

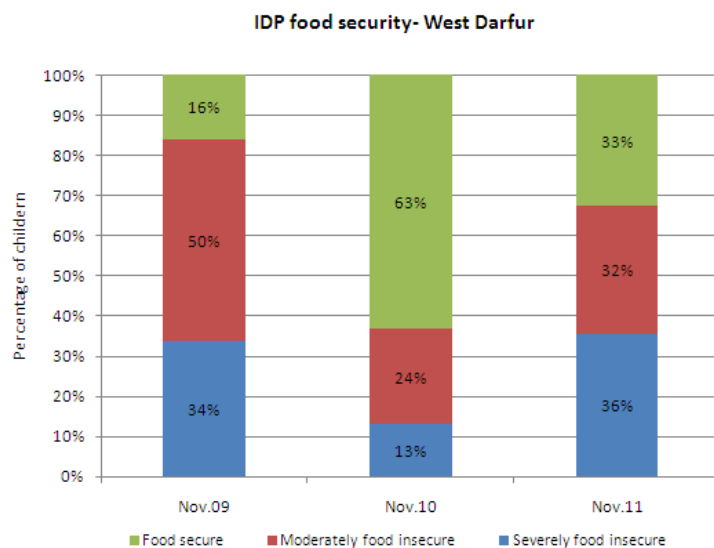


Executive Summary

- Data collection was jointly conducted with the state Ministry of Agriculture in November which the beginning of the harvest period, with a total of 690 interviewed households in 22 locations.
- The overall food security situation in West Darfur has deteriorated in November 2011 for all population groups compared to May 2011 and Nov 2010.
- Gender and education level of household head has a clear impact on the households food security status.
- Sorghum prices have increased by 11 percent compared to May 2011 and by 55 percent compared to the five-year average.
- The minimum healthy food basket (MHFB) has significantly increased by 27 percent compared to May 2011 and by 60 percent compared to November 2010, from SDG 1.45 SDG/person/day in May 2011 to 1.84 SDG/person /day in November 2011.
- Findings indicate that on average 72 percent of household expenditures were on food items. This represents an increase of 6 percent compared to May 2011 and by 20 percent compared to November 2010.
- In November 2011, wage labor and small businesses were reported to be the most significant sources of income for internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees, while wage labor and crop cultivation were the primary sources of income for mixed communities. For residents, small businesses and wage labor were the main income sources.
- In general, findings indicated a slight decline in food consumption score (FCS) compared to May 2011 and November 2010; around 50 percent of IDPs, mixed communities and refugees have shown an insufficient FCS.

1. FOOD SECURITY

In November 2011, the overall food security situation in West Darfur has deteriorated for all population groups compared to May 2011 and November 2010. The percentage of households falling within the moderately food insecure and severely food insecure categories have shown a considerable increase compared to previous rounds. This has taken place mainly as a result of limited income sources, inadequate food consumption and high market prices for essential food items in the MHFB.



IDPs and mixed communities have the lowest percentages of food secure households (approximately 30 percent) compared to other population groups. Some 50 percent of the resident community group fall in the food secure category, while only around 40 percent of the refugees are found to be food secure, a considerable decrease compared to May 2011 and November 2010.

Resident communities (sampled locations of Beida, Habila, Furbaranga and Kulbus) reside in rural areas where people mainly depend on agricultural activities during this period. The majority of the locations where resident communities are settled received poor rainfall resulting in scarce work opportunities and high market prices.

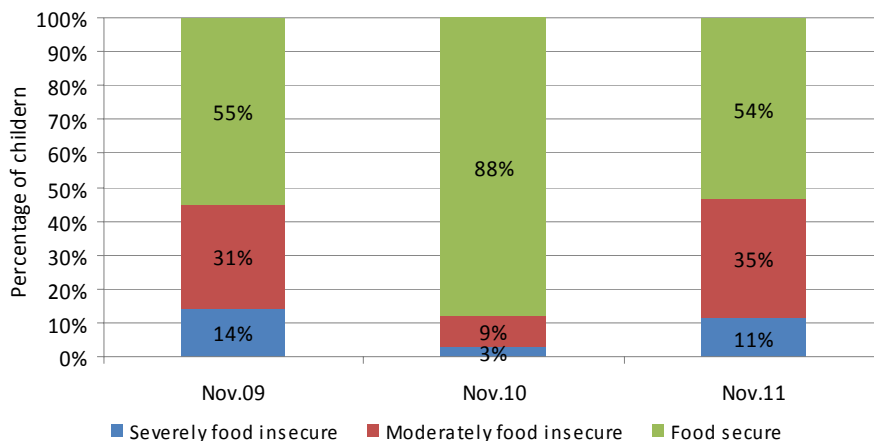
Refugee households have limited access to income source as the two refugee camps in the rural locations of Um Shalaya and Mukar are already accommodating some IDPs from surrounding villages. This has negatively impacted the food security situation of refugees.

