



Nigeria

Emergency Food Security Assessment in Madagali and Michika, Adamawa State

April 2017

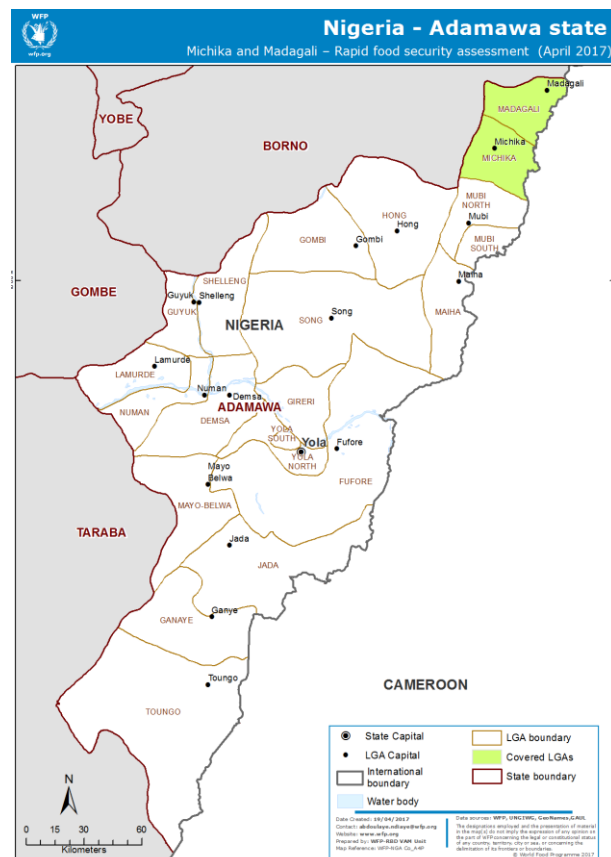
Key Messages for Decision Makers

- Overall, the prevalence of **global food insecurity** (severe and moderate) is high in Madagali (68%) and Michika (55%). About **22%** of households across both LGAs are **severally food insecure**.
- According to the March 2017 Cadre Harmonise (CH), a total of **193,188 people** may fall into the three combined critical food insecurity situations (crisis, emergency and famine), with **3,690 people in famine-like conditions** during the lean season.
- Urgent humanitarian **food assistance is required to prevent further deterioration** of the food security and nutrition situation.
- **This assistance should target at least people in CH phases 4 and 5 (68,000 people) for greater impact.**
- Food assistance should **target very poor and poor households** as they are presently unable to meet their food needs.
- Food security response should **combine food assistance and agricultural interventions** to support livelihood rehabilitation during the next planting season.

I. Background, objective and methodology

Madagali and Michika in Northern Adamawa State, like neighbouring LGAs in Borno State, have been significantly affected by the Boko Haram related conflict in Northeast Nigeria. The XV [Displacement Tracking Matrix](#) (DTM) by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) suggests that over 46,000 individuals (9,202 households) are currently displaced people. Another 61,000 individuals from Madagali and Michika are currently living in safer LGAs in Adamawa (such as Girei, Yola North and Yola South), and neighbouring States such as Taraba, Bauchi and Gombe. The incessant Boko Haram induced violence in Borno and adjoining LGAs have resulted in additional displacement of the residents of Madagali and Michika to relatively safer neighbouring LGAs and in Cameroon.

Results of the March 2017 Cadre Harmonise (CH) suggest a deterioration of the food security situation both in Michika and Madagali. During the current period (March to May 2017), 222,777 people are estimated to be in the three combined critical food insecurity situations of crisis, emergency and famine across the two LGAs with 5,815 in famine like-condition (see map annex 1).



During the projected period (June to August 2017), a total of 193,188 people may fall into the three combined critical food insecurity situations (crisis, emergency and famine), with 3,690 people in famine like-conditions (all being in Madagali).

