YEMEN mVAM Bulletin no.44 (April 2019)

Key Points
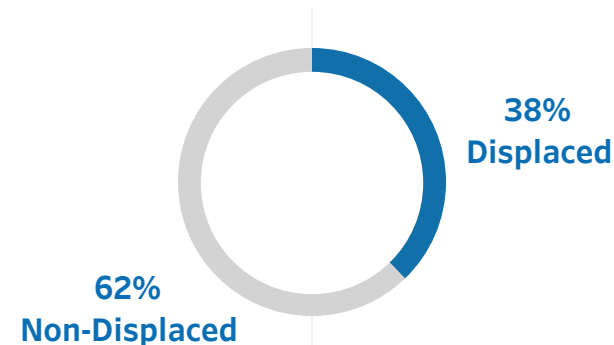
Households food consumption deteriorated in April as more respondents are reporting having a borderline and poor food consumption in Al Bayda, Al Hudaydah, Ad Dali and Amran.

The lack of dietary diversity is a severe problem experienced by most surveyed women. In particular; pregnant and lactating women are at high risk of inadequate intake of micronutrients resulting from diets dominated by starchy staples.

Unemployment and lack of income opportunities is reportedly the main obstacle faced by households in order to access an adequate food consumption.

The biggest increases in the share of households experiencing multiple deprivations in April were recorded in in Al Maharah (security deprivation), and Al Hudaydah (food deprivation).

Upon analyzing 5 months of displacement-related data; it is seen that levels of violence were approximately ten times worse in the governorates from which IDP's migrated from as compared to governorates to which IDP's migrated to.

Situation Update

While the ceasefire in Hudaydah has largely held, an escalation of violence has intensified in other parts of the country.

Fighting in Hajjah, just north of Hudaydah, has triggered another wave of population movement: by the end of March, up to 68,000 families were estimated to be displaced within or from Hajjah; 41,000 families are in Abs and 2,500 are in northern Al Hudaydah.

Conflict has also intensified on front lines in Al Dhale'e and along the northern border in Sa'ada and Al Jawf, displacing thousands more families.

Humanitarian agencies are also confronting an alarming resurgence in the cholera epidemic. So far in 2019, nearly 200,000 suspected cases of cholera have been reported. That's almost three times as many as in the same period last year.

Key Figures

2,460
Households surveyed

42
Respondents' average age

95%
Not Acceptable Dietary Diversity Among Women

38%
Displaced

62%
Non-Displaced

mVAM Methodology for Yemen

WFP | vam food security analysis wfp.org

WORLD BANK GROUP

Yemen Humanitarian Update, April 2019 | Issue 6

World Health Organisation's Yemen cholera dashboard

Women and Dietary Diversity

In April 2019, we interviewed 432 women with the MDD-W module. Overall, 95 percent of the surveyed women did not reach the MDD-W and consumed only three food groups during the day before the survey (Figure 1).

Figure 2 shows the percentage of women who consumed the different food groups in the day before the survey. Women who did not reach a MDD had a diet based on only starchy **staples, pulses and dairy products** (mainly milk and yoghurt). Less than 10 percent of the women in this group consumed nutrient-rich foods groups such as Vitamin A rich fruits and vegetables, eggs, nuts, seeds and other fruits.

Pregnant and lactating women are less likely to reach a minimally acceptable diet and are consuming less eggs, meat and green leafy vegetables than women who are not pregnant. Although the vast majority of women across all groups do not meet their minim dietary diversity requirements, lack of access to adequate amounts and variety of food places pregnant women at greater risk of complications during pregnancy and delivery and can increase the likelihood of low birth weight, child mortality and serious disease.
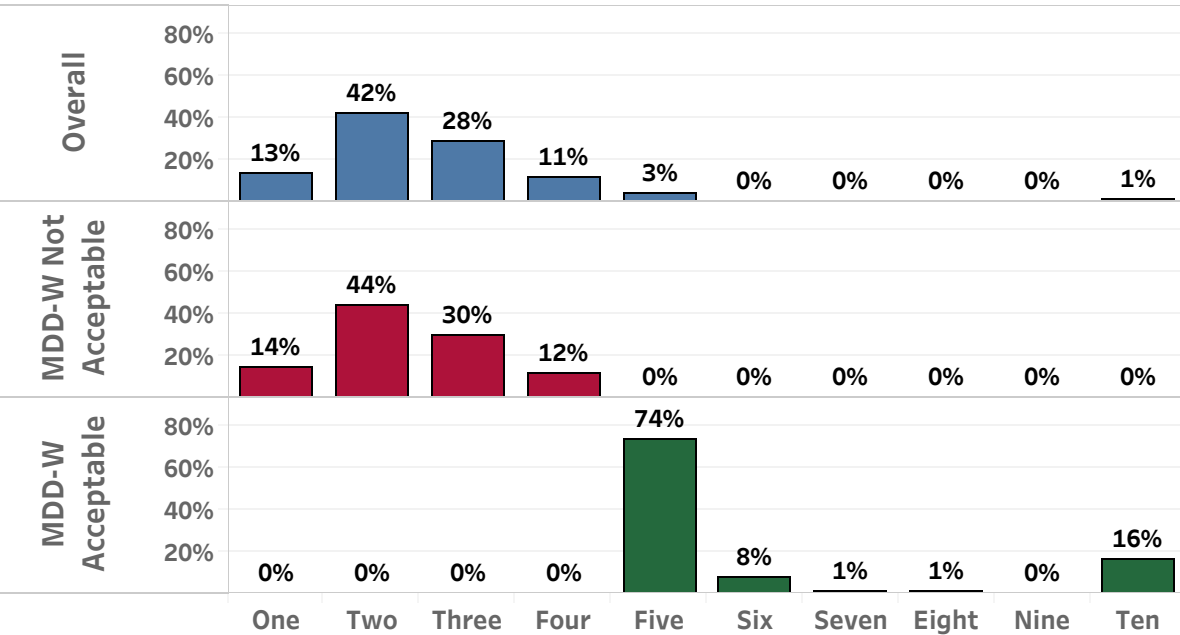
Figure 2: Average food consumption of households who responded to MDD-W module and of households who did not respond to MDD-W module.

