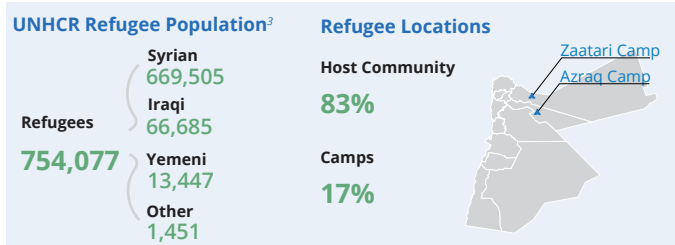


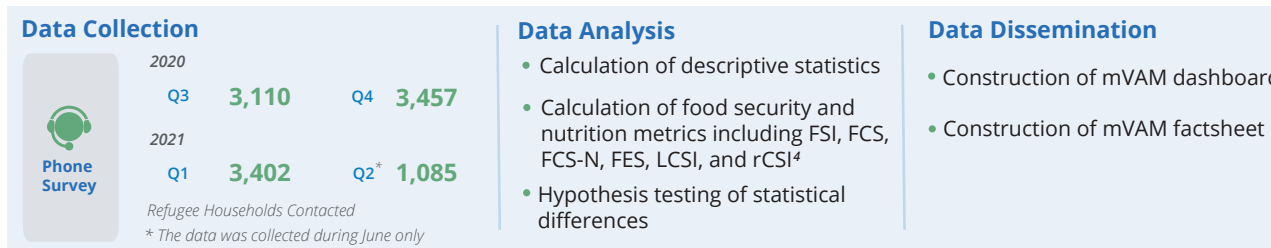
# Introduction

The World Food Programme (WFP) Country Office in Jordan responds to the food needs of approximately 1 million vulnerable refugees and Jordanians through a number of activities defined by the WFP Jordan Country Strategic Plan (CSP) (2020 - 2022). Interventions include the provision of food assistance to refugees in camps and communities, supporting income-generation and providing training opportunities for vulnerable Jordanians and refugees in communities, and supporting the Government of Jordan to strengthen and expand existing social protection schemes<sup>1</sup>. To ensure that interventions under the various CSP activities are designed and managed following an evidence-based approach, WFP Jordan conducts a monthly mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM) exercise which collects and analyzes vulnerability data for a representative sample of refugees and Jordanian households in communities. This factsheet provides a summary of the primary findings for refugee households living in the communities drawn from data collected as part of mVAM exercise conducted in JUNE 2021<sup>2</sup>. WFP also conducts periodic Food Security Outcome Monitoring (FSOM) among the beneficiaries while mVAM covers the overall refugee population in Jordan. Although there is significant overlap between mVAM and FSOM, the findings should be viewed in consideration with the relevant covered population.

## Context Overview



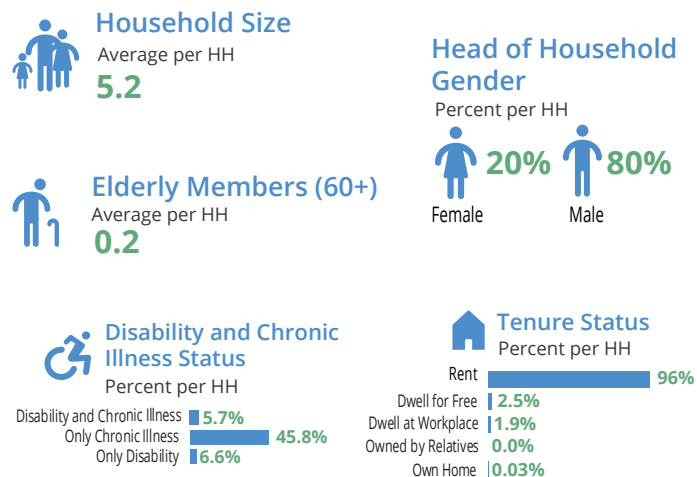
## Study Overview



## Findings

### Demographics

Refugee households in communities had an average of 5.16 members. One fifth of the members within an average households are made of elderly people. Refugee households in communities were predominantly male-headed (80%) and lived in a rented dwelling (96%).

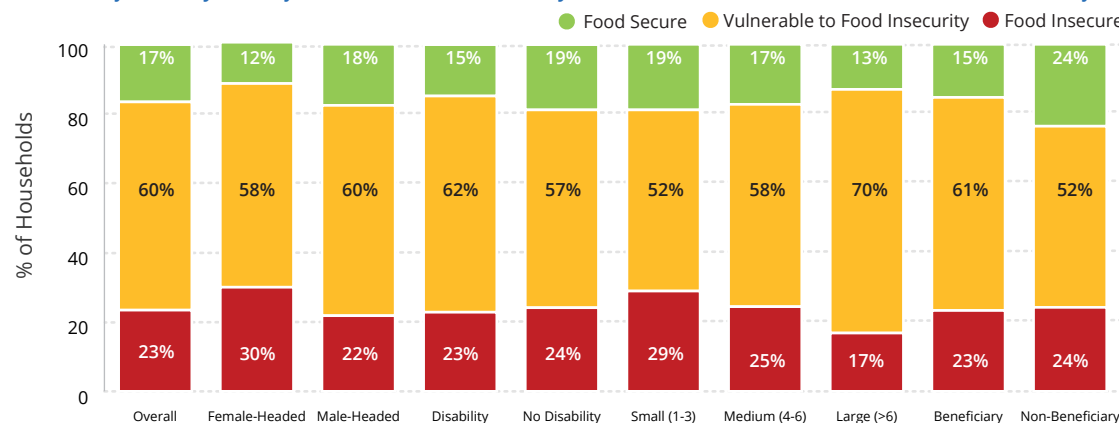


### Food Security Index (FSI)

**Definition:** The Food Security Index is a composite measure of food security that combines the Food Consumption Score (FCS), Food Expenditure Share (FES), and Livelihoods-Based Coping Strategy Index (LCSI) into a single holistic measure calculated following the Consolidated Approach to Reporting Indicators of Food Security (CARI).

