

# ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF WFP'S ONE-OFF FOOD DISTRIBUTION IN HAJJAH AND AL HODEIDAH, SIX MONTHS AFTER THE PAUSE

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

- After a six-month pause of assistance, WFP conducted a one-off food distribution in eight districts in Hajjah and Al Hodeidah during May. To assess the impact of this one-off distribution, WFP interviewed a panel sample of 219 households during the pause, and after receiving the food assistance.
- In these eight districts, the share of assisted households suffering from severe food deprivation (poor food consumption) dropped from 41 percent in February, to 22 percent in May 2024 immediately after the one-off food distribution.
- Conversely, poor food consumption soared in the rest of the non-assisted districts of Hajjah and Hodeidah, as 49 percent of the households reported severe food deprivation during May, compared to 41 percent in February (baseline period).
- Additionally, the prevalence of severe levels of hunger in the assisted districts decreased from 12 percent in February to 4 percent in May. The reliance on severe food-based coping strategies (rCSI>19) also decreased, from 62 percent to 58 percent, respectively.

## SNAPSHOT OF THE FOOD SECURITY OUTCOMES IN THE ASSISTED DISTRICTS:

In December 2023, WFP announced a pause in General Food Assistance (GFA), affecting approximately 9.5 million beneficiaries in northern Yemen, primarily due to funding challenges and following unsuccessful negotiations on better-targeting assistance with the authorities. A subsequent longitudinal study published by WFP-HQ in March 2024, revealed that the GFA pause resulted in increased levels of severe food deprivation among beneficiary households. The impact was uneven across governorates in the north, some governorates demonstrated very high sensitivity to the assistance pause, including Hajjah and Hodeidah governorates.

In May 2024, six months after the pause, WFP conducted a one-off food distribution targeting 663,635 people in eight priority districts - five in Hajjah and three in Al Hodeidah. The eight districts were selected based on vulnerability analysis and other operational factors. Due to limited food stocks and resource constraints, the GFA food basket

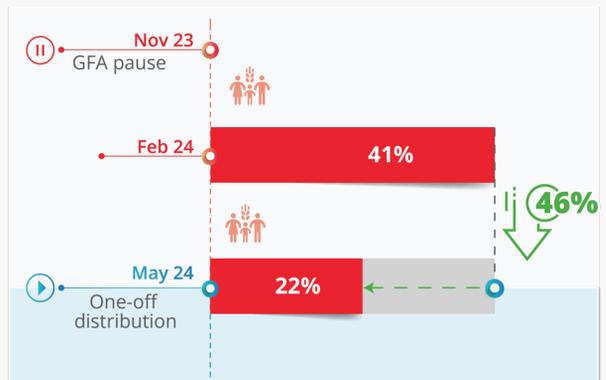
included only 50 KG of wheat flour and 5 KG of pulses per assisted household, providing 984 KCal per person per day for 30 feeding days.

Post-distribution monitoring (PDM) was conducted remotely two weeks after the distribution, using a panel sample of 219 households selected from the eight districts. This analysis compares the situation before and after the distribution of the assistance in May.

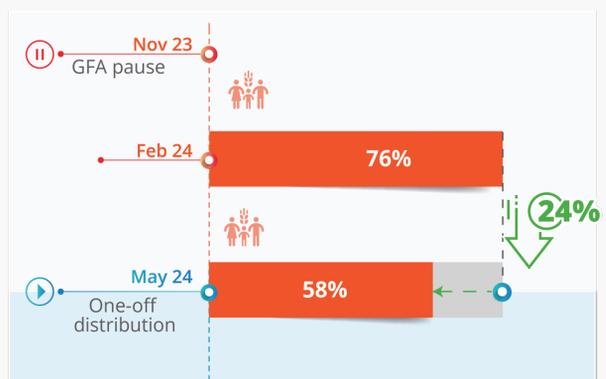
The PDM results indicate a significant reduction in the prevalence of food insecurity amongst beneficiary households in the eight districts, immediately after receiving assistance in May. The proportion of households unable to access adequate food decreased from 76 percent in February to 58 percent in May. Furthermore, those experiencing severe food deprivation (poor food consumption) dropped from 41 percent in February to 22 percent in May 2024.

