

Food security indicators continue to be poor

Key points:



Food security indicators remain poor in September: food insecurity persists in Taizz and food prices continue to be high.



IDP households have considerably worse food security indicators than non-displaced households.



Households reported shortages of food and money as their main concerns in September



Situation Update

According to the [tenth report of the Task Force on Population Movement \(TFPM\)](#), 3.15 million people are of concern with 2.2 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and 0.95 returnees. Access to food is still a major problem for vulnerable people across Yemen. This is directly impacted by the conflict but also linked to import difficulties, rising fuel prices and damage to road infrastructure and agricultural production which has increased food prices and lessened food availability ([OCHA Yemen Humanitarian bulletin issue 15](#)).

According to the [WFP Yemen market watch report in August](#), the cost of the minimum food basket is 19.5 percent higher than the pre-crisis level. Although food prices dropped by 9.5 percent between July and August, this was most likely temporary and related to seasonal harvesting. Despite the harvest, households have persistently poor food security indicators and high needs, probably because the unavailability of seeds/inputs, loss of livelihood and locust-related damage have all impacted crop production ([FAO Crop Prospects and Food Situation, September 2016](#)).

2406 Households
Surveyed

38 Average age of
Respondents



30% IDP

70% Non-IDP



Residence Type

54% Own home

35% Rental

6% Guest

5% Other



Gender Head of Household

96% Male

4% female

Source: mVAM September 2016



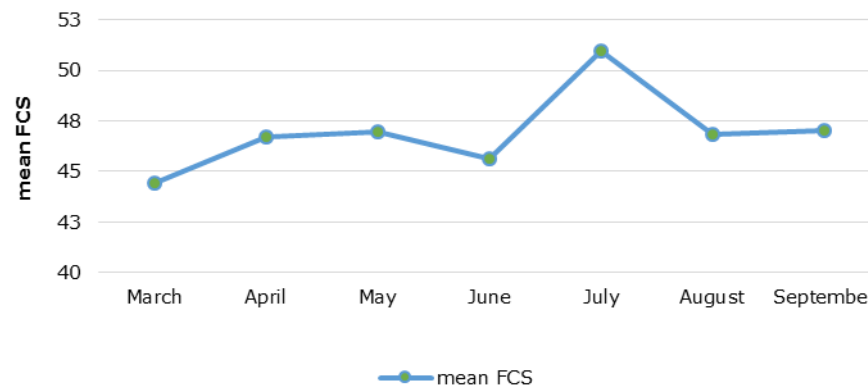
Food insecurity remains high

mVAM data show that food insecurity levels remained high in September, in line with trends observed in August. The national mean Food Consumption Score (FCS) and the reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI) continued to be poor (see Figures 1 and 2). Figure 1 shows that from March to June, the national mean FCS was between 44 and 47. The score improved in July during Ramadan moving up to 50.9, but dropped again in August (46.8) and September (47.0). The proportion of households with inadequate (poor or borderline) food consumption was high in September, at 47 percent (Figure 3). As Map 1 shows, the use of negative food-related coping strategies is also still prevalent. The coping strategies most frequently used by 70 percent of surveyed households in September are relying on less expensive/less preferred food, followed by eating less food at mealtimes. As Maps 1 and 2 show, in September food insecurity was of concern in Raymah, Al Dhale and particularly in Taizz, where over 30 percent of households have poor food consumption and the use of negative coping strategies is high (rCSI = 24).

