

# YEMEN mVAM Bulletin no.50 (November - December 2019)

## Highlights

Women and Dietary Diversity

Deprivations & Multidimensional  
Poverty Analysis I

Deprivations & Multidimensional  
Poverty Analysis II

Food Consumption

Coping Strategies



**4,951**  
Completed Surveys



**39**  
Respondents' average age



**95%**  
Not Acceptable Dietary Diversity



**18%**  
Displaced Households

## Situation Update

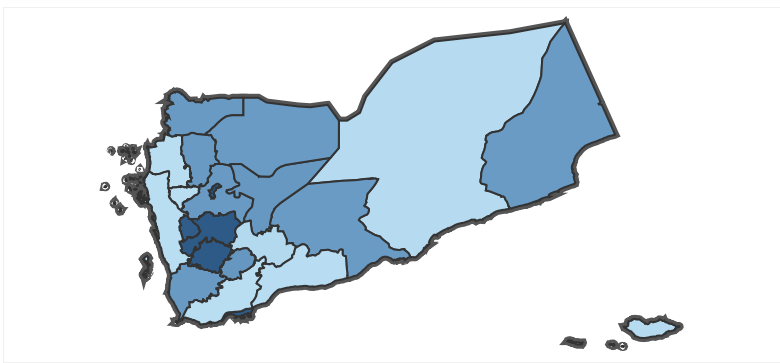


- According to data from ACLED, the number of battles at the national level increased slightly in the month of November compared to October; however the number of recorded monthly fatalities has continued to decrease since June. In November, governorates worst affected by conflict were Al Hudaydah, Sa'dah, Al Dali, and Taizz. Conflict in Hajjah, meanwhile, decreased to the lowest levels observed since early 2016.
- During the reporting period, the delay in implementation of the 'Riyadh Agreement' signed by the Internationally Recognized Government of Yemen and the Southern Transitional Council on 5th November for the formation of a new cabinet, led to several security disturbances, especially in Abyan and Taizz governorates.
- Persistent conflict continues to displace populations; according to the International Organization for Migration, over 390,000 people have been displaced between January 1 and November 30, 2019. In this time, governorates with the highest numbers of displaced households recorded have been Hajjah (17,000), Ad Dali (11,000), Al Hudaydah (10,000), and Taizz (7,000).
- Throughout November, the fuel situation in northern Yemen remained unpredictable. After low import levels and severe shortages extended throughout most of October, the easing of restrictions toward the end of the month allowed several tankers to unload.
- Meanwhile, the Yemeni Rial appreciated by 2.2 percent in November to reach 567 YER/USD. This slight strengthening of the currency in October coincided with cautious optimism surrounding the Riyadh Agreement in the south. Prior to September, the Rial had been depreciating steadily from 508 YER/USD in April.
- Cholera incidence has generally continued to decrease in recent months, though high numbers of cases continue to be reported. Between April 2017 and September 2019, a reported 2.1 million people contracted cholera and 3,740 died as a result. Meanwhile, concerns are growing over an increase in incidence of dengue fever that has primarily affected Al Hudaydah, Hajjah and Ta'izz late October/early November.

ACLED

YEMEN Food Security Outlook Update December 2019

## mVAM coverage (Nov-Dec 2019)



180

305



**vam**  
food security analysis



**WORLD BANK GROUP**



## Highlights

- Displaced Households in Raymah, Al Jawf and Ad Dali reported the highest levels of poor food consumption.
- On national level, around 28 percent of the households are depending on food assistance as main or the only source of food.
- Displaced households in Raymah reported the highest levels of using food related coping strategies.
- Almost one out of three households with school-aged children did not send them to schools last month.

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In November-December 2019, 899 adult women have completed the minimum dietary diversity module (MDD-W). The MDD-W is a proxy for access to a nutritious and well-diversified diet of women in reproductive age (WRA - 14-59 years old). In each sampled household, women were asked if they had consumed ten defined food groups in the 24 hours prior to the interview.

Around 95 percent of women mainly consumed four food groups on the 10, suggesting a poor and less diverse diet that does not meet their minimum dietary requirements.

As shown in Figure 2, even among households with an acceptable food consumption, around two thirds of the women are not having access to a minimally balanced diet. However, the general poor diet diversity among women becomes even more worrisome for pregnant and lactating women that are more at risk of iron deficiency anemia with consequent risks of premature delivery, low birth weight, higher maternal death risk, as well as delays in the physical and mental development of children that can permanently limit their learning capacities, which will later affect working capacities.

