

Nigeria | August 2018

mVAM Bulltin #10: While food consumption improved in most areas likely due to the festivities - Id El Kabir, conflict-affected households in the northeast continue to remain vulnerable.

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



Compared to July 2018, food consumption improved in most of the areas, except for Southern and Northern Adamawa. Improvements could be attributed to early green harvests, ongoing humanitarian assistance and Id El Kabir festivities.



There was a reduction in the percentage of households with poor food consumption among male-headed households, displaced and non-displaced households, and farming and non-farming households alike; only female-headed households did not see the same reduction.



In August 2018, 78 percent of households continued to rely on negative coping strategies, with displaced and female-headed households having particularly high levels of coping.



While the improved food consumption is encouraging, the continued high usage of negative coping strategies necessitates ongoing food and livelihood assistance, as well as close monitoring of the evolution of the food security situation during the upcoming harvest from October 2018



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 July 2018, which was conducted at the peak of the lean season, revealed concerning rates of poor food consumption and coping strategy usage, which was precipitated by poor agricultural campaign in 2017 and further aggravated by limited access to farming lands and reduced livelihood opportunities due to conflict. The same report recommended that ongoing food assistance and livelihood support be continued and strengthened due to the high rates of food insecurity.

Source: [Displacement Tracking Matrix, August 2018](#) [1]

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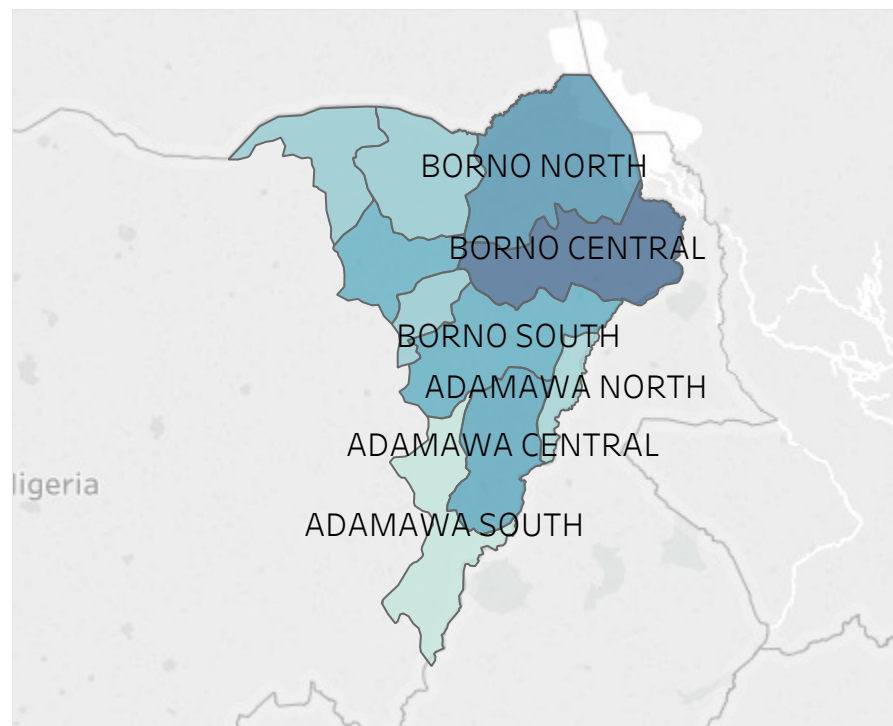
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In Nigeria, remote food security monitoring (mVAM) rounds using live calls to households were previously conducted twice a year. However, in order to more closely monitor and analyse changes in the food security situation across northeast Nigeria, starting July 2018, mVAM in Nigeria has shifted to a monthly remote data collection system. The 8th round of the mVAM, which marked the 2nd round of the monthly mVAM of remote household food security monitoring using live calls, took place in August 2018. The sample frame for the interviewed households was drawn from 13,413 phone numbers collected during the February and September 2017 rounds of the Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA). In all, a total of 1,150 households consented to participate and were successfully contacted in August 2018 round of mVAM.

