




# YEMEN

## Food insecurity remains at high levels

### KEY MESSAGES:

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**Indicators show that high levels of food insecurity persist in Yemen, in line with the trend observed in the previous month. Almost 70 percent of households are borrowing food or relying on help from a friend or relative. Nearly 60 percent are eating fewer meals a day.**
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**IDPs continue to have the worst food security indicators.**
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**Food security is perceived to be worsening for IDPs and households living in conflict affected governorates.**

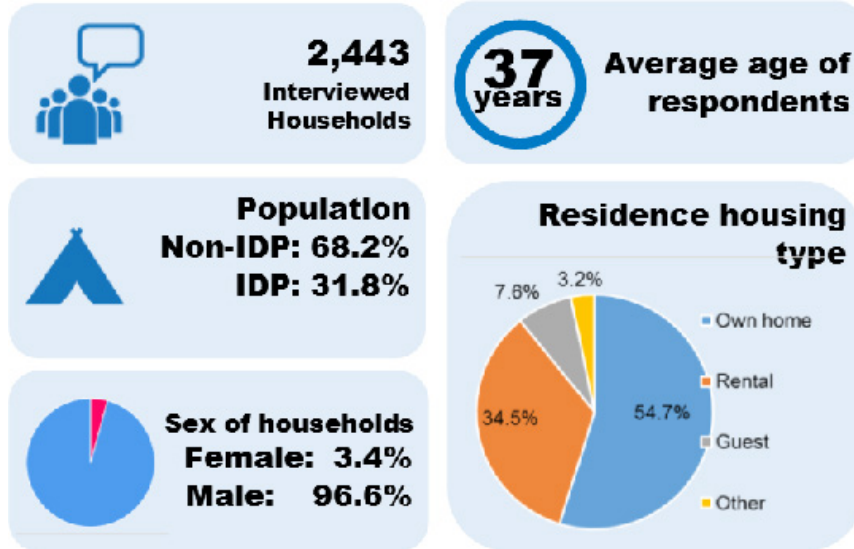


### THE CONFLICT IN MARCH

Intense conflict persisted throughout March, particularly in Taizz, Ibb, Al Baydah, Ma'rib, Al Jawf, Sana'a, Sa'ada and the lowlands of Hajjah ([FEWS NET](#)). High levels of insecurity returned to Taizz, closing roads and restricting access. Humanitarian access is also very difficult in Sa'ada, Hajjah and Al Baydah ([UNOCHA Humanitarian Bulletin, March 2016](#)). Inadequate food consumption is expected to continue as the conflict disrupts market access and reduces household purchasing power and opportunities to generate income. Currently, there are 2.4 million internally displaced individuals (IDPs). The five governorates with the highest IDP population are reported as Taizz (555,048 people), Hajjah (353,219), Sana'a (253,962), Amran (245,689) and Sa'ada (237,978) ([Task Force on Population Movement, February 2016](#)).

### METHODOLOGY - mVAM REMOTE DATA COLLECTION

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. Details on methodology and aggregate data tables are available [online](#).

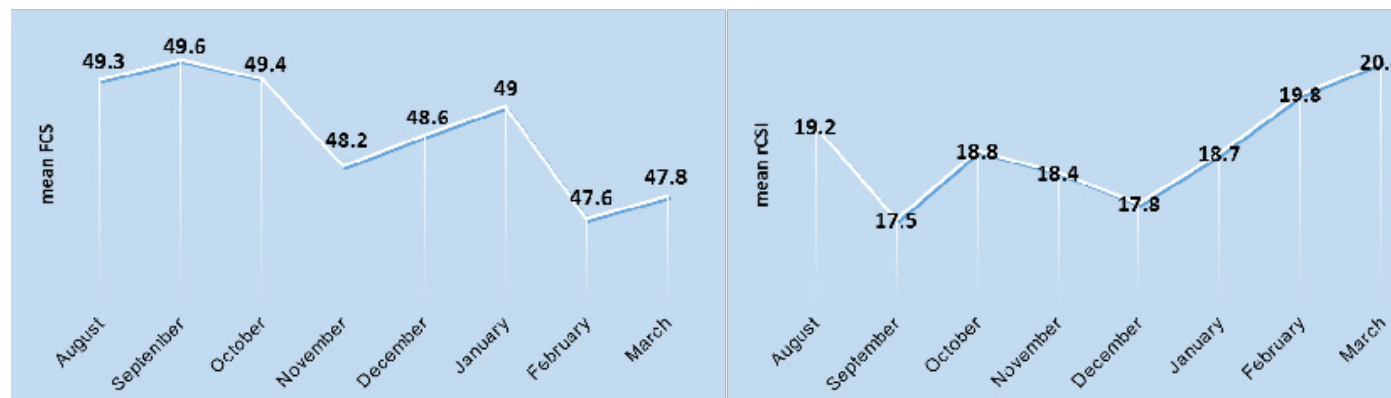




**FOOD INSECURITY PERSISTS ACROSS YEMEN**

Yemen’s food consumption score (FCS) and reduced coping strategies index (rCSI) remained poor in March, similar to February (see Figure 1). Consumption-based coping continues to become more prevalent as the national mean rCSI rose from 17.8 in December 2015 to 20.4 in March 2016.

