

Burundi Food Security and Nutrition Monitoring System (FSNMS)



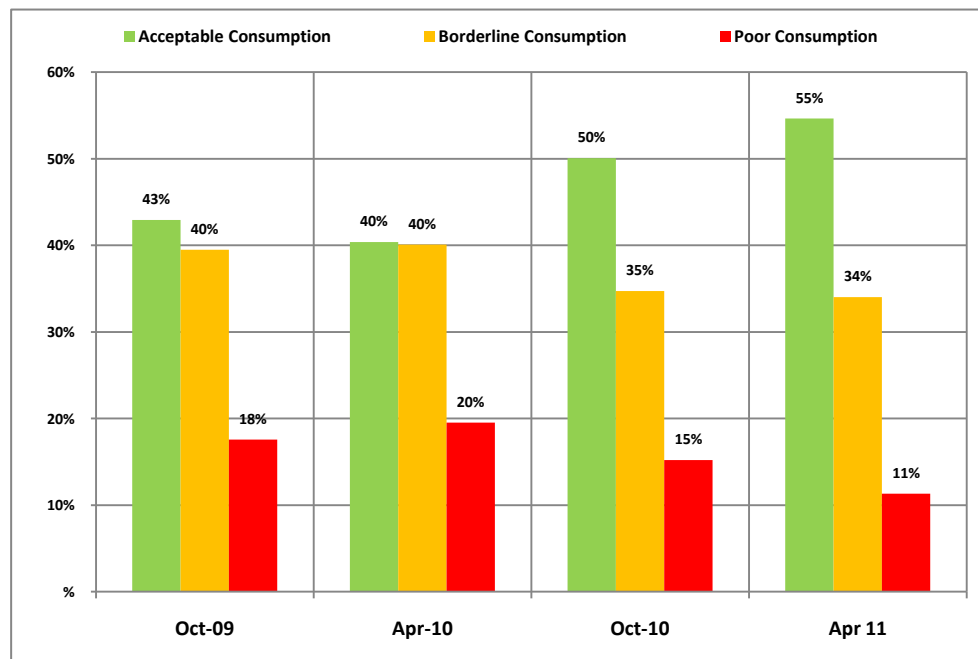
Bulletin No5 – April 2011

In general, the food security situation in several parts of Burundi has improved based on the latest round of food security monitoring system (FSMS) that took place in April. Food security monitoring was carried out in eight (8) livelihood zones namely; *Dépression Nord*, *Dépression Est*, *Plateau Nord*, *Plateau Est*, *Plateau Sud*, *Centre Haute*, *Altitude*, and *Lacustre*. Households in most zones have shown an improvement in food consumption patterns, a reduced coping strategy index in most areas meaning lower stress levels as well as reliance on their own production and the market as sources of food which could be attributed the just completed harvest. However, households in Plateau Sud, Haute Altitude, Centre and Lacustre still show declining consumption and a higher coping index compared to the other areas. This could be attributed to reports of cassava mosaic, banana wilt disease, highly reported hailstorms and limited land access due to population density. In addition, households have continued to report price increases as a major shock. In this analysis, comparisons are made with the results of previous rounds of FSMS data collected in October 2009, April 2010 and October 2010. The sample for the FSMS, was only based on those with the lowest food security status (poor and borderline consumption) as revealed by the 2008 CFSVA.