Methodology: mVAM remote mobile data collection

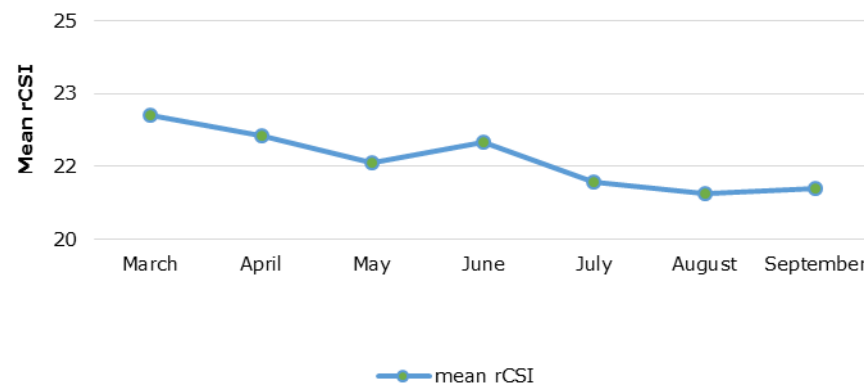
In September 2016, mVAM conducted the 14th round of household food security monitoring in Yemen, using live telephone interviews. The data were collected during the first two weeks of September. Responses are likely to be biased towards younger, somewhat better off households who live in urban areas and have better access to electricity and phone-charging services. In March, a question on the number of active mobile phone owners per household was introduced to the questionnaire to adjust for the fact that households with more phones are more likely to be selected. The findings in this report are weighted by the number of SIM cards held by households and the population estimates for IDPs and non-IDPs. Details on methodology and aggregate data tables are available [online](#).

Figure 1: National mean FCS, March–September 2016



Source: mVAM September 2016

Figure 2: National mean rCSI, March–September 2016



Source: mVAM September 2016

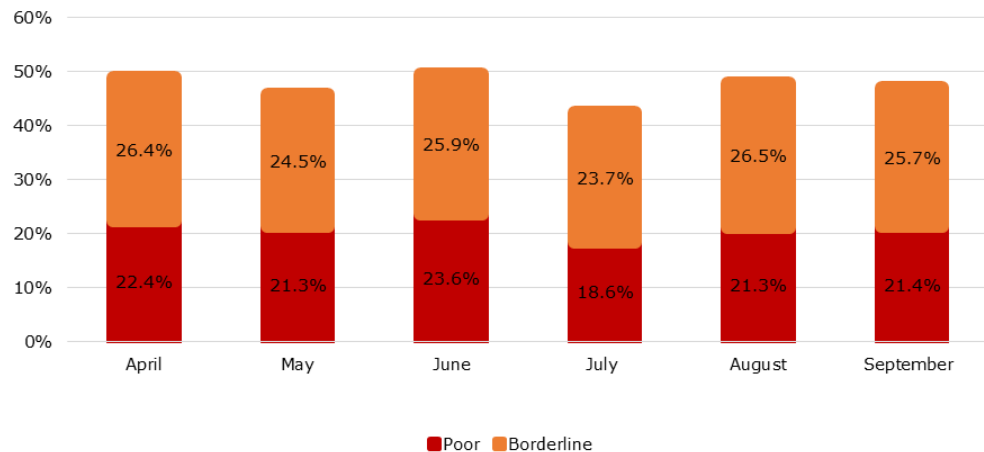


Food insecurity remains high

mVAM trend data from June to September show that the worst food security indicators are found in a cluster of governorates severely affected by conflict in Hajjah, Taizz, Ibb, Al Dhale and Raymah. In these areas, 50 percent or more of the population have inadequate (poor or borderline) food consumption, and their mean rCSI is close to 20 or even higher. By contrast, food security levels appear to be better in Al Maharah, Hadramaut and Aden, where the proportion of households with inadequate food consumption is between 10 and 32 percent, and coping levels are low at 18 or less.