Figure 1: Average number of food groups consumed by women

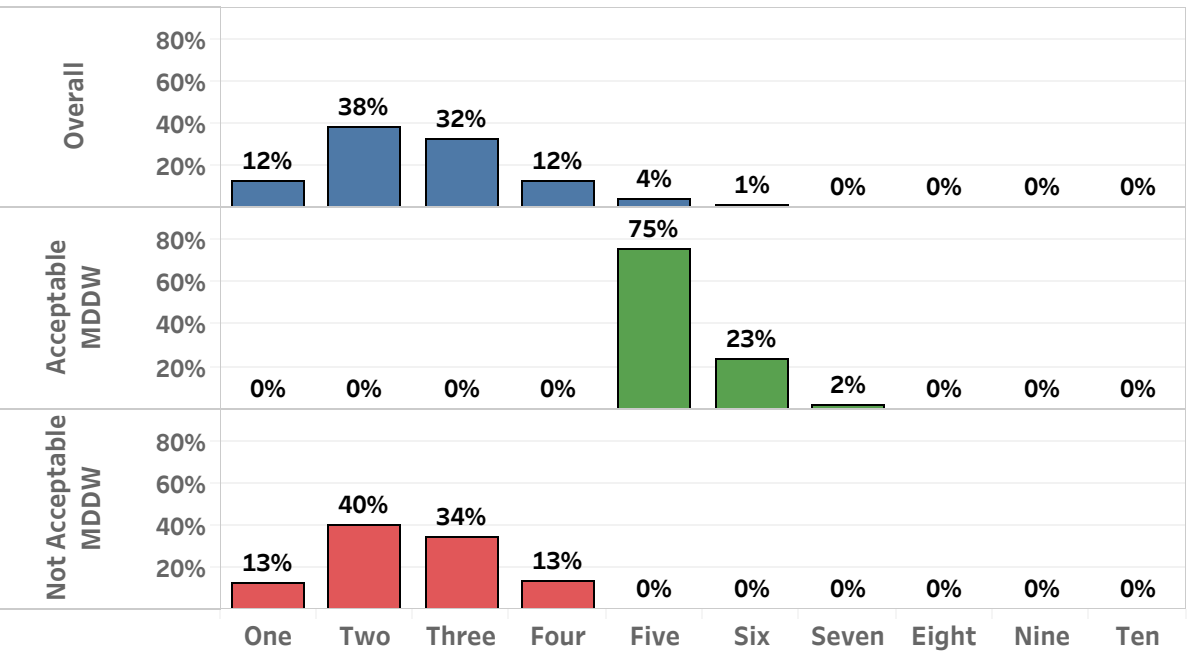


Figure 2: Percentage of households food consumption for MDD-W respondents

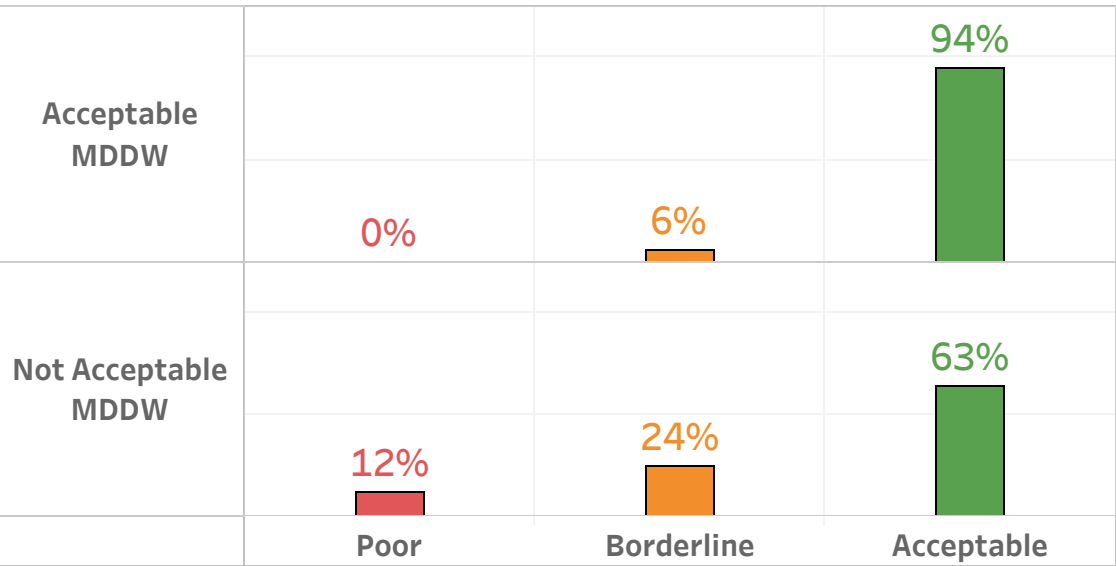
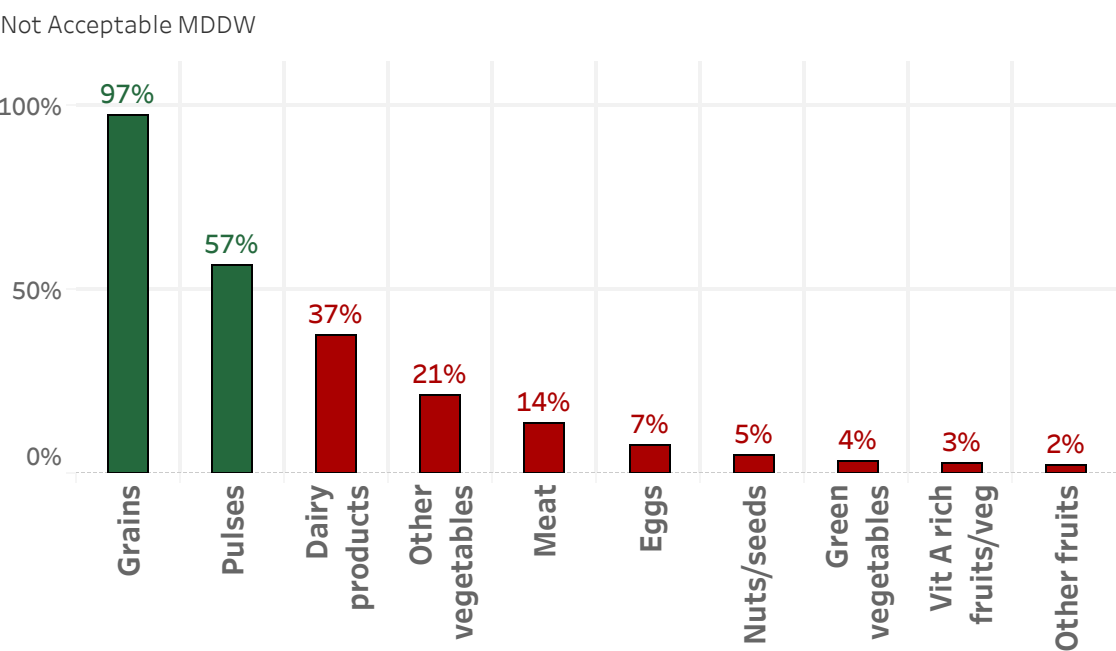
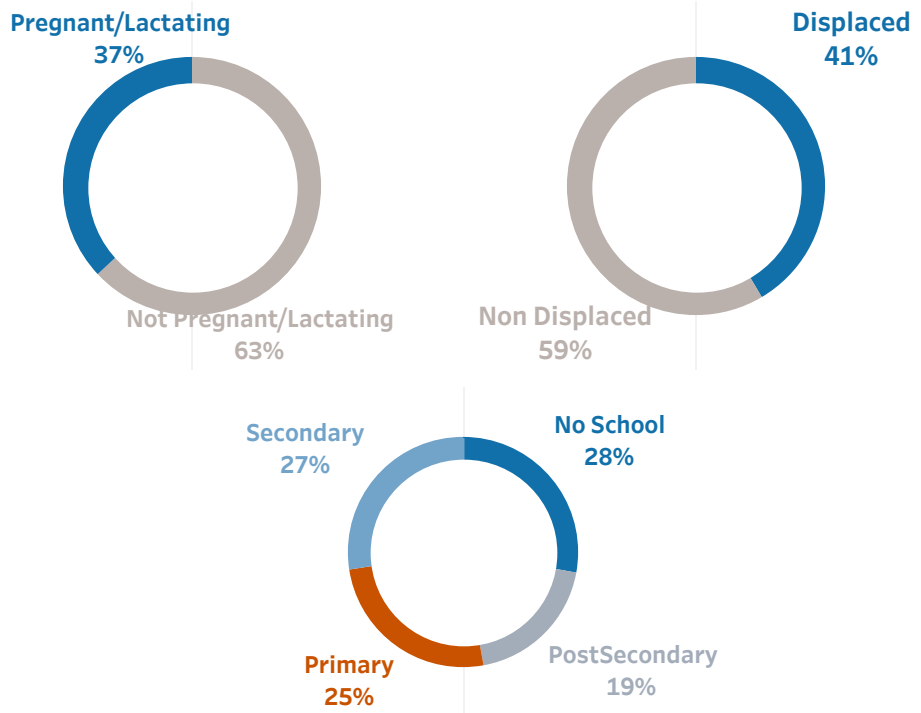


