



Nigeria

Gubio Rapid Food Security Assessment

December 2016

Highlights

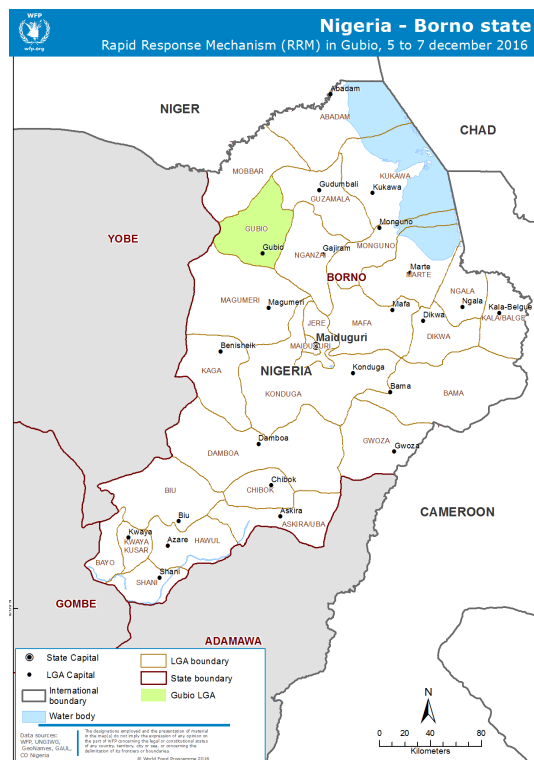
- Some 73.4 percent of respondents in this assessment have poor food consumption, meaning that households' diet is inadequate. On average, these households consume cereals for 4 days, oil for 2 days and vegetables for 1 day in a week, with exceptionally limited or no consumption of fruits, meat and dairy products.
- The main source of food for 33.3 percent of households is loans in the form of food to be repaid at a later date. Another 24 percent of households rely on purchased grain (with cash) while 20 percent access food through market purchase on credit. The use of these unsustainable sources implies that households are highly vulnerable to further food insecurity due to the impact of price increases.
- Returnee households are more food insecure than displaced households (88.9% vs 60%) while female-head households are more food insecure than their male counterparts (91% vs 83%).
- The mean Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) among Internally Displaced Population (IDP) households is 26.2 as compared to 20.1 for returnee households. Similarly, the mean rCSI among female-headed households is 22 as compared to 18 for male-headed households. Higher CSI indicates severe food security conditions and therefore, the higher the rCSI, the more severe the coping strategies applied by the household.

Introduction

A rapid food security assessment was conducted in Gubio as part of the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) from 5th to 7th December 2016. The RRM is a joint mission between WFP and UNICEF which is designed to assess and respond to rapidly changing needs on the ground in hard to reach areas. The key activities carried out during the RRM include registration and general food distribution to vulnerable households along with the provision of nutrition supplies for the management of acute malnutrition in children under 5 years.

A total of 149,709 metric tons of food was distributed to 18,725 registered beneficiaries as general food distribution and to 1,500 beneficiaries as Blanket Supplementary Feeding following a nutrition screening conducted for children (6-59 months).

The objective of the rapid food security assessment was to evaluate the current food security situation of beneficiaries to inform programmatic decisions and to establish baseline food security information on the most vulnerable groups.

