



WFP - Marwa Awad



Key Points

- In most of the surveyed governorates around a quarter of the surveyed households reported inadequate food consumption.

- Households dietary diversity continues to be generally low and fresh products, especially fruits, are rarely consumed.

- Levels of coping strategies continue to increase particularly among displaced and households living in rural areas.

While overall food consumption remained stable, the use of coping strategies reached the highest levels in the past six months.

Situation Update

- Eight years on the beginning of the Syria crisis, the humanitarian crisis is far from over. The recently published Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) indicates that 11.7 million people require humanitarian assistance and protection inside the country in 2019. An estimated 6.5 million Syrians are food insecure and an additional 2.5 million people are at risk of food insecurity, this represents a 5 per cent decrease compared to the 2017 HNO. On 14 March, a record US\$7 billion was pledged for 2019 at the third "Supporting the future of Syria and the region" conference in Brussels.
- The recent surge in violence in northwest Syria have seen an alarming spike in civilian casualties and new displacement, with increased shelling in urban areas, including Idlib city. In March alone, 90 civilians were reportedly killed, nearly half of them children and over 86,500 people were displaced in February and March. As of March 2019, an estimated 2.7 million people in northwest Syria are in need of humanitarian assistance, including some 1.7 million IDPs. To support them, cross-border operations from Turkey provide regular services.
- On 7 March, the UN and Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) dispatched an interagency convoy delivering humanitarian assistance to meet the urgent needs of 50,000 people in Menbij and surrounding areas in northeast Aleppo Governorate. This was the first time that assistance was delivered to Menbij from Aleppo.
- The escalation of hostilities in Baghouz and surrounding areas in Deir-ez-Zor Governorate has triggered massive displacement. More than 73,000 people are currently hosted at the AlHole IDP camp in Al-Hasakeh Governorate, originally set up to host just over 40,000 people. Although the number of new arrivals has lessened over the past week, those that are arriving are in critical health condition, showing signs of distress and suffering from conflict-related injuries, malnutrition and fatigue.

sources: Briefing to the Security Council on the humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, 27 March 2019

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Key Figures



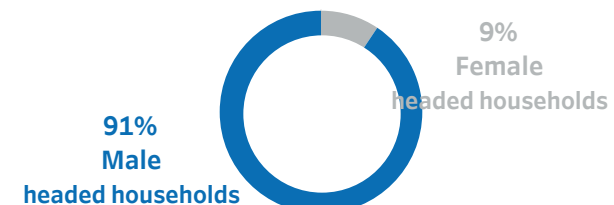
1,740
Households Surveyed



38%
Inadequate food consumption
in hard to reach areas of Rural Damascus



41
Average age of respondents

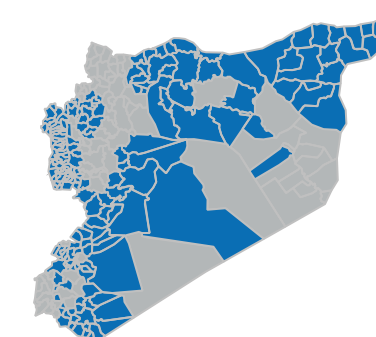


Methodology

This mVAM bulletin is based on data collected via live telephone interviews in March 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 stratas based on their accessibility. Since February 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

SYRIA mVAM Bulletin 35 -March 2019



Prevalence of households with poor food consumption increased in Aleppo, Damascus, Tartous and Lattakia

- In March 2019, in 14 out of the 16 surveyed aggregated areas, **more than a quarter of the households** reported having **inadequate food consumption** with a 10 percent increase recorded in **Damascus** and a 15 percent increase recorded in **hard-to-reach-areas of Rural Damascus**.

-Specifically, a significant increase in the share of households reporting **poor** food consumption has been recorded in accessible areas of **Aleppo, Damascus, Tartous and Lattakia**. (Figure 1). In **Aleppo**, nearly a quarter of the surveyed households reported a poor food consumption (22 percent).

