

Key Points	Methodology	Food Consumption	Coping Strategies	In the words of the respondents	Contacts
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## Key Points



More than half of all households face challenges to have adequate diets due to the ongoing lean season and depleted food stocks, a situation precipitated by poor agricultural planting season in 2017 and limited access to farming lands and livelihood opportunities.



Poor food consumption is more pronounced in Yobe North, Yobe South and Borno South. Displaced households, female-headed households, and households lacking access to farming land are generally more affected given their heightened vulnerability.



Almost four in every five households have used one or more negative coping strategies to meet their food needs due to insufficient access to food or money to buy food.



Given the concerning rates of food insecurity, there is a need to continue ongoing food assistance, as well as strengthen livelihood support. Many households who predominantly practice subsistence farming request support with agricultural inputs.



Photo: WFP/Amadou Beraze

## Situation Update

The humanitarian crisis in northeast Nigeria continues with civilians bearing the brunt of a conflict that has resulted in widespread displacement, destruction of infrastructure, and a near-collapse of basic social services. As many as 1.7 million people remain internally displaced in the most affected northeast states of Borno, Yobe and Adamawa (BYA), of which over 80 percent are in Borno State [1]. Recently, the number of displaced has declined by about 5 percent compared to previous months, largely due to voluntary or government-induced return of internally displaced persons (IDPs) to their place of origin to look for better livelihood opportunities.

The last round of mVAM in August 2017, which was conducted during the lean season, found that the number of households with inadequate diets remained constant between January/February and August/September 2017, in spite of declines in food availability and access which was linked to high food prices, and depletion of households' stocks during the lean season [2]. The preservation of the food security situation last year was partly attributable to improved security conditions, scale-up of humanitarian food, nutrition and livelihoods assistance and initial market and trade recovery in some areas of the northeast.

### Sources

[1] Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Round XXII, April 2018.

<https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/01%20DTM%20Nigeria%20Round%20XXII%20Report%20April%202018.pdf>

[2] Nigeria mVAM Bulletin #8, August 2017. <http://dataviz.vam.wfp.org/nigeria-mvam-bulletin-08-sep-2017>

## Nigeria | July 2018

mVAM Bulletin #09: In the peak of this lean season, conflict-affected households in the northeast are facing difficulties meeting their food needs due to reduced food stocks, high food prices and limited livelihood opportunities.

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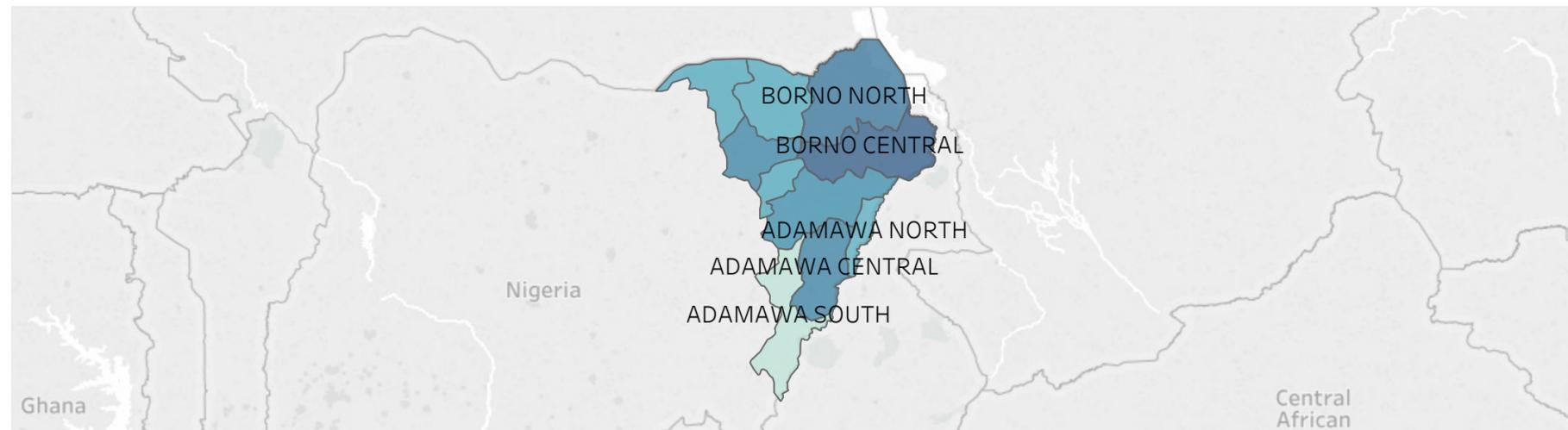
In Nigeria, remote food security monitoring (mVAM) rounds using live calls to households were previously conducted twice a year. However, in order to more closely monitor and analyse changes in the food security situation across northeast Nigeria, starting July 2018, mVAM in Nigeria has shifted to a monthly remote data collection system. This round of mVAM took place between 13th to 30th July 2018. The sample frame for the interviewed households was drawn from 13,413 phone numbers collected during the February and September 2017 Emergency Food Security Assessments (EFSA). In total, 1,135 households consented to participate and were successfully contacted in July 2018 round of mVAM.

