

YEMEN

High level of food insecurity persists



vam
food security analysis

KEY MESSAGES:



In April, food security indicators remained persistently poor.



Nearly two-thirds of internally displaced households have poor or borderline food consumption.



Respondents are concerned about the shortages of food and basic necessities.



WFP/ Ammar Bamatraf

APRIL SITUATION OVERVIEW

Conflict has led to an increase in the level of displacement by 13 percent; more than 2.7 million are internally displaced. This increase in displacement mostly occurred in Amanat Al Asimah, Taizz, Al Hudaydah and Amran ([Task Force on Population Movement 8th Report, April 2016](#)).

On 13 and 14 April, heavy rainfall caused severe flooding in Al Hudaydah, Amran, Hajjah, Sana'a, Aden, Marib and Al Mahwit, affecting 49,000 people and causing 24 deaths. The floods have damaged houses, infrastructure and roads ([OCHA: Flash Update 2, 19 April 2016](#)). Data collection took place before the flooding in April, and therefore the findings of this bulletin do not capture its impacts on food security.

METHODOLOGY - mVAM REMOTE DATA COLLECTION

In April 2016, mVAM conducted the ninth round of household food security monitoring using live telephone interviews throughout Yemen. The data was collected during the first two weeks of April. 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 ownership was introduced to the questionnaire to adjust for the fact that households with more phones are more likely to be selected; findings presented in this report are weighted by the number of SIM cards held by households. Details on methodology and aggregate data tables are available [online](#).



2,443

**Interviewed
Households**



**Average age of
respondents**



Population

Non-IDP: 68.2%

IDP: 31.8%

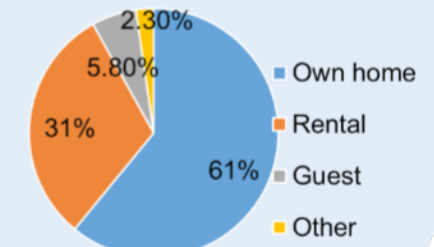


Sex of households

Female: 3.4%

Male: 96.6%

Residence housing





TREND: NEGATIVE COPING LEVELS REMAIN HIGH

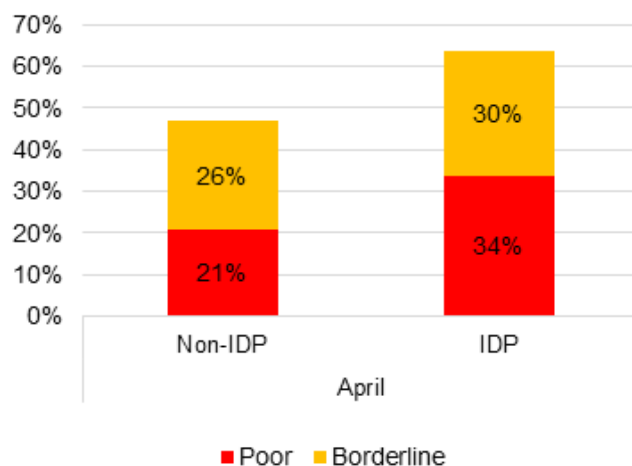
Overall, food security indicators at the national level have remained persistently poor in recent months, as a result of conflict impacts on markets and livelihoods. From March to April a 4-6 percent improvement in the food consumption score is observed for both displaced and non-displaced households, perhaps as a result of stabilized markets and improved food assistance. This trend to improved food consumption - observed for both IDPs and non-IDPs – should not overshadow the fact that food access conditions remain extremely difficult in Yemen. Indeed, both groups continued using as many negative coping strategies as in previous months.