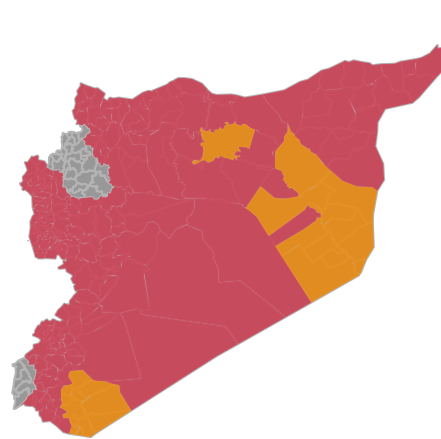
- Overall, **fruits and vegetables are rarely consumed** by households in Syria. Only in two aggregated areas namely Lattakia and hard-to-reach-areas of Homs and Hama, fruits are consumed more than twice a week while vegetable are consumed three or more times a week only in Dar'a, Lattakia, Tartous, Hama and hard-to-reach areas of Homs and Hama (Map2).

-In March, an improvement in terms of food consumption have been reported among surveyed **households living in urban areas**: a decrease of 6 percentage points has been recorded among households in urban areas reporting having a poor food consumption in comparison with February (Figure 2).

Map1 : Percentage of households by aggregated governorate with Poor and Borderline Food Consumption

National Average

Oct	29%
Nov	30%
Dec	32%
Jan	31%
Feb	32%
Mar	30%



*Areas displayed with gray color have no available information

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

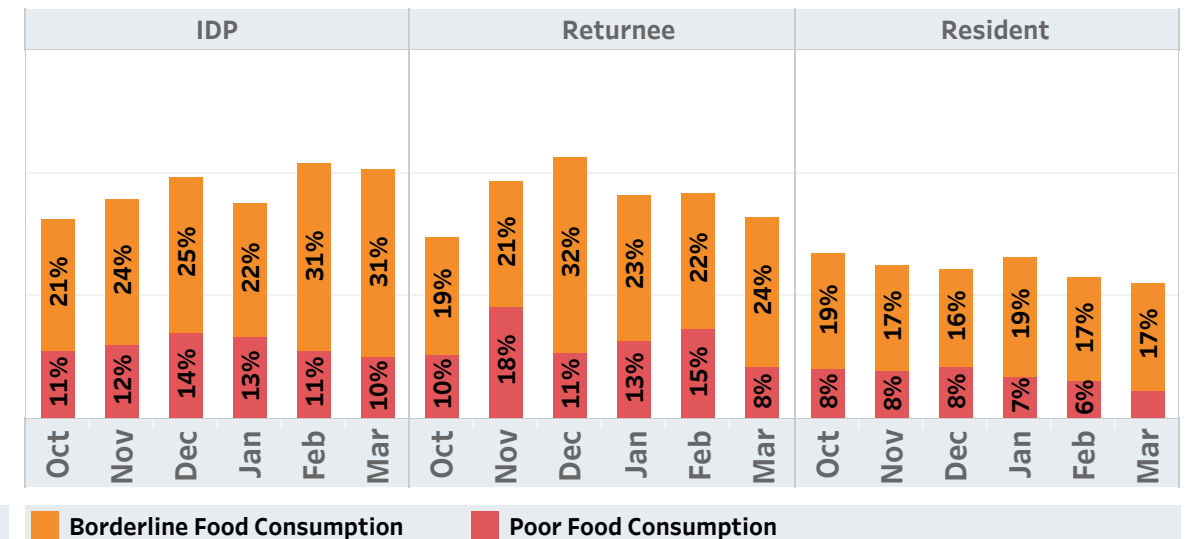
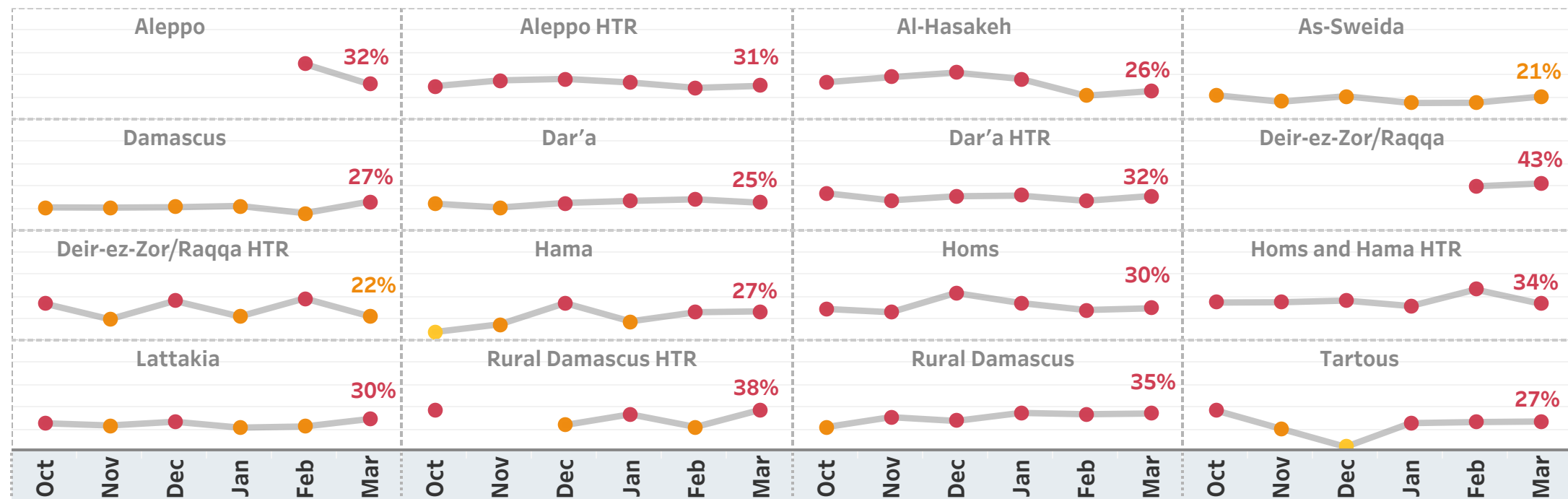


