July 2014: food insecurity stable but at high levels in Mugunga 3

Key Messages

Food security situation in Mugunga 3 remained severe throughout July: 80.3% of households were identified as severely food insecure.

![Figure 1: Level of food insecurity: cross tabulation between FCS and rCSI](image)

**Level of food insecurity**

As shown by Figure 1, in July, compared to June, the level of food insecurity in Mugunga 3 remained stable but at high levels; 80.33% of households were classified as being severely food insecure. The decreasing food insecurity trend observed from February to May came to a halt in June and did not resume in July.

**Food Consumption**

The percentage of people having an acceptable food consumption (as measured by the FCS) slightly increased (from 3.3% in June to 4.4% in July). Yet, this was more than offset by an increase in the percentage of people with poor food consumption (from 67.5 in June to 69.9 in July). These changes, however, are not statistically significant at a 95% level.

The diet of households has been based mainly on tubers, which were consumed on average 6 days a week. Such a high consumption might have been driven by the fact that in mid-July began cassava’s first season harvesting period. Households also consumed vegetables, about 3 times a week, and cereals and pulses, both 1.5 times a week on average. Proteins and dairy products were rarely consumed.

**Coping strategies**

In July the reduced coping strategy index (rCSI) remained high even if the mean (20) was slightly lower than in June (21); the two means are however non-statistically different at a 95% level.

The most common coping strategy was "Rely on less preferred and less expensive foods", followed by "Limit portion size at mealtimes" and "Reduced number of meals eaten in a day". The use of "Restrict consumption by adults in order for small children to eat", which is considered the most severe coping strategy, decreased compared to May and June (from approximately 74% to 64%).

**Response rates**

In July the response rate remained high at 73%. 249 of the 340 HHs of the sample were successfully reached and interviewed.

![Figure 2: Response rates](image)