MOZAMBIQUE

mVAM Bulletin #10: May/June 2017

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Fewer households resort to negative coping strategies in Gaza and Inhambane

Key points:

- The reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI) has fallen in Gaza and Inhambane, signalling a drop in the frequency and severity of coping strategies used
- Fewer households were affected by shocks in June than in May
- Farming and fishing households have a less diverse diet than other livelihood groups
- Households headed by women consume fewer iron-rich foods than those headed by men
- Rural and economically worse-off households are suffering the greatest stress
- Some households reported lingering effects of Cyclone Dineo, which was in February, indicating that this shock has had a lasting impact on their livelihoods and lives

WFP/David Orr

May

Residence
Rural : 53%
Urban : 47%

Food assistance households
Assisted : 12%
Not assisted : 88%

778 Interviewed Households

Head of household
Female : 25%
Male : 75%

Roof type
Zinc : 57%
Cement : 12%
Grass : 28%

Income source
Agriculture and fishing : 32%
Assistance : 4%
Casual labour : 17%
Salary : 22%
Self employed : 25%

June

Residence
Rural : 57%
Urban : 43%

Food assistance households
Assisted : 9%
Not assisted : 91%

815 Interviewed Households

Head of household
Female : 29%
Male : 71%

Roof type
Zinc : 63%
Cement : 9%
Grass : 28%

Income Source
Agriculture and fishing : 33%
Assistance : 0%
Casual labour : 18%
Salary : 26%
Self employed : 23%

Methodology

WFP Mozambique started market and food price data collection through an in-house call centre in June 2016 and continued until April 2017. However, household food security data collection in Mozambique started in May 2017 under WFP's mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM) initiative using Computer Assisted Telephone Interviews (CATI) carried out through an external call centre. Data were collected from 778 respondents in four provinces (Gaza, Inhambane, Manica and Tete) in May, and from 815 respondents in two provinces (Gaza and Inhambane) in June. Participants were randomly selected from a database of mobile subscribers. An airtime credit incentive of US$0.35 (MZN20) was given to respondents who successfully completed the survey.

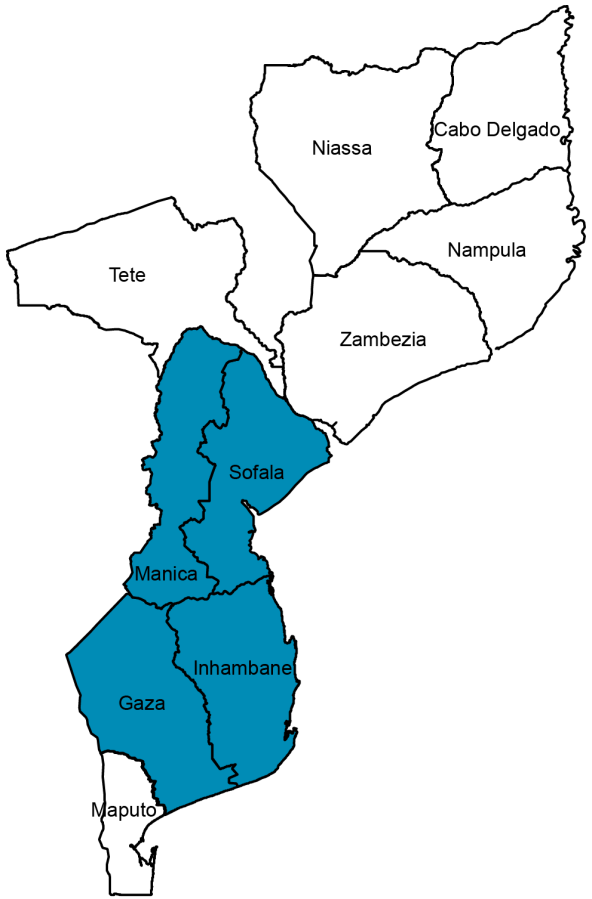
In May and June, data were collected on household demographics, location, food and income sources, shocks faced by the household, dietary diversity and coping strategies. The dietary diversity data was collected using two different methods: the open approach and the list-based approach. Half of the respondents were asked to name the foods they had eaten in the previous 24 hours (open approach), while the other half were asked to pick food groups from a list (list-based approach). The results of the survey revealed no significant differences in the dietary diversity score from the two groups, thus the data from both the groups were aggregated and reported on.

The data were weighted by the number of mobile phones owned by the household and province population estimates. This analysis reports mean averages instead of the median averages that are usually used in mVAM analysis; this is to allow for comparison with national food security data collected by SETSAN (Secretariado Técnico de Segurança Alimentar e Nutricional). This bulletin only reports data from Gaza and Inhambane for May and June.

