

Palestine Poverty Monitor

PPM

March-DECEMBER 2006



Near East Consulting

Introduction

-) NEC monitors the poverty situation on a monthly basis;
-) The Poverty Monitor is based on phone surveys with Palestinian over the age of 18;
-) NEC's poverty profile is based according to a number of independent variables;
-) The results are examined over time to see how the poverty level is changing and whether it is becoming prolonged;
-) The monthly monitor of the poverty situation may help in projecting how the situation will evolve in the short near future;
-) Hopefully, the changes and the trends in the poverty level will help address and evaluate the various policy interventions carried out by policy makers and various assistance providers and other stakeholders in addition to the impact of the Israeli measures and other political developments on the evolution and/or management of the poverty conditions;
-) The poverty monitor, in addition to the other issues that NEC is also monitoring (political, security, social, economic, peace, PLC, party, international organizations, and media issues) will also help in providing indicators as to how the situation is evolving and what types of interventions need to be examined, what are the priorities of the various sectors of society, and how to deal with the limited resources that Palestinians have;
-) The results will be posted on-line to enable users tailor their own analysis according to a number of explanatory (independent) variables;
-) The monthly surveys, polls, and analysis of NEC are INDEPENDENT and are not sponsored or funded by any internal or external source but from the private funds of the company.



Methodology

-) The poverty is constructed according to the household income and household structure as reported by the respondents.
-) Below poverty is based on around 2000NIS per month for a family of 2 adults and 4 children; and the hardship cases is based on approximately 1000 NIS for a similar household;
-) NEC also examines subjective poverty and coping strategies once every three months to provide more explanations as to how the trend is moving.
-) In addition, NEC is in the process of monitoring household health (already started monitoring the stress and depression prevalence among Palestinian adults) so will be the impact of the role of women as heads of the household, impact of education, and other issues of pertinence to Palestinian developmental efforts.
-) The information on poverty will be analysed according to a number of explaining variables: Region and place of residence, education, age, gender, political affiliation, employment, refugee status, assistance, etc.



The independent variables

The explaining variables

It is the hope of Near East Consulting to explain the evolution of poverty according to a number of variables, including some of the following:

-) Gender
-) Age
-) Education
-) Employment
-) Type of employment
-) Sector of employment
-) Refugee status
-) Factional trust
-) Assistance received
-) Area of residence
-) Place of residence
-) Number of dependents
-) Number of breadwinners
-) Household health/disabilities
-) Income sources

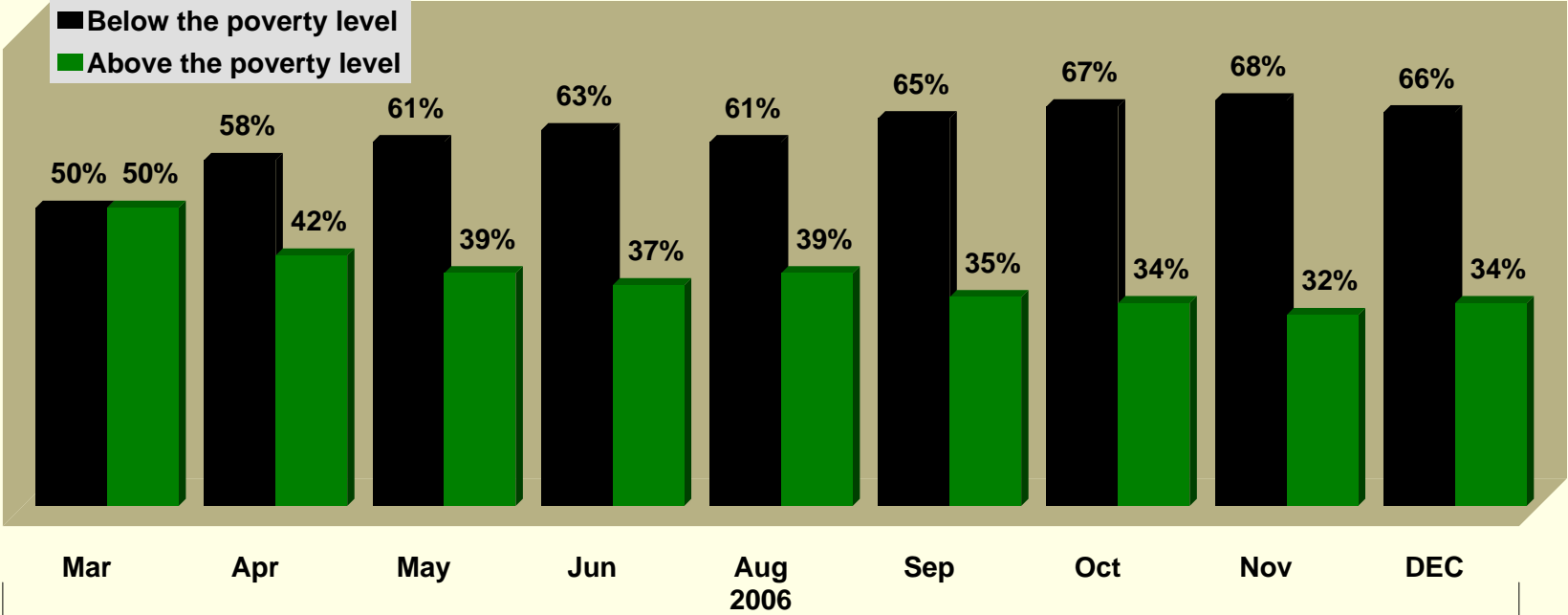


Poverty conditions

- 6 Evolution of poverty
- 6 Evolution of poverty (inc. hardship cases)
- 6 Evolution of extreme poverty (hardship cases)
- 6 Evolution of poverty according to refugee status
- 6 Poverty according to refugee status
- 6 Evolution of poverty according to region of residence
- 6 The poverty rate according to region of residence (inc. hardship cases)
- 6 The poverty rate according to region of residence
- 6 Evolution of extreme poverty according to region
- 6 Evolution of poverty according to area of residence
- 6 Evolution of extreme poverty according to area of residence
- 6 Poverty according to age groups
- 6 Evolution of extreme poverty according to age distribution
- 6 Poverty according to employment status
- 6 Poverty according to the educational level
- 6 Evolution of poverty according to faction
- 6 Evolution of extreme poverty according to faction

