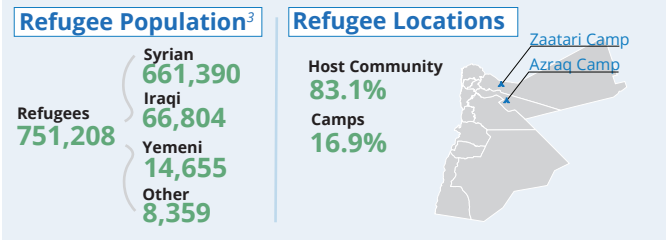


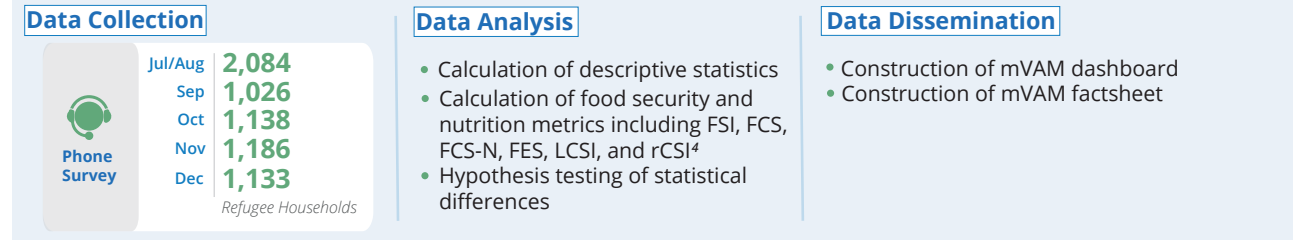
Introduction

The World Food Programme (WFP) Country Office in Jordan responds to the food needs of 1 million vulnerable refugees and Jordanians through numerous activities defined within the WFP Jordan - Country Strategic Plan (2020 - 2022), including the provision of food assistance to refugees in camps and communities, support for income-generating and training opportunities for vulnerable Jordanians and refugees in communities, and support to the Government of Jordan to strengthen and expand existing social protection schemes¹. To ensure that activities are designed and managed following an evidence-based approach, WFP Jordan conducts a monthly mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM) exercise which collects and analyzes vulnerability data for a representative sample of refugees and Jordanian households in communities. This factsheet provides a summary of the primary findings for refugee households in communities drawn from data collected as part of mVAM exercises conducted from July 2020 - December 2020.²

Context Overview



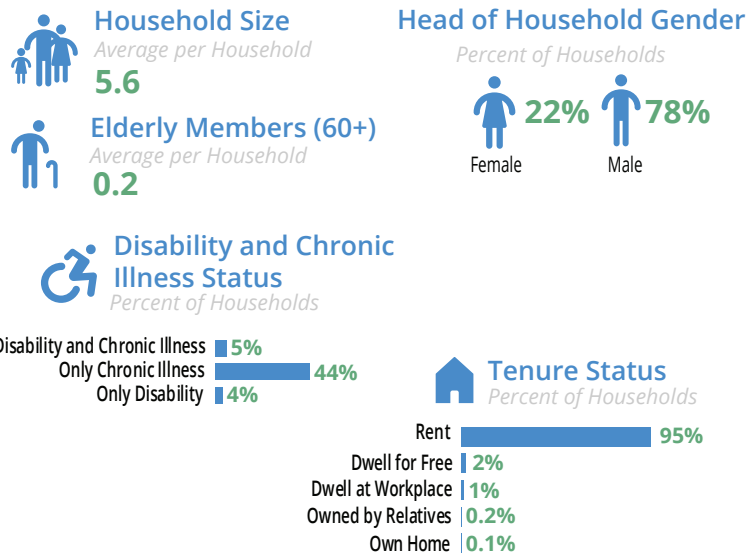
Study Overview



Findings

Demographics

Refugee households in communities had an average of 5.6 household members living within the household, including an average of 0.2 elderly members. Refugee households in communities were generally male-headed (78%) and lived in a rented dwelling (95%).



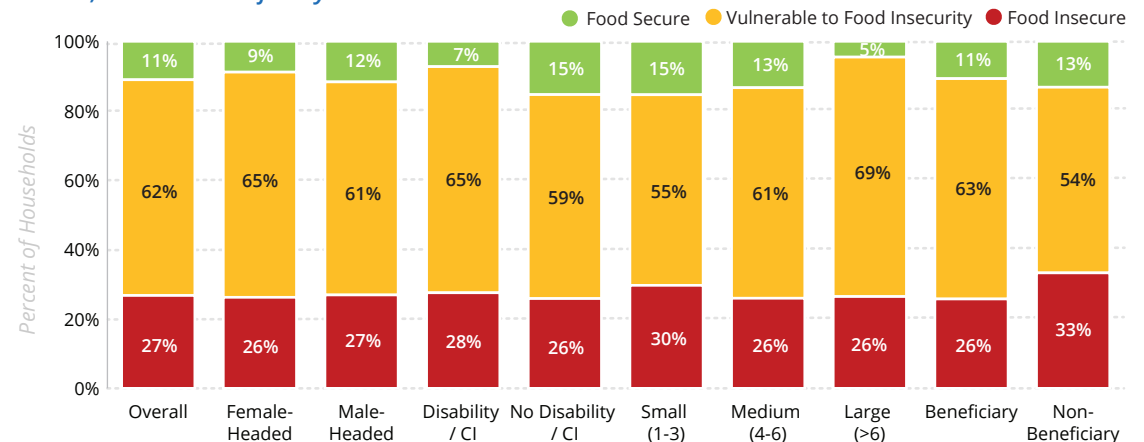
Food Security

Food Security Index (FSI)

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

As shown in Figure 1, 89% of refugee households in communities were either food insecure or vulnerable to food insecurity in December 2020. Particularly vulnerable sub-populations included female-headed households (91%), households with disabled or chronically ill members (93%), and large households (95%) with combined food insecurity and vulnerability to food insecurity rates higher than the overall population of refugee households in communities. Non-beneficiary households (33%), small households (30%), and households with disabled or chronically ill members (28%) had the highest rates of food insecurity in December 2020.

