

YEMEN

National food security indicators remain stable in April and May

KEY MESSAGES:



The national food security indicators remained stable in May for the second consecutive month.



However, food security indicators are alarming for households displaced between April and May and for households led by women.



Households are worried about the unavailability of vegetables, and vegetable consumption has fallen.



WFP/ Abeer Etefa

MAY SITUATION OVERVIEW

Since March 2015, almost 2.8 million internally displaced people (IDPs) have fled their homes in Yemen as a result of conflict. The five governorates with the highest proportion of IDPs are Taizz (620,934 people), Hajjah (367,007), Amran (295,620), Sana'a (272,589) and Sa'ada (245,897) ([Task Force on Population Movement 8th Report, April 2016](#)). Nearly 82 percent of the population is currently in need of some form of humanitarian assistance.

METHODOLOGY - mVAM REMOTE DATA COLLECTION

In May 2016, mVAM conducted the tenth round of household food security monitoring using live telephone interviews throughout Yemen. The data was collected during the first two weeks of May. 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 users per household was added to the questionnaire to adjust for the fact that households with more phones are more likely to be selected; the findings presented 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](#).



2,425
Interviews



37
years
Average age of respondents

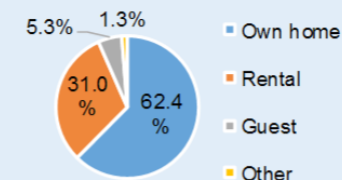


Displacement status
IDP: 31%
Non-IDP: 69%



Heads of households
Female: 3.1%
Male: 96.9%

Residence housing type



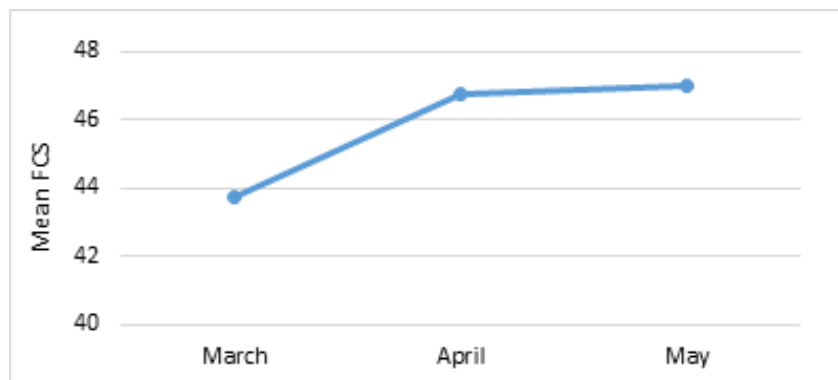


Food consumption remains stable in May

Between January and March 2016, food security indicators were poor across Yemen, reaching a mean food consumption score (FCS) of 43.7 in March. April brought some improvements and this trend seems to have continued in May, as the national mean FCS has been around 47 for the past two months.

In May, displaced households continued to be worse off than non-displaced ones. The mean FCS for IDPs was 39.4 and the reduced coping strategies index (rCSI)¹ 28.4 — much poorer than indicators for non-IDPs (mean FCS, 48; mean rCSI, 20.6). However, vegetable consumption fell for both IDPs (down 5 percent) and non-IDPs (down 2 percent) in May. In contrast, fat consumption rose by 8 percent for IDPs and by 2 percent for non-IDPs. mVAM data also shows that non-displaced households consumed 3 percent more staple foods, 3 percent more sugars and 2 percent less protein than the previous month.

