



FOOD SECURITY MONITORING
NORTH EASTERN- NIGERIA
AUGUST 2017

Fighting Hunger Worldwide



North Eastern, Nigeria

Food Security Outcome Monitoring

August 2017



World Food Programme

Highlights

- The overall food security situation revealed that more than one third, one fifth and one tenth of households were either moderately or severely food insecure in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa respectively. It is worth mentioning that data collection of the Food Security Outcome Monitoring (FSOM) took place in August 2017, representing the lean season in north eastern part of Nigeria.
- Analysis of household purchasing power by state indicated that households in Borno had relatively low purchasing power with over 40 percent across sampled households compared to Yobe (16 percent) and Adamawa (28 percent). There is indication that assistance through cash based transfer (CBT) leads to a comparatively higher purchasing power compared to food in-kind assistance.
- WFP food assistance equally benefits male and female-headed households, with both having improved food consumption in terms of frequency of meals and dietary diversity.
- In Borno, assisted communities indicated a significantly much better food consumption, compared to the non-assisted communities. In Yobe, food assistance has stabilised the food consumption to acceptable levels comparable to the acceptable levels observed in the non-assisted population, while in Adamawa food consumption has significantly improved.
- Majority of households reported that making decisions over the use of food assistance is done jointly by men and women. In every fourth household surveyed, women alone are making the decision.
- While the WFP targets set for the gender and protection related indicators have so far been met, there has been an underachievement for the indicator related to accountability towards beneficiaries. It is clear that there is need for concerted efforts to sensitize communities and build the capacity of WFP cooperating partners on beneficiary selection criteria, beneficiary entitlements and feedback mechanisms, especially in Yobe State.
- While majority of beneficiaries reported no safety issues related to WFP assistance, incidents were twice as frequent among Yobe beneficiaries as compared to Borno and more among food compared to cash/e-voucher beneficiaries.

A Description of the Sample

A total of 2051 households were interviewed in 52 locations (25 in Borno, 27 locations in Yobe and 2 locations in Adamawa). The sample included 270 households non beneficiaries. The average household size was 8 persons. About 28 percent of the households were headed by a female across the sample. The sample was composed of IDPs (40 percent in Borno and 19 percent in Yobe), host communities (70 percent in Yobe and 34 percent in Borno) and returnees and refugees in Yobe represent (7 and one percent respectively). About 59 percent of the surveyed heads of household were illiterate, 10 percent had primary education and 12 percent had secondary education or above.

Livelihoods

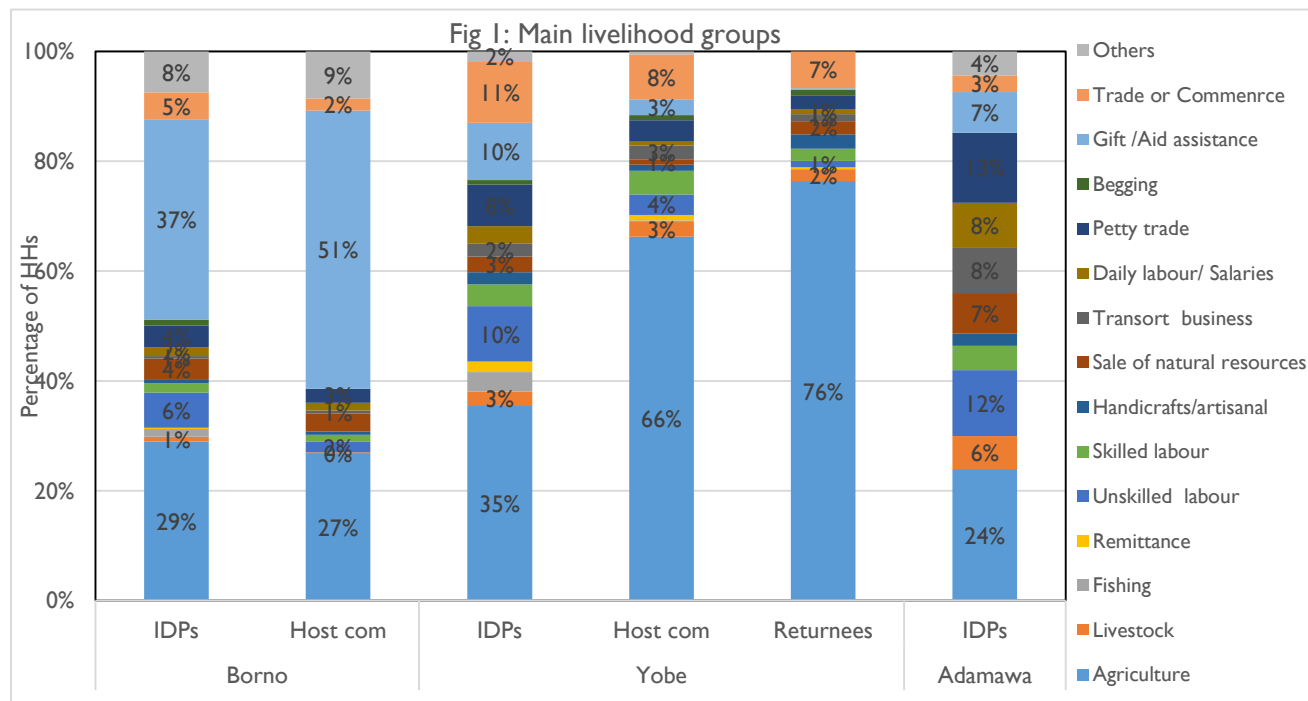
Using the share contributions to total household monthly income, three main livelihoods groups were identified as main, second and third income sources for each household.

In Yobe, income from agricultural activities had the highest share for majority of households across community types and gender of households' head. There was a significant number of returnees and host communities that generated more income from agricultural activities in Yobe compared to Borno and Adamawa. Agricultural activities were ranked the second livelihood activity for over a quarter of both IDPs and host communities' households in Borno. The significant contribution of income from agriculture to household monthly income in Yobe, was due to seasonality and improvement in access to agricultural land.

