

## Quarter 1: Post Distribution Monitoring Report

January - March 2017

### HIGHLIGHTS

- In December 2016, off camp assistance increased to 100 TL per person; in January 2017, off camp assistance switched from e-vouchers to cash
- Food consumption in camps remains high; 94% of households have acceptable food consumption
- Off camp, acceptable food consumption dropped from 94% of households in Q4 2016 to 81% of households in Q1 2017
- Following the switch to unrestricted cash, focus group participants report spending the bulk of assistance on rent. This may contribute to the increase in food insecurity, compounded by particularly high rates of inflation.
- The use of crisis and emergency livelihood coping mechanisms dropped for off-camp households to the lowest point since the baseline
- Almost all households (98%) reported having no problems in redeeming the unrestricted cash assistance.
- In the majority of households both in and off-camp, women are involved in decision of how the assistance will be spent

### 1. Outputs

- Modality: Electronic Voucher (in-camp); Unrestricted cash (off-camp)
- Assistance Amount in-camps: 50 TL per person
- Assistance Amount off-camp: 100 TL per person\*


\*Off-camp assistance was increased to 100 TL in December, followed in January by a change in modality: from restricted voucher (for use at point of sale machines in contracted shops only) to unrestricted cash (to be withdrawn from Halkbank ATMs).<sup>1</sup>


Outputs	January	February	March
Beneficiaries Reached	353,030	349,917	342,668
Total Value of Assistance	\$7,184,272	\$7,363,212	\$7,546,147

<sup>1</sup> Correction: The Q4 2016 report stated that the modality change occurred in December; this actually took place in January 2017.

### 2. Methodology

The first quarter (Q1) Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) surveys were conducted using a random sample of beneficiary households receiving e-vouchers both in and off-camp in south east Turkey.

Data for off-camp beneficiaries was collected via telephone surveys. Off-camp beneficiaries were sampled across all five provinces where the project was implemented: Gaziantep, Sanliurfa, Hatay, Kilis and Kahramanmaras. A total of 329 phone surveys were included in analysis for the off-camp PDM. 

In-camps, trained WFP staff conducted the PDMs in face to face household interviews across 11 camps.<sup>2</sup> A total of 268 interviews were included in the Q1 2017 PDMs. 

<sup>2</sup> Adiyaman, Akcakale (Sanliurfa), Beydagi (Malatya), Cevdetiye (Osmaniye), Ceylanpinar (Sanliurfa), Harran (Sanliurfa), Islahiye (Gaziantep), Karkamis (Gaziantep), Kahramanmaras, Saricam (Adana), Viransehir (Sanliurfa)











### 3. Limitations

As noted in the Q4 PDM report, off-camp assistance was increased to 100 TL in December. This was followed in January by a change in modality from restricted voucher usable only in contracted shops, to unrestricted cash withdrawn from HalkBank ATMs. This change in assistance modality and in the amount (from 62 TL to 100 TL off-camp in December) is fully reflected in the Q1 data, making it not entirely comparable with previous quarters. As the modality and the transfer value changed at roughly the same time, it is not possible to identify the impact of each change; the two can only be examined together.

Assistance 2016					Assistance 2017
In Camp					
Assistance	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1 2017
Amount	50 TL WFP 35 TL AFAD	50 TL WFP 35 TL AFAD	50 TL WFP 35 TL AFAD <i>(increase to 50 TL in Sept.)</i>	50 TL WFP 50 TL AFAD	50 TL WFP 50 TL AFAD
Modality/ Frequency	Restricted e-voucher 4 uploads	Restricted e-voucher 4 uploads	Restricted e-voucher 4 uploads <i>(switch to 2 uploads in Sept.)</i>	Restricted e-voucher 2 uploads	Restricted e-voucher 2 uploads
Off Camp					
Assistance	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1 2017
Amount		50 TL WFP 585 TL UNICEF <i>(increase to 62 TL in June)</i>	62 TL	62 TL <i>(Increase to 100 TL in Dec.)</i>	100 TL
Modality		Restricted e-voucher from WFP Cash from UNICEF	Restricted e-voucher	E-voucher <i>(Switch to unrestricted e-voucher in Dec.)</i>	Unrestricted cash

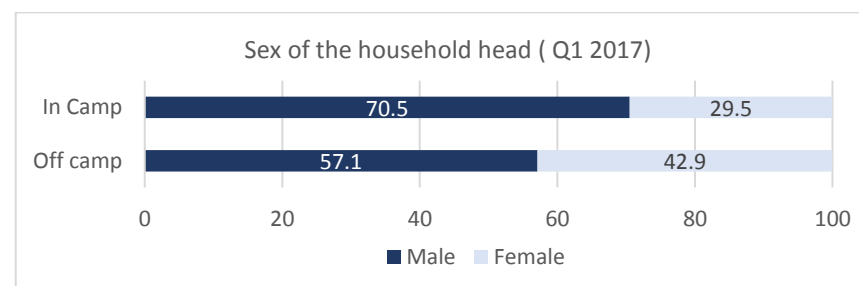
In the 2016 trend analysis, it is important to note that in 2016 Q2 off-camp beneficiaries received a one-off winterization unconditional cash transfer of 580 TL provided by UNICEF. Therefore Q2 results are also not entirely comparable with the other 2016 quarters.

