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Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA)

North West and South West regions, Cameroon
January 2019



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Contents

I. HIGHLIGHTS	7
II. CONTEXT	10
III. OBJECTIVES	11
IV. METHODOLOGY	11
4.1. Sampling	11
4.2. Data collection	12
4.3. Data processing and analysis	12
4.4. Limitations	12
V. KEY FINDINGS	13
5.1. Demographics	13
5.2. Food security	14
5.2.1. Food security status	14
5.2.2. Food consumption	15
5.2.3. Consumption-based coping strategies	16
5.2.4. Livelihoods-based coping strategies	16
5.2.5. Food expenditure	17
5.2.6. Food sources	18
5.2.7. Shocks	18
5.3. Characteristics of food insecure households	19
5.3.1. Socio-economic conditions	19
5.3.2. Dietary diversity	20
5.3.3. Income sources	21
5.3.4. Shocks	21
5.4. Nutrition	23



5.5. Market situation	24
5.5.1. Market supply	24
5.5.2. Market structure	25
VI. CONCLUSION	27
6.1. Trend and situation analysis	27
6.2. Geographical prioritization and targeting	28
6.3. Assistance modality	28
VII. RECOMMENDATIONS	30



Table of Figures

Figure 1: Food Security status among IDPs in North West and South West.....	9
Figure 2: Food Security status among non-IDPs in North West and South West.....	9
Figure 3: Summary data of surveyed households	12
Figure 4: Food security prevalence by region and population status.....	14
Figure 5: Population in food insecurity by region and population status.....	15
Figure 6: Food Consumption Score (FCS) by region and population status.....	15
Figure 7: Consumption-based Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) by region and population status.....	16
Figure 8: Livelihoods-based coping strategy index (LCSI) by region and population status	17
Figure 9: Food Expenditure Share (FES) by region and population status	17
Figure 10: Food sources by region and population status.....	18
Figure 11: Shocks experienced during the last 6 months by region and population status	18
Figure 12: Food security status by region and population group	19
Figure 13: Food security status by population group and sex of head of household.....	19
Figure 14: Food security status by educational level of head of household.....	20
Figure 15: Dietary Diversity Score (DDS) of food insecure population by population status	20
Figure 16: Most prevalent shocks faced by food insecure households in North West, by population status.....	21
Figure 17: Most prevalent shocks faced by food insecure households in South West, by population status.....	22
Figure 18: Prevalence of malnutrition among children aged 6 to 59 months, by region.....	23
Figure 19: Prevalence of malnutrition among children aged 6 to 59 months, by region and sex	23
Figure 20: Food commodities sold by traders, by region	24
Figure 21: Quantity of current food stocks and frequency of restocking, by region.....	24
Figure 22: Trader characteristics, by region and sex	25
Figure 23: Geographical spread of traders households buy from, by region	25
Figure 24: Perceived market constraints, by region.....	26
Figure 25: Trend analysis of food security status in NW and SW	27



Abbreviations

CARI – Consolidated Approach to Reporting Indicators of Food Security
CBT – Cash-Based Transfer
CFSVA – Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment
DDS – Dietary Diversity Score
DTM – Displacement Tracking Matrix
EFSA – Emergency Food Security Assessment
FCS – Food Consumption Score
FES – Food Expenditure Share
FSI – Food Security Index
GAM – Global Acute Malnutrition
GFA – General Food Assistance
HNO – Humanitarian Needs Overview
IDP – Internally Displaced Person
IOM – International Labor Organization
LCSI – Livelihood-based Coping Strategy Index
MAM – Moderate Acute Malnutrition
MICS – Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey
MUAC – Mid-Upper Arm Circumference
mVAM – mobile Vulnerability Analysis & Mapping
NW – North West
OCHA – Office of the Coordinator Humanitarian Affairs
ODK – Open Data Kit
PDM – Post-Distribution Monitoring
PLW – Pregnant and Lactating Women
rCSI – reduced Coping Strategy Index
rM&E – remote Monitoring and Evaluation
SAM – Severe Acute Malnutrition
SW – South West
TPM -- Third Party Monitoring
WHO – World Health Organization



I. Highlights

Food security status of general population

- Across the North West and South West regions, **1.5 million people are food insecure**, thereof 906,461 (60%) in North West and 600,952 (40%) in South West¹
- **312,154 people are severely food insecure** (corresponding to 8% of the combined population of both regions), thereof 227,781 (72%) in the North West

Food security status of IDPs

- **50% of IDPs in the North West are food insecure** (52,080 people) with 13% being severely food insecure (13,650 people); and **41% of IDPs in the South West are food insecure** (99,876 people) with 8% being severely food insecure (19,926 people)
- While **local communities are better off than IDPs** in terms of food security, food insecure non-IDPs are significantly more in absolute terms.

	North West			South West			Total		
	IDP	non-IDP	Total	IDP	non-IDP	Total	IDP	non-IDP	Total
Food insecure persons	50%	40%	40%	41%	31%	32%	43%	36%	37%
	52,080	854,381	906,461	99,876	501,076	600,952	151,956	1,355,457	1,507,413
Severely food insecure	13%	10%	10%	8%	4%	5%	10%	7%	8%
	13,650	214,131	227,781	19,926	64,447	84,373	33,576	278,578	312,154

Food consumption

- **More than a quarter of IDP households in South West have a poor food consumption score (FCS)** compared to 16% in North West. However, the share of IDP households with an inadequate food intake (which includes both poor and borderline food consumption score) is higher in North West (around 60%) than in South West (around 50%).

Stress and coping mechanisms

- Across regions, **IDPs face high stress due to food shortage**. IDP households adopt food-based and livelihood-based coping strategies that are more severe and/or with more frequency than non-IDP households
- **In North West, almost 40% of IDP households adopt potentially irreversible emergency coping strategies**, compromising their productivity and future ability to cope with shocks

Prevalence of malnutrition among children aged 6 to 59 months

- **Global acute malnutrition (GAM)** prevalence among children aged 6 to 59 months is **poor in South West (at 5.6%)** and acceptable in North West (4.4%)
- Severe acute malnutrition (SAM) prevalence exceeds the critical threshold of 2% in the North West region (at 2.8%)²

¹ Note that population data is based on UN-OCHA's Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) from October 2018 which estimates the number of IDPs in North West and South West at 350,920. The IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) released in December 2018/January 2019 puts IDP numbers in the anglophone regions much higher, at 444,213. Importantly, and in contrast to the HNO, the DTM estimates the large part of IDPs in the North West.



Market situation

- In both regions, **dependence on local food markets is high** as many farmers are internally displaced. Households rely mainly on markets for sourcing food items such as staples (mainly rice) and pulses (mainly beans). However, traders in both regions anticipate pipeline breaks as demand is on the rise while local production decreases.
- Food production plays a greater role for local populations in the North West. Consequently, food markets in North West have larger available food stocks and offer a greater diversity of food products than in South West as they are more frequently restocked
- In both regions, **poor security especially along the trading routes constitutes a major market constraint**³

² WHO Classification of Malnutrition Prevalence

³ Due to security constraints, markets could not be assessed in 2 out of 7 divisions in North West (Menchum and Donga-Mantung) and 3 out of 6 divisions in South West (Lebialem, Ndian and Kupe-Muanenguba).

