

Northeast Nigeria

Key insights from real time food security monitoring — Borno, Adamawa, Yobe



May 2023 — Lean Season Food Security Outlook

Key points



Almost **43%** of households in northeast Nigeria have **inadequate food consumption** in May 2023, which is two percentage-points higher compared to same time last year. Inadequate food consumption has remained high since last year due to October 2022 floods and currency swap crisis in early 2023.



IDPs and returnees show significantly higher levels of coping, inadequate food consumption, nonmonetary poverty and insufficient food stock levels. **IDPs residing in host communities are worse-off than IDPs in camps.**



As of May, only 14% of cultivating households have some food stocks remaining. This marks a 26% point decrease compared to same time last year. Of these, only 8% have stocks that will last longer than a month. Food consumption is therefore expected to worsen rapidly over the coming months.

Context

Conflict in northeast Nigeria remains a protracted crisis, with persistent inequalities and poverty affecting the region. As of February 2023, 2.2 million individuals remain internally displaced in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe (BAY) States, with women and children comprising most of those internally displaced. Armed insurgency in northeast Nigeria has resulted in increased humanitarian access challenges, recurring displacement, increased food insecurity, and limited opportunities to livelihood recovery. In September & October 2022, the region was adversely affected by widespread flooding destroying farms and critical infrastructure, and thus adversely affecting food availability for 2023. Since early this year, access to affordable food has been challenged by high levels of inflation, transportation costs and the currency swap implemented in early 2023.



Food Consumption

At the start of the 2023 lean season, 43% of households have inadequate food consumption in May (Fig. 1). This marks a two percentage point increase compared to May 2022. **More households are food insecure households now compared to the peak of last year's lean season in August 2022.** As such, if this trend continues it is likely that food consumption will deteriorate further as the peak of the lean season approaches. WFP will continue to closely monitor these trends in light of recent policy developments, notably removal of fuel subsidy.

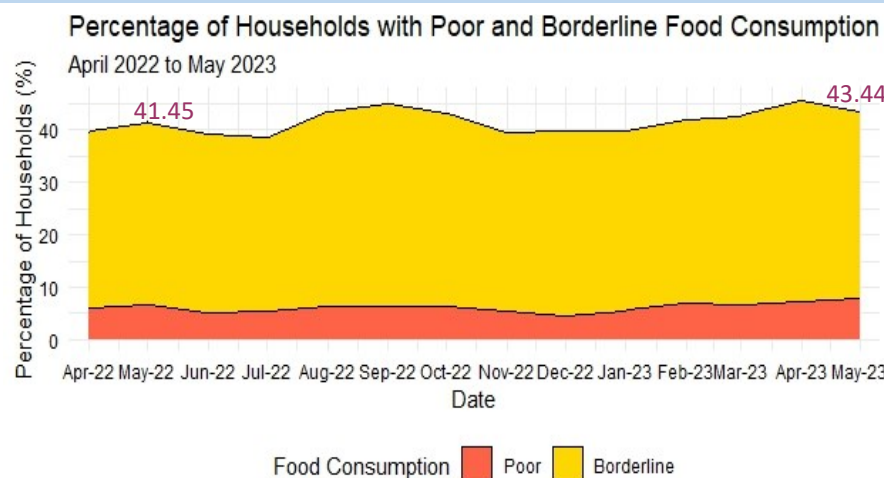
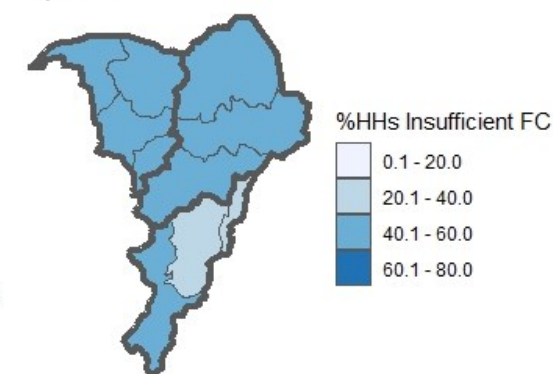