Evolution of poverty

March-December 2006



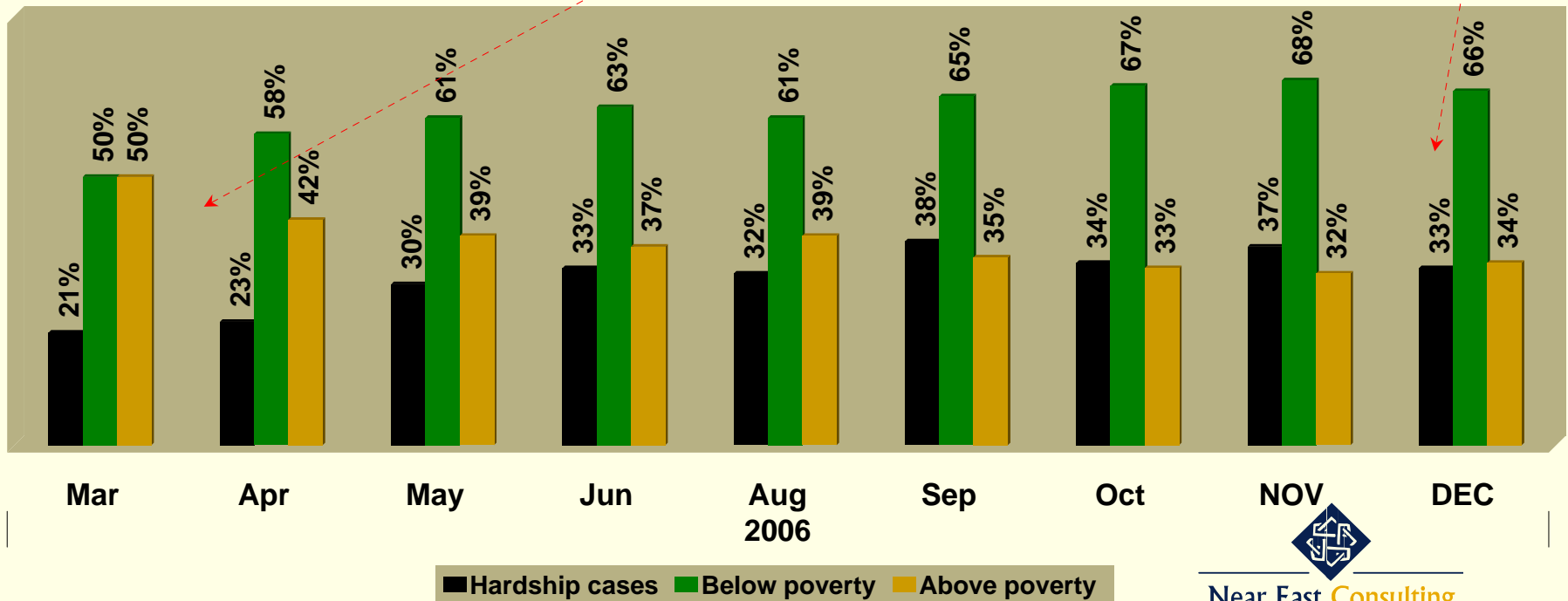
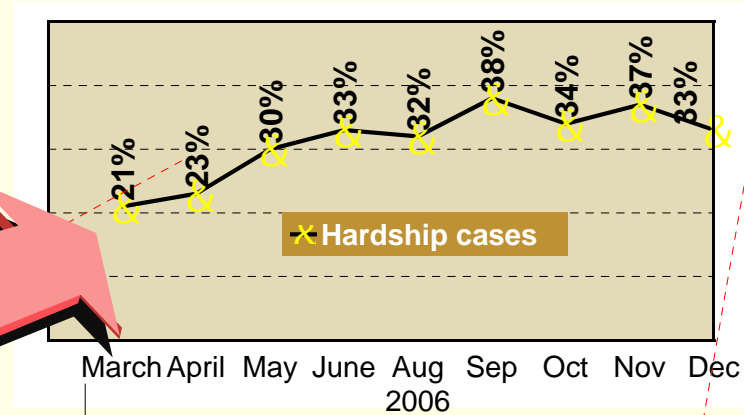
The percentage of households who are below the poverty line in the oPt has been dramatic and continues to increase each month. In the previous eight months it has increased from 50% in March 2006 to 66% in December 2006, decreasing only 2% from where it stood in November 2006 at 68%.



Evolution of Poverty

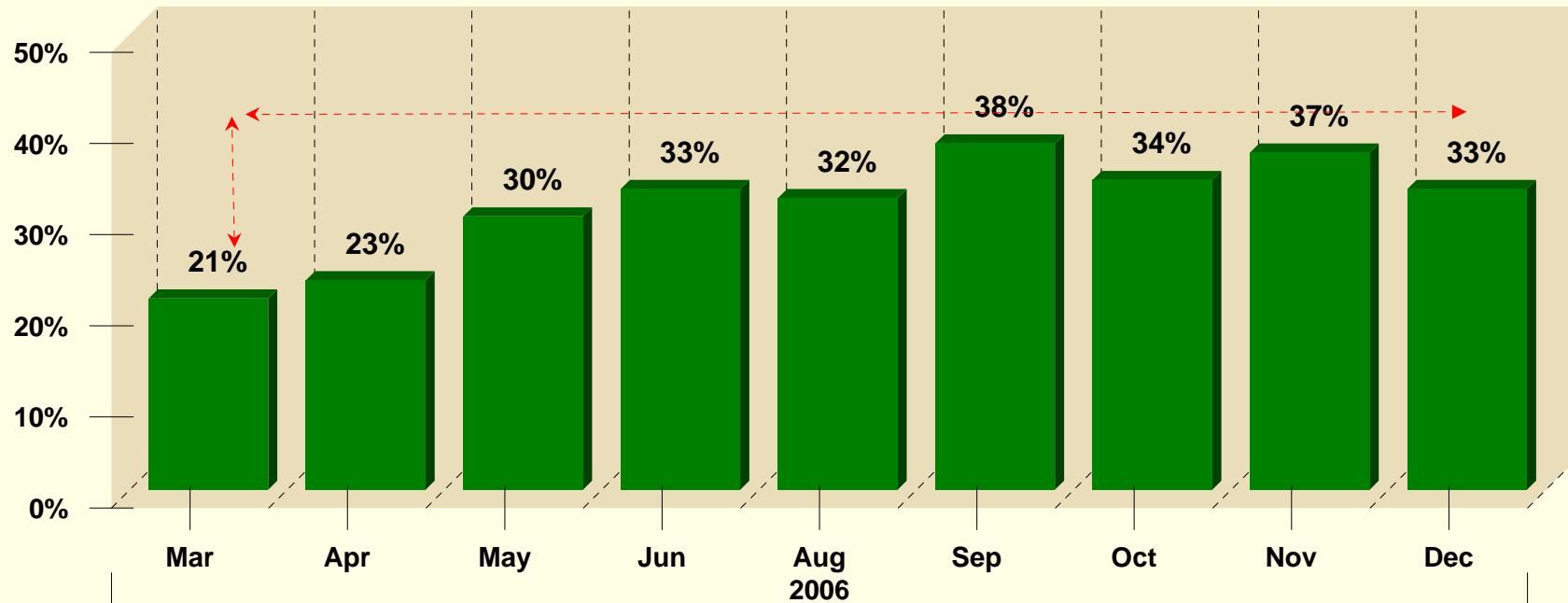
March-November 2006

The increase in poverty has been increasing on a monthly basis, especially in the category of hardship cases (extreme poverty), an increase from 21% in March to 33% by December 2006.



