Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment in Armenia
Round 3, December 2021

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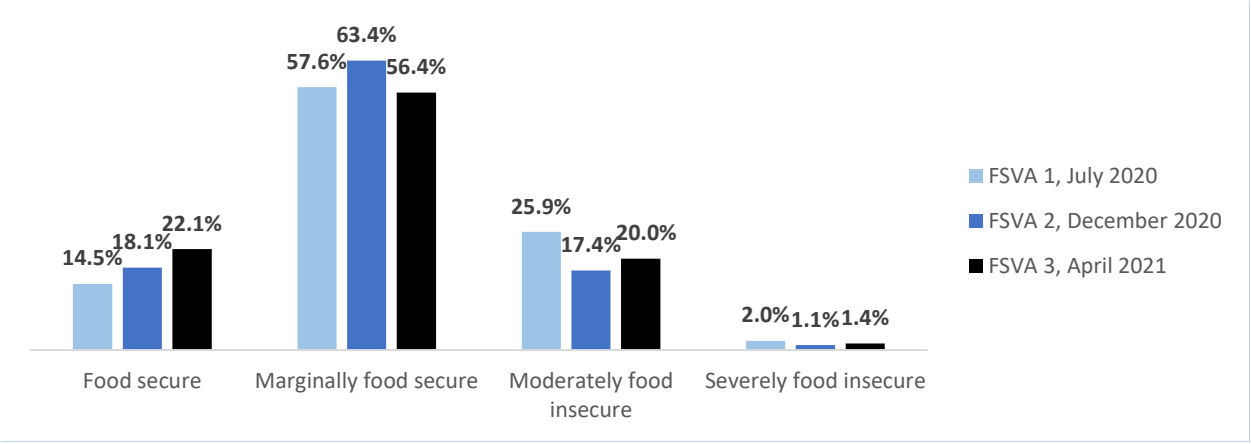
Executive Summary

Food Security and Vulnerability Assessments (FSVA) in Armenia track the food security situation in the country and were initiated following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the Nagorno Karabakh (NK) conflict. This is the third FSVA assessment. It was carried out in all regions of Armenia and took place from February through April 2021.

The results of the FSVA 3 show that 21.4 percent of households are food insecure in Armenia. An additional 56.4 percent of surveyed households are marginally food secure suggesting that more than half of the population are at risk of becoming food insecure in the event of a shock or a crisis. Only 1 out of 5 households (22.1 percent) in Armenia are categorized as food secure. Compared to December 2021, food insecurity levels have increased by 2.9 percentage points. The main driver behind the increased food insecurity in April 2021 is household income disruption with 21.6 percent of households not having any income source and being dependent on assistance.

Figure ES.1. Comprehensive food security comparison

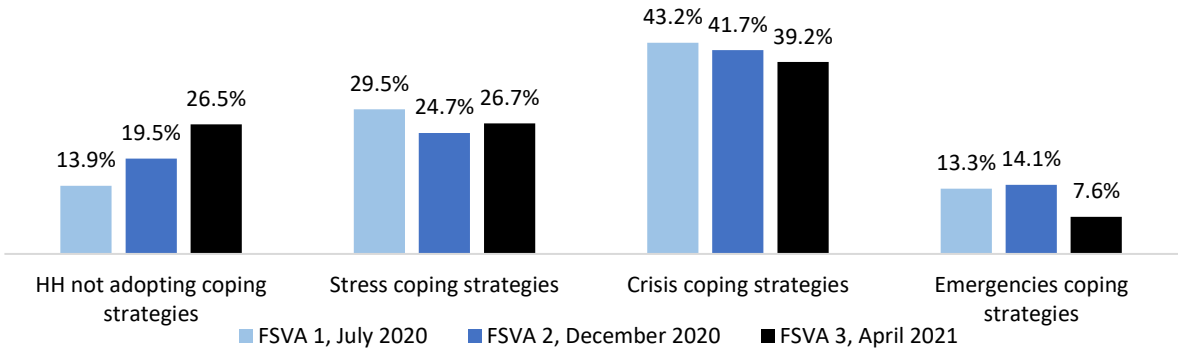


The FSVA 3 results show that northern regions and households headed by women, low-income households as well as lower educated households are proportionately more exposed to food insecurity. The regional food security analysis show that Tavush (31 percent), Lori (29 percent), Shirak (28 percent), and Gegharkunik (26 percent) are the most food-insecure regions in Armenia while regional cities and rural areas are more food insecure compared to Yerevan. Comparisons of inter-household differences in food security status show that female-headed households are 30 percent more likely to be food insecure than male-headed households. In addition, the higher monthly income of household, 192,000 AMD and above, the higher the food security level of households. Other factors found to positively influence food security in Armenia include higher education of household head, owning their house, and not being a household comprised of only elderly.

In April 2021, 3 out of 4 households (73.5 percent) in Armenia adopted livelihood coping strategies to access food while 1 out of 2 households (46.8 percent) adopted crisis or emergency livelihood coping strategies to access food. Livelihood coping strategies measure the longer-term household coping capacities. The most common coping strategies used are spending

savings (46 percent), reducing non-food expenditure on health and education (33 percent), purchasing food on credit (32 percent), and borrowing money (29 percent). Adoption of emergency coping strategies was particularly high among households from rural areas (15 percent) and households with a monthly income of less than 48,000 AMD (15 percent). Households with a head not having a higher education were more than twice as likely to adopt coping strategies.

Figure ES.2. Livelihood Coping Strategy Index



The FSVA 3 also shows that 1 out of 2 (47.9) percent of households applied reduced coping strategies. As opposed to livelihood coping strategies, reduced coping strategies measure the immediate (in the past seven days) actions households apply when they have difficulties meeting their food need and include relying on less expensive food, borrowing food, limiting portions, reducing consumption by adults, reducing number of meals. 16.9 percent of households adopted severe reduced coping strategies and at the regional level, the highest application of severe coping was reported in Lori (21.6 percent), Gegharkunik (21.2 percent), and Tavush (20.7 percent) regions.

Recommendation 1: Invest in sustainable development programs targeting food insecure and marginally food secure people

The COVID-19 pandemic and the NK conflict negatively impacted livelihoods, resilience (e.g. using coping strategies to access food) and food security of many Armenians, However, the FSVA analysis also point to an underlying structural problem driving food insecurity in Armenia. It is recommended to invest in sustainable development programs such as social protection and resilience creating programs targeted at food insecure and marginally food insecure people. Geographically, increased attention should be given to northern regions while targeting of households should pay particular attention to low-income households, female headed households, households who do not own their housing as well as lower educated households.

The alarming food security status in Armenia is also reflected in household finance and food access indicators. In April 2021, 32.4 percent of households ran out of food and 21.5 percent had to skip one or more meals because there was not enough money or other resources to get

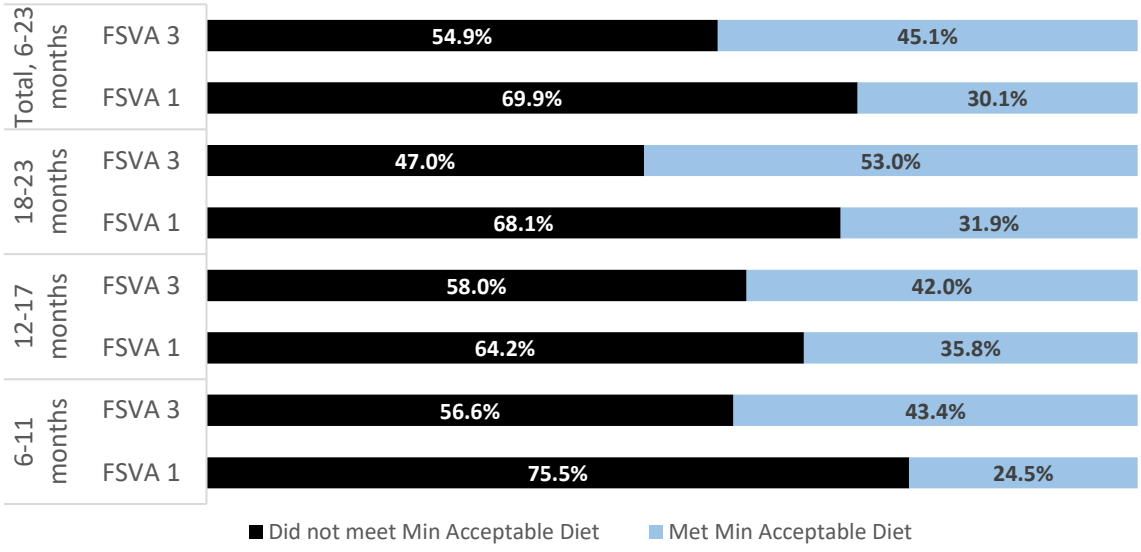
food. Likewise, 32.0 percent of household reported not having access to grocery stores. In April 2021, 3 out 4 (73.5 percent) households, who did not have access to grocery stores, reported lack of financial resources as being the primary reason compared to only 1 out 2 (51.3 percent) in December 2020.

Recommendation 2: Increase understanding of linkages between food insecurity and poverty

Food insecurity in Armenia is undeniably linked to financial hardship and during difficult times, households are forced to prioritize between fulfilling various pressing needs such as access to food, health services, medicine etc. It is recommended to further examine the linkages between food insecurity and poverty to be able to best support vulnerable households in Armenia.

The FSVA 3 results also shed light on the quality of diet of Armenian households which is particularly worrying for children; only 45.1 percent of children between 6 and 23 months meet the minimum Acceptable Diet (MAD) requirements. The assessment finds that 17.1 percent of households in Armenia did not consume any iron-rich food during the previous 7 days while 2.0 percent did not consume any protein rich food and 2.5 percent did not consume Vitamin A-rich food. FSVA 3 results also show that only 45.1. percent of 6-23 months of children met the minimum acceptable diet. While this is 15.0 percentage points higher compared to the score during the summer in 2020, this number remain alarmingly high. This percentage is comparatively higher among 18–23-month-old children (53.0 percent), whereas for 6–17-month-old children only between 42 and 44 percent of children met the acceptable level of diet.

Figure ES.3. Minimum Acceptable Diet (MAD) for children



Recommendation 3: Increase understanding of and efforts to promote nutritious diets of young children (6 to 23 months) in Armenia

The FSVA analyses show concerning rates of poor quality of diets at household level and in particular among young children (6 to 23 months). It is recommended to carry out root cause analyses to understand the drivers of poor diets in Armenia to best design targeted activities to promote nutritious diets. Examples of such activities could include developing and implementing targeted social and behaviour change campaigns and trainings, ensuring nutritious food is available and affordable in markets as well strengthening of referral mechanisms from social protection and other programmes to nutrition promoting programmes.

The FSVA 3 shows that the primary concern of Armenian households relates to the external and internal political situation. The most common concerns among interviewed households are the external political and security situation of the country (27.2 percent), financial hardships due to loss of job, livelihood source (16.1 percent), while the internal political situation, economic and social problems (16.0 percent) is the third most common concern.

Recommendation 4: Establish robust early warning systems

The FSVA analyses show that more than half of Armenian households are at risk of becoming food insecure if a shock hits or when they run out of coping options. Furthermore, the alarming rates of poor diets among small children highlights the need to react now to ensure the full potential of children in Armenia is reached. It is recommended to establish robust early warning systems in Armenia to inform programme and policy makers on the future needs of the Armenian population allowing a reaction prior to a situation becomes a crisis.

1 Background

Food Security and Vulnerability Assessments (FSVAs) in Armenia track food security in the country among local population and were initiated following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the Nagorno Karabakh (NK) post-conflict situation. The Nagorno-Karabakh (NK) conflict escalated outside Armenia in September-November 2020, which resulted in an inflow of displaced people to Armenia. The post-conflict situation and the ongoing crisis have affected local and regional food systems with substantial consequences on people's access to food.

This assessment was conducted among local population in all the regions of Armenia. FSVA findings inform Republic of Armenia (RA) Government about the food security level in the country and are used to design emergency and development programmes targeting food insecure populations in the country.

FSVA3 provides a baseline to WFP to compare food security among Armenian nationals with FSVA2 of the same study, conducted in November-December 2020, and the study carried out in June-July 2020. It aims at contributing to the evidence base for emergency response planning, targeting as well as prioritizing of actions for relevant stakeholders. The WFP Armenia contracted R-Insights Research Company for the implementation of assessments.

2 Methodology

2.1 Research objective and questions

The objective of this study was to establish an evidence base with a specific focus on food security on a national level for the Government of Armenia, WFP Armenia Country Office, local and international partners to plan response with appropriate targeting and prioritization. Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment (FSVA) in Armenia aims at tracking food security in the country among local population caused by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the Nagorno Karabakh (NK) post-conflict situation. The Nagorno-Karabakh (NK) conflict escalated outside Armenia in September-November 2020, which resulted in an inflow of displaced people to Armenia. The post-conflict situation and the ongoing crisis have affected local and regional food systems with substantial consequences on people's access to food. These consequences have triggered the necessity of periodically tracking and measuring the food security situation in Armenia.

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Data collection of Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment 3 took place from February through April 2021. The study explores food security and vulnerability among Armenian nationals and compares its results with the weighted[1] findings from two previous surveys of similar research (FSVA1 and FSVA2). The survey used a nationally and regionally representative random sample of **3,345 respondents**. **The telephone interviewing** method was used for this assessment considering the COVID-19 situation in the country.

The assessment answered the following questions:

- Which population groups are food-insecure now (how many are affected now, where are they located, how many will be affected in the future)?
- How have the COVID-19 and Nagorno Karabakh conflict-affected people's ability to meet their food and other essential needs?
- What is the impact on nutrition, as people shift diets to more shelf-stable and less nutritious foods?
- How are households reallocating their resources and prioritizing among different and possibly new essential needs including food, hygiene, health, shelter, transport, etc.?
- Can the affected people cope with and recover unaided? Are they already receiving assistance?
- Is additional assistance needed? If so, what type? When? Where? How much? For how long?

2.2 Data collection method and tool

Due to limitations evoked by the COVID-19 pandemic, the **telephone interviewing method** was used for this assessment. A computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) system was utilized for data collection purposes. Benefits of this system involved:

1. **Random selection** of phone numbers and auto dialing
2. **Opportunity to implement phone interviews from home**
3. **Designing/programming the questionnaire online** by eliminating logical errors and data entry errors and cutting costs on data entry exercises.
4. **Audio recording** of 100 percent of the interviews (with respondents' prior consent) to enable total quality checks of interviews.
5. **Generating a database** of questionnaires in a real-time mode, i.e. each filled-in questionnaire is placed in a unified database on a central server immediately after competing for each interview.
6. Possibility to **track interviewers** in the field, tracking duration of interviews, executing online follow up to interview process etc.

The average interview duration was 36 minutes, very close to FSVA1 and FSVA2 (34 and 35 minutes respectively). Food Security and Vulnerability assessment 3 (FSVA3)[2] was conducted among

[1] Findings from FSVA1 and FSVA2 were not weighted in the respected reports hence slight differences may occur when comparing the findings presented in this report.
[2] Food Security and Vulnerability assessment round 1 (FSVA 1) was conducted from June to July 2020

households in Armenia from February through April 2021, interviewing the member of the household who could best answer household food consumption and expenditure related questions.

Research tool – the questionnaire, consisted of ten sections: general information, demographic information, food insecurity level, food consumption and food sources, livelihood coping strategies, food and market accessibility, income sources, main concerns of respondents, and child nutrition-related questions (6-23 months old), similar to FSVA1.

Data collection and analysis was carried out by R-Insights Research Company with the technical support of WFP.

2.3 Sample

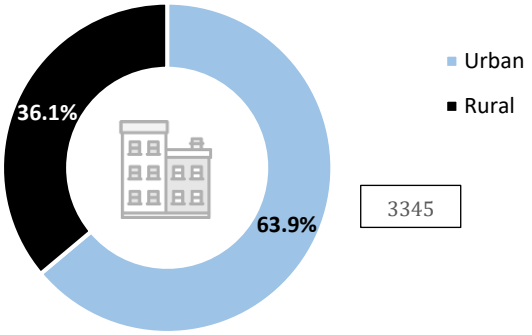
The target group of the assessment was the local adult population of Armenia residing in the country for at least 10 months during the previous year.

The survey used a **nationally and regionally representative random sample** (95 percent confidence interval, 2 percent margin of error for nationally representative and 5 percent margin of error for regionally representative random sample). The sample structure implied **the following strata**: capital city, other urban and rural settlements in regions. The sample size was 3,345 (see ANNEX 2). The data were weighted using regional and settlement type (urban/rural) proportions in the country.

3 Household Profile

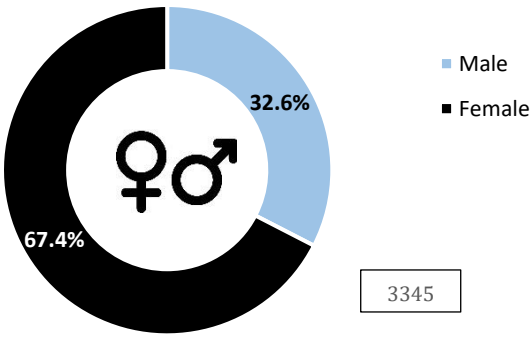
The survey was conducted among adult residents of the Republic of Armenia, who had resided in the country for more than 10 months during the previous 12 months. The average number of households interviewed in each region was 304, including Yerevan, which assured the representativeness of the data at the regional level. The data in this analysis was weighted to gain regional and national level representativeness. This analysis is based on the results of weighted data. After the weighting of the data, the proportion of households from urban settlements was 64 percent.

Figure 1: Distribution of Households by settlement type



There were more women in the survey (67.4 percent) than men as more families mentioned that a female member could best answer household food consumption, diet decision-making and expenditure related questions. Overall, 55 percent of the respondents mentioned that the head of the household[3] is female.

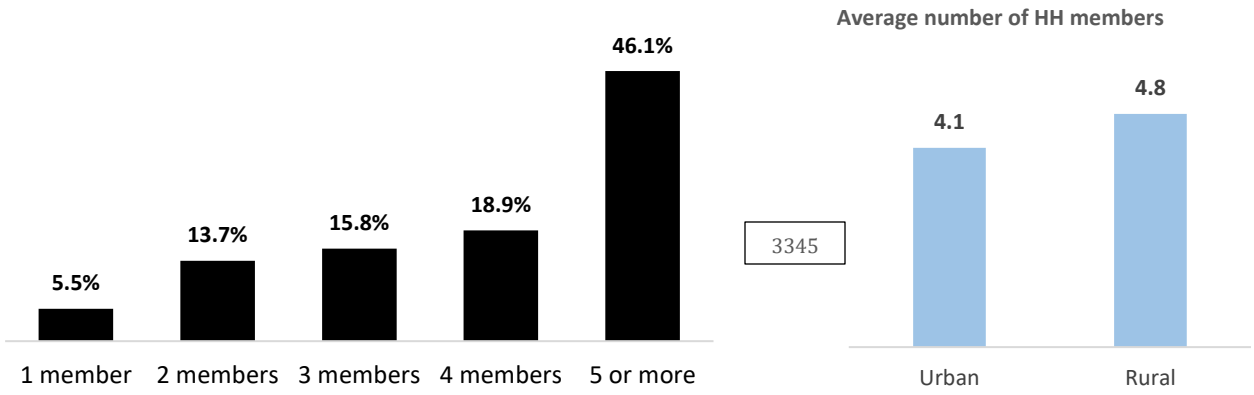
Figure 2: Gender of the respondent



As per data, 46.1 percent of the households was comprised of 5 members or more and 5.5 percent of just 1 member. The average number of household members participating in this research was 4.4. On average, rural household size is larger compared to urban one by 0.7.

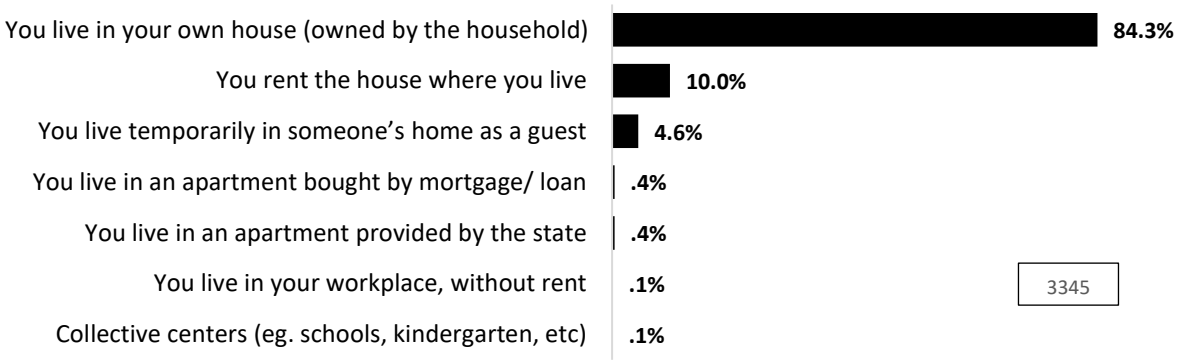
[3] "A household is a group of people with or without kinship ties, who live together in the same or interconnected accommodation, recognize an adult member as the **head of the household**, and have common facilities for cooking and eating together."

