



WFP - Marwa Awad



Key Points

- In April one in three of the surveyed Syrian households had inadequate food consumption in Al-Hasakeh, hard-to-reach-areas of Homs and Hama and Rural Damascus reflecting a diet of low and medium diversity.

- Food security deteriorates in governorates affected by the recent escalation of violence and displacement especially Hama, Homs, Deir-ez-Zor, Raqqa and Al-Hasakeh.

- Poor food security indicators were recorded for households led by women in all surveyed areas.

Escalation of conflict incidents continues to drive food insecurity across Syria

Situation Update

- In April, violence and hostilities escalated in and around the demilitarized zone in north-western Syria, including a new wave of shelling and airstrikes across Idleb, North Hama, and Western Aleppo striking schools, markets and displacement camps. Since 1st February 2019, the total number of displaced people coming from northern Hama and southern Idleb reached 290,784.

- Idleb is the last refuge for Syrians who were forced to flee conflict in other parts of the country; its pre-war population of 1.5 million has doubled to 3 million people, and two-thirds of them depend on humanitarian aid just to survive.

- In Northeast Syria, Al-Hol camp's current population now stands at over 73,000 people. The influx has slowed since the end of March, but there remain significant concerns, including a high burden on existing health services and limited capacity at secondary health care and trauma facilities. The vast majority of the camp population are women and children, with around 67 percent of the camp population under the age of 18.

- In Rukban (South Syria), over 7,000 people have left the site in recent weeks. Those who already left organized their own transportation to the 55km border area, from where they have been transported to four collective shelters in Homs Governorate. Some people – mostly men – are remaining in the shelters in Homs for a long period while they complete bureaucratic processes. In April the UN accessed the shelters in Homs for the first time. The UN continues to advocate for full, unimpeded and sustained access to shelters, as well as areas of origin and destination, and to adequately support the humanitarian needs of those leaving Rukban.

Briefing to the Security Council on the humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, 24 April 2019

SYRIA: HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE IN AL HOL CAMP Situation Report No. 3 – As of 1 May 2019

Key Figures



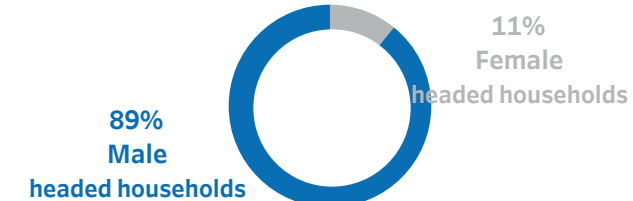
1,695
Households Surveyed



28%
Inadequate food consumption on national level



42
Average age of respondents



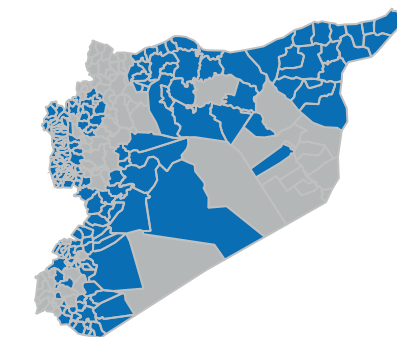
Methodology

This mVAM bulletin is based on data collected via live telephone interviews in April 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 March 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, Idleb 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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Prevalence of households with inadequate food consumption increased in Al-Hasakeh, As Sweida and hard-to-reach areas of Deir-ez-Zor and Raqqa

- In April 2019, **one in three households** reported having **inadequate food consumption** in **Al-Hasakeh, hard-to-reach-areas of Homs and Hama and Rural Damascus**. Inadequate food consumption increased by 11 percentage points in **Al-Hasakeh** and by six percentage points in **As Sweida** and hard-to-reach areas of **Deir-ez-Zor and Raqqa** when compared with March.

-Specifically, a significant increase in the share of households reporting **poor food consumption** has been recorded in accessible areas of **Hama, hard-to-reach-areas of Deir-ez-Zor and Raqqa**, and for the second consecutive month in **Tartous** reaching the highest percentage across surveyed aggregated areas (19 percent) (Figure 1). In Tartous, the average households' consumption of protein decreased from five days a week in February to three in April, the consumption of pulses dropped from two days a week in February to only one day a week in April and fruits from four days a week in February to two days in April.

-In April, a deterioration in terms of food consumption has been reported among surveyed **female-headed households**: a nine-percentage point increase in poor food consumption has been recorded among female-headed compared to March (Figure 2).

