

WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME (WFP)

Burundi Food Security Monitoring System (FSMS)

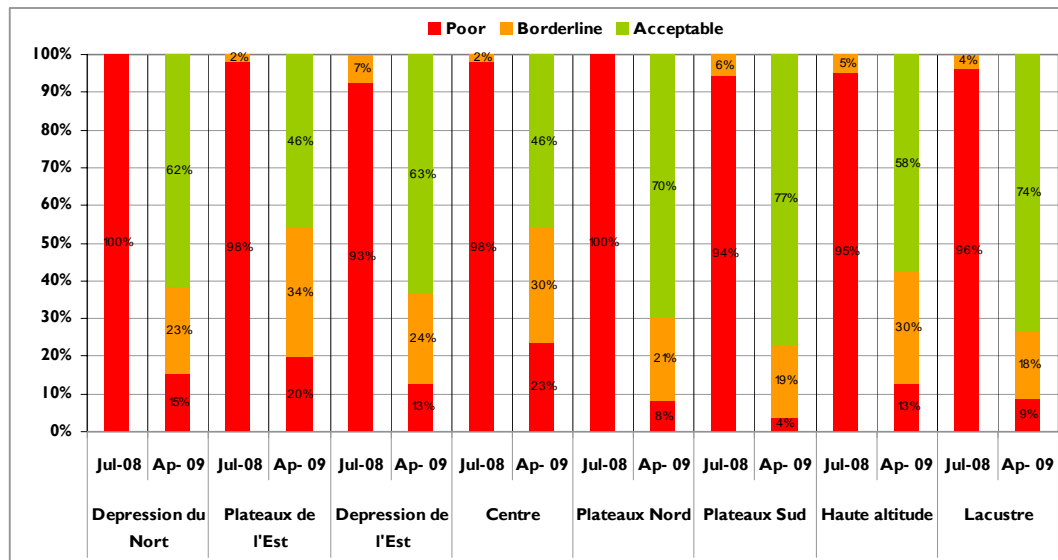
First Round Bulletin – April 2009

In general, the food security situation in several parts of Burundi based on the last round of food security monitoring system (FSMS) that took place in April 2009 has improved. This food security monitoring was carried out in eight (8) livelihood zones (see map at the end) namely; *Dépression Nord*, *Dépression Est*, *Plateau Nord*, *Plateau Est*, *Plateau Sud*, *Centre Haute*, *Altitude*, and *Lacustre*. Households in all zones have shown an improvement in food consumption patterns, a reduced coping strategy index in most areas meaning lower stress levels as well as increased reliance on their own production as a source of food which could be attributed to the improved production/harvest as well as declining/stable prices all leading to better food access for households. In this analysis comparisons are made with the results of Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analyses (CFSVA) data collected in July 2008. The sample of about 798 households for this FSMS was only based on those with the lowest food security status (poor and borderline consumption revealed in the 2008 CFSVA). This FSMS, similar to the results of the 2008 CFSVA, indicated that agriculture and related activities and casual labour/manual labour are still the main sources of income.

Household Food Consumption

The Food Consumption Score not only allows comparisons of frequency and diversity among populations but is also used to establish a threshold of dietary quality against which to compare these populations. Overall, more than 58% of sampled households were found to have acceptable consumption in April 2009 compared to 0% in July 2008. In the sample, the percent of households with poor food consumption (July 2008) was 97 percent and most have recorded a significant improvement in their consumption thus reduced to 15 percent during April 2009.

Households with borderline consumption have increased from 3% to 27%; however, this can be viewed as an improvement due to households shifting from their poor

