

Nigeria | September 2018

mVAM Bulletin #11: While the onset of the harvest helped to improve food consumption and reduce prices, the ongoing conflicts and flooding continue to impinge on livelihoods, hamper access to land, and drive food insecurity in parts of the northeast.

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



Early green harvests and the ongoing humanitarian assistance contributed to improvements in food consumption in most of the areas in the northeast except Southern Adamawa where floods and communal conflict between farmers and herders induced losses of crops and limited access to farming and grazing lands



The proportion of households with poor food consumption among all socio-demographic groups (male-headed and female-headed households, displaced and non-displaced households, and farming and non-farming households) continued to decline for the second month in a row.



There was a significant reduction in the proportion of households that rely on negative coping strategies to meet their food needs in September 2018 compared to August 2018, which marked the peak of the lean season.



Despite the observed improvements, there is a need to sustain ongoing food and livelihood assistance for those that are fully dependent on humanitarian assistance in order to prevent deterioration of their food security condition



Photo: WFP/INGERMARIE VENNIZE

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 previous round of mVAM in August 2018, conducted at the peak of the lean season and onset of early green harvests, revealed that food consumption improved compared to July 2018, in most of the areas, except for Southern and Northern Adamawa. The improvements recorded were attributed to early green harvests, ongoing humanitarian assistance and Id El Kabir festivities. The same report recommended close monitoring of the evolution of the food security situation during the upcoming harvest from October 2018 and beyond.

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

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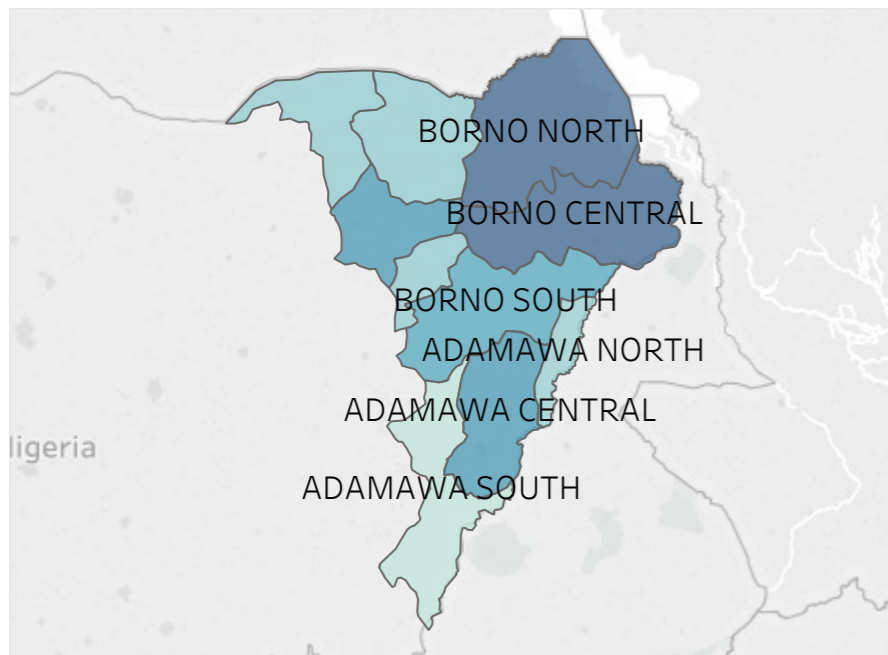
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In Nigeria, remote food security monitoring (mVAM) rounds using live calls to households were previously conducted twice a year. However, in order to more closely monitor and analyse changes in the food security situation across northeast Nigeria, starting July 2018, mVAM in Nigeria has shifted to a monthly remote data collection system. The 9th round of the mVAM, which marked the 3rd round of the monthly mVAM of remote household food security monitoring using live calls, took place in September 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 1,200 households consented to participate and were successfully contacted in September 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 and August 2018 to gain 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, September 2018



