Northeast Nigeria

mVAM Bulletin — Borno, Adamawa, Yobe

WFP RAM | Food security analysis

WFP World Food Programme

August 2023 — Lean Season Food Security Outlook

Key points

In August, 59% of households in northeast Nigeria had inadequate food consumption. **This marks a sixteen-percentage point increase compared to the same time last year and an eight-percentage point increase compared to the start of the lean season in June**.

IDPs and returnees show significantly higher levels of deprivation and vulnerability in terms of food consumption, food based coping, strategies, nonmonetary poverty and food stock levels. Especially for IDPs residing within host communities.

Almost 35% of cultivating households have some food stocks remaining. This marks a two-point increase compared to the same time last year. However, only 23% have stocks that will last longer than a month. Stock levels have significantly reduced compared to the start of the lean season.

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 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, headline inflation increased to 25.80% relative to the July 2023 headline inflation rate which was 24.08%. - its highest in almost two decades. With the removal of the longstanding fuel subsidy in June 2023, **fuel prices in Nigeria have seen a sharp increase (by more than 360 percent)**.

Food Consumption

As the lean season progresses, **about 59% of households have inadequate food consumption in August** (Fig. 1). This marks a sixteen percent increase compared to August 2022 and an eight-percentage point increase compared to the peak of last year's lean season in August 2022. There was also an eight-percentage point increase when compared to the previous month. **This is seen to be the highest since the start of last year's lean season** and it is likely that throughout the lean season, a significantly higher number of households will experience an elevated level of food insecurity compared to last year, especially in light of the sharp rise in fuel prices.
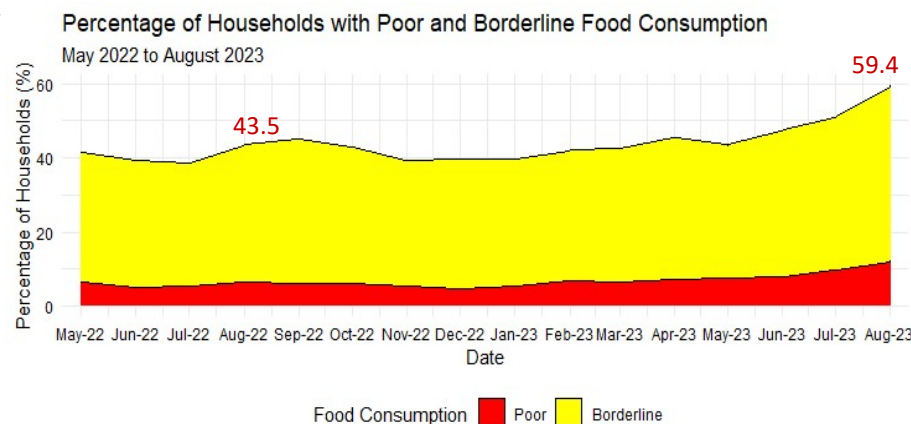
Percentage of Households with Poor and Borderline Food Consumption