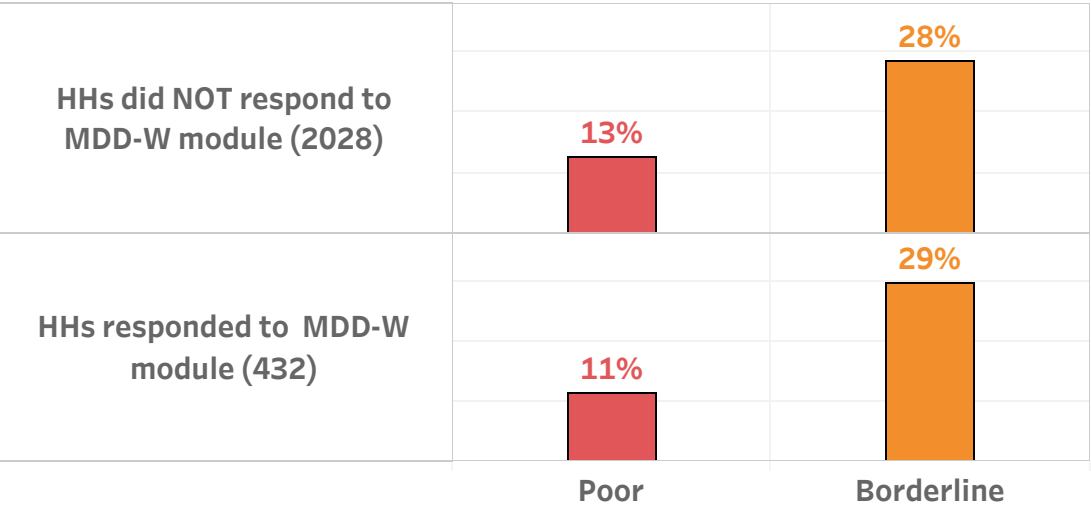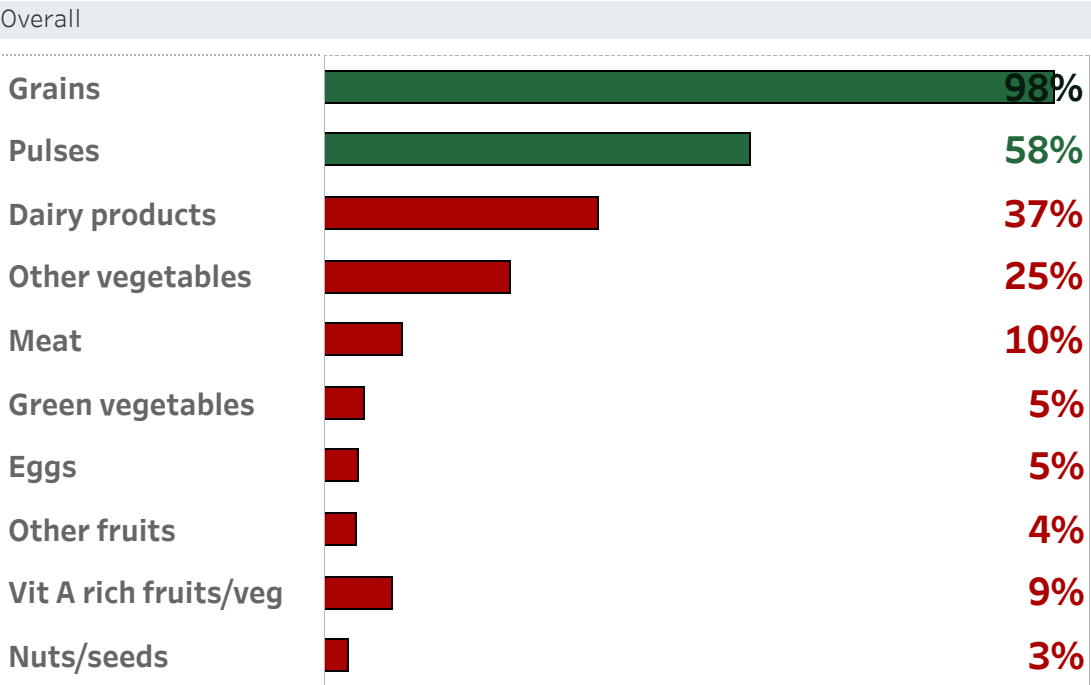HHs did NOT respond to MDD-W module (2028): Poor 13%, Borderline 28%
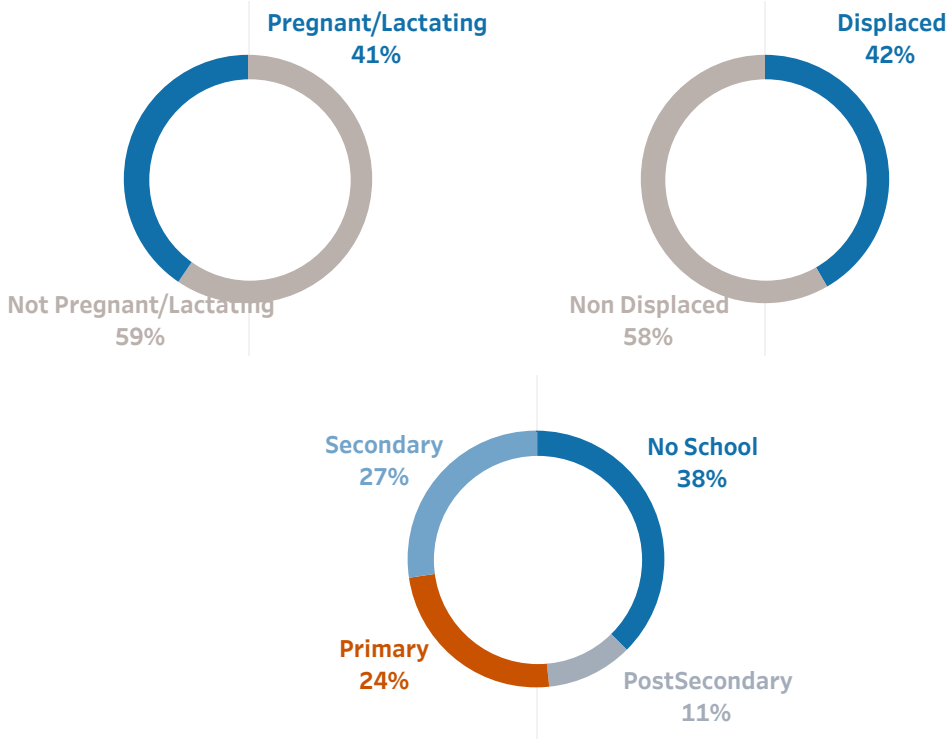HHs responded to MDD-W module (432): Poor 11%, Borderline 29%

