



HAITI EMERGENCY FOOD SECURITY ASSESSMENT

Photo Credit: Ana Gómez Sánchez / WFP RBP



Highlights

"WFP Haiti and CNSA have joined efforts in the elaboration of this assessment. The information presented in this factsheet is a country-wide estimation based on household data collected through a statistically representative sample across livelihood systems"

- For a third consecutive year and due to the ongoing El Niño phenomenon, Haiti is experiencing one of the worst droughts in recent decades, significantly affecting the 2015 spring harvest season.
- As the spring and winter agricultural seasons developed under drought conditions, vulnerability to food insecurity for subsistence farmers and small producers reach new highs.
- Because households have experienced several back-to-back poor harvests in the past 3 years, stress, crisis, and emergency livelihood coping mechanisms have been adopted. Often, these coping mechanisms have negative and irreversible effects over time as they involve the depletion of their assets and compromise their capacity to cope with future crisis.
- The majority of the households (**81%**) reported that their 2015 spring/summer harvest was affected by the drought. Out of this, **89%** reported losses in their agricultural production and **72%** indicated to have lost more than 80% of their production.
- An emergency food security assessment conducted by WFP and the Haitian National Coordination for Food Security Office (CNSA), estimated that country-wide, about **3.6 million persons (700,000 households) are food insecure**. Approximately **1.5 million persons (300,000 households) are severely food insecure**.
- As food insecure households are already applying negative coping mechanisms and considering that the 2015 spring harvest accounts for over 60% of the national annual production, possibilities of recovery are limited even with a successful 2016 winter harvest.



Country-wide,
3.6 million people
are estimated to be
food insecure



2 of every 5
food insecure
households
are marked as
severe

Methodology

WFP, in collaboration with, the Haitian National Coordination for Food Security Office (CNSA), conducted an assessment of the food security situation of vulnerable households in areas considered the most affected at the time. The Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) was carried out in December 2015.

Approximately, 2,600 households in 3 livelihood zones within 9 departments and 43 communes were assessed. WFP CARI methodology was used to estimate the food security index (FSI) which represents the population's overall food security status and combines the food consumption (FCS), food expenditure share, and livelihood coping strategies indicators.



Demographics

About **2 of every 3** households are headed by a male. On average, households are composed of 5 members; however, **26%** reported having a maximum of 8 members. There is no significant difference between male and female households when it comes to the number of members.

In **41%** of the cases, the head of household reported having no formal education and in **42%** of the cases, they have only made it to 6th grade.

The majority (**51%**) of female headed households reported having no formal education, in comparison to **45%** of male headed households that reported achieving at least 6th grade.



Photo Credit: Ana Gómez Sánchez / WFP RBP



Food Consumption

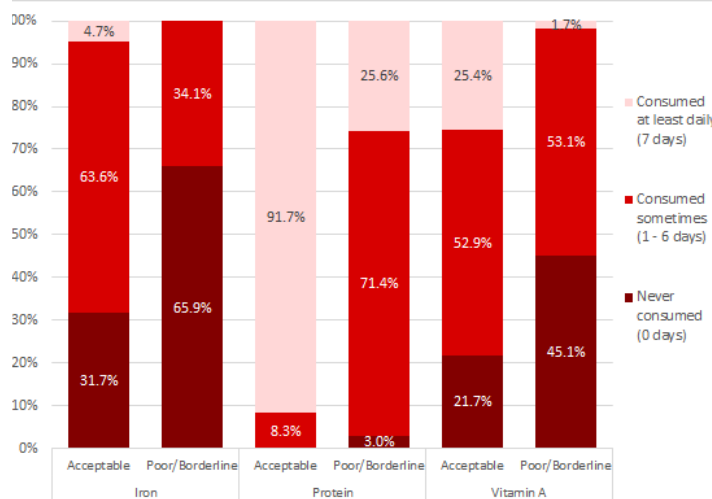


1 of every 2 households have unacceptable FCS (poor/borderline)

Households also had low dietary diversity which tends to decline in line with the decline on food consumption levels. Dietary diversity was low in **31%** and moderate in **49%** of the households.

Approximately **1 of every 2 households** reported to have not consumed iron rich products in the past 7 days. At least **1 of every 4** households show a deficit in the consumption of Vitamin A rich products and proteins.

As **Graph 1** indicates, most of the households with poor or borderline food consumption have a very limited frequency of consumption of protein rich foods, vitamin A and Iron.



Coping Strategies

Coping strategies are behaviors to which people resort to gain access to food or income when their livelihoods are jeopardized.



4 of every 5 households applied one or more livelihood coping strategies.

