



# **FOOD SECURITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

**Hajjah Governorate, Aslam District**

Oxfam, Hajjah Office, EFSL Department, 2022

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## Executive Summary

- More than seven years of armed conflict have created catastrophic humanitarian needs in Yemen, uprooted millions of people from their homes, destroyed the economy, and fostered the spread of diseases. Hajjah governorate is among the governorates of the highest proportion of the population in IPC phase 3 or above. In Aslem district, the food security situation is getting worse by the day, and has been classified as IPC AMN phase 4 signifying high rates of undernutrition cases which indicated that households have large food consumption gaps.
- To analysis situation of the flood security and designing an appropriate humanitarian intervention, Oxfam carried out Need Assessment Survey in Aslam district, during the period from the last week of May till mid-June 2022. This survey covered 985 HHs selected randomly from HCs and IDPs communities. This section summarized the main findings of this survey as follows:
- **Households profile**, The survey sample size covered 985 Households, respondents, 69% were IDPs and 31% were from Host communities, 42% of these HHs were living in Aslam Al wassat, 29% living in Aslam Al Sham and same percentage (29%) were living in Aslam Al Yaman, 29% of the respondents were female headed households,3%( were headed by disabled persons and 68% of these HHs were headed by males.
- **Shelter and Housing**, the survey findings showed that 87% of IDPs living in shelter built of clay, woods, and tents, While 78% of Host community households are living in their own house,18% of them live in houses built from wood and clay.
- **Food Security Situation**,
  - Food Consumption Score(FCS) is indictor measures dietary diversity, food frequency and relative nutritional importance of different food groups consumed at the household level, during the week prior to the interview. The findings of the analysis of the food security status showed that 82% of the total survey households were severely food insecure, and 18% of these households are moderately food insecure. The result also showed 85% of female-headed households were highly food insecure while 81% of male-headed households.
  - Reduce Coping Strategy, The rCSI is used as a proxy indicator of household food insecurity and measures the behaviors adopted by households when they have shortage of their food needs during the week prior to the interview. In this regard, the survey showed that the coping strategy of (Rely on less preferred or less expensive types of food) used in 3.96 and 3.60 days by HCs and IDPs HHs respectively, the less used strategies used by the two types of HHs (HCs and IDPs HHs) were Reduce the number of meals eaten in a day and Restrict the amount eaten by adults so that children could eat while the 1<sup>st</sup> one was used in 2.68 and 2.46 and the second one used

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2.67 and 2.36 by the two types of HHs respectively. The majority of the surveyed HHs were experiencing high food coping behavior while 85% of these HHs were in high position of using Coping Strategy to meet the shortage of the food during the week prior to the interview, 14% were in medium position and only 1% of these HHs were in low position of using CSI.

- Households Food Source, Local markets are the most frequently cited source of food across all locations and categories of interviewed households. More than three-quarters of interviewed households(79.8%) identified the local market as the source of food even buy by cash or credit.
- Household income, the data analysis revealed that over half(52.6%) of the interviewed households indicated that daily work was the main source of income and community support/aid, selling firewood, livestock rearing, and transportation were main sources of income accounting about 24%,10.5%, 4.8%, and 4.7% respectively,

## Introduction

More than seven years of armed conflict have created catastrophic humanitarian needs in Yemen, uprooted millions of people from their homes, destroyed the economy, and fostered the spread of diseases. The collapse of the economy, basic services, and public institutions, coupled with persistent import restrictions, are further eroding the resilience of people in Yemen, who are already enduring one of the world's largest humanitarian crises and its fourth-largest displacement crisis.

In areas under SBA, severe fuel shortages have driven price increases even as the exchange rate has remained more stable. Consequently, public services have been further degraded and the authorities face even greater challenges to paying regular salaries and pensions to public employees. The average person's purchasing power is being substantially eroded, incentivizing increased adoption of harmful coping strategies.

According to the 2022 HNO analysis, 23.4 million people in Yemen are estimated to require humanitarian assistance in 2022, of whom 12.9 million people are assessed to be in acute need. The main instigators of the number of people in need are food insecurity and malnutrition, health, water, and sanitation needs and protection.

Some 19 million people require food assistance in 2022, including 7.3 million in acute need. Some of the highest levels of vulnerability are concentrated in displacement hosting sites where very few services are available, and protection needs continue to be high across Yemen especially as the deteriorating humanitarian context incentivizes rising adoption of negative coping strategies.

According to the latest IPC results, the number of people likely to experience high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) is estimated to reach 17.4 million (54 percent of the population) in the period between January and May 2022.

Hajjah governorate is among the governorates of the highest proportion of the population in IPC phase 3 or above. moreover, three districts in Hajjah governorate with pockets of people experiencing catastrophic of hunger- IPC phase 5- from January to May 2022.

In Aslem district, the food security situation is getting worse by the day, and has been classified as IPC AMN phase 4 signifying high rates of undernutrition cases which indicated that households have large food consumption gaps. Also, the last IPC analysis, January to May 2022 indicated that Aslem district has pockets of people experiencing catastrophic hunger (IPC phase-5)

The data was collected from 985 households in Aslam district, selected randomly. The interviewed households included IDPs, host communities, women, men, elderly, marginalized people, and PWDs. All surveyed households are not enrolled in the regular assistance of WFP and do not benefit from the general food distribution (GFD) of WFP in Aslem district.

### Purpose and Objectives:

Propose:

The need assessment is essential for program planning, monitoring, evaluation and accountability. It is aimed to identify the humanitarian needs for the conflict-affected people in addition to the gaps and impact of the current crisis on the population in Aslam district. As well as to understand the current food security situation of the conflict-affected population.

Objectives:

The specific objectives of this survey are:

- To collect data and information that will help in analyzing the situation and needs of targeted people
- To assess to identify gaps in food security, among IDPs and Host communities in Aslam district since they are both affected due to the chronic crisis.
- To identify priority interventions to save the lives of people living in these target areas.
- To provide data and information to be used in designing intervention activities and to identify best implementation approaches
- To provide data, and information to establish indicators for measuring intervention progress, impact and also to ensure effective monitoring, evaluation, and accountability.

### The Methodology:

Data Collection Tool

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Due to limitations of time and constraints related to obtaining travel permits to the field to conduct any needs assessment. Oxfam had to go with the alternative option which is using to collect data from the initially proposed beneficiaries of UCT during the verification process where some key indicators of food security were added to the verification form. To ensure quality of data the data collectors were trained well for one day at the Oxfam office to make them familiar with the data collection tool.

