

## June 2023 — Lean Season Food Security Outlook

### Key points



Over 47% of households in northeast Nigeria have inadequate food consumption in June. **This marks an eight percentage point increase compared to last year and a seven percentage point increase compared to the start of the lean season.**



IDPs and returnees show significantly higher levels of deprivation and vulnerability in terms of food consumption, coping, nonmonetary poverty and food stock levels. Especially IDPs residing in camps or informal settlements.



In June, 33% of cultivating households have some food stocks remaining. This marks a one point decrease compared to same time last year. However, only 20% 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 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 second quarter of 2022 and is expected to further increase in light of the increase in fuel prices.



### Food Consumption

As the lean season progresses, about 47% of households have inadequate food consumption in June (Fig. 1). This marks an eight percent increase compared to June 2022 **and a four percentage point increase compared to the peak of last year's lean season in August 2022 . There was also a four percentage point increase when compared to the previous month.** It is likely that throughout the lean season a significantly higher number of household will experience an elevated level of food insecurity compared to last year especially in light of the current removal of fuel subsidy.

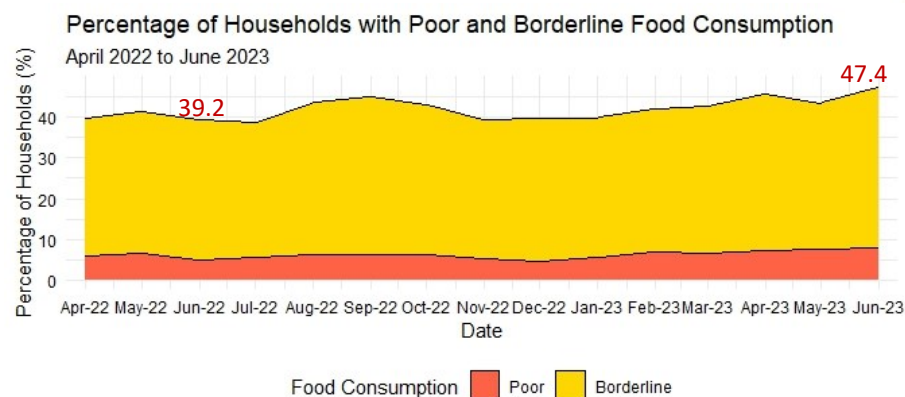
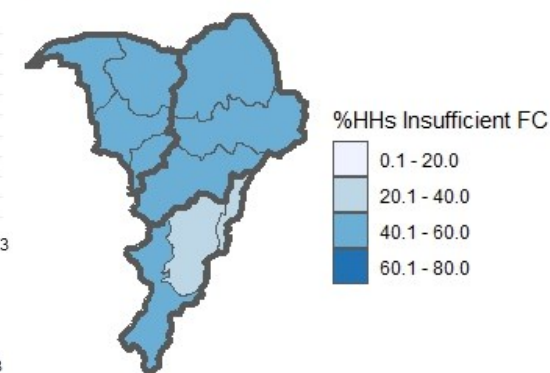


