



WFP - Marwa Awad



## Key Points

- In line with the trend observed in previous years, food security indicators improved during Ramadan across Syria.
- Tartous continues to show the highest percent of households with borderline food consumption and the highest level of food based coping strategies.
- Overall food consumption among female-headed households improved but at the expense of a higher use of food based coping strategies.

## Overall food security indicators improves during Ramadan

### Situation Update

- In north-western Syria, the security situation continues to deteriorate and violence in and around the demilitarized buffer zone surrounding the north-west de-escalation zone (which includes Idleb governorate, as well as north-eastern areas of Lattakia governorate, western areas of Aleppo governorate and northern areas of Hama governorate) continues to drive significant population displacement and rapidly growing humanitarian needs. An estimated 3 million people live in the north-west de-escalation zone, including 1.3 million internally displaced people (IDPs). More than 300,000 people have been displaced since early May 2019, most of them are staying in Dana sub-district in the northern Idleb governorate.

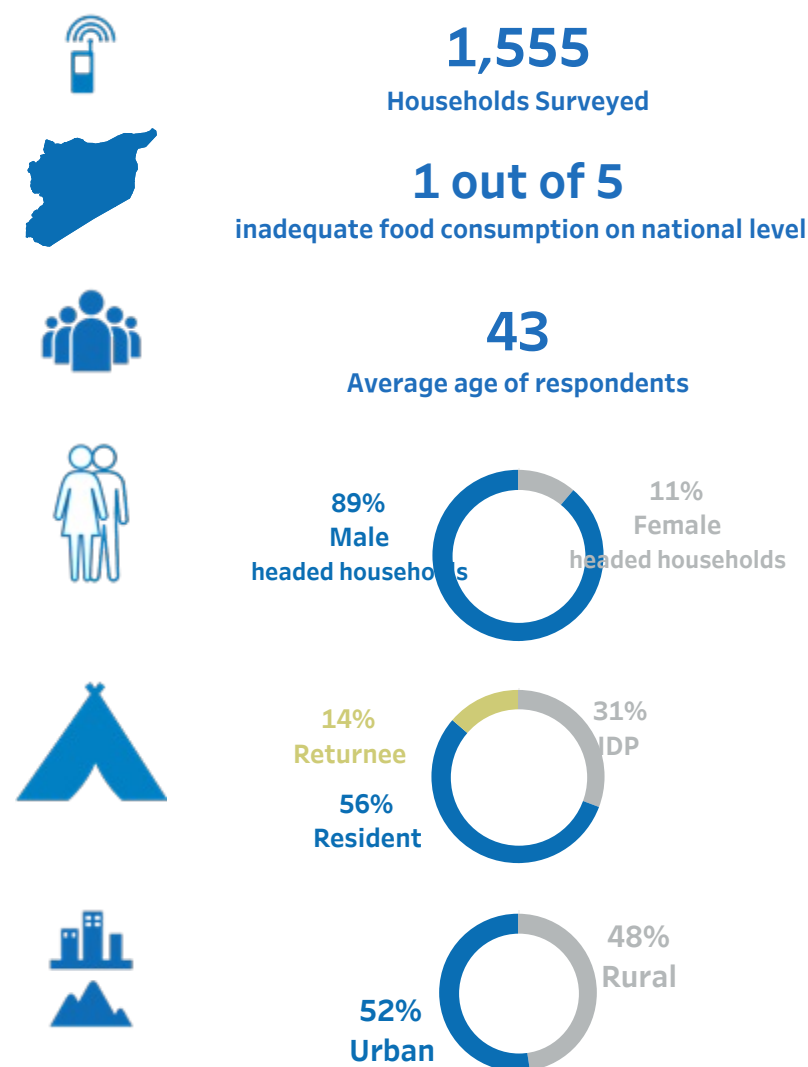
- In northeast Syria, over 1.6 million people are in need of assistance, including residents of Al Hol camp in AlHasakeh governorate, as well as those in neighbouring Deir-ez-Zor governorate. Al Hol camp has witnessed a significant increase in its population in recent months following military operations against the last remnants of ISIL in Hajin and Al Baghouz, as well as elsewhere in Deir-ez-Zor governorate. Home to around 12,000 people in December 2018, the camp's population now stands at close to 74,000. Conditions at the camp, remain dire, with critical needs across all sectors.