### Sample and Time of Data collection

A total of 985 HHs were interviewed from both IDPs and host communities in all targeted sub-districts Aslam Al Sham, Aslam Al wassat and Aslam Al yaman as shown in figure 1 below. . The survey data collection took about three weeks during the period of the last week of May till mid-June 2022.

### Data Analysis

After revision and classification of the collected data and information, they were entered in an Excel sheet for analysis and tabulation as shown in the next related sections of this report. The collected data were presented in the form of both tabular and graphical forms. A simple statistical model was used during data analysis; (frequency, percentage, mean etc as shown in the report below.

### Ethnic and Limitation

Activities involved in this study have taken into consideration the ethics in research principles. Informal verbal consent was obtained from all the respondents by explaining the main purpose of the exercise and study objectives. Regarding study limitations, the survey faced security restrictions of field movement.

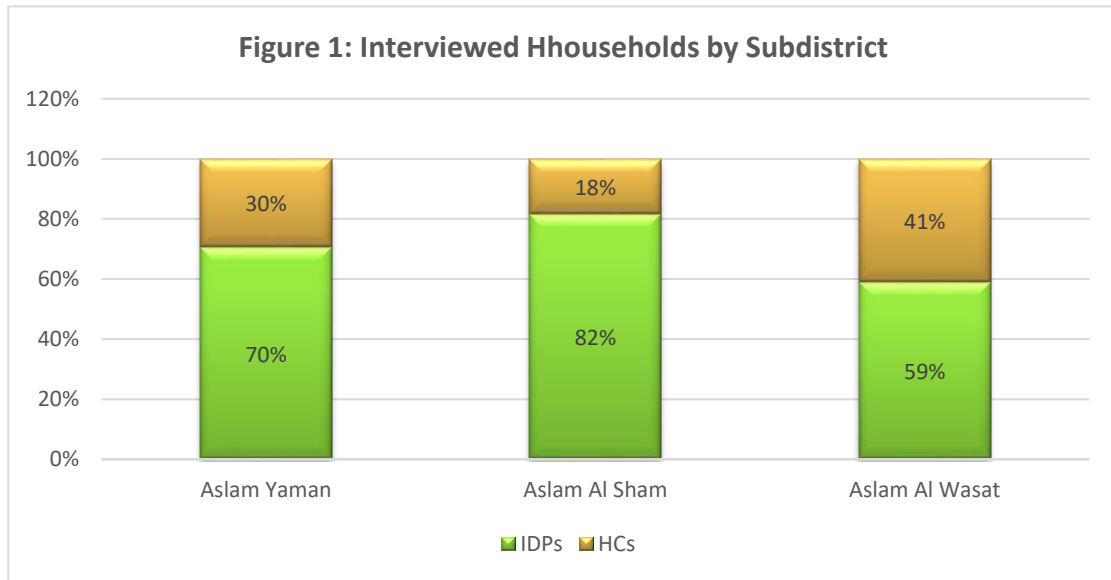
## Survey Findings

### Household Profile:

**Distribution of the Surveyed HHs by Type of residence and Subdistrict,** The survey sample size covered 985 Households, respondents, 69% were IDPs and 31% were from Host communities, 42% of these HHs were living in Aslam Al wassat of whom 59% were IDPs and 41% were from Host communities, 29% living in Aslam Al Sham of whom 82% were IDPs and 18% were from HCs, and same percentage (29%) were living in Aslam Al Yaman of whom 70% were IDPs and 30% were from HCs, See table 1 and figure 1.

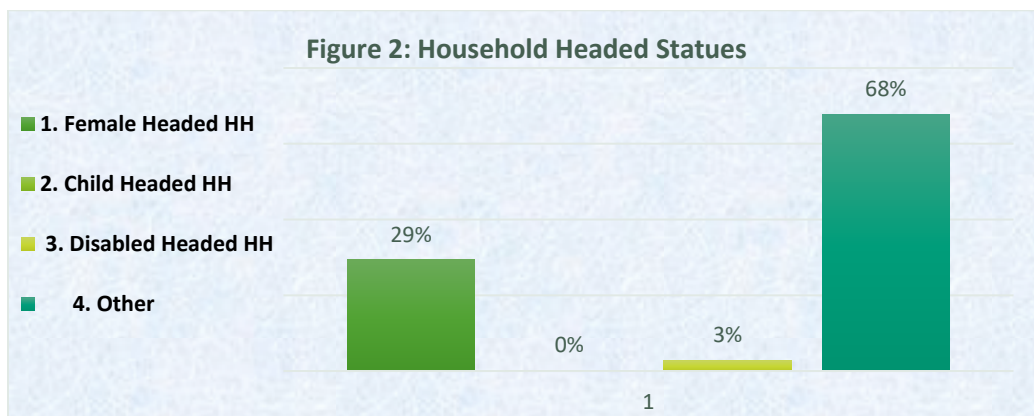
Table(1):Distribution of the Surveyed Households By Sub District and Status of Residence

Status households	Sub- District			Total	
	Aslam Al Yaman	Aslam Al Sham	Aslam Al Wasat	No.	%
<b>IDPs</b>	203	234	242	679	69%
<b>HCS</b>	85	53	168	306	31%
<b>Total</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>985</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>42%</b>		



**Sex disaggregation of the respondents**, in this regard, the findings showed that 29% of the respondents were female headed households, 3% ( were headed by disabled persons and 68% of these HHs were headed by males , figure 2.