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

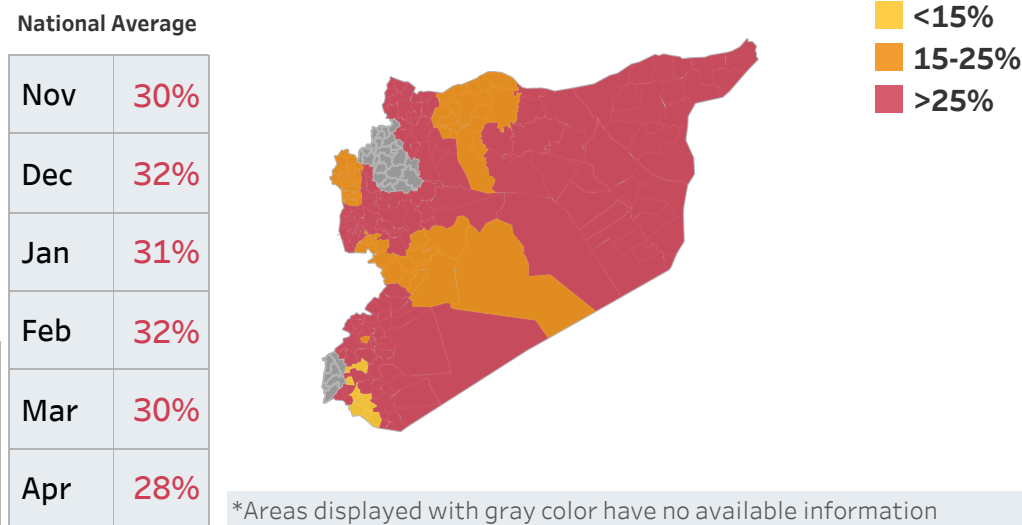


Figure 2 : Percentage of households with poor and borderline FC in the last six months according to Displacement Status

