

Guinea

January 2015: Borders reopened but negative coping levels remained high

Tracking food security during the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak in Guinea

Highlights

- Negative coping levels remained high in Guinea, especially in Forest Guinea and Middle Guinea. Households headed by women are most vulnerable to food insecurity.
- In January, local rice prices dropped seasonally in most markets. Palm oil prices are recovering in Forest Guinea, perhaps signalling a recovery in markets and trade.
- Wage rates for January continued to drop in Guinea, limiting access to food for wage labour-dependent households.
- Senegal opened its land border with Guinea on 26 January, allowing people and goods to move freely for the first time in five months. Middle Guinea, where negative coping levels are among the highest in the country, should directly benefit from increased trade, as it is the main corridor to and from Senegal.

Map 1: Guinea — Reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI) - January 2015

GUINEA - Reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI)
JANUARY 2015



Source: WFP mVAM

Methodology

January 2015 marked the fourth round of data collection. The data was collected over a week in mid-January. The survey in Guinea was implemented by interactive voice response (IVR) for 400 respondents. IVR has tended to produce higher rCSI estimates than SMS, the mode used in Liberia and Sierra Leone. Details on the samples, questions and possible mode effects are available [online](#).

The reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI) measures the frequency and severity of the behaviours households engage in when faced with food shortages. A higher score indicates that households are resorting to more frequent or severe negative coping strategies.

In Guinea, the rCSI is highest in Forest Guinea (rCSI=24.1), Labe (rCSI=24) and Mamou (rCSI=24.1). Over the four rounds of data collection carried out in Guinea to date, Forest Guinea has shown the highest level of coping. The region was also the one most exposed to Ebola and to measures restricting trade and markets.

The data collected over the four monthly rounds has consistently shown that households headed by women engage in more severe coping strategies than those headed by men (see Figure 2).

Ebola continues to affect Western Guinea

In Guinea, 30 confirmed cases were reported in the week to 25 January. The western district of Forecariah, which borders Sierra Leone's Kambia district, accounted for half of all new confirmed cases. The northern district of Mali, which borders Senegal, reported its first confirmed case. Cases were also reported in Conakry and in the districts of Kissidougou and Macenta.

Source: [WHO Ebola Situation Report 28 January](#)

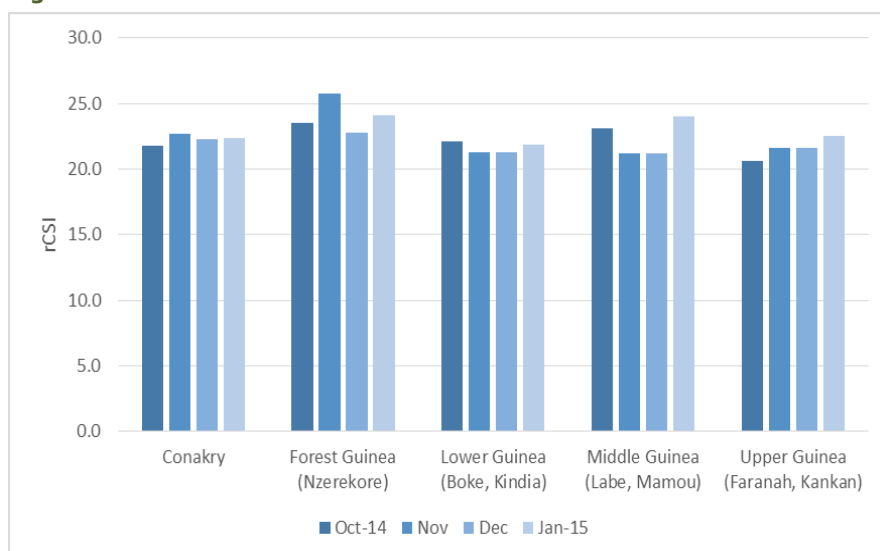
Food prices

Senegal opened its land border with Guinea on 26 January, allowing people and goods to move freely for the first time in five months. Middle Guinea, where negative coping levels are among the highest in the country, should directly benefit from increased trade, as it is the main corridor to and from Senegal.

According to January data from the [Système d'Information sur les Produits Agricoles de Guinée](#) (SIPAG), local rice prices dropped in Conakry (-10%), Mamou (-3%) and Faranah (-10%), in line with the expected seasonal trend. Prices were stable in all other areas. The price of imported rice also remained stable in most parts of Guinea.

