




Highlights	Methodology	Food Consumption Score	reduced Coping Strategy Index	In the words of the respondents	Contacts
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Overall food security indicators remain stable in Yemen mainly due to the current levels of food assistance. Furthermore, it should be noted that renewed hostilities in many governorates will further increase the demands for food assistance

Key points

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More than half of the surveyed households in Ad Dali, Marib and Lahj have a poor and borderline food consumption.
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Among IDPs, around 30 percent reported food assistance as their primary source of food.
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In January, the use of the most severe food based coping strategies continue to increase in Hajjah where escalated violence caused civilian casualties and displaced hundreds of families.



Situation update

In January, fighting eased off in Al Hudaydah as the parties took initial steps to implement December’s Stockholm Agreements. On 16th January the Security Council unanimously approved the creation of the United Nations Mission to support the Hudaydah Agreement (UNMHA), mandating 75 monitors to oversee implementation of agreement and ceasefire with an initial mandate of six months.

On 24 January, fire damaged two silos at Red Sea Mills, a vital wheat storage, milling and distribution hub for the World Food Programme on Hodeida’s outskirts. The WFP has 51,000 metric tons of wheat stored at the Red Sea Mills site, but has been unable to access the site since September last year, due to ongoing fighting. Any disruption at the facility endangers around a quarter of all WFP wheat supplies in Yemen, as well as milling capacity for further food assistance. It comes just as the organisation attempts to double what is already the world’s largest food aid program. The WFP is in the process of scaling up to reach 12 million people with food assistance each month across Yemen. The scale up plan includes 8.2 million people who will receive in-kind food assistance, 2.8 million who will receive commodity vouchers and eventually a further one million people to will benefit from receiving cash based transfers. Food assistance has played a critical role in preventing Yemen slipping into famine. The current scale up is in response to increased needs caused by the ongoing conflict and exacerbated an economic decline that has resulted in food prices 66-162 percent higher than before the crisis.

Developments outside of Hodeida continue to arouse concern. The last week of January has seen a sudden increase in violence in Hajja, Saada, Al-Jawf, Sana’a, Mareb and Al-Dhale governorates.

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In January 2018, mVAM conducted the 41th round of household food security monitoring in Yemen via live telephone interviews. Data were collected between 1st and 30th January. 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
2,460



Average age of respondents
40



Displacement status
63% Non-IDP
37% IDP



Gender Head of Household
3% Female
97% Male

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Levels of inadequate food consumption on the rise in Ad Dali, Marib and Lahj