432 Women respondants

32 Average of respondants age

95% Not Acceptable Dietary Diversity (consumed less than 5 food groups)

Figure 1: Average Number of food groups consumed by women

Overall: One 13%, Two 42%, Three 28%, Four 11%, Five 3%, Six 0%, Seven 0%, Eight 0%, Nine 0%, Ten 1%

MDD-W Not Acceptable: One 14%, Two 44%, Three 30%, Four 12%, Five 0%, Six 0%, Seven 0%, Eight 0%, Nine 0%, Ten 0%

MDD-W Acceptable: One 0%, Two 0%, Three 0%, Four 0%, Five 74%, Six 8%, Seven 1%, Eight 1%, Nine 0%, Ten 16%

Figure 3: Percentage of women consumption for each food group

Overall

Food group	Percentage
Grains	98%
Pulses	58%
Dairy products	37%
Other vegetables	25%
Meat	10%
Green vegetables	5%
Eggs	5%
Other fruits	4%
Vit A rich fruits/veg	9%
Nuts/seeds	3%

Pregnant/Lactating 41%
Not Pregnant/Lactating 59%

Displaced 42%
Non Displaced 58%

No School 38%
Secondary 27%
Primary 24%
PostSecondary 11%

Additional Deprivations and Multidimensional Poverty Analysis

The Yemen mVAM began collecting information on deprivations in health, education, and security in March 2019. The April 2019 survey demonstrates that there has been a slight increase in the share of the population deprived in each dimension (Figure 4), resulting in a worsening of the share of people experiencing at least one deprivation and an increase in the share of people experiencing multiple deprivations at once.

The slight worsening of welfare in each dimension has affected some regions more than others. There are **seven governorates**, which encompass over one-third of the population, where virtually **everybody surveyed experienced at least one deprivation** (Map 1). Similarly, these are the governorates with the highest share of respondents that report experiencing multiple deprivations at once.
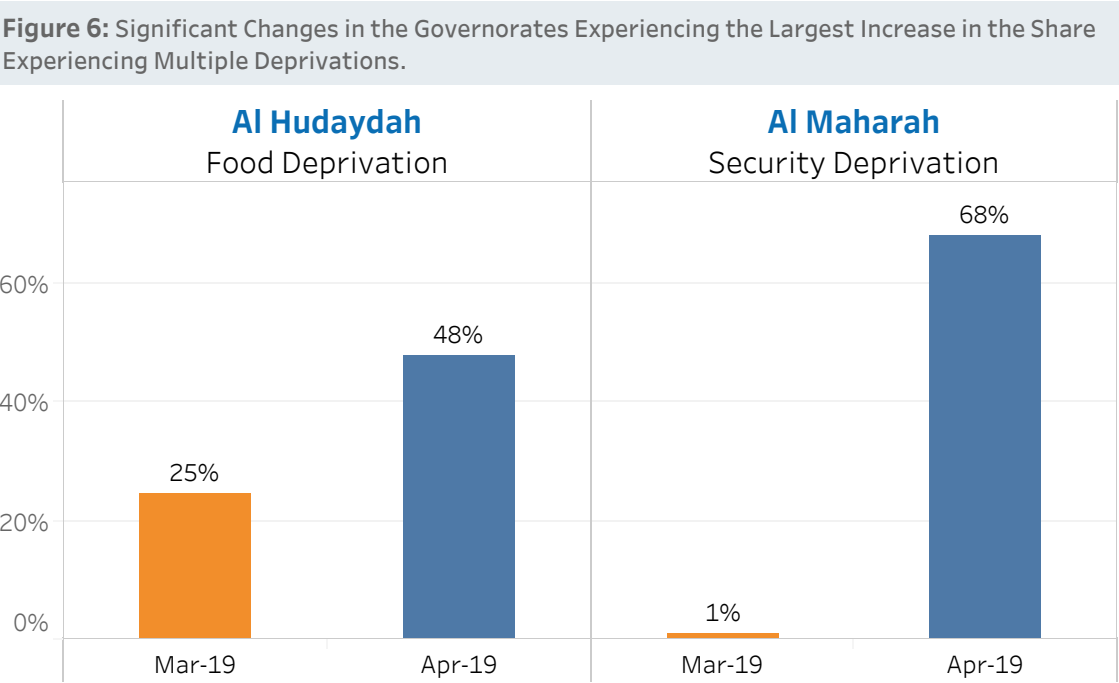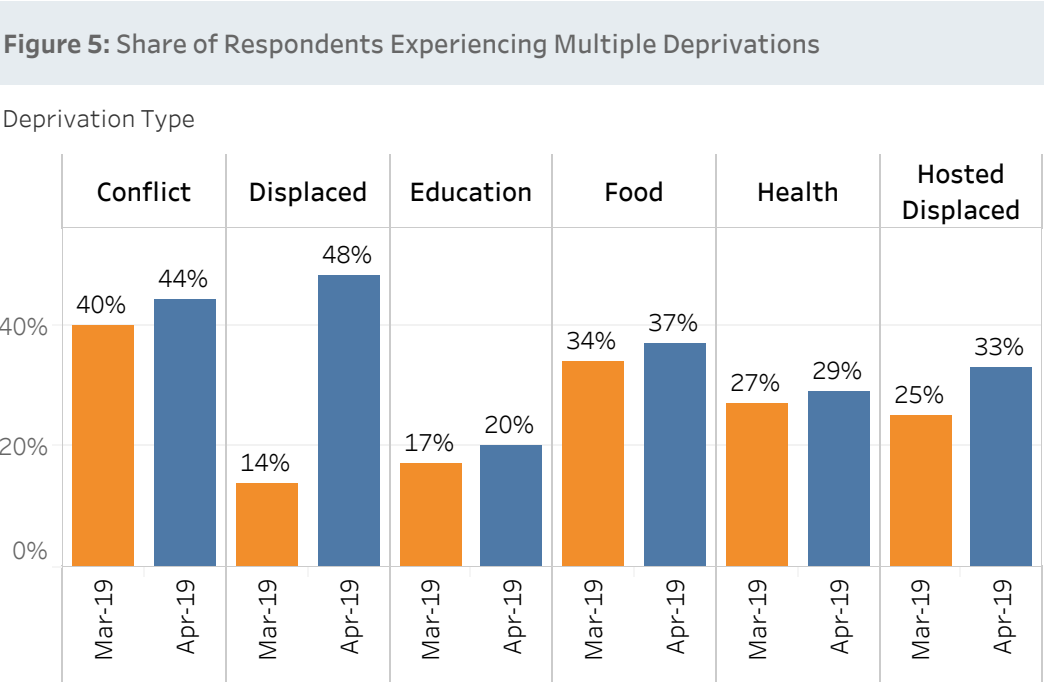
There are several factors contributing to average increases in household deprivations. The biggest increases in the share experiencing multiple deprivations were in Al Maharah, where there was a large increase in the share of respondents residing in a district that experienced at least one violent incident, and Al Hudaydah, where there was a worsening of food security (figure 6). However, it is important to note that even though the percentage of people living in a district with a violent incident increased dramatically in Al Maharah, the total increase in violence was small- there were only three violent incidents reported during the month. Similarly, although the aggregate number of violent incidents and fatalities decreased nationally, the share of respondents living in a district with at least one violent incident slightly increased from March 2019.

