

Highlights	Methodology	Food Consumption Score	reduced Coping Strategy Index	In the words of the respondents
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Bulletin #20: March 2017

Food security indicators are poor in Raymah, Ad Dali and Lahj governorates

Key points



The food security situation is deteriorating in Abyan.



Worst record of negative food-based coping strategies among IDPs households in the last six months.



More respondents are concerned about the deterioration of availability of food and fuel.



Situation update

The Yemen IPC food security classification results were officially released on 15 March. While the results show a slight decrease in the size of the population in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency), down 200,000 to 6.8 million, the number of people facing IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) has grown by more than 3 million since June 2016, to some 10.2 million. A relative improvement in the overall food security situation in some districts of Ad Dale'e and Al-Bayda contributed to a shift to IPC Phase 3 from IPC to Phase 4. This does not mean the two governorates are better off now. The food security situation remains unstable, and this reduction is largely attributable to ongoing humanitarian assistance and improved access in some districts within these governorates. In sum, the size of the food insecure population has grown by more than 20 percent in nine months, to a new total of 17 million people. The IPC analysis has found 7 governorates to be in IPC Phase 4: Taizz, Sa'ada, Hudaydah, Hajjah, Abyan, Shabwah, Lahj, while 13 governorates were found to be in Phase 3, including 3 governorates (Al Dhale, Al Jawf, and Al Bayda) likely to face Phase 4 or worse in the absence of humanitarian assistance.

Further, according to the latest Yemen Market Watch report covering February 2017, prices of food and fuel commodities continue to rise by 31 percent and 70 percent respectively compared to pre-crisis period, while in governorates where the conflict is ongoing, the scarcity of essential commodities has further worsened. New developments, such as the potential complete closure of Hudaydah Port due to the ongoing fighting, could rapidly accelerate the crisis. The Logistics Cluster Hudaydah Contingency Plan was released on 14 March, presenting mitigating activities to be put in place should Hudaydah Port become inaccessible.

IPC analysis, 15 March 2017 http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/IPC_Yemen_AcuteFI_Situation_March-July2017_ENversion.pdf

YEMEN Market Watch Report, February 2017 <http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/ena/wfp291104.pdf>

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In March 2017, mVAM conducted the 20th round of household food security monitoring in Yemen, using live telephone interviews. The data were collected during the first two weeks of March. 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 2016, 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.



2,448 Households Surveyed



Displacement status

32.6% IDP
67.4% Non-IDP



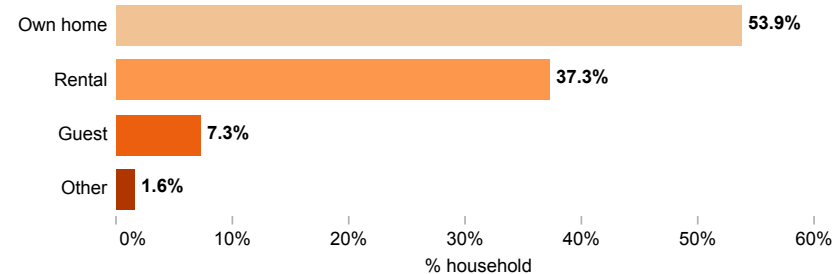
Gender Head of Household

4.4% Female
95.6% Male



38 Average age of respondents

Residence Type



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More households have poor food consumption in Abyan

In March, the national mean food consumption score (FCS) saw a marginal deterioration (Figure 1). This change is mainly driven by the decline of the mean FCS in Abyan from 47.8 in February to 41.9 in March and in Sana'a from 45.9 in February to 42.9 in March. In Abyan the percentage of households with inadequate food consumption reached a new peak (66%) in the last six months. More than half of the surveyed governorates have a mean FCS lower than the national level in particular Raymah (38.4), Ad Dali and Lahj (38.6). According to EFSNA preliminary findings, the highest percentage of households with poor food consumption have been recorded in these three governorates. As in previous rounds, March data indicate that the proportion of IDP households with poor food consumption is higher than the proportion of IDP households with borderline food consumption. The percentage of IDPs with poor food consumption (33.5 percent) continue to be much higher than that of the non-displaced population (24.7 percent) (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Households with poor and borderline Food Consumption by Displacement Status

