



World Food  
Programme

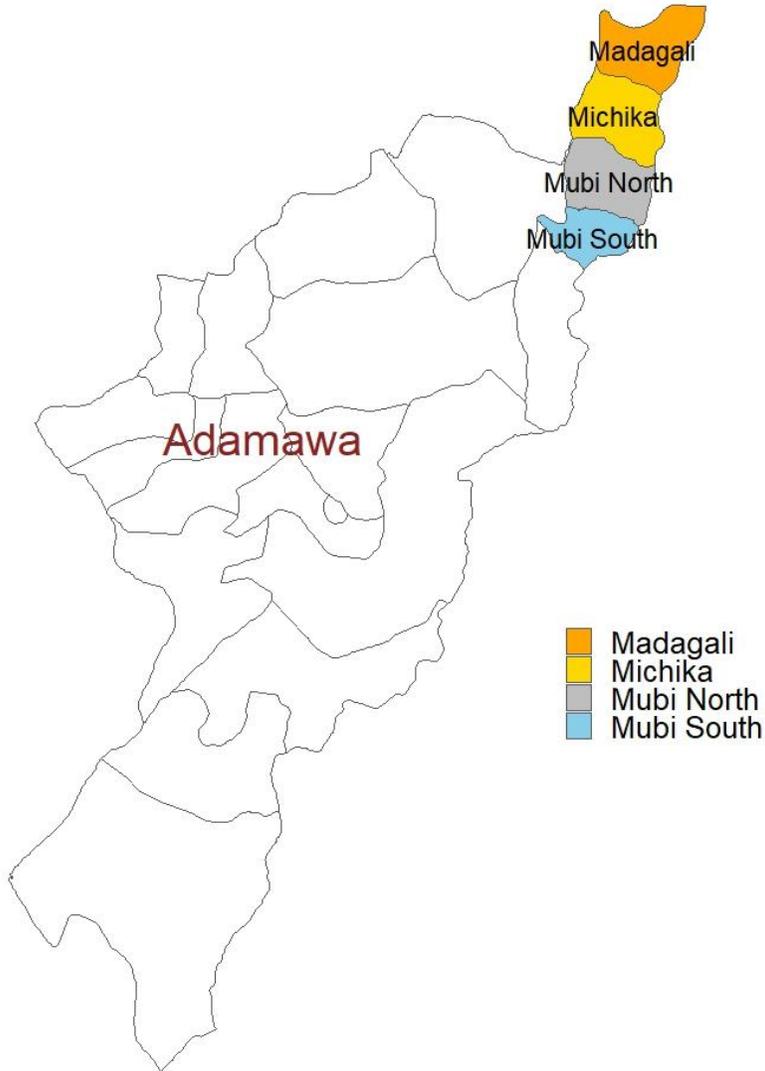
SAVING  
LIVES  
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February 2023

# Adamawa Cameroonian Refugee Influx - Rapid Assessment Report

Photo Credit : WFP\_Nigeria/KarelPrinsloo

# Context, Objectives and Methodology



## CONTEXT

- The political crisis in north-west and south-west of Cameroon, since the latter half of 2017, has led to violence and tensions in Cameroon, which resulted in outflows of Cameroonian asylum-seekers to Nigeria. Recently, Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency (ADSEMA) and UNHCR reported over 16,000 refugees fled persistent attacks by Non-State Armed Group (NSAG) in Mutas, Wupai, Ndrok, KulKubai and Dulum villages in Cameroon.
- Prior to displacement, households were predominantly into farming and livestock rearing; currently the refugees households reported they have no income source.
- Majority of refugees arrived from Cameroon to Madagali, Michika, and Mubi north and south in January 2023;
- Refugees arrived with little or no items due to spontaneous nature of movement;



## OBJECTIVE

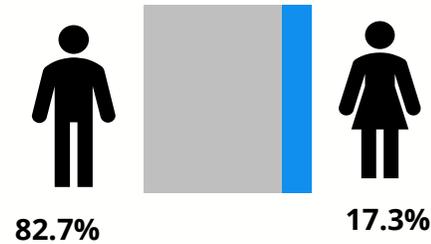
- Rapid assessments conducted to further assess the refugee households food security, nutrition and market functionality of the displacement and conflict amongst refugees in Madagali, Michika, Mubi north and Mubi South of Adamawa.

