



Key Points

- Food consumption deteriorates in most of Syria's south-eastern areas.
- Female headed households show a worse diet and higher levels of coping compared to households headed by male.
- As shortages of fuel and cooking gas hit Syria starting from November 2018, more households especially in hard-to-reach areas are reporting high prices for fuel as their main challenge

No improvement in household food security as many areas of the country continue to be affected by conflict and displacement

Situation Update

- The cold winter weather in Syria is affecting tens of thousands of people across the country. Millions of people living in tents or damaged buildings are without power or heating and face severe shortages of all basic necessities.

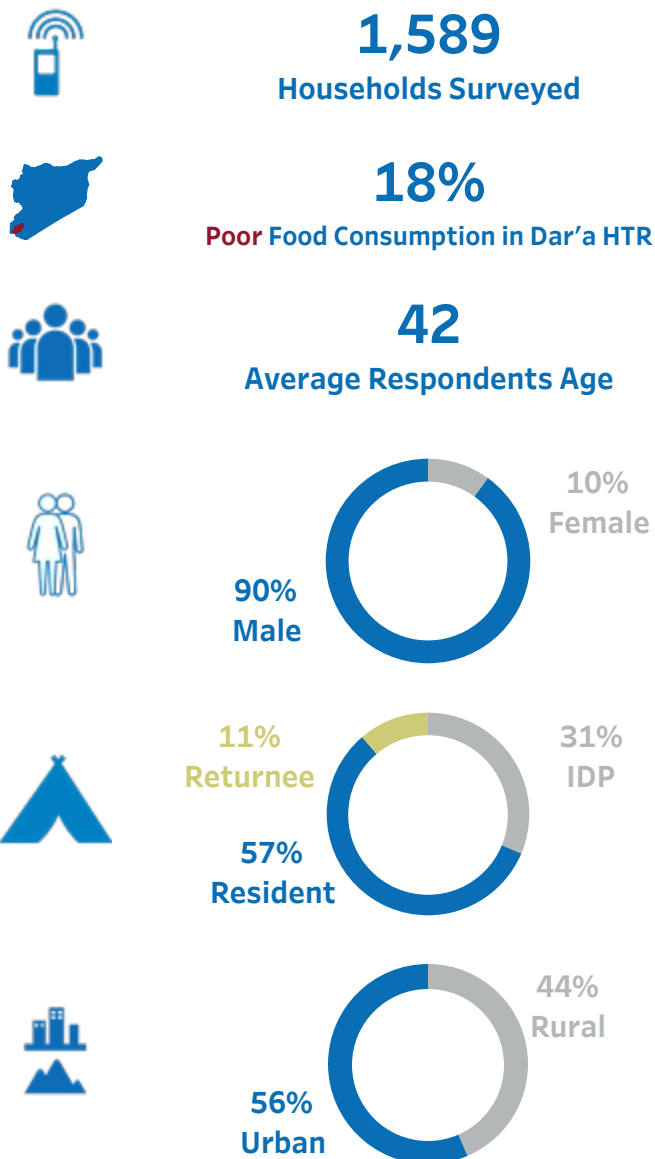
- In eastern Syria, military operations against Islamic State in Deir-ez-Zor governorate are significantly impacting the civilian population. An estimated 2,000 people are trapped in Hajin, one of the few remaining IS-controlled areas in Deir-ez-Zor. Those that have managed to flee Hajin reported increasingly desperate conditions in the city, with diminishing services and extremely high food prices. Since 22 January, more than 10,000 people have arrived at the Al-Hole camp in Al-Hasakeh governorate. The total camp population is approximately 34,000 people and 1,000-1,500 displaced people continue to arrive every day. The United Nations and other humanitarian organizations continue to scale up the response to the influx of new arrivals, who are provided with food, shelter, winterization and hygiene kits and medical and protection services upon their arrival.

- In north-western Syria, the September agreement between Russia and Turkey was followed by a significant decrease in ground fighting and airstrikes. However, January saw an increase in fighting in Idlib between non-State armed groups, placing civilians at risk and resulting in injury and death.

