



Highlights	Methodology	Food Consumption Score	reduced Coping Strategy Index	In the words of the respondents	Contacts
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Humanitarian food assistance is playing a critical role in mitigating the severity of food insecurity in Yemen


Key points




According to the newly released Humanitarian Needs Overview the number of people in acute need has increased by 27 per cent compared to 2018.



Inadequate food consumption increased in February in Abyan and Ibb reaching 56 percent and 50 percent respectively, the highest levels among the surveyed governorates.



In February, the use of severe food based coping strategies increased in Amran, Dhamar and Taizz.



Situation update

Despite on-going peace talks between the various parties and some progress on this front, on-ground fighting intensified along the Yemen-Saudi border, especially in Hajjah, Sa’ada and al-Jawf governorates. On 26 February, for the first time since September, a World Food Programme team reached the Red Sea Mills, which contains vital stocks of wheat. So far, WFP is unable to confirm how much of the wheat at the mills is still fit for human consumption. WFP needs to carry out a full assessment of the stock before it can begin distributing it to food insecure people in Yemen. The recently released 2019 Yemen Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) indicates that four years into the crisis, conflict and severe economic decline are exacerbating needs in all sectors: around 24 million people (80 percent of the population), will need some form of humanitarian or protection assistance in 2019. Overall, the number of people in acute need has increased by 27 per cent compared to 2018. The Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan (YHRP) was released on 19 February: the YHRP aims to provide humanitarian assistance to 21.4 million people and requires a total funding of USD 4.2 billion in 2019. International donors on 26 February pledged USD2.62 billion to finance urgent and life-saving humanitarian aid.

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In February 2019, mVAM conducted the 42th round of household food security monitoring in Yemen via live telephone interviews. Data was collected between 1st and 28th 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 are available online.



Households Surveyed
2,299



Average age of respondents
40



Displacement status
66% Non-IDP
34% IDP



Gender Head of Household
4% Female
96% Male

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High level of inadequate food consumption in Abyan and Ibb

Map 1: % of households with poor and borderline food consumption

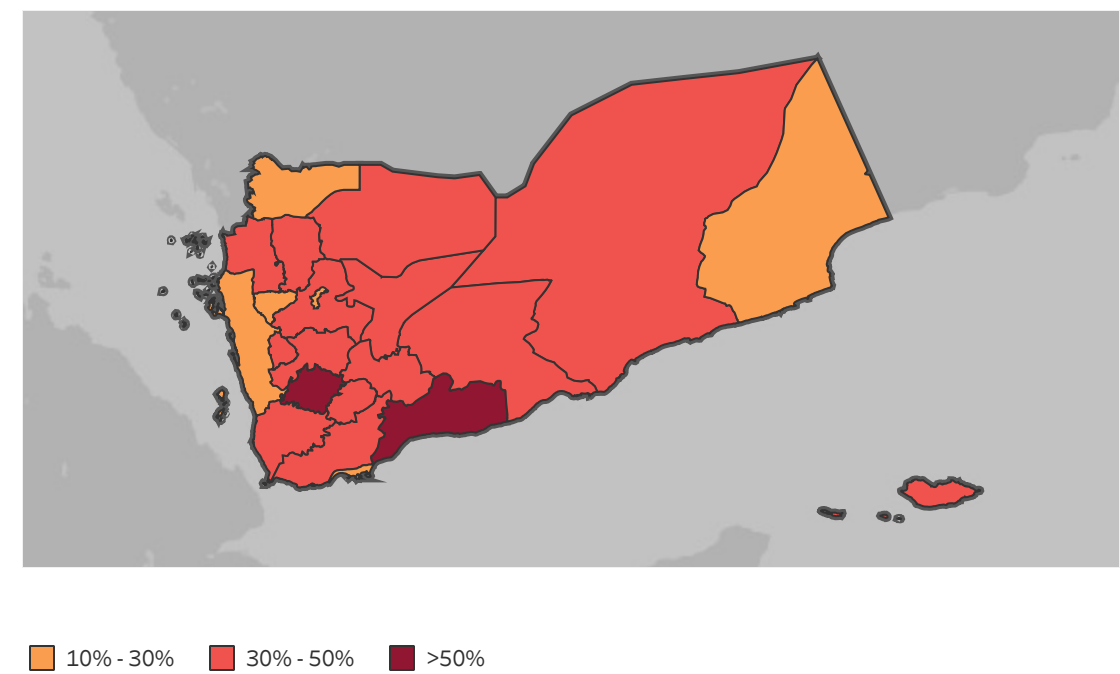
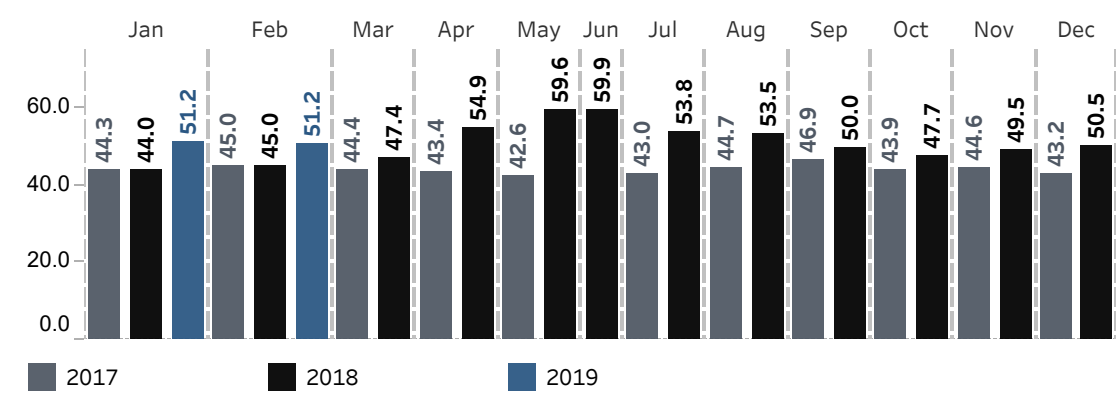