While 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. Results from this month, which are presented at the senatorial level, were compared to the previous round in July 2018 to gain an ongoing insights into the evolution of food security trends. In this report, figures are presented and can be filtered by geographic location, residence status, sex of the head of household and agricultural practice. Additional methodological information including the questionnaire is available online at http://vam.wfp.org/sites/mvam_monitoring/read_me_nigeria.pdf

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, August 2018



Households Surveyed

1,150



Displacement

39% Displaced Households 61% Non Displaced Households



Head of Household

11% Female 89% Male



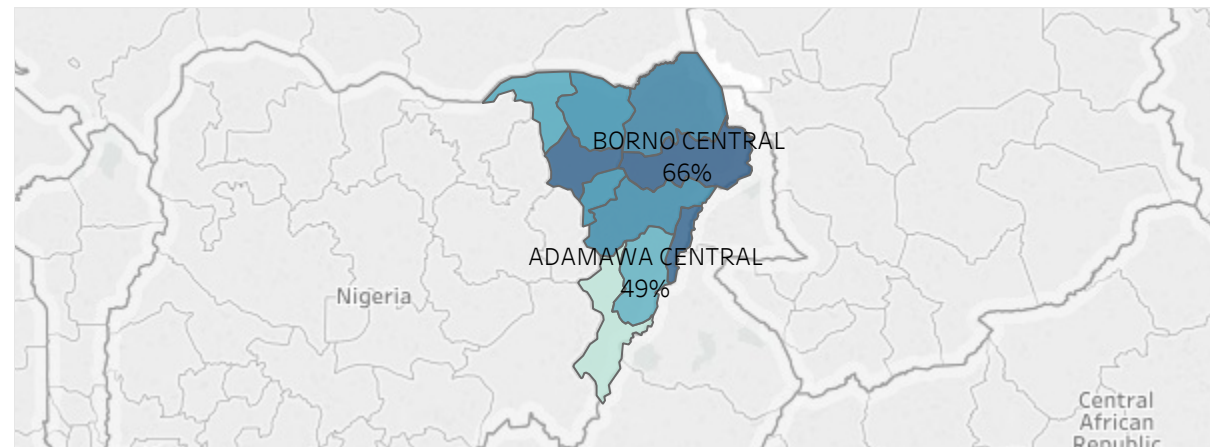
Agricultural Practice

65% Yes 27% No 7% No Land Access

Key Points	Methodology	Food Consumption	Coping Strategies	In the words of the respondents	Contacts
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Early green harvests, ongoing humanitarian assistance and Id El Kabir festivities may have contributed to the improvements in food consumption in most areas except for Northern and Southern parts of Adamawa State

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



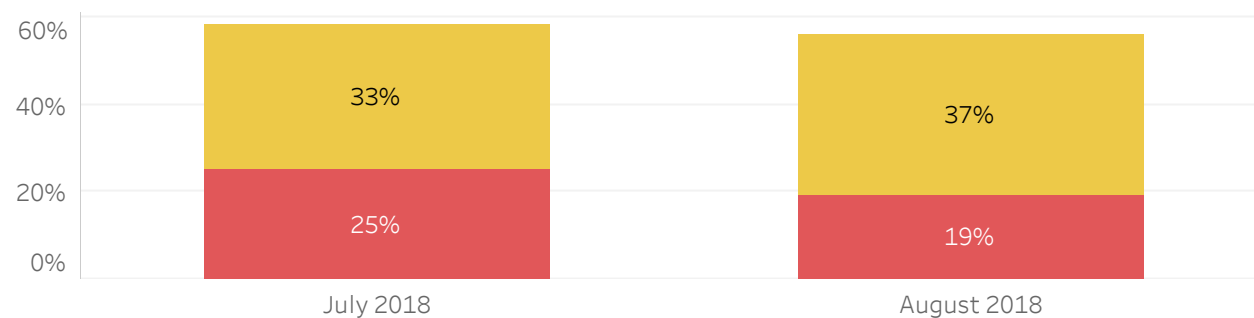
In August 2018, a reduction in the proportion of households with poor diets has been observed in most of the areas covered except for Southern Adamawa where the proportion of households with poor diets remained high but stable, and in Northern Adamawa where the proportion of households with poor diets increased. There have been reports of early green harvest for some grains such as maize, groundnut and millet in some areas of Gombe and Taraba (FEWSNET, 2018), which has enhanced availability of stocks in the markets and at the household levels, especially in Yobe state. Moreover, the humanitarian assistance by the government and humanitarian actors coupled with the Id El Kabir festivity positively impacted the food security situation. The increased prevalence of households with poor diets observed in Northern Adamawa may be attributed to the ongoing conflict between farmers and pastoralist and the ongoing flooding that have led to displacement of communities.

