

Highlights	Methodology	Food Consumption Score	reduced Coping Strategy Index	In the words of the respondents	Contacts
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## Overall worsening of food security indicators across the country as conflict and economic crisis continue to affect Yemeni population

### Key points



In October, levels of poor food consumption increased especially in conflict affected governorates



The use of negative coping strategies reaches the highest levels since 2016



Food assistance continues to be the primary source of food of more than a third of the displaced population.



### Situation update

In October, the security situation in Al Hudaydah continued to deteriorate and remains exceptionally fragile. The space for humanitarian activity decreased as fighting between Saudi-led coalition forces and Houthi forces around Al Hudaydah intensifies. Meanwhile US officials called for a cessation of hostilities in Yemen and have announced possible renewed peace talks, expected to be held in Sweden in November 2018.

The rapid and uncontrolled depreciation of the Yemeni Rial since early September has led to a sharp increase in the price of basic food commodities resulting in a further deterioration of the already dire food security situation in Yemen. The currency depreciated by 47 percent against the US dollar in one year (October 2017 – October 2018), of which 20 percent of its value was lost over the course of the last month. The costs of a basic food basket increased 25 percent and fuel costs by as much as 45 per cent in hard-hit areas.

If the current trend continues it has been estimated that an additional 3 to 5.6 million Yemenis could become severely food insecure in the coming months, pushing the number of severely food insecure people up to 14 million in a worst-case scenario.

According to WHO, the number of cholera cases has surged reaching 15,201 suspected cases and 38 associated deaths during the week of 17-23 October alone, with Amran, Al Hudaydah, Dhamar, Sana'a and Sana'a City governorates being the most affected areas. As many as 1.2 million additional Yemenis are likely to require urgent WASH intervention.

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In October 2018, mVAM conducted the 38th round of household food security monitoring in Yemen via live telephone interviews. Data were collected between 1st and 30th October. 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 are available online.



