



Nigeria

Magumeri Rapid Food Security Assessment

December 2016

Key messages for decision makers

- 87 percent of respondents have acceptable food consumption while the others have borderline (12%) or poor (1%) food consumption.
- Some 23% of the households have one meal per day while others have two meals (38%) or three meals (39%).
- During the seven days preceding the assessment, all households have used coping strategies to get food, and the mean reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) remains high (21).
- A total of 1,805 children were screened using MUAC, out of whom less than 2% were found to be malnourished.
- Markets are functional and main staple foods are available, but at higher prices.
- Security situation being the main driver of market functionality, cash based interventions could be gradually implemented once the security situation improve.

Introduction

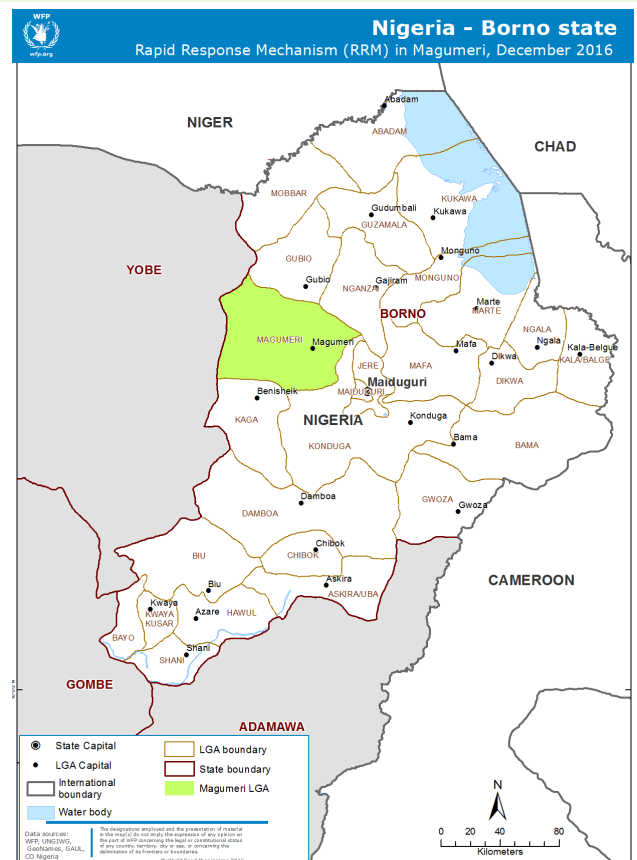
According to IOM, the number of IDPs returning to their place of usual residence, before the insurgency began, is increasing. As of 15th December 2016, about 6,500 IDPs returning back to their place of origin were registered in Magumeri Local Government Area (LGA).

A rapid food security assessment was conducted in Magumeri as part of the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) from 20th to 22nd December 2016.

The RRM is a joint mission between WFP and UNICEF which is designed to respond to rapidly changing needs in hard-to-reach and/or newly accessible areas.

Key activities conducted during RRM included registration and food distribution to vulnerable households along with the provision of nutrition supplements for the prevention of acute malnutrition and mortality. In addition to distribution, nutrition screening is carried out to identify children at risk.

The objective of the rapid food security assessment was to evaluate the current food security and nutrition situation of beneficiaries.



Methodology

A total of 120 beneficiaries were interviewed during the registration exercise to obtain information on the current food security situation. The respondents were randomly selected by community volunteers to respond to questions on food consumption and strategies they use to cope with limited access to food. All children aged 6-59 months present at distribution point were screened using mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC). During this exercise, a total of 1,805 children were screened.

Food consumption

Some 23% of households have one meal per day while, 38% have two meals and 39% have three meals. More than 8 in 10 households (87%) have acceptable food consumption.

During the first distribution in Magumeri, WFP did not conduct a baseline survey to evaluate food consumption of households before food distribution. This limitation makes it difficult to draw any conclusion on the immediate impact of food assistance.

However, since many reports have depicted food security to be a matter of serious concern, one can reasonably hypothesise that food distribution has improved the situation.

Therefore regular provision of food assistance could improve food security situation of those who have borderline (12%) or poor (1%) food consumption.

Dairy products, proteins and fruits are only consumed once a week regardless of the food consumption status.

