

Emergency Food Security Assessment in Three North East States (Adamawa, Borno & Yobe) of Nigeria

Nigeria

April, 2017
Data Collected in February, 2017



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



FEWS NET
FAMINE EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS NETWORK



NATIONAL BUREAU OF STATISTICS



**World Food
Programme**

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Acronyms

CAPI	Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing
CH	Cadre Harmonisé
CILSS	Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel
DTM	Displacement Tracking Matrix
EA	Enumeration Areas
ECHO	European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Organization
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCS	Food Consumption Score
FEWS NET	Famine Early Warning System Network
HH	Household
HHS	Household Hunger Scale
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
IOM	International Office on Migration
IPC	International Phase Classification
LCSI	Livelihood-Based Coping Strategy Index
LGA	Local Government Area
NBS	National Bureau of Statistics
rCSI	Reduced Coping Strategy Index
NPFS	National Programme for Food Security
FMARD	Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
INGOs	International Non-Governmental Organisations
NAERLS	National Agricultural Extension and Research Liaison Services
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
VAM	Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping
WFP	World Food Programme

Key messages

- Overall, 44.6 percent of households are food insecure in the three north eastern states (Adamawa, Borno and Yobe) of Nigeria. Of these, 36.8 percent are moderately food insecure while 7.9 percent are severely food insecure.
- The proportion of food insecure households is highest in Borno State (64.2 percent) and lowest in Yobe (34 percent). The three senatorial zones in Borno State have higher incidence of food insecurity compared to similar zones in Yobe and Adamawa;
- Female-headed households (55 percent) and IDPs, particularly those in camps face greater food security challenges than other population groups;
- Severely food insecure households consume inadequate diet consisting mostly of cereals or starch-based foods for less than 4 days, vegetables for less than 4 days and sugar for less than 2 days in a week;
- In Borno (84.5 percent), Yobe (82.3 percent) and Adamawa (79.2 percent) states, a high proportion of households are relying on purchased food items. The second most prominent source of food for households is own-produced grain in Borno (8.3 percent), Yobe (13.7 percent) and Adamawa (15 percent);
- 20 percent of households across Adamawa (22.1 percent), Borno (21.2 percent) and Yobe (17.9 percent) spend more than 75 percent of their total monthly expenditure on food alone and are at high risk of food insecurity;
- Households in Borno have the highest mean reduced coping strategy (14.3) and thus, engage the use of severe food coping strategies more than their counterparts in Adamawa and Yobe with lower mean reduced coping strategy. Generally, households that are food insecure adopt food based coping strategies more than those that are food secure;
- Overall, about 71.1 percent of households employed livelihood-based coping strategies across the three northeastern states with more households in Borno (78.6 percent) and Yobe States (75.5 percent) adopting asset depleting coping strategies compared to Adamawa (59.3 percent);
- About 18.3 percent of households received assistance provided mainly by the government (17.5 percent), NGOs (45.8 percent) and UN agencies (15 percent) during the three months preceding the assessment mostly in the form of free food distributions.
- The top three priority needs of households in this assessment are food assistance, health/medical services and livelihood support. Food assistance is the main priority of 27.7 percent of households compared to 19.1 percent for medical services and 16.1 percent for livelihood support.
- WFP and other humanitarian agencies will need to prioritize LGAs for food assistance and other humanitarian support based on the March 2017 CH food security classification in the three north eastern states.
- The top priority for the targeting of assistance should focus on all phase 4 LGAs including those with more than 50,000 people who are facing famine-like conditions) which are currently affected by limited market functioning or inaccessibility and very limited livelihood opportunities.
- Local Government Areas which have been classified as CH Phase 3 should also be targeted for assistance.

1.0 Context and Justification

The escalating Boko Haram violence has radically disrupted the lives and livelihood of millions of people in northeastern Nigeria and caused deep humanitarian crisis. Despite the recapture of most Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Adamawa, Yobe and Borno in 2016, several LGAs in the central and northern parts of Borno remain inaccessible either due to the presence of Boko Haram fighters or as a result of the ongoing operations by the Nigerian army to overcome the insurgency¹.

Although some modest improvement in security conditions has encouraged some IDPs to return to their home communities, Borno State continues to bear the brunt of the insurgency and accounts for 79 percent of the displaced population². Communities in several LGAs in northern and southern Borno, the northern parts of Adamawa and southern parts of Yobe continue to face restricted access to livelihoods activities, health care, water and sanitation services as well as markets. Michika and Madagali LGAs are under the constant threat of attack by Boko Haram insurgents due to their close proximity to the Sambisa Forest. With limited humanitarian assistance and little or no agricultural production during the past three years, livelihoods and food security conditions remain highly constrained in the worst affected localities³.

The February 2017 Displacement Tracking Matrix reported an upsurge in the influx of IDPs to Mungono and Pulka as a result of attacks by insurgents and ongoing military operations⁴. Based on round 14 of the displacement tracking assessment report, there were an estimated 1,899,830 IDPs in Borno, Adamawa, Bauchi, Yobe, Taraba and Gombe, representing an increase of 129,386 individuals from round 13 in December 2016. In Borno State alone, the number of IDPs is estimated to have increased by 135,290 as compared to round 13 in December 2016, with Monguno LGA recording the largest increase of 46,813 individuals. While Maiduguri Metropolitan Council continue to host the largest number of IDPs in north eastern Nigeria (445,314), there was a decrease of 28,263 individuals between December 2016 and January 2017. An increasing number of returnees are going back to their areas of origin where improvement in security conditions would enable them to undertake farming activities and take care of their belongings.

The impact of the insurgency has been particularly devastating for women as they constitute the majority of internally displaced people (54 percent) and have been increasingly deployed by Boko Haram as suicide bombers⁵. A report by the Crisis Group noted growing incidents of rape and sexual exploitation in exchange for food assistance in IDP camps while there are also growing tensions between IDPs and host communities over access to resources such as water.

In Borno State, pastoral groups have not only suffered a substantial depletion of their herds, but also significant loss of life as a result of massive attacks and cattle rustling by Boko Haram insurgents. It is estimated that Boko Haram killed 1,900 Shuwa Arab pastoralist, stole up to 160,000 cattle and 67,000 sheep and goats from Shuwa Arab villages alone in Borno while Fulani communities in Borno, Yobe and north Adamawa State have also been badly affected since 2011⁷. In most agricultural communities, the insecurity has constrained livelihoods in two ways: agricultural production has been restricted to a few

¹ FEWSNET, A Famine likely occurred in Bama LGA and may be ongoing in inaccessible areas of Borno State, December 13, 2016

² IOM, Displacement Tracking Matrix Nigeria, Round 14, January 2017

³ FEWSNET, Nigeria food security outlook October 2016 to May 2017

⁴ FEWSNET, NIGERIA Food Security Outlook February to September 2017

⁵ IOM, Displacement Tracking Matrix Nigeria, Round 14, January 2017

⁶ Crisis Group, Nigerian Women and the Boko Haram Insurgency, December 2016

⁷ ACCORD, From Cooperation to Contention: Political unsettlement and farmer-pastoralist conflicts in Nigeria, 2017

kilometers radius of settlements and the restriction on the cultivation of tall crops has meant that cowpea and groundnut are favored for cultivation.

The World Food Programme Country Office in Nigeria in collaboration with the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) and FEWSNET carried out an Emergency Food Security Assessment in the three northeastern states of Nigeria in February 2017 to ascertain the humanitarian needs of the populations affected by the crisis and to support decision making on the targeting of the affected households.

1.1 The Nigerian Economy

In 2016, the Nigeria economy was affected by economic recession leading to three consecutive quarters of contraction in economic activities, with the oil sector contracting by 21 percent. The economic situation in the country was exacerbated by the 6.4 percent decline in foreign exchange reserves which was partly related to the fall in the prices of crude oil and this compelled the Nigeria Central Bank to introduce a flexible exchange rate policy. In parallel markets, the value of the Naira depreciated by 57 percent between January and December 2016⁸. By the end of February 2017, the Naira depreciated further by 8.7 percent from its level for December 2016. However, in March 2017, the Naira recovered by 13.2 percent from its level for February against the US dollar⁹. The inflation rate reached 18.72 percent (year-on-year) in January 2017 before declining to 17.78 and 17.26 percent respectively in February and March 2017¹⁰.

The economic recession had an immense impact on businesses with the unavailability of foreign exchange and the hikes in exchange rate contributing to increased cost of production for industries. This further worsened the already high rate of unemployment while the high cost of transportation and high prices of food commodities reduce the purchasing power of households and their capacity to access food.

1.2 Food Security and Nutrition

The prolonged humanitarian crisis induced by the Boko Haram insurgency has hampered food and nutrition security in the region leading to famine-like conditions in some areas. The October 2016 Cadre Harmonise food security analysis revealed that the worst affected and often inaccessible LGAs in Borno state are facing Emergency (IPC Phase 4) acute food insecurity and Yobe state was classified to be under stress (IPC Phase 3). In addition, an estimated 100,000 and 5,000 individuals Borno and Yobe respectively were projected to experience famine (IPC Phase 5) between June and August 2017 in the absence of humanitarian intervention. Moreover, survey report from the 14th round of the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), food remains the unmet need of 56.5 percent of IDPs.

Between December 2016 and March 2017, WFP and other humanitarian actors have delivered food assistance to over 1 million beneficiaries monthly in Borno and Yobe States. Despite the increased delivery of humanitarian assistance in the three worst affected northeastern states, food assistance and other basic needs of populations who have been recently displaced has not been met.

1.3 Food availability

While national level staple cereal production is estimated to have increased above average during the 2016 agricultural season due to favorable rains and expansion in area cultivated (as more people became involved in agriculture), the production of these crops in the three northeastern states remained over 50 percent below average. The production of maize, sorghum and millet in Borno State is estimated to have decreased by -25.8%,-44.3% and -59.35% respectively in comparison with the five-year average. In Yobe,

⁸ WFP, Market Assessment in Borno and Yobe States as part of multi-sectorial capacity assessment for Cash-Based Transfer programming, March 2017

⁹ The Central Bank of Nigeria, <https://www.cbn.gov.ng/rates/exrate.asp?year=2017>

¹⁰ The Central Bank of Nigeria, <https://www.cbn.gov.ng/Rates/inflrates.asp>

maize production decreased substantially by -68.8 percent in comparison with the five-year average while decreases in the output of millet and sorghum were much less drastic (Table 1). In Adamawa State however, the output of maize and sorghum increased by 13.6 percent and 66.7 percent respectively over the five-year average. As a result of the decrease in food production these states will remain significantly dependent on others parts of the country to meet their food needs at high prices, particularly during the lean season.

Table 1 Production estimates (Thousand MTs) for 2016/17 for the three northeastern states

State	Type of crop	Five-year Average	2015/16	2016/17	% Change between 2016/17 and 2015/16	% Change between 2016/17 and 5-YR AVG
Adamawa	Maize	277	310.92	314.58	1.2%	13.6%
Adamawa	Sorghum	200	217.63	334.32	53.6%	66.7%
Adamawa	Millet	47	74.36	34.36	-53.8%	-27.3%
Borno	Maize	432	109.25	320.77	193.6%	-25.8%
Borno	Sorghum	677	215.73	376.61	74.6%	-44.3%
Borno	Millet	52	23.23	21.18	-8.8%	-59.3%
Yobe	Maize	92	168.64	28.57	-83.1%	-68.8%
Yobe	Sorghum	191	146.47	161.18	10.0%	-15.7%
Yobe	Millet	108	146.97	118.24	-19.5%	9.3%

Source: FEWS NET estimates based on NAERLS, CILSS/AGHRYMET and ADP data

1.4 Objectives

The goal of the EFSA was to obtain information on the level of household food insecurity in camps and host communities to support the targeting of conflict-affected food insecure households. The assessment also sought to clarify issues of protection among the affected communities.

The specific objectives of the assessment include to:

- i. Evaluate the level of food insecurity among host population and IDP households;
- ii. Describe the livelihood profile, location and socio-economic characteristics of food insecure households;
- iii. Collect Household food security outcomes data required for the February-March 2017 Cadre Harmonise (CH) analysis;
- iv. Describe the characteristics of food insecure population; and
- v. Provide recommendations for the targeting of severely food insecure households.

2.0 Methodology

2.1 Sampling

A systematic sampling method was used to select households from a database of NBS LGA frame which contains 30 Enumeration Areas (EA) per LGA. Five (5) LGAs were selected in each of the 3 senatorial districts for the 3 states. Ten (10) EAs were selected per LGA. A total of one hundred and fifty (150) EAs were selected in each state with both urban and rural EAs being sampled.

Four Hundred and Fifty (450) EAs were selected in all the three states and ten (10) households were selected in each EA. A total of 4,500 community households were then interviewed in all the 3 states. In addition, fifteen (15) IDPs settlements were randomly studied per state (i.e. one in each of the selected LGAs). Both formal and informal settlement were canvassed and 15 households were randomly selected in each of the IDP settlements.

2.2 Target Area and Population

All households in the three northeastern states of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe were targeted by this assessment. These households include host community households, IDPs in host communities, population formal and informal camps as well as returnees. The sampling specifically targeted locations hosting IDPs population in each state to ensure that food security and demographic indicators of all groups affected by the conflict are captured for analysis.

2.3 Key Indicators

Data on a broad range of indicators were collected and used to generate the overall food security classification. Along with other indicators, the standard questionnaire model for the Consolidated Approach to Reporting Indicators of Food Security (CARI)¹¹ was used to collect data on the console's two food security domains: current status and coping capacity. The CARI console puts together a number of food security indicators to produce a composite indicator called the Food Security Index (FSI) which represents the global food security status of a given population.

In addition to the above, other indicators on which data was collected include demographics, protection, education, WASH and housing facilities, agricultural production, income and livelihood sources, shocks, assistance as well as markets and economic activities.