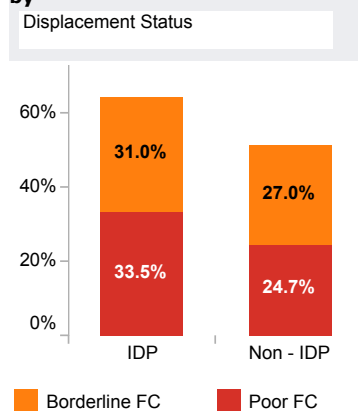
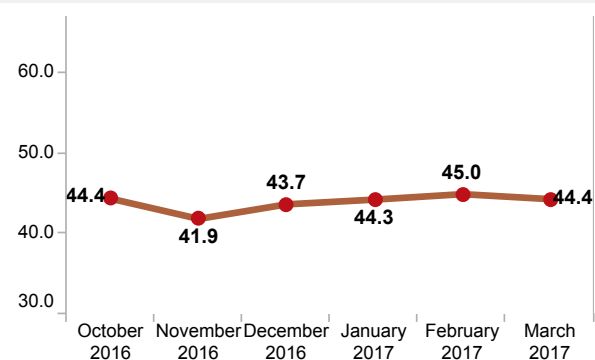


Figure 1. Mean FCS, October–March 2017



Map 1: % of households with Poor Food Consumption

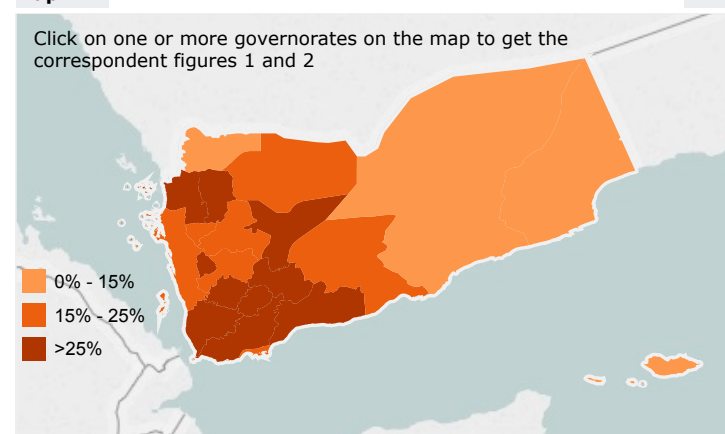
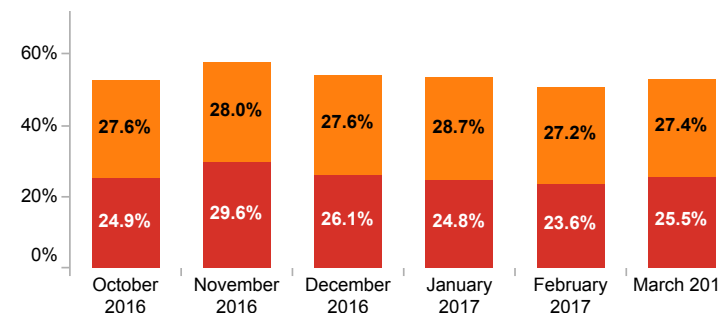


Figure 2. Percentage of households with poor and borderline food consumption, October–March 2017



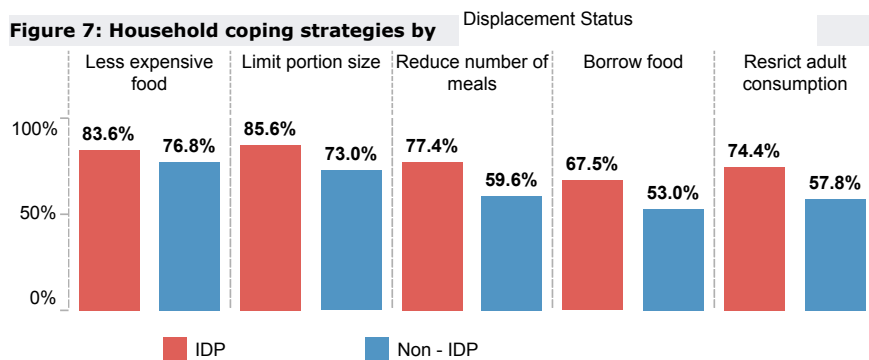
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Worst record of negative food-based coping strategies among IDPs

The overall use of negative food-related coping strategies increased slightly from February to March; currently, the national mean reduced coping strategies index (rCSI) is 21.9 (Figure 5). In line the FCS, the mean rCSI increased in Ad Dali from 19.6 to 22.4 and in Lahj from 15.7 to 17.8 from February to March.