Households Surveyed

1,200



Displacement

38% Displaced Households 62% Non Displaced Households



Head of Household

8% Female 92% Male



Agricultural Practice

69% Yes 29% No 2% No Land Access

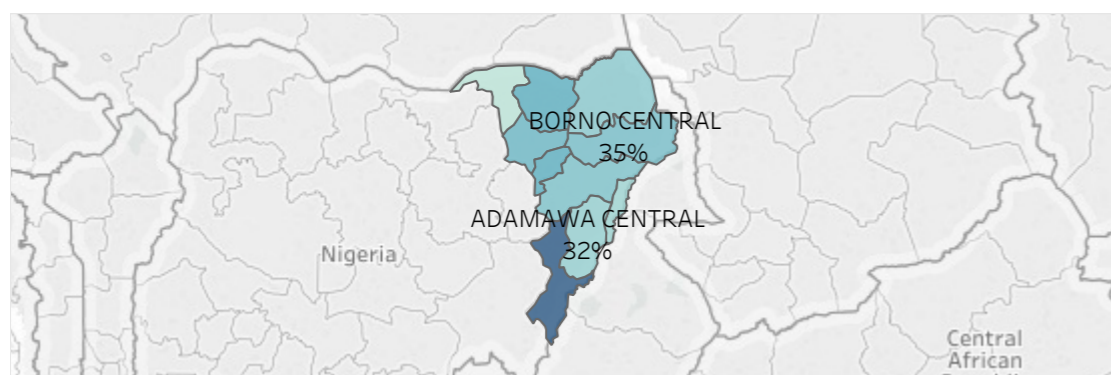
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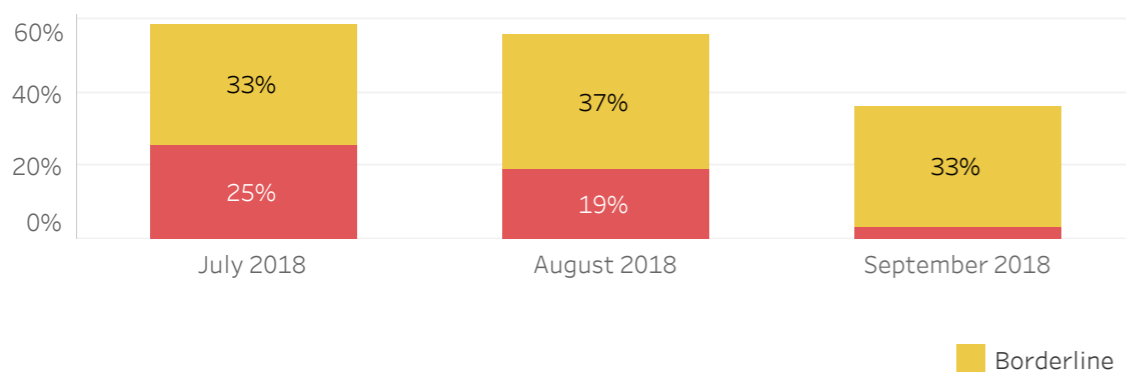
Early green harvests and the ongoing humanitarian assistance helped improve food consumption in most areas except Southern Adamawa

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



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

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



In September 2018, the proportion of households with poor diets continued to steadily decline in most areas compared to August and July 2018, except for Southern Adamawa where the proportion of households with poor diets increased due to communal conflict between farmers and herders, flooding, and the resulting displacement of households.

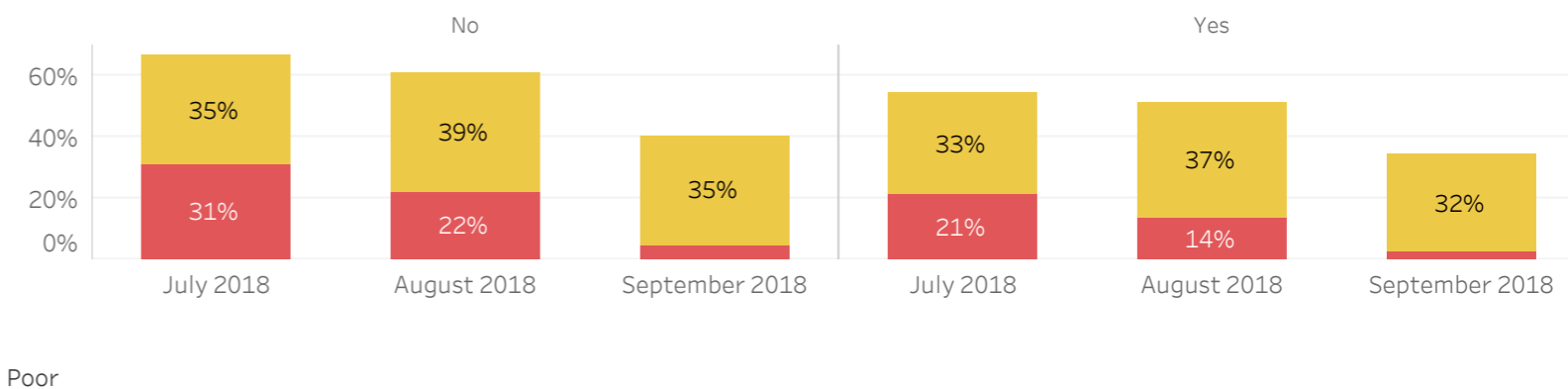
Early green harvests of key staples such as maize and millet coupled with prospects of favourable harvest from the ongoing planting season have encouraged traders to dispose of old stocks into the markets (WFP, 2018). This enhanced availability and reduced prices of food stocks in the markets, which increased food access and availability at the household level. The consumption of adequate diets during the current lean season was further supported by the ongoing food assistance from the government and humanitarian actors. In September 2018, according to the Food Security sector data, of the 3.6 million people assisted with food and or agricultural and livelihood support in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa, 2.9 million people were in Borno. The food and livelihood assistance continues to have a positive impact on the food security situation in much of the North East.