The limited work opportunities have a negative effect on the households purchasing power, which again is reflected in the deteriorating food security situation.

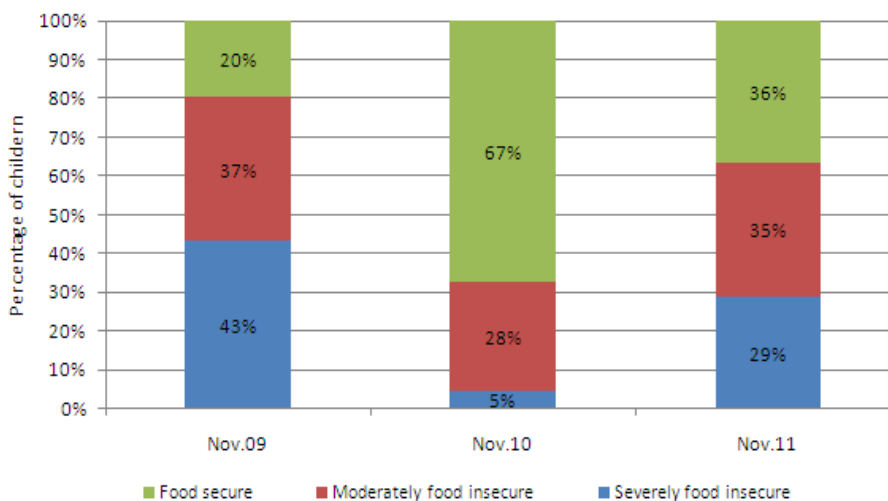
The unusual limitation of income during this period of this year is attributed to poor harvest resulting in an abnormal increase in market prices due to poor supply.

However, the slight change in the food security situation of resident communities is mainly attributed to those who are unable to afford the cost of the MHFB. High market prices as well as lacking seasonal income opportunities during November 2011 were critical contributing factors.