- In the south, since 24 April around 13,000 people have left Rukban settlement and arrived in the collective shelters in Homs, before moving on to stay with relatives or return to their places of origin or choice. The total pre-outflux Rukban settlement population was 41,700. Following the second inter-agency convoy to Rukban in February, WFP conducted a post-distribution monitoring (PDM) exercise. According to the findings of the PDM, most residents (more than 90 percent) reported having received their full food entitlement. However, critical food security indicator levels were reported across the settlement population due to limited income opportunities and the significant time elapsed between the first convoy (conducted in November 2018) and the second convoy.

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### Key Figures



### Methodology

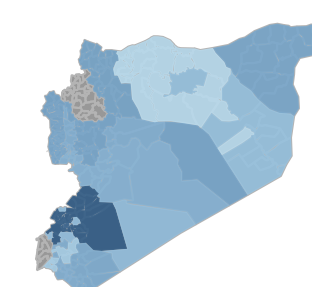
This mVAM bulletin is based on data collected via live telephone interviews in May 2019 from households in locations across Syria. The telephone numbers called were generated using random-digit dialing.

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](http://vam.wfp.org/sites/mvam_monitoring/read_me_syria.pdf)

Number of interviewed households - May 2019



# SYRIA mVAM Bulletin 37- May 2019



## Prevalence of households with inadequate food consumption decreased among resident and female-headed households

- In May 2019, **overall** levels of **inadequate food consumption decreased** in Syria. Around 20 percent of the surveyed households reported a poor or borderline food consumption, the lowest level recorded in the past 6 months (Map 1). At governorate level, **Tartous** continues to register the **highest percent** of households with **borderline food consumption** (29 percent) however the share of households with poor consumption decreased to zero percent. Improvements in terms of food consumption have been recorded also in As-Sweida, hard-to-reach areas of Dar'a, Homs, Hama, Deir-ez-Zor, Raqqa and Rural Damascus (Figure 1).

- The share of households reporting **poor** food consumption **has decreased** significantly among **resident households** when compared with April as they ate on average vegetables, pulses and proteins more frequently during the week before the survey. Ramadan festivities have very likely affected this trend as during Ramadan households tend to eat a wider variety of food commodities as well as more quantity of food overall.

- In May, following a deterioration in the food consumption in April, data shows that the percent of **female-headed households** with inadequate food consumption decreased from 42 percent in April to 15 percent in May (Figure 2) with the average weekly consumption of proteins and vegetables almost doubled.

- As mentioned earlier the general increase of protein and vegetable consumption during this month might be linked to a combination of the Ramadan festivities and the beginning of the harvest season in Syria.

Map1 : Percentage of households by aggregated governorate with

Poor and Borderline Food Consumption

National Average

|     |     |
|-----|-----|
| Dec | 32% |
| Jan | 31% |
| Feb | 32% |
| Mar | 30% |
| Apr | 28% |
| May | 20% |