Meanwhile, income from assistance represented primary livelihood for over 50 percent of host community and more than thirty percent of the displaced communities' in Borno.

The distribution of household livelihood activities based on gender reflected that male headed households have better access to income from agricultural activities across the three states. This might be attributed to some protection concerns that have been reported which inhibit female headed households to engage in agricultural activities.

In Adamawa, households were involved in more diversified income activities compared to other states.



Purchasing Power

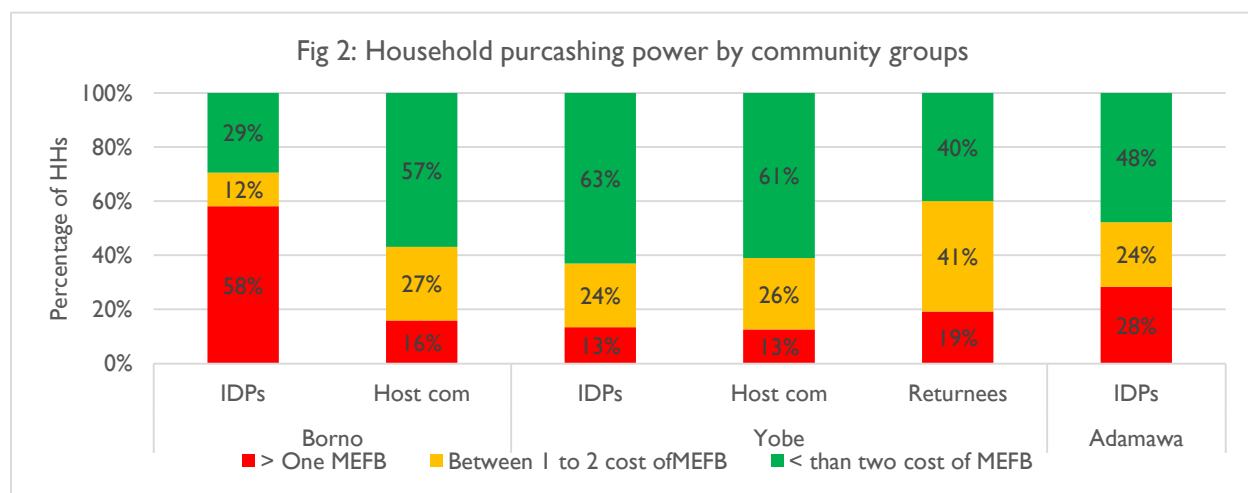
In the FSOM, the value of cash expenditures for each household was used as a proxy for household income. The purchasing power of households was determined by comparing household income with the cost of a Minimum Expenditure Food Basket (MEFB). The cost of MEFB was 116.7 Naira in Borno and Adamawa and it was 119.9 Naira in Yobe.

Purchasing power by state indicated that households in Borno had relatively low purchasing power with over 40 percent of the sampled households categorised with low purchasing power, compared to Yobe (16 percent) and Adamawa (28 percent). Analysis indicated, as well that, low purchasing power was highest among female headed households in all three states, with significant disparities between the two groups in Adamawa and Borno. Furthermore, purchasing power was relatively better among populations assisted through Cash Based Transfer (CBT) modalities (Mobile money and e-vouchers), compared to those who were receiving food in-kind assistance. This could explain the increase in the proportion of households involved in the sale of food items provided by WFP, in order to buy preferred food, condiment and cooking fuel. and Findings indicate that more than fifty percent of IDP households in Borno and Adamawa were likely having low purchasing power or cannot afford the cost of one MEFB, while, in Yobe the returnees were more likely to have low purchasing power compared to other community groups.

The Minimum Expenditure Food Basket (MEFB)

The Minimum Expenditure Food Basket (MEFB) consists of six food items; cereals (millet, rice, maize), beans, salt, cooking oil, (palm oil, groundnut and veg. oil) onion and sugar. The basket is calculated based on kilocalories derived from each food item to contribute to the total minimum required 2,100 kilocalories per person per day. The food requirements in grams is then multiplied by the market prices of different food items.

Using the LFB, households are classified into three different categories based on their level of expenditure: the first group is the *poor* category, where households cannot afford to buy even one MEFB; the second group is the *borderline* category,



