SAVING LIVES CHANGING LIVES



HIGHLIGHTS:

- In Nigeria, the Migration Pulse captured the voices of more than seven thousand women and men of different age groups. A majority were residents, 39 percent were internal migrants who moved away for work and seven percent were internally displaced due to conflict.
- Nearly half of Nigerian respondents reported lack of work as their top concern, followed by high food prices (23%), insecurity/conflict (17%), education for children (16%) and the inability to meet food needs (15%). IDPs were found to be particularly worried about meeting the education needs of children (23%).
- One third of respondents reported not feeling safe in their current environment, due to reasons such as high crime rates (34%) and violence in the community (19%).
- Food consumption also varied significantly based on the location and status of respondents, mirroring
 the North-South divide in the country. Two-thirds of respondents living in conflict affected North-Eastern
 Nigeria reported feeling concerned about not having enough food, and more than a quarter eat only
 once per day (27%). IDPs were also more concerned and compromising their food consumption to a
 greater extent than other groups.
- Remittances play an important role in supporting families with migrants in meeting their food needs.
 One in four respondents reported using remittances to meet education needs, while one in five reported using them to meet food needs. Moreover, those receiving remittances were also found not to be compromising their food consumption as often as others.
- Root causes of migration were found to be primarily related to personal education (41%), job opportunities (35%), family reunification (22%), supporting the education of family members (22%) and to meet food needs (17%). In the most conflict affected states, the inability to meet food needs was found as a more important push factor compared to other states.



Background

Nigeria holds the largest population in Africa - standing at 190.9 million people¹ and accounting for almost half of West Africa's population, with the highest population concentration in the south and southwest of the country. Nigeria is Africa's biggest oil exporter and has the largest natural gas reserves on the continent. It has a culturally diverse society, with one of the largest populations of youth in the world. It is also characterized by an apparent North-South divide for decades. This divide widened in recent years due to insecurity and conflict, coupled with lack of economic development in the northern part of the country. Accordingly, inequalities in terms of income and job opportunities have been growing rapidly and have increased poverty levels.²

The country entered recession in 2016 as a result of lower oil prices and production, exacerbated by conflict in the Niger Delta region and negative economic policies (incl. foreign exchange restrictions). Furthermore, the country has been faced with massive developmental challenges, including high dependency solely on the oil production sector, insufficient infrastructure, ineffective institutions, as well as governance issues and public financial management systems. In the marginalized north-east region, the emergence of Boko Haram in 2014 has caused large numbers of displacements which further contributed to a worsened situation. As for the Middle Belt region, increased competition between pastoralists and farmers has caused tensions, culminating in significant levels of violence and displacement, and conflict has also emerged in several states in the north west, linked to banditry and criminal violence. During the last quarter of 2019, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) estimated that over 2.2 million people were internally displaced.³

Drivers of displacement change over-time, influencing people's intentions to stay or move on, their livelihoods as well as their needs and challenges. Understanding how the act of migration affects migrants' ability to support themselves and those left behind is critical to inform strategic planning and responses. However, evidence across Nigeria is often untimely and difficult to capture from a largely scattered population through traditional face-to-face household surveys. Furthermore, the mobile nature of displaced populations, as well as the urban dimension of displacement pose significant operational challenges for evidence creation and response.

Hence, WFP's Research, Assessment and Monitoring Division (RAM) in close collaboration with the Nigeria Country Office piloted the Migration Pulse initiative, which uses **innovative web surveys**⁴ to better understand and assess the overall situation of families inside the country, looking specifically at families that have had a family member migrate out of Nigeria in the past five years to better understand the root causes of migration, the role of remittances and the impact on families left behind. It also looked at the challenges faced, the needs by different respondent groups, including residents, internal migrants (for work/education related reasons) and internally displaced due to conflict and insecurity. This report presents the key findings from these web-based responses.