2.4 Training of Field Officers

In order to implement this assessment, two levels of trainings were conducted. The first level was the training of 15 trainers for two days at the NBS in Abuja. At the second level, a four-day decentralized training of enumerators and supervisors was carried out in each of the state capitals in the three North Eastern states led by staff from the NBS, WFP and FEWS NET. Enumerators were selected from NBS and Cadre Harmonise' cell in each of the three states. A total of 45 enumerators and 15 supervisors were trained per state between the 2nd and 6th of February 2017. In all, a total of 135 enumerators and 45 Supervisors/team leaders were trained to collect the data. In each state, the enumerators were constituted into 15 teams of 3 enumerators each and led by a team leader or supervisor.

¹¹ More information on the CARI can be found here:

http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/manual_guide_proced/wfp271449.pdf?_ga=2.101503297.1994831574.1498030564-1415807384.1498030564

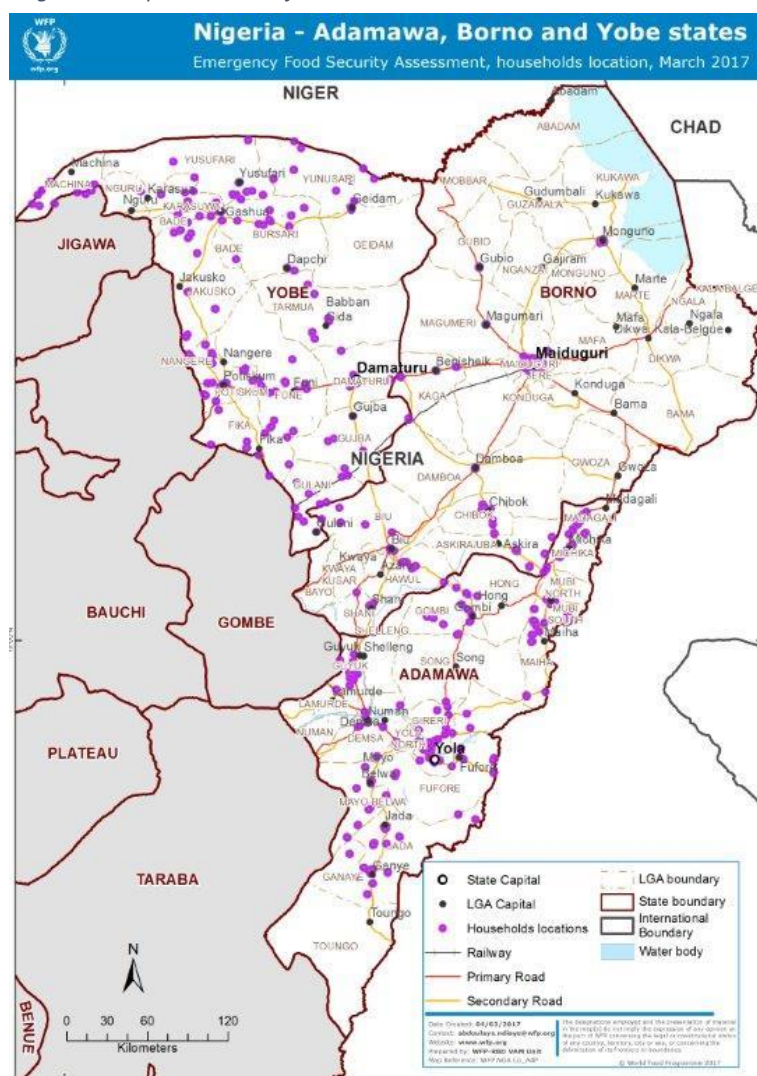
2.5 Data Collection and Tools

The data collection for this assessment was carried out between the 7th and the 17th of February 2017. Data collection was carried out using the Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) device. The questionnaire was programmed and deployed into smartphones using Open Data Kit (ODK) and completed household surveys were sent directly to the server hosted at the Regional Bureau in Dakar. Each team of 3 enumerators and a supervisor completed a total of 115 household questionnaires, comprising 100 households from host communities and 15 from IDP camps.

2.6 Limitations of the Assessment

While the assessment was conducted at the LGA level, it is not all LGAs that were selected and therein lies the limitations of the assessment. Nonetheless, the cultural homogeneity of the constituent LGAs in each senatorial district in a state informed the sampling methodology adopted by the NBS to select only five (5) LGAs in each of the 3 senatorial districts (as the minimum number of LGAs in a senatorial district is 5) for the 3 selected states out of which 10 enumeration areas were further selected (Figure 1).

Figure 1 Sampled locations for EFSA data collection



This means that for each of the three North Eastern states, only 15 LGAs were selected. This further implies that 12 LGAs in Borno, 2 LGAs in Yobe and 6 LGAs in Adamawa, were not covered. As the aim of the assessment was to obtain LGA level information to strengthen the targeting of beneficiaries, the lack of information from certain critical LGAs was a huge limitation.

The second major limitation which is also related to the first is the issue of access constraint due to insecurity in many of the LGAs which were selected for inclusion in the assessment. Due to ongoing operations by the Nigerian military in some LGAs and security restrictions on movement to those locations, enumerators were not allowed to visit these locations for data collection. The lack of information on the food security and nutrition situation of households in those locations limits the capacity of the humanitarian community to appropriately target those locations based on the needs of the affected people. Consequently, the results of this assessment are more generally represented at the senatorial zone.

3.0 Results

3.1 Household Food Security Status

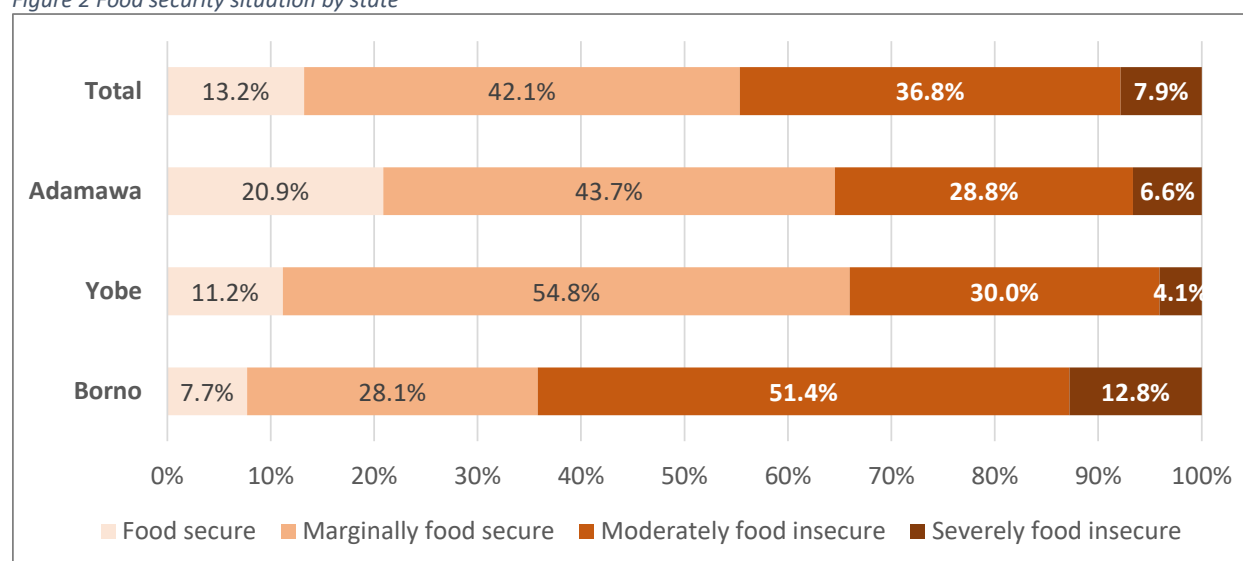
Overall, 44.6 percent of households in the three North Eastern states assessed are food insecure. Of these, 36.8 percent are moderately food insecure while 7.9 percent are severely food insecure (Table 2). At the state level, the proportion of food insecure households is highest in Borno State (64.2 percent) and lowest in Yobe (34 percent) (Figure 2). As more than half of households in Borno are moderately food insecure, consequently, these households are vulnerable to severe food insecurity during months of the lean season when access to food is expected to decrease further.

Table 2 The CARI Console

Domain		Indicator	Food Secure (1)	Marginally Food Secure (2)	Moderately Food Insecure (3)	Severely Food Insecure (4)
Current Status	Food Consumption	Food Consumption Group	Acceptable		Borderline	Poor
			52.0		24.9	23.1
Coping Capacity	Economic Vulnerability	Food Expenditure Share	<50%	50-65%	65-75%	> 75%
			36.7	25.2	17.7	20.4
	Asset Depletion	Livelihood coping strategy categories	None	Employed stress strategies	Employed crisis strategies	Employed emergency strategies
			28.9	28.9	28.9	28.9
Food Security Index			13.2	42.1	36.8	7.9

Source: EFSA 2017

Figure 2 Food security situation by state

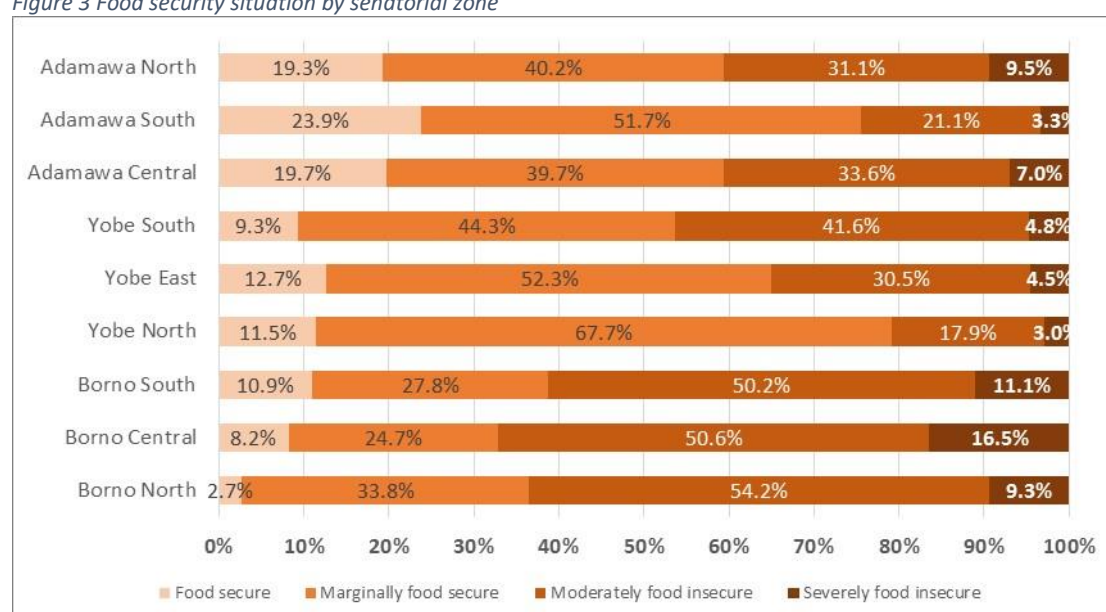


Source: EFSA 2017

At the Local Government Area level, the level of food insecurity is high in several locations. Eight of the top 10 food insecure LGAs are located in Borno with the level of food insecurity exceeding 65 percent in those locations; these include Ngala, Kaga, Gubio, Askira-Uba, Bama, Chibok, Maiduguri Municipal and Nganzai. The top 19 most food insecure LGAs have food insecurity incidence of at least 50 percent. Most of these LGAs are in Borno State, with a few in Yobe and Adamawa.

At the senatorial zone level, the three zones in Borno State are the most food insecure as the humanitarian situation in these areas remain highly volatile, characterized by limited food production and erratic market performance in several locations during the past three years. Similarly, the Yobe South senatorial zone has high level of food insecurity (Figure 3). The food insecurity situation in this zone is also underscored by the fact that agriculture production and access to food continue to be affected by insecurity and market disruptions in Gujba, Gulani and other LGAs.

Figure 3 Food security situation by senatorial zone



Source: EFSA 2017

A high proportion of female-headed households (55 percent) are more negatively impacted by food insecurity than their male counterparts (43.5 percent). Similarly, IDP households face greater food security challenges than other population groups with the level of food insecurity being highest among IDPs in camps (percent), host communities (percent) and informal settlements (percent). Among host community and returnee households, the proportion of food insecure households is 40 percent and 47.1 percent respectively. Even under the prevailing conditions of insecurity, conflict and market disruption, this level of food insecurity is worrisome particularly in inaccessible areas with limited humanitarian coverage. Moreover, there are prospects for further deterioration during the lean season months of June to August 2017.

3.2 Food Consumption and Sources

3.2.1 Food Consumption

Household food consumption is measured through the Food Consumption Score, an indicator that measures the dietary diversity, energy, macro and micro content value of the food consumed by the household during the seven days preceding the interview.