Figure 1: Mean FCS, 2016-2017-2018



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

According to mVAM data, the national mean food consumption score (FCS) remains at the same level as January 2018 (Figure 1). On national level, approximately 36 percent of surveyed households reported having inadequate food consumption (10 percent poor and 25 percent borderline). The highest percentage of households reporting inadequate food consumption was recorded this month in Abyan, where 56 percent of the surveyed households reported inadequate food consumption in February, with 15 percent increase compared to the last month. In addition, a significant increase was also reported in Ibb: 50 percent of households reported inadequate food consumption rising from 36 percent in January. According to displacement status, 42 percent of the displaced households in February reported inadequate food consumption (31 percent borderline and 11 percent poor) while among the non-displaced, 35 percent were found to have poor and borderline food consumption. In February, IDPs who received food assistance showed a lower percentage of poor food consumption (8 percent) compared to those displaced households who did not receive assistance (12 percent). Poor food consumption reflects a diet of low quality and quantity which mainly consists of the consumption of staples, fats and sugars.

Figure 2. Percentage of households with poor and borderline food consumption, Sep 2018 - February 2019

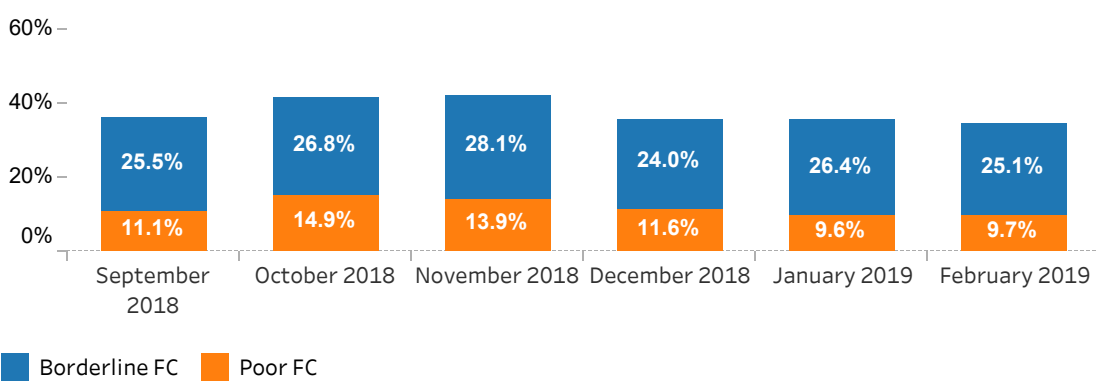
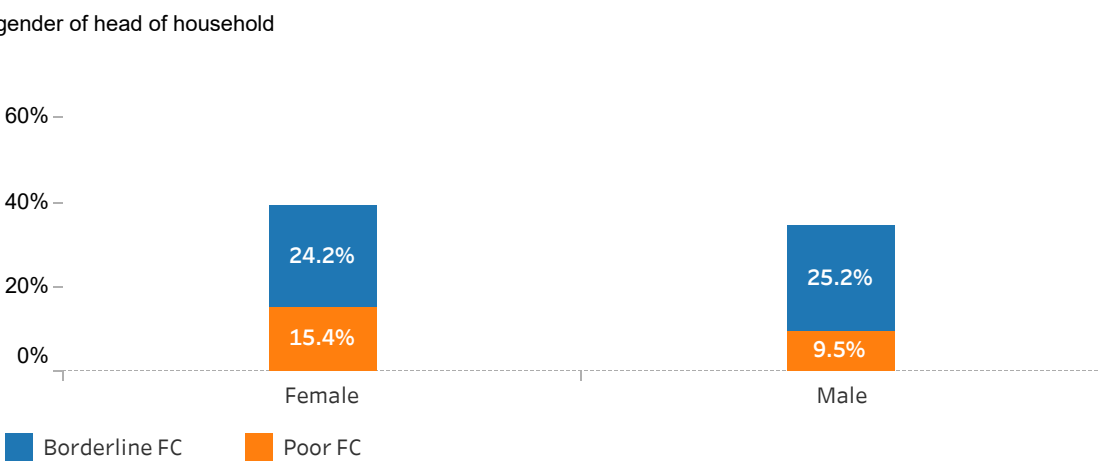


Figure 3: Households with poor and borderline food consumption by:



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Use of food based coping strategies high in Hajjah and Sana’a City

