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# WFP Ethiopia

Drought Emergency Household Food Security Monitoring Bulletin #2



World Food Programme

wfp.org

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## BULLETIN #2

This bulletin presents the results of the second round of data collection to monitor the 2016 Food Sector response to the ongoing drought emergency in Ethiopia. The data covers the months of March and April.

This bulletin is a joint product of the Food Sector.

## IN NUMBERS

**31 percent** reduction in inadequate food consumption among relief beneficiaries since February

**80 percent** of affected households still cannot access their minimum daily food needs through own means

**36 percent** of non-targeted households also report inadequate food consumption

## MAIN FINDINGS

**Food consumption among relief beneficiaries is showing some encouraging trends** as rates of inadequate food consumption has dropped overall.

**However, the situation remains critical**, with severely constrained food access and, a high use of negative coping strategies, and low dietary diversity.

**Even non-targeted households are reporting inadequate food consumption**, indicating that actual needs might be higher than current targeting estimates.

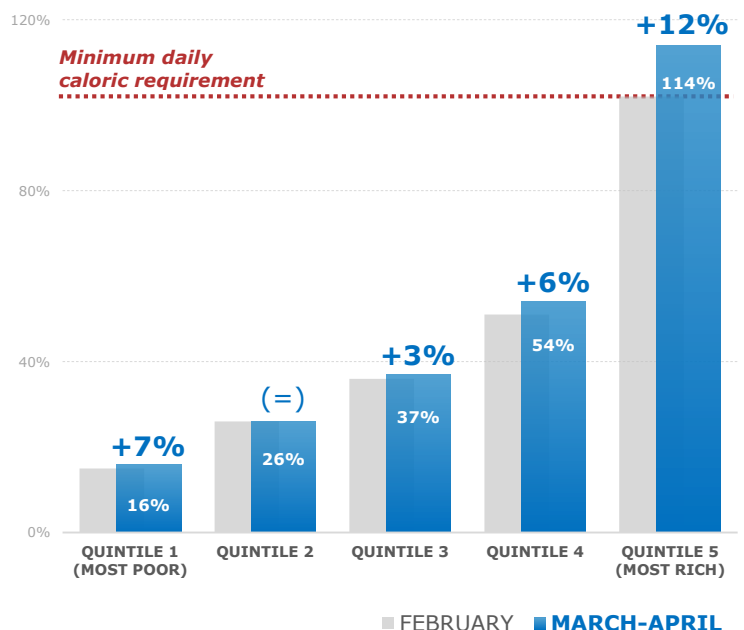


## FOOD CONSUMPTION among relief beneficiaries is showing some improvement, but remains worryingly low

The ability of the affected population to cover food needs from its own means (own production, cash purchase, and/or credit) has improved somewhat since February, but remains very low. 80 percent of affected households can still barely cover half of their minimum daily food needs from their own means/

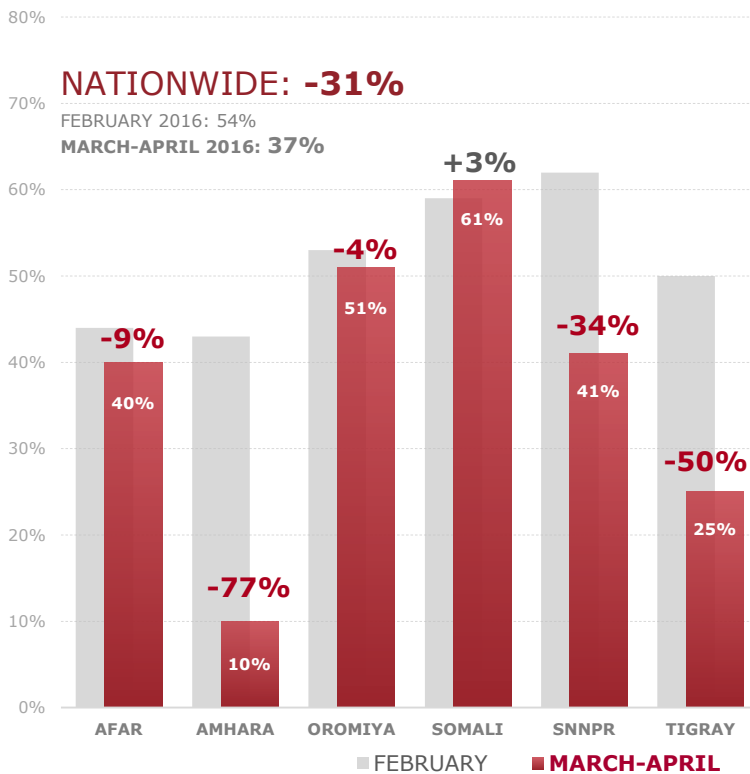
For the poorest 20 percent of the affected population, the situation remains especially worrying. This group can meet, on average, only 16 percent of their food needs through their own means. The richest 20 percent by comparison, are fully self-sufficient, able to meet more than 100 percent of their food

