

mVAM Nigeria Bulletin #3: June - July 2016

Household purchasing power has deteriorated and more families are food insecure

Key Points	Methodology	Food Consumption	Coping & Assistance	Prices	In the words of the respondents
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Key Points

- The percentage of food insecure households has increased from 33% in February-March to 38% in June-July.
- In the Local Government Areas (LGA) of Potiskum in Yobe State and Maiduguri/Jere in Borno State, the percentage of severely food insecure households has effectively doubled since February-March.
- Prices for local rice and local maize have risen but manual labour wage rates remain unchanged, severely reducing household purchasing power.
- 61 percent of households surveyed, including those relatively better off, find themselves in precarious conditions and are using coping strategies to get food, such as spending savings and depleting assets.
- Only 11% of the surveyed population report that they received food assistance in the last 30 days.



Context

Northeastern Nigeria has been affected for over six years by Boko Haram insurgency. This has severely disrupted livelihoods and caused massive population displacement. While recent military advances have pushed back Boko Haram from many places they formerly controlled, access in many areas, especially in Borno State is limited and security constraints continue to limit information. In order to monitor the impact of the conflict on food security and inform humanitarian response, NEMA (<http://nema.gov.ng/>) and WFP are collecting basic food security and market data using WFP's remote data collection approach, mVAM (http://vam.wfp.org/sites/mvam_monitoring/).

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WFP VAM Nigeria publications: http://vam.wfp.org/CountryPage_overview.aspx?iso3=NGA