- In the South, some 42,000 people remain stranded in Rukban along the Syria-Jordan border. Conditions in the informal settlement have continued to deteriorate since the last humanitarian convoy to the area in November. Preparations are underway for the second inter-agency convoy to the Rukban settlement. The convoy will include trucks carrying WFP food assistance for some 42,000 people.

Sources: Flash Update 1: Displacement from Hajin, Deir-ez-Zor Governorate 4 February 2019, Briefing to the Security Council on the humanitarian situation in Syria New York, 30 January 2019

Key Figures

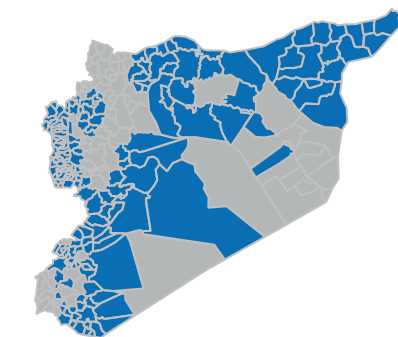


Methodology

This mVAM bulletin is based on data collected via live telephone interviews in January 2019 from households in locations across Syria. The telephone numbers called were generated using random-digit dialing.

Starting from July 2017, districts were combined into 19 strata based on their level of accessibility. Since January 2019, the accessible areas are Aleppo, As-Sweida, Al-Hasakeh, Damascus, Dar'a, Hama, Homs, Rural Damascus, Quneitra, Deir-ez-Zor and Ar-Raqqa, Lattakia and Tartous. Hard-to-reach (HTR) areas are Aleppo HTR, Dar'a HTR, Quneitra HTR, Idlib HTR, Deir-ez-Zor and Ar-Raqqa HTR, Homs and Hama HTR, and Rural Damascus HTR. The sampling frame groups together areas with similar geography and accessibility, allowing for a large enough sample size to make statistically significant comparisons.

More details on the methodology can be found here: http://vam.wfp.org/sites/mvam_monitoring/read_me_syria.pdf



■ Accessible ■ Hard To Reach

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Poor food consumption deteriorated in Homs, Hama, Dar'a and Rural Damascus



- In January 2019, around 31 percent of the surveyed households reported having inadequate food consumption of which 10 percent poor and 21 percent borderline.



- Typically, households' diets consist mainly of **staples**, **sugars** and **fats** that are consumed almost daily. **Vegetables** and **dairy** products are eaten every other day, **proteins** and **fruits** are consumed on average twice a week, while **pulses** are rarely consumed.



-A significant increase in the share of households reporting a **poor** food consumption has been recorded in accessible areas of **Rural Damascus**, **Homs** and **Dar'a** and in hard hard-to-reach areas of **Homs**, **Hama** and **Dar'a** (Figure 1).

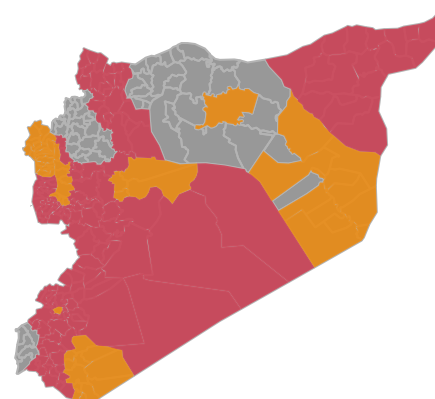
- The percent of households that reported borderline food consumption increased from 5 percent in December 2018 to 26 percent in January 2019 in **Tartous** governorate, while it almost halved in **Homs** from 42 percent in December 2018 to 25 percent in January 2019 and it decreased by two-thirds in **Hama** from 33 percent in December 2018 to 11 percent in January 2019.



-In January, a deterioration in terms of food consumption has been reported among **female-headed** households and among households **staying as guests**. **Female headed** households are constantly reporting a significant worse food consumption (51 percent inadequate food consumption) compared with **male-headed** households (28 percent inadequate food consumption), see Figure 2.