As shown in Figure 1, (84%) of refugee households in communities were either food insecure or vulnerable to food insecurity in June 2021, out of those 23% of the households are food insecure compared 21% in March 2021. Looking at food security status among the subgroups within the population, 88% of female headed households, 85% of households with disabled or chronically ill members, and 87% of large households (>6 members) were deemed food insecure or vulnerable to food insecurity. These sub-populations also showed higher rates of food insecurity, and vulnerability to food insecurity compared to the other household groups. Considering only the food insecure category, 30% of the female-headed households, 29% of small households (1-3 members) and 23% of the households with disabilities or chronically ill members were identified as food insecure in June 2021.

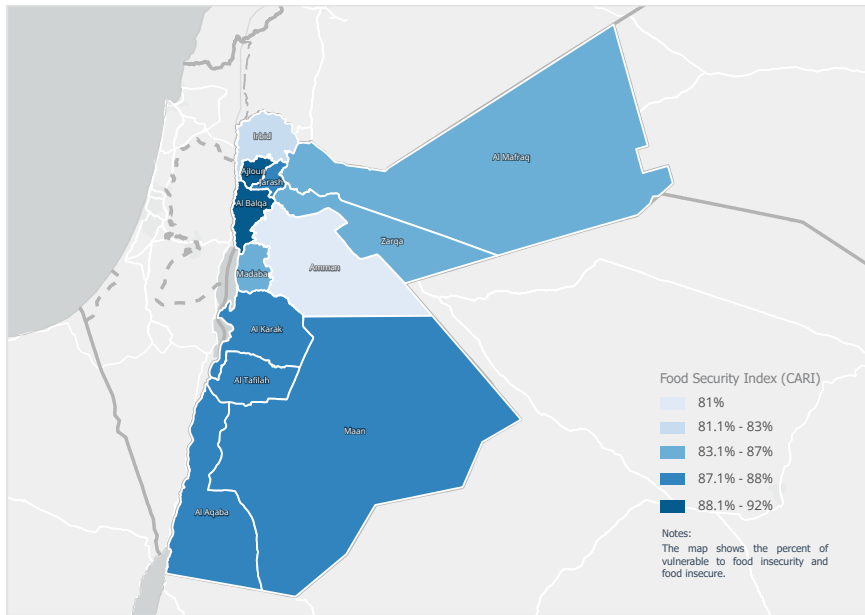
Figure 1. FSI Classification by Head of Household Gender, Disability / Chronic Illness Status, Household Size, and WFP Beneficiary Status



<sup>1</sup> Includes unique beneficiaries, as of Oct 31, 2020  
<sup>2</sup> Excludes refugee households living in camps  
<sup>3</sup> Includes refugees and persons of concern registered with UNHCR, as of July 18, 2021  
<sup>4</sup> Indicator definitions provided within Findings sub-sections

In June 2021, The percentage of food insecure refugee households in the communities varied widely across the governorates. Households in Madaba, Amman, Mafraq and Balqa had the highest rates of food insecurity with the averages of 36.7%, 25.3% and 22.5% respectively. Households in Zarqa showed the lowest rate of food insecurity at (17.2%).

**Figure 2. Percent of Vulnerable to Food Insecurity and Food Insecure Households as Classified by the FSI by Governorate**



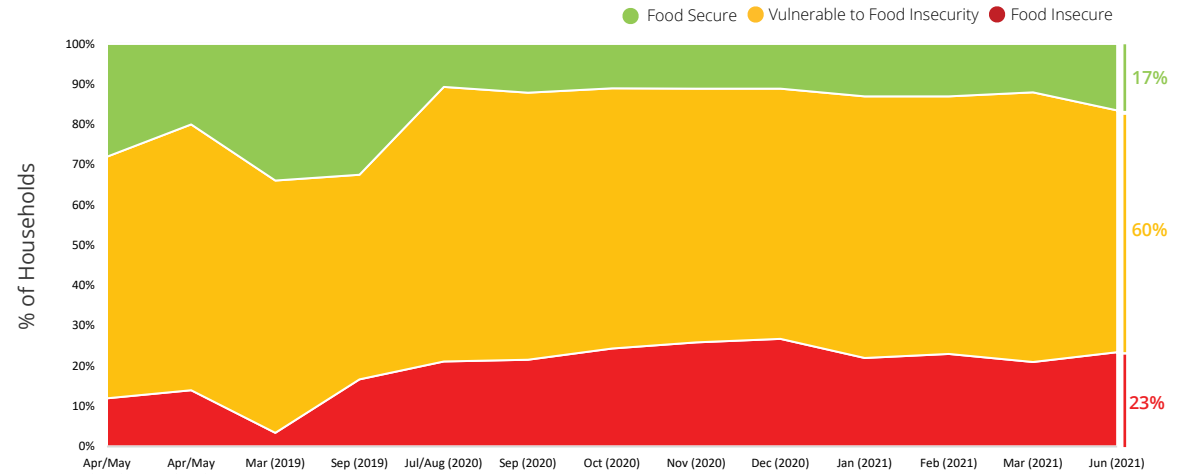
Source: Jun 2021 mVAM

As shown in Figure 3, the outbreak of COVID19 and the associated reduction in employment opportunities for refugees in communities led to a significant deterioration in food security with 23% of households classified as food insecure in June 2021 compared to 17% of households in Sep 2019. Similarly, 60% of the households were reported as vulnerable to food insecurity in June 2021 compared to 51% in September 2019.