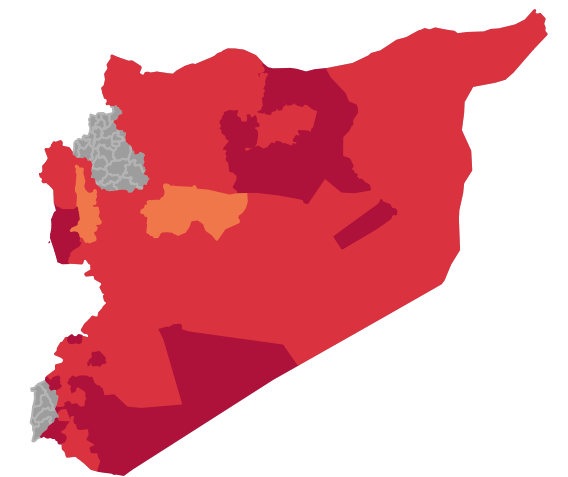
Figure 1 : Percentage of households by aggregated governorate with inadequate food consumption (October2018 - March 2019)



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

National Average

Oct	3
Nov	3
Dec	3
Jan	3
Feb	3
Mar	3
Apr	3



■ 2 days ■ 3 days ■ 4 days

*Areas displayed with gray color have no available information

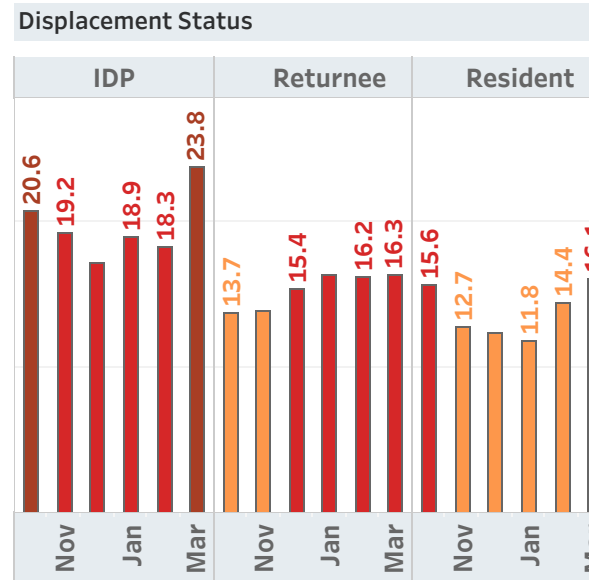
Engaging in food consumption based coping strategies is the highest in Homs and Hama

- In March, national average rCSI continue to increase reaching the highest levels in the past six months. Among those households who reported relying in food based coping strategies around 34 percent have inadequate food consumption.
 -In line with the food consumption findings a deterioration was noticed mainly in accessible areas of **Deir-ez-Zor and Ar-Raqqa, Rural Damascus and Tartous** (Figure 4). In these areas, the share of households who are relying on borrow food from families and friends, reduce number of meals eaten a day and restrict consumption of adults increase on average by 20 percentage points. These strategies are used on average **three times a week**.

- The level of **copied strategies** increased among **displaced households** reaching the **highest level** recorded since October 2018 (Figure 3). In specific, in March the percentage of IDPs who are limiting the size of their meal increased by 14 percentage points, while for the other strategies an increase of around 10 percent has been recorded. (Figure 5). On the other hand, more resident households seem also to restrict consumption of adults, reduce the number of meals eaten per day and buying food on credit in comparison with February.

- Households living in **rural areas** are showing **higher levels of coping** compared to households living in cities. In addition, the mean rCSI in rural areas has significantly increased from 16.2 in February to almost 20 in March (Figure 3) as more households are resorting to reduce the number of meals eaten per day and restricting consumption of adults.

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



Map3 : Mean rCSI by aggregated governorates (March 2019)