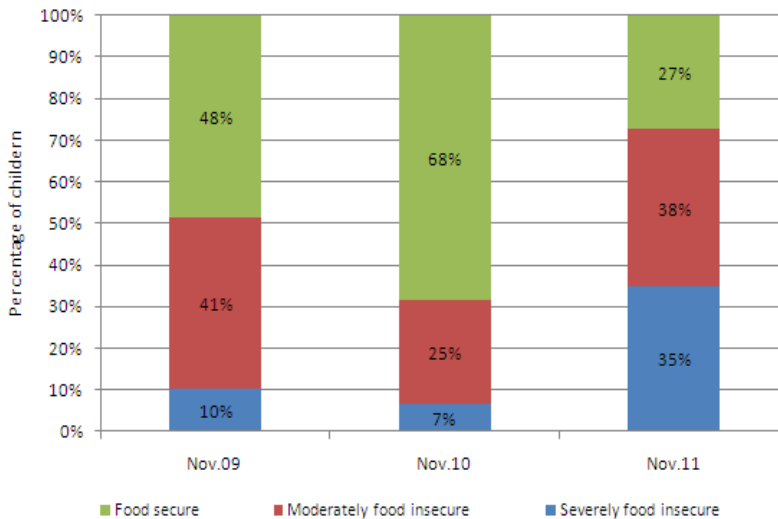
Resident food security-West Darfur



Refugees food security-West Darfur

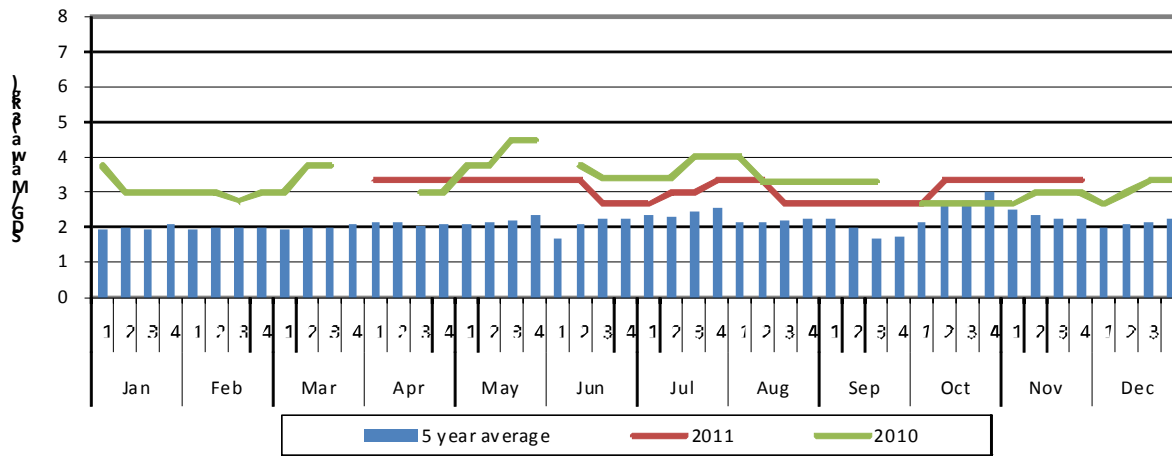


Mixed community food security-West Darfur



A. Market situation and cost of minimum healthy food basket

Sorghum prices in Geneina market



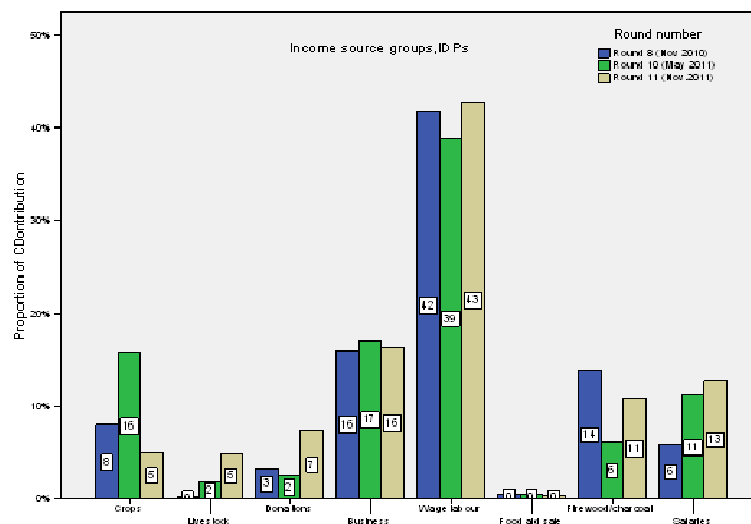
Sorghum prices were higher by 11 percent compared to May 2011 as well as 55 percent higher compared to the five-year average. Cereals (sorghum and millet) prices have been affected by low production this year compared to last year's good agricultural season. This is expected to result in poor harvest in many parts of the state and high food prices in the coming months. Prices of oil, dry tomatoes and onion have also increased in main markets in West Darfur. Consequently, the cost of the minimum healthy food basket (MHFB) has increased by 27 percent compared to May 2011 (from SDG 1.45 SDG/person/day to 1.84 SDG/person /day), as sorghum and vegetable oil are the main components of the household food basket. Terms of trade (ToT) of a sorghum sack purchased per male goat has increased compared to May 2011 and November 2010. Findings indicate that livestock owner is able to purchase 1.4 (136 kg) sack of sorghum (90 kg) by selling one male goat. However, the ToT is approximately similar to the five-year average, when one male goat was traded for about one and half sack of sorghum. The favorable ToT in November 2011 is attributed to the increase in prices of livestock in El Geneina market as well as the increase in sorghum prices.

B. Income Sources

The main source of income for IDPs reported during November 2011 was wage labor which (similar to May 2011 and November 2010) contributed to 43 percent of households' income. Small businesses contributed to 16 percent while salaried work contributed to 13 percent.

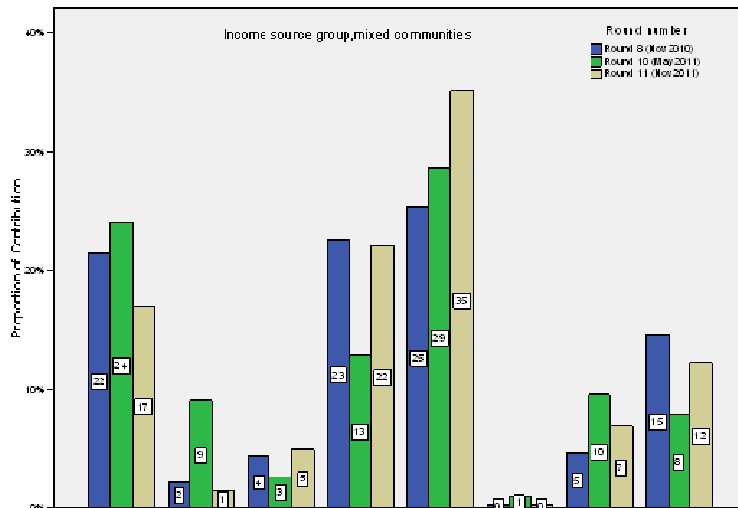
However, contributions from sale of crops have significantly decreased, while a slight increase was reported in contribution resulting from sale of firewood/charcoal.

Poor harvest prospects resulted in limited seasonal income opportunities.



Refugees' access to wage labor has notably declined to 42 percent compared to 59 percent in May 2011 and 80 percent in November 2010. Contributions from salaried work has considerably increased to 18 percent compared to 4 percent in May 2011. Contributions from sale of firewood and donations have significantly increased among the refugee category compared to May 2011 and November 2010, possibly as a result of lack of work opportunities.

Mixed communities have access to diverse income sources including wage labor (36 percent), business (22 percent), crop sales (17 percent) and salaries (12 percent). Compared to May 2011 and November 2010, contribution from wage labor and salaries have increased while income from crop sale has decreased.

