12%
Begging	6%
Gifts or donations	6%
Recycling	6%
Craftmanship	6%

Several KIs indicated that women generally have less access to FSL and WASH services and infrastructure in Al Habelien. According to MGD data, all markets in Al Habelien have 100% male traders or retailers. The market KI stated that women face social barriers in accessing local markets due to local customs and traditions. People with physical disabilities also reportedly have less access to the market due to inaccessible roads to the market. While HH data suggest that most female-headed HHs get income from salary, all but one female-headed HH reported income challenges over the 30 days before data collection, with the lack of work opportunities, and HH not having enough money being the main reported reasons. Of the surveyed female-headed HHs, 88% reported challenges to accessing drinking water, 82% reported challenges to accessing food, and 59% reported challenges to meet HH healthcare needs. As there are no major differences in HH challenges between male- and female-headed HHs, increased female participation in income-generating activities among male-headed HHs could create better income opportunities for HHs across Al Habelien.

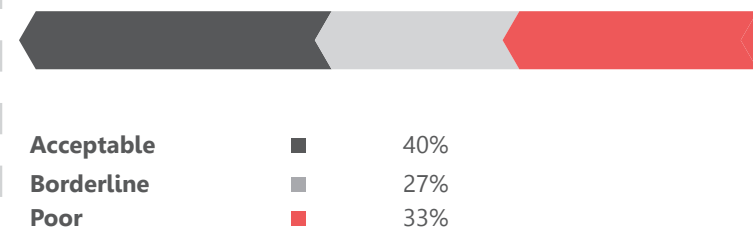
## Food Security

Radfan district was classified in Crisis (phase 3) in the 2023 IPC AFI analysis from 2023, stating that 25% of households meet 25-50% of caloric needs through assistance, and FEWSNET classify the district as in *Crisis!*.<sup>26 27 28</sup> To access food, 96% of HHs reported reliance on markets as the sole or one of several sources of food. The market KI reported that the main staple foods in Al Habelien are rice, bread, and vegetables, and the KI stated that the population demand millet, potato, and milk with a reported limited supply of these goods. REACH JMMI data report that the price of rice has increased by around 40% in Lahj between January 2020 and March 2023, and the price of wheat flour (for bread) by 220%.<sup>29</sup> Markets are generally well-stocked but HHs reported to purchase food on credit due to lack of funds, indicating food access issues. According to Household Hunger Scale (HHS) data, 73% of HHs in Al Habelien experienced no to little HH hunger, 26% experienced moderate HH hunger and 1% (n=1 HH) experienced severe HH hunger, results indicative of IPC AFI Phase 3. While HH hunger is relatively low, the dietary diversity among HHs varied. 40% of HHs reported acceptable food consumption (FC), 27% borderline, and 33% reported poor FC in the 30 days before data collection. The FCS results are indicative of IPC AFI phase 4 as 33% of the population reported poor FC. While indicative, data on female-headed HHs state that there is a higher share of HHs in this group with borderline (41%) and poor (41%) FC, than the average HH in Al Habelien, indicating higher food insecurity needs among these HHs.

Of the 33% of surveyed HHs that reported poor FC in the 7 days before data collection, 40% experienced no to little HH hunger, 58% reported moderate, and 2% experienced severe HH hunger. The main reported livelihood coping strategies among HHs with poor FC are to purchase food on credit (97%), borrow cash (84%), and cut down on education and healthcare expenditures (78%). The average HH size with poor FC is 7. 100% of HHs with poor FC reported that food items are too expensive, and 93% reported financial barriers to accessing WASH items at the market. 37% of these HHs reported to spend more than 80% of their income on food. Among poor FC HHs, all but one HH reported debt, and all indebted HHs reported food purchases as either the sole reason or one of many reasons for HH debt. Of the 27% of HHs that experienced moderate to severe levels of HH hunger, four identified as IDPs, and four HHs were identified as Muhammasheen by the enumerator. 58% of these HHs reported receiving aid in the past 30 days and 40% reported not receiving aid in the past 12 months. Of the HHs experiencing moderate and severe HH hunger and received aid in the 30 days prior to data collection, 84% reported not have been consulted before receiving aid. Primary data points to a situation where the available food would have been more inaccessible without the possibility of HHs using negative coping strategies such as borrowing cash or purchasing food on credit. An exhaustion of these widely used, unsustainable, negative coping mechanisms would worsen the food security situation in Al Habelien as a fourth of the population already experience moderate HH hunger levels, and a majority reported borderline to poor FC.