**Figure 1: National mean FCS and rCSI trends, August 2015\* – March 2016**



\* Data of August is partial, collected between 18 to 27 August. More details on methodology are available [online](#).  
Source: WFP mVAM, March 2016



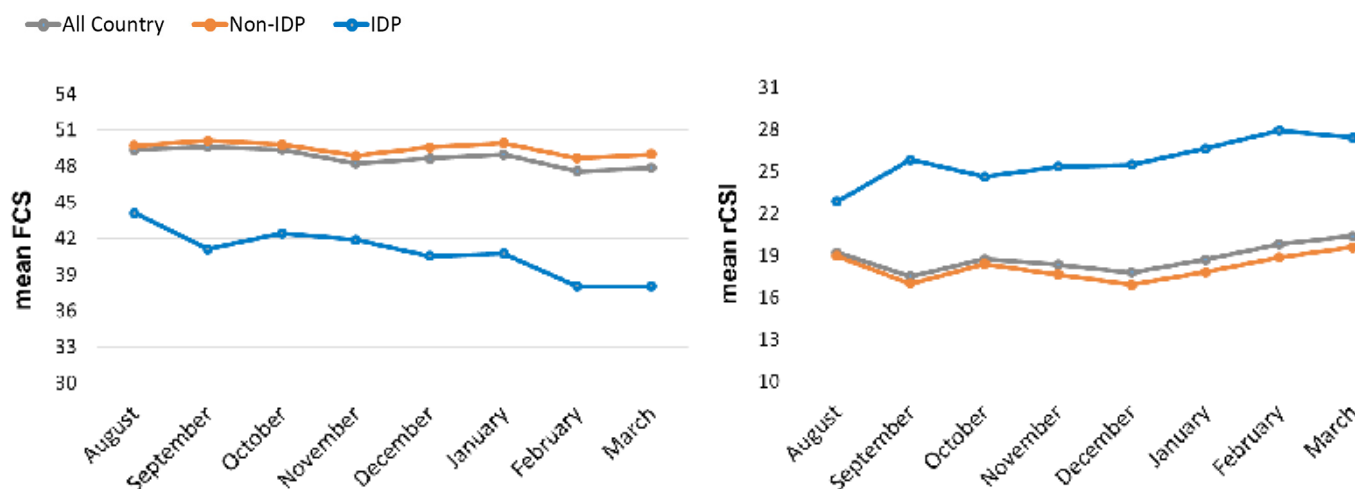
**IDPs’ ARE FACING THE WORST FOOD SECURITY**

The mean FCS and rCSI for IDPs remained stable across February and March, at their worst levels recorded so far (see Figure 2). These results indicate that IDP households are facing an extremely difficult food security situation.

The coping strategies most frequently used by 80 percent of IDPs in March, include limiting portion sizes and eating fewer meals a day. A large proportion of IDPs are also employing two of the most severe negative coping behaviours: restricting consumption by adults so that small children can eat (76.3 percent) and borrowing food (79.6 percent).

Despite the overall mean FCS remaining stable, slight fluctuations in the consumption of specific food items were observed in March, as compared to the previous month. March data shows that both IDP and non-IDP households are consuming fewer staples, sugars and fats. They are eating slightly more vegetables, and there has been a small rise in the proportion of IDPs eating at least some fruit (up 8 percent).