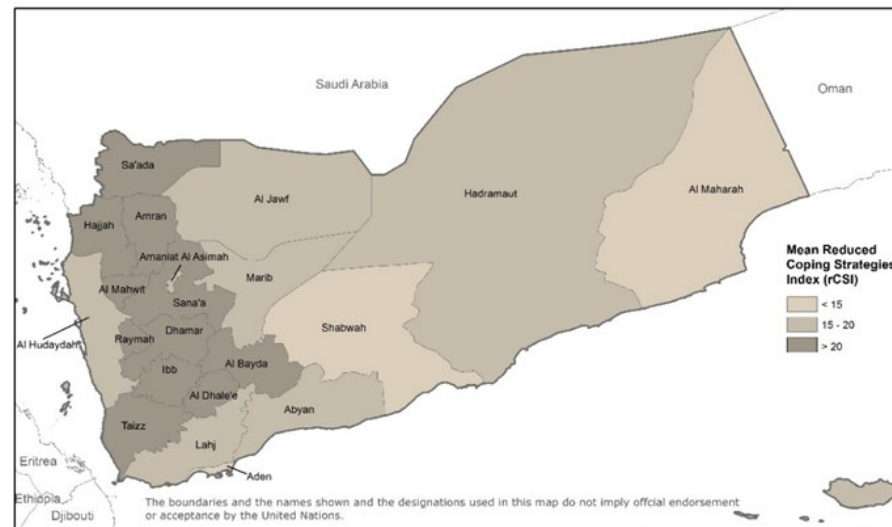
Figure 3:

National percentage of households with poor or borderline food consumption, April–September 2016



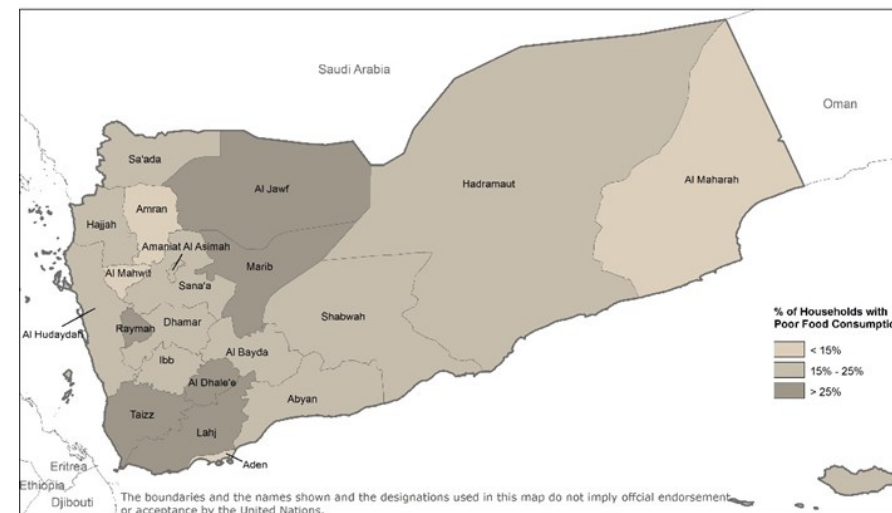
Source: mVAM September 2016

Map 1: rCSI by governorate, September 2016



Source: mVAM September 2016

Map 2: Percentage of households with poor food consumption by governorate, September 2016



Source: mVAM September 2016

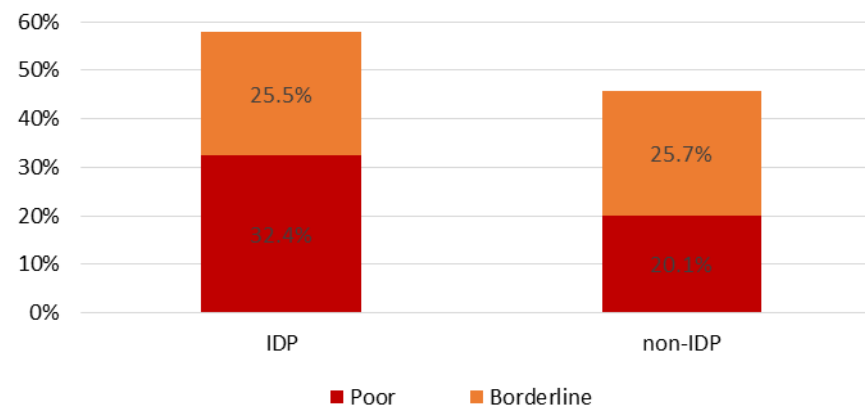


Food insecurity is higher among displaced households

IDP households continued to exhibit high levels of food insecurity in September. As seen in Figure 4, a large proportion of IDPs have inadequate food consumption. The food security indicators for displaced households signal considerably higher vulnerability than those for non-displaced households: the mean FCS for IDP households is 40.1 (compared to 47.8 among non-displaced), and their mean rCSI is 27.5 (compared to 20.3 among non-displaced).