**Households Surveyed**  
**2,408**



**Average age of respondents**  
**40**



**Displacement status**  
**66.9% Non-IDP**  
**33.1% IDP**

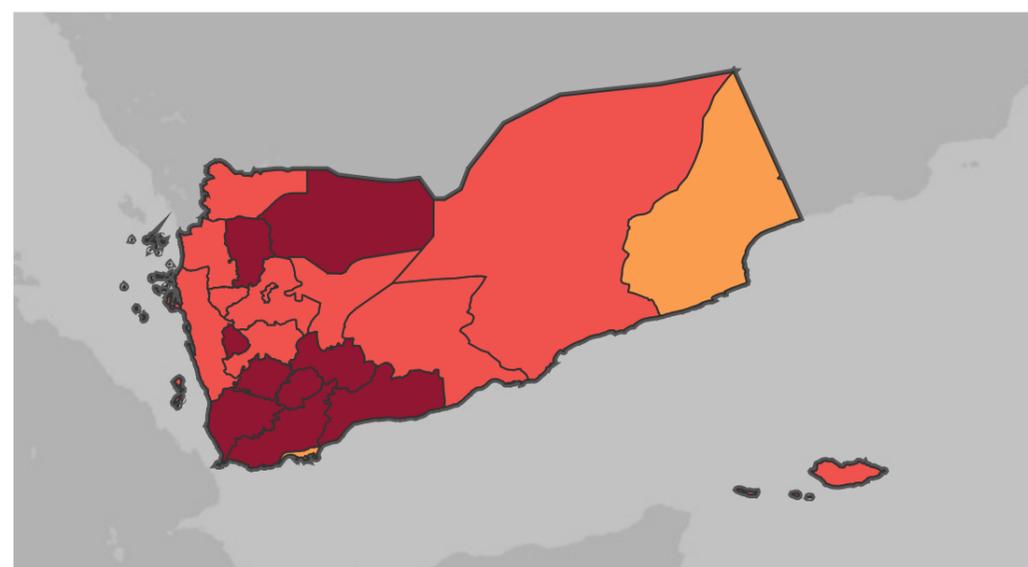


**Gender Head of Household**  
**2.5% Female**  
**97.5% Male**

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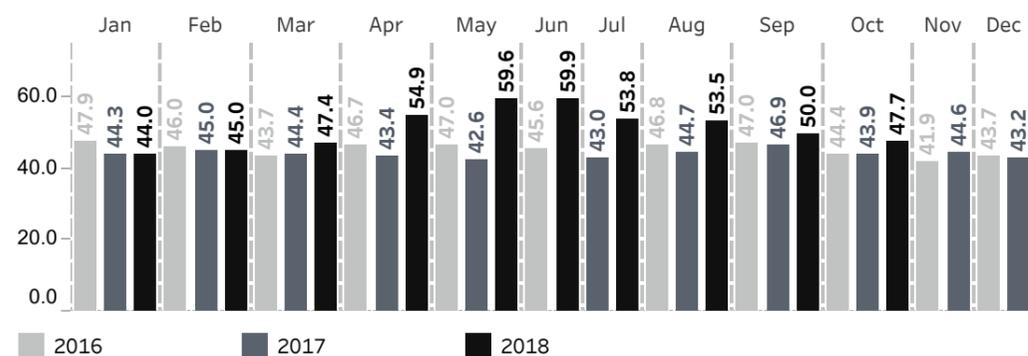
### Poor food consumption continues to deteriorate in conflict affected governorates

Map 1: % of households with Poor or Borderline Food Consumption



10% - 30%    30% - 50%    >50%

Figure 1: Mean FCS, 2016-2017-2018



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

The national mean food consumption score (FCS) decreased for the fourth consecutive month reaching in October (47.7) the lowest levels since April 2018 (Figure 1). This was mainly driven by an overall significant increase of four percentage points in the share of households with poor food consumption. As shown in Figure 2, in October 42 percent of the surveyed households reported having an inadequate food consumption broken down to 15 percent poor and 27 percent borderline food consumption. The negative change in FCS was observed in almost all the governorates and it was mainly due to a significant deterioration in the governorates directly affected by the current conflict and displacement: Al Hudaydah (from 56.6 in September to 54.4 in October), Hajjah (from 48 in September to 44 in October), Taizz (from 46.4 in September to 43.3 in October) and Raymah (from 40.6 in September to 37.3 in October). The lowest FCS was recorded in Raymah where 60 percent of the surveyed households was found to have inadequate food consumption. October mVAM data suggest that the current deterioration of the situation in Yemen is affecting similarly both displaced and resident population however non-displaced households have experienced the most negative change with the percentage of households with poor food consumption increasing significantly from 11 percent in September to 15 percent in October (Figure 3). Likewise, among IDPs the percentage of households with poor food consumption increased from 12 percent in September to 17 percent in October bringing the total share of inadequate food consumption among IDPs to almost 50 percent.

Figure 2. Percentage of households with poor and borderline food consumption, May 2018 - October 2018

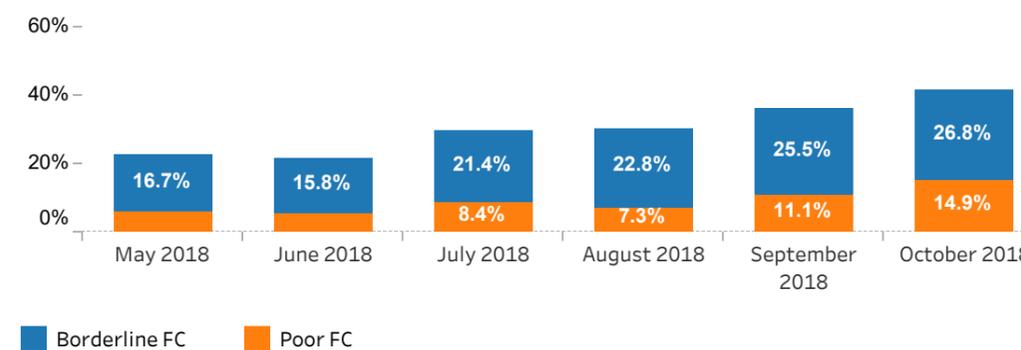
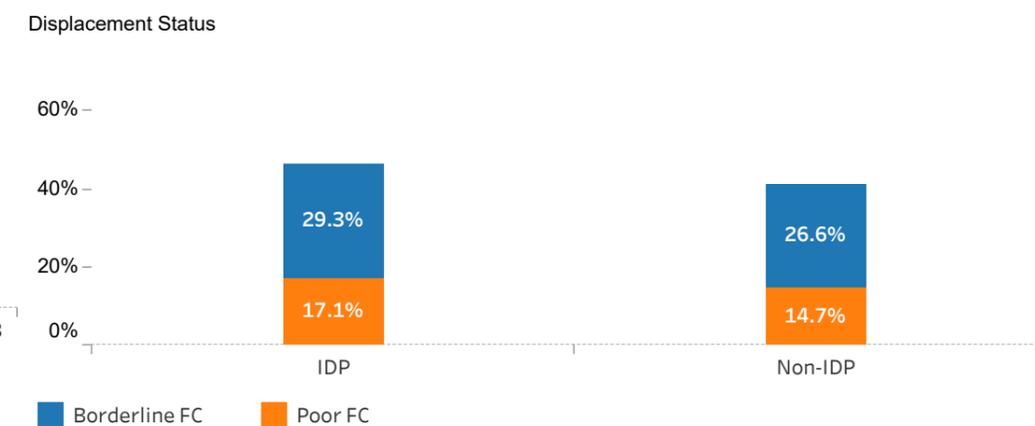