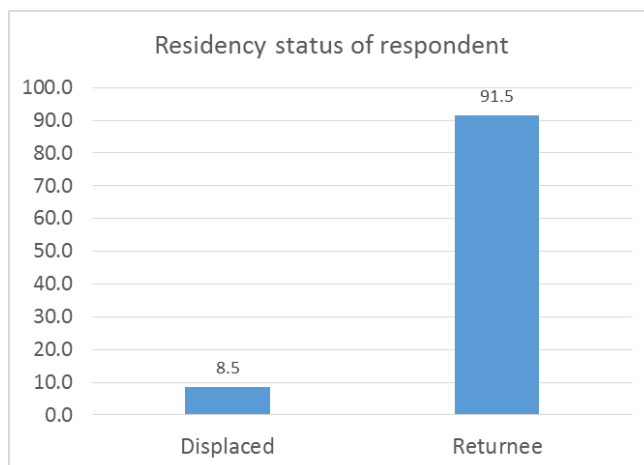
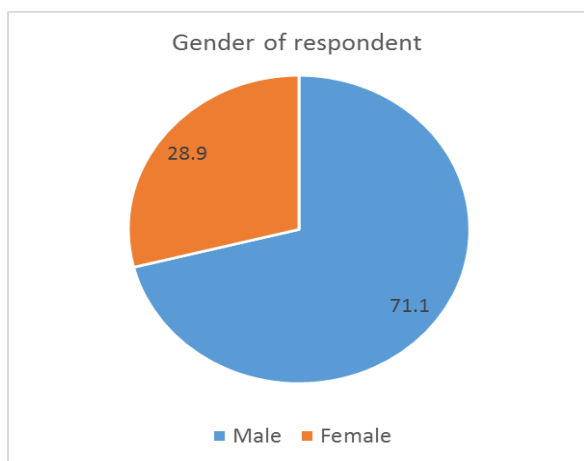


Sampling

A Total of 79 beneficiaries were interviewed during the registration exercise to obtain information on the current food security situation of Internally Displaced Population (IDPs) and returnee households. The respondents were randomly selected by community volunteers to respond to questions on daily food consumption and the various coping mechanisms households adapt to cope with limited access to food.

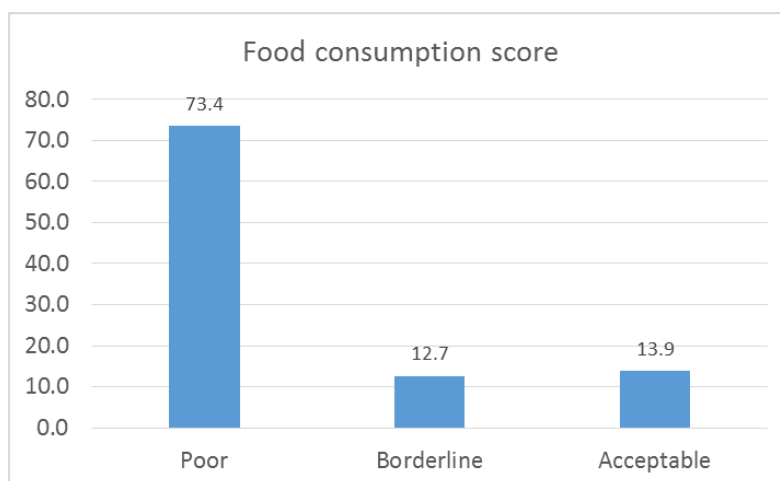
Household Demographics and residency status

Some 28.9 percent of the respondents were female while 71.1 percent were male. More than 90 percent of these respondents are returnees and have generally been impacted by the ongoing conflict while 8.5 percent are currently still displaced. These population groups have suffered disruptions to their livelihoods and are generally vulnerable to food insecurity.