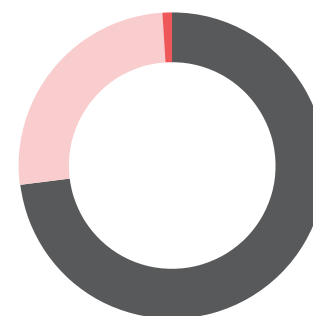
### FOOD CONSUMPTION SCORE

% of HHs by Food Consumption Score (FCS)



### HOUSEHOLD HUNGER SCALE

% of HHs by no, little, moderate, or severe reported hunger in the HH



No to Little HH hunger	73%
Moderate HH hunger	26%
Severe HH hunger	1%






## Accountability to Affected Population (AAP)

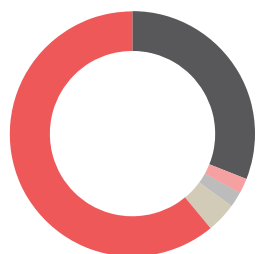
Al Habelien HHs reportedly struggle to meet basic HH needs with current levels of income in relation to prices, resulting in high intersectoral needs. The most commonly mentioned priority need of HHs is food, as 98% reported food as one of the three most pressing needs for HHs. The most common combination of answers provided was food, drinking water, and healthcare, as 21% of HHs provided these three as their top 3 needs. IOM AA data indicate that financial support is the main need among IDP HHs in Al Habelien and REACH and CCCM SMT data reported there are no barriers for IDP HHs to access humanitarian aid.<sup>30 31</sup>

31% of HHs in Al Habelien have received aid in the past 30 days prior to data collection, aligning with Yemen Food Security and Agriculture Cluster data on humanitarian food and cash for food assistance in the Al Habelien in March 2023.<sup>32</sup> 81% were not consulted ahead of receiving aid and of those being consulted, 8 out of 9 HHs received what they asked for with the majority of these HHs receiving aid through financial resources. 76% were satisfied with the aid received and of the 24% that were dissatisfied, the majority claimed that aid was either delayed or that the quantity of aid was not good enough, or inadequate to HH needs.

**Top 3 priority needs of households in Al Habelien** (results exceed 100% as respondents provided the top three priority needs of HH)

Type of need	% of HHs population reporting as 1/3 needs
 <b>Food</b>	<b>98%</b>
 <b>Drinking water</b>	<b>61%</b>
 <b>Healthcare</b>	<b>50%</b>

% of HHs reporting to receiving aid in the past 12 months



**In the past 30 days**

**31%**

**In the past 3 months**

**2%**

**In the past 6 months**

**2%**

**In the past 12 months**

**4%**

**HH have not received aid in past 12 months**

**61%**

## Conclusion

This SBA in Al Jiblah has focused on WASH and FSL, with cash and markets indicators and dimensions of AAP climate and gender supporting the analysis throughout. Data were collected during a time of year when water prices often peak in Yemen and during the first cropping and land preparation period within agriculture. The objective of the assessment was to better understand Al Habelien's demographic profile, WASH and FSL needs, and how service provision and infrastructural availability and accessibility impact needs in Al Habelien.

Al Habelien has a stable population, with a relatively low number of IDPs living in the city across four IDP sites, three managed and one unmanaged, some returnee HHs, and the vast majority being non-displaced host-community. While the population is stable, there are indications of future movement across the host and returnee populations due to a lack of income-generating opportunities. HHs in Al Habelien reported high levels of HH debt due to food and WASH item purchases, with evidence that income sources are not sufficient to pay for food and WASH items. This is a result of the depreciation of the YER, making basic items unaffordable. Many HHs rely on their community to be able to access food and WASH items at the market or water trucking, through borrowing money or credit purchases. Market actors reported both economic and physical shocks and stressors impacting the sector and as market actors allow for food and WASH item purchases on credit their ability to stock up and supply good quality food to the market is stretched. Extensive use of negative coping strategies risks exhausting these possibilities as market actors struggle to supply markets with sufficient goods, both in quantity and quality. Exhausting these coping strategies would probably lead to increased levels of HH hunger and worse FC outcomes for HHs in Al Habelien. FSL outcome indicators in this SBA suggest worse FSL outcomes than in the 2023 IPC as seasonality impact access to work, water, and food as credit purchases and borrowing from the community can contribute to keeping hunger levels relatively low. The low HH income levels, high prices of vital goods, and further climatic shocks risk resulting in a deteriorating situation with worse FSL outcomes. Sustainable water practices and management of existing sources have the potential of increasing livelihood activities with a need for extended HH participation in income-generating activities to increase HH purchasing power needed to limit the effects of shocks.

