

Highlights

Methodology

Food Consumption Score

reduced Coping Strategy Index

In the words of the respondents

Bulletin #17: December 2016

## Negative coping levels increase among IDPs and suspension of salaries persists

### Key points



IDPs are more frequently resorting to borrowing and eating cheaper food than last month, and they continue to have the highest levels of food insecurity



After two months of deterioration, the national mean Food Consumption Score (FCS) has improved slightly, but gains remain limited mostly to the governorates of Hadramaut, Dhamar and Sana'a and among non-displaced households



Lack of wages and basic necessities continue to aggravate household food security



### Situation update

On 5 December, militants attacked the only gas export pipeline in the country close to al-Uqla, Shabwa Governorate. Damage to this vital infrastructure is likely to reduce export capacity and exacerbate government funding constraints, further limiting the government's ability to pay for basic services and for public servants' salaries. This is likely to heighten existing tensions over unpaid salaries and reduce households' purchasing power. Almost all governorates report shortages of agricultural supplies with negative implications for the current agriculture season (FAO).

After the 48 hour ceasefire in mid-November was not renewed, fighting and airstrikes continue across Yemen, disrupting livelihoods. The Saudi-led Coalition have intensified airstrikes in the governorates of Sana'a, Taizz, Al Bayda, Lahej, Sa'ada, Shabwa Al Jawf, and Abyan.

A cholera outbreak continues in Yemen's western areas. As of November 29, 2016 there were 122 confirmed cases and 7,700 suspected cases reported. About 7.6 million people live in the outbreak region and remain at risk (OCHA). A wider cholera outbreak is likely to increase Yemen's food security complications.

OCHA Humanitarian Bulletin, Issue 18, December 14, 2016 [http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/november\\_hb- issue\\_18.pdf](http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/november_hb- issue_18.pdf)

FAO Crop Prospects and Food Situation, December 4, 2016 <http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/a-i6558e.pdf>

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In December 2016, mVAM conducted the 17th round of household food security monitoring in Yemen, using live telephone interviews. The data was collected during the first two weeks of December. 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 (see source).



**2,414 Households Surveyed**



### Displacement status

**29.8% IDP**  
**70.2% Non-IDP**



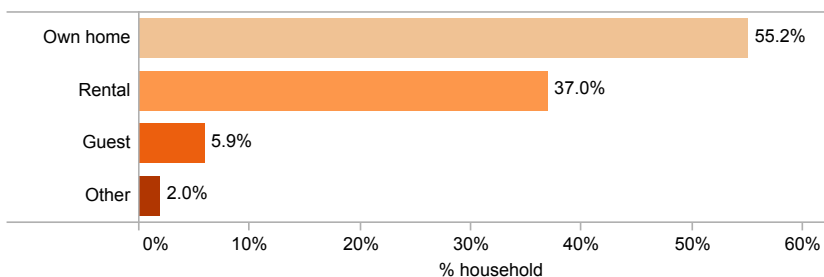
### Gender Head of Household

**4.6% Female**  
**95.4% Male**



**38 Average age of respondents**

### Residence Type



source: [http://vam.wfp.org/sites/mvam\\_monitoring/read\\_me\\_yemen.pdf](http://vam.wfp.org/sites/mvam_monitoring/read_me_yemen.pdf)

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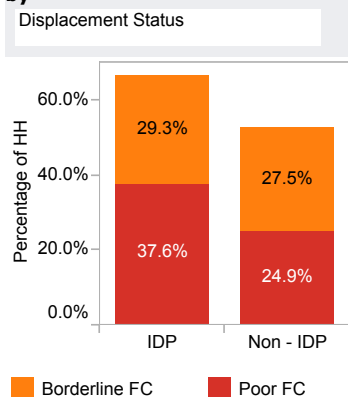
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### Food consumption improves in Hadramaut, Dhamar and Sana'a but remains poor among displaced households

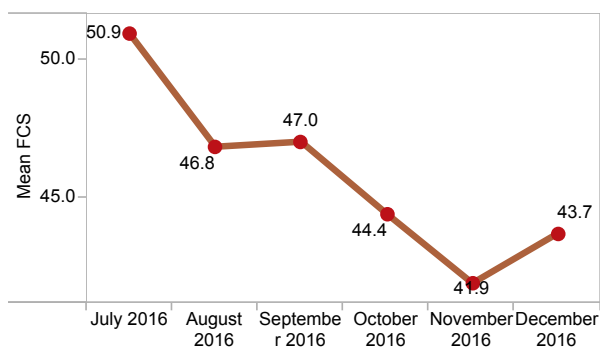
After two consecutive months of deterioration, the national mean FCS increased slightly from 41.9 in November to 43.7 in December (Figure 1). These improvements were mainly seen in three governorates: Hadramaut, Dhamar and Sana'a. Similarly, in December the overall proportion of households with poor food consumption decreased by almost four percentage points compared to that registered in November (Figure 2).