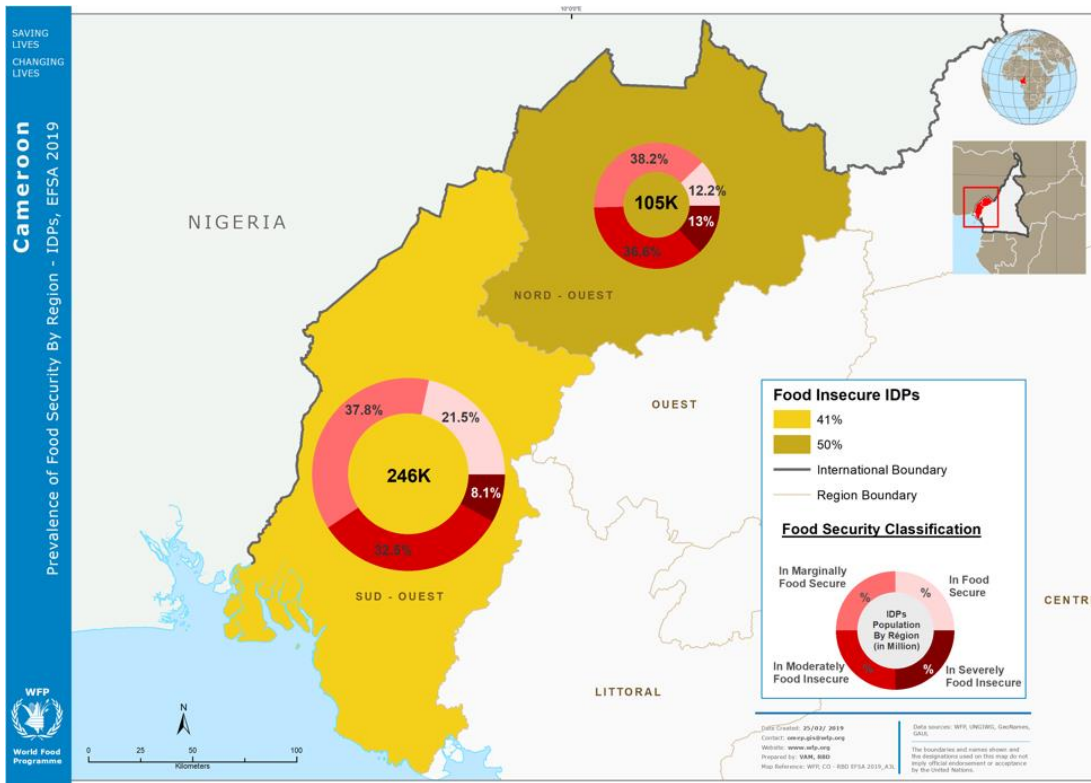


Figure 1: Food Security status among IDPs in North West and South West

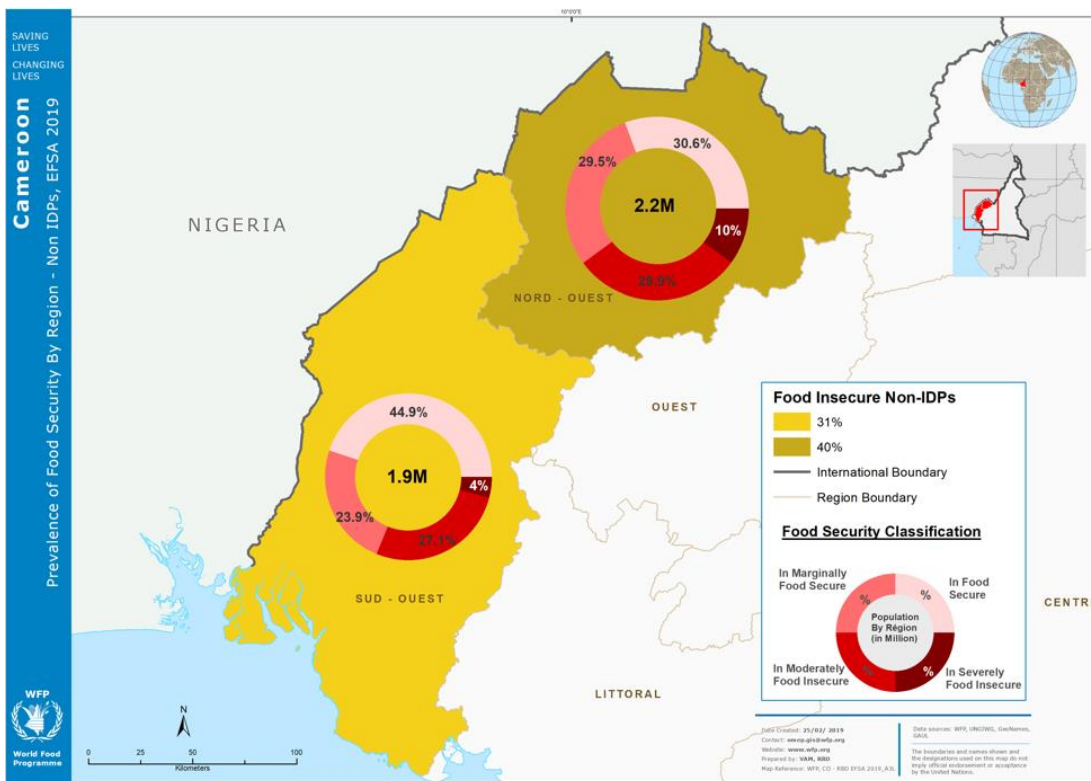


Figure 2: Food Security status among non-IDPs in North West and South West



II. Context

Since Cameroon's independence, the population of the North West (NW) and South West (SW) regions, also referred to as Anglophone regions, has felt marginalized by the Francophone-dominated government in the socio-cultural, political and economic spheres. Renewed protests started in October 2016, to which the Cameroonian government has been heavily cracking and carrying out abusive counterinsurgency operations against civilians, resulting in the creation of an armed insurgency and violent confrontations.

The situation in the Anglophone regions of SW/NW Cameroon has further deteriorated since October 2018 around the Presidential elections, with more frequent attacks and deadly incidents reported across all departments across the regions since then. With no inclusive dialogue or peace agreement in sight addressing long-standing marginalization grievances, the conflict is unlikely to be resolved in 2019. Prospects for peace talks remain very limited with the government continuing to oppose to dialogue and favoring a military approach. In view of the expected legislative elections in 2019 an increase in security incidents and no-movement periods were noted.

Civilians have increasingly been targeted, with high level of protection issues reported. Attacks against civilians, health facilities, workers and patients, extra-judicial killing, sexual gender-based violence and widespread damages on shelter and private properties have also been growing, further constraining access to healthcare and other basic services. Roadblock by non-state armed groups and security forces, weekly 'ghost town' or no-movement days, heavy military presence and offensives will continue to leave civilians trapped, while attempting to flee the conflict-affected areas.

There is very limited humanitarian expertise in the area and most of the local NGOs present in the regions were until recently only focused on development activities. The lack of capacity therefore constitutes a strategic and operational risk with consequences on achievement of results, alignment of interventions and overall funding levels for the response. Overall volatile security conditions, the limited access to most affected rural areas, suspicion on acceptability by local communities and lack of operational capacities, could result in a delayed response that fails to address the food and income needs in a timely and appropriate manner.

In December 2018, WFP declared a Level 2 emergency response and developed a response plan to provide live saving humanitarian interventions in terms of General Food Assistance (GFA) to affected vulnerable displaced and local populations, that will progressively be expanded further to targeted nutrition support, school feeding and livelihood/resilience-promoting activities.

To inform and design appropriate assistance programs, WFP commissioned an Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) covering both regions to identify the most pressing needs of displaced populations and local communities. An NGO was identified to carry out the field data collection based on its long-standing experience in conducting large-scale household surveys and its access to the target regions.

III. Objectives

The objectives of the EFSA were to:

- assess the food security situation of households living in North West and South-West regions with a focus on Internally Displaced Person (IDP) households
- assess the prevalence of malnutrition among children aged 6 to 59 months living in North West and South West by measuring Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) and controlling for bilateral edema
- assess the situation of local food markets by analyzing local food supply chains and trader networks
- identify further contributing factors to household food security.

IV. Methodology

4.1. Sampling

The selection of the sample population followed a two-stage stratified sampling approach (cluster sampling). At first, the sample population was stratified along geographical region (North West and South West) and population group (non-IDP and IDP) as different food security characteristics were expected within each stratum.

The minimum sample size was calculated at 200 households per stratum, resulting in a total sample size of 800 households, using the following formula:

$$n = z^2 \times \frac{p(1-p)}{d^2} \times k$$

- n = minimum sample size
- z = confidence value = 1.96 for a conf. level of 95%
- p = estimated prevalence of key indicator (18.10%)⁴
- k = design effect = 2 for cluster sampling
- d = error margin (fixed at 7.6%)

The total sample was equally distributed among strata (regions and population groups):

SAMPLE SIZE (HH)	NORTH WEST	SOUTH WEST
IDP	200	200
NON-IDP	200	200

Within each stratum, the sample size of 200 households was divided in 20 clusters (villages) of 10 household (20*10=200). Two-stage random sampling was then carried out within each stratum. At the first stage, 40 villages within each region were selected with probability proportional to size. At

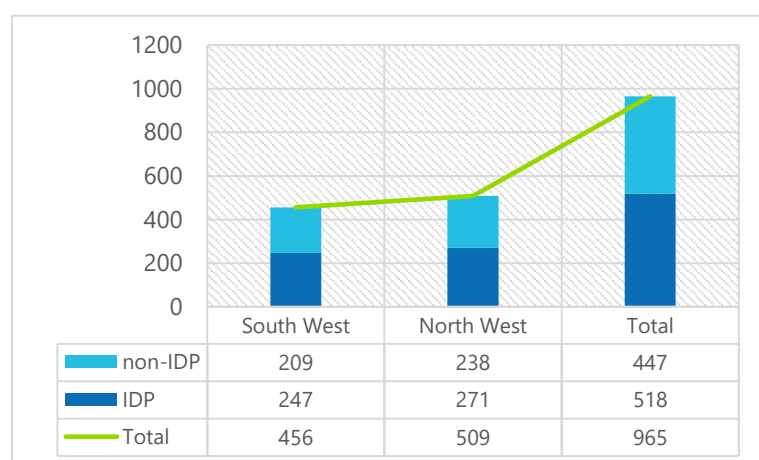
⁴ Prevalence of food insecurity in North West measured during 2017’s CFSVA (compared to 12.8% in South West).

the second stage, households within each selected village were randomly chosen for interview. As such, results are representative of each stratum, namely at the regional level and population group level.

4.2. Data collection

The EFSA was conducted in the North West and South West regions in the Republic of Cameroon, covering 6 out of 7 divisions and 71 villages in North West; and 6 out of 6 divisions and 72 villages in South West region.

The sample specifications are detailed in Figure 3.



In total, 965 households were surveyed across the two regions, thereof 518 households in displacement (IDP) and 447 households in local communities (non-IDP). In the South West region, 456 households were interviewed, thereof 247 IDP (54%) and 209 non-IDP (46%) households. In the North West region, 509 households were surveyed, thereof 271 IDP (53%) and 238 non-IDP (47) households.

Figure 3: Summary data of surveyed households

months, 363 in 6 out of seven divisions and 61 villages in North West; and 324 in 6 out of 6 division and 59 villages in South West.