This assessment has shown the need for more localized information to better understand the high WASH and FSL needs in Yemen. There is also a need to widen the scope to include more sectors, such as health and nutrition along with these sectors as they influence each other. More localised information support local communities and contributes to a broader understanding of nationwide needs and drivers. There is a need to further understand how local actors and stakeholders can be supported to ease community needs while building sustainable solutions in Yemen.

## Annex 1

Livelihood coping strategy index: % of HHs in Al Habelien that either use or have exhausted livelihood coping strategies

Livelihood coping strategy	Category	% of population using or have used coping strategy	% of population using coping strategy	% of population having exhausted coping strategy
Sold household assets/goods (radio, furniture, refrigerator, television, jewelry, clothes etc)	Stress	33%	20%	13%
Purchased food on credit	Stress	93%	91%	2%
Spent savings (cash savings)	Stress	33%	21%	12%
Borrowed money	Stress	82%	74%	8%
Sold productive assets or means of transport (sewing machine, wheelbarrow, motorcycle, car etc)	Crisis	18%	8%	9%
Reduced essential non-food expenditure such as education and health (including medication)	Crisis	55%	50%	5%
Withdraw children from school because of lack of money	Crisis	9%	5%	4%
Sold house or land	Emergency	12%	4%	8%
Sold last female animal	Emergency	4%	2%	2%
Early marriage (female child under age of 15)	Emergency	2%	1%	1%