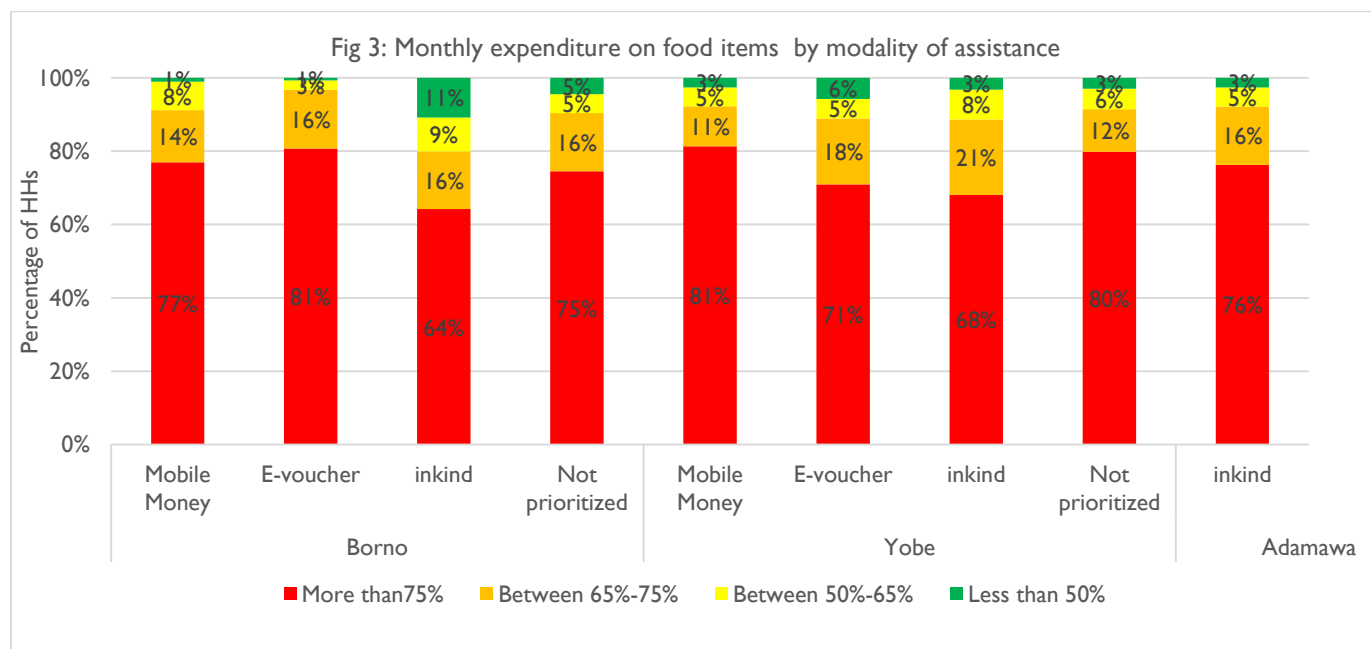
Household Expenditures

The sampled average of surveyed households in three states reported spending more than 60 percent of their monthly expenditure on food. This percentage moderately increased among severely food insecure households for both camp IDPs and the host communities.

On average, 70 and 80 percent of non-assisted households were spending more than 75 percent of their monthly expenditure on food items. The likelihood that households cannot meet other essential nonfood items is high. It is worth mentioning that data collection was carried out during a typical period for increased expenditure on agricultural inputs due to seasonality, and at the start of the scholastic year, a period associated with additional burden of educational expenses. Households receiving in-kind assistance were spending less portions of their monthly expenditure on food items compared to households served through CBT modalities households.

Proportion of Monthly Expenditure for Food

The size of the proportion of total monthly household expenditure that is spent on food is used as a proxy indicator for economic stress (and, to a lesser degree, household food production). A large proportion of food expenditure is often associated with increased economic stress. As households are forced to prioritize immediate short-term food needs over important longer-term investments in health care, education or livelihood inputs when faced with loss of income or increased prices.



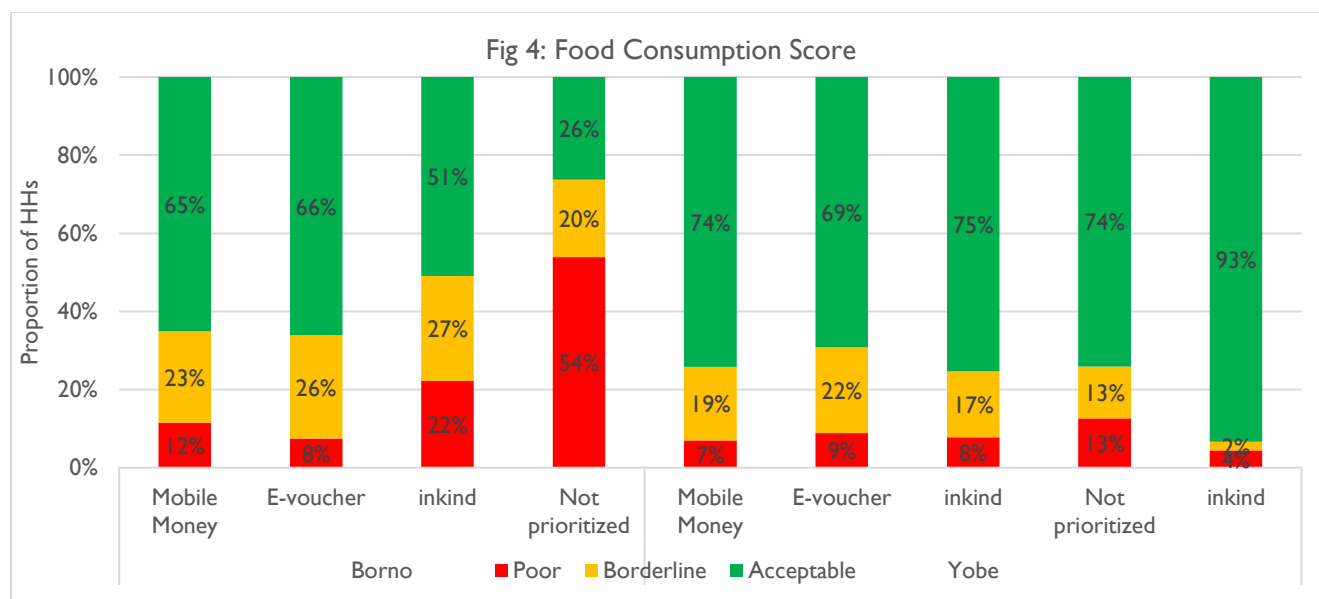
Food consumption

Food consumption data was collected and analyzed using the standard WFP methodology: the variety and frequency of different foods and food groups consumed over a 7-day recall period was recorded to calculate a weighted Food Consumption Score (FCS). Weights were based on the nutritional importance of the foods. Standard cut-points or thresholds¹ were established to enable analysis of trends and to provide a benchmark for success.

Household in Borno were likely to be poor compared to others states. Almost one fifth of the sampled households in Borno, 10 percent in Yobe and five percent in Adamawa were classified as having poor diet. The diet of the poor consumption group consisted of cereal or tuber, green leaves and oil and occasionally supplemented with legume. The host and IDPs communities were more likely to have poor consumption in Borno. While IDPs in Yobe constituted majority of households with poor consumption compared to host and returnees. Analysis showed that households in the not prioritized locations were experiencing poor consumption compared to assisted communities in Yobe and Borno.