\*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

Head of Household Sex

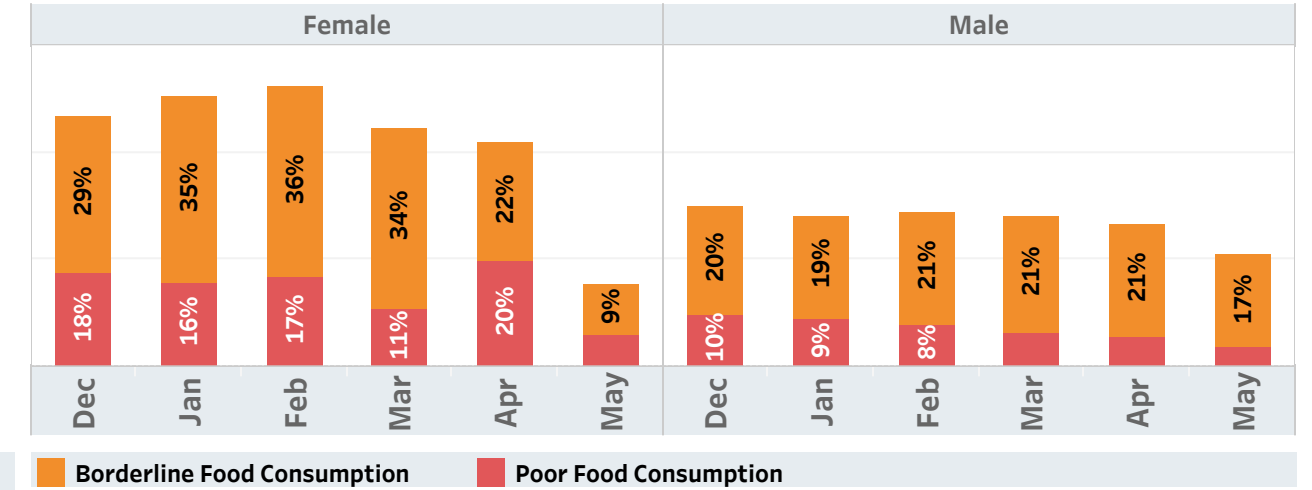
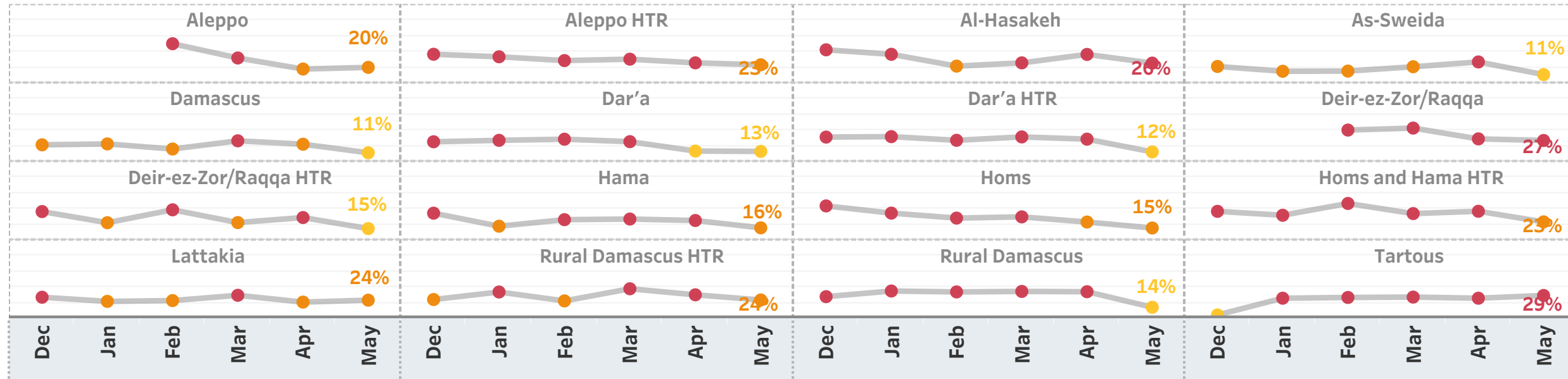


Figure 1 : Percentage of households by aggregated governorate with inadequate food consumption (December 2018 - May 2019)