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

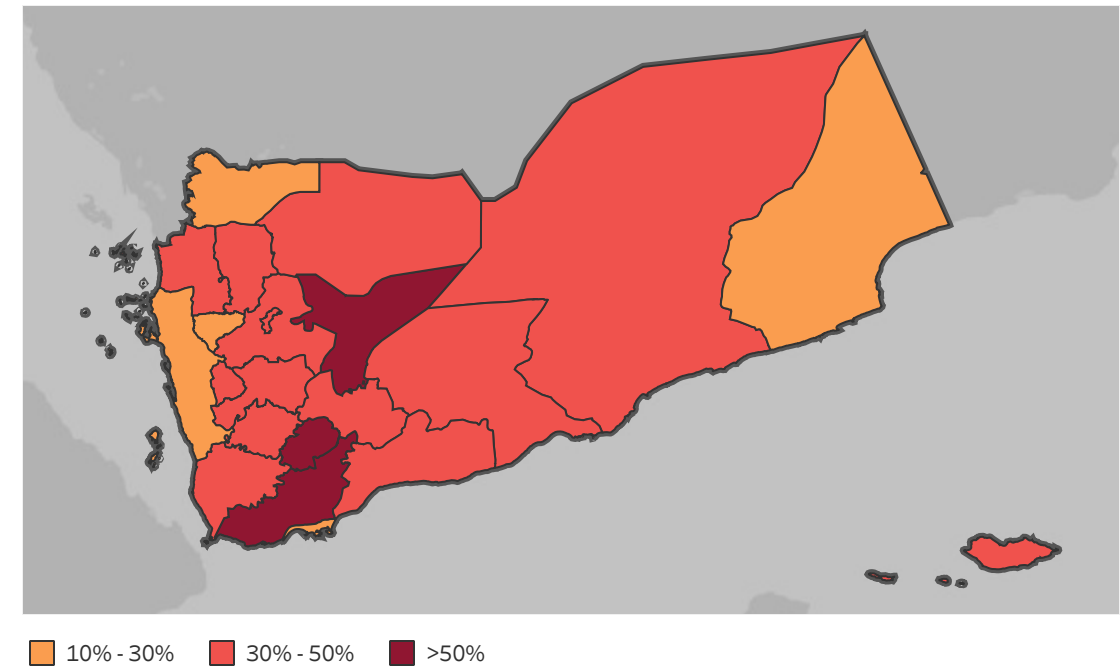
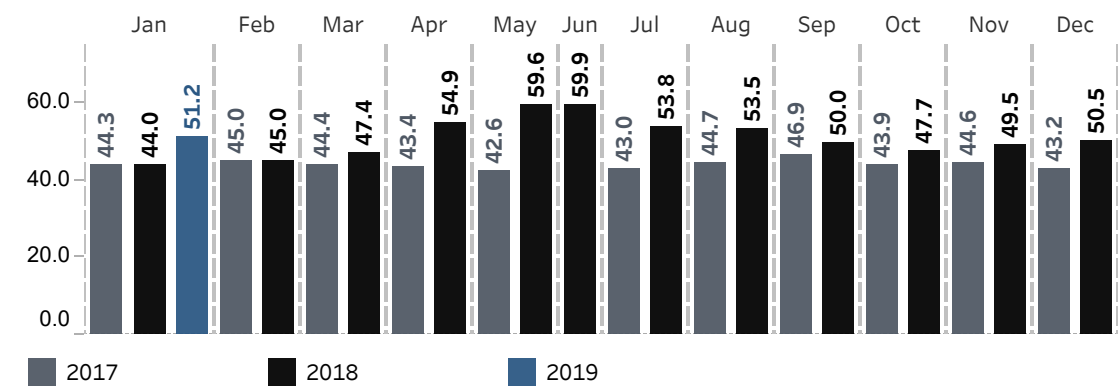


Figure 1: Mean FCS, 2016-2017-2018



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 December 2018 reaching in January 51.2 (Figure 1). This stabilization might be linked to the decrease of food and fuel prices that started in December 2018 as the Yemeni Rial depreciated slightly against the U.S. Dollar, following significant improvements in the exchange rate. During the reporting period, around 36 percent of the surveyed households reported having inadequate food consumption of which 10 percent poor and 26 percent borderline (Figure 2). However, the national share hides significant regional differences whereby for some governorates the proportion of households with inadequate food consumption was higher than 50 percent like in Ad Dali (51 percent), Marib (54 percent) and Lahj (60 percent). Regarding household diet by gender of the head of household, women-headed households reported a slightly worse diet than male-headed households. In total, 36 percent of women-headed households reported inadequate food consumption (7 percent poor and 31 percent borderline), compared to 36 percent of male headed house-holds reported inadequate food consumption (7 percent poor and 26 percent borderline) (Figure 3). Differences in the food consumption were also recorded between displaced and non-displaced households. Overall around 40 percent of the surveyed IDP households had inadequate diets (13 percent poor and 26 percent borderline food consumption) while among the households that have not been forced to leave their homes, 36 percent had inadequate diets (9 percent poor and 26 percent borderline food consumption) (Figure 3). Among IDPs, around 30 percent reported food assistance as their primary source of food and another 33 percent reported food purchased in markets and their main source of food.