Also, the majority of households applied one or more food consumption based coping strategies. Eating less preferred or cheaper food products (**83%**), reducing the size of meal portions (**81%**) and reducing the number of meals per day (**78%**) are the most prevailing food consumption based coping strategies.

About **26%** of households applied stress level livelihood coping strategies such as spent savings, **32%** applied crisis level livelihood coping strategies such as sold productive assets, and **24%** applied emergency level livelihood coping strategies such as sold house or land.

Along these lines, **27%** of female headed households and **23%** of male headed households applied emergency level livelihood coping strategies.

Analysis results indicate a significant prevalence of often irreversible coping strategies that limited households' resilience. These strategies depleted already scarce resources, further pushing households into food insecurity and poverty.



Food Expenditure



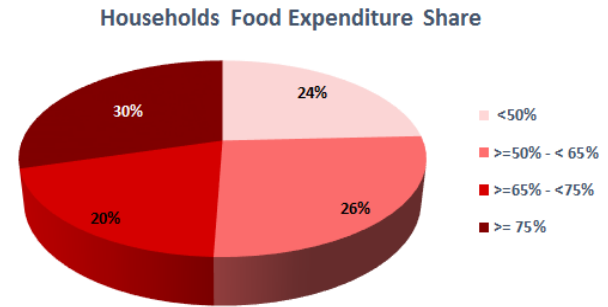
In **50%** of the households, food accounted for more than **65%** of households' total expenditures

The high share of household food expenditures as a percentage of the total household expenditures is an indication of economic vulnerability.

In relation to household food consumption, households that had not consumed any proteins, vitamin A or iron in the past 7 days, also reported a food expenditure share of more than **65%** of the total household expenditures. This fact raises concerns about the household's quality of diet.

As agricultural production decreases due to the drought, households rely more than ever on the purchasing of food, making them highly susceptible to price changes. The consumption of households' own production dropped by **29%** from before the drought to the time of the survey. In contrast, the purchase of food increased by **27%**, indicating household economic vulnerability.

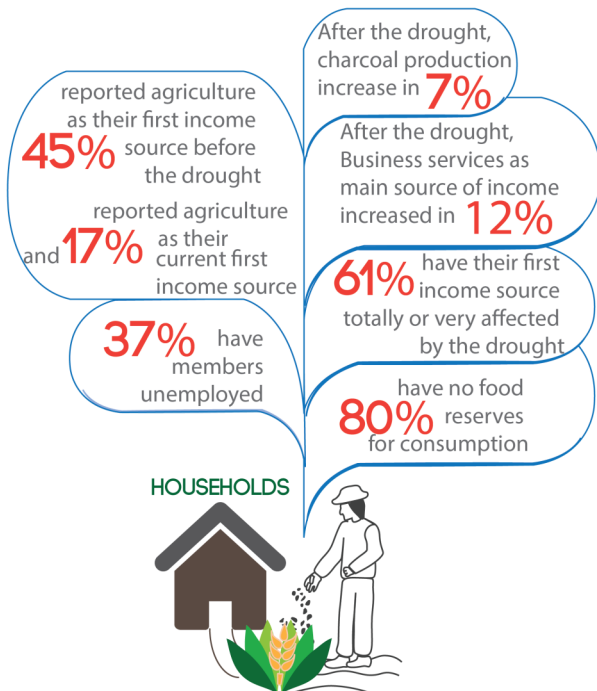
Graph 2: Proportion of households according to their food expenditure share



Graph 3: Proportion of households according to main source of food acquisition



Livelihoods



Before the drought, the primary source of income for male headed households was agricultural production (50%). Due to the drought this number dropped by **30%**, while income activities related to business and petit trade increased by 13% and charcoal production by 8%.

Business and petit trade remained the main source of income for female headed households, with a tendency to increase (10% increase from before the drought). This tendency is an indication of a pattern in the gender dimension of trade and the economic empowerment of women in Haiti.

Approximately, **65%** of male headed households reported having their main source of income completely or very affected by the drought, in contrast with **55%** of female headed households.

About **39%** of males and **34%** females headed households reported having at least one household member unemployed.