Fig. 1

source: WFP mVAM 2023

Insufficient food consumption levels



source: WFP mVAM 2023
Fig. 2

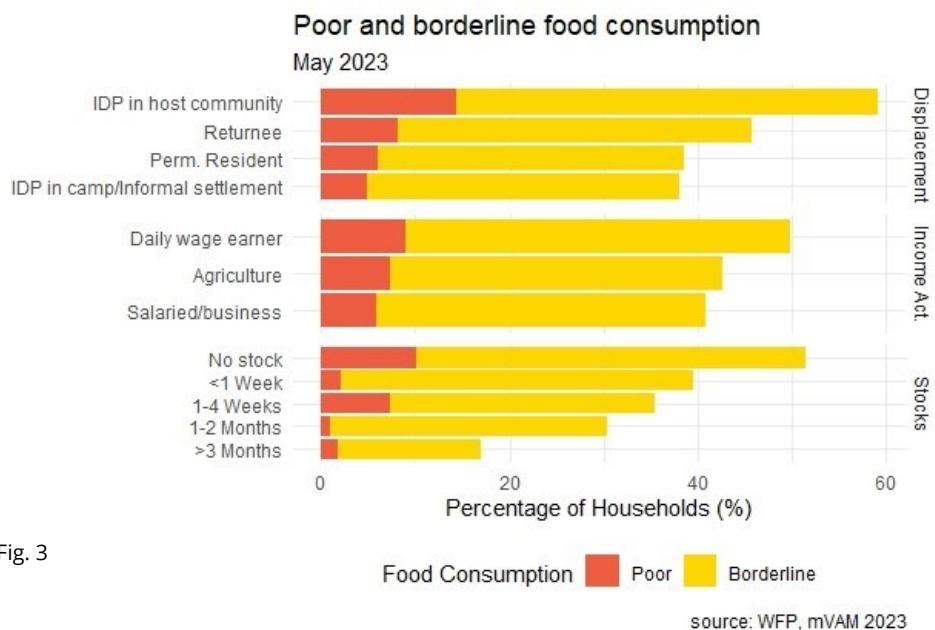


Fig. 3

Internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees show higher levels of poor and borderline food consumption compared to permanent residents (Fig. 3). Households with a precarious source of income such as daily wage workers show elevated levels of inadequate food consumption. There is also a strong correlation between food consumption and the level of stocks cultivating households have available, with well-stocked households having significantly better food consumption (Fig. 3).