When interpreting this data, it is important to consider that respondents to mobile surveys are often likely to be younger, more educated, and located in more urban areas. As such, the data is not necessarily representative of the larger population, and readers should note these limitations when interpreting figures and trends. Additionally, findings from this round are not easily comparable to those from previous rounds due to methodological differences (sample frame, sample size, geographic weights and seasonality). Rather than historical comparisons, the results from this month will mark the beginning of month-to-month trend analysis that will provide valuable insight into the evolution of food security in the area.

In this report, figures can be filtered by geographic location, residence status, sex of the head of household and agricultural practice. Due to a smaller sample size, findings from this round are presented at the senatorial level as opposed to local government areas (LGA) level and as such are not comparable to the last round of mVAM in August/September 2017. Additional general methodological information is available online at [http://vam.wfp.org/sites/mvam\\_monitoring/read\\_me\\_nigeria.pdf](http://vam.wfp.org/sites/mvam_monitoring/read_me_nigeria.pdf) and specific information about this round can be found in the notes section published next to this report.

Note: Select a Senatorial Zone on map to filter demographic information. Press the ESC key to select all areas.

Map 1: Number of Responses by LGA, July, 2018



**Households Surveyed**  
1,128



**Displacement**  
35% Displaced 65% Resident



**Head of Household**  
10% Female 90% Male

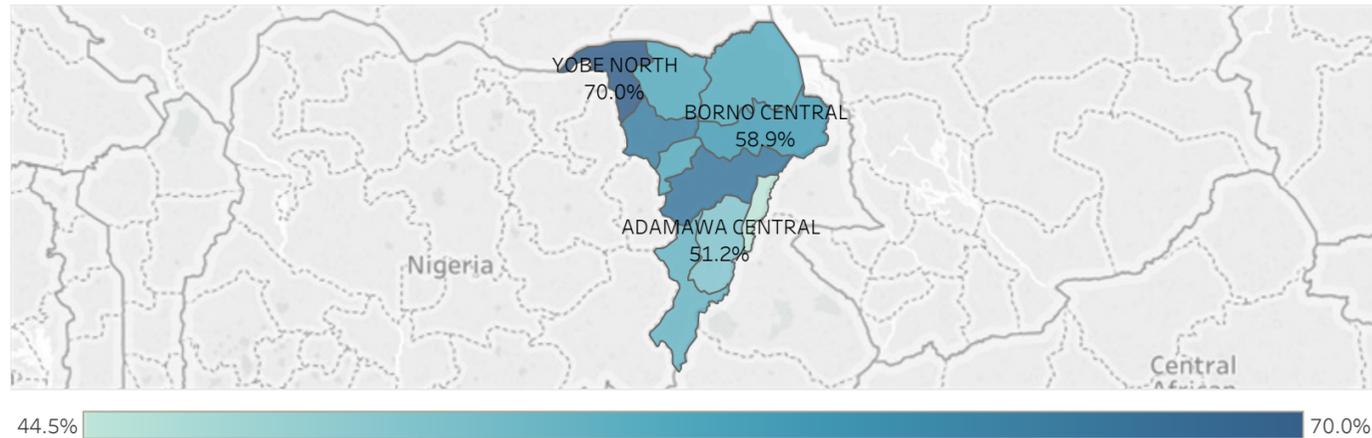


