

Highlights	Methodology	Food Consumption Score	reduced Coping Strategy Index	In the words of the respondents
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Food security worsens across the country during the lean season

Key points



Food consumption deteriorates in Al Mahwit, Dhamar and Sana'a.



More households in Aden are resorting to severe coping strategies.



More respondents are concerned about lack of income and the spread of diseases as a new spike in cholera cases is reported.



Situation update

As the conflict intensifies in Hudaydah Governorate, concerns are mounting over the possible humanitarian implications of an assault on Hudaydah City. Airstrikes targeted several coastal areas of southern Hudaydah Governorate this month. UNHCR is warning of the potential for more large-scale displacement, estimating as a worst case scenario that as many as half a million additional people might be displaced across Hudaydah Governorate, further increasing needs in an area that already hosts more than 100,000 IDPs and suffers from critical levels of food insecurity. Meanwhile, the UN, NGOs and others continue to voice concern regarding the humanitarian consequences of the potential inaccessibility of Hudaydah Port due to fighting.

A cholera outbreak was reported in Yemen on 27 April. Since then, the number of acute watery diarrhoea or reported suspected cholera cases has increased to reach over 42,207, including 420 deaths, and the infection rate is rising quickly. The outbreak has affected 18 districts with more than half of the total cases reported in Sana'a City (Amanat Al-Asimah), Hajjah, Amran and Sana'a governorates. A state of emergency has been declared in the governorate.

UN News Centre <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=56797#.WSFbQNwIGUK>

WHO Situation Report #3 – 25 May 2017 <http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Situation%20report%20Cholera%20in%20Yemen%2C%2025%20May%202017-2.pdf>

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In May 2017, mVAM conducted the 22nd round of household food security monitoring in Yemen, using live telephone interviews. The data were 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 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.

The maps present a snapshot of household food consumption patterns at the time of data collection and do not represent the prevalence of food insecurity at population level (as is the case with IPC maps). Details on methodology and aggregate data tables are available online.



2.422 Households Surveyed



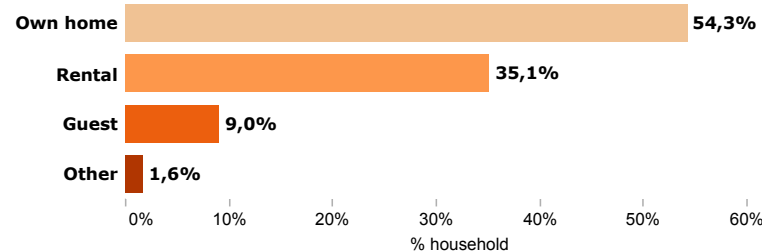
39 Average age of respondents

Displacement status



32,3% IDP
67,7% Non-IDP

Residence Type



Gender Head of Household



3,5% Female
96,5% Male

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National deterioration in food consumption

In May, the national mean food consumption score (FCS) deteriorated for the third consecutive month, reaching its lowest level in the past six months (Figure 1). This is most probably driven by increased conflict, widespread outbreaks of cholera and seasonality. The situation is likely to deteriorate as the lean season (April to June) progresses.

Food security has worsened since last year: the mean FCS across Yemen fell from 47 in May 2016 to 42.6 in May 2017 while the mean reduced coping strategies index (rCSI) also indicates increased stress, rising from 21.6 in May 2016 to 22.6 in May 2017. Widespread civil insecurity and displacement have affected urban and rural livelihoods, eroding food security. After more than two years of the escalated conflict, restrictions and disruptions of commercial and humanitarian imports, mass displacements, loss of income, fuel scarcity and high fuel prices, disrupted market systems, high food prices and the collapse of public services continues to affect the already fragile socio-economic context.

Mean FCS fell in Al Mahwit from 48.7 in April to 41.4 in May. Similarly, mean FCS has continued to fall in Dhamar (to 37.8 in May) and in Sana'a, where mean FCS (39.9) is the lowest recorded since November 2016. In May, displaced households continued to be worse off than non-displaced ones. IDPs have a much lower mean FCS (35.6) than non-IDPs (43.3). mVAM data also show that the only foods consumed almost daily by displaced households are the main staples, with vegetables and pulses eaten every other day. Fruit, proteins and dairy products are rarely consumed.