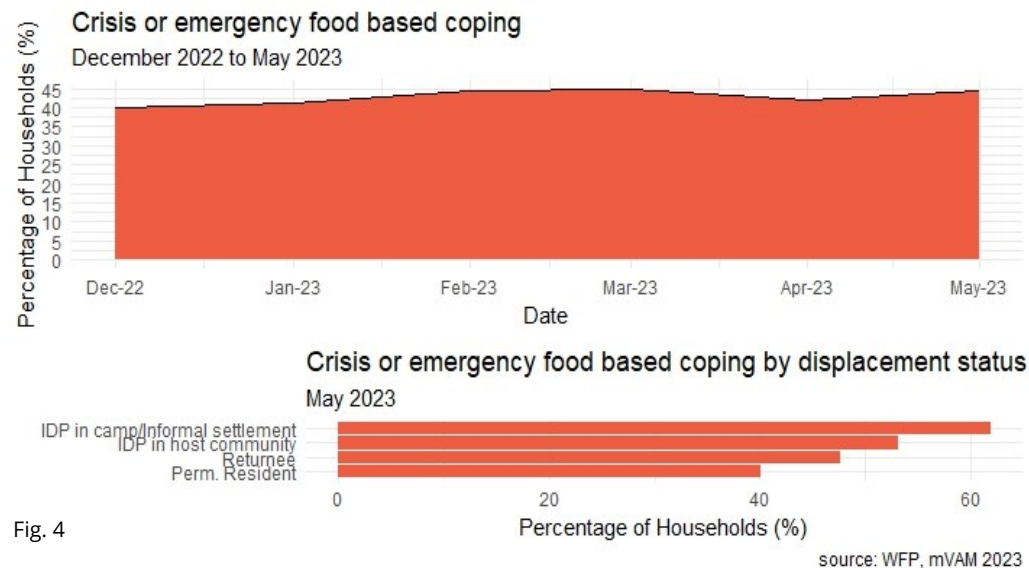


Fig. 4

There is an observable uptake in food-based coping strategies at the start of the 2023 lean season compared to the post-harvest period (Fig. 4). However, based on last year's data, it is expected that coping will increase again in the coming months, meaning that households will eat less preferable/qualitative food, reduce meals eaten in a day etc. to cope with a lack of food or money to buy food. Again, IDPs and returnees show significantly higher levels of food based coping compared to permanent residents (Fig. 4).



Multidimensional deprivation

Multidimensional deprivation index

May 2023

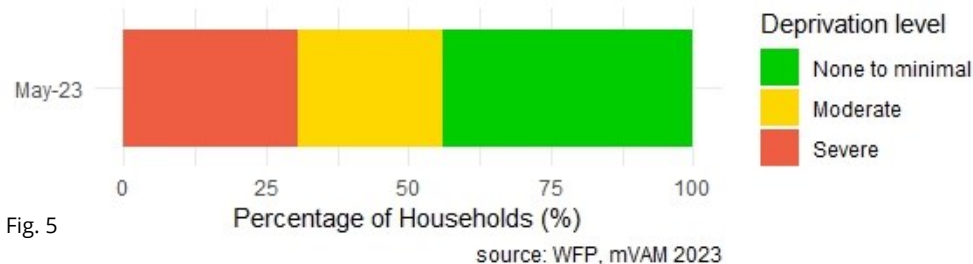


Fig. 5

The multidimensional deprivation index (MDDI) measures non-monetary poverty calculated at the household level, based on deprivations in the six essential needs dimensions: food, health, education, shelter, WASH and safety. Each dimension carries equal weight in the total index.

In total, **56% of households are considered multidimensionally deprived**, having an MDDI above the 1/3rd cut-off point (Fig. 5). Of all households, 29% are considered severely deprived (score above 0.66) and 25% are moderately deprived. (score between 0.33 and 0.5). The remaining 44% experience no or minimal multidimensional deprivation. Minimal changes observed compared to same time last year.

Fig. 7 shows that the shelter, food, health and safety dimensions are of the largest concern across all 3 states. Households in Borno show the highest levels of deprivation in terms of safety. Again, IDPs are most vulnerable with over 57% experiencing severe multidimensional deprivation (Fig. 6). For permanent residents in host communities that percentage is at 15%. In terms of income activity, daily wage earners show the highest levels of severe multidimensional deprivation at 37%.