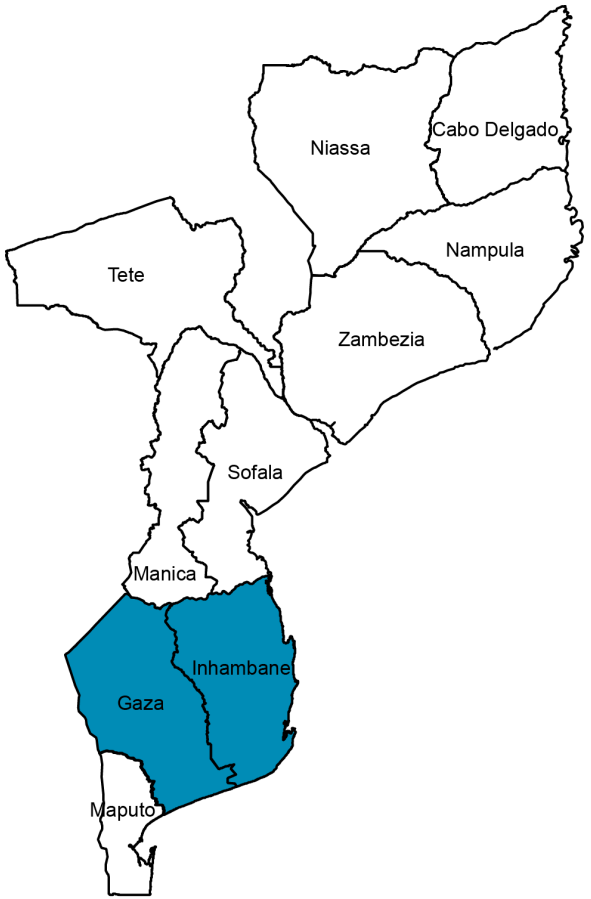
Situation outlook

In 2016/2017, acute food insecurity was high in the surveyed provinces because of the drought triggered by El Niño in the southern Africa region, which was aggravated by Cyclone Dineo in February 2017. However, climate and crop conditions improved later in the year, resulting in good agricultural production which has meant falling maize prices and fewer people living in acute food insecurity. From May to June 2017, maize grain prices decreased by an average 13 percent. The appreciation of the national currency has also eased inflationary pressures (source: FAO GIEWS). Mice infestations are a serious threat to the harvest and storage of the late second season crops (source: FEWS NET).

Map 1: mVAM coverage in May 2017



Map 2: mVAM coverage in June 2017



Use of negative coping strategies falls in Gaza and Inhambane

Food security showed signs of improvement in June. As seen in **Figure 1**, the mean reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI) fell in both Gaza and Inhambane, signaling a reduction in the frequency and severity of coping strategies used. The proportion of households using each of the five surveyed coping strategies also fell in both provinces (**Figure 2**). This reduction in stress levels can be partly attributed to the good harvest, which ended in June, and to the fall in the number of households who reported being affected by heavy rains, floods or cyclones in the month before the interview (**Figure 3**). Inhambane was more severely hit by Cyclone Dineo, which was reported as a shock by 29 percent of interviewed households in May. Although Dineo occurred in February, respondents continued to report being affected by the cyclone in April, indicating that the cyclone and heavy rains have had a lasting effect on their livelihoods and lives. The clear effect of shocks on coping levels can be seen in **Figure 4**, where households who had not faced any shocks in the month preceding the interview have much lower coping levels than those who had suffered any type of shock.