The main sources of food consumed were food assistance representing over 50 percent for the households in Borno and Adamawa. In Yobe a quarter of the households were relying on food assistance as main source of food, while significant proportion of households relied on market purchase (58 percent) compared to others states

The dietary diversity and food frequency of not assisted households was more likely to be poor in Borno than Yobe.



¹ Thresholds in Nigeria are established as follows: Poor 0-28, Borderline: 28.5-42, Acceptable: 42.5 and above

Coping strategies

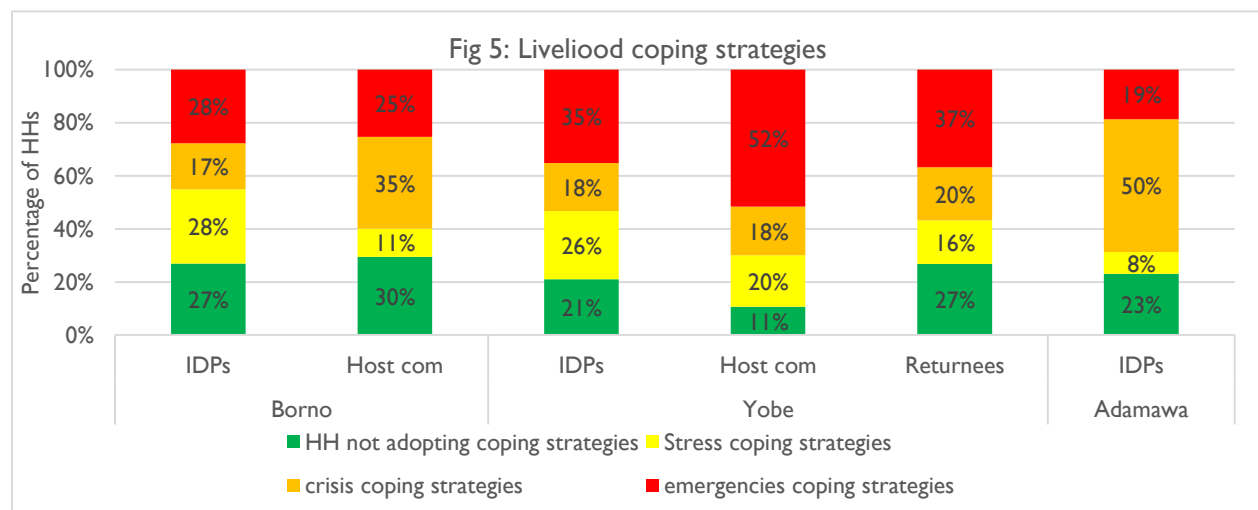
Perceptions to food access were assessed using both consumption related coping strategy using a recall period of one-week prior to data collection and a month recall period to capture the livelihood related coping strategies.

In general, the percentage of households applying coping strategies was high in all states. In Adamawa, all interviewed households had engaged in one or more options of coping strategies. A similar situation was observed in Borno and Yobe with fewer households that had applied some sort of consumption related coping strategies. The most common coping strategies applied were relying on less preferred food, reducing the number and quantities of meals and restricting consumption of adult in order to feed children. There is significant correlation between frequency of using coping and the household consumption category. Households within the poor consumption group were more likely to report using negative coping strategy compared to other categories.

While, a quarter of the households in the three states did not apply any type of livelihood coping, more than 50 percent of households in each state were using either crisis or emergency strategies. This means that households' capacities is already depleted. In all three states, the most common characteristics of households applying higher level of coping were female headed households, households in areas not prioritized starting May 2017 in Borno and Yobe and households assisted through in-kind modalities. IDPs and returnees were more likely to apply coping strategies than host communities.

Perceptions of Food Access

In assessing consumption related households were asked if there were times in the past week prior to data collection when they did not have enough food (or money to buy food). If they experienced such situations, they asked what strategies and how many time they employed to cope with the shortage. While, livelihood coping assessed using a call period of last thirty days and whether households had applied one of the strategies with objective to measure assets depletion and households' resistance capacity. Depending on the severity of the coping mechanisms used by households, they were classified as "not experiencing any food access problems", "no coping, stress, crisis and households employing coping strategies that were very damaging to short or long-term food security, "emergency".



Food Security

Analysis of the overall food security situation revealed that more than one third, one fifth and above one tenth of households were either moderately or severely food insecure in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa respectively. Analyzing households' food security by type of communities indicated that above forty percent of IDPs and host communities were food insecure. Among the reasons behind food insecurity in Borno is limited income opportunities as a result of insecurity and limited access. In Yobe, across community types, one fifth of the sampled households were food insecure. The severity of food insecurity is more among the displaced and returnees' community than host community.

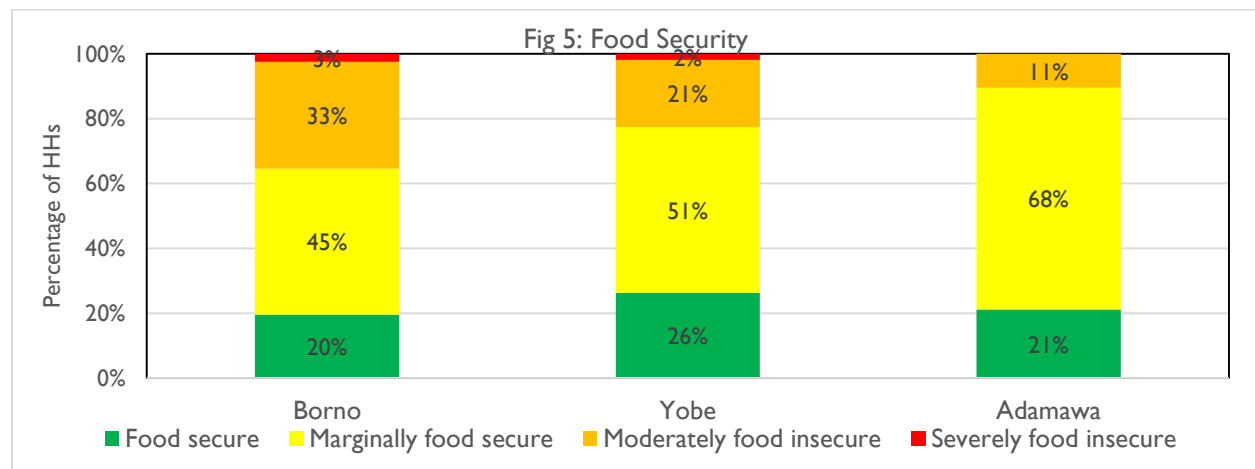
It has been realized that food security of households receiving cash assistance (Mobile money and e-voucher) was better compared to those who were receiving in-kind food assistance and not assisted communities. This was mainly pertaining to the improved purchasing power of these groups in accessing food, even though the transfer value of the in-kind food is higher in comparison to the prevailing market prices. Findings indicated that in kind food beneficiaries were selling part of their food entitlement at reduced prices in order to acquire preferred cereal items (Rice or millet) to cover household dietary preferences.