## METHODOLOGY

- The assessment began on 3 February 2023 and was concluded on 6 February 2023 across 4 LGAs (Madagali, Michika, Mubi north and Mubi South) of Adamawa.
- Key Informant Interview (KII), Observation, and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were the data collection methods adopted for the exercise.
- A quantitative face-to-face assessment of 75 randomly selected households (29 HHs in Madagali, 16 HHs in Michika, 15 HHs in Mubi north and 15 HHs in Mubi South).
- **Limitation:** Convenience sampling, hence findings not representative for the entire refugee population in Adamawa state.

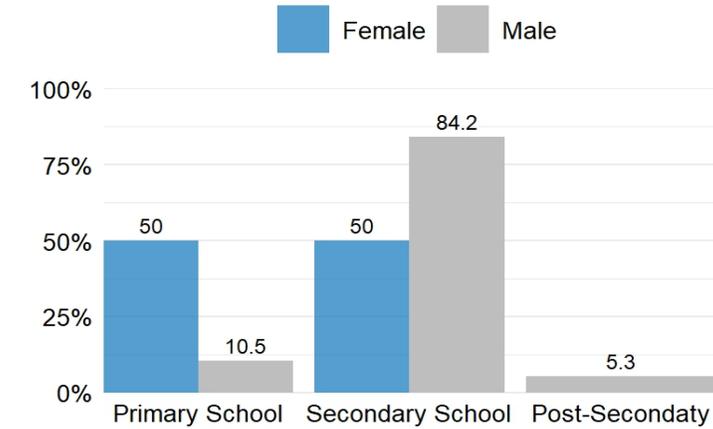
# Demography of refugee households

- Sex of the head of households

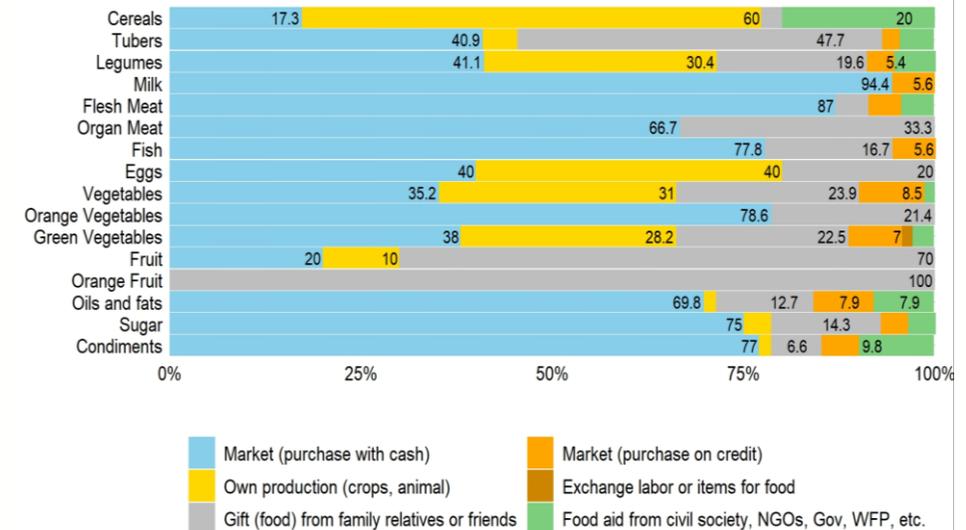


- Marital status of head of household** 83 percent married, 12 percent widow/widower, 4 percent single, 1.3 percent divorced/separated.
- The average age of the head of household** male - 42 years, female - 46 years.
- 6.7 percent reportedly have at least one member of the household living with disability. Facing a lot of difficulty or cannot do at all (see, hear, walk, etc.)
- On average, refugees have been displaced for eight(8) months.
- Overall, **57.3 percent** reported to have received at least one form of food assistance in the past 30 days. The assistance received are mostly from relatives and community members.
- A higher proportion of households have not received food assistance in Mubi North and Mubi South LGAs.
- A daily wage is NGN 1700 and NGN 1,233 for men and women respectively.
- Predominance of **farming and livestock rearing (albeit, on a small scale), daily common labour & handiwork** were major means of income as well as food source;