Map1 : Percentage of households by aggregated governorate with poor and borderline Food Consumption (FC) (January 2019)

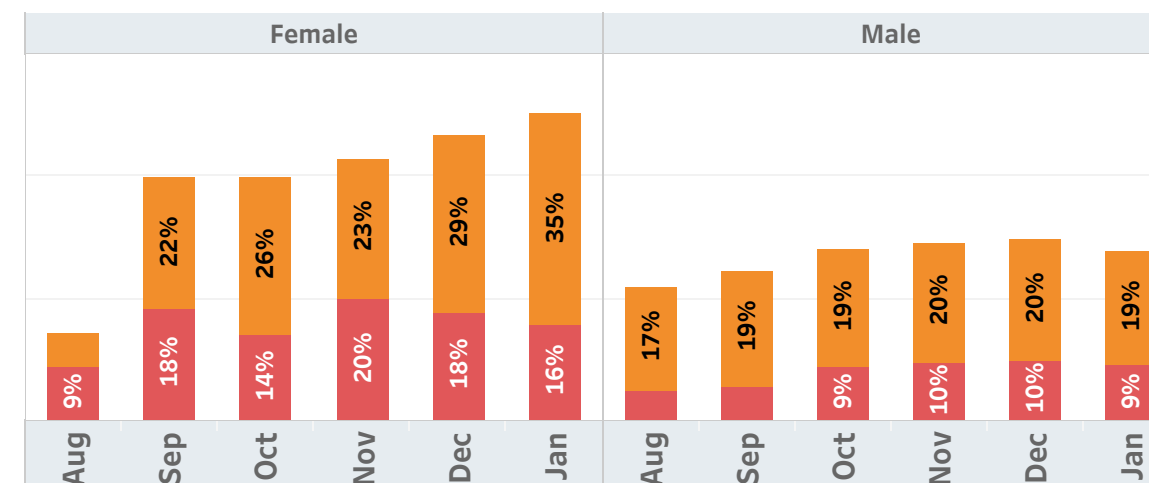
■ <15%
■ 15-25%
■ >25%



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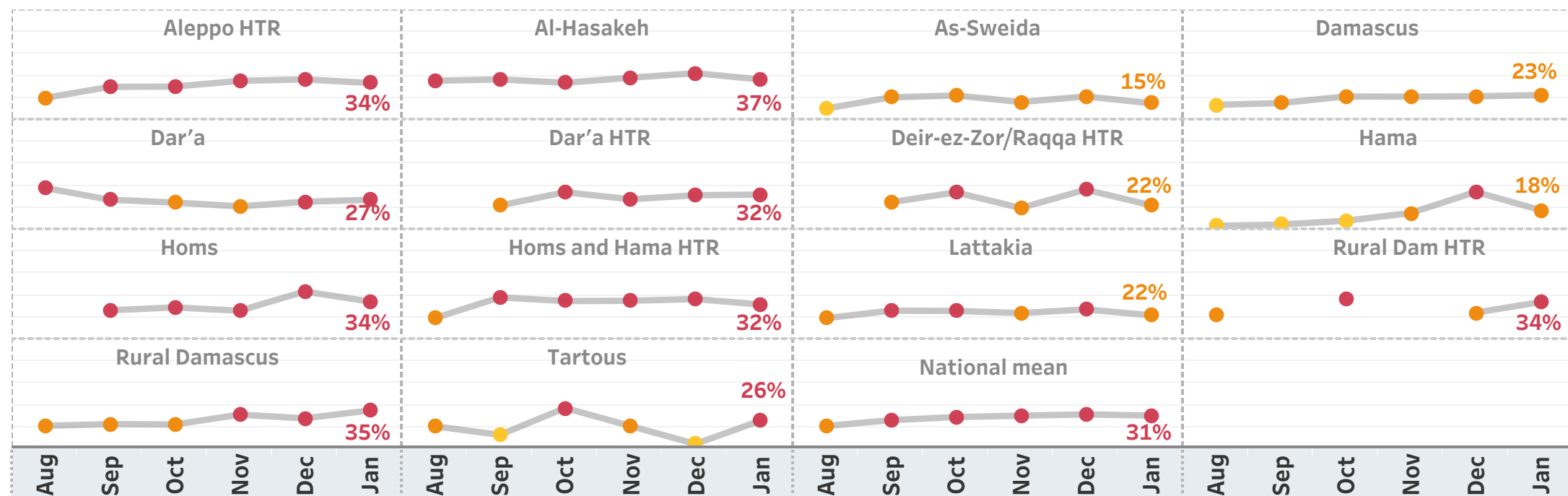
Figure 2 : Percentage of households with poor and borderline FC in the last six months according to