Figure 3: Households with poor and borderline Food Consumption by

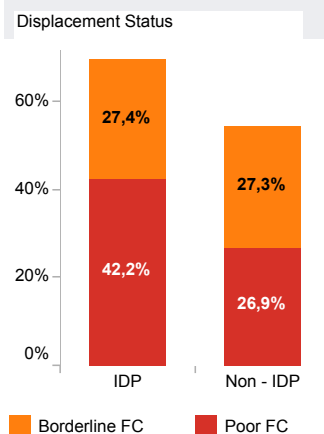
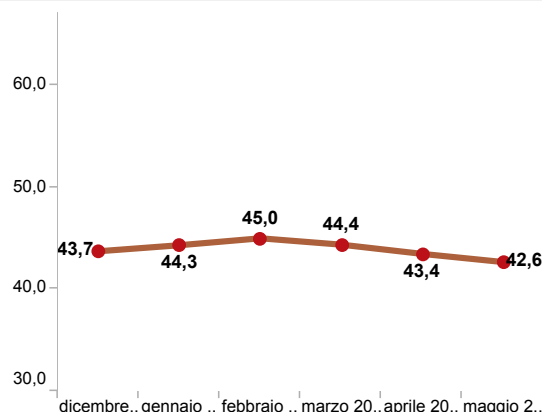


Figure 1. Mean FCS, December–May 2017



Map 1: % of households with Poor Food Consumption

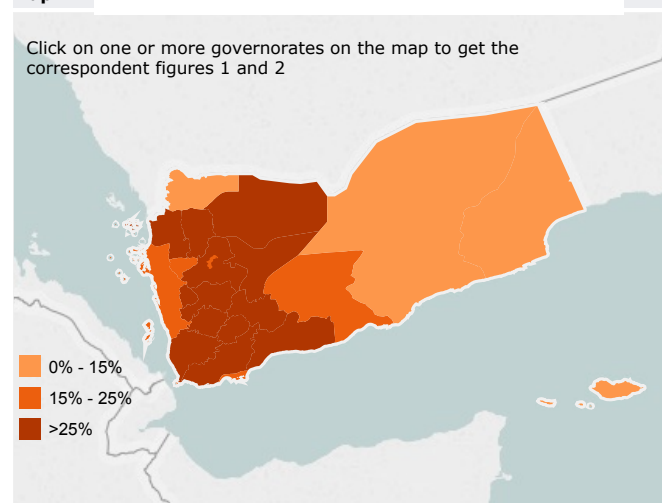
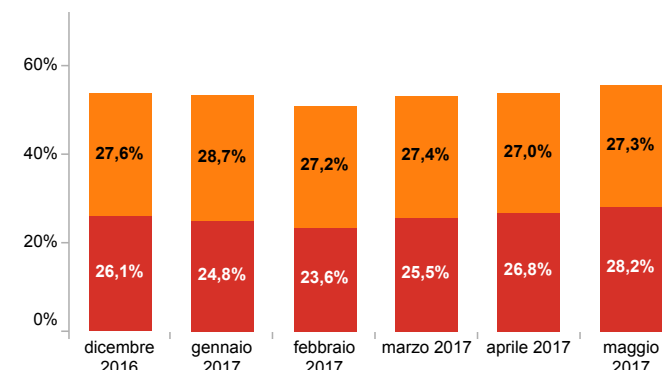


Figure 2. Percentage of households with poor and borderline food consumption, December–May 2017



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Use of negative food-based coping strategies increases in Aden