Figure 3: Percentage of women consuming each of MDD-W food groups



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



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Across the country, the measures of multidimensional welfare remained stable over the last three months of 2019. Since October, there was little change in deprivations in any individual dimension (table 1) or in the share of respondents reporting the experience of deprivations; with 34% and 35% of respondents experiencing at least one deprivation in November and December respectively.

Nonetheless, there were changes in the experience of deprivations at the subnational level (map 1). The largest changes occurred in Sa’ada and Abyan. In both governorates there was a drop in the experience of deprivations in November, only to rebound by December 2019, when over 90% of respondents were experiencing at least one deprivation (figure 4). The trend was more stable in other governorates with equally high shares of deprivations such as [Al Jawf](#), [Marib](#) and [Ad-Dali](#). In Sa’dah, the drop in November was due to a fall in violence, in households hosting refugees, and to a lesser degree, to a fall in food consumption. In Abyan, the dimensions that changed the most were food consumption and displacement.

There were other governorates with large changes in specific dimensions. The experience of violence was the dimension for which there were the largest changes. The share of households exposed to violence increased more than 10 percentage points between October and December in [Ibb](#), [Al Jawf](#), [Hadramaut](#), [Aden](#) and [Ad-Dali](#); and there were large declines in households exposed to violence in Hajjah and Marib. In Al Mahwit there were large increases in the share of households with inadequate food consumption scores and in the share of households who were displaced themselves. There was also a large increase in households deprived in the food security dimension in Dhamar. However, these large changes in specific dimensions did not always result in a significant increase in the share of households experiencing more than one dimension at once. Following the large increase in specific deprivations, the share experiencing multiple deprivations increased in [Ibb](#), [Al Jawf](#), [Hadramaut](#), [Aden](#), [Ad Dali](#), and [Al Mahwit](#) (figure 4); however, in Dhamar, despite the increase in the share with poor food consumption, the share experiencing multiple deprivations actually declined due to small declines in all the other indicators.