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



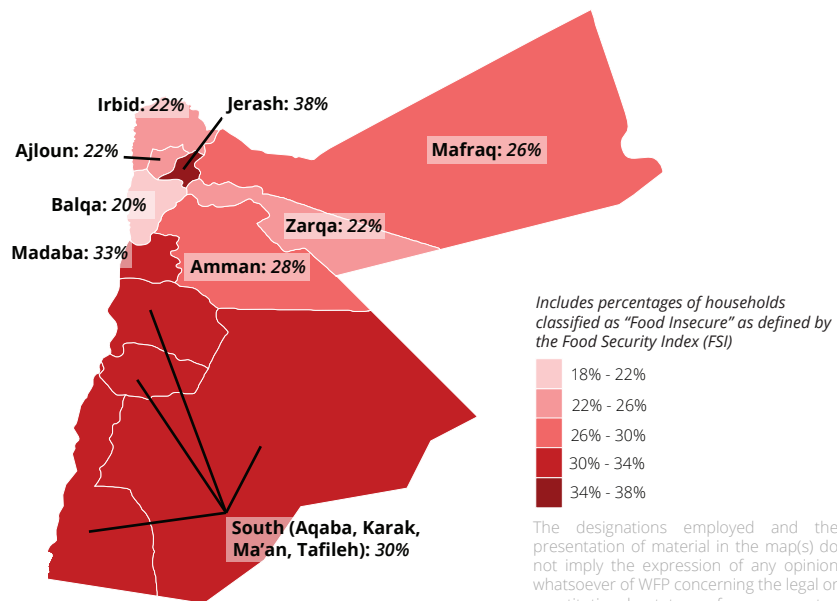
Source: Dec 2020 mVAM

1 Includes unique beneficiaries, as of Oct 31, 2020
 2 Excludes refugee households living in camps
 3 Includes refugees and persons of concern, as of Oct 31, 2020
 4 Indicator definitions provided within Findings sub-sections

Source: Dec 2020 mVAM

The percent of refugee households in communities classified as food insecure in December 2020 differed widely across governorates, with Jerash (38%), Madaba (33%), and South (30%) governorates having the highest prevalence rates.⁵ Causes for the disparity across governorates requires further exploration and analysis, but is likely tied to differences in the nature and volume of formal and informal labor opportunities across governorates.

Figure 2. Percent of Food Insecure Households as Classified by the FSI by Governorate

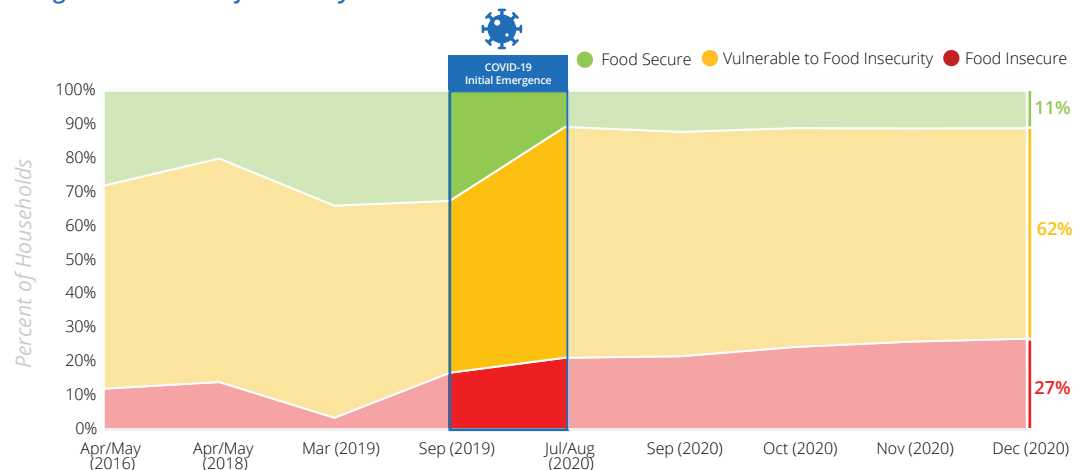


Source: Dec 2020 mVAM

As shown in Figure 3, the outbreak of COVID19 and the associated reduction in employment opportunities for refugee households in communities led to a significant deterioration in food security, with the number of food insecure households increasing from 17% to 21% and the number of vulnerable to food insecurity households increasing from 51% to 68% between September 2019 and July 2020. Food insecurity rates remained persistently high between July 2020 and December 2020. Changes in food insecurity rates were additionally explored across governorates, with all governorates showing significant deteriorations in food security between April/May 2018 and December 2020. Notable increases in the rate of food insecure households include Jerash (13% to 38%), Madaba (13% to 33%), and Tafileh (13% to 30%), with each governorate having a prevalence rate in December 2020 of nearly 3 times the rate seen in April/May 2018.