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

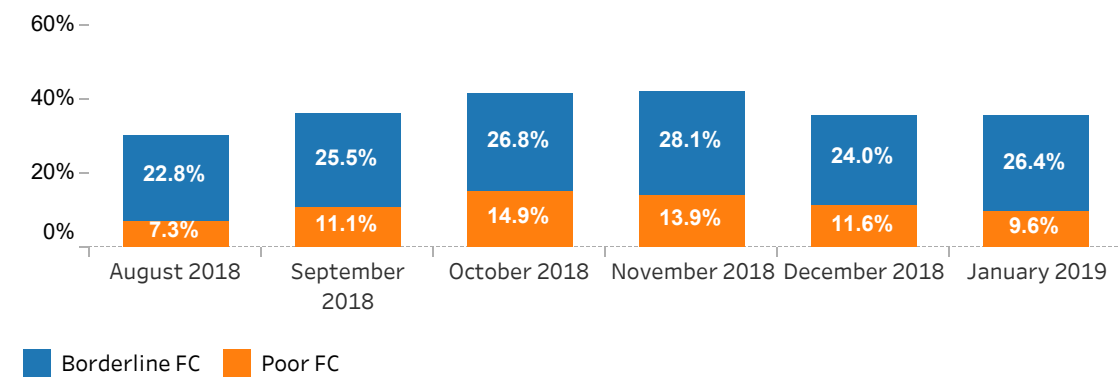
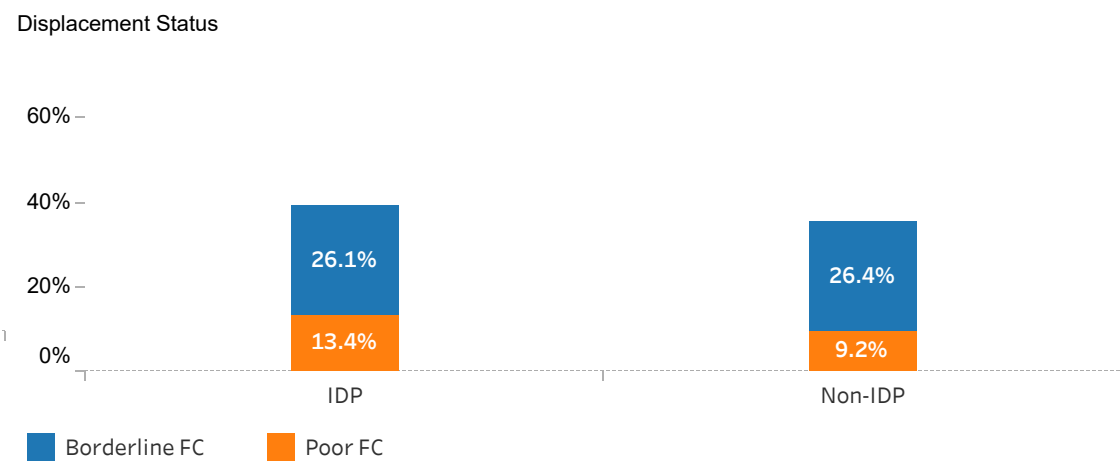


Figure 3: Households with poor and borderline Food Consumption by:



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Use of severe food-based continue to increase in Hajjah