Fig. 1

### Insufficient food consumption levels June 2023



source: WFP mVAM 2023  
Fig. 2

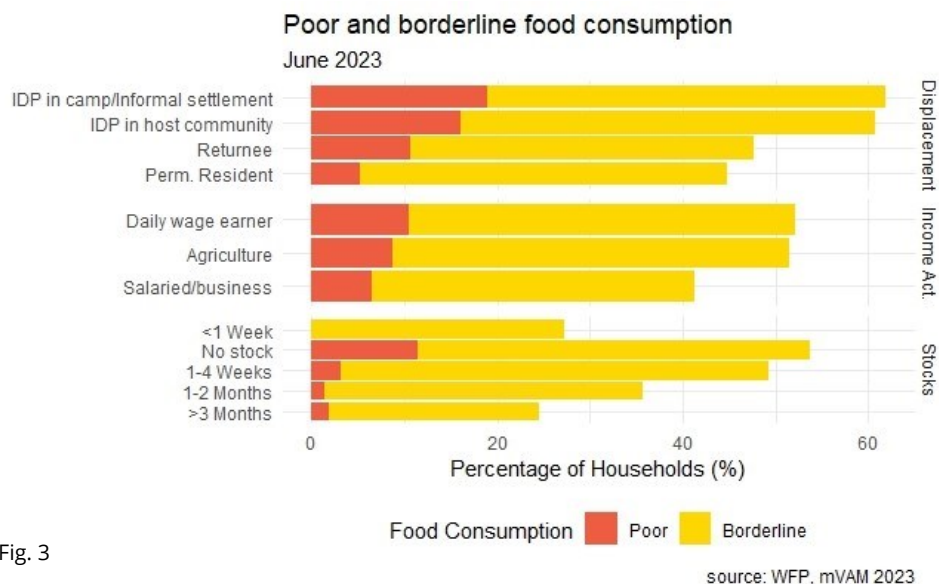


Fig. 3

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 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).

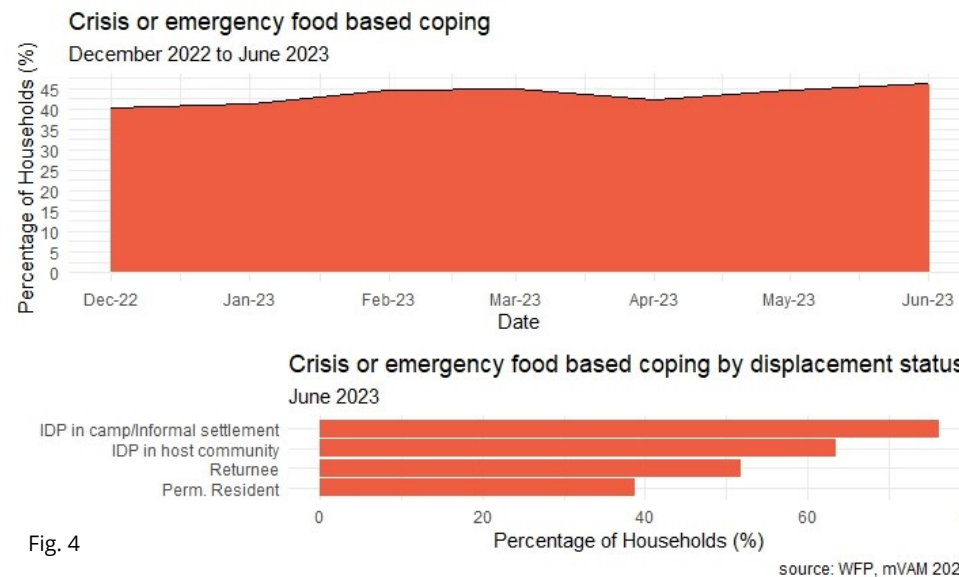


Fig. 4

There is an increasing uptake in food-based coping strategies in June 2023 compared to the start of the lean season and the post-harvest period (Fig. 4). However, based on last year's data, it is expected that food-based 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, especially IDPs in camp or informal settlement show significantly higher levels of food based coping compared to permanent residents (Fig. 4).