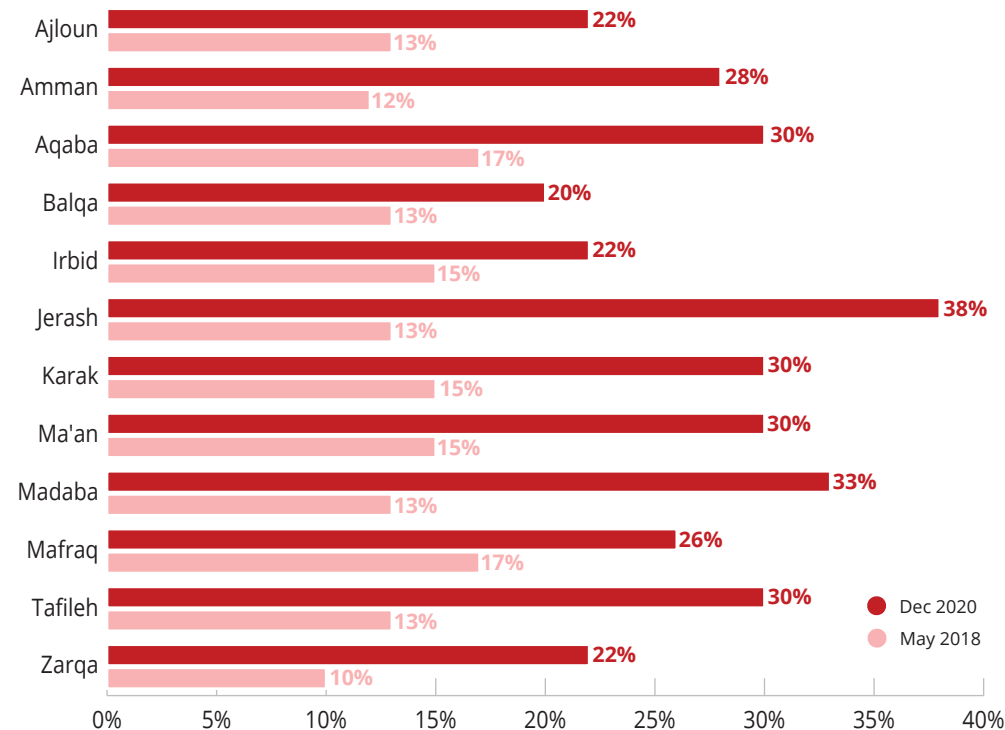
⁵ Governorates aggregated as "South Governorates" include Aqaba, Karak, Ma'an, Tafileh

Figure 3. FSI Classification by Month/Year



Source: Apr/May 2016 CFSME, Apr/May 2018 CFSVA, Jul/Aug/Sep/Oct 2020 mVAM

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



Source: Apr/May 2018 CFSVA, Dec 2020 mVAM

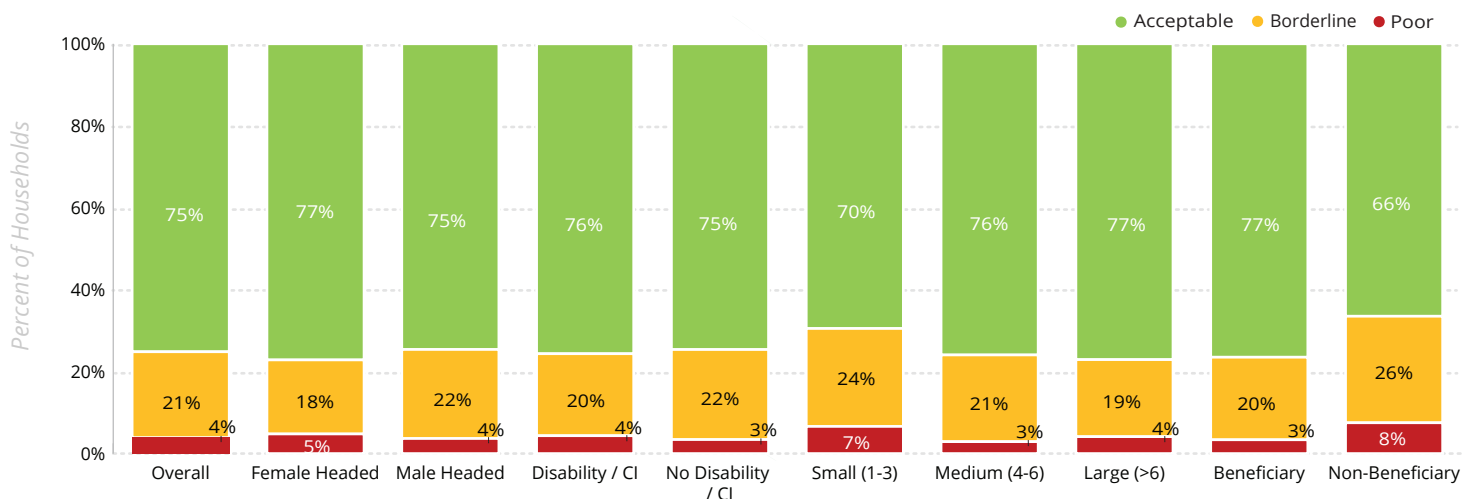
Food Consumption Score (FCS)

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

Twenty-five percent of refugee households in communities had either poor or borderline food consumption in December 2020. Households generally consumed cereals / tubers, sugars, and fats 6-7 days a week; vegetables, meat / fish /eggs, and dairy 3-5 days a week; and pulses / nuts and fruits 0-2 days per week. Sub-populations with food consumption worse than the overall population included small (31%) and non-beneficiary (34%) households, indicating that these households consumed fewer and less nutritionally diverse meals throughout the week. Longer-term trends for the FCS remain relatively stable across time, with roughly 20% to 25% of the population having borderline or poor food consumption.