Food insecurity rates went down slightly in March 2021 which can be attributed to the winterization assistance and availability of some employment opportunities associated with the loosening of COVID19 restrictions and increased demand for labour during the agricultural season. However, food insecurity had deteriorated once again by June 2021, reaching 23%.

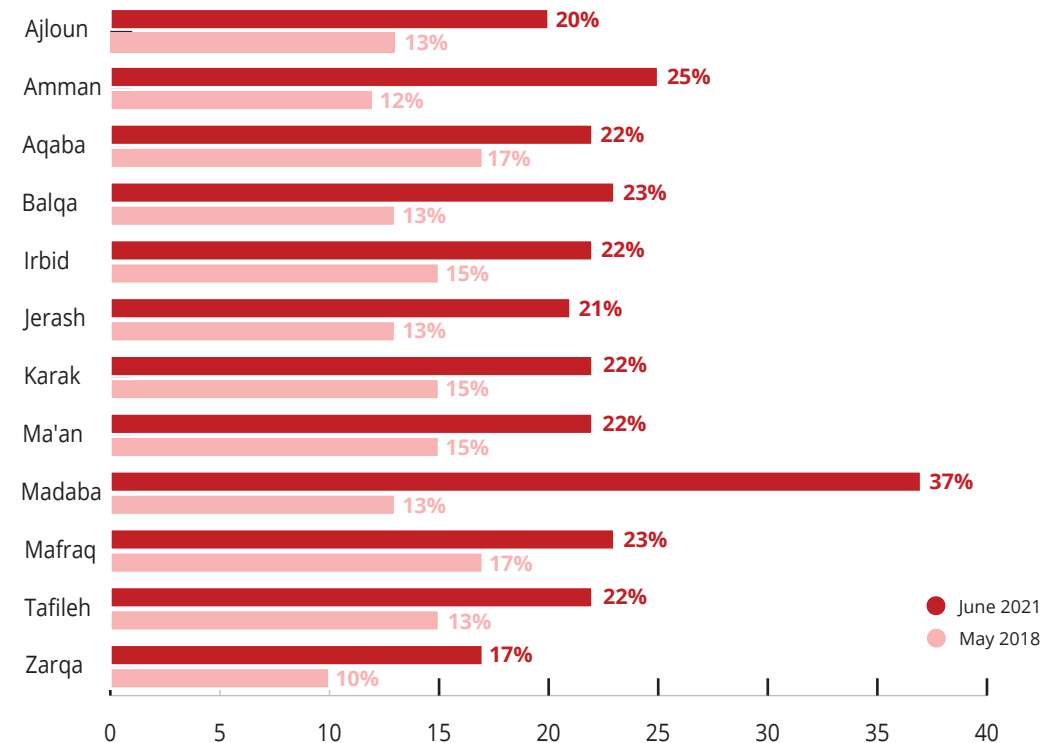
On the long term, most of the governorates showed a significant deterioration in food security from mid 2019 until end of 2020 which can be attributed to the socio-economic impact of COVID19. This trend has mainly been noticed in Mafraq where the rate of food insecure households went up from 17% to 23% and in Balqa 13% to 23%. However, in early 2021 a slight improvement has been noticed in number of governorates like Amman and the South governorates of Karak, Tafilah, Maan and Aqaba due to some winterization assistance and opening-up of seasonal agricultural labour opportunities. However, the overall food security situation has deteriorated in Q2 2021.

**Figure 3. FSI Classification by Month/Year**



Source: Apr/May 2016 CFSME, Apr/May 2018 CFSVA, Jul 2020 - Mar 2021 mVAM, Jun 2021 mVAM

**Figure 4. Percent of Food Insecure Households as Classified by the FSI by Governorate and Year**



Source: Apr/May 2018 CFSVA, Jun 2021 mVAM

## Food Consumption Score (FCS)

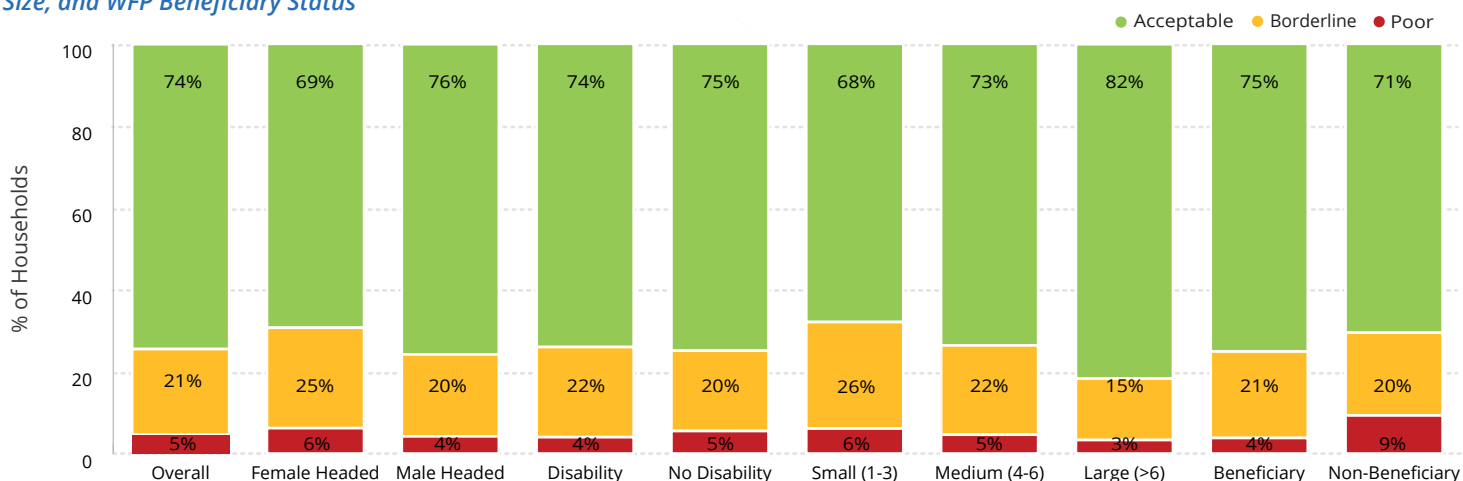
**Definition:** The Food Consumption Score measures dietary diversity, consumption frequency, and relative nutritional importance of household food consumption. The measure is considered a good indicator of current food security when combined with the Consumption-Based Coping Strategy Index (rCSI).