11 markets were surveyed; 8 in North West (6 in rural and 2 in urban areas) in 5 out of 7 divisions; and 3 markets in South West (2 in rural and 1 in urban areas) in 3 out of 6 divisions. The EFSA collected telephone numbers of 55 traders which can be used for forthcoming market price monitoring activities.

4.3. Data processing and analysis

Household and individual data were gathered with mobile data collection devices (tablets and smartphones) using Open Data Kit (ODK) software. Data was then uploaded into the ONA data platform and cleaned and consolidated. SPSS software was used to conduct data processing and analysis, whereas each step has been documented for reasons of objectivity and transparency.

4.4. Limitations

Security constraints substantially limited the scope of data collection in the field. As such, no household food security and nutritional data on infants could be collected in Menchum division in North West. Similarly, the market assessment was limited to 5 out of 7 divisions in North West (Boyo, Bui, Mezam, Momo, Ngo-Kentunjia) and 3 out of 6 division in South West (Faku, Manyu, Meme).

V. Key findings

5.1. Demographics

Results show that a significant percentage of households is female headed, around 31% in South West and 38% in North West, indicating potentially higher levels of exposure to protection risks. This represents an increase of 10% in North West and 9% in South West compared to 2017⁵.

		SW	NW	
Is the head of household male or female?	Female	30.5%	38.1%	34.5%
	Male	69.5%	61.9%	65.5%
	<i>Total</i>	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Similarly, around 35% of households in South West and 36% in North West are led by either a single, divorced or widowed head of household. These households are likely to be more vulnerable to shocks such as displacement and food shortages.

		SW	NW	
What is the marital status of the head of household?	Single	17.1%	14.7%	15.9%
	Married	64.5%	63.7%	64.0%
	Divorced / Separated	4.6%	3.5%	4.0%
	Widow or Widowed	13.8%	18.1%	16.1%
	<i>Total</i>	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Average household size is 7 in South West and 6 in North West and the average age of the head of household is 47 in South West and 45 in North West.

		What is the age of the head of household?	How many children and adults are living in this household?
SW	Mean	47	7
	N	456	456
NW	Mean	45	6
	N	509	509
<i>Total</i>	Mean	46	6
	N	965	965

⁵ WFP Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment (CFSVA, 2017)

5.2. Food security

5.2.1. Food security status

Across regions, a total of approximately 1.5 million people are food insecure, thereof 906,461 (60%) in North West and 600,952 (40%) in South West. Results show that food insecurity in both regions is more prevalent among IDP than non-IDP populations (see Figure 4), as measured by the Food Security Index (FSI)⁶.

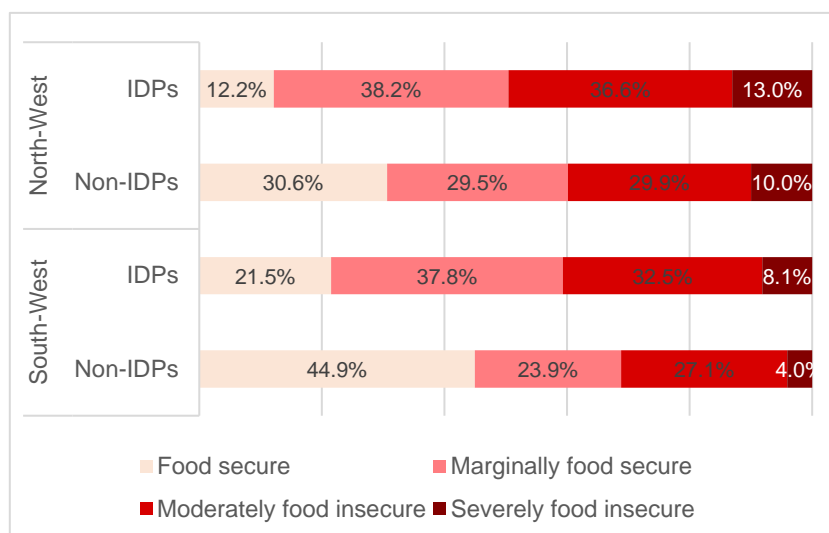


Figure 4: Food security prevalence by region and population status

Among the displaced population, 50% in the North West are food insecure corresponding to 52,080⁷ people, with 13% or 13,650 people suffering from severe food insecurity.

In the South West region, 41% of the displaced population is food insecure corresponding to 99,876 people, thereof 8% or 19,926 people affected by severe food insecurity.

In both regions local communities are on average better off in terms of food

security than the displaced population. However, food insecure non-IDPs are significantly more in absolute terms (see Figure 5).

	North West			South West			Total		
	IDP	non-IDP	Total	IDP	non-IDP	Total	IDP	non-IDP	Total
Food insecure persons	50%	40%	40%	41%	31%	32%	43%	36%	37%
	52,080	854,381	906,461	99,876	501,076	600,952	151,956	1,355,457	1,507,413
Severely food insecure	13%	10%	10%	8%	4%	5%	10%	7%	8%
	13,650	214,131	227,781	19,926	64,447	84,373	33,576	278,578	312,154

In the North West region, 40% of non-IDPs are food insecure (compared to 50% of IDPs) amounting to 854,381 people (compared to 52,080 IDPs). In the South West region, 31% of non-IDPs are affected by food insecurity (compared to 41% of IDPs) corresponding to 501,076 people (compared to 99,876 IDPs). The ratio of food insecure IDPs vs. non-IDPs is around 1:16 in North West and 1:5 in South West.

⁶ The FSI is a summary indicator resulting from WFP's Consolidated Approach to Reporting Indicators of Food Security (CARI). As for the present EFSA, the FSI was calculated combining the Food Consumption Score (FCS), the Livelihoods-based Coping Strategy Index (LCSI), and the Food Expenditure Share (FES).

⁷ IDP numbers are based on UN-OCHA's Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) from October 2018.

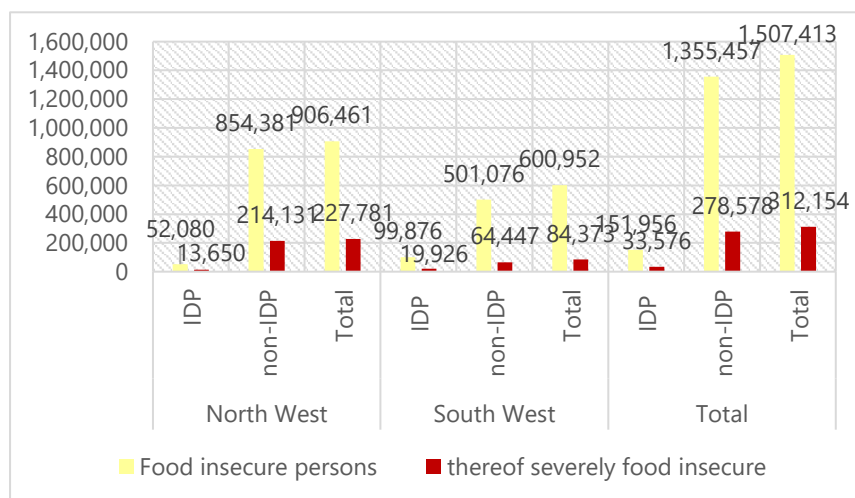


Figure 5: Population in food insecurity by region and population status

5.2.2. Food consumption

The Food Consumption Score (FCS) is associated with household’s food access and provides a good proxy for households’ food security. By measuring the dietary diversity, food frequency and relative nutritional importance of food consumed, the FCS reflects the quantity and quality of people’s diets.

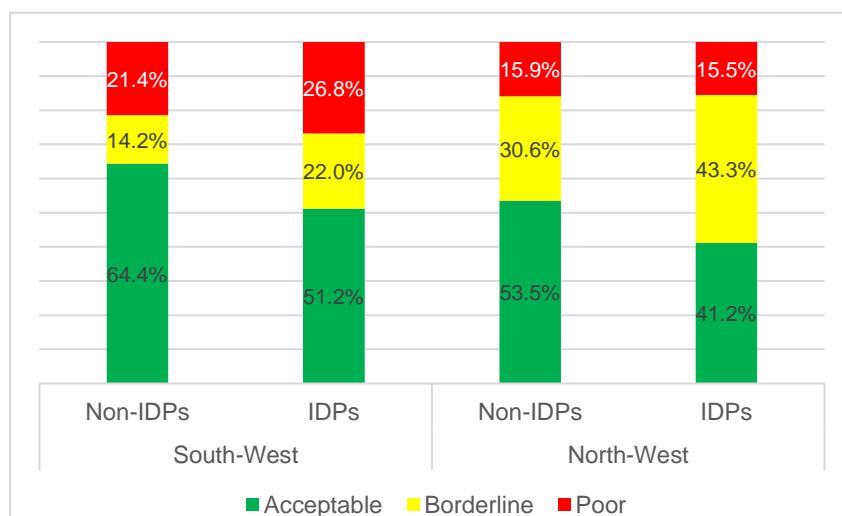


Figure 6: Food Consumption Score (FCS) by region and population status

In the South West region, more than a quarter of the displaced households show a poor food consumption score compared to roughly a fifth among non-IDP households (see Figure 6). These households do not consume staples and vegetables every day and never or very seldom consume protein-rich foods such as meat and dairy products.