Currently, the national mean rCSI is 22.6 (Figure 5), the highest in the last six months, showing an increased proportion of households who are stressed. In Aden, the mean rCSI rose from 11.9 in April to 18.9 in May, and the proportion of households who reported restricting adult consumption so that children could eat – one of the most severe negative coping behaviours – increased by 29 percent. Overall, the most frequently used strategies – employed by more than 70 percent of all respondents – are eating less expensive food, reducing the number of meals eaten per day and eating smaller portions. As seen in previous months, IDP households have been resorting to negative coping strategies more frequently than non-displaced households (Figure 7). Their mean rCSI (27) is considerably higher than that of non-displaced households (22.2). In May, reported access to food assistance increased, with 17 percent of all respondents receiving food assistance within the last month – almost all of which was in-kind. A significant share of households in Lahj and Taizz reported poorer access to food assistance in May than in April. However, in Abyan, Al Bayda, Amran, Dhamar, Hajjah and Raymah more respondents said they had received food assistance in May.

In April, WFP planned to reach 6.8 million beneficiaries with general food assistance. However, due to funding shortfalls, which affected the pipeline for April cycle, WFP only managed to reach 3.8 million beneficiaries in 13 Governorates of Aden, Abyan, Al-Baida, Ad-Dhali, Hodeida, Hajjah, Ibb, Lahj, Shabwa, Sana'a, Sa'dah, Raymah and Taizz in the high priority food security and nutrition districts. In May, WFP has reached 4.1 million beneficiaries out of the targeted 6.8 million beneficiaries reaching Abyan Aden, Al Bayda, Al Dhale, Al Hudaydah, Al Mahwit, Amanat Al, Asimah, Amran, Dhamar, Hajjah, Ibb, Lahj, Sa'ada, Sana'a, Shabwah and Taizz. In April and May, dispatches were made directly from vessels to milling facilities and onwards to distribution points. The pipeline situation is very fragile and due to timing of funding confirmation, commodities are arriving in country in the month of the distribution and therefore any delays in receiving vessels or denials of truck movement impacts on distributions. Timely contributions are required to build at least one month distribution requirements as in-country stocks so as to reach some 6.8 million who are in urgent need of assistance.