Evolution of extreme poverty (hardship cases)

March-December 2006



A 12% increase in the number of hardship cases in a period of eight months

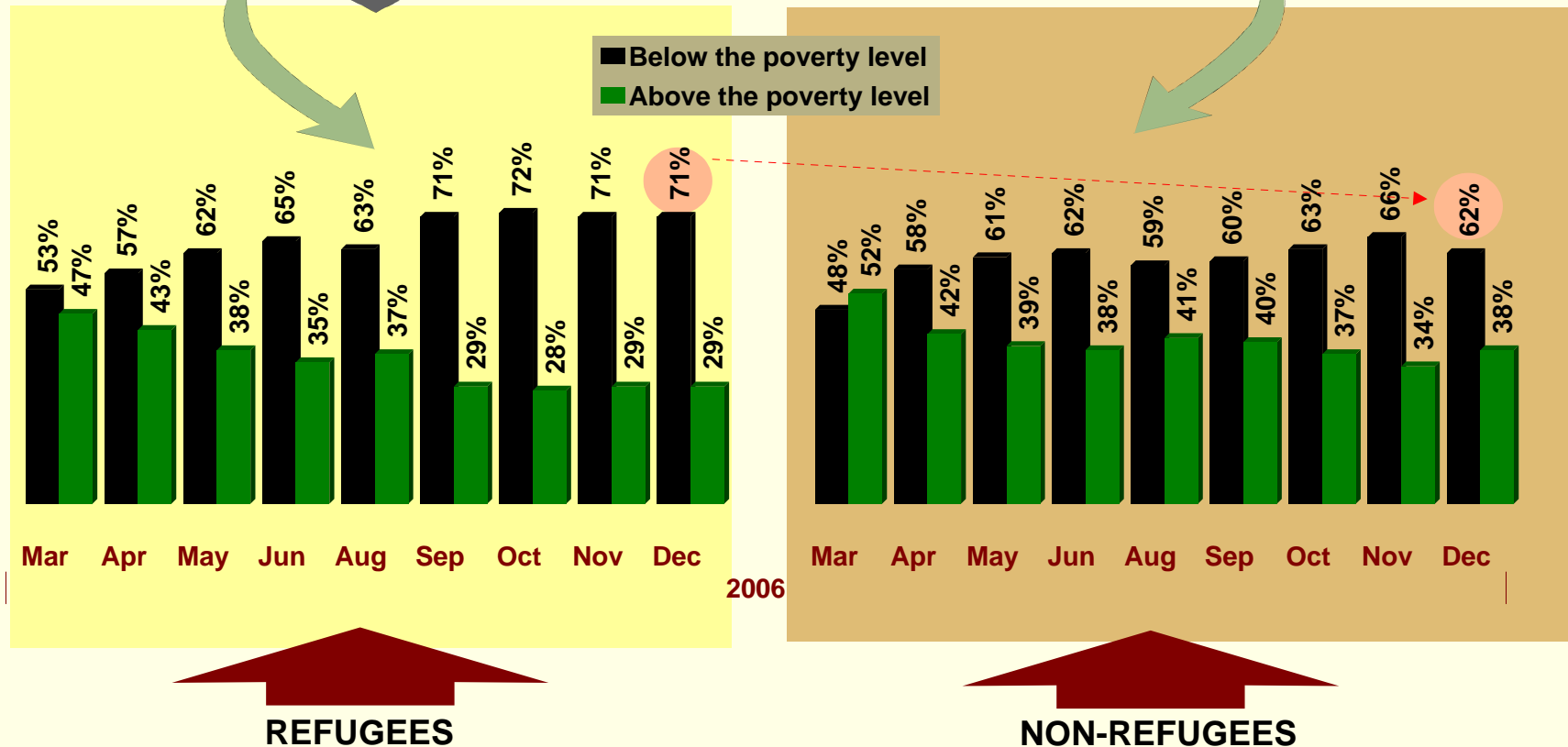


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Evolution of poverty according to refugee status

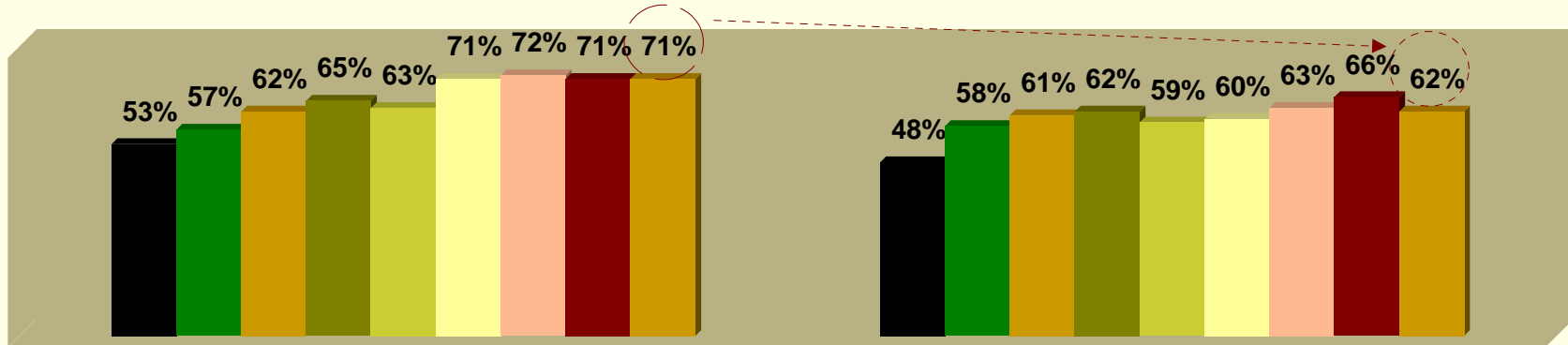
March- Dec 2006

Increase in poverty did not discriminate between Palestinians of refugee origin and non-refugees