While households with a poor food consumption score are less numerous in the North

West, the share of IDP households with a borderline food consumption score is much higher at 43% due to an insufficient intake of food items rich in protein. Only around 4 out of 10 IDP households in the North West show an acceptable food consumption score, compared to more than half (54%) of non-IDP households, meaning that those households follow a sufficiently balanced diet with adequate daily food intake.

5.2.3. Consumption-based coping strategies

The consumption-based or reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) measures the level of stress faced by a household due to a food shortage by assessing the frequency of adoption of five food-related coping mechanisms, and their severity.

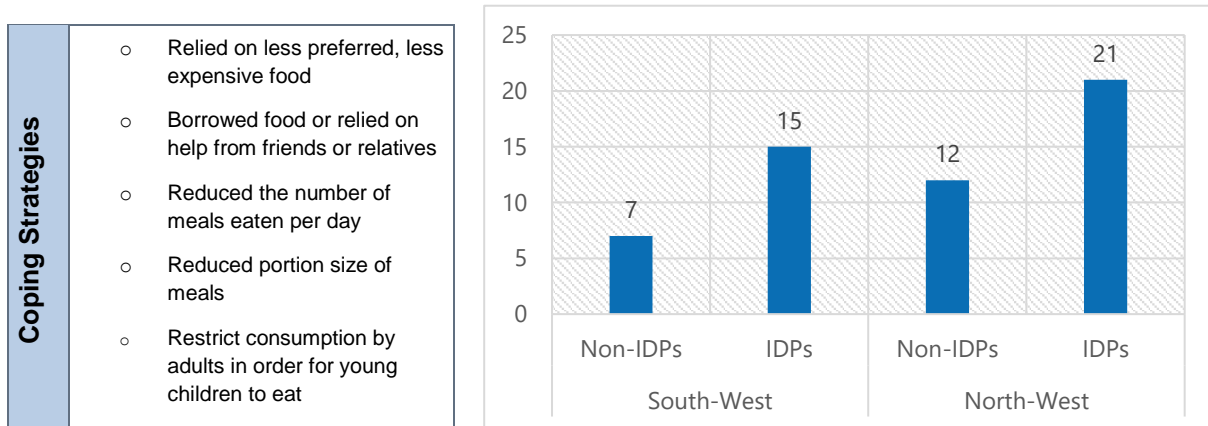


Figure 7: Consumption-based Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) by region and population status

The higher the stress a household is exposed to, the higher the behavioral response and the index. The index ranges from 0 to 56. Findings indicate that across regions IDP households are more vulnerable than local populations as, on average, they adopt food-related coping strategies that are more severe and/or with more frequency. The average rCSI is comparatively high among displaced households in the North West hinting to high stress levels (see Figure 7).

5.2.4. Livelihoods-based coping strategies

Livelihoods-based coping strategies help to assess the longer-term coping and productive capacity of households and their future impact on food access. Negative coping strategies, such as asset depletion, affect the sustainability of household livelihoods and are likely to translate into constrained physical and/or economic access to food in the medium to long term. Households are classified based on the severity associated to the strategies that are applied: the higher the phase, the more severe and longer-term are the negative consequences.

Results show that almost 40% among IDP households in the North West region apply emergency coping strategies to cope with food insecurity, such as selling their land or house, begging, and selling last female animals (see Figure 8). The percentage of households using emergency strategies is also high among non-IDP households in North West, at 28%. In addition, roughly one in five IDP household reverts to crisis coping strategies, indicating high pressure of food insecurity on affected households and a probable reduction of future productivity. Only about 17% of IDP households in North West region do not adopt any negative coping strategies.

In the South West region, almost a quarter of IDP households revert to emergency strategies to cope with food insecurity, compared to roughly 16% of households in the local population. Less than a third of IDP households do not adopt any negative coping strategies that affect their future productivity.

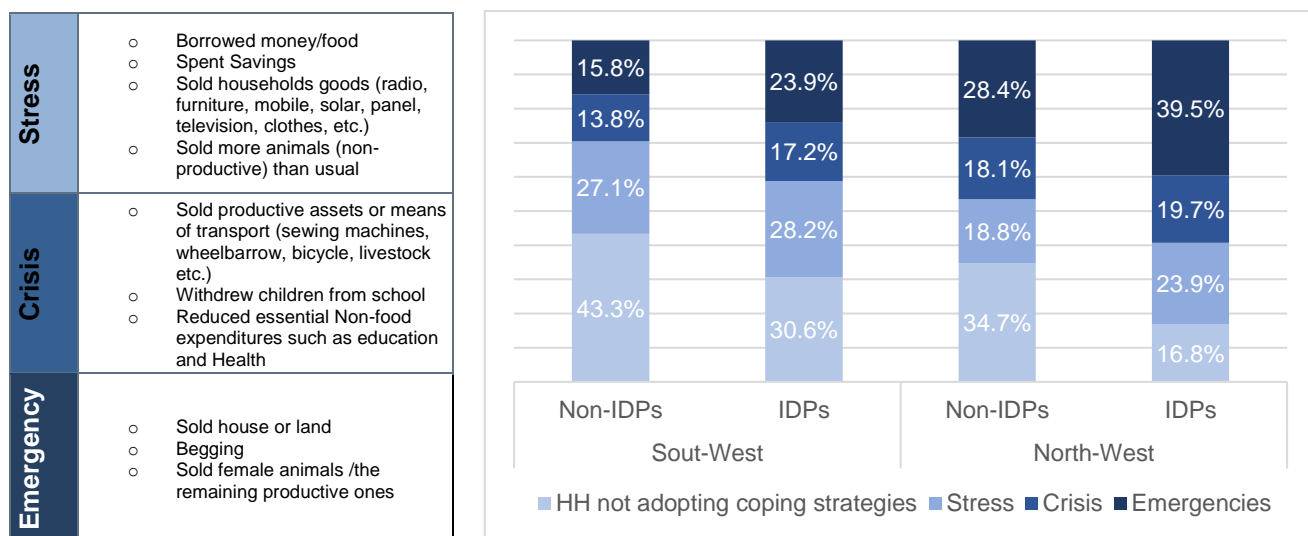


Figure 8: Livelihoods-based coping strategy index (LCSI) by region and population status

5.2.5. Food expenditure

The Food Expenditure Share (FES) measure the proportion of each household’s budget spent on food considering not only cash expenses but also purchases made on credit, household production, and assistance received. The FES is a proxy indicator for a household’s economic vulnerability. In general, the higher a household’s expenses on food in relation to other consumed items or services, the more economically vulnerable the household.

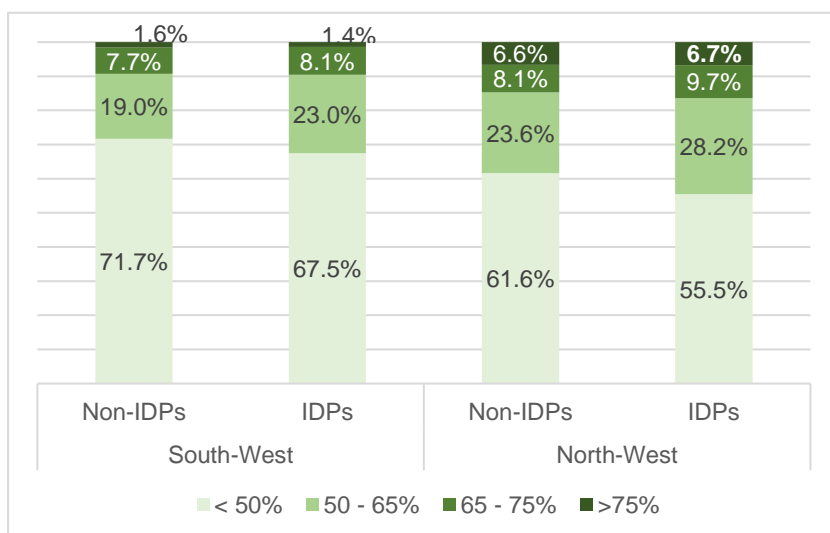


Figure 9: Food Expenditure Share (FES) by region and population status

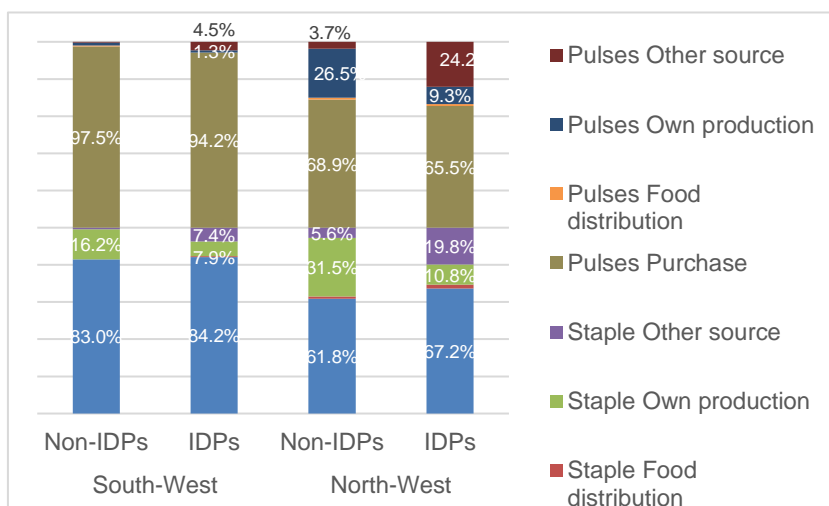
Around 16% of IDP households and 15% of non-IDP households in the North West spend more than 65% of their available budget on food and are therefore considered economically vulnerable (see Figure 9).

