

NIGERIA | September 2017

mVAM Bulletin #7: Despite improvement in accessibility and food availability, insecurity continues to hinder optimal functionality of markets.

Key Points	Methodology	Market Access	Food Availability	Prices	Contacts
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Key Points



Although market accessibility has improved marginally between June/July 2016 and August/September 2017, the security situation in Northeastern Nigeria remains fluid and volatile.



Food availability has increased across markets, which can likely be attributed to gradual restoration of trade activities within Local Government Areas (LGA) headquarters due to the return of previously displaced people from LGA capital cities like Maiduguri.



Food prices have generally increased when compared to June/July 2016, likely the result of low cultivation in major food basket areas such as Askira-Uba, Damboa, Gujba, and Gulani. This has contributed to increased market dependency for food access.



Photo: WFP/Olatunji Sonoiki

Context/Situation Update

The security situation in Northeastern Nigeria remains fragile, consequently, restricting movement, hindering agriculture and other livelihood activities as well as disrupting access to basic services including local markets. Moreover, there was an increase in the number of attacks by insurgents, particularly against communities in rural and suburb areas and road users, with over 130 cases recorded between July and September 2017. These attacks further hampered market functionality (1,2).

The humanitarian community has been responding to the needs of populations affected by the protracted conflict in north-eastern Nigeria by deploying a range of in-kind, cash or voucher transfer mechanisms. To understand the evolution of the situation overtime, WFP has been monitoring food commodity markets in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa in order to give a synopsis of the changes in prices of commodity and functionality of markets to inform decision-making.

[1]. INSO, UNDSS and ACLED.

[2]. FEWSNET/WFP Nigeria Market Monitoring Bulletin, September, 2017 <https://goo.gl/YSJACW>

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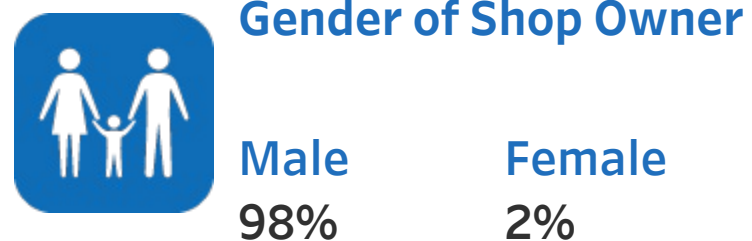
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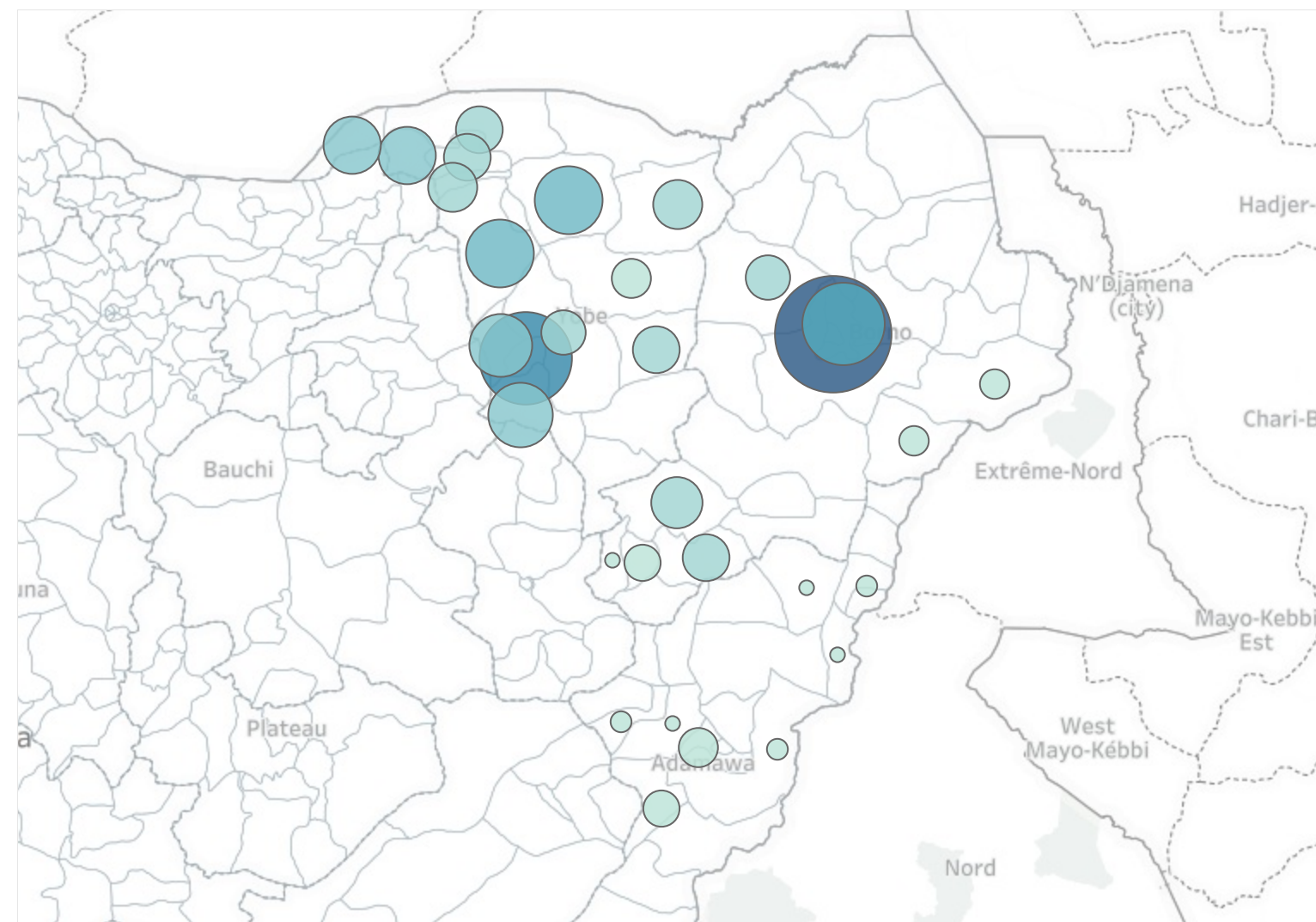
In June and July 2016, WFP Nigeria initiated live calls to 490 traders across Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States to monitor the functionality of markets and gather prices of food commodities (<http://bit.ly/29ZvDmN>). In December 2016, WFP contacted these traders again to ask the same questions and successfully reached 416, some 85 percent of those originally surveyed. To assess changes in market conditions (availability, activity level, prices), WFP recontacted the same 490 traders reached during the previous round (June/July 2016) and successfully interviewed 378 people (representing 77 percent of the original sample).

