

July 2023 — Lean Season Food Security Outlook

Key points



In July, 51% of households in northeast Nigeria have inadequate food consumption. **This marks a twelve percentage point increase compared to the same time last year and an eight 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 host communities.



In comparison to the same time period in the previous year, about 35% of cultivating households have some food stocks remaining. Which marks a two-point increase. However, only 23% have stocks that will last longer than a month. Food consumption is therefore expected to worsen over the coming months.

Context

The humanitarian crisis in northeast Nigeria continues with civilians bearing the brunt of a conflict that has resulted in widespread displacement, destruction of infrastructure, and a near-collapse of basic social services. As many as 2.2 million people are internally displaced in the most affected northeast states of Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa (BYA), of which over 80 percent are in Borno State, with women and children comprising most of those internally displaced (*IOM DTM Round 44*). Inflation rates have continued to increase since October 2020 and saw an especially sharp jump in early 2021. According to the National Bureau of Statistics, Nigeria's headline inflation rate jumped to 24.08 per cent in July 2023 from 22.79 in the previous month. This increase is for the seventh consecutive time and is expected to further increase in light of the increase in fuel prices.



Food Consumption

As the lean season progresses, about 51% of households have inadequate food consumption in July (Fig. 1). **This marks a twelve percent increase compared to July 2022 and an eight 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.** This is seen to be the highest in twelve months and 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 volatility in fuel prices.