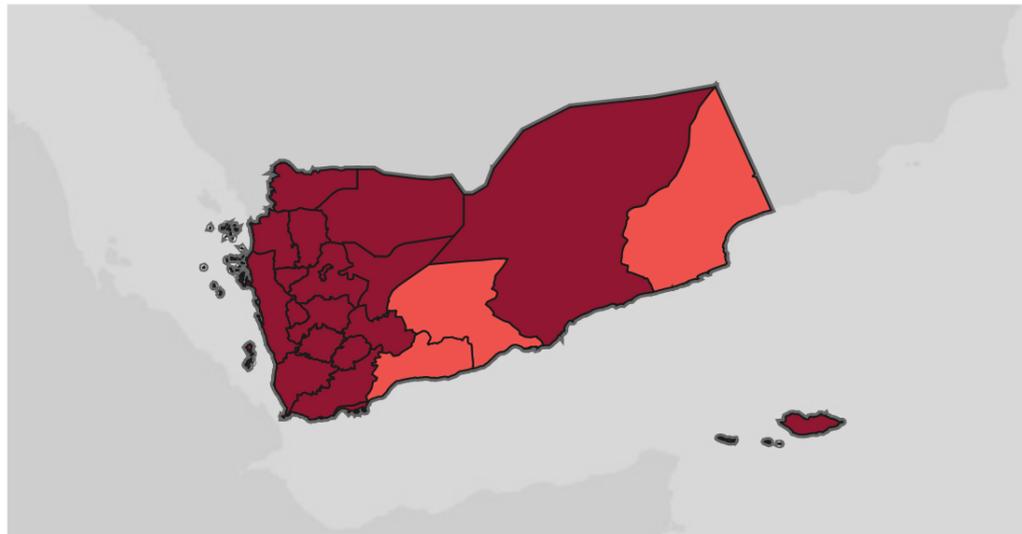
Figure 3: Households with poor and borderline Food Consumption by:



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**Use of negative food based coping strategies reach alarming levels**

Map 2: rCSI by governorate, October 2018



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

In October, the national mean rCSI increased from 21.9 in September to 23.7 as the reported severity of the adopted coping mechanisms by households rose across Yemen (Figure 4). This is the highest level ever recorded since 2016. This deterioration is driven by an increased percentage of household reporting having to buy less expensive or preferred food (+5 percent), limiting the size of their meals portion (+4 percent), reducing the number of meals eaten per day (+4 percent) and restricting consumption by adults in order for small children to eat (+6 percent).

This trend has been observed in almost all the governorates across the country. Mean rCSI has significantly increased in Al Mahwit (from 23.8 in September to 29.2 in October), Dhamar (from 22.7 in September to 25.6 in October), Sa'dah (from 17.7 in September to 22.9 in October), Taizz (from 21.7 in September to 24 in October) and Raymah (from 19.6 in September to 28.4 in October). Raymah and Hajjah (27.2) continue to report the highest rCSI. Most of the governorates (19 out of 22 governorates) reported a mean rCSI more or equal than 19, corresponding to IPC Phase 3 or above (Map 2).

As in the previous rounds, displaced households resort more negative coping strategies than non-displaced households. However, in October the gap has been reduced as the mean rCSI of non-displaced households increased negatively from 21.4 in September to 23.4 in October. This is mainly due to a significant increase in the share of resident households having to buy less expensive food (+6 percent), limit portion sizes (+4 percent), reduce the number of meals (+4 percent) and restrict adult consumption for children to eat (+7 percent) since September (Figure 6).