In the South West region, roughly 10% of IDP households and 9% of non-IDP households spend more than 65% of their available budget on food.

Across regions, the share of households that spend at least 50% of their available budget on food is at least 30%.

5.2.6. Food sources

In both regions, households rely mainly on local markets for sourcing food items such as staples and pulses (see Figure 10). While findings indicate that markets are functional, they also hint at a significant decrease in local food production as a result of conflict and displacement. Furthermore, some households particularly in the North West might experience physical constraints in accessing markets as was highlighted in prior reports.



In the South West, more than 80% of households are purchasing their staples from local markets. As for the local population, the remainder comes almost exclusively from own production (16%) while IDP households must revert to other food sources. Both IDP and non-IDP households purchase almost the totality of the pulses they consume from local markets.

Food production plays a more important role in the North West being with almost a third (32%)

Figure 10: Food sources by region and population status

of local households cultivating their own staples and more than a quarter (27%) cultivating their own pulses. Among IDP households, around 11% produce their own staples and roughly 9% their own pulses. Nonetheless, markets constitute the primary food source for households in the North West, supplying around two thirds of staples and pulses.

5.2.7. Shocks

In the North West region, a majority of 76% of households (IDP and non-IDP) was affected by shocks during the past six months, including insecurity and conflict, loss of employment or reduced income, restricted access to markets, high food prices, and sickness of a household member, which are likely to have a negative impact on household food security (see Figure 11).

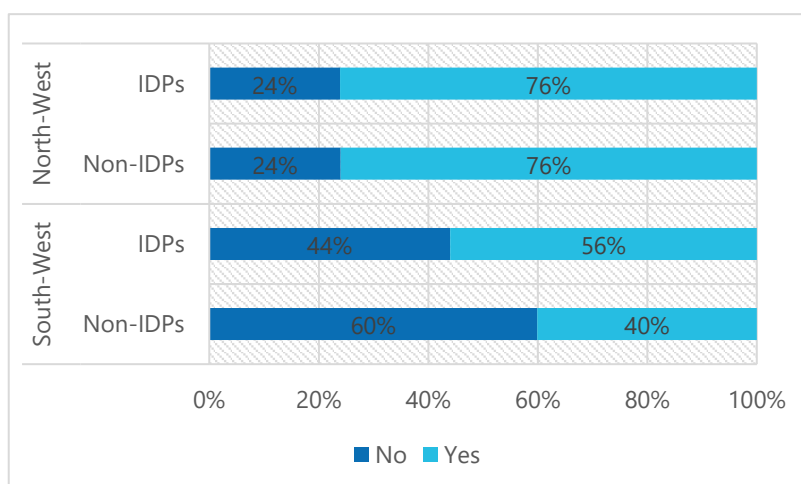


Figure 11: Shocks experienced during the last 6 months by region and population status

While the incidence was generally lower in the South West region, IDP households were more

affected than non-IDP households pointing to higher levels of vulnerability and exposure among the displaced population in the South West.

5.3. Characteristics of food insecure households

5.3.1. Socio-economic conditions

On average, IDP households are more affected by food insecurity than the local population. Across regions, the shares of households in severe and in moderate food insecurity are higher among IDPs than among non-IDPs (see Figure 12).

	Population status	Food secure	Marginally food secure	Moderately food insecure	Severely food insecure
SOUTH-WEST	None IDPs	44.9%	23.9%	27.1%	4.0%
	IDPs	21.5%	37.8%	32.5%	8.1%
	Total	34.2%	30.3%	29.6%	5.9%
NORTH-WEST	None IDPs	30.6%	29.5%	29.9%	10.0%
	IDPs	12.2%	38.2%	36.6%	13.0%
	Total	22.0%	33.6%	33.0%	11.4%
Total	None IDPs	37.5%	26.8%	28.6%	7.1%
	IDPs	16.6%	38.0%	34.7%	10.7%
	Total	27.8%	32.0%	31.4%	8.8%

In South West, 8.1% of IDPs are severely food insecure and 33% are moderately food insecure compared to 4% and 27% among non-IDPs. In North West, the proportion of households in severe food insecurity (11%) is almost double the proportion in South West (6%). Both IDPs and non IDPs are more affected by food insecurity in North West than in South West. Analogous to the situation in South West, IDPs in North West are disproportionately affected by food insecurity as compared to the local population.

Figure 12: Food security status by region and population group

		Sex of head of household	Food secure	Marginally food secure	Moderately food insecure	Severely food insecure
SOUTH-WEST	None IDPs	Female	48.5%	19.7%	30.3%	1.5%
		Male	43.6%	25.4%	26.0%	5.0%
	IDPs	Female	26.0%	38.4%	28.8%	6.8%
		Male	19.1%	37.5%	34.6%	8.8%
NORTH-WEST	None IDPs	Female	27.7%	31.9%	27.7%	12.8%
		Male	32.2%	28.2%	31.1%	8.5%
	IDPs	Female	15.0%	34.0%	40.0%	11.0%
		Male	10.1%	41.3%	34.1%	14.5%

Across regions and population groups, male-headed households are more affected by severe food insecurity than female-headed households, except among the local population in North West where severe food insecurity is significantly more prevalent

Figure 13: Food security status by population group and sex of head of household

among female-headed (see Figure 13)⁸.

⁸ Note, however, that the underlying sample is imbalanced and comprises of considerably less female-headed than male-headed households. Results for female-headed households should therefore be interpreted with caution.

Among the moderately food insecure, IDP female-headed households are more affected in North West but less in South West; and non-IDP female-headed households are less affected in North West but more in South West.

Households which are headed by an illiterate person are disproportionately affected by food insecurity. While only around 9% of all heads of household are illiterate, they constitute 21% of all households in severe food insecurity and 13% in moderate food insecurity (see Figure 14).

		Food secure	Marginally food secure	Moderately food insecure	Severely food insecure	
Educational level of the household head	None/illiterate	4.5%	4.5%	12.9%	21.2%	8.6%
	Primary school	35.4%	44.7%	46.5%	43.5%	42.6%
	Secondary school and above	60.1%	50.8%	40.6%	35.3%	48.8%
Total		100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Results indicate that the food security status of a household rises with the level of education attained by its head of household. Out of the households managed by a person with at least a secondary school degree 60% are food secure – compared to only 35% among households led by a person whose highest educational achievement is

Figure 14: Food security status by educational level of head of household

primary school and 5% among households with an illiterate head of household.

5.3.2. Dietary diversity

Dietary diversity is generally poor among households in severe food insecurity and lower among IPD households than the local population in both regions (see Figure 15). 100% of severely food insecure IDP households in South West and 90% in North West display a low dietary diversity score (DDS) indicating that these households consume food items from maximum four out of seven food groups, usually cereals, pulses, vegetables, and fruits. Analysis shows that the severely food insecure households almost never consume dairy products and foods rich in protein such as meat or fish.

		Population status	DSS	Moderately food insecure	Severely food insecure
SOUTH-WEST	None IDPs	Low		56.7%	90.0%
		Medium		40.3%	10.0%
		High		3.0%	
	IDPs	Low		67.6%	100.0%
		Medium		32.4%	
		High			
NORTH-WEST	None IDPs	Low		65.4%	88.9%
		Medium		34.6%	11.1%
		High			
	IDPs	Low		77.0%	93.5%
		Medium		23.0%	6.5%
		High			

Figure 15: Dietary Diversity Score (DDS) of food insecure population by population status

5.3.3. Income sources

Among the local population in South West, the most important income sources for households in severe food insecurity over the past three months are agricultural/fishing casual labor (30%), unskilled labor (30%), and agricultural production and sales (20%). Similarly, agricultural/fishing casual labor constitutes the main source of income among IDP households in South West. It is important to note though that around 30% of non-IDP households and 40% of IDP households state that they do not have any income source at their avail. Small businesses play a role for 10 % of IDP and 13% non-IDP households who are in moderate food insecurity.

Likewise, local populations in the North West engage primarily in non-agricultural casual labor (26%), unskilled labor (26%), and agricultural/fishing casual labor (11%). However, only 4% of non-IDP households in the North West state that they have no source of income at all. Income sources for IDP households are more varied, with around 13% engaging in unskilled waged labor and 8% living off small businesses. Alarmingly, a significant share of IDP households on North West either do not have access to any income source (25%), rely on the assistance of friends (8%) or begging (6%).