Figure 1: Mean rCSI by province

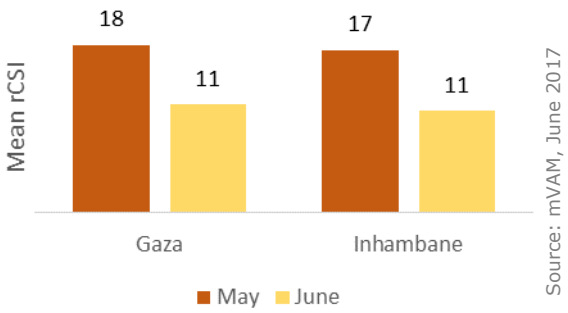


Figure 2: Use of coping strategies by province

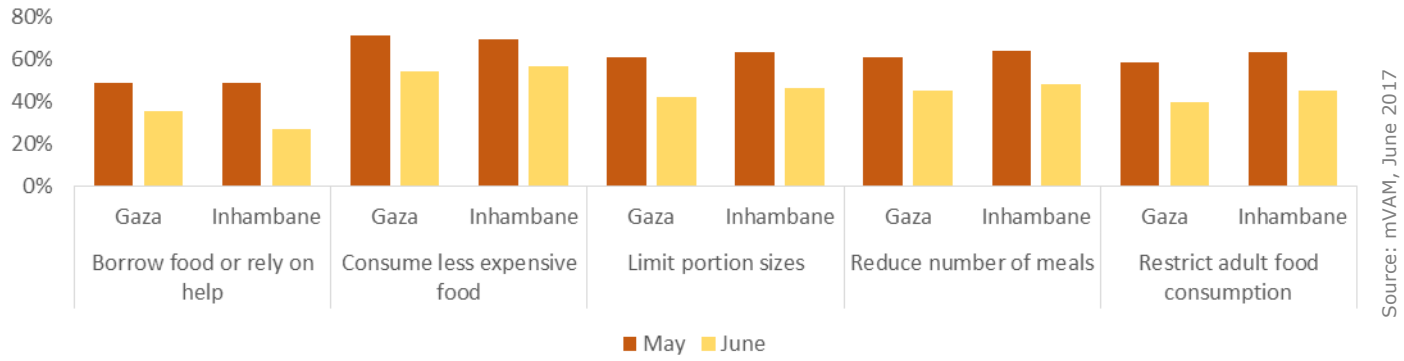


Figure 3: Proportion of households affected by shocks, by province

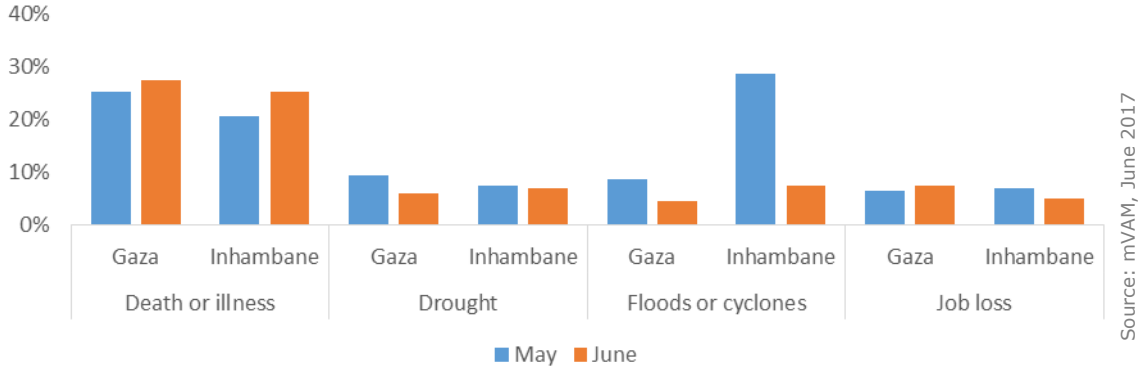
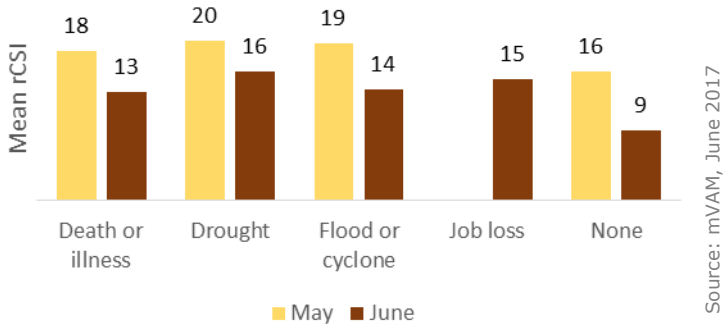


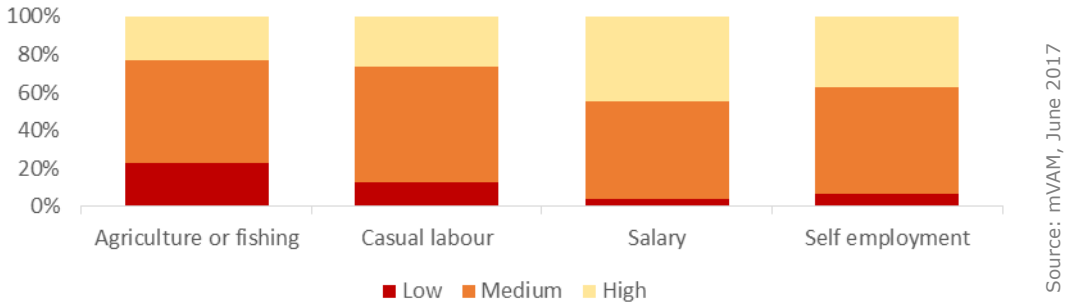
Figure 4: Mean rCSI by type of shock suffered in the past month (for Gaza and Inhambane)