Map 1: Share of respondents experiencing at least one deprivation during

December

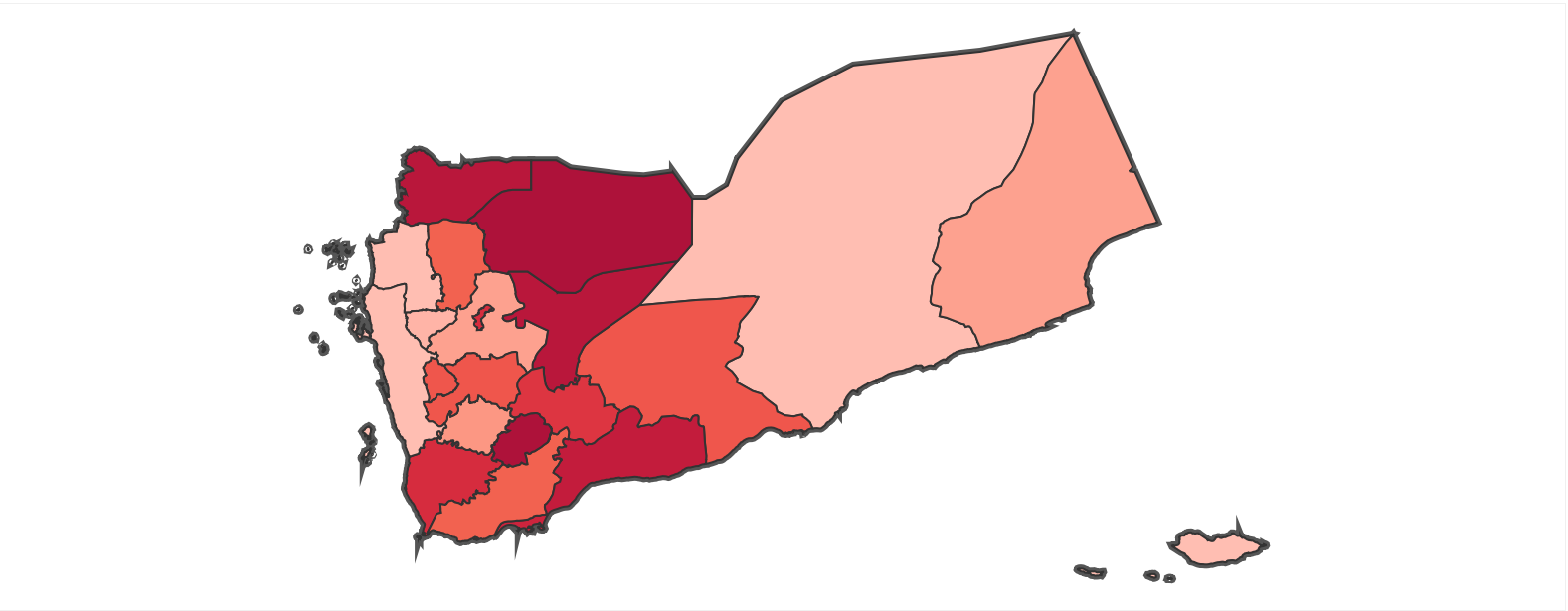
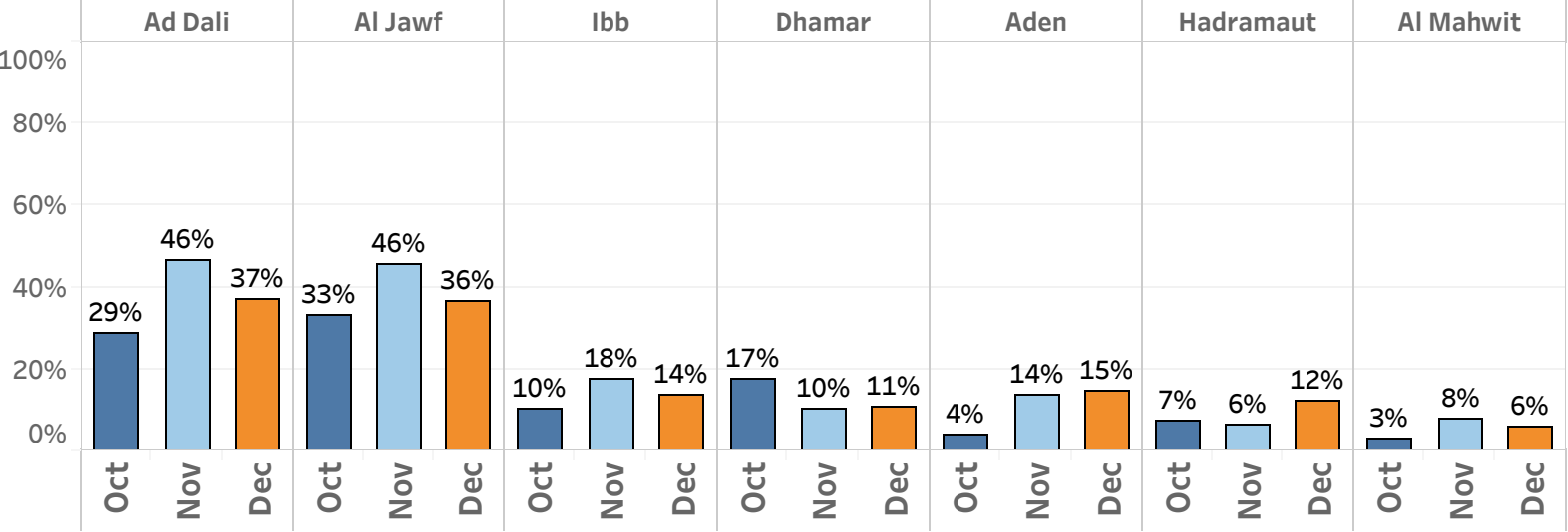


Table 1: Welfare dimensions and indicators of deprivations

Dimensions (group)	Indicators	Oct 2019	Nov 2019	Dec 2019
Food Access	Household has inadequate Food Consumption Score	36%	37%	35%
Displacement	Household hosts IDP's	27%	27%	28%
	Households is displaced themselves	20%	19%	17%
Education	Any school-aged child not attending school	18%	17%	18%
Health	Any member cannot receive needed medical care	28%	28%	24%
Violence	Any fatalities in the past month in district	18%	20%	25%

Figure 4: Share of households in selective governorates that reported

At Least Three Deprivations



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Between October and November, we performed 31 exhaustive key informant interviews of education providers across 11 governorates in order to collect information about important issues faced in each district. This information helps to supplement the information about poor access to schooling and other deprivations traced in the household survey.

The results help describe the state of education across the country. Approximately 30 percent of households with school-aged children report not sending all children to school in the past month, and, as reported in map 2, there is substantial regional variation in where access to schooling is worse. Attendance of school-aged children is significantly worse in the north. However, despite poor school attendance being less of a problem in the south, the key informants still describe other important issues, such as overcrowding in schools due to displacement, not enough money to purchase school materials (e.g., books, etc.), and not enough high-quality teachers.

In addition to variation in the problems that limit households from receiving high-quality education for all children, these surveys demonstrate that poor access to education significantly overlaps with other deprivations. Figure 5 reports that that the incidence of poor food consumption, lack of access to medical care, the incidence of hosting displaced individuals, and the incidence of being displaced oneself are all more than 10 percent larger for households where not all children attended school.

These results suggest the importance of taking a multi-sector approach to education. First, given the extensive deprivations in non-education dimensions, drawing absent students back into the classroom might have limited impacts without addressing some of the other pressing deprivations these children might be facing. Second, by addressing some of these additional problems that children face beyond simply improving access to education (paying teachers, providing school materials, improving school structures, etc.), interventions might actually be able to draw even more children back into school. For example, in interviews with school officials in Hajjah, the provision of limited amounts of school feeding programs was credited with improving school attendance.