Figure 3: Number of household members



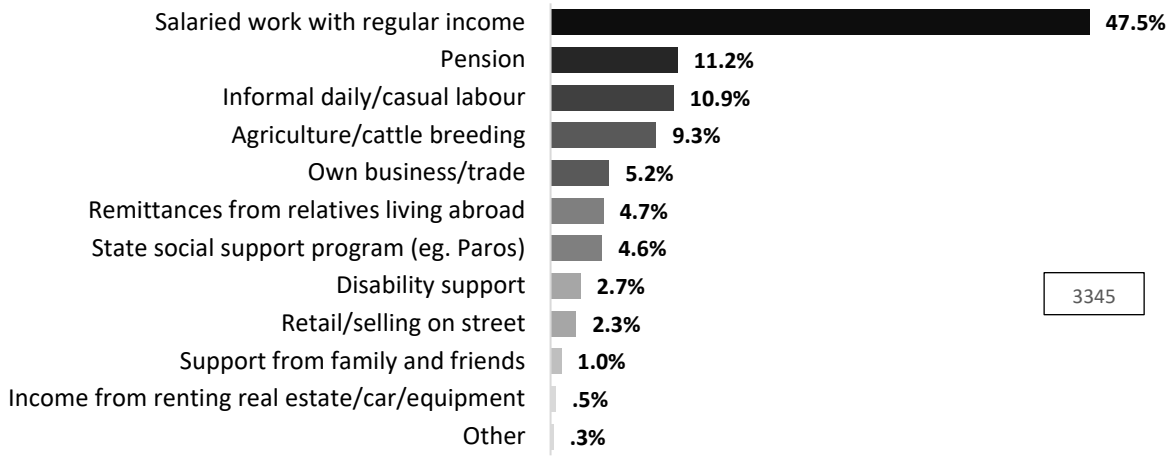
The majority of the respondents lived in the house they owned (84 percent) and 10 percent rented the house where they lived.

Figure 4: Housing situation



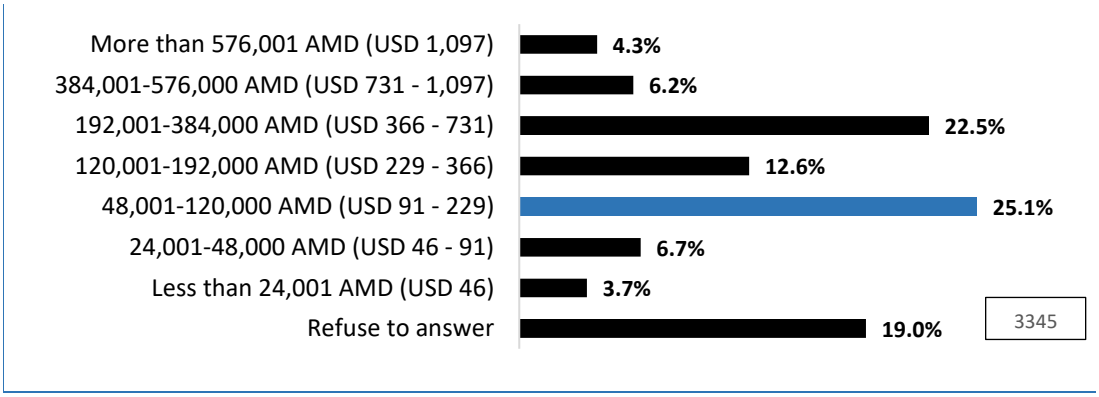
The main source of income of respondents was salaried work (47.5 percent), followed by pension (11.2 percent), informal casual labour (10.9 percent), and agriculture/cattle breeding (9.3 percent). If we consider all types of income, salaried work was a source of income for 62 percent, pension for 43 percent, retail, or sales on the street for 34 percent, informal/casual labour for 32 percent, and agriculture/cattle breeding 25 percent. In addition, 21 percent of respondents mentioned receiving remittances from relatives abroad.

Figure 5: Main source of income



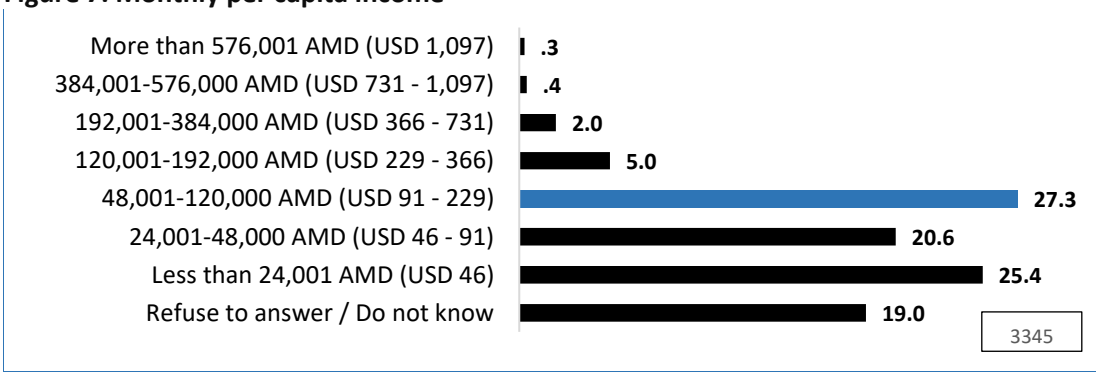
In our sample, 4.3 percent of the monthly households had income above 576,000 AMD (1097 USD[4] and more), and around 35.4 percent under 120,000 AMD (229 USD).

Figure 6: Total monthly income



The income per capita was calculated by dividing household income into the number of family members. Around a quarter of respondents had per capita income of up to 24,000 drams (USD 46).

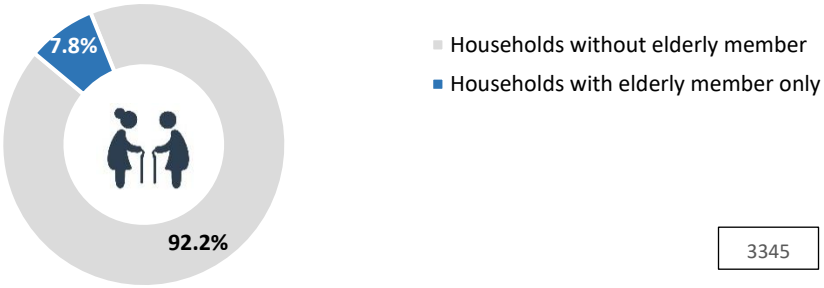
Figure 7. Monthly per capita income



[4] The average USD exchange rate of 509.4 for November and December months was used to convert the values in AMD, source – Central Bank of Armenia

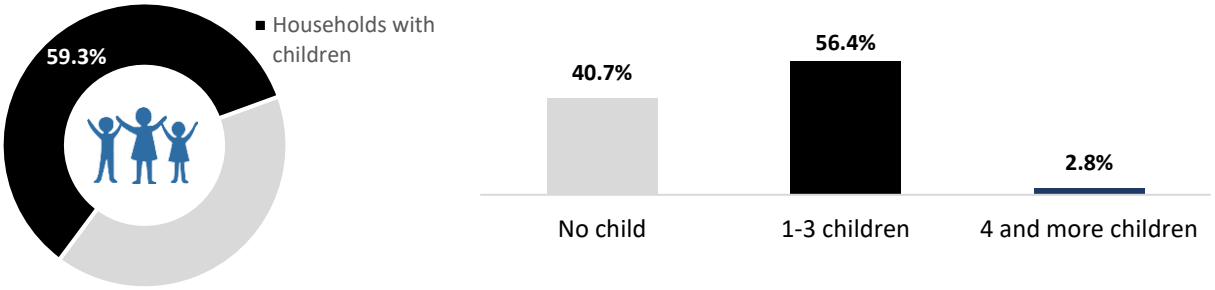
Around 7.8 percent of households were comprised of the elderly only.

Figure 8: Household with elderly only



There was at least one child in around 60 percent of the households. Almost half of the households had 1-2 children and 0.7 percent reported having 5 and more children.

Figure 9: Number of children in the household



4 Household Food Security

4.1 Comprehensive Food Security

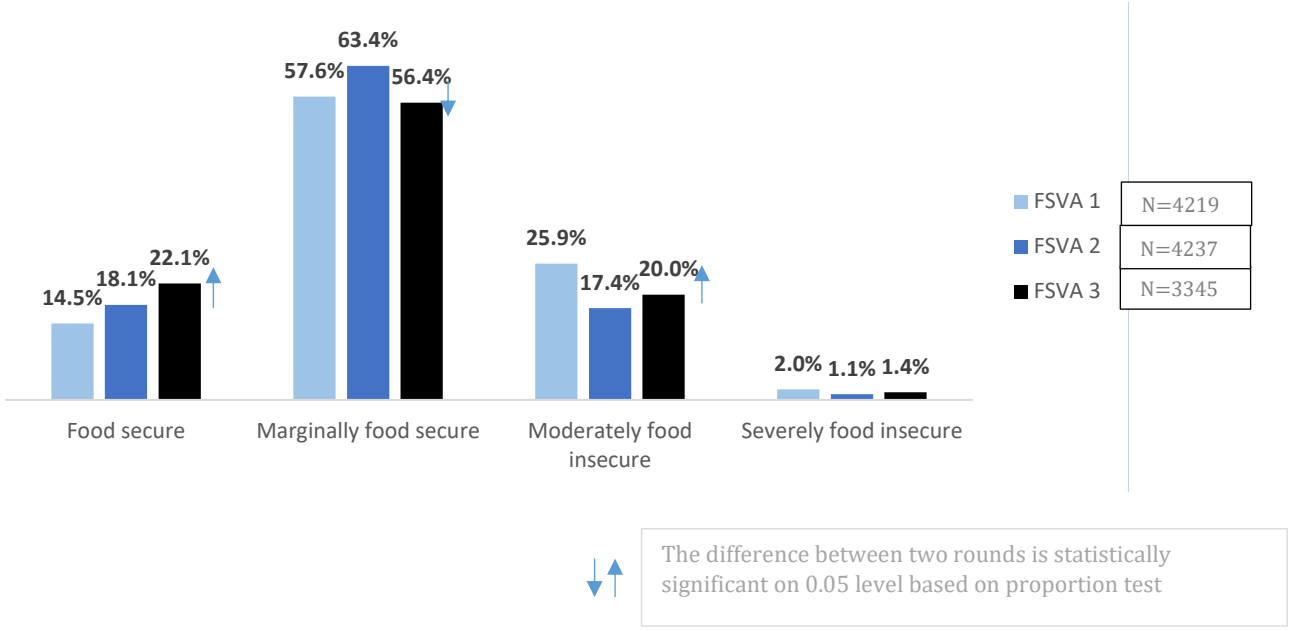
Consolidated food security indicator (care) is an aggregated food security index to report on the population's comprehensive food security status. It combines different food security indicators into one and this composite indicator is used to determine the number of food-insecure people when data from regular assessments are not available due to access issues. It is to assess a) the current status of households' food consumption (assessed based on food consumption patterns); and b) the current coping capacity of households to meet future needs (assessed based on economic vulnerability and adoption of livelihood coping strategies). In this report, to measure statistically significant differences between groups, proportion tests with α=0.05 were implemented. The results of FSVA1 and FSVA2 were weighted with the same methodology as FSVA3.

The indicators used to calculate this consolidated food security indicator are food consumption score, livelihood coping strategies, income sources and changes in income due to the shocks.

Based on the assessment about 79 percent of food security level is revealed, and out of this only 22 percent of households are food secure, and 56.4 percent is marginally food secure, 20 percent is moderately food insecure, and 1.4 percent is severely food insecure. Noteworthy, the percent of moderately food insecure households has increased compared to FSVA2. This is an alarming finding which should be considered by different stakeholders to direct their efforts on building resilience of such households and mitigate the risk of falling in the insecurity level. The analysis of food security level per regions in Armenia showed that Tavush (31 percent), Lori (29 percent), Shirak (28 percent) and Gegharkunik (26 percent) were the most **food insecure regions**. Regional cities and rural areas were more food insecure, compared to Yerevan. In FSVA3 the proportion of households having staple food stock increased by 7 percentage points, reaching 58 percent of all the respondents, whereas the volume of that stock decreased. Households with staple food stock have 13 percentage points (pp) higher food security, compared to the households with no food stock. Food security was also low in female-headed (25.6 percent food insecurity) households, households with a head that did not have higher education (28 percent), had 4 and more children (32 percent), had temporary housing (34 percent), and received any type of assistance in the last 3 months (31 percent).

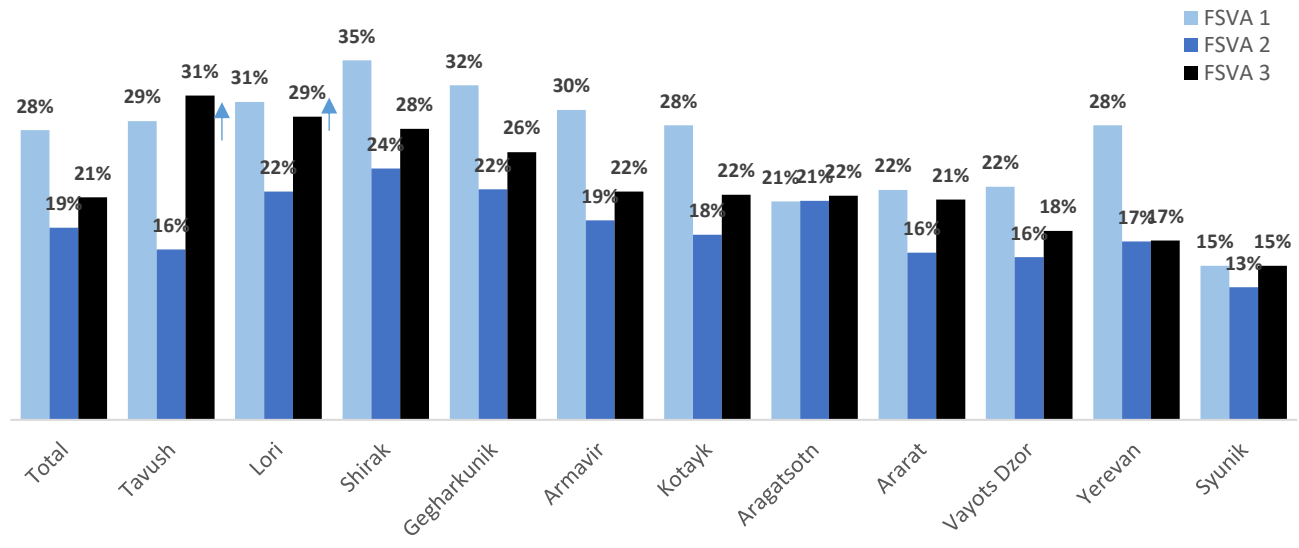
In FSVA3, 21.4 percent of the households were severely or moderately food insecure, 1.4 and 20 percent respectively.

Figure 10: Comprehensive food security comparison FSVA1, FSVA2, and FSVA3[5]



Regional distribution of the comprehensive food security indicator showed that Tavush (31 percent), Lori (29 percent), Shirak (28 percent), and Gegharkunik (26 percent) were the most food-insecure regions. Similarly, Syunik (15 percent), Yerevan (17 percent), and Vayots Dzor (18 percent) were the most food-secure ones. In FSVA3, there was a drastic decline in food security in Tavush, Lori, Ararat, Shirak, Gegharkunik, and Armavir regions.

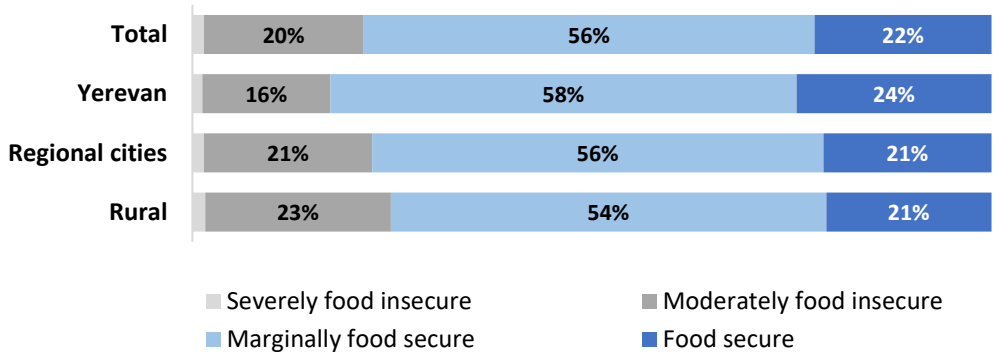
Figure 11: Comprehensive food insecurity dynamics by regions



[5] There was a methodological change in FSVA3 for calculating Comprehensive Food Security. Whereas in FSVA1 and FSVA2 all the sources of income were considered for calculating the rCARI score, in FSVA3, the main source of income was used.

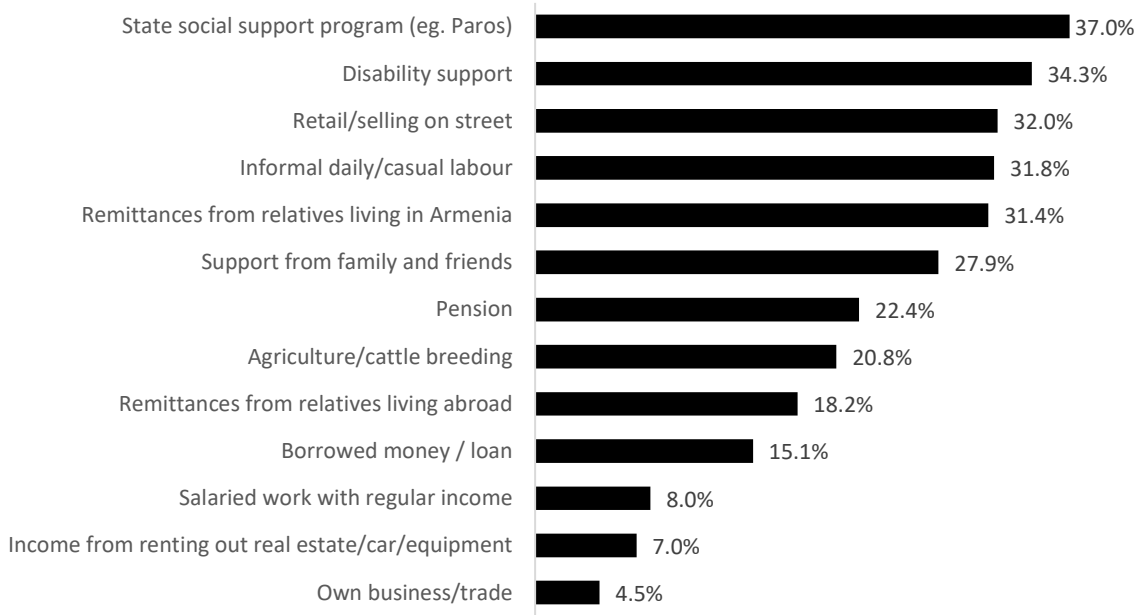
The population of Yerevan was more food secure in FSVA3, compared to regional cities and rural areas. In Yerevan 17 percent of respondents was food insecure whereas that proportion was significantly higher in other areas, reaching 25 percent in rural areas and 23 percent in regional cities.

Figure 12: Comprehensive food security by settlement type



The analysis per household income source showed that households receiving state social support (e.g. Paros) have the highest proportion of food insecurity (37 percent), which is followed by the ones receiving disability support (34.3 percent), retail/selling on the street (32 percent), informal/casual labour (31.8 percent) and remittances from relatives living in Armenia (31.4 percent). Households with the highest level of food security receive income from their own business (4.5 percent), income from renting out real estate/car/equipment (7 percent) or have salaried work with regular income (8 percent).

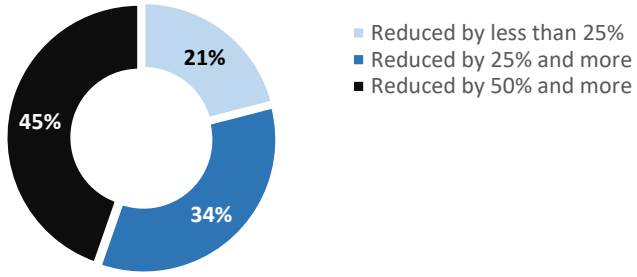
Figure 13: Food insecurity by income source (all sources included)



As per data analysis, 54 percent of respondents reported that their household income was disrupted as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak and/or conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh. Out of them, 95.2 percent stated that the income reduced, 0.5 percent mentioned that it increased, and 4.2 percent found alternative income resources to have the same level of income.

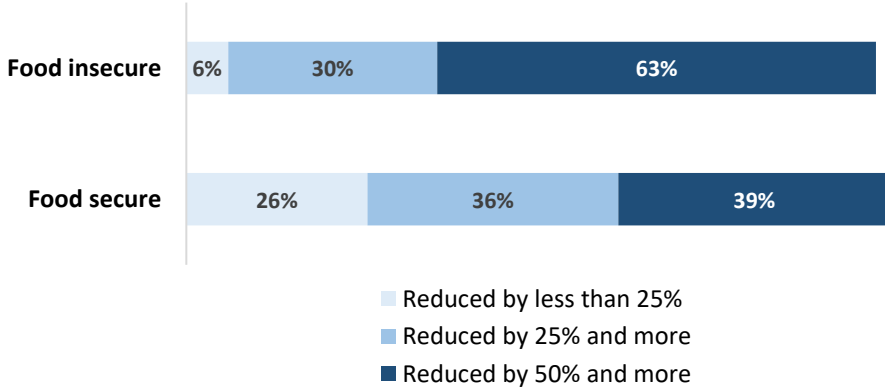
Out of households who reported income reduction, 45 percent stated salary reduction by 50 percent and more, 34 percent – by 25 percent and more, and 21 percent – by less than 25 percent.

Figure 14: Income reduction level



As per food security groups, the household income disruption was significantly higher among food-insecure households (62 percent) compared to food-secure households (52 percent)[6]. Interestingly, there was not a significant difference between food security groups when reporting salary increases or reductions. However, the analysis per reduction level, showed a statistically significant difference, as food insecure households reported a higher percent of salary reduction[7].

Figure 15: Income reduction per food security group



The salary reduction by 50 percent and more was much higher among food insecure households constituting 63 percent compared to food-secure households (39 percent). A similar percent of food secure and food insecure households reported salary reductions by 25 percent and more. Interestingly, the salary reduction by less than 25 percent was found higher among food secure

[6] Chi2 test, p value=0.000, Cramer's V=0.108
[7] Chi2 test, p value=0.000, Cramer's V=0.377

households (26 percent) compared to food insecure ones (6 percent). This shows that income reduction is one of the essential factors for food security levels.