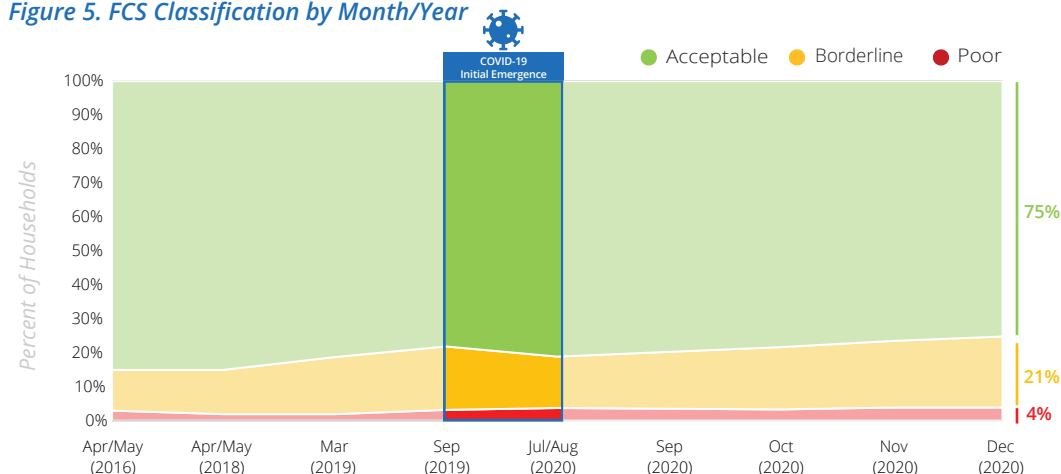


Figure 6. FCS Classification by Head of Household Gender, Disability / Chronic Illness Status, Household Size, and WFP Beneficiary Status



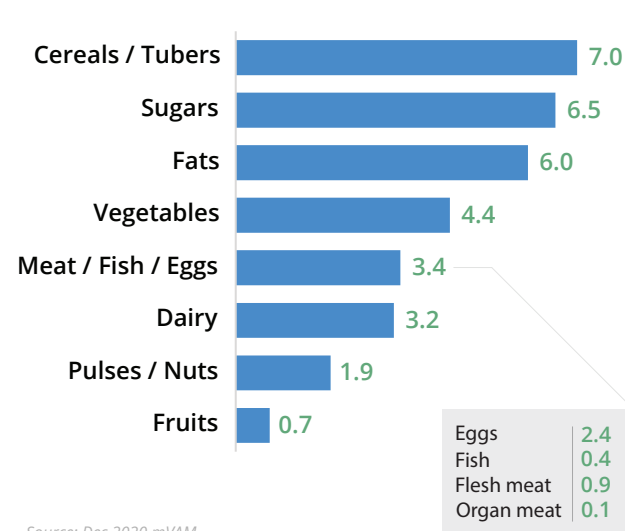
Source: Dec 2020 mVAM

Figure 5. FCS Classification by Month/Year



Source: Apr/May 2016 CFSME, Apr/May 2018 CFSVA, Jul/Aug/Sep/Oct/Nov/Dec 2020 mVAM

Figure 7. Average Number of Days of Household Food Consumption per Week by Food Group⁶



Source: Dec 2020 mVAM

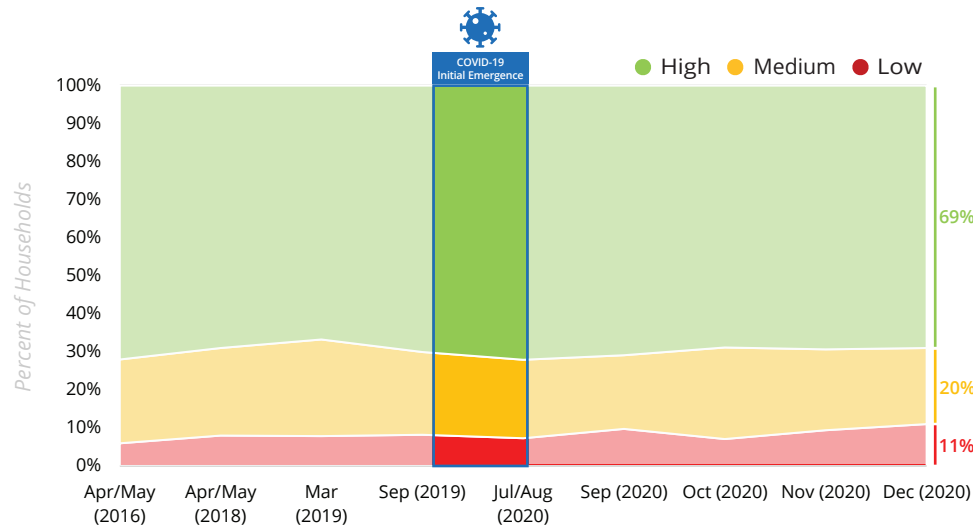
⁶ Cereals / tubers includes rice, pasta, bread, potato, bulgur, and white sweet potato; pulses / nuts includes beans, peas, lentils, chickpeas, soybean, fava beans, peanut, almond, chestnut, cashew, and other nuts; dairy includes milk powder, fresh milk, sour milk, cheese, and yogurt; meat / fish / eggs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

Dietary Diversity Score (DDS)

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

Longer-term trends for the DDS remain stable with roughly 30% of the overall population of refugee households in communities having low or medium dietary diversity. Overall, infants from 0-2 years of age consumed 5.4 meals per day, children 2-5 years of age consumed 2.5 meals per day, adolescents 5-17 years of age consumed 2.2 meals per day, and adults aged 18+ years consumed 2.1 meals per day in December 2020. Infants in female-headed households consumed more meals per day in male-headed households however children, adolescents, and adults in female-headed households consumed less meals per day in female-headed households.