Map 1: Share of Respondents Experiencing at Least One Deprivation
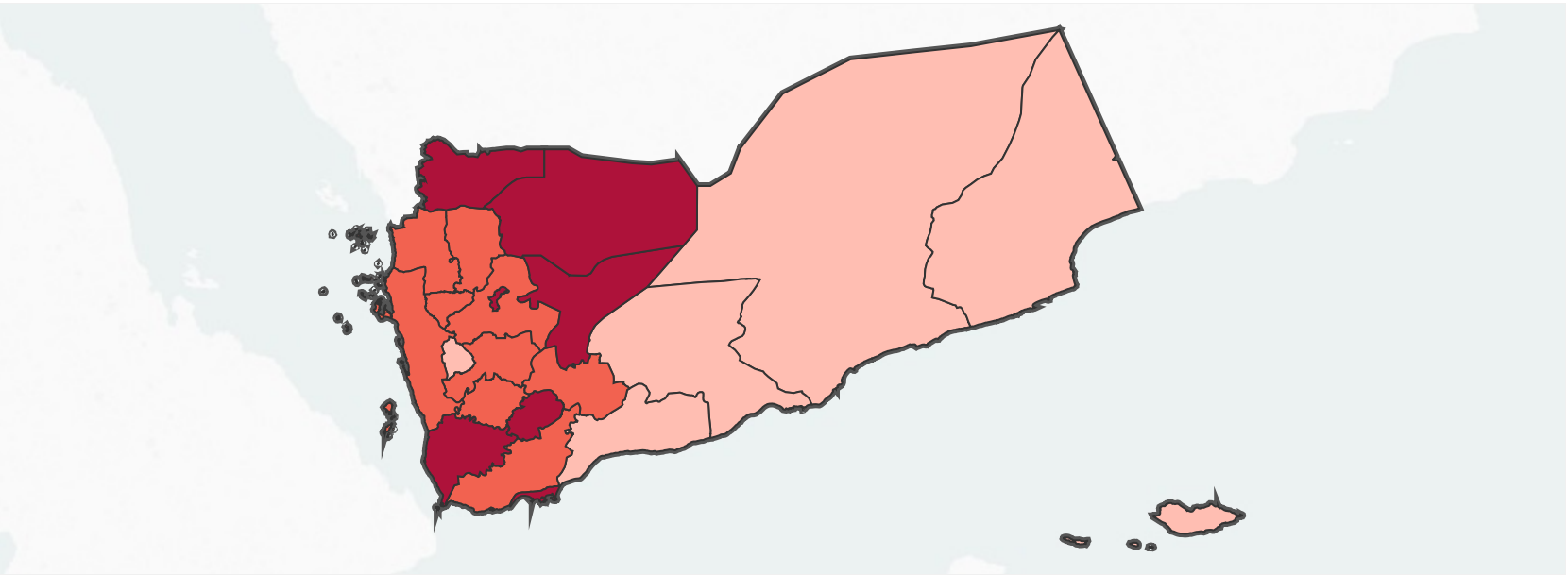
Figure 4: Dimensions and Indicators Selected for the Analysis

Dimension (group)	Deprivation	Mar-19	Apr-19
Displacement	Household hosts IDP's	25%	37%
	Households is displaced themselves	14%	33%
Health	Any member cannot receive needed medical care	27%	29%
Education	Any school-aged child not attending school	17%	20%
Food Security	Household has inadequate Food Consumption Score	34%	48%
Violence	Any violent incidents in the past month in district	40%	44%

Figure 5: Share of Respondents Experiencing Multiple Deprivations

Deprivation Type

Conflict: Mar-19 40%, Apr-19 44%
Displaced: Mar-19 14%, Apr-19 48%
Education: Mar-19 17%, Apr-19 20%
Food: Mar-19 34%, Apr-19 37%
Health: Mar-19 27%, Apr-19 29%
Hosted Displaced: Mar-19 25%, Apr-19 33%

Figure 6: Significant Changes in the Governorates Experiencing the Largest Increase in the Share Experiencing Multiple Deprivations.