Longer-term trend for the FCS remains fragile following a slight increasing trend across time, with roughly 23% of the population having borderline or poor food consumption during the past 12 months.

In June 2021, 26% of refugee households in communities had either poor or borderline food consumption compared to 22% in March 2021. Households on average consumed cereals / tubers, sugars, and fats 6-7 days a week; vegetables, meat / fish /eggs, and dairy 3-5 days a week; and pulses / nuts and fruits 0.6 -2 days per week. Disaggregation by household demographics identified small households (32%), female-headed households (31%) and households with member(s) with disabilities (26%) as having particularly inadequate food consumption, as measured by the proportion of households with poor or borderline food consumption.

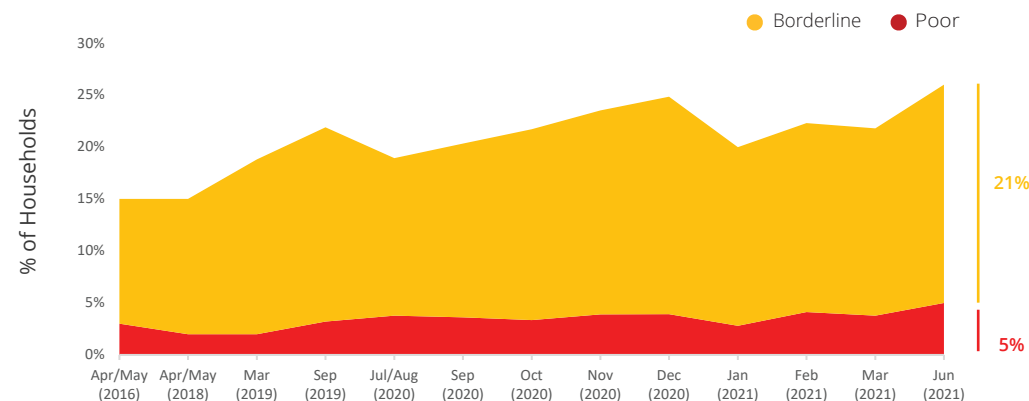


Figure 6. FCS Classification by Head of Household Gender, Disability / Chronic Illness Status, Household Size, and WFP Beneficiary Status



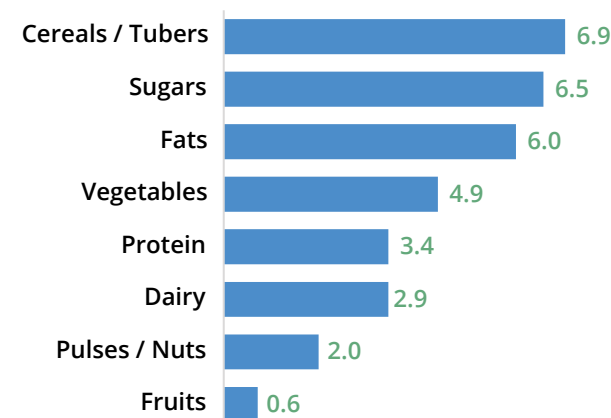
Source: Jun 2021 mVAM

Figure 5. FCS Classification by Month/Year



Source: Apr/May 2016 CFSME, Apr/May 2018 CFSVA, Jul 2020 - Mar 2021 mVAM, Jun 2021 mVAM

Figure 7. Average Number of Days of Household Food Consumption per Week by Food Group<sup>6</sup>



Source: Jun 2021 mVAM

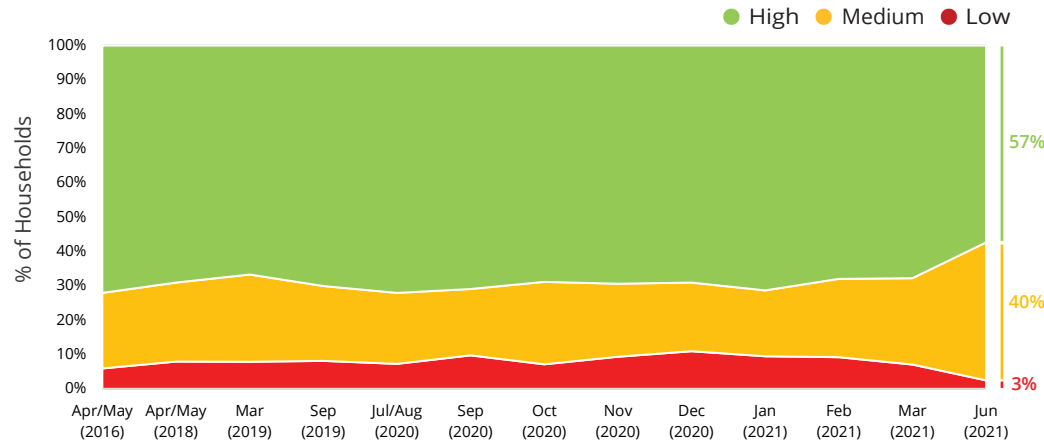
<sup>6</sup> Cereals / tubers includes rice, pasta, bread, potato, bulgur, and white sweet potato; pulses / nuts includes beans, peas, lentils, chickpeas, soybean, fava beans, peanut, almond, chestnut, cashew, and other nuts; dairy includes milk powder, fresh milk, sour milk, cheese, and yogurt; meat / fish / eggs includes beef, pork, lamb, goat, rabbit, chicken, duck, other birds, insects, liver, kidney, heart, other organ meats, fish, canned tuna, escargot, other seafood, and eggs; vegetables includes carrot, red pepper, pumpkin, orange sweet potatoes, spinach, broccoli, other leaves, cucumber, onions, eggplant, and okra; fruits includes mango, papaya, apricot, peach, banana, apple, orange, clementine, citrus, dates, and other fruits; sugar includes sugar, juice, halawa, honey, jam, cakes, candy, cookies, pastries, other sweets, and sugary drinks; fats includes vegetable oil, palm oil, olive oil, ghee, margarine, and other fats/oil