Food Consumption Cut-off Points

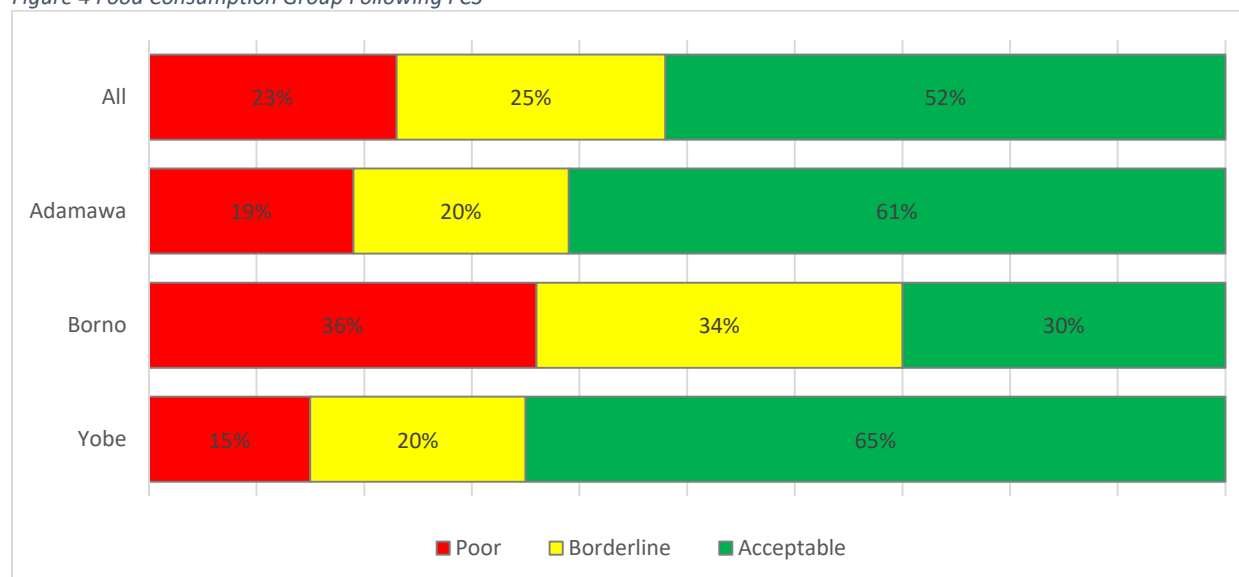
0 – 21: Poor Consumption

22 - 35: Borderline Consumption

>35: Acceptable Consumption

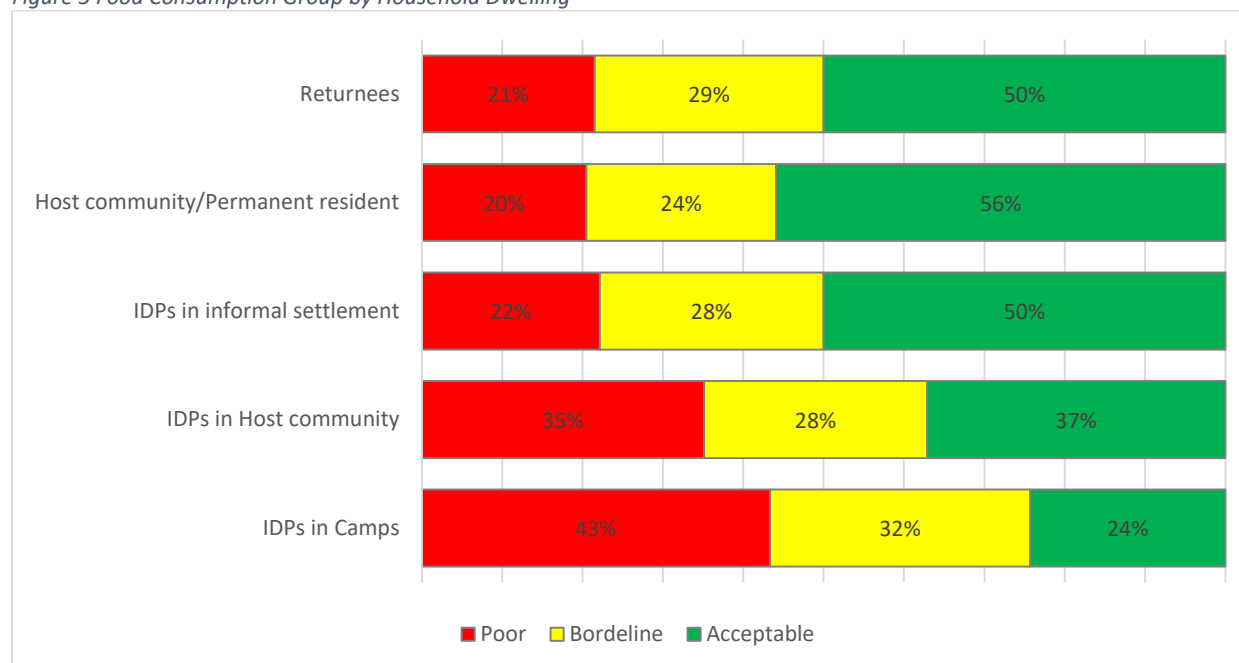
Overall, about half (52 percent) of all the interviewed households have acceptable food consumption while 23 percent of the households have poor food consumption, which depicts severe food shortage within these households. Another 25 percent of households have borderline food consumption and if left unaided, these households remain at risk of transitioning to poor food consumption with severe food shortage. Households in Borno, which is most affected by the ongoing insurgency in the Northeast, have the highest proportion of cases of poor (36 percent) and borderline (34 percent) food consumption compared to Adamawa and Yobe. Moreover, there were more IDP households (camps & host communities) with poor food consumption compared to permanent residents and returnees (Figure 5).

Figure 4 Food Consumption Group Following FCS



Source: EFSA 2017

Figure 5 Food Consumption Group by Household Dwelling



Source: EFSA 2017

About 4 percent of children aged 0 to 4 consumed zero or one meal during the day preceding the assessment compared to 4.2 percent for those aged 5 to 17 and 7.8 percent of adults in the selected households. The largest proportion of children who did not consume any meals a day before the assessment is in Adamawa (4.4 percent). Children aged 0 to 4 (11.5 percent) in female-headed households had zero or one meal compared to their counterparts in male-headed households (5.2 percent). Similarly, adults (14.9 percent) of female-headed households consumed zero or one meal a day, compared to 7.1 percent of male-headed. Host community households had the largest number those in age groups 0 to 4 and 5 to 17 who consumed zero or one meal.

There is a high consumption of starch-based foods and vegetables across all food security groups, but the average number of days for which these two food groups are consumed is lowest among severely food insecure households and highest among food secure households. On average, severely food insecure households consume cereals or starch-based foods for less than 4 days, vegetables for less than 4 days and sugar for less than 2 days in a week. However, food secure and moderately food insecure households have a similar consumption pattern of some food items. Cereals are consumed for 6 days by both food security groups, pulses for 3 days, vegetables for 6 days, dairy for less than 2 days and oil for 5 days. The main difference between food secure and moderately food insecure households is the consumption of meat/fish and sugar. While food secure households averagely consume meat for 5 days and sugar for 4 days, moderately food secure households consume meat/fish for 4 days and sugar for 4 days in a week (Table 3).

Table 3 Average number of days various types of food are eaten by food security situation

Average number of days food is eaten in a week								
	Cereals and other starches	Pulses	Meat and fish	Vegetables	Fruits	Dairy products	Oil	Sugar
Food secure	5.9	3.3	4.7	6.2	1.4	1.6	5.3	4.1
Marginally food secure	6.0	3.2	3.6	6.2	1.0	1.5	5.0	3.5
Moderately food	4.6	1.0	0.6	4.6	0.2	0.2	2.8	1.5
Severely food insecure	3.9	0.5	0.3	3.7	0.2	0.0	1.7	0.9

Source: EFSA 2017

3.2.2 Sources of Food

Market purchase with cash constitutes the main source of food consumed by households in the three North Eastern states. In Borno, Yobe and Adamawa states, the proportion of households relying on purchased food items is 84.5 percent, 82.3 percent and 79.2 percent respectively. Own-produced grain is the second most important source of food for households, contributing 8.3 percent in Borno, 13.7 percent in Yobe and 15 percent in Adamawa (Table 4). The high level of market reliance to meet food needs is directly related to the decimation of agricultural production as a result of the Boko Haram insurgency as food producing households are increasingly displaced from their homestead into urban centers where they have limited access to agricultural land. Furthermore, the high level of market dependence in the face of rising inflation and increasing prices is very worrisome especially in the case of IDP households who are not able to generate income to purchase adequate food. Thus, the high level of market dependence is an indication that households could be highly vulnerable to market shocks as increased prices would exert pressure on the purchasing power of these households and render them incapable of meeting their food needs.

Table 4 Food sources by state

Sources of food by state										
	Own production (crops, animal)	Fishing / Hunting	Gathering	Loan	Market (purchase with cash)	Market (purchase on credit)	Beg for food	Exchange labor or items for food	from family relatives or friends	Food aid from civil society, NGOs, Gov, WFP, etc.
Borno	8.3%	.1%	.3%	.0%	84.5%	2.0%	.2%	.1%	1.6%	2.7%
Yobe	13.7%	.3%	.2%	.1%	82.3%	1.3%	.2%	.2%	1.3%	.5%
Adamawa	15.0%	.4%	.3%	.0%	79.2%	1.2%	.1%	.1%	1.4%	2.4%

Source: EFSA 2017

3.3 Economic Vulnerability

Based on the Consolidated Approach to Reporting indicators of food security (CARI), Economic Vulnerability of households is measured the proportion of monthly expenditures on food. Households that spend a very large share of their total expenditure on food tend to be vulnerable to food insecurity.

Percentage of household expenditure on food with those **expending higher percentage on food most food insecure.**

Less than 25%
25 to 50%

50 to 75%
Greater than 75%

About 20.3 percent of households in the three North Eastern states spend more than 75 percent of their total monthly expenditure on food alone and are at high risk of food insecurity. The proportion of households with very high food expenditure (>75 percent) is similar for Adamawa (22.1 percent) and Yobe

States (21.2 percent) where households have more means of livelihood due to improved security situation compared to Borno State (17.9 percent). Among female-headed households, 22.8 percent spend more than 75 percent of their total expenditure on food compared to 20.2 percent of male-headed households. In addition, 40.9 percent of IDPs in camps spend over 75 percent of their total expenditure on food as compared to 19 percent for host community households. When households spend a huge proportion of their expenditure on food, market shocks such as price increase tend to reduce their capacity to sustain food purchases and render such households highly vulnerable to food insecurity.

3.4 Coping Strategies

3.4.1 Food Strategies

The reduced-Coping Strategies Index (rCSI) measures the habit of five detrimental alimentary behaviours that households have during the seven days prior the survey: the consumption of less preferred and less expensive food, the borrowing of food, the reduction of portion size, the restriction of adults' consumption in favour of children and reduction in the numbers of meals per day¹². A high rCSI means that households are using more severe coping strategies more frequently to deal with lack or scarcity of food or insufficient money to buy food.

More than one in five households (22.2 percent) in the three North Eastern states did not use any food consumption-based coping strategies during the week preceding the assessment. At the state level, the proportion of households which used food consumption-based coping strategies is higher in Adamawa (28.7 percent) than in Yobe (21 percent) and Borno (16.9 percent). By implication, this suggests an improved accessibility to food by households in Borno and Yobe, where there is a heavy presence of humanitarian organizations compared to Adamawa. The use of coping strategies within these households signifies the existence of food shortages in the household. Reliance on less expensive food is the most commonly used coping strategy in the three North Eastern states (66.7 percent).

More male-headed households (22.9 percent) used coping strategies than female-headed households (16 percent). Host communities have the highest proportion of households which used food consumption-based coping strategies (25 percent), followed by IDPs in camps (21.5 percent) and IDPs in informal settlements (14.8 percent).

The mean reduced coping strategy (rCSI) is 14.3 for Borno, 11.3 for Yobe and 9.2 for Adamawa state (Figure 6). This means that more households in Borno State are engaged in the use of more severe food coping strategies than in Yobe and Adamawa States. The mean coping strategy index for female-headed households is higher (13) than male-headed households (11.5). Furthermore, the mean rCSI for IDPs in host communities (15.8) is similar to those in IDPs in camps (15.5) and IDPs in informal settlements (15.2), suggesting the pervasive nature of vulnerability to food insecurity. Host community households are generally using less severe coping strategies than other types of households.

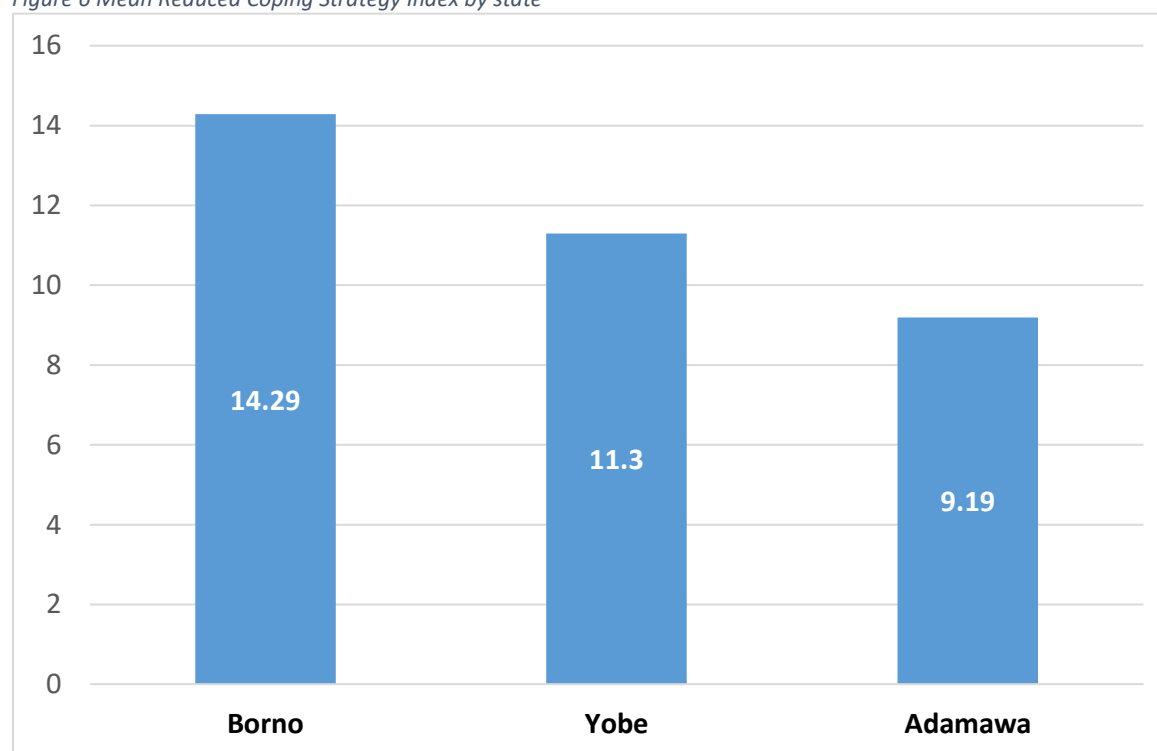
Overall, the mean rCSI for all households in the assessment is 11.6. Households with severe food insecurity (14.5), moderate food insecurity (14.0) and those marginally food secure (11.0) are more frequently using food-based coping strategies than those that are food secure. Households in which adults consumed one

¹² More info on the rCSI can be found here:

http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/manual_guide_proced/wfp211058.pdf?_ga=1.70068179.2144366633.1459255840 and here: <https://resources.vam.wfp.org/node/6>

meal (17.4) or two meals (14.7) used more coping strategies than those which consumed three meals (9.3).

