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Food insecurity is high among displaced households



Food access improved for surveyed households in Al Hudaydah.



The use of food-based coping strategies is high in Hajjah and Ibb, the governorates with the highest numbers of displaced people.



Households are concerned about depreciation and high food prices as the future of the blockade remains uncertain.



Situation update

Protracted hostilities on Yemen’s west coast have led many more people to flee their homes towards the southern governorates of Ibb, Taizz and Aden. Most IDPs come from Al Hudaydah, Taizz and Al Bayda. The majority of those displaced within the frontline are being hosted by relatives or friends, or are trapped inside homes or in caves as ground clashes and aerial bombardments continue. Despite enormous challenges, including access and security concerns, humanitarian partners have scaled up the response to the people in need. WHO reports that on 11 February, the cumulative number of suspected cholera cases reported since 27 April 2017 reached 1,059,970, with 2,258 associated deaths. The five governorates with the highest cumulative incidence of cholera are Amran, Al Mahwit, Al Dhale’e, Hajjah and Sana’a. Cholera rates within governorates are either stable or decreasing, except in Aden. The sharp depreciation of Yemeni Riyals (YER) in the market exchange rate against foreign currencies has continued despite Saudi Arabia recently injecting USD 2 billion into Yemen’s central bank. The national monthly average exchange rate in February 2018 stood at 474 YER/USD, and hugely lost its pre-crisis value by an average of 220% – which means that the purchasing power of YER much below half of what it used to buy three years ago.

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In February 2018, mVAM conducted the 30th round of household food security monitoring in Yemen via live telephone interviews. Data were collected between 1 and 25 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. Since households with more phones are more likely to be selected, the findings of this report are weighted by the number of SIM cards held by households. They are also weighted by 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 for IPC maps). Details on methodology and aggregate data tables are available online.



Households Surveyed
2,416



Displacement status
66.3% Non-IDP
33.7% IDP



Average age of respondents
40

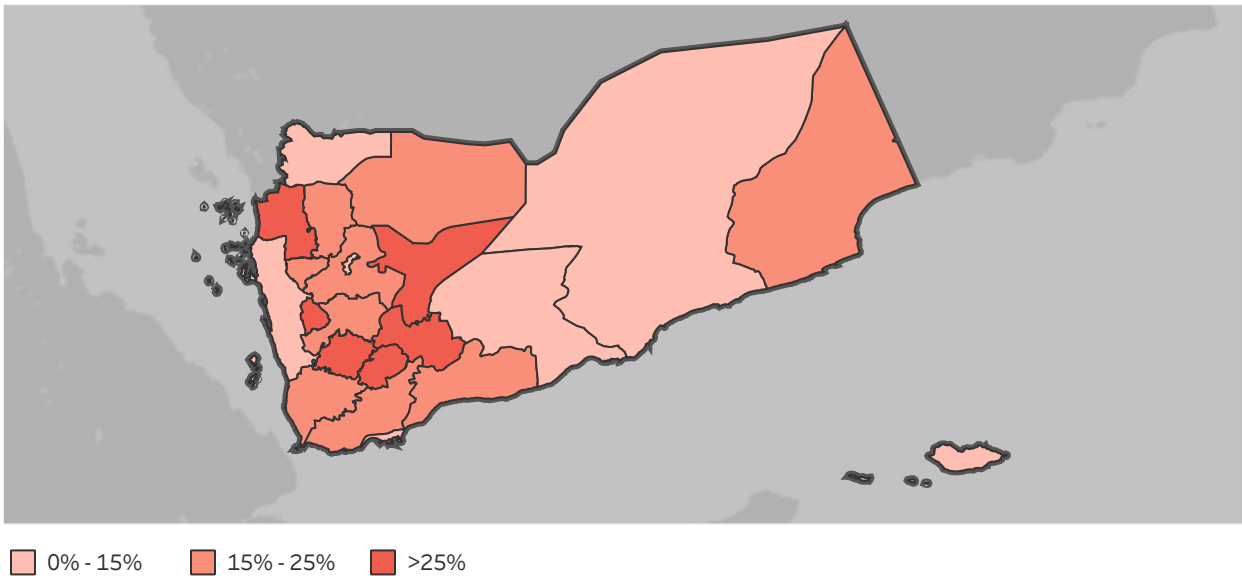


Gender Head of Household
3.4% Female
96.6% Male

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Food security improves in Al Hudaydah

Map 1: % of households with Poor Food Consumption



Click on one or more governorates on the map to get the correspondent figures 1 and 2