This exercise has indicated that non-prioritized locations based on the last May 2017 prioritization exercise remained more food insecure in both Yobe and Borno compared to currently assisted locations. Furthermore, the geographical distribution of households classified as food insecure were mainly in IDPs camps in Maiduguri metropolitan, along the border with Niger such as Yusufari and Yunusari in Yobe and in hard to reach areas such as Damasak in Borno.

The profiling of food insecure households indicated that educational level of household's head, gender, household size and the structural type of houses have strong link to food security level.

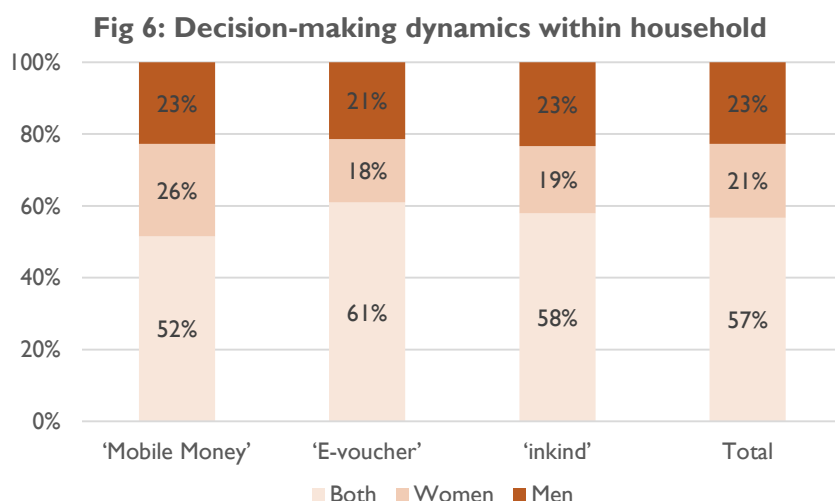
Food Security Analysis

The food security analysis was done using Consolidate Approach to Reporting Indicators of food security (CARI). Three variables were analyzed together using current and future coping strategies of households; food consumption score based on dietary diversity and food frequency and a measure of current food security; livelihood coping indicators, a measure of assets depletions and share of total expenditure for food, a measure of poverty vulnerability. Four groups were identified. (Food Secure, Marginally food secure, Moderately food insecure and Severely food insecure).

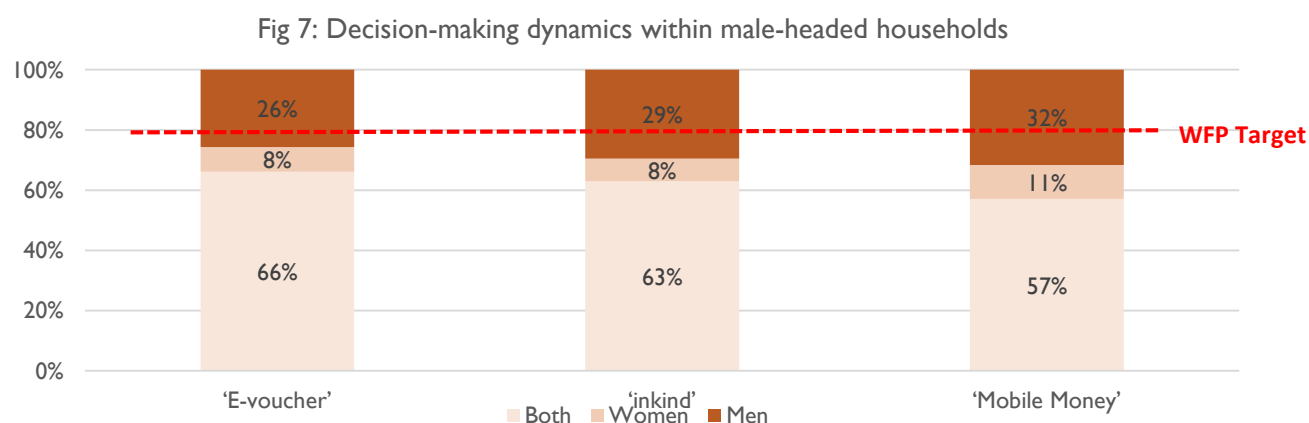


Decision-making over assistance

Among majority of the households, food and spending decisions are made by both men and women regardless of the WFP assistance modality. Approximately, in every fourth households' women alone are making the decision. The corporate target of 80 percent of households where women are taking decisions over assistance, alone or together with their partners, has been met.



Despite meeting the overall project target, it is interesting to note that among male-headed households, WFP is far below meeting the target. It is far less likely to find women alone making decision over assistance in some male-headed households. This could suggest adjusting the WFP indicator to include decision dynamics among male headed households only, as it is more focused, clear and specific and its measurement will track the progress that the programme hopes to make.



Crosscutting Results

Gender equality, accountability towards beneficiaries and protection mainstreaming indicators were collected among assisted households during the FSOM exercise. While the WFP targets set for the gender and protection related indicators have been met, there has been an underachievement for the indicator related to accountability towards beneficiaries. More investigation would be required to fully understand the context but findings indicate the need for improvement in this area.