Figure 6 Mean Reduced Coping Strategy Index by state



Source: EFSA 2017

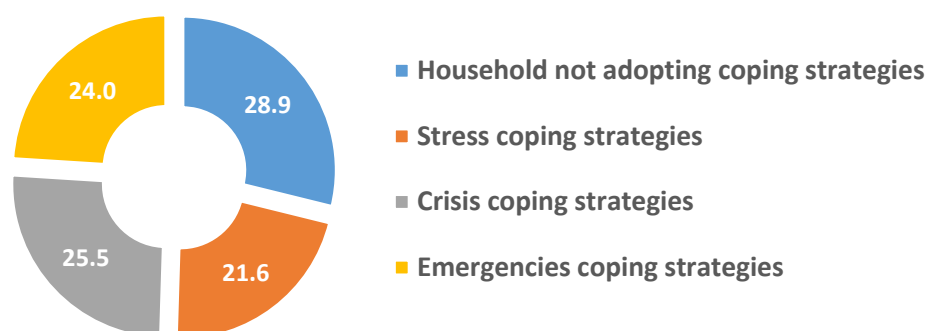
3.4.2 Livelihood-Based Coping Strategies

The livelihood-based strategies depict the status of the households' livelihood stress and insecurity and also describe the capacity to produce in the future. They reflect the long-term coping capacity of households. The Livelihood Coping Strategies indicator¹³ measures the livelihood stress and asset depletion during the 30 days prior to survey. Respondents are classified into four categories, following the severity of the behaviours adopted vis-à-vis the family assets. Households adopt stress, crisis or emergency coping strategies, or no strategies at all with the most affected households adopting crisis and emergency coping strategies.

Overall, 71 percent of households employed livelihood-based coping strategies in the three North Eastern states. Stress coping strategies (65.2 percent) are more commonly used than crisis (43.2 percent) and emergency coping strategies (24 percent) (Figure 7). Borno (78.6 percent) and Yobe States (75.5 percent) had higher proportions of households which employed asset depleting coping strategies than Adamawa State (59.3 percent).

¹³ For more information on Livelihood Coping strategies indicator refer to the CARI technical guidance note: [https://resources.vam.wfp.org/sites/default/files/CARI%20Guidance 2nd%20ed.pdf](https://resources.vam.wfp.org/sites/default/files/CARI%20Guidance%202nd%20ed.pdf)

Figure 7 Livelihood coping strategies used by households



Source: EFSA 2017

The households that employed these strategies are either marginally food secure (42.5 percent), moderately food insecure (41.3 percent) or severely food insecure (11 percent). In Borno State, 71.4 percent of households that employed asset depleting coping strategies are food insecure (moderate and severe) compared to 47.1 percent for Adamawa and 36.4 percent for Yobe States.

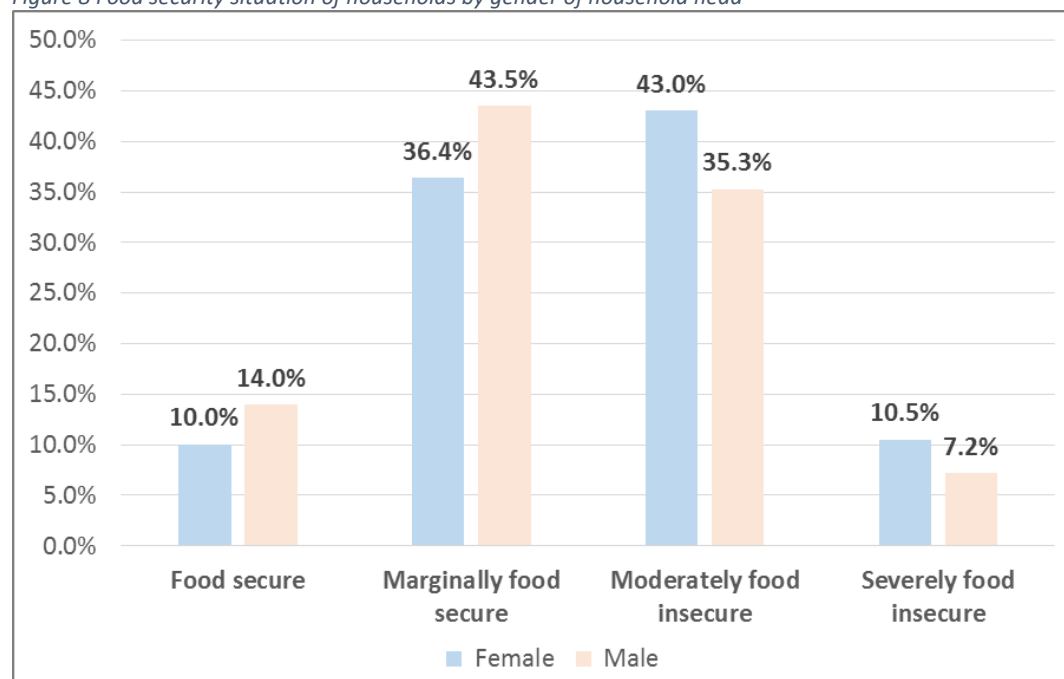
3.5 Characteristics and Profile of Food Insecure Households

3.5.1 Female-headed Households.

Female-headed households in the three north eastern states tend to be more food insecure (53.6 percent) than their male-headed counterparts (42.4 percent) (Figure 8). About 28.3 percent of female-head households are displaced and more female-headed household lack any education (32.5 percent) as compared to their male counterparts (24.3 percent). With agriculture (28.5 percent) and salaries/wages (28.3 percent) as the two main sources of livelihood for female-headed households, the incidence of food insecurity among these households is directly impacted by the substantial decrease in food production during the past three years. Furthermore, female-headed households are already disadvantaged in their access to land and credit facilities, while the volatile security environment which has disrupted markets has eroded income earning opportunities, constrained access to credit facilities and increased vulnerability to food insecurity.

Consequently, the use of distress food-based coping strategies due to lack of food or money to buy food is higher among female-headed households (85.3 percent) than male headed households (76 percent). A high proportion of female-headed households are also employing asset depleting strategies such as spending savings, purchase of food on credit and sale of household assets.

Figure 8 Food security situation of households by gender of household head



Source: EFSA 2017

3.5.2 Natural Resource Extraction/Households Selling Natural Resources

About 66 percent of households in this livelihood group are experiencing food insecurity (Figure 9). Nearly 40 percent of households involved in the sale of natural resources are IDPs and returnees (33 percent IDPs and 6.4 percent returnees) and more than half (56 percent) are in Borno State. Some 28.7 percent of households in this livelihood group are headed by females. 17 percent of households in this livelihood group did not practice agriculture during the 2016 season and 26.6 percent do not have access to agricultural equipment for production.

Eighty-six (86) percent of households in this livelihood group acquired their food through market purchase with cash compared to 4.7 percent from own-produced crops. Food assistance accounts for 4.7 percent of their food sources. The main shocks affecting these households are high food prices (29.2 percent), insecurity/conflict (18.2 percent) and sickness of a household member. Eighty-three (83) percent of households whose livelihoods are based on the sale of natural resources used asset depleting coping strategies. In addition, 77.7 percent of these households used food consumption-based coping strategies during the 7 days preceding the assessment due to lack of food or money to buy food.

Figure 9 Livelihood groups by food security situation of households



Source: EFSA 2017

3.5.3 Households Reliant on Assistance and Beggary

Seventy-three (73) percent of households that are reliant on assistance and begging are food insecure. Forty-eight (48) percent of these households are in Borno State, with 25 percent in Yobe and 27 percent in Adamawa. Most households in this livelihood group (75.7 percent) are male-headed and 63.5 percent are IDPs.

About 64.6 percent of the food consumed by households in this livelihood group is acquired through market purchase with cash while 11 percent is through gifts from family and friends and 11.9 percent is through food assistance. High food price is the main shock affecting 27.9 percent of households in this livelihood group. Only 10.8 percent of households practiced agriculture during the 2016 agricultural season. About 87.8 percent of households used food consumption-based coping strategies during the week preceding the assessment while 74.8 percent employed asset depleting coping strategies during the 30 days preceding the assessment.

3.5.4 Unskilled Labour

Unskilled labour make up about 4.4 percent of the sampled population, but 52.4 percent of households in this group are food insecure. Over 90 percent of households in this livelihood group are headed by males and are mostly host community households.

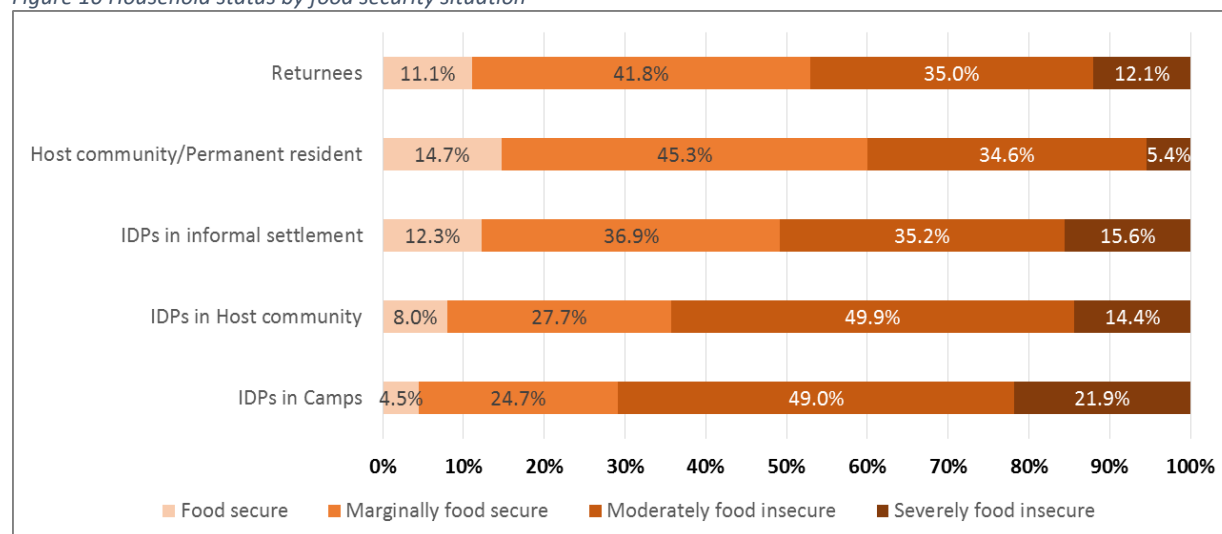
The main source of food consumed by households in this livelihood group is market purchase with cash while 5.3 percent of households sourced their food through own-produced crops. High food prices (29.5 percent) is the key shock that affect households' access to food. Some 91.6 percent of households (the highest for any livelihood group) used food consumption-based coping strategies during the week preceding the assessment while 84.9 percent used asset depleting coping strategies (also the highest for any livelihood group).

3.5.5 IDPs in Camps

Although food insecurity affects all groups of households, IDPs in camps are the most food insecure in North Eastern Nigeria (Figure 10). IDPs in camps make up 4.8 percent of the sampled households, but 70.9 percent are food insecure. The main livelihood for this population is salaries/wages, but the livelihood of another 15 percent consist of begging/assistance while 12 percent is engaged in petty trade/street

vending. Food assistance constitute 48.1 percent of the food consumed by these households with another 43.2 percent derived from market purchases. About 78.5 percent of IDP households employed consumption-based-coping strategies during the week preceding the assessment while 62.3 percent of households employed asset depleting livelihood coping strategies during the previous 30 days.

Figure 10 Household status by food security situation



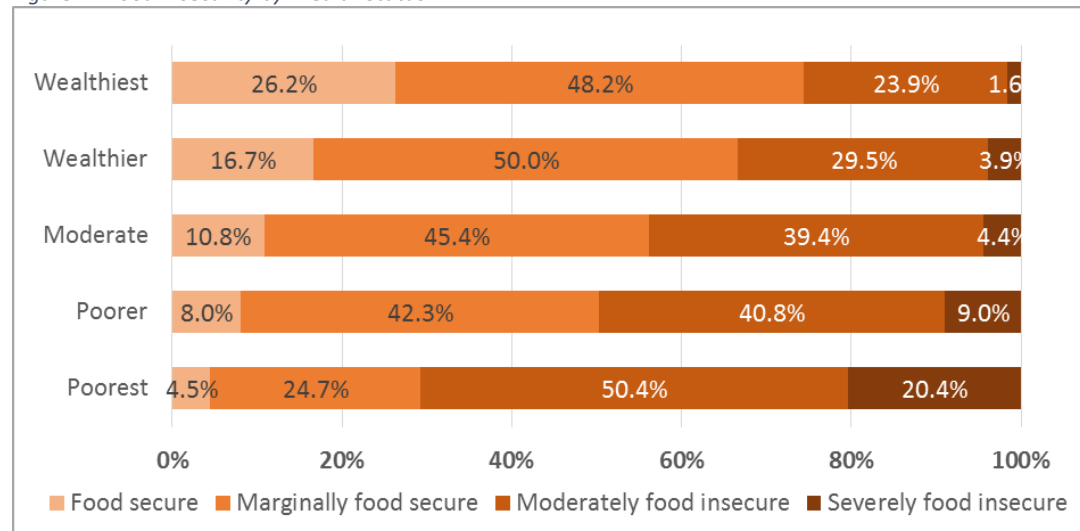
Source: EFSA 2017

3.5.6 Poor Households or Households with Fewer or No Assets

The assessment used the wealth index to measure the relative wealth of households based on the ownership of productive assets (e.g. livestock and plough), non-productive assets (e.g. radio and bicycle) and household amenities such as electricity and cooking fuel. The wealth index is used, among other things as a proxy indicator of food access, meaning that the poorest households tend to have poor access to food as they do not have assets which are key to leveraging income to purchase food items. These households are further constrained by their limited access to land and other key assets for production.