Map 2: Share of households with school-aged children not attending school in the month before the survey

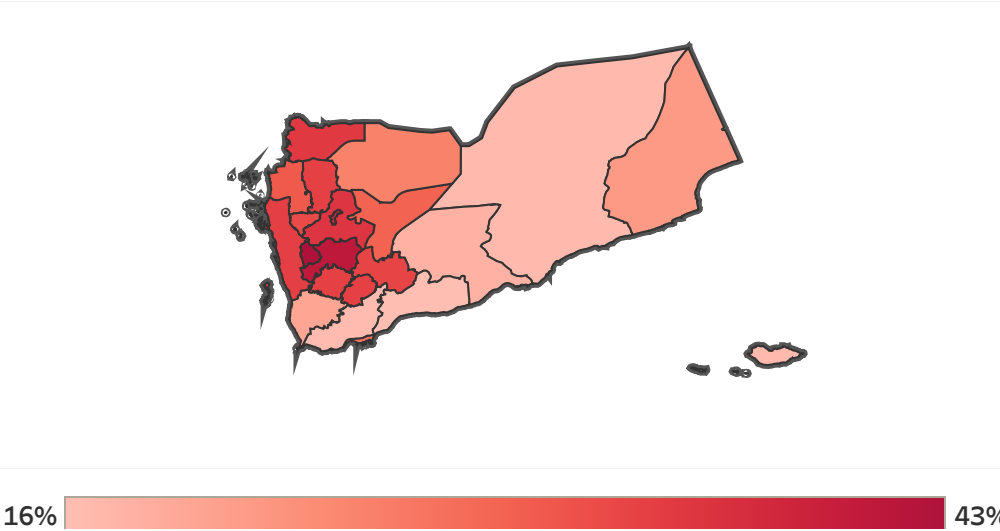
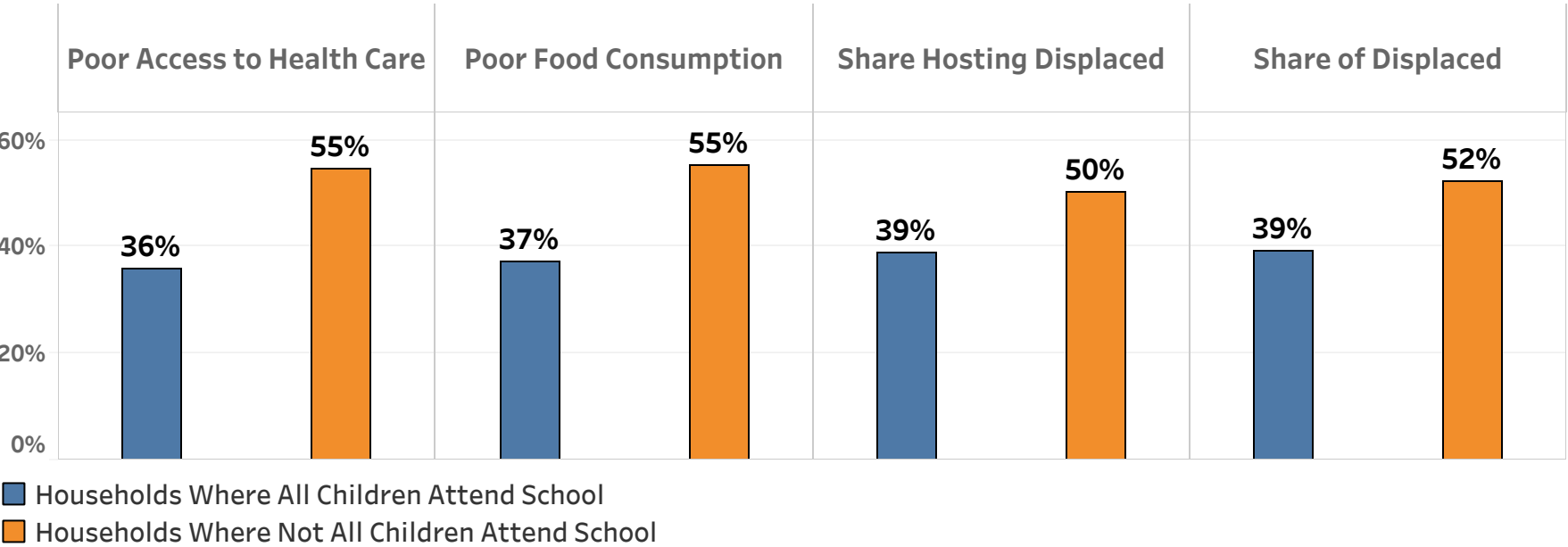


Table 2: Number of key informant interviews by governorate

Al Bayda	1
Al Hudaydah	3
Hadramaut	1
Hajjah	2
Lahj	9
Marib	1
Raymah	1
Sa'dah	3
Sana'a	3
Sana'a City	4
Taizz	3
Total	31

Figure 5: Share of households experiencing deprivations by schooling status



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click on one or more governorates to get the correspondent figure 6 and figure 7