PERCENT OF MINIMUM CALORIC NEEDS COVERED FROM OWN MEANS AMONG AFFECTED HOUSEHOLDS  
FEBRUARY VS. MARCH/APRIL 2016 SURVEY ROUNDS



**RATE OF INADEQUATE FOOD CONSUMPTION AMONG RELIEF BENEFICIARIES**

FEBRUARY VS. MARCH/APRIL 2016 SURVEY ROUNDS



requirements without assistance. In fact, this group, the group *least* in need, is responsible for the lion's share of improvement since February.

Among relief beneficiaries, the positive impact of increased levels of emergency food assistance is evident, as the rate of inadequate consumption among this group has fallen by 31 percent overall, and has dropped in all regions except Somali Region. In Amhara, the rate of inadequate consumption has dropped by more than three-fourths and now has the lowest rate among all regions nationwide.

**! In sum, although food consumption levels are showing some encouraging trends, illustrating the impact of the emergency relief efforts, the fact remains that the majority of the affected population still rely on external assistance to meet their minimum daily food needs.**



**NEGATIVE COPING STRATEGIES**

continue to be employed at very high rates among the affected population, reflecting a still critical food security situation

The use of negative coping mechanisms has seen only marginal improvement since February 2016. 70 percent of the affected population are skipping meals – eating on average only one meal per day. While this is a small decrease since February, the figure remains worryingly high. Additionally, a full 80 percent of the affected population are limiting their meal sizes, the most commonly used coping mechanism.

**! The use of negative coping mechanisms remain prominent. Consumption-based coping (e.g. limiting the size of meals) has not seen any substantive change since February. More alarming however, is the sharp increase in the proportion of households deploying strategies such as borrowing food, selling productive assets, and reducing essential non-food expenditures. This trend clearly indicates that relief beneficiaries are still under considerable stress.**

**PERCENT OF RELIEF BENEFICIARIES DEPLOYING SELECTED NEGATIVE COPING STRATEGIES**  
MARCH/APRIL 2016 (AND CHANGE SINCE FEBRUARY)

<b>LIMITING MEAL SIZE</b>	<b>80%</b> (-1%)	=
<b>SKIPPING MEALS</b>	<b>70%</b> (-8%)	↓
Consuming less preferred/cheaper foods	<b>64%</b> (+14%)	↑
<b>Reducing essential non-food expenditures, including healthcare</b>	<b>47%</b> (+42%)	!
<b>Borrowing food</b>	<b>32%</b> (+39%)	!
Selling productive assets, including livestock	<b>27%</b> (+8%)	↑
Sale of charcoal/firewood/grass	<b>19%</b> (+12%)	↑
Selling household assets	<b>6%</b> (-40%)	↓