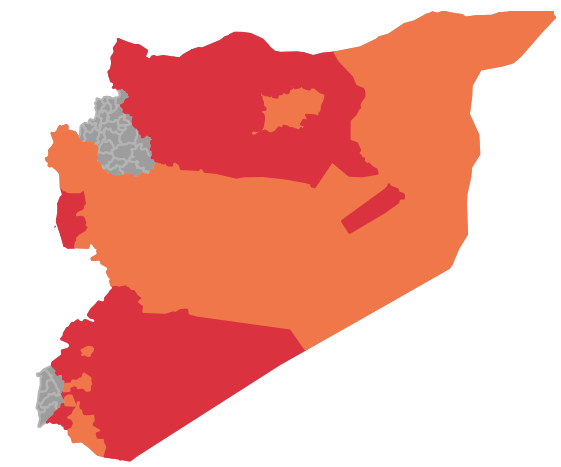


Map 2 : Average weekly consumption (May 2019) by aggregated governorates for

Proteins

National Average

|     |   |
|-----|---|
| Dec | 3 |
| Jan | 3 |
| Feb | 3 |
| Mar | 3 |
| Apr | 3 |
| May | 3 |



3 days 4 days

\*Areas displayed with gray color have no available information

# SYRIA mVAM Bulletin 37- May 2019



## While overall use of coping strategies decreases, it remains high in Tartous and Aleppo and among female-headed households

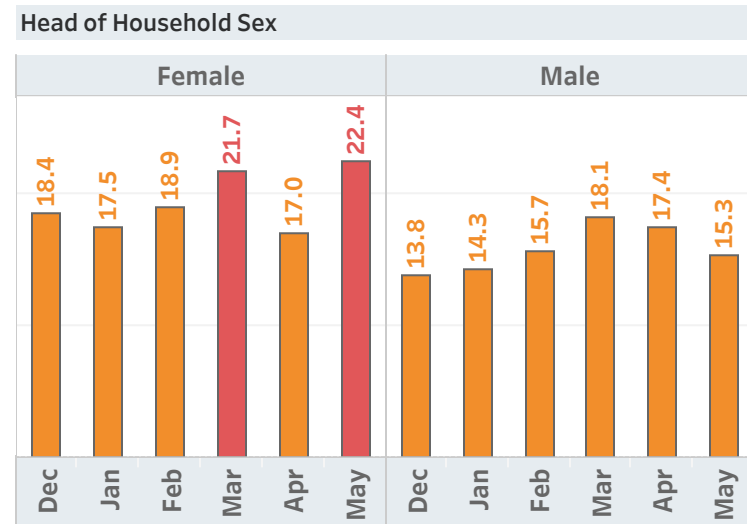
- In May, overall use of coping strategies diminished and the national average rCSI decreased reaching 16.2 (Map 3). Despite the survey was conducted during Ramadan when eating consumption patterns may vary, overall less household reported limiting the size of meals and reducing the number of meals eaten per day. In addition, households seem to rely less on spending their savings in order to obtain food.

- However, differences can be found looking at the aggregated areas: in Tartous and hard-to-reach areas of Aleppo the use of food based coping strategies increased significantly during May (Figure 4). In these two areas even though the percent of households with poor food consumption decreased, the use of coping especially buying food on credit, borrow money from friends and family, reduce the number of meals eaten per day and restrict consumption of adults so children can eat, increased significantly when compared to April results.

- Overall across Syria, the level of coping strategies decreased notably among displaced and returnee households reaching one of the lowest levels in the past six months. This is a trend that has been noticed every year during the month of Ramadan when especially poor and vulnerable households have access to more assistance from neighbouring communities and to zakat (a form of alms giving) provided as food or livestock (Figure 3). In May more households reported food assistance as their primary source of food.

- Inversely, female-headed households although having a better food consumption in May they reported relying more frequently to food based coping strategies: on average they rely three times a week to reduce the number of meals eaten per day, restrict consumption of adults in favor of children and borrow food from friends and family.