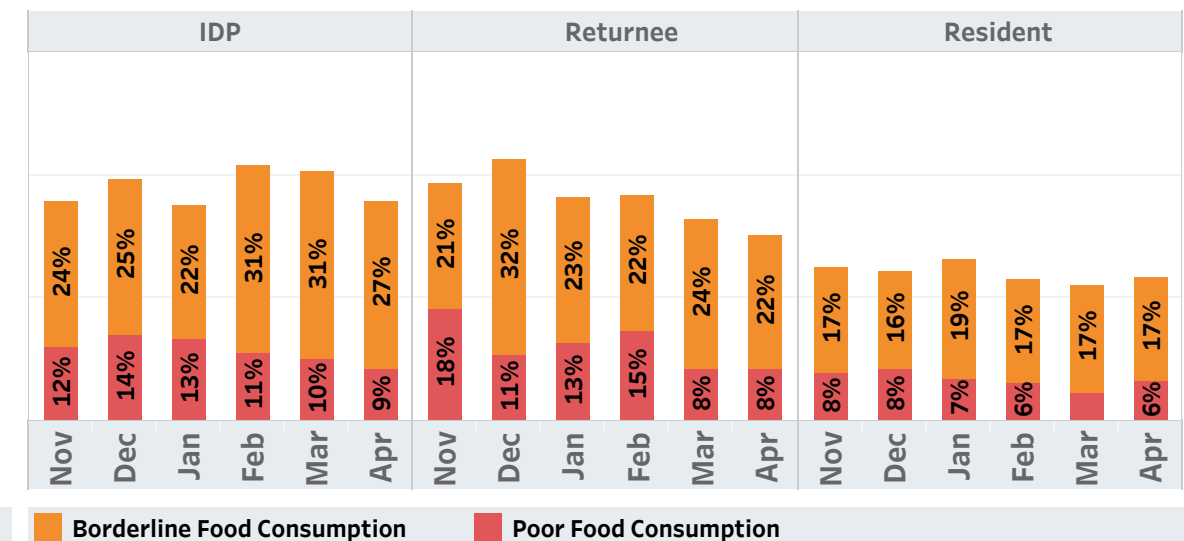
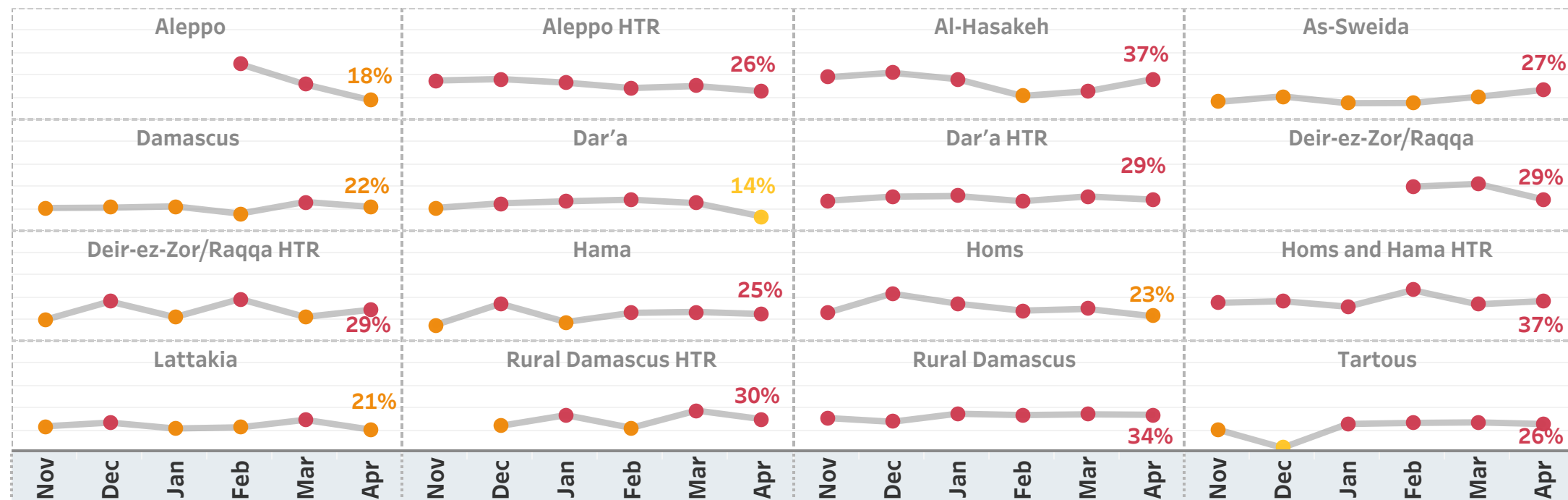
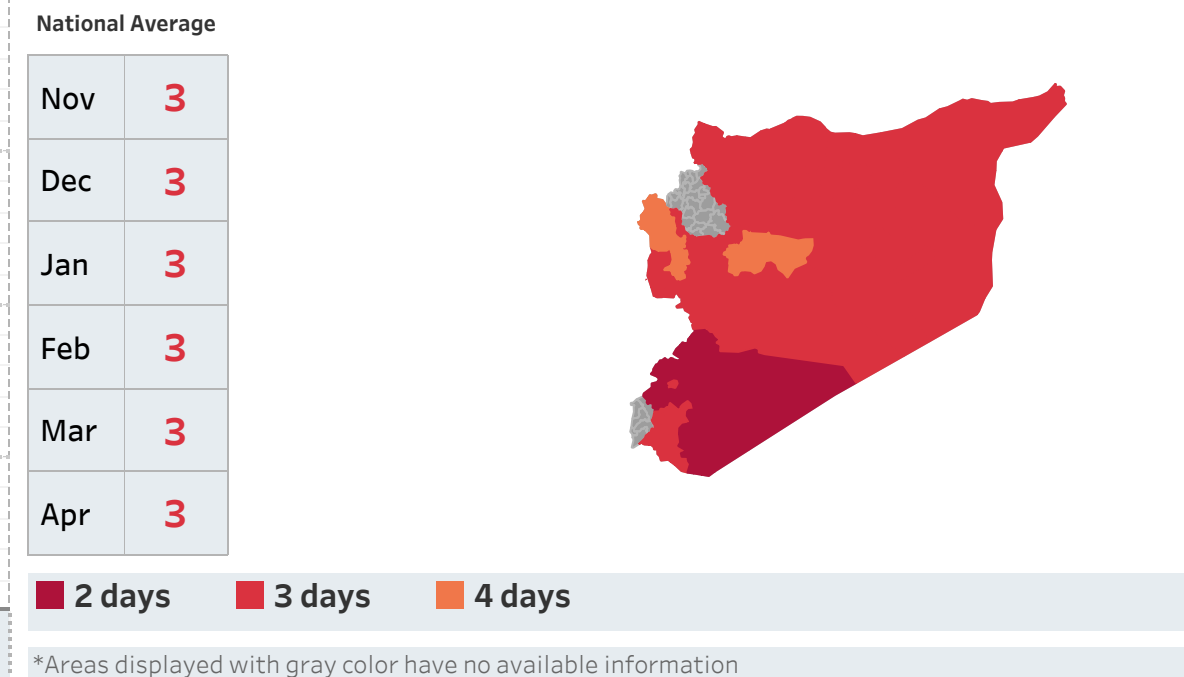