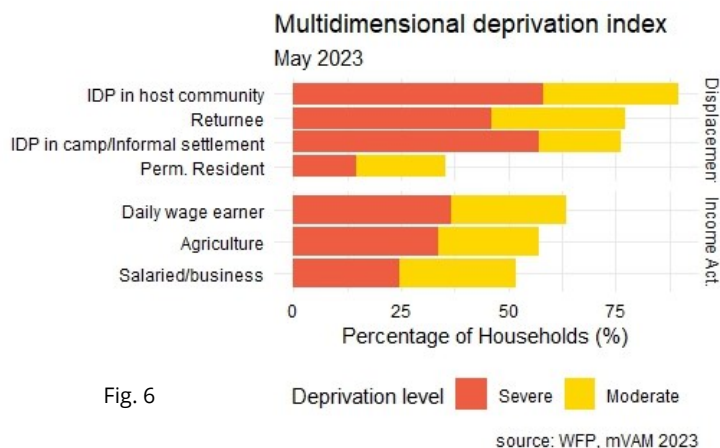


Fig. 6

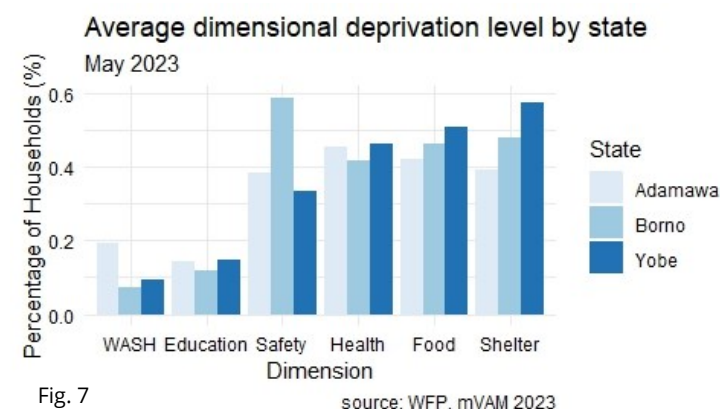


Fig. 7

source: WFP, mVAM 2023



Livelihoods, agriculture and stocks

Overall trade and agriculture is the main income activity in northeast Nigeria, with over 21% of households indicating it is their main income source in each category (Fig. 8). Skilled labour and daily agricultural labour are other main income activities for more than 10% of households in each category. IDPs residing in camps or informal settlements heavily rely on handicrafts or artisanal work, selling natural resources and trade for their income. They are less involved in other types of labour. There are no large differences between activities engaged by host community (permanent residents) and returnees as their main income source.

When asked about their intention to cultivate in the next planting season, 90% of households indicated they do. However there are differences between senatorial zones. **At 81%, the intention to cultivate is lowest in Borno Central, most likely to due limited land access** (Fig. 9).