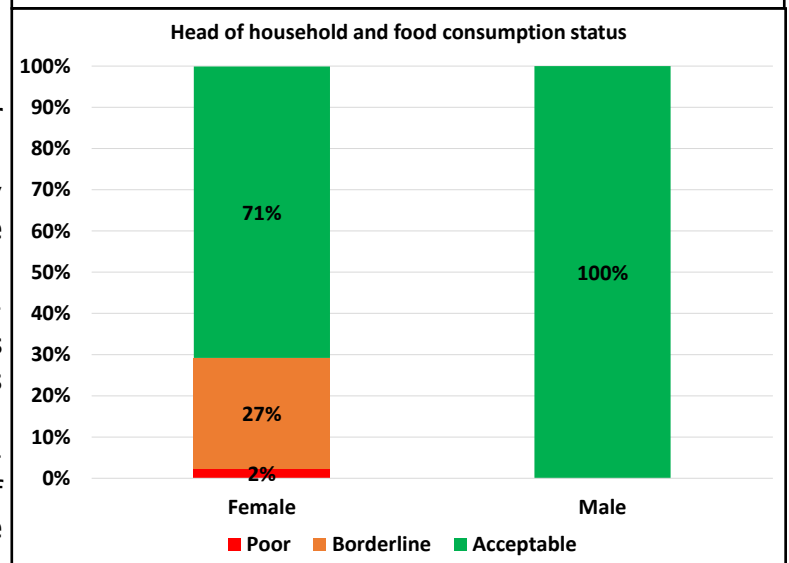
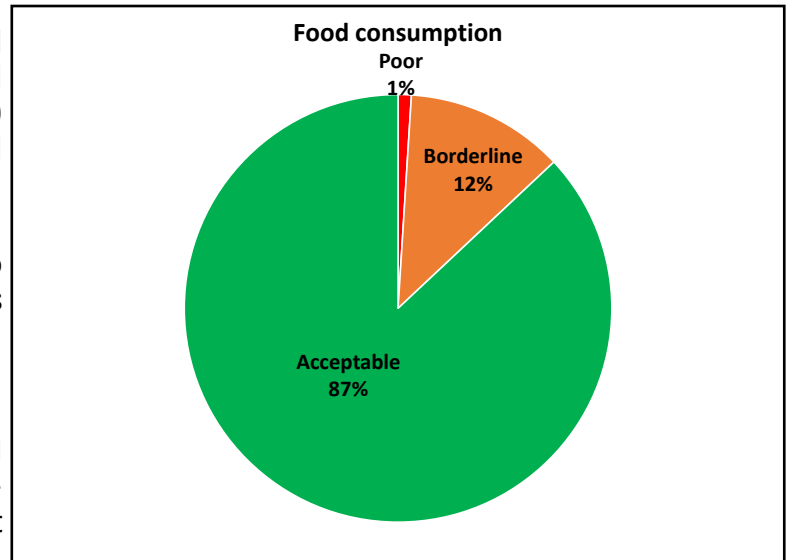
Households with acceptable food consumption consume frequently vegetable (4 days per week) and pulses (3 days per week) as compared to others.

All male-headed households have acceptable food consumption. Some 71 percent of female-headed households have acceptable food consumption.

The rest have borderline (27%) or poor (2%) food consumption. In others words, female-headed households are more food insecure than male-headed households.

Food consumption-based coping strategies

The reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) measures the use of five food consumption-based coping strategies during the seven days preceding the assessment. During this period, all households reported usage of coping strategies as a result of difficulties they were facing to access to food. The mean rCSI remains high (21), and households with poor food consumption (23) and acceptable food consumption (21) have used more frequently these strategies than those who have borderline food consumption (16). More surprisingly, the mean rCSI is lower among female-headed households (19) as compared to male-headed households (22).



RRM in Magumeri - Key figures

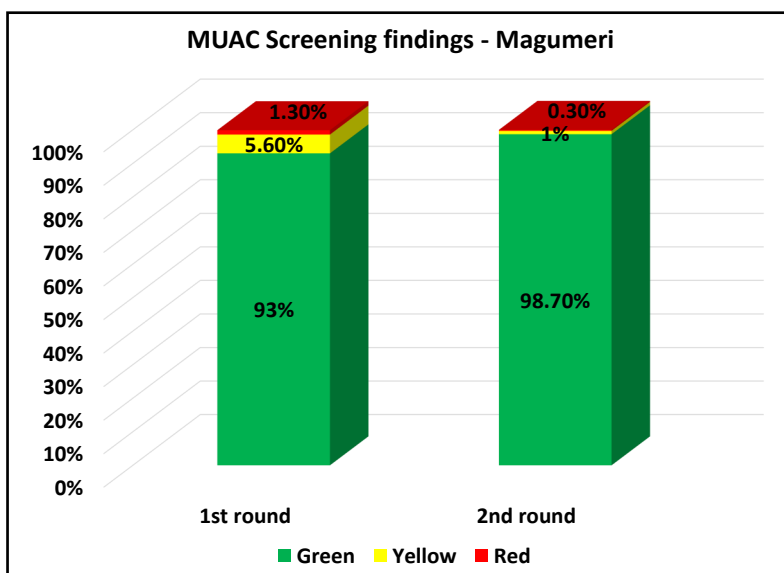
During the first RRM mission that took place from 23rd to 24th November 2016, WFP distributed **44 metric tons** of food to **6,066 beneficiaries**. During the second round of distribution, from 20th to 22nd December 2016, a total of **142.5 metric tons** of food was distributed to **21,600 beneficiaries** as general food distribution, and 5.4 metric tons of Plumpy Sup to **1,805 children** aged 6-59 months.

Market conditions

For security reasons, the assessment team only visited the main market in Magumeri town. Given time constraints, the market component of the rapid assessment focused on qualitative data collected through focus group discussion with key informants and direct observation. Though the main market is functional and staple foods are available, key informants reported increased prices as a result of the security situation. According to them, upward trends in food prices will continue over the next three months, when getting closer to lean season. At the moment, traders are not able to absorb increased demand as most of them can not get credit from their suppliers. However, this statement should be put into perspective, as rising demand could stimulate markets. The security situation will be the main driver of market functionality as well as ability of traders to take risk by increasing food supply.

Nutrition overview

From the results presented, the MUAC screening findings for children under 5 years indicate an improvement in the nutrition situation from about 7% in round one to 1.3% of children presenting with malnutrition in round two (Moderate acute malnutrition represented by yellow and Severe acute malnutrition by red). While the nutrition findings from children screened at the distribution areas are not worrying, Community based active case finding will be strengthened to ensure children who remained in communities are screened and referral made to the appropriate centres for nutrition management.



Take away messages

- Some 87% of households have acceptable food consumption; this performance can be attributed to the regularity of food assistance in newly accessible areas.
- Given the precarious situation of affected people, food assistance remains relevant to respond to their needs.
- Though nutrition findings are not worrying, there is a need to strengthen Community based active case finding to ensure children who remained in communities are screened.
- Markets are functional and main staple foods are available, but at higher prices.
- Under current conditions and because of security limitations, traders will not be able to respond in a timely manner if demand increases in a very near future.



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