## ACCESS TO FOOD FROM ALL SOURCES

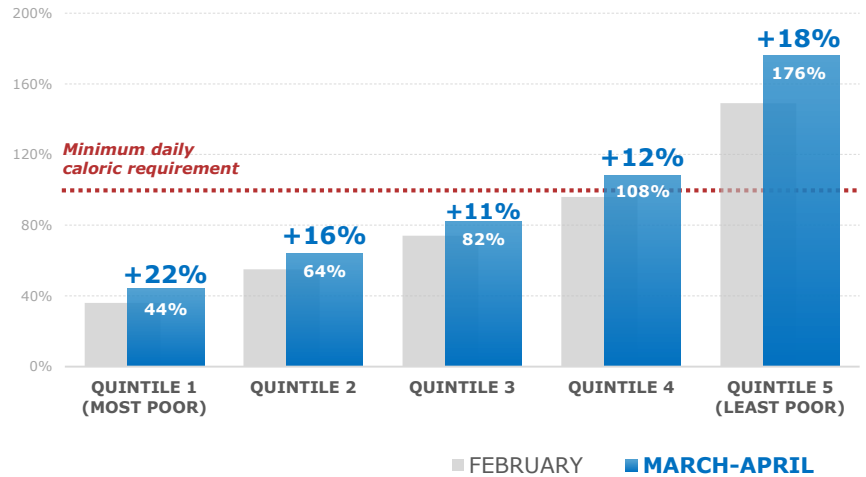
has improved somewhat, but remains severely constrained for the poorest segments of the affected population

Critically, affected households continue to consume considerably less than their minimum daily food needs, even with the emergency food ration. Although there has been some improvement since February, 60 percent of the affected population are accessing fewer calories than the daily minimum recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO). Worryingly, the poorest 40 percent of the population are able to cover less than a third of their daily food needs.

The composition of the emergency ration received by households has seen a slight improvement, with more than 40 percent of relief beneficiaries reporting that they received their full cereal entitlement. However, the remaining 60 percent are still not receiving their full ration. The provision of pulses has seen some improvement, with the number of beneficiaries reporting not having received any pulses dropping by close to 30 percent.

**! That the majority of households are not receiving their full entitlement indicates that food is still being shared with food insecure families not registered on distribution lists. This point is further reinforced by the significant and consistent difference between the actual mean household size, and the number of household members registered for food assistance across regions.**

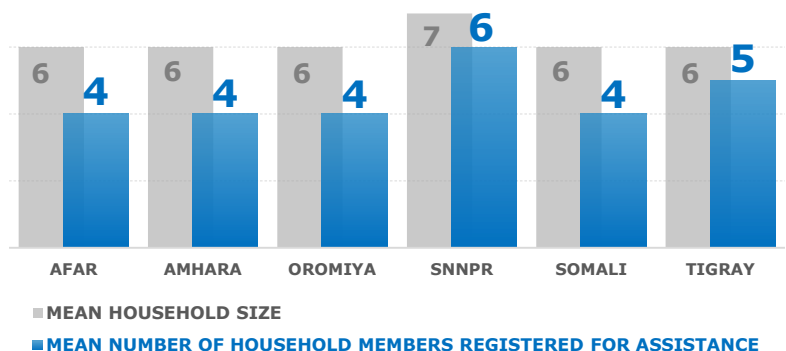
PERCENT OF MINIMUM CALORIC NEEDS COVERED FROM ALL SOURCES AMONG AFFECTED HOUSEHOLDS  
FEBRUARY VS. MARCH/APRIL 2016 SURVEY ROUNDS



THE EMERGENCY RATION  
MARCH/APRIL 2016 (AND CHANGE SINCE FEBRUARY)

PROVISION OF PULSES:		PROVISION OF CEREALS:	
QUANTITY	% OF BENEFICIARIES	QUANTITY	% OF BENEFICIARIES
0 - 1 kg	46% (-29%)	< 6 kg	13% (+30%)
1 - 2 kg	53% (+38%)	6 kg - 10 kg	24% (-11%)
3 - 4 kg	1% (-97%)	10 kg - 15 kg	22% (-23%)
		15 kg	41% (+12%)