Similar to trends observed for most areas, there is a reduction in the proportion of displaced and non-displaced households with poor diets. Between July and August 2018, a decrease in the proportion of households with poor diets was also observed among male headed households (-7%), households involved in farming (-7%), and those not involved in farming (-9%). However, the prevalence of poor consumption of diets remained constant among female headed households.

Source: [FEWSNET's Food Security Outlook Update, August, 2018](#)

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

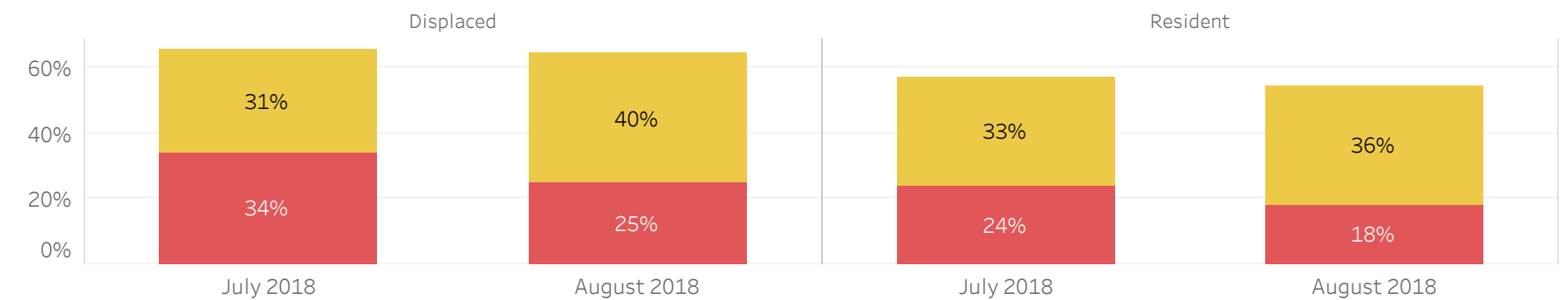
Figure 1: Overall proportion of Households with Poor and Borderline Food Consumption



