

## The food security situation regresses to pre-Ramadan levels. Food insecurity is alarming in Taizz.

### Key points:



The improved food security seen during Ramadan ended in August: the national Food Consumption Score (FCS) has worsened.



Food security is deteriorating rapidly in Taizz, where a much larger proportion of households have an inadequate diet than the national average.



Since July 2015, households have resorted to consuming less expensive/preferred food more frequently. Fruits and vegetables are reported to be scarce and/or too expensive; 1 in 3 IDPs consume no vegetables.

### Situation Update


Since April 2016, conflict-related displacement has risen by 7 percent, according to the [tenth report of the Task Force on Population Movement \(TFPM\)](#) (TFPM) (July 2016). Currently, 2.2 million are internally displaced people (IDPs), mainly in Taizz, Hajjah, Sana'a, Sana'a city and Dhamar, which together host 67 percent of the total IDP population. A further 949,470 are returnees mainly in Aden, Amanat Al Asimah (Sana'a City) and Taizz.


According to TFPM data, IDPs reported that their main needs are food, shelter/housing and drinking water. The percentage of IDPs reporting food as their main need has risen from 49 percent in April/May to 74 percent.



**2466** Households  
Surveyed

**38** Average age of  
respondents

 30% IDP  
70% Non-IDP

 Residence Type  
55% Own home

 Gender Head of Household  
95% Male  
5% female

35% Rental  
6% Guest  
4% Other

Source: mVAM August 2016



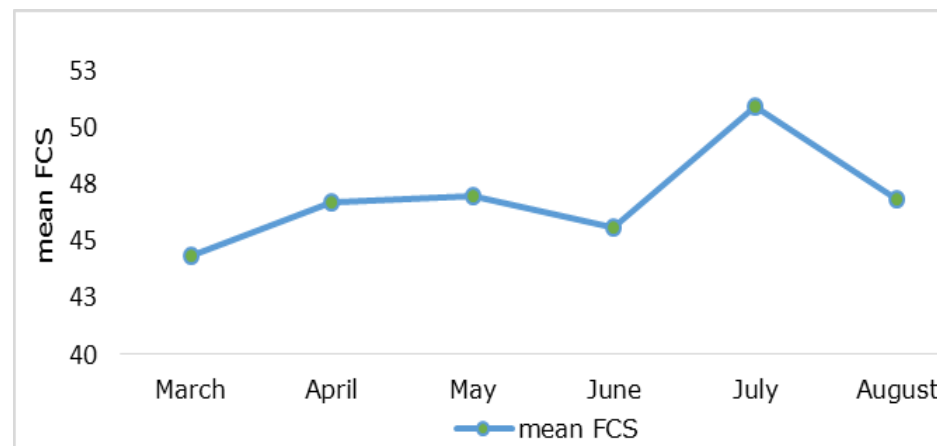
**The improved food consumption seen during Ramadan has ended**

August data shows a deterioration in the overall Food Consumption Score (FCS) from the improvements observed in July. As seen in Figure 1, the national mean FCS dropped from 50.9 in July to 46.8 in August. At the governorate level, the relapse in mean FCS was primarily seen in Al Maharah, Ibb, Amran, Taizz, Sana'a city and Hajjah.

A similar trend was seen among IDPs: their mean FCS deteriorated from 43.9 in July to 40.3 in August. Data also indicates that IDPs continue to have worse food security than non-displaced households: nearly 60 percent of IDP households are consuming inadequate diets compared to 46.3 percent of non-displaced households. However, there has been a sharp drop in the consumption of fruit, vegetables and dairy products for both IDP and non-IDP households. Sixty-eight percent of IDPs had consumed no fruit and 33 percent had consumed no vegetables in the week before the survey. For non-IDP households, 53 percent had eaten no fruit and 23 percent no vegetables.