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



Source: Apr/May 2016 CFSME, Apr/May 2018 CFSVA, Jul/Aug/Sep/Oct/Nov/Dec 2020 mVAM

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

	Overall # of meals per day	Female - Headed # of meals per day	Male - Headed # of meals per day
0-2 Years	5.4	5.6	5.4
2-5 Years	2.5	2.4	2.6
5-17 Years	2.2	2.1	2.3
18+ Years	2.1	2.0	2.1

Source: Dec 2020 mVAM

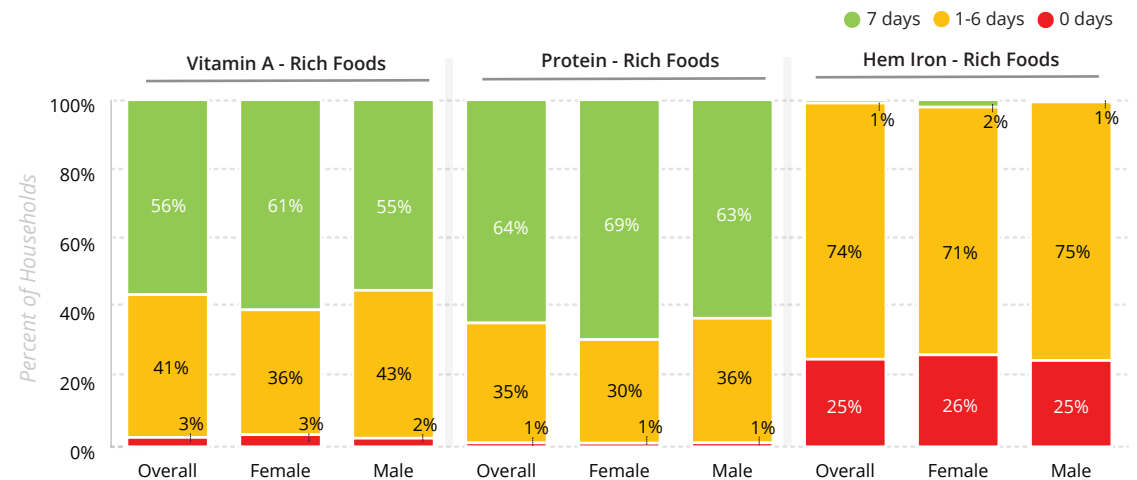


Food Consumption Score - Nutrition (FCS-N)

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

Refugee households in communities consumed adequate amounts of vitamin A - rich foods and protein-rich foods however consumption of hem iron - rich foods continues to show concerning and persistently low levels. Overall, 25% of households did not consume hem-iron rich foods in the previous week, with roughly equivalent prevalences across male-headed and female-headed households. Hem iron is generally provided through animal-based proteins, including meat, poultry, seafood, and fish and is a key macronutrient needed for the prevention of anemia. Anemia can lead to motor or cognitive development delays and increased risk of infection among young children and pregnancy complications and heart problems for adult females.

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



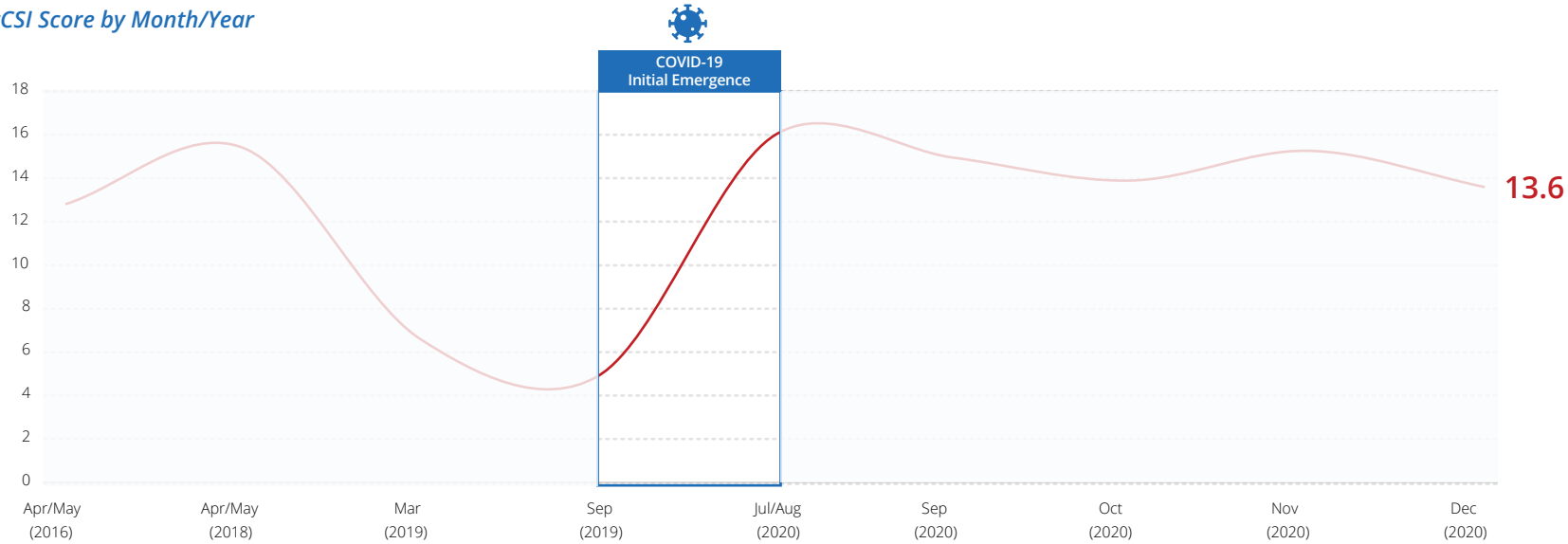
Source: Dec 2020 mVAM

Consumption - Based Coping Strategy Index (rCSI)