**Agricultural Practice**  
70.72% Yes 20.50% No 8.78% No Land Access

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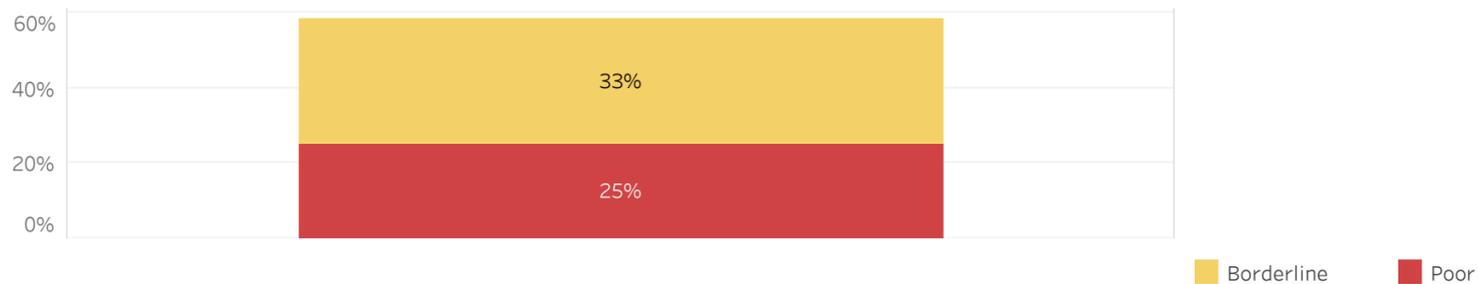
**Limited food stocks, high food prices and limited access to income sources, have left over half of households across Borno, Yobe and Adamawa with inadequate diets**

Map 2: Proportion of Households with Poor and Borderline Food Consumption by Senatorial Zone, July 2018



Note: Select a Senatorial Zone on map to filter results in Figure 1. Press the ESC key to select all areas.

Figure 1: Overall proportion of Households with Poor and Borderline Food Consumption

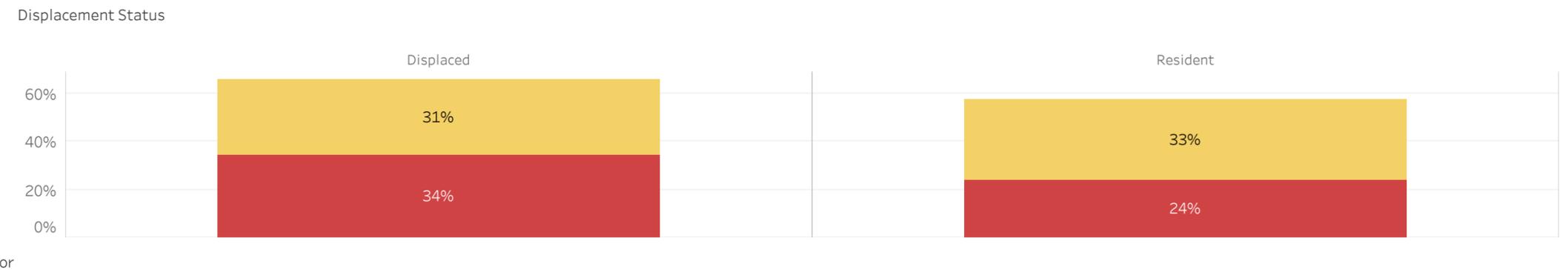


Round 7 was conducted during the peak of the lean-season, a time historically characterized by limited food availability and declining household food stocks. This situation is compounded by ongoing insecurity, which limits access to farming land and livelihood opportunities.

In July, over half of the households surveyed had inadequate diets. Households with inadequate diets were most common in Yobe North (70.0 percent), Yobe South (63.9 percent) and Borno South (65.5 percent). Households that cultivated during the 2017 planting season, particularly in the northern areas of Yobe and Borno, reported poor harvests as a result of prolonged dry spells (Map 2).

Moreover, the prevalence of households with inadequate diets was higher among displaced households, female-headed households or households lacking access to farming land and not involved in agriculture (Figure 2 below).

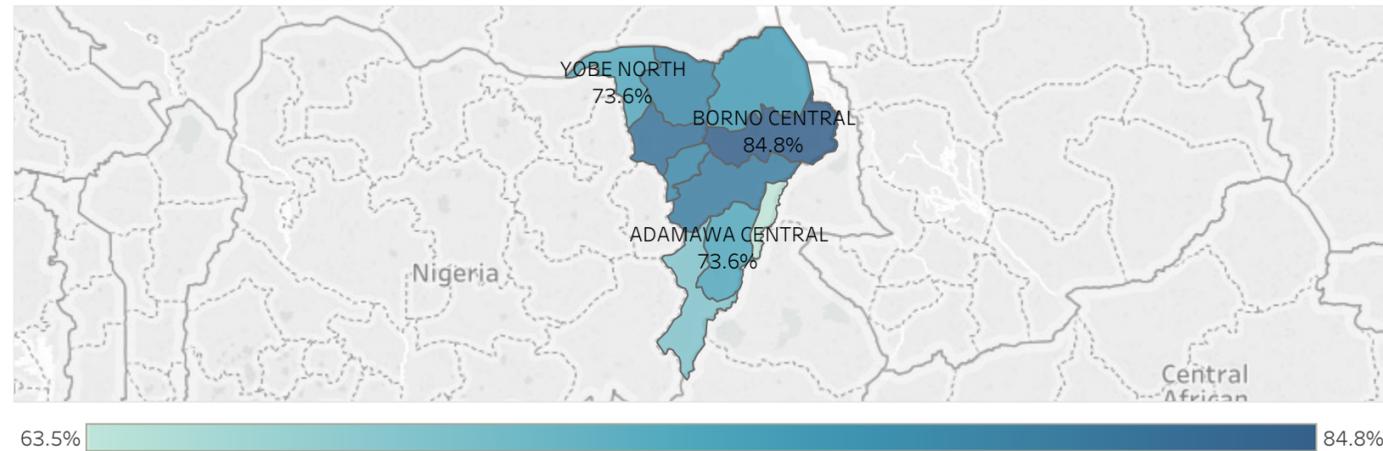
Figure 2: Proportion of Households with Poor and Borderline Food Consumption by Demography and Agricultural Practice: [Use filter below to change]



