

Highlights

Methodology

Food Consumption
Score

reduced Coping
Strategy Index

In the words of the
respondents

Bulletin #19: February 2017

Access to food assistance improves

Key points



In February, more households reported receiving food assistance – almost entirely in-kind assistance.



Prices started to increase in January; more respondents are now worried about high food prices.



Conflict has disrupted supply lines, causing shortages of basic foods in Taizz.



Situation update

As fighting along the Red Sea coast of Taizz continues, more than 34,000 people have been forced to flee their homes across the governorate, including most of the residents of Dhubab and two thirds of the residents of Mokha. An estimated 20,000 to 30,000 people in Mokha remain trapped by the fighting and are in need of immediate protection and humanitarian assistance. National authorities in Sana'a and Hudaydah have reportedly reached out to the humanitarian community asking for support in the evacuation of 500 families from Mokha.

Preliminary results of the joint WFP-FAO-UNICF Emergency Food Security and Nutrition Assessment (EFSNA), released on 8 February, indicate an alarming and rapidly deteriorating food security and nutrition situation. An estimated 17.1 million people (65 percent of the population) are now food insecure, a 20 percent increase from estimates presented in the 2017 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) released in November last year. Of this number, 7.3 million (30 percent of the population) are estimated to be severely food insecure.

The 2017 Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan was officially launched in Geneva on 8 February. The plan targets 12 million people at a total cost of US\$2.1 billion. The Food Security and Agriculture Cluster requirements amount to US\$1.1 billion – 52 percent of the budget.

OCHA Yemen, 7 February 2017 http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/ocha_flash_update_07022017-final.pdf

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In February 2017, mVAM conducted the 19th round of household food security monitoring in Yemen, using live telephone interviews. The data were collected during the first two weeks of February. 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.



2,410 Households Surveyed



Displacement status

32.6% IDP
67.4% Non-IDP



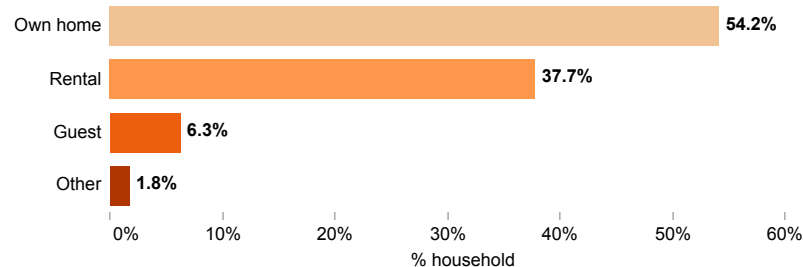
Gender Head of Household

4.6% Female
95.4% Male



39 Average age of respondents

Residence Type



source: http://vam.wfp.org/sites/mvam_monitoring/read_me_yemen.pdf

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More than a third of IDP households have poor food consumption

In February, the national mean food consumption score (FCS) saw a marginal improvement for the third consecutive month (Figure 1). There are significant differences in FCS between governorates, ranging from 37.3 in Raymah to 59.9 in Al Maharah. This trend has held since September 2016. According to EFSNA preliminary findings, Raymah is the governorate with third highest percentage of households with poor FCS. In Al Mahwit, the FCS rose from 42.2 in January to 49.3 in February.

As in previous rounds, February data indicate that IDPs continue to have considerably worse food consumption than non-displaced households. The proportion of IDPs with poor food consumption (35 percent) is much higher than of the non-displaced population (23 percent).

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

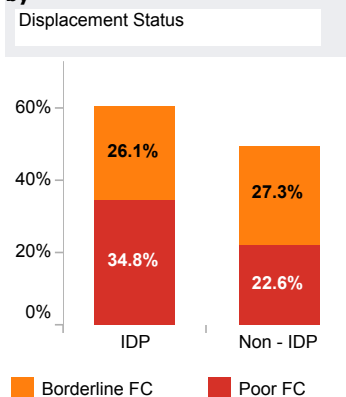
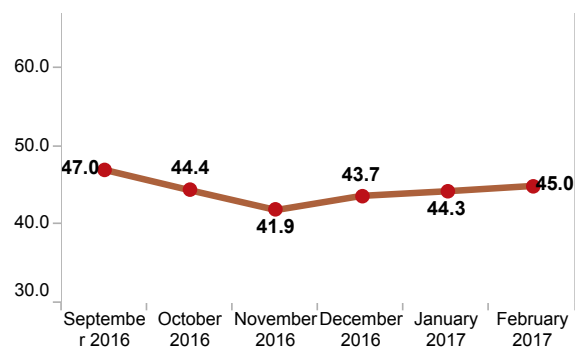