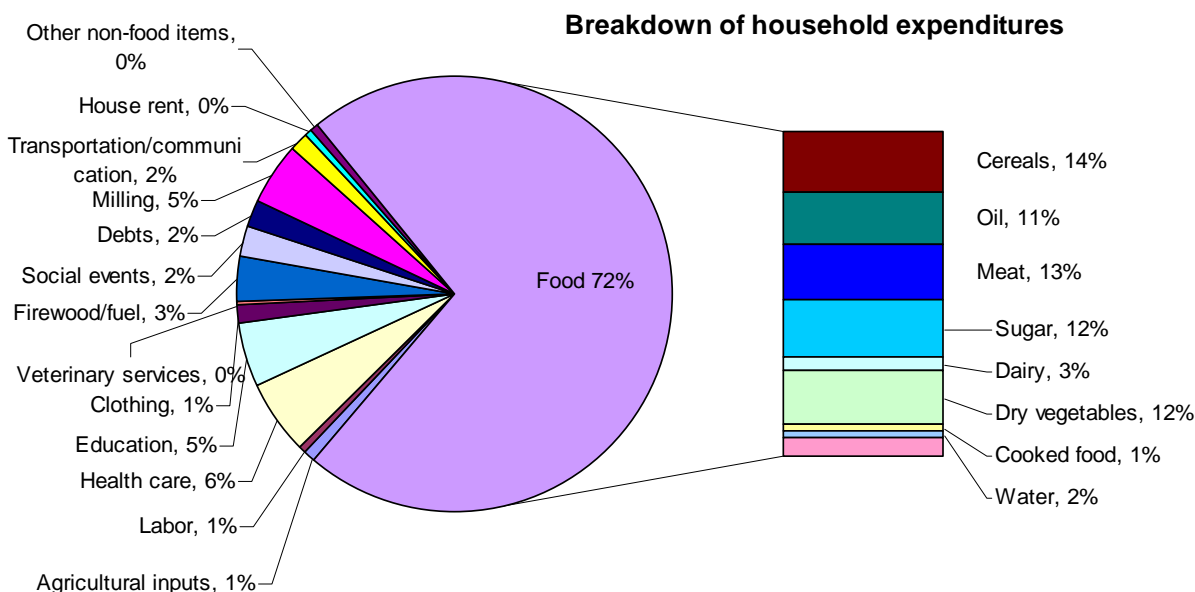


The most important income sources for resident communities have been businesses, wage labor and salaries. Contribution from businesses (30 percent) has significantly increased compared to May 2011 and November 2010. However, contribution from wage labor and salaries remained similar to those reported in May 2011 and November 2010.

C. Expenditure

The proportion of total monthly expenditure on food has slightly increased from 68 to 72 percent compared to May 2011. The largest households' expenditure on food was on cereals (14 percent), meat (13 percent), oil (11 percent), vegetables (12 percent), dairy products (3 percent) and water (2 percent). Main expenditures on non-food items included health care (6 percent), milling (5 percent) and firewood (3 percent).

