



Nigeria

Gubio Rapid Food Security Assessment - Round 2

December 2016

Key messages for decision makers

- Compared to the baseline in early December 2016, the proportion of households with poor food consumption dropped from 73% to only 6% by the end of the month.
- The average reduced coping strategy index stands at 17.5, and households with poor and borderline food consumption have more frequently used these strategies than those who have acceptable food consumption.
- A total of 239 children aged 6-59 months were screened using MUAC, out of whom 7,9% were found to be malnourished.
- The Gubio market only operates for few hours in the day, and trucks are not allowed to come into town.
- The main reasons for the increase in food prices include security restrictions on movement and decrease of local food production.
- According to key informants, as long as these restrictions are in place, traders will not be able to increase food supply and prices will remain high.

Introduction

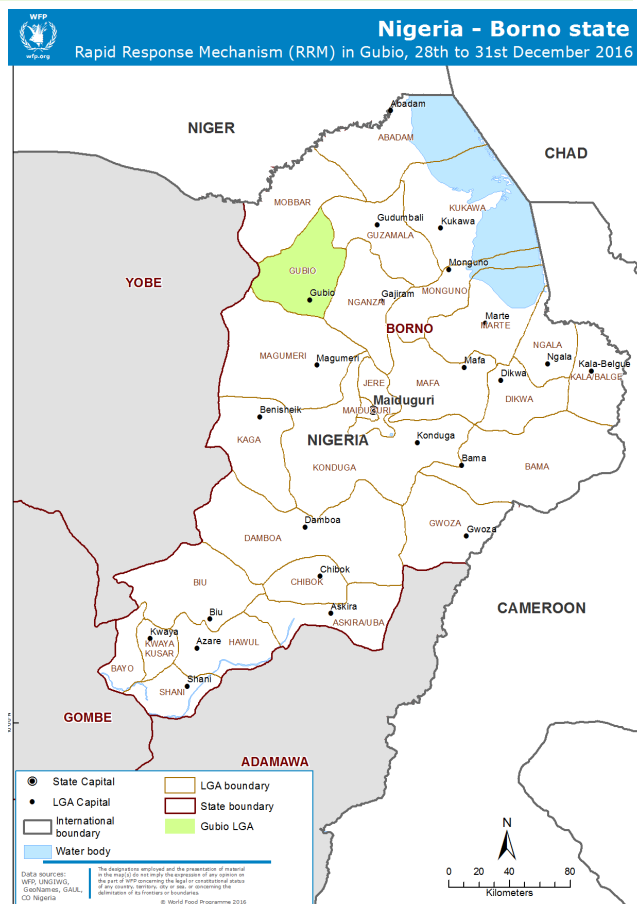
Rapid assessments are part of the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM), a joint mission between WFP and UNICEF which is designed to assess and respond to rapidly changing needs in hard to reach areas.

The first rapid assessment mission in Gubio Local Government Area (LGA) took place from 5th to 7th December 2016. The purpose of this assessment was to establish baseline food security situation that will be monitored after food distributions.

In order to measure progress on food security and outcomes, a follow-up survey was conducted from 28th to 31st December 2016.

The December 2016 data from the Displacement Matrix (DTM) by IOM suggests a continued trend of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) returning to their LGA of origin as a result of improvement in the security situation.

In Gubio, about 28,000 persons have returned to their place of origin. Given the volatility of the situation, it is difficult to provide an accurate number of people in need of food assistance. However, there is consensus that a large-scale humanitarian assistance is needed to prevent further deterioration in the food security situation of the affected households.



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 living in those households were screened using mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC). During this exercise, 239 children were screened. Some 68% of households are returning IDPs, and the others are IDPs (11%) or people who have not been displaced (21%).