Nearly two-thirds of IDP households have poor or borderline food consumption

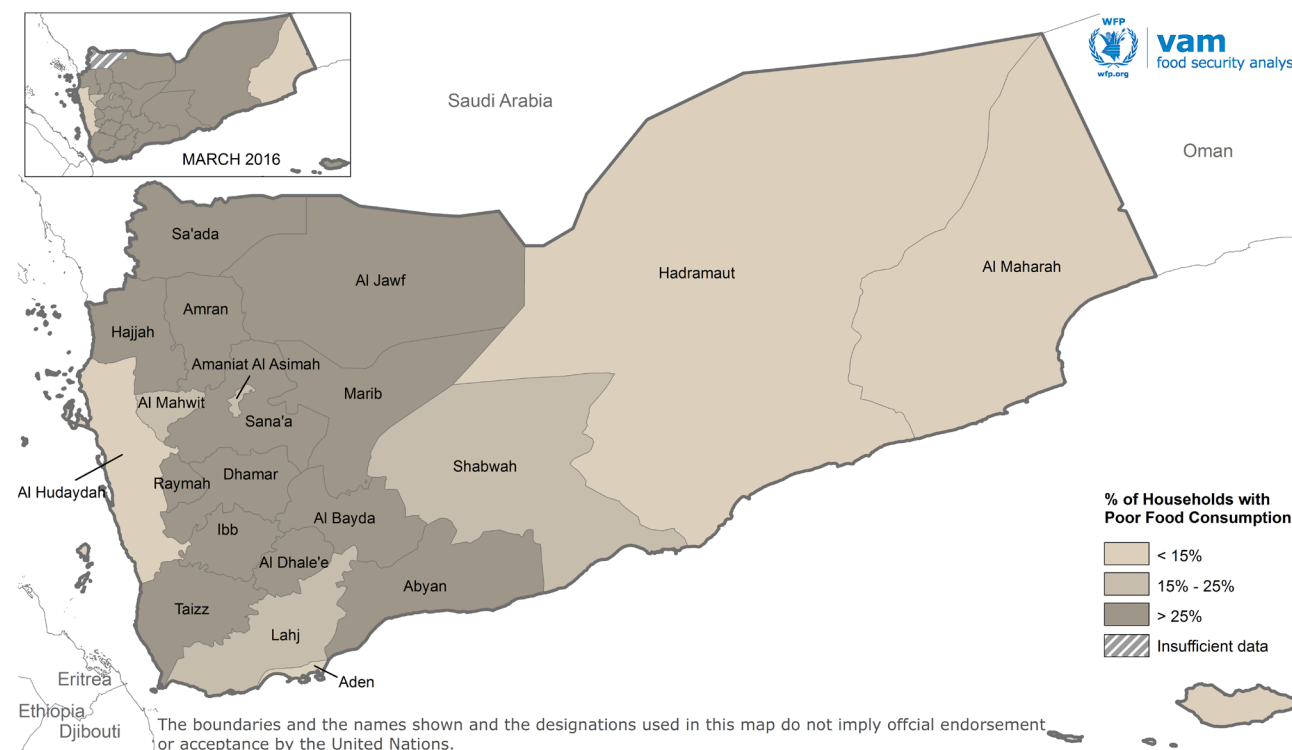
As of April, nearly two-thirds of IDP households have poor or borderline food consumption (Figure 1). Results show that 34 percent of displaced households have poor food consumption and a further 30 percent have a borderline food consumption score. About half of the non-displaced households also continued to be food insecure, with 21 percent having poor and 26 percent borderline food consumption.

Figure 1: Food consumption by displacement status



Source: WFP mVAM, April 2016

Map1: Percentage of households with poor food consumption by governorate



Source: WFP mVAM, April 2016



Food insecurity more prevalent among non-homeowners

April data indicates a correlation between food security and housing. Households living in their own homes appear to be engaging less frequently in negative coping behaviours than those renting or staying with someone for free. This trend was also observed for food consumption whereby those staying with someone for free have a poorer mean FCS than those living in their own houses or renting (see Table 1). Housing arrangement could be investigated among targeting criteria for food assistance.

