

## July 2022 — Lean Season Food Security Outlook

### Key points



Almost 40% of households in northeast Nigeria have inadequate food consumption in July during the current the lean season. This marks a two 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. Especially IDPs residing in camps or informal settlements.



In July around 33% of cultivating households have some food stocks remaining. However, only 16% 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 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

During the 2022 lean season, 39% of households have inadequate food consumption in July (Fig. 1). This marks a two percentage points increase compared to July 2021 and almost corresponds to the percentage of food insecure households at the peak of last year's lean season. While there was a slight decrease compared to May 2022—which can be partly contributed to Eid celebrations and increased meat consumption—the overall levels of food insecurity remain very high and therefore fragile, especially in light of the current global food crisis.

Percentage of households with poor and borderline food consumption

March 2021 to July 2022

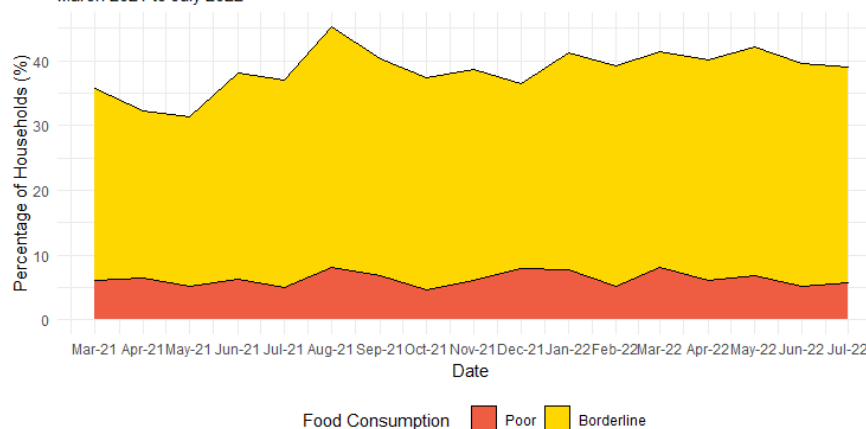


Fig. 1

source: WFP, mVAM 2022

Insufficient food consumption levels

July 2022

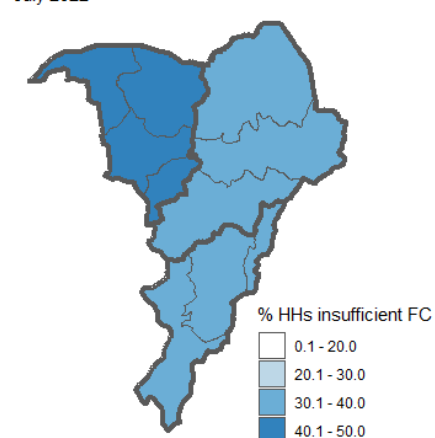


Fig. 2

source: WFP, mVAM 2022

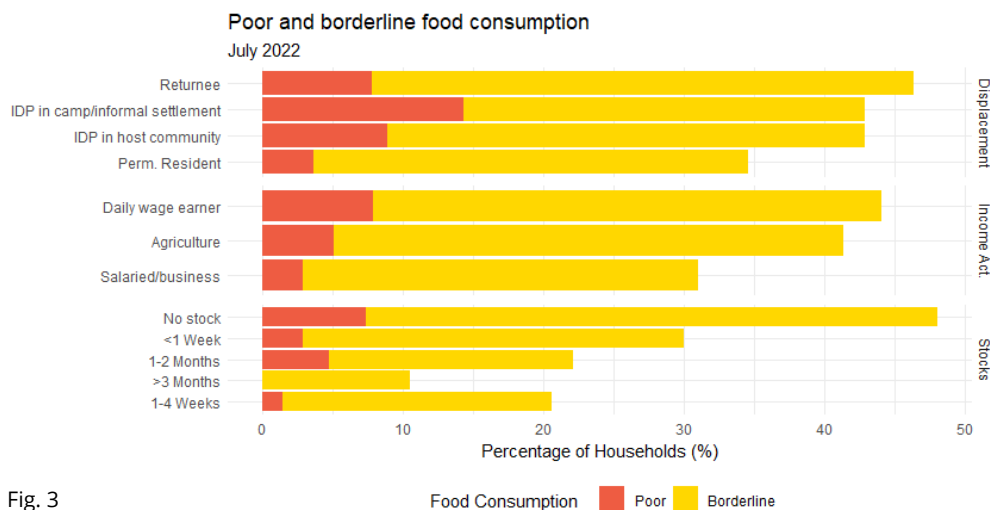


Fig. 3 source: WFP, mVAM 2022

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).