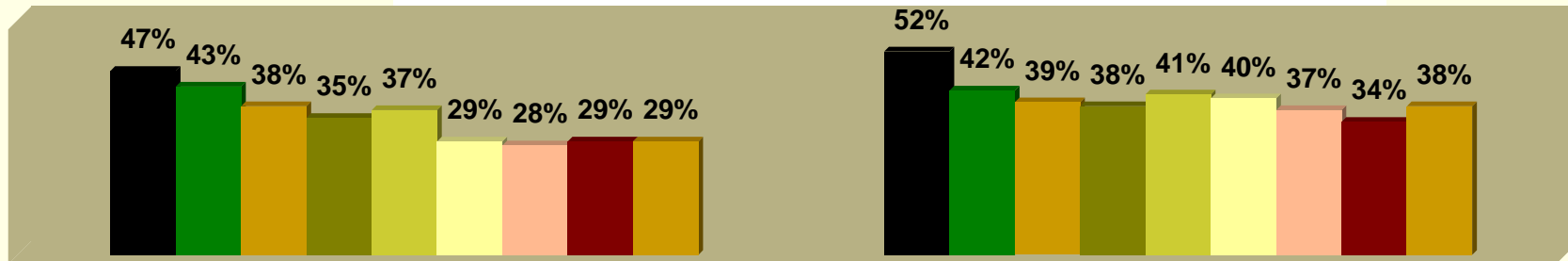
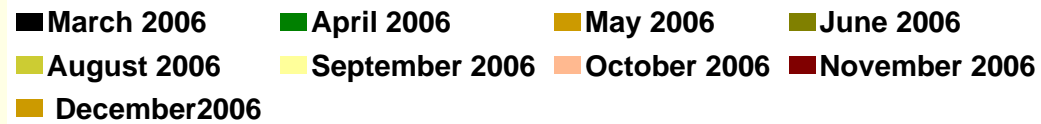
Poverty according to refugee status