COVID-19 and conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh impacted different sources of livelihoods, in particular mostly retail/selling on the street (85 percent), running own business/trade (80 percent), informal daily /casual labour (70 percent), agriculture/cattle breeding (58 percent) and salaried work with regular income (51 percent). Out of those impacted, more than 90 percent mentioned that the income has been reduced.

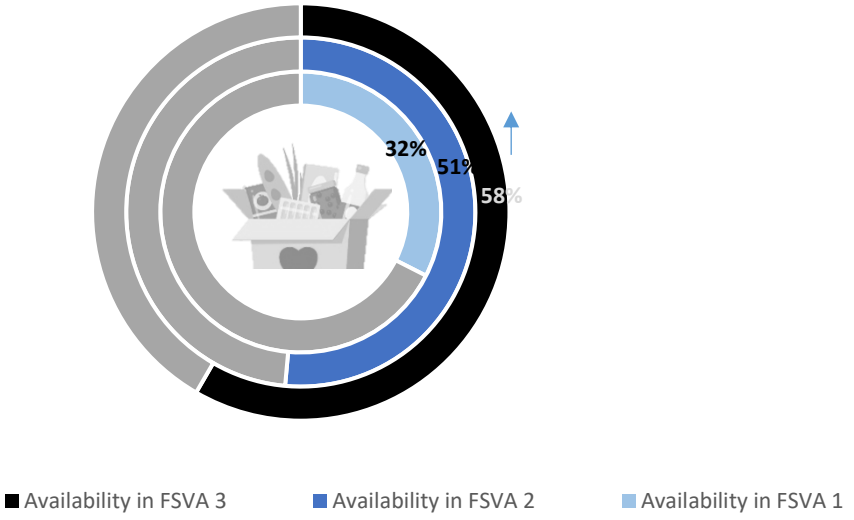
As per data analysis, the most severe reduction of income (by 50 percent and more) was reported among households whose primary income/livelihood source was retail/selling on street and informal daily/casual labour. This can be explained by the fact that during the outbreak of COVID-19 many businesses were closed and not all of them re-opened, and there were and still are restrictions for selling on the street.

Table 1: The income reduction per livelihood source in FSVA3

Livelihood source	Reduced by less than 25%	Reduced by 25% and more	Reduced by 50% and more
Retail/selling on street	5%	23%	73%
Informal daily/casual labour	12%	32%	56%
Own business/trade	14%	40%	46%
Agriculture/cattle breeding	18%	38%	44%
Remittances from relatives living abroad	14%	46%	40%
Salaried work with regular income	31%	37%	33%

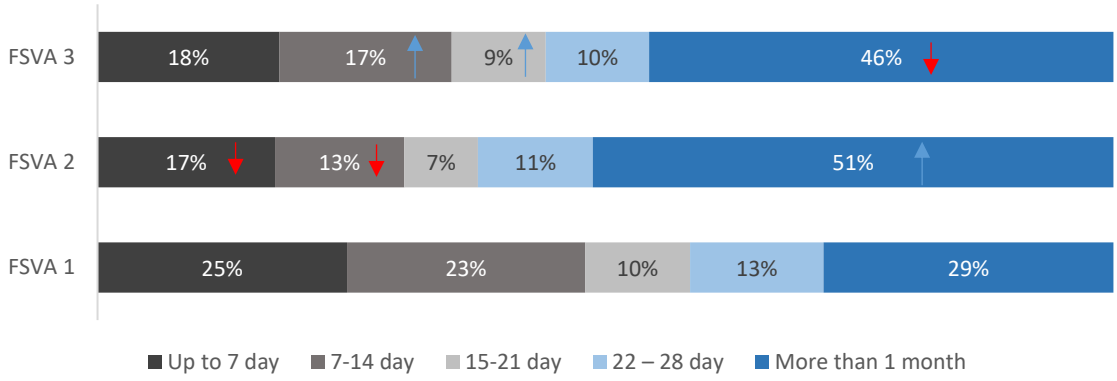
Availability of staple food stock at households increased largely in FSVA2 (by 21 percentage points), and by 7 percentage points in FSVA3, reaching 58 percent. Interestingly, respondents from Aragatsotn and Vayots Dzor regions reported the highest percentage of staple food stock availability (70 percent and 66 percent). As we saw above, those two regions were among the ones with the highest FCS. This leaves us with the thought that having staple food can be one of the most decisive factors for sustaining food security levels.

Figure 16: Availability of staple foods stock dynamics



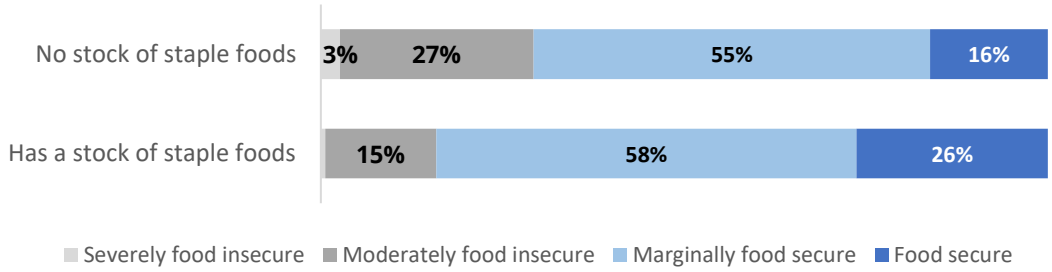
Along with more households having staple food, the portion seems to get relatively smaller in FSVA3, though the stock would still last for much longer compared to FSVA1. The proportion of household representatives mentioning that their staple food stock would last for more than a month was 46 percent (5 percentage points less, compared to FSVA2), whereas 35 percent mentioned that it would last for 2 weeks or less (5 percentage points more compared to FSVA2).

Figure 17: How long would stock last



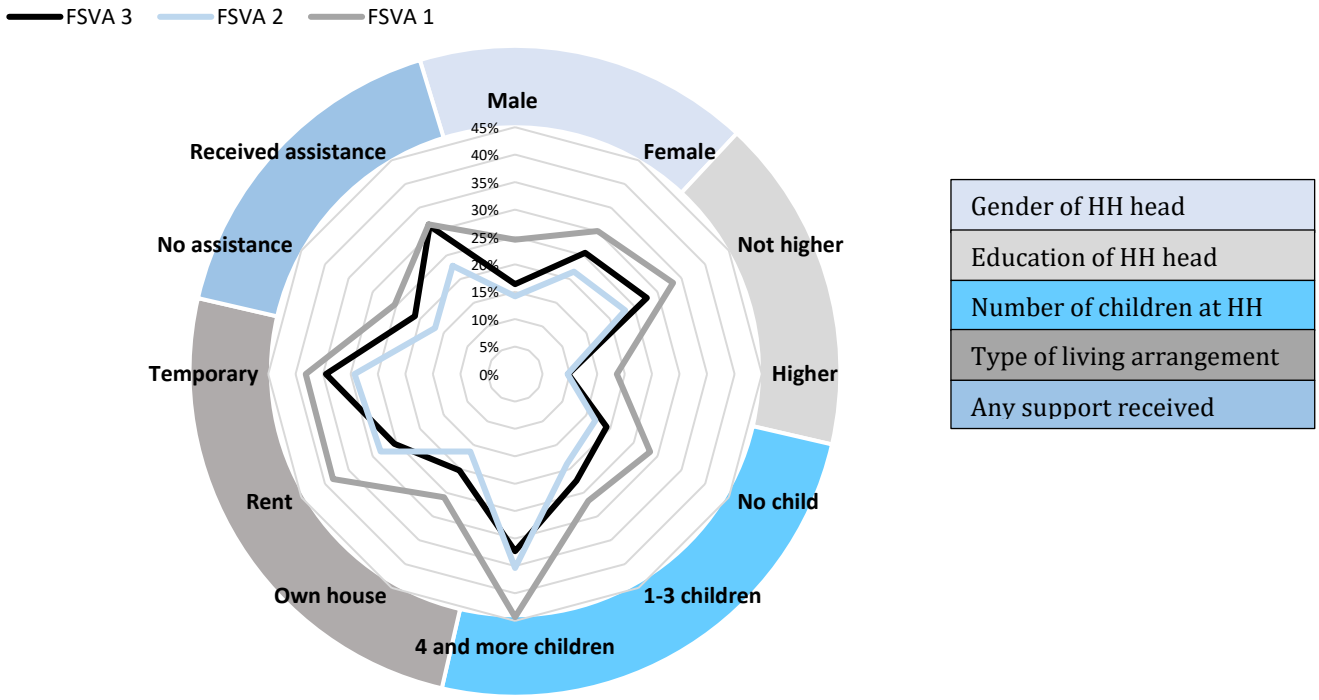
Households with some staple food stock were also more food secure compared to the ones with no staple food stock. The proportion of food-insecure households among the ones with no food stock was 29 percent while there was 16 percent food insecure households among the ones with staple food stock.

Figure 18: Comprehensive food security by staple food stock availability



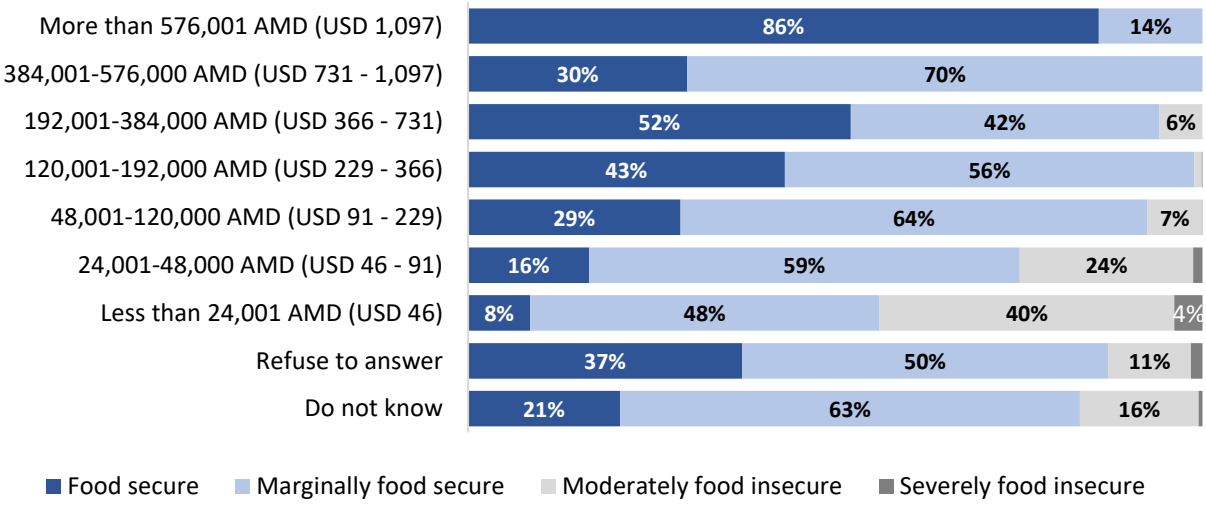
The chart below represents the food security of households per certain characteristics. More food insecure households were the female-headed ones (26 percent food insecurity), had a household head with no higher education (28 percent), had 4 and more children (32 percent), lived in temporary housing (34 percent), and received any type of assistance in the last 3 months (31 percent). On the contrary, households with a head having higher education had significantly low food insecurity (10 percent).

Figure 19: Comprehensive Food Security by gender and education of HH head, number of children at home, living arrangement and support received



Food security drastically differs based on per capita income as well. As per data, around 44 percent of monthly income per capita below 24,000 AMD and 25 percent of those with monthly income per capita of 24,000-48,000 AMD were food insecure.

Figure 20: Comprehensive Food Security by income per capita



4.2 Factors Influencing Food Security in FSVA3

To measure the effect of a number of household characteristics on the probability of being food secure, logistic regression analysis was conducted for FSVA3. It enables us to compare the impact of various characteristics during different time periods. The dependent variable, Comprehensive Food Security, takes the value 0 if the household was severely or moderately food insecure and 1 in case of being food secure or marginally food secure.

The specification of the estimated model is as follows:

$$\ln(p/(1-p)) = \alpha 0 + \alpha 1 * \text{HH head Gender} + \alpha 2 * \text{HH head education} + \alpha 3 * \text{Number of children at HH} + \alpha 4 * \text{Number of family members} + \alpha 5 * \text{Household with elderly only} + \alpha 6 * \text{Living arrangement} + \alpha 7 * \text{Stock of Staple Food} + \alpha 8 * \text{HH Income} + \alpha 9 * \text{Assistance received} + \alpha 10 * \text{Region}$$

The factors positively influencing food security in FSVA3 were higher education of HH head, living in a house owned by the household, presence of staple food stock, higher monthly household income (192, 000 AMD and more), being from a male-headed household, and not being a household comprised of only elderlies.

Table 2: The impact of household attributes on Food Security in FSVA3

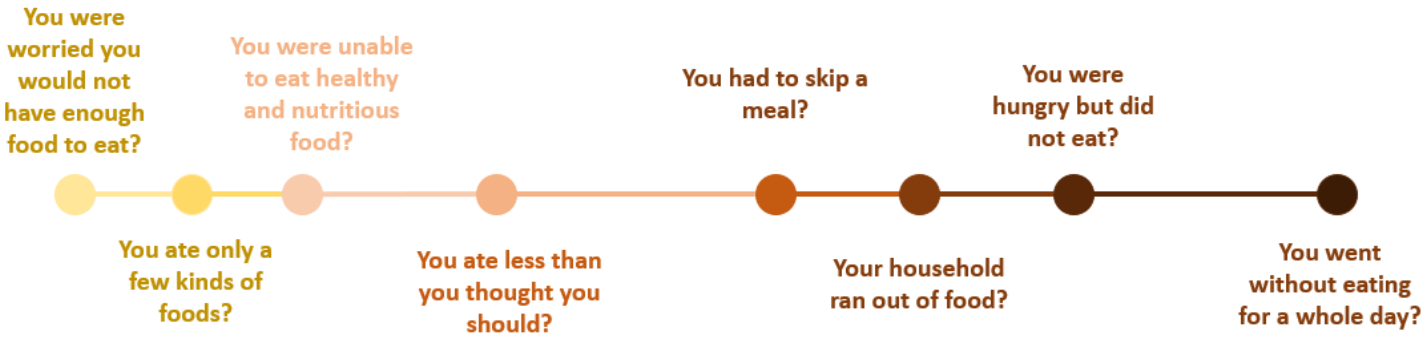
Dependent variable:		FSVA3	
Food Security = 1		Odds ratio	SE
Intercept		85.4	(0.1) ***
Gender	Female	0.7	(0.1) ***
	Male		
Education	HH head with higher education	2.4	(0.1) ***
	HH head with no higher education		
Children in HH	4 and more children	0.8	0.3
	1-3 children	0.8	0.1
	No child		
Number of members in HH	Number of family members	0.9	(0) **
Elderly members in HH	Household with only elderly	0.5	(0.2) ***
	Household with not only elderly		
Settlement type	Temporary/other type	0.6	(0.2) ***
	Rent a house	0.6	(0.2) ***
	Own house		
Stock of staple	Did not have a stock of staple food	0.5	(0.1) ***
	Had a stock of staple food		
Income	Refuse to answer	0.4	(0.1) ***
	Less than 48,000 AMD	0.5	(0) ***
	48,001-120,000 AMD	0.5	(0.1) ***
	120,001-192,000 AMD	0.5	(0.2) ***
	192,001-384,000 AMD	0.5	0.5
	More than 384,001 AMD		
Assistance	Received some assistance	1	0.1
	No assistance received		
Community type	Rural	1.7	0.1
	Urban		
	N of cases included	3338	

*p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01

Logistic regression analysis above elucidates that the gender of the household head was a decisive factor in food security in FSVA3. The odds of a male-headed household being food secure was 30 percentage points higher compared to female-headed households. Higher education was one of the most decisive factors that positively influenced food security. The odds of households with a head having higher education were 140 percentage points higher to be food secure. Number of children in the household did not significantly affect the food security level of the household. In FSVA3 higher number of family members was associated with lower food security. The housing situation of households was associated with food security, in particular households renting a house or living in a temporary house turned to have a lower level of food security. Similarly, in two previous assessments in FSVA3 as well the odds of households renting or temporarily living in a house to be food secure was 40 percentage points lower compared to homeowners. The absence of staple food stocks negatively impacted food security in FSVA3; the odds of being food secure for households with no staple food stock was 50 percentage points lower compared to the ones with a stock in FSVA3. Having higher levels of household income was a major factor in food security; for instance, having monthly household income below 192,000 AMD decreased the odds of being food secure by 50 percentage points compared to the households with income above 384,000 AMD. Note that no statistical difference was found between monthly households with income 192,001-384,000 AMD and above 384,000 AMD, which means that on average those groups are equally likely to be food secure. Settlement type and assistance received did not have a significant impact on food security.

4.3 Household Food Insecurity Experience Scale

Similar to FSVA1 and FSVA2, the survey used the FAO Food Insecurity Experience Scale, which aims at showing if people have faced food security issues and if that was due to the COVID-19 pandemic or the war. The set of eight questions compose a scale that covers a range of severity of food insecurity[8].



Overall, in FSVA3 household food insecurity experiences conditioned with financial resources did not drastically change, compared to FSVA2. The simultaneous impact of both the COVID-19 and Nagorno-Karabakh conflict was still a major reason for negative food security experiences.

Around 37 percent of the respondents reported being worried about not having enough food to eat because of a lack of money or other resources in the last 30 days. The scores of not having enough food along with the scores of inabilities to eat healthy and nutritious food, eating only a few kinds of food, eating less than wanted, remaining hungry, and staying without eating a day because of the lack of money did not change drastically in FSVA3 compared to FSVA2. The score of a household skipping a meal and running out of food has slightly improved, compared to FSVA2, reaching 21.5 and 32.4 percent respectively (3.8 and 5 percentage points decrease in reported negative experiences). The main reason for having food-related negative experiences was related to both COVID-19 and the conflict in Nagorno Karabakh. Though when summed, COVID-19 is a slightly more influential reason compared to other reported reasons of food security experiences.

[8] The Food Insecurity Experience Scale, Voices of the Hungry, Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations http://www.fao.org/in-action/voices-of-the-hungry/fies/en/

Table 3: Food Insecurity level due to financial resources

Green color-coding indicates improvement in the score in FSVA3, compared to FSVA2 and FSVA1	*FSVA1*		*FSVA2*				*FSVA3*			
	Yes (%)	*Was it due to COVID? Yes (%)*	*Yes (%)*	*Due to COVID Yes (%)*	*Due to war Yes (%)*	*Both Yes (%)*	*Yes (%)*	*Due to COVID Yes (%)*	*Due to war Yes (%)*	*Both Yes (%)*
During the last 30 days, was there a time when you or others in your household worried about not having enough food to eat because of a lack of money or other resources?	45.9	76.4	36.3	14.2	13.8	53.3	37.1	11.4	10.4	48.7
During the last 30 days, was there a time when you or others in your household were unable to eat healthy and nutritious food because of a lack of money or other resources?	41.1	73.8	33.6	16.5	12.4	48.4	33.5	14.0	9.3	49.4
During the last 30 days, was there a time when you or others in your household ate only a few kinds of foods because of a lack of money or other resources?	52.6	69.7	47.1	15.2	10.0	49.6	49.6	12.6	7.7	48.0
During the last 30 days, was there a time when you or others in your household had to skip a meal because there was not enough money or other resources to get food?	32.7	74.4	25.3	17.2	11.3	48.0	21.5	12.4	7.8	50.9
During the last 30 days, was there a time when you or others in your household ate less than you wanted through you should because of a lack of money or other resources?	38.7	76.6	32.9	16.0	11.2	50.3	31.2	12.0	8.5	49.6
During the last 30 days, was there a time when your household ran out of food because of a lack of money or other resources?	45.2	72.0	37.4	17.0	10.5	47.3	32.4	12.2	6.9	51.1
During the last 30 days, was there a time when you or others in your household were hungry but did not eat because there was not enough money or other resources for food?	17.0	78.3	12.6	17.8	9.4	52.2	10.7	12.4	7.4	52.1
During the last 30 days, was there a time when you or others in your household went without eating for a whole day because of a lack of money or other resources?	6.1	77.8	3.6	19.0	14.4	49.0	3.4	5.0	4.5	59.6

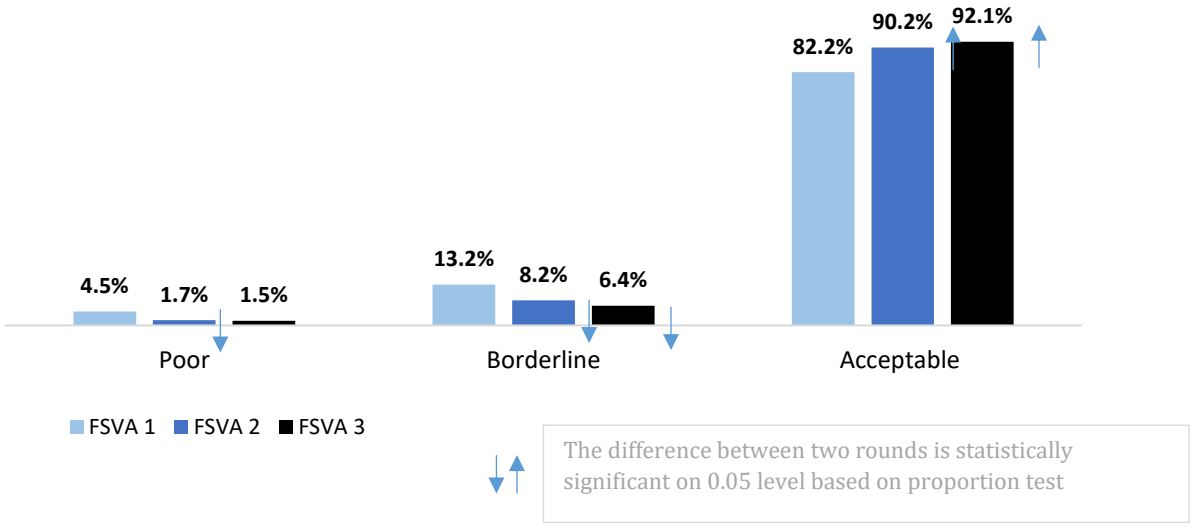
4.4 Household Food Consumption

Food Consumption Score (FCS) is WFP's proxy for a household's access to food. The score is comprised of three levels: poor consumption, borderline consumption, and acceptable consumption[9]. In this chapter, we will review food security by various social demographic groups and changes over time by comparing the survey results (FSVA3) with the previous surveys (FSVA1 and FSVA2).