Food consumption

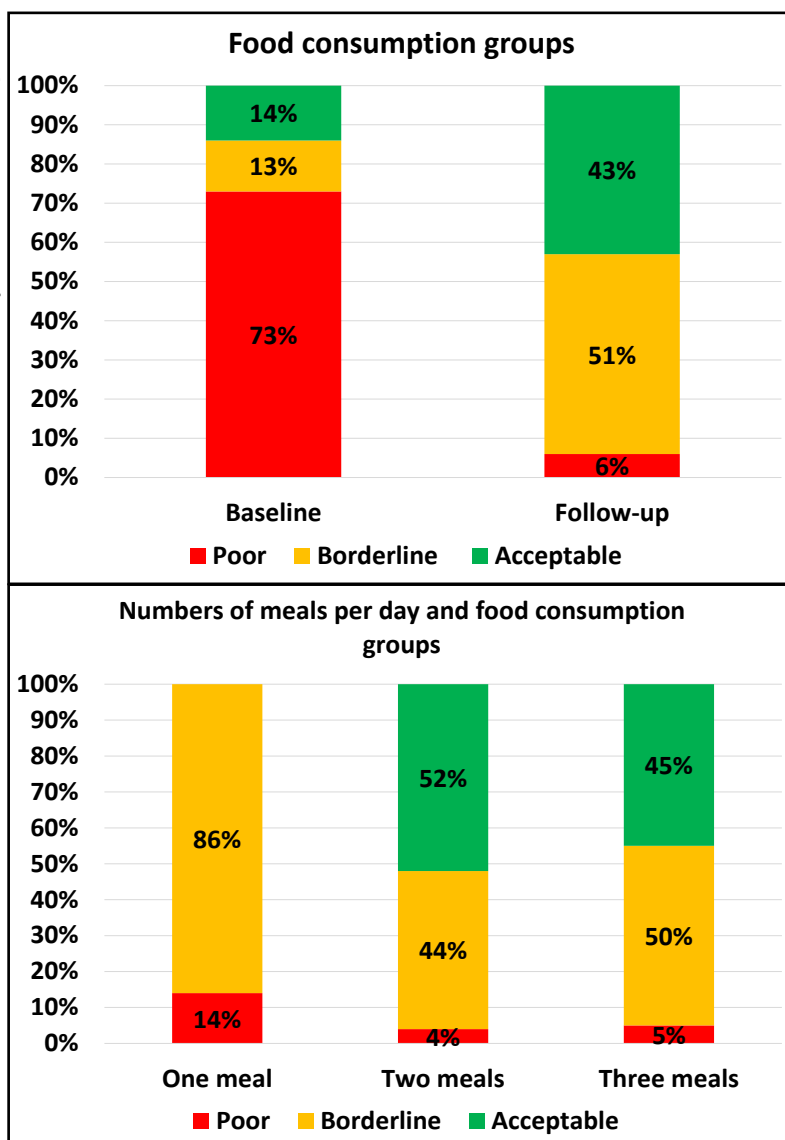
Some 12% of households consumed one meal per day, while the rest had (56%) or three meals (32%).

Compared to the baseline survey, the proportion of households with poor food consumption dropped down from 73% in early December to only 6% at the end of the month. Conversely, the proportion of households with acceptable food consumption score has increased (from 14% to 43%).

On average, households with acceptable food consumption consume cereals and tubers for 7 days, oils for 6 days, pulses for 4 days, vegetables and sugar for 3 days in a week. These households have a limited consumption of proteins, dairy products and fruit (one to two days per week).

Households with borderline or poor food consumption never consume fruits, protein and dairy product. They barely consume pulses, vegetable and sugar (no more than twice a week).

The proportion of households with poor food consumption score is higher amongst households consuming only one meal per day (14%) compared to those who have two (4%) or three meals per day (5%).



A very low proportion of households have sold their previous ration to buy food commodities (1%) or non-food items (2%). But 52% of them have shared their ration with households who did not receive food assistance during the previous distribution. During the first distribution, 18,725 beneficiaries received food assistance though more beneficiaries were registered (23,700). This gap is due to the fact that there was not enough food to cover all needs identified. Some households decided to share their ration. For the second round of distribution, all necessary measures were taken by WFP in order to provide food assistance to all beneficiaries identified during the second distribution (47,100).

RRM in Gubio - Key figures

During the RRM mission that took place from 5th to 7th December 2016, WFP distributed **150 metric tons** of food and nutrition supplements to **18,725 beneficiaries** including **1,500 children aged 6-59 months**. From 28th to 31st December 2016, a total of **395 metric tons** of food and nutrition supplements was distributed to **47,200 beneficiaries** including **3,900 children** aged 6-59 months. The reasons for this increase in number of beneficiaries are twofold: (1) trend of IDP returning back home is increasing and (2) information on RRM missions and distribution dates reached out more villages.

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, 93% of households reported using coping strategies. There is a slight decrease as all households reported using coping strategies during the baseline. The mean rCSI remains high (17.5), and households with poor (18) and borderline (19) food consumption more frequently used these strategies than those who have acceptable food consumption (15). Households consuming one meal per day (23) or two meals (18) are more frequently using coping strategies than those having three meals (15).

Market conditions

The market component of the rapid assessment focused on qualitative data collected through focus group discussions with key informants and direct observation, and the assessment team only visited the main market in Gubio town. Local populations have access to the main market, and staple food commodities available, but not in large quantities. As a result of security restrictions, the market only operates for few hours in the day. Commercial trucks are not allowed to come into town, and small vehicles cannot bring in large quantities of food.

Compared to last year (December 2015), staple food commodity prices have increased: 23% for maize flour; 33% for imported rice; 54% for sorghum and 56% for vegetable oil. The main reasons for the increase in food prices include security restrictions, restrictions on importation of some food items, and decrease in local food production. According to key informants, as long as these restrictions are in place, traders will not be able to increase food supply and prices will remain high.

Nutrition overview

The prevalence of acute malnutrition for children 6-59 months based on MUAC assessment was found at 7.9%. About 0.8% of the 239 children screened were severely malnourished and referred for specialized treatment. Since majority of the households (56%) lie in the borderline to poor food consumption score category, the risk of deterioration to alert level remains of concern due to the increased vulnerability of children under 5 years to inadequate food diversity and frequency.

Conclusions

The two rounds of food assistance to the affected populations in Gubio has contributed to some improvement in food security conditions, but serious concerns remain as this improvement is only temporary. In particular, the limited functioning of markets and decreased local food production would continue to constrain supply to markets and access at the household level. These conditions along with the persistently high proportion of households using coping strategies and the large number of borderline food consumption households imply that sustained food assistance will be required until the security situation permits an increase in local production and market supplies are boosted.



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