Education Level by Sex of Household

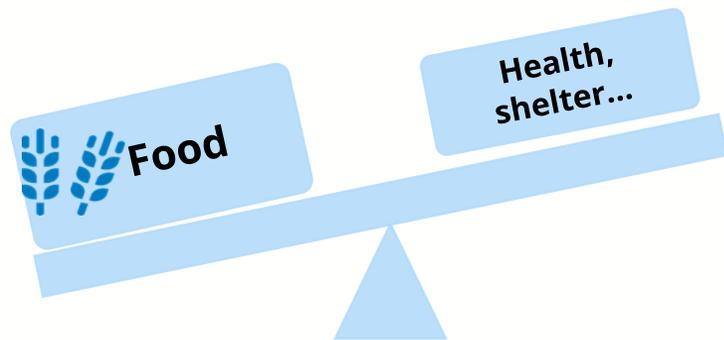


Sources of food for household

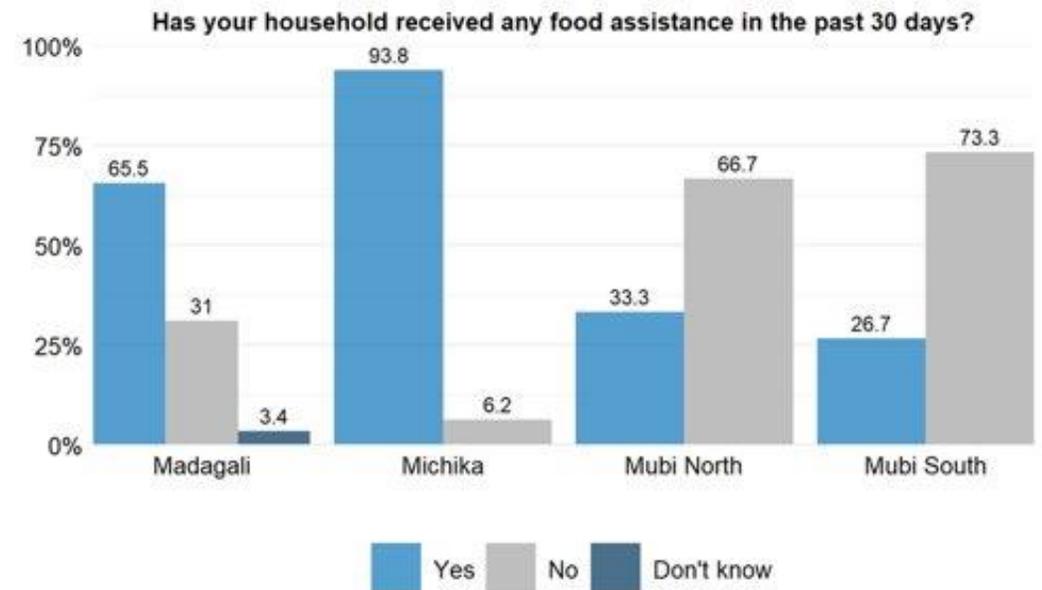


# Key Findings

- About **61 percent** of the refugee households have inadequate food consumption. This also poses risk to livelihoods with all households having to adopt one or more coping strategies and more than half (**57 percent**) resorting to crisis and emergency coping strategies in order to meet food needs.
- The overall Food Consumption Score shows that **38.7 percent** of households have acceptable food consumption score, indicating consumption of staples and vegetables everyday, frequently accompanied by oil and pulses, and occasionally fish, meat or dairy.
- The **prevalence of poor food consumption is relatively high** across Mubi north (13%), and Madagali (6.9%). Households in Mubi north and Madagali are most affected due to the high influx of refugees. Households in Mubi north & Mubi south are least likely to have received assistance compared to Michika and Madagali.
- High food prices, insecurity/conflict, inadequate cash in circulation and high cost of transportation are reportedly the most significant shocks experienced by refugees.
- **Refugee households have no stable source of income as they rely heavily on assistance from the community and a few on proceeds from casual labour wherein males earn higher than females.**
- Majority indicated their preference for in-kind assistance to cash.