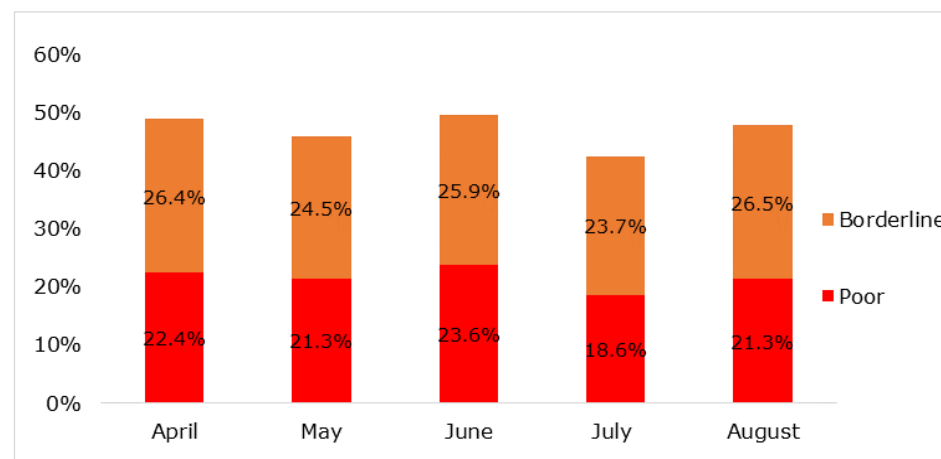
As seen in Figure 2, the share of households with inadequate diets decreased to 42.3 percent in July; however, in August it went up to 47.7 percent – similar to levels seen in April to June. This confirms that the improvement seen in July was temporary and related to the month of Ramadan.

Figure 1: National mean FCS, March – August 2016



Source: mVAM August 2016

Figure 2: National percentage of households with poor and borderline food consumption, April – August 2016



Source: mVAM August 2016

**Methodology: mVAM remote mobile data collection**

In August 2016, mVAM conducted the thirteenth round of household food security monitoring in Yemen, using live telephone interviews. The data was collected during the first two weeks of August. 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.

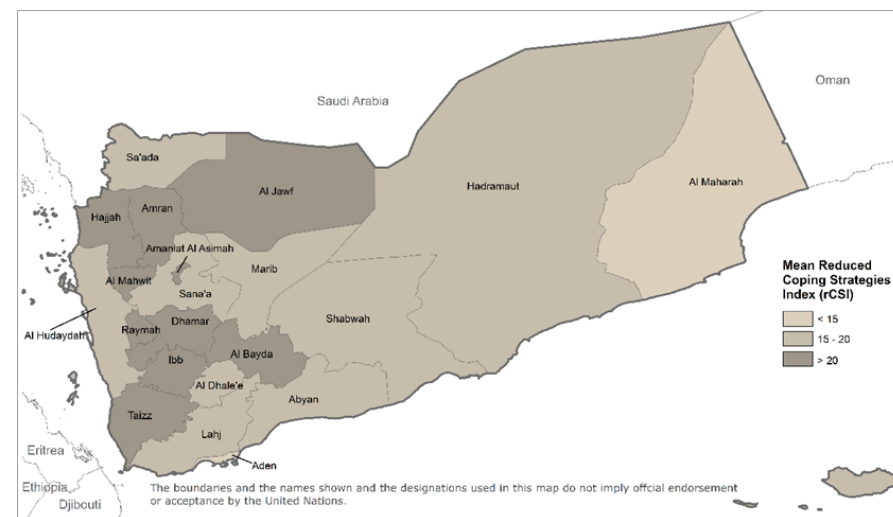
Details on methodology and aggregate data tables are available [online](#).



**Food insecurity levels are alarming in Taizz**

In August, Taizz had the worst FCS of all governorates, at a mean of 39.8. According to [IPC findings](#) released in June 2016, nearly 60 percent of the population in Taizz are acutely food insecure: 33 percent in IPC 3 (Crisis), and 27 percent in IPC 4 (Emergency). mVAM data collected in August shows that the food insecurity levels continue to be at rates similar to those indicated by the IPC. At almost 60 percent, the proportion of households with an inadequate diet is alarming and well above the national average of 47.7 percent. Negative coping levels are also high, with a reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI) of 20.9 (see Map 1). The negative consumption-based coping strategies most commonly used in August were relying on less expensive/preferred food and eating smaller meals – over 70 percent of all surveyed households in Taizz reported engaging in these two strategies.