Note: Readers are cautioned when interpreting the results as the original sample frame was purposive (limited by access and security conditions) and is therefore not representative of market conditions in the LGA.

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Map 1: LGA Coverage Map for Traders Interviewed



Note: Select Local Government Area (LGA) to filter and click on the map again to reset the map.

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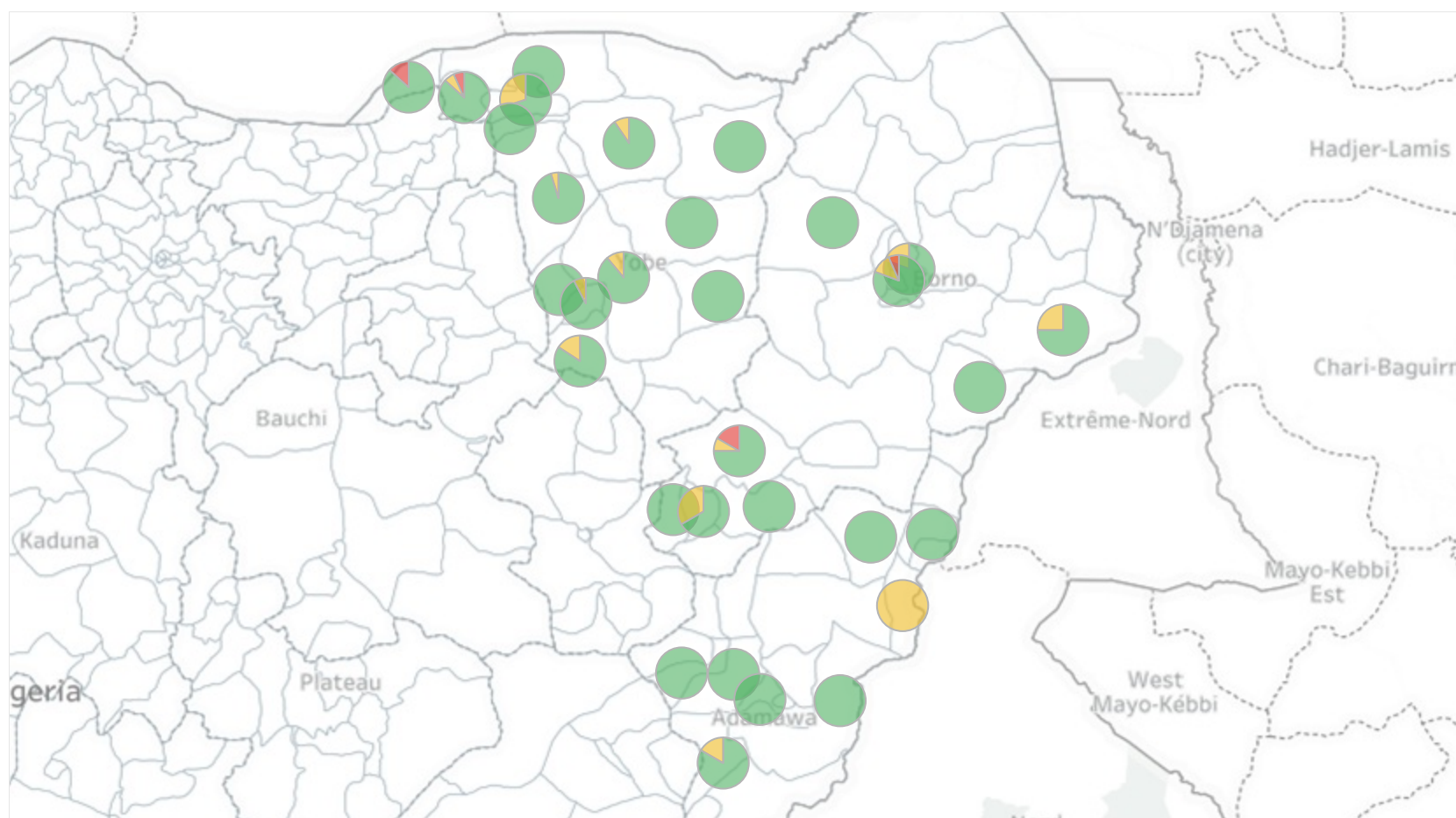
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According to traders, market accessibility increased slightly between June/July 2016 and August/September 2017. There is a steady decline in the proportion of traders who classified markets as “completely inaccessible” between June/July 2016 (6 percent), December 2016 (3 percent) and August/September 2017 (2 percent). This trend was consistent across most of the LGAs covered except for a few areas in Maiduguri (Borno) which