March-December 2006



Refugees below the poverty level

Non-refugees below the poverty level

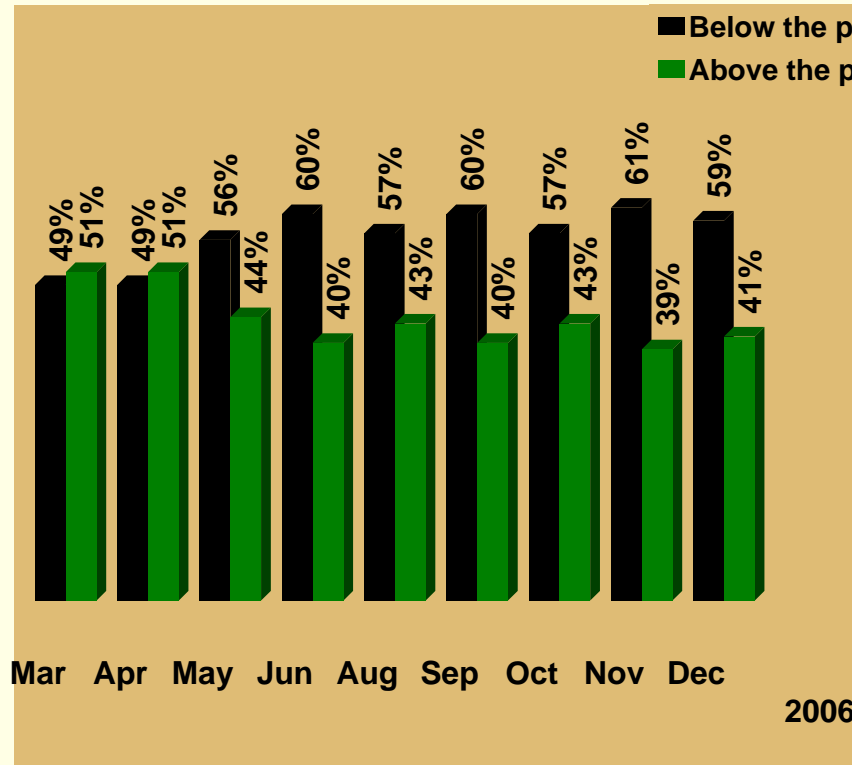


Refugees above the poverty level

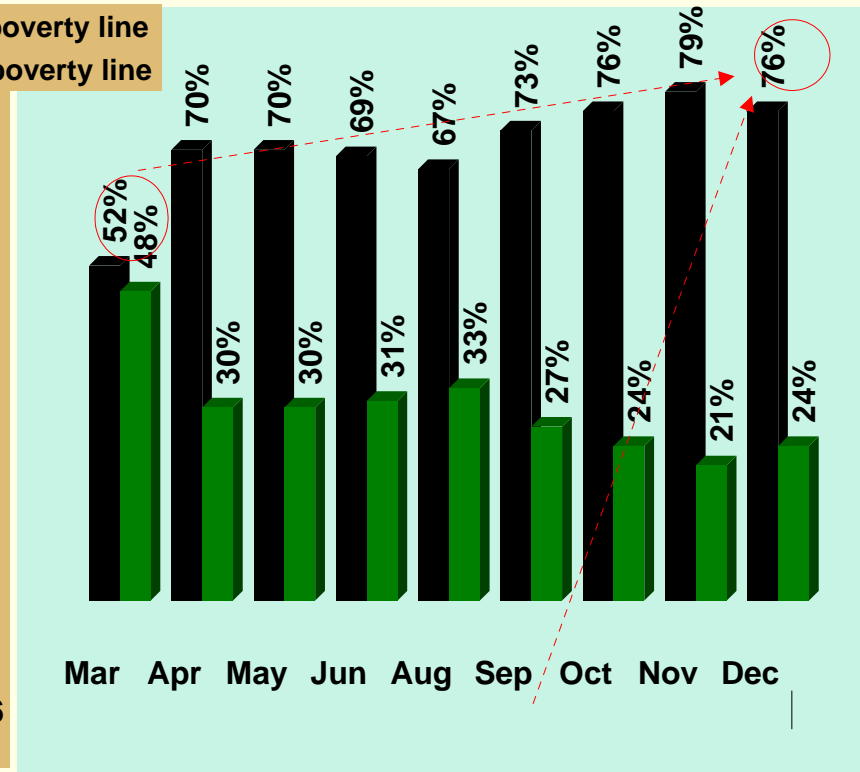
Non-refugees above the poverty level



Evolution of poverty according to region of residence March-December 2006



WEST BANK



GAZA STRIP

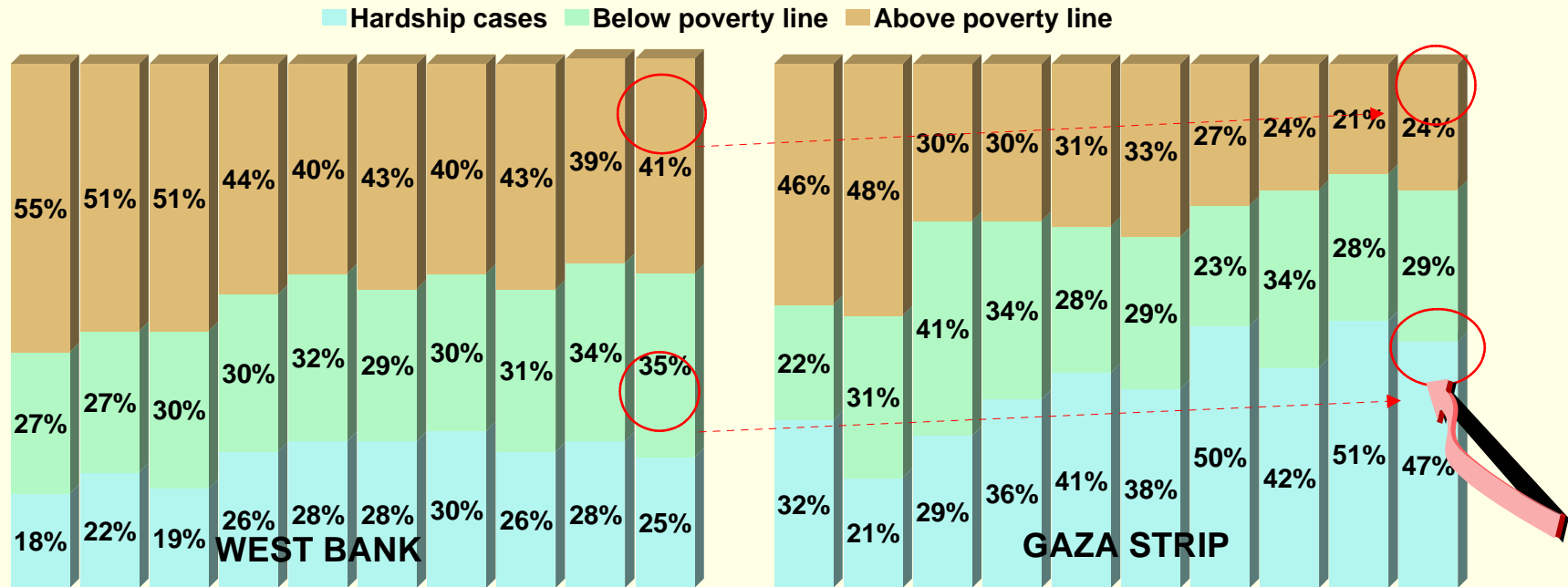
Despite the Israeli 'withdrawal' and the Agreement on Movement and Access, the economic situation is deteriorating rapidly in the Gaza Strip. The main period of deterioration was after the collapse of the Agreement on Access and Movement in March 2006 and the change in the control of the PA institutions



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The poverty rate according to region of residence

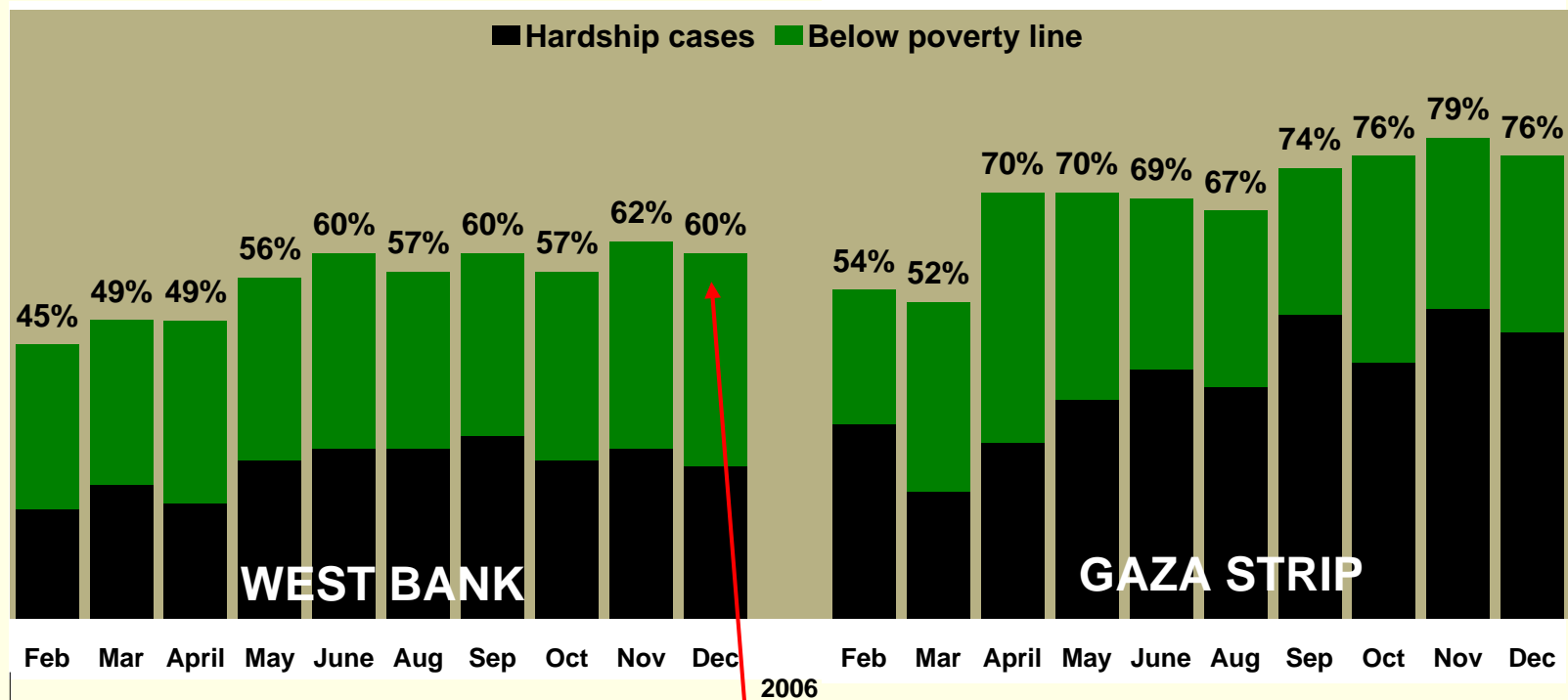
March-December 2006



Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec
 Proportion of those living below poverty level in the West Bank and Gaza Strip
 Almost half the households in Gaza live under extreme poverty conditions