¹ Population (2017 census): <u>https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL?locations=NG</u>

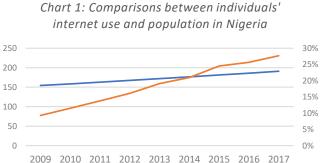
 $^{^2 \ \} Country \ overview: \ \underline{https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/nigeria/overview#1}$

³ IOM DTM Nigeria: https://displacement.iom.int/reports/nigeria-%E2%80%94-displacement-report-29-november-2019

⁴ WFP contracted RIWI Corporation to implement web-based surveys using its patented Random Domain Intercept Technology (RDIT™). Detailed information regarding RDIT can be found on the service provider's website: https://riwi.com/

Methodology and coverage

Web surveys cover the population that has access to internet. This presents а certain bias. however, recent telecommunication data for Nigeria revealed that the percentage of internet users continues to be on the rise. Based on the Nigerian Communications Commission, the internet coverage amounted to 47.1 percent of the population in 2018 and is projected to reach 84.5 percent in 2023.5 Chart 1 illustrates the change in percentage of Nigerian population who are internet users compared to the population between 2009 and 2017.6

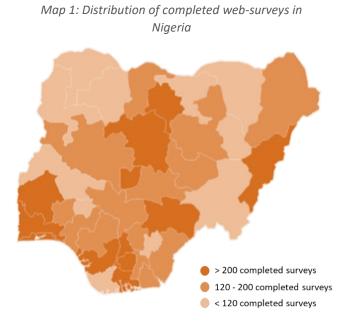


% using internet

Population

In practical terms, web surveys appear when internet users click on a broken link or make a mistake when typing in a URL link, ensuring a randomized sample. Using this technology, Nigerians were interviewed across the country, covering all 36 independent states and the Federal Capital Territory. Samples were determined and aggregated to ensure representative results per geo-political zone, including Borno, Adamawa and Yobe, the so called "BAY states". The self-administered web surveys was able to capture a total of 7,098 complete responses; 4,918 households without migrants and 2,180 households with international migrants. These responses were collected within 10 days in August 2019 using the online technology, with a completion rate of 17 percent. This shows that respondents were motivated by the content of the survey, as it relates directly to their daily lives, no incentives were provided. The survey included questions about their food security, livelihoods, challenges, intentions to move, root causes of migration and remittances from relatives living abroad.

This technology and type of survey considers people who are literate internet users, with connectivity to the internet, hence, the sample is not necessarily representative of all Nigerian populations but provided representative results at geographical zone level. To mitigate distortions resulting from representation imbalances, a weighting system was developed and applied during the analysis stage based on the sex and age of the general population.



Use of innovative web surveys

Displaced populations and other people on the move are highly mobile and hard-to-reach. At the same time, they tend to be highly connected to mobile technology and social media. The Migration Pulse implemented web surveys to collect anonymous data from an anonymous and random sample of connected households, including displaced and migrant populations, across countries and regions.

How it works? When respondents navigate to a link that is broken or inaccurate, they encounter a survey form instead of a broken link notification.

Limitations? The nature of the web-based methodology only covers literate internet users and are therefore not necessarily not representative of the overall population. To counter the geographic bias, a weighting system was developed for the analysis, which assigned a specific weight to each respondent by region of origin, gender and age.

⁵ NCC: https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/more-news/306996-nigerias-internet-users-hit-111-6m-in-december-ncc.html

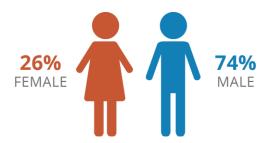
⁶ Population: https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POP.TOTL?locations=NG, Internet users %: https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/IT.NET.USER.ZS?end=2017&locations=NG&start=2009

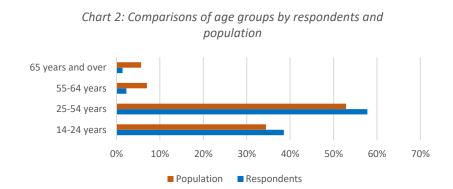
⁷ BAY states (Borno, Adamawa and Yobe) is part of north-east Nigeria region, home to around half of the population of Nigeria that has been affected by attacks from the non-state armed groups.

Profile of respondents

The web survey has collected responses from different populations within Nigeria, including those residing in rural periurban and urban areas. Although, it is normally assumed that access to internet can be limited in rural areas, web-based surveys proved that Nigerians can be well connected to the internet, as a quarter of respondents reported living in rural areas and nearly a third in small towns, while the remainder reside in large cities. This compares to an actual of 49.6 percent of the population living in rural parts.⁸ The technology captured nearly one third of women respondents. While underrepresented, traditional survey instruments also often favour male respondents. Sample weights were introduced to mitigate for any potential bias. The age distribution of respondents is close to the age distribution of the entire population; however, the younger groups were slightly overrepresented compared to the older groups.