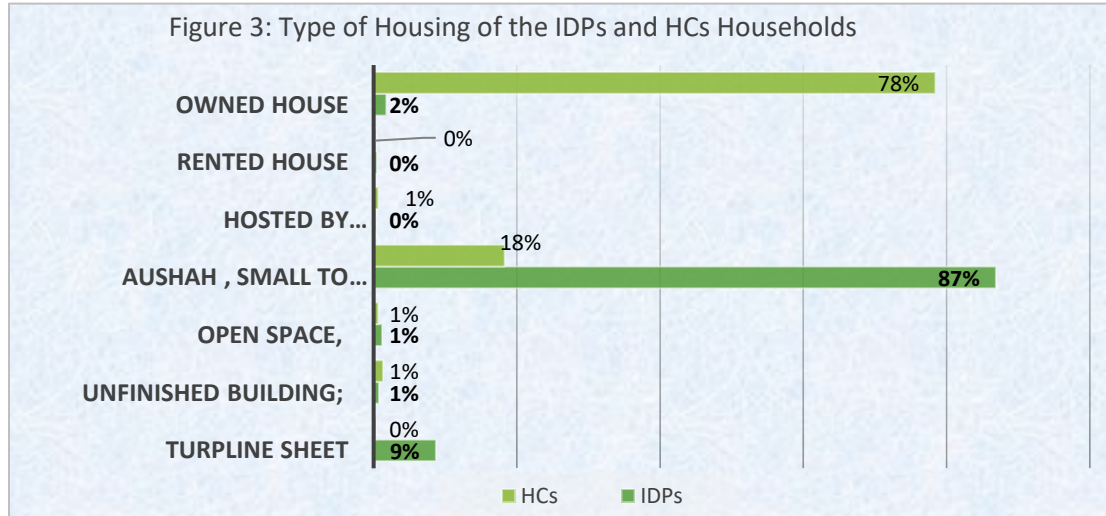
The average size of the HHs was nearly 5.63 members , the minimum and maximum family members were 2 and 15, respectively. Regarding the age, it was capture that the average age of the survey participants was about 36 years. The minimum and maximum age of the interviewees age was 17 years and 85 years old, respectively.



**Shelter and Housing:**

in this regard, the survey findings showed that 87% of IDPs living in shelter built of clay, woods, and tents, 9% of them living in a shelter built of tarpaulin sheet and 1% were living in open space and unfinished building. While 78% of Host community households are living in their own house, 18% of them live in

houses built from wood and clay (local Ausha), and 1% live in open space, unfinished building or hosted by relatives, figure 3.



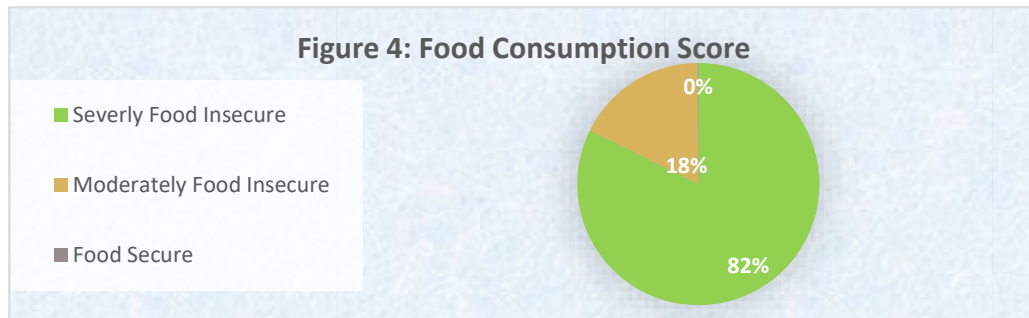
### Food Security Situation:

#### Food Consumption Score(FCS):

The FCS indicator measures dietary diversity, food frequency and relative nutritional importance of different food groups consumed at the household level, over a recall period of one week prior to the interview. A standard questionnaire is used to ask respondents about the frequency of their households' consumption of nine food groups over the previous seven days recall. To calculate the FCS, the consumption frequencies are summed and multiplied by the standardized food group weight. Households are then classified into three food consumption groups: poor, borderline, and acceptable food consumption, using the adjusted thresholds of the FCS (poor: 0 - 28; borderline: 28.1 – 42, and acceptable: > 42) The average score for all food categories was about 24.47 out of 112.

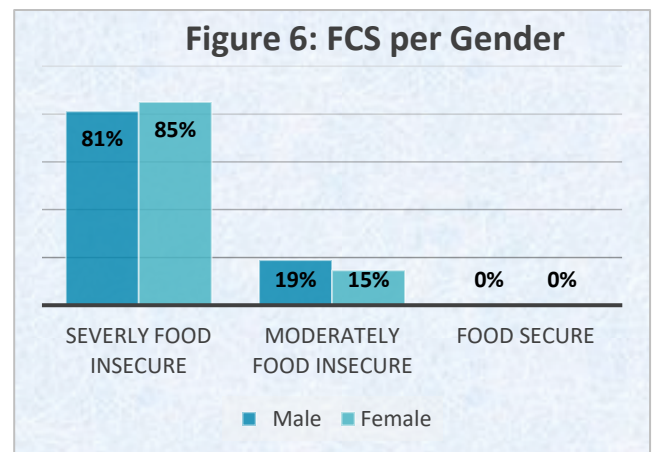
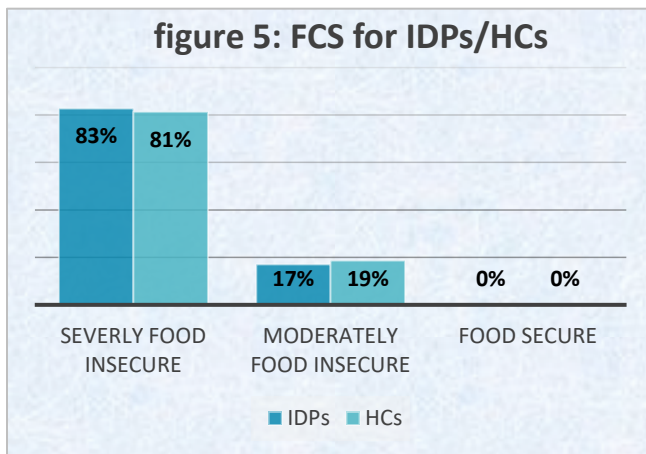
The findings of the analysis of the food security status showed that 82% of the total survey households were severely food insecure, and 18% of these households are moderately food insecure and this reveals that all households had inadequate food consumption.





The result also showed that there was a little bit variable between IDPs and Host community families where IDP families are more food insecure followed by host community families. In total, 83% of IDP families were severely food insecure, and 81% of the host community families were severely food insecure. On the other hand, it was captured that 85% of female-headed households were highly food insecure while 81% of male-headed households figure 5.