As seen in previous rounds, the December data indicates that IDPs continue to have considerably worse food consumption than non-displaced households. The percentage of non-displaced households with poor food consumption fell from 28.5 percent in November to 24.9 percent in December while the food consumption of IDP households remained unchanged (Figure 3). This suggests that the improvement in the national mean FCS is mainly driven by the food consumption among non-displaced households.

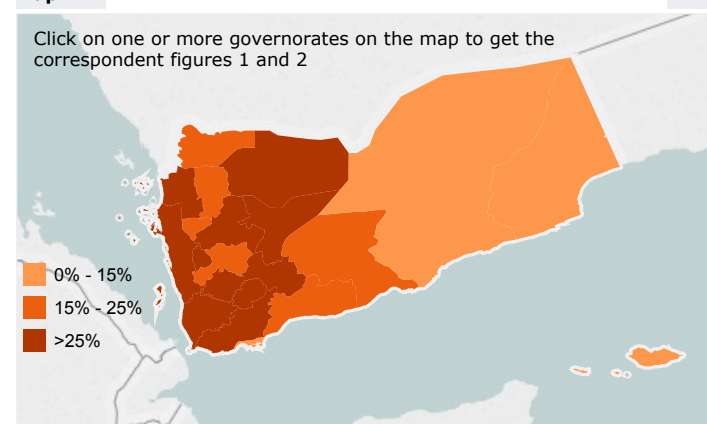
**Figure 3: Households with poor and borderline Food Consumption by Displacement Status**



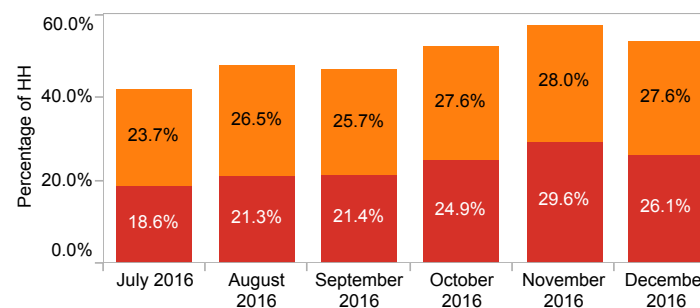
**Figure 1. Mean FCS, July–December 2016**



**Map 1:** % of households with Poor Food Consumption



**Figure 2. Percentage of households with poor and borderline food consumption, July–December 2016**



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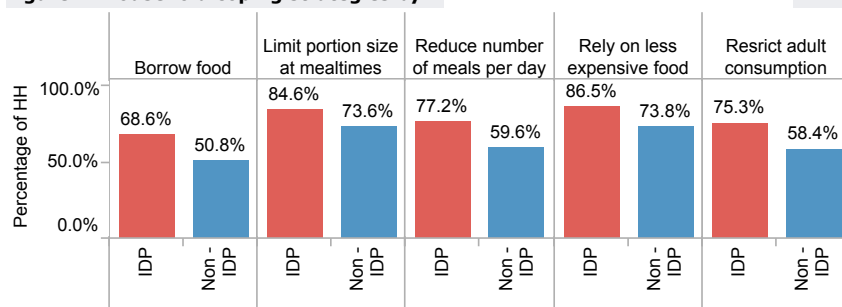
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### IDPs are more frequently resorting to borrowing and eating cheaper food to cope

The overall prevalence of negative food-related coping strategies remains high; 88.7 percent of households reported using at least one of the five consumption-based coping strategies in December (see Map 3). The national mean reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) also remained poor in December (21.7), as shown in Figure 5, in line with the previous month. In December, there were no changes in the mean rCSI registered at the governorate level except for Hadramaut, where households appear to be relying less frequently on negative coping strategies (mean rCSI 14.6) when compared to the previous month (21.2).

