

May 2022 — Lean Season Food Security Outlook

Key points



Over 40% of households in northeast Nigeria have inadequate food consumption at the start of the lean season. This marks a ten percentage point increase compared to last year.



IDPs and returnees show significantly higher levels of deprivation and vulnerability in terms of food consumption, coping, nonmonetary poverty and food stock levels.



In May around 40% of cultivating households have some food stocks remaining. However for most households stock will not last longer than two months. 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 March 2022, 2.17 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 intensified, resulting in increased humanitarian access challenges, recurring displacement, increased food insecurity, and limited opportunities to introduce durable solutions. Inflation rates have continued to increase since October 2020 and saw an especially sharp jump in early 2021. After a short stabilization, inflation has seen an increase again starting March 2022 and is expected to further increase in light of the Ukraine crisis.



Food Consumption

At the start of the 2022 lean season over 40% of households have inadequate food consumption (Fig. 1). This marks a ten percentage points increase compared to May 2021 and almost corresponds to the percentage of food insecure households at the peak of last year's lean season. It is therefore likely that throughout the upcoming lean season a significantly higher number of household will be pushed into food insecurity compared to last year.

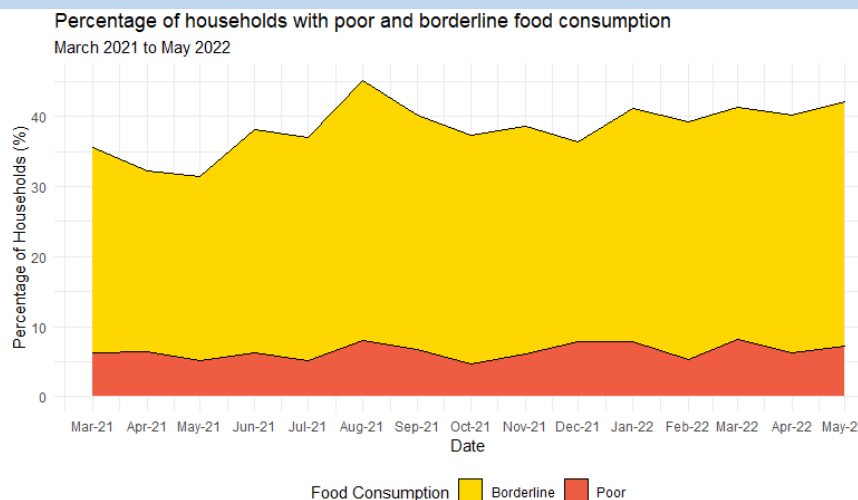


Fig. 1

source: WFP, mVAM 2022

Insufficient food consumption levels May 2022

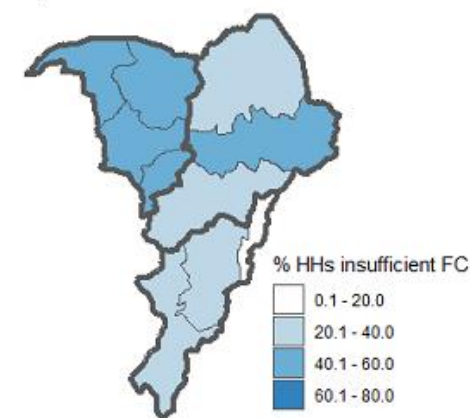


Fig. 2

source: WFP, mVAM 2022

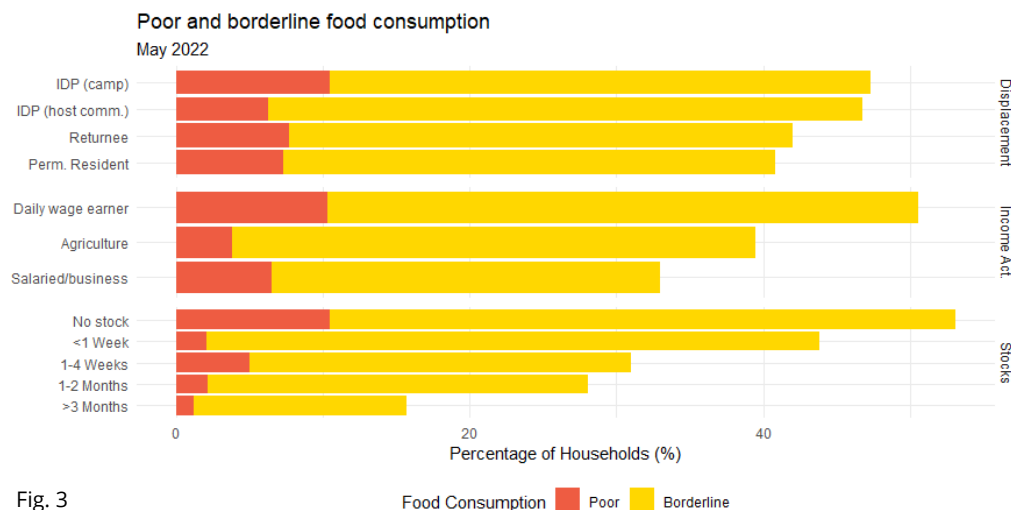


Fig. 3 source: WFP, mVAM 2022

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 equally 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).