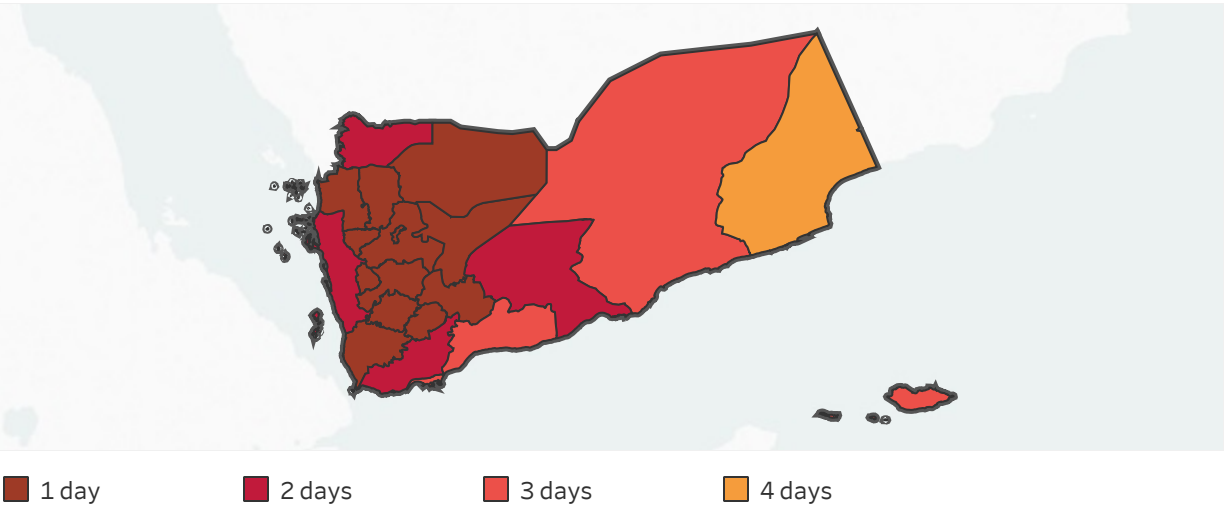
In November-December, a slight decrease in the share of households who reported inadequate food consumption was recorded at national level; while the percentage of households with poor food consumption remain high reaching 12 percent, the percentage of households with borderline decreased from 27 percent in September-October to 24 percent in November-December.

At governorate level, as conflict in Hajjah decreased to the lowest levels observed since early 2016 the share of households reporting having an inadequate diet reduced from 41 percent in September-October to 33 percent in November-December. On the other hand, in the South as security situation remains unstable with the uncertainties linked to the ‘Riyadh Agreement’ a 10 percentage points increase in the share of households reporting inadequate food consumption has been recorded in [Abyan](#) (43 percent). Meanwhile in [Ad Dali and Raymah](#) the percentage of households with poor food consumption increased by 10 percent reaching the highest levels of food inadequacy across all governorates as more than half of the surveyed families have a poor food consumption, another finding of this month analysis that support the fact that conflict is one of the main drivers of food insecurity in Yemen.

Districts with the highest percentage of poor and borderline food consumption were found in Abyan (Rasad - 69 percent), Raymah (As Salafiyah – 67 percent, Mazhar and Al Jabin – 63 percent) and Al Jawf (Al Maton – 63 percent). Among displaced households, [IDPs in Raymah, Al Jawf and and Ad Dali](#) reported the highest levels of poor food consumption (30 percent on average) and similarly among the resident population the highest shares of poor food consumption where found among households in Raymah and Ad Dali at 26 percent. The majority of the population is purchasing their food at the market with cash as their main source of food, however food assistance is increasingly becoming the main way to obtain food regularly among Yemeni population. On national level, around 28 percent of the households are depending on food assistance as main or the only source of food; this percentage became as high as 31 percent among displaced households and among households with poor food consumption. Overall 43 percent of the surveyed households reported receiving food assistance, 90 percent of those confirmed received assistance from WFP.