**Figure 2: Mean FCS and rCSI trends (IDPs, Non-IDPs and whole country), August 2015 – March 2016**



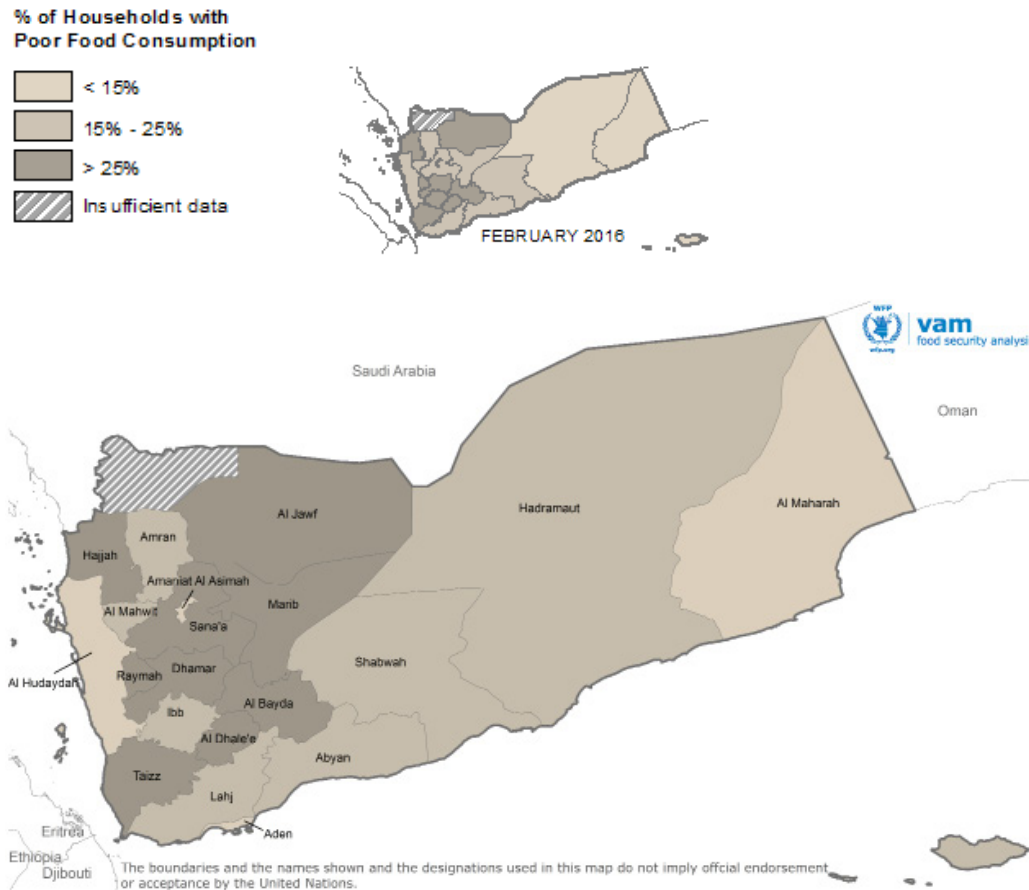
Source: WFP mVAM, March 2016



**HIGH LEVELS OF FOOD INSECURITY IN CONFLICT AREAS**

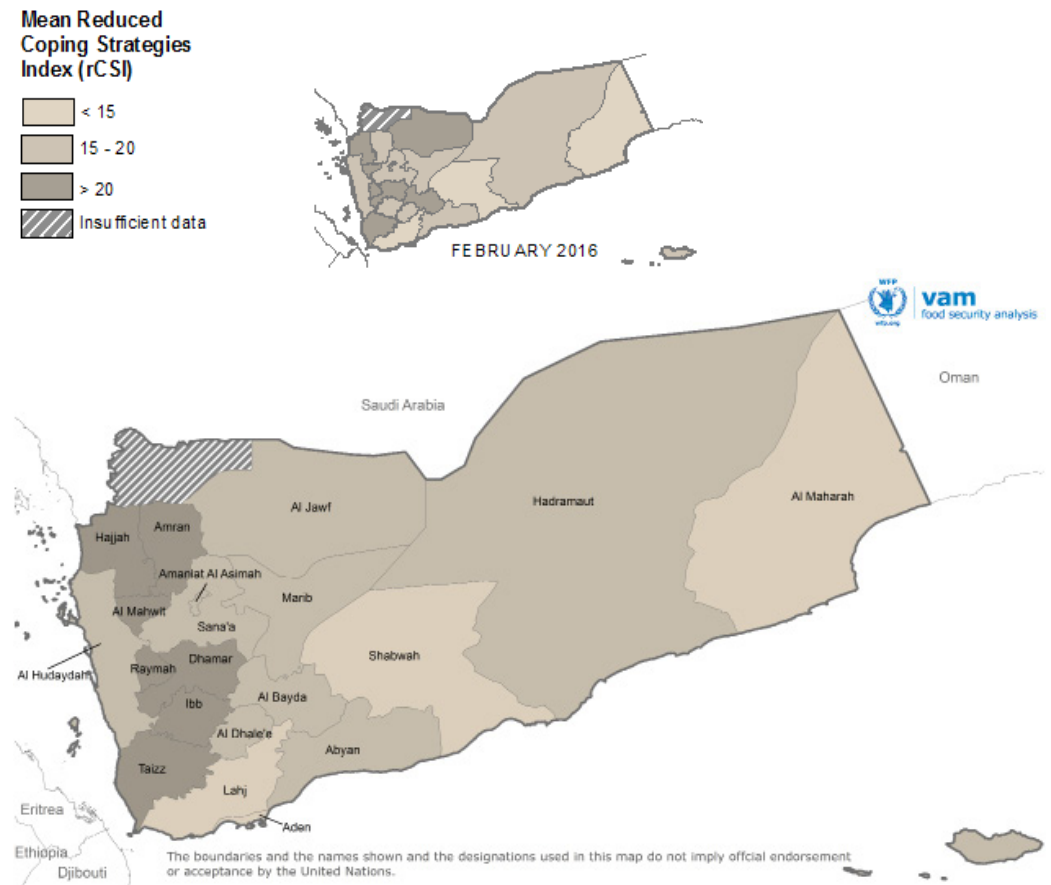
Households living in governorates highly affected by the conflict in the centre-south and north-west have the worst food security indicators (see Maps 1 and 2). Particularly in Taizz, Dhamar, Raymah, Al Dhale, Hajjah and Al Jawf, households have both a poor food consumption and high levels of coping. Other parts of the country also scored poorly. Nationally, more households used a severe coping strategy such as borrowing food or relying on help from a friend or relative in March (68.9 percent compared to 58.9 percent in February). Moreover, a higher proportion of households (59.3 percent) are eating fewer meals a day compared to February (52.5 percent).