Figure 1. Mean FCS, September–February 2017



Map 2: % of households with Poor or Borderline Food Consumption

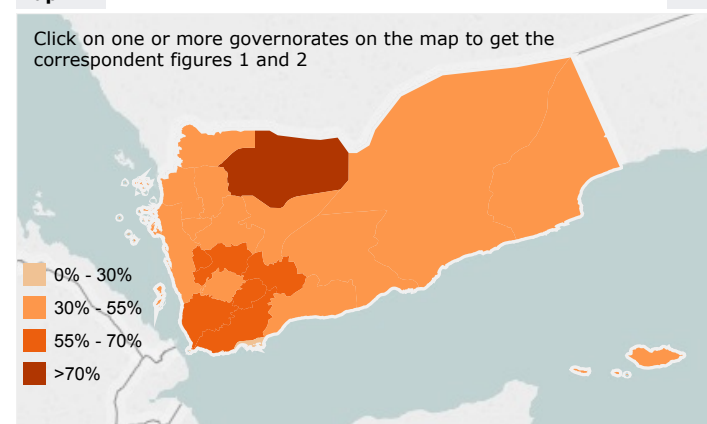
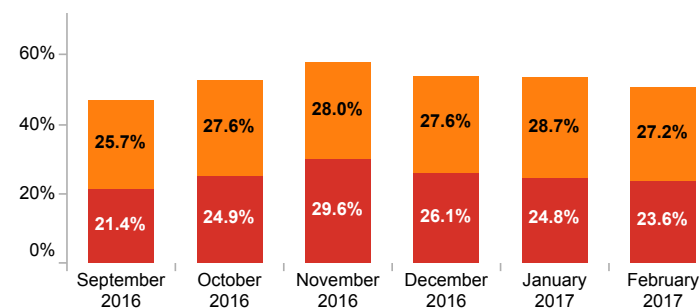


Figure 2. Percentage of households with poor and borderline food consumption, September–February 2017



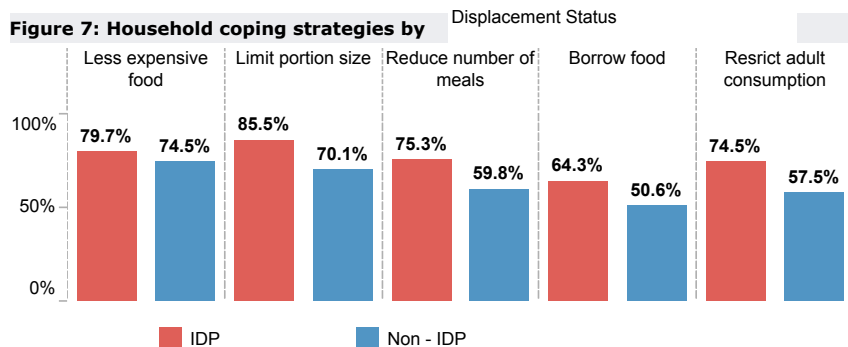
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The use of negative food-based coping strategies is stable

The overall use of negative food-related coping strategies remained stable from January to February; currently, the national mean reduced coping strategies index (rCSI) is 21 (Figure 5). Hajjah governorate has had the worst rCSI (27.8) since November 2016.

In February, reported access to food assistance continues to increase, mainly in the form of food rations. Around 17 percent of interviewed households reported receiving food assistance in February compared with 14 percent in January. The improvement is mainly among non-displaced households, who reported better access in February (16 percent) than in January (14 percent). However, IDPs continue to report better access to food assistance (24 percent) than non-displaced households. The improvement in access to food assistance could have played a role in stabilizing food security indicators this month. At the governorate level, there was a significant increase in the percentage of households receiving food assistance in Al Hudaydah, Hajjah, Lahj, Raymah and Sa'dah. As in previous months, the mean rCSI is much higher for displaced households (26.6) than for non-displaced ones (20.5). Around 95 percent of IDPs reported using at least one negative coping strategy during the week before the survey.