Around a third of the displaced households reported relying on food assistance as their primary source of food while the majority of non-displaced households the main source of food remain purchase from market.

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

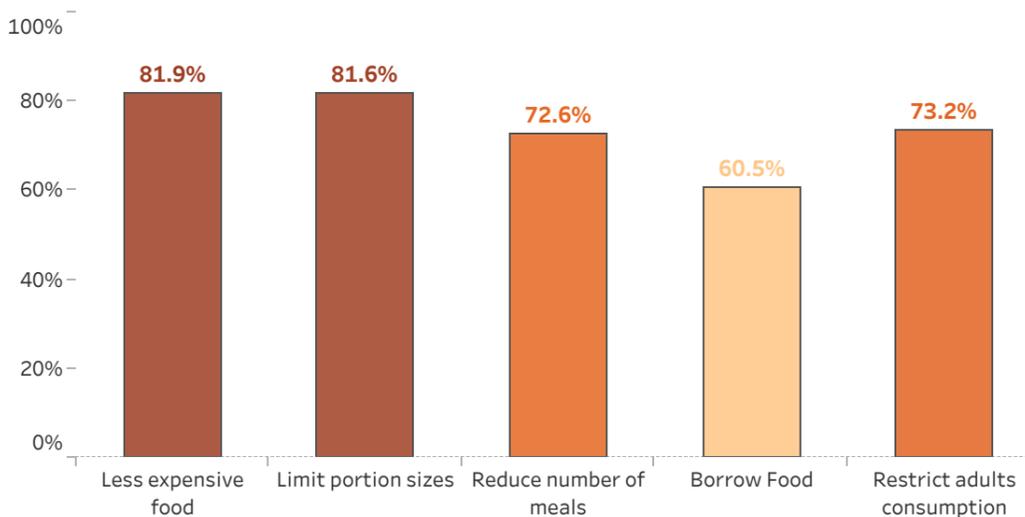


Figure 6: Percentage of households using negative coping strategies by:

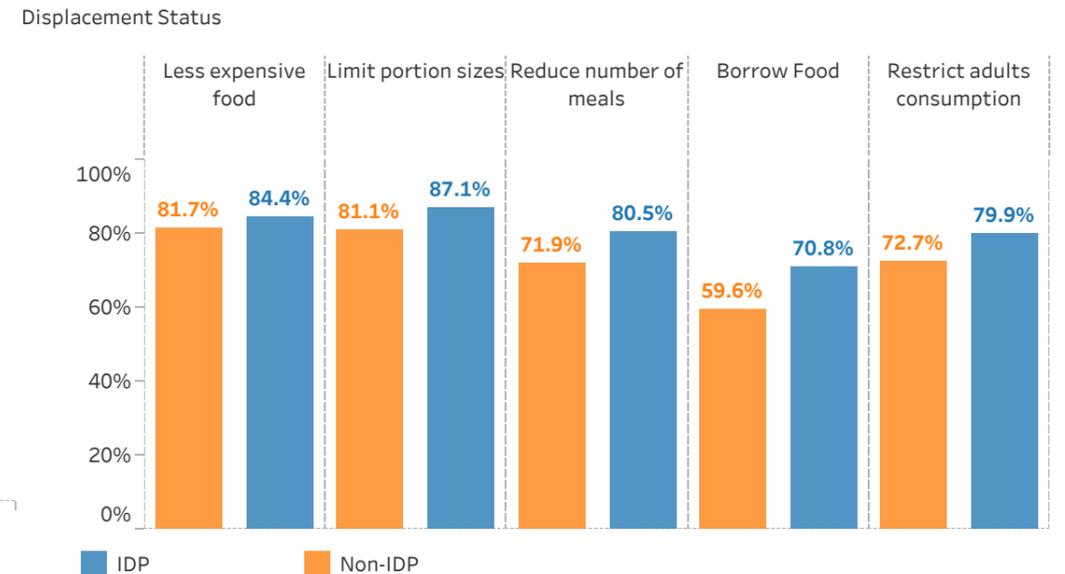
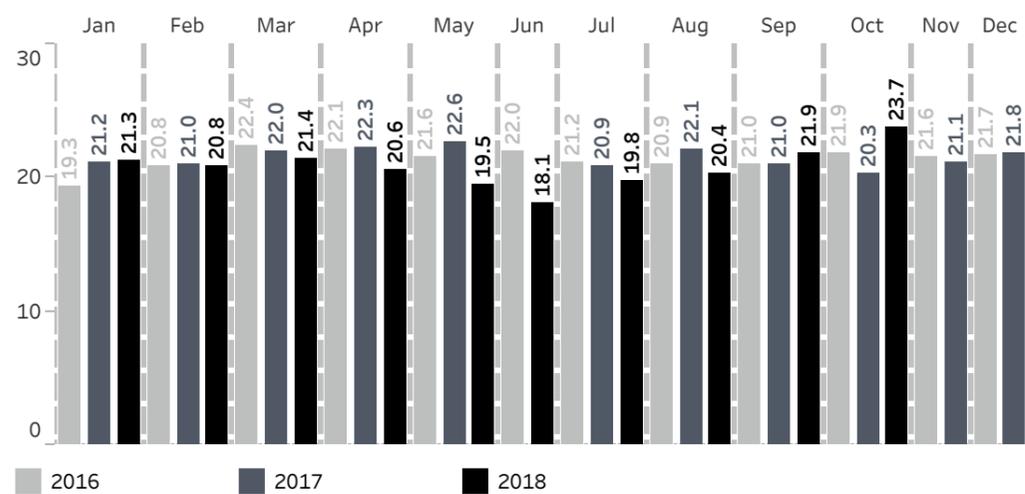