Similar to trends observed in August 2018, there was a general reduction in the proportion of displaced and non-displaced households with poor diets. In September 2018, female headed households and non-farming households were found to be more vulnerable, with a greater share of such households having poor diets (10 and 5 percent respectively) compared to male headed and farming counterparts (2 percent ..

Source: [WFP's Borno and Yobe States Market Monitoring Bulletin, September 2018](#)

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

Agricultural Practice



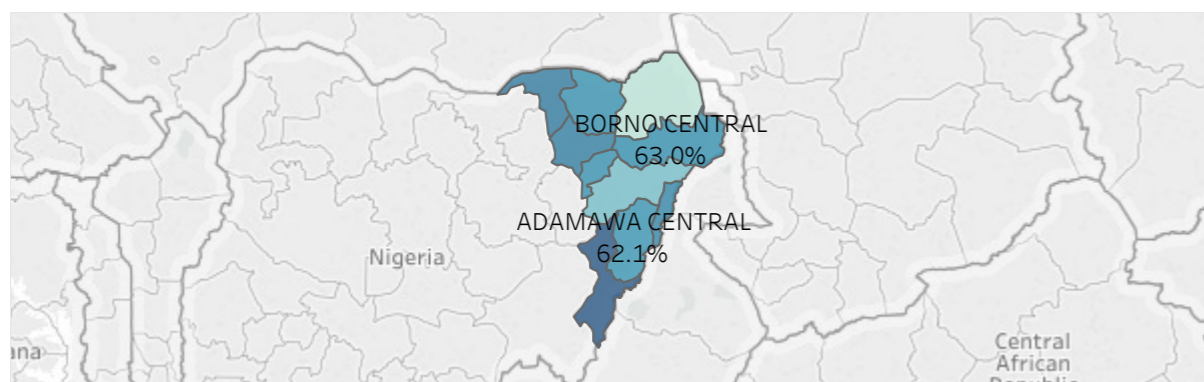
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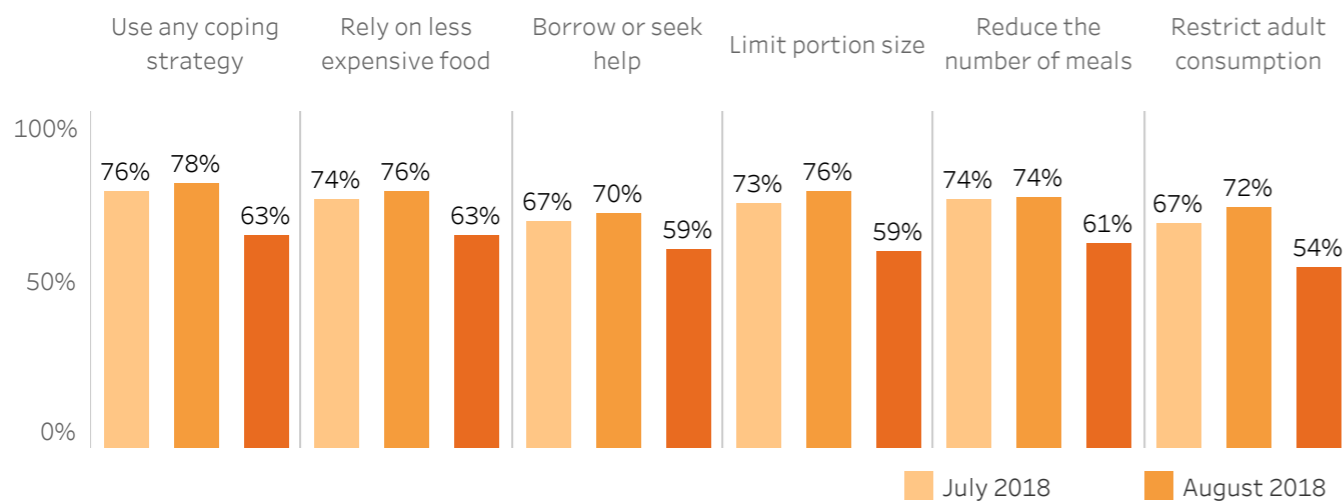
In September, households reduced the use of negative coping strategies to meet food needs in most areas of the northeast