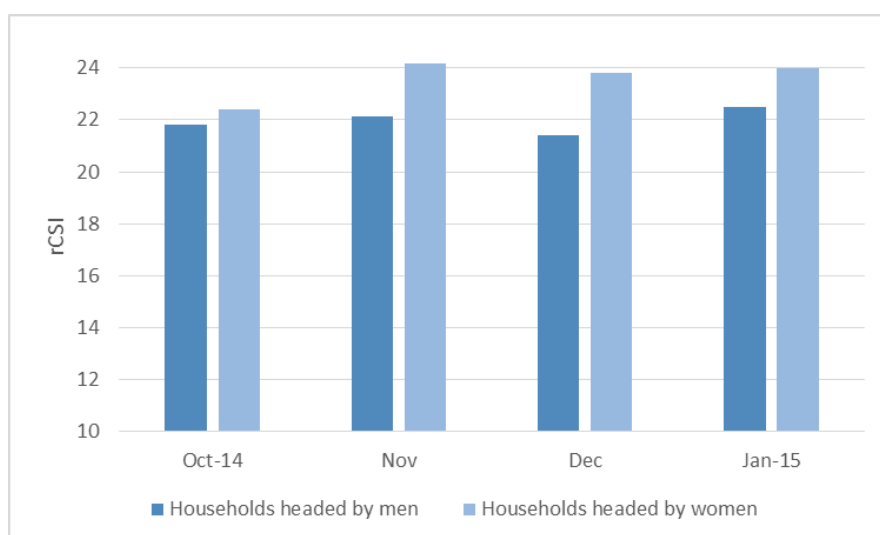
At this time of year, palm oil sales are a complementary income source for rural households. According to SIPAG data, palm oil prices have continued to rise in the palm oil-producing area of Forest Guinea (+4%), while they have decreased in Labe (-6%). This may indicate some recovery in demand and supply, and a reduction in price spreads between markets.

Figure 1: rCSI levels



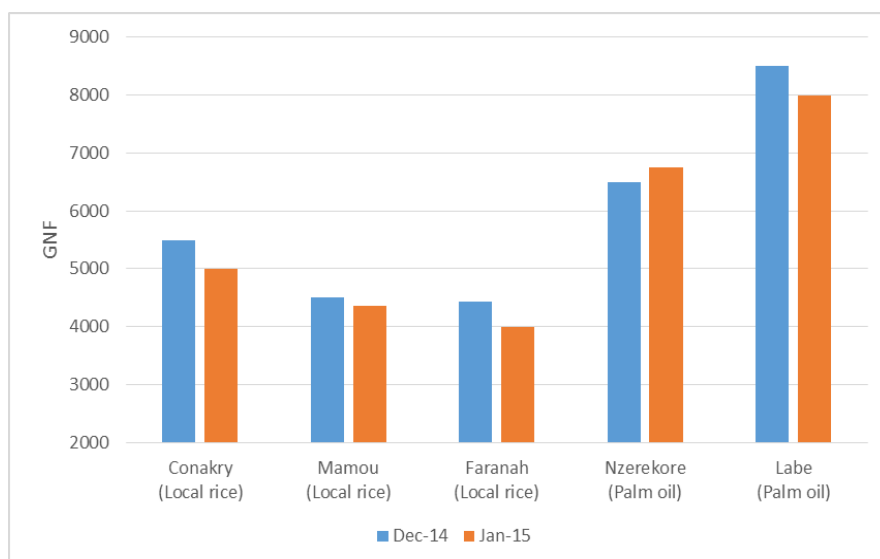
Source: WFP mVAM

Figure 2: rCSI by sex of household head



Source: WFP mVAM

Figure 3: Local rice (cup) and palm oil (litre) prices

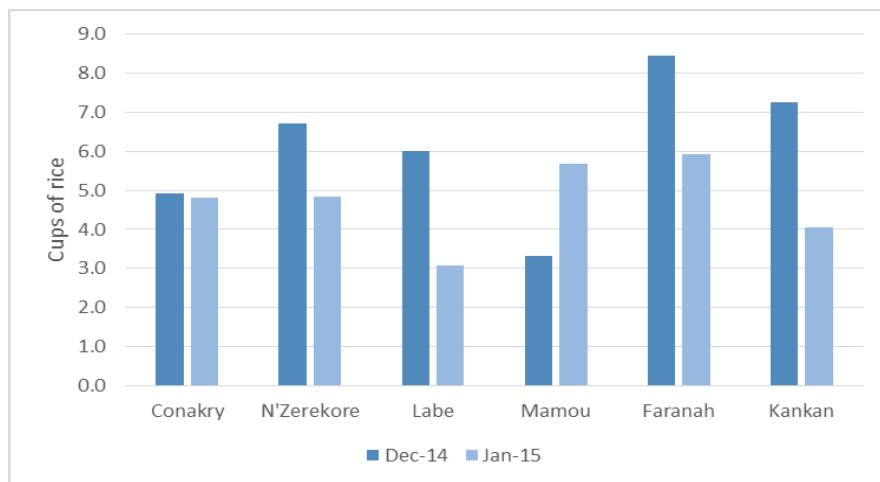


Source: SIPAG

Casual wage rates drop, driving down terms of trade

Wage rates fell in Guinea in January, except in Lower Guinea. Wage rates now stand between 20,000 and 24,000 GNF a day, with the lowest rates found in Forest Guinea, followed by Lower Guinea and Middle Guinea. Lower wage rates were the main reason behind falling terms of trade for wage labourers in January. Terms of trade were lowest in Labe and Kankan. An increase in terms of trade was seen in Mamou, thanks to better wage rates.

Figure 4: Terms of trade, wages to local rice



Source: WFP mVAM

Conclusion and Outlook

Households continued to use negative coping strategies in Forest Guinea, which suggests they are still recovering from the Ebola crisis in that area. The data has consistently shown that households headed by women are worse off than others, suggesting that these two factors are important in determining how households are coping with the crisis.

While food prices slightly decreased in Guinea, wages either dwindled or remained stagnant in many areas, limiting household incomes and deteriorating terms of trade.



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To download mVAM data on the Ebola-affected countries, please visit: http://vam.wfp.org/sites/mvam_monitoring/index.html