Food security situation

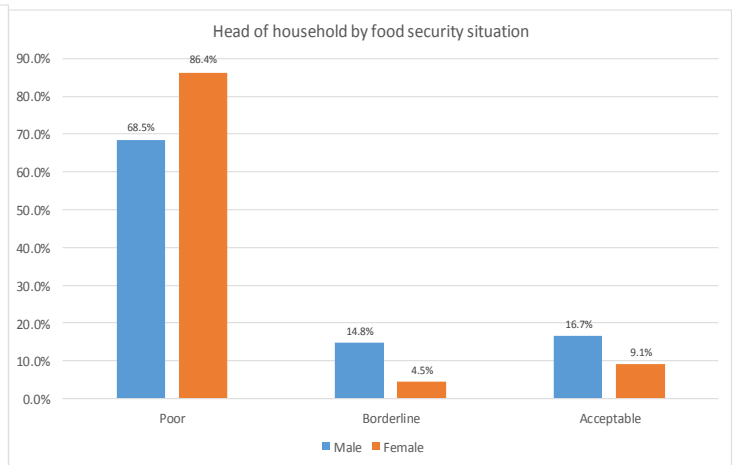
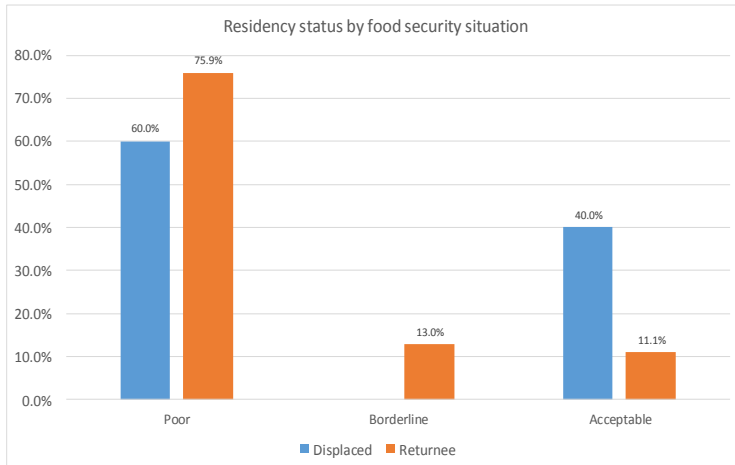
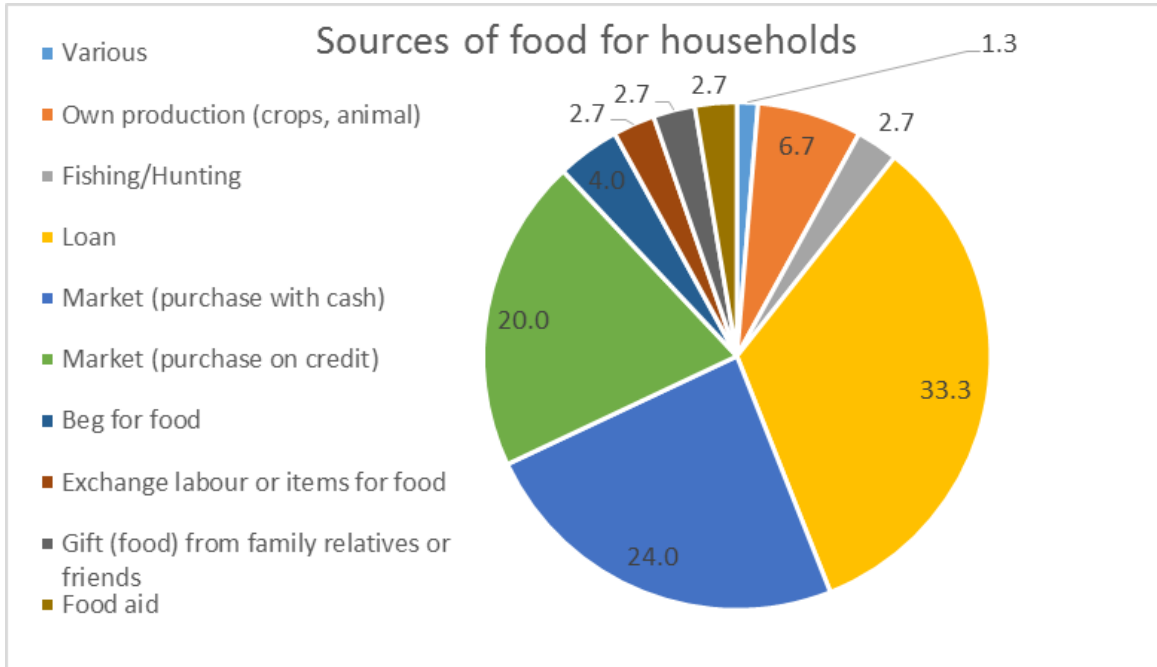
Some 73.4 percent of respondents in this assessment have poor food consumption, meaning that households' diet is inadequate. The meals of these household are mainly composed of cereals, oil and some vegetables. On average, these households consume cereals for 4 days, oil for 2 days and vegetables for 1 day in a week. There is exceptionally limited or no consumption of fruits, meat and dairy products.