Sex disaggregated result indicates male households have higher average of FCS (24.64) as compared to their female counterparts (24). Similarly, female HHs had a higher proportion of households (85%) with poor food consumption as compared to their male counterpart (81%). The result indicates female households relatively were experiencing severe food stress as compared to their male counterparts figure 6

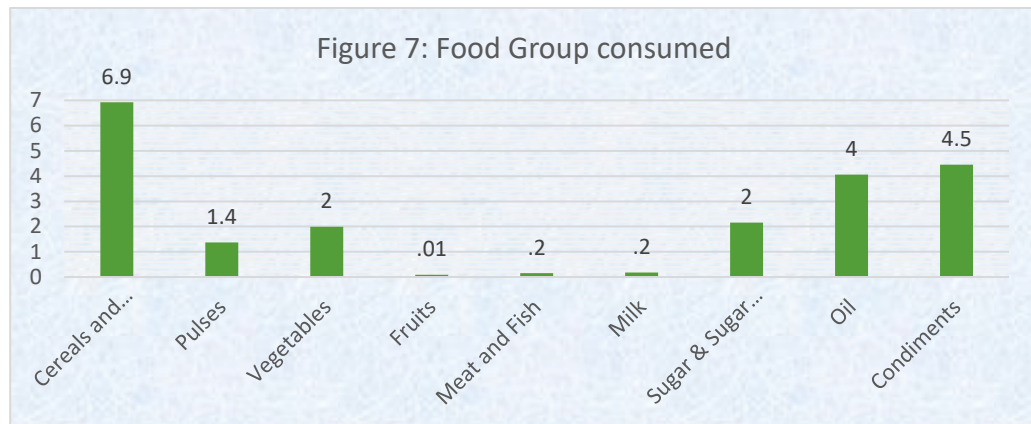


### Food Consumption and Dietary Diversity

Overall, the sample household food consumption frequency analysis shows high consumption of cereals at an average of 6.9 days a week and 4.05 days for oil, fat and butter, 4.45 days for condiments and 2.15 days for sugar. Households consumed other nutritious food items less frequently (milk and other dairy

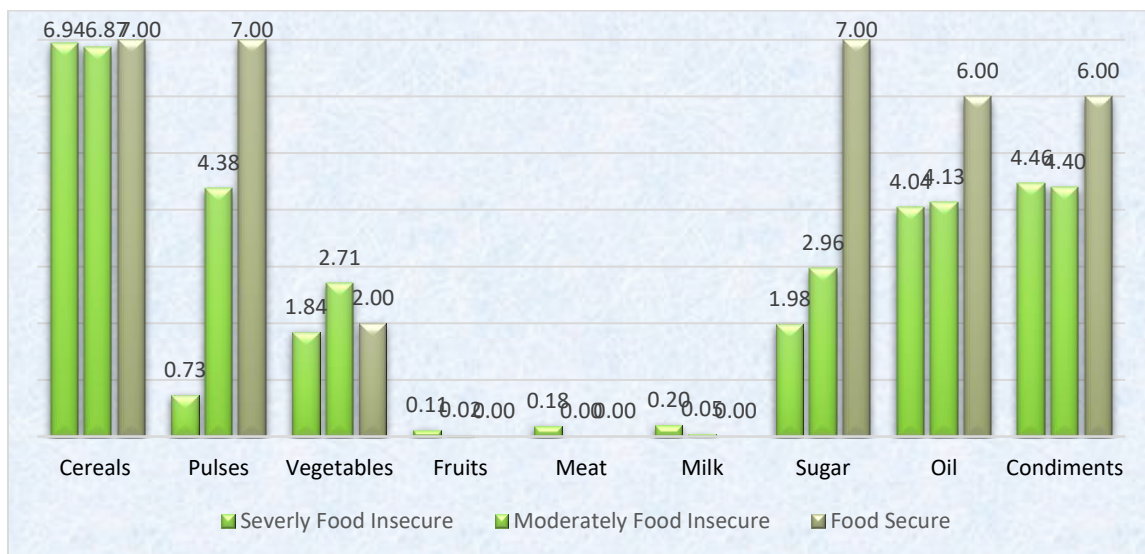
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products = 0.17 days and meat, fish and eggs = 0.15 days) in a recall period of seven days prior to the interview figure 7.

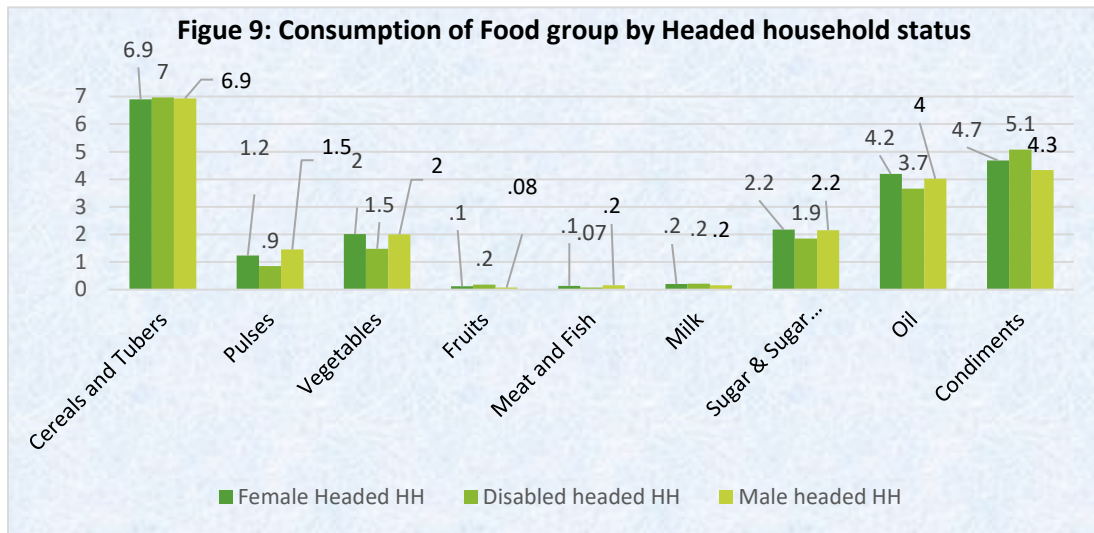


Households with poor food consumption had less consumption of all the food groups as compared to households in the borderline and acceptable categories. Milk and dairy products, meat, and fruits, are consumed less than one day per week. Households with acceptable food consumption category have a high frequency in the consumption of cereals, pulses, oil, sugar, and condiments, figure 8.