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



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

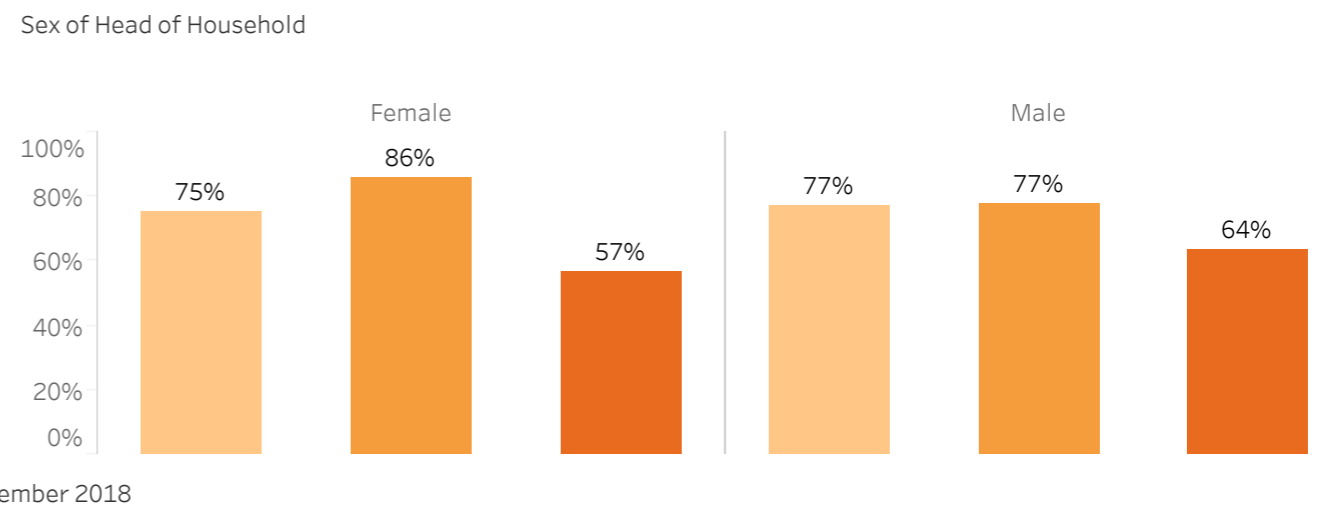
Figure 3: Proportion of Households Using Coping Strategies by Type



During the assessment, respondents were asked if they were employing negative coping strategies to meet their food needs when faced with insufficient food or money to buy food. In September 2018, there was a decrease of 15 percent in the proportion of surveyed households that used one or more coping strategies to meet their food needs compared to August 2018 (Figure 2), except in Adamawa South (Map 3) where there was an increase of 6 percent in the proportion of households that used coping strategies. The increased usage of coping strategies in Adamawa South may be linked to the deterioration in the food security situation induced by conflicts and floods. Similar to findings in July and August 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.

Similarly, there was a decline in the proportion of displaced households and permanent residents that employed negative coping strategies to meet their food needs, compared to August 2018. Moreover, there was reduced usage of coping strategies among female-headed and male-headed households and farming and non-farming households in September 2018 as the brunt of the lean season waned compared to August 2018

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



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Respondents credit role of early harvest, reduced food prices, and food and livelihoods assistance in improving food security, while highlighting the challenges of conflicts and floods.

At the end of the questionnaire, respondents were asked to describe the food security situation and provide suggestions to improve food security in their community. Respondents indicated that the onset of the harvest enhanced food availability in their communities and eased the rising prices of food commodities in their local markets. Key food security concerns highlighted by respondents were: insecurity which limits access to farmland, destruction and loss of crops due to floods, tension between pastoralists and farmers (particularly in Adamawa) and limited capacity of farmers to manage harvest (specifically in Yobe). The ongoing humanitarian assistance by the Nigerian Government and humanitarian actors continues to improve food security condition, especially in garrison towns of Borno State with limited livelihood opportunities. ...