## Dietary Diversity Score (DDS)

**Definition:** Dietary Diversity Score is a qualitative measure of food consumption that reflects household access to variety of food. The measure is a proxy for household nutrient adequacy.

Dietary diversity for refugee households has deteriorated significantly between March to June 2021, with the proportion of households with insufficient dietary diversity (low or medium dietary diversity) increasing from 32% to 43%. June 2021 figures show that infants less than 2 years of age consumed 5.5 meals per day, children 2-5 years of age consumed 2.8 meals per day, and adolescents 5-17 years of age consumed 2.4 meals per day. Adults over 18 years old reported consuming only 2.1 meals a day.

Figure 8. DDS Classification by Head of Household Gender and Month



Source: Apr/May 2016 CFSME, Apr/May 2018 CFSVA, Jul 2020 - Mar 2021 mVAM, Jun 2021 mVAM

Figure 9. Average Daily Meal Consumption by Head of Household Gender

	Overall # of meals per day	Female - Headed # of meals per day	Male - Headed # of meals per day
0-2 Years	5.5	5.1	5.6
2-5 Years	2.8	2.8	2.8
5-17 Years	2.1	2.2	2.5
18+ Years	2.1	1.9	2.2

Source: Jun 2021 mVAM

Disaggregation by household demographics identified that Infants, adolescents, and adults in female-headed households consumed less meals per day compared to male-headed households.

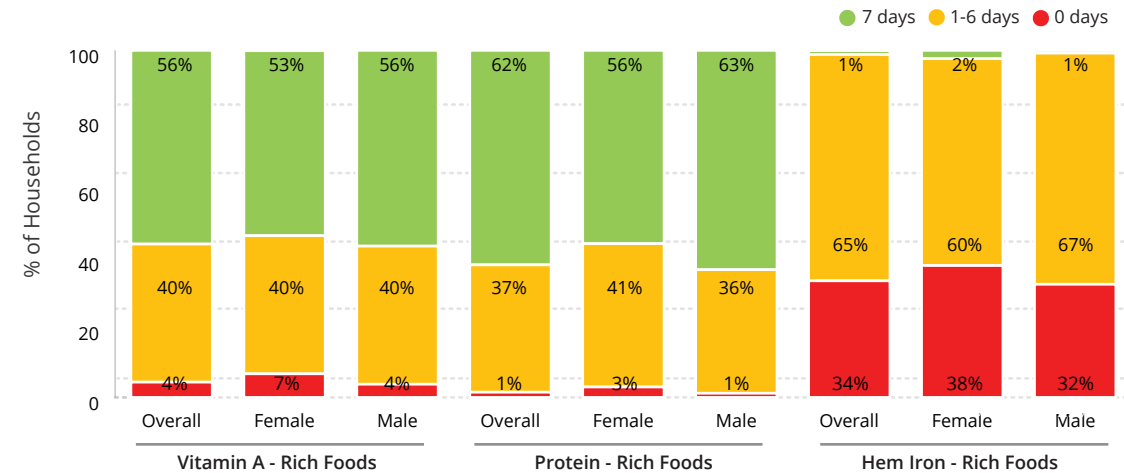


## Food Consumption Score - Nutrition (FCS-N)

**Definition:** Food Consumption Score - Nutrition measures the frequency of a household's intake of key macro and micro nutrients food groups including Protein, Hem Iron, and Vitamin A rich foods.

Refugee households in communities consumed adequate amounts of vitamin A - rich foods and protein-rich foods. However, consumption of hem iron - rich foods continues to show concerning and persistently low levels. Overall, 34% of households did not consume hem-iron rich foods in the previous week of data collection, with higher prevalence among female-headed households (at 38%), compared to male-headed households (at 33%). Hem iron is generally provided through animal-based proteins, including meat, and poultry, is a key macronutrient needed for the prevention of anemia. Consumption of hem iron appears to be low due to the relatively high cost of animal-based proteins compared to more affordable energy sources including cereals, sugars, and oils. Anemia caused by the lack of Hem iron can lead to cognitive development delays, increased risk of infection among young children, pregnancy complications, and heart problems for adult females.