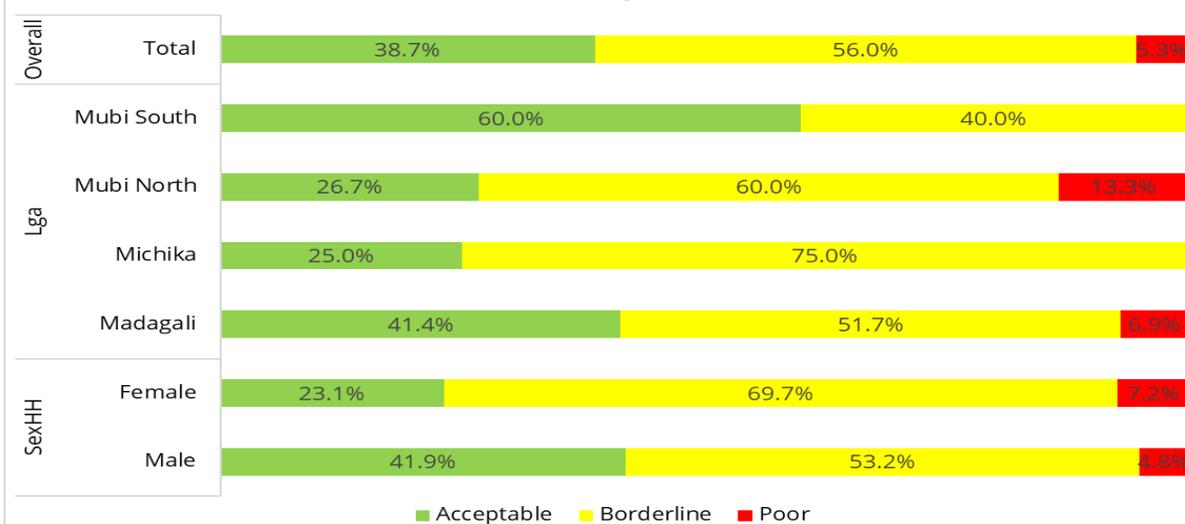
About **92 percent** of refugee households report food as their top priority need.



# Food Consumption and reduced Coping Strategy

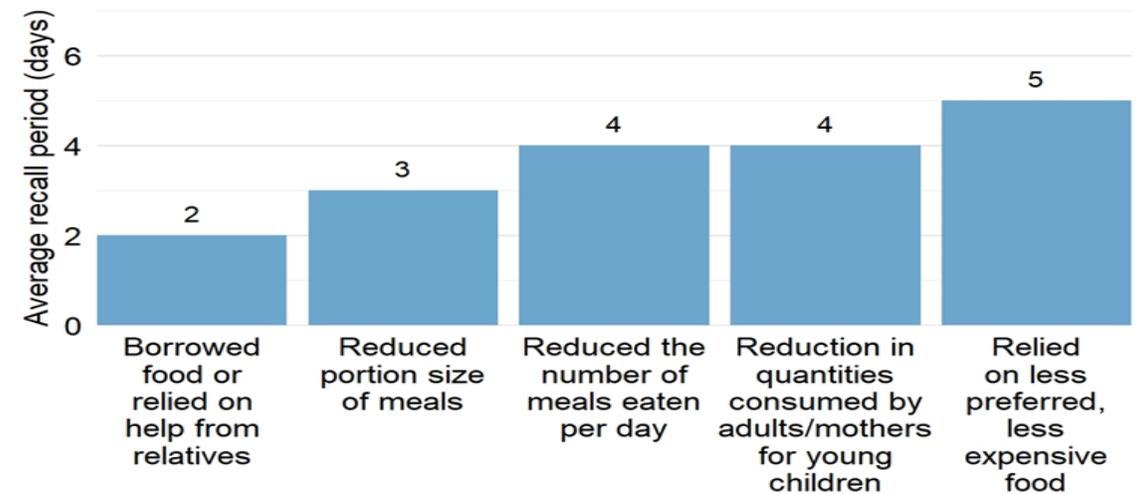
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- Nearly 56 percent fall under the 'borderline' food consumption category**, indicating that they consume staples and vegetables everyday, accompanied by oil and pulses a few times a week.
- 5.3 percent had poor food consumption**, this indicates that they consume staples everyday, and never or very seldom consume vegetables and protein-rich foods such as fish, meat or dairy.