In Borno State, 49 percent of households are in the two lowest wealth quintiles compared to 38.6 percent for Yobe and 42.8 percent for Adamawa (Figure 11). In Borno State, 77.2 percent of households in the two poorest wealth quintiles are food insecure. The proportion food insecure households in the two lowest wealth quintiles in Yobe State is 46 percent while in Adamawa 50.8 percent of households in the two poorest wealth quintiles are food insecure.

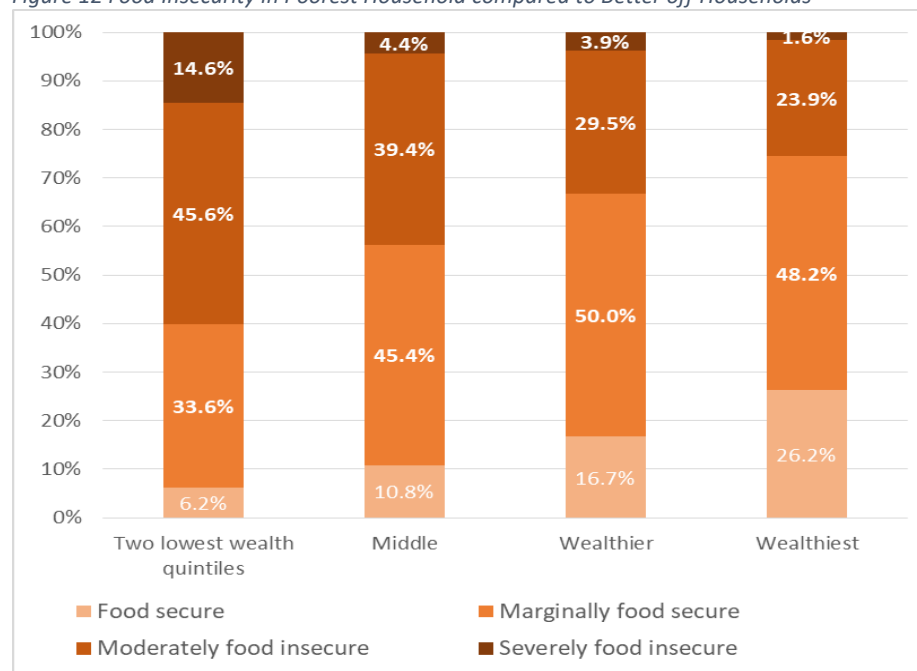
Figure 11 Food Insecurity by Wealth Status



Source: EFSA 2017

Poverty correlates well with food insecurity since the use of food consumption-based coping strategies is highest in the two lowest wealth quintiles (44.8 percent) than moderate (20.1 percent), wealthier (19.3 percent) and wealthiest (15.8 percent) households. Similarly, the employment of livelihood-based coping strategies is highest among households in the two lowest wealth quintiles (44.9 percent) than the moderate (20.5 percent), wealthier (19.2 percent) and wealthiest (15.4 percent) households. Overall, the findings (Figure 12) of this assessment suggest the household food insecurity in the three North Eastern states decreases with increasing wealth and is highest among households in the two lowest wealth quintiles (60.2) and moderate wealth (43.8 percent) than among the wealthier (33.3 percent) and wealthiest households (25.6 percent).

Figure 12 Food Insecurity in Poorest Household compared to Better off Households

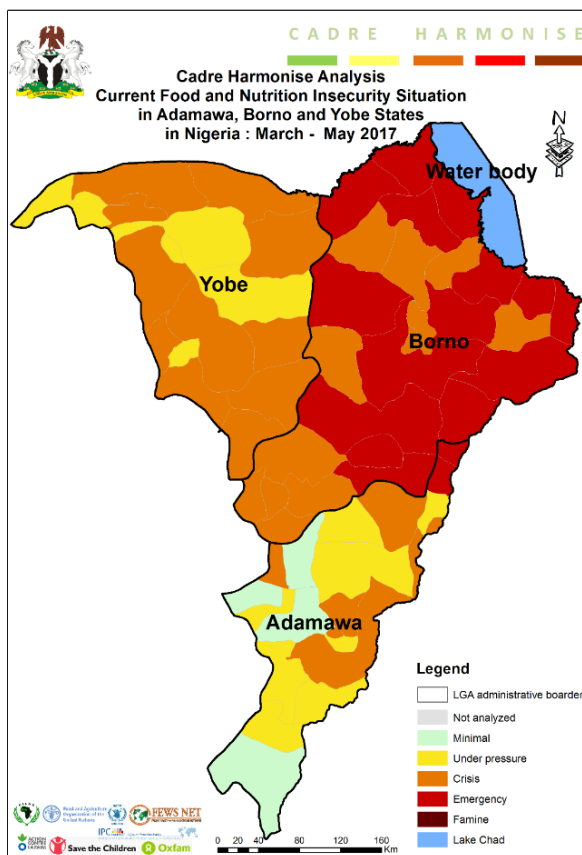


Source: EFSA 2017

3.6 Number of Food Insecure Individuals

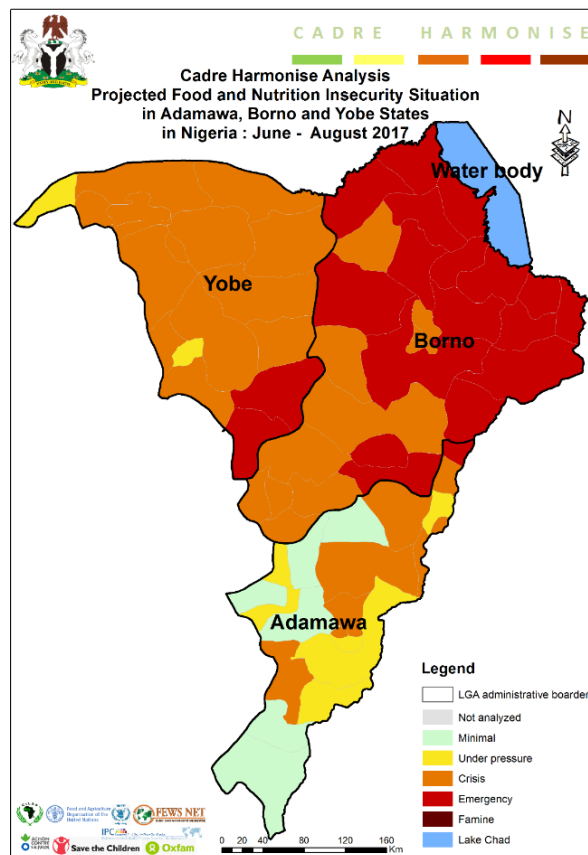
According to the March 2017 Cadre Harmonise analysis which was largely based on the February 2017 Emergency Food Security Assessment, an estimated 4,667,717 individuals in the three North Eastern states are food insecure and require urgent humanitarian assistance to save lives and protect livelihoods between May and June 2017. Approximately, 3,239,932 people are in crisis while 1,383,889 are in emergency phase. In addition, 43,893 people are estimated to be in famine phase (Figure 13 and Figure 14).

Figure 13 Current (March-May 2017) food security situation in North Eastern Nigeria



Source: Cadre Harmonise, March 2017

Figure 14 Projected (June to August 2017) food security situation in North Eastern Nigeria



Source: Cadre Harmonise, March 2017

Of the estimated 4,667,716 individuals affected by food insecurity between March and May 2017, 3,254,980 individuals or 69.7 percent are in Borno State. Across the three critical phases of crisis, emergency and famine, the proportion of individuals for Borno is 26.7 percent, 13.8 percent and 0.5 percent respectively (

Table 5).

Table 5 Estimates of population in various food security phases (March to May 2017) for North Eastern Nigeria

North-eastern states	Total population	CURRENT SITUATION: MARCH TO MAY 2017					
		Total population in Phase 1	Total population in Phase 2	Total population in Phase 3	Total population in Phase 4	Total population in Phase 5	Total population in Phase 3 to 5
ADAMAWA	4,335,341	2,390,020	1,158,938	583,468	197,099	5,815	786,383
BORNO	7,946,371	2,128,187	2,558,752	2,118,059	1,098,842	38,078	3,254,980
YOBE	3,274,833	1,618,062	1,030,419	538,405	87,948	-	626,353
TOTAL	15,556,545	6,136,269	4,748,109	3,239,932	1,383,889	43,893	4,667,716

Source: Cadre Harmonise, March 2017

During the projected period (June to August 2017), about 5,248,326 individuals will require humanitarian assistance if no adequate remedial measures are provided on time. Borno State remains the worst affected with 30.7 percent of those in crisis, 15.2 percent of individuals in emergency and 0.5 percent of individuals in famine in this state.

Table 6 Estimates of population (projected) in various food security phases (June to August 2017) for North Eastern Nigeria

North-eastern states	Total population	PROJECTED SITUATION: JUNE TO AUGUST 2017					
		Total population in Phase 1	Total population in Phase 2	Total population in Phase 3	Total population in Phase 4	Total population in Phase 5	Total population in Phase 3 to 5
ADAMAWA	4,335,341	2,375,863	1,283,500	575,648	91,314	3,690	670,652
BORNO	7,946,371	1,904,193	2,352,042	2,442,029	1,204,541	43,066	3,689,636
YOBE	3,274,833	1,039,119	1,353,517	698,509	186,234	3,295	888,038
TOTAL	15,556,545	5,319,175	4,989,059	3,716,186	1,482,089	50,051	5,248,326

Source: Cadre Harmonise, March 2017

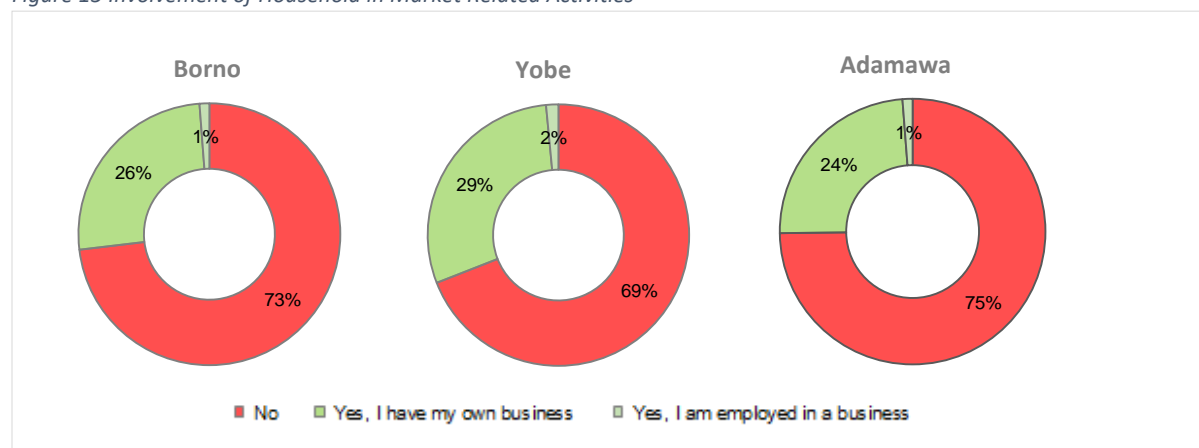
3.7 Protection

About 14.2 percent of households surveyed in this assessment perceived that the situation in their area of abode is devoid of any threats to their safety and that of their families. Only 1.1 percent of households had concerns about occasional threats to their safety. A few households (1 percent) had been exposed to threats at the IDP camp, at distribution sites (1.7 percent), when accessing their farm land (1.2 percent) and when herding livestock (1.1 percent). Similarly, exposure to threats occurred when accessing markets (1.1 percent), collecting water (0.8 percent) and when collecting firewood (1.3 percent). In few cases (1.3 percent), these threats are preventing some households from accessing assistance. Overall, the relationship between IDPs and host community households range from good (11.1 percent) to very good (4.5 percent).

3.8 Market Economy Related Activities

Generally, about 28 percent of the households engage in market related activities across Yobe (31 percent), Borno (27 percent), and Adamawa (21 percent) (Figure 15). The most common market related businesses across the surveyed households are self-owned businesses.