Figure 1: Sex of respondents





When respondents were asked about their status in the country, more than half reported being residents while more than a third reported being internal migrants which also corresponded with the demographics of the Nigerian population. People in Nigeria have been heavily reliant on internal migration as its part of the population dynamics in country, and region. Another seven percent said to be currently displaced due to conflict and violence.

Figure 2: Residence status of respondents

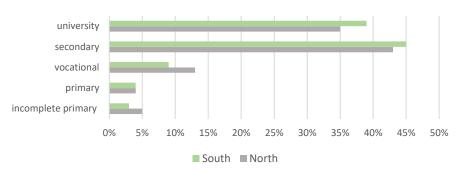


Most respondents have achieved secondary level or university, 11 percent have had vocational training, and the remainder either with primary or incomplete primary education. Web-based surveys showed that education attainment was higher in the south compared to the north, as shown in *chart 3*. This also corresponds with 1999 Wold Bank study⁹, which found that seeking better education opportunities was one of the main pull factors leading to migration. It is important to note that the applied data collection technology – web surveys – tends to capture data from more educated people, with access to internet.

 $^{^{8} \ \} World \ Bank: Rural \ population (\% \ of \ total \ population): \ \underline{https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.RUR.TOTL.ZS?locations=NG)}$

⁹ http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/118981468775569456/The-political-economy-of-poverty-equity-and-growth-Nigeria-and-Indonesia and https://www.cgdev.org/blog/poverty-nigeria-understanding-and-bridging-divide-between-north-and-south

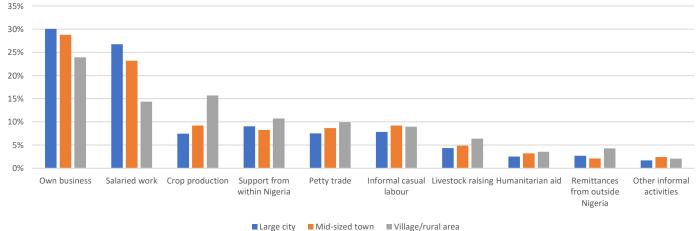
Chart 3: Comparisons of education attainment by region



Livelihood activities

Overall, Nigerians are heavily reliant on agriculture as their main source of income. And even though the agriculture sector continues to dominate other sectors - employing two-thirds of the entire labor force - agriculture production has been decelerated. 10 This is due to continued crushing poverty experienced by rural households, combined with greater opportunities for social mobility and wealth accumulation represented by occupations mostly found in urban areas. Altogether, this has led to high levels of rural-urban migration.¹¹ Nigeria has one of the highest urban growth rates in the world at 4.2 percent. 12 Furthermore, crop production levels have not kept pace with population growth and climate change, resulting in rising food imports and declining levels of national food self-sufficiency.¹³ Overall, respondents reported that the main sources of income for their families are generated from their own ran businesses (28%), salaried work (23%), crop production (10%) as well as informal casual labor (9%).

Chart 4: Main source of income by urban and rural areas



Given that about three fourths of respondents reside in peri-urban and urban areas, income generating activities such as crop production, livestock raising, and informal activities were reported by a quarter of respondents. Web-based responses showed that around half of interviewed Nigerians generate income from salaried work or through their own businesses. This reflects on predominant income activities for those residing in peri-urban and urban parts of the country. However, it is important to consider a level of bias resulting from the used technology, as it favors urban areas and more educated populations.

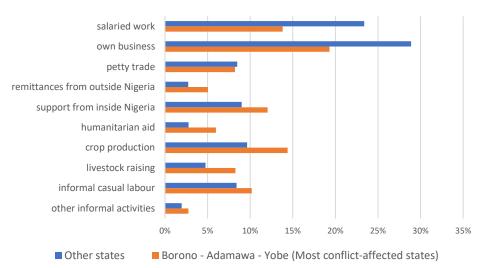
¹⁰ FAO Nigeria at a Glance: http://www.fao.org/nigeria/fao-in-nigeria/nigeria-at-a-glance/en/

¹¹ WFP/IFPRI: Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis (CFSVA) 2013 https://vam.wfp.org/CountryPage_assessments.aspx?iso3=nga

¹² World Bank: Urban population growth % https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.URB.GROW?locations=NG