Map 4: Average weekly consumption by governorate for

Proteins



Map 3 : Percentage of hosueholds by governorate with

Poor or Borderline Food Consumption

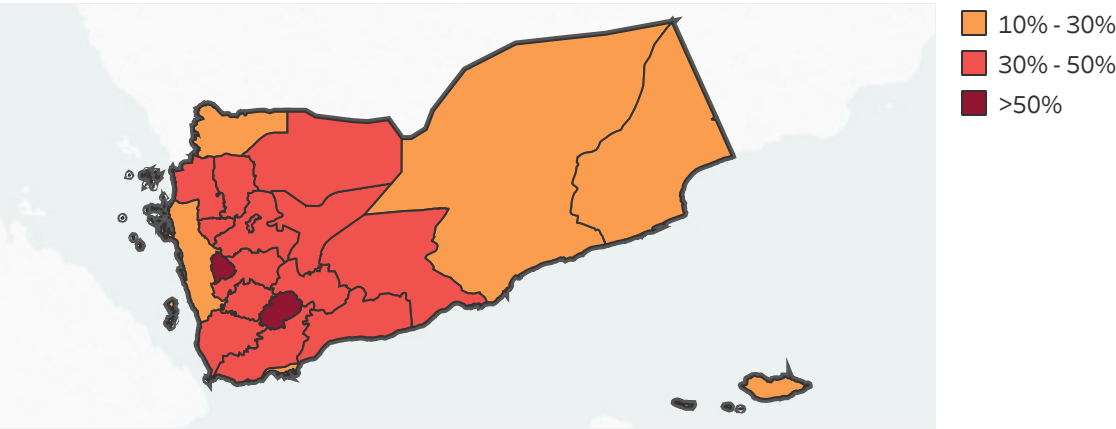


Figure 6: National percentage of households with inadequate food consumption

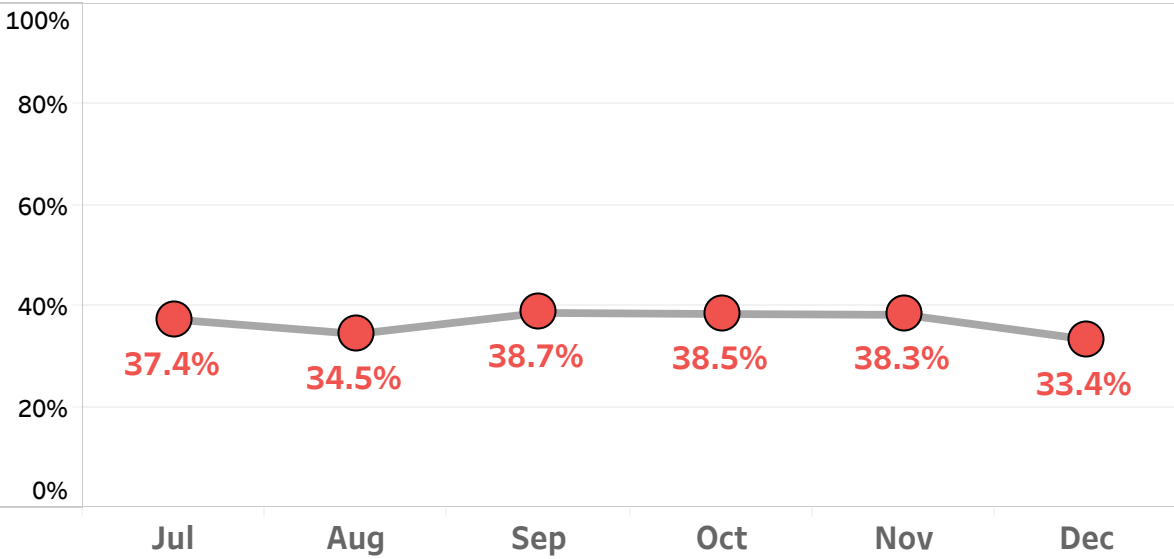


Figure 8: Households main food source according to

Food consumption groups

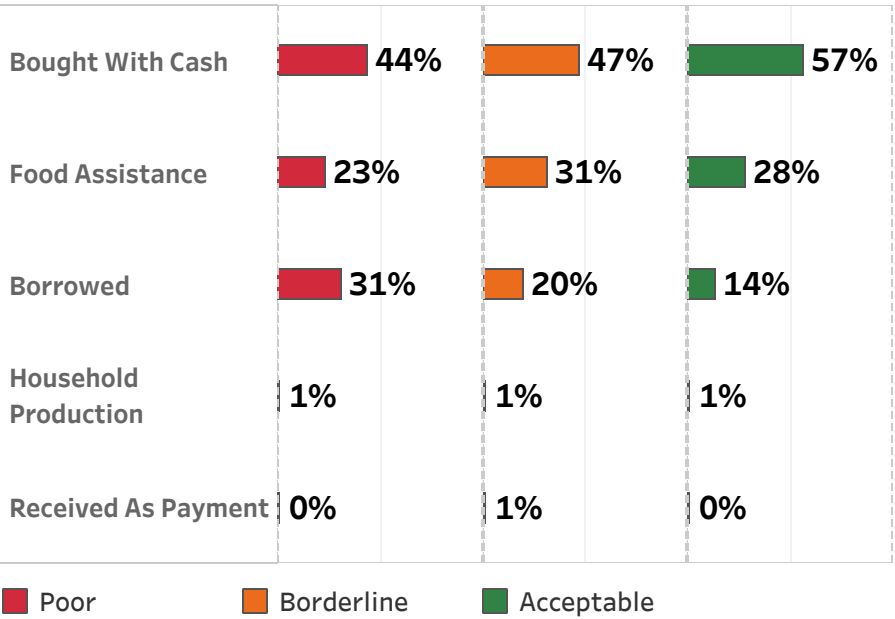
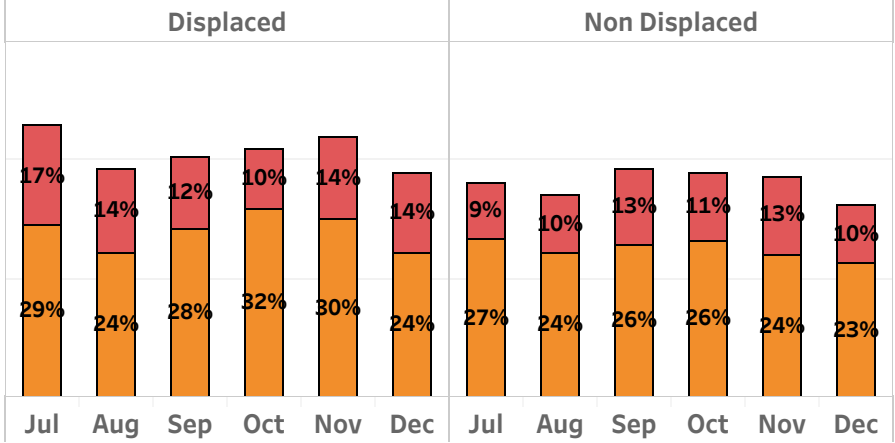


Figure 7: Percentage of households with inadequate food consumption according to

Displacement status





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Click on one or more governorates on the map to get the correspondent Figures 9 , 10 & 11

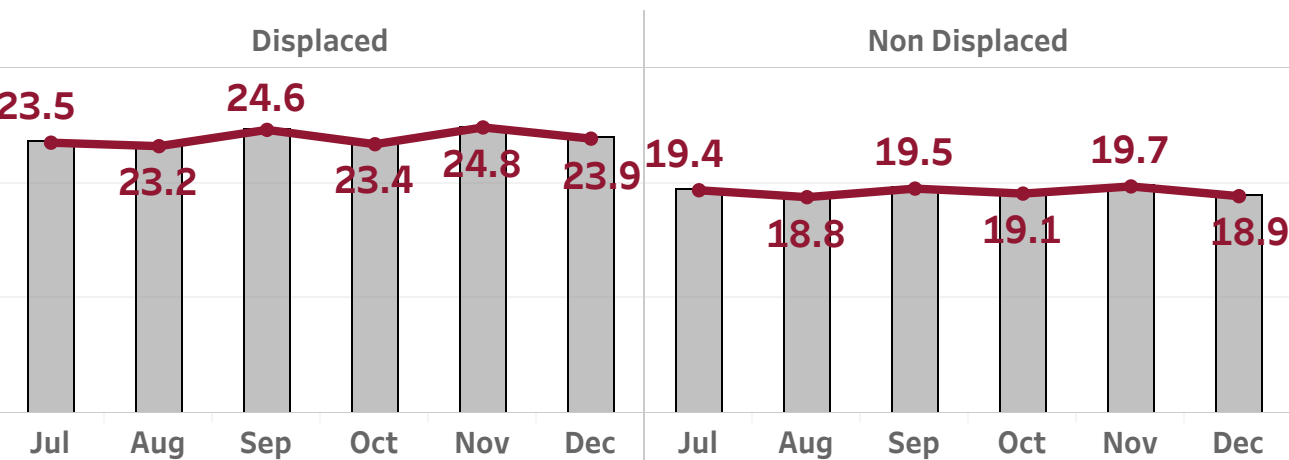
The Reduced Coping Strategy (rCSI) index is an indicator to understand the severity and stress level experienced by households to cope with their difficulty accessing food. The more the rCSI is high, the more the household relied on more severe survival strategies for cope with his difficulty accessing food. The overall average rCSI stands at 20 points with the highest level observed in Sana'a City (25) while the lowest is reported in Lahj and Hadramaut (13 points). A significant increase in the use rCSI has been recorded in [Abyan](#) from 14 in September-October to 19 in November-December.

