



1,645
Households surveyed



11%
Female headed households



18%
Stay as guest



29%
Displaced Households



WFP - Syria

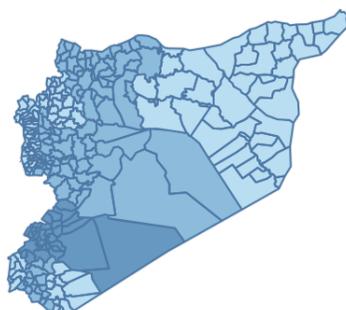
Situation Overview

- On 22 March, the Syrian Ministry of Health in Damascus announced the first laboratory-confirmed case of COVID-19. As of 30 April, 43 cases have been announced, including three fatalities. Nine years of conflict have deeply impacted some of the most important services, including health, water and sanitation: only 57 public hospitals are functioning and there are significant shortages of trained health workers.
- The new border and movement restrictions have contributed to the disruption of supply chains and limited access for essential staff to many areas of the country, while millions of vulnerable Syrians are still reliant on humanitarian assistance. The situation is especially critical for some 2.8 million vulnerable people living in northwest Syria who are already dealing with the effects of military operations and forced displacement and whose lives are now also being impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- UN agencies and humanitarian partners are incorporating necessary precautionary measures to protect humanitarian workers and the communities they serve. However, the capacity to isolate, test, treat and trace is extremely limited, considering living conditions of IDPs, shortages of staff and medical equipment.
- The availability of food in markets is diminishing and prices are rising as a result of the continued depreciation of the Syrian Pound. The national average SYP/USD informal exchange rate has fallen to 1,256 SYP/USD as of 30 April.

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Syrian Arab Republic: COVID-19 Update No. 07 - 25 April 2020

mVAM coverage (April 2020)



Key Points

- Poor food consumption is on the rise in **Aleppo** and especially in **Menbij** district where 15 percent of the surveyed households reported a poor food consumption.
- Households are increasingly borrowing or using credit as they have depleted their savings and, in most cases, lost their source of income.
- Due to the preventive measures and movement restrictions implemented by the government of Syria as a response to the current outbreak, around 30 percent of the households don't have regular access to the market and 16 percent don't have access to healthcare.
- As a result of the closure of many work activities since 15 March, around 64 percent of the household reported that they have lost one or more sources of income; among these more than half reported having lost almost entirely their income. Around a third of those households who reported losses of income were found to have inadequate food intake.

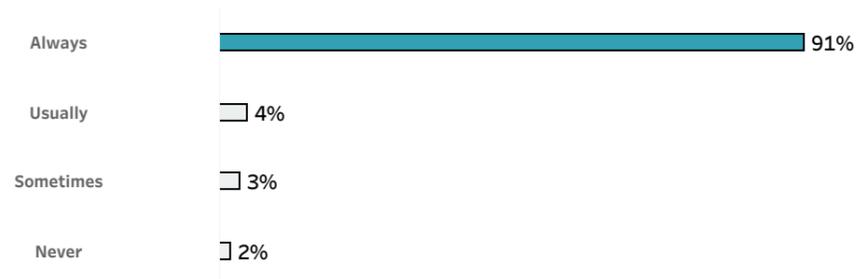
Methodology

This mVAM bulletin is based on data collected via live telephone interviews in April 2020 from households in locations across Syria. The telephone numbers called were generated using random-digit dialing. Starting from February 2020, data is collected from a sample of around 2000 respondents across 14 governorates. As per standard survey procedures, respondents' consent was obtained prior to the interviews. For security and safety measures, all respondents were identified with an anonymous ID.