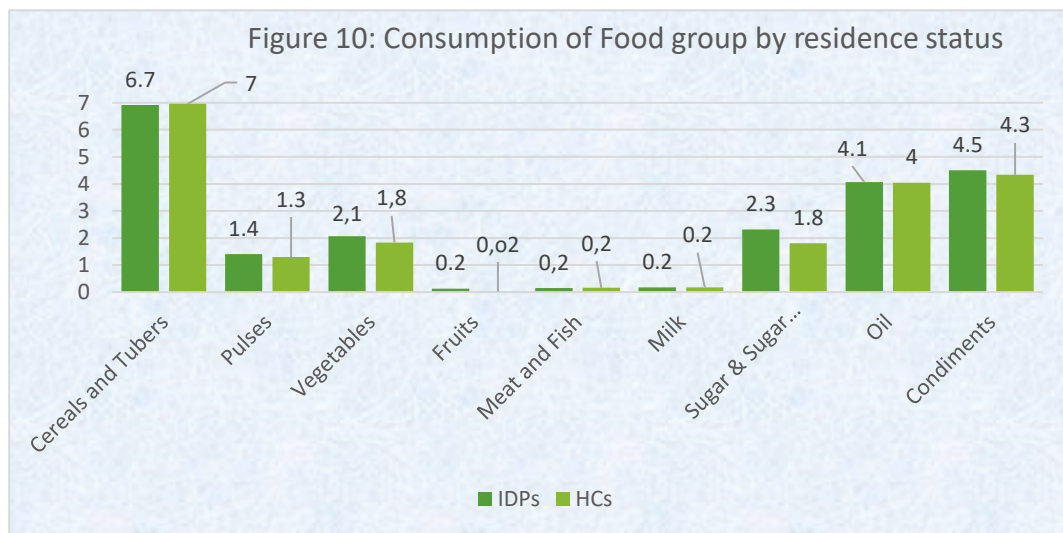
**Figure 8:** Average of food consumption frequency per week



**Regarding consumption of food groups according to sex of the HHs' head,** it was found that all the three types of HHs were close to each other regarding the consumption of the cereals while they consumed this material almost every day (between 7 to 6.9 days per week), fruit, milk, meat and fish they were the less food groups consumed by all the HHs, the HHs headed by disabled persons consumed pulses, vegetable sugar and oil less than the two other HHs who headed by females and men figure 9.



The survey finding also showed that consumption of food groups according to type of HHs residence was almost in the same level for all the food groups among IDPs HHs and HCs HHs while figure 10 shows that the difference between the two types of HHs (IDPs and HCs HHs) was part of one days for all consumed food materials during the previous week of the interview, for instance, HCs HHs consumed cereals every day (7 days per week) while IDPs consumed this material 6.7 days per week, pulses consumed by HCs 1.3 day per week and 1.4 day by IDPs HHs. However, fruits, meat, fish, and milk were the less consumed materials by the two types of HHs, figure 10



Reduced Coping Strategy index (rCSI):

The rCSI is often used as a proxy indicator of household food insecurity and measures the behaviors adopted by households when they have difficulties covering their food needs. It is calculated based on a list of five food-related coping behaviors to meet their food needs in the prior week to the interview.

In this regard, the survey findings showed that used the 5 known reduced coping strategies to cover the shortage of the HHs food during the week prior to the interview as shown in figure 11, Rely on less preferred or less expensive types of food used in 3.96 and 3.60 days by HCs and IDPs HHs respectively, in the previous week to the interview, the less used strategies used by the two types of HHs (HCs and IDPs HHs) were Reduce the number of meals eaten in a day and Restrict the amount eaten by adults so that children could eat while the 1<sup>st</sup> one was used in 2.68 and 2.46 and the second one used 2.67 and 2.36 by the two types of HHs respectively figure 11.

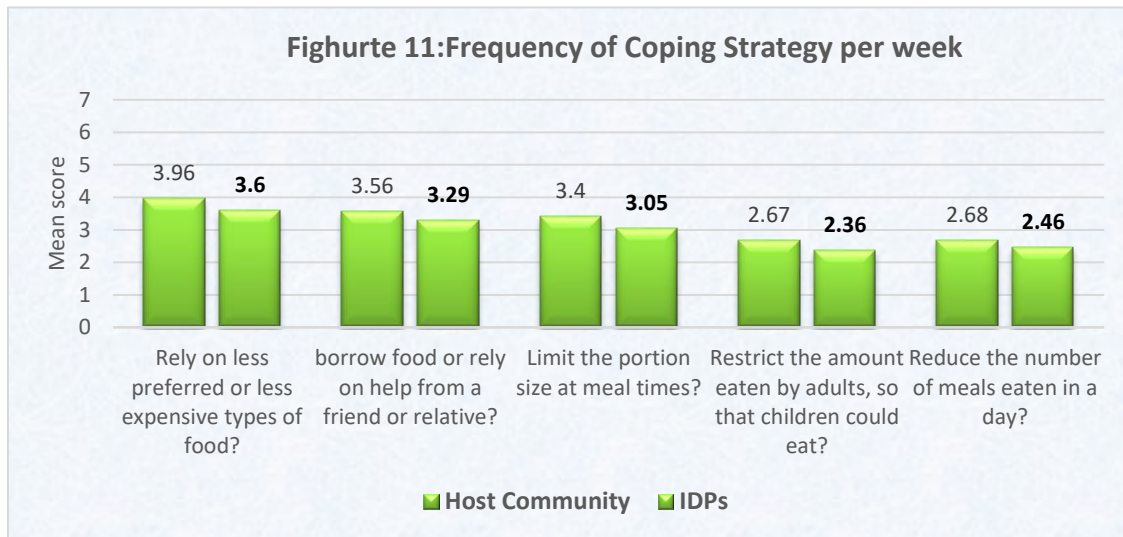


Table 2 shows percentage of the surveyed HHs by using each Coping Strategies, the high used strategy by the HHs during the prior to the interview was Rely on less preferred or less expensive types of food while it used at least one day by 98.9% of the total HHs, the less used strategy was Restrict the amount eaten by adults, so that children could eat, while it used at least one day by 75.3% of the HHs during the week prior to the interview2.