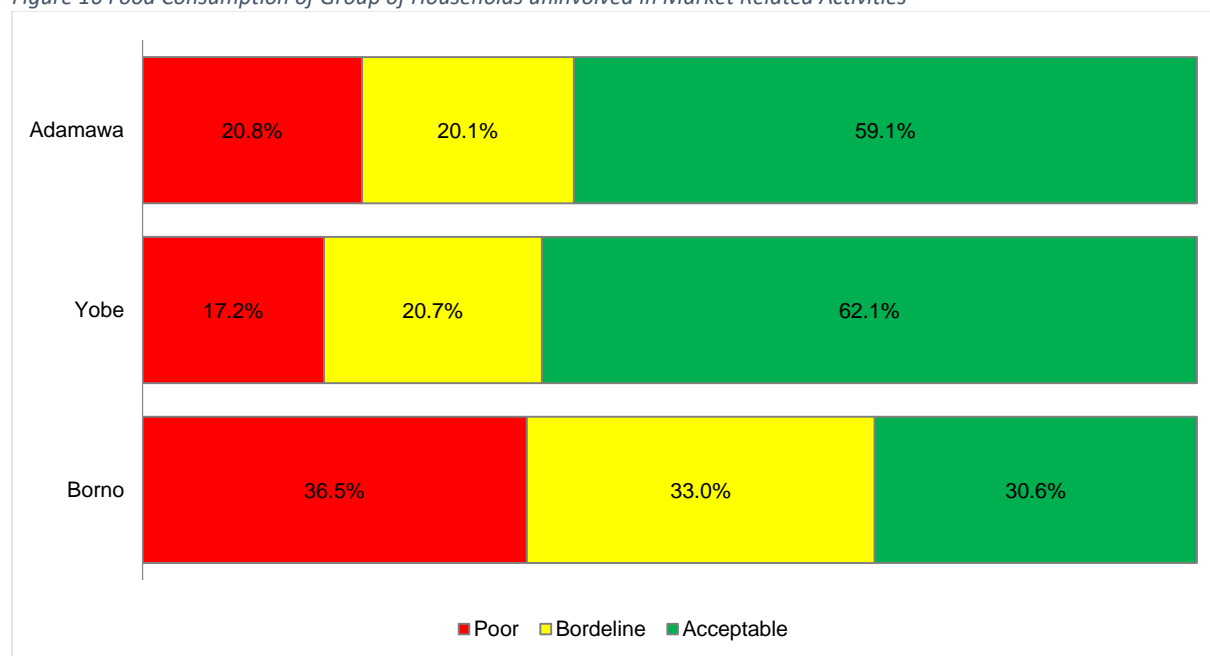
Figure 15 Involvement of Household in Market Related Activities



Source: EFSA, 2017

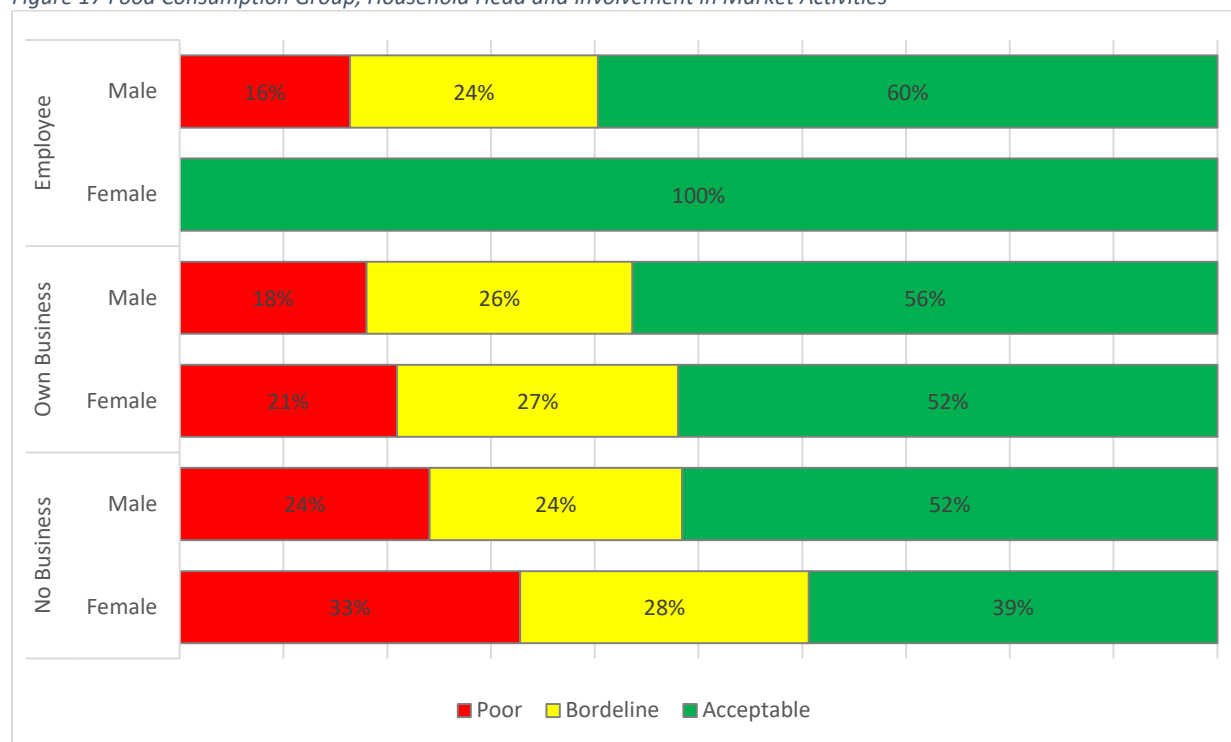
Poor food consumption is more prevalent among households that are not engaging in any market related activities (25 percent) compared to those who own a business (18 percent) and those who are currently employed in a business (16 percent), which can be attributed to the earnings from such activities. Specifically, Borno State has a higher proportion of households that are not engaging in market activities and consequently, have a higher poor food consumption than the other two states of Adamawa (21 percent) and Yobe (17 percent) as in Figure 16. By gender classification, poor food consumption is more prevalent in female-headed households (33 percent) who do not engage in market-related activities compared to their male headed counterparts (24 percent) (Figure 17).

Figure 16 Food Consumption of Group of Households uninvolved in Market Related Activities



Source: EFSA 2017

Figure 17 Food Consumption Group, Household Head and Involvement in Market Activities

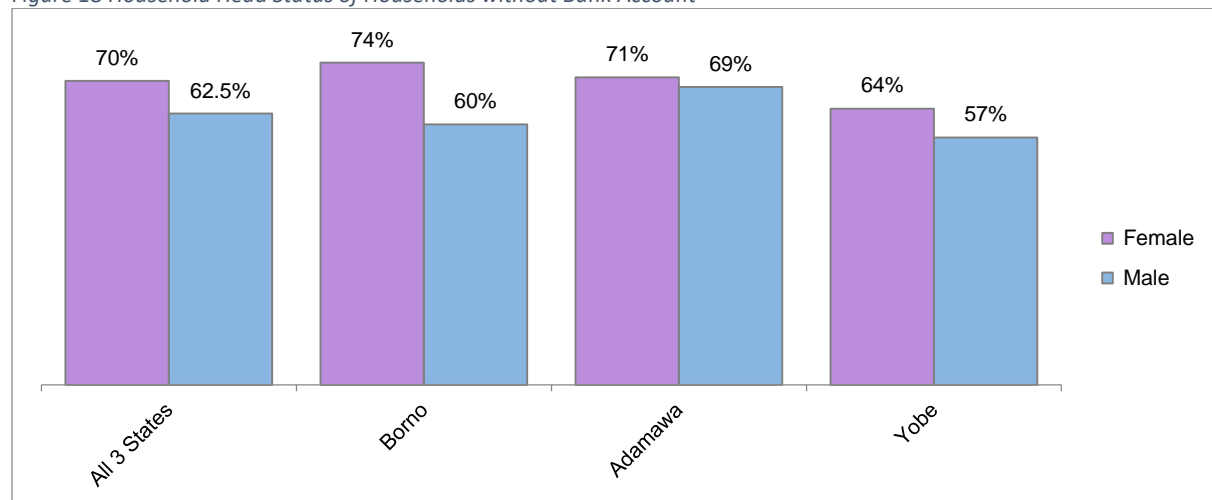


Source: EFSA 2017

3.8.1 Banking Activities

Among households involved in market-related activities, about 36 percent have at least one member that has a bank account. Non-ownership of bank account is more widespread among households in Yobe (69 percent) compared to Borno (62 percent) and Adamawa (59 percent). Moreover, non-ownership of bank account is more common in female-headed households (70 percent) compared their male counterparts (63 percent) (Figure 18).

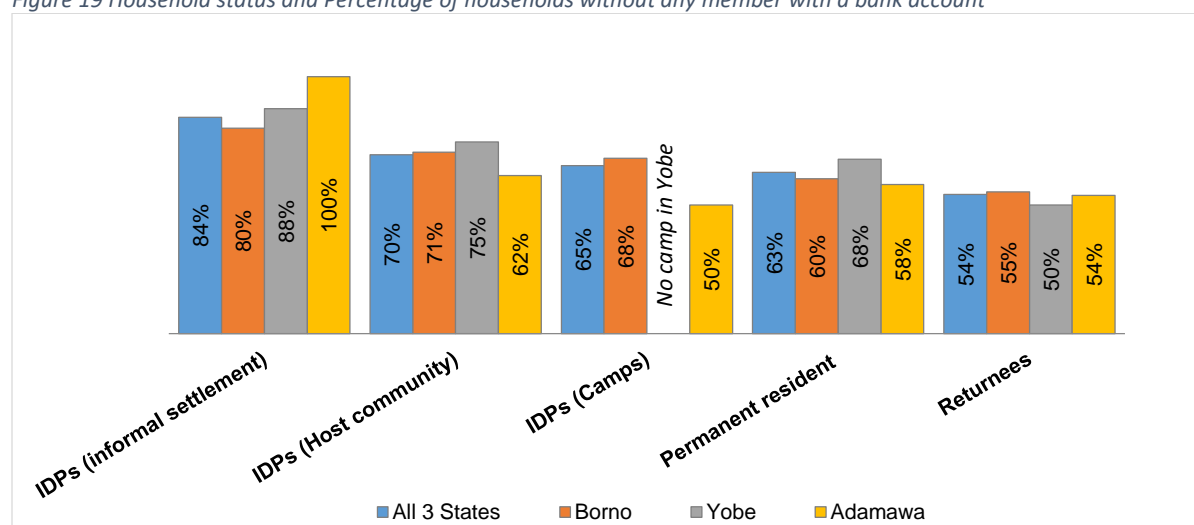
Figure 18 Household Head Status of Households without Bank Account



Source: EFSA 2017

IDPs, particularly those in informal settlements generally do not have access to banking services (Figure 18). Like the ownership of bank account, the use of mobile banking services is generally low across the three North Eastern states where 81 percent of households have no member subscribing to such services. At the state level, the proportion of households with no member subscribing to mobile banking service is 80 percent for Borno, 77 percent for Adamawa and 86 percent for Yobe. In view of the prevailing insecurity situation in the northeast, the limited use of financial services by business owners constitute a source of risk as robbery and theft have deprived traders of huge sums of money. Moreover, in areas with functioning markets and high food insecurity, the prevalence of households without access to banking services can hamper the effective implementation of market-based interventions such as cash-based transfer. However, innovations such as mobile money and e-voucher CBT modalities can mitigate against the shortfall of financial service usage.

Figure 19 Household status and Percentage of households without any member with a bank account



Source: EFSA 2017

3.8.2 Empowerment

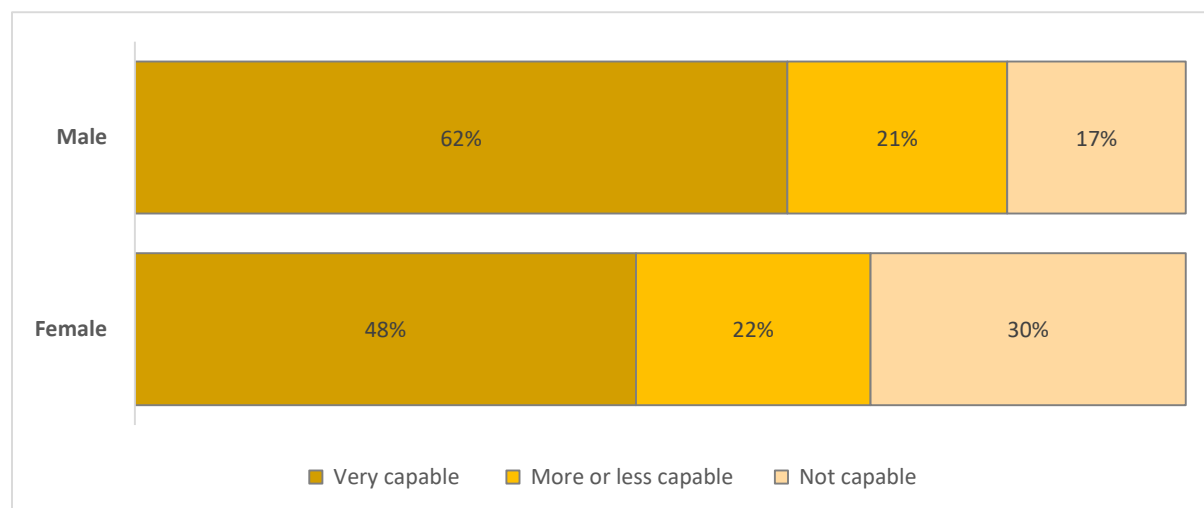
This section sought to understand the nature of gender roles in household decision-making regarding the allocation of income for commercial activities or the use of such income to meet household needs, including food.

Most respondents (87 percent) who are involved in market related activities in the three North Eastern states, of which 89 percent were the head of their households, make income allocation decisions on their businesses. Most individuals (92 percent) that exert business leadership also control the expenditure that goes towards commercial activities and household maintenance. Consistently across Adamawa, Borno and Yobe, about the same proportion (87 percent) of male-headed and female-headed households exerts general leadership regarding market related activities. 86 percent of both males and females that head their households make crucial decisions regarding expenditure on household maintenance and other commercial related activities.

