

Highlights	Methodology	Food Consumption Score	reduced Coping Strategy Index	In the words of the respondents
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Bulletin #16: November 2016

### Concerns over worsening levels of food security and unpaid salaries

#### Key points



- Food consumption levels have been deteriorating since September 2016 across Yemen: 58 percent of all respondents are currently food insecure



- Food security indicators signal a worrying level of vulnerability among IDPs



- Households report serious concerns over unpaid salaries



#### Situation update

The eleventh report of the Task Force on Population Movement (TFPM: [http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/tfpm\\_11th\\_report\\_october\\_2016.pdf](http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/tfpm_11th_report_october_2016.pdf)), identified 2.18 million internally displaced people (IDPs) in Yemen. Around 78 percent of all conflict-related IDPs come from the governorates of Taizz, Hajjah, Sana'a city (Amanat Al Asimah), Sa'ada and Sana'a.

Despite the current sorghum and coffee harvests (October 2016 to January 2017), there have been no improvements in household food security. Food consumption is deteriorating and households are frequently engaging in negative consumption-based coping behaviours. In addition, the cholera outbreak has aggravated the food security situation. As of 24 November 2016, 103 cases have been confirmed in the governorates of Abyan, Aden, Al Bayda, Al Dhale'e, Al Hudaydah, Sana'a city, Amran, Hajjah, Ibb, Lahj, Sana'a and Taizz, and there are an additional 6,018 suspected cases (Yemen Cholera Taskforce, Weekly Cholera/AWD Update, 24 November 2014: [http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Yemen%20weekly%20AWD%20Cholera%20Overview-%2024%20Nov%202016\\_final.pdf](http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Yemen%20weekly%20AWD%20Cholera%20Overview-%2024%20Nov%202016_final.pdf)).

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In November 2016, mVAM conducted the 16th round of household food security monitoring in Yemen, using live telephone interviews. The data was collected during the first two weeks of November. Responses are likely to be biased towards younger, somewhat better-off households who live in urban areas and have better access to electricity and phone-charging services. In March, a question on the number of active mobile phone owners per household was introduced to the questionnaire to adjust for the fact that households with more phones are more likely to be selected. The findings in this report are weighted by the number of SIM cards held by households and the population estimates for IDPs and non-IDPs. Details on methodology and aggregate data tables are available online ([http://vam.wfp.org/sites/mvam\\_monitoring/read\\_me\\_yemen.pdf](http://vam.wfp.org/sites/mvam_monitoring/read_me_yemen.pdf)).

**2,400 Households Surveyed**

**39 Average age of respondents**

### Displacement status



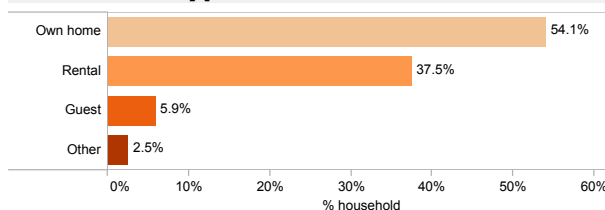
**31.5% IDP**  
**68.5% Non-IDP**

### Gender Head of Household



**5.1% Female**  
**94.9% Male**

### Residence Type



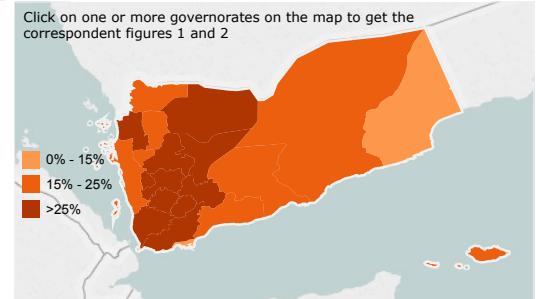
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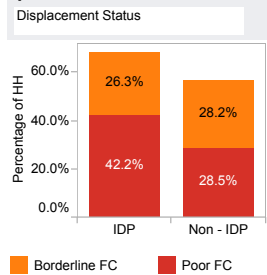
### Food consumption levels worsen