Finally, regarding methodological limitations, in-camp data was collected face to face, as was the off-camp data for the baseline and Q2. However since Q3, off-camp data is collected by trained enumerators through phone. The difference between the two methodologies may have an impact on trend analysis, and on comparability of in-camp and off-camp results.

Data Collection Methodology					
	2016				2017
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1
In-camp					
Off-camp	 (PAB)				

### 4. Household Characteristics

The average number of members per household in and off-camp was 6. In both in-camp and off-camp, the majority of households are headed by men – 70.5% and 57.1% respectively.

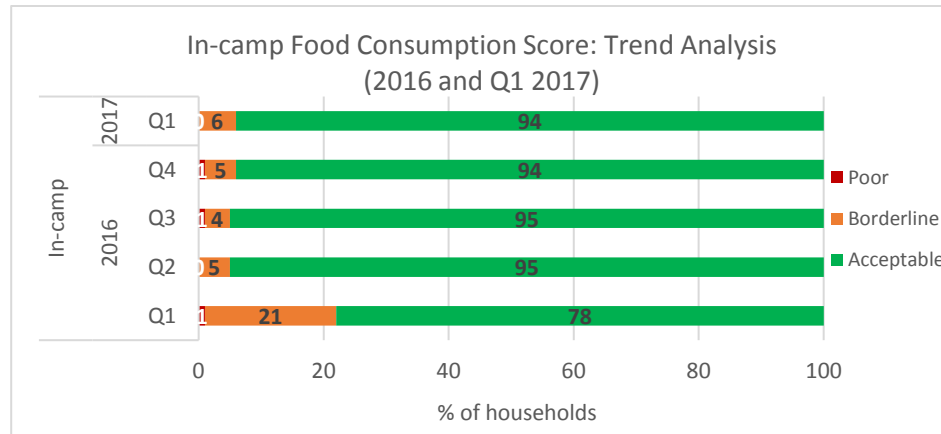


## 5. Outcomes

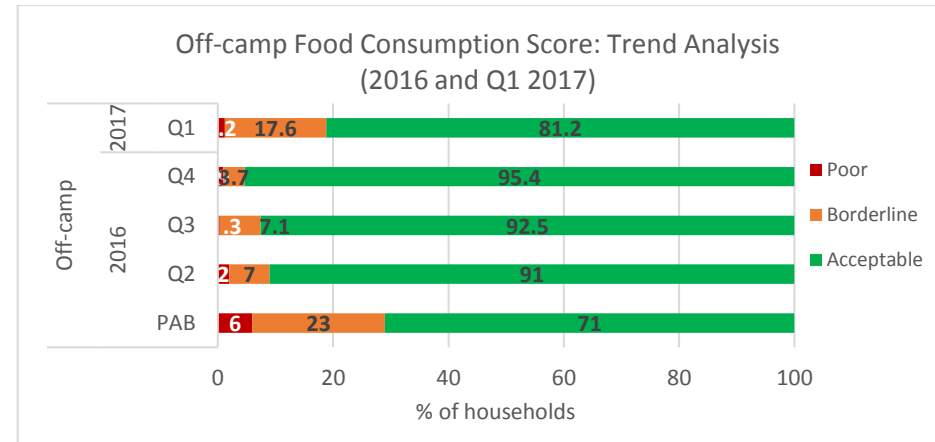
PDM surveys collected key WFP indicators related to food consumption, dietary diversity, consumption coping, livelihoods coping and expenditure patterns. The following section summarises the Q1 outcome data and presents trend analysis where possible or relevant.

### 5.1 Food Consumption Score

Since Q1 2016, in-camp food consumption has stabilised and the improvements have remained, with 94% of households having an acceptable consumption in Q1 and only 6% of households classified as having borderline consumption.

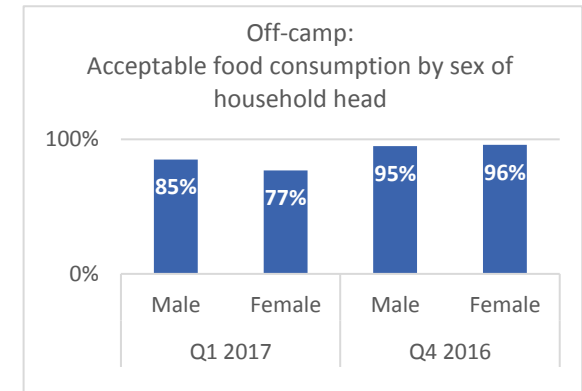


Off-camp food consumption has deteriorated, with 81% of households having acceptable food consumption in early 2017, against 95% in Q4 2016. The proportion of households with poor and borderline food consumption increased to reach 17.8% - a significant increase in comparison to only 3.7% in Q4 2016.



When disaggregated by the sex of the household head, in-camps 96% of female-headed households had acceptable food consumption, slightly higher than male headed households at 93%.

However off-camp, where there is an overall decrease in acceptable food consumption, the differences are more stark: 77% of female-headed households had acceptable food consumption, almost 20% less than in Q4 2016 data. For male-headed households, the data shows a 9% decrease (from 95% in Q4 to 85% in Q1).