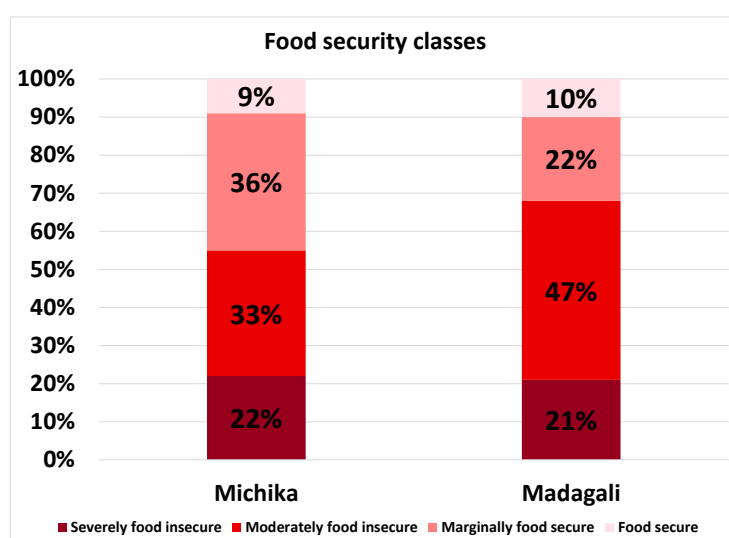
Following the CH findings, the World Food Programme (WFP) carried-out a Rapid Food Security Assessment to enable a better understanding of the humanitarian needs and assistance priorities. More specifically, the assessment aimed to inform the Food Security Sector decision making. The assessment took place from 10th to 14th April 2017 in Adamawa State and covered Yola, Madagali and Michika.

The Assessment methodology combined the analysis of existing secondary data (key findings of the Emergency food Security Assessment and Cadre Harmonise) and primary data collection (meeting with stakeholders, discussions with key informants, focus group discussion with communities and direct observation).

This report is structured as follows: Section I presents key food security indicators as well as the main characteristics of food insecure households; Section II describes the market conditions; Section III provides a quick overview of the nutrition situation; Section IV highlights protection related issues and Section V presents key recommendations.

II. Food Security Situation¹

Overall, the prevalence of food insecurity in Michika and Madagali stands at 62%, of which 22% are severely food insecure. Prevalence of global food insecurity is relatively higher in Madagali (68%) compared to Michika (55%). Another 40% of the households in these two LGAs are marginally food insecure and at high risk of becoming severely food insecure in the near future should prevailing conditions persist or deteriorates. Global food insecurity in Michika and Madagali is far above the average global food insecurity in Adamawa State (35% of which 6% are severely food insecure).



Consolidated Approach to Reporting Indicators (CARI) food security indicators

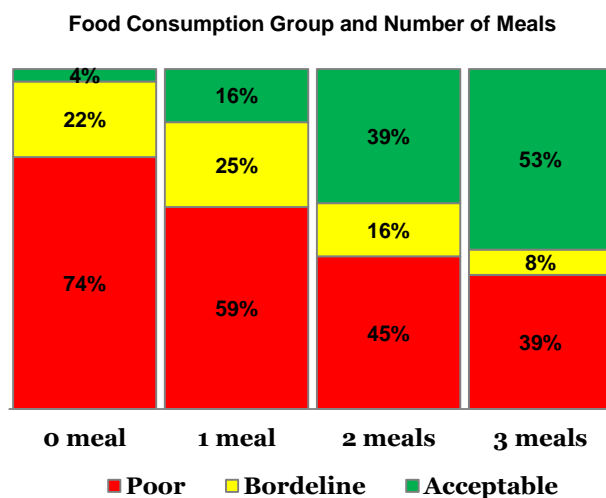
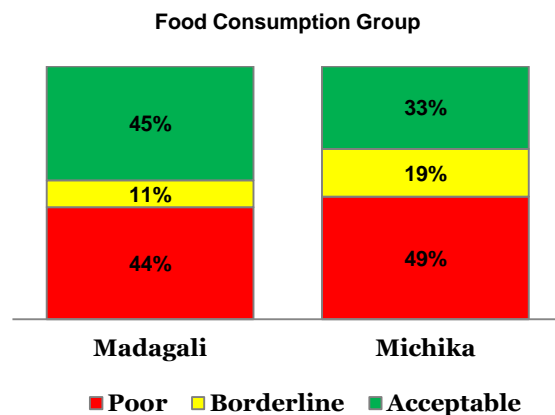
Domain		Indicator	Food Secure	Marginally Food Secure	Moderately Food Insecure	Severely Food Insecure (4)
Current Status	Food Consumption	Food Consumption Group	46.4		14.7	38.9
Coping Capacity	Economic Vulnerability	Food Expenditure Share	42.7	16.6	15.9	28.4
	Asset Depletion	Livelihood coping strategy categories	17.4	20.4	22.4	39.8
Food Security Index (%)			9.4	29.0	40.1	21.5

