

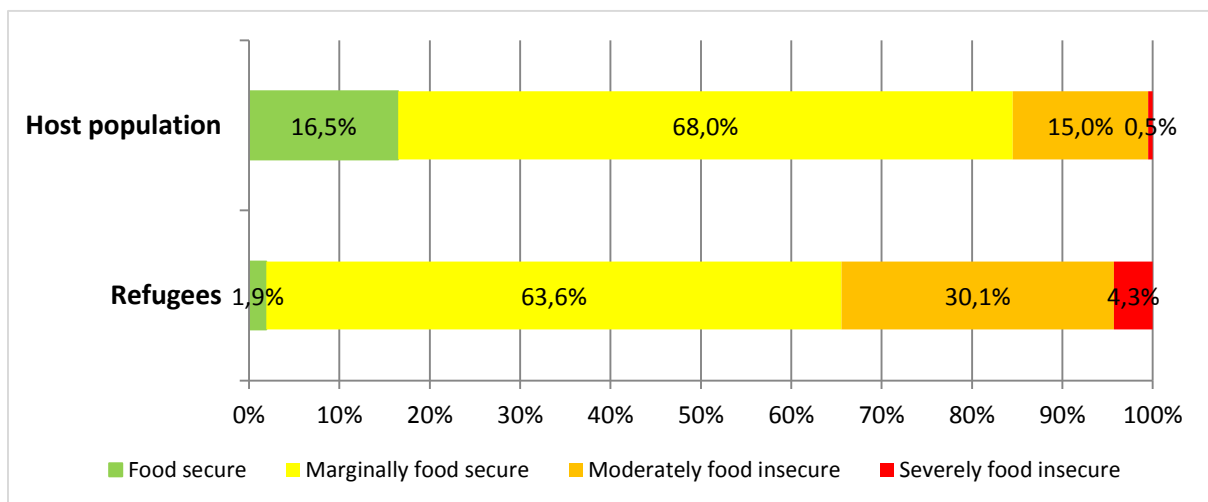
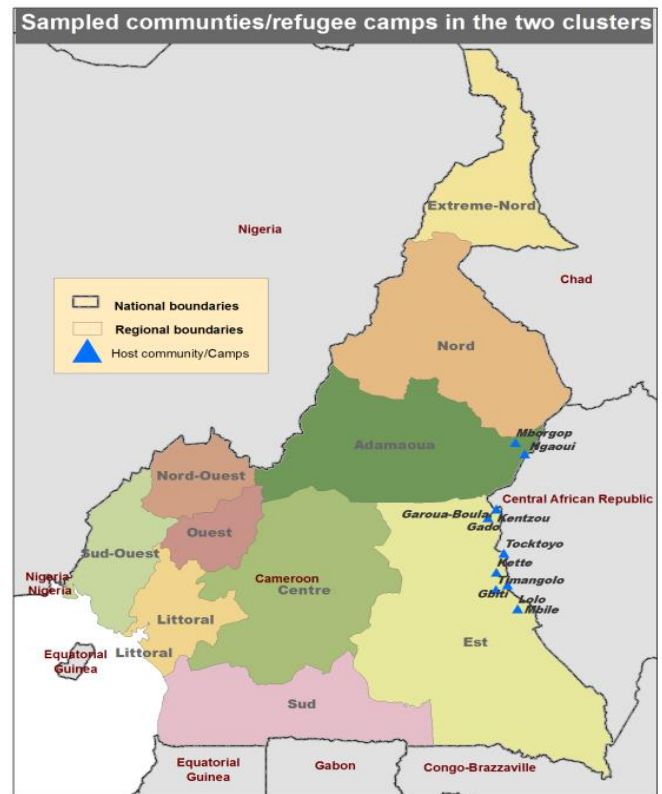
Rapid Food Security Assessment of the C.A.R. Refugees and Host Populations in East and Adamaoua Regions

How was the assessment conducted?

Primary data was collected from 400 households randomly selected in two clusters (refugees and host population) in the Adamaoua and East Regions. In 11 sites, 22 focus group discussions were also conducted with the two clusters.

What are the results?

Overall, 34.4 percent of refugee households are food insecure (severe and moderate) of which 4.3% are severely food insecure. The diet of the severely food insecure households consists mainly of cereals and vegetables with very little consumption of meat, fish, eggs and dairy products. Similarly, 15.5 percent of host population households are food insecure of which less than one percent (0.5) is severely food insecure.



Who are the food insecure households?

About 34.7 percent of households that rely primarily on food assistance are food insecure. This includes 36 percent of male-headed households and 34.8 percent of female-headed households. In this food assistance-reliant group, 38.1 percent of widows are food insecure. Moreover, 12.2 percent of these food insecure households identify high cost of living as one of the major shocks affecting them. Because of the major influx of refugees from C.A.R. this year, the proportion of refugee households who are reliant on assistance has increased by 41 percent from 2.1 percent in July 2013.

Among the host population, food insecure households say they have not recovered from shocks sustained in the last 6 months. Some 31.5 percent identified high cost of living as their main shock while 21.4 percent pointed to increased prices of staples as another.

What are the main risks to food security?

The influx of refugees arriving with their livestock is exacerbating conflicts between pastoralist and farmers. Farmers are forced cultivating fields far away from communities because of the risk of crop destruction by livestock. The destruction of crops is affecting the yields of food crops around the refugee sites. Another risk to future food security is the rising prices of staple food commodities due to increased demand from refugees.

What are the main challenges of refugees and host community?

Refugee and host households face the following challenges:

- difficulties in accessing water and health facilities
- destruction of field crops by livestock owned by refugees
- significant drop in the prices of livestock
- decline in wages of casual labour
- increased prices of staple food items

Recommendations

- Food assistance should continue to be given to the refugee population and a review of the food ration calculation criteria may be necessary to ensure that large households receive adequate rations.
- Food assistance should be programmed for some households in the host population.
- An in-depth market assessment should be carried out to establish how markets are functioning, how available food is and to assess the implications of price changes on food security and program response.
- Local farmers need to be supported with agricultural inputs to increase the production of staple food crops.
- It is necessary to work with local authorities to acquire documentation for new refugees which will enable them to participate in economic activities.