Access to diverse foods most limited among farming and fishing households

In June, respondent households in Gaza and Inhambane reported consuming 7 of the 12 surveyed food groups in the 24 hours prior to the interview. Just 32 percent fell within the high dietary diversity category, that is, consuming 8 or more food groups. Households whose main income source is either agriculture or fishing had the worst access to diverse foods, with less than a quarter of the households consuming 8 or more food groups[1]. Moreover, 23 percent of these households consumed 4 or fewer food groups in June (**Figure 5**). Consumption of iron-rich foods was also much lower in these households compared to salaried households or those who were self-employed. Only 28 percent of farming or fishing households consumed iron-rich foods, compared to 45 percent of those earning from casual labour, 55 percent of salaried households and 53 percent of self-employed households.

Figure 5: Dietary diversity by household income source (for Gaza and Inhambane)



[1] In this analysis, a household dietary diversity score (HDDS) of 4 or lower is categorized as low dietary diversity; between 4 and 8 is categorized as medium dietary diversity; and a HDDS of 8 or higher is categorized as high dietary diversity. The thresholds for each category are based on the average dietary diversity of each tercile in the sample.

Fewer households headed by women consume iron-rich foods

In June, households headed by women reported slightly lower dietary diversity than those headed by men. They consumed an average 6.5 of the 12 surveyed groups, whereas households headed by men reported consuming 7 food groups. However, the real discrepancies in access to different foods can be seen in **Figure 6**. Only one third of the households headed by women reported having consumed any iron-rich foods (meat or fish) compared to almost half of those headed by men. Other generally expensive foods such as eggs, fats and fruits were also consumed by a higher proportion of households headed by men than by those led by women. These data highlight the difference in access to food between the two types of household.

Figure 6: Proportion of households consuming different food groups by sex of household head (for Gaza and Inhambane)

Rural and poorer households suffer the greatest stress

mVAM data for June show that rural households were much worse off than urban households in terms of negative coping behavior and access to diverse foods. Around 85 percent of rural households had used at least one coping strategy in the week preceding the interview, compared to 78 percent of urban households. Furthermore, only 39 percent of rural households had consumed iron-rich foods compared to 49 percent of urban households, and only 28 percent of rural households had high dietary diversity compared to 38 percent of urban households (**Figure 7**).

Similarly, economically worse-off households also reported higher levels of negative coping (**Figure 8a**) and lower access to diverse foods compared to better-off households. This analysis uses the material used for the roof of the household's dwelling as a proxy for wealth. Thus, those with cement roofs are considered better-off, those with zinc roofs are in the middle income group, and those with roofs made with grass and sticks are considered the worst-off. Access to diverse foods is also worse for those with grass roofs, with only 22 percent of households reporting high dietary diversity compared to over 42 percent of those with cement roofs (**Figure 8b**). Thirty-five percent of households with grass roofs consumed iron-rich foods compared to 44 percent of households with cement roofs.

Figure 7: Access to diverse foods by urban/rural (for Gaza and Inhambane)

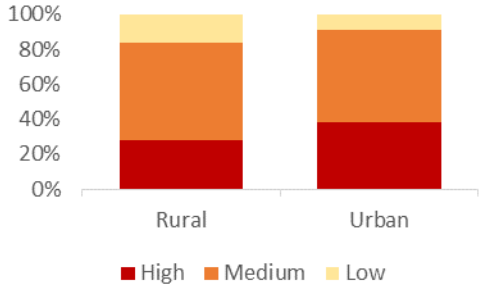


Figure 8a: Mean rCSI by roof type (for Gaza and Inhambane)

Figure 8b: Dietary diversity by roof type (for Gaza and Inhambane)

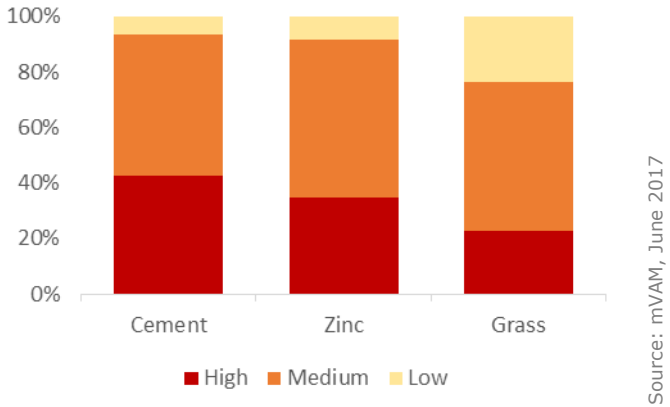


Figure 9: Word cloud

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mVAM Resources:

Website: http://vam.wfp.org/sites/mvam_monitoring/

Blog: mvam.org

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