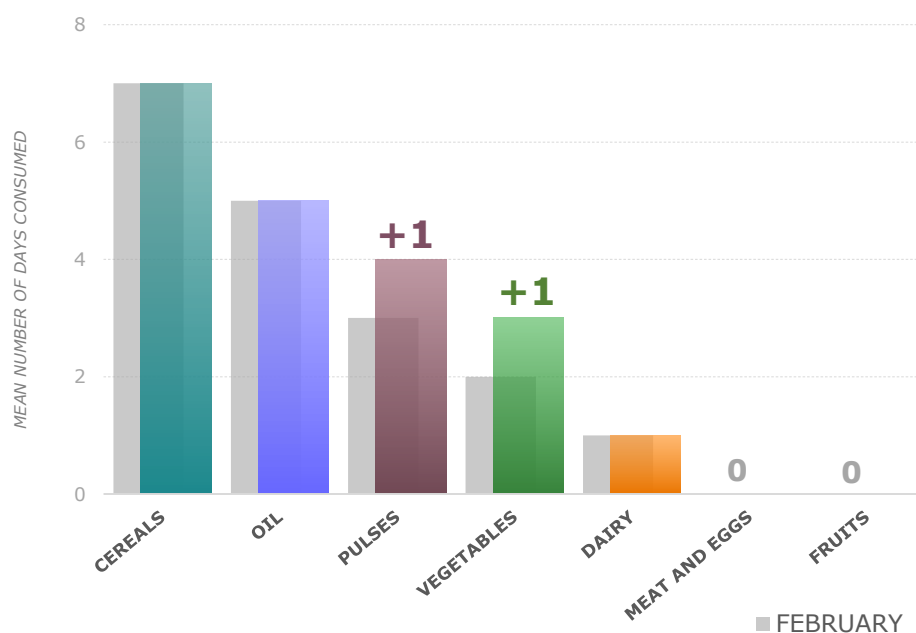
MEAN HOUSEHOLD SIZE VS. HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS REGISTERED FOR ASSISTANCE



## DIETARY DIVERSITY

Access to, and consumption of other foods remains limited. The main items *regularly* consumed by households are cereals and oil—and primarily, the source of these items is the emergency food ration. Although there has been a slight increase in consumption of pulses and vegetables since February, dietary diversity remains low, with little to no nutrient dense foods being eaten by family members. This has serious implications for malnutrition rates among young children who do not have access to a sufficient quantity and variety of foods at the household level.

**FOOD CONSUMPTION AND DIETARY DIVERSITY**  
COUNTRYWIDE, MARCH/APRIL 2016 (AND CHANGE FROM FEBRUARY)



**! The continued critical situation for the drought-affected population, with access to food severely limited, low dietary diversity, and the continued widespread use of negative and damaging coping strategies, means that the importance of timely, consistent and complete food rations, combined with a solid response across other key humanitarian sectors cannot be overestimated.**

## KEY REGIONAL FINDINGS

REGION	FOOD CONSUMPTION AND DIETARY DIVERSITY			COPING	ECONOMIC VULNERABILITY	POOREST 20%
	INADEQUATE FOOD CONSUMPTION	DIETARY DIVERSITY	LOW DIETARY DIVERSITY	COPING STRATEGIES	HIGH FOOD EXPENDITURE SHARE (65%+)	FOOD REQUIREMENTS COVERED THROUGH OWN MEANS
	% Households	Mean number of food groups (0-7)	% Households	Mean Coping Strategy Index	% Households	% monthly coverage
AFAR	40 (-27%)	4 (+1)	67 (-19%)	15 (-5)	72 (+82%)	15 (=)
AMHARA	10 (-76%)	3 (=)	95 (=)	23 (-6)	79 (-22%)	18 (+12%)
OROMIA	51 (-6%)	3 (-1)	84 (+1%)	21 (+3)	70 (+27%)	16 (+45%)
SNNPR	41 (-32%)	4 (=)	65 (-10%)	17 (-2)	68 (-3%)	10 (-47%)
SOMALI	61 (+3%)	3 (-1)	90 (+12%)	12 (+1)	66 (+24%)	19 (+90%)
TIGRAY	25 (-50%)	4 (=)	59 (-29%)	7 (-7)	73 (-10%)	17 (=)

Again, sampled relief beneficiary households in all regions are reporting poor food consumption, poor dietary diversity, and a high food expenditure share. Across most regions, however, food consumption has improved significantly, with the exception being Somali region, which is reporting a very slight deterioration.

**! Households in Amhara continue to warrant special attention, even with the lowest rate of inadequate food consumption. With the lowest rate of dietary diversity, the highest use of negative coping strategies, and the highest share of disposable income going towards food purchases – the situation in the region warrants concern.**



## COMPARING NON-TARGETED HOUSEHOLDS, PSNP BENEFICIARIES, AND RELIEF BENEFICIARIES

reveals that *all* groups are stressed, suffering from high rates of inadequate food consumption, with some marked differences

Inadequate food consumption is not limited to those receiving emergency relief assistance under the HRD. More than one third of households not targeted for any form of external assistance also report high levels of inadequate food consumption. Moreover, Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) beneficiaries are reporting a higher rate of inadequate food consumption compared to Relief or households that neither receive Relief nor PSNP transfers.