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

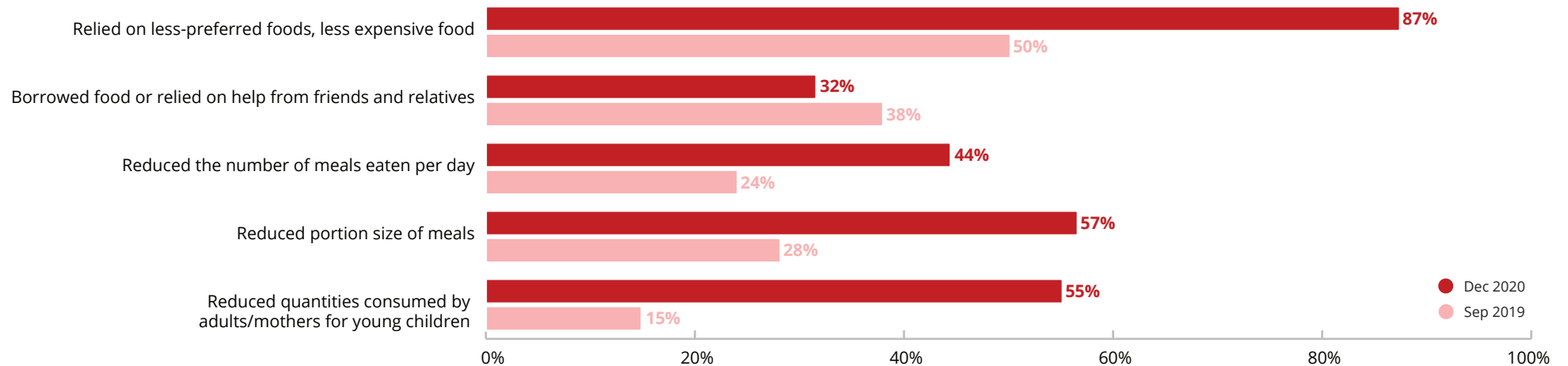
Longer-term trends for the rCSI show considerable variation across time, with a prominent escalation in the adoption of consumption-based coping strategies driven by the initial emergence of COVID-19 in Jordan and the associated restrictions on movement and business operations designed to prevent the outbreak of the disease. Between September 2019 and July/August 2020, the rCSI score increased from 4.9 in September 2019 to 16.0 in July/August 2020, eliminating previous improvements in food security seen throughout 2019. Exploring individual consumption-based coping strategies, we see concerning increases in the proportion of households reducing meals, increasing from 24% in September 2019 to 44% in December 2020, and the proportion of households reducing portion sizes of meals, increasing from 28% to 57%. Similarly, the proportion of households in which an adult member reduced consumption to meet the needs of children within the household increased from 15% to 55%.

Figure 11. rCSI Score by Month/Year



Source: Apr/May 2016 CFSME, Apr/May 2018 CFSVA, Jul/Aug/Sep/Oct/Nov/Dec 2020 mVAM

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



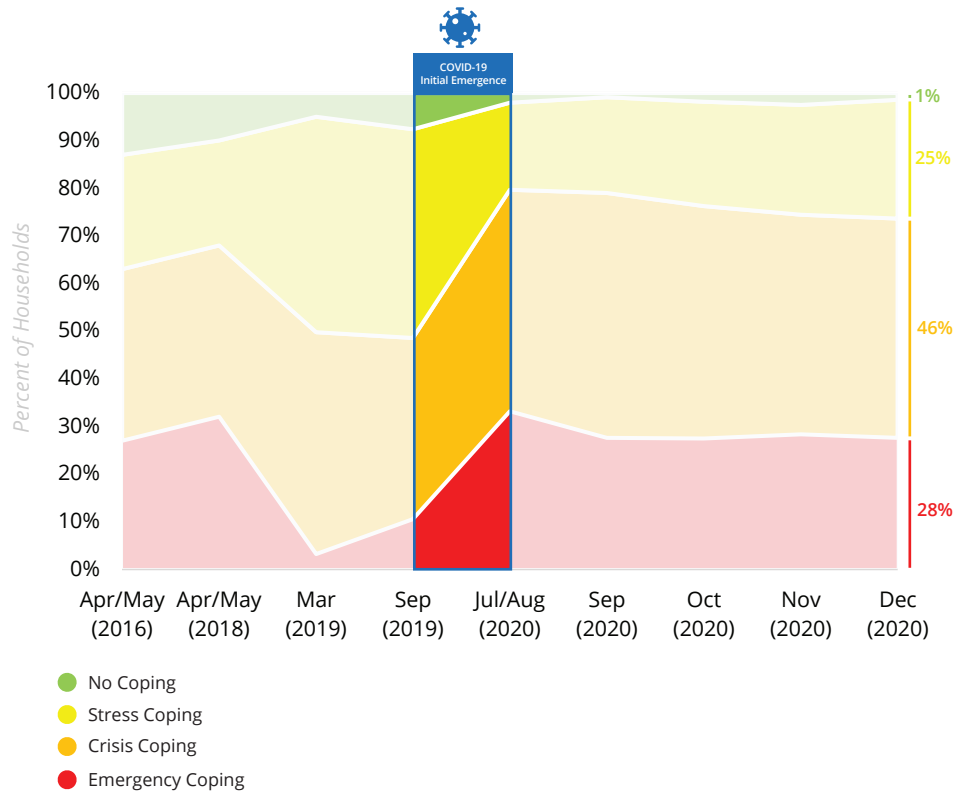
Source: FSOM Q3 2019, Dec 2020 mVAM

Livelihoods - Based Coping Strategy Index (LCSI)