Since September, household food security indicators have been deteriorating rapidly across Yemen, signalling worrying levels of food insecurity most likely linked to the suspension of salaries. The national mean Food Consumption Score (FCS) dropped sharply in November to 41.9 (Figure 1). Similarly, the proportion of households with poor food consumption rose from 21.4 percent in September to 29.6 percent in November (Figure 2). The governorates with the worst decline in mean FCS in November were Sa'ada, Sana'a city, Hajjah Al Bayda and Raymah. Although the mean FCS fell for displaced (35.6) and non-displaced (42.5) households in November as compared to the previous month (38 for IDPs and 45.2 for non-IDPs), IDPs are far worse off. Over 68 percent of IDP households have inadequate food consumption compared with 56.6 percent of non-displaced households (Figure 3).

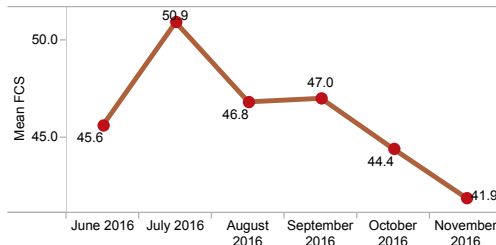
**Map 1:** % of households with Poor Food Consumption



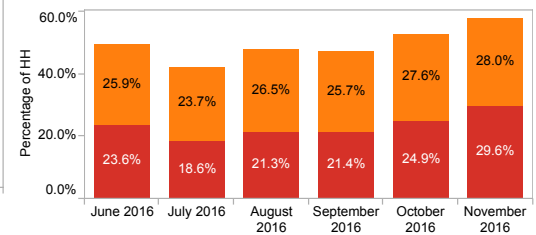
**Figure 3: Households with poor and borderline Food Consumption by Displacement Status**



**Figure 1. Mean FCS, June–November 2016**



**Figure 2. Percentage of households with poor and borderline food consumption, June–November 2016**



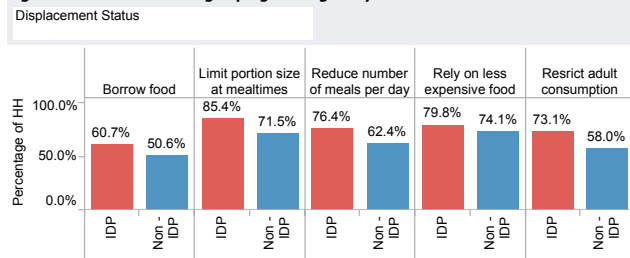
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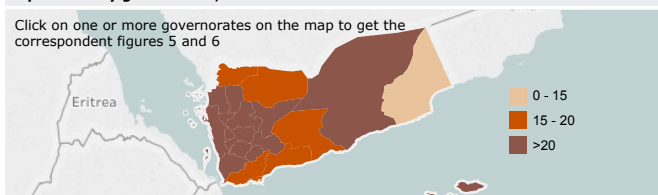
**Households are consuming cheaper foods and smaller quantities to cope**

The use of negative food-related coping strategies remained high in November, with the reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI) standing at 21.6 (Figure 5). The coping strategies most frequently used by more than 73 percent of households are relying on cheaper and/or less preferred foods and consuming less food at mealtimes (Figure 6). Negative coping levels vary across the country. Overall, trend data shows that households living in the governorates of Hajjah, Ibb, Al Mahwit and Dhamar are more likely to have higher coping levels – above 55 percent – than households living in Al Maharah and Aden (21.5 percent on average). Additionally, in November the worst mean rCSI was seen in Hajjah, Ibb, Al Mahwit and Dhamar above 26.5, while Al Maharah and Aden had the lowest coping levels at 15 or below (Map 3). Along with widespread inadequate food consumption, IDPs also seem to be resorting more frequently to negative food-related coping strategies than non-IDP households (Figure 7). This trend indicates concerning levels of food insecurity among displaced households.