This analysis demonstrates a significant decrease in food consumption scores in Q1 2017, disproportionately affecting female headed households. Results of focus group discussions, which were held just after the PDM data was collected, indicate that following the modality switch, beneficiaries spend the bulk of cash assistance on rent. This basic needs approach allows them to spend according to their priorities, and paying rent is consistently reported as top priority. With rent covered by assistance, they report

using their own income to cover food costs. Unfortunately, during this period, food prices increased sharply.

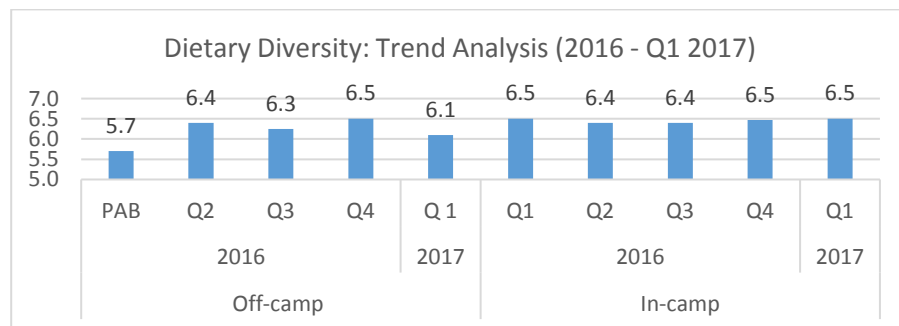
During Q1 2017, data from the Turkish Statistical Institute showed very high levels of inflation; in March 2017 Turkey's annual inflation rate reached a nine year high of 11.29%. Food prices were the main driver of this inflation. WFP VAM analysis demonstrated that the Minimum Expenditure Basket increased significantly during this period, with the highest increase in the south east, in Hatay-Kahramanmaras-Osmaniye region.

As such, off-camp beneficiaries were subject to rapidly increasing prices of food and other basic items during Q1, which may cause the decrease in average food consumption scores. For further interpretation and analysis, please refer to section 7 of the report.

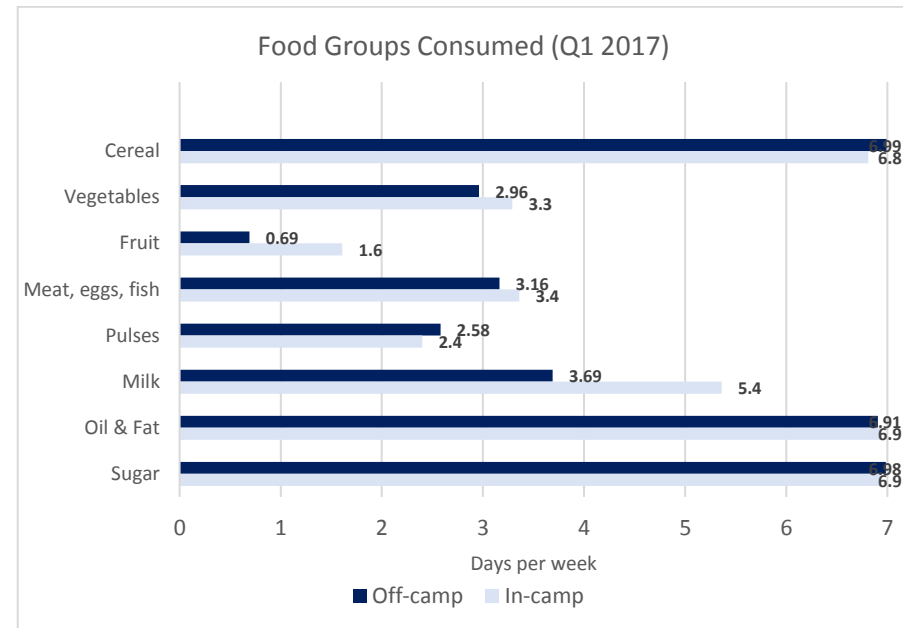
## 5.2 Dietary Diversity

A dietary diversity score is constructed for a household through a simple sum of the food groups consumed at least once per week, ranging from zero to seven.

The trend analysis demonstrates that household dietary diversity was almost the same for in and off-camp households, with slight decrease from Q4 for off-camp households. Overall, the data demonstrates that in and off-camp households have very high dietary diversity, with an average of 6.3 of 7 food groups consumed per week.



When looking at the food groups consumed in Q1, we can see that with the exception of dairy products, off and in-camp households had very similar consumption patterns, including daily consumption of cereals, oil, sugar and condiments, and regular consumption of vegetables, meat/eggs and pulses. The consumption of fruit is low for both groups, which may be linked to seasonal or cultural factors.