"Food is available in the community because people have started harvesting their crops"

"Price of food is more better than before due to the season of har.."

"Within the community, security situation is good but outside of the community, it is dangerous "

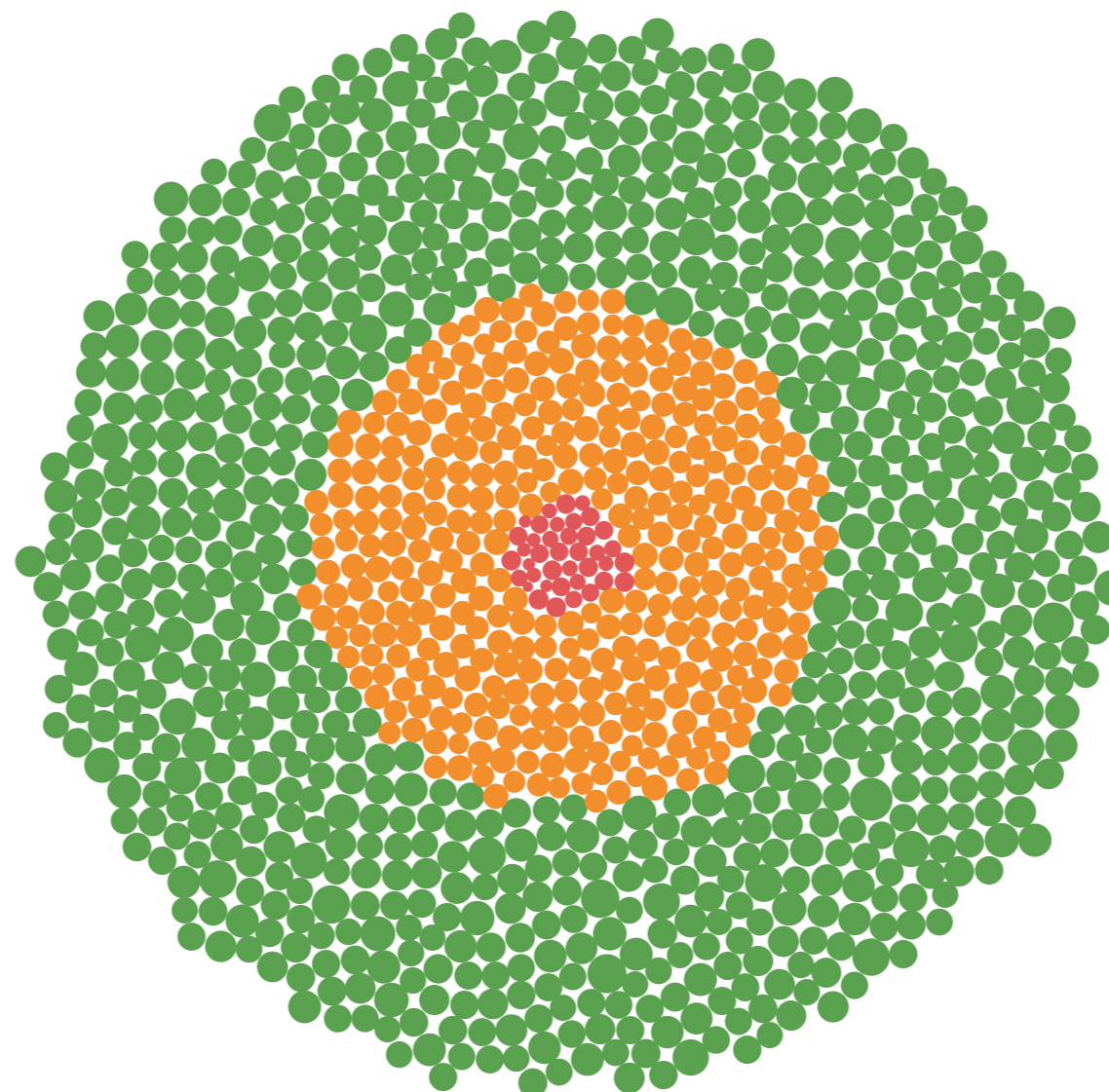
"Herdsmen and floods destroyed our crops in the farm, so we have insufficient food in the community"

"Most of the harvest has spoilt due to lack of chemical to preserve the food"

"We appreciate the efforts because we do get what to eat from NG.."

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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RESOURCES

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