**Map 1: Percentage of households with 'poor' food consumption by governorate**



Source: WFP mVAM, March 2016

**Map 2: reduced Coping Strategies Index by governorate**



Source: WFP mVAM, March 2016



**FOOD SECURITY IS PERCEIVED TO BE WORSENING**

The national mean sentiment score dropped by 28.6 percent in March compared to February. The biggest change in perceived food security was among IDPs and households living in governorates affected by conflict such as Dhamar, Taizz, Lahj, Ibb, Al Dhale, Al Mahwit and Sana'a city (see Map 3). Respondents continued to talk about the need for humanitarian assistance and made more frequent references to the shortage of food.

Figure 3: Word cloud for Yemen



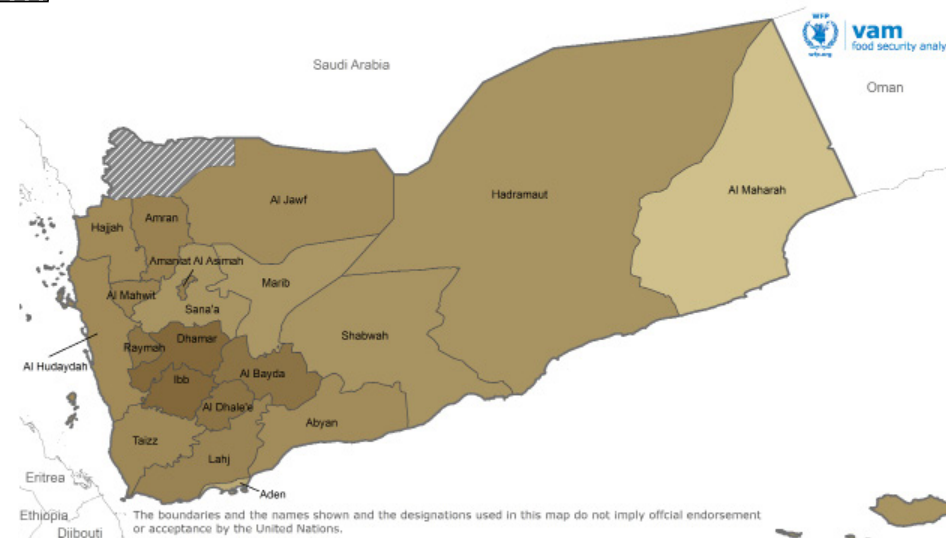
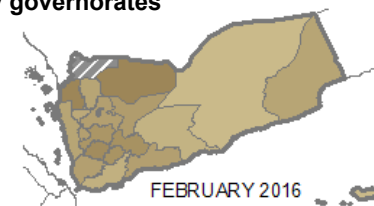
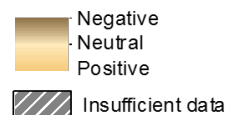
Source: WFP mVAM, March 2016

**In the words of the respondents:**

- “The food situation is very bad. There is widespread malnutrition and food spoils due to the lack of electricity” - Male respondent from Al Hudaydah.
- “The food situation is very bad and food prices are very high” - Male respondent from Sana'a city.
- “There is a shortage of medicines and food commodities, and the amount of food aid is very few in the area” - Male respondent from Amran.
- “The food situation is bad due to the rise in food prices and high cost of fuel” - Female respondent from Ibb.

Map 3: Average sentiment scores by governorates

Perception of food security in the households community



Source: WFP mVAM, March 2016



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**mVAM resources:**

- Website: [http://vam.wfp.org/sites/mvam\\_monitoring/](http://vam.wfp.org/sites/mvam_monitoring/)
- Blog: [mVAM.org](http://mVAM.org)
- Toolkit: <http://resources.vam.wfp.org/mVAM>