¹ According to the Emergency food security assessment (EFSA) that took place in February 2017. This assessment covered the three Northern States of Nigeria (Borno, Yobe and Adamawa). The EFSA was designed to provide trend on food security situation at LGA level. The sample size for Michika and Madagali is 214 randomly selected households

a) Food Consumption

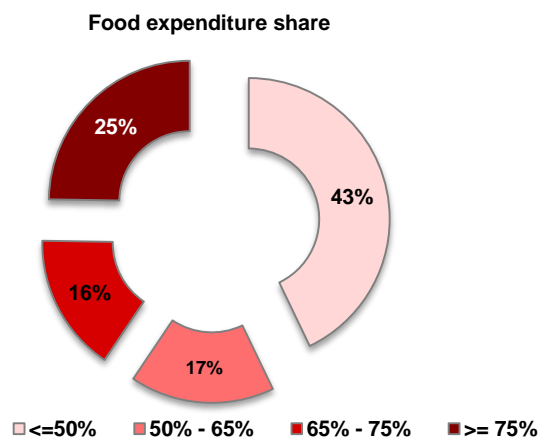
Some 13% of interviewed households had between zero to one meal a day while 52% had two meals and 33% had three meals during the day preceding the survey. The proportion of households that consumed between zero to one meal is relatively higher among IDPs (17%) and female headed households (18%). Overall, 39% of households have acceptable food consumption, 15% have borderline and 46% have poor consumption. It is worth mentioning that 64% of IDPs households have poor food consumption.

On the average, households with acceptable food consumption score consume tubers and vegetables for 6 days, oils for 5 days, and pulses, sugar and meat for 4 days with a limited consumption of fruits and dairy products (1 day per week). Households with borderline food consumption score rarely consume pulses, meat, fruits, dairy products, oils and sugar (0 to 2 days per week). Households with poor food consumption score never consumed pulses, meat, fruits, sugar and dairy products. Households with poor consumption account for 74% of all households that did not have any meal the day preceding the survey. As expected, some 53% of households with acceptable food consumption consumed three meals.



b) Economic Vulnerability

The economic vulnerability of a household is measured by comparing their monthly food expenditure to the total expenditure. Households with a high share of food expenditure are more vulnerable. On the average, one in every four (25%) of the households surveyed spent over 75% of their monthly expenditure on food. Households in Madagali (33%) are more vulnerable compared to Michika (16%).



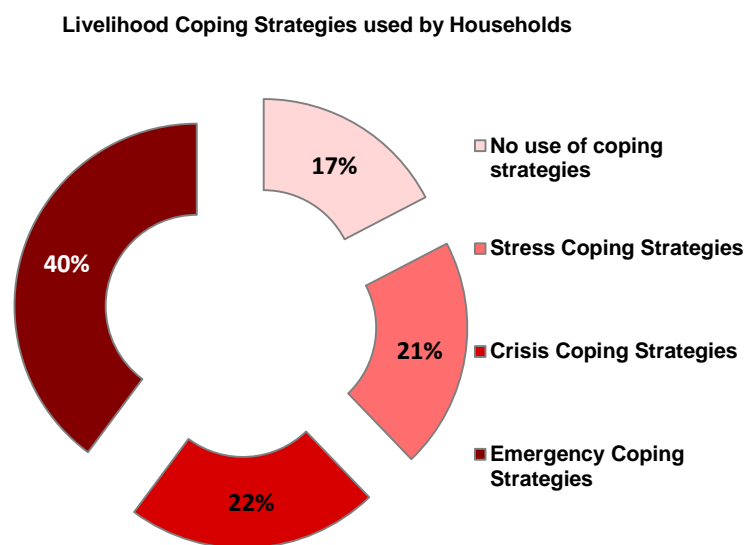
c) Food consumption based Coping Strategies

The reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) measures the use of five food consumption-based coping strategies during the 7 days preceding the assessment. The mean rCSI remains high (12) across Madagali (11) and Michika (13), and households with borderline (19) and acceptable (13) food consumption more frequently deploy these strategies than those who have poor food consumption (9). Households that are not consuming any meal (11) or those consuming one meal (17) or two meals (15) per day are more likely to use coping strategies than those consuming three meals (8). The mean rCSI among permanent residents

is relatively high (35) compared to IDPs in host communities (12) and returnees (12), suggesting a widespread level of vulnerability regardless of the household status.

d) Livelihood based Coping Strategies

The livelihood coping strategy measures the livelihood stress and asset depletion during 30 days prior to the survey. The overall reliance on livelihood coping strategies is relatively high as 83% of households reported using these strategies in Madagali (81%) and Michika (84%). Specifically, 40% of the households have engaged in **emergency coping strategies** such as begging and sale of land, all of which jeopardizes the future productivity of households. Another 22% of the households have deployed **crisis coping strategies** such as the sale of productive asset and withdrawal of their children from schools, all of which increases the economic vulnerability of the households. The remaining 21% of affected households have used **stress coping strategies** like purchasing food on credit.