About 27 percent of male and 25 percent of female household heads who are involved in market related activities are business owners (i.e. entrepreneurs). In relation to the status of the household, there is limited business ownership among IDPs especially those in informal settlements (14 percent) and camps (11 percent). 82 percent of the business owners who are currently involved in market related activities perceived that they are 'very capable' (75 percent) or 'more or less capable' (21 percent) of expanding

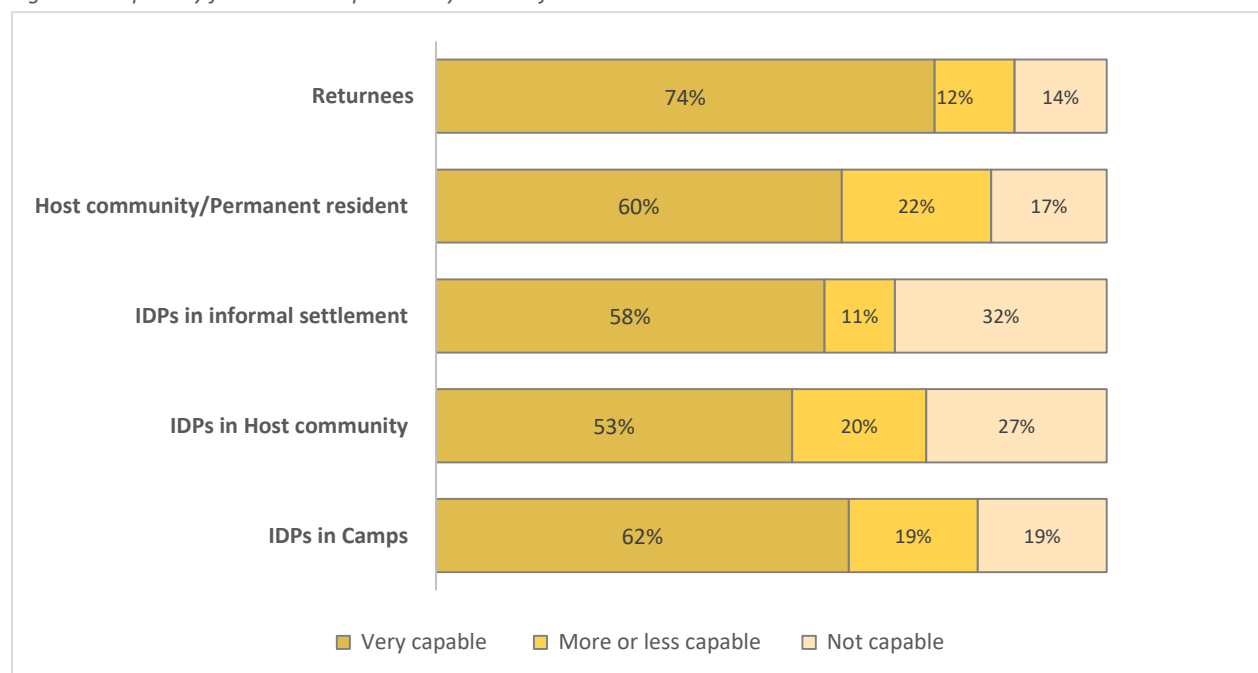
their businesses. There are more entrepreneurs that lack the confidence for business expansion in Adamawa (22 percent) compared to Borno (18 percent) and Yobe (15 percent). Moreover, the perceived lack of confidence is relatively higher among female household heads (30 percent) and IDPs in informal settlements (32 percent) than host communities (27 percent) (Figure 19 and Figure 20). Decision making process within households tend to affect the allocation of resources for productive initiatives such as agriculture or marketing activities which have implications for food security.

Figure 20 Capability for Business expansion and gender



Source: EFSA 2017

Figure 21 Capability for business expansion by status of the household

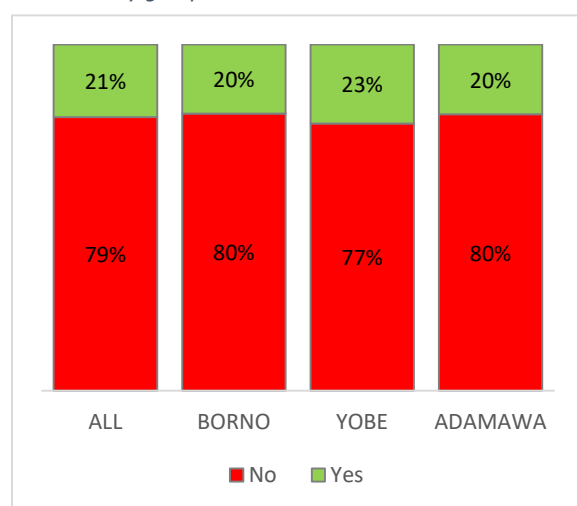


Source: EFSA 2017

3.8.3 Farmer and Market-Based Community Associations

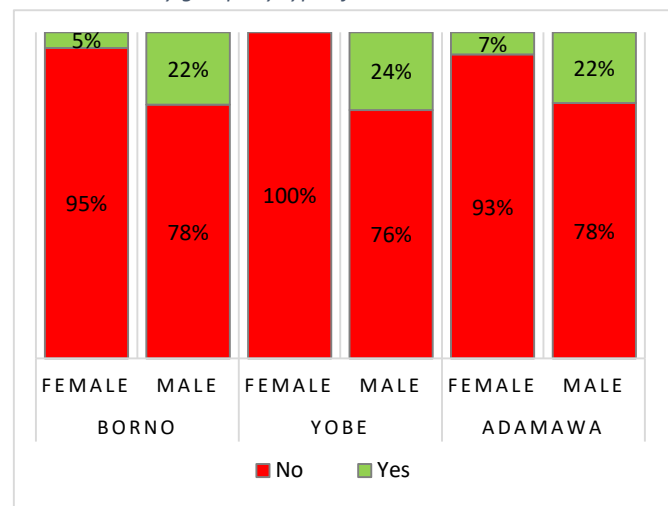
About 21 percent of respondents involved in market-related activities belong to farmer or market based community group, with male head of households five times (23 percent) more likely to participate in such groups compared to their female counterparts (5 percent). Moreover, participation in farmer and market based community groups was generally lower among IDP households (14 percent) compared to returnees (29 percent) and permanent residents (22 percent). The overall low participation in these associations reflects the impact of insecurity and displacement on agriculture-based livelihoods and marketing activities (Figure 21 and Figure 22).

Figure 22 Participation in farmer/market-based community group



Source: EFSA 2017

Figure 23 Participation in farmer/market-based community groups by type of household

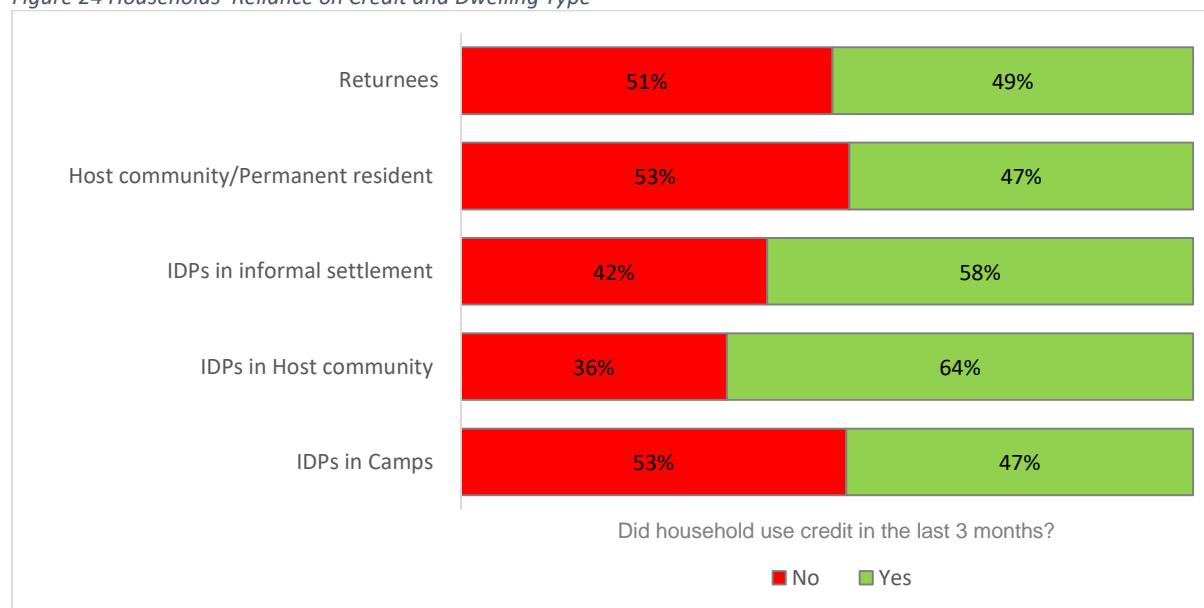


Source: EFSA 2017

3.8.4 Access to Credit

49 percent of the households had access to credit during the three months preceding the survey. Fewer households in Adamawa (36 percent) utilized such credit compared to those in Borno (55 percent) and Yobe (56 percent). The reliance on credit is most common among IDPs, particularly those living in host communities (64 percent) and informal settlements (58 percent) (Figure 23).

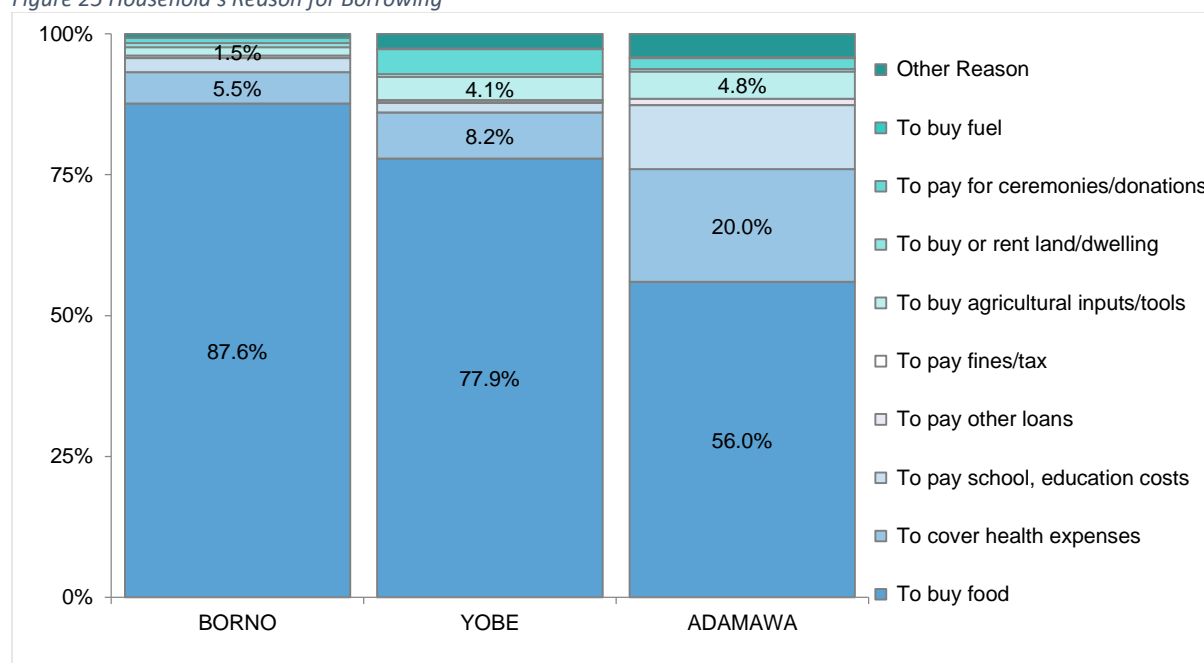
Figure 24 Households' Reliance on Credit and Dwelling Type



Source: EFSA 2017

Majority of the households used their credit to either purchase food (76 percent) or settle medical expenses (10 percent) (Figure 24). The reliance of households on credit for food purchase was more pronounced in Borno (88 percent) compared to Yobe (78 percent) and Adamawa (56 percent). Only 3 percent of the households invested such credit on productive ventures like the purchase of agricultural inputs or tools. The reliance on credit for food purchase to satisfy the minimum food needs for majority of the households is worrisome as this coping strategy limits the capacity to acquire more assets and could compromise their future capacity to sustain agriculture and other productive activities.