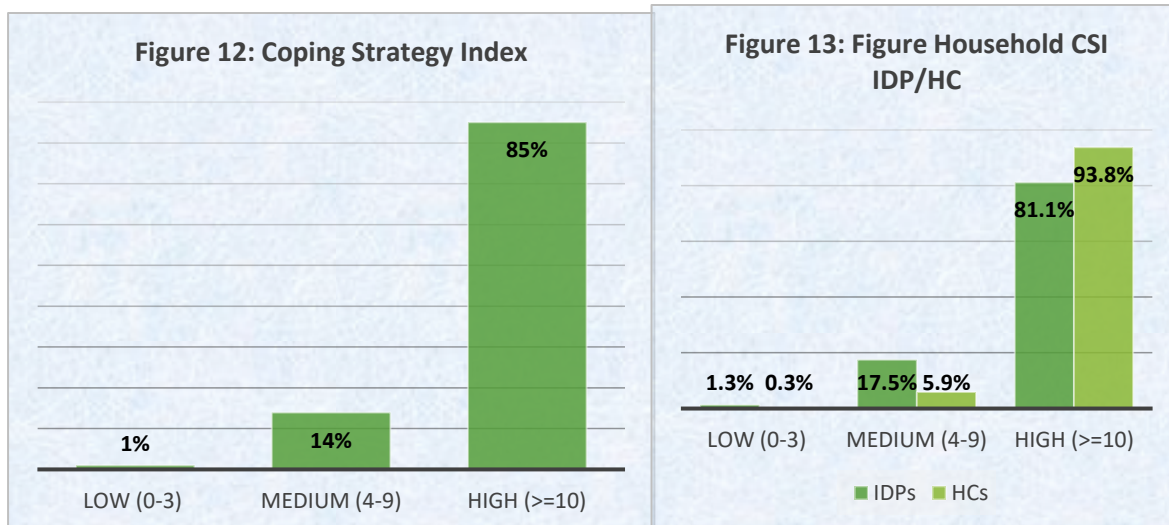
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Table 3. Percentage of the surveyed HHs by using each Coping Strategies

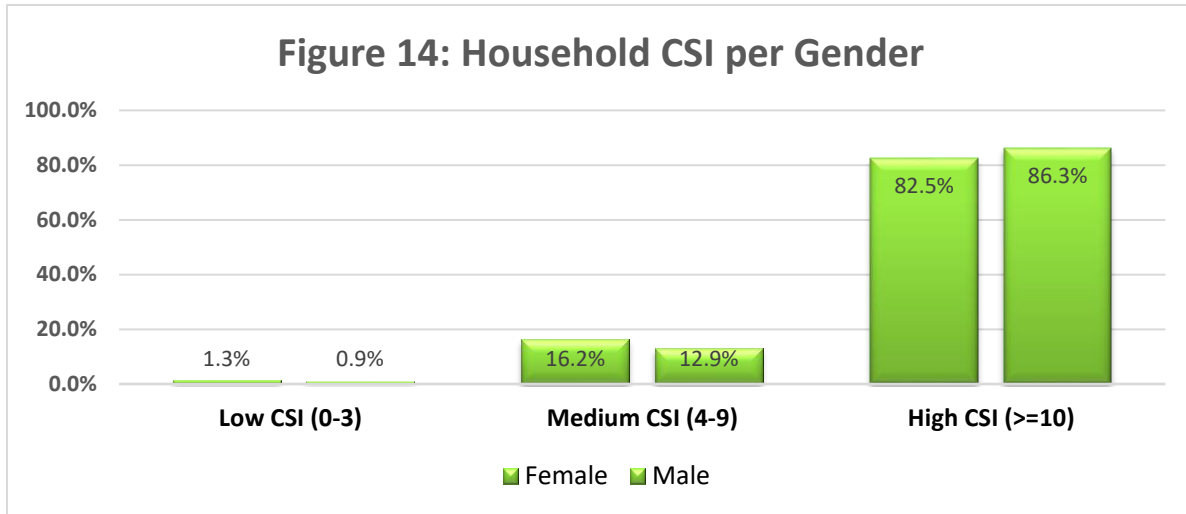
Coping strategy	At least one/week	Never	Only 1 day	2-3 days per week	4-6 days per week	Daily
Rely on less preferred or less expensive types of food?	98.9%	1.1%	5.2%	34.3%	57.7%	1.7%
borrow food or rely on help from a friend or relative?	97.8%	2.2%	10.2%	42.7%	41.6%	3.2%
Limit the portion size at meal times?	89.5%	10.5%	10.3%	33.6%	44.3%	1.4%
Restrict the amount eaten by adults, so that children could eat?	75.3%	24.7%	14.7%	24.0%	36.2%	0.4%
Reduce the number of meals eaten in a day?	79.7%	20.3%	17.1%	26.0%	34.4%	2.2%

The majority of the surveyed HHs were experiencing high food coping behavior while 85% of these HHs were in high position of using Coping Strategy to meet the shortage of the food during the week prior to the interview, 14% were in medium position and only 1% of these HHs were in low position of using CSI figure 12.

Regarding use of these CSI according to types of HHs residence, Figure 13 shows that position of the CHs was more worse than IDPs HHs according to this indicators, while 93.8% of the HCs were in high position of using CSI against 81.1% of the IDPs HHs, 17% and 5.5% of the IDPs and HCs HHs were in medium position respectively.

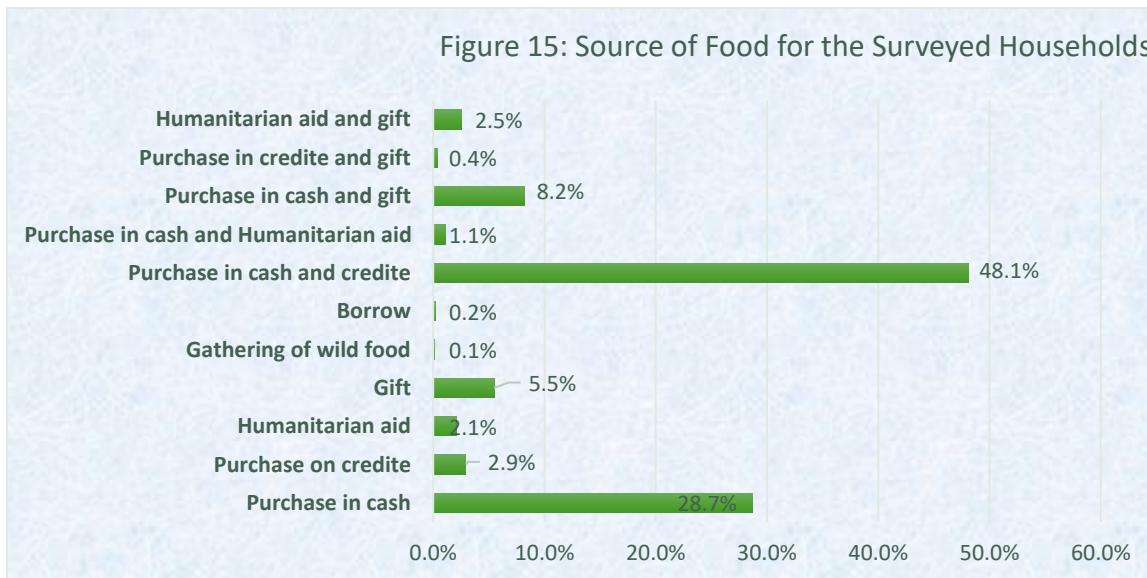


On the other side, the usage of the CS according to head of HHs, the related data showed that 86% and 82.5% of the HHs headed by men and HHs headed by women were in high position of using CS respectively, 12.9 and 16.2% of the HHs headed by men and HHs headed by women were in high position of using CS respectively 14.