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Food Consumption

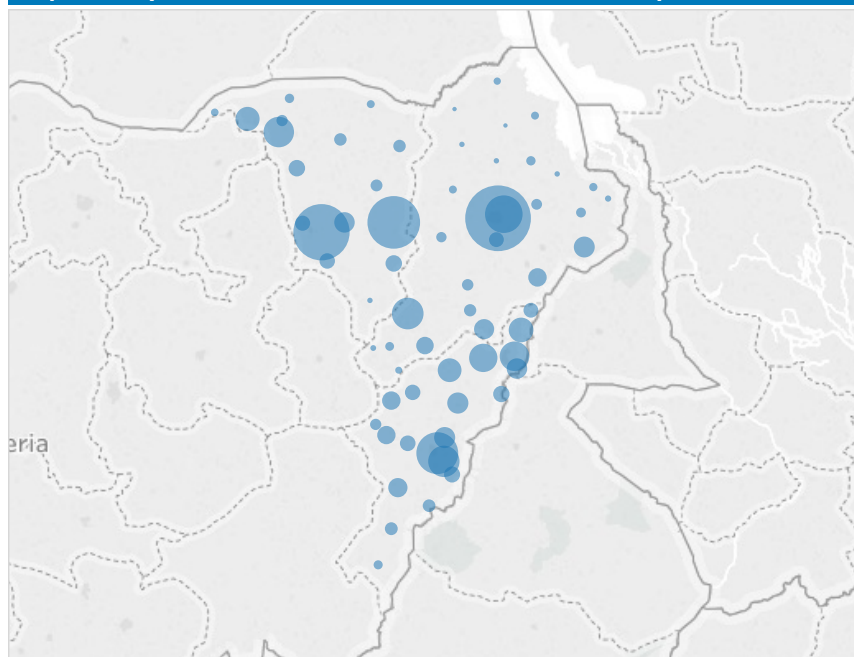
Coping & Assistance

Prices

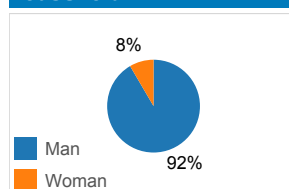
In the words of the respondents

Data collection in June and July 2016 marked the 4th round of remote monitoring in Nigeria using live calls. In total 6,017 respondents completed calls in: Adamawa (2,009), Borno (2,003) and Yobe (2,005) States. Surveys were completed between 13th June and 1st August 2016. The questionnaire was conducted in English, Hausa and Kanuri. Participants were randomly selected from a database of mobile subscribers and were asked to complete a questionnaire that was comprised of socio-demographic, food consumption, coping behaviors, prices, assistance and perceptions of food security questions. Responses are likely to be biased towards younger, somewhat better off households who live in urban areas and have better access to electricity and phone-charging services. In this report, access to electricity is used as a proxy to measure poverty. Several Local Government Areas (LGA), mainly in conflict areas in Borno state, did not have sufficient sample sizes and are therefore aggregated by zone. Except where noted, only statistically significant values ($p < 0.1$) are presented. Additional methodological information is available online at http://vam.wfp.org/sites/mvam_monitoring/read_me_nigeria.pdf

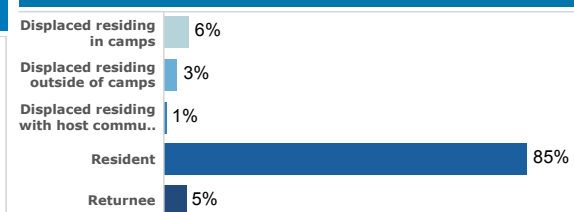
Responses by LGA - hover over area to view number of respondents



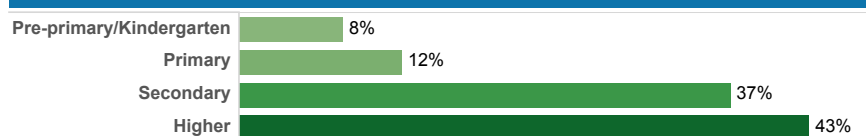
Gender of head of household



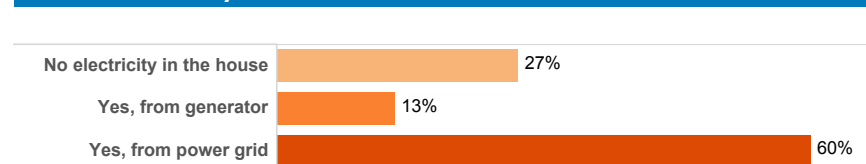
Residence status



Education level of head of household



Access to electricity



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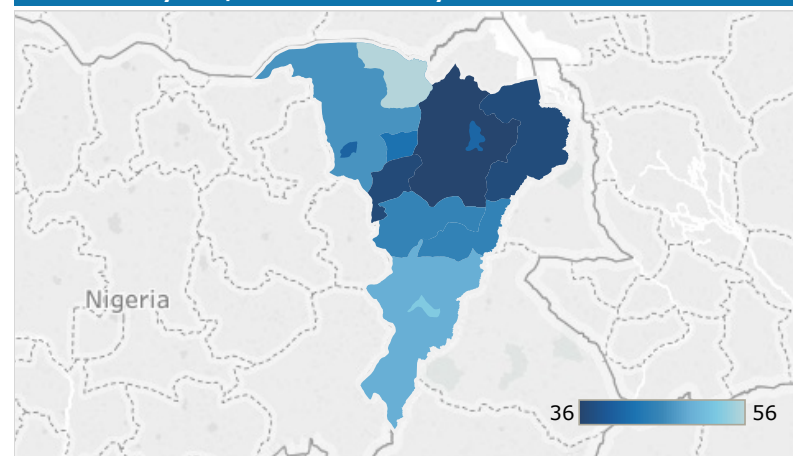
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Across all three States, the percentage of food insecure households is higher in June and July than February and March. While this percentage worsened in many areas, only in the large urban areas of each State are changes statistically significant compared to February and March. In the Local Government Areas (LGA) of Potiskum in Yobe State and Maiduguri/Jere in Borno State, the percentage of severely food insecure households has effectively doubled since February and March.