The analysis of the Food Consumption Score (FCS) revealed that 92.1 percent of households have acceptable, 6.4 percent have borderline and 1.4 percent have poor FCS. There is a slight improvement by 1.9 percentage points in the score in Armenia in February-April months compared to November-December months. There was also a slight improvement in FCS in rural settlements. The marzes with the lowest FCS were Lori, Shirak and Gegharkunik (12, 12, and 10 percent respectively). There was no significant improvement in FCS in most of the marzes unlike FSVA2 having Aragatsotn region with a significant increase in the consumption score of around 5 percentage points. In the group with a monthly household income of less than 24,001 AMD (46 USD), the food consumption score significantly improved (17.7 percentage points increase compared to FSVA2). Similar to FSVA2, the households with staple stock, male-headed households, the ones with a head with higher education, the ones owning a house had higher FCS. Many households with more than 4 children still had low FCS (12.6 percent) although food consumption improved by 10 percentage points compared to FSVA2.

Based on collected data, 1.5 percent of households reported having poor food consumption and 6.4 percent had borderline food consumption, based on seven days prior to the assessment. Overall, the food consumption score has improved compared to June-July and Feb-Apr months. In FSVA round 1, 82 percent of the households had a low FCS (poor plus borderline), while the percentage of food secure households significantly increased during FSVA2 and FSVA3, reaching 92 percent. The change is mainly due to the decrease in the share of the borderline FCS group.

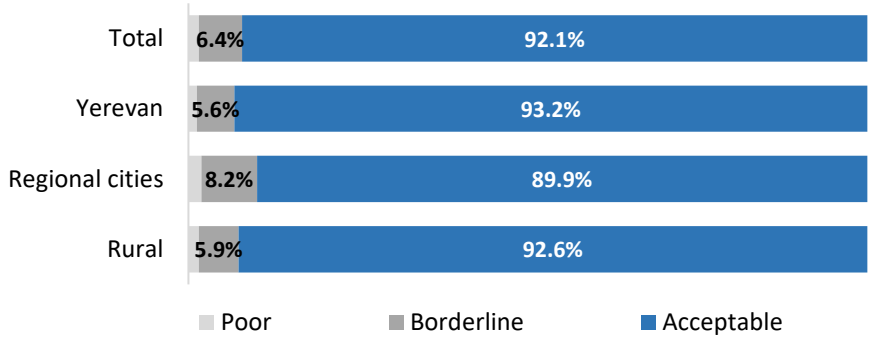
Figure 21: Food Consumption Score



[9] For more information on index visit FCS - Food Consumption Score Guidelines

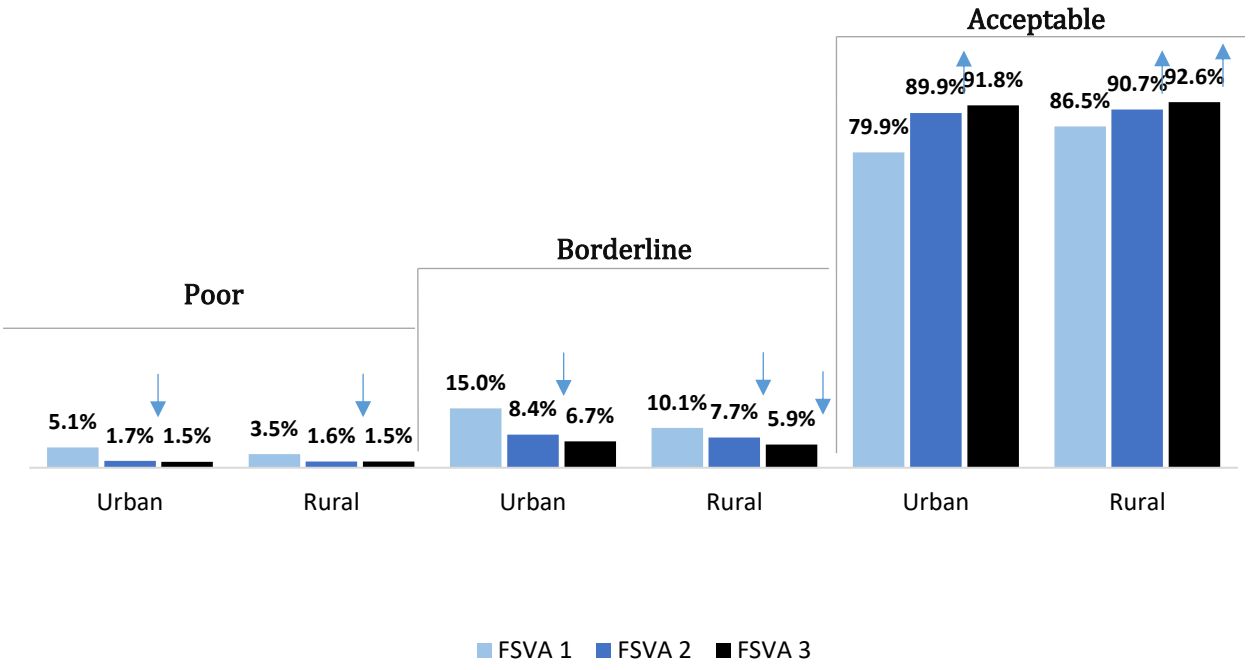
FSVA2 showed no significant differences for food consumption between settlement types, whereas the comparison of FSVA3 results per settlement type showed that FCS in Yerevan was significantly higher compared to regional cities, 93.2 percent compared to 89.9 percent. The food consumption situation in Yerevan was not significantly different from rural settlements (92.6 percent).

Figure 22: Food Consumption Score by settlement type (FSVA3)



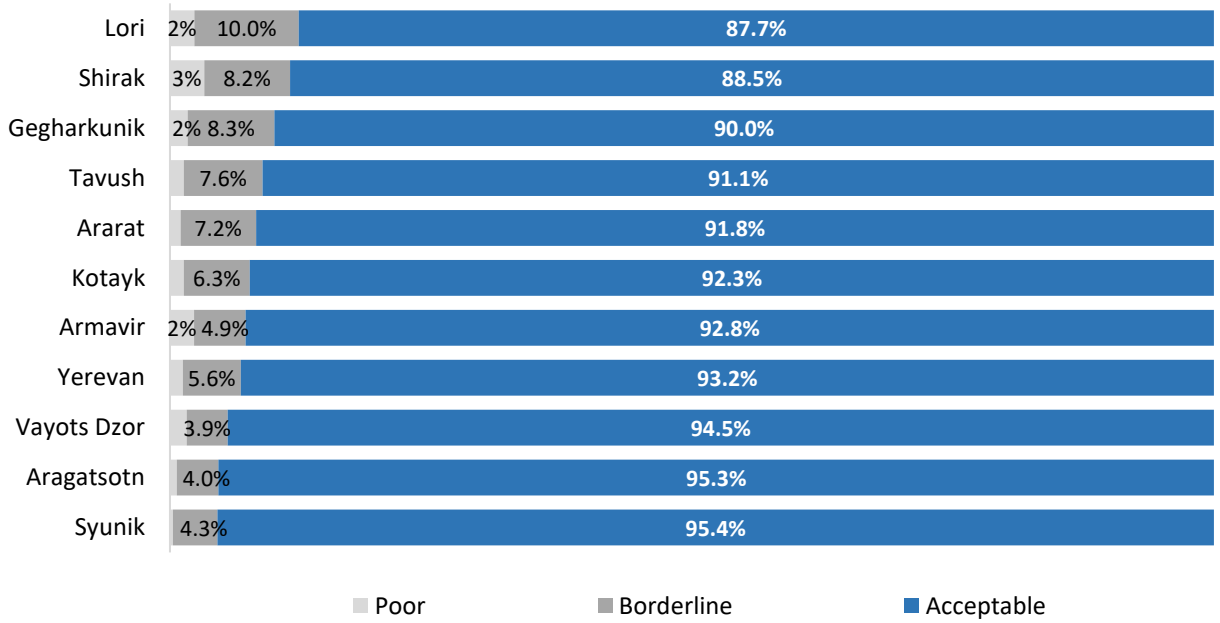
Overall, there was a slight improvement in food consumption score in rural settlements mostly due to improvement in the borderline category, reaching 92.6 in rural areas. Urban areas have similar food security (91.8 percent) when not divided into capital and regional cities. Furthermore, without considering Yerevan, in other urban areas, FCS is lower compared to rural settlements.

Figure 23: Food Consumption Score dynamics by settlement type



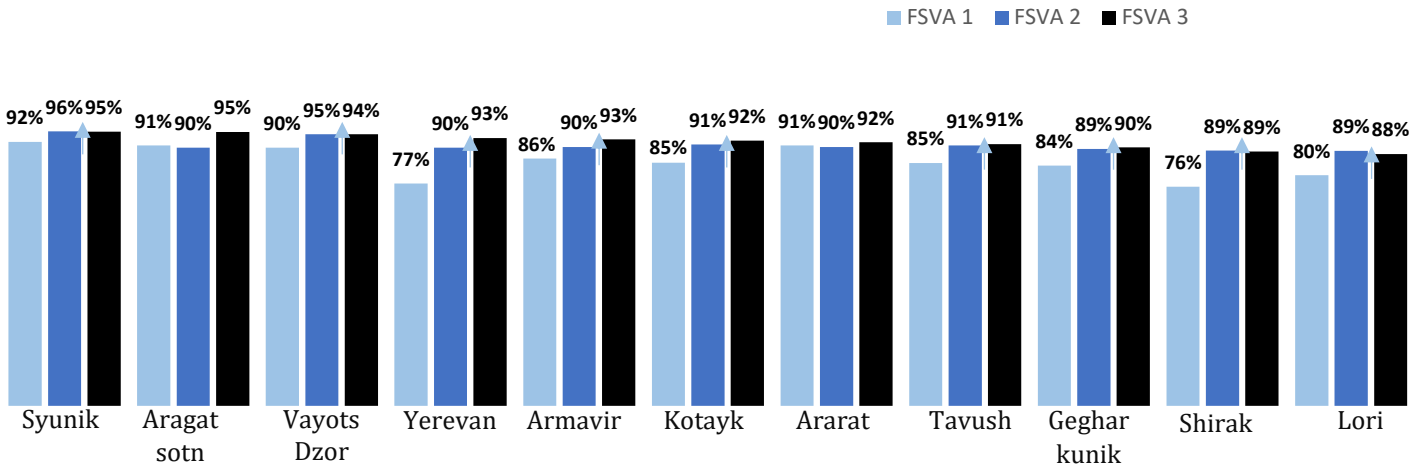
In FSVA3 the regions of Lori, Shirak and Gegharkunik remained as the ones with the lowest FCS with 87.7 percent, 88.5 percent and 90 percent acceptable FCS respectively. The most food-secure regions were Syunik (95.4 percent), Aragatsotn (95.3 percent), and Vayots Dzor (94.5 percent).

Figure 24: Food Consumption Score by region (FSVA3)



Although there was a significant improvement of FCS in FSVA2 for most of the regions, in FSVA3 only food consumption of Aragatsotn region significantly improved by 5.5 percentage points. It is noteworthy that Aragatsotn had one of the lowest food consumption scores in FSVA2.

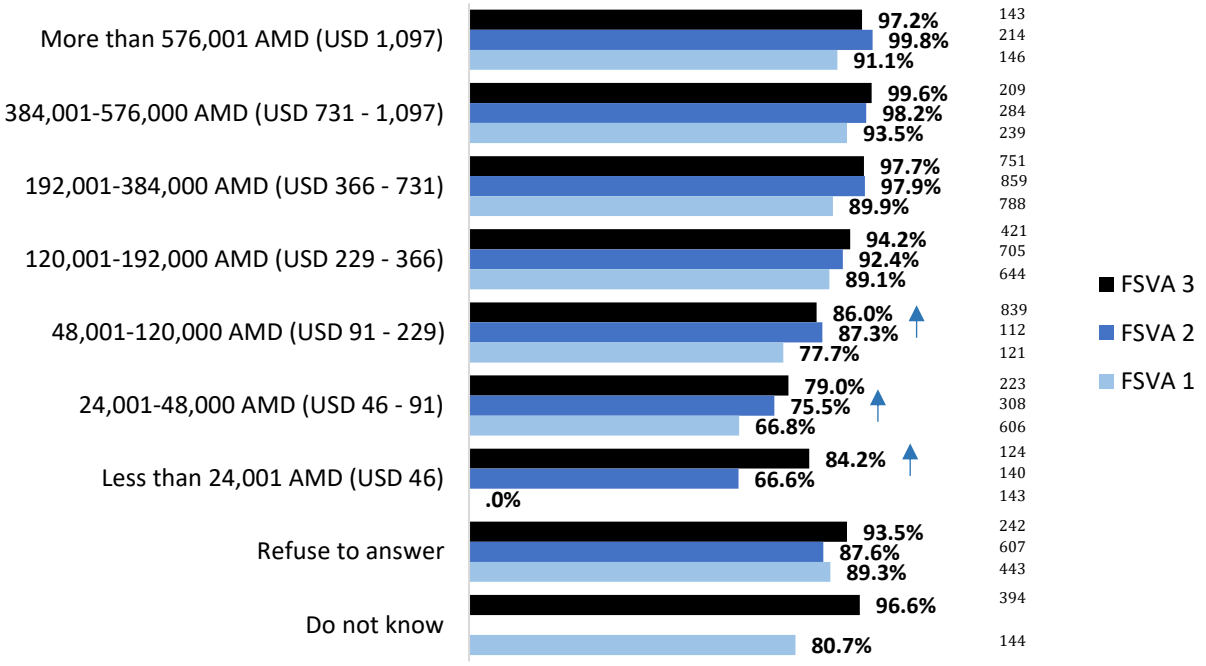
Figure 25: Food Consumption Score dynamics by regions



In FSVA3 food consumption remained relatively similar to FSVA2 in most of the income groups. Nonetheless, in the group with a monthly household income of less than 24,001 AMD (46 USD) food security significantly improved[10].

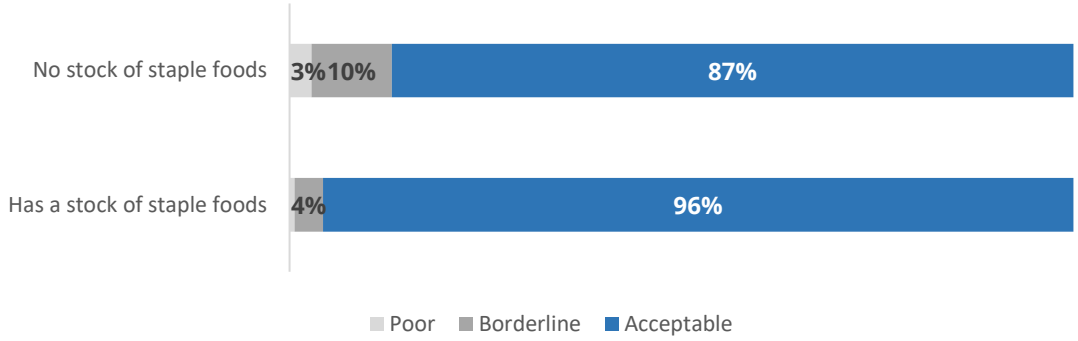
[10] Note that the question on the amount of household income was asked as an open-ended question in FSVA 3, whereas in FSVA 1 and FSVA 2 the respondents were provided with income groups if they were not able to mention an exact number. This change resulted in 5 percentage points increase in "do not know/refuse to answer" responses.

Figure 26: Food Consumption Score by HH income



Similar to the previous two rounds of the survey, households with staple food stock had higher food consumption scores, compared to the ones having no food stock. The households with food stock had 9 percentage points higher acceptable FCS and this difference was similar to the result in FSVA2. The results remain similar to the ones from FSVA1[11], although there is a slight increase in food security in both groups.

Figure 27: Food Consumption Score by Available food stock

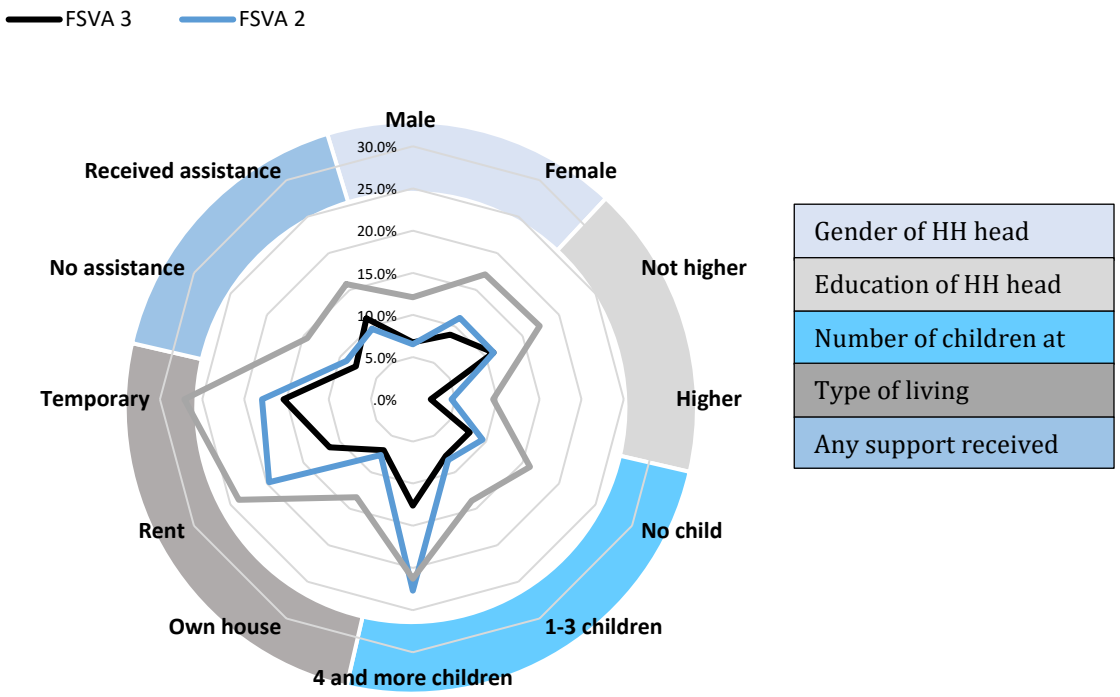


Food consumption score differed based on several subgroups and overall, the situation improved for some of them. Similar to FSVA1 and FSVA2 male-headed households had higher FCS (6.8 percent food insecurity) compared to female-headed households (8.9 percent). Instead, female-headed households reported improvement compared to 11.1 percent in FSVA2. Households with a head having higher education showed a higher level of acceptable FCS (2.1 percent) compared to the ones,

[11] Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment in Armenia, round 1 UN WFP, 2020
Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment in Armenia, round 2 UN WFP, 2021

not having higher education (11.1 percent). Interestingly, food consumption of the households where the head had higher education slightly improved compared to FSVA2, whereas households, where the head did not have higher education, remained the same as in FSVA2 Although the households with 4 and more children still had a lower level of acceptable FCS compared to the ones with fewer or no children, food consumption in this group improved in FSVA3. At the same time, food consumption in the households with 1-3 children and no children remained somewhat the same. Homeowners had a higher food consumption score during all three rounds of the survey. Food consumption of households renting a house drastically improved compared to FSVA3, reaching 11.4 percent compared to 19.7 percent of FSVA2. Meanwhile, FCS of the households temporarily living in someone's home as a guest improved by only 2 percentage points, remaining as high as 15.3 percent of not an acceptable level of food consumption. The households that received some type of assistance seem to have a lower level of food consumption score compared to those with no assistance though this difference can be due to the small number of households that received assistance in our sample (3.4 percent/115 cases).

Figure 28: Food Consumption Score by gender and education of HH head, number of children at home, living arrangement and support received



4.5 Household Food Consumption – Nutrition

Food Consumption Score is a proxy indicator for households' food access and is based on the frequency of consumption and dietary diversity. However, it does not assess the actual quality of the diet in terms of regular intake of protein and important micro-nutrients.

Social-economic challenges of COVID-19 has negatively impacted nutrition and dietary practices of the household around the world. In Armenia, those negative consequences have been exacerbated by the Nagorno Karabakh conflict as well. As a result, people shift diets to more shelf-stable and less nutritious foods. This can bring about malnutrition and stunting.

In addition to the Food Consumption Score (FCS) based on the survey data the Food Consumption Score – Nutrition (FCS-N) was calculated. The FSC-N is taking a closer look at the consumption of Protein-rich, Iron-rich, or Vitamin A rich foods.