### Multidimensional deprivation

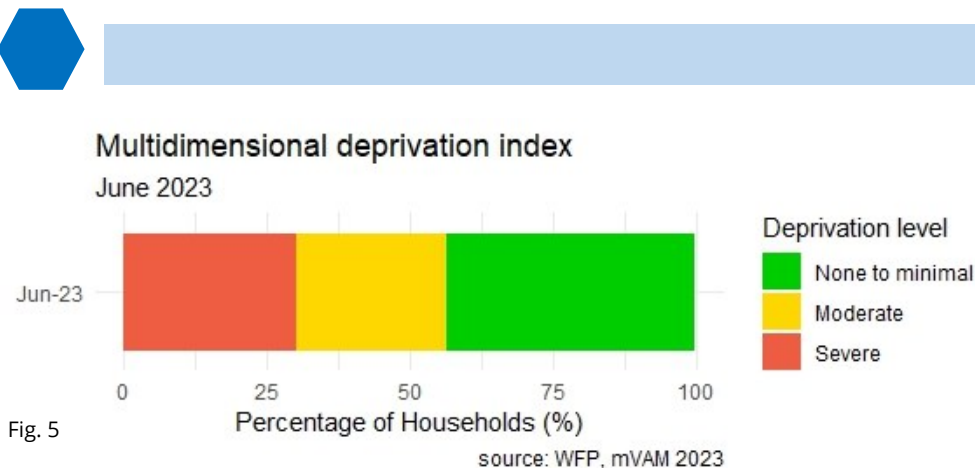


Fig. 5

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.

About **57% of households are considered multidimensionally deprived**, having an MDDI above the 1/3rd cut-off point (Fig. 5). Of all households, 30% are considered severely deprived (score above 0.66) and almost 26% are moderately deprived. (score between 0.33 and 0.5). The remaining 43% experience no or minimal multidimensional deprivation.

Fig. 7 shows that the shelter, food, safety 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, shelter and health. Again, IDPs and returnees are most vulnerable with **over 60% of IDPs experiencing severe multidimensional deprivation** (Fig. 6). For permanent residents in host communities that percentage is at 13%. In terms of income activity, households engaged in agriculture-related activities show the highest levels of severe multidimensional deprivation at 34%.

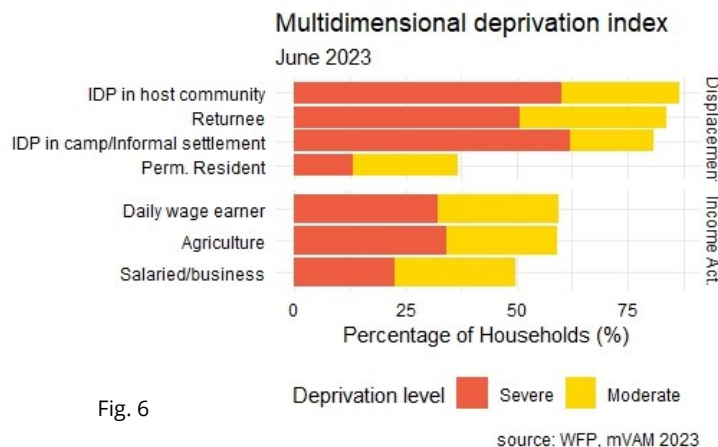


Fig. 6

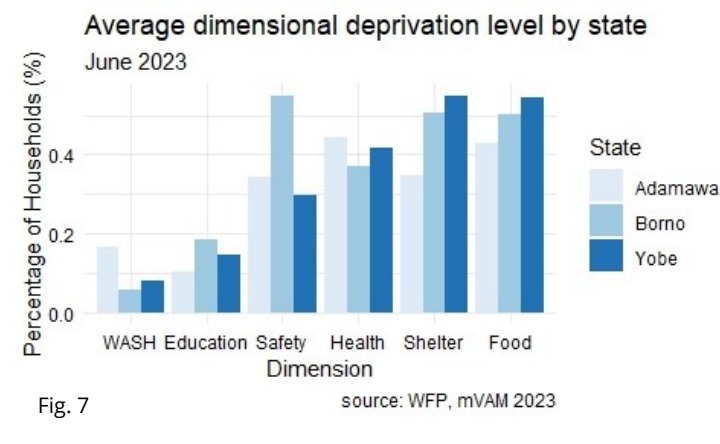


Fig. 7



### Livelihoods, agriculture and stocks

Overall agriculture is the main income activity in northeast Nigeria, with over 25% 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 10% of households in each category. IDPs residing in camps or informal settlements heavily rely on selling natural resources and agriculture 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, 86% of households indicated they do. However there are differences between senatorial zones. **At 71%, the intention to cultivate is lowest in Borno Central, most likely due to limited land access.** (Fig. 9).