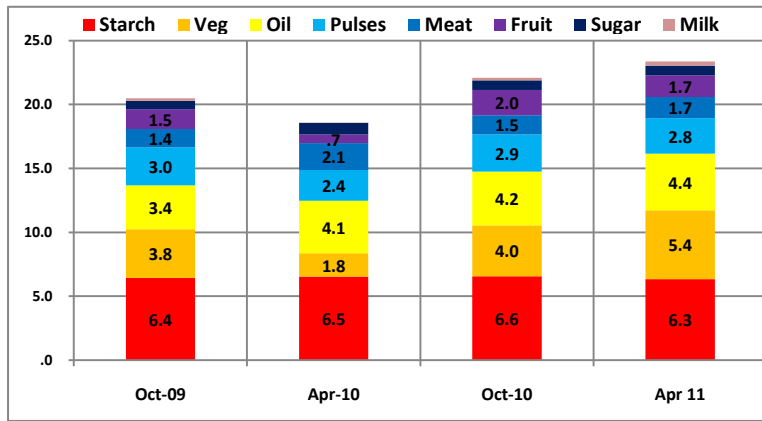
Household Food Consumption

The Food Consumption Score not only allows comparisons of frequency and diversity among populations but is also used to establish a threshold of dietary quality against which to compare these populations. Overall, 55% of sampled households were found to have acceptable consumption in April 2011 compared to 50% in October 2010 and 40% in April 2010. Reviewing

consumption trends from July 2008 baseline and subsequent rounds shows that household food consumption has been steadily improving as shown in the graph to the right. Households with borderline consumption have not shown a major change between October 2010 and April 2011, however, have decreased from 40% in April 2010 as compared to similar season in April 2011 at 34%. Households with poor consumption have also



reduced from 15% in October 2010 to 11% in April 2011. The graph above illustrates the results of a food consumption analysis for the last four rounds of data collection. In terms of livelihood zones, all areas have shown improvement with the exception of Plateau Sud, Haute Altitude and Lacustre which have shown a decrease in percentage households with acceptable consumption. There have been reports of cassava mosaic and the banana wilt disease that have affected crops in Plateau Sud; hailstorms in Haute Altitude that could be related to the decrease in household food consumption. Lacustre holds the highest number of returnees and while these may not necessarily be part of the sample, has increased pressure on the already highly densely populated zone. Further analysis shows that households with 'borderline' consumption eat the equivalent of cereals 6 days a week; pulses once a week, and oils about 4 days per week. Those with



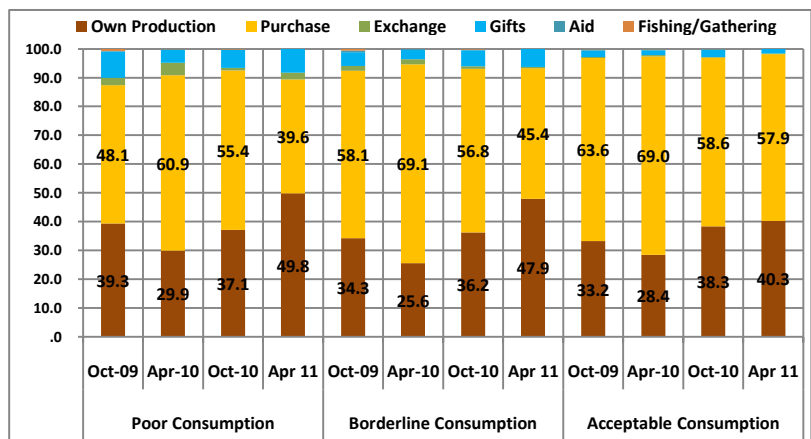
'poor' consumption eat the cereals/tubers 5 days a week, vegetables 4 days and oil 2 days a week with hardly any meats and milk products reported. However, households with 'good' consumption reported eating the equivalent of cereals/tubers 7 days a week and meat and pulses 4 days a week. As shown in the graph to the left, frequency and diversity has been steadily improving over several reporting periods. According to the 2008 CFSVA baseline food consumption was

found to be a good proxy measure for household food security status and hence, this improvement in household food consumption implies an improvement in their overall food security of the households studied.

Food Sources

Looking at sources of food, households mainly rely on own production and purchase as major sources of their food.