Figure 4: Mean rCSI, 2016-2017-2018



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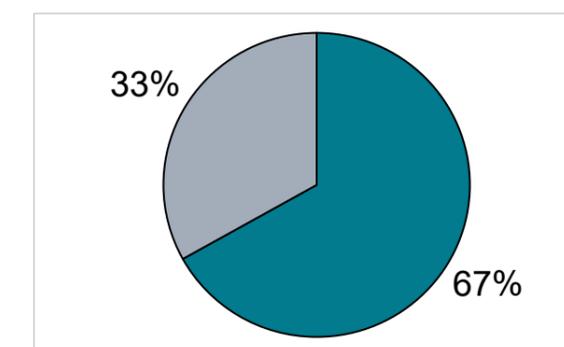
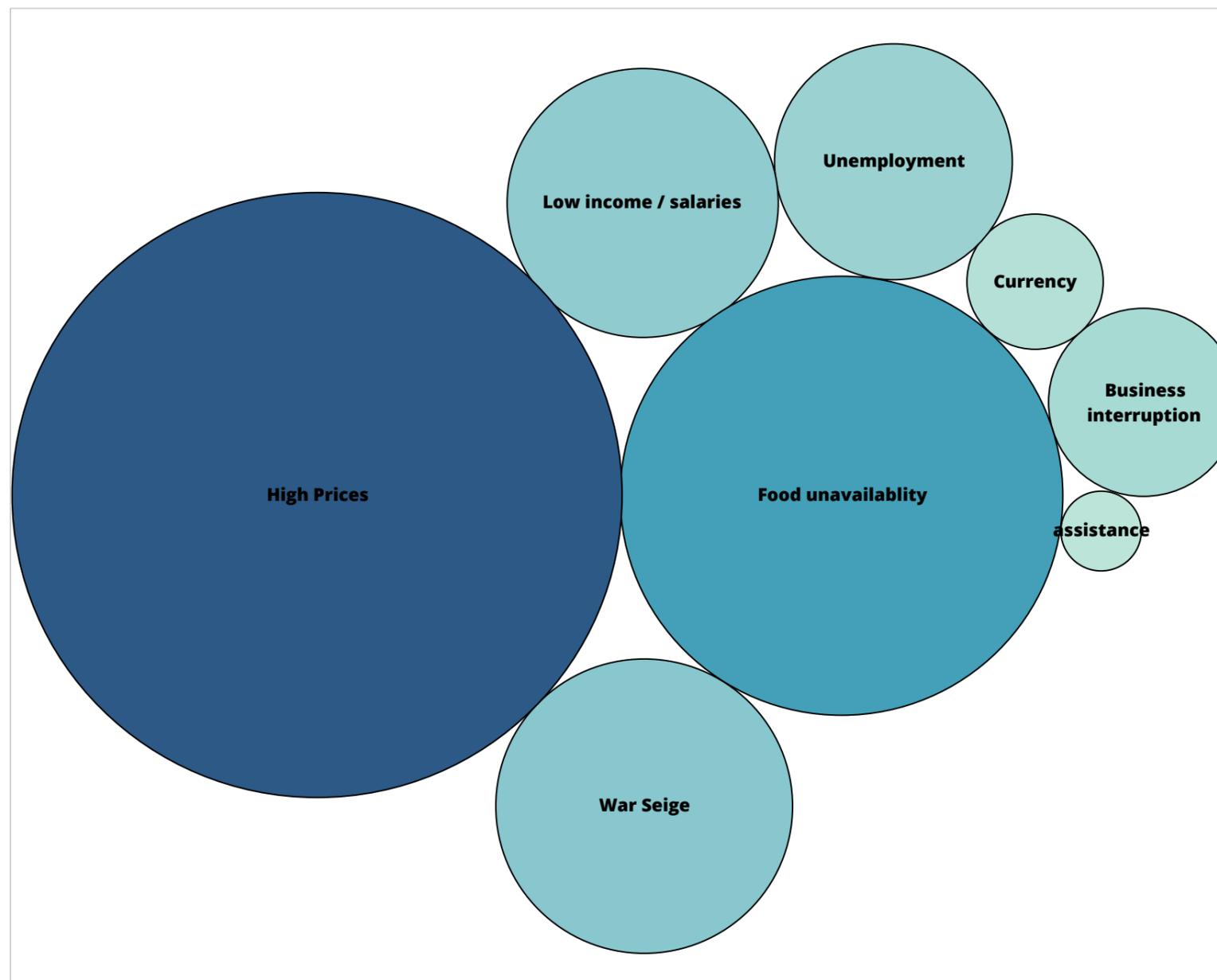
### In the words of the respondents