OVERVIEW

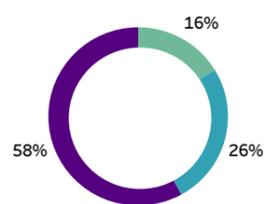
Fig1: Percentage of households adopting preventive measures against COVID-19



14%
Have Elderly Suffering From a Chronic Disease

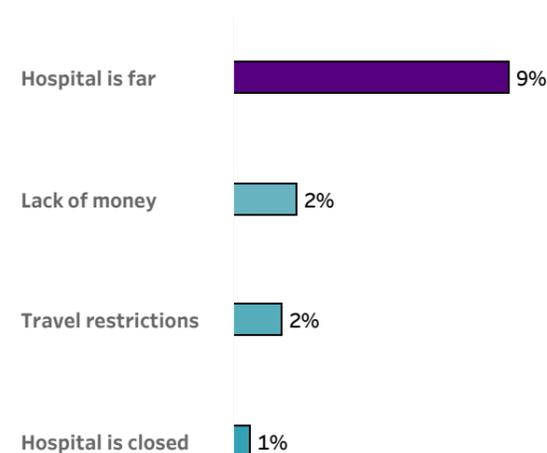
ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES

Fig2: Access to Medical Services



■ Have challenge
■ No challenge
■ No need to access

Fig3: Reasons why accessing health services was challenging



ACCESS TO MARKET

Fig4: Access to markets

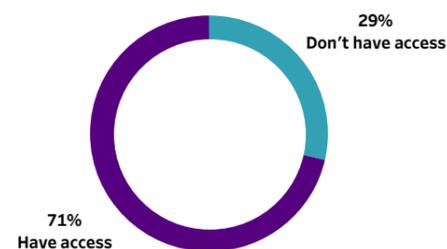
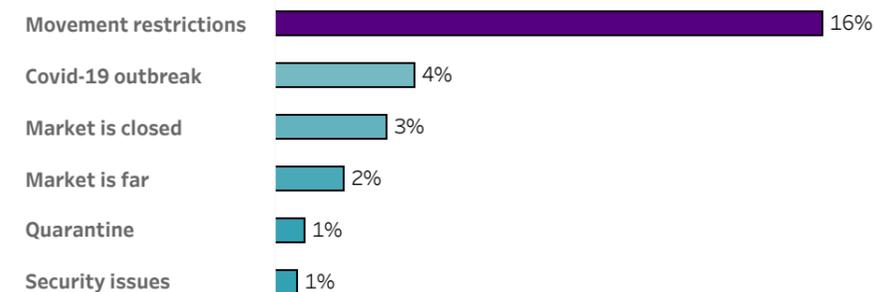
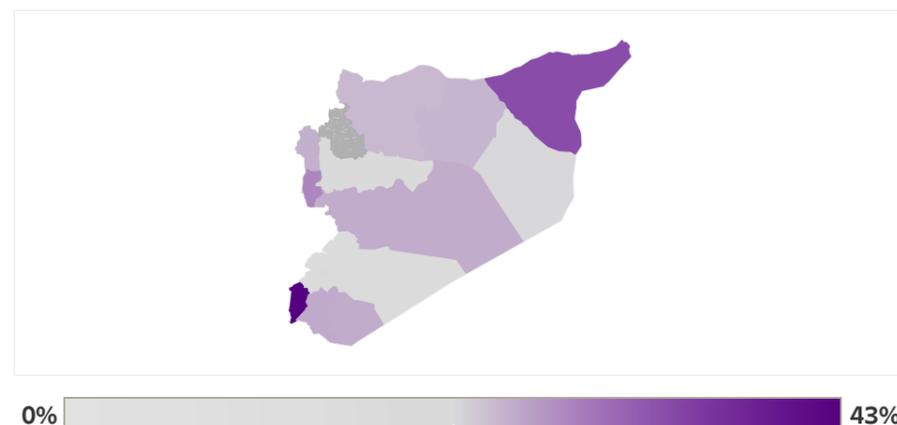


Fig5: Reasons why accessing market was challenging



Map1: Percentage of households facing challenges to access markets after the pandemic



In April 2020 an additional module to monitor the impact of COVID-19 on food security was added to the mVAM survey. The Government of Syria and local authorities in North Eastern Syria continue to implement a range of preventive measures that includes curfew, a ban on travel between governorates and within governorates to and from urban and rural centers, with some exemptions, including for emergency, humanitarian and essential services. All non-essential services remain closed and public sector offices remain on reduced working hours.