Rapid assessment findings confirm these trends. While better off and middle level households can afford to buy food, the situation is very worrisome for the poor and very poor. For these categories of households who can hardly get food, the main coping strategies include reduction of daily meals for adults (3 to 1), begging², unskilled casual labour, and selling of firewood.

However, if selling of firewood seems to be the most commonly used coping strategy, this strategy is very risky, especially for women as this leaves them vulnerable to physical assault by insurgents. On the other hand, daily wage for unskilled labour has dropped by 40 to 50%, thus reducing substantially the purchasing power of casual labour-dependant households. There is a disparity between men and women regarding access to casual labour as only one out of ten women (10%) will get casual labour within Madagali.

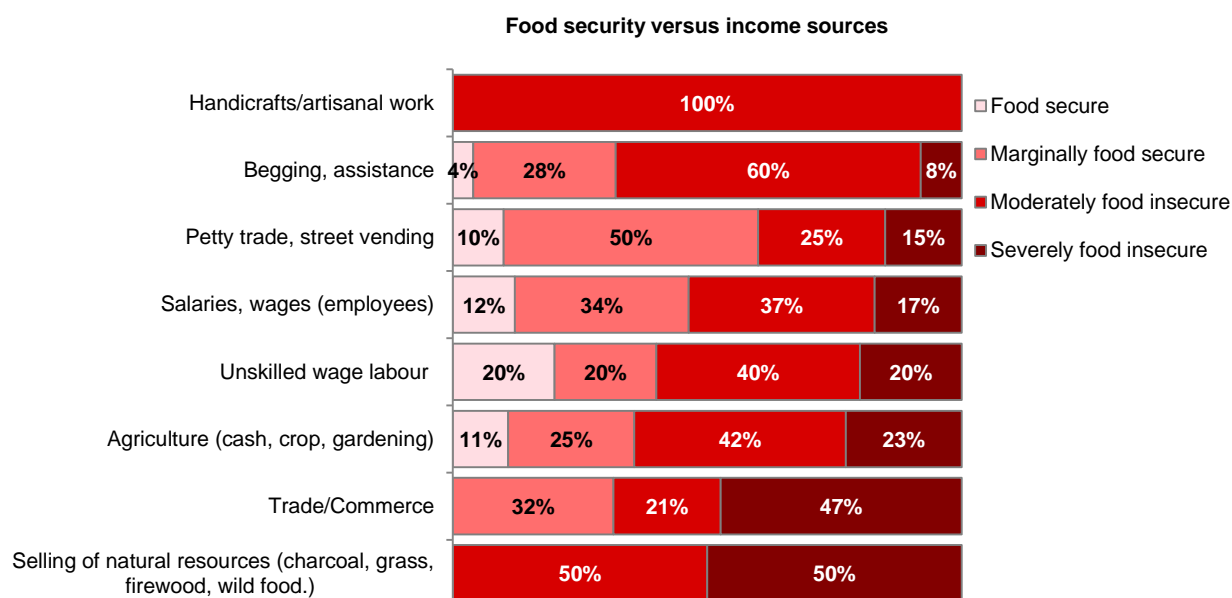
Various trades that have been impacted negatively and almost non-existent for many due to insurgency include cap making, groundnut trading, petty trading, small-scale farming, grinding, milling and tailoring. The

² This is in contrast to street begging, in Madagali community women were able to identify and invite to meeting widows who continuously beg. Humsi community begging group are mostly elder and persons living with disabilities who could not even make it to the meeting.

affected population of Madagali and their neighbouring towns are not receiving food assistance currently. A common coping strategy due to limited income sources of livelihood within the communities in Madagali is husbands migrating to other places to work outside Madagali and return to provide money for the women to go to market.

e) Characteristics and Profiles of Food Insecure Households

- **Sex of Household Head:** female headed households (28%) are severely food insecure with some 50% of female headed households in Madagali falling into this category compared to 21% in Michika.
- **Livelihood:** food insecurity is higher among households that are highly reliant on begging (68%), unskilled labour (60%), unskilled casual labour (54%) and agriculture (64%). It is noteworthy to highlight that agriculture is the main source of livelihood for 41% of the population, followed by paid employment (19%) and begging (12%).
- **Access to Farming Land:** Madagali and Michika are both in the North-Central livelihood zone which is mainly into the production of staples (maize and sorghum) and cash crops (cotton). Food insecurity appears to be higher among households lacking access to farming land (81%) compared to those that do (52%). These households without access to farming land are four times more likely to be severely food insecure (41%) compared to their counterparts (12%). The apparent disparity in food security status based on accessibility to farming land is underpinned by the population’s reliance on agriculture as the main source of income. Specifically in households that rely on agriculture, there is a significant disparity in food insecurity (moderate and severe) among households without access to farming land (96%) compared to those with access (53%).



f) Key contributors to food insecurity

Three in every four households (75%) have experienced some measure of difficulty or shock three month prior to the survey. The main shocks are insecurity (19%), high food prices (28%) and sickness of household member (13%). High insecurity could result into further displacement of population and reduction in agricultural production, consequently causing loss of livelihood and income, all of which increases the vulnerability of affected households to food insecurity. For instance, insecurity was a major constraint that

affected agricultural and livestock production. Moreover, the increase in food prices, coupled with soaring inflation affects the purchasing power of households, further hampering food access and exacerbates food insecurity.