Head of Household Sex



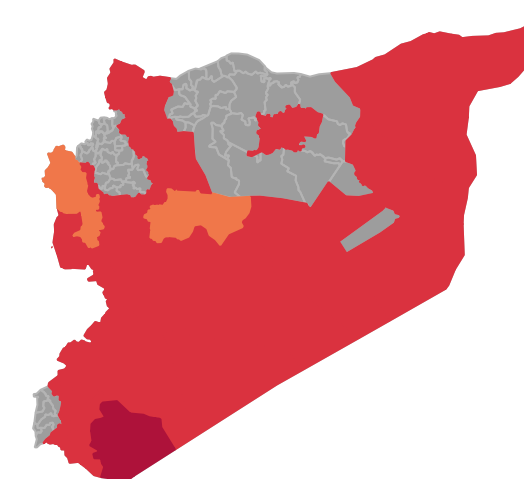
■ Borderline Food Consumption ■ Poor Food Consumption

Figure 1 : Percentage of households by aggregated governorate with Poor and Borderline Food Consumption in the last six months



Map 2 : Average weekly consumption (January 2019) by aggregated governorates for

Proteins



■ 2 days ■ 3 days ■ 4 days

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Displaced households increasingly resorted to food based coping strategies



- In January, households from Hama continue to report the highest use of food based coping strategies across the country.
 - The average rCSI increased significantly in hard-to-reach areas of Deir-ez-Zor and Ar-Raqqa, in Rural Damascus and Lattakia (Figure 4).

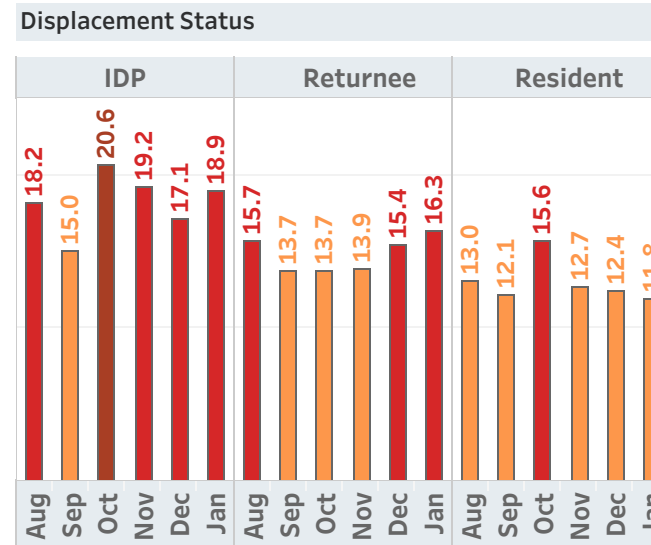


- The level of coping strategies increased among **returnee** and **displaced** households: average rCSI for these households was 16.3 and 18.9 respectively.
 - As Figure 5 shows, a general increase in the use of all food based coping strategies was reported by returnees and IDPs in January compared to December 2018.