The vast majority of the interviewed households (91 percent) confirmed following the above preventive measures. As most of the families are staying at home and avoiding crowded places, around 29 percent of the total respondents reported not being able to access regularly the market with peaks in **Quneitra** (43 percent) and **Al-Hasakeh** (34 percent). This represents a huge challenge for a population that mostly relies on markets as primary source of food (89 percent). The main impediments cited by the respondents were travel restrictions (16 percent) followed by the pandemic outbreak (4 percent). However, markets are reportedly open and only in **Al-Hasakeh and Ar-Raqqa** around 10 percent of the households reported that the markets were closed.

Access to healthcare seems to be also problematic as 16 percent of the surveyed households reported facing challenges receiving medical care either at home or in health centers, hospitals and clinics, with **Quneitra** being the governorate the highest percent of households reporting problems with access to healthcare (20 percent). In terms of displacement status, returnees seem to be the population group facing more issues in accessing healthcare.

The main reason reported is that hospitals are too far, and it is difficult to reach them especially due to the movement restrictions as well as the imposed curfew hours. Around 27 percent of households with no regular access to a market and 47 percent of those not being able to access medical healthcare were found to have poor and borderline food consumption.

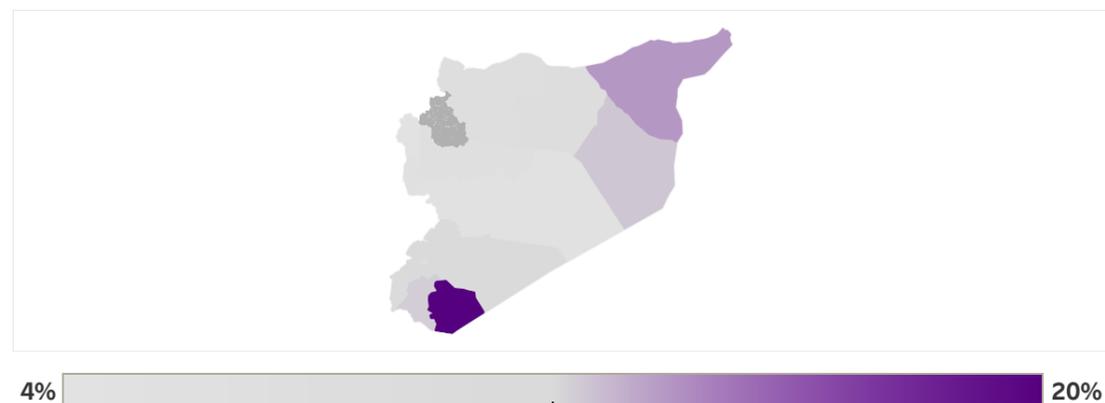
IMPACT ON ASSISTANCE

Fig6: Households facing difficulties receiving humanitarian assistance after the pandemic

BY Head of Household Sex



Map2: Percentage of households facing difficulties receiving assistance after the pandemic