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

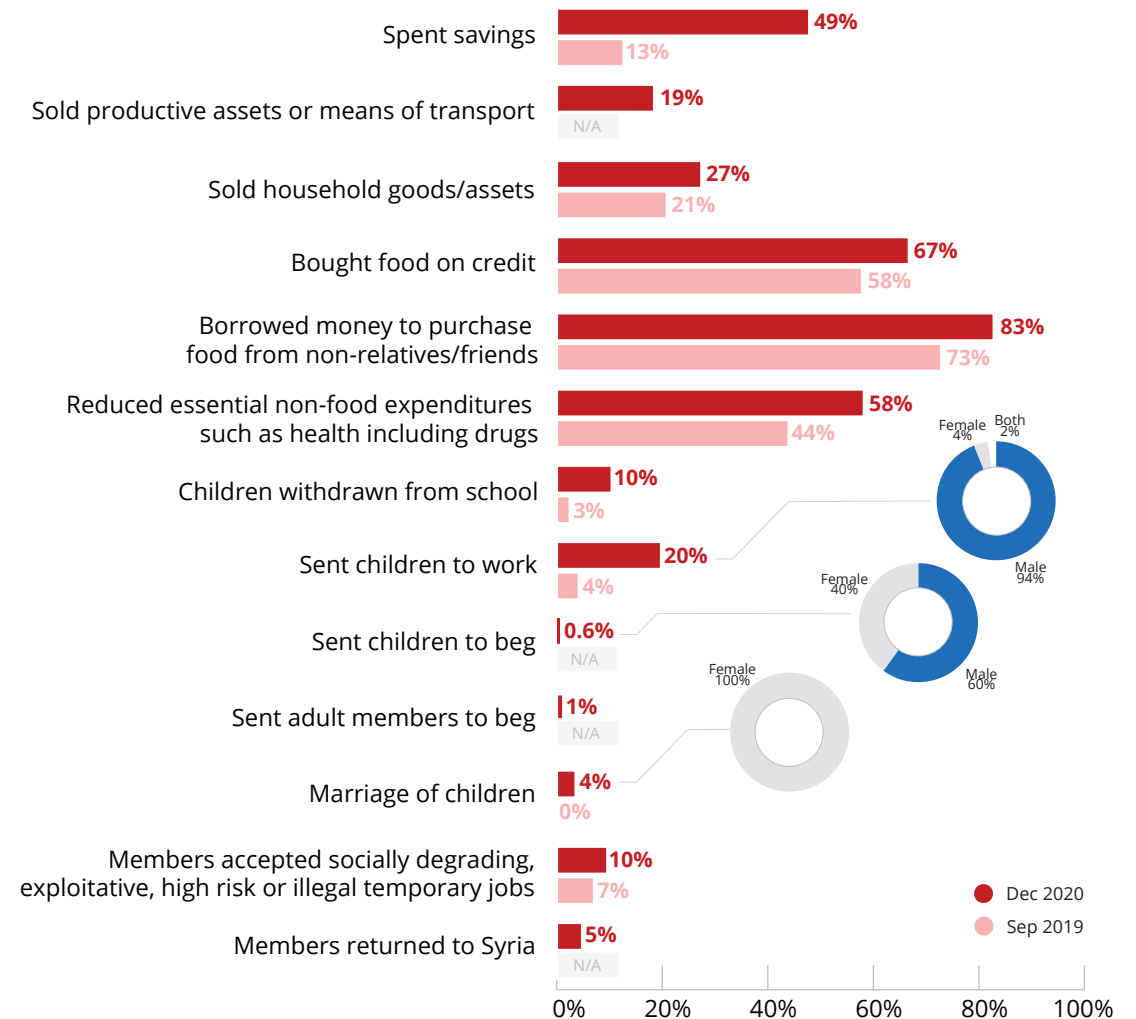
Similar to the trends seen in the adoption of consumption-based coping strategies, the adoption of harmful livelihoods-based coping strategies also increased substantially following the initial emergence of COVID-19 in Jordan. The adoption of harmful and potentially irreversible coping strategies increased substantially and continues to persist. Between September 2019 and July/August 2020, the proportion of households adopting crisis or emergency coping strategies increased from 49% to 80%, eliminating previous improvements in food security seen throughout 2019. Twenty percent of refugee households in communities sent children to work in order to meet household food needs in December 2020, compared to 4% in September 2019. Children sent to work were primarily male (94%), although some households sent female children (4%). Four percent of households agreed to early marriage of children, primarily female, in order to meet households food needs in December 2020, compared to 0% in September 2019.