Map 3: rCSI by governorate, February 2017

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

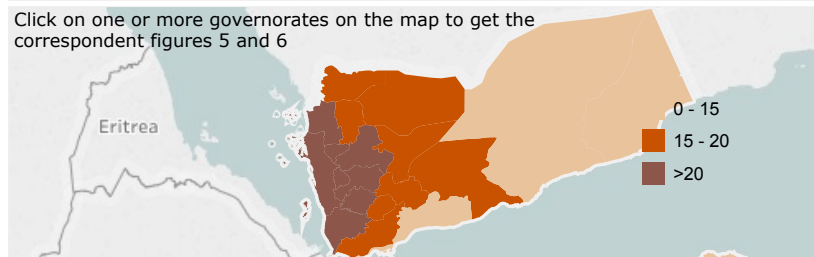


Figure 5: Mean rCSI, September–February 2017

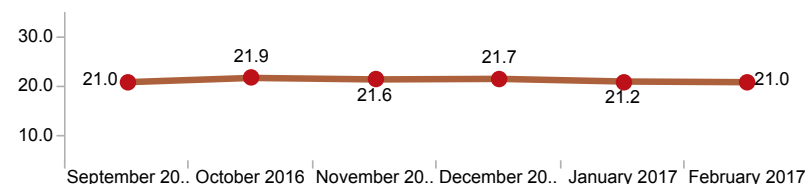
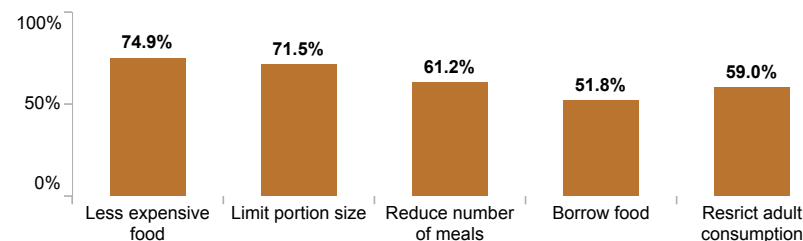


Figure 6: Percentage of households using negative coping strategies in February 2017



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Respondents concerned about lack of income and food shortages

When asked about the main challenges faced by their household, most respondents mentioned shortages of food, especially for children, and low incomes. Unpaid salaries have been one of the most cited concerns across governorates since November 2016. Respondents also talked about rising food prices and the need for regular food assistance. The prices of essential food items started to rise in January after four months of stability. Combined with unpaid salaries, this is placing many households in an extremely difficult situation. Looking back to January 2016, the main concerns cited by the respondents were very similar: need for assistance and high food prices.

In February 2017, lack of medicines and healthcare was reported frequently and households appear to be very concerned about the spread of diseases triggered by shortages of safe drinking water and about the medical conditions of some household members because of the lack of access to basic medical services. According to respondents in Taizz, the ongoing conflict is blocking supply routes, leading to shortages of food in the market and higher food prices. According to the latest WFP market monitoring, all basic commodities were reported as sparsely available across Taizz. Households in this governorate said that the security situation has deteriorated and that many people have been displaced from areas where fighting is happening on the ground.

"We are suffering from water and electricity cuts, food shortage and lack of medical services."
– Male respondent from Hajjah

"We have problems paying rent. Some family members are ill and there is no clean water. We're afraid from the ongoing fighting from the war and siege." – Male respondent from Taizz

"Food supplies are inconsistent and food prices are increasing due to ongoing fighting and road blockage." Male respondent from Taizz

"Health problems due to lack of hospitals and significant shortage of doctors and medical support." – Male respondent from Marib

source: <http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/ena/wfp290444.pdf>

For further information

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Blog: mvam.org

Toolkit: <http://resources.vam.wfp.org/mvam>

Figure 9: Word cloud, February 2017



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food security analysis

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