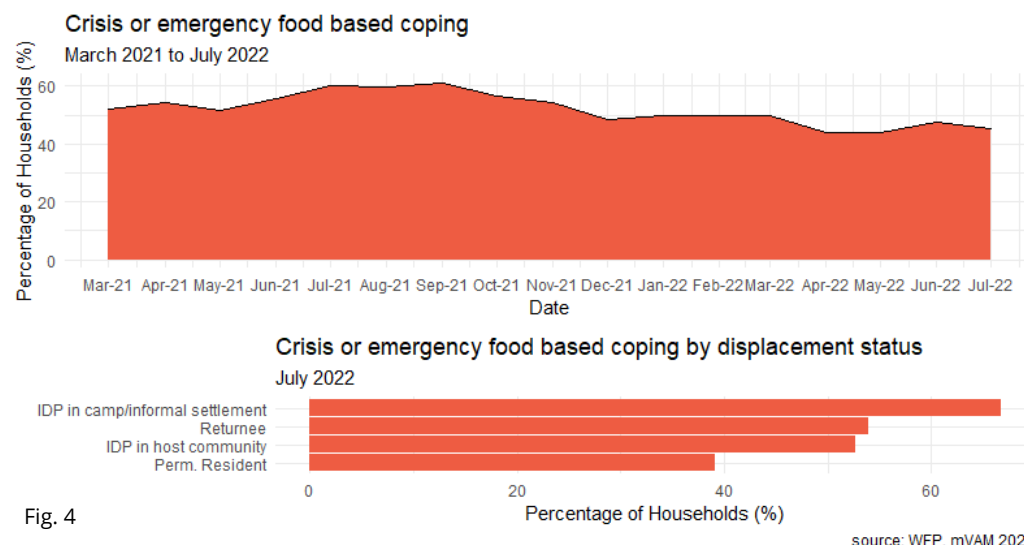


Fig. 4 source: WFP, mVAM 2022

There is no observable uptake in food-based coping strategies during the 2022 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

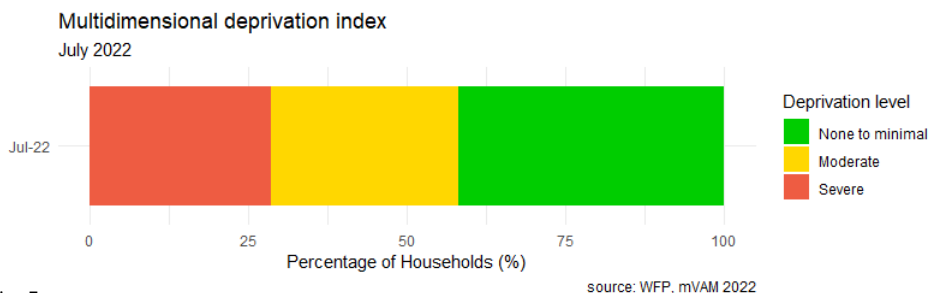


Fig. 5 source: WFP, mVAM 2022

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, 58% of households are considered multidimensionally deprived, having an MDDI above the 1/3rd cut-off point (Fig. 5). Of all households, 29% are considered severely deprived (score above 0.66) and 29% are moderately deprived. (score between 0.33 and 0.5). The remaining 42% 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 severe multidimensional deprivation at 35%.