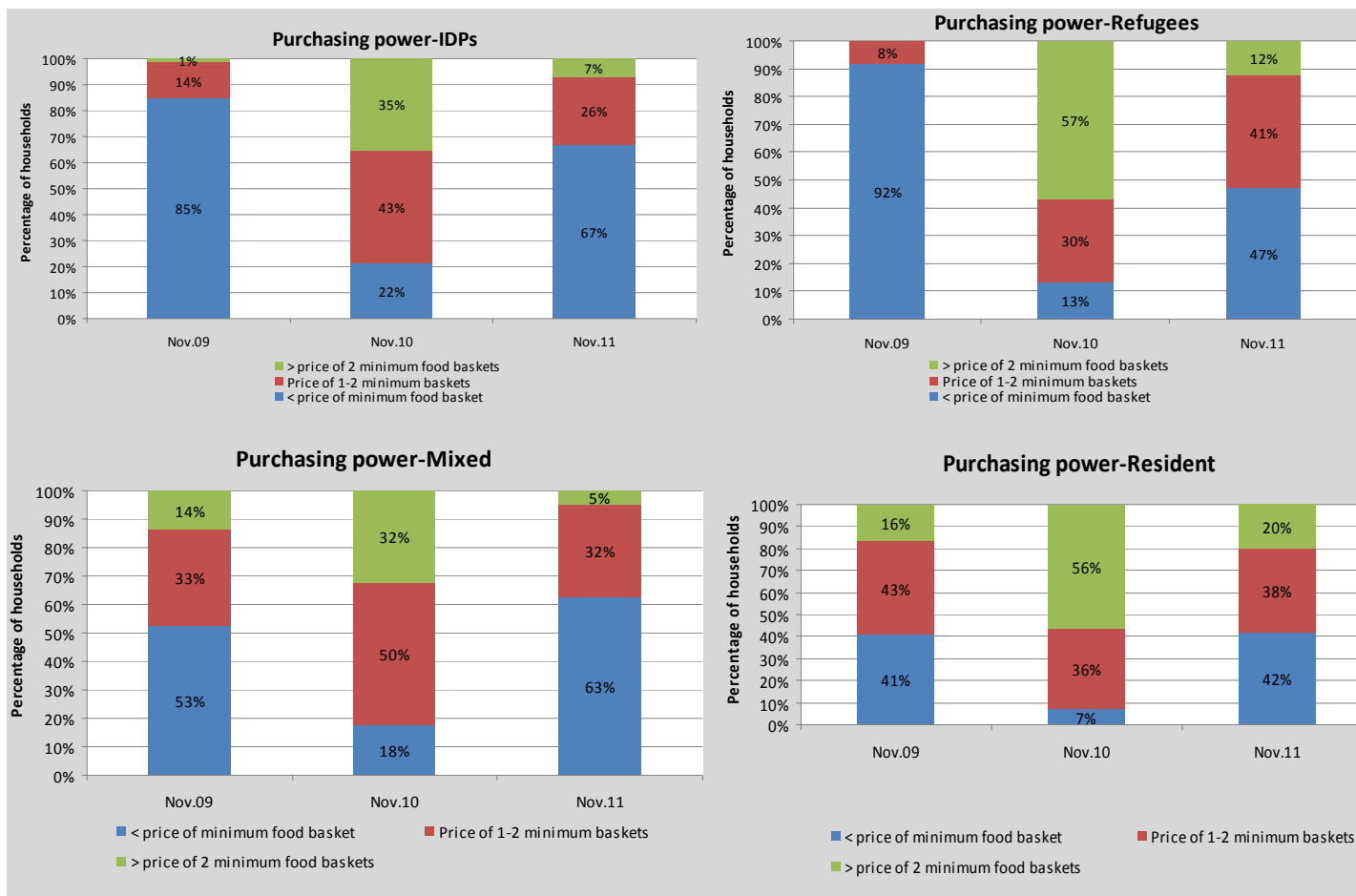
Compared to May 2011, findings indicate that there has been an increase in the proportion of households spending more than 65 percent of their monthly expenditure on food; IDPs from 73 to 75 percent; refugees from 72 to 86 percent; mixed communities from 60 to 74 percent; and resident communities from 48 to 61 percent. This situation might be attributed to limited income sources, poor purchasing power as well as the increase in food prices.



The income proxy (purchasing power) is measured against the cost of the minimum healthy food basket based on the current market prices. The cost of food basket has increased by 27 percent, which is mainly due to the increase in prices of sorghum, vegetable oil, onion, dry vegetables, milk and sugar.

Approximately 65 percent of IDPs and mixed communities cannot afford the cost of one minimum healthy food basket (SDG 1.84) due to limited income opportunities. This has significantly increased compared to May 2011 and November 2010. Around 45 percent of refugee and resident community households cannot afford the cost of the basket. This has significantly increased compared to May 2011 and November 2010.

Out of 22 locations, a total of 16 locations (representing 73 percent) have an income per person per day lower than the cost of the MHFB.



D. Food Consumption

The food consumption is categorized as poor, borderline and acceptable based on the variety and frequency of different food items consumed by the households in seven days prior to the FSMS data collection period.

The overall food consumption has deteriorated for all population groups. A considerable proportion of households in all population groups have experienced a shift from the acceptable food consumption category, to borderline and poor food consumption categories compared to May 2011 and November 2010.

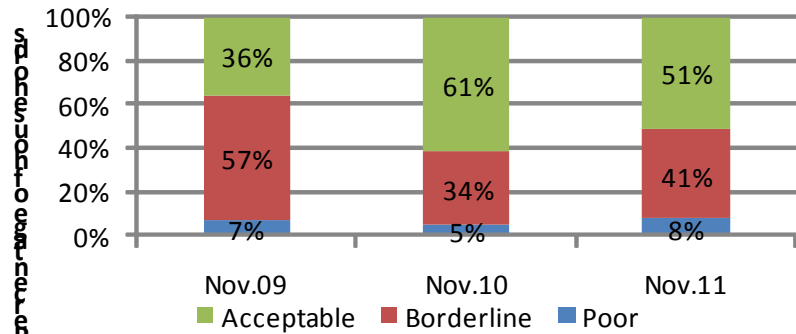
IDPs have 41 percent of households in the borderline category compared to 29 and 34 percent reported in May 2011 and November 2010 respectively. Furthermore, 8 percent of the households are in the poor food consumption category.

Mixed communities have the highest proportion (51 percent) within the borderline category compared to 43 and 30 percent in May 2011 and Nov 2010. In addition, 6 percent are in the poor food consumption category.