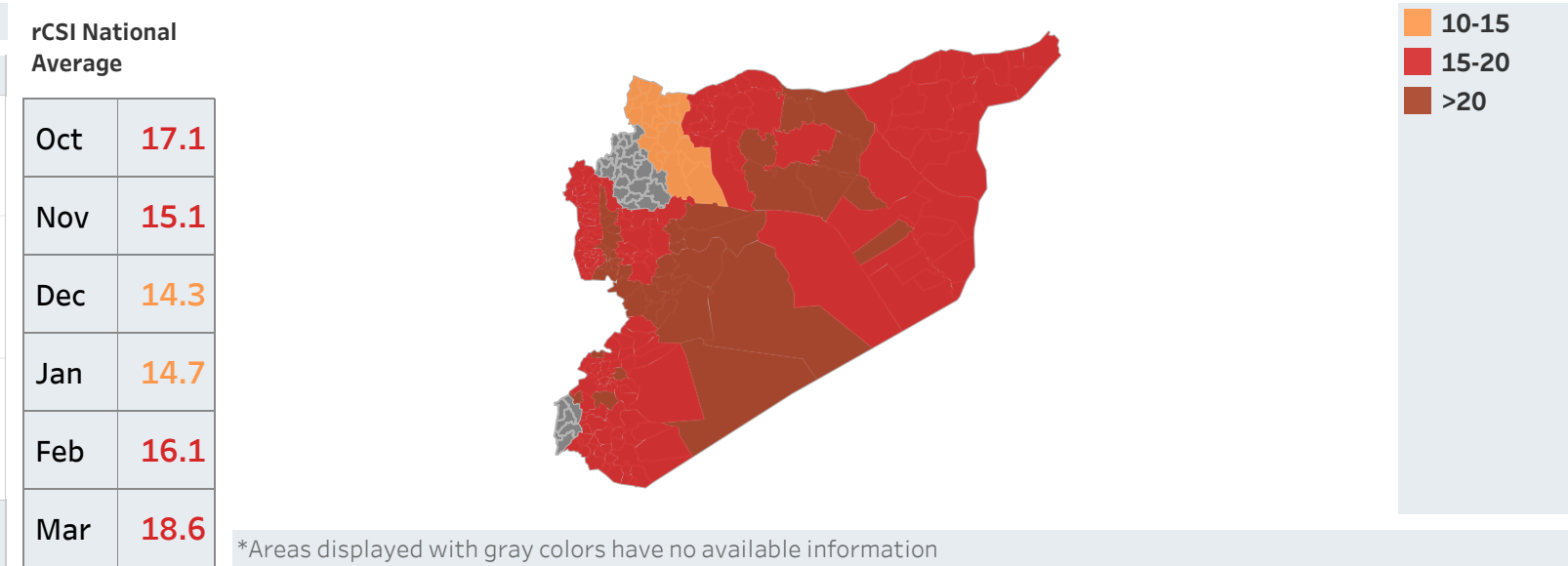


Figure 4 : Mean rCSI by aggregated governorates in the last six months

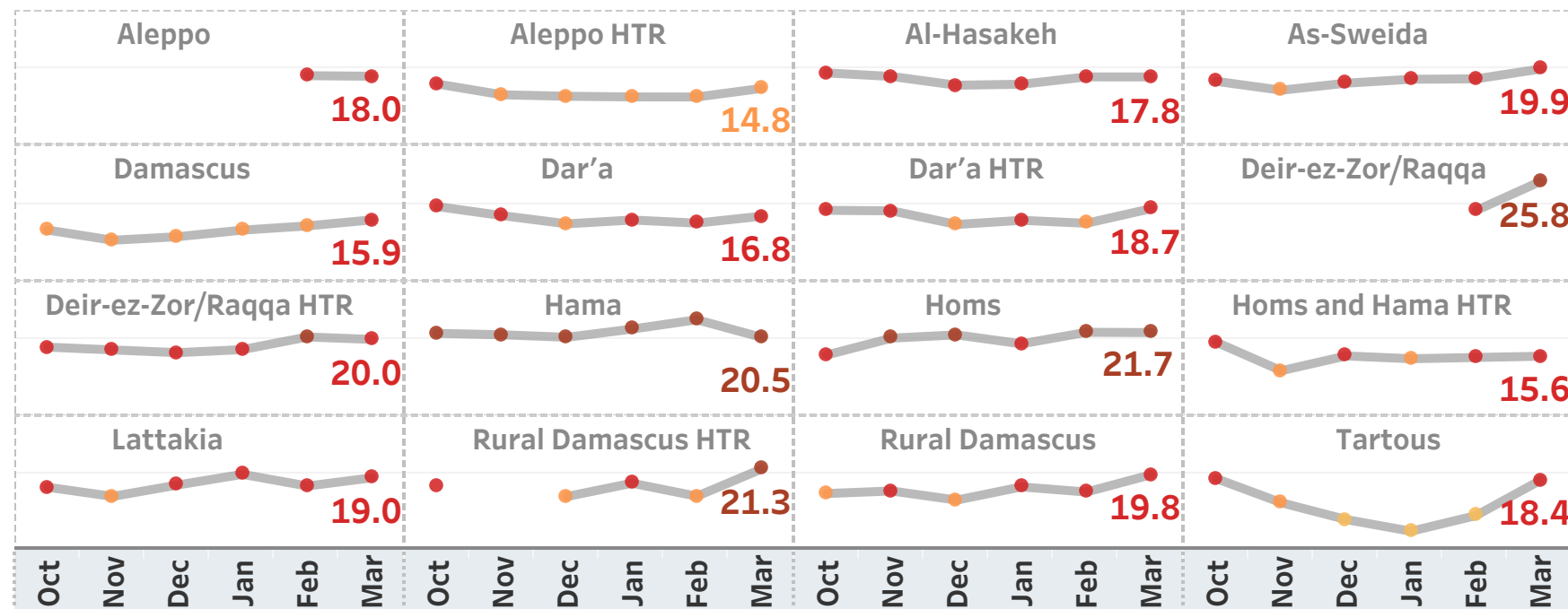