■ Borderline ■ Poor

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

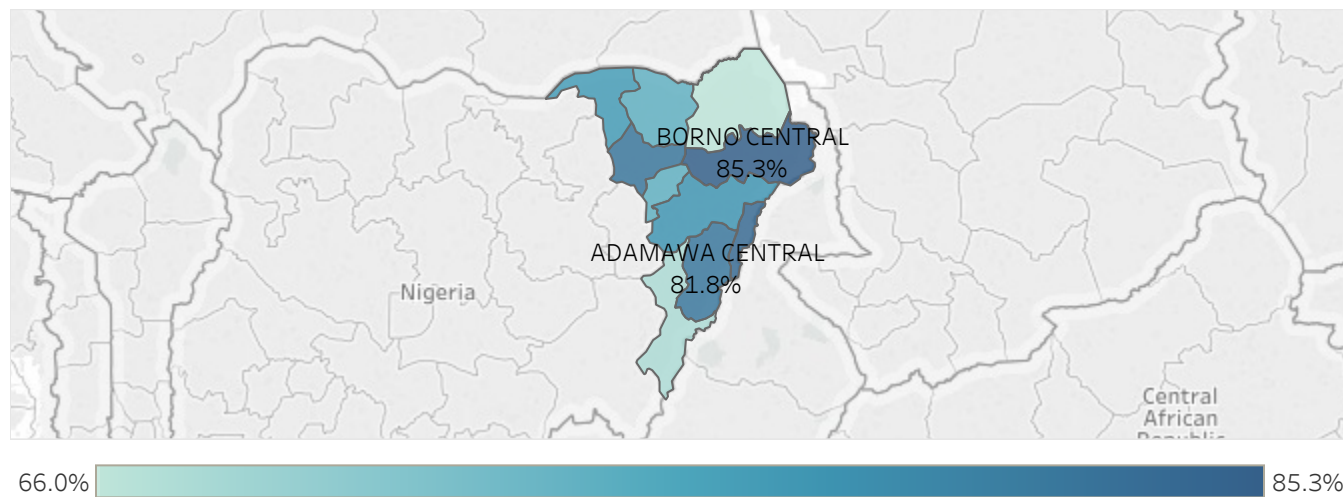
Displacement Status



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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, August 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. In August 2018, about the same proportion of the surveyed households has used one or more coping strategies to meet their food needs compared to July 2018 (Figure 2), except in Adamawa North and Adamawa Central (Map 3) where there was a significant increase in the usage of coping strategies. Similar to findings in July 2018, the most used coping strategies were reliance on less expensive or less preferred food and reduction in the number of meals or portion size.

A higher proportion of displaced households continues to employ negative coping strategies to meet their food needs compared to permanent residents. While the usage of coping strategies among male-headed households remains constant, there was an increased usage of coping strategies among female-headed households – about 86 percent of female-headed households used one or more coping strategies to meet their food needs in August 2018 compared to 75 percent in July 2018.