As a result of the insurgency, the population of Madagali and Michika were forced to flee to Cameroon or safer LGAs in Nigeria when the insurgents took over these two areas in August 2014. In March 2015, the Nigeria Army liberated these two localities from the insurgents. While in Madagali, the vast majority of people who fled (75 to 90%) are back, people living in insecure villages are reluctant to do so. The security situation is very volatile in some villages, and people living in villages beyond a radius of 20 km from Madagali have been asked by Nigerian Army to come into the LGA capital. Bad roads conditions and the mountainous terrain may delay prompt intervention of Nigerian Army in remote areas.

The main livelihoods include cross-border trade with Cameroon, rain-fed and irrigation farming and livestock rearing. All these livelihoods have been seriously disrupted by the insurgency. The results of a recently concluded EFSA suggest that only 51% of households in Madagali were able to cultivate crops during the last agricultural planting season, whereas 90% of households in Michika were able to do so.

Moreover, because of insecurity, farmers could only cultivate a limited area of land. The early cessation of rainy season also drastically impacted food crop production. According to the recent EFSA results, 51% of households interviewed in Madagali and 66% of those surveyed in Michika indicated a decrease in agricultural production compared to a normal year. This downward trends of local food production was confirmed during the focus group discussion. Compared to a normal agricultural season, the food crop deficit resulting from these two major constraints is estimated at about 80%. Moreover, in some villages, about 75% of the harvest has been looted or burnt by insurgents.

Before the insurgency, food stocks could cover up to ten months consumption (from October to August). As the result of the insurgency, food stocks could hardly cover more than three months. The lean season has already started, and the vast majority of households are net buyers of food. Over 90% of the food consumed by poor and very poor households is either obtained from gift or begging and hardly from market (purchase). The level of disruption of main livelihoods makes it difficult for these already vulnerable households to buy food.

On the other hand, the collapse of the livestock sector has significantly constrained purchasing power of households. Before the insurgency, during the lean season, household used to sell animals to buy food, and almost 90% of households owned animals. Animals were targeted by insurgents and only 20% of households currently own a few animals. Consequently, this important source of income that was used to access food during critical times has been eroded, reducing the purchasing power of livestock-dependant households.

Humsi is close to Cameroon border town, (7km to Madagali town). It is also a major route for smuggling of goods (fuel, sugar, milk, cement, etc.) into Cameroon. The community members have not made any significant attempt to reside at the plains as they have become accustomed to spending the night in Cameroon. For fear of attacks, they only come during the day to buy and sell or carry-out small scale farming. They now live in the mountains and in the forest bordering their original home.

The food security situation is deemed critical as infrastructures and markets have failed. A significant number of men have migrated to other towns to obtain work in exchange for money or food, leaving their women unprotected³. Households do not consume three meals anymore but manage to get one or two or adults forego meals, so that the children can get at least two meals a day. The young men have all fled to other

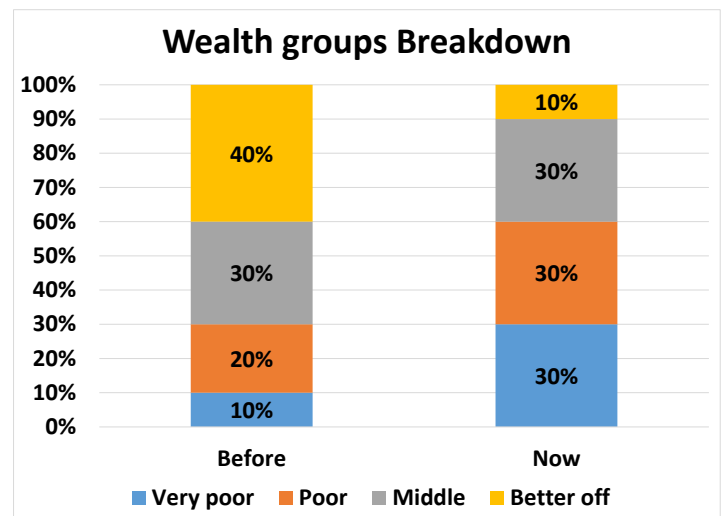
³ Women say market trade is low and slow as there is no money until their men come back to Madagali which means they go to Michika for food purchases.