Figure 1 : Percentage of households by aggregated governorate with inadequate food consumption (November 2018 - April 2019)



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



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Use of coping strategies is high in areas affected by conflict and displacement

- In April, the national average rCSI remains at the same levels as March with 85 percent of the households reporting to rely on at least one of the food based coping strategies in the week prior to the survey. Among those households who reported relying on food-based coping strategies almost one in three have inadequate food consumption.

- Looking at the aggregated areas, nine out of the 16 surveyed aggregated areas reported an average rCSI higher than the national average: in specific, households continue to rely widely and more often on food based coping strategies in the areas most affected by the current escalation of conflict and displacement. In Hama, Homs, hard-to-reach areas of Deir-ez-Zor and Raqqa and Al-Hasakeh, households not only engage more frequently in restricting food consumption of adults and limiting portion sizes but also almost 70 percent of the households in these areas have to buy food on credit to cope with the lack of money to purchase food.

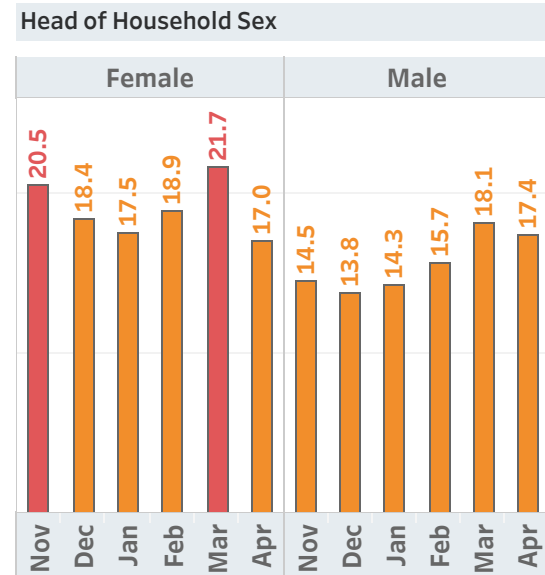


- Overall across Syria, the level of coping strategies decreased among displaced households as IDPs rely less frequently on buying less expensive and preferred food and restrict consumption of adults in favor of children. (Figure 5).



- Households receiving assistance are reporting relying less frequently on coping strategies than households reporting not receiving any food assistance (Figure 3). In addition, the highest levels of coping were registered among households who reported "gift" as their primary source of food, followed by those who are relying on food assistance as their primary source of food.

Figure 3 : Mean rCSI in the last six months according to Head of Household Sex



Map3 : Mean rCSI by aggregated governorates (April 2019)