**Food Consumption Score**



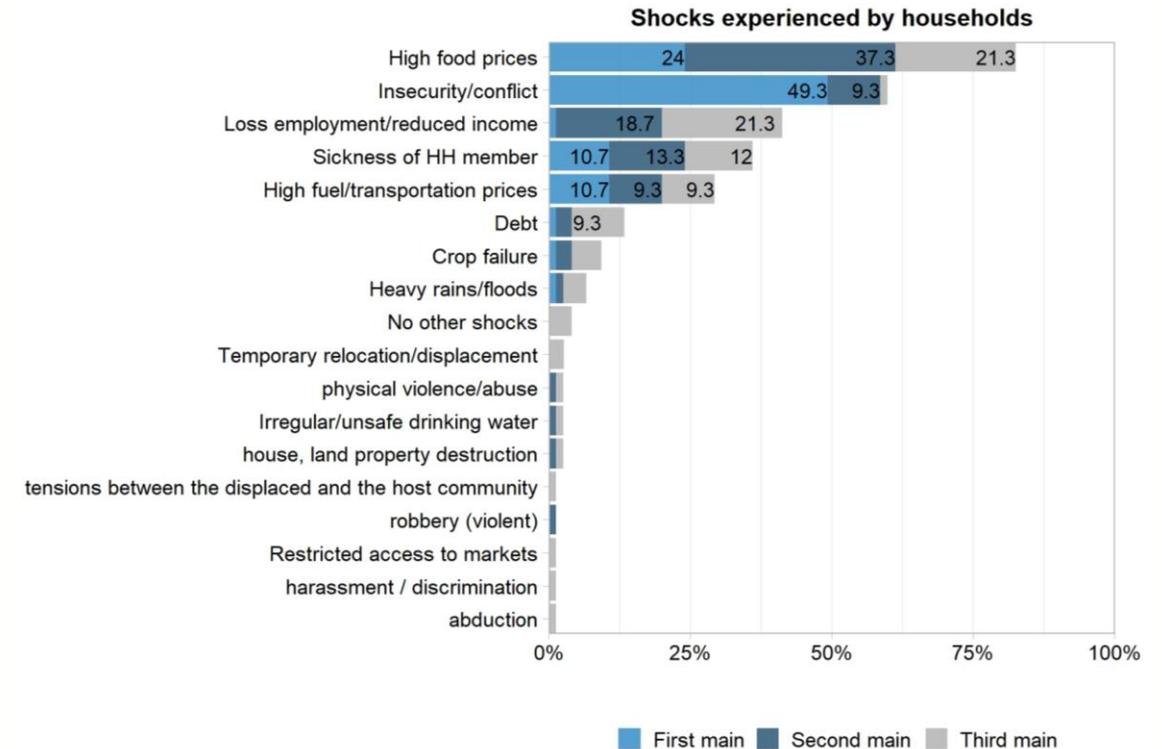
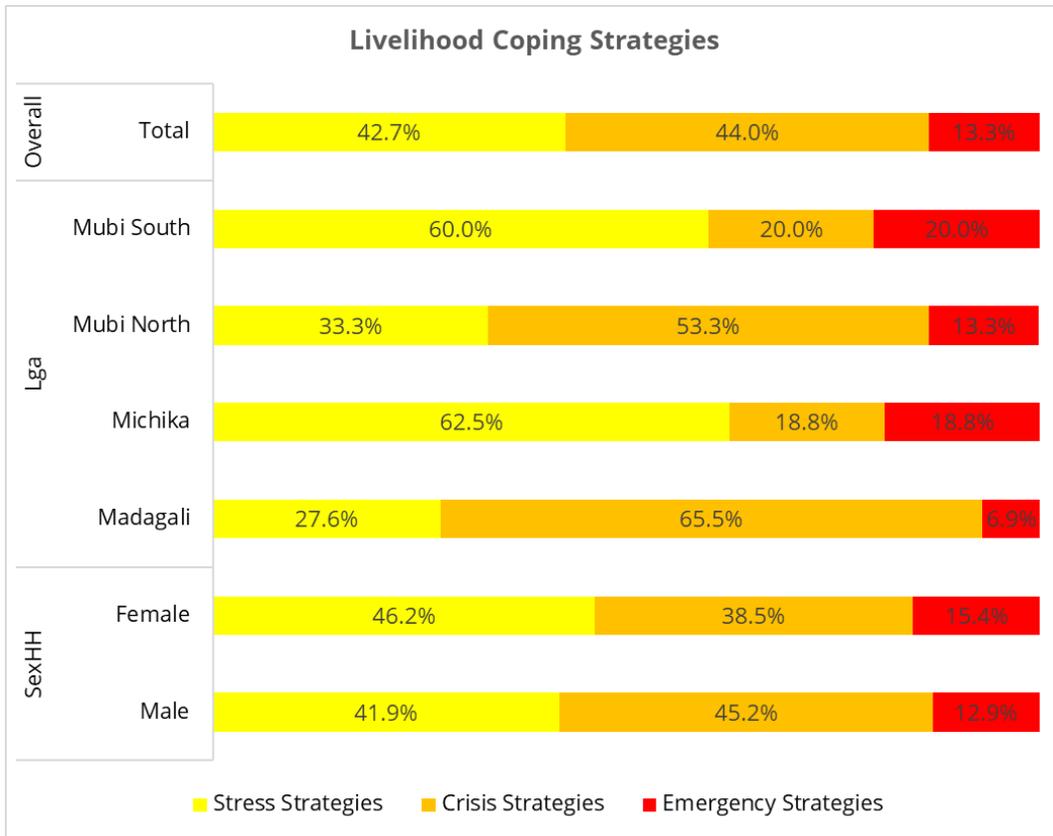
The **reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI)** measures the use of five food consumption-based coping strategies during the seven days preceding the assessment.