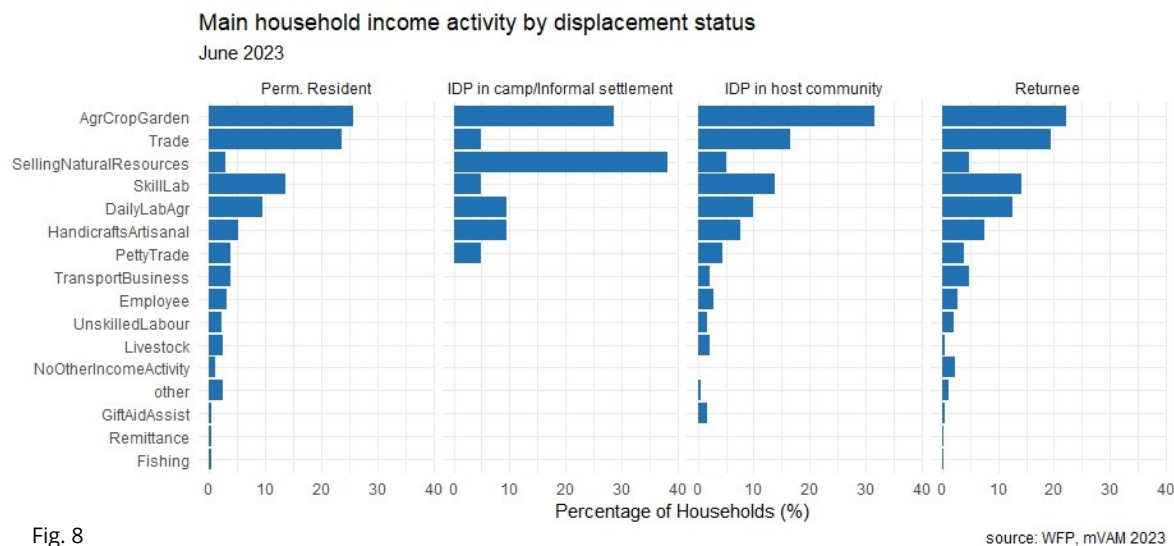


Fig. 8

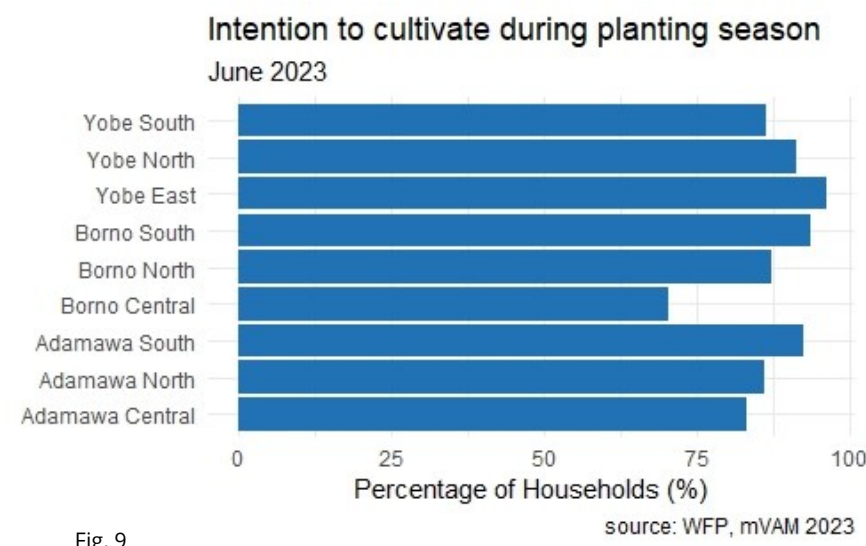


Fig. 9

**Food stock levels** are especially low in Yobe South with only 22% of cultivating household having some stock available, of which 47% will be depleted within one month's time. Also Borno Central and Yobe North show slightly lower stock levels. Adamawa and Borno South have generally higher stock levels.