#### Households Food Source:

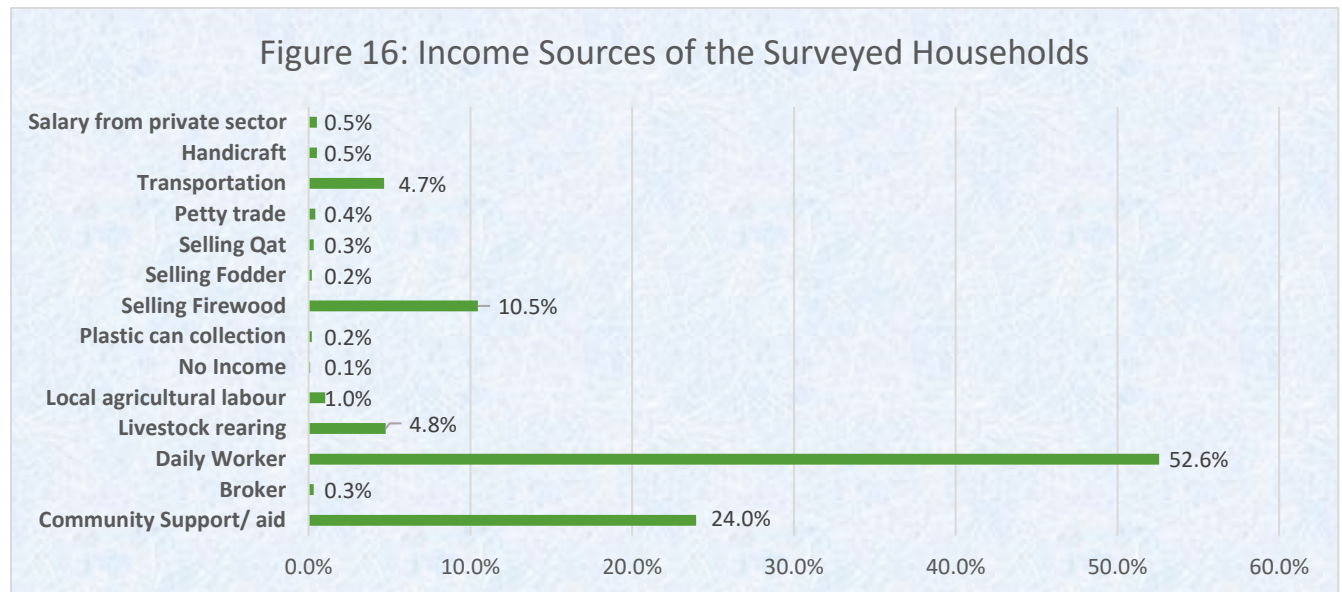
Local markets are the most frequently cited source of food across all locations and categories of interviewed households. More than three-quarters of interviewed households (79.8%) identified the local market as the source of food even buy by cash or credit, 7.9% reported gifts, humanitarian aid, borrow or gathering of wild food as a source of food, 9.7% of households reported that relying on market and humanitarian aid or market and gifts while the last 2.5% of households reported that relying on humanitarian aid and gift. present a summary of households’ food source figure 15.





### Household Income Source:

The data analysis revealed that over half(52.6%) of the interviewed households indicated that daily work was the main source of income, and as shown in figure 14, community support/aid, selling firewood, livestock rearing, and transportation were main sources of income accounting about 24%,10.5%, 4.8%, and 4.7% respectively, figure 16.

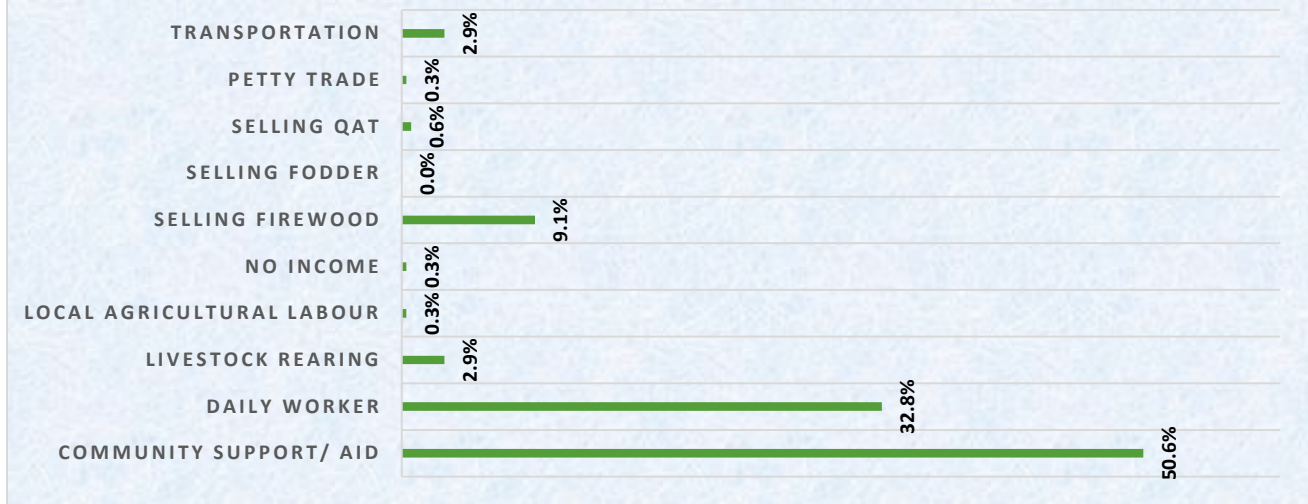


### Income Source of Female-Headed Households:

These income sources do not necessarily mean that women by themselves are engaged in these activities directly but rather carries out by some members of the family. It is evident from the figure 15 that female-headed HHs have very limited options of income generating activities;

1. The majority of women-headed HHs,i.e 50% depend on community support and aid as a source of income.
2. 32.8% depend on daily wage labor and 9% sell firewood while 2.9% rely on livestock rearing and transportation.
3. There are other income activities with a very minor percentage of people involved in those