Al Hudaydah Food Deprivation — Mar-19 25%, Apr-19 48%

Al Maharah Security Deprivation — Mar-19 1%, Apr-19 68%

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Using the Yemen mVAM to Track Violence Surrounding Displacement

In addition to monthly monitoring, the Yemen mVAM data allows an in-depth analysis of other information collected over the course of the conflict. The survey collects information on displacement including the governorate from which the household migrated, the month and year of migration, and the district to which the household had migrated. This section reports results from a sample including the first time each displaced household was interviewed for all IDP's reached in the survey between August 2015 and December 2018- i.e. 6,245 unique respondents.

Figure 7 demonstrates there was a large surge in displacement in the first few months following the escalation in conflict, corroborating the findings of the Task Force for Population Movement. The surge was so large that over 50 percent of IDP's in the sample collected between August 2015 and December 2018 reported to having been displaced between March and June 2015.

Importantly, figure 7 demonstrates that the time of the highest displacement in the sample of respondents was not the time when violence had peaked in the conflict. Rather, it can be associated with the onset of violence, but displacement quickly declined as the number of fatalities continued to escalate over the course of the conflict. These findings demonstrate that the displacement crisis is related to violence, but that the overall displacement patterns are not completely explained by the number of fatalities or violent incidents that people experience.

Using the time of displacement and location of displacement, along with the location of migration and time of the survey, we can match each observation with violence that occurs at a number of pivotal times for each respondent. Matching displaced respondents with violence information yields key insights regarding how violence affects the decision to migrate, and the decision of where respondents choose to migrate.

First, IDP's left violent situations that turned even more violent after they left. Violence was escalating over time, but then sharply peaked in the governorate of origin after individuals chose to migrate. The increase was so large that the prevalence of violence nearly doubled in the five months after displacement relative to the five months before.

Second, figure 8 demonstrates that IDP's migrated to regions that had significantly less violence than the regions from which they were coming from. The amount of violence was approximately ten times worse in the governorates from which IDP's migrated from than in the governorates to which IDP's migrated to by five months after displacement. Additionally, there was no surge in violence at the time of displacement in the governorates to which IDP's migrated.

Third, figure 9 demonstrates that the vast majority of IDP's migrated to governorates that had little-to-no violence at the time of displacement and they continued to live in governorates that were free of violence at the time of the survey, which in some cases was more than a year after displacement. Thus, consistent with other reports, IDP's are seeking less violent areas and are good at predicting areas that are less violent and stay less violent for potentially long periods of time. However, as more time passes since the initial displacement, the amount of violence in the destination tends to increase. Thus, although IDP's are good at moving to areas with little current violence and little future violence, over time this prediction becomes less precise.

Overall, the Yemen mVAM can help to fill a number of information gaps in a context where traditional data collection is near impossible and constant shocks affect the majority of the population. The high frequency of the survey, its geographic representation of nearly the entire country, and the length of the survey nearly over the entire course of the conflict make it an invaluable source of information that the WFP and the World Bank are analyzing together.