Map 2: rCSI by governorate, December 2018

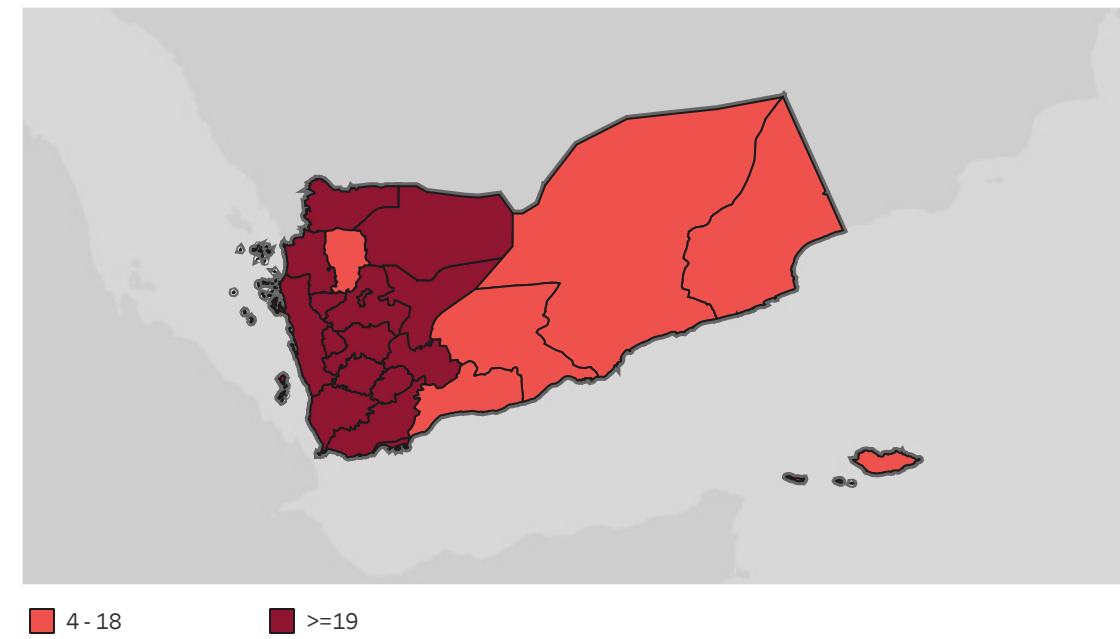
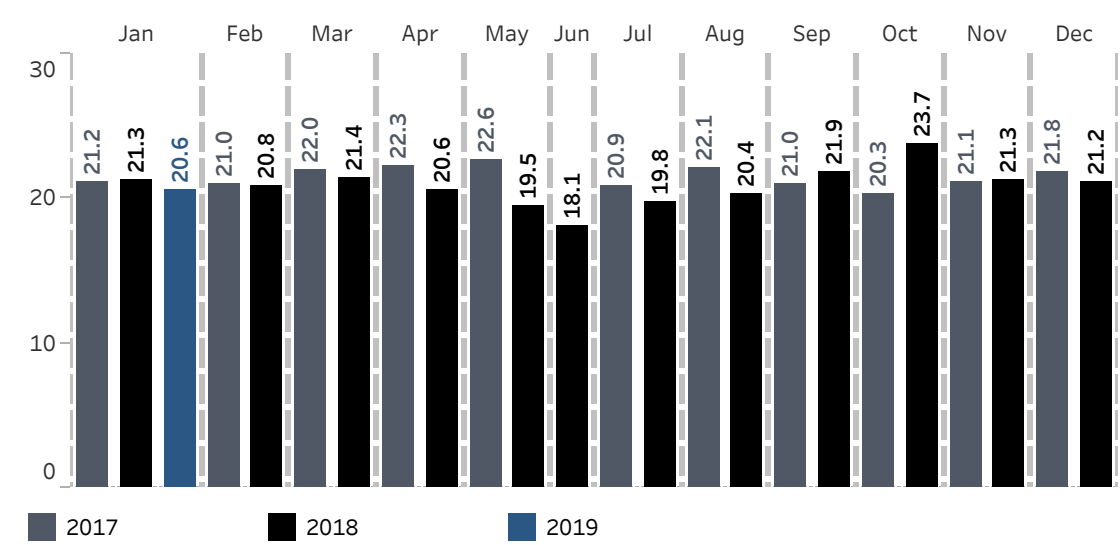


Figure 4: Mean rCSI, 2016-2017-2018



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

In order to make ends meet around 90 percent of the surveyed households were forced to resort to some form of food-based coping mechanism in January. The mean rCSI remains high (21), and households with poor (rCSI=26) and borderline (rCSI=23) food consumption more frequently use these strategies than those who have acceptable food consumption (rCSI=19). Common strategies adopted by households included limiting or reducing portion size at meals (66 percent), relying on less preferred or less expensive food (75 percent), reducing the number of meals eaten in a day (66 percent), borrowing food or relying on help from friends/relatives (56 percent), and restricting adult’s consumption so that children can eat (67 percent).

At governorate level, the highest average rCSI reported in January was in Hajjah (25) where households are resorting more frequently to coping strategies than in the other governorates to deal with lack of access to food. On average surveyed households in this governorate reported limiting or reducing portion size at meals (85 percent) four days a week, relying on less preferred or less expensive food (83 percent), reducing the number of meals eaten in a day (78 percent), borrowing food or relying on help from friends/relatives (73 percent), restricting adult’s consumption so that children can eat (83 percent) three times a week.