May 2022 to August 2023

43.5

59.4

Food Consumption ▮ Poor ▮ Borderline

source: WFP mVAM 2023

Fig. 1

Insufficient food consumption levels

August 2023

%HHs Insufficient FC
- 0.1 - 20.0
- 20.1 - 40.0
- 40.1 - 60.0
- 60.1 - 80.0

Fig. 2   source: WFP mVAM 2023

Poor and borderline food consumption

August 2023

Fig. 3

source: WFP, mVAM 2023

Crisis or emergency food based coping

December 2022 to August 2023

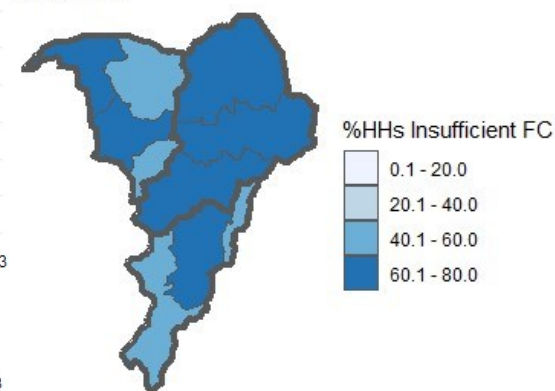## Crisis or emergency food based coping by displacement status
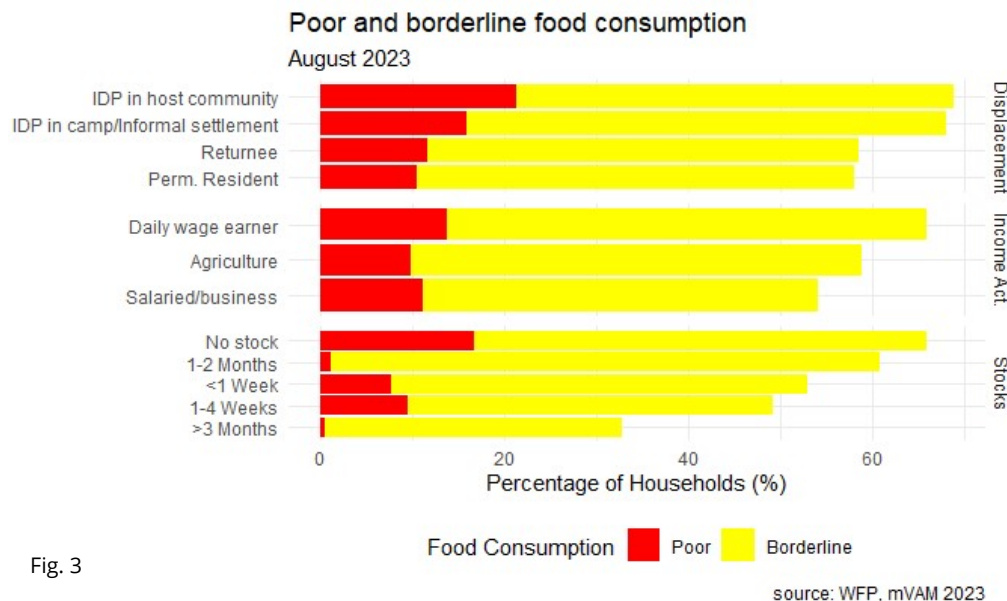
August 2023

Fig. 4

source: WFP, mVAM 2023

Internally displaced persons (IDPs) show higher levels of poor and borderline food consumption compared to returnees and permanent residents (Fig. 3). Households with a precarious source of income such as daily wage workers equally show elevated levels of inadequate food consumption. A strong correlation is observed between food consumption and the level of stocks cultivating households have available. With well-stocked households having significantly better food consumption (Fig. 3).
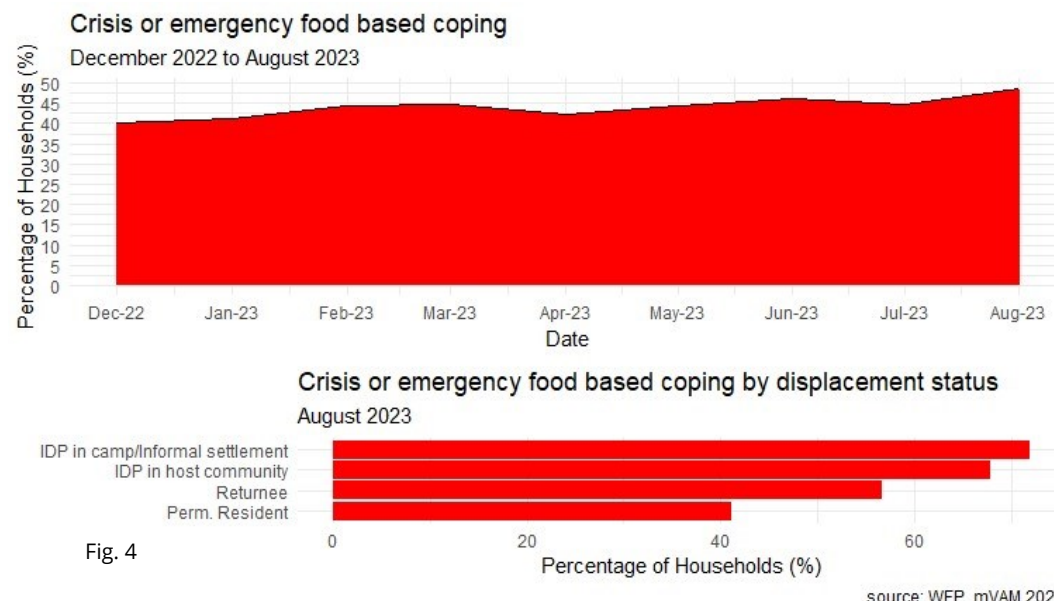
An uptake of food-based coping strategies is seen in August 2023 after a slight decrease was observed the previous month (Fig. 4). However, based on last year's data, it is expected that coping will decrease in the coming months. This means that households may not likely take up negative food-based coping strategies to cope with a lack of food or money to buy food. Again, IDPs, especially IDPs in camps or informal settlements show significantly higher levels of the use of food-based coping compared to returnees and permanent residents (Fig. 4).
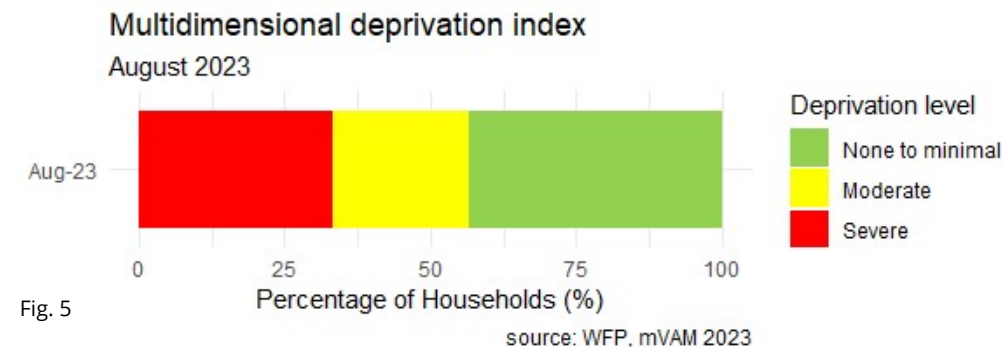
Multidimensional deprivation