Households were asked to share their thoughts on the main issues affecting the food security situation in their communities. In the graphic below, the main topics mentioned by households are viewable by hovering over the governorates. Responses can also be filtered by displacement status.

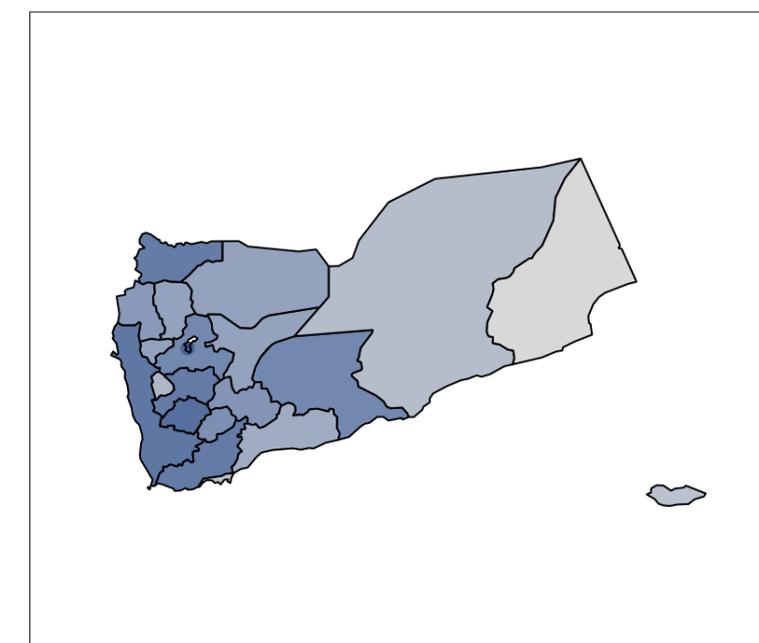
*"The situation is very bad as we are not receiving salaries and the prices continue to rise and are extremely high after the depreciation of the currency".*  
Non-displaced male head of household – Abyan

*"The food situation is very poor and we need assistance as we don't have any income and money to buy enough food".*  
IDP female head of households - Sa'ada.

*"Food is mostly not available in the market and the prices are so high that we cannot afford to buy what the family needs as we lost every source of income".*  
Displaced male head of household- Al Hudaydha.



**Displacement Status**  
■ Non IDPs   ■ IDPs



Highlights

Methodology

Food Consumption  
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In the words of the  
respondents

Contacts

## For further information

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### RESOURCES

mVAM Monitoring web:

[http://vam.wfp.org/sites/mvam\\_monitoring/](http://vam.wfp.org/sites/mvam_monitoring/)

VAM Resource Centre

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

Blog

<http://mvam.org/>

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