The majority of IDP households (95 percent) turn to a number of food-related coping strategies and they were found to be much more severe and more frequently used, compared to those that households not displaced turn to in order to cope. IDP households’ high reduced coping strategy score (25) reflects the high level of stress they are exposed to. A smaller share of IDPs cope by merely eating less preferred or less expensive food, limiting portion sizes or reducing the number of meals per day compared to non-displaced households. Instead, more resort to borrowing or rely on the help from family and friends.

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

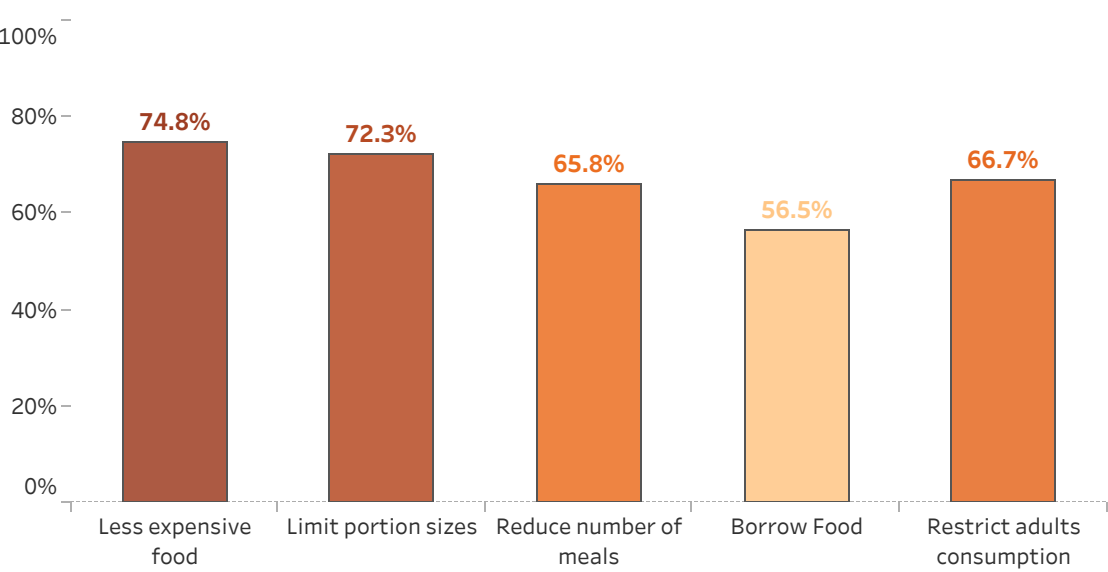
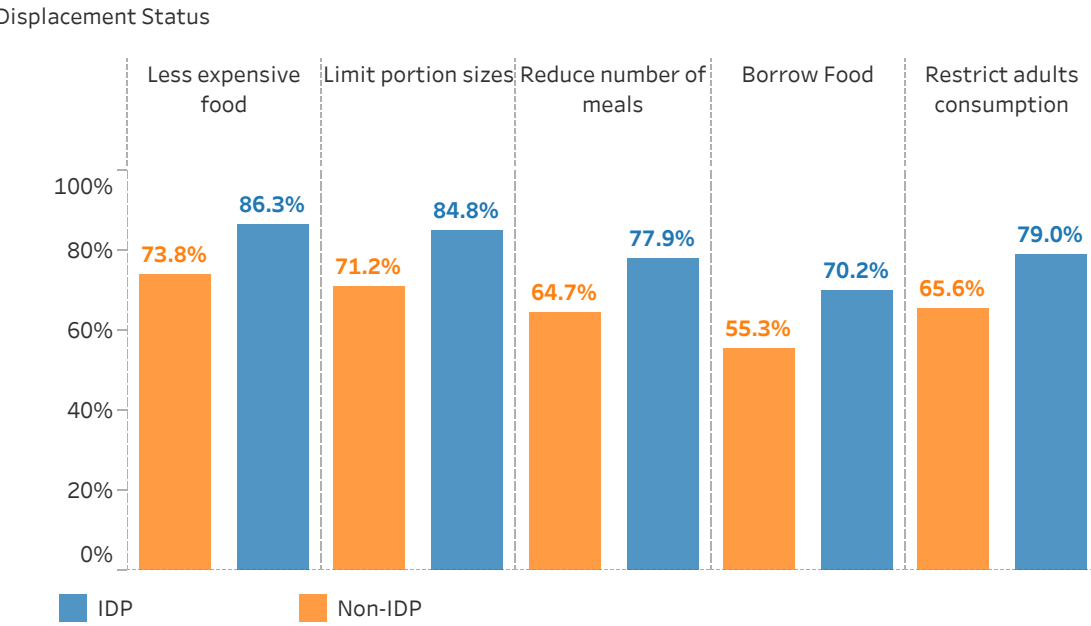