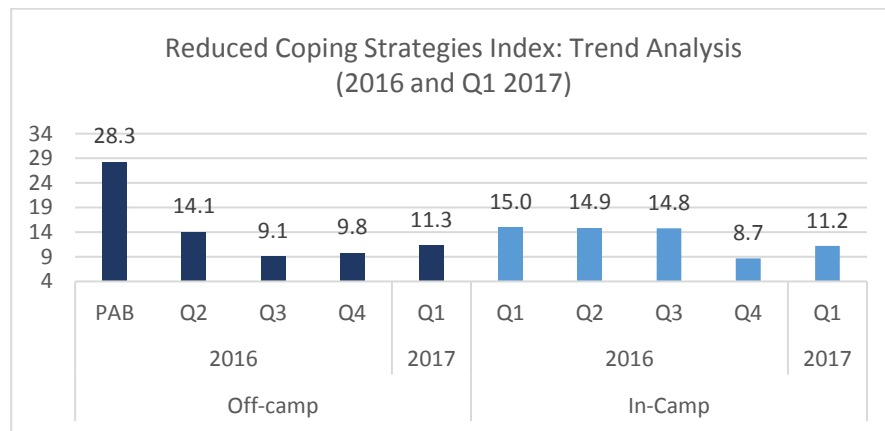


However, for off-camp households, the trend analysis demonstrates a decrease in the consumption of vegetables, fruit, eggs/meat and dairy products. The decrease in dairy consumption is the most significant, from 5.3 days in Q4 2016 to only 3.7 days in Q1 2017. As dairy weighs heavily within the FCS measurement, this is likely driving the decrease in acceptable FCS noted above (81% in Q1 2017 versus 95% in Q4 2016).

### 5.3 Consumption Coping Strategies

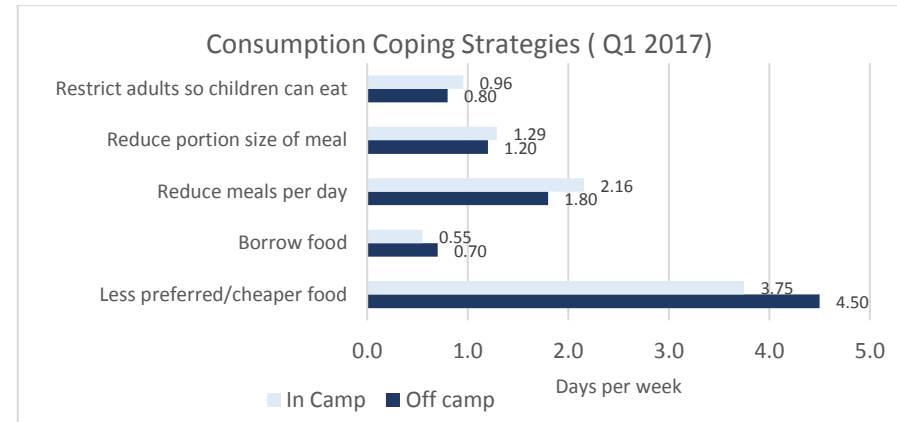
The reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) measures the frequency and severity of five consumption coping strategies. A lower rCSI score indicates a household that is able to better meet its food needs without changing patterns in daily food consumption.

The average rCSI for both off-camp and in-camp beneficiary households showed an increase from Q4 2016, indicating more frequent use of consumption coping strategies.



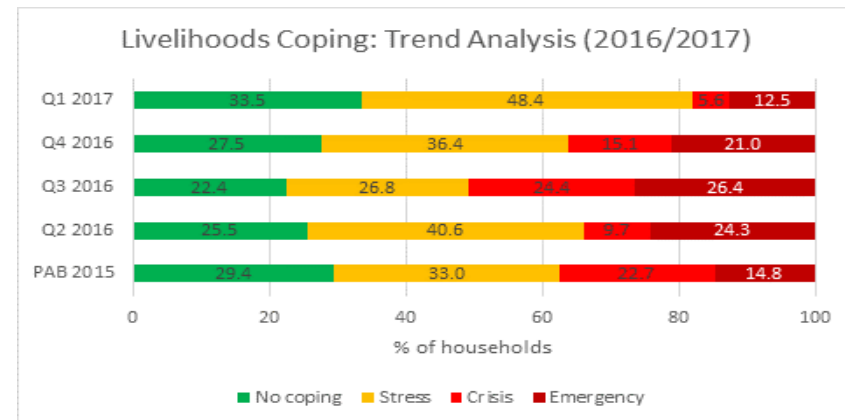
In examining the specific coping strategies used, it is clear that for both in and off-camp households, reliance on less preferred or less expensive foods is the most commonly used. Reducing the number of meals per day is the next most frequently used, reportedly employed around 1.5 to 2 days per week. For off-camp households, this data aligns with the decreases in food consumption score, as noted above.

Overall these indicators show that households were forced to use more coping strategies in order to eat a less diverse diet in Q1 2016. As noted above, for the off-camp households, this is likely due to a change in spending habits (cash assistance spent primarily on rent) at the same time as rapidly increasing food prices.