**About 81% of IDPs in camps or informal settlements do not have stock available. The remaining 19% will have their stock depleted within one month,** however stocks of returnees will generally last longer.

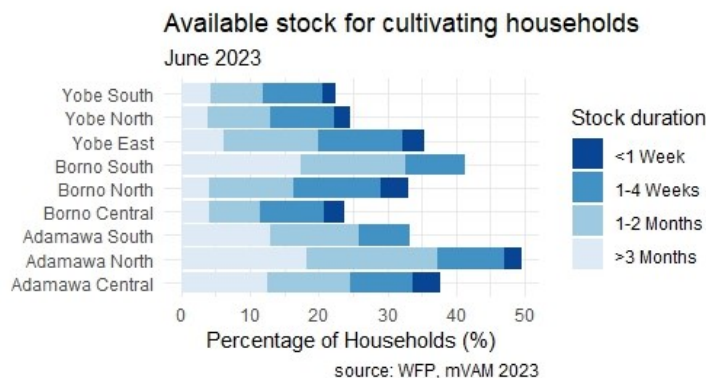


Fig. 10

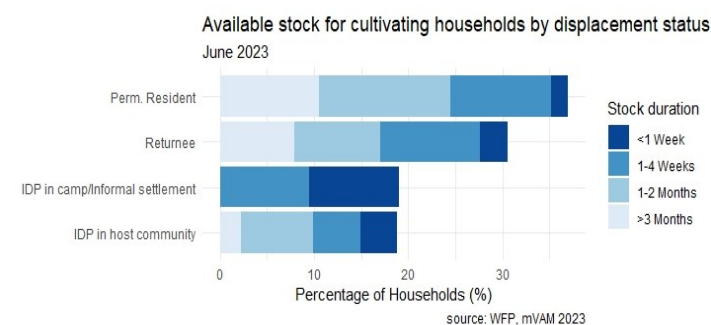


Fig. 11



### Profiling —Vulnerability overlap

Vulnerability overlap by displacement status June 2023

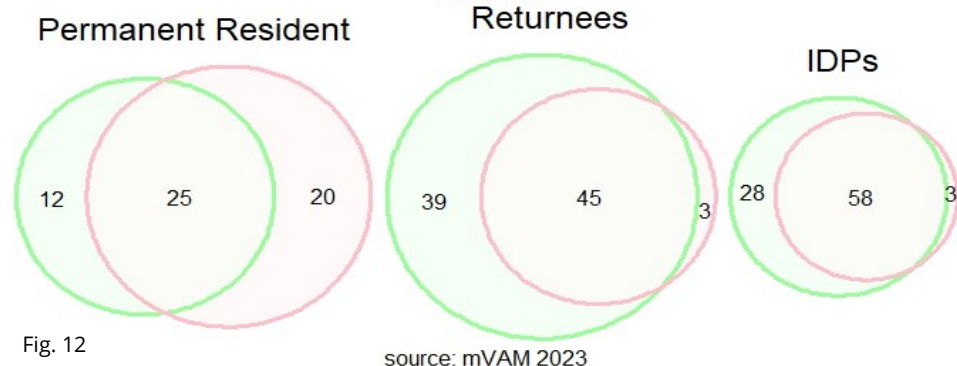


Fig. 12

source: mVAM 2023

There is a high overlap of types of vulnerability. For IDPs and returnees 58% and 45% 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 39% and 28% of households, respectively.

Vulnerability overlap by income activity June 2023



Fig. 13

source: mVAM 2023

Daily wage earners also experience high levels of both inadequate food consumption and multidimensional deprivation at 42% (Fig. 13). For agricultural households the overlap is lower at 36%, while for salaried/business households overlap represents 28%. Different from IDPs and returnees insufficient food consumption does occur individually for at least % 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.