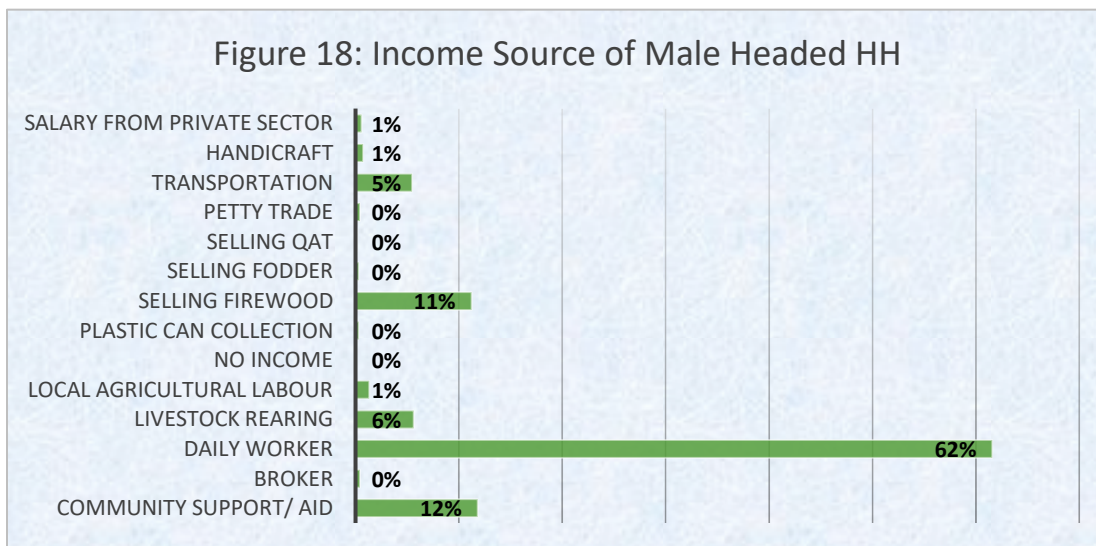
**Figure 17: Income Source of Female Headed HHs**



**Income Source of Male-Headed Households**

For income source of male headed HHs, it was captured that, 12% of male-headed HHs rely on community support/aids, 62% depend on daily workers as a source of income while 11%,6%, and 5% depending on selling firewood, livestock rearing, and transportation respectively figure 18.

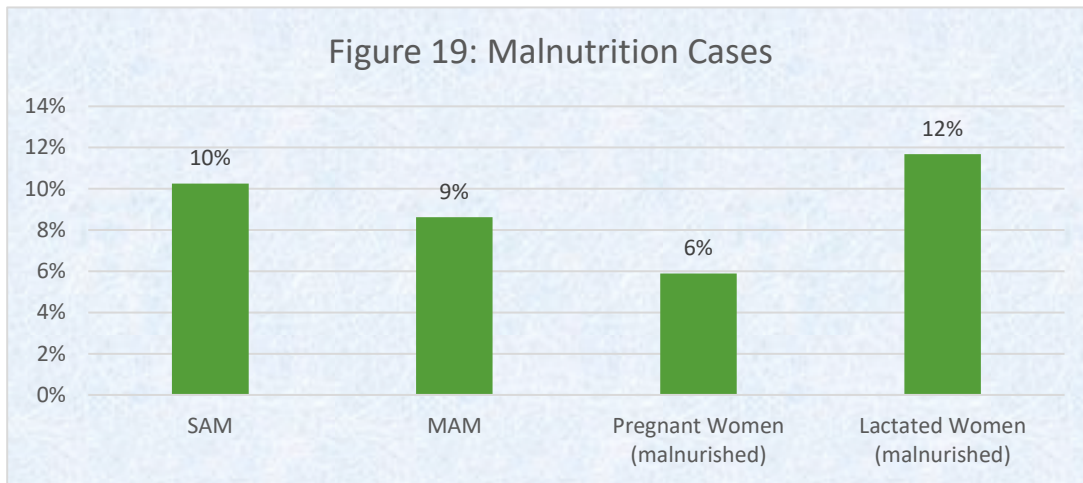
**Figure 18: Income Source of Male Headed HH**





**Malnutrition:**

The result of the assessment indicated that among the surveyed sample households, 10% of households had children under 5 years age have severe acute malnutrition while 9% of households had children under 5 have moderate acute malnutrition. Also, 6% of households had malnourished pregnant women and 12% of households had a malnourished lactated women, figure 19



**Conclusions:**

The first most important need with immediate effect is provision of food assistance. It is evident from all the above analysis that the food security status of these displaced people and host communities who are not receiving food assistance from WFP or other sources is highly severe as they are not able to meet their required food needs. Although there is a level of assistance currently provided by WFP through the distribution of food commodities covering the majority of IDPs and host communities, however, the food provided by WFP is not regular while it is sometimes distributed after two months and in another time after three months. However, there are some other bigger problems beside this. Numbers of the IDPs are not included in WFP list, although they are in poor food security status. In addition to this, there are many complaints about the quantity of food provided. Food baskets currently are not complete and include only wheat, and vegetable oil.

Both IDPs and host communities are in dire need of assistance. However, comparatively, IDPs are in a worse position and their level of survival is degrading day by day. With no assistance currently available to them they are reaching a critical point. Among surveyed households, female-headed households are severely food insecure, although the male-headed household are also not well-off to any level. Lack of support will put these people in situation of high malnutrition and mortality.

People, especially IDPs, do not have access to any stable and regular income sources. An extended period of war over eight years has resulted in completely vanish of most of the livelihood opportunities. Even for the host families, the income sources that were available before the start of war have depleted

to a big level. It makes it very difficult for IDPs to find some type of income source and those who manage to find some work cannot earn enough to cover their basic food needs.

### Recommendations:

- Coordination with WFP at Governorate and country level to include the excluded people in their list of food assistance in addition to the provision of regular and complete food package to these people.
- Increase Oxfam's cash assistance for these IDPs to fulfill their food needs with high priority to IDPs.
- Tree plantation campaigns to save the remaining forest resources and the future environment. The most feasible modality for this activity is through CFW where IDPs can benefit as CFW participants and host communities will get advantage of increased wood resources. This will also benefit in building relationship among IDPs and host communities and avoid any potential conflict that can arise if IDPs continued using the resources of host communities on large scale.