Crosscutting results for Yobe are considerably low in comparison to Borno in areas of accountability to affected populations and mainstreaming protection issues related to WFP assistance.

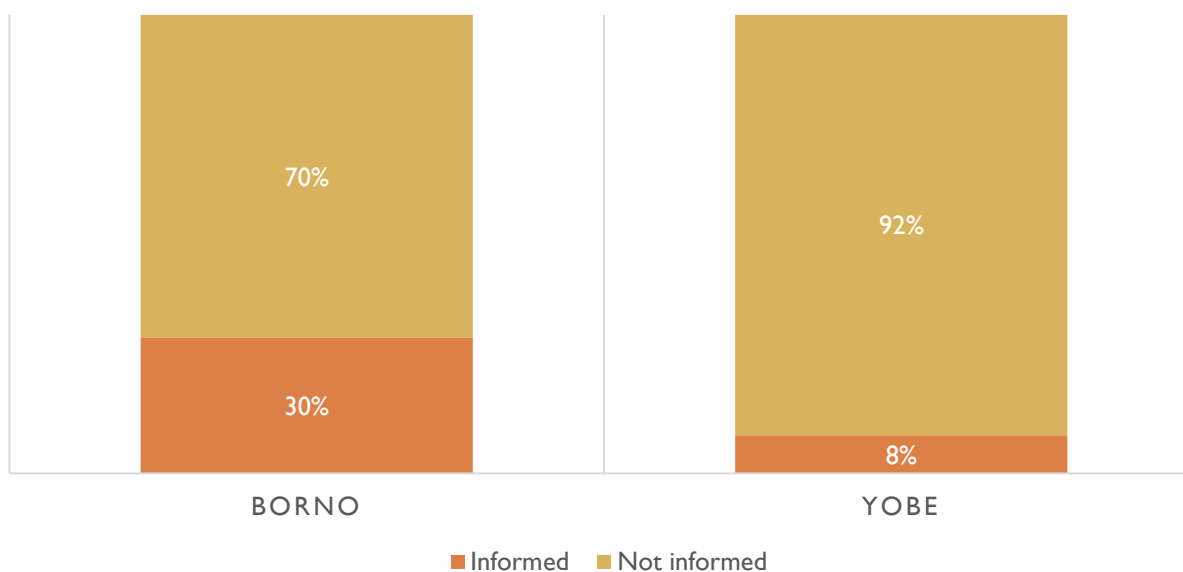
Accountability towards beneficiaries

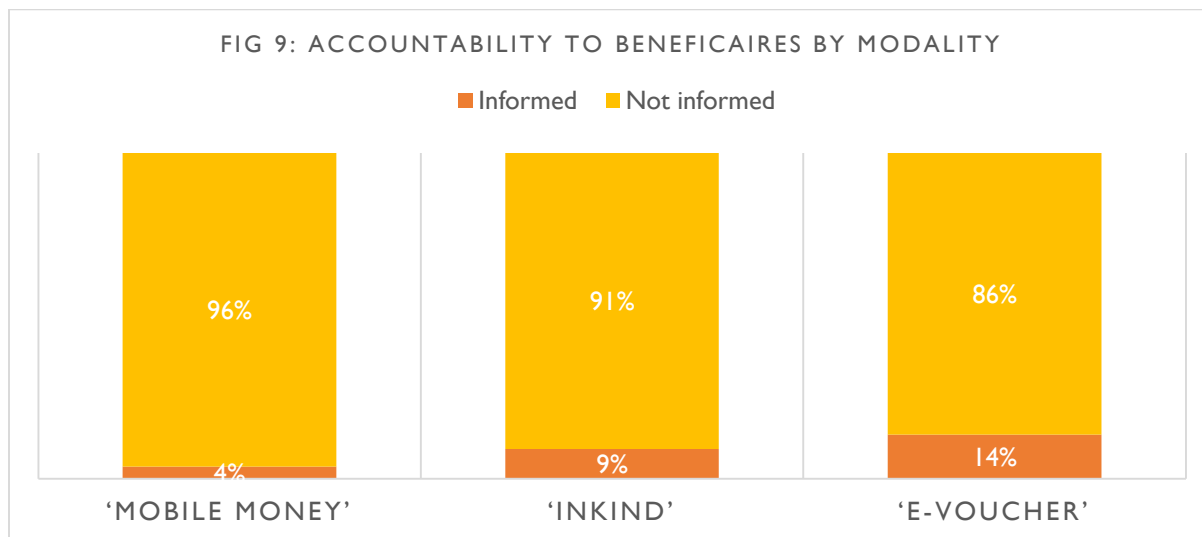
WFP collected information about beneficiaries' access to information related to the eligibility, entitlements and who to contact if there are any problems or issues. Respondents had to answer three questions: 1) who is eligible to receive WFP assistance, 2) what they will receive, 3) who they can contact. If all three questions are answered positively, beneficiary households are considered to be fully informed. For all three components, the corporate target of at least two out of three beneficiary households to be informed has not yet been met.

	Yes, informed	No, not aware
Do you know, how people were chosen to receive assistance?	39%	61%
Have you been told exactly what you are entitled to receive?	49%	51%
Do you know, who to contact?	34%	66%

The underperformance in this indicator is primarily caused by Yobe with a marked difference in comparison to Borno with more than 90 percent of Yobe beneficiaries are not informed. Among all three modalities in Yobe, e-voucher beneficiaries were more likely to be informed this could be attributed to the favorable access conditions in Damaturu metropolitan area where all vouchers beneficiaries reside.