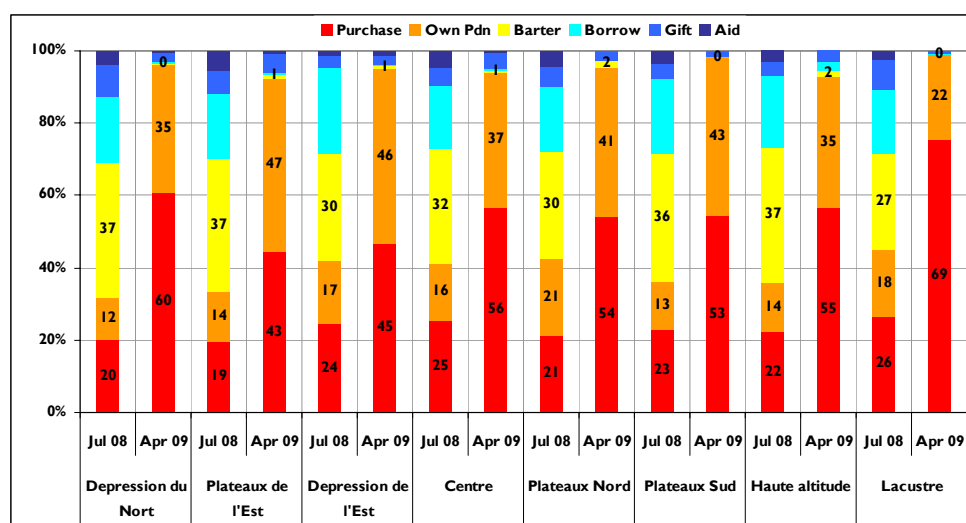


consumption towards a borderline consumption and those from borderline moving to good consumption. It should be noted that the sample for this FSMS only included households that had poor and borderline consumption as indicated by the 2008 CFSVA and hence no households with acceptable consumption were captured for monitoring. This remarkable improvement could be attributed to households still benefiting from their harvest. The graph illustrates the results of a food consumption analysis for each of the areas surveyed. *Dépression Nord* and *Plateau Nord* had no households with borderline consumption in 2008 but both have shown a remarkable improvement to over 60% with good consumption. Households with 'borderline' consumption are

eating the equivalent of cereals/tubers and vegetables 6 days a week; pulses and oils about 2 days per week in April 2009 as opposed to cereals/tubers and vegetables 3 days and pulses and oils once a week in July 2008. Those with 'poor' consumption managed to eat the equivalent of only cereals/tubers and vegetables 4 days a week with no meats and milk products reported. However, households with 'good' consumption were eating the equivalent of cereals/tubers, vegetables and oil 6 days a week and meat and pulses 4 days a week which are a major improvement as most zones did not report good consumption in July 2008. According to the 2008 CFSVA, food consumption was found to be a good proxy measure for household food security status and hence, this improvement in household food consumption means an improvement in their overall food security of the households studied???

Sources of Food

Looking at food sources, households in all zones showed an increased reliance of own production and purchase. Households relying on own production has increased from 23% in July 2008 to 53% in April 2009 implying that

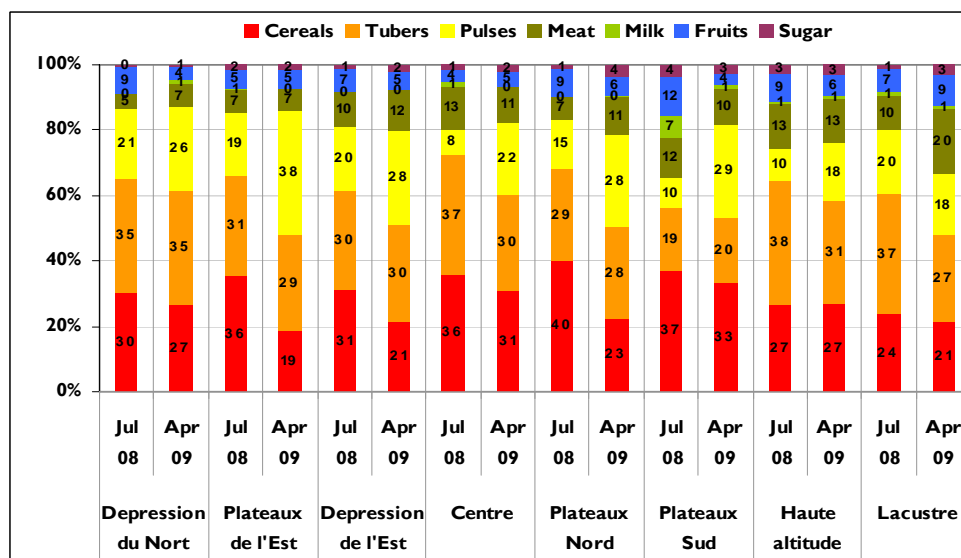


they could still be benefiting from their harvests. Reliance on purchase/market for food has also increased by 23% in the same period which is evidence that households may have more cash to purchase as most of their income is from agricultural activities most of which were still ongoing during

this period. In addition, reliance on barter, borrowing and gifts has decreased by 33%, 18% and 2% respectively. As seen in the graph above, households used several sources of food in July 2008 but these have reduced to mainly own production and the market meaning that they are not stretching to find food through various other sources such as gifts, borrowing, barter and aid. The biggest improvement is seen in Depression du Nord and Lacustre.