5.3.4. Shocks

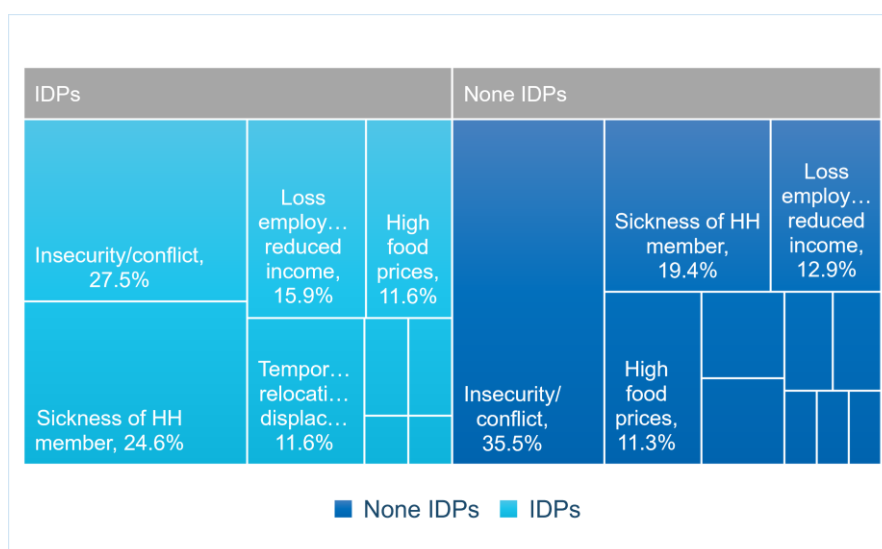
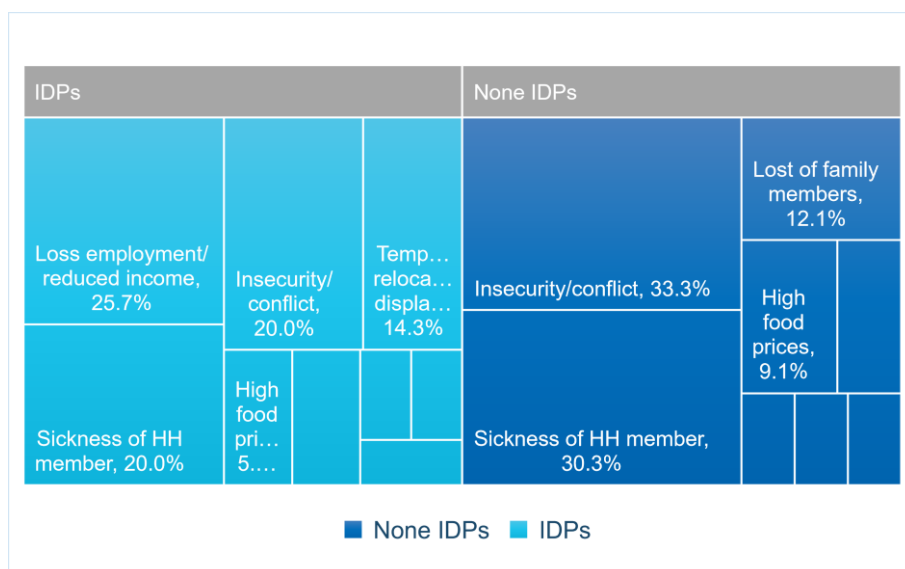


Figure 16: Most prevalent shocks faced by food insecure households in North West, by population status

As outlined above, a majority among IDP households and a great share of the local population in both regions have experienced recent shocks. The nature of shocks is largely similar for IDPs and the local population.

Across regions, IDP household have faced similar shocks over the past six months including loss of employment and reduced income opportunities, insecurity and conflict, and sickness of a household

member (see Figures 16 and 17). Notably, high food prices are also among the five principal shocks experienced by IDP households.



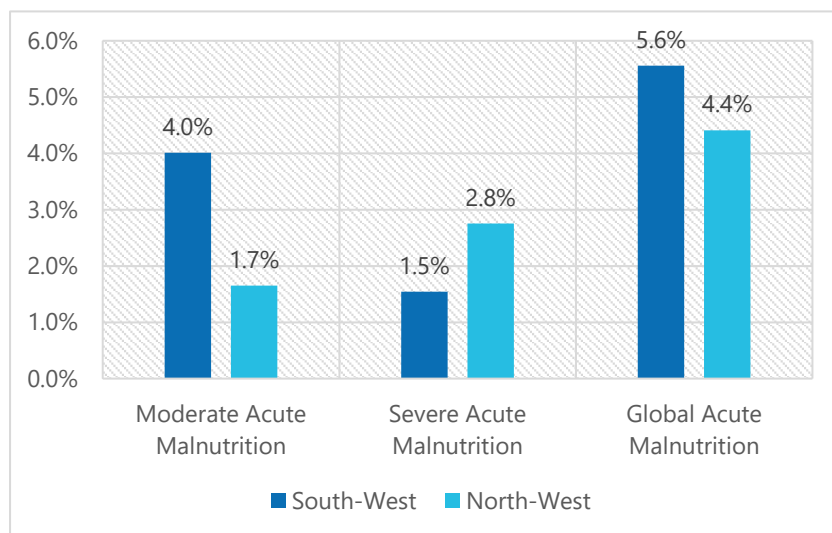
Results are similar for the local populations even though the order of importance of shocks differs. Insecurity and conflict are by far the most perceived shocks, followed by sickness of a household member, and high food prices.

As such, both IDPs and local populations have experienced spikes in food commodity prices over the past six months.

Figure 17: Most prevalent shocks faced by food insecure households in South West, by population status

5.4. Nutrition

The prevalence of global acute malnutrition (GAM) among children aged 6 to 59 months is considered poor in South West, at 5.6%, and acceptable in North West, at 4.4% (see Figure 18). However, in the North West prevalence levels of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) at 2.8% exceed the critical threshold of 2%. The prevalence of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) is within acceptable levels for both regions.⁹



There are significant differences in malnutrition prevalence levels depending on the sex of children (see Figure 19). In general, boys are more affected by MAM and SAM across regions. Only in the North West is the MAM prevalence rate higher among girls (1.8%) than boys (1.5%) who, however, show a considerably higher SAM prevalence (3.6%) than girls (1.8%).

Figure 18: Prevalence of malnutrition among children aged 6 to 59 months, by region

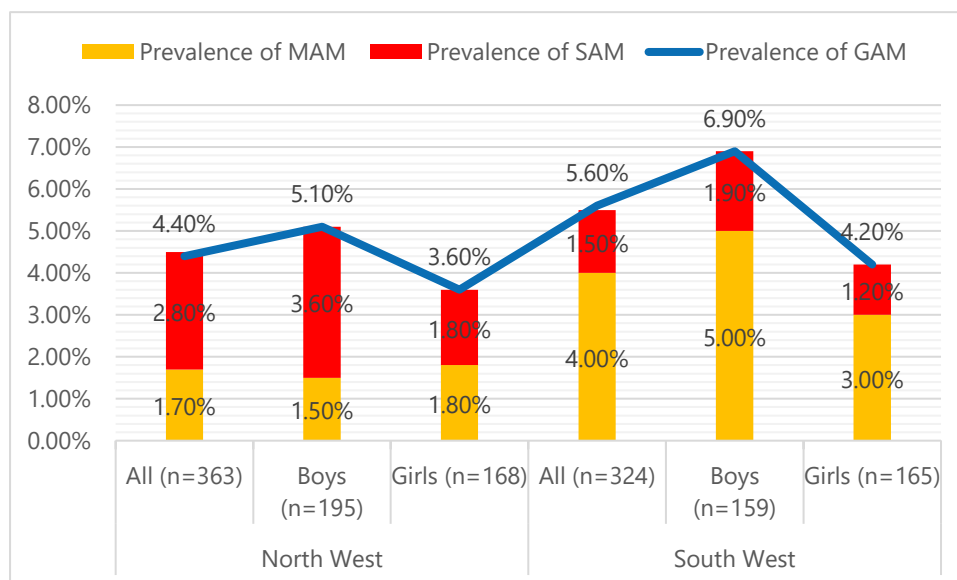


Figure 19: Prevalence of malnutrition among children aged 6 to 59 months, by region and sex

⁹ WHO Classification of Malnutrition Prevalence

5.5. Market situation

5.5.1. Market supply

Local production and import supply the food markets. Farmers either sell their produce directly in the marketplaces and/or to collectors, which are connected to several farmers. Several collectors are usually connected to a wholesaler who is located in one of the major cities (e.g. Bamenda, Buea, Doula).

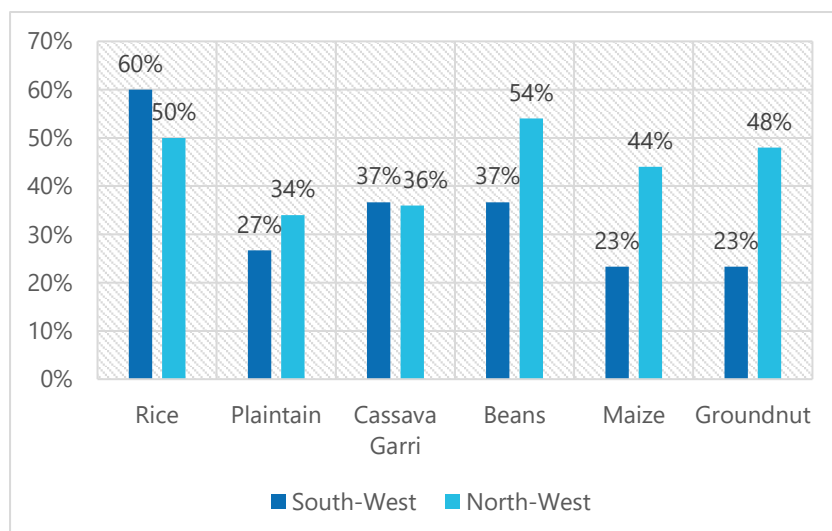


Figure 20: Food commodities sold by traders, by region

that local food production is less functional as compared to the North West (see Figure 10). 37% of all traders sell beans and cassava, respectively, and 27% sell plantain. Groundnut and maize are offered by less than a quarter of traders in local markets in South West.