FIG8: ACCOUNTABILITY TO BENEFICAIRES

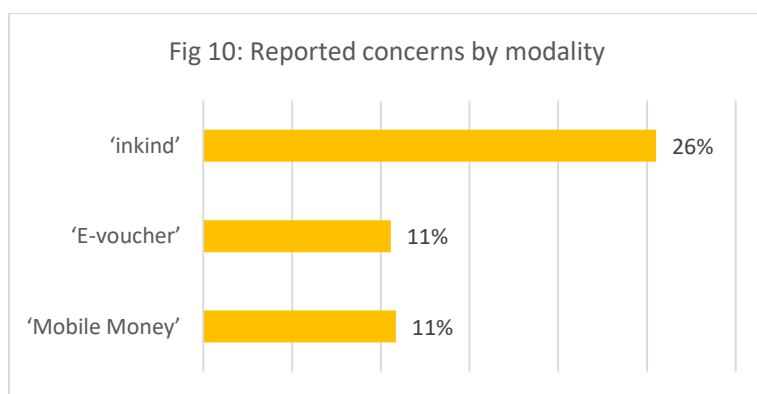




Protection

The FSOM reviewed beneficiaries' perception of safety en route to/from and at the cash/food distribution sites. The number of incidents reported was substantially higher among food beneficiaries compared to cash/e-voucher beneficiaries.

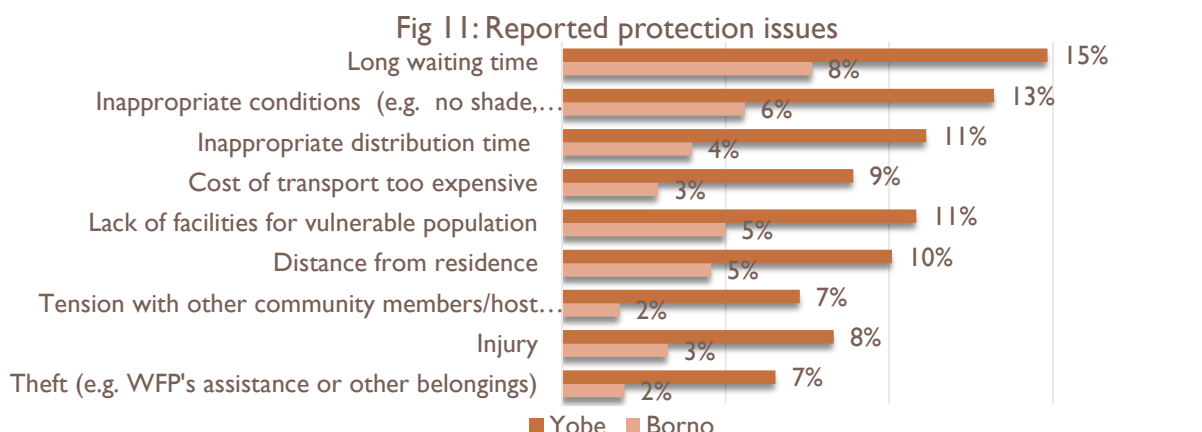
Proportion of beneficiaries reporting assistance related concerns across modalities in both Borno and Yobe



In addition, more assistance related protection incidents were reported in Yobe in comparison to Borno. In fact, assistance related protection concerns were twice as frequent in Yobe in majority of issues reported (Figure 5) with the most common incidents in both states: the long waiting time followed by the inappropriate conditions such as lack of shade and overcrowding.

Shedding more light on protection issues

The FSOM exercise including corporate indicators on safety and protection offers a brief understanding of protection concerns among assisted populations. To supplement the quantitative survey, focus group discussions should be administered and facilitated to gain in-depth understanding of the gender and protection issues related to cash vs in-kind. Focus group discussions will provide an opportunity for WFP to better understand how men, women and persons of diversity experience the support provided. It is recommended that WFP develop an approach to capture those issues in parallel to the next FSOM round

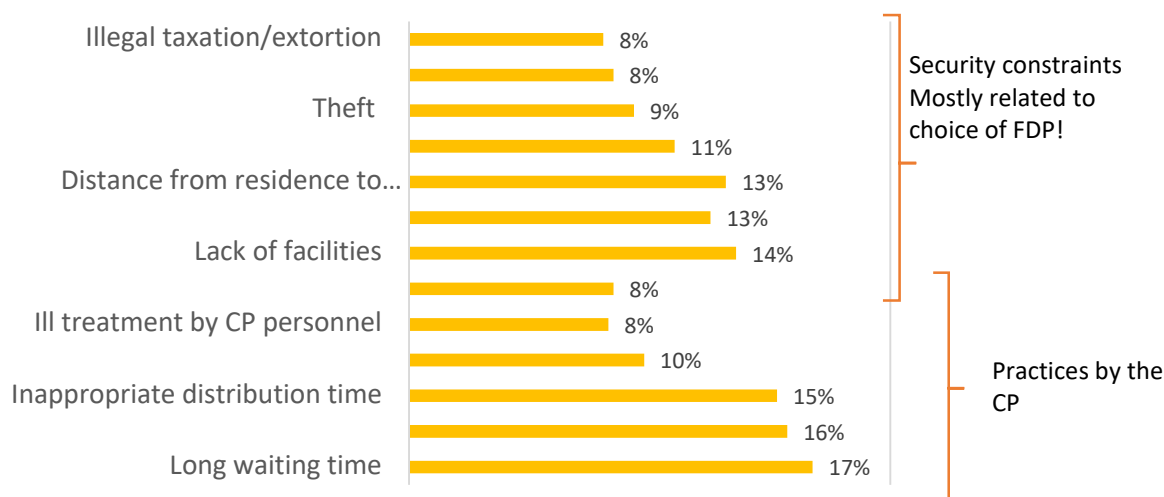


The top five assistance related protection issues reported in both states included: long waiting time, inappropriate conditions such as lack of shade and overcrowding, inappropriate distribution time, cost of transport and Lack of facilities for vulnerable population including disabled beneficiaries or pregnant women. WFP cooperating partners should be sensitized on these issues and action plan should be drafted accordingly.

In addition, it was observed that relationships between IDP households and host communities was negatively affected by food beneficiaries in comparison to cash based transfer modalities with about nine percent of food beneficiaries reporting the issue, in both Borno and Yobe among all in-kind food benefiting households.