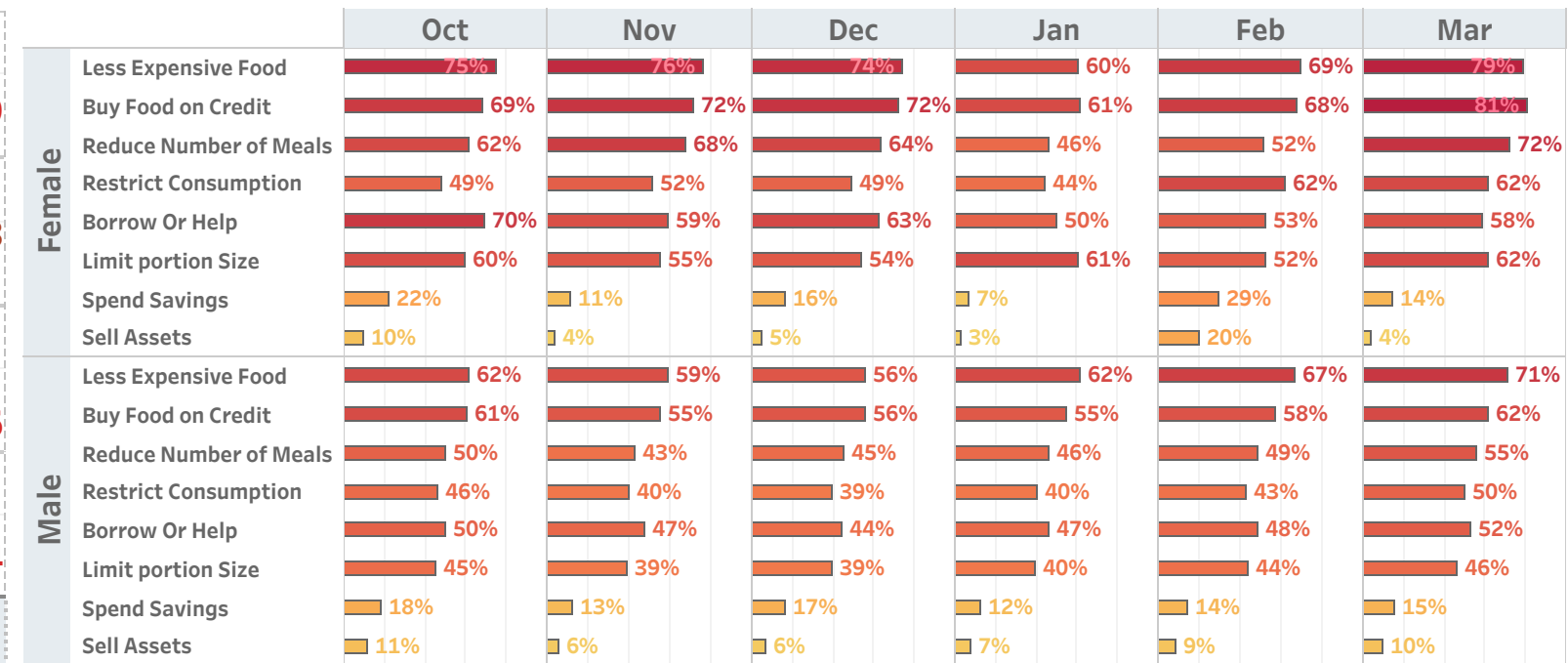


Figure 5: Percentage of households who adopted coping strategies in the last six months according to Head of Household Sex