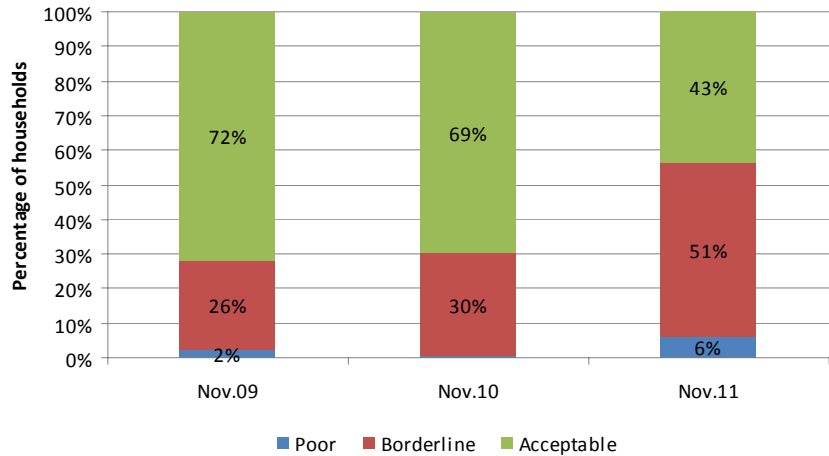
Resident communities have 25 percent of households in the borderline compared to 18 and 10 percent in May 2011 and Nov 2010. Refugees have 48 percent of households in the borderline category compared to 33 percent in May 2011 and Nov 2010.

All locations have FCS above the maximum threshold (42) with the exception of Um Tajok, Shabab and Al Karanik. These three locations have experienced a significant reduction in income during November 2011 and spend a large percentage of their total expenditure on food (70 percent) compared to May 2011 and November 2010.

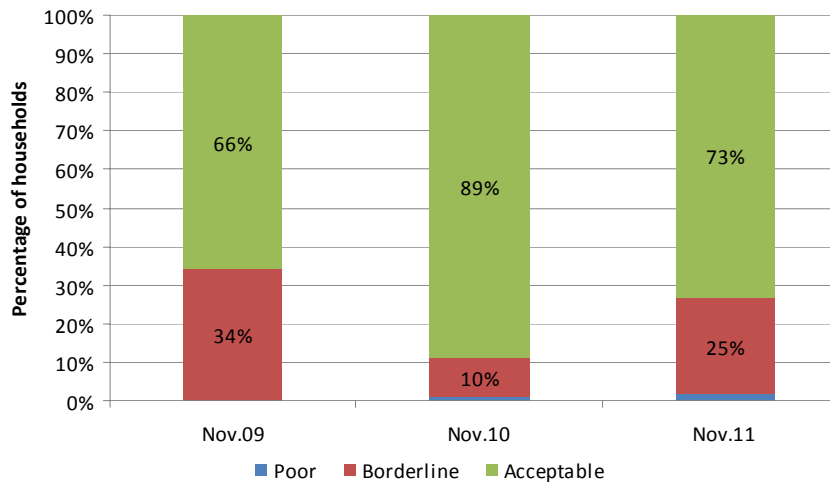
Food Consumption Score-IDPs



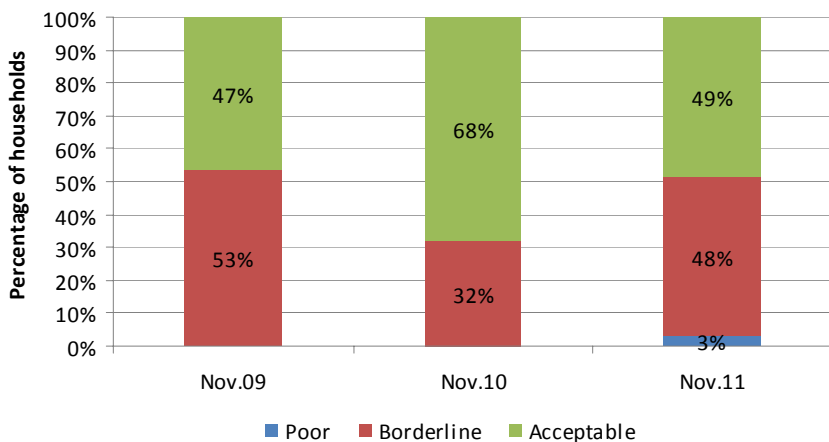
Food Consumption Score-Mixed



Food Consumption Score-Resident



Food Consumption Score-Refugees



2. Agriculture

This section provides information on household access to farming land, estimated rainfall data, area planted/cultivated, expected production and livestock rearing. Around 60 percent of IDPs, 95 percent of mixed communities, 77 percent of resident communities and 75 percent of refugee households had access to farming land. This has slightly increased for IDPs and mixed communities compared to the last rainy season. However, the proportion has decreased for resident communities and refugees. Delayed rainfall as well as uneven distribution in resident locations such as Beida, Kulbus, Habila, Furbaranga, etc. has discouraged many farmers from planting their lands.