Figure 1: National mean FCS, March-May 2016

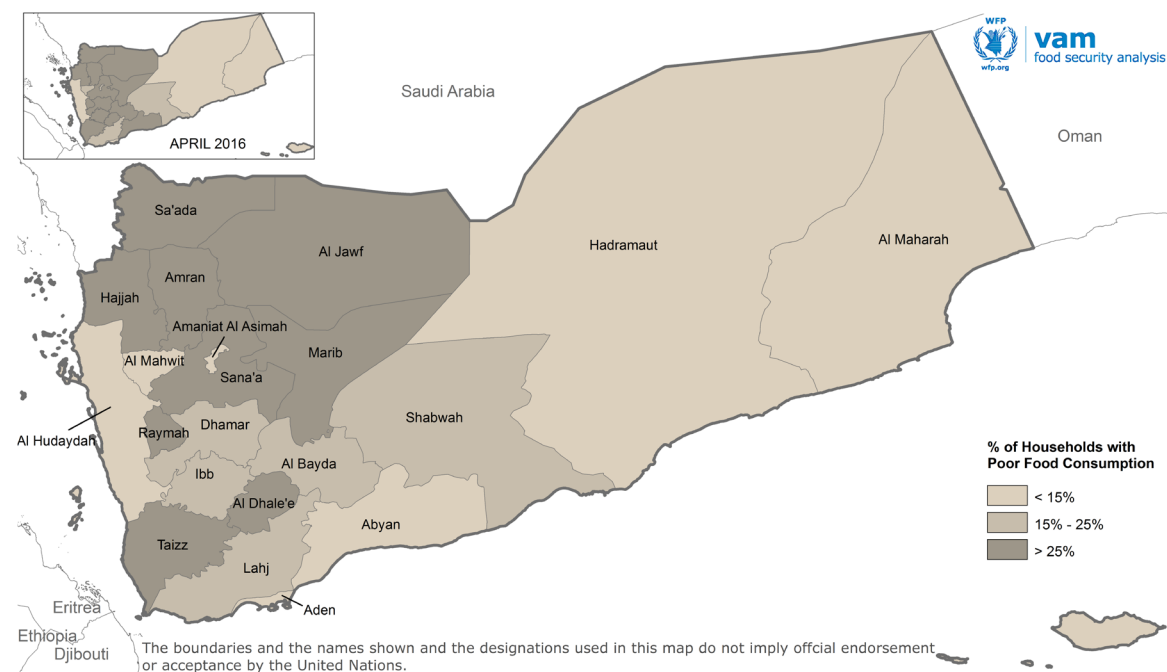


Source: WFP mVAM, May 2016



WFP/ Ahmed Basha

Map1: Percentage of households with 'poor' food consumption by governorate



Source: WFP mVAM, May 2016

¹The reduced coping strategies index expresses the frequency and severity of the mechanisms that households use to access food. The more negative coping strategies households implement, the higher the rCSI.

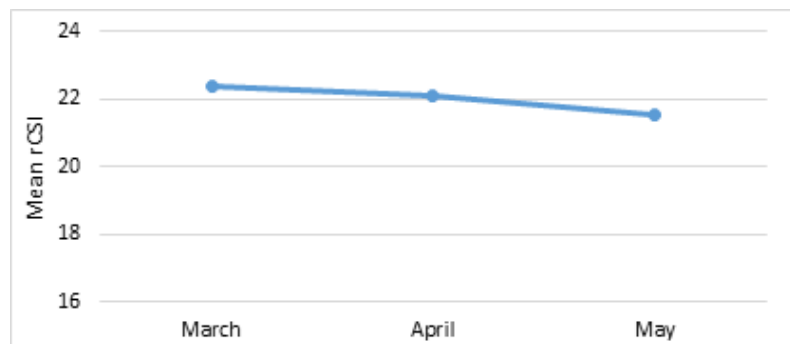


Prevalent use of negative food-related coping strategies across Yemen

The overall use of negative food-related coping strategies has remained stable from March to May 2016; currently the national mean rCSI is 21.6 (see Figure 2). However, many households are resorting to negative coping strategies across Yemen – 84 percent of all respondents reported using at least one negative consumption-based coping strategy during the week before the survey because of a lack of food or money to buy food. The most frequently used strategies – employed by nearly 70 percent of respondents – are borrowing food from friends and and/or relatives, and eating smaller portions.

In May, 10 percent more households in Lahj reported eating less expensive food and 14 percent more households in Sana'a said they were eating fewer meals a day. However, 10 percent fewer households in Sana'a city resorted to the severe coping strategy of adults eating less food in order to feed the children.

Figure 2: National mean rCSI, March-May 2016 by women and men, March – May 2016.