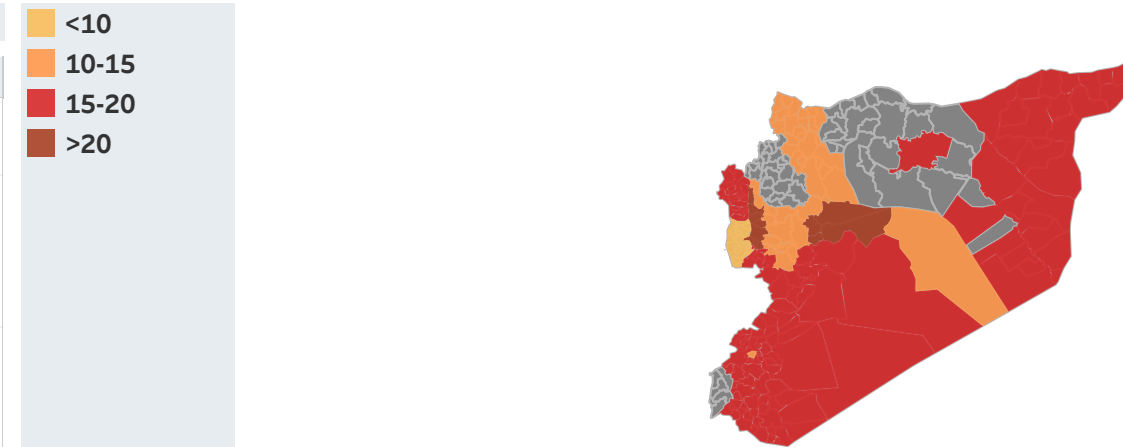


- Households **renting accommodation** or **staying as guest** reported a significant higher rCSI compared to December 2018 and also compared to households owning their home (Figure 3). These findings suggest that there is an increased probability of food insecurity among households who do not own a home.

Figure 3 : Mean rCSI in the last six months according to



Map3 : Mean rCSI by aggregated governorates (January 2019)