## ENDNOTES

- 1 UN OCHA (2022) [Yemen 2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview](#)
- 2 IPC (2023) [YEMEN: IPC Acute Food Insecurity and Malnutrition Snapshot. Acute Food Insecurity: January-December 2023; Acute Malnutrition: October 2022-September 2023](#)
- 3 Yemen Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (2023) [Interactive response Dashboard](#)
- 4 [FEWSNET Seasonal Calendar](#)
- 5 FEWSNET (2010) [Livelihood zone map](#)
- 6 **Note:** The sample for Al Habelien was 4,995 and was based on partner estimates used for their programming in the area. The KI for displacement and demographics in Al Habelien estimated that approximately 8,700 HHs live in Al Habelien.
- 7 IOM (2022) [Displacement Tracking Matrix: Area Assessment Public Dataset](#)
- 8 Al-Muhamasheen ('the marginalized ones') is the term that was adopted by members of the community itself to escape the derogatory term of 'Akhdam' ('servants') by which they are often referred. There are controversies about the ethnic origins of the group. Some believe they are descended from African slaves or Ethiopian soldiers from as far back as the sixth century. Others nevertheless think they are of Yemeni origin. Source: <https://minorityrights.org/minorities/muhamasheen/>
- 9 REACH Initiative & Yemen CCCM cluster (2023) [IDP Sites Master List, May 2023](#)
- 10 REACH Initiative & Yemen CCCM cluster (2023) Site Reporting Tool Data (October 2022)
- 11 Ibid.
- 12 IOM (2022) [Displacement Tracking Matrix: Area Assessment Public Dataset](#)
- 13 REACH Initiative (2022) [Yemen WASH Needs Tracking System \(WANTS\), Radfan District, Lahj Governorate, November 2021](#)
- 14 REACH Initiative & Yemen CCCM cluster (2023) Site Monitoring Tool Data, Round 2 (February 2023)
- 15 REACH Initiative (2022) [Yemen WASH Needs Tracking System \(WANTS\), Radfan District, Lahj Governorate, November 2021](#)
- 16 FAO (2023) [Agrometeorological Update, April Issue \(Ref: #32\), 01-31 March 2023](#)
- 17 [FEWSNET Seasonal Calendar](#)
- 18 REACH Initiative (2022) [Yemen WASH Needs Tracking System \(WANTS\), Radfan District, Lahj Governorate, November 2021](#)
- 19 **Note:** These water sources are surface water, rainwater collection, and protected spring.
- 20 REACH Initiative & Yemen CCCM cluster (2023) Site Reporting Tool Data (October 2022)
- 21 REACH Initiative & Yemen CCCM cluster (2023) Site Monitoring Tool Data, Round 2 (February 2023)
- 22 Ibid.
- 23 [FEWSNET Seasonal Calendar](#)
- 24 REACH Initiative & Yemen CCCM cluster (2023) Site Monitoring Tool Data, Round 2 (February 2023)
- 25 REACH Initiative (2023) [Joint Market Monitoring Initiative Data Dashboard](#)
- 26 IPC (2023) [YEMEN: IPC Acute Food Insecurity and Malnutrition Snapshot. Acute Food Insecurity: January-December 2023; Acute Malnutrition: October 2022-September 2023](#)
- 27 FEWSNET (2023) [Yemen - Food Security Outlook: Emergency \(Phase 4\) outcomes likely to persist in Marib amid conflict and reduced assistance, February-September 2023](#)
- 28 **Note:** The FEWSNET classification of Crisis! follows the general IPC guidelines. The ! means the district would likely be at least one phase worse without current or programmed humanitarian assistance
- 29 REACH Initiative (2023) [Joint Market Monitoring Initiative Data Dashboard](#)
- 30 REACH Initiative & Yemen CCCM cluster (2023) Site Monitoring Tool Data, Round 2 (February 2023)
- 31 IOM (2022) [Displacement Tracking Matrix: Area Assessment Public Dataset](#)
- 32 Yemen Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (2023) [Interactive response Dashboard](#)
- 33 **Note:** Returnee in this assessment refers to individuals who had previously been displaced from their community of origin (the assessed location) for more than one month, regardless of length of time since their return. Non-displaced residents may include those who were displaced for short periods of time (less than 1 month and are not considered returnees under the above definition).

## ABOUT REACH

REACH Initiative facilitates the development of information tools and products that enhance the capacity of aid actors to make evidence-based decisions in emergency, recovery and development contexts. The methodologies used by REACH include primary data collection and in-depth analysis, and all activities are conducted through inter-agency aid coordination mechanisms. REACH is a joint initiative of IMPACT Initiatives, ACTED and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research - Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNITAR-UNOSAT).

For more information please visit our website: [www.reach-initiative.org](http://www.reach-initiative.org). You can contact us directly at: [geneva@reach-initiative.org](mailto:geneva@reach-initiative.org). For information on REACH Yemen you can sign up to the [REACH Yemen mailing list](#) or contact us at [impact.yemen@impact-initiatives.org](mailto:impact.yemen@impact-initiatives.org).

## ABOUT CARE

CARE has been active in Yemen since 1992, addressing poverty, promoting social justice, and enhancing people's ability to cope with crises through humanitarian response and development projects. CARE is operational in 14 governorates across Yemen, delivering programs through direct implementation or in partnership with local and international organizations. CARE contributes to strengthening Yemeni communities' resilience, helping them to recover from the effect of one of the world's largest humanitarian crisis.

For more information, please visit our website: [www.careyemen.org](http://www.careyemen.org). You can contact us directly at: [Yem.info@care.org](mailto:Yem.info@care.org)

## ABOUT FMF

Field Medical Foundation (FMF) is an NGO with a vision to empower communities for a better life and sustainable development. FMFs mission is to contribute to alleviating the suffering of vulnerable people in society and enabling them to access comprehensive health, education, and developmental services through building effective partnerships, mobilizing and investing resources and volunteer efforts, and directing them toward implementing sustainable development and initiatives programs by evidence-based, best practices and policies of humanitarian action.

For more information, please visit our website: [www.fmfyemen.org](http://www.fmfyemen.org). You can contact us directly at: [info@fmfyemen.org](mailto:info@fmfyemen.org)