The national mean food consumption score (FCS) increased slightly in February (45.0) compared with January (44.0). It was at the same level as in February 2017 (Figure 1). At the governorate level, mean FCS improved in Al Hudaydah, rising from 49.4 in January to 52.7 in February. The share of surveyed households with poor or borderline food consumption also fell, from 46 percent in January to 32 percent in February. Around 45 percent of surveyed households reported having received food assistance in Al Hudaydah in February, 5 percent more than in January. This was reflected in a more frequent consumption of staple foods and vegetables in February. In Hadramaut, the positive trend seen in January came to an end, and mean FCS fell from 61.9 in January to 55.3 in February. The deterioration was mainly driven by a significant rise in the percentage of households reporting borderline food consumption (from 12 percent to 27 percent). Among resident households, the rates of both poor and borderline consumption fell among surveyed households. For displaced households, there was no change from January (58 percent) (Figure 2). In general, the diet of displaced households mainly consists of staple foods, sugars and fats.

Figure 1. Mean FCS, 2016-2017-2018

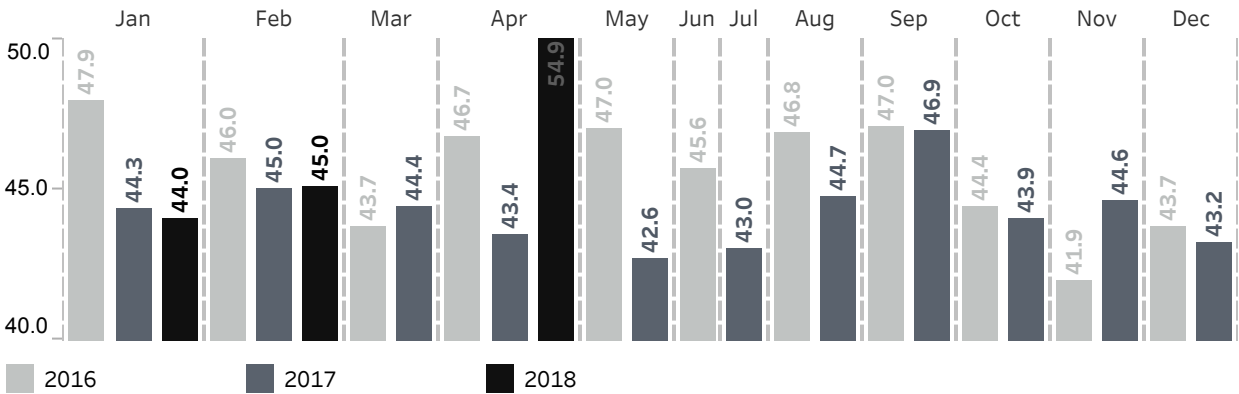
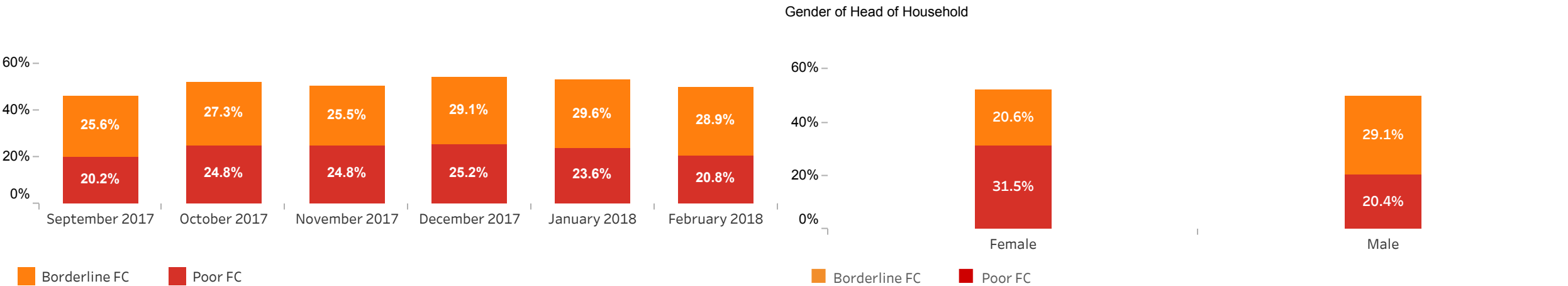