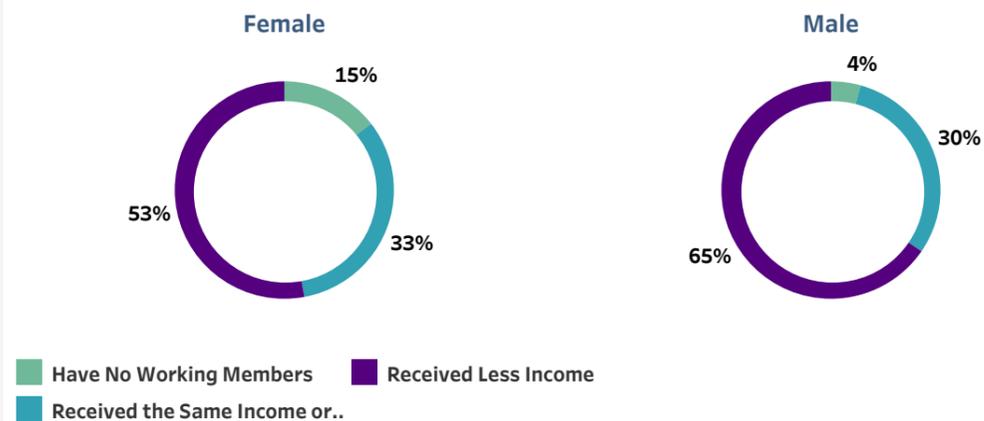


IMPACT ON INCOME AND LIVELIHOOD

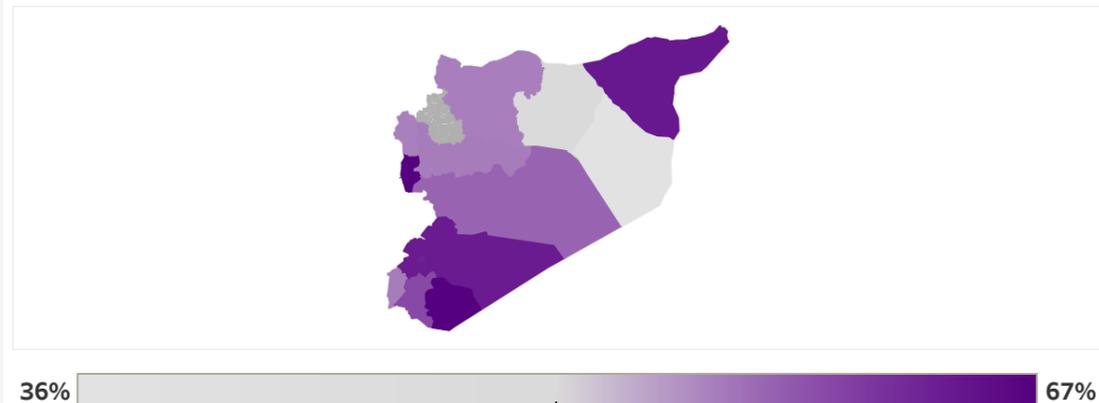
5% Have No Working Members
 37% Lost Between 75-100% of Their Income
 64% Received Less Income After the Pandemic

Fig7: Percentage of households receiving less income after the pandemic

BY Head of Household Sex



Map3: Percentage of households receiving less income after the pandemic



According to mVAM data, overall around 8 percent of the surveyed households reported that movement restrictions made it difficult for households to receive remittances and/or food assistance. However, in [As-Sweida and Al-Hasakeh](#) this percentage was reported to be as high as 20 percent and 14 percent respectively.

As a result of the forced closure of many work activities, around 64 percent of the interviewed households reported that they have lost one or more sources of income; among these more than half reported having lost between 75-100 percent of their income. Around a third of those households who reported losses of income have poor or borderline food consumption and 90 percent of these households reported having relied on at least one coping strategy in the 30 days before the survey. Around 70 percent of interviewed households reported no loss of income due to COVID-19 and its related movement restrictions. For families who are already vulnerable prior to COVID-19, lost income can translate to spikes in poverty, missed meals for children, and reduced access to healthcare with implications on the household's wellbeing that go far beyond the current outbreak's timelines.

Population groups most affected by the loss of one or more sources of income are reportedly returnees (70 percent) and IDPs (68 percent). Up to 40 percent of interviewed IDPs and returnees reported already having lost most of their income.

At governorate level, the highest shares of people who reported loss of one or more sources of income were recorded in [As-Sweida](#) (67 percent) and [Al-Hasakeh](#) (64 percent) with almost 40 percent of them reporting that they had lost between 75-100 percent of their income since COVID-19 movement restrictions were implemented (mid-March 2020). In addition, the proportion of households who declared to be unemployed remains high especially in [Deir-ez-Zor](#) (13 percent) and [Ar-Raqqa](#) (11 percent) and among female head of household (15 percent).