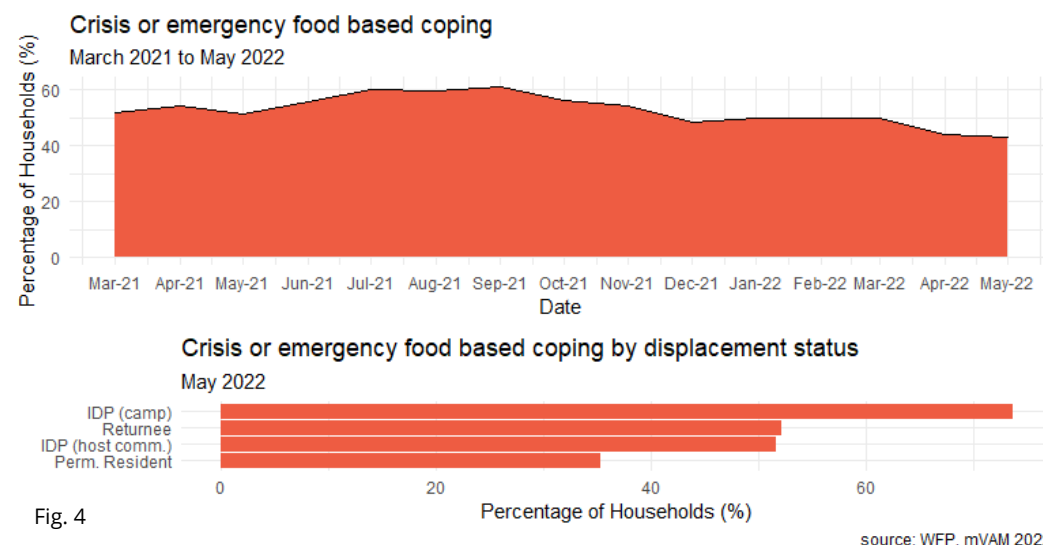


Fig. 4 source: WFP, mVAM 2022

There is no observable uptake in food-based coping strategies at the beginning of the 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 (Fig. 4).



Multidimensional deprivation

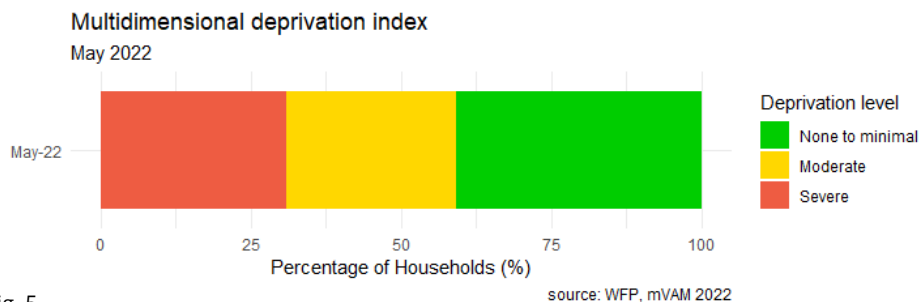


Fig. 5 source: WFP, mVAM 2022

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 an equal weight in the total index.

In total, 59% of households are considered multidimensionally deprived, having an MDDI above the 1/3rd cut-off point (Fig. 5). Of all households, 31% are considered severely deprived (score above 0.66) and 28% are moderately deprived. (score between 0.33 and 0.5). The remaining 41% experience no or minimal multidimensional deprivation.

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 and shelter. Again, IDPs and returnees are most vulnerable with over 50% experiencing severe multidimensional deprivation (Fig. 6). For permanent residents in host communities that percentage is at 13%. In terms of income activity, daily wage earners show the highest levels of multidimensional deprivation at 35%.