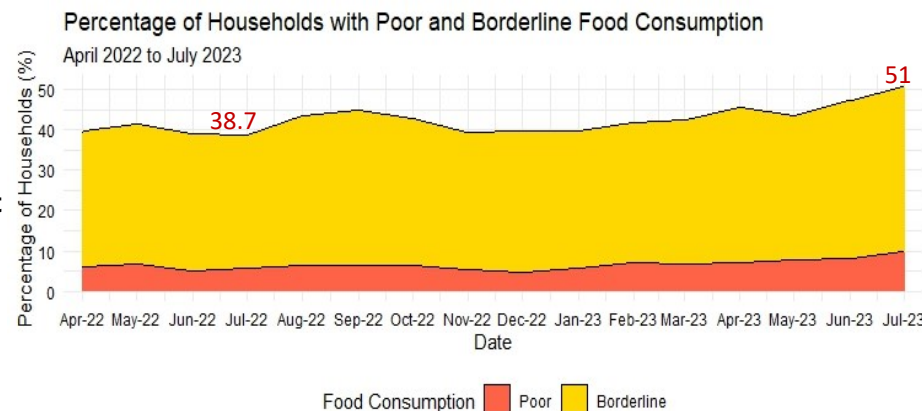


Fig. 1

source: WFP mVAM 2023

Insufficient food consumption levels July 2023

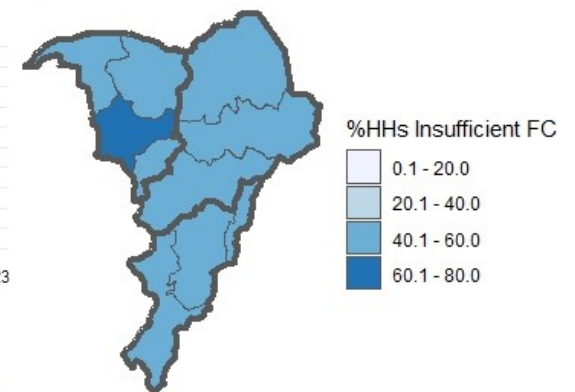


Fig. 2 source: WFP mVAM 2023

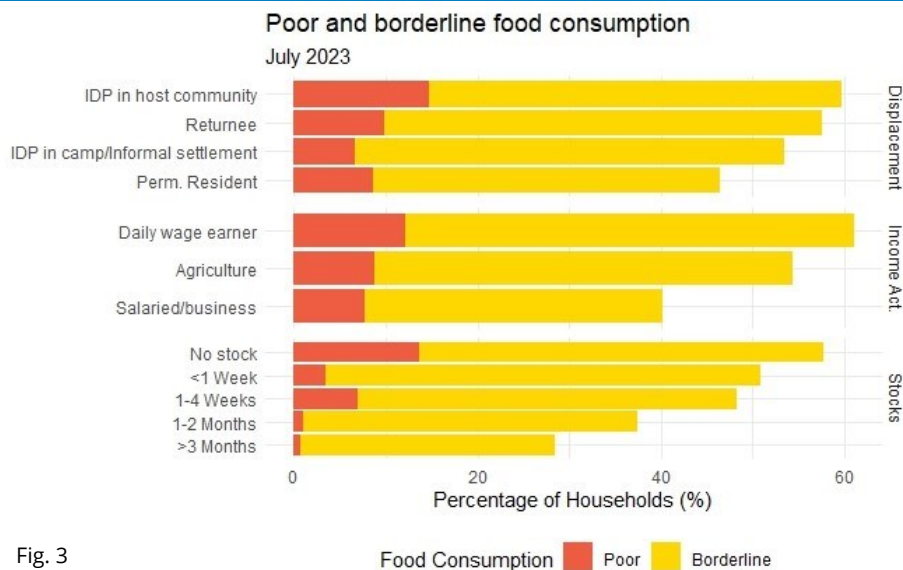


Fig. 3 source: WFP, mVAM 2023

Internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees continue to 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).

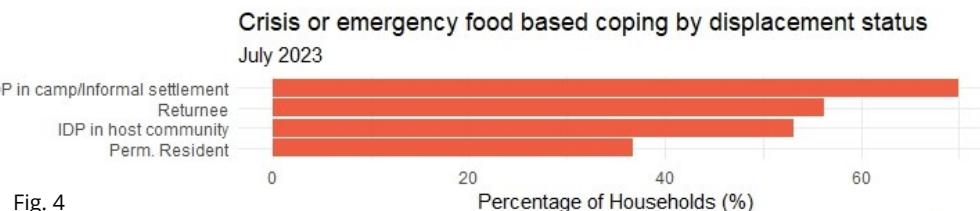
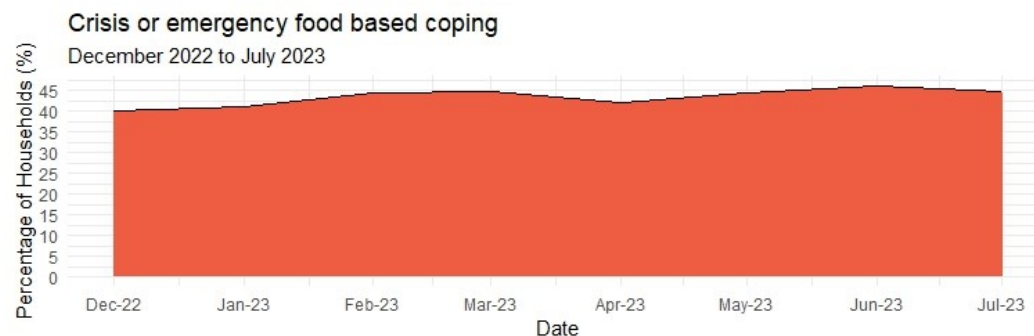


Fig. 4 source: WFP, mVAM 2023

There is a slight decrease in the adoption of food-based coping strategies in July 2023 compared to the start of the lean season (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, especially IDPs in camps or informal settlements show significantly higher levels of food-based coping compared to permanent residents (Fig. 4).