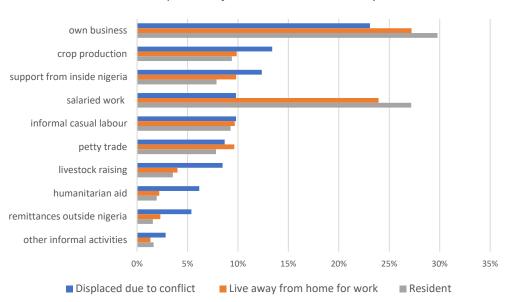
¹³ Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural development: https://fmard.gov.ng/

Chart 5: Comparisons of main income source for families by conflictaffected states vs others



Respondents who reported being displaced inside Nigeria due to conflict were found to rely more on agriculture as well as unstable income sources, including remittances and humanitarian aid as well as other informal activities compared to other groups. This is most likely due to their displacement status which has affected their normal livelihoods. *Chart 6* illustrates the differences in current livelihoods activities by status.

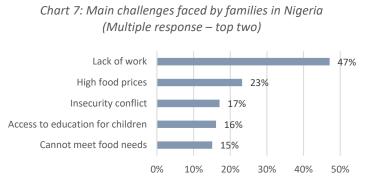
Chart 6: Comparisons of main livelihood activities by status



Challenges faced in Nigeria

When respondents were asked to report on their top two concerns in the country, lack of employment opportunities was reported most frequently followed by high food prices, insecurity and conflict, access to education and ability to meet food needs (see *Chart 7*).

Unemployment in Nigeria reached 23.1 percent in the third quarter of 2018 and is expected to further increase. 14 As mentioned earlier, Nigeria has a growing large young population putting increasing pressure on the labour market. Following the 2014-16 recession, the country witnessed severe cuts in public spending, that have affected government services nationwide, including the education sector. The sector has suffered drastically and has been marked by ongoing student and teacher protests/strikes due to a severe underfunding.



Concerns also varied according to the status of respondents. Displaced populations were relatively more worried about education for their children than other groups. Moreover, challenges such as loss of livestock, persecution/discrimination, unsafe drinking water, crop failure, land degradation and extreme weather events were all highlighted to a slightly higher extent by IDPs compared to residents and internal migrants. This finding echoes a recent UNHCR study which found that people already displaced for reasons other than natural disasters often reside in climate change "hotspots" and may be exposed to secondary displacement.¹⁵

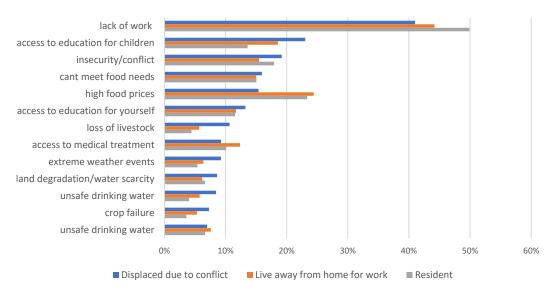


Chart 8: Top challenges faced by status of respondents

As a proxy to better understand peace in the country, the Migration Pulse also asked respondents about their perceptions of safety in their current environment. Overall, a majority (69%) reported to feel generally safe while the remaining 31 percent expressed not feeling safe. Main reasons stated for unsafety was high crime rate (34%) and violence in the community (19%). When disaggregating by status of respondents, not surprisingly, populations displaced by conflict generally feel much less safe than other groups and this is again majority due to high crime rates (31%), violence in their community (23%) followed by intercommunal tensions (18%).

 $^{{14} \ \} Nigeria\ unemployment\ rate:\ \underline{https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/nigeria/overview\#1}$

¹⁵ Climate change and disaster displacement: https://www.unhcr.org/climate-change-and-disasters.html

In response to challenges faced, one third of Nigerians reported that their main need in their current situations would be to receive cash to meet various needs, followed by education and cash strictly for food as shown in *chart 9*. Cash for food purchases was found to be especially important for displaced populations, with one fourth reporting this need as their main need compared to residents and internal migrants (15% and 14% respectively).