Multidimensional deprivation index

August 2023

Fig. 5

source: WFP, mVAM 2023

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.

About **57% of households are considered multidimensionally deprived**, having an MDDI above the 1/3rd cut-off point (Fig. 5). Of all households, 33% are considered severely deprived (score above 0.66) and almost 24% are moderately deprived. (score between 0.33 and 0.5). The remaining 43% experience no or minimal multidimensional deprivation.

Fig. 7 shows that the food, shelter, and health dimensions are of the largest concern across all 3 states. Households in Yobe show the highest levels of deprivation in terms of food and shelter. Households in Borno show the highest levels in terms of food, safety, and shelter. Again, IDPs and returnees are most vulnerable **with about 65% of IDPs in host communities experiencing severe multidimensional deprivation** (Fig. 6). For permanent residents in host communities that percentage is at 17%. In terms of income activity, households engaged in daily wage earnings show the highest levels of severe multidimensional deprivation at 38%.
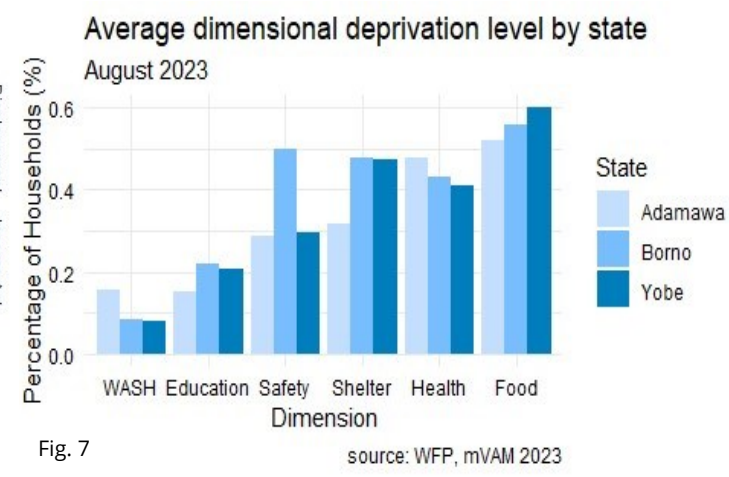

Fig. 6

Multidimensional deprivation index
August 2023

Deprivation level ■ Severe ■ Moderate

source: WFP, mVAM 2023

Fig. 7

Average dimensional deprivation level by state
August 2023

State: Adamawa, Borno, Yobe

source: WFP, mVAM 2023
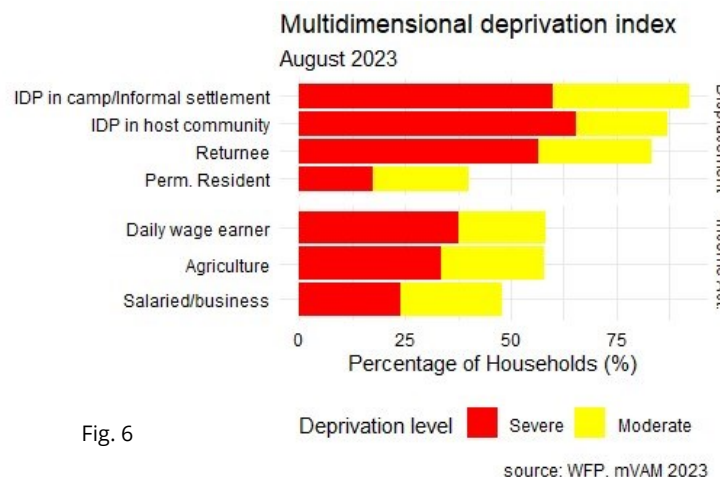
Livelihoods, agriculture and stocks

