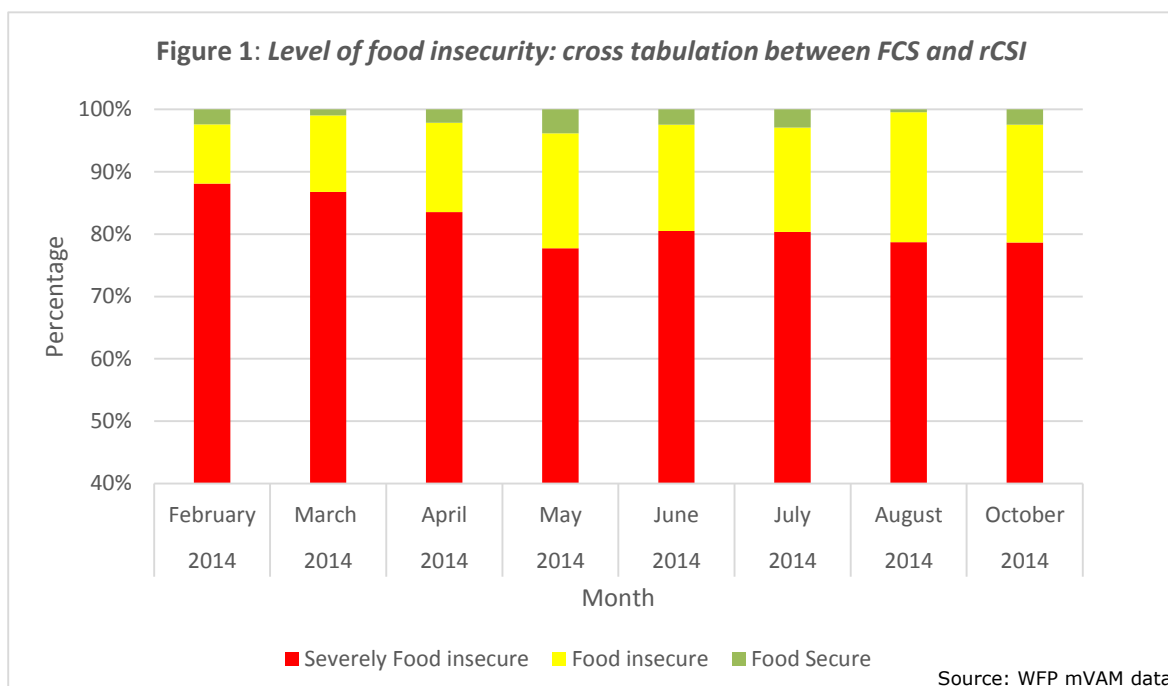


# October 2014: Levels of food insecurity persist in Mugunga 3 Camp.

## Key Messages

- Levels of food insecurity remain stable at high levels in line with previous months as we enter lean season.

## High levels of food insecurity

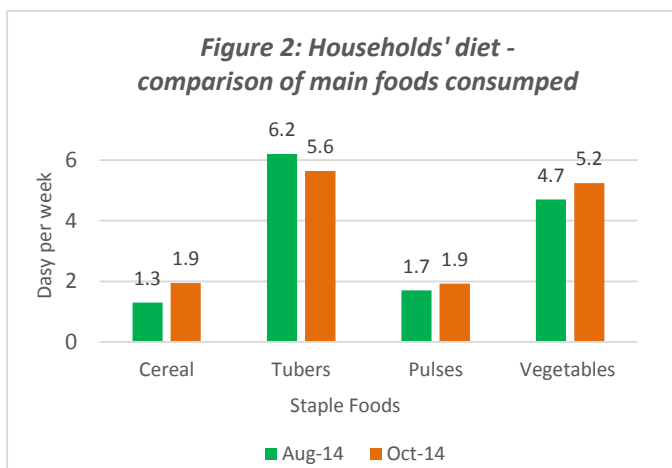


In October 2014, 237 households residing in the Mugunga 3 Camp participated in the mVAM remote monitoring survey. As illustrated in *Figure 1*, the level of food insecurity amongst respondents remained fairly stable at high levels, with 78.6% of households classified as food insecure. The high percentage of households suffering from severe food insecurity is alarming in light of the onset of the lean season (October-December). In addition, ongoing insecurity restricting access to land and agricultural inputs in tandem with heavy rains since early October may further intensify an already-precarious food security situation ([GIEWS](#)).

## Food Consumption

A slight decrease in the percentage of households classified as having 'poor food consumption' is observed between August (66.8%) and October (57.1%) (p-value 0.001), with the combined percentage of households with poor or borderline food consumption hovering at 93.8%.

In line with previous months, the main staple consumed was tubers. However, when compared to August 2014 data, tuber consumption decreased slightly while the consumption of cereals, pulses and vegetables increased, likely linked to the recent harvest of maize, sorghum, millet and yams.





## Coping strategies

In October, the coping strategies index remained fairly stable with a mean rCSI of 20.3. The coping strategy both WFP beneficiary and non-beneficiary households are most frequently employing is resorting to the consumption of *less preferred and less expensive foods* (96% and 98%, respectively). In addition, October data shows that 96% of WFP beneficiary households reported *borrowing food or relying on help from a friend/relative* to meet their daily needs, whereas 94% of non-beneficiary households indicated that they cope by *reducing the number of meals eaten in a day*. Over 90% of WFP beneficiary and non-beneficiary households also reported that they *reduce their portion size at meals*. In August 2014, 37% of households indicates that they *restrict adult consumption in order for small children to eat*, a proxy indicator indicative of more severe food insecurity. The percentage of households employing this strategy in October rose to over 56%, which is alarming in light of the recent harvest and reported increased consumption in legumes, pulses, and cereals.

## Beneficiary vs non-beneficiary

In October 2014, 27% of those sampled through the mVAM survey currently receive food assistance from WFP. Food assistance consists of maize, corn soy blends (CSB), oil, pulses, and salt. Even after food distributions, 50% of mVAM surveyed WFP beneficiaries are classified as having 'poor' food consumption and 44% as having 'borderline' food consumption; whereas 60% of non-WFP beneficiary respondents were classified as having 'poor' food consumption and 34% as 'borderline.' Both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries consume a similar diet. WFP-food recipients did, however, report consuming cereals an average of 2.7 days per week, compared to non-beneficiaries who reported consuming cereals an average of 1.66 days per week. This distinction in cereal consumption between beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries is likely linked to WFP food distributions, which contain a lot of cereals.