Map 2: rCSI by governorate, February 2019

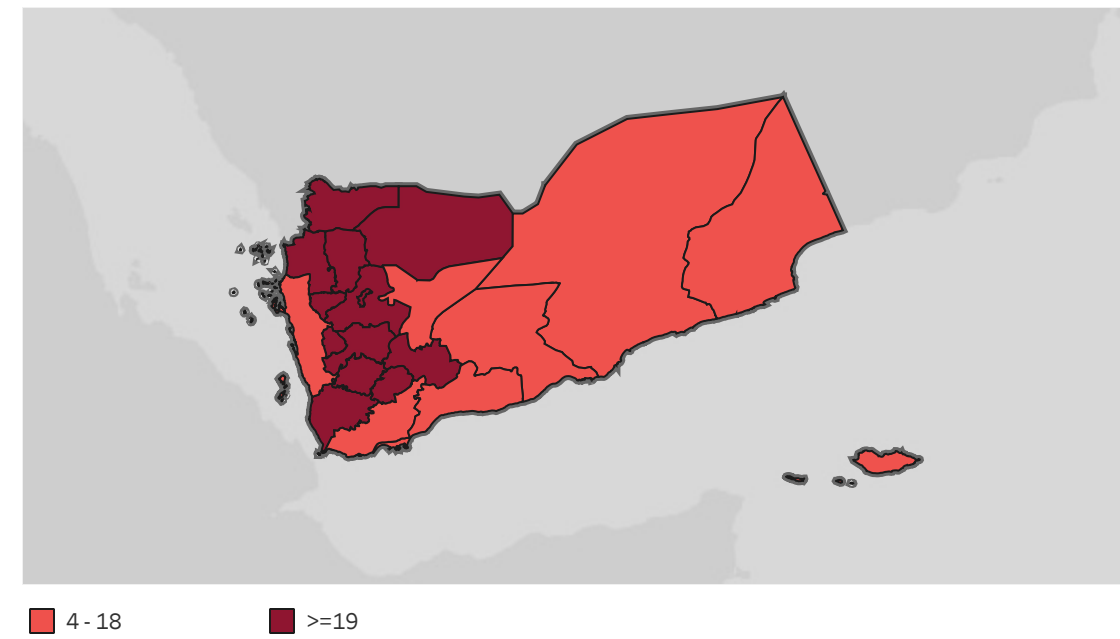
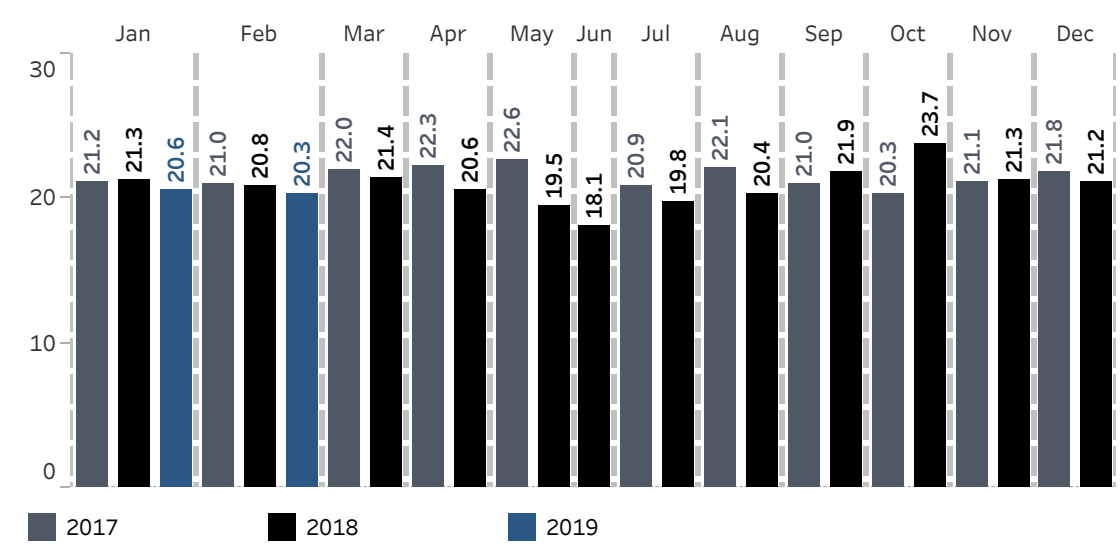


Figure 4: Mean rCSI, 2016-2017-2018



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

Overall, 9 in 10 households adopt one or more food-related coping strategies, which is an indicator of stress. The prevalence of coping strategies used by households is higher among displaced (96 percent) compared to the resident households (90 percent). More than 80 percent of the displaced households rely on less preferred food, reduced portion size and / or restricted adult’s consumption while three quarters reduced the number of meals and have to borrow food from friends and family. Overall, high food prices, unemployment and lack of income opportunities, which were reported as major constraints by both IDPs and host communities, impact households. At governorate level, the highest average rCSI reported in February was in Sana’a City (25) followed by Hajjah (24.2) where households are resorting to at least three days a week to any of the surveyed coping strategies to deal with lack of access to food. In comparison with January the use of food based coping strategies has increased especially in Amran, Dhamar and Taizz governorates while it has decreased in Marib. However, 13 out of 21 governorates still reported an average rCSI higher than 19, that is considered as the IPC Phase 3 and above. Overall, households benefiting from assistance are much less likely to apply food coping strategies compared to those who are not assisted. Even among households who reported food assistance as their primary source of food, the use of coping strategies is still lower (rCSI=21) than among those households who reported borrowing or gift as their main source of food (rCSI=30). This highlights the critical role that humanitarian assistance is playing in supporting food security of households in Yemen.

