



World Food Programme

wfp.org

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Yemen



November 2015: Conflict and cyclones further aggravate food insecurity in Yemen

Key messages

- **Two successive tropical cyclones hit Yemen's southern coastal areas in November, worsening food consumption in Al Maharah and Abyan.**
- **November data shows that households in Taizz experienced a significant deterioration in food security – as seen by the drop in food consumption score and the more frequent use of negative coping strategies.**
- **IDP households had a deteriorating food consumption score and poorer diets than non-IDP households. More than 70 percent of IDP households resorted to food related coping mechanisms such as relying on less expensive foods, limiting portion sizes and reducing the number of meals consumed in a day.**
- **Households headed by women had poorer food consumption and higher coping levels than those headed by men.**

Food consumption deteriorates in Al Maharah, Abyan, Ibb and Taizz.

The mean food consumption score (FCS) deteriorated in four governorates adversely affected by conflict and/or climatic conditions in November. Al Maharah and Abyan were hit by landfall cyclones that compromised households' food consumption patterns; the mean FCS dropped from 71.7 to 55.8 ** in Al Maharah and from 55.6 to 49.5 * in Abyan since October.

November data also indicates worsening food consumption in Taizz and its neighbouring governorate Ibb, most likely induced by the persistence of conflict. In Taizz the mean FCS fell from 47.4 in October to 40.7 *, while in Ibb it dropped from 46.3 to 43.6 *. Coping levels slightly increased in Taizz from 18.1 in October to 18.4 in November *, signaling a worrying food security situation in the governorate. While the national mean FCS remained stable in November, internally displaced persons' (IDP) food consumption deteriorated significantly *.

Food-related coping levels deteriorate in Taizz, while improving in Al Hudaydah, Al Jawf and Dhamar

The mean reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI) in November (18.4) remained similar to that of October (18.8) at the national level. However there was a significant - although likely temporary - decline in the use of negative food-related coping behaviour in Al Hudaydah, Al Jawf and Dhamar, most likely due to the increased seasonal availability of food and/or money to buy it from the sorghum and coffee harvest (Oct - Jan). On the contrary, coping levels slightly increased in Taizz.

November situation overview:

Yemen’s southern coastline was hit by two tropical cyclones in November 2015. According to the [IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix \(DTM\)](#), cyclones Chapala and Megh displaced about 5,974 families in Soqatra, Hadramaut, Shabwah, Abyan, Lahj and Al Maharah, and devastated infrastructures and crops. WFP and its partners have distributed food to affected populations in Shabwah and Hadramaut. The humanitarian situation in Taizz, where conflict has increased in recent months, remained critical.

Poor food consumption and high coping in the north-west and centre-south.

November data shows that nearly 45 percent of the total population had poor or borderline food consumption (21.2 percent and 23.6 percent respectively). As map 1 shows, in conflict prone governorates in the north-west (Al Jawf, Amran, Hajjah, Marib) and the centre-south (Taizz, Raymah, Dhamar, Al Dhale, Al Baydah) more than 25 percent of households had poor food consumption. In addition, many of those governorates had a mean rCSI above 20 (see map 2). By contrast, the FCS was better in governorates such as Lahj, Abyan and Aden, probably due to the ongoing emergency food assistance operations in the areas.

IDP households tended to have poorer diets and higher use of negative food-related coping strategies than non-IDP households. As figure 1 shows, nearly 60 percent of IDP households had poor or borderline food consumption compared with 43 percent of non-IDP households. Additionally, more than 70 percent of all surveyed IDPs relied on less expensive food, limited portion sizes and reduced the number of meals eaten each day.

November data suggests that households headed by women (sample size of 83 households), were more vulnerable to food insecurity (as measured by the FCS and the rCSI indicators) than those headed by men. Some 31 percent of households headed by women had poor food consumption, compared with 21 percent of households headed by men.

Increasing pessimism regarding food security across Yemen

The mean sentiment score dropped sharply from negative 0.18 in October to negative 0.31 in November at the national level. As seen in map 3, the perception of food security dropped drastically by negative 0.2 or more in the governorates largely affected by conflict and/or cyclones, i.e., Al Baydah, Raymah, Al Maharah and Hadramaut.

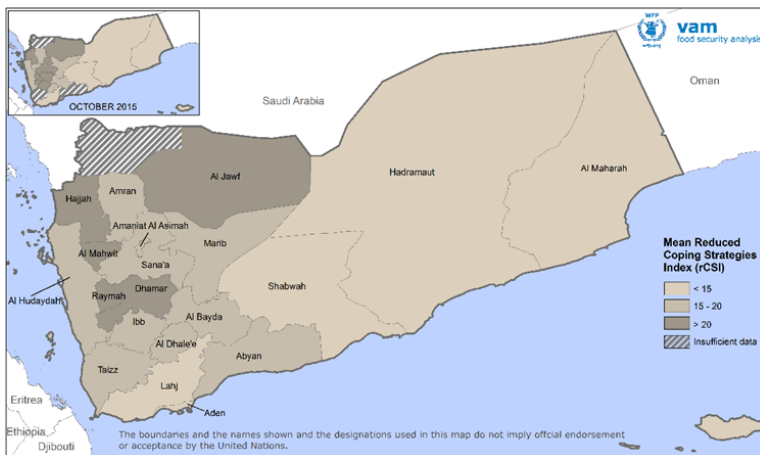
Survey respondents reported a difficult and deteriorating food security situation. The words ‘bad/difficult’, ‘poor’, and the need of ‘aid’ have increased by 13, 3 and 2 percent respectively since October. Reports about the unavailability of basic food commodities, water, cooking gas and job opportunities were consistent with the findings from [WFP market monitoring in November](#). In Taizz, respondents emphasized that conflict was intensifying water shortages and electricity breakdowns, while in Al Maharah respondents reported that flooding had prompted sharp increases in food prices and food shortages.

Map 1: Percentage of households with ‘poor’ food consumption by governorate



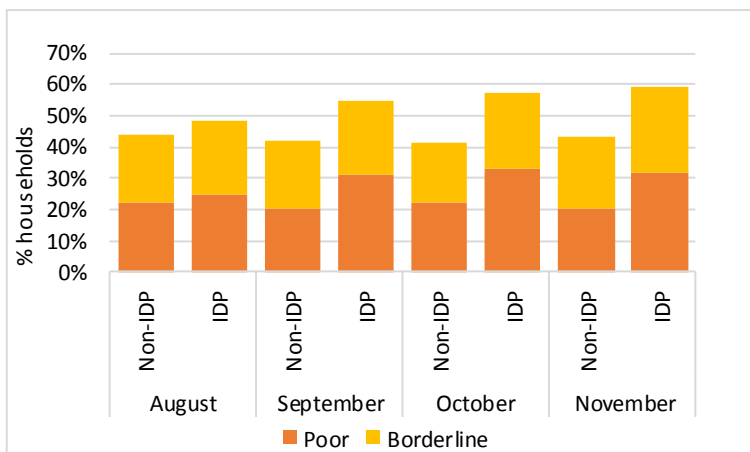
Source: WFP mVAM, November 2015

Map 2: reduced Coping Strategies Index by governorate



Source: WFP mVAM, November 2015

Figure 1: Percentage of ‘poor’ and ‘borderline’ food consumption for IDP and non-IDP households, comparison of August, September, October and November 2015



Source: WFP mVAM, November 2015

Methodological Note: Reporting on statistical tests and significance level

To report the level of statistical significance, the following reference is used:

p-value	reported symbol
0.10 to 0.05	*
<0.05 to 0.01	**
<0.01	***



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