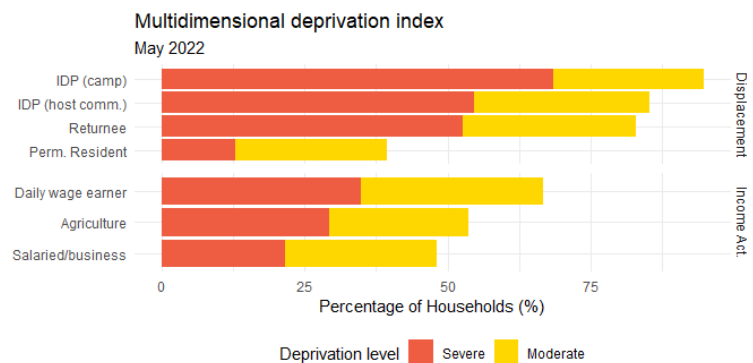


Fig. 6

source: WFP, mVAM 2022

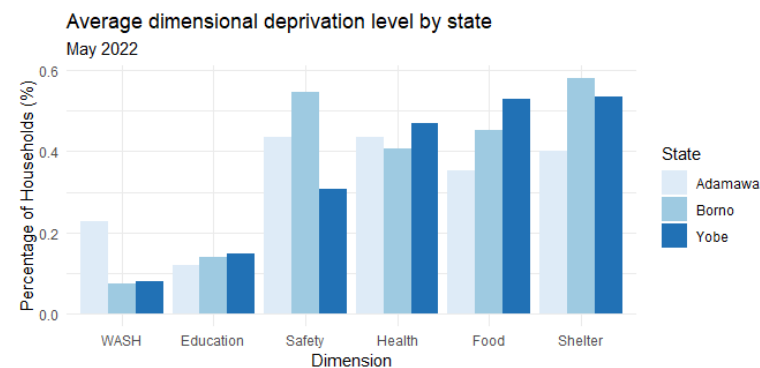


Fig. 7

source: WFP, mVAM 2022



Livelihoods, agriculture and stocks

Overall agriculture is the main income activity in northeast Nigeria, with over 20% of households indicating it is their main income source (Fig. 8). Skilled labour, trade, and daily agricultural labour are other main income activities for more than 10% of households each. There are no large differences between the activities by displacement status. However, more host community (perm. residents) households are engaged in agriculture, while more IDP and returnee households have handicrafts and selling of natural resources as main income source.

When asked about their intention to cultivate in the next planting season, 80% of households indicated they do. However there are differences between senatorial zones. **The intention to cultivate is especially low in Borno Central, with only 55% of households** (Fig. 9).