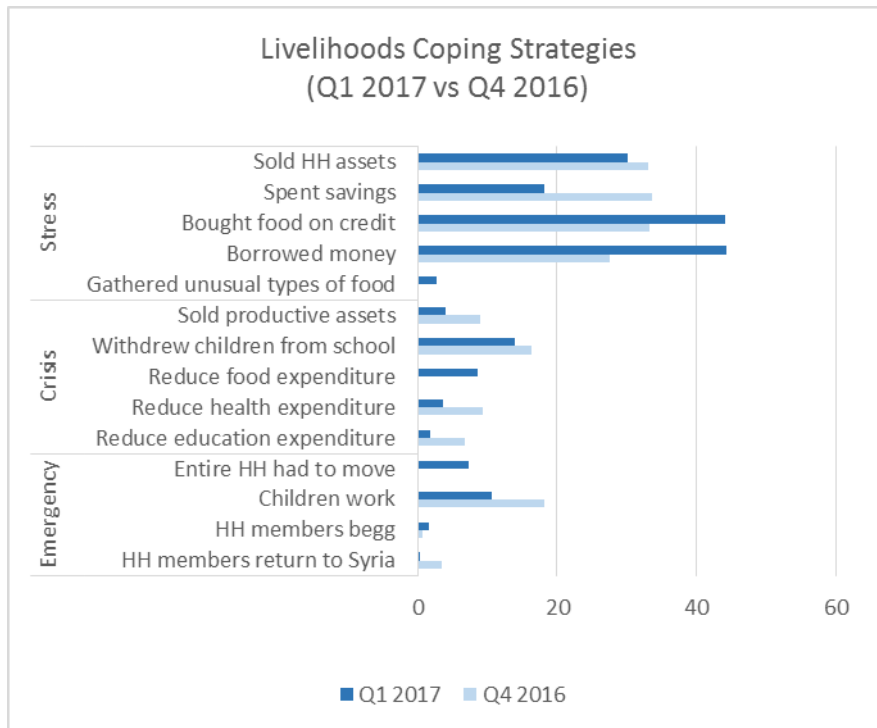


### 5.4 Livelihoods Coping Strategies

The Q1 PDM shows an overall decrease in the use of livelihoods coping strategies, with 34% of off-camp households reporting no use of any strategies, increased from only 28% in the previous quarter. The data also shows a promising decrease in those engaging in crisis and emergency coping strategies, showing the lowest level reached to date.

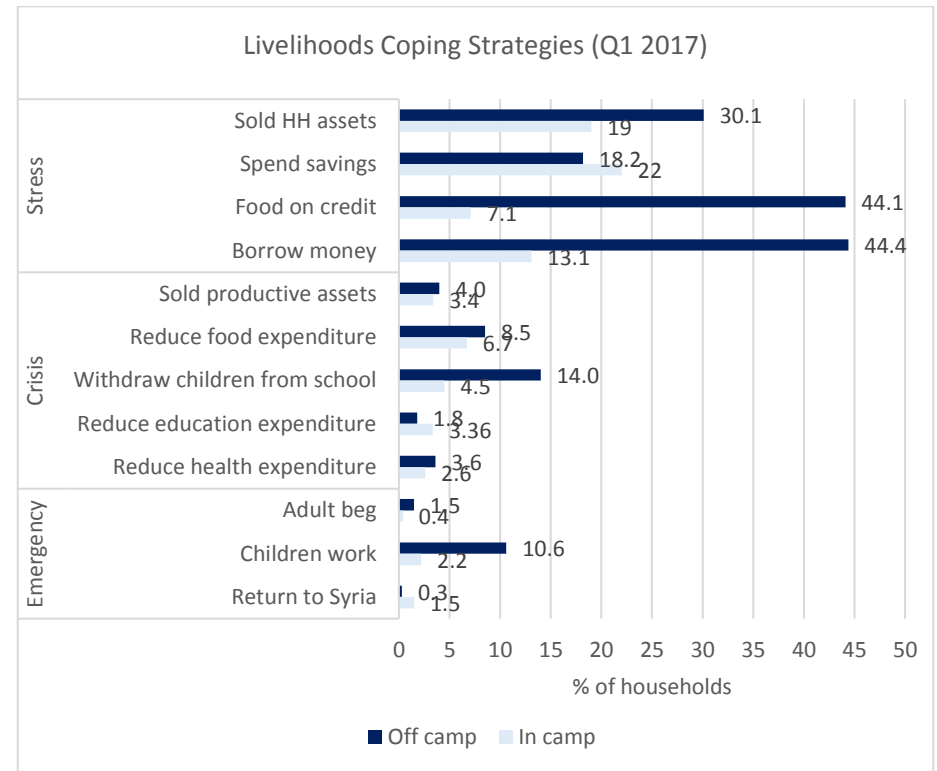


In examining the details of these strategies, it seems likely that these positive changes are linked to the switch from e-vouchers to unrestricted cash. The data shows a decrease in the reliance on more serious strategies that were used to obtain cash, such as sending children to work, reducing health expenditure, reducing education expenditure and selling productive assets. However it shows higher use of strategies used to obtain food, such as buying food on credit. As assistance transitioned to unrestricted cash, qualitative data indicates that households spent the cash on rent, and were then left adapting behaviour in order to obtain food. Refer to section 7 for more analysis on these changes.



Finally, in comparing in-camp and off-camp use of coping strategies, it is clear that off-camp households were forced to use more negative coping strategies. This is likely because while in-camp households receive 100 TL per month (50 TL from WFP/TRC and 50 TL from AFAD), this is in addition to provision of health and

education services, and these families do not pay rent. This is in contrast to off-camp households who receive the same assistance value but must pay for rent and most other services. As a result, in Q1 2017, child related coping strategies are more in use off-camp than in-camp, with 14% of off-camp households who reported having withdrawn their children from school, versus only 4.5% of those in-camps. Similarly, 10% of off-camp households sent their children to work, versus only 2.2% of those in-camps.