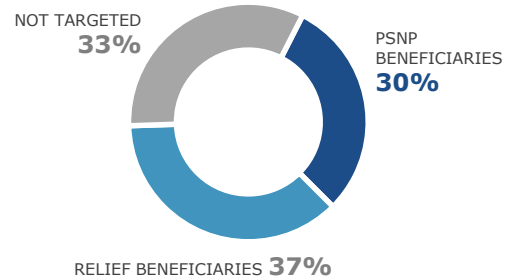
This is not wholly unexpected, as PSNP beneficiaries are targeted on the basis of chronic food insecurity related to structural problems in accessing food even in non-emergency situations – in other words they were already poorer and more food insecure than those households targeted for emergency relief assistance. Additionally, with the ongoing drought, and given that the bulk of PSNP transfers were in cash, the availability and affordability of food on local markets poses an additional constraint.

For households benefiting from relief transfers, debt levels are significantly higher compared to PSNP or non-beneficiary households. Again, this reinforces findings from previous months indicating that relief beneficiaries are facing serious constraints relating to purchasing power and access to disposable income to meet both food and non-food needs.

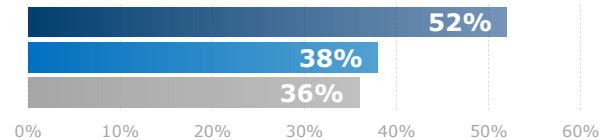
**Overall, the food security situation at household level remains extremely concerning across *all* groups. Of particular concern are households not receiving any form of external assistance via emergency relief (HRD) or PSNP. This group warrants additional attention to assess whether they are eligible to receive emergency relief assistance under the HRD for the second half of 2016. As the hunger season approaches, all stakeholders will need to consider how to prevent further deterioration in the months ahead.**

### BENEFICIARY SURVEY GROUPS:

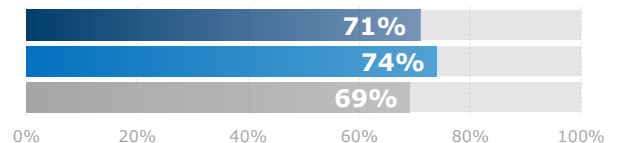
PSNP	RELIEF	NOT TARGETED
60% CASH / 40% FOOD	100% FOOD	NONE



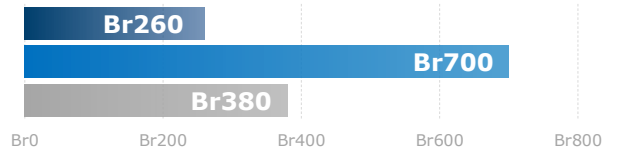
### RATE OF INADEQUATE FOOD CONSUMPTION:



