



World Food Programme

wfp.org

mVAM Food Security Monitoring

Bulletin 6

DR CONGO, MUGUNGA 3 CAMP

November 2014 - January 2015

LESS SEVERELY FOOD INSECURE HOUSEHOLDS FOLLOWING THE HARVEST

Key messages

- From November 2014 through January 2015, the percentage of severely food insecure households in Mugunga 3 camp decreased in line with seasonal expectations. Nevertheless, the share of food secure households remains very low.

Methodology –mVAM remote data collection

This bulletin analyses data collected through live phone calls in Mugunga 3 camp during the months of November and December 2014, and January 2015. Each month, approximately 200 households were interviewed.

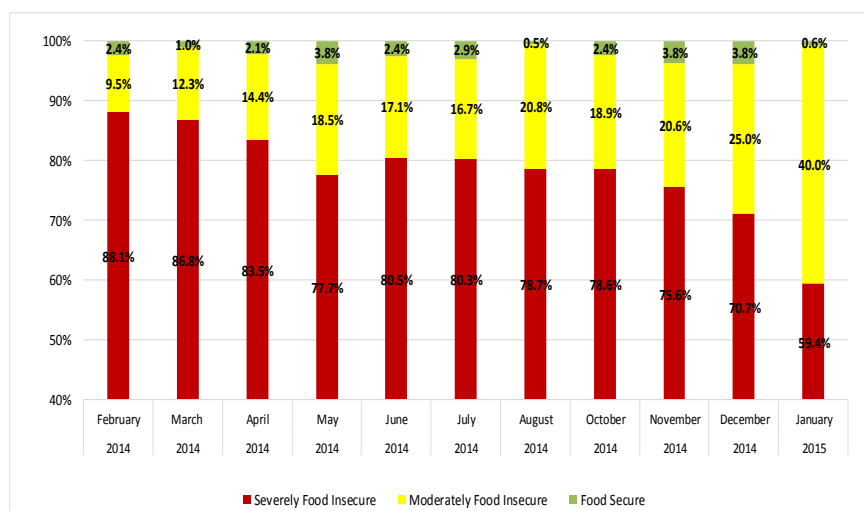
As in previous months, the mVAM surveys asked respondents information about their household's food consumption and the coping strategies they employed when experiencing a lack of food and/or money to buy food.

The data collected was used to calculate the [Food Consumption Score \(FCS\)](#), a composite score based on diversity, food frequency and relative nutritional importance of different food groups, and the [reduced Coping Strategies Index \(rCSI\)](#), a score based on the frequency with which coping strategies are employed and the severity associated to each strategy.

Food Insecurity

The percentage of severely food insecure households in Mugunga 3 camp decreased in the past three months. In October 2014, 78.7% of households were classified as severely food insecure. This percentage decreased only nominally throughout November (75.6%) and December (70.7%) and then it fell to 59.4% in January 2015 (-24% compared to October, p-value: 0.00). This is in line with seasonal expectations. Starting in December, harvests of maize and beans have been underway in the region. The harvest brings lower prices of food staples and increases daily labour opportunities for work in the fields, thus improving households' access to food. This has been signalled by an improvement in households' food consumption and by a reduction of both the frequency with which households engaged in negative coping and the severity of the coping strategies they employed.

Figure 1: Level of food insecurity, cross tabulation between FCS and rCSI (November 2014-January 2015).