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

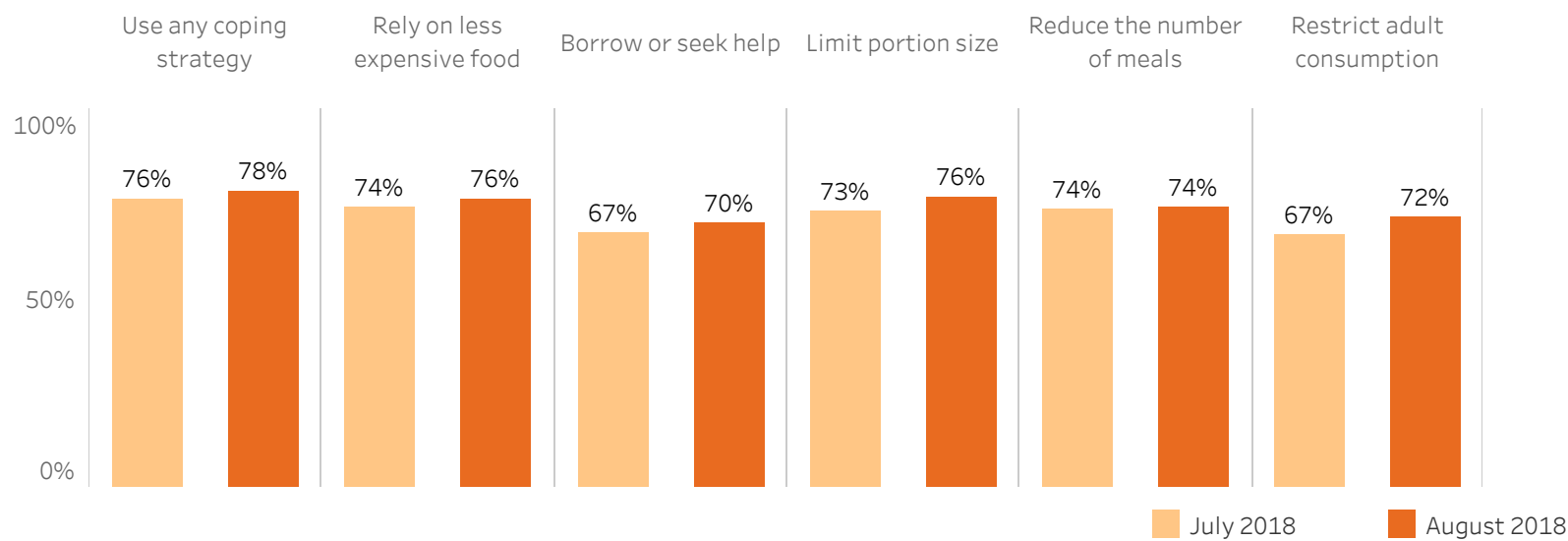
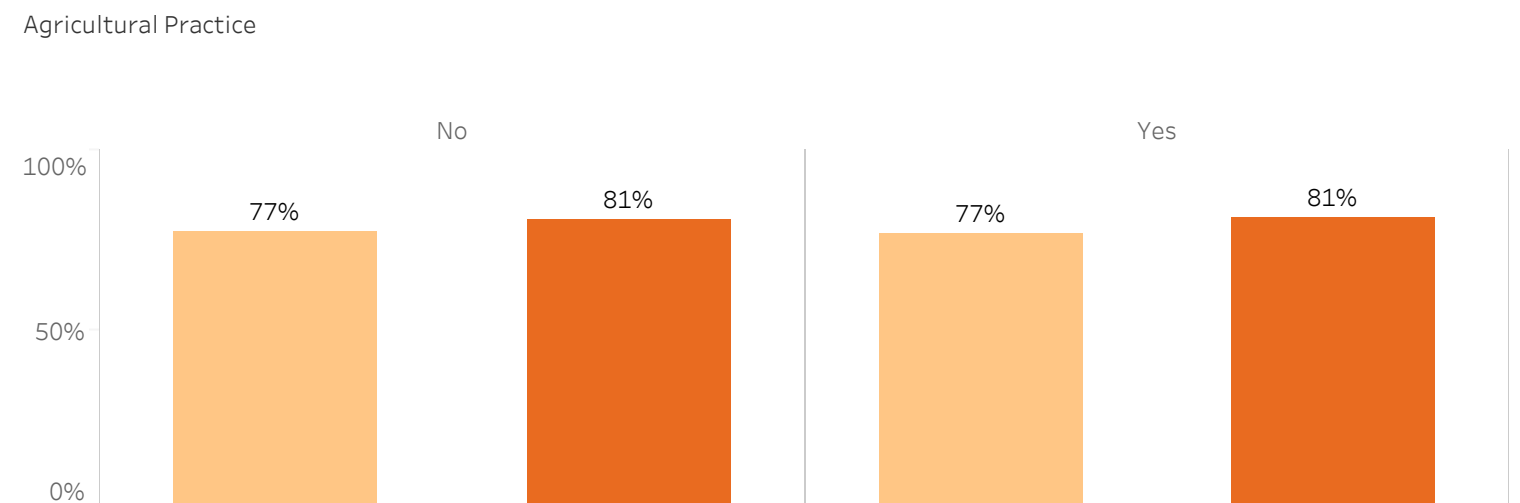


Figure 4: Proportion of Households with Insufficient Food by Demography and Agricultural Practice: [Use filter below to change]



Key Points	Methodology	Food Consumption	Coping Strategies	In the words of the respondents	Contacts
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High food prices, food scarcity and limited access to farmland remains a challenge among displaced households and host communities

At the end of the questionnaire, respondents were asked to describe the food security situation and suggestions to improve food security in their community. Key concerns highlighted by respondents relate to high food prices, food scarcity and limited access to land for cultivation and quality farming inputs. Practice of subsistence farming remains common place amongst households with land access and there is continued reliance on food assistance among vulnerable households in both camps and host communities. Similar to July 2018, households continue to indicate their desire for support with agricultural inputs (seeds, fertilizers and pesticides) from government and humanitarian actors.

A few responses from households include:

“It’s hard to get enough food because the food is very expensive and there is no money to buy much.”