Table 1: Mean FCS and rCSI by housing arrangement, April 2016

Housing arrangement	Mean FCS	Mean rCSI
Own home	49.8	19.5
Rental	42.7	25.3
Staying with someone for free	40.8	30.3

Source: WFP mVAM, April 2016



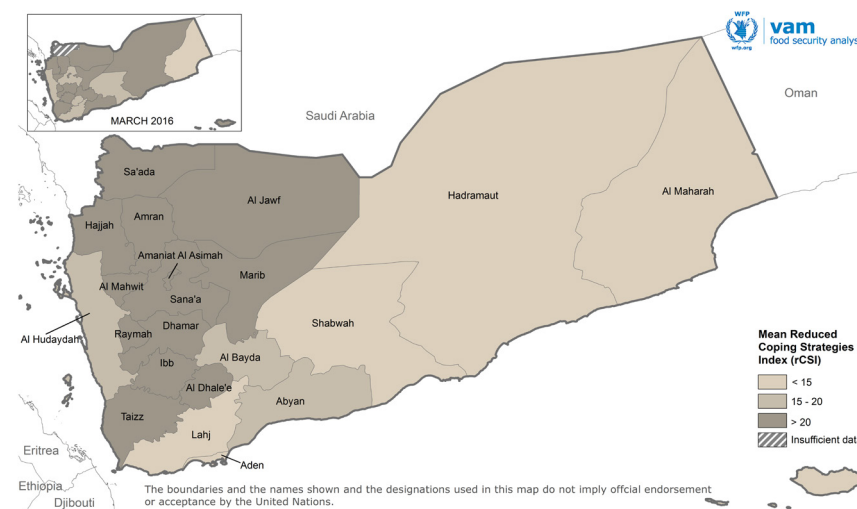
People continue using negative coping strategies in April

The national mean reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI) remained stable between March and April at the average level of 22. The negative coping strategies most frequently used by almost 70 percent of households are borrowing food, relying on help from a friend or a relative and eating smaller portions at meal times. In April, negative coping increased in Al Baydah but the areas where people use negative coping strategies most frequently remain the conflict-affected governorates of Western Yemen.



WFP/ Ammar Bamatraf

Map 2: Reduced Coping Strategies Index by governorate



Source: WFP mVAM, April 2016

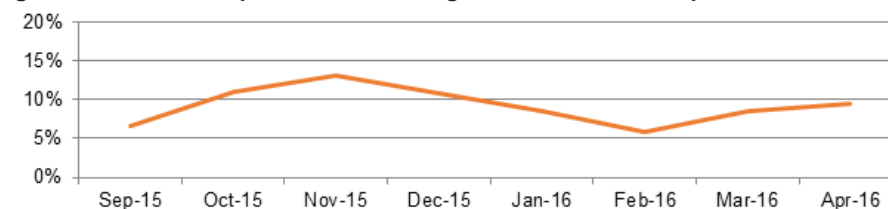


MAJOR CONCERNS OVER FOOD AND HUMANITARIAN AID SHORTAGES

When asked about the main challenges faced by their household, respondents reported on shortages of food and non-food items. As Map 3 shows, the most frequently mentioned shortages are food, drinking water, electricity, cooking gas and medicine. Low incomes and limited job opportunities were reported. Respondents also talked about rising food prices and the need for food assistance.

In April, access to assistance was similar to March (Figure 2). In April, 10 percent of surveyed households reported receiving food assistance in the month before the survey.

Figure 2: Share of respondents receiving food assistance, September 2015 – April 2016



Source: WFP mVAM, April 2016

In the words of the respondents:

"The financial situation is very difficult. There is a lack of food and salaries. Transportation is very difficult due to the damages of roads and infrastructure" (Male respondent from Al Mahwit)

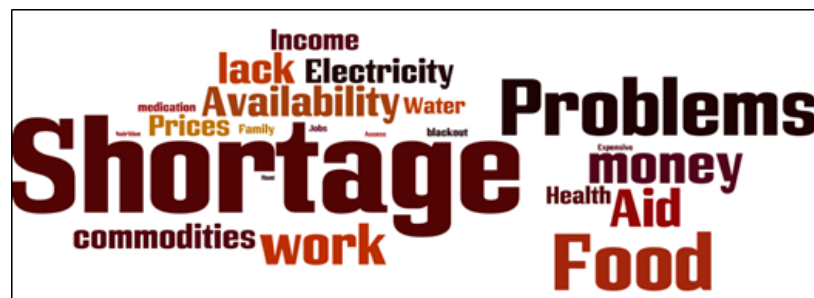
"There is a severe shortage of food and money in general. Electricity is interrupted from 8 months" (Male respondent from Amran)