The poverty rate according to region of residence March-December 2006



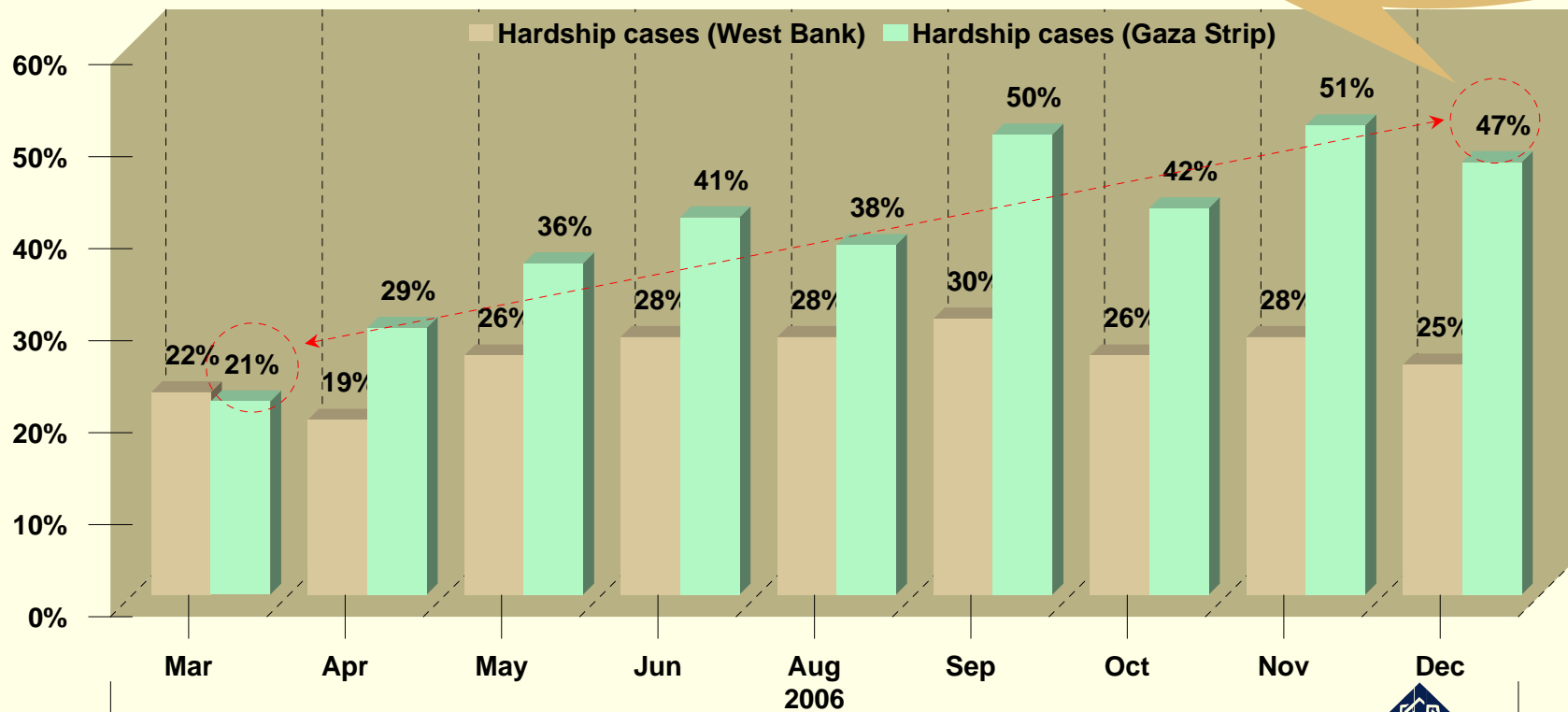
Both together comprise the "below the poverty line" category



Evolution of extreme poverty according to region

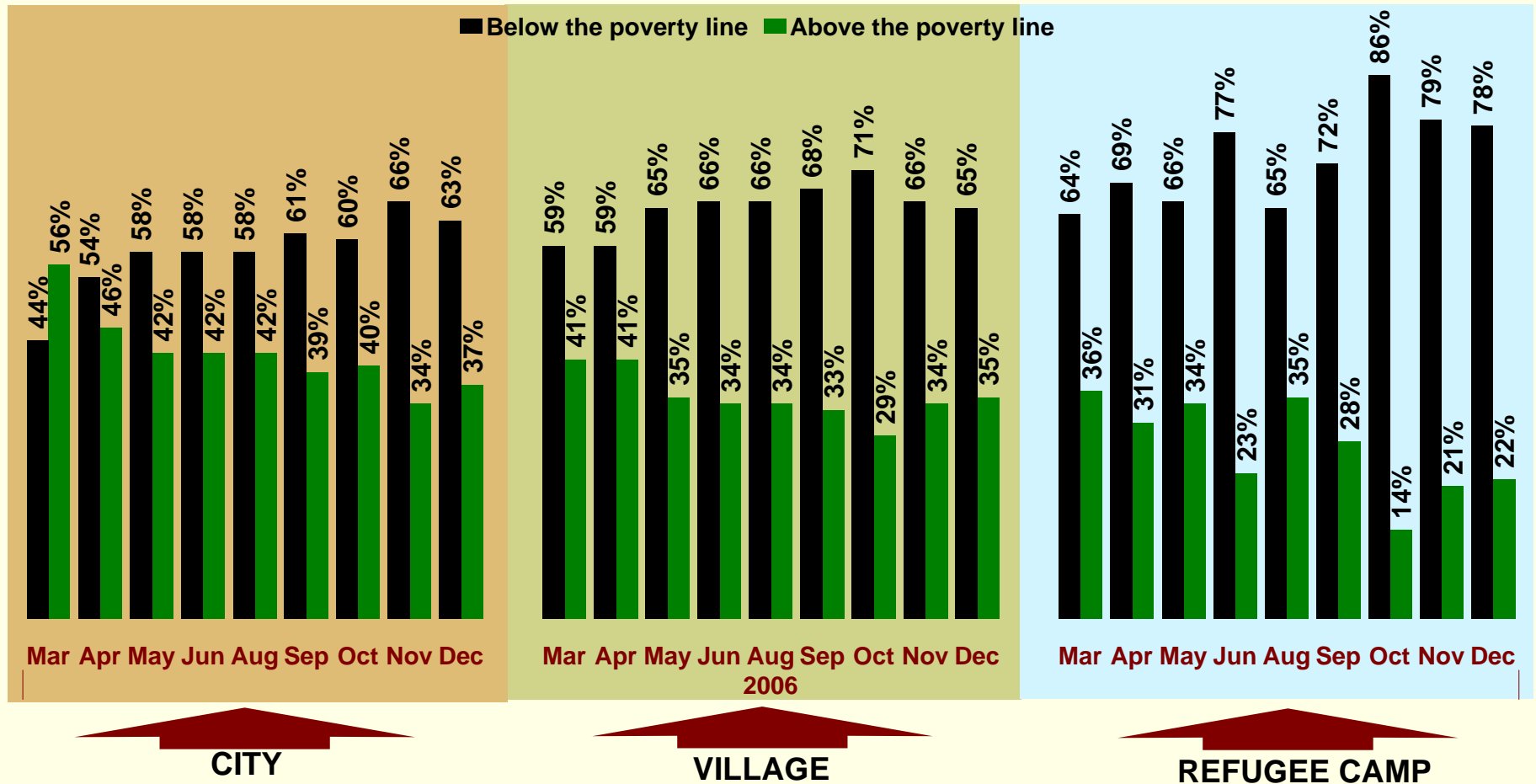
March-December 2006

The number of households that are determined as falling in hardship cases category has more than doubled in the Gaza Strip since March 2006