“We don’t have enough land to farm, only a few people that have can farm”

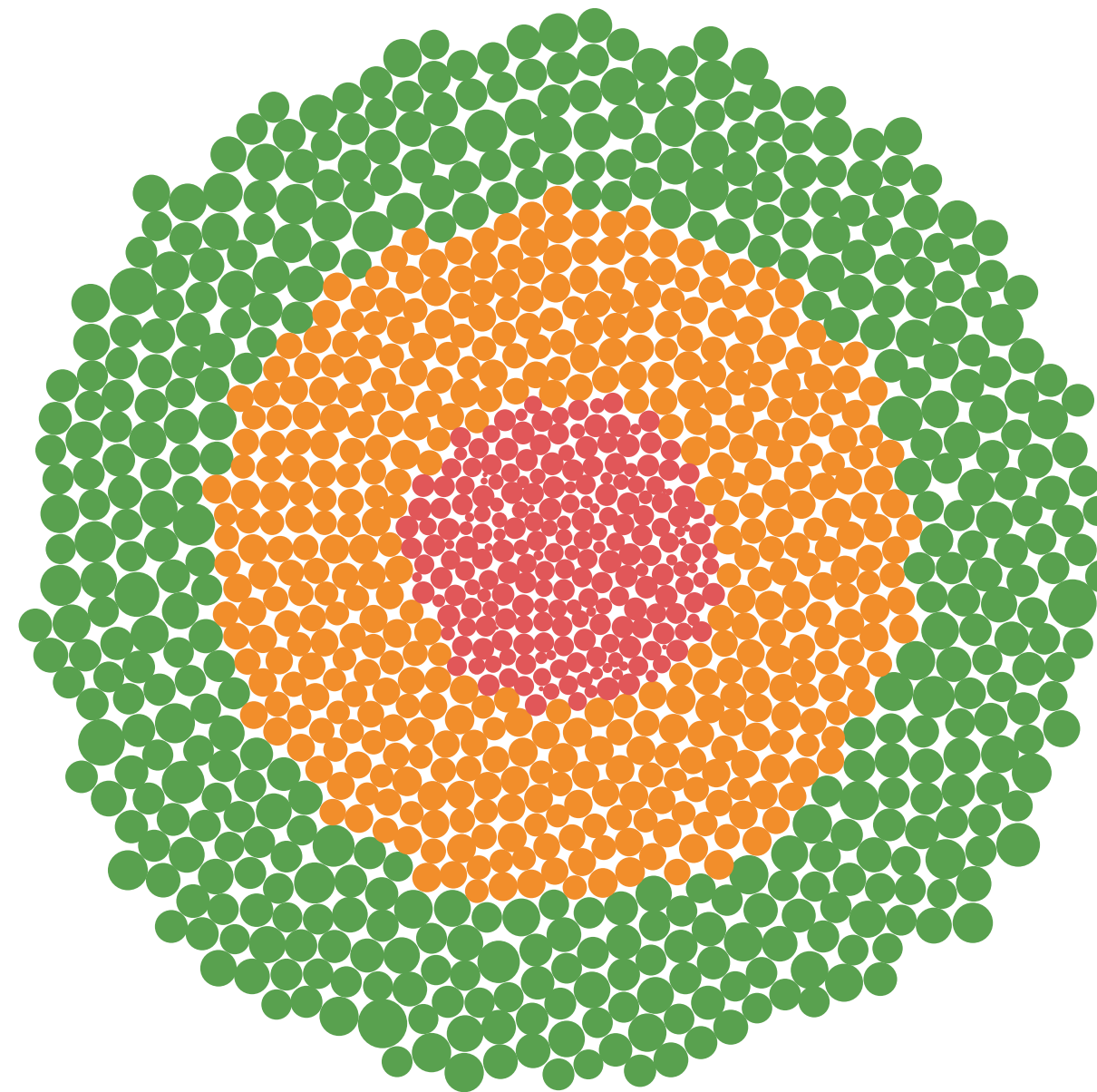
“Most of us have small farms that we plant food items to help ourselves”

“We can not access food easily from the camp....We are just dependent on what we get...sometimes we go out and work to get paid”

“We need urgent help from Government to support our farmers with more land, seed 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

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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RESOURCES

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