Map 1: rCSI by governorate, August 2016



Source: mVAM August 2016

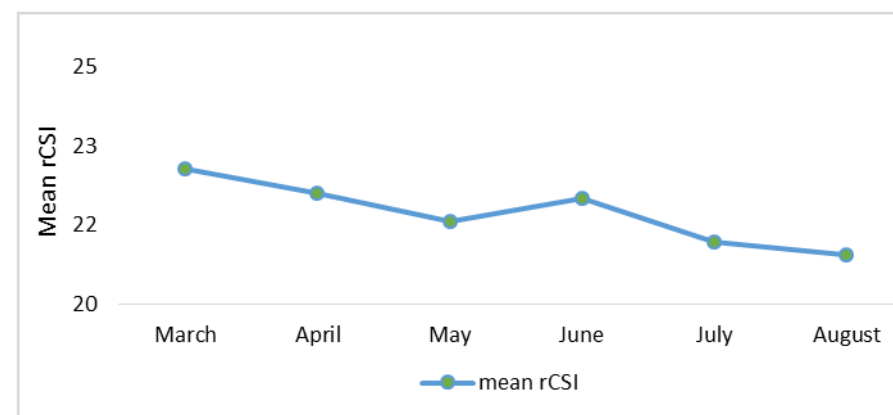


**Households are consuming cheaper food more frequently**

The overall rCSI remained consistent across July (21.2) and August (20.9) (see Figure 3). In July, households appeared to be resorting more frequently to consuming less expensive or less preferred food (69.4 percent) and this trend continued into August (73.3 percent). This is most probably a response to the increase in food prices over the past months and food shortages in conflict-affected areas. Additionally, more households appeared to be eating fewer meals a day in August (63.6 percent) compared to July (58.2 percent).

According to [WFP Yemen market watch report in July](#), food prices have slightly decreased following declining demand after Ramadan, yet the average cost of the minimum food basket is still 26 percent above pre-crisis levels.

Figure 3: National mean rCSI, March – August 2016



Source: mVAM August 2016

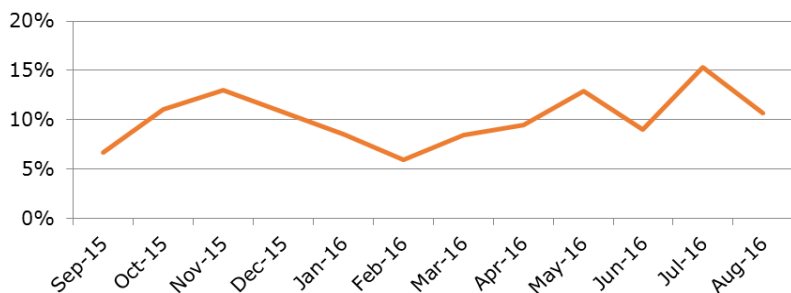


**Concerns over food scarcity, interrupted water and electricity supplies**

A lack of food, electricity blackouts and interrupted water supplies continue to be the main difficulties faced by respondents. They also said that a lack of money/income and job opportunities is making it difficult for them to pay their rental housing expenses and send their children to school or university. In the governorate of Taizz, respondents cited the complications of living within a restricted area; food items – particularly vegetables, fruit and wheat flour – are extremely scarce.

As Figure 4 shows, in August the share of respondents receiving food assistance has returned to levels seen before Ramadan. This confirms that the increased access to food assistance observed in the previous month was most probably temporary and attributed to the month of Ramadan.

Figure 4: Share of respondents receiving food assistance, September 2015 to August 2016



Source: mVAM 2015– 2016



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- mVAM Resources:**
- Website:** [http://vam.wfp.org/sites/mvam\\_monitoring/](http://vam.wfp.org/sites/mvam_monitoring/)
  - Blog:** [mvam.org](http://mvam.org)
  - Toolkit:** <http://resources.vam.wfp.org/mVAM>



**In the words of the respondents**

Figure 5 Word cloud for Yemen, August 2016



Source: mVAM August 2016

“There is a lack of money, housing, water, electricity and food commodities”  
*(Male respondent from Sana’a city)*

“There is no job or income to support the family. Also there is a lack of water and money and blackout”  
*(Female respondent from Abyan)*

“Rise in rental housing expenses and shortages of food and money are the biggest problems”  
*(Female respondent from Amran)*

“The situation is very bad. There is a lack of vegetables, fruits, meat, sugar, wheat flour and housing. Humanitarian assistance has not arrived since eight months”  
*(Male respondent from Taizz)*