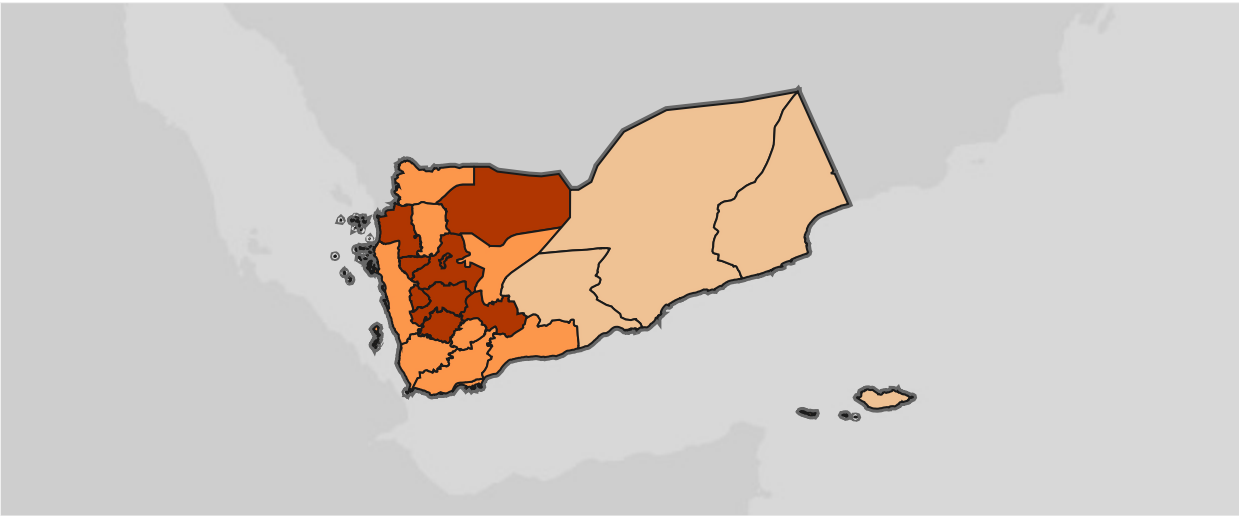
Figure 2. Percentage of households with poor and borderline food consumption, September 2017 - February .. Figure 3. Households with poor and borderline Food Consumption by:



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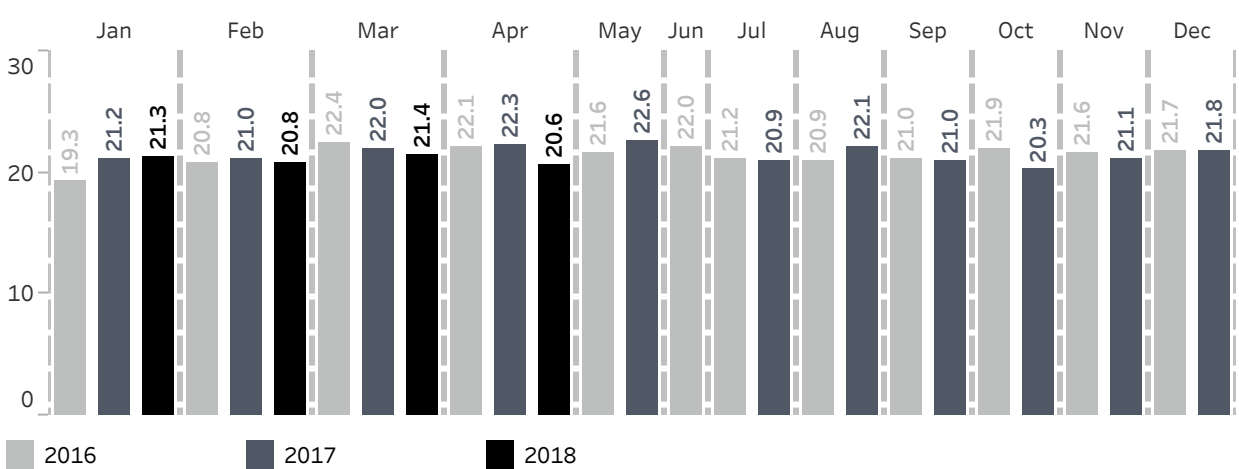
Negative coping levels are high in Hajjah and rising in Raymah

Map 3. rCSI by governorate, February 2018



0 - 15 15 - 20 >20

Figure 4. Mean rCSI, 2016-2017-2018



Click on one or more governorates on the map to get the correspondent figures 4 and 5

Nationally, negative food-related coping behaviour remained widespread, with a mean reduced coping strategies index (rCSI) of 20.8 in February. The use of food-based strategies increased in Ibb and Raymah compared with January. In Raymah, 21 percent more households reported having to borrow food or rely on help from friends and family. The mean FCS in Raymah was the highest in the country (25.4), the same as in Hajjah. Displaced households are resorting to food-based coping strategies more than residents. They are eating less preferred food, limiting portion sizes and reducing the number of meals eaten in a day because they don’t have enough food or money to buy food. Findings showed that displaced households who had received food assistance were less reliant on negative coping strategies than those without assistance.