Multidimensional deprivation

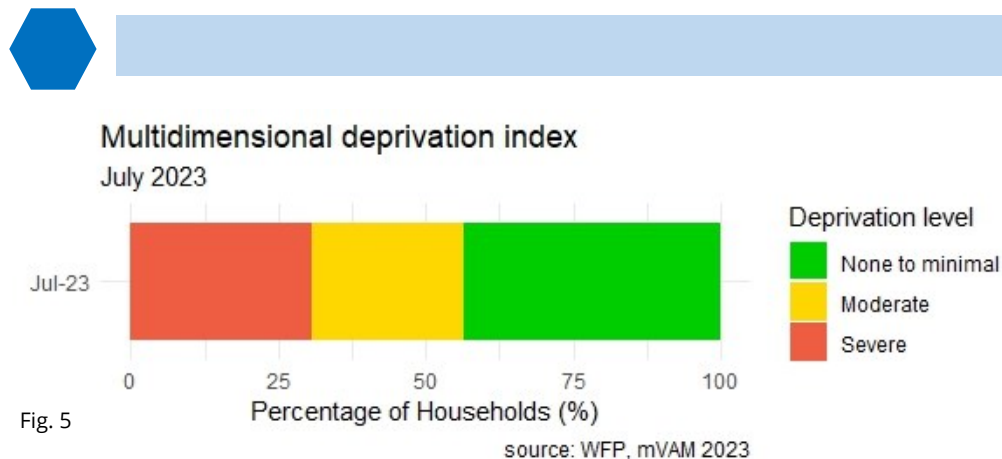


Fig. 5 source: WFP, mVAM 2023

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 **56% 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 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 food, shelter, 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 safety and shelter. Households in Borno show the highest levels in terms of food and health. Again, returnees and IDPs are most vulnerable with **about 56% of returnees and 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 daily wage earnings show the highest levels of severe multidimensional deprivation at 36%.

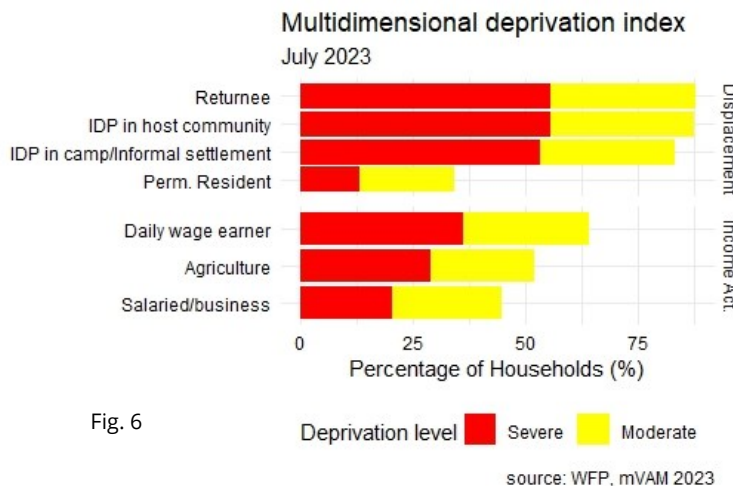


Fig. 6

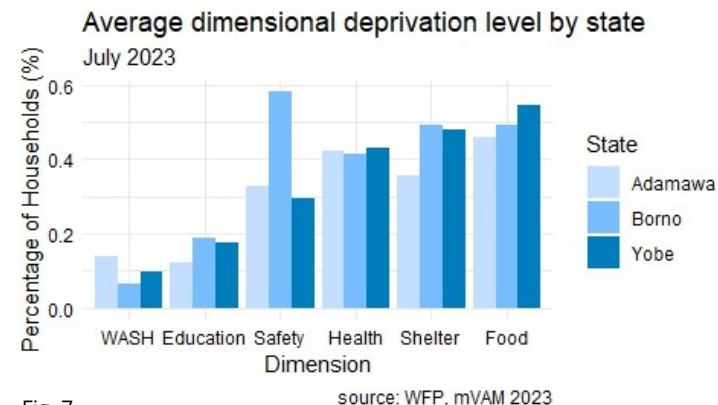


Fig. 7



Livelihoods, agriculture and stocks

Overall, agriculture is the main income activity in northeast Nigeria, with over 30% of households indicating it is their main income source (Fig. 8). Daily agricultural labour is also a main income activity for more than 12% of households in each category. IDPs residing in camps or informal settlements heavily rely on selling natural resources and petty trade for their income. They are less involved in other types of labour. More returnees engage in handicrafts or artisanal work, skilled labour, and petty trade as their main income source compared to permanent residents.