Figure 5: Percentage of households using negative coping strategies in February 2019

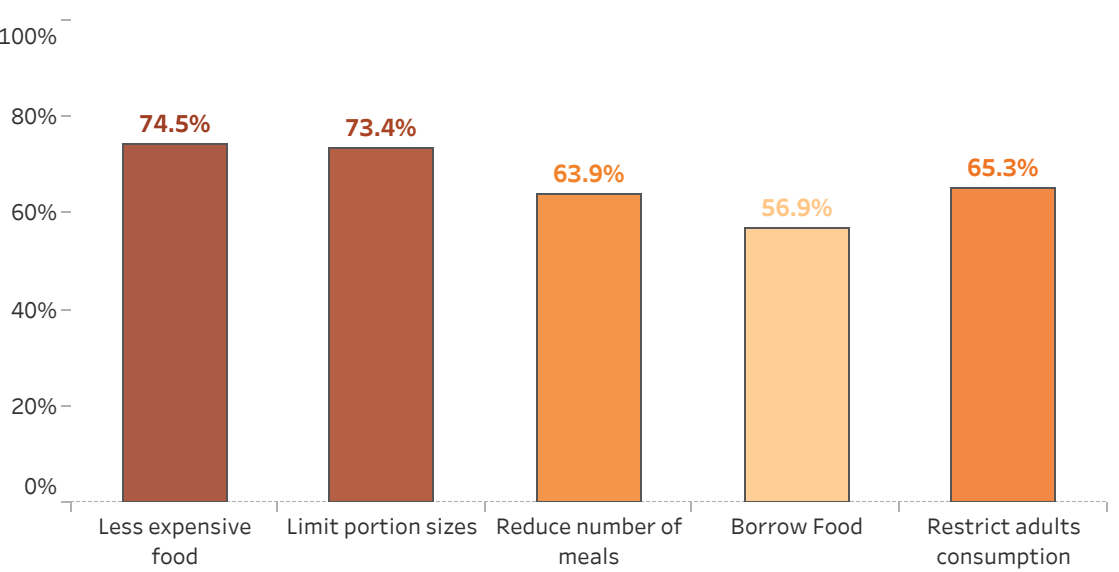
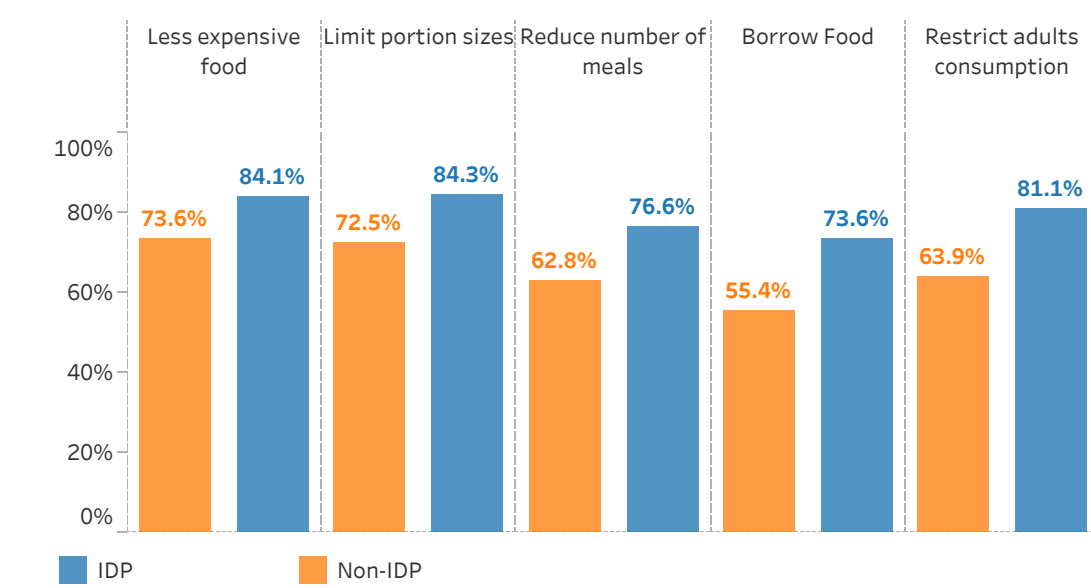


Figure 6: Percentage of households using negative coping strategies by: displacement status



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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.



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For further information

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RESOURCES
mVAM Monitoring web:
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