Overall agriculture is the main income activity in northeast Nigeria, with about 32% of households indicating it is their main income source (Fig. 8). Trade, skilled labour, and daily agricultural labour are other main income activities for more than 12 % of households in each category. IDPs residing in camps or informal settlements rely heavily on the selling of natural resources and petty trade for their income. They are less involved in other types of labour. However, there are no large differences in activities between IDPs in host communities and returnees. When asked about their intention to cultivate in the next planting season, 83% of households indicated they do. However, there are differences between senatorial zones. **At 66%, the intention to cultivate is lowest in Borno Central, most likely due to limited land access. (Fig. 9).**
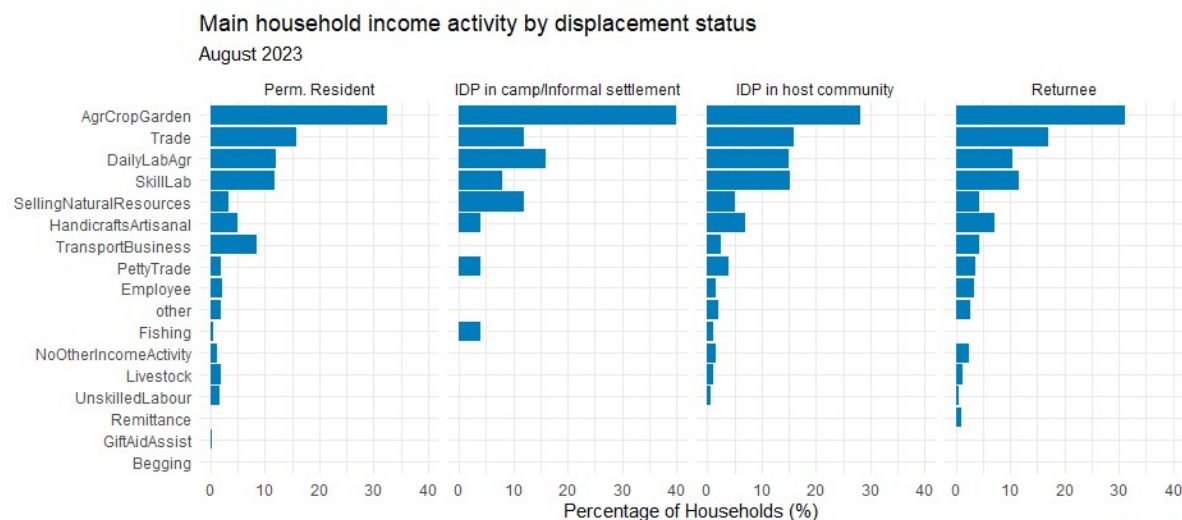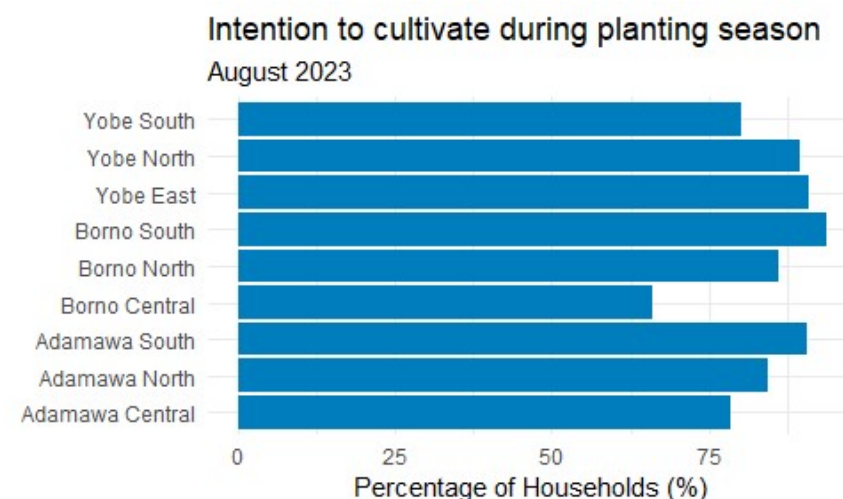

Fig. 8

Main household income activity by displacement status
August 2023

source: WFP, mVAM 2023

Fig. 9

Intention to cultivate during planting season
August 2023

source: WFP, mVAM 2023

The food stock levels are especially low in Yobe South with only 26% of cultivating households having some stock available, of which the largest part will be depleted within two months' time. Apart from Borno South, Adamawa North and Adamawa Central having generally high stock levels, other zones show slightly lower stock levels.