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 68%, the intention to cultivate is lowest in Borno Central, most likely due to limited land access due continuing insecurity.** (Fig. 9).

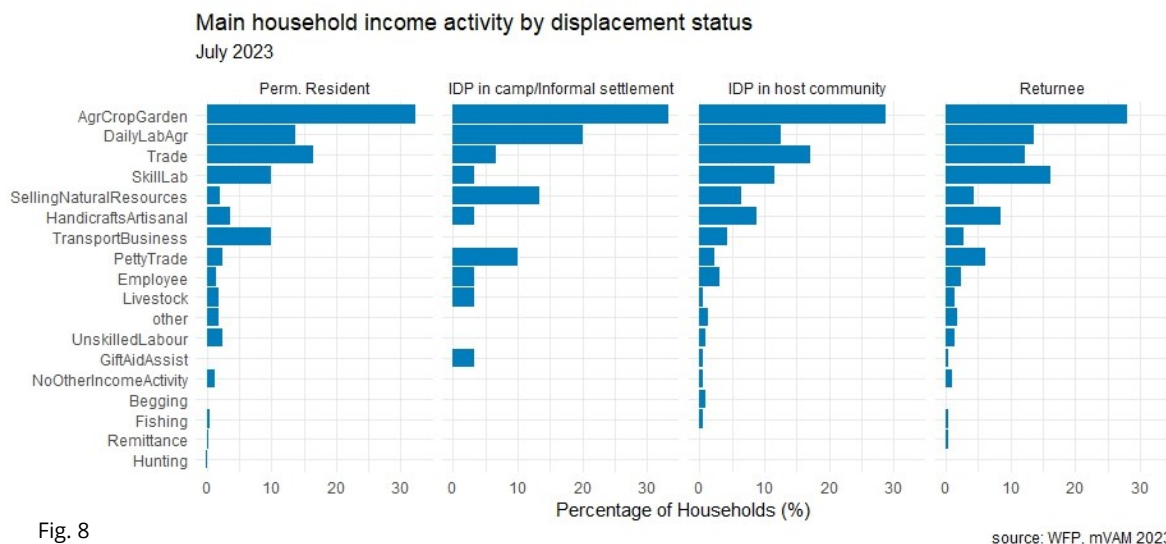


Fig. 8

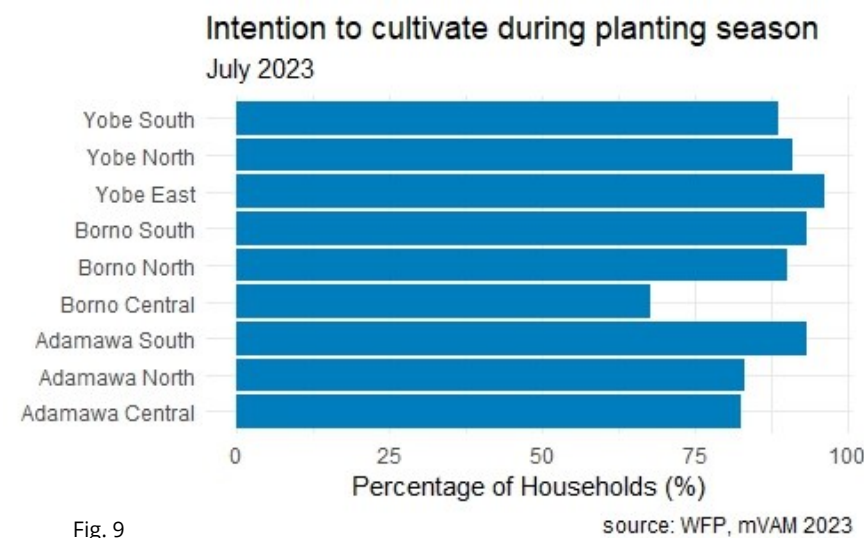


Fig. 9

Similarly, the food stock levels are especially low in Borno Central with only 33% of cultivating households having some stock available, of which 68% 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.

About 82% of IDPs in the host community do not have stock available. Only 22% of cultivating IDPs in camps or informal settlements have stock that will last more than one month, however, stocks for returnees will likely last longer.