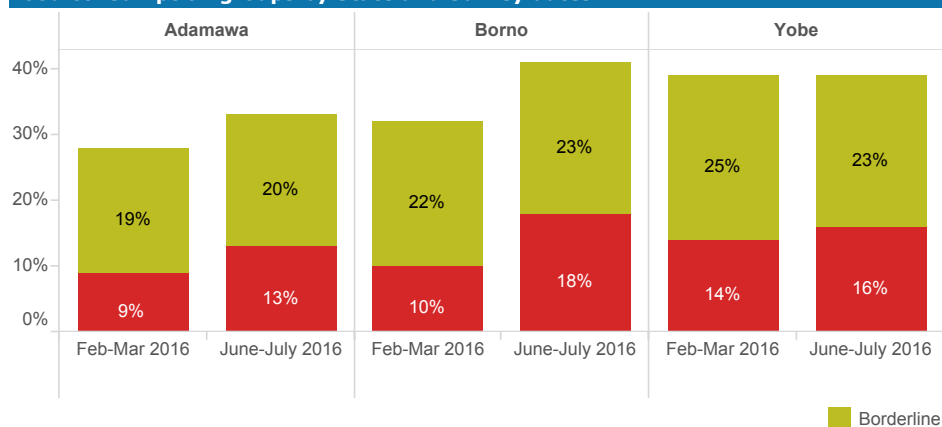
Looking at food consumption in June-July, geographic variation roughly correlates with conflict and accessibility. In Yobe, LGAs in the southern area in or bordering conflict areas have generally lower median food consumption scores. In Adamawa, LGAs bordering conflict areas in Borno have lower Food Consumption Score (FCS). In Borno, FCS appear more favorable in the southern areas, and worse in eastern and newly accessible areas.

Urban areas have a higher average FCS overall however within these areas these scores vary greatly based on the status of the household. As confirmed in a recent Emergency Food Security Assessment (<http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/ena/wfp285922.pdf>) displaced households are more likely to be food insecure. In June-July, the percentage of displaced households with poor food consumption has nearly doubled. Households led by women and poorer families (those lacking access to electricity) are more likely to have poor food consumption.

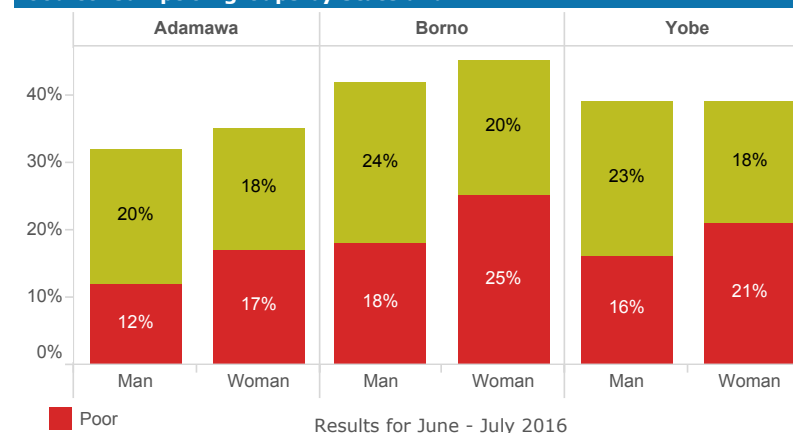
Median FCS by LGA/Zone in June - July 2016