Figure 12 details the protection incidents reported in Yobe by in-kind beneficiaries. Onsite monitoring reports from August and September confirm the FSOM findings on the frequency of protection related incidents in Yobe. Protection issues in Yobe could be attributed to inappropriate choice of FDPs and poor practices among many cooperating partner staff. Worth mentioning that no protection training was administered to WFP in-kind cooperating partner in Yobe. A protection training should be schedule as soon as possible.

Fig 12: Protection issues reported by in-kind beneficiaries in Yobe



MUAC and Child Feeding Practices

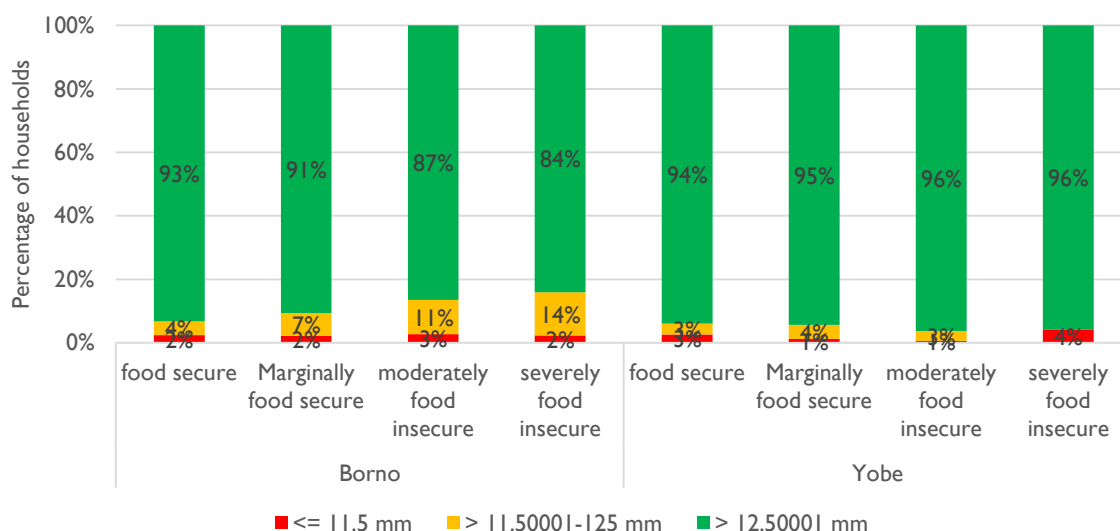
A) MUAC

Overall, 2,367 children less than 5 years of age were included in the survey sample. Among all children less than 5 years of age, less than 7% had low MUAC (<11.5). As expected, assistance provided contributed to mitigating/preventing an increase of wasting prevalence during the peak of the lean season

The analysis of the correlation between various factors and wasting (MUAC) in children less than 5 years of age shows that there seems to be a relationship between the prevalence of wasting and food security quintile. Children in households which had received had a poor household food consumption score (Moderately and severely food insecure) were more likely to be wasted than children in households which had better food consumption scores. In both Borno and Yobe States, children with a recent history of morbidity (diarrhea, fever, malaria, etc.) had a higher prevalence of wasting.

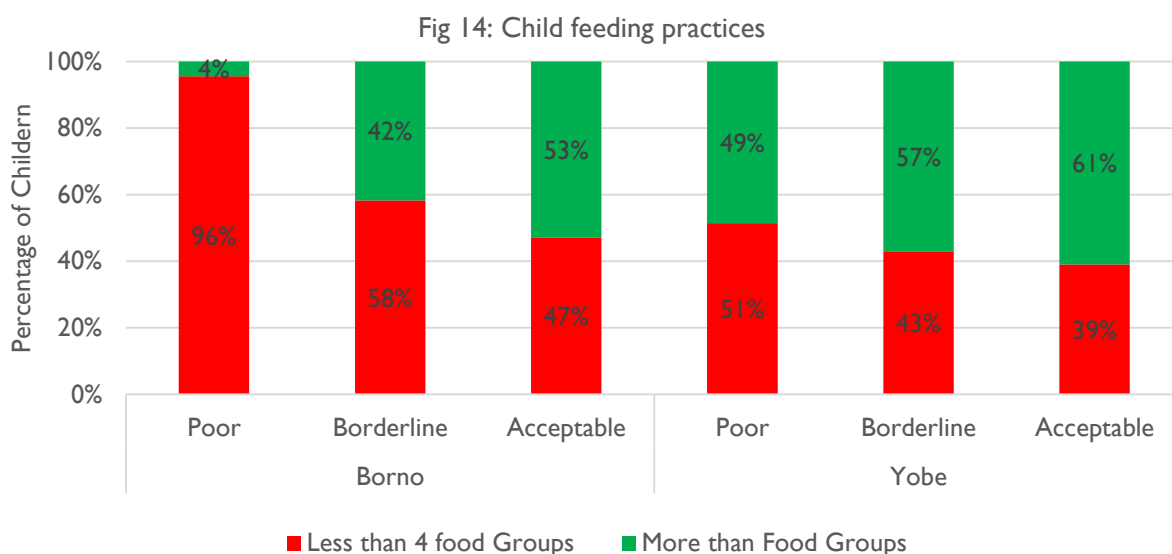
As with household/community status (IDPs, Host Community, Returnees), there is no difference between the risk to be wasting of children in a household belonging to each of these communities. However, children in IDPs and Host Communities in Borno State were more likely to be wasted than children in IDPs and Host Communities in Yobe State;

Fig 13: Child MUAC by level of households food security



B) Feeding Practices

Regardless of food groups given to children less than two years of age; results showed that majority of children were fed with more than 4 food groups but should be improved to mitigate the risk of stunting. However, this frequency is somewhat lower for girls than boys. In general, the feeding practices of children is strongly linked to households' food security level, children in households with poor food consumption were poorly fed group.



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