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**Reliance on negative coping strategies to meet food needs remains high**

Map 3: Proportion of Households using Coping Strategies by Senatorial Zone, July 2018



During the assessment, respondents were asked if they were employing negative coping strategies to meet their food needs when they have insufficient food or money to buy food.

Overall, 76 percent of the surveyed households have used one or more coping strategies to bridge food gaps and meet their food needs (Figure 2). The use of severe coping strategies such as reduction in the number of meals or of portion sizes were widely reported. Households in Borno Central, Borno South and Yobe South are more prone to deploy such strategies as illustrated in Map 3. Displaced households, most of which often have limited assets, were more likely to use negative coping strategies to meet their food needs compared to permanent residents: 87 percent of IDP households consented that they did not have enough food or money to buy food compared to 75 percent of permanent resident households.

Considering that the lean season is likely to continue for at least another month and that households in the surveyed areas are already heavily reliant on negative coping strategies (76% overall), it will be necessary to sustain humanitarian and livelihood support to avoid excessive or continued reliance on such strategies, which can deepen the level of level of vulnerability of affected households.

Note: Select a Senatorial Zone on map to filter results in Figure 3. Press the ESC key to select all areas.

Figure 3: Proportion of Households Using Coping Strategies by Type

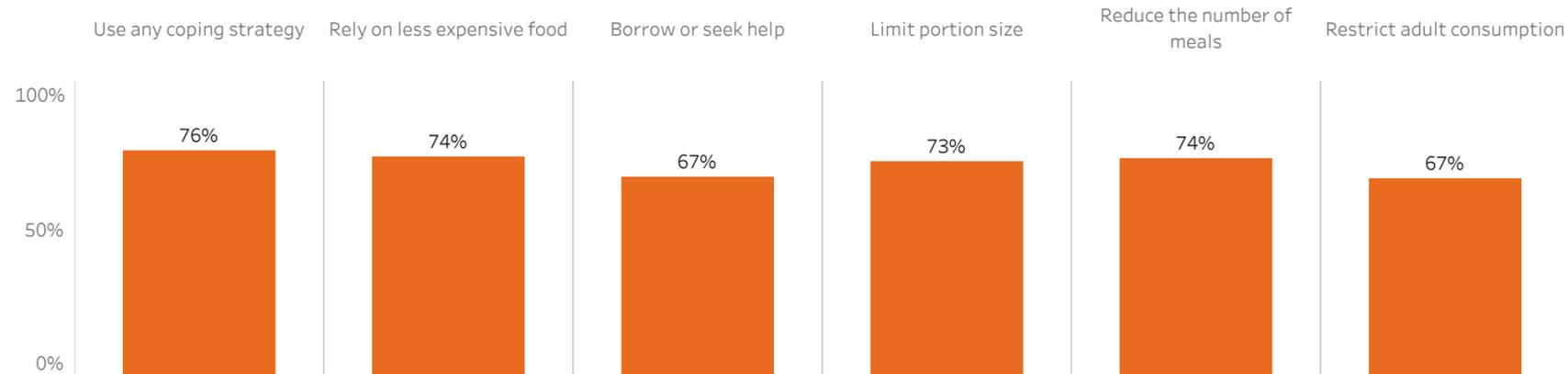


Figure 4: Proportion of Households with Insufficient Food by Demography and Agricultural Practice: [Use filter below to change]