Results show that rice is one of the main food items sold in the markets both in North West, where it is sold by half of all traders, and in South West, where 60% of traders sell it (see Figure 20).

In North West, the most sold food product is beans, sold by well over half of all traders, followed by rice, groundnuts, maize, cassava, and plantain.

In South West, the availability of food items other than rice is lower, which is due to the fact

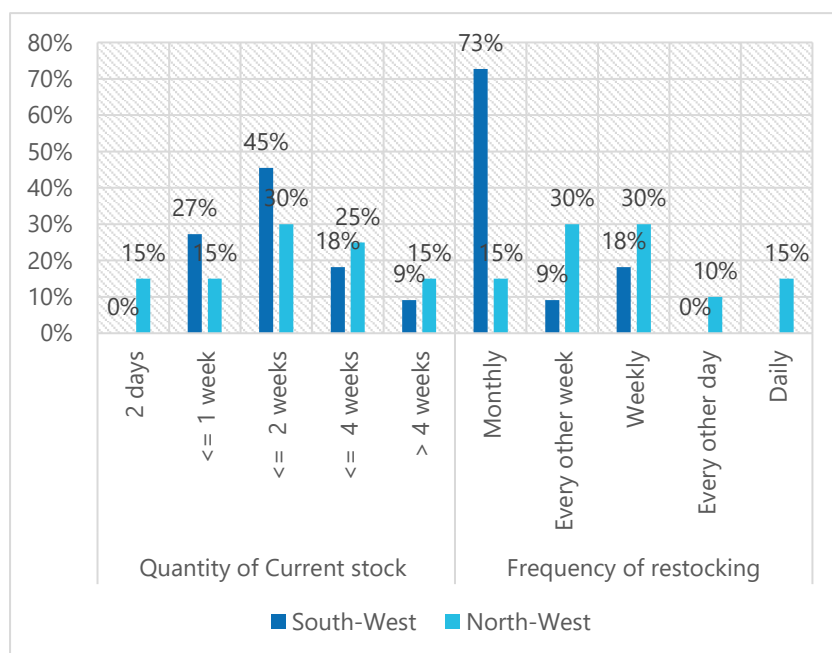
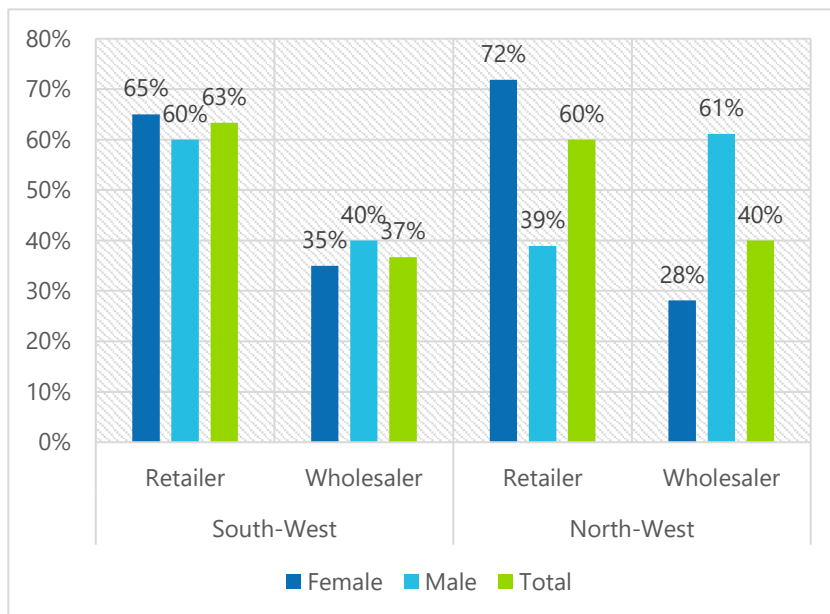


Figure 21: Quantity of current food stocks and frequency of restocking, by region

In both regions, most available food stocks last less than two weeks, particularly in South West (see Figure 21). Markets in North West are supplied with larger stocks as the frequency of restocking is lower than in South West. Both local food production and cross-border trade remain more intact in the North West, accounting for differences in available food stocks across regions. 73% of traders in South West restock their supplies monthly whereas many traders in the North West can restock on a bi-weekly or even weekly basis (combined 60%), and some even daily.

As discussed above, dependence on local food markets is high in both regions as many farmers are internally displaced and thus food production has been declining. However, traders in both regions anticipate pipeline breaks as demand is projected to further increase.

5.5.2. Market structure



Markets in North West and South West are dominated by retailers which make up around 60 percent of all traders (see Figure 22). Among women, most of the traders are small retailers, in particular in North West (72%). Men are dominating the wholesale business in both regions and in North West the majority of male traders (61%) are wholesalers. Clients are mainly men indicating potential protection risks for women along the market routes.

Figure 22: Trader characteristics, by region and sex

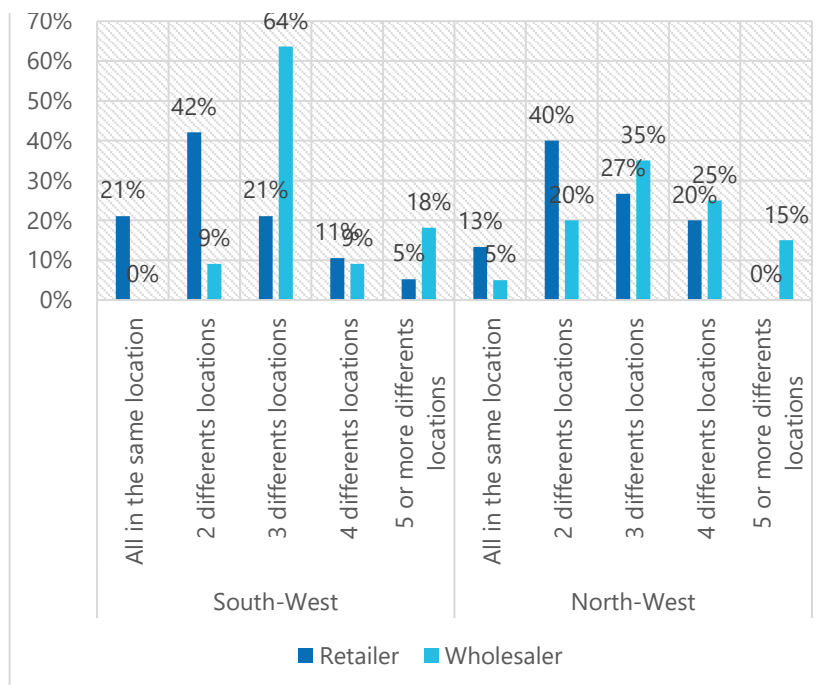
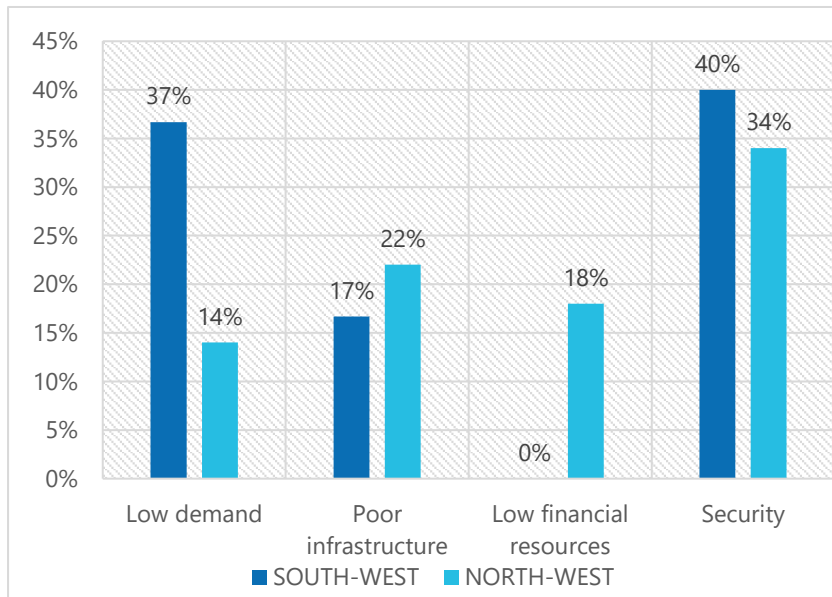


Figure 23: Geographical spread of traders households buy from, by region

Common households purchase food items at local markets from retailers at retailer prices. In both regions, the majority of households purchase food products from retailers in two different locations from about two to three traders (see Figure 23). As such, the spread of traders they are buying from is relatively limited, which is likely attributable to restricted movement in both areas and checkpoints along the trading routes.

Households that purchase food products from wholesalers are more mobile and usually able to buy from four to five different traders in three different locations.