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



Map3 : Mean rCSI by aggregated governorates (May 2019)

rCSI National Average

|     |      |
|-----|------|
| Dec | 14.3 |
| Jan | 14.7 |
| Feb | 16.1 |
| Mar | 18.6 |
| Apr | 17.4 |
| May | 16.2 |



\*Areas displayed with gray colors have no available information

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

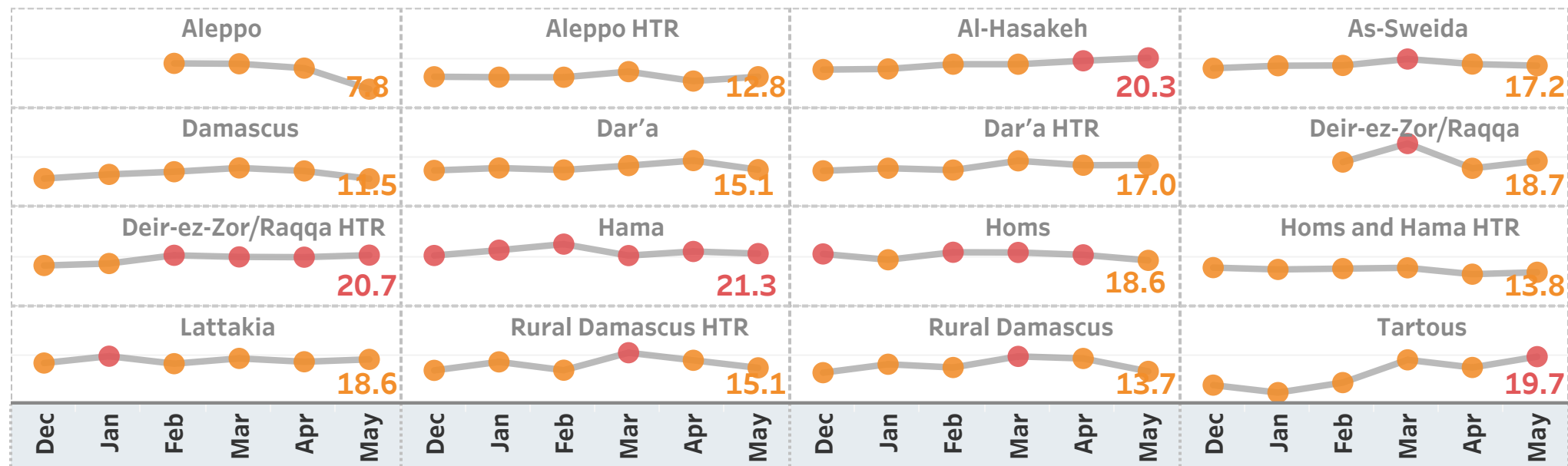
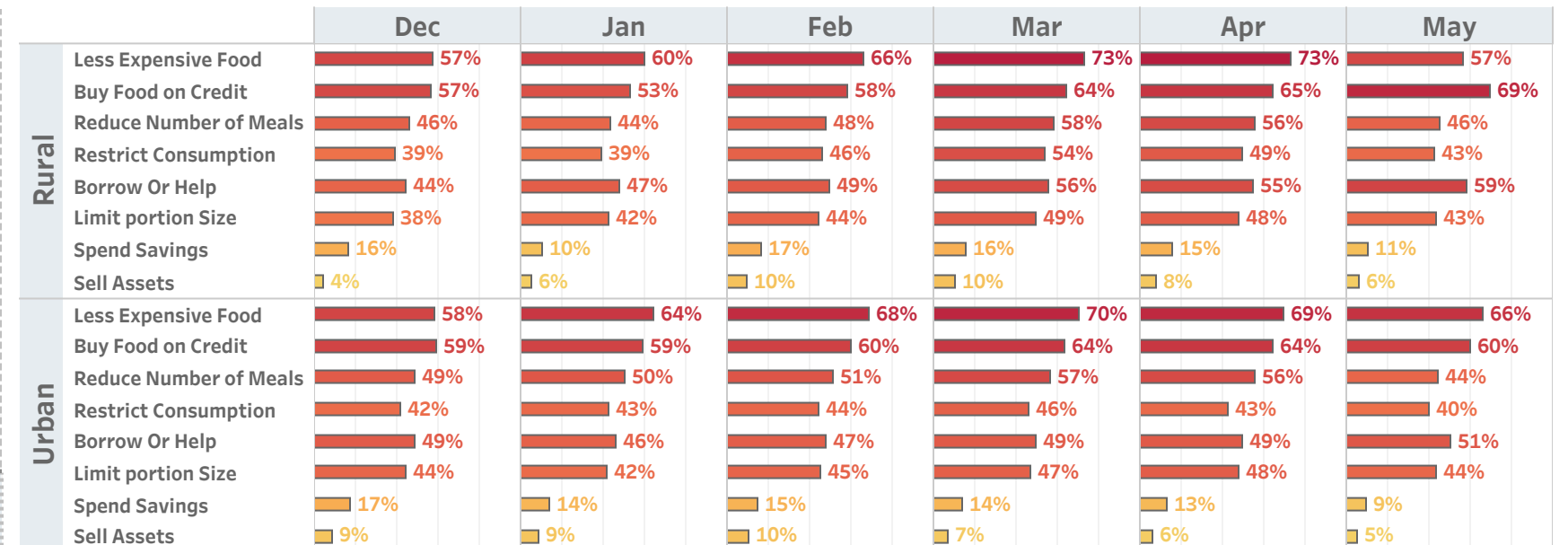