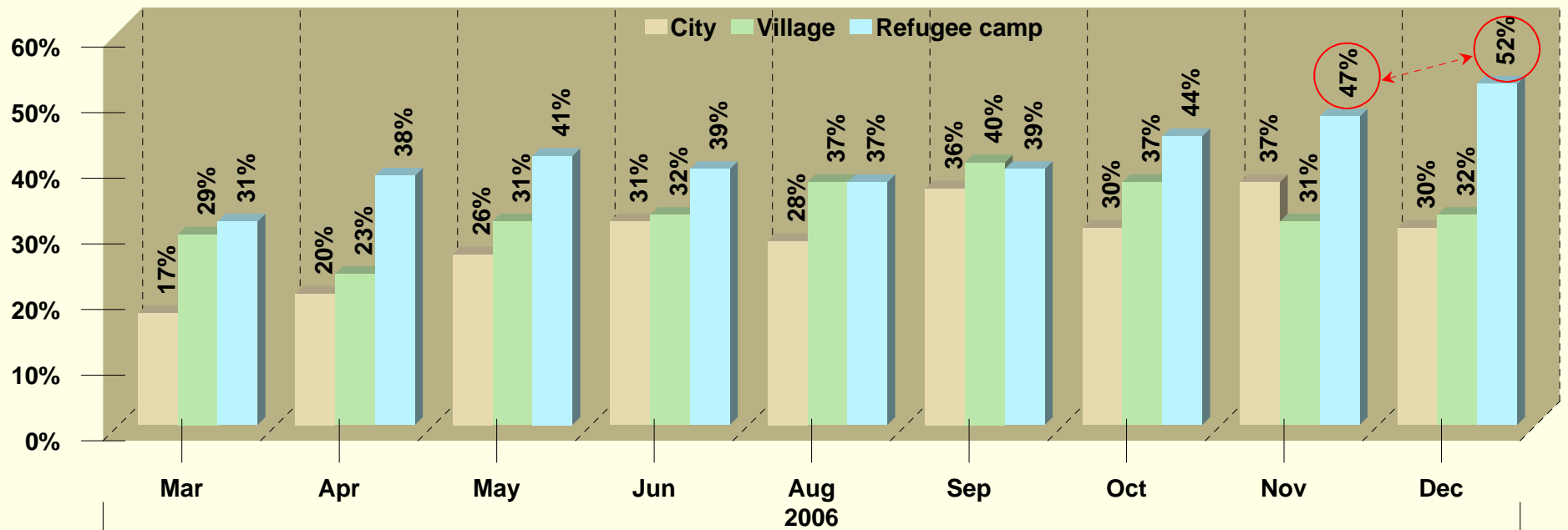
Evolution of poverty according to area of residence

March-December 2006



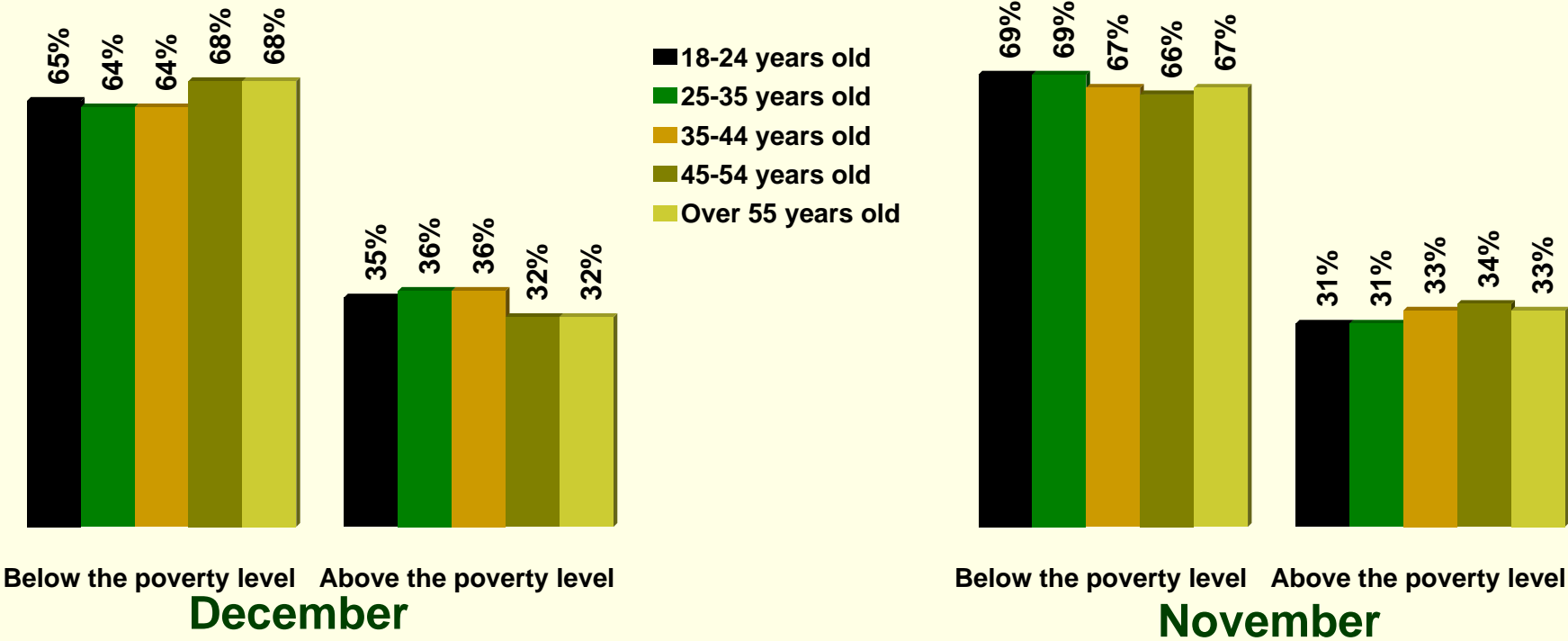
Evolution of extreme poverty according to area of residence