Some 12.7 percent of households have borderline food consumption. The households with borderline food consumption score have better consumption of cereals, pulses, vegetables fruits, meat and dairy products than those with poor food consumption. On average borderline households consume cereals for 4 days in a week, pulses for 3 days and vegetable for 2 days while fruits, dairy and meat are consumed once in a week.

Household food sources

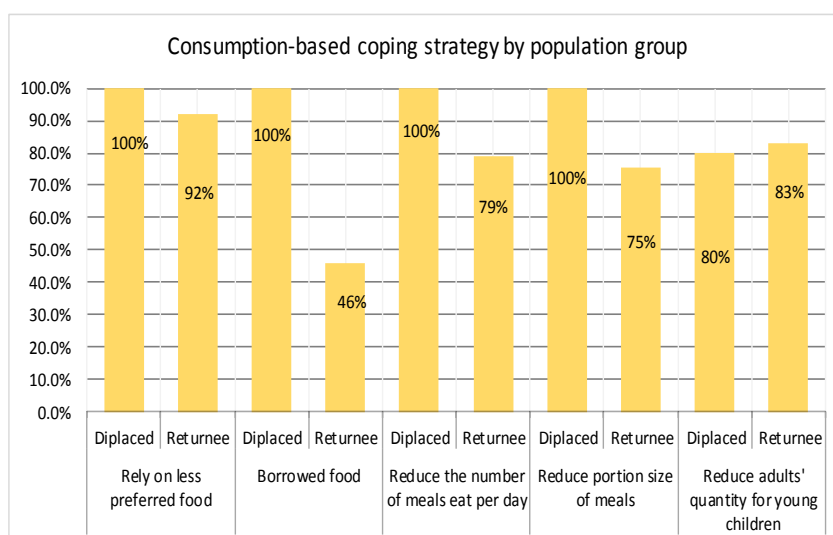
Some 33.3 percent of households rely on loans in the form of food which they will repay at a later day. Another 24 percent of households rely on purchased grain (with cash) while 20 percent access food through market purchase on credit. These methods of food access implies that households are highly vulnerable to food insecurity in the near future as they are constantly reliant on unsustainable methods of food access and tend to be affected by increasing prices of food commodities.



Returnee households are more food insecure than displaced households (88.9% vs 60%) while female-head households are more food insecure than their male counterparts (91% vs 83%).

Food consumption-based coping strategies

The reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) was used to measure the use of five food consumption-based coping strategies during the seven days preceding the assessment. All households adapted these coping strategies, meaning that there were days prior to the assessment when these households did not have enough food or money to buy food. The use of coping strategies is higher among IDP households than among returnee households. The mean rCSI among IDP households is 26.2 as compared to 20.1 for returnee households. Similarly, the mean rCSI among female-headed households is 22 as compared to 18 for male-headed households. Higher CSI indicates severe food insecurity situation and therefore, the higher the rCSI, the more severe the coping strategies applied by the household.



Conclusions

The beneficiaries targeted during the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) in Gubio have critical levels of food insecurity and are relying on very severe strategies to cope with poor access to food. While food insecurity is very high among both displaced and returnee households, returnee are the worst of the two population groups. Similarly, female-headed households are more food insecure than male-headed households. The sources of food relied upon by these targeted population are highly unsustainable and only expose households to further market shocks and compound their food insecurity. Therefore, the provision of sustained assistance will be necessary to ensure that malnutrition rates among the most vulnerable segment of this population do not hit critical thresholds.



For further information please contact:

Moustapha Toure, WFP Nigeria

moustapha.toure@wfp.org

Wuni Dasori, WFP Nigeria

wuni.dasori@wfp.org

www.wfp.org