In April, the overall levels of inadequate food consumption remain stable compared to March, with almost a third of the surveyed households (31 percent) reporting poor or borderline food consumption. Fruits and pulses are the least consumed food group, eaten on average 1-2 times a week. Some food commodities have seen a sudden spike in price compared to last week prices: tomatoes up 25% and lentils up 7%. This is largely believed to be related to seasonal variations and due to extra demand due to Ramadan (especially for lentils).

At governorate level, in April increases have been detected mainly in the share of households reporting borderline food consumption in **Lattakia** (+10 percent), **Quneitra** (+7 percent) and **As-Sweida** (+6 percent). Poor food consumption remained almost unchanged with the increases being recorded in **Tartous** (+5 percent) and **Aleppo** (+3 percent) and specifically in **Menbij** district (+8 percent). **Menbij** recorded one of the highest levels of poor food consumption in April (15 percent).

Food consumption of displaced households showed also a deterioration compared to previous months, and 37 percent of the IDP households reported having an inadequate diet, 6 percent higher than in March and 5 percent higher compared to resident households.

Map 4 : Percentage of households by governorate with

Poor and Borderline Food Consumption

National Average

Nov	27%
Dec	32%
Jan	37%
Feb	31%
Mar	33%
Apr	31%

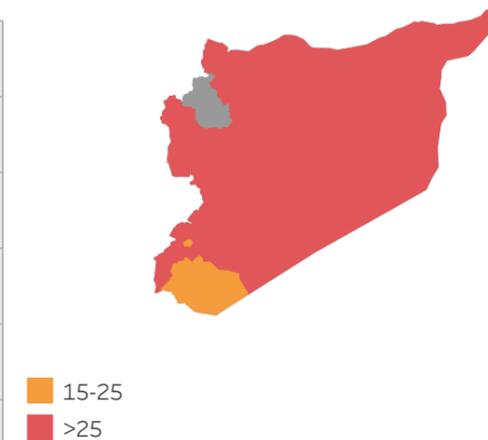


Fig9: Percentage of households with poor and borderline FC according to

According to

Head of Household Sex

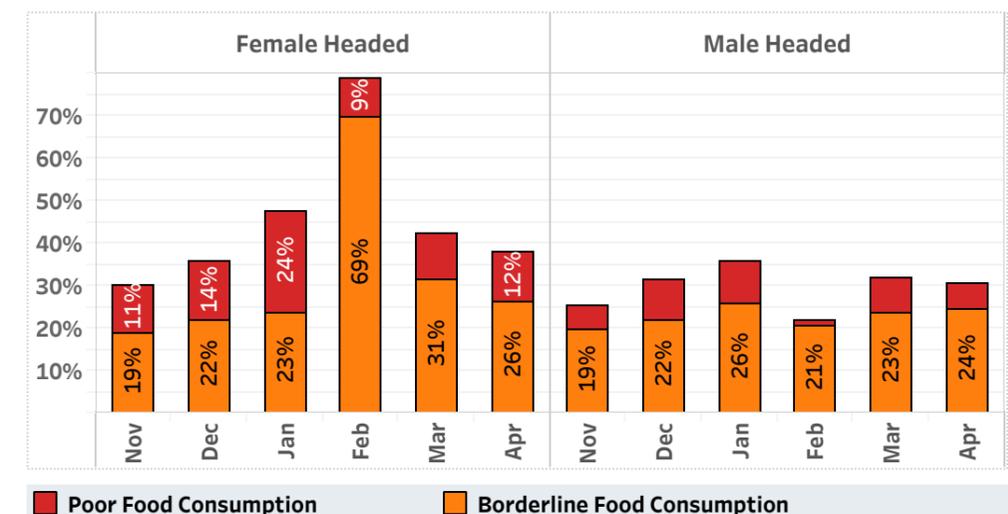
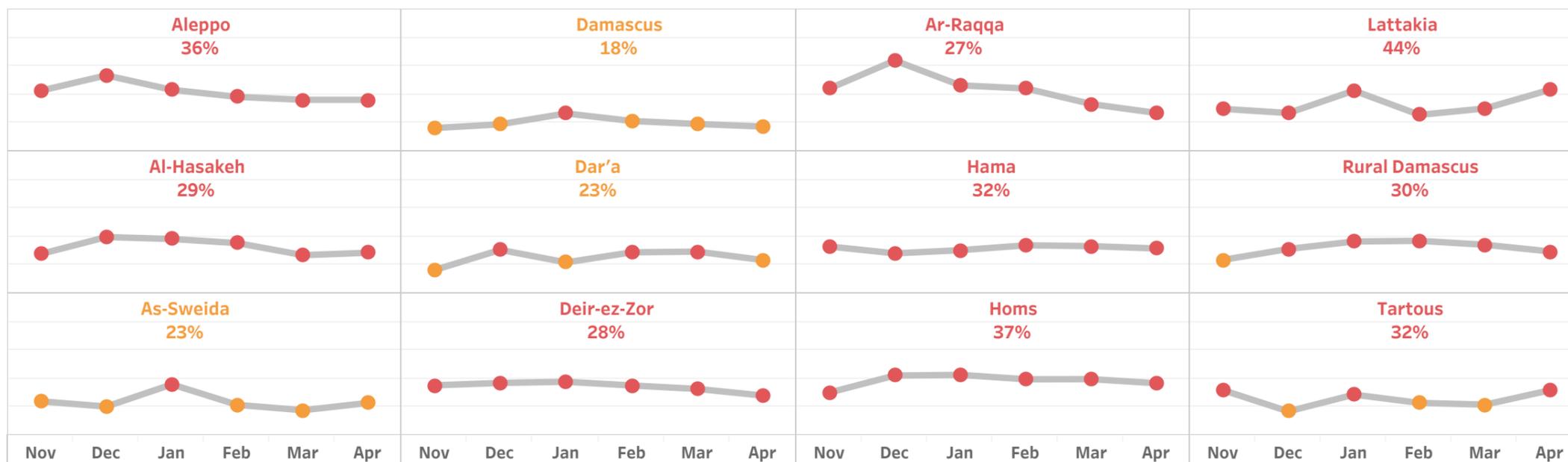


Fig 8: Percentage of households with inadequate food consumption in the last six months by governorate