Cash for various needs
Education
Cash to buy food
Accommodation
Food
Safety

0% 5% 10% 15% 20% 25% 30% 35%

Food security situation

Overall, more than half of interviewed families consumed two meals per day, while 20 percent reported consuming one meal or less. Out of those consuming the least number of meals, the highest proportion (27%) was found to be in the most conflict affected states (North East/BAY states). Similarly, when using the CARI approach¹⁶, WFP's 2019 Emergency Food Security Assessment for north eastern states found that the prevalence of food insecure households had increased by 2.4 percent from February 2018. Overall, 29 percent of households across Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states are food insecure and three percent of these households were severely food insecure.

Almost half of respondents reported relying on markets for their main source of food, and nearly a quarter depend on their own production, which correspond to the findings of WFP's 2013 Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis¹⁷ (CFSVA). The remaining web respondents reported relying on various sources, including begging and scavenging (3%). The 2013 country wide CFSVA found that urban households source only an average of four percent of their food from own production, given that agricultural land resources for food production are scarce in densely populated areas. Such households rely more on purchased food than those in rural areas.

Chart 10: Number of meals consumed in the previous day

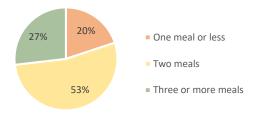
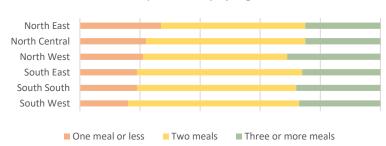


Chart 11: Comparisons of number of meals consumed in the previous day by region



In web-based surveys, when asked about the number of meals consumed in the day prior to the interview, more than a third of those displaced reported having one meal in the previous day. *Chart 12* demonstrates clear variances in the number of meals consumed by IDPs, internal migrants and residents. Moreover, higher proportions of *families without migrants* reported consuming one to two meals per day, compared to *families with migrants* (a 12-percentage point difference).

¹⁶ Consolidated Approach to Reporting Indicators of Food Security (CARI): https://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/manual_guide_proced/wfp271449.pdf

^{17 2013} Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis: https://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/ena/wfp259076.pdf?iframe

Chart 12: Number of meals eaten in the previous day

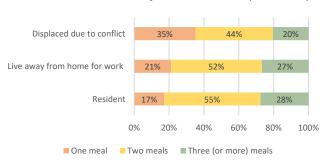
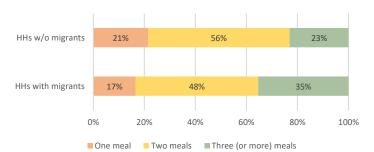


Chart 13: Number of meals eaten in the previous day



Concerns over having enough food to eat and coping capacity

Overall, analysis results revealed that 42 percent of interviewed families in Nigeria felt worried about not having enough food to eat in the previous month, even though meeting food needs did not emerge as the number one concern. Disaggregated analysis results showed that families living in the north eastern states of the country, mainly in states directly affected by an ongoing severe conflict, tend to be more worried about not having enough food to eat compared to others. Similarly, those displaced due to conflict tend to be more worried compared to residents and internal migrants.

Chart 14: Worried about not having enough food to eat in the past 30 days by conflict affected regions

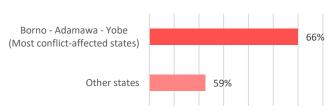
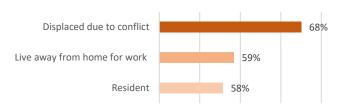
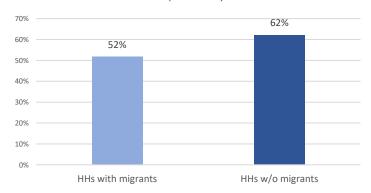


Chart 15: Worried about not having enough food to eat in the past 30 days by status

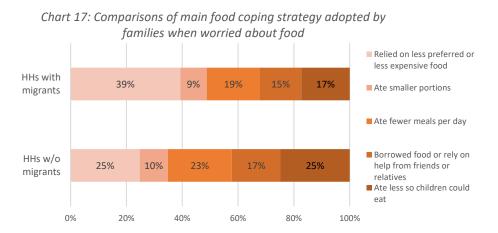


Comparisons of disaggregated results by *households with* and *without migrants* showed that those who do not have family members working and living abroad tend to be more worried about not having enough food to eat. Nearly two thirds of those without migrant members abroad reported worrying about not having enough to eat in the last 30 days compared to around half of *families with migrants*.