The average area cultivated by household for all population groups has considerably increased compared to the last rainy season. The relatively improved security situation, combined with high cereal and cash crop prices have encouraged many households to farm their lands. Despite the increased area of cultivated land, production is expected to be lower than the last rainy season due to irregular rainfall, long dry spells and localized pest infestation.

3. Coping Strategy Index

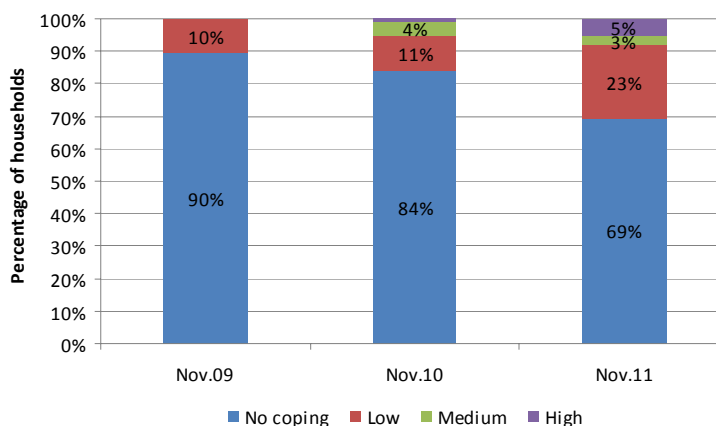
The proportion of households who have faced shortage in food or cash to purchase food items during the recall period of seven days in November 2011 have increased compared to May 2011 and November 2010.

Compared to November 2010, a higher percentage of IDP households had to engage in various coping strategies. The most common coping strategies for IDPs were to rely on less preferred food, borrow food or to reduce the portion size of food per day. Furthermore, some households has to rely on support from relatives or restrict consumption for adults in order for small children to eat.

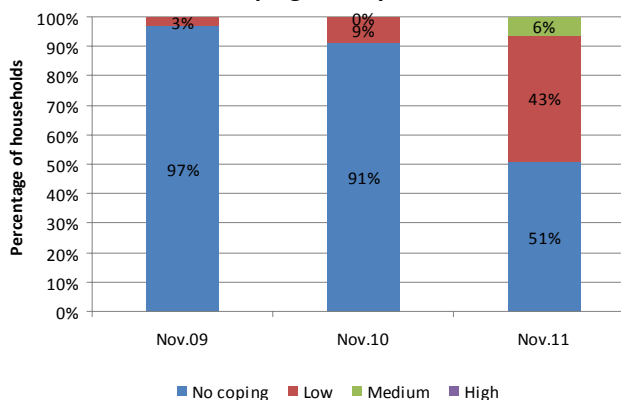
In resident and mixed communities, 33 and 43 percent respectively has to engage in low risk coping strategies.

Results show that refugee households who have not faced food shortage have significantly increased to 86 percent compared to 47 percent in May 2011. However, the proportion remained same as November 2010. In contrast, 10 percent of refugee households applied low coping strategies compared to 39 and 17 percent in May 2011 and November 2010 respectively. There were no refugee households that adopted high coping strategies compared to 3 percent in May 2011.

Coping Strategy - IDPs



Coping Strategy-Mixed



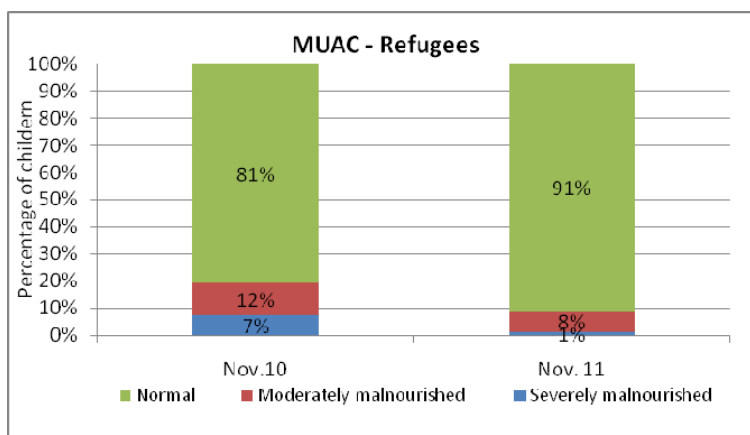
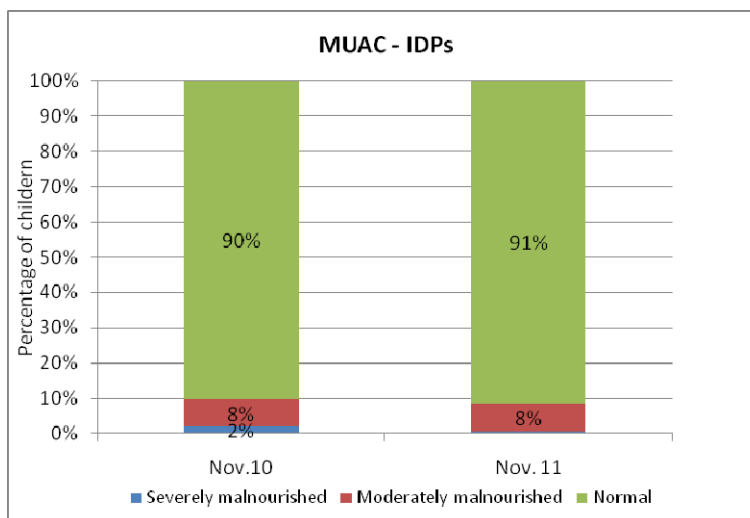
4. Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC)

The Mid Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) was measured on 752 children (6-59 months) in the 22 surveyed locations.