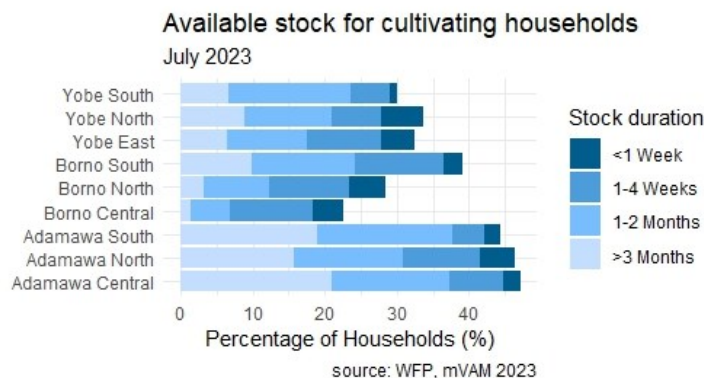


Fig. 10

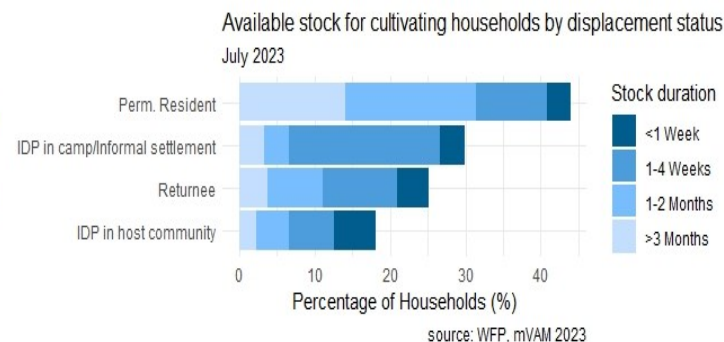


Fig. 11



Profiling —Vulnerability overlap

Vulnerability overlap by displacement status

July 2023

Permanent Resident

Returnees

IDPs

Daily wage earner

Salaried/business

Agriculture

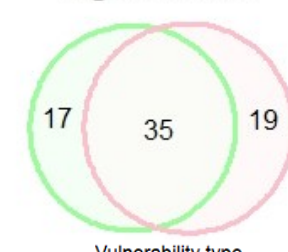
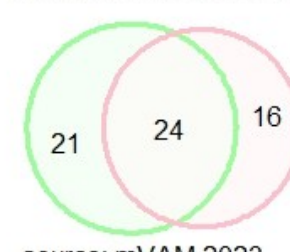
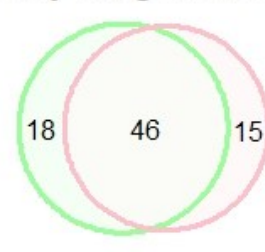
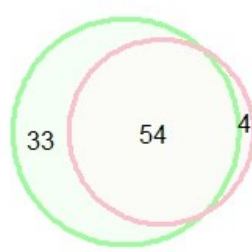
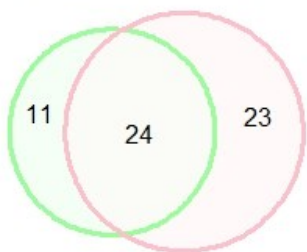


Fig. 12

source: mVAM 2023

Vulnerability overlap by income activity

July 2023

Fig. 13

source: mVAM 2023

Vulnerability type
 ● multidimensionally poor
 ● poor and borderline FCS

There is a high overlap of types of vulnerability. Among IDPs and returnees, 54% have insufficient food consumption and are multidimensionally deprived, while for permanent residents this is 24% (Fig. 12). Multidimensional deprivation is widespread among IDPs and returnees and does occur individually for 33% and 34% of households, respectively.

Daily wage earners also experience high levels of both inadequate food consumption and multidimensional deprivation at 46% (Fig. 13). For agricultural households the overlap is lower at 35%, while for salaried/business households overlap represents 24%. Different from IDPs and returnees insufficient food consumption does occur individually for at least 17% 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.