Source: WFP mVAM, May 2016



Map 2: Reduced Coping Strategies Index by governorate



Source: WFP mVAM, May 2016



Food insecurity is worst among people recently displaced

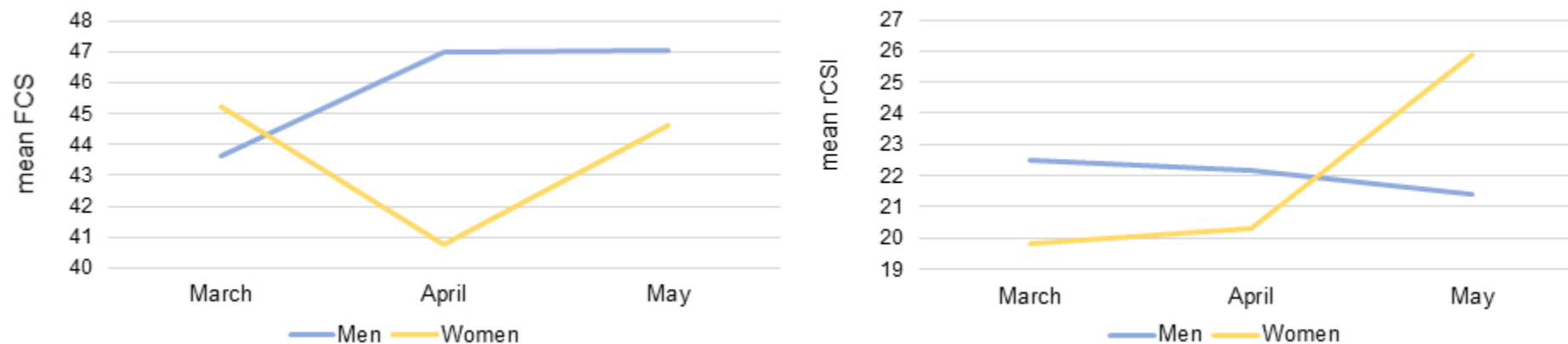
In May, 6 percent of the surveyed respondents reported fleeing their homes during the previous month. For those recently displaced households, the food security indicators seem to be worsening, probably because food access is difficult. The mean FCS of this group dropped from 43 in April to 38 in May and their mean rCSI deteriorated from 23.8 to 27.3 - indicating a dire food security situation.



Food security indicators are worse for households led by women

mVAM data shows that households led by women are more vulnerable than those led by men: the FCS and rCSI were worse for households led by women in May (see Figure 3). Correspondingly, these households are using more negative food-related coping strategies; they are between 9-11 percent more likely to engage in certain strategies than households headed by men, such as eating less food, eating less preferred/expensive food, or reducing food intake by adults so children can eat.

Figure 3: Mean FCS and rCSI for households led by women and men March - May 2016



Source: WFP mVAM, May 2016



Worries over the unavailability of vegetables, fruit and water

Respondents continue to refer to the shortage of food as a main problem right across Yemen. A lack of vegetables, fruit, medicines and blankets was reported frequently. Households also appear to be very concerned about covering their housing rental expenses due to low income and a lack of job opportunities. Many respondents have said that drinking water is either unavailable or unaffordable, and electricity seems to be constantly interrupted. Rising food prices continue to impede basic food purchases.

In May, access to food assistance rose by 3 percent compared to April (see Figure 5). Nearly 13 percent reported receiving food assistance in May – almost all of which was in-kind.

In the words of the respondents:

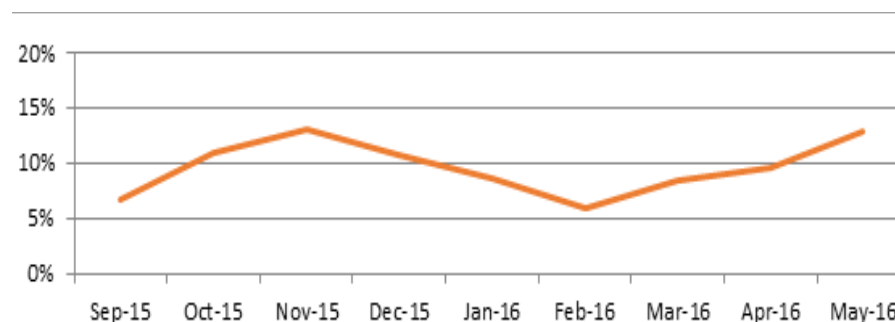
“There is a lack of water, electricity and water, and rise in food prices” (Male respondent from Sana’a city)

“There is no income and lack of job opportunities, in addition to, shortages of food commodities and high cost of accommodation rents. Rain water entered the house and ruined the furniture and cooking tools” (Male respondent from Amran)

“There is a lack of all basic necessities such as electricity, water, cooking gas and food” (Male respondent from Ibb)

“There is a great rise in food prices and housing rent rates” (Female respondent from Sana’a)

Table 1: Figure 5: Share of respondents receiving food assistance, September – May 2016



Source: WFP mVAM, May 2016

Figure 3: Word cloud for Yemen



Source: WFP mVAM, May 2016



For further information please contact:

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

mVAM resources:

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



vam
food security analysis

With the support of
THE BELGIAN
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION **.be**