The following food sub-groups are considered while calculating the consumption of Protein, Vitamin A, and Heme – Iron.[12]

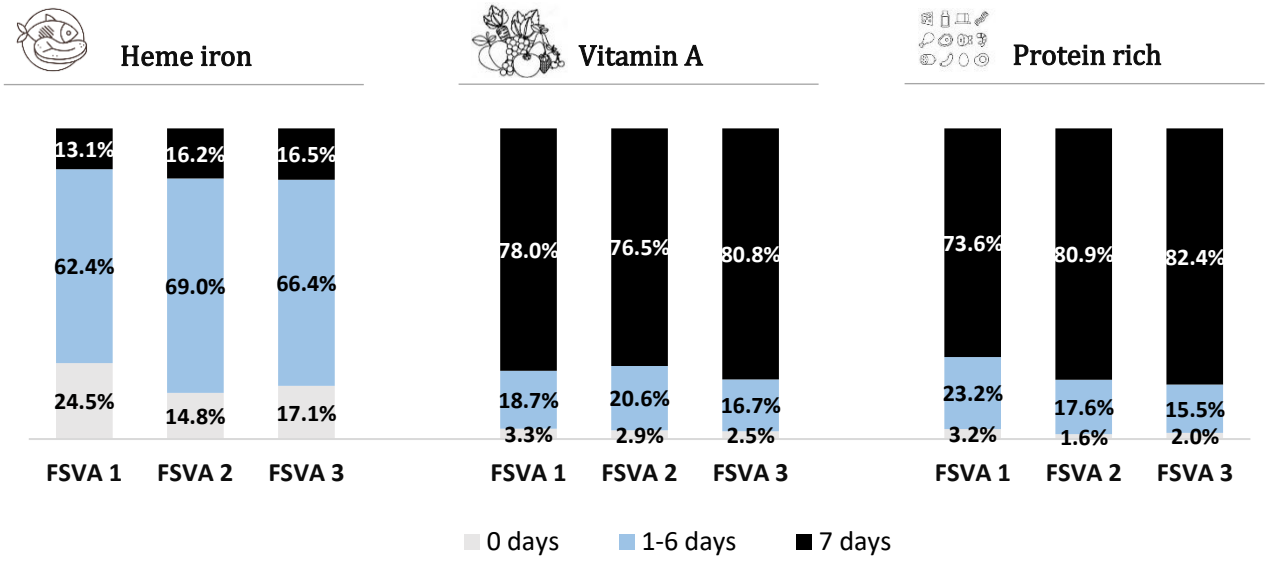
- **Vitamin A-rich foods**: Dairy, Organ meat, Eggs, Orange veg, Green veg, and Orange fruits
- **Protein-rich foods**: Pulses, Dairy, Flesh meat, Organ meat, Fish and Eggs
- **Heme iron-rich foods**: Flesh meat, Organ meat, and Fish

The assessment findings show that only 16.5 percent of households consumed heme-iron food every day during 7 days prior to the assessment. Around 81 percent consumed vitamin A-rich food and 82.4 percent – protein-rich foods every day during 7 days prior to the assessment. The results of FCS-N analysis show that there were no drastic changes in the overall quality of food consumed except for a slight decrease in daily intake of Heme iron-rich food. Nonetheless, 2.3 percentage points more respondents mentioned not consuming Heme iron-rich food at all during the previous week (overall 17.1 percent). At the same time, the quality of food consumed by the low FCS group drastically decreased. The gap between the quality of high and low FCS groups is large.

As we can see in the graph below, the intake of iron-rich products was significantly lower compared to food rich in Vitamin A and protein. In FSVA2 the intake of iron and protein-rich food slightly increased in contrast to food rich in Vitamin A, which slightly decreased. In FSVA2 the proportion of households not consuming iron-rich food at all has significantly decreased by 9 percentage points, while everyday intake of protein has increased by 5.5 percentage points.

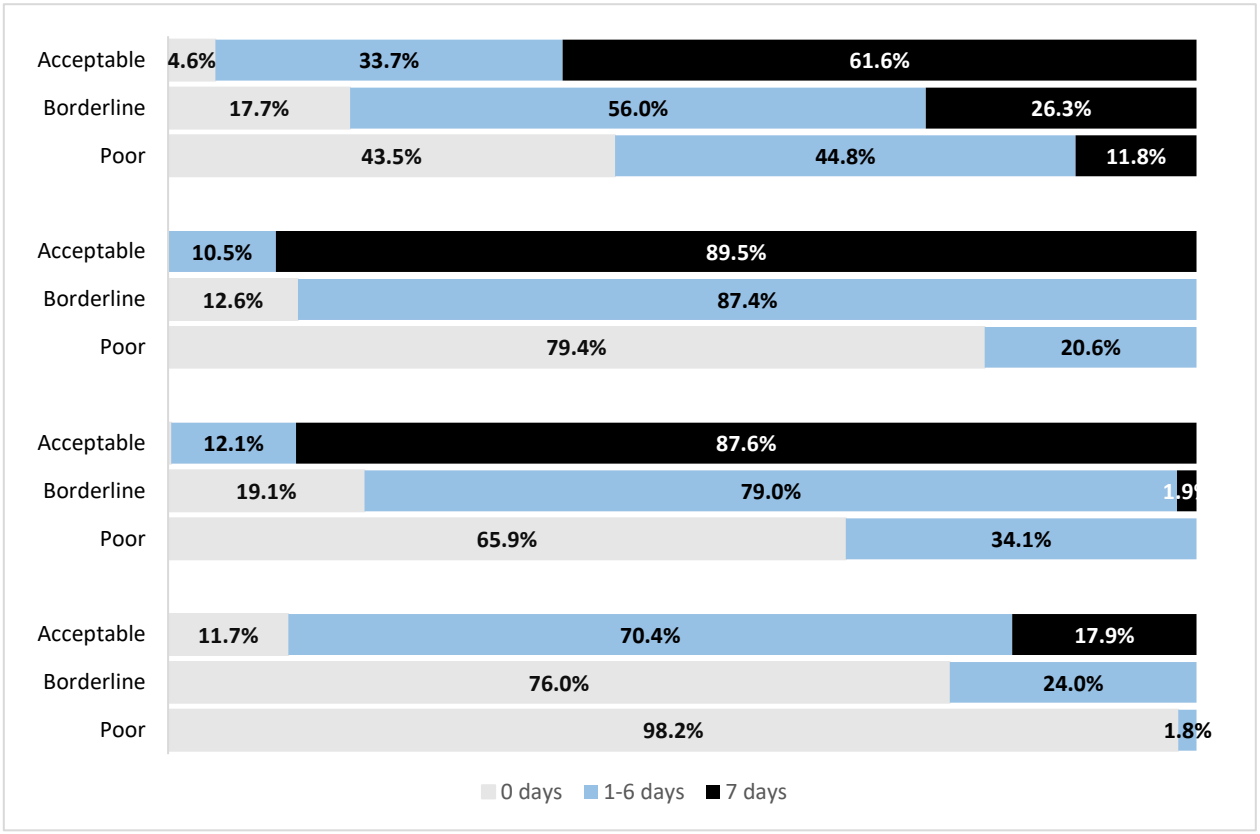
[12] For more information on FCS-N calculation visit Food Consumption Score Nutritional Analysis (FCS-N) Guidelines

Figure 29: Food Consumption Score - Nutrition



There is a large gap in the quality of food consumed between the three FCS groups; though 90 percent of the acceptable FCS group consumed protein-rich food every day, almost 79 percent did not have any in a week. The situation is similar in the consumption of food rich in Vitamin-A. In the previous sections, we saw that the food consumption score improved in most subgroups. Nonetheless, food quality in low FCS groups in FSVA3 worsened. **Households with poor Food Consumption Score ranked lower on all nutritional aspects of the diet; 98 percent of low FCS households did not have Iron-rich food during the previous 7 days, 79 percent did not have protein-rich food and 66 percent did not have Vitamin A-rich food. If we compare these results to no-intake of 88 percent Iron-rich, 65 percent protein-rich and 61 percent Vitamin-A rich food of FSVA2, we see that the group has become more vulnerable in terms of food quality. Instead, sugar intake has become less intensive in poor and borderline FCS groups.**

Figure 30: Food Consumption Score - Nutrition by Food Consumption Score Groups (FSVA3)

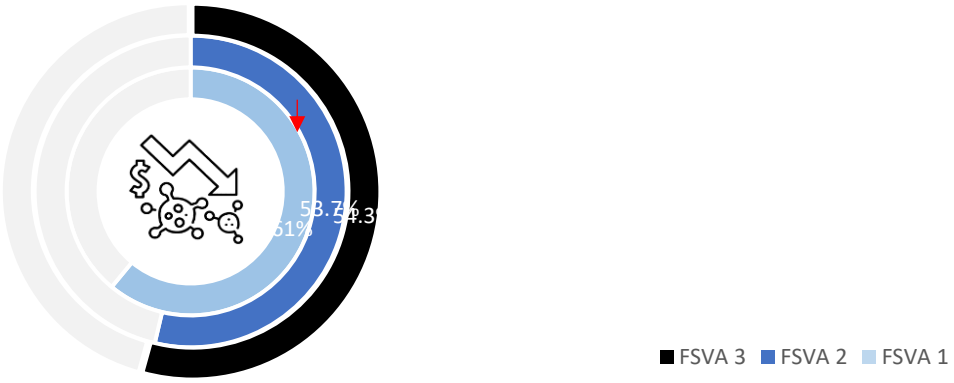


4.6 Access to Resources and Main Concerns

The respondents were asked a general question on the disruption of household income due to COVID-19 or the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh without specification of the time period.

In FSVA3, 54.3 percent of household reported income disruption. Compared to FSVA2 the income disruption didn't significantly change, whereas there was improvement compared to FSVA1. The improvement is related to the recovery of employment, increase in income from business activities compared to FSVA1. However, there was an increase in job loss abroad, a decrease in remittances from relatives living abroad, and a decrease in income from retail due to seasonal reasons (agricultural products). Despite all the changes, the main concern of the respondents in FSVA2 was no longer COVID-19 or the social-economic aspects of their livelihood. Instead, the war with its consequences and political situation in the country became the main reasons for respondents' concern. However, the majority of respondents mentioned the increase in food commodity prices, which is alarming, taking into consideration the recurrent increase reported by National Statistical Committee.

Figure 31: Income disruption due to COVID-19 or NK conflict

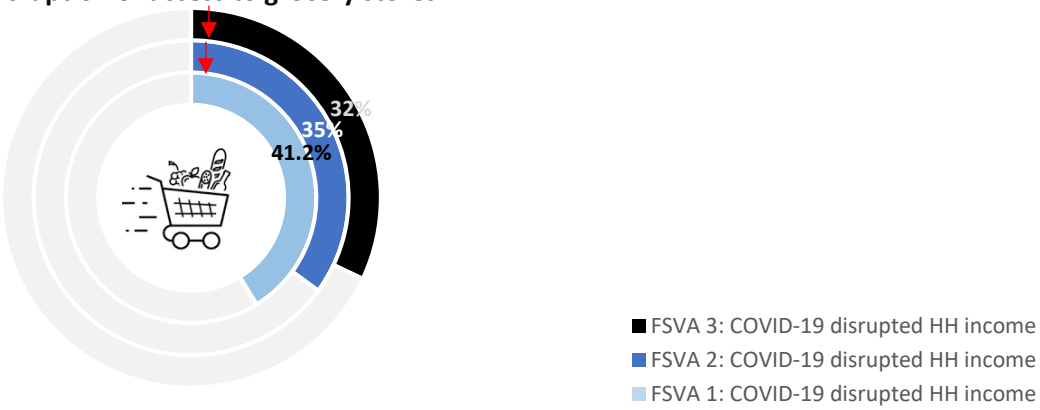


About 45 percent of respondents reported that the household income disrupted by 50 percent or more, and 34 percent of households reported income disruption by 25 to 50 percent.

Noteworthy, the analysis of income disruption revealed that the share of households who didn't report any source of income and were dependent on support or assistance was higher (21.6 percent) compared to December 2020 (6.8 percent). Thus, this was the main driver for food security deterioration. This means that one in five interviewed households are left without any source of income, which can result in the increase of negative coping application and other serious consequences.

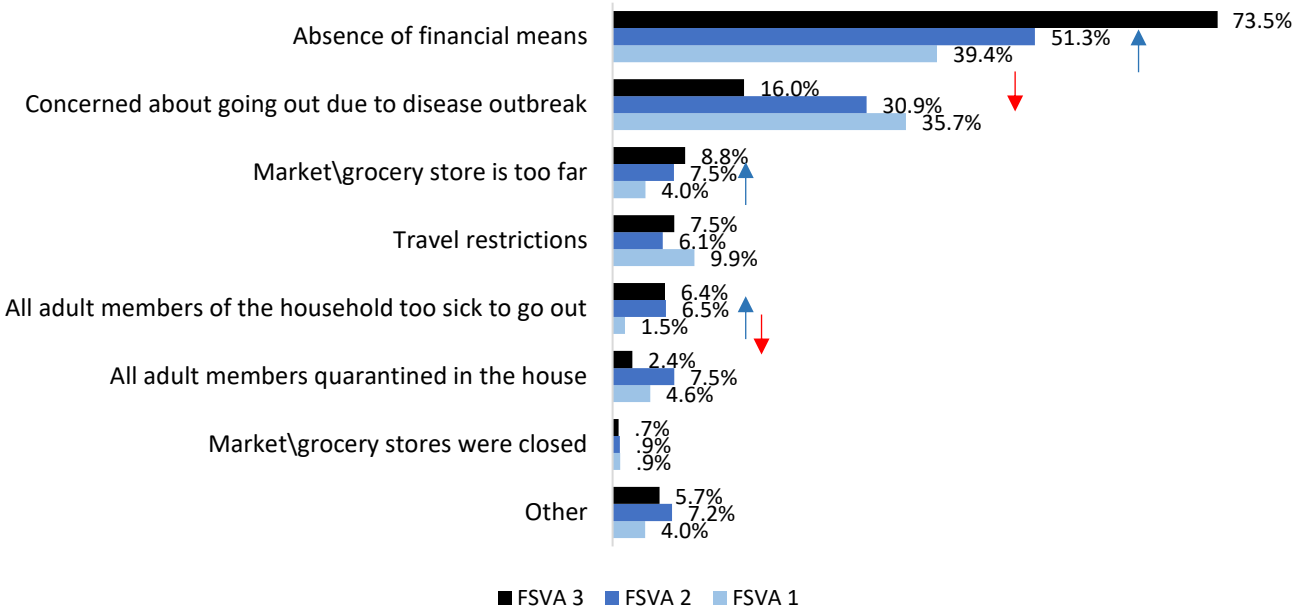
There is a slight decrease in the proportion of those who reported a lack of access to grocery stores. In FSVA3, 32 percent of respondents reported a lack of access to grocery stores compared to 35 percent in FSVA2.

Figure 32: Disruption of access to grocery stores



Similar to FSVA1 and FSVA2, the absence of financial resources remained the major reason (73.5 percent) for the lack of access to grocery stores. Furthermore, the proportion drastically increased by 22 percentage points in FSVA3, reaching 73.5 percent. Few people reported concerns to go out due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The proportion of all family members being quarantined at home also decreased by 5.1 percentage points, reaching 2.4 percent, but all the adults of the household being too sick to go out remained the same. A smaller proportion of quarantined households can be due to two main reasons; people either get COVID-19 but fewer families quarantine or just the number of families with sick people decreased. The unchanged proportion of households reporting sick family members (6.4 percent) leads to the thought that the first reason could be true, however, the problem requires more investigation.

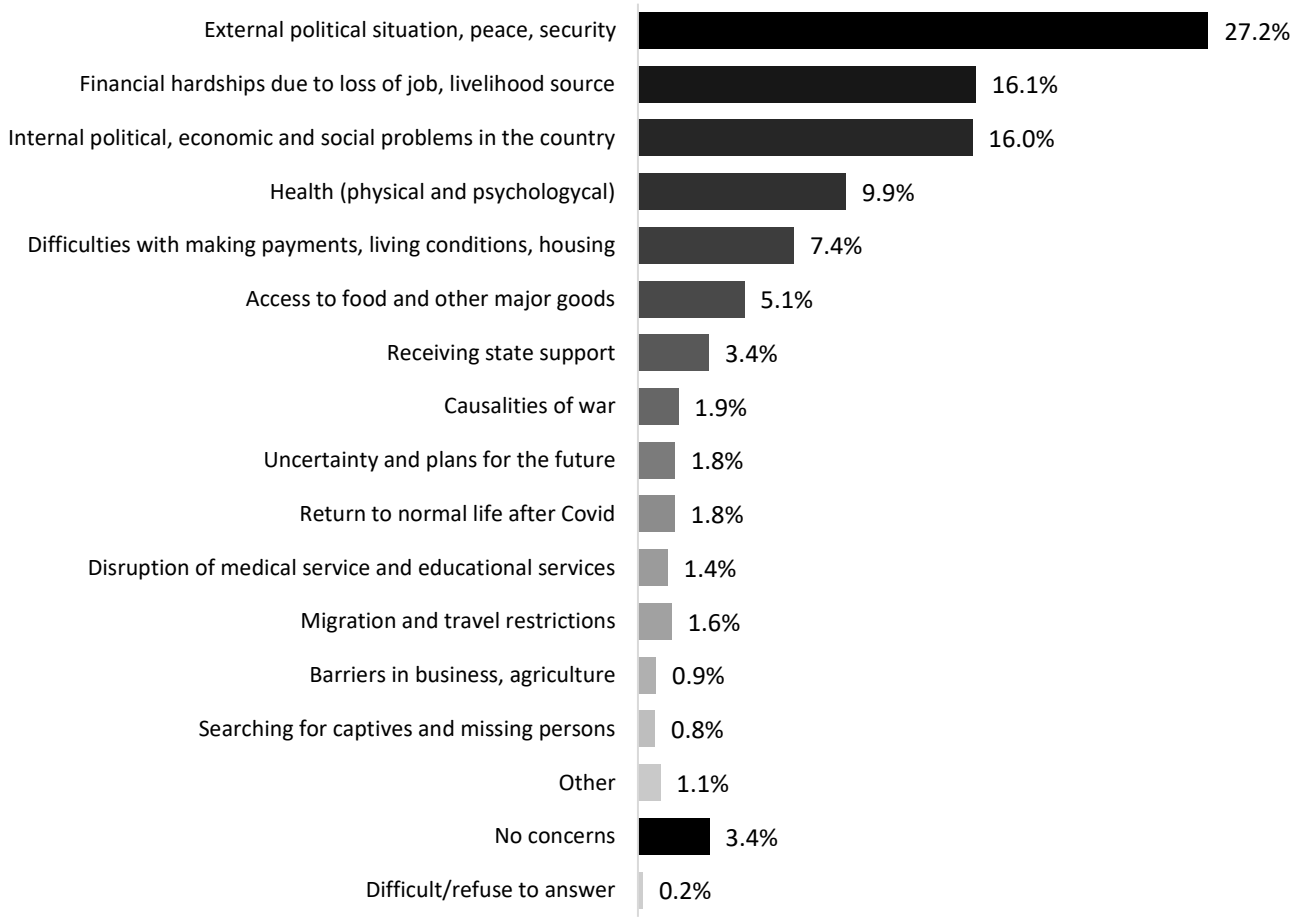
Figure 33: Main reasons for disrupted access to grocery stores/market



Similar to FSVA2, in FSVA3 the main concern of the respondents was the establishment of peace, security issues and the external political situation of the country (27.2 percent). There were two

other major equally important concerns as well, namely the financial hardships of household (loss of job, livelihood source) and internal problems (political, economic, social) in the country, with 16 percent each. Financial hardships as the main concern slightly decreased in FSVA3, compared to FSVA2 (around 6 pp) and there was an increase of concern about the internal political situation. The physical and psychological health of people was also a major concern for 9.9 percent of respondents. The difficulty of making payments, repaying loans, housing problems are other major concerns (7.4 percent). 0.9 percent mentioned the return of war prisoners as their main concern.

Figure 34: Main Concerns of the households (FSVA3)



5 Coping Mechanisms

Due to social-economic hardships, many households adopt various coping mechanisms to ameliorate their living conditions and overcome the challenges of the pandemic and the war.

This assessment along with the FCS, measured Livelihood Coping Strategy Index (LCSI). Livelihoods-based coping strategy index is used to better understand the longer-term coping capacity of households in response to shocks. Each coping strategy is in a group of a certain severity[13] group, which is country or context specific. Each level of severity is described by three-four different strategies that households apply, based on their needs (overall, ten strategies).

- Stress strategies indicate a reduced ability to deal with future shocks as the result of a current reduction in resources or an increase in debts.
- Crisis strategies are often associated with the direct reduction of future productivity as it is connected to the reduction of expenses on health or education or selling of assets such as means of transportation.
- Emergency strategies affect future productivity as well but are more difficult to reverse or more dramatic in nature than crisis strategies as it they are associated with selling the house or land, the last female animals, working children who are under 15 years old, and similar severe actions[14].

The Livelihood Coping Strategy Index is calculated based on WFP methodology and is a result of a higher weighting given to some coping strategies compared to others. Coping strategies are ranked in the following order (descending in severity): emergency, crisis, stress coping strategies. The study of coping strategy dynamics enables us to create a better roadmap of the strategies implemented by various social groups.