faced access restrictions due to heightened cases of attacks by insurgents and corresponding military response, particularly in suburbs. Moreover, traders reported that markets in Nguru and Machina LGAs of Yobe State experienced similar inaccessibility issues, which were underscored by road network challenges compounded by the rainy season.

Despite the improvement in accessibility, the security situation in Northeastern Nigeria still remains fluid and volatile. Moreover, there are increased cases of attacks by insurgents, which has made trade routes relatively unsafe for travel (<https://goo.gl/YSJACW>). Therefore, humanitarian actors and government agencies should put this into perspective when making decisions around the appropriateness of intervention modalities such as cash based transfers.

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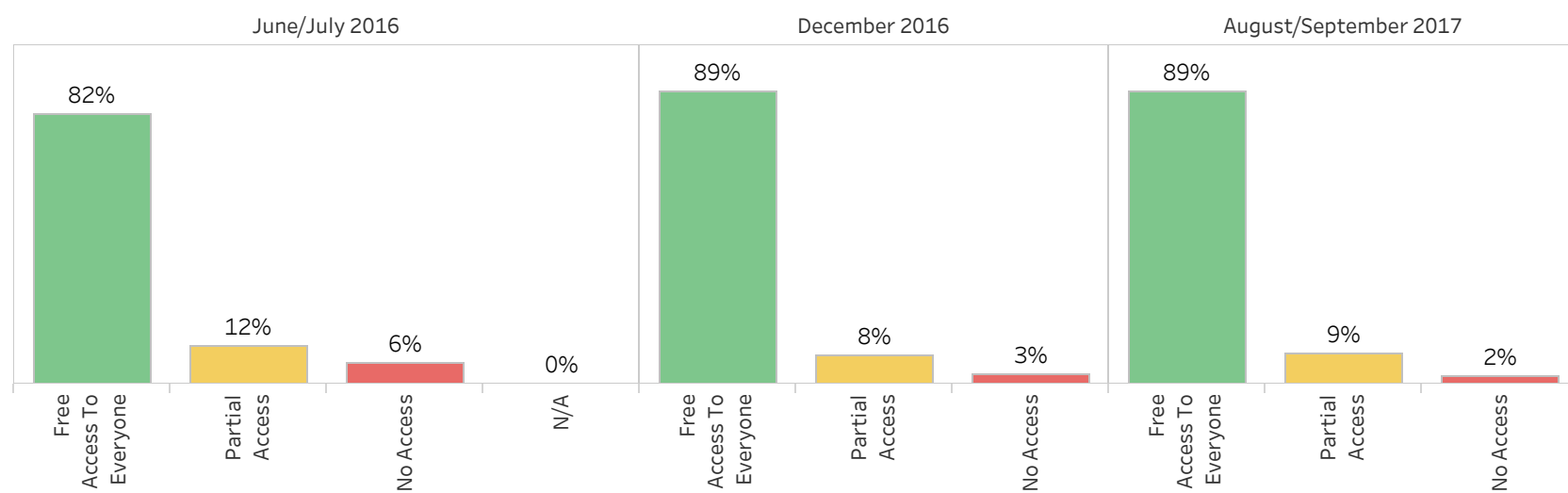
Map 2: Market Accessibility Map in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa