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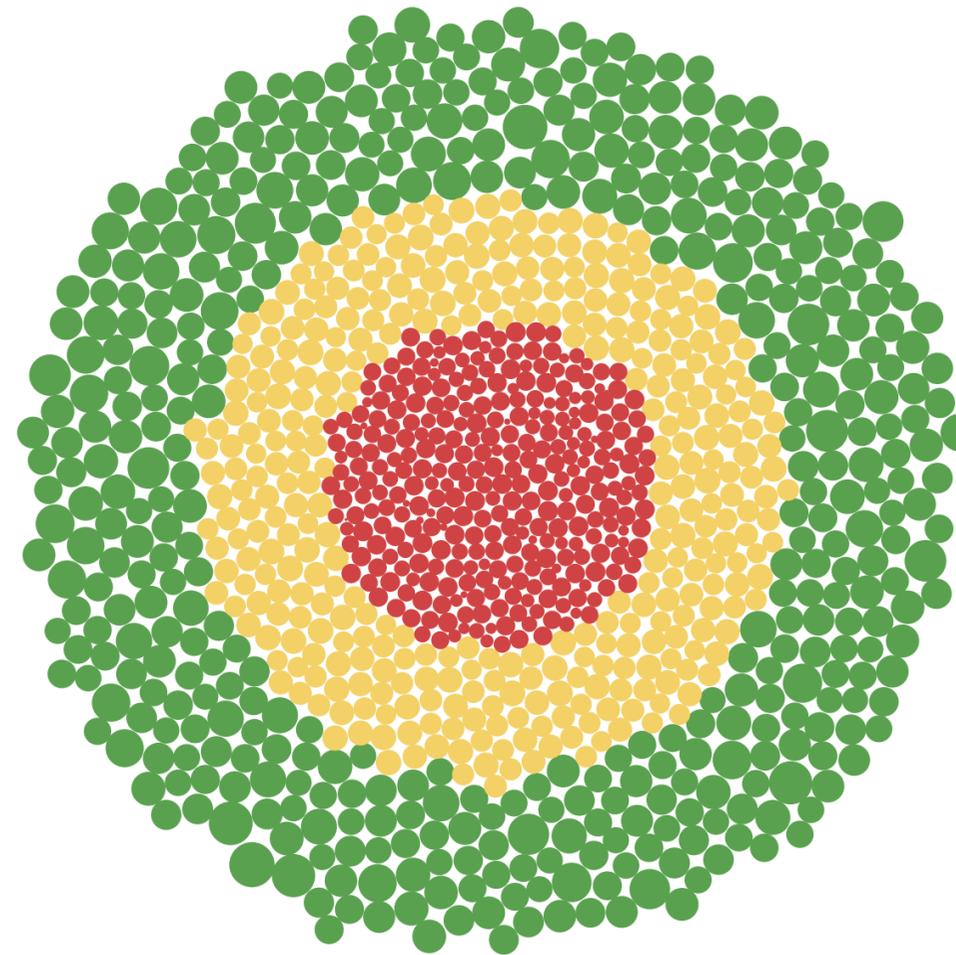
**Households reported high food prices, food scarcity and limited access to farmland and request agricultural support**

At the end of the questionnaire, respondents were asked to describe the food security situation and to provide suggestions to improve food security in their community. Respondents reported high food prices, food scarcity and limited access to farming inputs and land as key concerns. Households that practice agriculture tend to be involved in subsistence farming and reported that produce is barely sufficient to sustain their food needs. Although ongoing food assistance was mentioned as a key food source, households also requested agricultural support (inputs, seeds, fertilizers) from government and humanitarian actors.

A few responses from households include:

- “Generally, food is very costly and not affordable.”
- “There is no food, we are just managing, people do not have access to their farm”
- “My community is based on farming, people are farming for eating purpose, not for selling”
- “There is no food, we get food from NGOs like WFP, Red Cross and we need more”
- “Government should help with farm materials such as seeds and fertilizer”

**Note:** \* Individual responses can be viewed by hovering over the circles in the graphic below.  
 \* Responses can also be filtered by food consumption levels (acceptable, borderline and poor), key words or certain socio-demographic variables.



**Food Consumption Group**  
■ Poor    ■ Borderline    ■ Acceptable

**Filters**

**Gender of Head of Household**



**Displacement Status**



**By State**

All

**By Senatorial Zone**

All

**Keyword Search**

Food Security

All

Suggestions to Improve Food Security

All

## Nigeria | July 2018

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### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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### RESOURCES

**mVAM Monitoring web:**  
[http://vam.wfp.org/sites/mvam\\_monitoring/](http://vam.wfp.org/sites/mvam_monitoring/)

**VAM Resource Centre**  
<http://resources.vam.wfp.org/mvam>

**Blog**  
<http://mvam.org/>

**Twitter**  
<https://twitter.com/mobileVAM>