March-December 2006



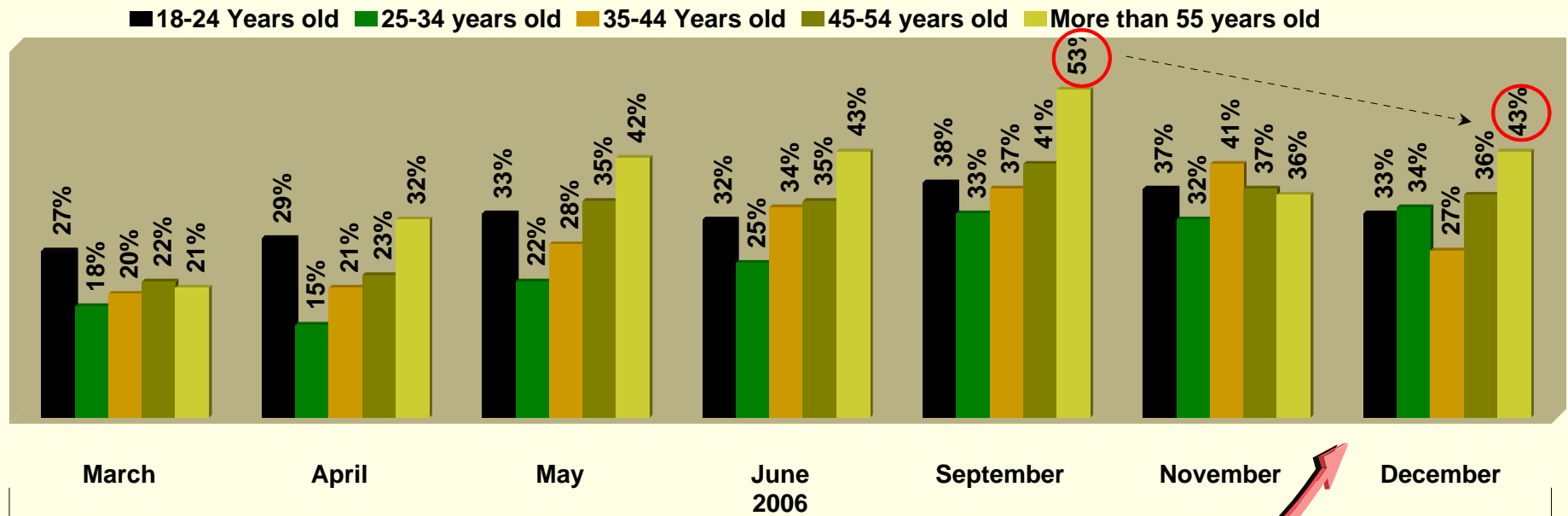
Poverty according to age groups

November-December 2006



Evolution of extreme poverty according to age distribution

March-December 2006

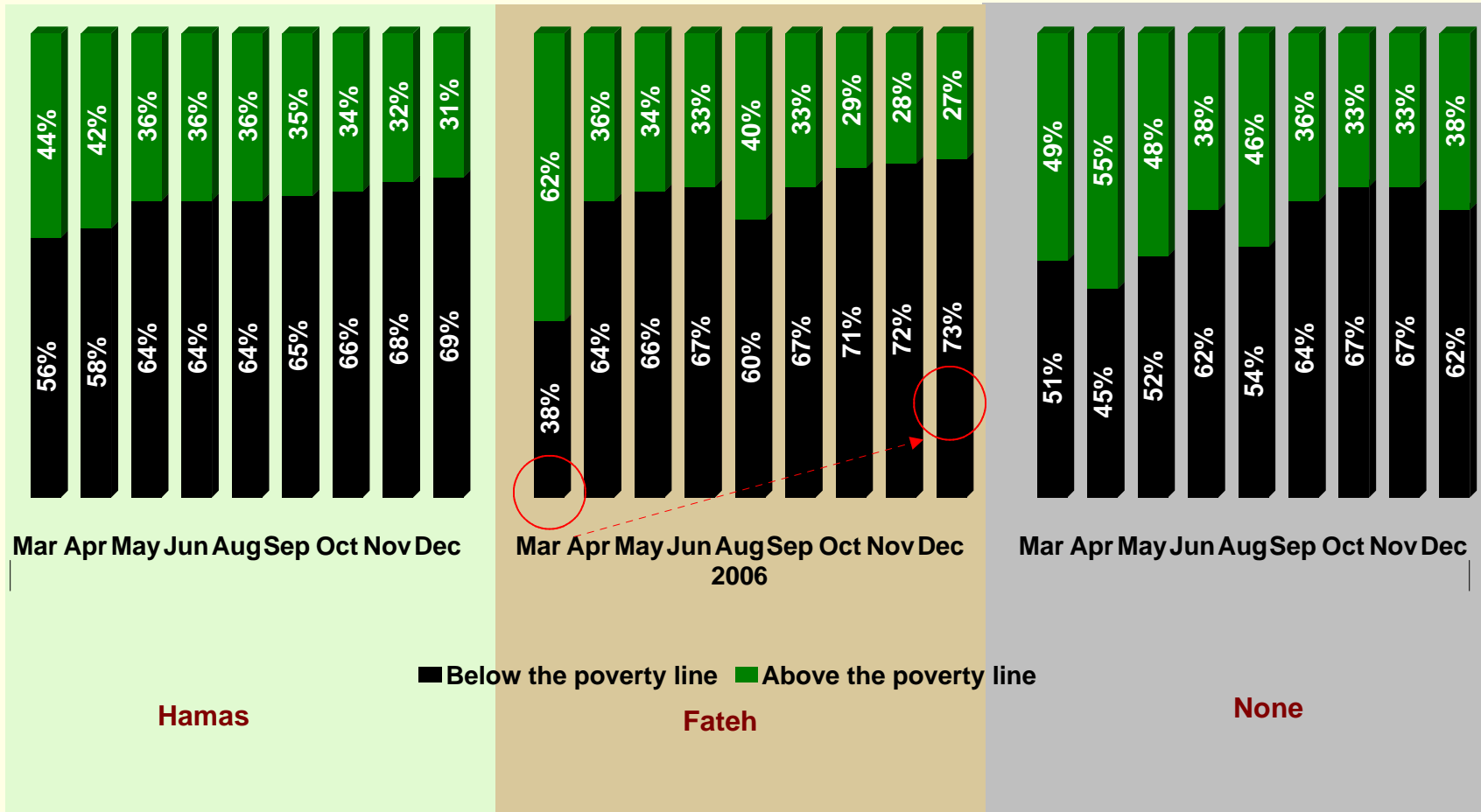


The increase in hardship cases has hit all age groups, particularly the old where it increased from 21% in March to 53% in September, decreasing only slightly in December where it now stands at 43%.



Evolution of poverty according to faction

March-December 2006



Evolution of extreme poverty according to faction

March-December 2006