Chart 16: Worried about not having enough food to eat in the past 30 days

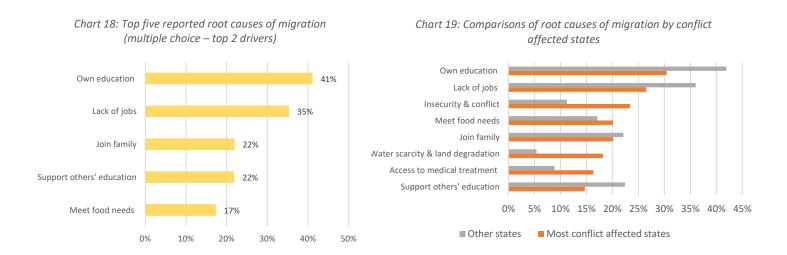


Those who reported feeling worried about not having enough to eat, were then asked which of the statement shown in chart 17 best reflects their food coping situation in the last 30 days. Comparisons were made and results revealed clear differences between the two groups; a higher proportion of *families without migrants* resorting to food-based coping than *families with migrants* (see chart 17).



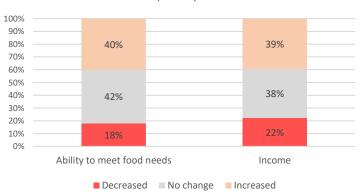
Root causes leading to migration

Migration is not a new phenomenon in Nigeria, however in recent years the conflict and violence from Boko Haram have been the recent cause for both internal and cross-border displacement. Majority of those who migrate to other regions outside of West Africa, tend to be economically better off than others who migrate to adjacent countries in search of work or education opportunities.



To get a sense of the impact of migration on those left behind, namely *families with migrants* abroad, questions related to ability to meet food needs and income were included in the web-based survey. *Chart 20* illustrates an overall mixed picture: nearly the same proportion of respondents reported an improvement compared to those who reported no significant change in their ability to meet food needs. Same results were found for the impact on income. These results are likely connected to the reception of remittances, which are improving families' income and used to meet food needs in many instances. Nonetheless, one in five respondents did report negative impacts related to the departure of their family member. Having one less person in a household due to a recent migration, often times represents one less income, which in turn can affect families' ability to meet their food needs. Further qualitative research on how migration is affecting families back home could help explain the dynamics at play.

Chart 20: How has the migration of your family member impacted your:



Current destination/transit countries

Nearly half of interviewed *Nigerian families with migrants* reported having relatives in North America and Europe, while a quarter have family members living in other African countries. Overall, more than half of their relatives are planning to remain in their current location, and not continue the migration journey. When drawing comparisons of disaggregated results by regional zones, apparent differences in migration destinations were observed. Majority of international migrants originating from the southern zones of Nigeria are currently living in U.S./Canada, while those who have migrated out of northern zones are living in other countries within West Africa.

The Migration Policy Institute (MPI) found that North American countries and the UK tend to accept highly skilled workers from Nigeria, compared to European countries. Job opportunities attainable by Nigerians in southern Europe are mainly in the agricultural sectors and informal services. Additionally, it was reported that those with medical expertise were recruited to work in Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states. This mirrors the education attainment levels and associated prospects, both in-country and abroad.

Chart 21: Current destination/transit countries of family members who have left Nigeria

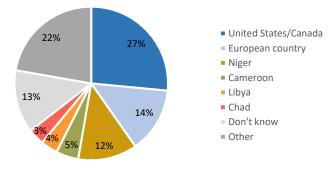
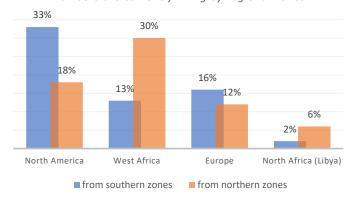


Chart 22: Comparison of where migrant family members are currently living by regional zones



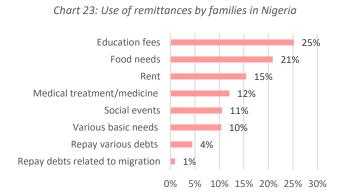
One in four respondents reported that their family members are not living in safe conditions abroad. It was particularly noticed for those with family members living in Niger, Chad, Cameroon and Libya. Overall, a higher proportion of interviewed *families with migrants* reported that their family members are living in generally good conditions in North America and Europe (41%).