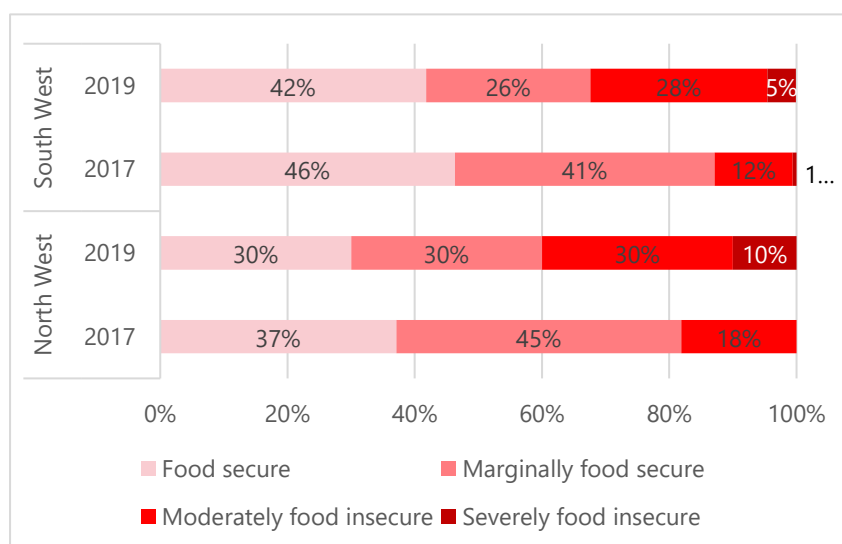
Across the two regions, the primary market constraint identified by traders is related to security. As mentioned, women are likely to be more exposed to security risks along the main trading routes. As such, access to markets is limited in both regions. In South West, low demand is the second major constraint, for about 37% of traders. In North West, poor infrastructure negatively impacts on the market activities of roughly a fifth of local traders.

Figure 24: Perceived market constraints, by region

VI. Conclusion

6.1. Trend and situation analysis

The food security situation in the North and South West regions in Cameroon has deteriorated notably compared to the last point of measurement in 2017¹⁰. Across both regions, the proportion of the population in severe food insecurity rose markedly, in North West by 10 percentage points and in South West by 4 percentage points (see Figure 26). Likewise, the share of the population that is moderately food insecure increased by 12 percentage points in the North West and by 16 in South West. In total, 40% of the population in North West (906,000) and a third of the population in South West (33%, 601,000) is food insecure – 501,000 persons more in North West and almost 370,000 more in South West compared to 2017.



Internal displacement and disruption of livelihoods are beyond doubt among the main drivers of food insecurity in South West and North West. EFSA results show that IDP households are on average more affected by food insecurity than the local population, are more exposed to shocks, and are more likely to lack access to stable income sources as a result of the crisis. Around 16% of IDP and 15% of non-IDP households in the North West spend more

Figure 25: Trend analysis of food security status in NW and SW

than 65% of their budget on food and are considered economically vulnerable.

Displacement of farmers and “ghost town” days have negatively affected local food production. As a result, both IDPs and non-IDP households are highly dependent on local markets to source food products, especially staples and pulses. Considering the rising demand, traders are expecting pipeline breaks. Security concerns along the trading routes aggravate access to markets, particularly for women.

Humanitarian access in general is reliant on security situation which is reflected in the fact that EFSA enumerators could not reach Menchum division in North West, an area where large concentrations of IDPs are expected¹¹.

¹⁰ WFP Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Assessment (CFSVA, 2017).

¹¹ See IOM DTM.



6.2. Geographical prioritization and targeting

Data collected through the EFSA will guide the prioritization of geographical areas in the North West and South West as well as household targeting for WFP food assistance. Food security and nutrition indicators (such as Food Security Index, Food Consumption Score, reduced and Livelihoods-based Coping Strategy Index, malnutrition levels) combined with secondary data on displaced populations (IOM DTM) will help define priority areas of intervention at divisional level and provide useful indications at sub-divisional level.

The household targeting approach will be developed based on household socio-economic vulnerability criteria (demographics, household composition, shelter, productive assets, disability, etc.) for which data is available through the EFSA. Feedback on criteria was gathered from partner organizations and during consultations with affected communities. Criteria will be statistically tested for their correlation with prevalence of food insecurity to assess if they are relevant to a household's food security status and thus if they serve to identify the most vulnerable households.

Based on selected vulnerability criteria, a short questionnaire will be developed to assess a household's eligibility for food assistance. Household registration will be conducted by the Cooperating Partner (CP) through door-to-door surveys using mobile devices to give WFP full control over data protection and the targeting process. Using a vulnerability scorecard, final beneficiary lists will be established by WFP and validated by community representatives. Targeting criteria will routinely be re-evaluated based on available monitoring data from mobile VAM (mVAM), remote monitoring (rM&E), Third Party Monitoring (TPM) as well as beneficiary feedback collected through the toll-free hotline and the feedback and complaints desks.

Priority should be given to IDP households as they are on average more vulnerable and more food insecure than the local population. Recognizing that humanitarian access to difficult to reach areas in the North West and South West, priority should be given to gaining access to IDP settlements in rural and difficult-to-reach areas. In difficult to reach settlements characterized by a homogenous population with similar vulnerabilities, household targeting may not be necessary.

6.3. Assistance modality

Local food production has declined significantly due to displacement and conflict. Households in both regions rely mainly on local markets for sourcing food items such as staples and pulses. Markets in North West offer a greater diversity of food products as part of the local food production remains intact. However, households reportedly face challenges in accessing markets in North West. Traders in both regions anticipate pipeline breaks as demand is on the rise. High prices for food commodities were amongst the five major shocks faced by both IDP and non-IDP populations over the past six months.

Market-based interventions (cash or vouchers) may be favorable for displaced populations to address food and nutrition security needs and, in the case of cash, other essential needs such as shelter and health expenditure. CBT will improve the target's group purchasing power and increase demand in the conflict-affected areas, which will certainly increase food flow, in particularly from the West region. As poor households often buy locally produced food, CBT would



also contribute to smallholder farmers' income. However, a more in-depth market assessment is needed to evaluate if local markets can effectively meet a significant increase in demand. This seems particularly doubtful in the South West where the frequency of restocking is low for many traders and the variety of available food products poor. Monitoring market prices for food commodities will provide a good indication for price volatility and the feasibility of CBT.

The current security context, characterized by frequent clashes between state and non-state armed forces and assaults on the civil population, poses considerable threats to market-based solutions, particularly for cash. In both regions, poor security along the trading routes constitutes a major market constraint. Because of the security context and the market conditions, urban and semi-urban areas seem more favourable for CBT interventions than rural areas. However, further assessments are required to determine which CBT modality would be safest.

Seeing how dietary diversity is low among food insecure households, a hybrid food basket of staples, pulses, oil and salt with locally sourced fresh foods could be considered for the response based on results of CBT assessments. A mixed modality consisting of in-kind distributions of staples and pulses (rice and beans) and a commodity voucher for fresh foods (vegetables, fruits, dairy products, meat) may be conceivable for urban and semi-urban areas. If a shift to CBT is feasible will be determined by the development of the security and market situation.

The results of the multi-sectorial assessment, which is planned for July 2019, will further inform the intervention design and choice of modality. It is recommended to include questions on beneficiary perceptions regarding their preferred assistance modality in post-distribution monitoring (PDM) activities (for both remote data collection and Third-Party Monitoring).

EFSA findings reveal a rapid deterioration of the nutrition situation with SAM prevalence increasing by more than three times in South West and by more than five times in North West (from 0.4% and 0.5% in 2014¹² to 1.5% and 2.8% in 2019). An estimated 16,335 SAM and 20,175 MAM children are in need for immediate treatment. Based on the EFSA findings and expected incidence of both SAM and MAM, an estimated 76,580 children will be affected by acute malnutrition if no appropriate response is provided on time. WFP shall aim to target 38,300 acutely malnourished. These targets are based on the current opportunities for complementarity and/or geographical coverage of the current operation in South West and North West.

Intervention packages should comprise case management of moderately malnourished children and Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLW) while ensuring continuum prevention-treatment-prevention among the most affected population to prevent further deterioration of nutritional situation putting the children in high risks of morbidity and death.

¹² Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) 2014



VII. Recommendations

- Considering the extremely volatile security situation and partial humanitarian access to difficult to reach areas, WFP should focus on building trust with communities and enhancing access to IDP settlements located in rural and difficult-to-reach areas.
- Prioritize IDP households for food assistance as they are on average more vulnerable and more food insecure than the local population.

- Use available EFSA data and data on IDPs to define priority areas of intervention at divisional level and sub-divisional level based on food insecurity, malnutrition and other vulnerability classification.
- Use available EFSA data to test and identify household vulnerability criteria (demographics, household composition, shelter, productive assets, etc.) which will inform household targeting approach (based on vulnerability scorecard)
- While strict household targeting should be applied in urban, semi-urban and rural areas, it may not be necessary in IDP settlements in difficult-to-reach areas which are characterized by a homogenous population with similar vulnerabilities.
- Routinely re-evaluate targeting criteria based on available monitoring data from mobile VAM (mVAM), remote monitoring (rM&E), Third Party Monitoring (TPM) as well as beneficiary feedback collected through the toll-free hotline and the feedback and complaints desks.

- Use the results of the multi-sectorial assessment, which is planned for July 2019, to inform the intervention design and choice of modality, particularly regarding the feasibility of CBT.
- Conduct a more in-depth market assessment to evaluate if local markets can effectively meet a significant increase in demand associated with CBT interventions.
- Set up market price monitoring system to assess trends and price volatility for food commodity prices, covering at least one market in each division where assistance is provided

