Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA)

North West and South West regions, Cameroon
October 2019
Survey Objectives

• To assess the food security situation of the residents and Internally Displaced Person (IDP) households in North West and South West

• To assess the prevalence of malnutrition among children aged 6 to 59 months living in North West and South West by measuring Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) and controlling for bilateral oedema

• To assess the situation of local food markets by analysing local food supply chains and trader networks

• To identify further contributing factors to household food insecurity.
Methodology

- 1,171 households were interviewed
  - 604 Households in North-West
  - 567 households in South-West
- 4 Strata: each region broken down by IDPs and residents
- Random sampling technique was used.
Prevalence of Food Consumption Levels

% of households with poor food is higher in South-West compared to North West.
Residents in South-west are using more negative food based coping strategies compared NW

Overall the IDPs are using food based coping strategies and one in three falls into high coping category – highly vulnerable

- Relied on less preferred, less expensive food
- Borrowed food or relied on help from friends or relatives
- Reduced the number of meals eaten per day
- Reduced portion size of meals
- Restrict consumption by adults in order for young children to eat
## Livelihood Coping Strategies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No Strategy</th>
<th>Stress</th>
<th>Crisis</th>
<th>Emergency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>IDPs NORTH-WEST</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>HH not adopting coping strategies</td>
<td>Borrowed money/food</td>
<td>Sold households goods</td>
<td>Sold productive assets or means of transport (sewing machines, wheelbarrow, bicycle, livestock etc.)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>o Spent Savings</td>
<td>o Sold households goods</td>
<td>o Withdrew children from school</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>o Sold more animals (non-productive) than usual</td>
<td>o Sold productive assets or means of transport (sewing machines, wheelbarrow, bicycle, livestock etc.)</td>
<td>o Reduced essential Non-food expenditures such as education and Health</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Residents NORTH-WEST</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>o Begging</td>
<td>o Sold female animals /the remaining productive ones</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>IDPs SOUTH-WEST</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The proportions of households in each category are as follows:

- **IDPs NORTH-WEST**
  - No strategies: 44%
  - Stress: 38%
  - Crisis: 63%
  - Emergency: 49%

- **Residents NORTH-WEST**
  - No strategies: 10%
  - Stress: 11%
  - Crisis: 14%
  - Emergency: 15%

- **IDPs SOUTH-WEST**
  - No strategies: 21%
  - Stress: 23%
  - Crisis: 6%
  - Emergency: 17%

- **Residents SOUTH-WEST**
  - No strategies: 25%
  - Stress: 29%
  - Crisis: 17%
  - Emergency: 19%
Household Food Expenditure Share

- **NORTH-WEST**
  - IDP: 30% (30%), 12% (25%), 25% (25%), 2% (0%)
  - Residents: 29% (31%), 15% (25%), 25% (25%), 2% (0%)

- **SOUTH-WEST**
  - IDP: 48% (48%), 15% (14%), 23% (15%), 1% (8%)
  - Residents: 21% (49%), 22% (22%), 43% (22%), 2% (0%)

Legend:
- Green: food expenditure share categories < 50%
- Orange: food expenditure share categories 50 - 65%
- Brown: food expenditure share categories 65 - 75%
- Red: food expenditure share categories >75%
Overall Food Security Levels – Using Food Security Console

Percentage of HH

IDP Residents IDP Residents

NORTH-WEST SOUTH-WEST

Food secure | Marginally food secure | Moderately food insecure | Severely food insecure

0% 12% 10% 12% | 3% 4% 22% 15% | 15% 20% 20% 12% | 32% 36% 30% 44%
Prevalence of Acute Malnutrition using MUAC

% of Children 6-59 months

- Severe Acute Malnutrition
  - NORTH-WEST: 2%
  - SOUTH-WEST: 3%

- Moderate Acute Malnutrition
  - NORTH-WEST: 3%
  - SOUTH-WEST: 5%

- Global Acute Malnutrition
  - NORTH-WEST: 5%
  - SOUTH-WEST: 7%
Market Functionality - Food commodities sold by traders

- Rice: 51% (NORTH-WEST), 9% (SOUTH-WEST)
- Plaintain: 9% (NORTH-WEST), 3% (SOUTH-WEST)
- Cassava Garri: 40% (NORTH-WEST), 6% (SOUTH-WEST)
- Yam: 3% (NORTH-WEST), 9% (SOUTH-WEST)
- Cocoyam: 6% (NORTH-WEST), 34% (SOUTH-WEST)
- Potato: 9% (NORTH-WEST), 34% (SOUTH-WEST)
- Beans: 34% (NORTH-WEST), 37% (SOUTH-WEST)
- Maize: 17% (NORTH-WEST), 37% (SOUTH-WEST)
- Groundnut: 37% (NORTH-WEST), 37% (SOUTH-WEST)
Key Drivers of Food Insecurity

- Insecurity and conflict
- Reduced affordability levels
- Loss of employment and reduced income earning opportunities
- Restrictions to access the markets
- High fuel and transportation costs
Conclusions and Recommendations

- Food security is fragile in both regions and continuous monitoring is needed.
- FCS is lower among the host communities than the IDPs in the NW. SW has higher levels of deteriorated FCS levels.
- Expenditure share on food is above 50% for both groups. Therefore, the economic capacity to face food insecurity shocks is limited.
- The prevalence levels of severe acute malnutrition high. Emergency nutrition interventions is recommended for children 6-59 months of age, pregnant and lactating mothers.
- Availability of food items in the market seems to be limited in the SW. Regular market price monitoring is recommended. Recommended to monitor the minimum the cost of a nutritious food basket and calorie only diets.
Limitations

• Restricted movements due to security status
• Insecurity levels has impacted on household selection