Figure 13. LCSI Classification by Month/Year



Source: Apr/May 2016 CFSME, Apr/May 2018 CFSVA, Jul/Aug/Sep/Oct/Nov/Dec 2020 mVAM

Figure 14. Percent of Households Adopting Livelihoods-Based Coping Strategies⁷



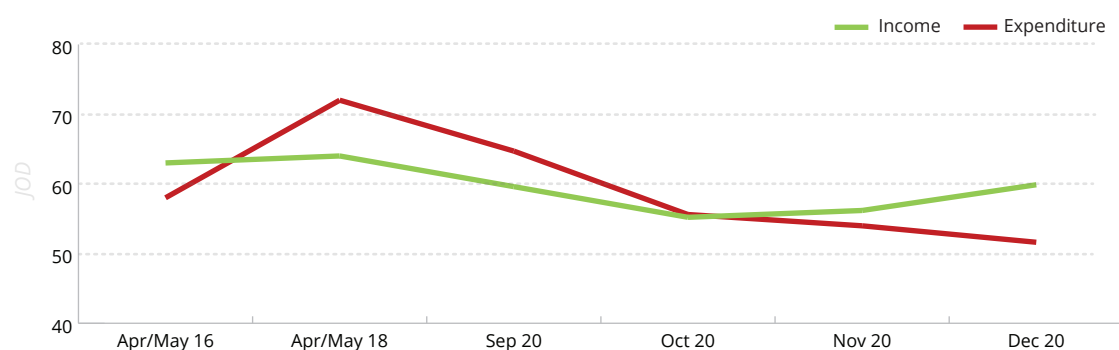
Source: FSOM Q3 2019, Dec 2020 mVAM

⁷ N/A values indicate that coping strategy was not collected as part of LCSI module for the specified data collection exercise

Household Income and Expenditure

Household income and expenditure continues to drop as compared to 2016 and 2018 values, although there was a short-term increase in income in November 2020 and December 2020 associated with the provision of winterization assistance by UNHCR and other actors. In December 2020, household per capita income was 59.9 JOD and household expenditure was 51.6 JOD. Household expenditure dropped below household income in November and December 2020. Anecdotal evidence suggests that this may be a result of refugee households allocating income from winterization assistance towards the repayment of debts accumulated throughout the months following the initial emergence of COVID-19 in Jordan. Female-headed households had a higher per capita income than male-headed households in December 2020, reversing previous trends. This reversal is likely influenced by the recent winterization assistance in which female-headed households received 45.7 JOD per capita in assistance in December 2020 compared to 38.3 JOD per capita for male-headed households.

Figure 15. Per Capita Monthly Income and Expenditure by Month/Year (JOD)



Source: Apr/May 2016 CFSME, Apr/May 2018 CFSVA, Jul/Aug/Sep/Oct/Nov/Dec 2020 mVAM

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

	Overall		Female - Headed		Male - Headed	
	Nov (2020)	Dec (2020)	Nov (2020)	Dec (2020)	Nov (2020)	Dec (2020)
Total Income	56.2	59.9	52.8	60.2	57.0	59.8
Food Expenditure	26.7	25.6	24.2	24.7	27.2	25.9
Non-Food Expenditure	27.3	26.0	24.1	26.1	28.1	25.9
Total Expenditure	54.0	51.6	48.4	50.9	55.3	51.8
Total Income - Total Expenditure	2.2	8.3	4.4	9.3	1.7	8.0

Source: Nov 2020 mVAM, Dec 2020 mVAM

Conclusions

Cross-Sectional Comparison

- The vast majority (89%) of refugee households in communities were either food insecure or vulnerable to food insecurity in December 2020, with higher prevalences among female-headed households (91%), households with disabled or chronically ill members (93%), and large households (95%).
- In December 2020, households consumed cereals / tubers, sugars, and fats on a daily basis with vegetables, meat / fish / eggs, and dairy consumed infrequently and fruits consumed rarely. This may be an indication of households shifting consumption patterns to address financial challenges.
- In December 2020, 20% of refugee households in communities sent children, mostly male, to work and 4% percent of households agreed to early marriage of children, mostly female, in order to meet households food needs.

Time Series Comparison

- Loss of employment opportunities associated with COVID-19 preventive measures led to a significant deterioration in food security and vulnerability for refugee households in communities. Jerash, Madaba, and South governorates had the highest rates of food insecure households, with significant increased from the previous year. Deterioration continues with few signs of imminent improvement.
- Since the emergence of COVID-19 in Jordan, refugee households in communities are undertaking dangerous and detrimental coping strategies, including skipping meals, reducing meal sizes, and cutting consumption of food by adults to meet the needs of children.
- Refugee households in communities are sending children to work, withdrawing children from school, and allowing the early marriage of children at alarming rates. Previously employed coping strategies, including acquisition of debt, borrowing from friends and neighbors, and sale of household assets, appear to be less available.
- Intake of hem-iron was inadequate for a significant portion of refugee households in communities in December 2020, a trend that persists from previous studies in 2020.

For more details please contact:

Benjamin Scholz
Head of the VAM/M&E Unit
benjamin.scholz@wfp.org

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

Murad Najim
VAM Programme Assistant
murad.najim@wfp.org

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

www.wfp.org/countries/jordan

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the World Food Programme concerning the legal or development status of any territory, country, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

2020 © World Food Programme. All Rights Reserved.

Reproduction and dissemination of material in this information product for educational or other non-commercial uses are authorized without any prior written permission from the copyright holders provided the source is fully acknowledged. Reproduction of material in this information product for resale or other commercial purposes is prohibited without written permission. Applications for such permission should be addressed to the Director, Communications, Advocacy and Marketing Division
e-mail: wfp.publications@wfp.org.

[WFP_Jordan](#) [WFP_Jordan](#)