In FSVA3 the proportion of households not adopting any coping strategies constituted 26.5 percent. This dynamic was seen also in FSVA2. As much as 73.5 percent had to apply coping strategies to access food, which is really an alarming finding

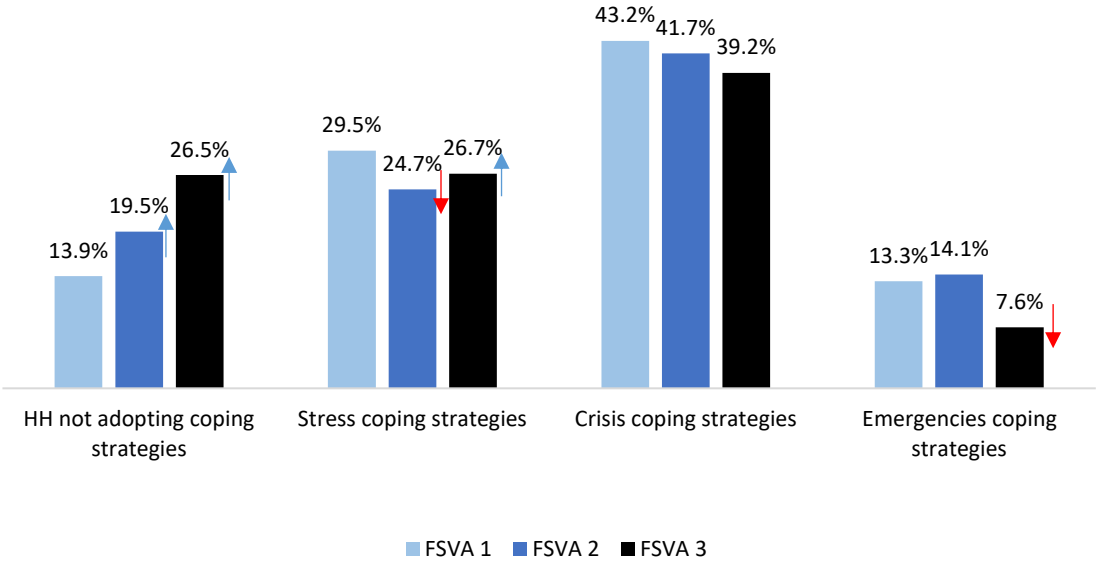
Crisis coping strategies were the most common ones in FSVA3, comprising 39 percent among all the respondents. The adoption of emergency coping strategies decreased significantly in FSVA3 by 6.5

[13] The levels of severity are defined as none, stress, crisis or emergency

[14] Stress coping: Sold household assets/goods (radio, furniture, refrigerator, television, jewellery, etc.), spent savings, borrowed money, purchased food on credit or borrowed money.
Crisis coping: Reduced non-food expenses on health (including medicine) and education, s old productive assets or means of transport (sewing machine, wheelbarrow, bicycle, car, etc..), were dependent on food rations and/or support from neighbours and relatives as only food/income source;
Emergency: sold a house or land, sold last female animals, children (under 15 years old) were working to contribute to household income (e.g. casual labour)

percentage points, reaching 7.6 percent. Instead, the adoption of stress coping strategies became more common, compared to FSVA2, reaching 26.7 percent (2 percentage points increase).

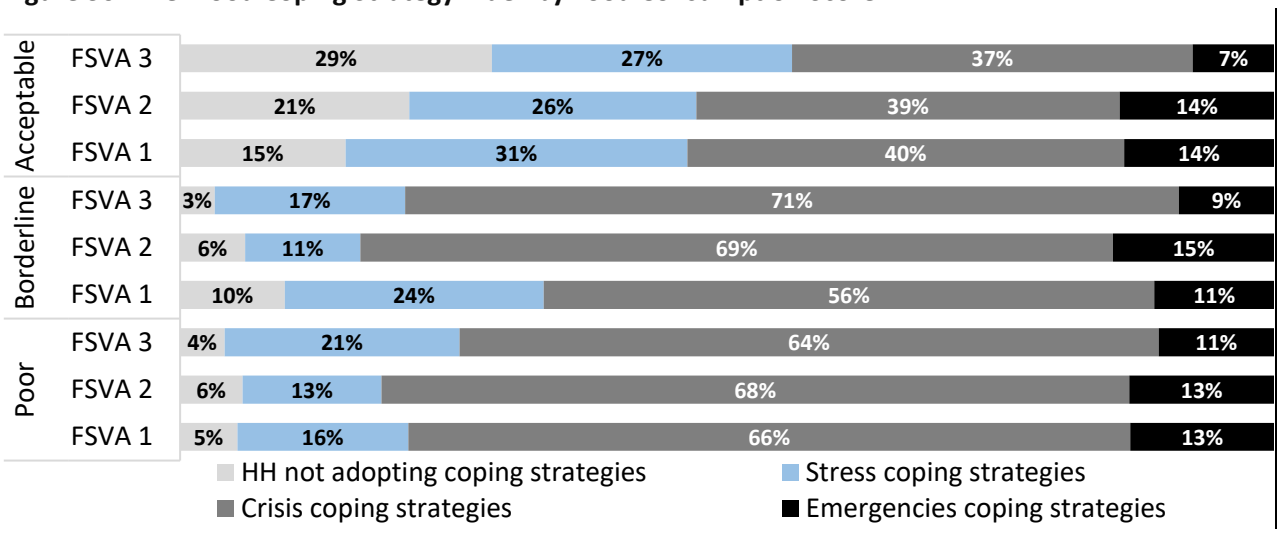
Figure 35: Livelihood Coping Strategy Index



Male-headed households, the ones with higher education, living in Yerevan, with higher income, living in a house owned by a household, having staple food stock, and not receiving assistance were less prone to adopting coping strategies. Adoption of emergency coping strategies was high for households from rural areas (15 percent) and households with a monthly household income of less than 48,000 AMD (15 percent). The households with poor FCS adopted more stress coping strategies, whereas the ones with borderline FCS increased the proportion of crisis coping strategies in FSVA2 compared to FSVA1.

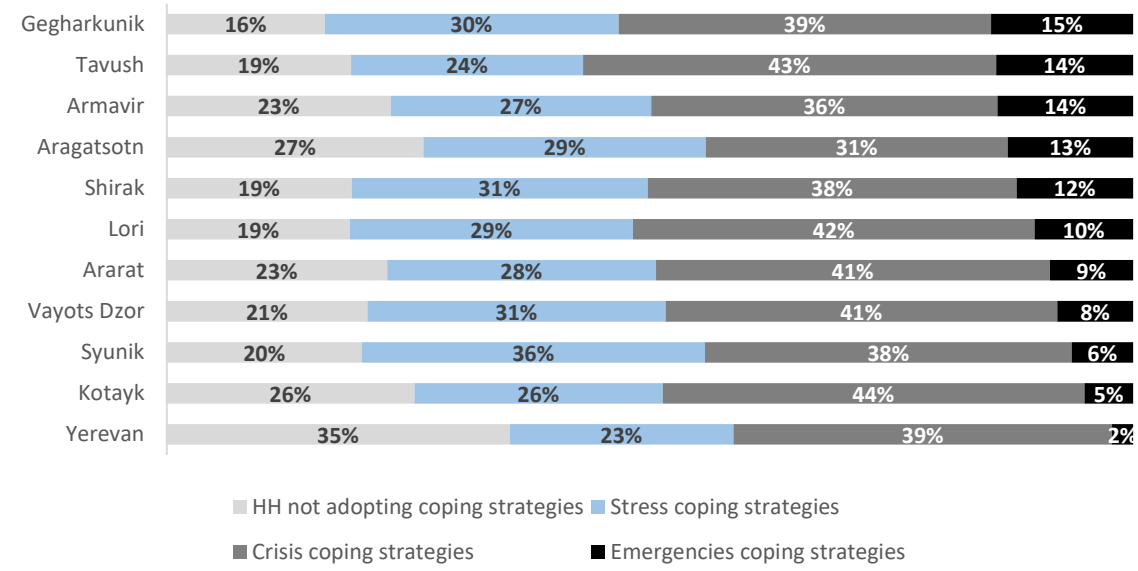
When observing coping mechanisms in each FCS group, one can notice that only in the acceptable FCS group a higher percent of households didn't adopt any coping mechanisms (29 percent) compared to FSVA2 and FSVA1. Whereas there is an increase in the adoption of coping mechanisms in poor and borderline FCS groups. Nonetheless, implementation of emergency coping strategies has decreased in all three groups, and instead, the adoption of stress coping mechanisms became more common, reaching 21 percent in poor FCS and 17 percent in borderline groups.

Figure 36: Livelihood Coping Strategy Index by Food Consumption Score



The regions where the respondents adopted the highest proportion of emergency coping strategies were Gegharkunik (15 percent), Tavush (14 percent), and Armavir (14 percent).

Figure 37: Livelihood Coping Strategy Index by regions



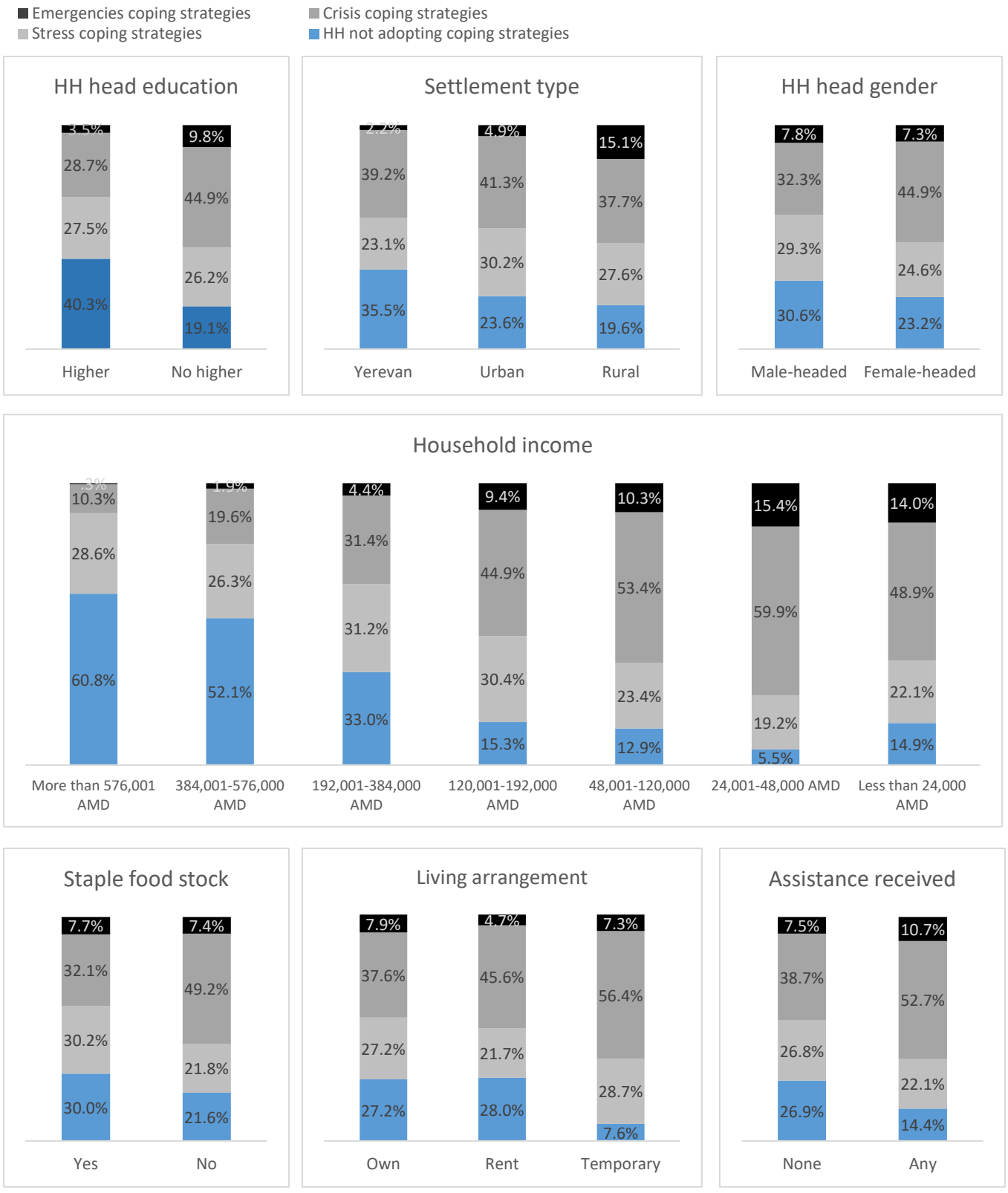
About 46 percent of the respondents spent their savings in FSVA3, 32 percent purchased food on credit, 29 percent borrowed money, and 33 percent reduced non-food expenses (including medicine) and education. In 1.8 percent of households, children under 15 years old worked to contribute to household income and 2.6 percent sold the last female animal. Previously widely used sources that could not be used anymore were borrowing money, reducing non-food expenses, and receiving food from relatives and neighbours. Along with not seeing an increase in adoption of these mechanisms, there was no increase in the responses “No, because I have already engaged in this activity within the last 12 months” or “not applicable”, which can mean that not adopting those mechanisms is most probably not a result of their depletion during the previous months.

Table 4: In detail description of coping strategies (FSVA3)

Coping strategy (large group)	Coping strategy (small groups)	No, because I did not face a shortage of food (%)	No, because I have already engaged in this activity within the last 12 months (%)	Yes (%)	Not applicable (%)
Stress strategies	Sold household assets/goods (radio, furniture, refrigerator, television, jewelry, etc.)	88,8%	4,1%	5,5%	1,6%
	Spent savings	29,5%	4,9%	45,8%	19,9%
	Borrowed money	62,2%	8,5%	29,0%	,4%
	Purchased food on credit or borrowed money (Purchase on credit)	62,3%	5,8%	31,6%	,3%
Crisis strategies	Reduced non-food expenses on health (including medicine) and education	57,7%	7,3%	32,8%	2,2%
	Sold productive assets or means of transport (sewing machine, wheelbarrow, bicycle, car, etc.)	69,6%	3,0%	2,3%	25,1%
	Were dependent on food assistance and/or support from neighbors and relatives as only food/income source	83,6%	7,1%	9,1%	,2%
Emergency strategies	Sold house or land	90,3%	,8%	,4%	8,6%
	Sold last female animals	25,9%	1,9%	2,6%	69,6%
	Children (under 15 years old) were working to contribute to household income (e.g., casual labor)	54,3%	,9%	1,8%	43,1%

The trends of FSVA2 were seen during FSVA3 as well. The situation of more advantaged groups has improved in a larger volume. Households with a head that had higher education were more than twice less likely to adopt coping strategies (21.2 percentage point difference). Those households were also less likely to implement emergency or crisis coping strategies. Respondents from Yerevan were also less likely to adopt coping strategies, compared to other cities and rural areas. At the same time in rural areas, 15 percent of households implemented emergency coping strategies (twice higher compared to the national score). Male-headed households were less prone to adopt coping strategies but the proportion of adoption of emergency coping strategies was about the same as for female-headed households. As expected, households with higher incomes adopted less severe coping strategies. Households with income below 48,000 AMD still had a high rate of emergency coping strategy adoption (15 percent). Households with staple food stock adopted fewer coping strategies but the proportion of emergency coping strategies was about the same for the households with and without food stock. Households living in a house owned by them were less prone to adopting coping strategies. Households not receiving any assistance were less prone to adopt coping strategies, especially emergency coping strategies.

Figure 38: Coping strategies by household characteristics (FSVA3)



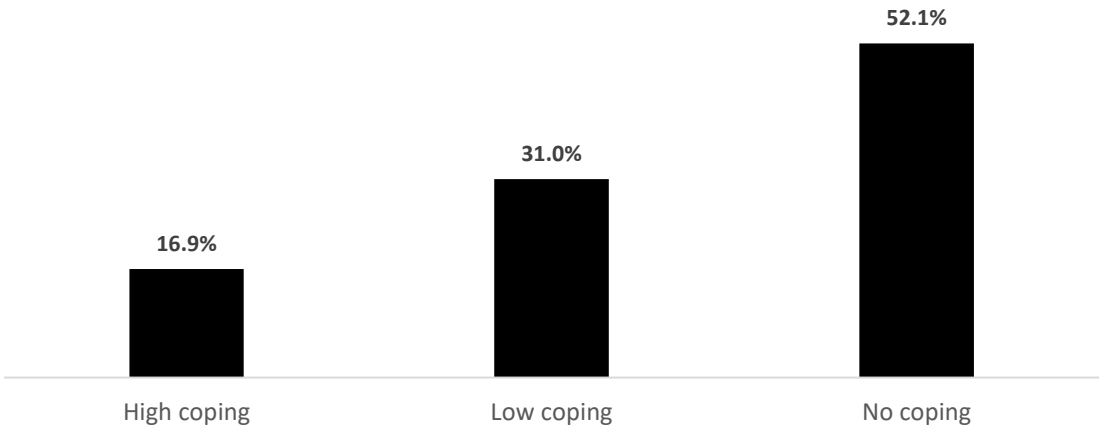
6 Reduced Coping Strategies

The Reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI) is a proxy indicator of household food insecurity. It considers both the frequency and severity of five pre-selected coping strategies that the household used seven days prior to the survey. It is a simplified version of the full Coping Strategies Index indicator. The rCSI is an experience-based indicator measuring the behaviour of households over the past seven days when they did not have enough food or money to purchase food.

rCSI is best used for monitoring purposes, and to identify changes in household behaviour especially in the early stages of a crisis. The index divides food insecurity into three levels: no coping, low coping and high coping categories. The higher the rCSI, the more severe the coping is applied by a household.

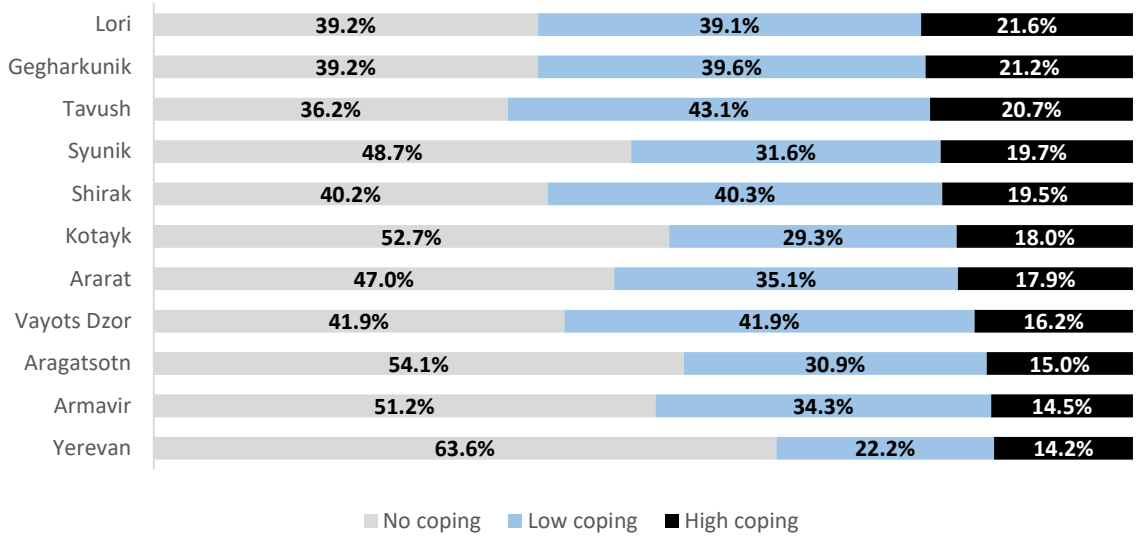
As per data, 52 percent of the households did not adopt coping strategies to retain food security, and 17 percent adopted high coping strategies.

Figure 39: Reduced coping strategies in FSVA3



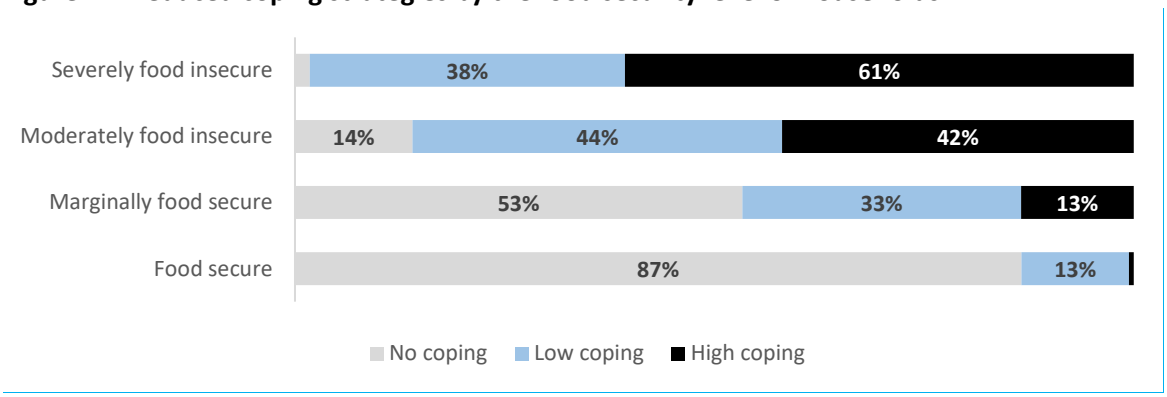
Similar to the other food security indicators, rCSI pinpoints that Lori (22 percent of high coping), Gegharkunik (21 percent of high coping) and Tavush (20 percent of high coping) regions applied high coping strategies, meaning that those regions had to apply higher coping strategies to remain food secure compared to the other ones. Although the application of a high coping strategy for Syunik was relatively higher, its overall coping score improved summing the values of high coping and low coping strategies. Yerevan, Aragatsotn and Armavir regions had the highest percent in no coping strategy adoption.

Figure 40: Reduced coping strategies by regions in FSVA3



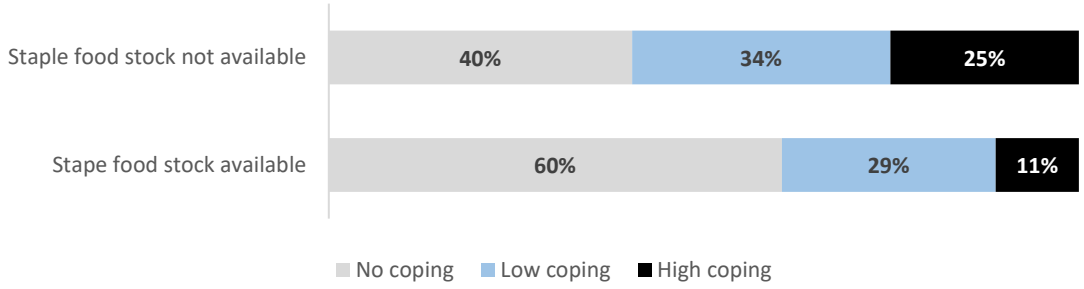
Households with higher food insecurity had to apply more strategies in the attempt to remain food secure. Whereas 61 percent of households had to apply severe coping strategies, only one percent of food secure households had to adopt severe coping strategies to remain food secure.