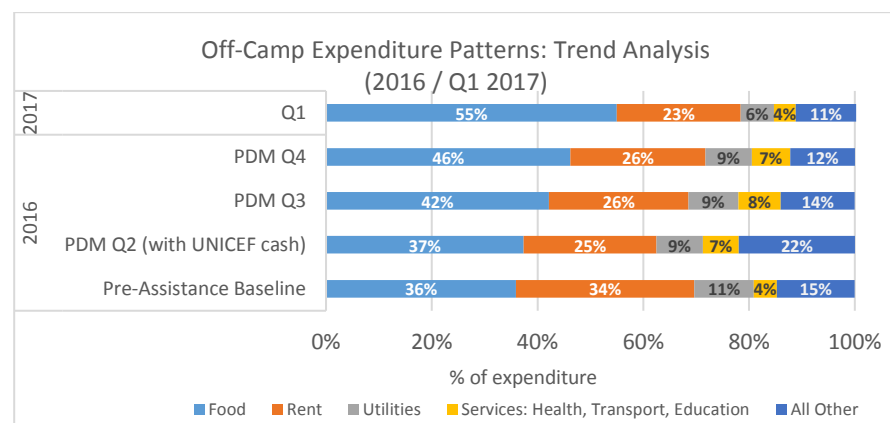
It should be noted that this measurement includes two responses - "yes, I did this in the past 30 days" and "no, because I already exhausted this strategy, so I cannot continue to do it." The latter is included as it is essentially a yes response, but with a different recall period; inclusion of this response option ensures that households

spent their savings two months ago, for example, do not look better off than those who spent their savings two weeks ago. In this case, of the 30% who reported selling household assets, 22% were those who had previously exhausted the strategy, while only 8% sold assets in the past 30 days. The data shows that spending savings is not an ongoing strategy; the 18% who mentioned this were almost all reporting the “no, because I already exhausted this strategy” option. However, buying food on credit and borrowing money are both strategies in current use, with almost all of the 44% households reporting a ‘yes, in the past 30 days’ option.

### 5.5 Economic Vulnerability

The PDM surveys collect detailed expenditure data from all households. Analysis of expenditure patterns allows insight into economic vulnerability, an underlying factor of food insecurity, particularly in urban contexts.

The trend analysis demonstrates that households are spending nearly 80% of their total expenditure on only food and rent. This leaves very limited cash available for other needs, including important services such as health and education.



Debt serves as another key indicator of economic vulnerability. 65% of off-camp households reported incurring debt in the past three months in order to cover their basic needs. In Q4 2016, 62% of households reported incurring new debt, while in

Q3 it was 70% of households. The median amount of debt owed per household is 400 TL.

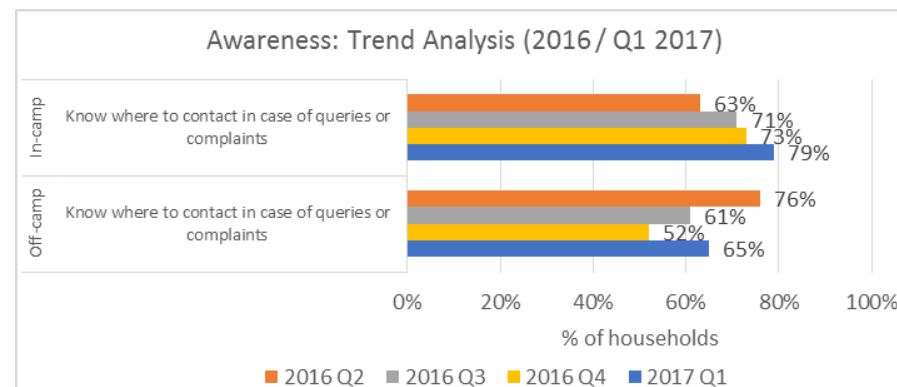
## 6. Process Indicators

The PDM surveys collected a variety of indicators linked to the assistance process, beneficiary perceptions and awareness, in addition to protection related indicators. These key indicators are summarised below.

### 6.1 Awareness and Sensitization

- Beneficiary awareness of feedback and complaints mechanisms:

In Q1, 65% of the off-camp households knew how to contact WFP/TRC to seek information or to complain. This is a 13% increase in comparison to Q4 2016 (52%). In camps, 79.5% reported awareness of feedback mechanisms, showing ongoing improvement against Q4 (73%) and Q3 (71%) results.

