June 2014: Food insecurity persists in Mugunga 3 Camp

Key Messages

- Food security situation in Mugunga 3 remained severe throughout June: 80.5% households were identified as severely food insecure.
- The positive trend registered throughout April and May came to a halt in June despite the start of the harvest season.

![Figure 1: Level of food insecurity](image)

Data suggest that the food insecurity in Mugunga 3 persisted in June: as the graph shows, 80.5% households (HHs) were identified as severely food insecure. Compared to May, when 77.7% of HHs were classified as severely food insecure, the situation remained stable: the difference between the percentages of severely food insecure is not statistically significant at the 95% level.

This result, however, reveals that the positive trend observed in April-May came to a halt in June. This has taken place in spite of the start of the June-August harvest season, a time of the year when households should be better off. Nevertheless, the June percentage of food insecure HHs remains lower than in February (88.1%) and in March (86.8%), when food assistance was suspended, and somewhat lower than in April, when food assistance for the most vulnerable was resumed.

As in May, food insecure households’ diets were essentially composed of tubers, cereals and vegetables. These were consumed respectively 5, 2 and 4 days a week on average, while proteins and dairy products were rarely consumed. The more common coping strategies used were “Relying on less preferred and less expensive foods” and “Borrowing food or rely on help from a friend or relative”. These strategies were the preferred also in May.

Methodology

In June, thanks to an additional mobile phone distribution, 40 new HHs were added to the original sample that now counts 340 HHs. Of these 340, 246 HHs were successfully reached through live calls. The response rate increased from 55% in May, to 72% in June, starting from a low of 45% in February.

The slow recovery could be attributed to the limited scope of the food distribution, which, in June, covered only about 30% of the total HHs in the camp. Changing camp demographics could also be a factor that deserves to to be looked into.