Food consumption groups by State and Survey dates



Food consumption groups by State and Gender of the head of household



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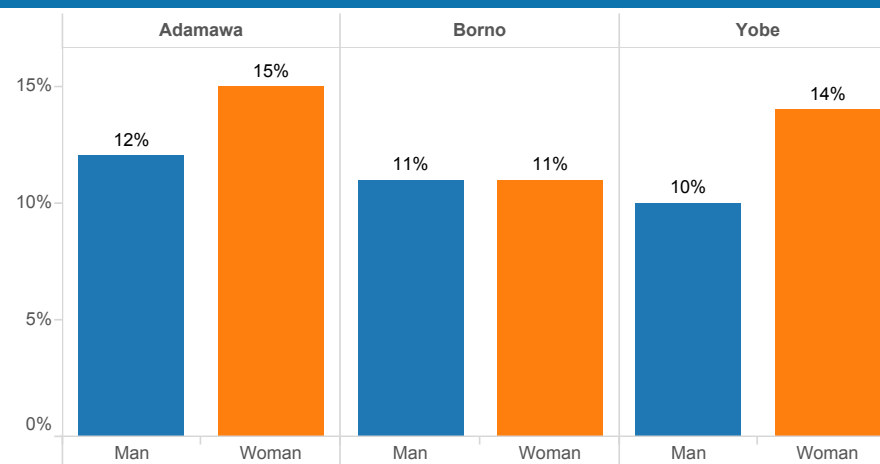
The percentage of households using the most drastic coping strategies, such as begging or selling female animals, is higher for poorer (by a measure of access to electricity) and displaced families. However, a high percentage of all families are depleting resources and are increasingly using new coping strategies to acquire food. This highlights that if the situation worsens, many households could need assistance. Overall, 61% of households report not having enough food and/or money to acquire food in the past 7 days, and 53% report having to spend savings.

Despite the high number of people using negative coping strategies, only a

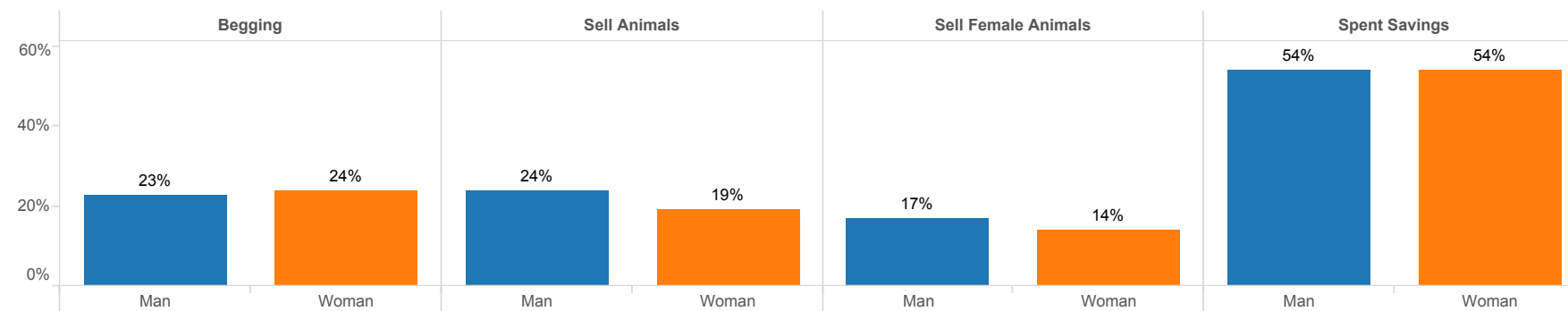
small section of the surveyed population received assistance in the last 30 days. There is evidence that food assistance needs to be broadened to reach more vulnerable people. Surveyed households received similar amounts of assistance regardless of displacement status in Adamawa and Yobe states. In Borno state, displaced households were slightly more likely to receive food assistance. Households led by women were slightly more likely to receive food assistance in Adamawa and Yobe states and equally as likely to receive food assistance in Borno state.

The graphs on this page refer to the period of June - July 2016.

% of households receiving food assistance by Gender of the head of household



Proportion of household using coping strategies by Gender of the head of household