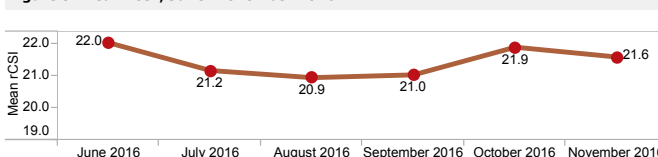
**Figure 7: Households using coping strategies by Displacement Status**



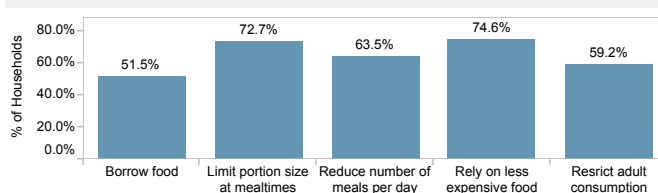
**Map 3: rCSI by governorate, November 2016**



**Figure 5: Mean rCSI, June–November 2016**



**Figure 6: Percentage of households using negative coping strategies in November 2016**



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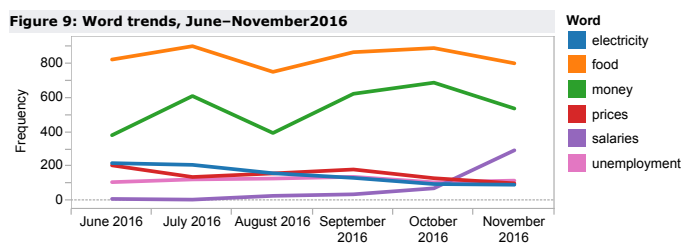
### Food security is undermined by lack of wages

The most frequently cited concerns for households continue to be severe shortages of food and money. In November, households also reported that their salaries had not been paid for at least three months. Respondents said that the absence of monthly salaries and food assistance was making it even more difficult for them to afford the rising prices and cover their basic needs. As highlighted by the latest Special Report on Yemen (<http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/ena/wfp288497.pdf>), the Central Bank of Yemen suspended public budget expenditures from July 2016 onwards. Consequently, civil servants – who make up 31 percent of the workforce – have been experiencing irregular salary payments or complete salary cuts. A lack of electricity, water, medicines and cooking gas continue to be of serious concern for the Yemeni people. Households reported food shortages, particularly for dairy products, fruit and vegetables, as well as rising prices for wheat and rice. Several respondents mentioned the need for winter blankets to protect them from the harsh weather and water storage tanks to access water. Also, respondents are now talking more frequently about the spread of diseases in their communities, particularly those living in areas affected by cholera. Displaced households allude to their concerns in covering the rental housing expenses twice as much as non-displaced households. In fact, 65.5 percent of all IDPs respondents reported living in rented accommodation compared with 23.6 percent of non-IDP households.

Looking at the trends of the last six months period, it is evident that food is consistently the primary concern among respondent households (Figure 9). It is also interesting to note that the trend for concerns over money mirrors that for food, an indication that food insecurity is an issue of household food access. What is particularly striking is the sharp spike in the word count on salaries in November compared to the previous month, reflecting an increasing number of households being affected by the salary cuts and suspensions.

- "We are suffering from a severe shortage in money and food. We have not received our salary for the last three months" – (Male respondent from Sana'a).
- "Prices are rising and food commodities are scarce. Children suffer from hunger and malnutrition" – (Male respondent from Dhamar).
- "There are no salaries and the situation is very bad. We have been eating only bread for more than a month" – (Male respondent from Hajjah).
- "There is no income and living conditions are difficult. We can't pay the rental housing expenses and aid do not reach us" – (Female respondent from Sana'a city).

Figure 9: Word trends, June–November 2016



### For further information

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**mVAM Resources:**  
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**Blog:** [mvm.org](http://mvm.org)  
**Toolkit:** <http://resources.vam.wfp.org/mVAM>



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