Figure 7: Share of Total IDP Sample by Month of Displacement and violence by month
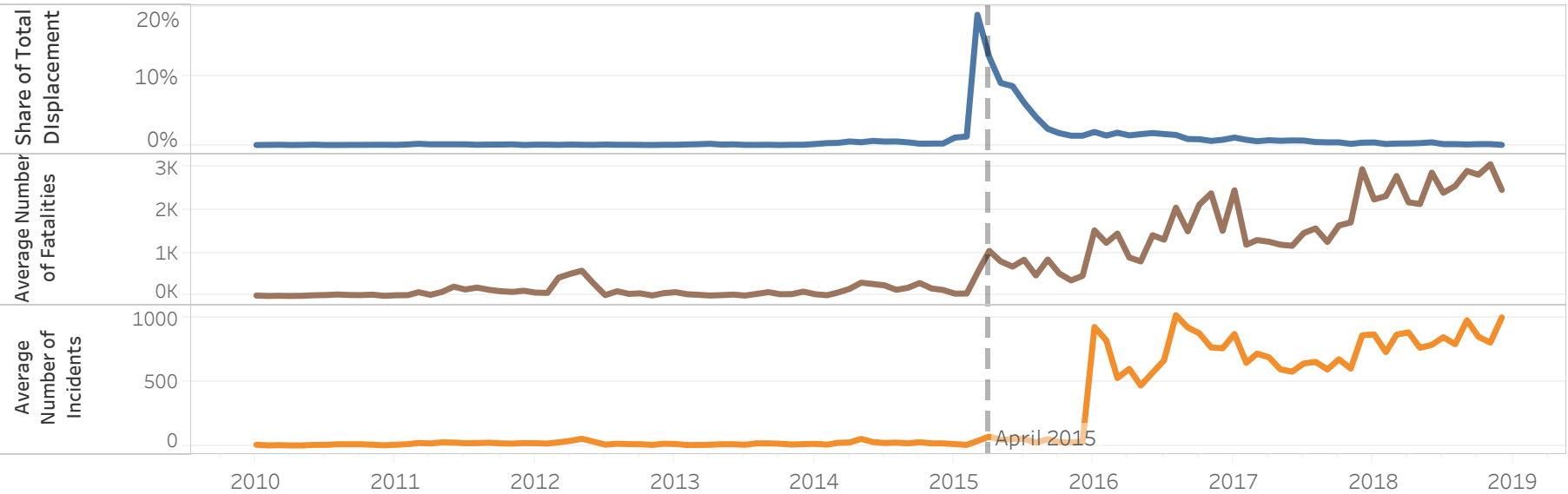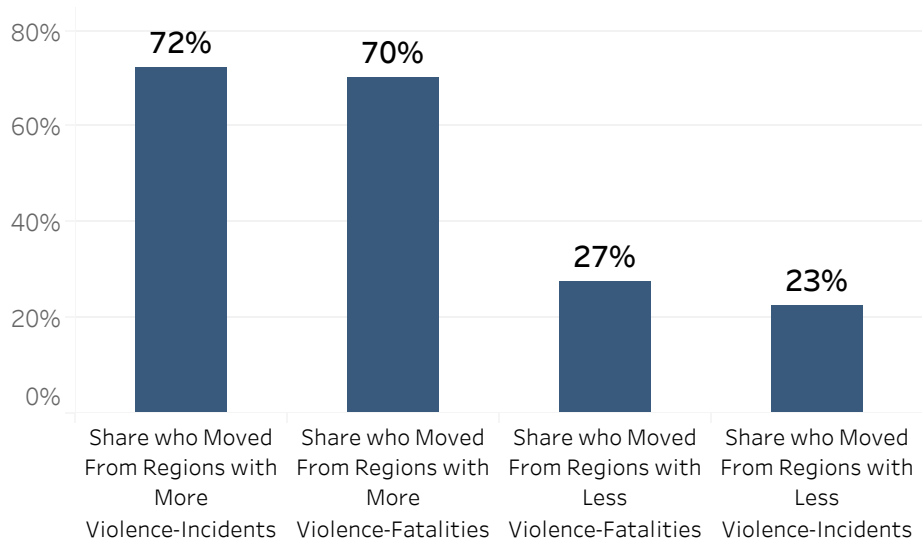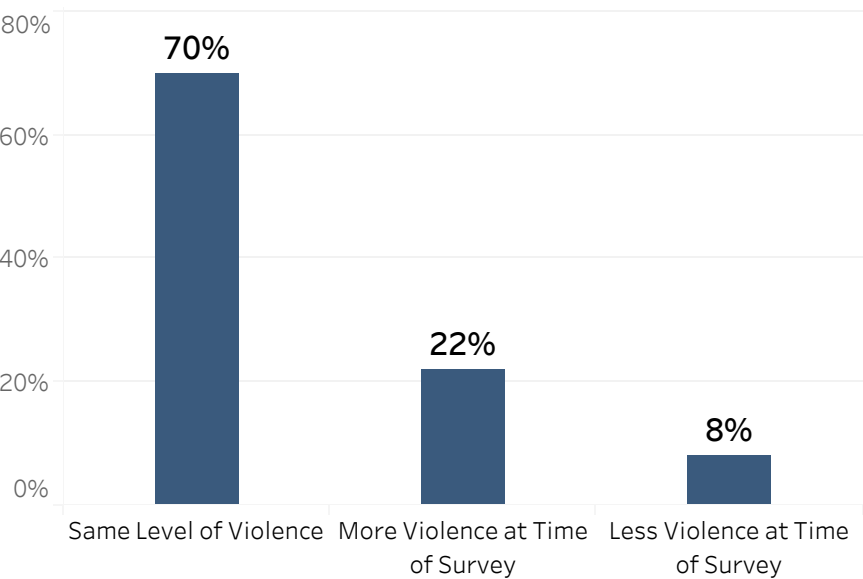

Figure 8: Share of households Moving to Less / more Violent Governorates

Figure 9 : Share of IDP's Residing in Districts by Violence Trend Since Displacement

Violence Data Sources: Uppsala   ACLED

Food consumption

In April, the national mean food consumption score (FCS) deteriorated compared with the previous month with more than 40 percent of the surveyed households reporting having an inadequate food consumption (12 percent poor and 28 percent borderline).
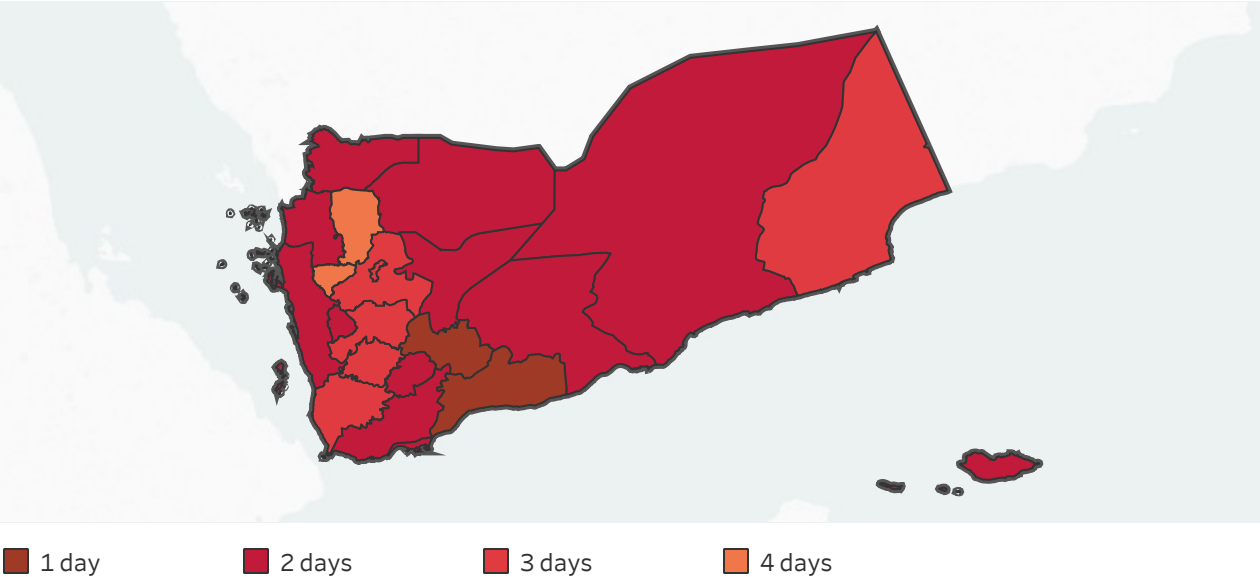
The biggest deterioration has been recorded in **Al Bayda and Al Hudaydah**, where the percentage of households having poor and borderline food consumption increased by 20 percentage points compared to March.