Results indicate that 3 and 2 percent of the children in resident and mixed community households respectively are severely malnourished. This has slightly increased compared to May 2011, but remains similar to November 2010. A total of 8 percent of IDP and refugee children are moderately malnourished.

In resident and mixed communities, 9 percent of their children are moderately malnourished. This is higher than in May 2011, but similar to November 2010.

For refugees, the percentage of moderately malnourished children is similar to May 2011 and November 2010. Poor feeding practices and poor hygiene are contributing factors behind the malnutrition rates.



5. Child Health and Dietary Diversity

This section reflects information on dietary diversity of children (6-59 months) within a recall period of 24 hours. Data was collected from 661 children.

Findings indicated that the proportion of children who were not provided with the essential four food groups have increased from November 2010 for all community groups, ranging from 58 to 76 percent of the children.

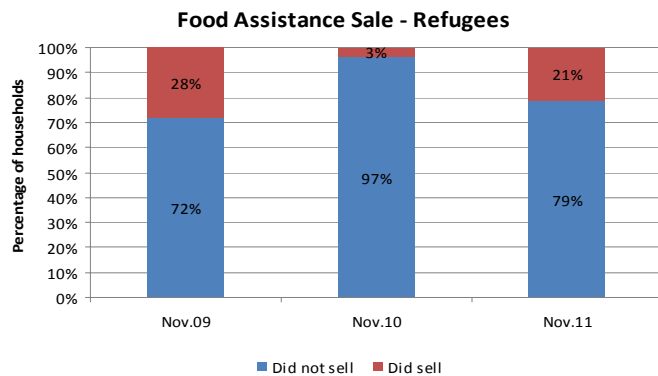
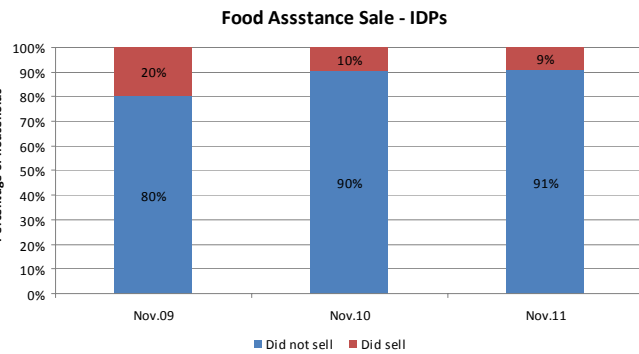
Children in mixed communities, have the highest percentage of children who are not being provided with the essential four food groups (76 percent), which is a significant increase from 56 percent reported in November 2010. In resident communities, 72 percent of the children receive food from less than four food groups compared to 69 percent of IDP children and 58 percent of refugee children.

6. Food Assistance

This section reports information on receiving and utilization of food assistance within a recall period of three months. Results indicate that the majority of IDP and refugee households (90 percent and 96 percent respectively) have received food assistance in the last three months ahead of the data collection period. This proportion has significantly increased among IDPs compared to May 2011 while it remained similar to November 2010. IDPs and refugees normally receive regular general food distribution rations.

The proportion of resident and mixed communities households who have received food assistance has considerably decreased compared to May 2011 but remained similar to November 2010. This is mainly attributed to WFP's targeting strategy, particularly provision of seasonal support that had taken place from July to October/November 2011.

The proportion of households reporting to sell their food aid is stable in IDP households (9 percent), but has increased in refugee households (21 percent). A low percentage of households in mixed and resident communities are selling their food assistance.



7. Who Are the Food Insecure?

Food security and gender

Analysis of food security and gender show that gender has an impact on the food security status. In West Darfur, 38 percent of female headed households are severely food insecure compared to 27 percent of male headed households.

Food security and education

Education of the head of households is also a factor impacting the food security situation. In households where the head is uneducated, 35 percent are severely food insecure, compared to 7 percent in households where the head has secondary education. Furthermore, 37 percent of households where the head has no education are moderately food insecure, compared to 18 percent of households where the head has secondary education.

DEMOGRAPHICS

- 30 percent of the households assessed are female headed;
 - Average household size is 6.8 persons;
- 45 percent of the households are IDPs living in camps;
 - 46 percent are resident;
 - One percent are returnees;
 - Two percent are nomads; and
 - Six percent are refugees.