Almost 85% of IDPs in the host community do not have stock available. Only 12% of cultivating IDPs in camps or informal settlements have stock that will last more than one month, however, stocks of permanent residents will usually last longer.
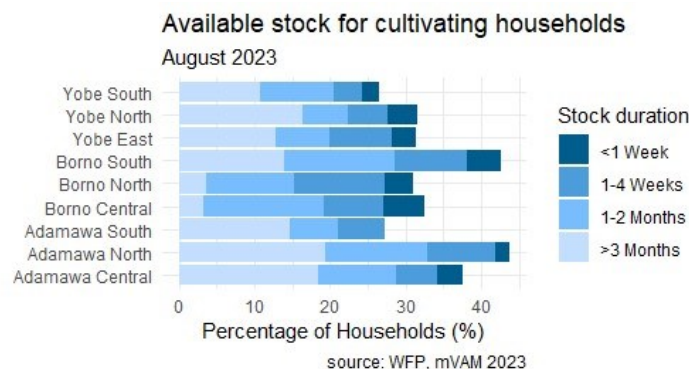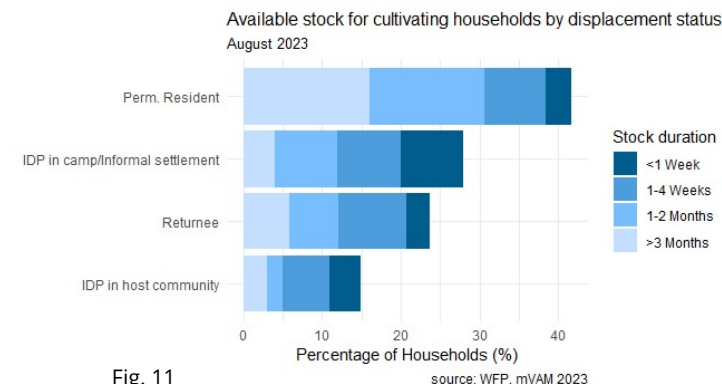
Fig. 10

Fig. 11

Profiling —Vulnerability overlap
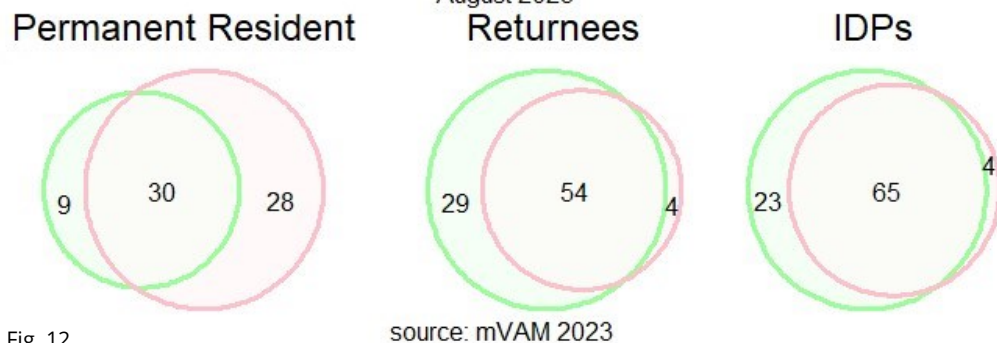
Fig. 12

source: mVAM 2023

Fig. 13

There is a high overlap of types of vulnerability. For IDPs and returnees 65% and 54% respectively have insufficient food consumption and are multidimensionally deprived simultaneously, while for permanent residents this is 30% (Fig. 12). Multidimensional deprivation is widespread among returnees and IDPs and does occur individually for 29% and 23% of households, respectively.

Daily wage earners also experience high levels of both inadequate food consumption and multidimensional deprivation at 44% (Fig. 13). For agricultural households the overlap is slightly lower at 40%, while for salaried/business households overlap represents 33%. Different from IDPs and returnees insufficient food consumption does occur individually for at least 18% of households in each income category.

For further information

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.

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