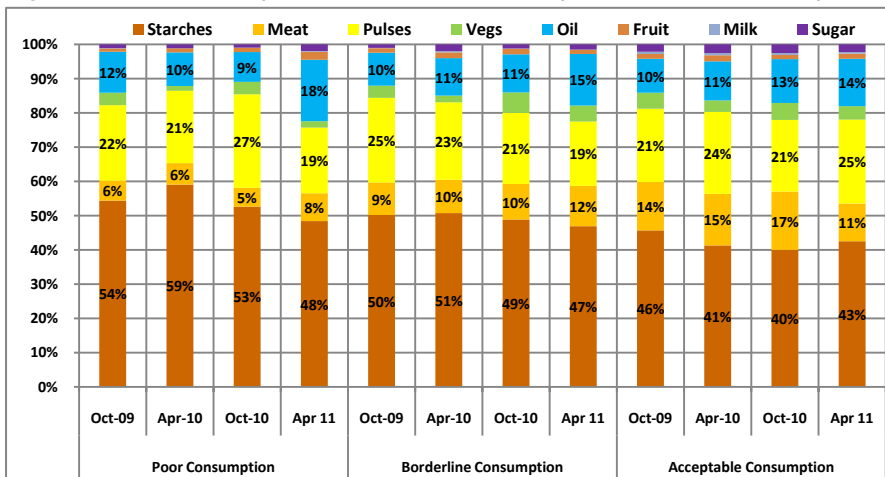
Households relying on own production as a source of food has shown an increase from 37% in October 2010 to 44% in April 2011. Reliance on purchase/market for food has decreased by 7% in the same period. Harvesting for season A which contributes about 40% of agricultural production takes place between December and February. Household stocks are usually expected to last about three months and this complies with the household increased reliance on own



production. Analysis by food consumption groups as shown in the graph above also show increased reliance on own production for all three groups. It's important to note that the market still plays a big role in household food sources for all seasons. By livelihood zones, the trend is similar except for Plateau Est which shows a decreased reliance on own production from 43% to 39%.

Household Food Expenditure

In general, households spent about 69% of their expenditure on food in April 2011 compared to 65% in October 2010.



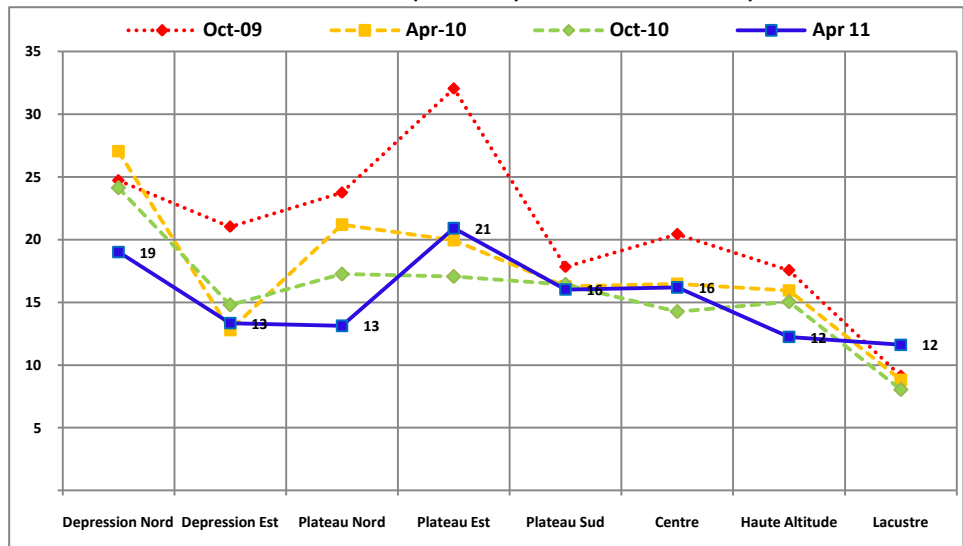
This trend is similar for all previous FSMS rounds although higher than the previous reporting period. However Per-capita expenditure has reduced between the last two reporting periods from 7,900 francs reported in October 2010 to 7,180 Burundian francs. The graph to the left shows household expenditure on different food groups and by food consumption profiles. Households with poor and

borderline consumption have increased their expenditure on meat/fish products, reduced percentage expenditure on pulses and starches. This is also reflected in the increased consumption of the same food items mentioned above. Across livelihoods zones, the trend is the same with an increase in all except Haute Altitude and Depression Est. This increase could be attributed to households spending on more food items from the market such as meat/fish and oil whose consumption has increased as reflected in their consumption profiles. Cereals and tubers are probably from own production/harvest while meat/fish is possibly from the market.