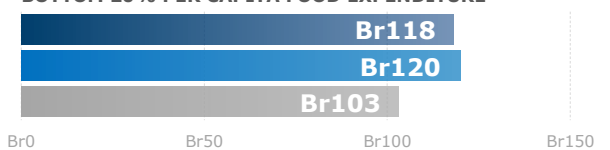
### FOOD EXPENDITURE SHARE



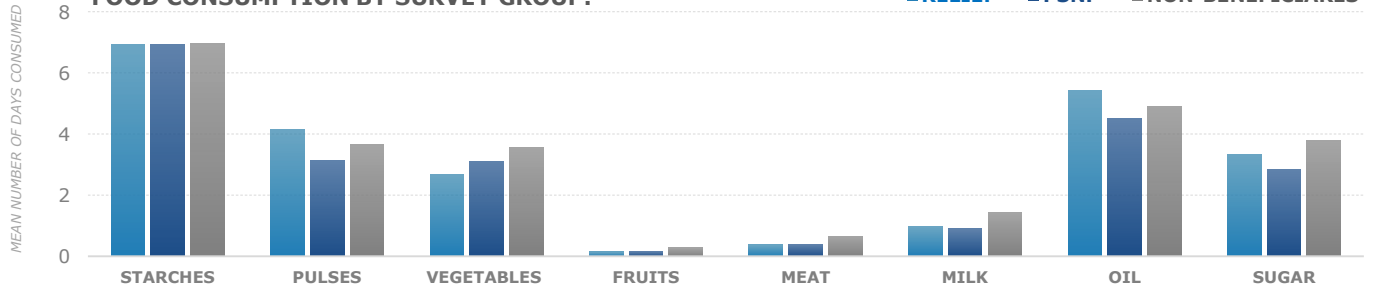
### MEAN PER CAPITA OUTSTANDING DEBT



### BOTTOM 20% PER CAPITA FOOD EXPENDITURE



### FOOD CONSUMPTION BY SURVEY GROUP:







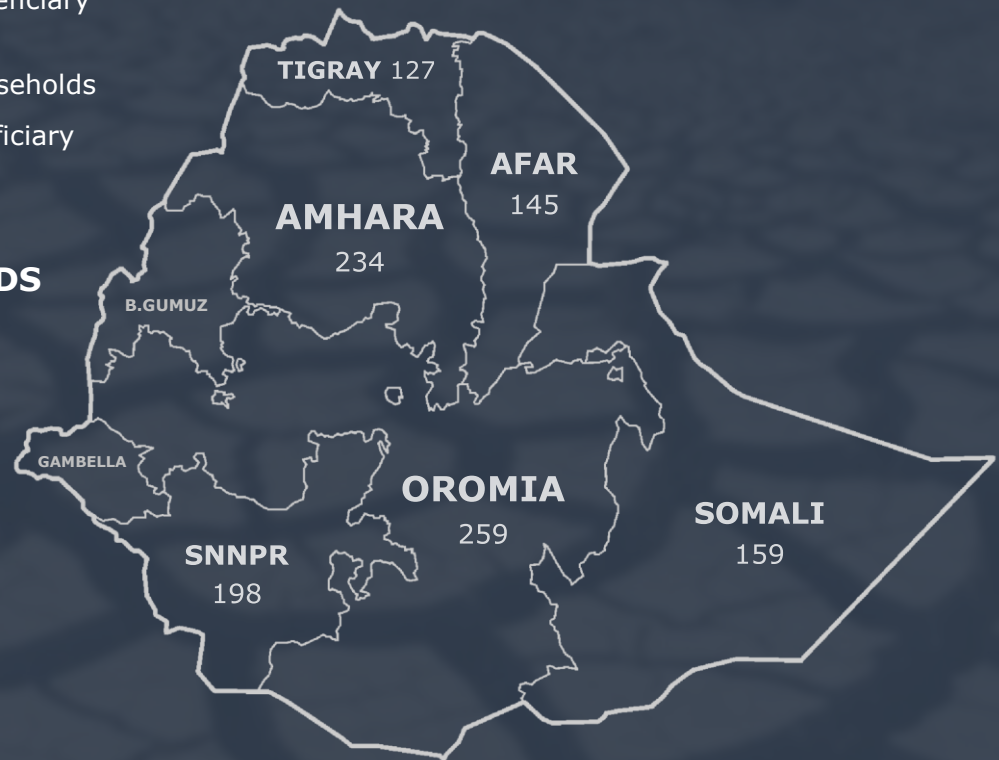
## SURVEY COVERAGE

**412** relief beneficiary households

**340** PSNP households

**370** non-beneficiary households

**1122**  
**HOUSEHOLDS**  
**TOTAL**



## 2016 ETHIOPIA DROUGHT EMERGENCY

Humanitarian needs in Ethiopia have tripled since early 2015 as severe drought in some regions, exacerbated by the strongest El Nino in decades, caused successive harvest failures and widespread livestock deaths. Acute malnutrition has risen sharply, and one quarter of Ethiopia's districts are now officially classified as facing a nutrition crisis. Out of 10.2 million people now requiring urgent humanitarian assistance, WFP is tasked with supporting the government in meeting the needs of 7.6 million people in 2016.

**As Ethiopia enters the traditional "hunger season", additional resources for these efforts are required immediately. So far, in spite of the best efforts of many donors, funding has not kept pace with needs.**



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