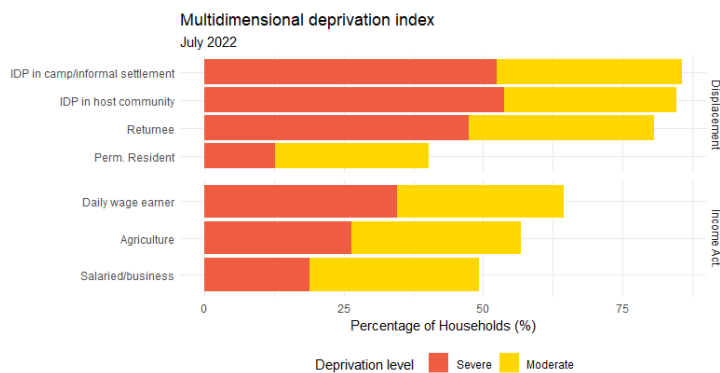


Fig. 6

source: WFP, mVAM 2022

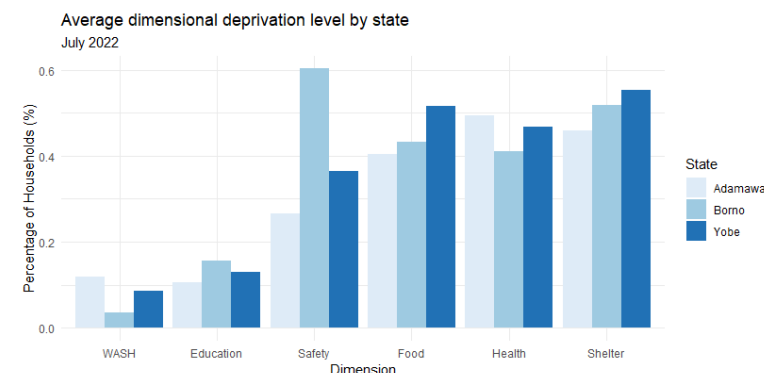


Fig. 7

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 in each category. IDPs in camps or informal settlements heavily rely on agriculture, selling natural resources, trade and assistance for their income. They are less involved in other types of labour. Additionally, 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, 79% of households indicated they do. However there are differences between senatorial zones. The intention to cultivate is especially low in Borno Central, with only 49% of households (Fig. 9), which can be explained by its proximity to urban areas like MMC, Jere and Konduga.

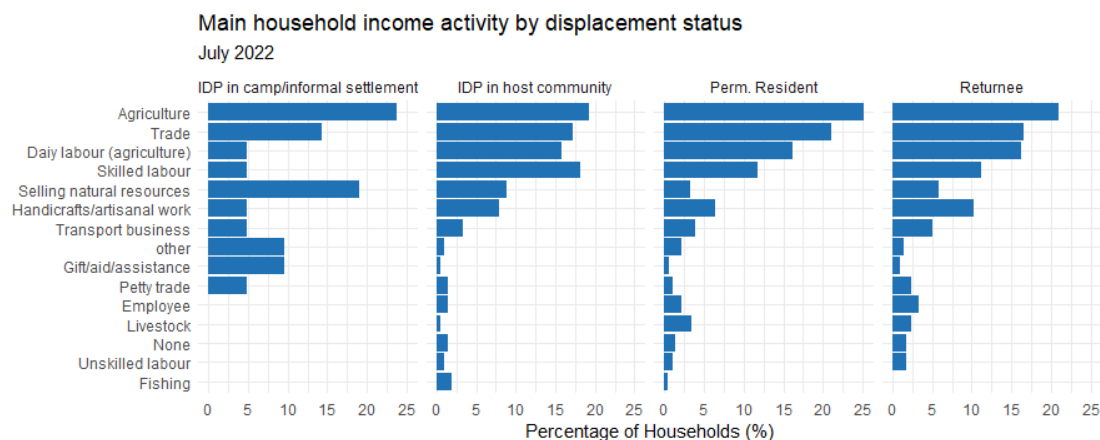


Fig. 8

source: WFP, mVAM 2022

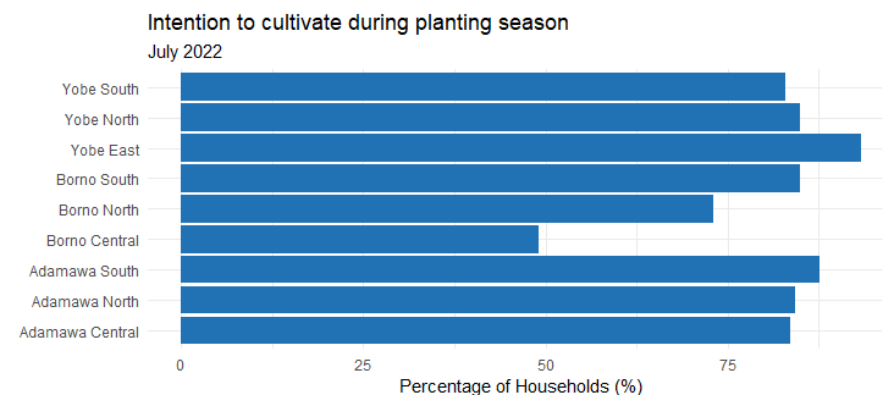


Fig. 9

source: WFP, mVAM 2022

Similarly, the food stock levels are especially low in Borno Central with only 24% of cultivating households having some stock available, of which more than 60% will be depleted within one month's time (Fig. 10). Also Borno North and Yobe show slightly lower stock levels. Yobe has recently seen floodings, which potentially further contribute to reduced stock levels. **Cultivating IDPs in camps or informal settlements have no remaining stock that will last longer than one month (Fig. 11).** Stock levels extending one month are similarly very low for IDPs in host communities and returnees. However, stocks of returnees will generally last slightly longer.