Note: Hover on bubbles to view accessibility status of LGAs



Figure 1: Market Access by Assessment Month

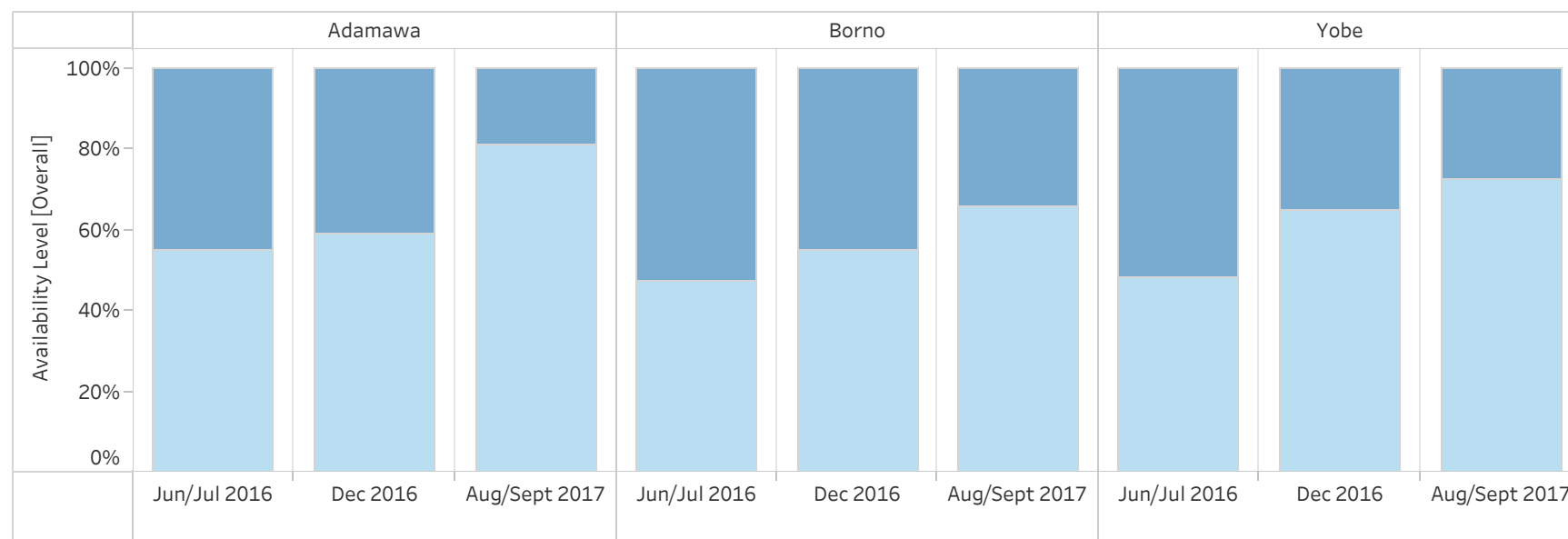


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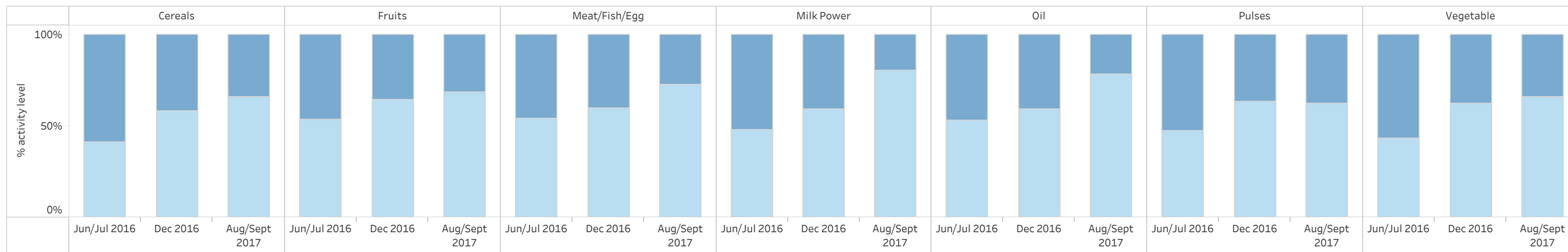
Figure 2: Market Availability by States



Similar to trends observed in December 2016, according to traders, the availability of different food commodities has increased across many markets. This trend was consistent across Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States. The increase in food availability was quite pronounced across markets in Adamawa State, with an increase of 22 percentage points reported between December 2016 and August/September 2017. A modest increase was observed for markets in Borno and Yobe States, with an increase of 11 percent points and 9 percent points, respectively, during the same period.

The modest increase of food availability in Borno and Yobe States can potentially be attributed to the return of displaced populations from capital cities of LGAs like Maiduguri to previously deserted LGA headquarters, which has contributed to the marginal increase in trade activities within such areas.