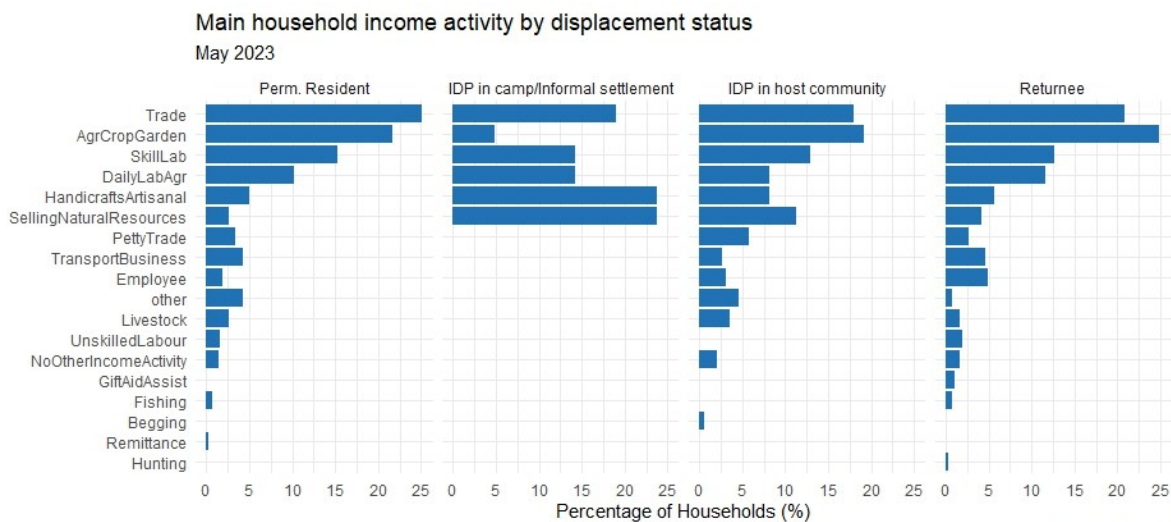


Fig. 8

source: WFP, mVAM 2023

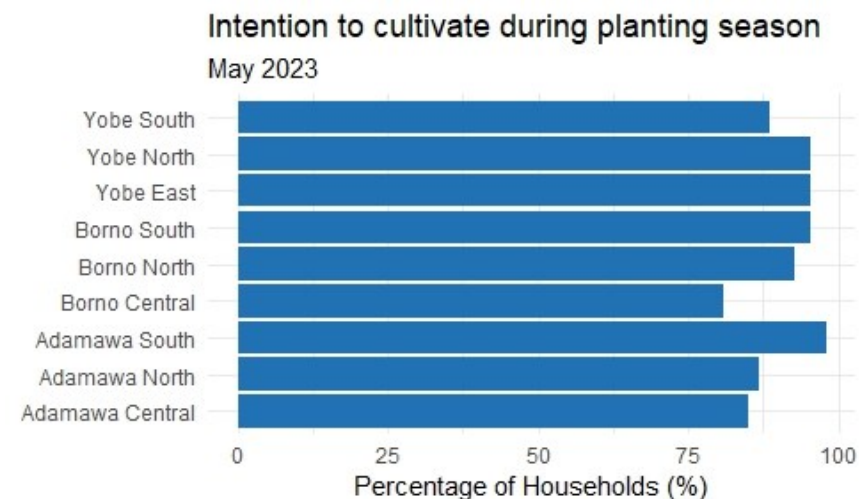


Fig. 9

source: WFP, mVAM 2023

Similarly, the food stock levels are especially low in Borno Central with only 20% of cultivating household having some stock available, of which 60% reported that it will be depleted within one month's time. Also Borno North and Yobe show slightly lower stock levels. Adamawa and Borno South have generally higher stock levels.

Almost 77% of IDPs in host community do not have stock available. Only 14% of cultivating IDPs in camp or informal settlements have stock that will last more than one month, however stocks of returnees will generally last longer.

