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WFP Ethiopia

Drought Emergency Household Food Security Monitoring Bulletin #4



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BULLETIN #4 IN NUMBERS

This bulletin presents the results of the fourth round of data collection to monitor the 2016 Food Sector response to the ongoing drought emergency in Ethiopia. The data covers the months of August and Early September.

This bulletin is a joint product of the Food Sector.

80 percent of relief households cannot still meet their minimum caloric requirement from own means. The relatively richest households can meet their minimum caloric needs and beyond, from own means, pointing to targeting error of inclusion.

25 percent reduction in inadequate food consumption among relief beneficiaries since February but slight increases between May and August as the hunger season peaked.

MAIN FINDINGS

Inadequate food consumption increased between May and August 2016 in 4 out of 6 regions. But in Somali region inadequate consumption declined highly (60%). Gu rains and improvement in delivery of food assistance contributed to improved food access in the region.

The proportion of non-targeted households with inadequate consumption declined from 37% in May to 28% in August; but this is still a significant proportion not to be targeted.

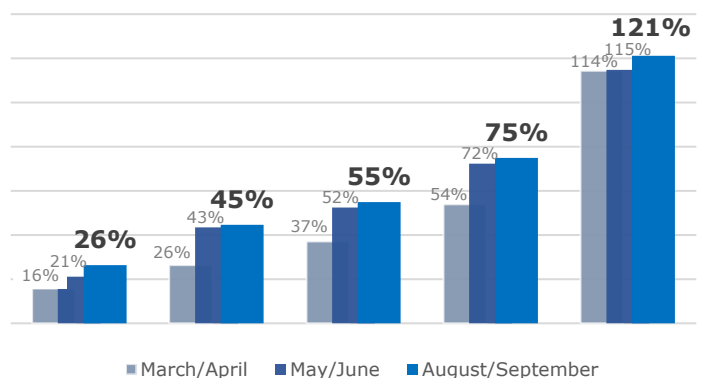


FOOD CONSUMPTION

Among relief beneficiaries consumption from own sources is showing improvement since February, but remains low.

Food consumption, as measured by per capita food expenditures against minimum caloric requirements, still remains very low for the majority of relief households. The poorest quintile can only access 26% of their minimum food needs from their means. In contrast, the richest quintile can meet their minimum caloric needs without food assistance. This points to potential inclusion errors. Overall access to food improved for all quintiles, including the poorest. Food availability and income from own production, labor and other sources of income improved over the past months for all groups, largely due to the Belg rains.

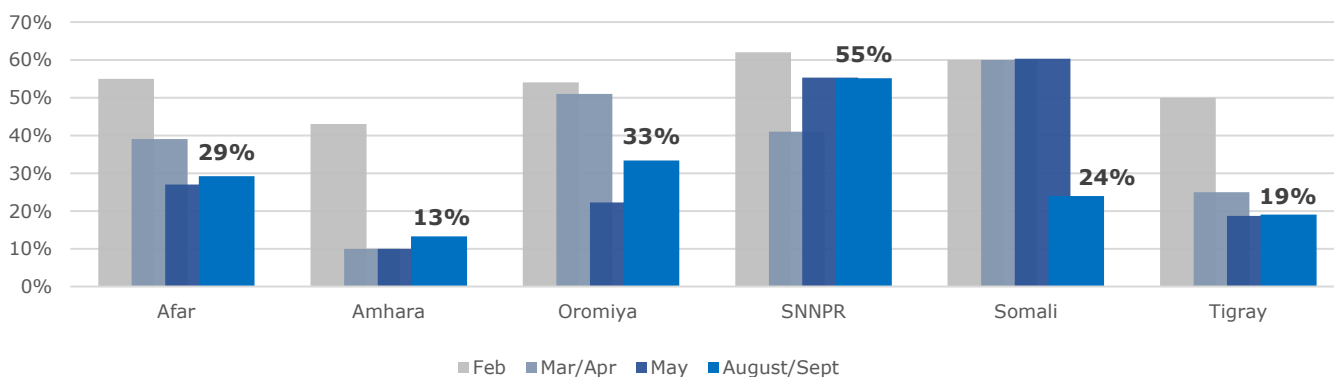
Figure 1: Percent of minimum caloric needs covered from own means, relief households