*areas displayed with gray color have no available information

Figure 4 : Mean rCSI by aggregated governorates in the last six months

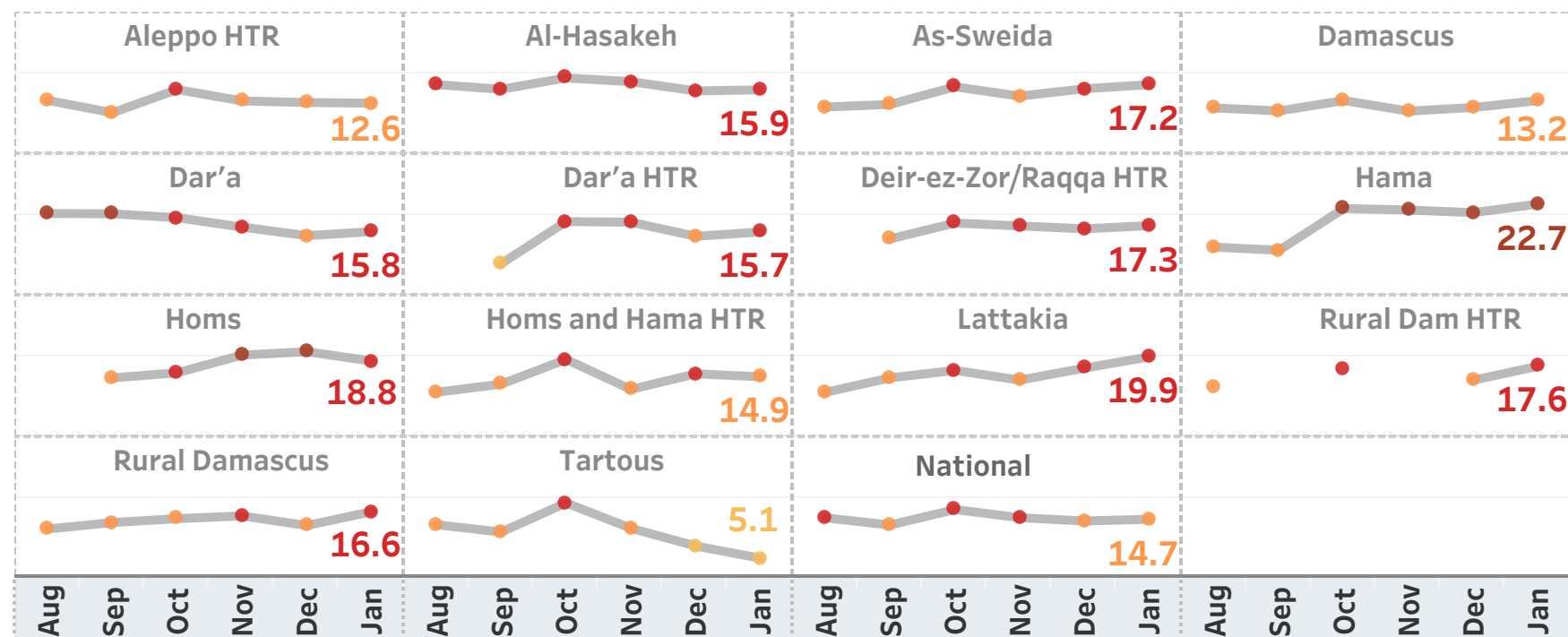
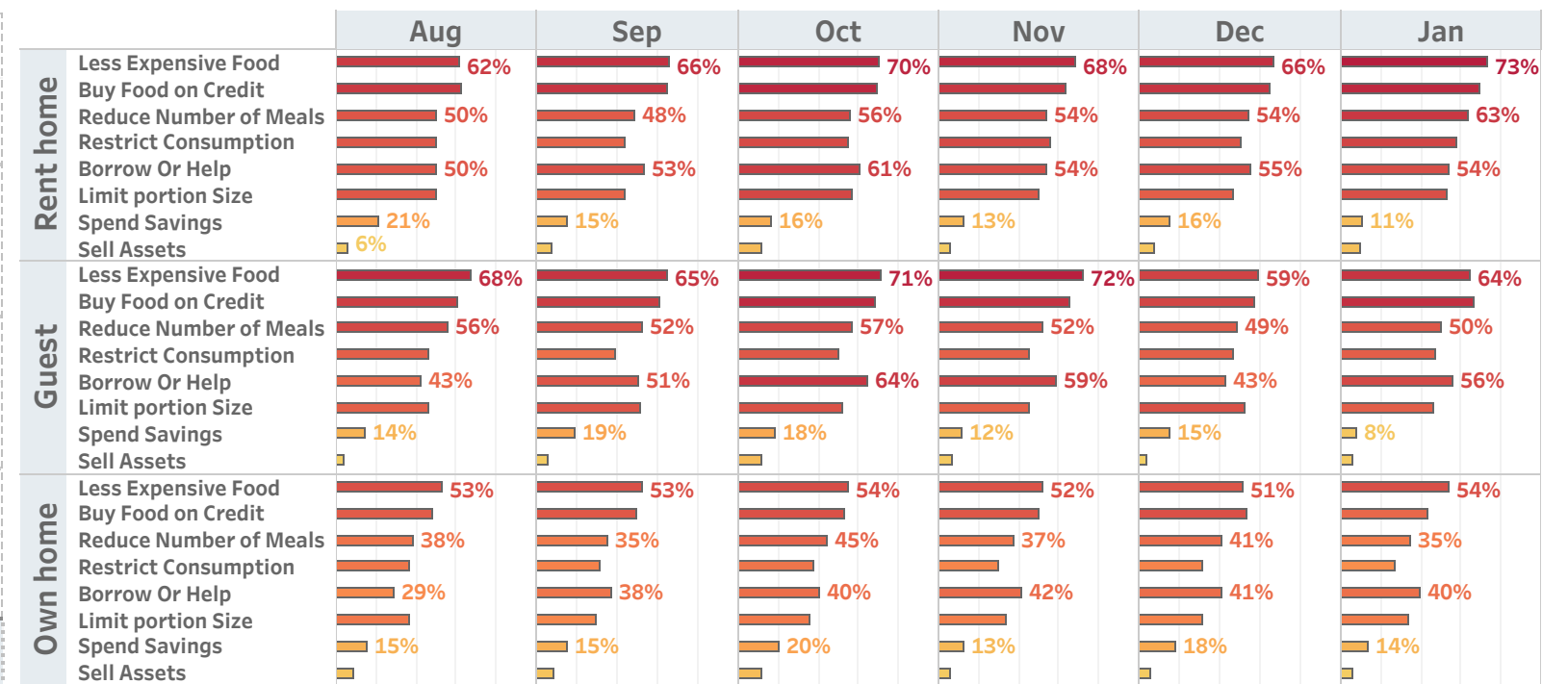


