Food Security and Market Monitoring System (mVAM)

Results
VAM, April 2021
**Objective:** Remote food security and market monitoring system (mVAM) was launched in February 2021.

This phone-based survey was conducted among 1,072 spontaneous arrivals and 273 hosting families of the spontaneous arrivals during February-March 2021 across the country.

**It aimed to:**
- monitor the food security situation of spontaneous arrivals and its hosting families;
- assess the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the influx resulted from the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict over time.
- support the Government’s policymakers and partners to design evidence-based interventions in support of the most vulnerable resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and the NK conflict, with two planned cycles (one in February-March and the other one in May-June 2021)
Comprehensive Food Security

Comprehensive food security Indicator per target groups, %

- Food secure: 15% (Hosting families), 15% (Spontaneous arrivals)
- Marginally food secure: 63% (Hosting families), 69% (Spontaneous arrivals)
- Moderately food insecure: 21% (Hosting families), 15% (Spontaneous arrivals)
- Severely food insecure: 1% (Hosting families), 1% (Spontaneous arrivals)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Food insecure</th>
<th>Marginally food secure</th>
<th>Food secure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kotayk</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>14%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Syunik</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>13%</td>
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<td>Lori</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>71%</td>
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<td>Armavir</td>
<td>16%</td>
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<td>Vayots Dzor</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>17%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shirak</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>14%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yerevan</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>22%</td>
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<td>Aragatsotn</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>13%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gegharkunik</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>19%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tavush</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>22%</td>
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Food Consumption Score per target groups, %

- Acceptable: 93% (Hosting families), 90% (Spontaneous arrivals)
- Borderline: 6% (Hosting families), 9% (Spontaneous arrivals)
- Poor: 1% (Hosting families), 2% (Spontaneous arrivals)

Categories: Acceptable, Borderline, Poor
Food Stock

Availability of Food stock per target groups, %

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hosting families</td>
<td>Spontaneous arrivals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51%</td>
<td>49%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

How long would food stock last (per target groups), %

- **Hosting families**
  - More than 1 month: 49%
  - 22 – 28 days: 22%
  - 15 – 21 days: 18%
  - 7 – 14 days: 12%
  - Up to 7 days: 12%

- **Spontaneous arrivals**
  - More than 1 month: 22%
  - 22 – 28 days: 12%
  - 15 – 21 days: 12%
  - 7 – 14 days: 12%
  - Up to 7 days: 12%
Livelihood Coping Strategy Index per target groups, %

- Emergencies coping strategies:
  - Spontaneous arrivals: 12%
  - Hosting families: 14%
- Crisis coping strategies:
  - Spontaneous arrivals: 56%
  - Hosting families: 51%
- Stress coping strategies:
  - Spontaneous arrivals: 24%
  - Hosting families: 26%
- HH not adopting coping strategies:
  - Spontaneous arrivals: 8%
  - Hosting families: 8%
Mostly applied 3 coping strategies per target groups, %

- Borrowed money: 44%
- Purchased food on credit or borrowed money: 57%
- Spent savings: 62%

Spontaneous arrivals

- Were dependent on food rations and/or support from neighbors and relatives as only food/income source: 36%
- Reduced non-food expenses on health (including medicine) and education: 43%
- Spent savings: 70%
Food-based Coping Strategy

Food-based Coping Strategy Index per target groups, %

- No coping
  - Hosting families: 25%
  - Spontaneous arrivals: 24%

- Low coping
  - Hosting families: 50%
  - Spontaneous arrivals: 50%

- High coping
  - Hosting families: 26%
  - Spontaneous arrivals: 26%

Target groups: Hosting families, Spontaneous arrivals.
Assistance provided per target groups since the start of COVID-19 in March 2020, %

- Private: Hosting families 7%, Spontaneous arrivals 18%
- Non-governmental: Hosting families 17%, Spontaneous arrivals 36%
- Government: Hosting families 46%, Spontaneous arrivals 85%
Income reduction due to COVID-19 since March 2020 per target groups, %

- No change: 80%
- Reduced by more than 25% and less than 50%: 58%
- Reduced by more than 50%: 10%
- No change: 10%
- Reduced by more than 25% and less than 50%: 19%
- Reduced by more than 50%: 23%

Spontaneous arrivals
Hosting families
Comprehensive food security per assistance received

Comprehensive food security level per assistance, %

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<tr>
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<th>Spontaneous Arrivals</th>
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The most important concern under the current circumstances due to COVID-19 and post-conflict situation, %

- Losing Job/Unemployment: 48%
- Getting sick: 24%
- Shortage of food: 13%
- Loss of livelihood source: 6%
- No concerns: 2%
- Disruption of educational institutions: 48%
- Shortage of medicine: 4%

Spontaneous arrivals
Hosting families
Food Basket and Market Analysis

The overall situation resulted in market price hikes for several food commodities.

The cost of the standard food basket has increased since February 2020 in Armenia. Price increases in Armenian markets reflect regional or global price hikes.

Armenia is highly dependent on food imports, so global price changes on essential goods, fuel, and transport resonate with Armenia's market prices.

Price hikes were also caused by significant fluctuations in the exchange rate of the Armenian dram.
Food Basket commodities’ national average cost during the last year (in AMD)

In the figure the price changes of commodities included in the food basket (FB) and additional key food commodities (non-FB) are presented.
In February-March 2021, 22 percent of hosting families and 15 percent of spontaneous arrivals were moderately and severely food insecure.

Two-thirds of both households of spontaneous arrivals and hosting families applied crisis and emergency coping strategies (68 and 65 percent respectively). This finding was alarming as the application of negative coping strategies could bring severe consequences in terms of future social-economic conditions of spontaneous arrivals and hosting families.

About the half of hosting families and spontaneous arrivals report having food stocks. However, 41 percent of spontaneous arrivals mentioned that it will last up to 14 days.

Assistance is shown to be an influencing factor for the food security level, as the level of food insecurity level is significantly higher among spontaneous arrivals who haven’t received assistance.
For further information

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