Source: WFP mVAM

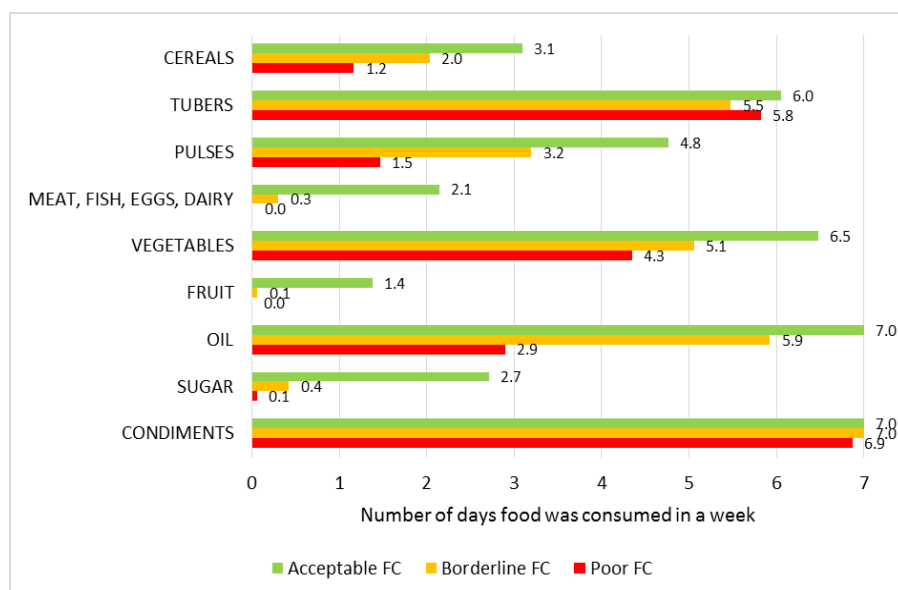
Eventually, however, in January the share of food secure households decreased to 0.6%. This is the lowest value since August 2014.

Food Consumption

The percentage of households classified as having poor food consumption decreased from 57.1% in October to 51.7% in December (p-value=0.02), and to 44.3% in January (p-value: 0.00).

Despite this decrease, between October and January, there were not substantial changes in the average diet of respondents except for an increase in the overall consumption of pulses (which were consumed less than 2 days a week in October, and about 2.5 days a week in the following months). This is likely due to the recent bean harvest,

Figure 2: Diet of respondents by food consumption group (January 2015)



Source: WFP mVAM

which began in December and continues until mid-January. Consumption of cereals and tubers remained relatively stable at around 2 and 5.5 days per week respectively.

As shown in figure 2, the diet of households classified as having poor food consumption consists mainly of tubers and vegetables. It does not include meat, fish, eggs or dairy products; cereals and pulses are rarely consumed.

Coping strategies

In January 2015, of the surveyed households, 18% reported not having problems accessing food as compared to 13% in October 2014. Nevertheless, the majority of households in Mugunga 3 still have problems accessing food, which causes them to employ negative

coping strategies to survive.

Of those reporting problems accessing food, the percentage of households who resorted to each of the considered coping strategies at least once in the 7 days prior to the interviews remained mostly unchanged from October to January. In January, 94.6% of households relied on less preferred and less expensive food at least once in a week, compared to 97.6% in October. Similarly, in January, 96.3% of households had to reduce the number of meals eaten in a day at least once in a week, compared to 93.2% of households in October.

Nevertheless, while in November the mean rCSI of those who reported difficulties accessing food remained stable compared to October (20.7 and 20.3 respectively), it decreased to 18.2 in December and to 16.9 in January (p-values: 0.02 and 0.00). Indeed, in December and January, households resorted to using negative coping strategies less frequently (that is, less days in a week) than in October.

Beneficiaries vs. non-Beneficiaries

In December and January, around 20% of the households surveyed received WFP food assistance in the form of maize, corn soy blend (CSB), oil, pulses, and salt. Even if a high share of WFP beneficiaries are found to have a poor food consumption even after WFP food distribution, they have on average a slightly better diet than non-beneficiaries. They eat more cereals, pulses, and oil (which are food items distributed by WFP) than non-beneficiaries. However, beneficiaries are engaging in negative coping strategies as much as non-beneficiaries. Indeed, WFP beneficiaries are the most vulnerable households in Mugunga 3, and they still need to employ negative coping strategies to complement WFP food assistance.

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