Figure 5: Percentage of households who adopted





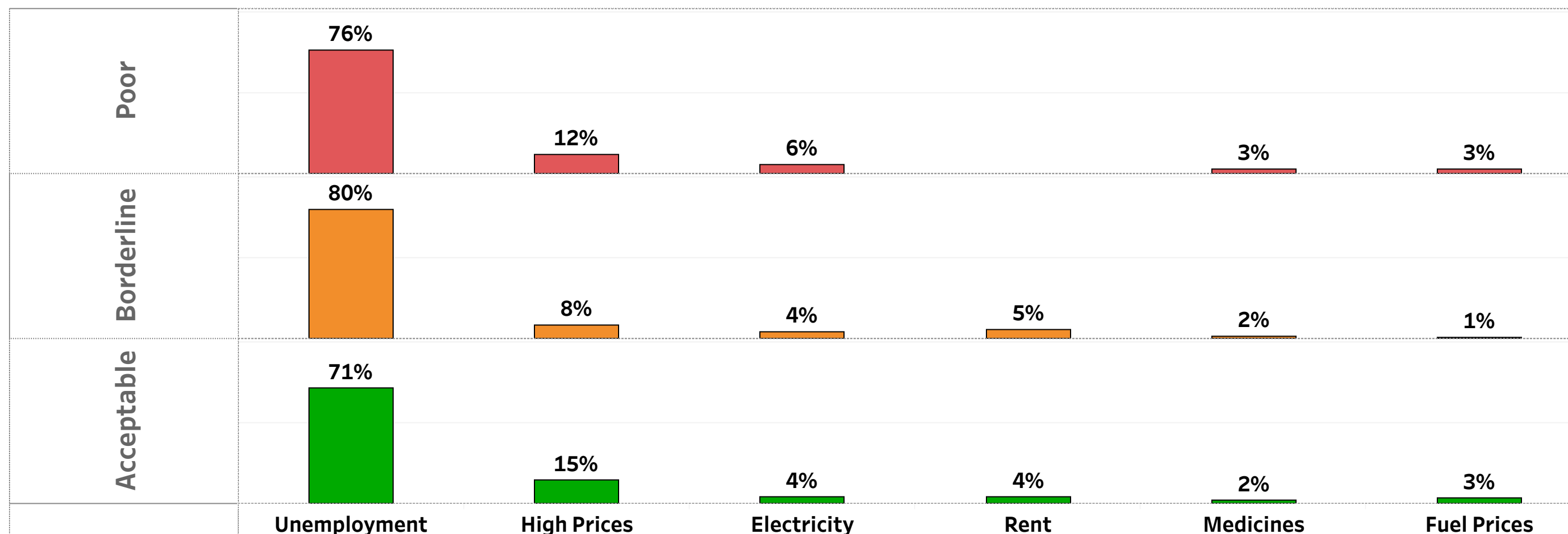
## In the words of respondents

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 food consumption groups.



**vam**  
food security analysis

**Figure 6:** Main problems faced by surveyed households according to food consumption groups.



### For Further Information

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