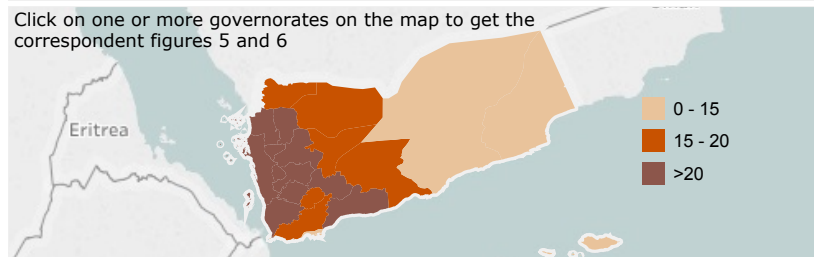
As Figure 7 shows, IDP households have been resorting to negative coping strategies more frequently than non-displaced households in December. The mean rCSI is much higher for displaced households (27.7) than non-displaced ones (21.1) and the national average. Additionally, the increase in the proportion of IDP households who resort to borrowing food (+8%) and who rely on less expensive/preferred food (+6%), signals that food insecurity has further increased among IDPs.

**Figure 7: Household coping strategies by Displacement Status**

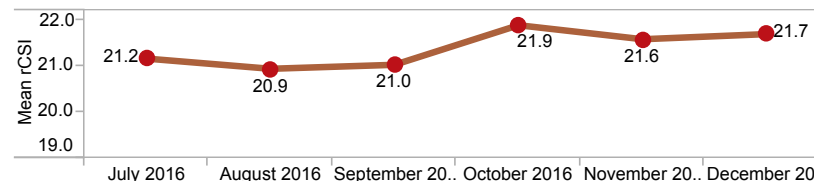


**Map 3: rCSI by governorate, December 2016**

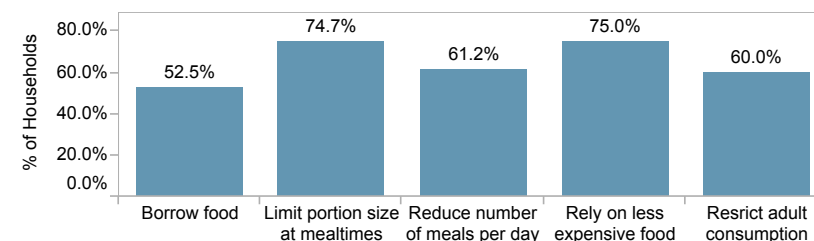
Click on one or more governorates on the map to get the correspondent figures 5 and 6



**Figure 5: Mean rCSI, July–December 2016**



**Figure 6: Percentage of households using negative coping strategies in December 2016**



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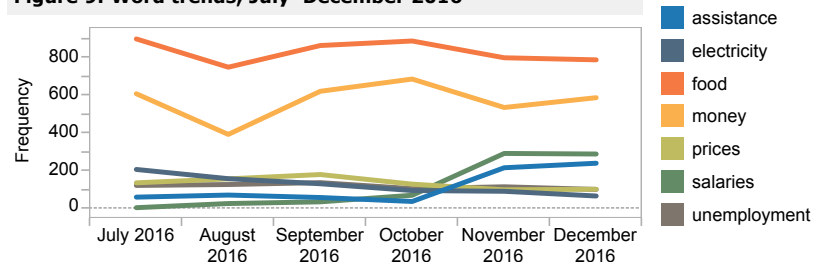
### Suspension of salaries and lack of basic necessities continue to hamper household food security

As in previous rounds, households cited major difficulties in December in meeting their basic daily needs such as access to food, income, clean water, shelter and medical services. Respondents also complained about the increasing prices of food commodities and rental expenses. Power cuts and shortages of cooking gas continue to be commonly reported by households across Yemen. Lack of winter clothes and blankets were also reported in several governorates.

The suspension of salaries continues to affect many households, reducing their access to food. As Figure 9 shows, households' mention of salaries has remained consistently high for the past two months. The sharp increase since October in the word count about unpaid salaries has also occurred at the same time as an increase in demands for more humanitarian assistance as households exhaust their available income sources.

- "There is a lack of money and absence of salaries since three months. Also humanitarian assistance doesn't reach us" - (Male respondent from Al Dhale).
- "The situation is deteriorating in Yemen, particularly in the last three months. There is no salary payments for four months nor assistance" - (Male respondent from Al..)
- "We suffer from financial problems, therefore, we borrow money or sell our furniture to cover for our basic needs. We haven't received our salaries for three months" - (Male respondent from Al Raymah).
- "The salary which is our main source of income has been suspended for four months, so we lack money to buy food and pay the rental expenses" - (Female respondent..)

Figure 9: Word trends, July–December 2016



### For further information

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**Blog:** [mvam.org](http://mvam.org)

**Toolkit:** <http://resources.vam.wfp.org/mVAM>



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