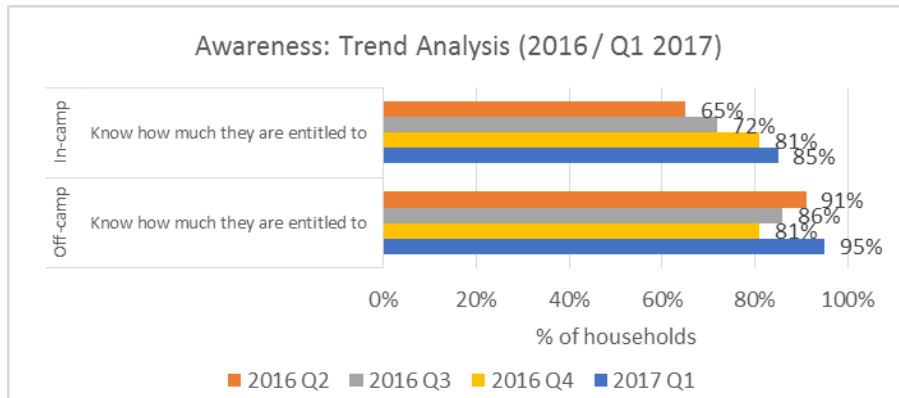


- Sensitization and information provision:

In camps, the proportion of households who reported having been told how much assistance they were entitled to receive increased to 85% in Q1 2017, from 81% in Q4 2016.

For the off-camp households, this proportion was 95%, representing a noticeable increase in comparison with 2016 (Q4 2016 81%). This increase may be attributed

to the effectiveness of the communication carried by WFP/TRC to accompany the change of the assistance amount and modality.



## 6.2 Safety and Protection

In Q1, only 1.2% (four households) of off-camp households reported any safety or protection concerns, against 3.7% in Q4 2016. These complaints were all associated with crowding at the ATMs. In-camps, only three households, 1.1%, reported experiencing concerns, relating to crowding or attitude issues from staff in the contracted shops.

## 6.3 Utilization of Assistance

- *Unrestricted cash redemption issues:*

For off-camp households, 98% of interviewed households indicated having no issues related to redeeming the e-voucher (95% in Q4 2016 and 86% in Q3 2016). The 2% mainly mentioned issues relating to the ATM use (long wait at the ATM, card swallowed by ATM, and travelling long distance to find an ATM).

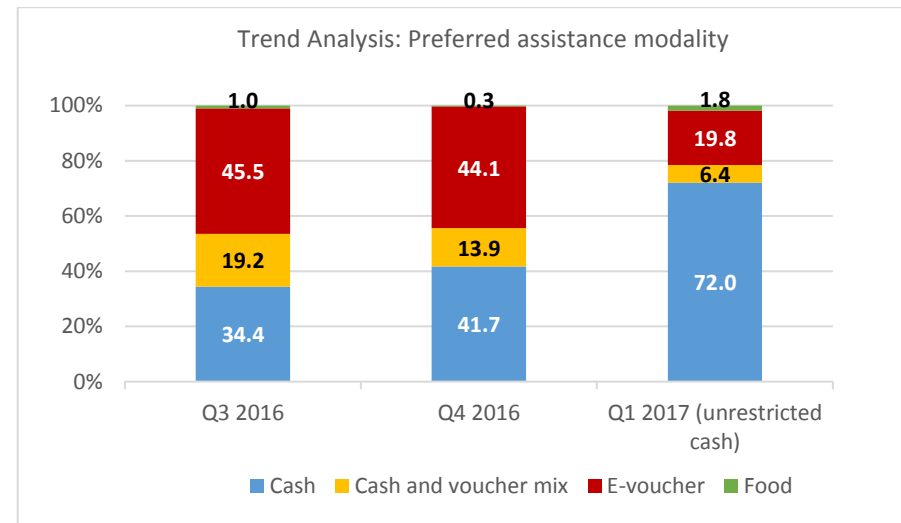
- *Decision Making:*

For the majority of households both in and off camps, women are widely involved in the decision making process over the use of the assistance provided (86% in-camp

and 80% off-camp). Off camps, the proportion of households where both women and men are making decisions jointly increased significantly in Q1, 37% (against 13% in Q4 2016 and 9% in Q3 2016). Furthermore, as in Q1, only one off-camp household indicated that the assistance provided caused a disagreement within the household.

- *Assistance preference:*

In previous quarters, when off-camp beneficiaries were receiving restricted vouchers, the majority of beneficiaries expressed a preference for the voucher modality of assistance. In Q1 2017, after receiving unrestricted cash transfers, the data shows a clear shift in preference toward cash.



The analysis shows a significant difference in preference based on the sex of the respondent, with 81% of male interviewees preferring cash, versus 60% of females preferring cash.