Figure 10. FCS-N Classification by Head of Household Gender and Nutrient Group



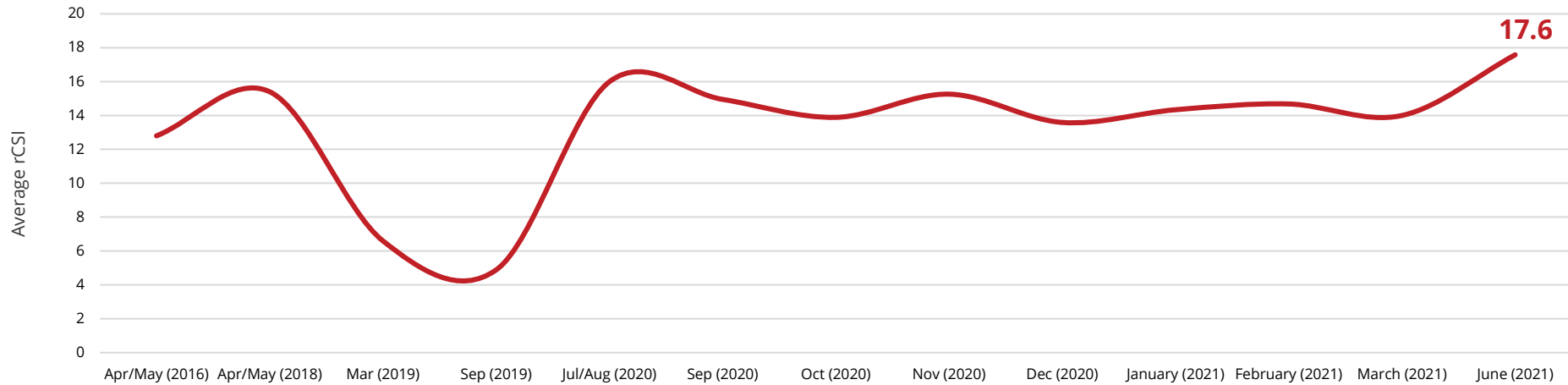
Source: Jun 2021 mVAM

## Consumption - Based Coping Strategy Index (rCSI)

**Definition:** Consumption-Based Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) measures the frequency of adoption of consumption-based coping strategies employed by households exposed to food access limitations. Measure is considered a good indicator of current food security with FCS.

After COVID-19 hit Jordan in March 2019 along with the associated restrictions on movement and business operations designed to prevent the outbreak of the disease, the rCSI trend witnessed a prominent escalation in the adoption of consumption-based coping strategies. Despite the improvement in the COVID19 situation, refugee households continued to use a concerning level of consumption-based coping strategies, as indicated by the increase in rCSI which has increased to 17.6 in June 2021 compared with 14 in March of the same year.

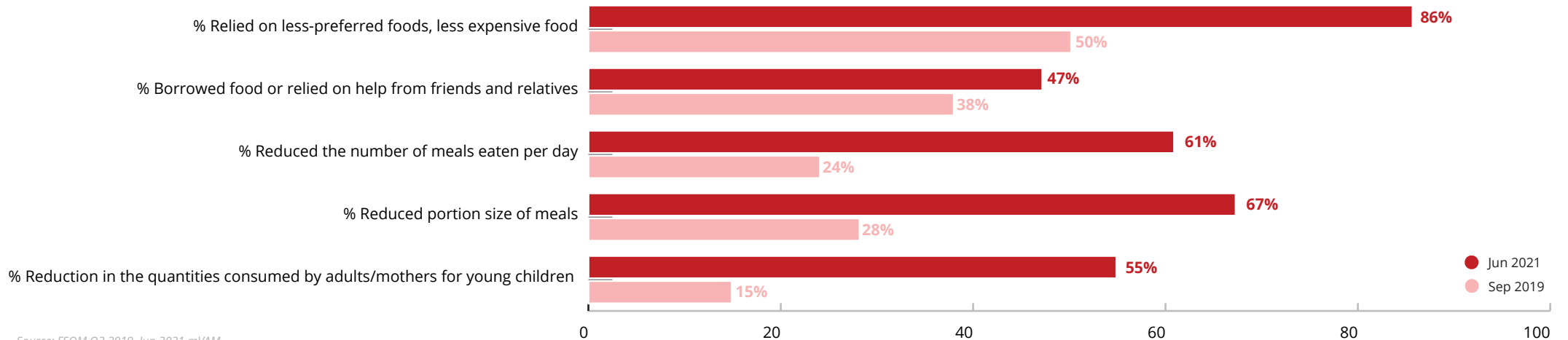
Figure 11. rCSI Score by Month/Year



Source: Apr/May 2016 CFSME, Apr/May 2018 CFSVA, Jul 2020 - Mar 2021 mVAM, Jun 2021 mVAM

The long-term trend witnessed an increase of the proportion of households who had reduced number of meals as 61% in 2021 compared to 24% prior to breakout of COVID-19. The same trends were also witnessed for the proportion of households who consumed reduced portion sizes of meals, with an increase to 67% from 28% during the same period. The proportion of households in which an adult member reduced their consumption to meet the needs of children with an increase to 55% from 15% between Q3/2020 and Q2/2021.