### *Food consumption in the eight assisted districts, February-May 2024*

#### Poor Food Consumption



#### Inadequate Food Consumption

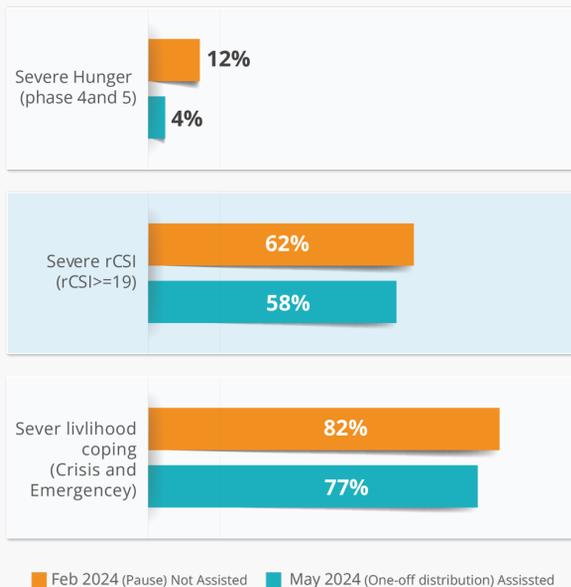


Consumption of essential nutrients improved amongst the surveyed households in May. The percentage of households consuming protein in the previous seven days increased from 68 percent in February to 88 percent in May, and those consuming pulses also increased from 38 percent to 76 percent for the same period.

Following the distribution in May, assisted households reported less dependency on negative coping strategies such as, reducing food portion sizes, restricting adult consumption, and decreasing the number of meals per day. Overall, the proportion of households employing severe food-based coping strategies (rCSI  $\geq$  19) decreased from 62 percent in February to 58 percent in May 2024. Additionally, the reliance on severe livelihood-based coping strategies (crisis or emergency levels), also decreased from 82 percent in February to 77 percent in May.

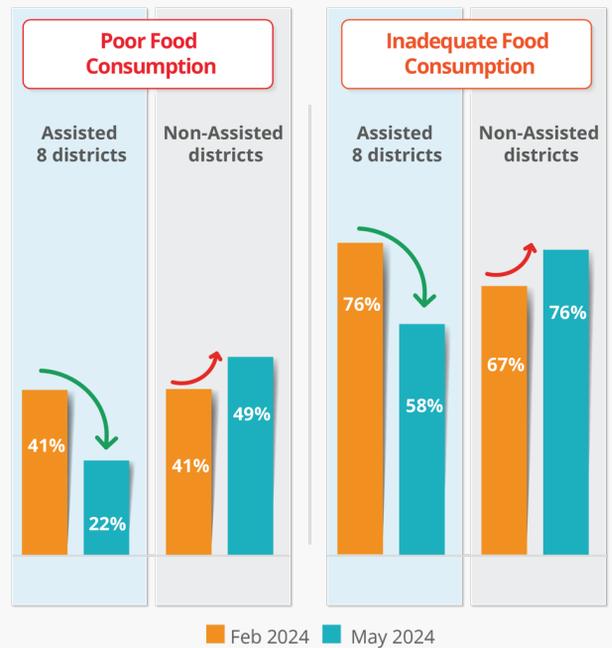
Finally, the share of households experiencing severe hunger, as measured by household hunger scale, decreased from 12 percent in February to 4 percent in May, after receiving the food rations.

### Severe hunger scale, and coping strategies



On the other hand, the overall situation (excluding GFA beneficiaries) in Hajjah and Al Hodeidah governorates continued to deteriorate in May, compared to February 2024. and reached their all-time high level of severe food deprivation. WFP food security monitoring data (mVAM) revealed that the prevalence of poor food consumption in non-assisted districts of Al Hodeidah and Hajja governorates increased to unprecedented levels; reaching 49 percent in May, compared to 41 percent in February.

### Food consumption in assisted and non-assisted districts, in Hajjah and Al Hodeidah



The decreased levels of food insecurity for beneficiaries in the eight assisted districts, at the time when food insecurity peaked to unprecedented levels for the rest of the population in the neighboring districts within Hajjah and Hodeidah, draws attention to the significant impact of food assistance in Yemen.



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