## 7. Programme Implications

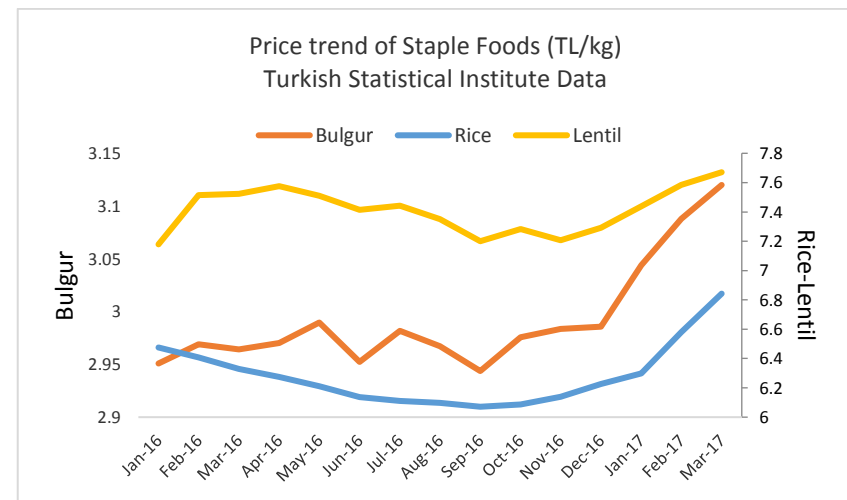
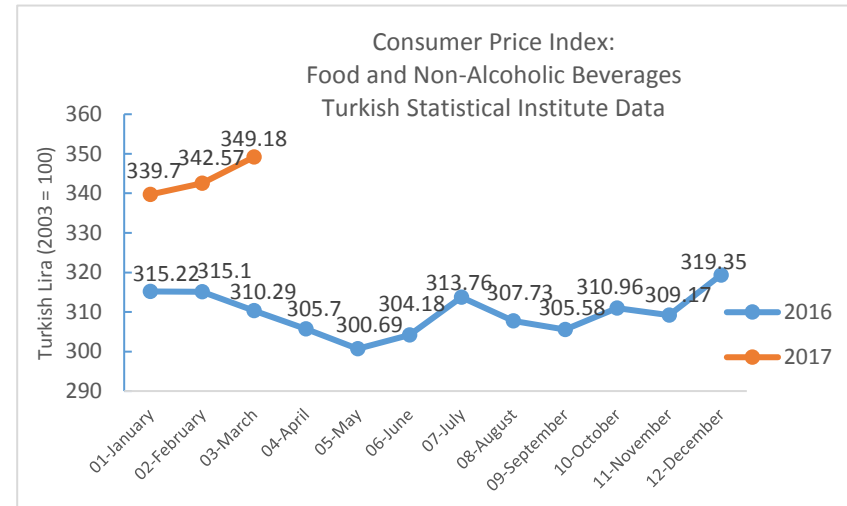
Similar to previous quarters, the food consumption results are strong in camps, demonstrating that almost all households have acceptable food consumption and diverse diets. There has been a significant improvement since the baseline/Q1 2016, which has been maintained, likely through ongoing and increasing assistance. However, while in-camp household food consumption, dietary diversity and coping strategies are stable, the data shows that the off camp households are struggling to meet their needs, particularly related to food.

Following the increase in the amount of assistance received, and the change in modality to cash, an improvement was anticipated in Q1 2017. The results indicate that the increase in assistance came at a key moment, helping to combat a sharp increase in inflation. However, this increase was insufficient to prevent an increase in food insecurity.

This can be explained by the following factors:

- **Switch from e-voucher to cash:** As beneficiary households were previously receiving vouchers, they were obliged to spend the entire amount of assistance on food. As such, food related outcomes (such as the FCS and rCSI) were positive, but many households were forced to engage in negative coping strategies to obtain cash for other needs. By switching to unrestricted cash assistance, the beneficiaries were no longer forced to spend the assistance on food. With the new flexibility, spending patterns shifted. In multiple focus groups, beneficiaries indicated that the unrestricted cash assistance allowed them to tackle other priorities, with rent listed as top priority. During these discussions, households also indicated that cheaper food and smaller meals were their first options when faced with financial difficulties; they would prefer to eat a smaller quantity, or less preferred food for a while, than be unable to pay rent.
- **Inflation:** Almost all households consumed cereals on a daily basis. Secondary analysis of Turkish Statistical Institute data demonstrated significant increases in the price of basic food items during Q1 2017. The graphs below demonstrate the sharp Q1 increases in the price of bulgur,

rice and lentils, at 4.5%, 9.9% and 5.2% respectively. The steep inflation is also shown in the food and non-alcoholic beverage component of the national Consumer Price Index, which demonstrated an increase of almost 5% in the first quarter alone, and an annual inflation rate of 12.53%.



The food inflation during this period offsets the positive impact of the increased assistance amount. With the increased flexibility allowed by cash assistance, in combination with the high inflation, food related outcomes worsened; the data demonstrates lower FCS and higher use of consumption coping.

Supporting this, the data shows lower use of many coping strategies which were previously used to obtain cash, such as reducing other expenditure, selling productive assets, and sending children to work. However it shows higher use of buying food on credit; as the cash assistance was mostly spent on rent, and food prices increased, households were forced to use coping strategies to obtain food.

Therefore, in aggregate, the Q1 2017 data shows that as the programme shifts to a basic needs approach, beneficiaries are able to spend assistance according to their priorities. The PDM form does not allow for capturing of qualitative measures which

could be relevant here, such as sense of economic security, or perceptions of stability. So while some food-specific indicators may look worse in Q1, the ability to pay rent on time may provide significant benefits to the household that are not captured here.

Despite this, the overall results off-camp indicate that faced with increasing prices, the current assistance is not sufficient; an increase in the assistance amount is required in order to allow the households to meet their basic needs without resorting to negative coping mechanisms. These findings are in line with ongoing discussions to increase the assistance provided through the Emergency Social Safety Net programme.

#### For More Information



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