Figure 41: Reduced coping strategies by the food security level of households



Households having staple food stock adopted lower-level coping strategies; 60 percent of the households with some food stock adopted no coping strategies to remain food secure compared to 40 percent of those not having food stock.

Figure 42: Reduced coping strategies by staple food stock availability



7 Minimum Acceptable Diet for Children

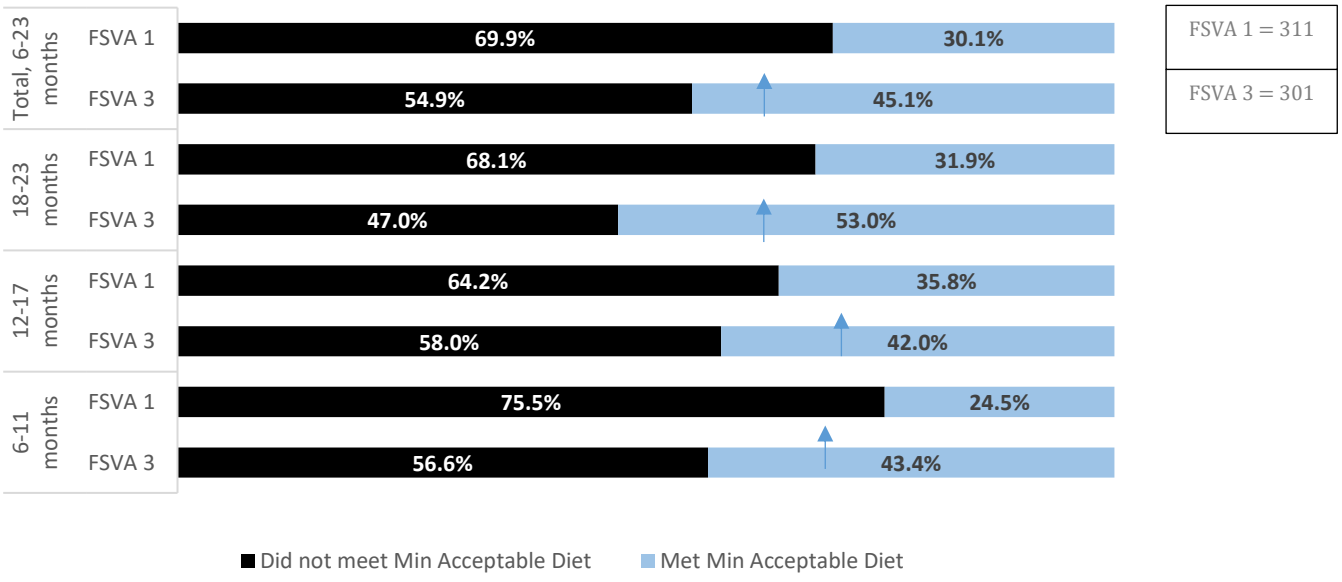
The Minimum Acceptable Diet (MAD) for children 6-23 months old, is one of eight core indicators for assessing infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices developed by the WHO. The other seven indicators are: early initiation of breastfeeding; exclusive breastfeeding under 6 months; continued breastfeeding at 1 year; introduction of solid, semi-solid, or soft foods; minimum dietary diversity; minimum meal frequency; and consumption of iron-rich or iron-fortified foods. The MAD indicator is a composite indicator composed of the Minimum Dietary Diversity (MDD) and Minimum Meal Frequency.

The advantage of this indicator is that it is relatively simple to calculate and interpret and is applicable across sociocultural contexts. However, the weakness of this indicator is that it does not provide quantitative information about children's food and nutrient intake.

In the scope of food security and vulnerability analysis, similar data on child nutrition is available in FSVA1 and FSVA3. FSVA1 included information on up to three children in the household, whereas FSVA3 captured the information of the youngest child in the household. To receive comparable results, the data of only the youngest child was analyzed and collected in FSVA1.

The results of MAD in FSVA3 indicate that **only 45 percent of 6-23 months of children met the minimum acceptable diet**. This result was relatively higher for 18–23-month-old children (53 percent), whereas for 6-17-month-old children only 42-43 percent met the diet. The results from FSVA1 showed that in the summer months the proportion of children meeting MAD was much lower, 15 percentage points lower compared to FSVA3. Especially, children aged 18-23 months and 6-11 months drastically improved meeting MAD in FSVA3, by 21 and 19 percentage points respectively.

Figure 43: Minimum Acceptable Diet for children

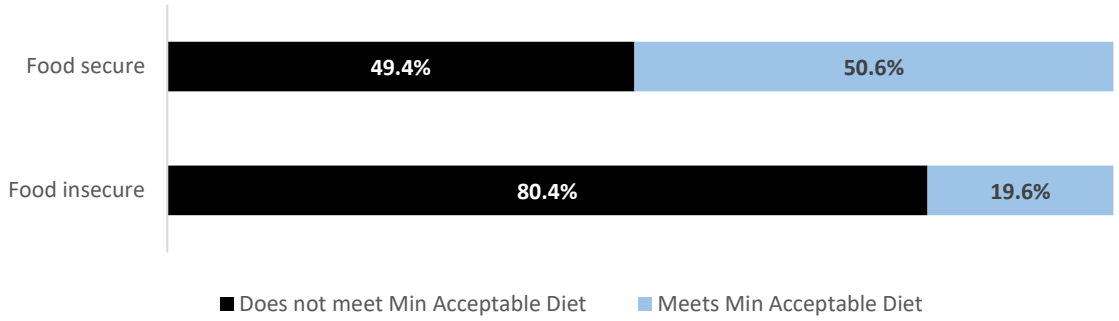


In rural areas, 64 percent of children did not meet the minimum acceptable diet, compared to 48 percent of urban settlements. The proportion of children not meeting MAD was especially high in

Shirak (79 percent), Lori (76 percent), Aragatsotn (72 percent), and Tavush (68 percent), although the sample size for children in the separate region was small (around 20 in each).

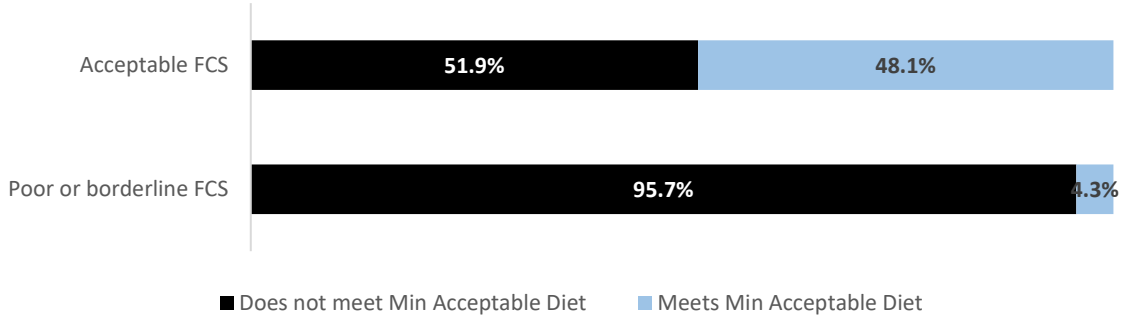
The graph below indicates that MAD is associated with the food security level of the household. Around 51 percent of food secure households met the MAD for children, whereas the percent of those meeting MAD constitutes -19.6 percent among food-insecure households.

Figure 44: Minimum Acceptable Diet for children by the food security level of the household



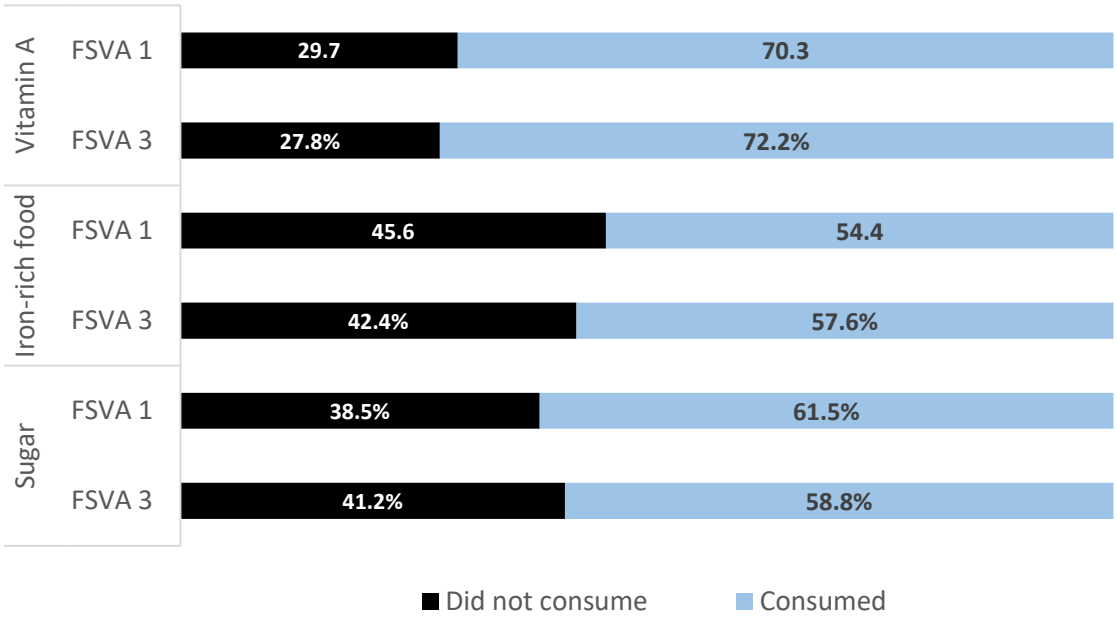
MAD seems to also be associated with FCS, though the sample of poor and borderline FCS group that had children was small (21 households) and we can only assume that there could be some correlation.

Figure 45: Minimum Acceptable Diet for children by food consumption score of the household



In FSVA3, 72 percent of the children had food rich in vitamin A during the previous day. This result is quite similar to the score from FSVA1 (70 percent). Iron-rich food was consumed by 58 percent of children during the previous day and 59 percent of children had had some type of sugary food.

Figure 46: Intake of nutrients by children



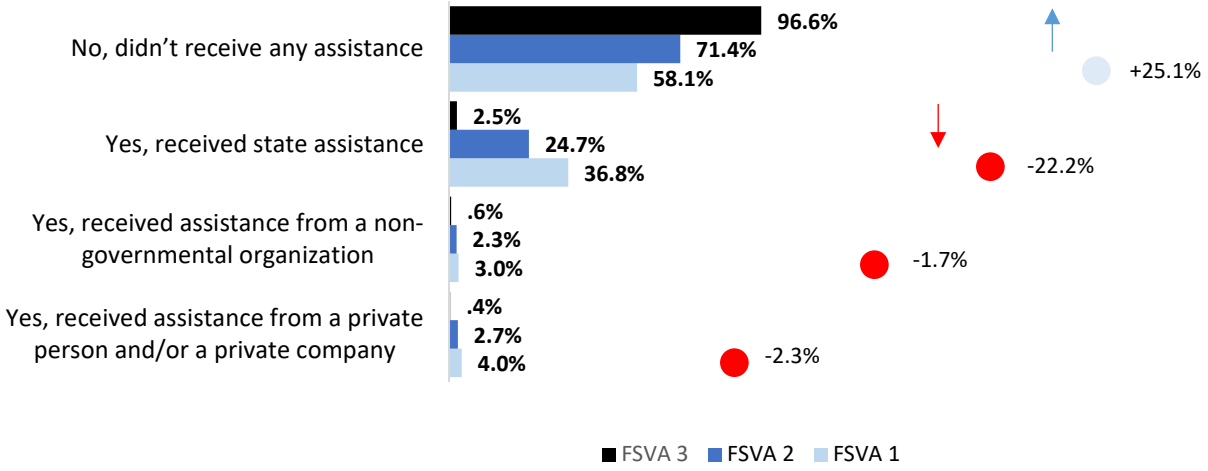
The analysis also revealed that 65.5 percent of 6–23-month-old children met the minimum dietary diversity (MDD), and 62.5 percent met the minimum meal frequency (MMF).

8 Assistance to Households

In the summer months of 2020, the state and many non-profit organizations supported the population of Armenia in overcoming the hardships imposed by COVID-19[15]. The Government of Armenia implemented 22 programs to address the social-economic impact of COVID-19. In the autumn months, the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh was another challenge that the population faced.

In FSVA3 around 3.5 percent of the households reported having received any type of assistance. 2.5 percent of the households received state assistance, 0.6 percent received assistance from non-profit organizations and 0.4 percent from private persons or companies. These numbers are much lower compared to the assistance received in the summer months, as well as compared to the 2020 November-December months. The overall assistance in FSVA3 decreased by 25 percentage points.

Figure 47: Assistance received



During the survey period, many international organizations and NGOs started distributing goods and assistance particularly targeting the households having children and this was also captured by this survey; more households with children received assistance, compared to the ones with no children. Although the overall percentage of support received was very low, 12 percent of households with four and more children reported having received some type of support.

[15] https://www.gov.am/en/COVID-19-cragrer./

Conclusion

Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment 3 (FSVA3) results show that households' comprehensive food security level in April 2021 was 22.1 percent while 56.4 percent were marginally food secure, and 21.4 percent were moderately and severely food insecure. Compared to December 2020, food insecurity levels deteriorated by 2.9 percentage points.

In April 2021 (FSVA3), 92.1 percent of households had acceptable food consumption. This represents a 1.9 percentage points improvement compared to December 2020. Moreover, 26.5 percent of households reported not relying on coping strategies to access food in April 2021 reflecting a notable increase (7 percentage points) compared to December 2020. It is noted however, that 3 out of 4 (74 percent) Armenians continued to sort to adoption of coping strategies to access food. In April 2021, 46.7 percent of households continued to adopt crisis and emergency coping strategies. While alarming, it does reflect a decrease of 11.9 percentage points compared to December 2020. The most frequently adopted coping mechanisms include spending of savings (46 percent), reduction of non-food expenses on health and education (33 percent), purchase of food on credit (32 percent) and borrowing money (29 percent). The previous and continued use of coping mechanisms might serve as a driver of sustained food insecurity, as although it is a short-term solution resources will be depleted quickly.

The gradual recovery of the economy after pandemic and the conflict and the difficult economic situation faced by many Armenians continue to play a big role in the food security status. Resembling the level reported in December 2020, 54.3 percent of respondents reported disruption of HH income due to COVID-19 and conflict in April 2021. The assessment furthermore showed that the main driver for the food security deterioration was the notable increase of households (21.6 percent) who reported did not having any source of income or was dependant on support and assistance compared to December 2020 (6.8 percent).

The FSVA3 furthermore shed light on regional and inter-household differences in food security levels. The highest levels of food insecurity were recorded in Tavush (31 percent), Shirak (29 percent) and Lori (28 percent) regions, while households (15 percent) in rural areas were more likely to adopt emergency coping strategies to access food than households in urban areas. Results from the multivariate logistic regression in FSVA3 revealed that the factors, positively influencing household level food security, were higher education of HH head, living in a house owned by the household, presence of staple food stock, higher monthly household income (192, 000 AMD and more), being from a male-headed household, and not being a household comprised of only elderlies. Settlement type and assistance received did not have a significant impact on food security.

Finally, the FSVA3 also highlighted the poor quality of diet consumed by Armenians (17.1 percent did not have Iron-rich food during the previous 7 days, 2.5 percent did not have protein rich food and 2 percent did not have Vitamin A-rich food). The poor nutritional diet is also reflected in Minimum Acceptable Diet (MAD) for children which indicates that only 45 percent of 6-23 months of children met the minimum acceptable diet in April 2021. Despite significantly having improved compared to July 2020 where 30 percent met the MAD, the results remain alarming.

Based on the FSVA findings, the following three key recommendations are identified:

Recommendation 1: Invest in sustainable development programs targeting food insecure and marginally food secure people.

While the FSVA analyses show that the Covid-19 pandemic and the NK conflict negatively impacted livelihoods, resilience (e.g., using coping strategies to access food) and food security of many Armenians, they also point to an underlying structural problem driving food insecurity in Armenia. It is recommended to invest in sustainable development programs such as social protection and resilience creating programs targeted at food insecure and marginally food insecure people. Geographically, increased attention should be given to northern regions while targeting of households should pay particular attention to low-income households, female headed households, households who do not own their housing as well as lower educated households.

Recommendation 2: Increase understanding of linkages between food insecurity and poverty.

Food insecurity in Armenia is undeniably linked to financial hardship and during difficult times, households are forced to prioritize between fulfilling various pressing needs such as access to food, health services, medicine etc. It is recommended to further examine the linkages between food insecurity and poverty to be able to best support vulnerable households in Armenia.

Recommendation 3: Increase understanding of and efforts to promote nutritious diets of children (6 to 23 months) in Armenia.

The FSVA analyses show concerning rates of poor quality of diets at household level and among young children (6 to 23 months). It is recommended to carry out root cause analyses to understand the drivers of poor diets in Armenia to best design targeted activities to promote nutritious diets. Examples of such activities could include developing and implementing targeted social and behaviour change campaigns and trainings, ensuring nutritious food is available and affordable in markets as well strengthening of referral mechanisms from social protection and other programmes to nutrition promoting programmes.

Recommendation 4: Establish robust early warning systems.

The FSVA analyses show that more than half of Armenian households are at risk of becoming food insecure if a shock hits or when they run out of coping options. Furthermore, the alarming rates of poor diets among small children highlights the need to react now to ensure the full potential of children in Armenia is reached. It is recommended to establish robust early warning systems in Armenia to inform programme and policy makers on the future needs of the Armenian population allowing a reaction prior to a situation becomes a crisis.

Glossary of Terms

Coping strategy	Relieve the impact on households of shocks that they are unable to protect themselves against, through mitigation or prevention, due to lack of assets, access to instruments or the magnitude of the shock. They include social assistance or welfare programmes as well as relief operations in response to natural disasters or civil disturbances. These measures prevent the troughs in income profiles that would reduce levels of well-being below accepted thresholds (OECD, 2007).
Food consumption score (FCS) Indicator	The score was calculated using the frequency of consumption of different food groups consumed by a household during the seven days before the survey. The standard thresholds are poor, borderline and acceptable food consumption (WFP, 2015).
Food Consumption Score Nutritional Analysis (FSC-N)	Consumption of nutrient-rich groups by the HH and which are essential for nutritional health and well-being: protein, iron and vitamin A (WFP, 2015).
Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)	A statistical scale designed to measure unobservable traits such as aptitude/intelligence, personality, and a broad range of social psychology and health-related conditions (FAO).
Food security	Food security exists when all people, always, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. The four pillars of food security are availability, access, utilization and stability. The nutritional dimension is integral to the concept of food security (FAO, 2009).
Heme iron	Dietary iron is found in two forms, heme and non-heme iron. Heme iron, which is present mainly in meat, poultry and fish, is well absorbed. Non-heme iron, which accounts for the majority of the iron in plants, is less well absorbed. More than 95 percent of functional iron in the human body is in the form of the heme (Hooda, Shah and Zhang, 2014).
Iron Deficiency Anemia	Iron-deficiency anemia is a common type of anemia that occurs if you do not have enough iron in your body. People with mild or moderate iron-deficiency anemia may not have any signs or symptoms. More severe iron-deficiency anemia may cause fatigue or tiredness, shortness of breath, or chest pain (NHLB Institute). Iron deficiency impairs the cognitive development of children from infancy through to adolescence. It damages immune mechanisms, and is associated with increased morbidity rates (WHO, 2001)
Livelihood Coping Strategy (LCS) Indicator	An existing WFP corporate indicator is collected to understand the behaviors in which vulnerable households engage to meet their immediate food security needs in times of crisis or shock. It is designed to assess the extent to which households engage in such behaviors, but also considers the impact of these coping strategies on the household's livelihood: given that certain behaviors may affect longer-term productive ability, households' engaging in these will have a reduced capacity to cope when faced with future

	hardships. Households are categorized based on the severity (stress, crisis or emergency) of livelihood coping strategies employed (WFP, 2018).
Malnutrition	Refers to deficiencies, excesses or imbalances in a person's intake of energy and/or nutrients (WHO, 2016).
Stunting	Stunting is the impaired growth and development that children experience from poor nutrition, repeated infection, and inadequate psychosocial stimulation. Children are defined as stunted if their height-for-age is more than two standard deviations below the WHO Child Growth Standards median (WHO).

ANNEX 1 | Questionnaire

WFP Emergency Food Security Assessment. COVID-19
Phone interview questionnaire. THIRD ROUND

Introduction. Hello, my name is (……), I'm calling you from **R-Insights research and consulting** company on behalf of the **United Nations World Food Programme** (WFP). We are conducting a survey to understand food, market and health situation in Armenia. Your phone number was selected randomly. The survey is anonymous. The data will be analyzed in generalized version. Our phone call is recorded for quality assurance. Could you please allocate 15 minutes to answer our questions?

1.	Yes	**CONTINUE**
2.	No	**STOP THE SURVEY**

Q0.1. Please indicate whether you are participating in diet decision-making process of the household and/or preparing meals for household consumption, or whether you are well aware of all of these processes. It is also important to be well aware of the household expenditures.

1.	Yes	**CONTINUE**
2.	No	**STOP THE SURVEY**

INTERVIEWER. IF THE ANSWER IS NO, ASK TO CONDUCT THE SURVEY WITH THE MEMBER OF THE HOUSEHOLD WHO CAN BEST ANSWER HOUSEHOLD FOOD CONSUMPTION AND EXPENDITURE RELATED QUESTIONS.