**Food-based coping strategies**



- Overall, the average reduced coping strategy index is 27.4, which is extremely high.** A significant number of households experienced difficulty in accessing food within seven days preceding this assessment with Madagali (33.1) having the highest number of such households, then Michika (26.4), Mubi North (28.3) and Mubi South (16.8).
- Relying on less preferred food, reduction in quantities consumed by adults for young children to eat and reducing the number of meals eaten daily were the most engaged coping strategies.

# Livelihood Coping Strategies



- All refugee household resorted to at least one form of coping strategy.
- Reliance on *emergency and crisis coping strategies* in order to bridge food gaps remain high as **40%** of households adopt sale of productive assets, **16%** reduce expenses on health and education and **8%** resorted to begging.

- The marked rise in food prices is expected to accentuate food insecurity among the most vulnerable market dependent households, coupled with a compromised purchasing power of refugee households in Madagali, Michika, and Mubi LGAs.
- Limited opportunities have led to **an increased use of livelihood coping strategies, begging** very high amongst the refugees.
- The current money crunch as flagged as a shock during the FGDs.

# General recommendations



- Government should strengthen efforts to restore peace and security in affected areas to enable returns and resettlement among refugees interested in going back to their places of origin;
- Government and humanitarian partners should provide integrated and multisectoral support to refugee households, in order to tackle the burden of food insecurity, malnutrition and contribute to recovery and asset creation in parallel;
- Government, local government authorities and community leaders should allocate/lease farmland to refugees that want to cultivate crops to provide food for their households;
- WFP and other food security partners should continue monitoring of the food security and nutrition situation.