In addition, a significant increase in the share of households reporting poor food consumption was recorded also in **Ad Dali and Amran**. In these governorates around 10 percent more households have a poor food consumption compared to March.

The data shows also that inadequate food consumption is connected with a lack of income opportunities. Around 60 percent of the households who reported support from other families as their primary source of income and 50 percent of the households who reported being unemployed have a poor and borderline food consumption. Loss of employment and access to income was identified by families as the main challenge for families to access food.

Map 2 : Percentage of hosueholds by governorate with

Poor and Borderline Food Consumption

click on one or more governorates to get the correspondent figure 11 and figure 12
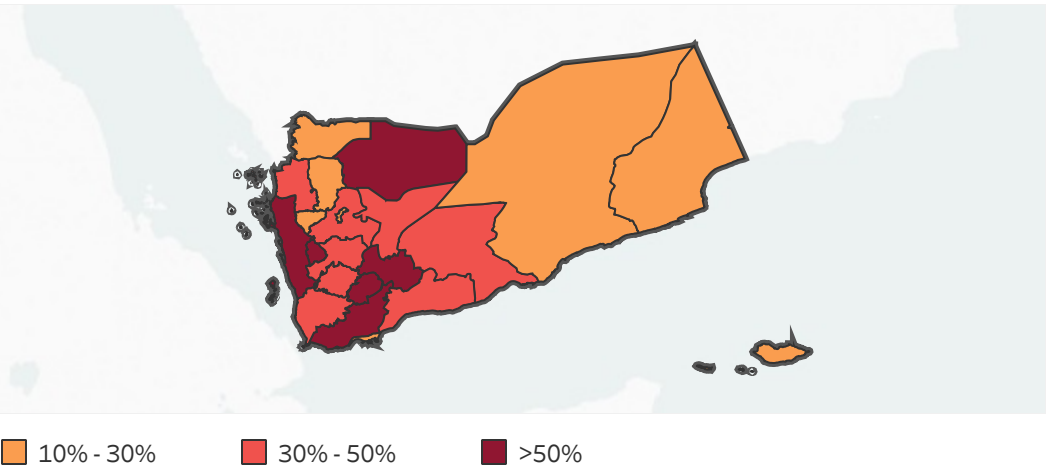

☐ 10% - 30%   ☐ 30% - 50%   ☐ >50%

Map 3: Average weekly consumption by governorate for

Dairy

☐ 1 day   ☐ 2 days   ☐ 3 days   ☐ 4 days

Figure 10: Percentage of households with no income source for each food consumption group (April 2019)

Poor	Borderline	Acceptable
29%	28%	20%

Figure 11 : Percentage of households with inadequate food consumption (Nov 2018 - Apr 2019)

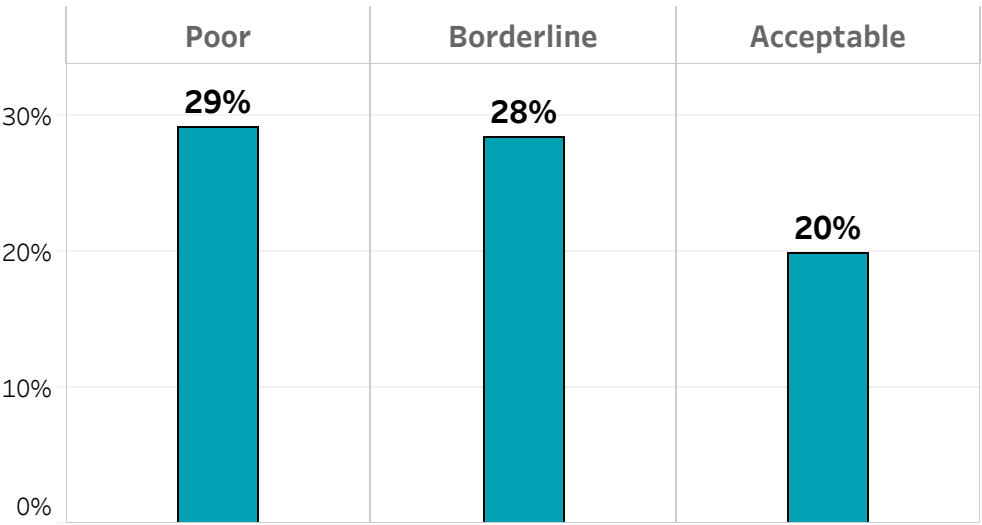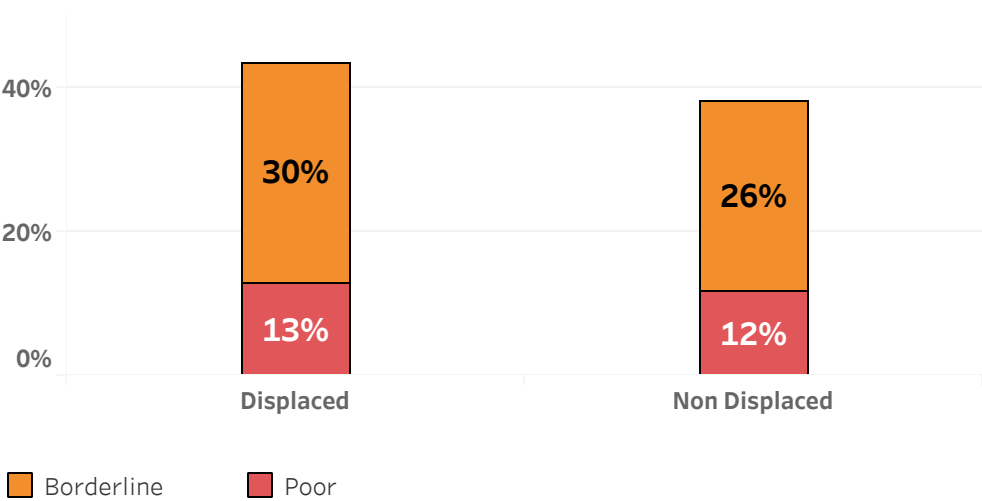42.0%   35.6%   36.0%   34.8%   35.3%   40.8%
Nov   Dec   Jan   Feb   Mar   Apr