Coping and Shocks

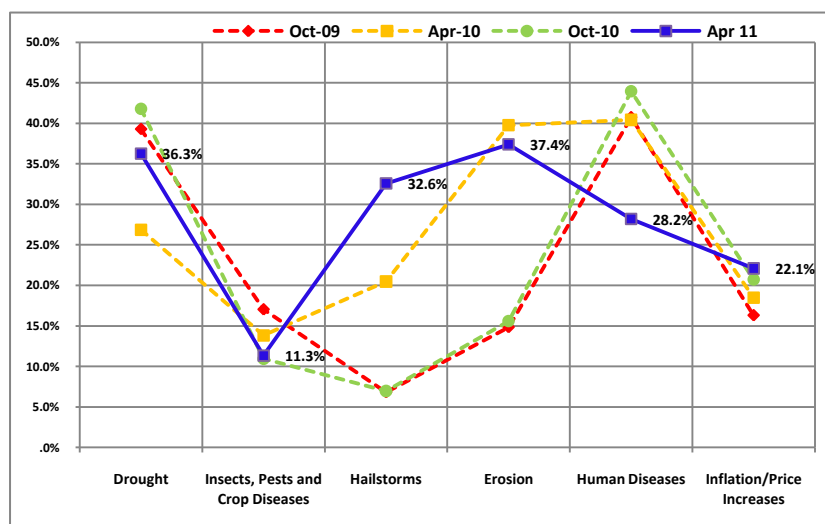
The *Coping Strategies Index (CSI)* measures the frequency and severity of actions taken by households in response to a perceived food shortage. A lower CSI score means less stress and potentially better food security. As shown in the graph, trends in the reduced CSI indicate a decline between October 2010 and April 2011 for most of the livelihood Zones.

However, stress levels in Plateau Est, Lacustre and Centre show an increase with a higher index compared to previous reporting periods. This is also seen in the consumption patterns of these particular areas. These zones show an increase in households with poor consumption.



Other zones have shown an improvement. This is an indication of improving food security which is also shown by improving patterns of household food consumption. The most common Coping strategies adopted by households were eating less preferred/expensive food, limiting quantity of food and reducing adult consumption to benefit children.

In terms of shocks, overall, limited rainfall/drought (36%) and human illnesses (28%) Erosion (37%), Hailstorms (33%) and price increases (22%) were the most reported by households. Besides human diseases and drought, which were reported by less households in April 2011, all other shocks above were reported by more households in this reporting period.



Of notable importance is the steady although minimal increase in percentage households reporting prices increase as a shock between October 2009 and April 2011.

According to the household responses in April 2011, drought was reported highest in Depression Est and Lacustre. Hailstorms were reported highest in Plateau Est, Plateau Sud, Centre, Haute Altitude and Lacustre while all livelihood zones reported an increase in erosion except Lacustre. Increases in prices were reported highest in Plateau Est, Centre, Haute Altitude and Lacustre.

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Market Prices

Analysis of market prices shows that prices of most food items are increasing albeit by small margins. The graph below shows prices of selected food items in Bujumbura (capital) and Ngozi. Although prices for some of the items are such as beans are reducing depending on market, most of the other commodity prices are on the increase. The steady or slight decrease in prices for beans could be associated with the just completed harvest as it's the most harvested crop for this season. In addition, price increase is also reflected in shocks reported by households above; households reporting price increases as a shock have been increasing between October 2009 and April 2011 and this may require continuous monitoring.