Figure 12. Percent of Households Adopting Consumption-Based Coping Strategies



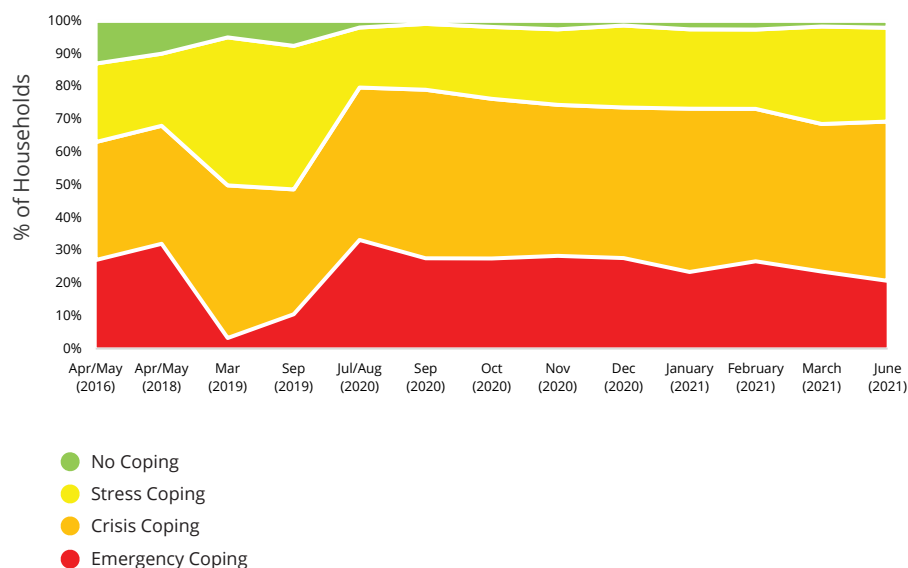
Source: FSOM Q3 2019, Jun 2021 mVAM

## Livelihoods - Based Coping Strategy Index (LCSI)

**Definition:** Livelihoods-Based Coping Strategy Index (LCSI) measures the frequency of adoption of livelihoods-based coping strategies employed by households exposed to food access limitations. Measure is considered a good indicator of future food security with FCS and rCSI.

Adoption of such coping mechanisms is harmful and potentially irreversible. The proportion of households adopting crisis or emergency coping strategies increased to 69% in June 2021 from 49% in Sep. 2020. In June 2021, 16% percent of refugee households in communities pushed their children into the labor market in order to meet household food needs, compared to only 4% in 2019. Children living with female headed households were most likely to be involved in income generation activities with 37.8% of the children working. This compares with 13.7% of children in the male headed households involved in income earning activities.

Figure 13. LCSI Classification by Month/Year



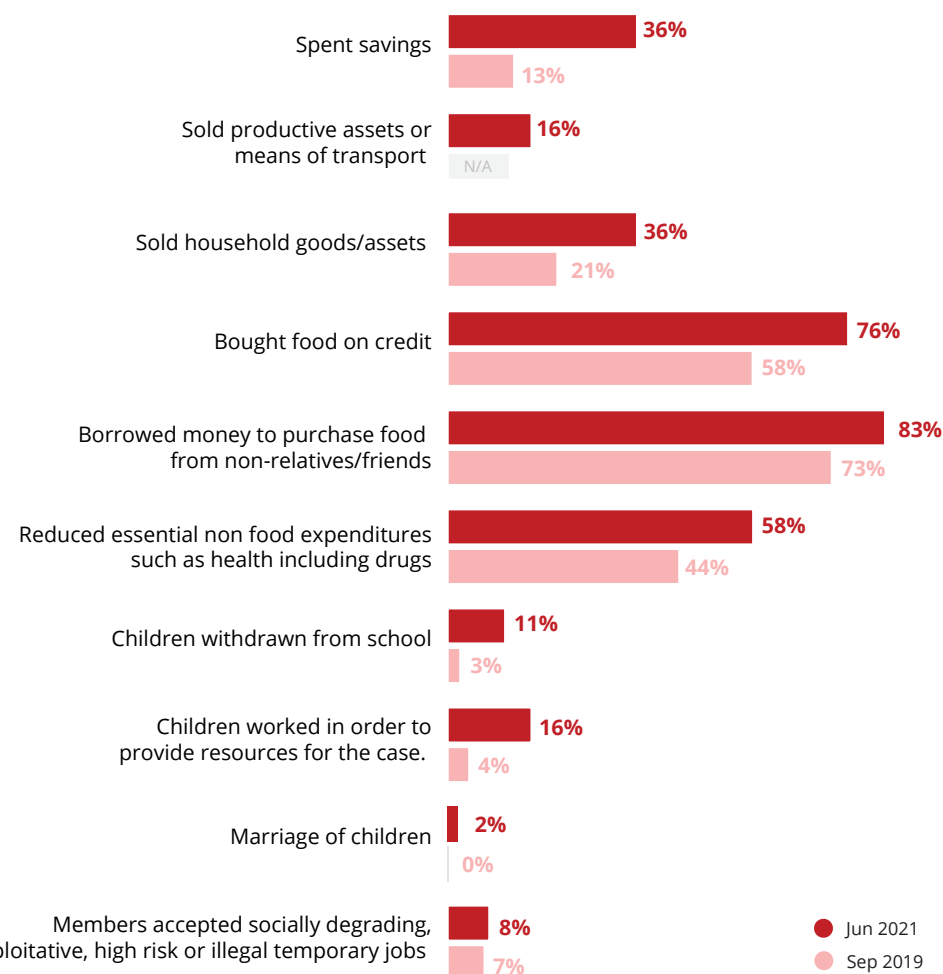
Source: Apr/May 2016 CFSME, Apr/May 2018 CFSVA, Jul 2020 - Mar 2021 mVAM, Jun 2021 mVAM

7 XXX add Citation to unicef report

8 N/A values indicate that coping strategy was not collected as part of LCSI module for the specified data collection exercise

The findings also revealed that 88% of the households with working minors sent their male children to work while only 11% of households sent female children to work. Two percent of households agreed to early marriage of children, primarily the female members, in order to meet household's food needs in June 2021 compared to 2.7 in March 2021<sup>7</sup>.