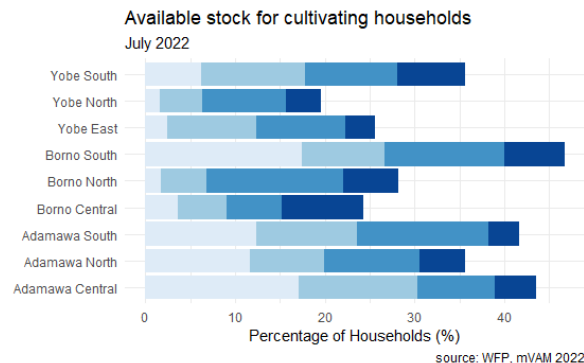


Fig. 10

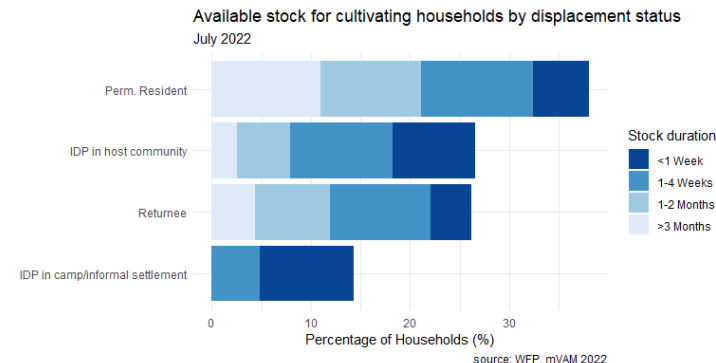


Fig. 11



Profiling —Vulnerability overlap

Vulnerability overlap by displacement status July 2022

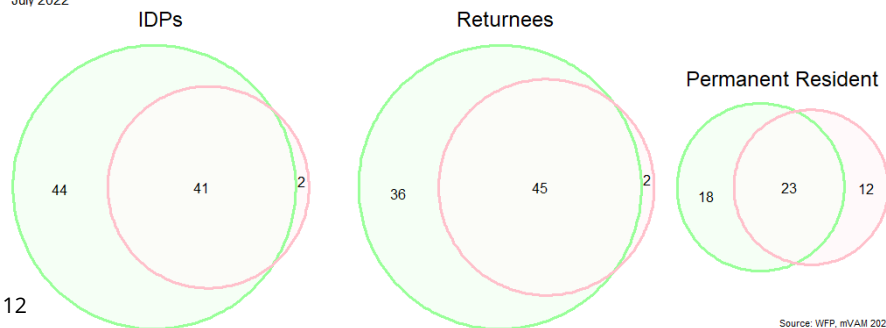


Fig. 12

Vulnerability overlap by income activity July 2022

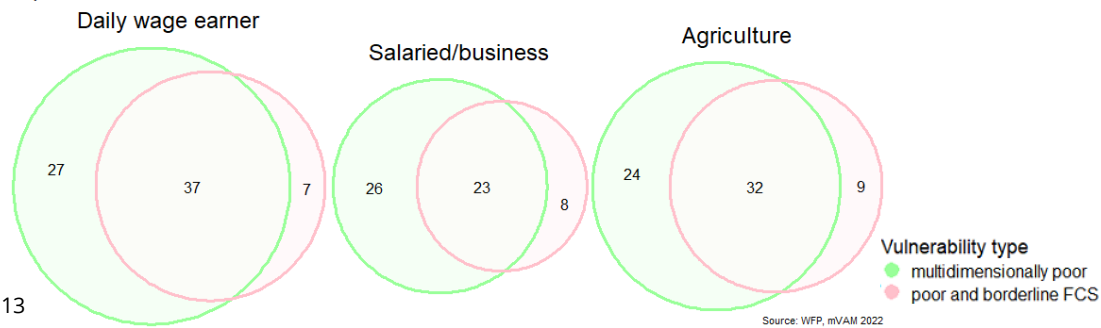


Fig. 13

There is a high overlap of types of vulnerability. For IDPs and returnees 41% and 45% respectively have insufficient food consumption and are multidimensionally deprived simultaneously, while for permanent residents this is 23% (Fig. 12). Multidimensional deprivation is widespread among IDPs and returnees and does occur individually for 44% and 36% of households, respectively.

Daily wage earners also experience high levels of both inadequate food consumption and multidimensional deprivation at 37% (Fig. 13). For agricultural households the overlap is lower at 32%, while for salaried/business households overlap represents 23%. Different from IDPs and returnees insufficient food consumption does occur individually for at least 7% 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.