SECTION 1. GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE RESPONDENT

Q1. Interview Date and Time |__|__| / |__|__| /|__|__|__|__|

Q2. Are you permanently residing in Armenia? **ONE RESPONSE**

1.	Yes	**CONTINUE**
2.	No	**STOP THE SURVEY**

Q3. Did you reside on the territory of Armenia for more than 10 months within last 12 months? **ONE RESPONSE**

1.	Yes	**CONTINUE**
2.	No	**STOP THE SURVEY**

Q4. Please indicate the name of your place of residence. LITERALLY REGISTER THE NAME OF THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE

Q4.1 NAME OF THE VILLAGE	Q4.2 NAME OF THE CITY

Q5. SELECT THE APPROPRIATE REGION, ONE RESPONSE

1	Yerevan	**ASK Q5.1**
2	Aragatsotn urban	**GO TO Q6**
12	Aragatsotn rural	**GO TO Q6**
3	Armavir urban	**GO TO Q6**
13	Armavir rural	**GO TO Q6**
4	Ararat urban	**GO TO Q6**
14	Ararat rural	**GO TO Q6**
5	Kotayk urban	**GO TO Q6**
15	Kotayk rural	**GO TO Q6**
6	Shirak urban	**GO TO Q6**
16	Shirak rural	**GO TO Q6**
7	Lori urban	**GO TO Q6**
17	Lori rural	**GO TO Q6**
8	Gegharkunik urban	**GO TO Q6**
18	Gegharkunik rural	**GO TO Q6**
9	Vayots Dzor urban	**GO TO Q6**
19	Vayots Dzor rural	**GO TO Q6**
10	Tavush urban	**GO TO Q6**
20	Tavush rural	**GO TO Q6**
11	Syunik urban	**GO TO Q6**
21	Syunik rural	**GO TO Q6**

SECTION 2. DEMOGRAPHIC SECTION

Q6. Gender of the respondent **DO NOT READ OUT THE RESPONSE OPTIONS, ASK THE NAME TO DETREMINE**

1. Male	**2. Female**

Q7.1 How old are you? **FILL IN THE AGE OF THE RESPONDENT (ALREADY TURNED)** |__|__|

Q7.2 **THE PROGRAM AUTOMATICALLY SELECTS THE AGE GROUP OF THE RESPONDENT FROM THE FOLLOWING GROUPS: ONE RESPONSE**

1. Up to 18 years old	**STOP THE SURVEY**
2. 18-24	**CONTINUE**
3. 25-34	**CONTINUE**
4. 35-44	**CONTINUE**
5. 45-54	**CONTINUE**
6. 55-64	**CONTINUE**
7. 65 years old and above	**CONTINUE**

Q9. Are you the **head**[16] of your household?

1. Yes **GO TO Q12**	**2. No** **ASK Q10 AND Q11**

ASK Q10, IF THE RESPONDENT IS NOT THE HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD, Q9=2

Q10. Please indicate the gender of the head of the HH.

1. Male	**2. Female**

PLEASE ASK ABOUT HH HEAD'S EDUCATION

Q11rh. What is your completed education level? **IF THE RESPONDENT IS THE HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD, Q9=1**

Q11h. What is the completed education level of the head of the HH? **IF THE RESPONDENT IS NOT THE HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD, Q9=2**

READ OUT THE RESPONSE OPTIONS IF NECESSARY, ACCEPT ONE RESPONSE

	Q11rh	Q11h
1. No elementary and not literate		
2. No elementary, but literate		
3. Elementary		
4. Primary		
5. Secondary		
6. Pre-vocational (crafts)		
7. Secondary vocational (technical school, college)		
8. Incomplete higher		
9. Higher (Bachelor/Master)		
10. Postgraduate (postgraduate studies)		
99 Refuse to answer **(DO NOT READ)**		

Q12.1 How many people are living in your household (including yourself)? Please, take into consideration only those members, who live in your HH at least 4 nights. Please, do not list those people, who live at your place as a guest.

BY SAYING GUEST WE MEAN A PERSON, WHO HAVE BEEN LIVING AT YOUR PLACE NOT PERMANENTLY

|__|

[16] "A household is a person, a group of people with or without kinship ties, who live together in the same or interconnected accommodation, recognize an adult member as the head of the household, and have common facilities for cooking and eating together."

Q12.2 Now I will list age groups, please indicate how many males and females of each age group are living in your household.

	Male	Female
1. Children - under 2 years old		
2. 2-<5 years old		
3. 5-17 years old		
4. 18-59 years old (adults)		
5. 60 years old and above		

Q13_1_GST Now, please, let me know whether there is any guest in your house, **INCLUDED GUESTS FROM ARCAKH during the last 1-4 months**? If yes, tell me, please, how many guests do have at your place now? |__| **BY SAYING GUEST WE MEAN A PERSON, WHO HAVE BEEN LIVING AT YOUR PLACE NOT PERMANENTLY, BUT AT LEAST 4 NIGHTS WEEKLY**

If Q13_1_GST > 0, THEN ASK Q13_3 AND Q13_2_NK

Q13_3 Tell me please, how long they are living with your at your place. Mention in days, please. |__|

Q13_2_NK How many people of your guests are from **Nagorno-Karabakh, arrived at your place during the last 1-4 months**? |__|

IF Q13_2_NK > 0, THEN ASK Q13_3_NK

Q13_3_NK Tell me please, how long they are living with your at your place. Mention in days, please. |__|

Q14. Which of the following living arrangements best describes your current housing situation? **READ OUT THE RESPONSE OPTIONS, ACCEPT ONE RESPONSE**

1.	You live in your own house (owned by the household)
2.	You rent the house where you live
3.	You live temporarily in someone's home as a guest, without rent
4.	Collective centers (eg. schools, kindergardens, etc)
5.	Other **(REGISTER)** _____

SECTION 3. FOOD INSECURITY LEVEL

	1. Yes ASK Q27	2. No	99. Do not know (DO NOT READ)	97. Refuse to answer (DO NOT READ)	Q27. Was it due to COVID or War? READ OUT THE RESPONSE OPTIONS, ACCEPT ALL RESPONSES					
					1. Yes, it was due to COVID	3. Yes, it was due to War	4. . Yes, it was due to War and COVID	2. No	99. Do not know (DO NOT READ)	97. RA (DO NOT READ)
Q19. During the last 30 days, was there a time when you or others in your household worried about not having enough food to eat because of a lack of money or other resources?	1	2	99	97	1	3	4	2	99	97
Q20. During the last 30 days, was there a time when you or others in your household were unable to eat healthy and nutritious food because of a lack of money or other resources?	1	2	99	97	1	3	4	2	99	97
Q21. During the last 30 days, was there a time when you or others in your household ate only a few kinds of foods because of a lack of money or other resources?	1	2	99	97	1	3	4	2	99	97
Q22. During the last 30 days, was there a time when you or others in your household had to skip a meal because there was not enough money or other resources to get food?	1	2	99	97	1	3	4	2	99	97
Q23. During the last 30 days, was there a time when you or others in your household ate less than you wanted through you should because of a lack of money or other resources?	1	2	99	97	1	3	4	2	99	97
Q24. During the last 30 days, was there a time when your household ran out of food because of a lack of money or other resources?	1	2	99	97	1	3	4	2	99	97
Q25. During the last 30 days, was there a time when you or others in your household were hungry but did not eat because there was not enough money or other resources for food?	1	2	99	97	1	3	4	2	99	97

Q26. During the last 30 days, was there a time when you or others in your household went without eating for a whole day because of a lack of money or other resources?	**1**	**2**	**99**	**97**	**1**	**3**	**4**	**2**	**99**	**97**

SECTION 4. FOOD CONSUMPTION AND FOOD SOURCES

Q28. How many meals did the adults (**18+**) in the household eat **yesterday:** guests living with you should also been considered?

1. Female		**2. Male**	

ASK Q24, IF «0» IS NOT MENTIONED IN Q12

Q29. How many meals did the female children in this household eat **yesterday:** guests living with you should also been considered?

1. 2– < 5 years old children		**2. 5 – 17 years old children**	

ASK Q26, IF «0» IS NOT MENTIONED IN Q12

Q30. How many meals did the male children in this household eat **yesterday:** guests living with you should also been considered?

1. 2– < 5 years old children		**2. 5 – 17 years old children**	

Q31_1 How many days over the last 7 days, did you and members of your household eat or prepared the following food items?

INTERVIEWER: In this part DO NOT SELECT products that have not been used in large portions as the main ingredient of food, but have been used in small quantities, for example, to give flavor to food, or only a small piece of the given food item was consumed by 3-4 and more people.

!!! Do not consider food, which had been provided to you HH by the guests or for their protection and did not consumed by the main HH members

	Food product name/group	Examples	Days
1.1	Foods made from grain	Porridge (oats, buckwheat, etc.), bread, lavash, rice, spelt, bulgur, millet, quinoa, rye, groats, pasta (noodles, macaroni, vermicelli) or other foods made from grains	|__|
1.2	White roots and tubers and plantains	Potato	|__|
1	**Cereals or tubers**	**Rice, buckwheat, bread, lavash, potato, etc.**	|__|
2	**Pulses and groundnuts**	**Beans, lentils, chickpeas, peas, peanuts, walnuts, almonds, hazelnuts and/or other nuts**	|__|
3	**Milk and milk products**	**Fresh milk, powdered milk, yogurt/Greek yogurt, cheese, other dairy products** (excluding margarine, sour cream, butter or small amounts of milk added to tea/coffee)	|__|
4.1	Organ meat	Liver, kidney, heart, tongue and other organs	|__|
4.2	Meat and poultry	Flesh meat: beef, lamb, goat, chicken, pork, duck	|__|
4.3	Fish and seafood	Fish, seafood, canned, dried, smoked fish	|__|
4.4	Egg	Chicken, quail, duck eggs	|__|

4	**Egg, meat, fish, seafood**	**Flesh meat (beef, lamb, pork, chicken, hunting, ect.), fish, egg, organ meat**	|__|
5.1	Vitamin A-rich vegetables, roots and tubers	Carrots, red peppers, pumpkin	|__|
5.2	Dark green leafy vegetables	Spinach, broccoli, or other dark green leaves	|__|
5.3	Other vegetables	Any other vegetable	|__|
5	**Vegetables**	**Carrot, cabbage, spinach and any other vegetables** (excluding potatoes)	|__|
6.1	Vitamin A-rich fruits	Apricot, peach, mango, sea buckthorn	|__|
6.2	Other fruits	Banana, apple, berries, orange and any other fruit	|__|
6	**Fruits**	**Apple, pear, banana, etc., berries**	|__|
7	**Sugar**	**Sugar, honey, fruit preserves, jam, cakes, candy, cookies, pastries and other sweets (sugary drinks: compote, juices, lemonades, etc.)**	|__|
8	**Oil**	**Vegetable oil, butter, ghee, margarine, sour cream**, *'rezhan,'* **other fats/oils**	|__|

SECTION 5. LIVELIHOOD COPING STRATEGY INDEX

Q32.0 During the **last 7 days**, were there days (and, if so, how many) when your household had to employ one of the following strategies (to cope with a lack of food or money to buy it)?		Frequency (number of days from 0 to 7)
1	Rely on less preferred and less expensive food	|___|
2	Borrow food or rely on help from relative(s) or friend(s)	|___|
3	Limit portion size at meals	|___|
4	Restrict consumption by adults in order for small children to eat	|___|
5	Reduce number of meals eaten in a day	|___|

Q32. During the past 30 days, did anyone in your household have to engage in any following behaviors due to a **lack of food or a lack of money to buy food?**

	1 = No, because I did not face a shortage of food	**2 = No, because I have already engaged in this activity within the last 12 months**	**3= Yes**	**4=Not applicable (DO NOT READ)**
1.4 Spent savings	1	2	3	4
1.5 Borrowed money	1	2	3	4
1.7 Purchased food on credit or borrowed money (Purchase on credit)	1	2	3	4
1.2 Reduced non-food expenses on health (including medicine) and education	1	2	3	4
1.10 Were dependent on food rations and/or support from neighbors and relatives as only food/income source	1	2	3	4
1.1 Sold household assets/goods (radio, furniture, refrigerator, television, jewelry, etc..)	1	2	3	4
1.8 Sold last female animals	1	2	3	4
1.3 Sold productive assets or means of transport (sewing machine, wheelbarrow, bicycle, car, etc..)	1	2	3	4
1.9 Children (under 15 years old) were working to contribute to household income (e.g. casual labour)	1	2	3	4
1.6 Sold house or land	1	2	3	4

SECTION 6. FOOD AND MARKET ACCESSABILITY SECTION

Q33. Does your household currently have a stock of staple foods (eg. wheat flour, rice, spelt) **ACCEPT ONE RESPONSE**

1. Yes **ASK Q31**	**2. No** **GO TO Q32**	**3. Difficult to remember** **GO TO Q32**

Q34. How long do you think the food stock would last? **ACCEPT ONE RESPONSE**

1.	Up to 7 days
2.	7-14 days
3.	15-21 days
4.	22 – 28 days
5.	More than 28 days

Q35. In the past 7 days, has there been a time when you or your household members needed, but could not access the grocery store or market due to some obstacles related to the current situation?

1. Yes **ASK Q33**	**2. No** **GO TO Q34**

Q36. What were the reasons? **ACCEPT ALL APPLICABLE OPTIONS**
IF THE RESPONDENT SELECTS MORE THAN ONE OPTION, ASK HIM/HER TO CHOOSE THE MAIN REASON FROM THE SELECTED OPTIONS – Q33.2

Q36Main Which one from the selected options is the main?

		Q33	Q33.2
1.	Market\grocery stores were closed	1	1
2.	Market\grocery store is too far	2	2
3.	Travel restrictions	3	3
4.	Concerned about going out of the house due to disease outbreak	4	4
5.	All adult members of the household too sick to go out	5	5
6.	All adult members quarantined in the house	6	6
7.	Other (**REGISTER**)_____	7	7

Q37. In the past **7 days**, have you experienced any increase in the price of food and non-food commodities?

1. Yes **ASK Q35**	**2. No** **GO TO Q36**	**4. Difficult to remember** **GO TO Q36**

Q38. Which commodities?
(REGISTER)_____

SECTION 8. INCOME SOURCES

Q39. Many HHs have several sources of income. I will read out some possible sources of income and ask you to indicate whether your HH has had a monetary income from these sources in the last 12 months. Please remember about the income of all your HH members. **PLEASE IN Q 36_1 MENTION THE PRIMARY SOURCE OF YOUR HH INCOME, AND IN Q36_2 MENTION THE SECONDARY SOURCES**

		39_1 Primary source (One response)	39_2 Secondary Sources (up to three)
1.	Salaried work with regular income		
2.	Informal daily/casual labour		
3.	Own business/trade		
4.	Retail/selling on street		
5.	Agriculture/cattle breeding		
6.	Support from family and friends		

7.	Remittances from relatives living in Armenia		
8.	Remittances from relatives living abroad		
9.	Income from renting real estate/car/equipment		
10.	State social support program (eg. Paros)		
11.	Pension		
12.	Disability support		
13.	Other (**SPECIFY**)		

Q39HH. Please, let us know, how many people from your Household are being earned money during the last 12 months? Take into consideration all types of activities and positions (for example, pensioner) which bring monetary income to your family. |__|

Q40. How much was your total household income last month after paying taxes. **ACCEPT ONE RESPONSE. DO NOT CONSIDER GUESTS' INCOME, PLEASE**

☐

Q42. Has the current outbreak of COVID-19 and/or conflict in NK disrupted your HH income? **ONE RESPONSE**

1. Yes **ASK Q40**	**2. No** **GO TO Q41**

Q43.1 To what extent has it impacted your salary? READ OUT THE RESPONSE OPTIONS, ONE RESPONSE

1. Increased
2. Reduced
3. Alternative income resources for the same level of income

ASK IF Q40.1=2

Q43.2. PLEASE, mention how much your salary reduced. Tell in percentage. READ OUT THE RESPONSE OPTIONS, ONE RESPONSE

1. Reduced by less than 25%
2. Reduced by 25% and more
3. Reduced by 50% and more

Q44. Has your household or anyone in your household received any assistance (cash, food, etc.) from the Government or any other organization related to COVID-19 and state of emergency during the last 3 months? **READ OUT THE RESPONSE OPTIONS, ACCEPT ALL RESPONSES**

3. Yes, received state assistance
4. Yes, received assistance from a non-governmental organization
5. Yes, received assistance from a private person and/or a private company
6. No, didn't receive any assistance

Q46. How satisfied are you with received state assistance? Please rate on a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 means "I am not satisfied at all" and 5 means "I am very satisfied".

1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**98. Don't know (DO NOT READ)**	**99. Refuse to answer (DO NOT READ)**

SECTION 9. ADDITIONAL

Q47. What is your most important concern under the current circumstances? **INTERVIEWER: DO NOT READ OUT THE RESPONSE OPTION, SELECT UP TO THREE RESPONSE OPTIONS THAT BEST FITS THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE RESPONDENT, OTHERWISE SELECT OTHER**

1.	1st priority ___	1.	Shortage of food
2.	2nd priority ___	2.	Increase in food prices
3.	3rd priority ___	3.	Shortage of medicine
		4.	Disruption of medical service
		5.	Disruption of educational institutions
		6.	Getting sick
		7.	Losing Job\Unemployment
		8.	Loss of livelihood source
		9.	Travel restrictions
		10.	No concerns
		11.	Other (REGISTER) _____

SECTION 10. CHILD NUTRITION (CHILDREN 6-23 MONTHS OLD). MOTHER/CAREGIVER

We will now talk about 6-23 months old child/children in your household. I would like to have a conversation with a family member (the child's mother/caregiver) who can best answer the questions about child's nutrition.

ASK MOTHER/CAREGIVER: FILL IN ALL RESPONSES RELATED TO THE SMALLEST CHILD IN THE FAMILY BETWEEN 6-23 MONTHS.

Q48CHILDREN. Number of children 6-23 months

☐

ASK IF Q46CHILDREN > 0

Q49. Date of birth *(Day/month/year)*

Q46	
Child 1	|__|__|/|__|__|/|__|__|
Child 2	|__|__|/|__|__|/|__|__|
Child 3	|__|__|/|__|__|/|__|__|

Q48n01. Name of the smallest child _____

Q48. Sex of the child

1. Male
2. Female

Q50 What did ***(NAME)*** feed on in your household in the last 24 hours? **READ OUT THE RESPONSE OPTION, SELECT ALL THAT APPLY**

		Child 1
1.	Breast milk only	1
2.	Breast milk and other foods or fluids	2
3.	Milk bottled or in cup (cow milk or formula)	3
4.	Other food	4

	Child 1
A. **Q51. Did (NAME) eat any solid, semi-solid, or soft foods yesterday during the day or at night?** *0 = No 1 = Yes-> 9 = Don't know* **(DO NOT READ)** *99 = Refuse to answer* **(DO NOT READ)**	|___|
Q52. ASK, IF Q37 = YES **How many times?** If 7 or more, select «7»	|__|

Q54. At what age (in months) of (NAME) you first introduced the solid, semi-solid, or soft foods? 1. NEVER 2. Other (REGISTER) _____	|__|
Q55. Yesterday during the day or at night, did (NAME) eat/drink any of the following food groups (even combined with any other food)? Ask for all children under 23 months except for children who are exclusively breastfed. *0 = No 1 = Yes 9 = Don't know* **(DO NOT READ)** *99 = Refuse to answer* **(DO NOT READ)**	
1. Milk produced, powdered or homemade	|___|
If Yes, how many times did (NAME) drink milk If 7 or more, select «7»	
2. Yogurt, kefir, Narine, matsun	|___|
If Yes, how many times did (NAME) drink yogurt, kefir, Narine, matsum If 7 or more, select «7»	
3. Artificial milk formulas (breast milk substitute) Cerelac, Hipp, Nestle, Humana, Agusha, Malysh, Heinz, Frutonyanya, Vinni, Bebi, Semper, etc.	|___|
If Yes, how many times did (NAME) drink artificial milk formulas If 7 or more, select «7»	
4. Factory-made fortified baby foods, for example, Cerelac, Hipp, Nestle, Humana, Agusha, Malysh, Heinz, Frutonyanya, Vinni, Bebe, Semper?	|__|
5. Bread, rice, noodles, porridge, pilaf or other foods made from grains	|___|
6. Pumpkin, carrots, red pepper, other vegetables that are yellow or orange inside	|___|
7. Any other food made from white potato	|___|
8. Dark green leafy vegetables, for example spinach, parsley, lettuce, beetroot greens, broccoli?	|___|
9. Apricot, peach or dried apricot, peach	|___|
10. Any other fruits or vegetables	|___|
11. Liver, kidney, heart, or other organ meats	|__|
12. Any meat, such as beef, pork, lamb, goat, chicken, duck, quail or rabbit meat	|___|
13. Eggs	|___|
14. Fresh or dried fish or other seafood	|___|
15. Any food made from beans, peas, lentils, nuts or seeds	|___|
16. Cheese, cottage cheese or other dairy products	|___|
17. Vegetable oil, fats, butter, or food made with any of these	|___|
18. Any sugary foods such as chocolates, sweets, candies, pastries, cakes, biscuits	|___|

Thank you very much!

ANNEX 2 | Sample structure

	Population according the National Statistical Service[17]			Sample structure, FSVA3			
Region	Total	Urban	Rural	Margin of error	Total sample	Urban	Rural
Yerevan	1,084,000	-	-	**5%**	324	-	324
Aragatsotn	124,700	26,800	97,900	**5%**	301	65	236
Armavir	263,800	82,400	181,400	**5%**	301	104	197
Ararat	256,600	72,100	184,500	**5%**	302	88	214
Kotayk	250,900	136,800	114,100	**5%**	300	165	135
Shirak	231,400	135,600	95,800	**5%**	303	180	123
Lori	213,300	126,100	87,200	**5%**	301	176	125
Gegharkunik	227,700	66,600	161,100	**5%**	300	99	201
Vayots Dzor	48,500	17,100	31,400	**5%**	308	110	198
Tavush	121,500	51,400	70,100	**5%**	304	130	174
Syunik	137,300	93,200	44,100	**5%**	301	194	107
Total	**2,959,700**	**808,100**	**1,067,600**	**2%**	**3345**	**1710**	**1635**

[17] **https:/ https://www.armstat.am/file/article/nasel_01.01.2020.pdf**

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