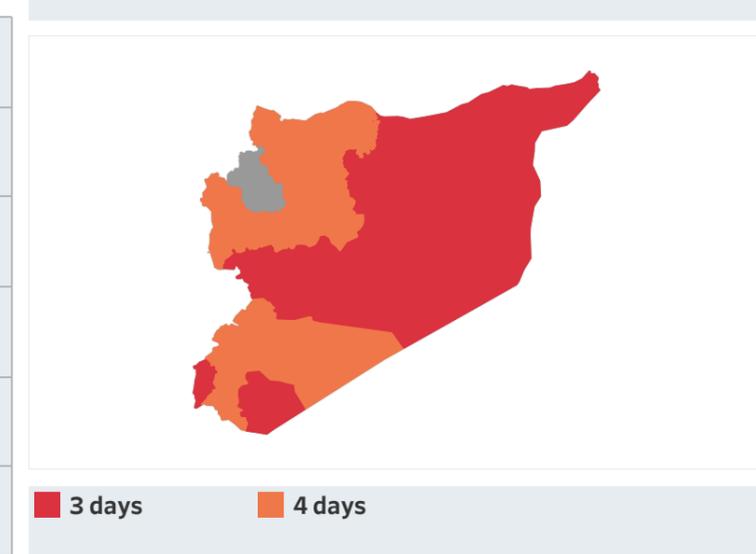


Map 5: Average weekly consumption by governorate for

National Average

Nov	5
Dec	4
Jan	3
Feb	2
Mar	3
Apr	3

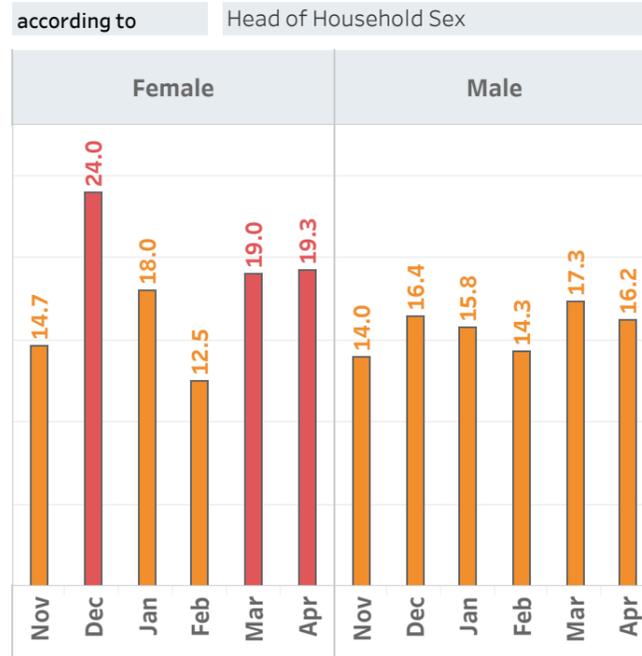
Vegetables



The national rCSI reached 16.5 as approximately seven out of ten households reported to have consumed less preferred and less expensive food. In addition, half of the surveyed households reported having either reduced the number of meals consumed or borrowed money or food, with higher proportions among female-headed households (Figure 10). Reducing consumption of adult household members to let their children eat was also a widely implemented coping strategy (used by 46 percent of households), with peaks among returnees (61 percent).

At the governorate level, **Al-Hasakeh** (rCSI 19.9) and **Quneitra** (rCSI 17.5) reported the highest use of consumption-based coping strategies. **Al-Hasakeh and Quneitra** also recorded high levels of food coping in March (rCSI 20.8 and rCSI 17.6, respectively), suggesting the persistence of a dire situation. Using savings to cope with the current situation is not an option for 87 percent of the Syrian households suggesting that the vast majority of the households have already depleted their savings, with peaks in **Al-Hasakeh and Deir-ez-Zor** (92 percent). This also justifies the high percent of households that are buying food on credit (73 percent in **Ar-Raqqa** and 72 percent in **Dar'a** 72 percent, **As-Sweida** 72%)