Displaced households (rCSI = 24) have more difficulties accessing food than resident households (rCSI = 19) and [displaced in Raymah](#) reported the highest levels of food related coping strategies.

Limiting the size of meals is the strategy that households use the most. In the 7 days preceding the evaluation, 73 percent of households have resorted to it on average three days a week. In addition, the other four strategies have been applied practically by more than half of the households. Around 65 percent reported that adult members of the family are restricting their food consumption to have more food for the rest of the family especially the children. Households living in [Sana'a City, Al Jawf and Hajjah](#) are particularly resorting to this strategy.

Figure 9: National rCSI average in the past six months according to

Displacement status



Map 5 : rCSI average by governorate (Nov - Dec 2019)

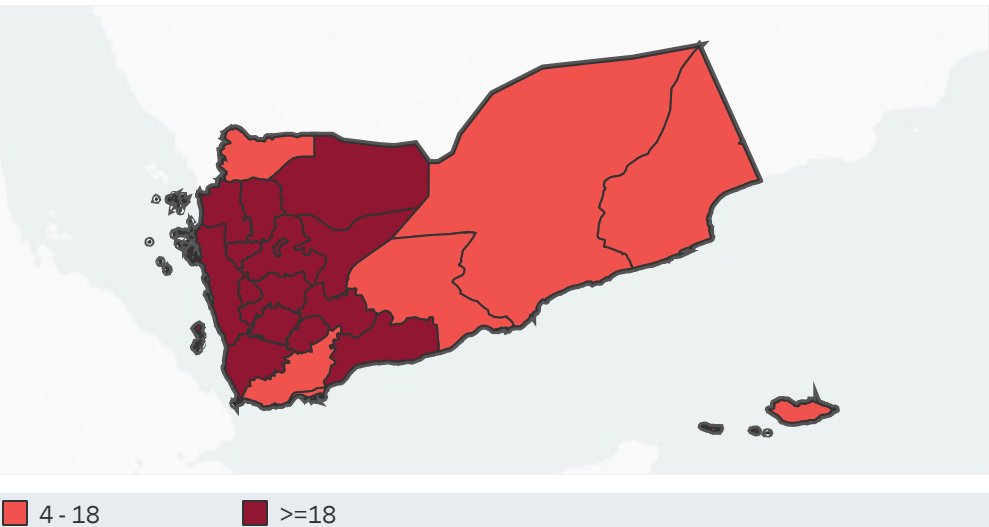


Figure 10: National rCSI average trend in the past six months.

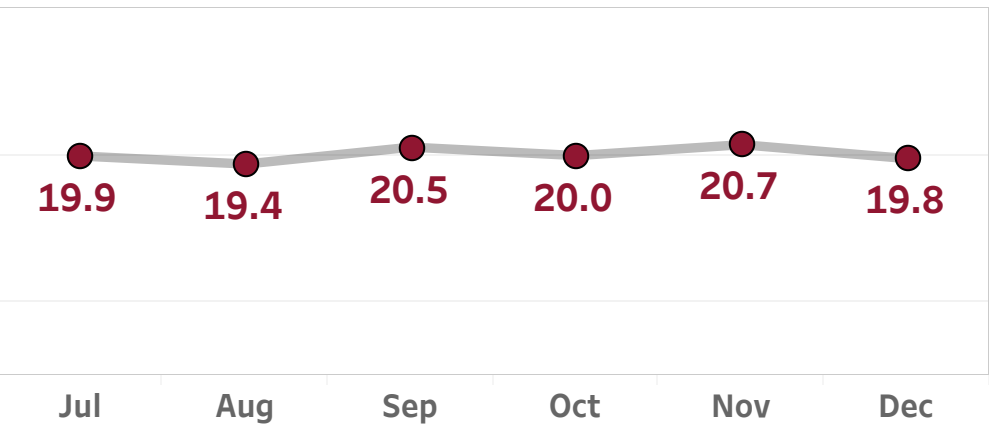


Figure 11: Percentage of households adopted each coping strategy in the past six months according to displacement status

		Limit Portion Size	Less Expensive Food	Restrict Consumption	Reduce Number of Meals	Borrow or Asking for Help
Displaced	Jul	82%	82%	74%	71%	74%
	Aug	81%	80%	75%	72%	71%
	Sep	83%	82%	74%	79%	72%
	Oct	79%	77%	71%	71%	74%
	Nov	82%	83%	79%	73%	73%
	Dec	80%	77%	75%	73%	71%
Non Displaced	Jul	70%	71%	60%	59%	60%
	Aug	73%	69%	62%	61%	59%
	Sep	72%	73%	63%	62%	61%
	Oct	70%	71%	63%	63%	62%
	Nov	74%	72%	65%	65%	58%
	Dec	71%	69%	61%	62%	62%

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