places and farming is almost non-existent. The host community is under pressure to take on people who moved into town from neighbouring communities as little as 5km away, a move encouraged by the army for fear of attacks from insurgents which is still happening outskirts of Madagali town.

g) Wealth groups breakdown

During the field mission, key informants were asked to estimate wealth groups using the proportional piling method. This approach gives a rough idea of the four wealth groups and the extent to which the living conditions of households have been impacted by the crisis. Key informants were asked to agree on wealth group categorisation for two period of reference (before the insurgency and after the insurgency). The outcome of this exercise shows an increasing number of household (30%) falling into the lower category (very poor), whereas the proportion of rich households (better off) has decreased from 40% to 10%.

Before the crisis, very poor and poor households (30%) could benefit from the generosity of wealthiest group (70%). As a result of the crisis, the proportion of lower classes has doubled, thereby challenging the ability of the better off and middle wealth households to support the increasing number of very poor and poor households in the long run and in a sustainable manner. This trend reversal calls for external support as community based solidarity has been exhausted. The wealthiest households have also been affected by the crisis, making it difficult for them to provide continuous support to the needy people.



III. Market Conditions

Findings from a recent joint market assessment in Mubi⁴, a neighbouring LGA to Madagali and Michika suggest that markets are functioning. The local population are both sellers and buyers of food products considering the fact that 40% of the livestock supply in Mubi market is from both LGAs and food consumed by majority of households are bought from local markets.

Moreover, findings from the EFSA suggest that markets are relatively accessible despite insecurity challenges. Nonetheless, a sharp increase in prices across all food products was highlighted from the market assessment considering the fact that prices were generally higher compared to preceding years. This corroborates previous findings from WFP’s market monitoring⁵, [mVAM](#), and [FEWSNET](#) which indicate a continued depreciation of the Naira against the US dollar and increased prices of imported food products. This incessant atypical increase in food prices has the potential to decrease the purchasing power of households and consequently hinder food access. Other factors that could potentially upturn unavailability and inaccessibility to food are insecurity (particularly in Madagali), including security restrictions, border closures and bad road network.

⁴ Report on Joint Mission on Food Security and Market Assessment in Adamawa State, February, 2017

⁵ Market Monitoring Bulletin, March 2017

According to key informants, Madagali market was one of the biggest market in Yola State before the insurgency. Following a suicide bombing in the market in December 2016, the market has been closed for three months. After the reopening of the market, commercial transactions are gradually resuming, but the level of activities is far below pre-crisis situation.

In Michika, the full recovery of commercial transactions is hampered by security restrictions imposing the use of military escort between Gwoza and Michika. Ongoing military operations result in the suspension or delay of daily military escort. During the last six days preceding the rapid assessment, no daily escort was available, resulting in low food availability on the market and skyrocketing prices (166% for imported rice; 100% for red beans; 220% for palm oil and 144% for vegetable oil). However, these upward trends in prices of food commodities should be put into perspective due to the fact that price increase has been further exacerbated by the fact that no military escort was available.

Madagali livestock market has been completely dismantled, and will not resume any time soon as the cattle market is the main target of insurgents. Before the insurgency, at least 1,000 animals were sold during the weekly market.

Disa ward is within 8 minutes walking distance from the local market which operates on Mondays, Fridays and Saturdays. The market operates between 11am to 5.30pm as against to 6am to 6pm before the insurgency. There is very little to purchase as traders are no longer willing to buy in bulk for fear of recurrent attacks en route to Madagali. Products sold include cereals, pulses and vegetables. Unfortunately sales are slow as residents have limited funds to make purchases. Waga which is close to Madagali town has no functioning market but the residents can always purchase their food stuff also in Michika and Dutse (Cameroon mountains).

IV. Quick overview on nutrition

The nutritional status of the population of Madagali has been gravely affected by the insurgency as the incidence of food insecurity have become commonplace. Accessibility and availability of health facilities is another major issue. Only one health facility (primary health center) is functioning in Madagali, and drugs are usually not readily available and residents are compelled to travel to Michika to buy the prescribed drugs at a private chemical shop.

Plumpy Sup was last supplied at the clinic 9 months ago in July 2016 and the facility has since not received any delivery of any food or support. Between January and March 2017, 4 cases of severe malnutrition, 2 death and 10 moderately malnourished children were identified at the health center.