Map 3: rCSI by governorate, May 2017

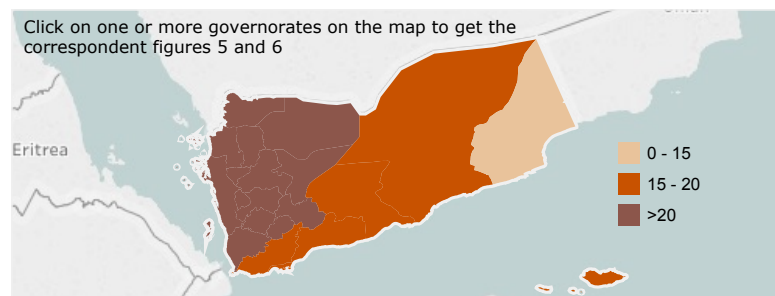


Figure 5: Mean rCSI, December–May 2017

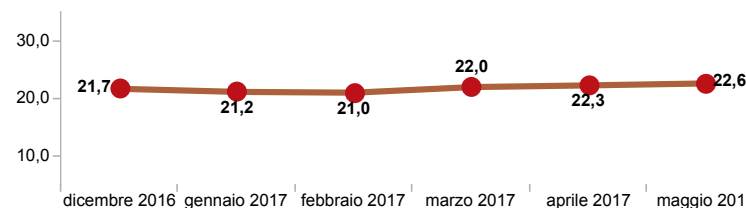


Figure 6: Percentage of households using negative coping strategies in May 2017

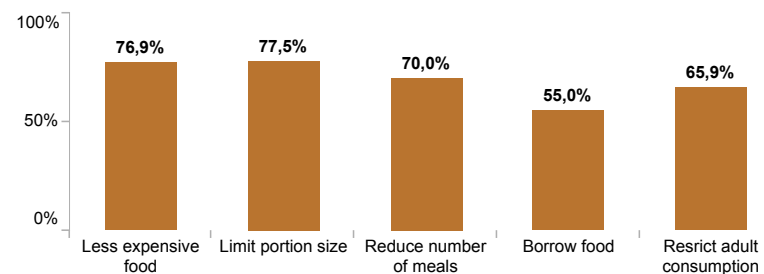
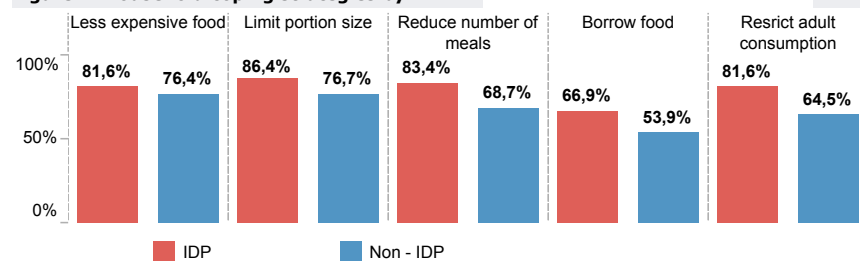


Figure 7: Household coping strategies by Displacement Status



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Concerns over lack of income and the spread of diseases

IDP Situation
All

HoH Sex
All

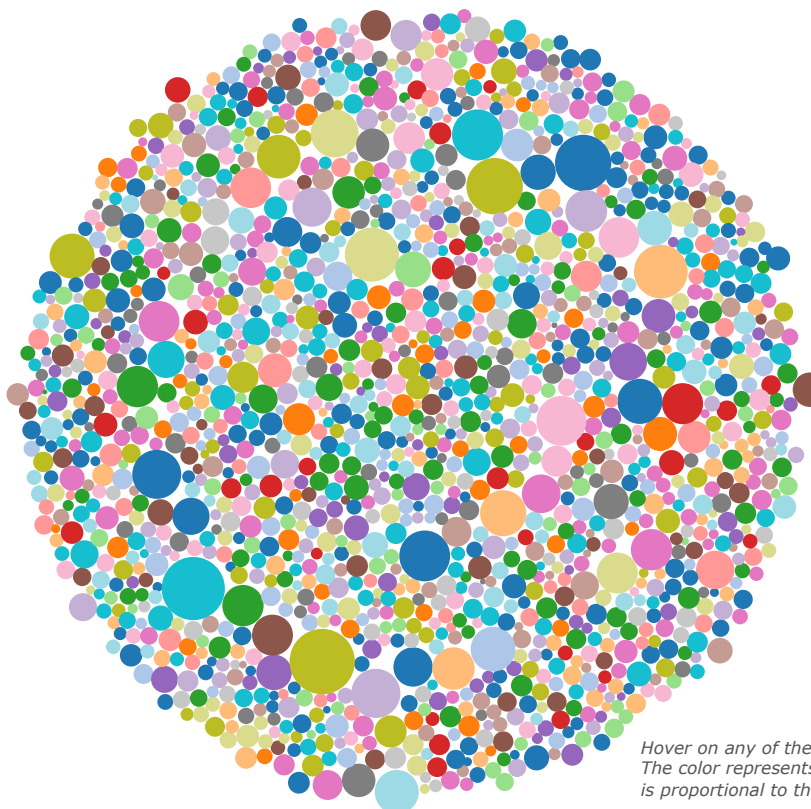
Food Consumption
All

Food Assistance
All

Governorate
All

At the end of the questionnaire, participants are asked an open-ended question: "Tell us about the main problems that your household is facing in terms of food security." In May, most respondents reported an increase in prices and the very high cost of food. Several participants cited the lack of access to food driven by the unemployment and insufficient wages. Participants also mentioned that drinking water is either unavailable or unaffordable and that diseases are spreading. The recent resurgence of cholera has coincided with the rainy season and that may harm crop production and agricultural activities. Respondents also pointed to the further deterioration in the economic situation and the collapse of the health system, noting that most health workers have not received their salaries in the past six months.

In the graphic below, key words from individual responses are viewable by hovering over the circles. Responses can also be filtered by food consumption group, food assistance received, governorate and displacement status.



Hover on any of the bubbles to view the response.
The color represents the Governorate while the size is proportional to the Food Consumption Score (FCS).

For further information

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



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