Figure 6: Percentage of households using negative coping strategies by:



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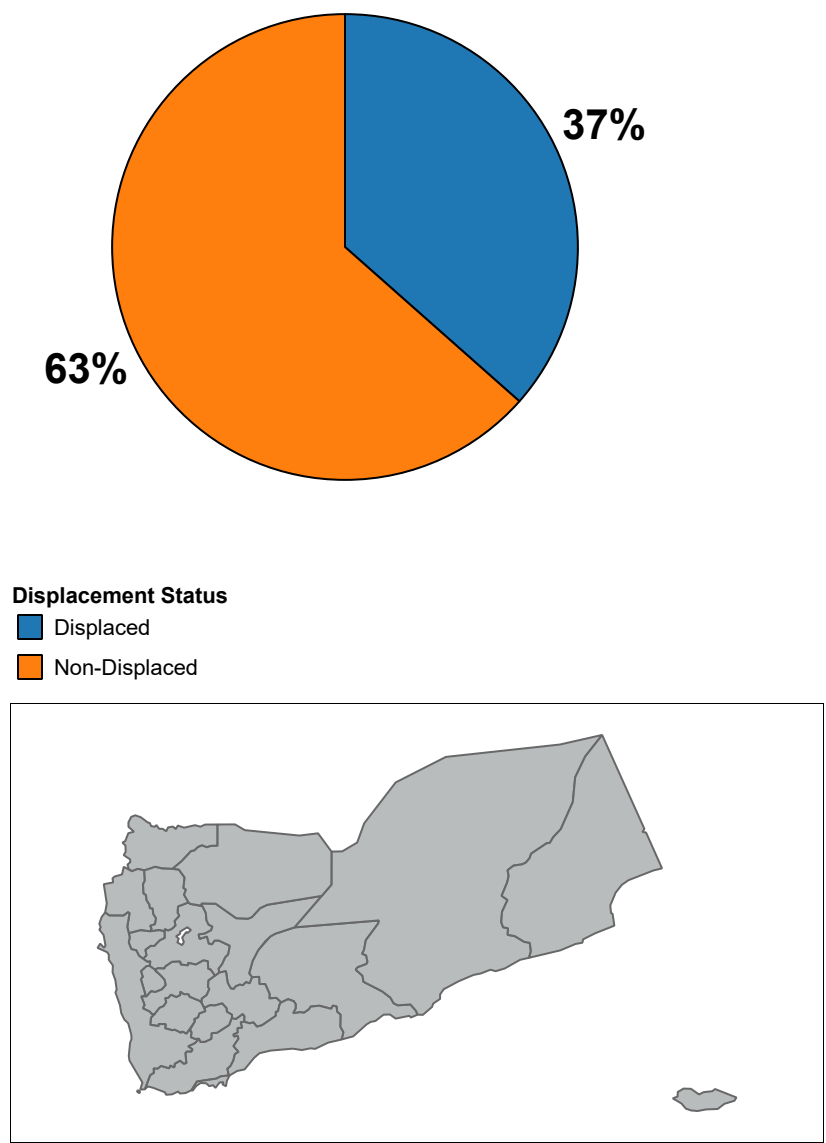
In the words of the respondents

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 food situation is very poor because of lack of money,. The only source of food for my family is food assistance".
Displaced female head of household –Al Hudaydha.

"Malnutrition, unemployment, frequent displacements, non-payment of salaries, monopoly of traders for goods, and siege are main problems that we have in Yemen" .
Non-displaced male head of household –Raymah.

"The food situation is bad because of the high prices and lack of basic supplies for living".
Displaced female head of household- Sana'a City.



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RESOURCES
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