In March, reported access to food assistance continue to increase, with assistance mainly in the form of food rations. The improvement is predominantly among households in Al Hudaydah, Lahj, Marib Sa'dah and Taizz governorates who reported better access in March than in February. As in previous months, IDP households have been resorting to negative coping strategies more frequently than non-displaced households (Figure 7). The mean rCSI increased for both IDPs and non-IDPs but it continue to be much higher for displaced households (27.9) than for non-displaced ones (21.4). This is the highest mean rCSI registered in the past six months for the IDP households.



Map 3: rCSI by governorate, March 2017

Click on one or more governorates on the map to get the correspondent figures 5 and 6

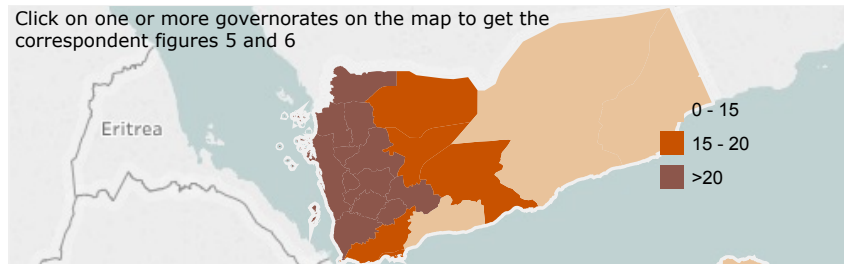


Figure 5: Mean rCSI, October–March 2017

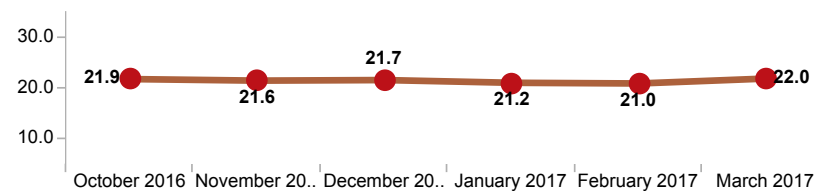
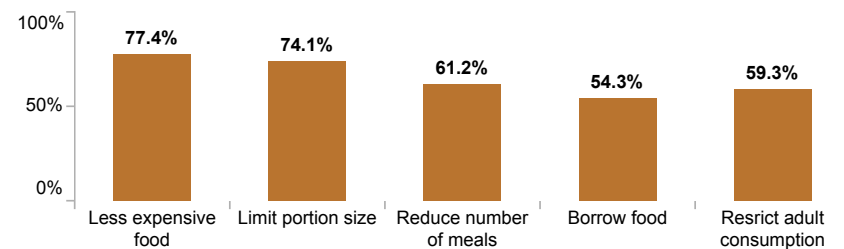


Figure 6: Percentage of households using negative coping strategies in March 2017



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Respondents concerned about lack food and fuel commodities

When asked about the main challenges faced by their household, most respondents mentioned shortages of food and fuel and low incomes. Respondents also talked about rising food prices and the need for regular food assistance. The prices of essential food items continue to rise after months of stability and availability of food and fuel commodities further deteriorated in February 2017 due to low imports and reduced level of informal cross border overland imports of commodities. Combined with unpaid salaries and spread unemployment, this is placing many households in an extremely difficult situation. Many respondents said that are no longer able to feed themselves adequately and are frequently forced to miss meals and to eat food of poor nutritional value.

In March 2017, lack of medicines and healthcare continue to be reported frequently and households appear to be very concerned about the spread of diseases. People are being forced to drink unsafe water as a result of the disintegration of local water systems, bringing the real risk of life-threatening illnesses, such as malaria, cholera, and diarrhoea. Several respondents said that many people are sick but they cannot afford to go to the hospital for treatment.

"The prices of the main commodities continue to increase and the income is very low that it became very difficult to provide food for our large family." – Male Respondent from Sa'da

"A lot of children are malnourished and sick as the food and the medicines for children are not available." – Male Respondent from Al Bayda

"Most of the family members are unemployed and for those who works the salaries are not enough as they have been cut since five months." – Male Respondent from Al Hudaydah

"Every day we have water and electricity cuts and the cost of fuel is increasing." – Male Respondent from Aden

source: YEMEN Market Watch Report, February 2017 <http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/ena/wfp291104.pdf>

Figure 9: Word cloud, March 2017



For further information

Adham Musallam
Arif Husain
Jean-Martin Bauer
Endakachew Alamnew

adham.musallam@wfp.org
arif.husain@wfp.org
jean-martin.bauer@wfp.org
endakachew.alamnew@wfp.org

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