Household Food Expenditure

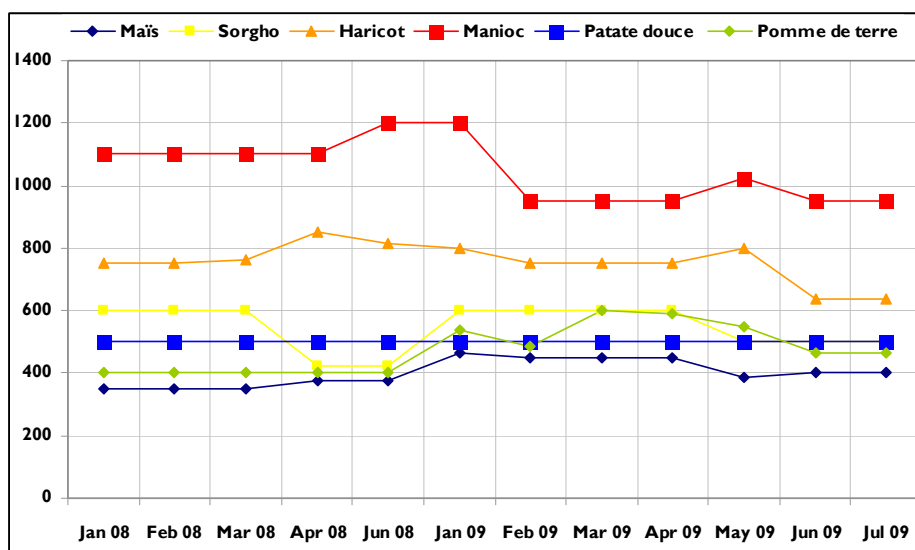
Percentage expenditure on specific food groups has reduced in all zones. This coincides with an increased reliance of households on their own production as a source of food. Most zones reported a decrease in percentage expenditure mainly on cereals and tubers; however, expenditure on pulses and meats has increased. This overall trend is also reflected in households' food consumption because



most of them reported increased consumption of these same food items/groups. Cereals and tubers are probably from own production/harvest while pulses and meat could be from the market. None the less, it should be noted that households are spending more in terms of actual cash on these food items. Analysis by food consumption groups shows that households with borderline consumption have the highest increase in percentage expenditure on tubers (13%) and pulses (13%). As reflected in the graph, above, the highest decrease in percentage expenditure on cereals is in Plateaux de l'Est and Plateaux Nord while the trend is similar for tubers and pulses in all zones.

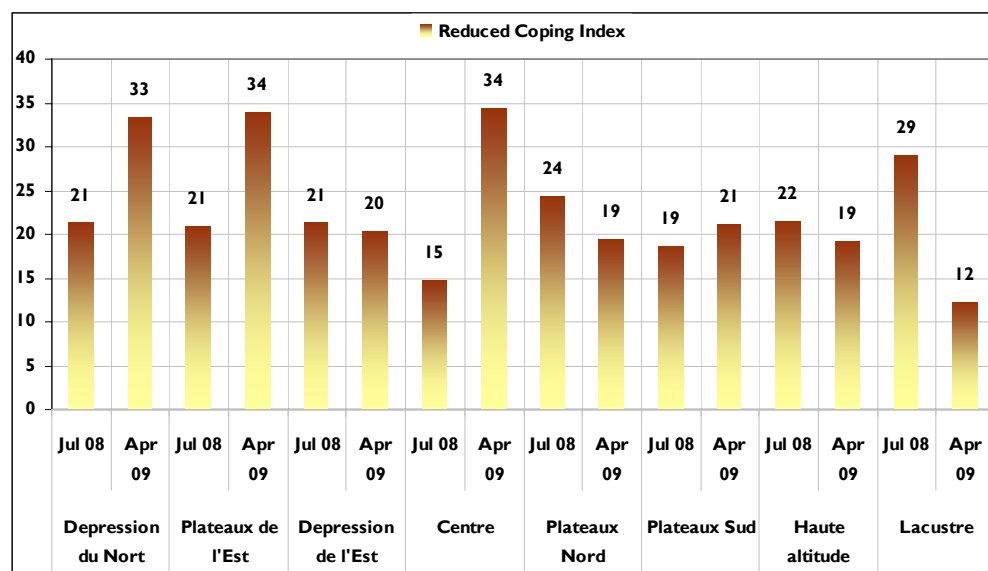
Market Prices

Analysis of market prices shows that prices of most food items were either reducing or stabilizing at the time of this monitoring. As seen in the graph, prices (covering only Bujumbura market) of manioc/cassava were much lower compared to the same period in 2008. In addition, prices of maize, sorghum and irish potatoes were declining between March and April 2009. As shown previously, households' percentage expenditure on cereals and tubers reduced in this period implying improved food access. Further more, the results of the Crop and Food Supply Assessment 2009 Season A shows good production/harvest of cereals and tubers compared to the same season in the previous year.



Coping and Shocks

The *Coping Strategies Index* (CSI) measures the frequency and severity of actions taken by households in response



perceived food shortage. A lower CSI score means less stress and potentially better food security. As shown in the graph, trends in CSI indicate a decrease between July 2008 to April 2009 across all zones with the exception of Depression du Nord, Plateaux de l'Est and Centre and plateau du sud. In addition, these zones also recorded a CSI higher than the average of 23 across all zones. The strategy reported by most households was reducing adult meals in order to benefit children.

In terms of shocks, overall, limited rainfall/drought (26%) and human illnesses (22%) were the most reported by households. Besides human diseases which were reported by more households in April 2009 than July 2008, all other shocks were reported less hence minimal effects of these shocks on households' food security. According to the household responses, drought was reported highest in Depression du Nord at 81%, while 80% of the households reported human diseases in Plateaux Nord. Other shocks widely reported by households were erosion and hailstorms which could be linked to heavy rainfall as this is the long wet season/Season B.