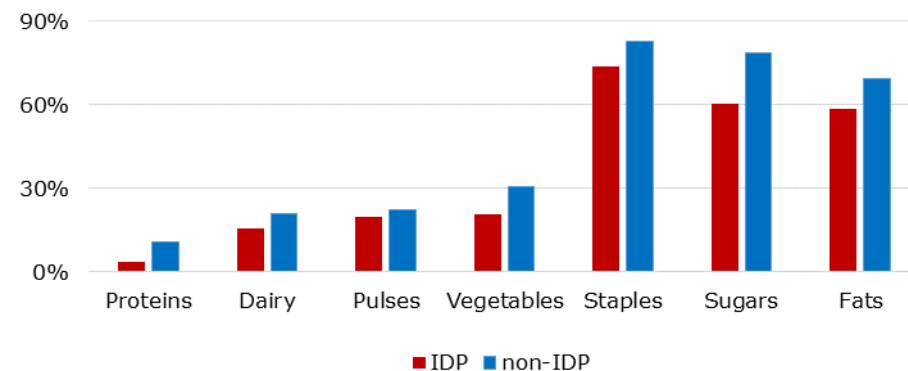
Figure 5 shows that households tend to rely on consuming staples, sugar and fats for at least six days a week to meet their food needs. Nutritious food such as vegetables, pulses, dairy and proteins are consumed much less frequently. IDPs are especially vulnerable and have very poor dietary diversity. In September, the proportion of IDP households consuming no proteins at all rose by 7 percent. By contrast, data show that non-displaced households are consuming slightly more vegetables in September (30.5 percent) as compared to August (27.7 percent). Non-displaced households also appeared to resort less frequently to eating fewer meals a day in September (61.8 percent) than August (57.3 percent).

Figure 4: Food consumption by displacement status



Source: mVAM September 2016

Figure 5: Percentage of IDP and non-IDP households consuming proteins, dairy, pulses vegetables, staples, sugars and fats for at less six day per week.



Source: mVAM September 2016



Shortages of food and basic necessities persist

Households reported shortages of money and food as their main concerns in September. Infant milk, vegetables, fruit and meat were reported to be scarce in Hajjah, Lahj and Sana'a city. Households in Al Jawf said their tents have been torn by strong winds, allowing rainwater in. A lack of income, water, electricity, cooking gas, job opportunities and blankets was commonly reported. Covering accommodation rental expenses was a worry, especially for around 5 percent of IDPs. Respondents also complained about the rising cost of food and housing. Food aid was reported to be lacking or arriving in inadequate amounts.

Figure 6: Word cloud for Yemen, September 2016



Source: mVAM September 2016

“There is a lack of food commodities and we often rely on borrowing food”
(Male respondent from Hajjah)

“The prices are high, and water and gas are lacking. We cannot afford to provide for our basic needs”
(Male respondent from Al Baydah)

“Burden of covering the housing rental expenses. There are food shortages and lack of money”
(Male respondent from Sana'a city)

“Shortages of aid and food commodities. Income resources are few”
(Female respondent from Aden)



For further information:

Adham Musallam adham.musallam@wfp.org
Arif Husain arif.husain@wfp.org
Jean-Martin Bauer jean-martin.bauer@wfp.org
Endalkachew Alamnew endalkachew.alamnew@wfp.org

mVAM Resources:
Website: http://vam.wfp.org/sites/mvam_monitoring/
Blog: mvam.org
Toolkit: <http://resources.vam.wfp.org/mVAM>