Figure 5: Percentage of households using negative coping strategies in February 2018

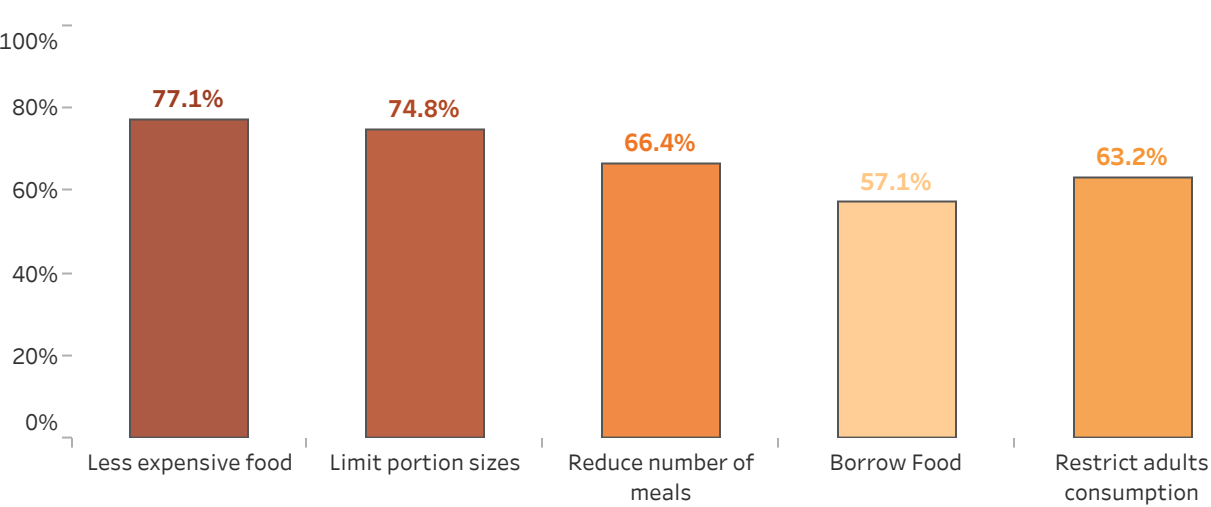
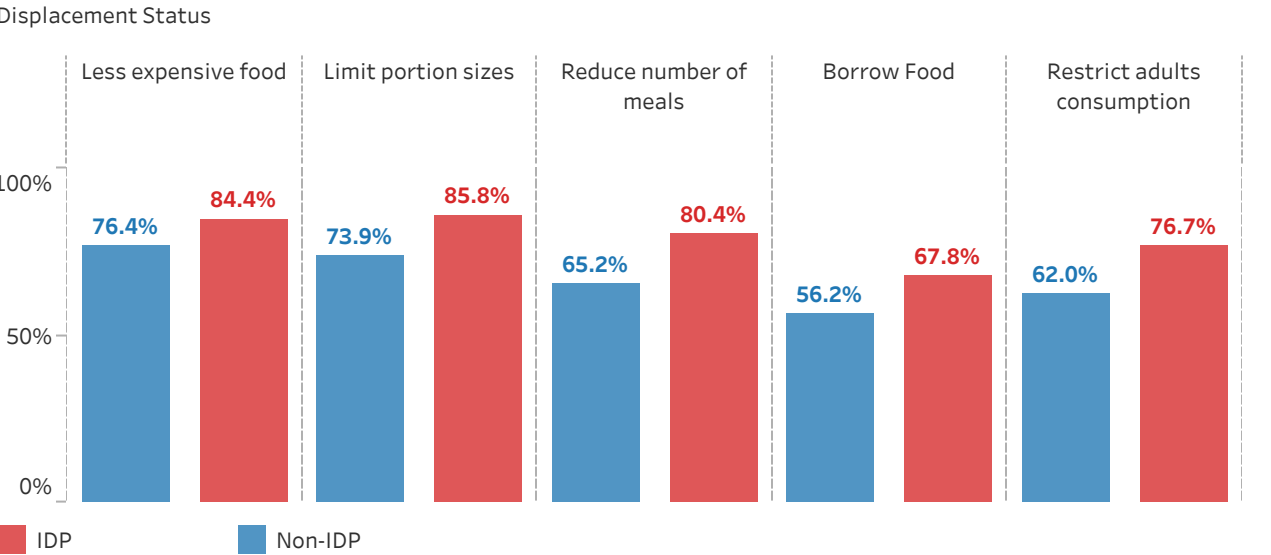


Figure 6. Household coping strategies by:



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