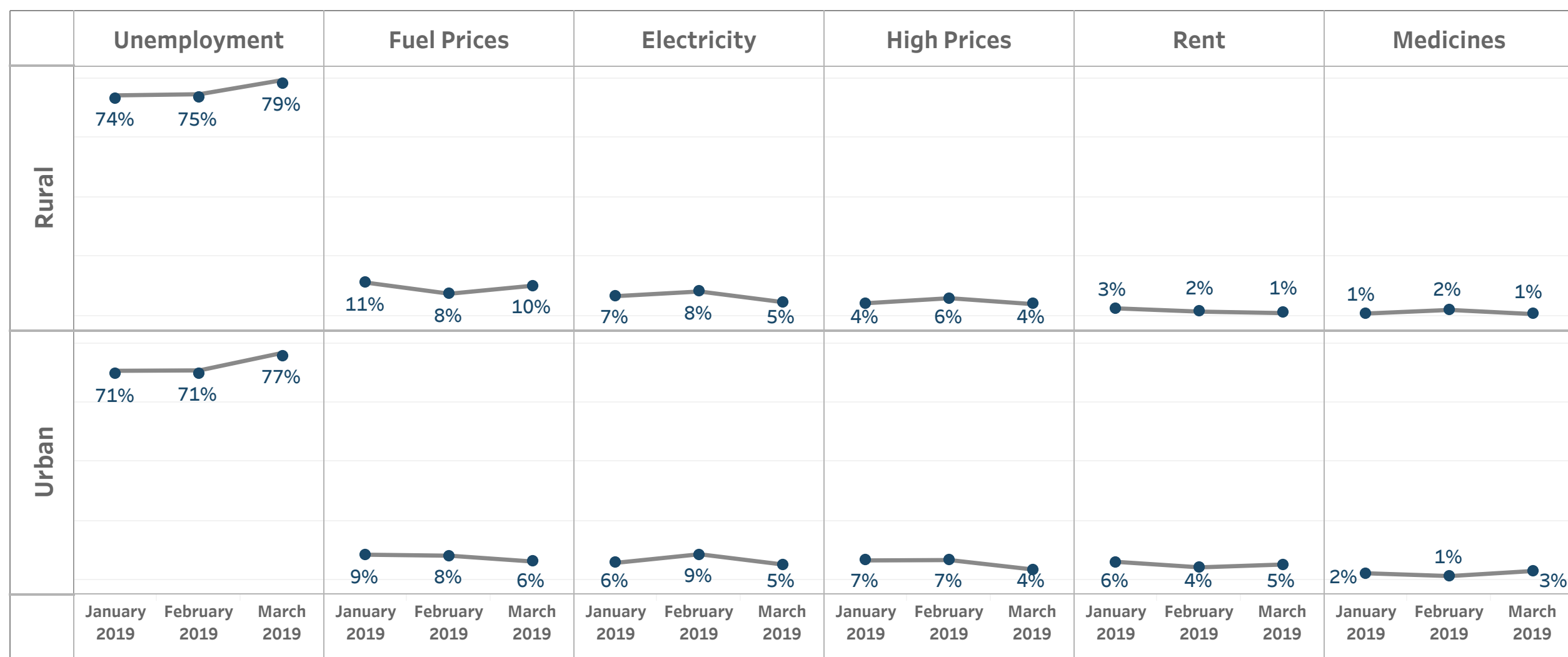
In the words of respondents

Each month, respondents are asked to identify the main problems their families are facing. Below is an overview for the main problems reported by households in urban and rural areas starting from January 2019



vam
food security analysis

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



For Further Information

Arif Husain
arif.husain@wfp.org

Siddharth Krishnaswamy
siddharth.krishnaswamy@wfp.org

Eliana Favari
eliana.favari@wfp.org

Amira Swedan
amira.swedan@wfp.org

mVAM Resources Website

http://vam.wfp.org/sites/mvam_monitoring/