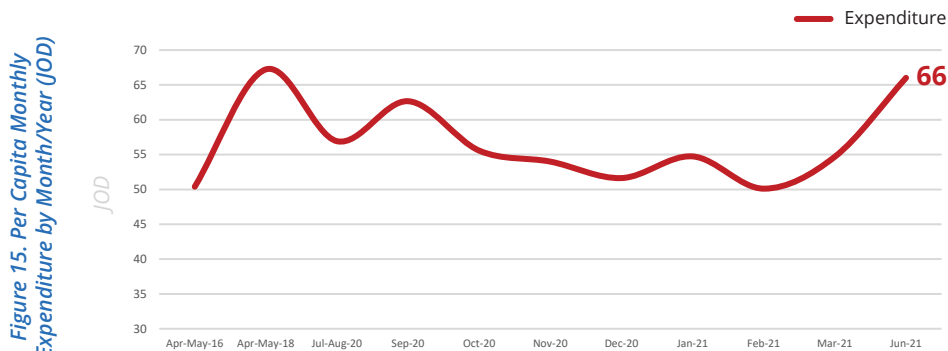
Figure 14. Percent of Households Adopting Livelihoods-Based Coping Strategies<sup>8</sup>



Source: FSOM Q3 2019, Jun 2021 mVAM

## Household Expenditure

In June 2021, monthly household per-capita expenditure decreased to JOD 53 from JOD 65.5 in March 2021. The decreases in household expenditure can be explained due to the decreases in expenditure in some of the non-food items which are not essential during the summer. In June 2021, household per capita income from work was 28.8 JOD compared to JOD 26.6 in March 2021. These slight increases in average income relate to the employment opportunities arising from increased demand for seasonal labor and the other employment opportunities associated with the loosening of COVID19 restrictions. Male-headed households had reported a higher per capita income from work (JOD 30.6) compared to the female-headed households (JOD 20.3); following the same trends in Q4 2020 and Q1 2021.



Source: Apr/May 2016 CFSME, Apr/May 2018 CFSVA, Jul 2020 - Mar 2021 mVAM, Jun 2021 mVAM

Figure 16. Per Capita Monthly Expenditure by Head of Household Gender and Month (JOD)

	Overall	Female - Headed	Male - Headed
	<i>June (2021)</i>	<i>June (2021)</i>	<i>June (2021)</i>
Food Expenditure	25.5	23.3	25.9
Non-Food Expenditure	29.2	25.2	30
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>54.7</b>	<b>48.5</b>	<b>55.9</b>
<b>Per Capita monthly income from work</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>31</b>

Source: Nov 2020 mVAM, Jun 2021 mVAM

Acknowledgment: The authors of this product would like to acknowledge with much appreciation the crucial role of Jonathan Campbell, Deputy Country Director, at WFP Jordan Country Office, for his contributions to review this product. Moreover, contributions of key individuals in the production of this report including Hind Farahat, Mohammed Elmahairi, Rana Alrefoay and Rabab Masleh are highly recognized by the primary authors of this product.

For more details please contact:

Laksiri Nanayakkara, Head - Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping and M&E  
laksiri.nanayakkara@wfp.org

Mohammad Al Jawamees, VAM Officer  
mohammad.aljawamees@wfp.org

William McFall, M&E Officer  
william.mcfall@wfp.org

Nida Ibrahim, GIS Associate  
nida.ibrahim@wfp.org

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## Conclusions

### Cross-Sectional Comparison

- Trends in the Food Security Index (FSI), a composite indicator summarizing household-level food security, point towards a deterioration for refugee households in communities between March and June 2021, primarily driven by a reduction in food consumption and an increase in the adoption of detrimental consumption based and livelihoods based coping strategies. Severity of food insecurity or vulnerability to food insecurity was significantly higher among the female-headed households, households with disabled or chronically ill members and large households.
- Refugee households in communities continue to use a concerning high level of consumption-based coping strategies; the average rCSI increased to 17.6 in June 2021, the highest level in the last 12 months.
- Refugee households in communities significantly decreased their food consumption between March and June 2021, with the proportion of households with poor or borderline food consumption increasing to 26% in June from 22% in March. Small households (32%), female headed households (31%) and households with member(s) with disabilities (26%) had the inadequate food consumption levels compared to the other groups.
- Refugee households are practicing irreversible livelihood coping strategies such as sending children to work or accepting child marriages for their daughters as the last resort for meeting their food needs. 16% of refugee households in communities sent children to work In June 2021 similar to March 2021.
- Deteriorations in dietary diversity in June compared to March 2021 stem from a slight reduction in the consumption of protein-rich foods, fruits, and milk and dairy products.

### Time Series Comparison

- Trends in the Food Security Index (FSI) shows that the food insecurity and vulnerability to food insecurity is still higher and widespread among the refugees compared to pre-covid situation. Despite some improvement in Q1, trends in the Food Security Index (FSI) show that the food insecurity and vulnerability to food insecurity is still higher and more widespread among the refugees compared to pre-covid. Worryingly, the trends have deteriorated in June compared to March 2021.
- Loss of employment opportunities associated with COVID-19 preventive measures led to a significant deterioration in food security and vulnerability among refugee households in communities. However, the slight improvements in income can be accounted for by increased demand for seasonal labor and hence employment opportunities associated with the loosening of COVID19 restrictions. Geographical differences in food insecurity continues similar patterns; the severity of food insecurity remains higher in Madaba, Amman, Mafrq and Balqa with a significant increase compared to 2020.
- Since the emergence of COVID-19 in Jordan, refugee households in communities are undertaking consumption based coping strategies, including skipping meals, reducing meal sizes, and cutting consumption of food by adults to meet the needs of children. The major concern is that the refugee households in the communities reported using irreversible livelihood coping strategies such as early child marriages and sending children to work to meet household food needs. The majority of the refugees in the community reported having exhausted other coping mechanisms such as borrowing and sale of assets and therefore could not adopt these anymore.