Migration

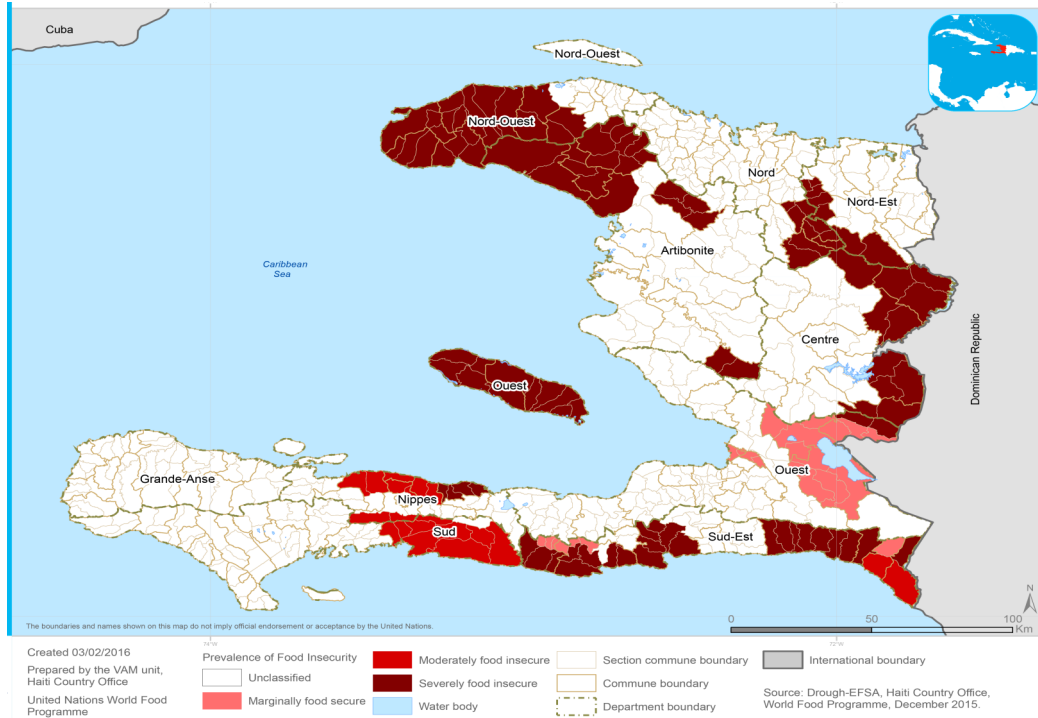
In the last 6 months, **10%** of households had members that migrated. Out of those, **46%** have migrated to the Dominican Republic, **25%** to other departments in Haiti, **16%** to other communes in the same department, **8%** to Latin America, and **5%** to the United States.

The primary reason for migration was to find work (**82%**) and **50%** sent money back to their families on a regular basis to cover food expenditures.

Only **2%** of households reported to have received repatriates from the Dominican Republic since June 2015 and the majority arrived with no resources.



AFFECTED FOOD INSECURE HOUSEHOLDS



Results of the analysis indicate that approximately **47%** of the households are moderately or severely food insecure. For Haiti, asset depletion coping strategies is the most striking indicator of food insecurity with some **57%** of households applying crisis or emergency coping strategies. Food share expenditure was also significant when determining food insecurity with about **49%** of households spending more than 65% of their household expenditures in food.

The most severely food insecure communes are Baie de Henne, Bombardopolis, Jean Rabel, Moles-Saint-Nicolas, Port-de-Paix and Bassin Bleu in Nord-Ouest, Mombin Crochu, Sainte Suzane in Nord-Est, Pignon in Nord, Cornillon/Grand Bois, Croix-des-Bouquets, Point-a-Raquette, Anse-a-Galette and Fonds-Verrettes in Ouest, Chardonnières in Sud, Ans-a Pitre and Baintet in Sud-Est, Anse Rouge, Gros-Morne in Artibonite and L'Asile in Nippe.



OUTLOOK FOR THE NEXT SIX MONTHS

The chances of recovery for the majority of the households are considered limited. Approximately, **57%** of the households that reported to have been affected by the drought in the last 6 months have also accumulated debt, **89%** have lost their 2015 spring harvest and only **37%** have planted for the 2016 winter season. Out of those that have planted for the winter season, **43%** already forecasted production losses.

Additionally, **65%** of the households reported that they **will NOT** plant for the spring 2016 season, mainly due to lack of financial resources. About **67%** have neither planted for the winter 2016 and will not plant for the spring 2016. For these households the possibilities of recovery are uncertain and very poor until Jan/Feb 2017, when the next winter harvest takes place.

Approximately **39%** of the households predicted that the situation would deteriorate in the next six months. The majority of the households indicated that the priority needs are: food (51%) and agricultural supplies (44%) such as fertilizers and seeds. About **76%** of the households consider cash distribution as the preferred method of food assistance. Almost all heads of households have identification cards and **8%** reported having a bank account.

Considering the impact of the drought in the livelihoods and the high number of food insecure households; monitoring the coming cropping season's development will be important to assess the outlook for recovery and to identify adequate response strategies.



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