Figure 3: Food availability in markets of Northeastern Nigeria over time

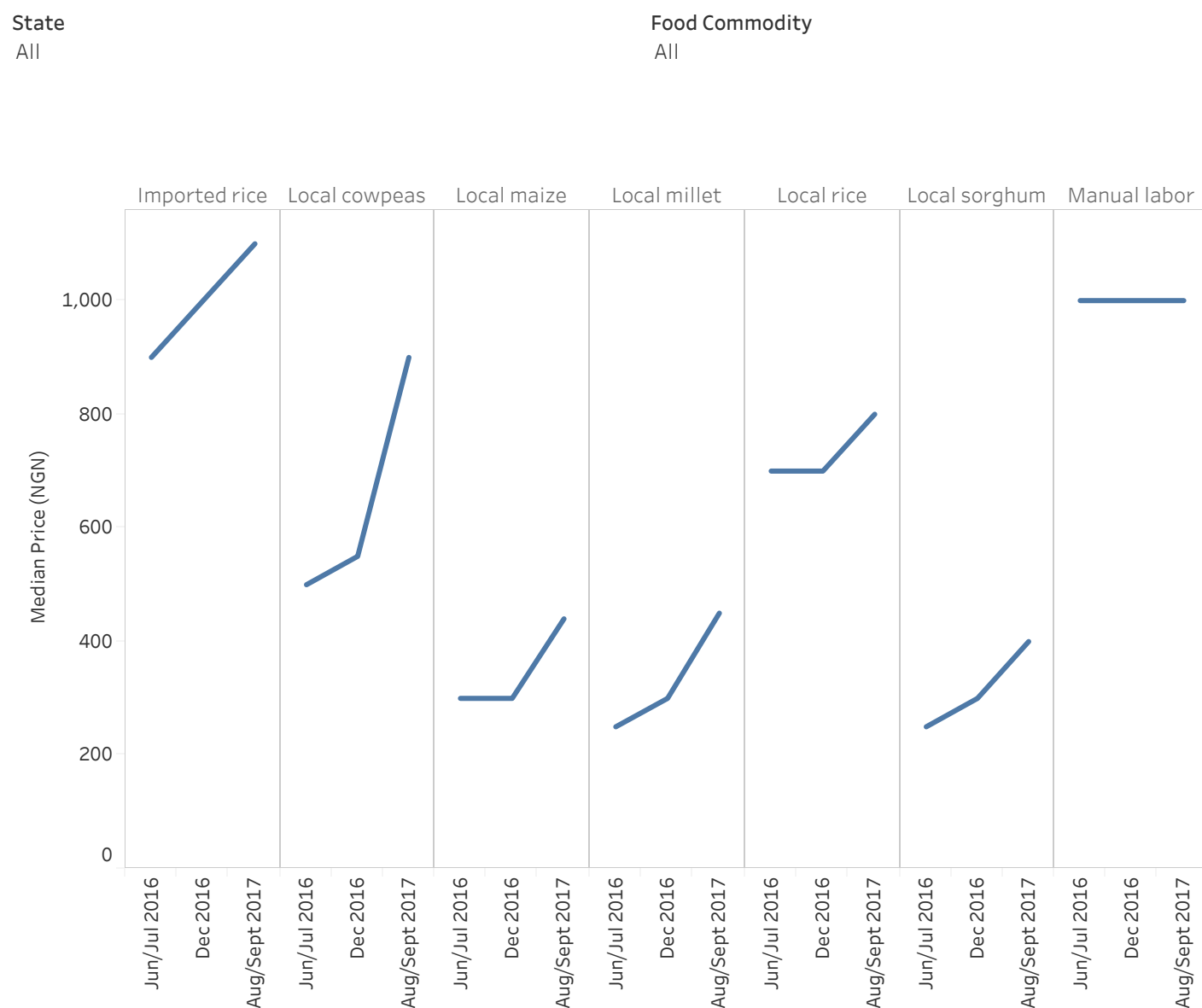


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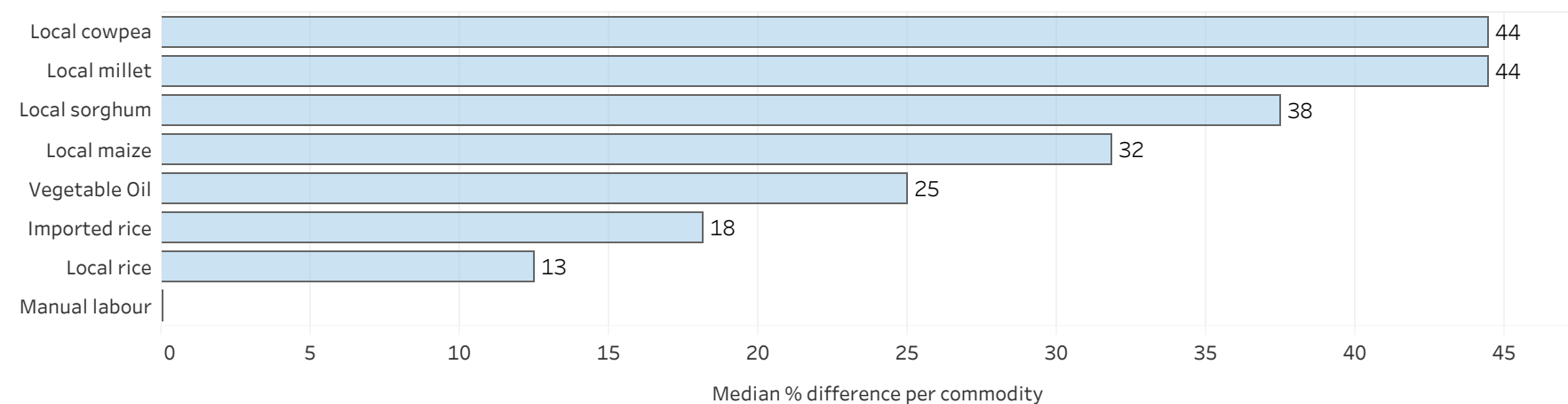
Figure 4: Prices of Food Commodities and Manual Labour (MEDIAN/NGN)



The prices of food commodities monitored across markets in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States have increased when compared to June/July 2016. This trend is consistent with findings from FEWS NET and WFP’s joint market monitoring bulletin from September 2017, where food prices were reported to be higher when compared to the previous year and the five year average (<https://goo.gl/YSJACW>). The price increases can likely be attributed to low levels of cultivation in LGAs that serve as major food baskets in Southern Borno (Akira-Uba and Damboa) and Southern Yobe (Gujba and Gulani) coupled with high insecurity and extended dry spells, which affected the production of crops like cowpeas and contributed to increased market dependency for food access (EFSA, September 2017)

The remuneration for manual labour in Borno and Yobe was constant at 1,000 naira between June/July 2016 and August/September 2017. However, manual labour remuneration in Adamawa increased by 20 percent between the same period which is potentially due to more involvement of people in such activity as a result of limited livelihood opportunities underscored by increased insecurity. For instance, recent reports of insurgent attacks within Madagali LGA led to internal displacement of people from affected communities like Bakin-Dutse and Ghumbili to safer areas like Gulak and Madagali communities.

Figure 5: Percentage Change in Prices (June/July 2016 and August/September 2017)



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