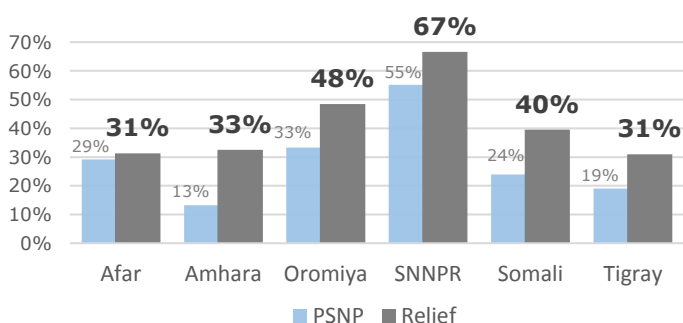
Food consumption as measured by the food consumption score (frequency and diversity of consumption over a 7 day recall) also improved among relief households over the course of the year.

The proportion of households with inadequate consumption (poor and borderline consumption) continued to decline between February to June. However, it rose slightly in August in all regions except Somali. In Somali region, the percentage of inadequate consumption remained the same between February and June, but decreased markedly from June to August (by 60%). The improvement can be attributed to overall good Gu 2016 rains and improved food assistance delivery in the region.

Figure 2: Percent of relief households with inadequate food consumption



Figures 3: Percent of households with inadequate consumption, August 2016



In August, SNNPR had the highest percentage (55%) of households with inadequate consumption, followed by Oromia (33%). Amhara region had the lowest rate, with 13% exhibiting a sharp decline from the over 40% households with inadequate consumption in February.

In all regions and as expected based on the programmes targeting, PSNP beneficiaries had the largest proportion of households with poor and borderline consumption (inadequate consumption).



NEGATIVE COPING STRATEGIES

Since most affected households did not get a major production since the onset of the drought, households continued to employ negative coping strategies at high rates.

A high number of relief beneficiary households continue to employ negative coping strategies, given the lack of a major production season for most households since the onset of the El’Nino induced drought. This indicates that most households still have a consumption gap even with the provision of food aid. The exception is southern pastoralists, who had consecutive average production seasons. There was, however, a reduction in the skipping of meals, coming down from 70% in March /April to 36% in August.

Table 1: Percent of relief beneficiaries deploying selected negative coping strategies
September 2016 (and change since May 2016)

LIMITING MEAL SIZE	77.4% (+1.4%)
SKIPPING MEALS	36.4% (-5.6%)
Consuming less preferred/cheaper foods	54.9% (-1.1%)
Reducing essential non-food expenditures, including healthcare	41.5% (+1.5%)
Borrowing food	28.5% (-7.5%)
Sale of charcoal/firewood/grass	16.2% (=)
Selling household assets	1.4% (-0.6%)



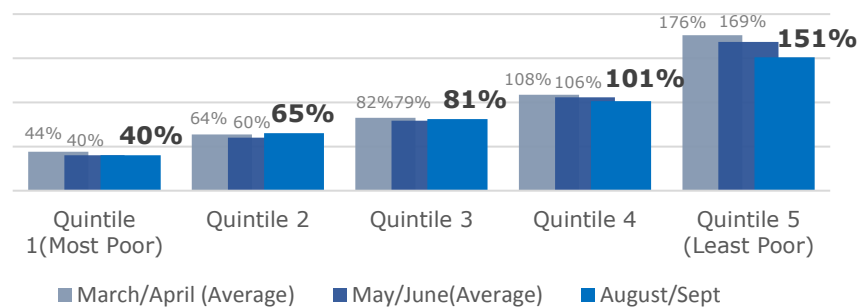
ACCESS TO FOOD FROM ALL SOURCES

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

The mean reduced coping strategy index (coping related to food consumption behavior) shows a mixed picture, increasing in some regions while declining in others, as compared to May 2016. The increase is recorded in Afar (11%), Amhara (22%) and Tigray (20%) while a decrease was observed in Oromia (-46%), SNNPR (-48%) and Somali (-40%) regions.