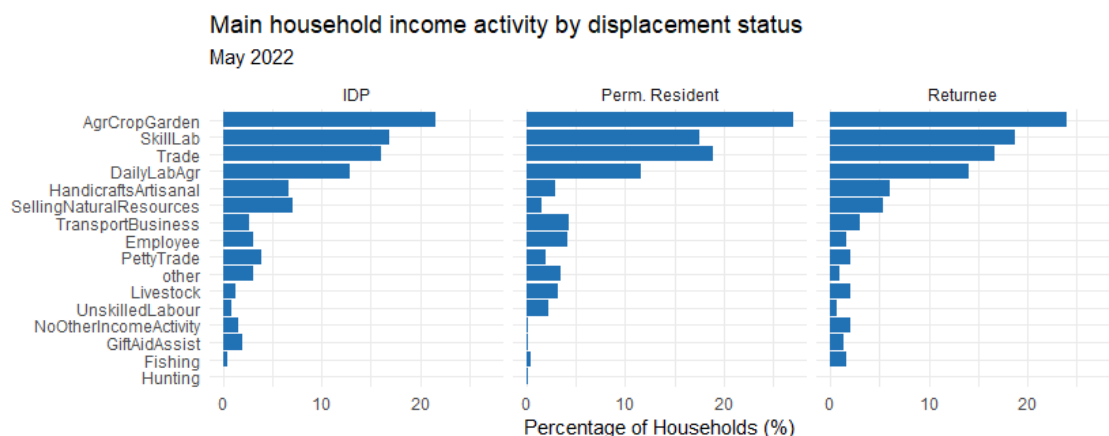


Fig. 8

source: WFP, mVAM 2022

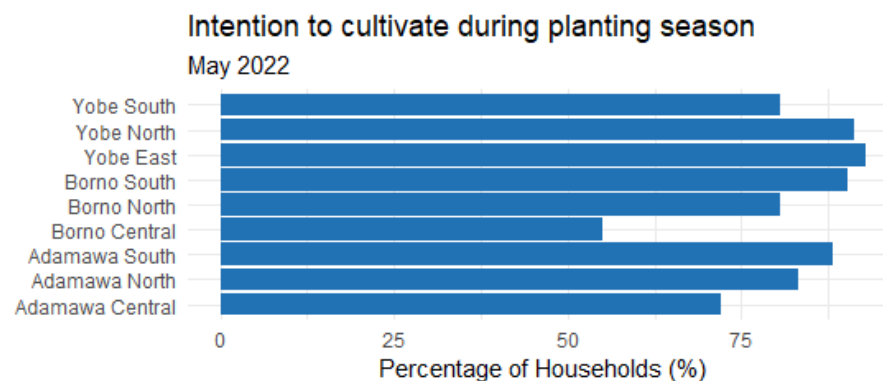


Fig. 9

source: WFP, mVAM 2022

Similarly, the food stock levels are especially low in Borno Central with only 21% of cultivating households having some stock available, of which the largest part will be depleted within one month's time (Fig. 10). Also Borno North and Yobe show slightly lower stock levels. Adamawa and Borno South have generally higher stock levels.

More than 50% of permanent residents have stock available (Fig. 11). Less than 15% of cultivating IDPs have stock that will last longer than one month. The percentage of cultivating returnee households with stock available is similar to that of the IDPs, however stocks of returnees will generally last longer.

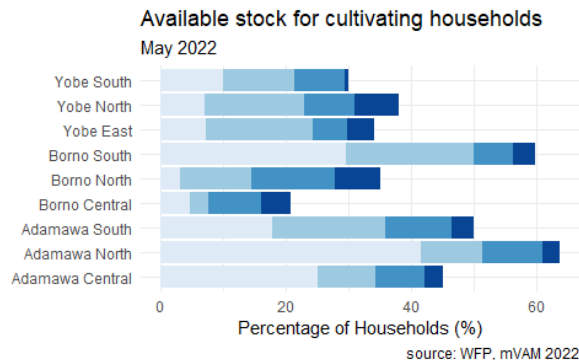


Fig. 10

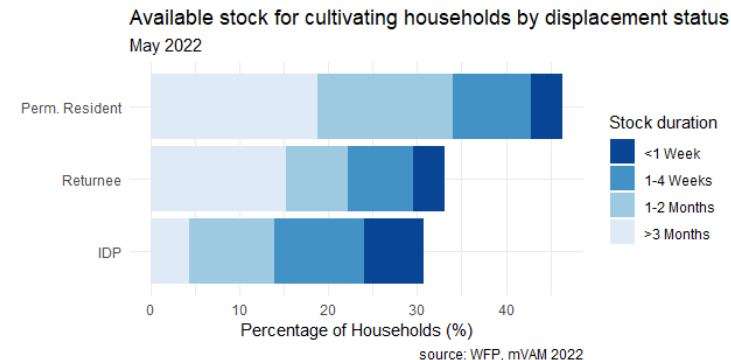


Fig. 11



Profiling — Vulnerability overlap

Vulnerability overlap by displacement status
May 2022

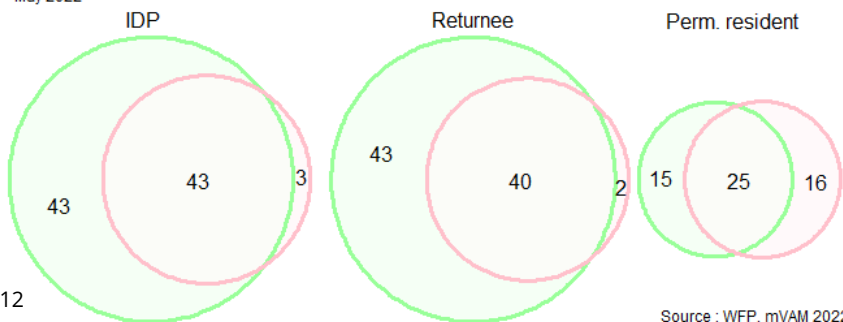


Fig. 12

Source : WFP, mVAM 2022

There is a high overlap of types of vulnerability. For IDPs and returnees 43% and 40% respectively have insufficient food consumption and are multidimensionally deprived simultaneously, while for permanent residents this is 25% (Fig. 12). Multidimensional deprivation is widespread among IDPs and returnees and does occur individually for 43% of households in each respective category.

Vulnerability overlap by income activity
May 2022



Fig. 13

Source : WFP, mVAM 2022

Daily wage earners also experience high levels of both inadequate food consumption and multidimensional deprivation at 39% (Fig. 13). For agricultural households the overlap is lower at 28%, while for salaried/business households overlap represents 23%. Different from IDPs and returnees insufficient food consumption does occur individually for at least 10% 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.