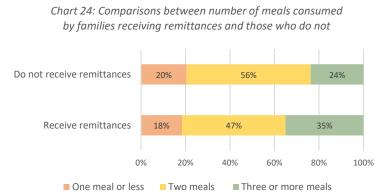
 $^{18 \\ \}text{MPI: Nigeria: Multiple Forms of Mobility in Africa's Demographic Giant } \\ \underline{\text{https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/nigeria-multiple-forms-mobility-africas-demographic-giant}} \\$

Role of migration and remittances

In 2018, Nigeria was recorded to be one of top countries for receiving remittances out of low- and middle-income countries. It was also one of the two in Africa, Egypt being at the top. That year, migrant remittances to Nigeria equalled USD 23.63 billion, representing 6.1 percent of GDP. The 2018 figure translates to 83 percent of the Federal Government budget in 2018 and 11 times the foreign direct investment flows in the same period. This amount also represents 14 percent year-on-year growth from the USD 22 billion receipt in 2017.¹⁹

Web survey respondents were asked whether they receive remittances from close migrant relatives or from other sources. Nearly two thirds of *families with migrants* (immediate members) reported receiving remittances, and even those without migrants (10 percent) are benefitting from remittances coming from other sources. Comparisons between both groups revealed that households receiving remittances are less likely to feel worried about food (51 vs 62 percent being worried) and tend to eat more meals compared to others. Remittances are mainly covering education and food needs as shown in *chart 23*.





Concluding remarks

This study aimed at understanding and assessing the overall vulnerability status of families in Nigeria, both with migrants abroad and those without. Through the web-based surveys, responses were also collected from families to understand the root causes of outward migration from Nigeria and relations to food insecurity. It was found that the top reasons for Nigerians going abroad were linked to education and job opportunities, as well as meeting food needs. In the most conflict affected states, inability to meet food needs was reported more often as a push factor compared to other states and regions. Overall, worsened socio-economic situation in Nigeria remains as the main driver of migration. However, it was found that remittances received from family members living abroad play an important role in supporting families in meeting their basic needs, including food needs. Nearly a quarter reported relying on remittances to meet food needs.

Comparisons of results by residence status, found that those internally displaced due to conflict are among the most vulnerable families to food insecurity and tend to face more challenges compared to residence and internal migrants. Furthermore, families who do not receive remittances were found to be in a worse situation compared to families who do receive them.

¹⁹ World Bank: Record High Remittances Sent Globally in 2018 https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2019/04/08/record-high-remittances-sent-globally-in-2018
PwC: The Economic Power of Nigeria's Diaspora https://www.pwc.com/ng/en/pdf/the-economic-power-of-nigerias-diaspora.pdf

In light of these findings, the following recommendations were derived:

- 1. Safe access to land should be granted to conflict affected communities in order to create the enabling environment for recovery and resilience approaches, with increased access to inputs, credit, extension services, energy and value chains;
- 2. Support increased access to income generating activities, non-agricultural livelihoods, food and labour markets for all population groups especially women, youth and vulnerable population including IDPs to enhance welfare and living standard of the most vulnerable and reduce further emigration;
- 3. In conflict affected states of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe, government authorities and partners should sustain provision of critical lifesaving humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable, giving priority to IDPs, returnees and vulnerable households without access to remittances. In places where feasible, these actors should promote recovery and resilience interventions to improve self-reliance;
- 4. Considering the potentials of remittances for economic growth, the Government of Nigeria, through its Nigerians in Diaspora Commission (NiDCOM), should put a coherent framework in place, which will stimulate an ecosystem for productive investment of remittances between emigrants, local institutions and residents and contribute to the development and growth of micro and macro-enterprises including job creation and vocational trainings.
- 5. Conduct this exercise as deemed fit, and in order to measure change overtime. Meanwhile explore additional proxy food security and coping strategy indicators, to better capture the food security situation of the population via web-based surveys. Furthermore, consider expanding on questions related to income sources, given that a wide mix of income of a household is a strong proxy for food security.



WFP VAM Headquarters

- Claudia Ah Poe, Head of Needs Assessments & Targeting Unit; Email: claudia.ahpoe@wfp.org
- Katrina Frappier, Needs Assessment Officer; Email: katrina.frappier@wfp.org
- Isra Wishah, Food Security Analyst; Email: isra.wishah@wfp.org