Figure 5: Percentage of households who adopted All coping strategies in the last six months according to Accomodation Type





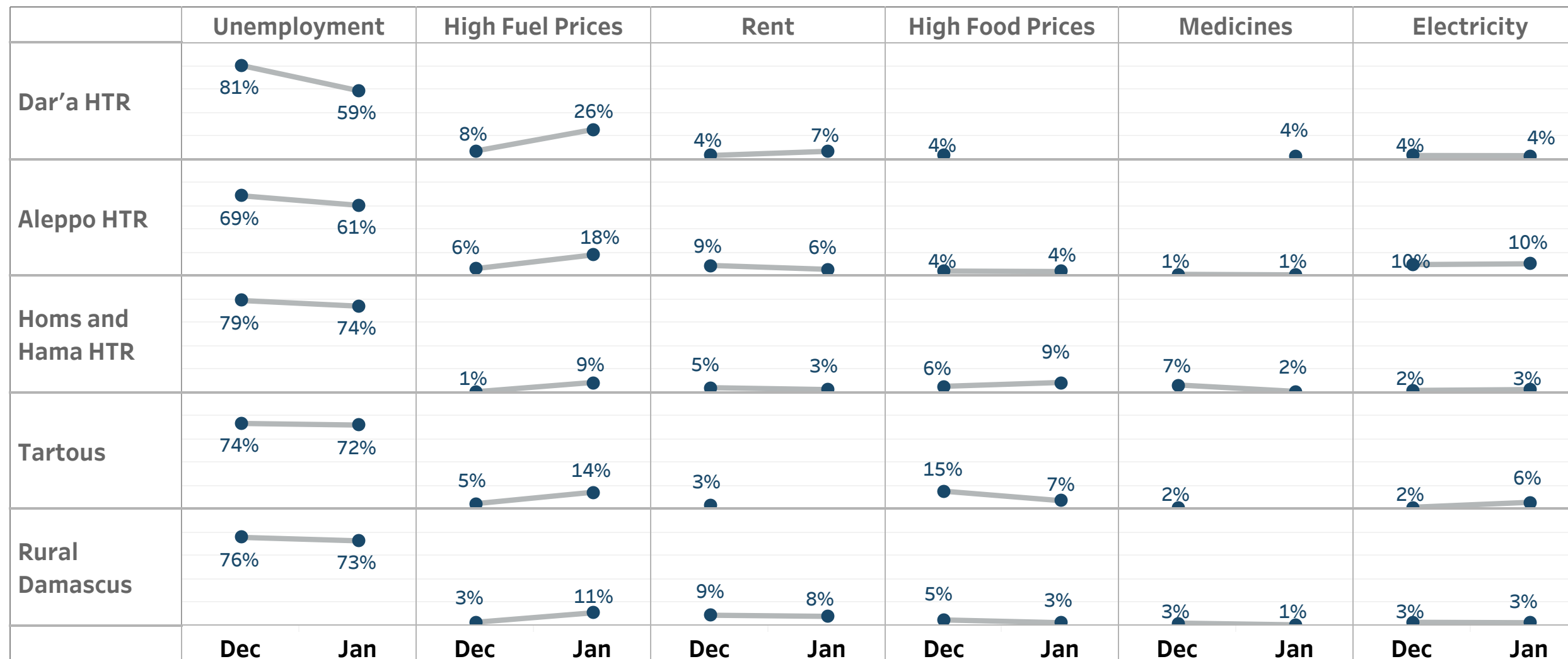
In the words of respondents

Each month, respondents are asked to identify the main problems their families are facing.

As shortages of fuel and cooking gas hit Syria starting November 2018, more households especially in hard-to-reach areas are reporting high prices for fuel as their main challenge (Figure 6).



Figure 6: Main problems faced by surveyed households (January 2019)



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