"Potable water is lacking and very costly to buy. Electricity is interrupted and there is a shortage of food, particularly fruits and vegetables" (Male respondent from Hajjah)

"There is a shortage of food and basic needs such as water and medical services" (Female respondent from Lahj)

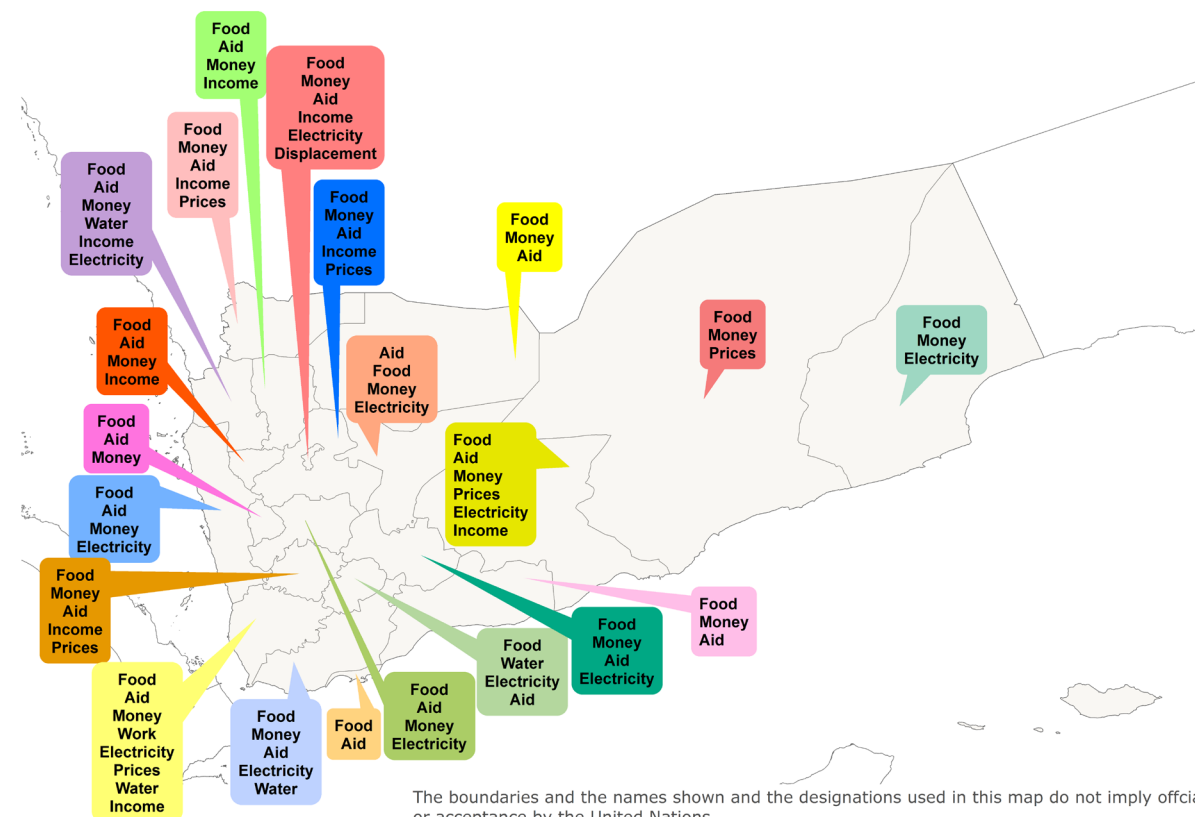
"The living situation is very bad. There are no salaries and food is not available on the market. We rely on bread for sustenance" (Male respondent from Taizz)

Figure 3: Word cloud for Yemen



WFP/ Ahmed Basha

Map 3: Major concerns by governorate, April 2016



The boundaries and the names shown and the designations used in this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.



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mVAM resources:

Website http://vam.wfp.org/sites/mvam_monitoring/
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