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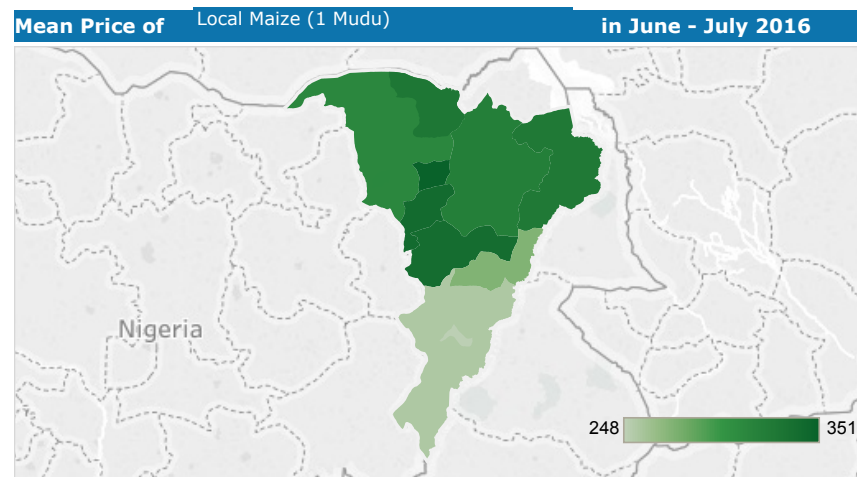
Prices

In the words of the respondents

Since February and March, reported prices of local rice (+49%) and local maize (+20%) have skyrocketed. At the same time, daily manual labour wages have fallen (-20%) perhaps in part due to oversupply of labour in urban areas resulting from population movements (source FEWS NET <http://www.fews.net/west-africa/nigeria>). With rising food prices and declining wages, household purchasing power has fallen dramatically.

Looking at prices by area in June—July higher prices are mainly observed in LGAs closer to conflict areas. Prices in the capital of Yobe state, Damaturu, are among the highest.

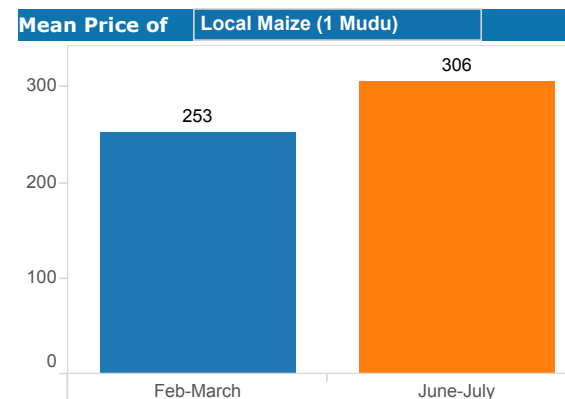
Additional Sources: Lake Chad Basin Crisis Regional Market Assessment-<http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/ena/wfp284558.pdf> ; Nigeria mVAM Bulletin 2 – July 2016 – Traders and key informants report high prices and below average availability of food http://vam.wfp.org/sites/mvam_monitoring/nigeria_dataviz.html



Mean price by Commune and Food Item in June - July 2016

Commune	Imported Rice (1 Mudu)	Local cow peas (1 Mudu)	Local Maize (1 Mudu)	Local Millet (1 Mudu)	Local Rice (1 Mudu)	Local Sorghum (1 Mudu)	Vegetable Oil (0.75 L)
Adamawa	750	451	259	284	531	273	317
Borno	824	474	337	316	606	313	336
Yobe	907	507	325	288	738	272	329

* The **Mudu** is a standard unit of measure in the northern states of Nigeria



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At the end of the questionnaire, participants are asked an open-ended question: "Tell us about the food situation in your community." Most respondents reported an increase in prices and the very high cost of food. Participants also mentioned the lack of suitable employment and insufficient wages. Several participants cited the lack of food availability driven by displacement of farmers and lack of access to farm land, as well as lack of mobility for trade.

"There is no food in the community. Because of the insurgency people have stopped farming" - Male Resident from Shelling, Adamawa

"Foods are too costly now. Prices of some food items have doubled"
- Female Resident from Maidiguri, Borno

"We are suffering in camp because they have stopped giving us food"
- Female IDP in Maidiguri, Borno

"Food is very costly in our community due to the insurgency people can not go out to farm"
- Male IDP in Jere, Borno

"The food situation over here is so critical...not only the IDPs, even the residents are suffering themselves"
- Male IDP in Gujba, Yobe

"Food are scarce, even the middle spend all their income on food because of how difficult the situation is here"
- Male Resident in Nguru, Yobe

Word cloud of 50 most frequent words