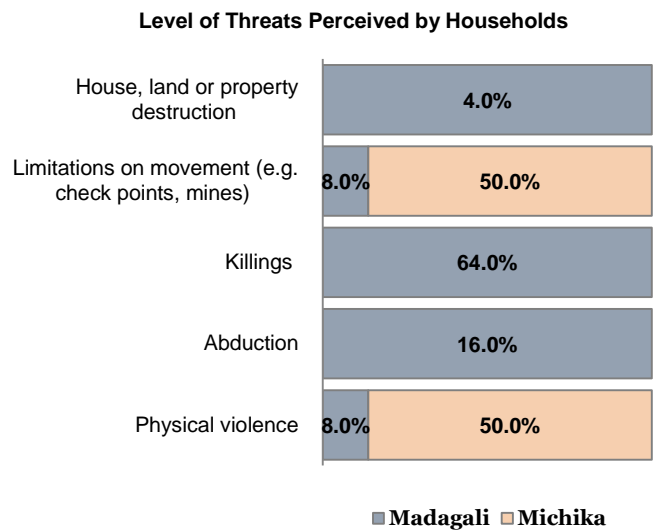
The common diseases are Malaria, Typhoid, respiratory tract disease (whooping cough), diarrhea, boils, scabies and *Beriberi* (local name gurga). There is currently no surveillance system on ground to monitor any outbreak. According to the information collected from the register of the health center in Madagali, about 80% of the children are moderately malnourished while 30% are infected with skin disease.

Children are fed twice a day. The situation is worse in Waga and Himsu where children are said to eat once. Since households do not have enough food, they prepare porridge from *Guinea Corn* (sorghum) flour for the children and *Kunun Gyada*⁶ which is porridge made from groundnut paste and flour from maize or *Guinea Corn*. Children under 5 are fed with left over from previous day or with boiled *Guinea Corn*.

⁶ A Northern Nigerian gruel (light porridge) made with raw groundnuts and rice.

V. Protection Related Issues

Almost 60% of the households surveyed during the EFSA had concerns related to threats in their communities, 25% of which was perceived to be constant. All these cases of constant threat emanated from Madagali. Among those that feel insecure, the most common threats and fears are predominantly related to killings (59%), abduction (15%), physical violence (11%) and restrictions of movement due to security checkpoints and landmines (11%). It is worth noting that the major fears in Michika is related to physical violence (50%) and restrictions of movement due to security checkpoints and landmines (50%) in contrast to killings (64%) and abduction (14%) in Madagali.



These threats could exacerbate the current food insecurity situation in Madagali and Michika as they can prevent people from going to the markets to buy and sell food and also hinder access to humanitarian aid.

The rapid assessment also covered protection related issues. The community members were split into two groups. The sensitive nature of the questionnaire was explained to the group and as such onlookers and men hanging around the women were requested to excuse them so they can speak freely. Women who wish to speak were encouraged and sometimes they were pointed out to speak up. The women leaders were identified and asked to assist in controlling the women when arguments arose due to differing opinions.

Movement around the town is limited. Everyone is migrating into the Madagali town, a move encouraged by the army. The women agreed that insurgents still come at night but in search of food. Community members also said they suffer from mental and emotional trauma especially the widows who saw their husband and children being killed or taken away.

The group most affected by the conflict are able body young men. The threats or fear of these threats may prevent people living outside Madagali town from accessing potential registration or distribution sites to receive assistance. The WFP team was advised to send delegations to some communities living in the bush and mountains to come down as they are very scared of security threats. The places identified include Fadama, Jaje, Ga, Chakawa, Madaka, Gori and Agurin Suke. Populations moving from these locations to registration or distribution points are at high risk of attacks.

Women from Waga noted that it is dangerous to walk on foot to Madagali and indicated their preference for the use of a tri-cycle carriage (native call it JEGA).

Community members in all 3 wards indicated their preference for food over cash. Their reason is that the situation is critical and money is useless to them now as the markets have failed. They said *“we just want food”* and *“The prices of food items are high, please bring food”*. The residents of Waga noted that there is no risk to the communities if food is brought in as long as there is military presence.

Madagali town is the safest and most realistic point for registration and distribution of food assistance. Himsu is less than 20 minutes’ drive (very slow calculated drive) but movement is hampered as it is on the highland and the road condition is very poor but community members indicated their willingness to go Madagali town to receive any assistance. This is in contrast to Waga community where the residents prefer to have any food

assistance brought to them for fear of being attacked half way through the estimated 10 minute drive by car from Madagali town.