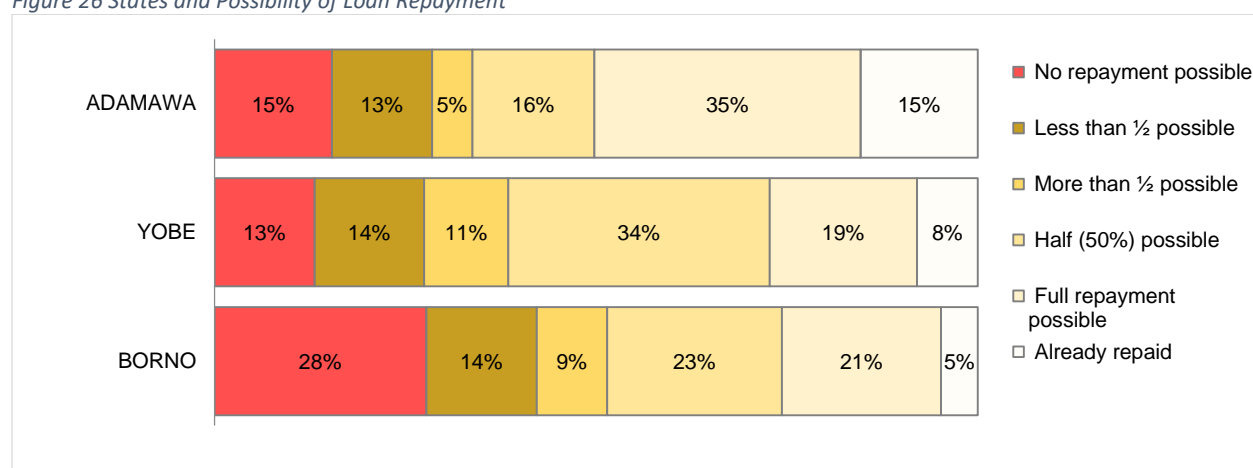
Figure 25 Household's Reason for Borrowing



Source: EFSA 2017

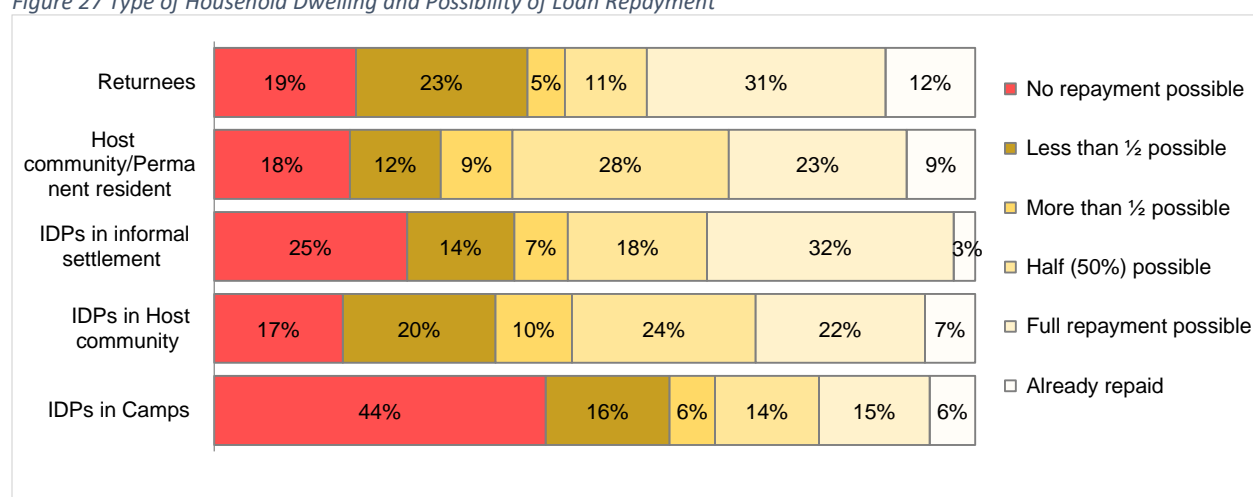
Moreover, fewer households have been able to repay the loans acquired in Borno State (5 percent) as compared to Yobe (8 percent) and Adamawa (15 percent) (Figure 25). The repayment of the loans within the next six months was deemed 'impossible' for 19 percent of the households in the three north eastern states and a high proportion of these households were in Borno (28 percent) compared to Adamawa (15 percent) and Yobe (13 percent). About 44 percent of displaced households in camps and 25 percent of displaced households in informal settlements along with 18 percent of permanent resident households would find the repayment of loans within the next six months extremely difficult (Figure 26). On average, debt repayment represents 2 percent of the expenditure of households in the three North Eastern states, but it is relatively higher in Yobe (7 percent) compared to Adamawa (5 percent) and Borno States (1 percent). The inability of households to make loan repayment could hinder future access to such loan facilities which could lead to a vicious circle of social exclusion, poverty, indebtedness and ultimately, food insecurity and malnutrition.

Figure 26 States and Possibility of Loan Repayment



Source: EFSA 2017

Figure 27 Type of Household Dwelling and Possibility of Loan Repayment



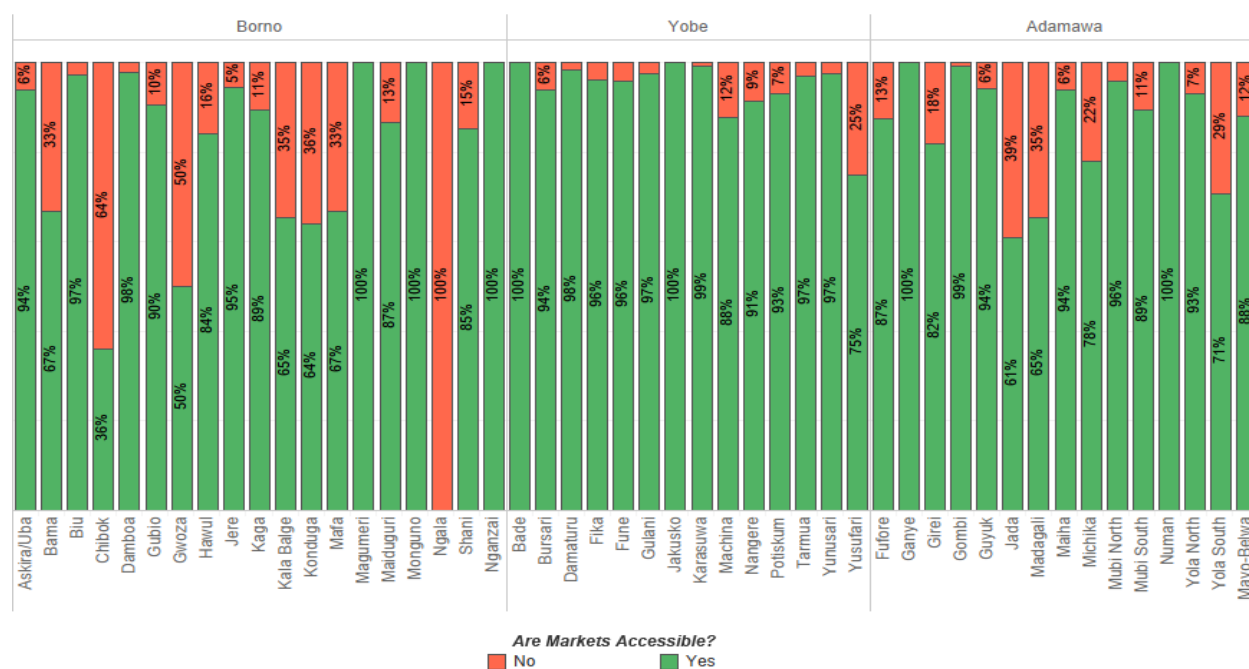
Source: EFSA 2017

3.8 Status of Markets

Markets in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa, particularly those situated in the state capitals like Maiduguri, Damaturu and Yola, not only serve as hubs for local trade of food commodity and livestock in northeast Nigeria, but also international trade with neighboring countries.

However, the ongoing insurgency has reduced market activities particularly, in rural areas of northern and central Borno, Southern Yobe and Northern Adamawa, leading to escalation of food prices¹⁴ (FEWS NET, 2017). While findings from this current assessment suggest improved accessibility to markets across Adamawa, Borno and Yobe amidst security challenges, inaccessibility to markets remains a challenge for food access in households across certain LGAs in Borno (Ngala, Chibok, Gwoza, Bama, Mafa and Kala Balge), Adamawa (Jada, Madagali, Yola South, Michika and Girei) and Yobe (Yusufari and Machina), with LGAs in like Ngala and Chibok (Borno) and Jada and Madagali (Adamawa) most affected. In addition to insecurity, other factors that hamper market access are related to harassment, transportation difficulties and lack of capital.

Figure 28 Market Accessibility across LGAs in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa



Source: EFSA 2017

Moreover, the price of food products has steadily increased across Nigeria due to the hike of fuel price and continued depreciation of the Nigerian Naira (NGN) against the US dollar, contributing towards the upsurge of price of imported food products like rice and vegetable oil (FEWS NET, 2017). These market shocks, coupled with the loss of livelihoods and reduced purchasing power has further constrained access to food, deepening households' vulnerability to food insecurity.

¹⁴ Market Monitoring Bulletin, March 2017.

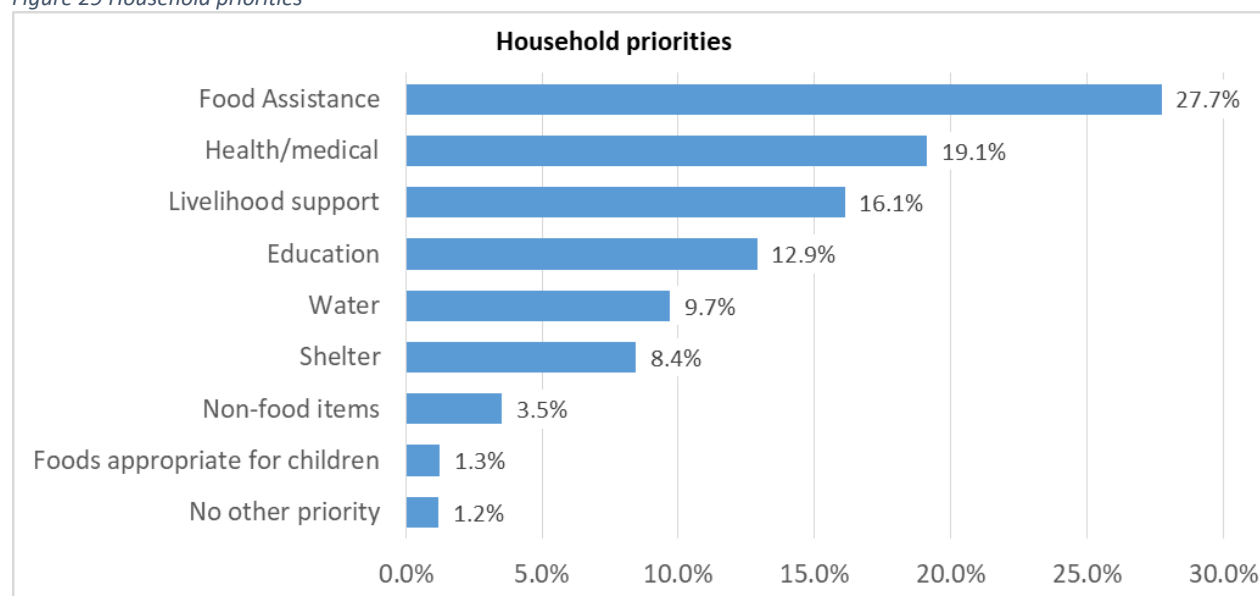
4.0 Food Assistance and Household Priorities

Some households (18.3 percent) received food assistance during the three months preceding the assessment. This assistance was provided mainly by the government (17.5 percent) and the remaining from other humanitarian partners (60.8%). Most of the food assistance (57 percent) was in the form of free food distributions. When food is received, food utilization decisions in the households are mostly made by the head of the household. Only 8.3 percent of households received non-food assistance during the 3 months before the assessment. Of those who received non-food assistance, 28.5 percent received non-food items (blankets, mosquito nets and mats).

Free food distribution is the main type of food assistance received by households in Borno (62.7 percent), Yobe (52.5 percent) and Adamawa (51 percent) States. UN agencies and NGOs account for 72.8 percent of the food assistance in Borno State, compared to 58.4 percent for Yobe and 40 percent for Adamawa. In Yobe and Adamawa, relatives/friends accounted for 13 percent and 18.9 percent of food assistance respectively. At the state level, non-food items and medical services were the two main non-food assistance received by households. The proportion of households who received these services were 49.7 percent for Borno, 33.8 percent for Yobe and 38 percent Adamawa

The top three priority need of households who participated in this assessment are food assistance, health/medical services and livelihood support. Food assistance is the top priority of household needs (27.7 percent) compared to 19.1 percent for medical services and 16.1 percent for livelihood support (Figure 29). In Borno State, the top three priority needs are food assistance (31.8 percent) livelihood support (17.4 percent) health/medical service (17 percent) which is similar to Yobe (food assistance: 29.9 percent; health/medical: 20 percent and livelihood support: 13 percent) and Adamawa States (food assistance: 21.4 percent; health/medical service: 20.4 percent; and livelihood support: 17.8 percent).

Figure 29 Household priorities



5.0 Conclusions

The insurgency induced crisis in North Eastern Nigeria has significantly affected the food security and livelihoods of populations in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa States. A high proportion of households within the three northeast states remain food insecure despite ongoing intervention by humanitarian actors. Moreover, about one third of the population in these states are in the three combined critical food security situations of crisis, emergency and famine. Between June and August 2017, an estimated 34 percent of the population is at risk of becoming severely food insecure in the absence of sufficient humanitarian assistance (Cadre Harmonise, March 2017).

The level of food insecurity is underpinned by civil insecurity. Food insecurity is highest in Borno State where a large number of LGAs are either inaccessible or face regular security challenges and ongoing military operations. Similarly, the situation is highest in Yobe South Senatorial zones particularly Gujba and Gulani LGAs.

The dire food security situation is also driven by the loss of livelihoods and substantial decline in agricultural production which has left two thirds of the population largely dependent on purchased grains to meet their food needs. The assessment identified IDPs as the most food insecure group of households with those living in camps being the most vulnerable population. Nearly half of the food consumed by IDPs is through food assistance, complemented with market purchase, begging, petty trade, and wages from manual labour.

Food insecurity has a gender dimension with female-headed households worst affected than their male counterparts. In addition to the low level of own-produced grains underscored by the impact of the insurgency on local agricultural production, the substantial dependence of households on purchased grain (over 70 percent in all three states) and increased prices is worrisome, especially among displaced households that already reliant on asset depleting coping strategies to secure food access. Also, many markets in several local government areas remain disrupted due to insecurity and inaccessibility, thus posing additional threat to food security in some part of Borno State (Ngala, Chibok, Gwoza, Bama, Mafa and Kala-Balge), Adamawa (Jada, Madagali, Yola South, Michika and Girei) and Yobe.

6.0 Recommendations

- As food assistance is the main priority need of households in the three North Eastern states, the government and the humanitarian community needs to ensure that assistance is available to those most in need.
- The government and the humanitarian organizations will need to prioritize LGAs for food assistance based on the March 2017 CH food security classification in the three north eastern states.
- The top priority for the targeting of assistance should focus on all phase 4 LGAs which are currently affected by ongoing military operations, limited market functioning or inaccessibility and limited livelihood opportunities.
- Local Government Areas which have been classified as CH Phase 3 should also be targeted for assistance.
- Scale up the EFSA to cover other fourteen (14) Cadre Harmonise states in order to gain broader insights of the food security situation across these states.



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