Figure 12: Percentage of households with inadequate food consumption (poor and borderline) according to

Displacement status

Displaced: 30% / 13%   Non Displaced: 26% / 12%

☐ Borderline   ☐ Poor

Coping strategies

In line with the food consumption results, in April surveyed households seem to resort more often to coping strategies. The national rCSI increased from 20.2 in March to 21.6 April, the highest in the past six months.

Overall, households with poor food consumption are significantly more likely to adopt coping strategies that would compromise the quantity and the quality of the food consumed: limiting the size of portions, reduce the number of meals eaten per day and restrict consumption of adults for children are use almost 4 days a week by families with poor food consumption.

Among all the governorates in the country, the highest average rCSI reported in April was recorded in the neighboring governorates of Hajjah and Al Hudaydah (25) followed by Sana's City (24). In these governorates, surveyed households have used all the five food-based coping strategies on an average three times in the week before the survey.

While the difference in the food consumption among displaced and non-displaced households got smaller in April, IDPs households continue to rely to coping strategies considerably more often than non-displaced households.

Map 4 : Average of rCSI per governorate (April 2019)

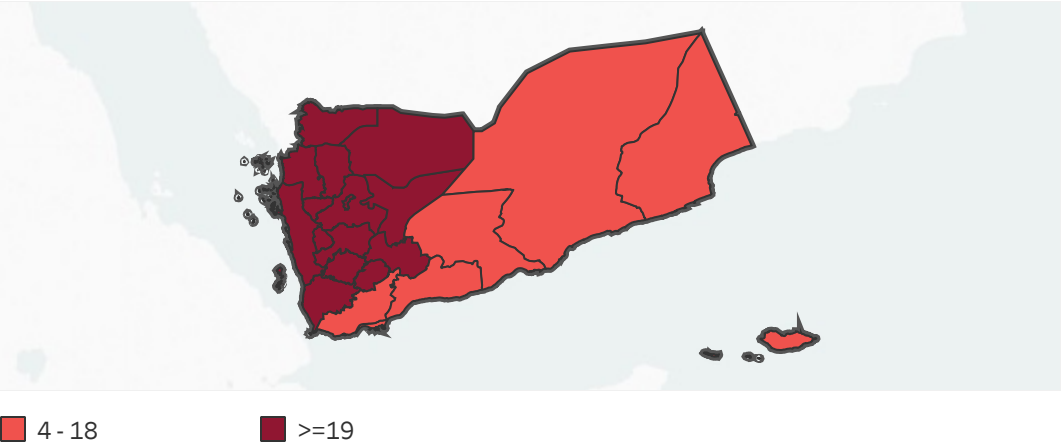Click on one or more governorates on the map to get the correspondent Figure 14

■ 4 - 18   ■ >=19

Figure 13: National average of rCSI according to households main income source

| Support From Family 30.4 | Self Employed 22.1 | Agricultural Wage 21.0 | Unregular Government Salary 18.8 | Driver 14.7 |
| No Income Source 25.2 | Non Agricultural Wage 21.3 | Regular Private Sector Salary 18.9 | Salary 12.7 | |

Figure 14: Average of rCSI (Nov 2018 - Apr 2019)

Nov 21.3 | Dec 21.2 | Jan 20.6 | Feb 20.3 | Mar 20.2 | Apr 21.6
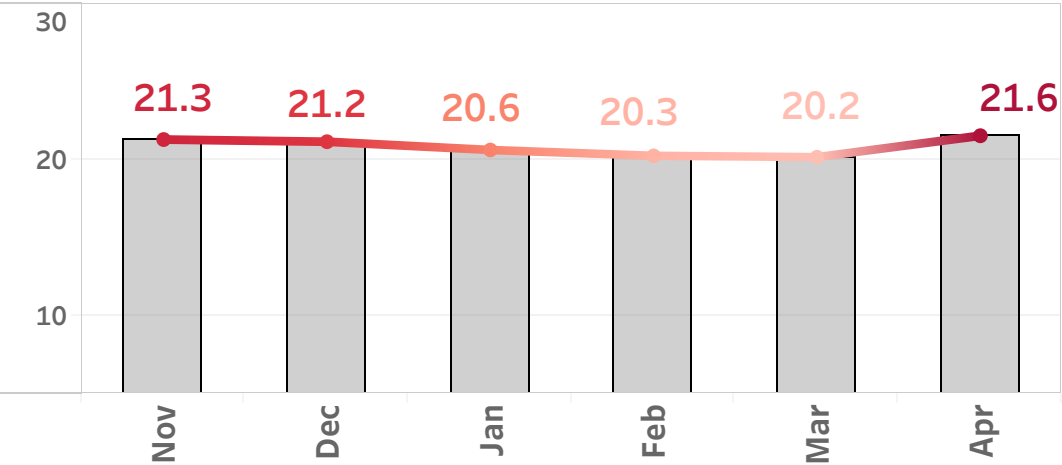
Figure 15: Percentage of households adopted food based coping strategy by displacement status

Displaced
- Borrow or Asking for Help — 67%
- Less Expensive Food — 83%
- Limit Portion Size — 80%
- Reduce Number of Meals — 74%
- Restrict Consumption — 74%

Non Displaced
- Borrow or Asking for Help — 53%
- Less Expensive Food — 72%
- Limit Portion Size — 69%
- Reduce Number of Meals — 60%
- Restrict Consumption — 60%