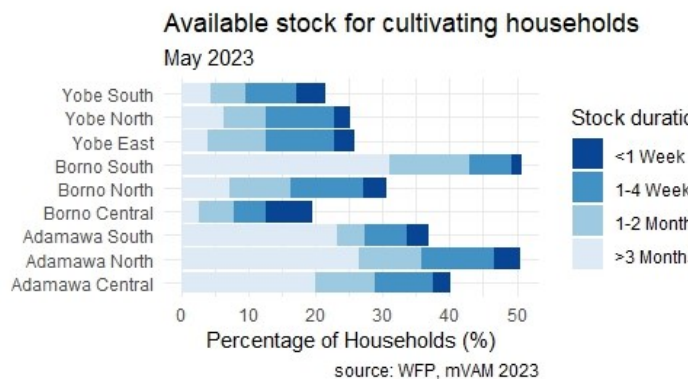


Fig. 10

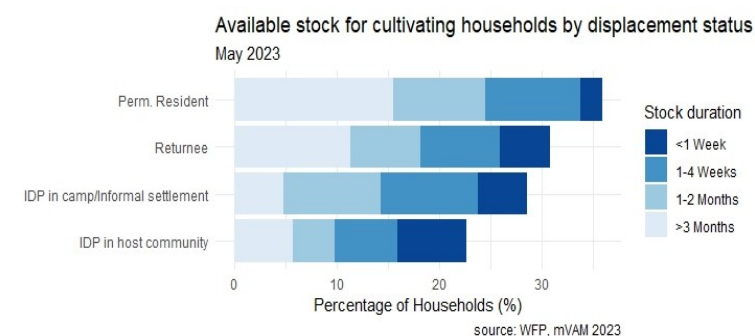


Fig. 11



Profiling — Vulnerability overlap

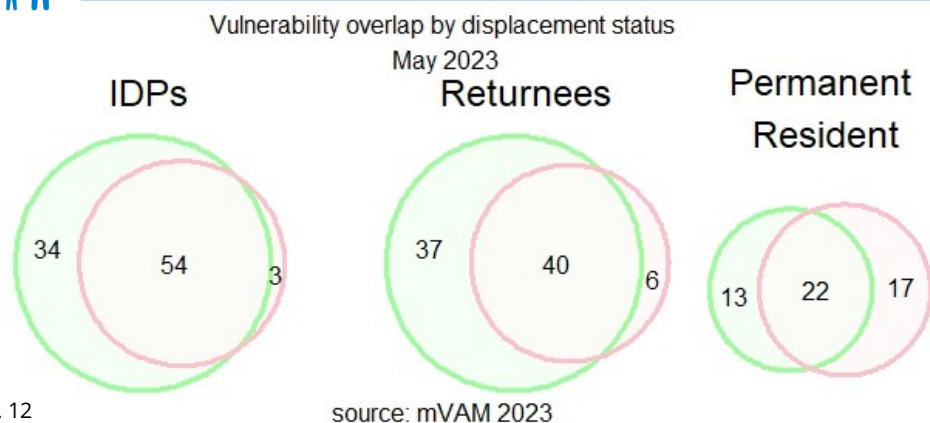


Fig. 12

source: mVAM 2023

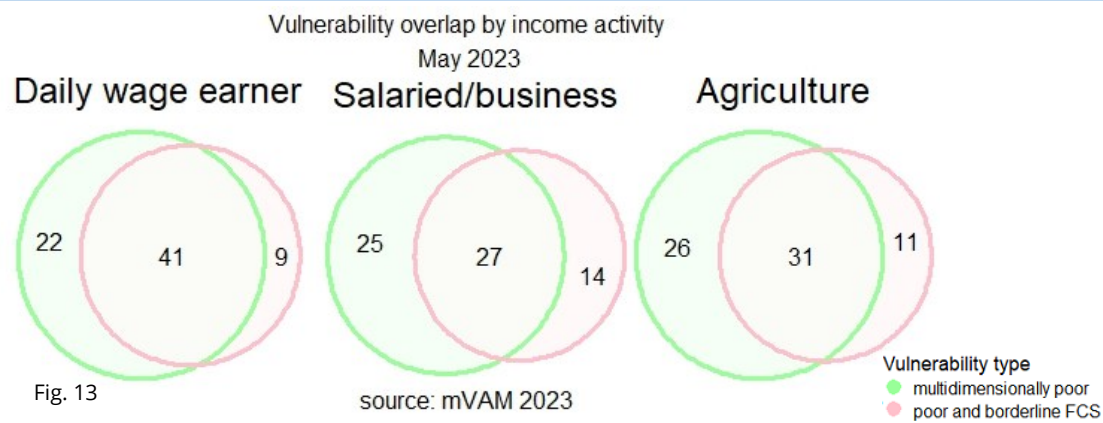


Fig. 13

source: mVAM 2023

There is a high overlap of types of vulnerability. For IDPs and returnees 54% and 40% respectively have insufficient food consumption and are multidimensionally deprived simultaneously, while for permanent residents this is 22% (Fig. 12). Multidimensional deprivation is widespread among IDPs and returnees and does occur individually for 34% and 37% of households, respectively.

Daily wage earners also experience high levels of both inadequate food consumption and multidimensional deprivation at 41% (Fig. 13). For agricultural households the overlap is lower at 31%, while for salaried/business households overlap represents 27%. Different from IDPs and returnees insufficient food consumption does occur individually for at least 9% of households in each income category.



For further information

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Data was collected through computer assisted telephone interviews. Please note that phone interviews are more prone to bias and should therefore be interpreted with care.