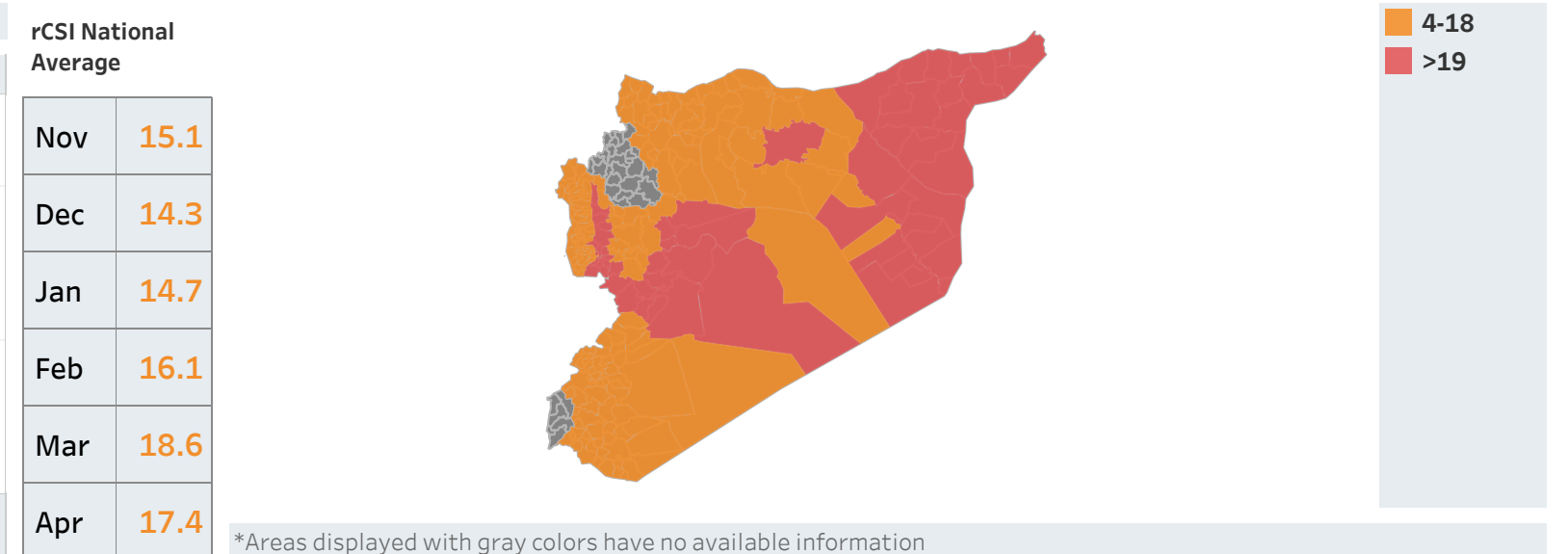


Figure 4 : Mean rCSI by aggregated governorates in the last six months

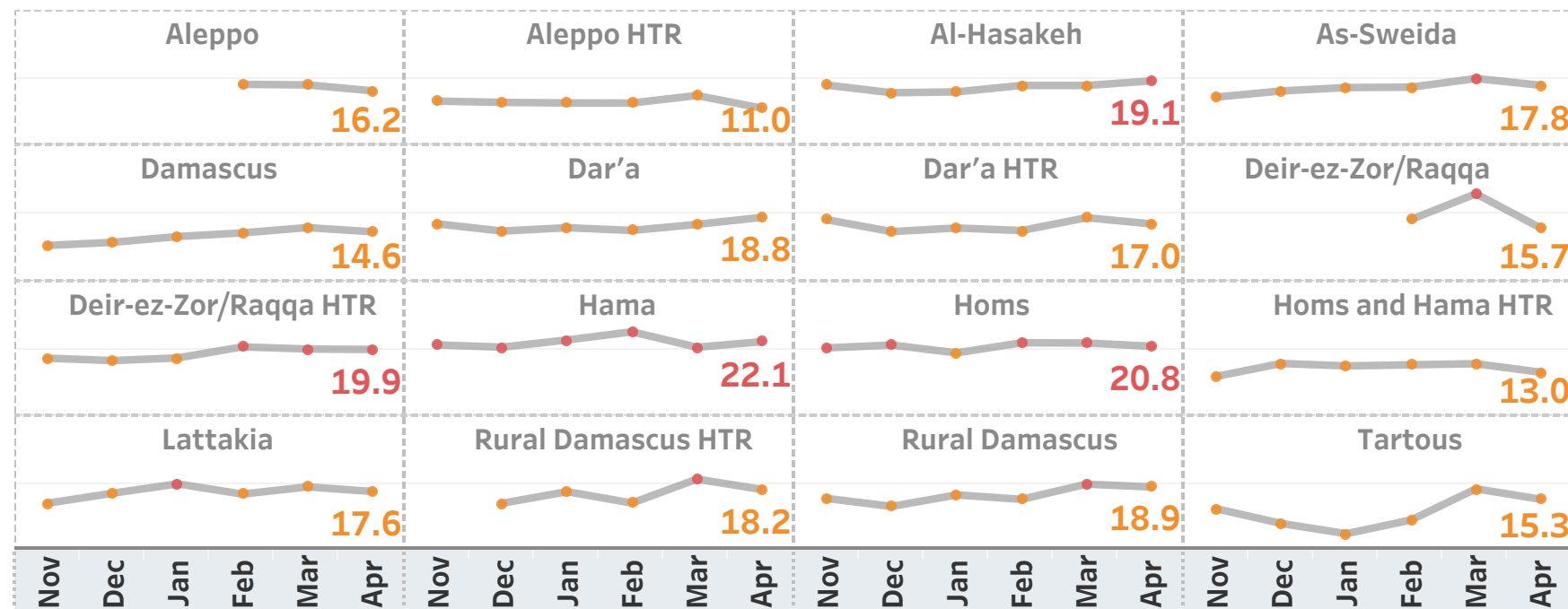
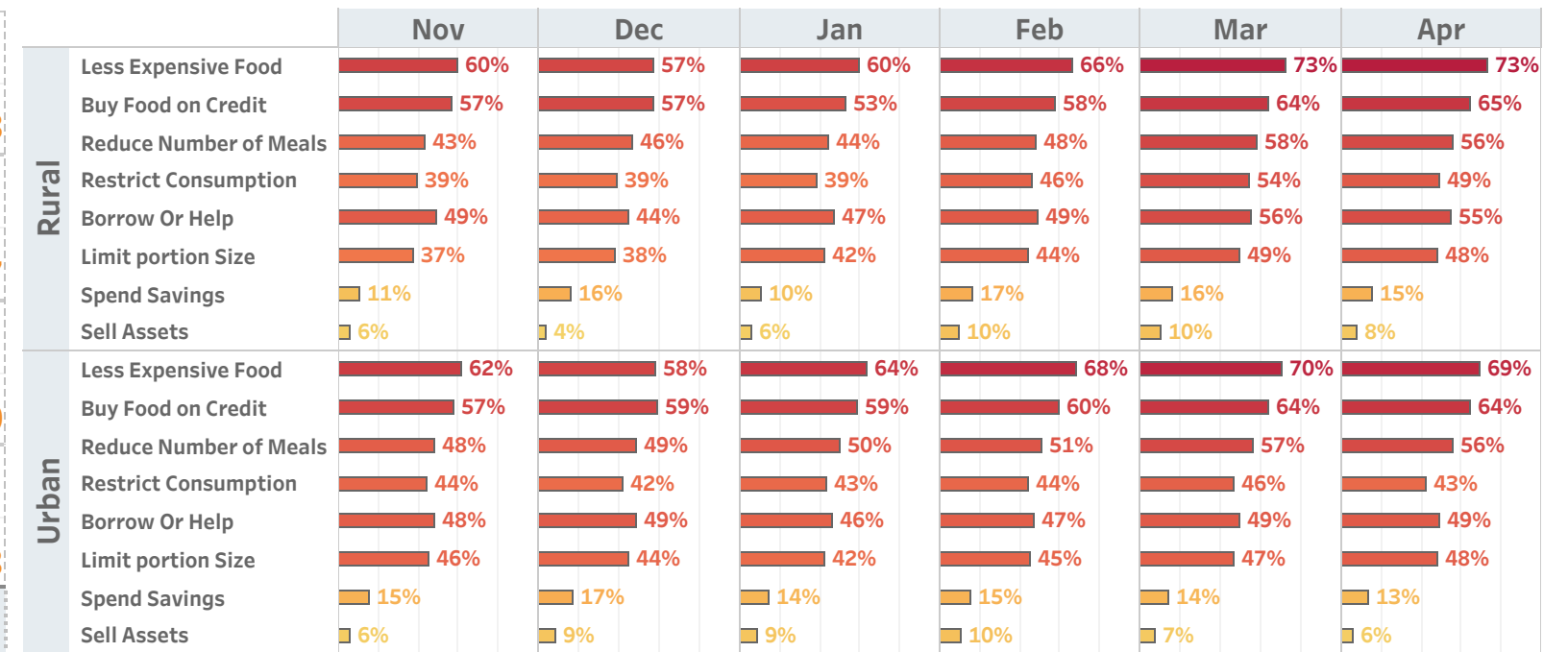


Figure 5: Percentage of households who adopted coping strategies in the last six months according to Urban/Rural





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 according to their displacement status in April 2019 in comparison with April 2018.



vam
food security analysis

Figure 6: Main problems faced by surveyed households (April 2018 - April 2019)

	IDP		Resident		Returnee	
	April 2018	April 2019	April 2018	April 2019	April 2018	April 2019
Unemployment	77%	83%	80%	79%	84%	75%
Rent	14%	8%	1%	1%		1%
Fuel Prices		4%	1%	7%		8%
Electricity	1%	2%	3%	3%	6%	10%
High Prices	6%	2%	12%	9%	6%	5%
Medicines	3%	2%	3%	1%	3%	1%



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**mVAM Resources
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