Fig10: rCSI average in the last six months



Map6: rCSI average by governorate

rCSI National Average

Nov	16.2
Dec	17.4
Jan	16.0
Feb	13.9
Mar	17.5
Apr	16.5

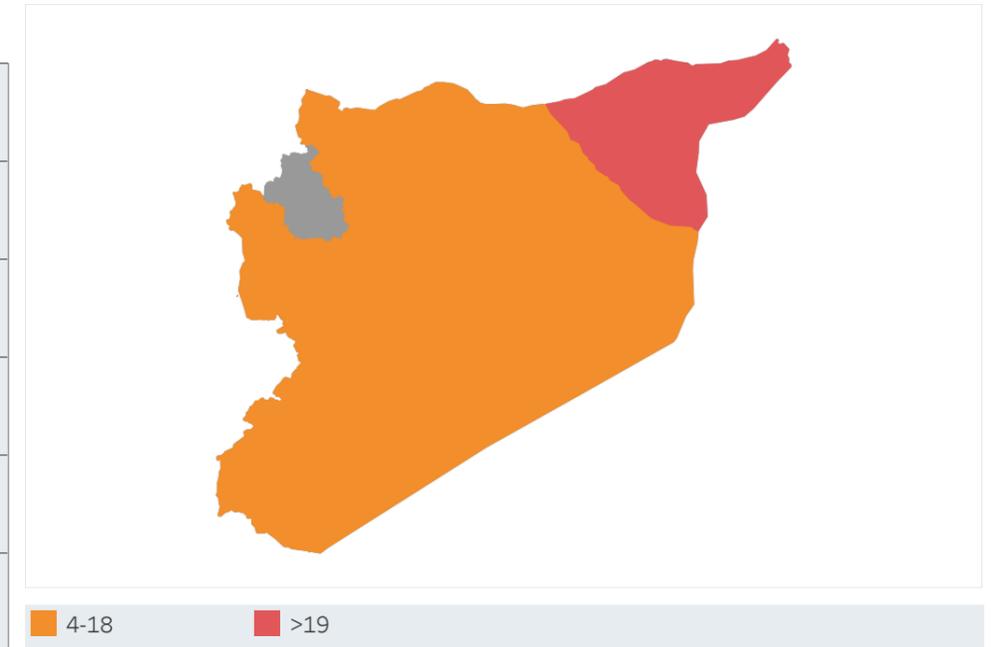


Fig 11: rCSI average by governorate in the last six months

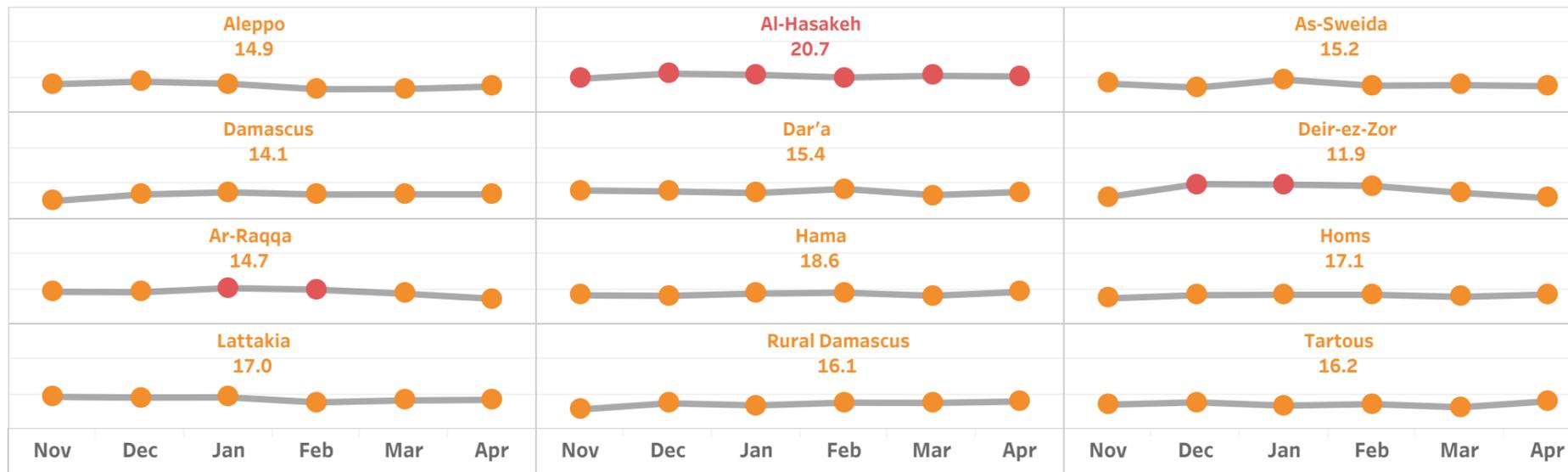


Fig 12: Overall percentage of households who adopted each coping strategy

Strategy	Headed	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
		Less Expensive Food	53%	73%	76%	97%	73%
Reduce Number of Meals	38%	63%	53%	95%	56%	60%	
Borrow Or Help	61%	72%	52%	96%	63%	66%	
Limit portion Size	41%	57%	45%	4%	43%	42%	
Restrict Consumption	43%	59%	51%	4%	45%	44%	
Less Expensive Food	61%	63%	65%	95%	67%	69%	
Reduce Number of Meals	41%	49%	48%	92%	49%	47%	
Borrow Or Help	49%	56%	54%	58%	55%	48%	
Limit portion Size	39%	42%	42%	56%	43%	37%	
Restrict Consumption	41%	48%	42%	40%	47%	47%	