VI. Conclusions and recommendations

- The prevalence of global food insecurity (severe and moderate) is high in Madagali (68%) and Michika (55%). About one in every four (22%) households across both LGAs are severely food insecure.
- Food insecurity, which is exacerbated by local food deficit and high food prices, remains pronounced in Madagali and Michika.
- The findings of the March 2017 Cadre Harmonise suggest a deterioration of food security situation both in Michika and Madagali. In the current period (March to May 2017), 222,777 people are in the three combined critical food insecurity situations (crisis, emergency and famine) across the two LGAs with 5,815 in famine.
- In the projected period (June to August 2017), a total of 193,188 people may fall into the three combined critical food insecurity situations, with 3,690 people in famine situation (all being in Madagali).
- Humanitarian food assistance will be required to prevent further deterioration of food security and nutrition situation in Michika and Madagali.
- During the prioritization exercise with the food security sector actors in Yola, **Michika and Madagali have been classified as Priority 1** (see second map - annex 2) for food security and livelihood interventions.
- **There is a need to provide emergency food assistance at least to people in phase 4 and 5 (about 68,000 people) for greater impact.**
- **Food assistance** is those LGAs should **target very poor and poor households** as they will not be able to meet their food need without external support.
- Food security response should **combine both emergency food assistance and agricultural interventions** to support livelihood rehabilitation during the next planting season.



For further information please contact:

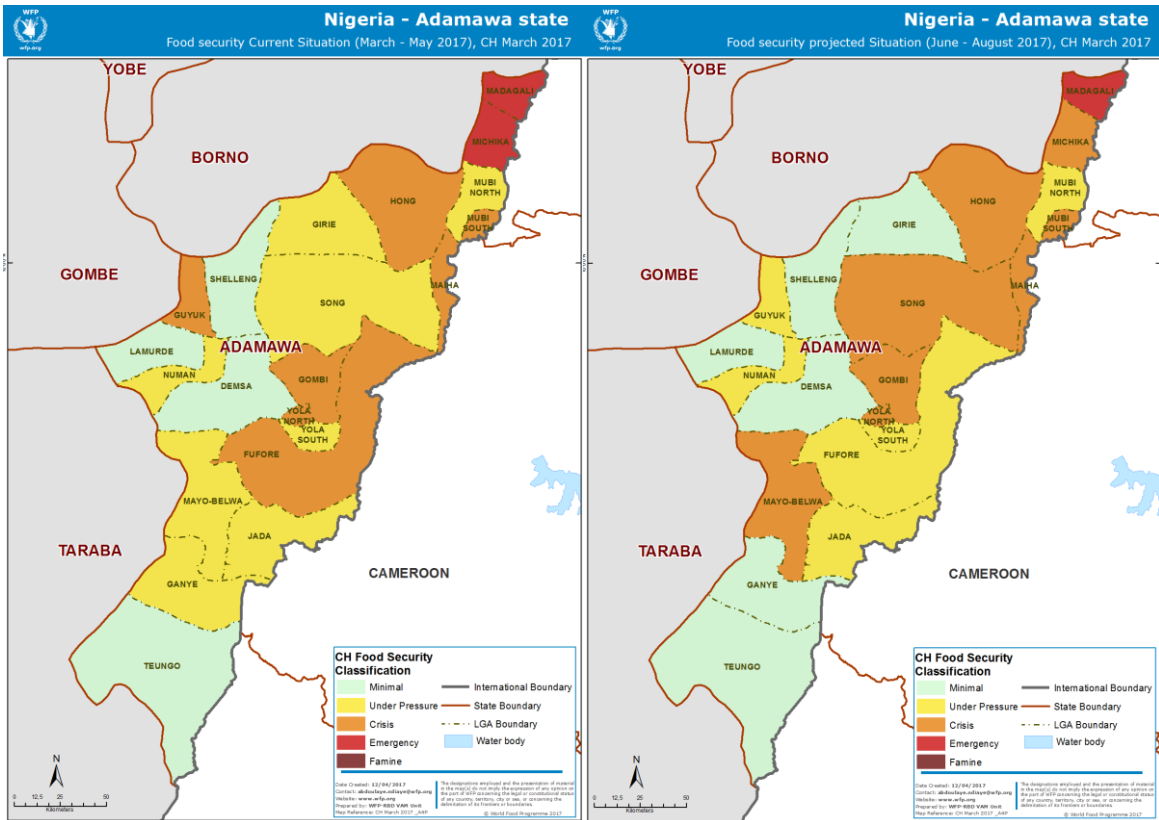
Nigeria VAM team:

Nigeria.VAM@wfp.org

www.wfp.org

www.vam.wfp.org

Annex 1: Food security situation at glance (Cadre Harmonise)



Annex 2: Food insecurity and outcome of prioritisation exercise