Relief households continue to consume considerably less than necessary to meet their minimum daily food needs, even with emergency food assistance. Sixty percent of the affected households are still accessing less calories than the recommended daily minimum requirement. The poorest 20% households

Figure 4: Percent of minimum caloric needs covered from all means

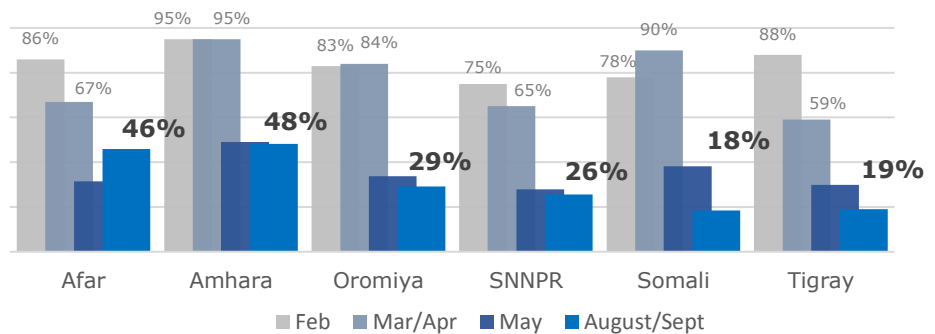


can only meet 40% of their caloric needs, all sources considered. Over a 6 month period, from March to August 2016, consumption against minimum caloric requirements either declined slightly or remained relatively static. This could be due to a combination of factors, including delays in the receipt of food aid in some months and price increases in others.

Dietary diversity

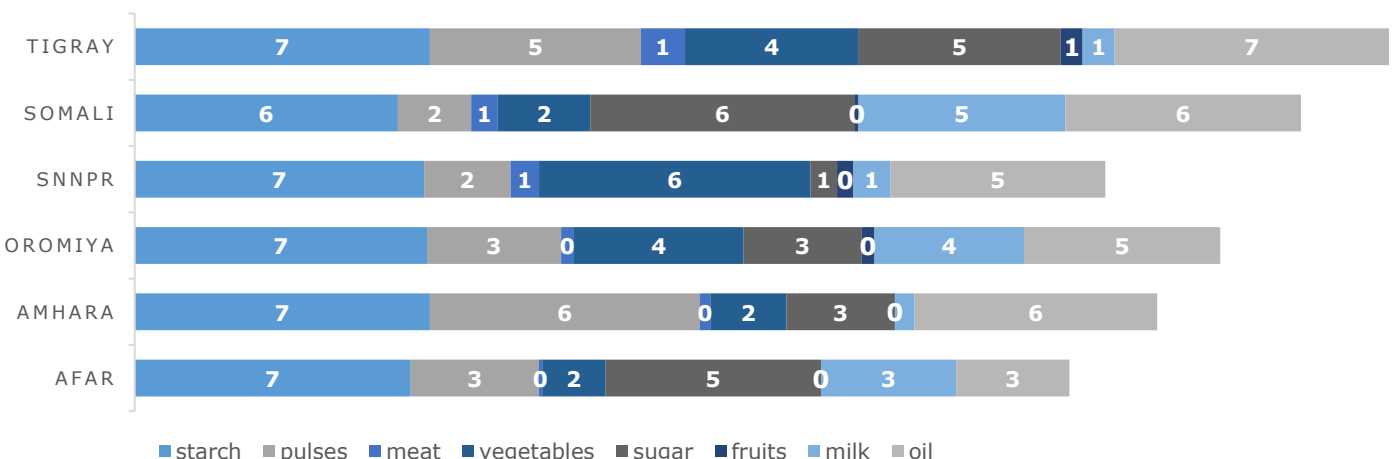
The percentage of relief households with low diet diversity continued to decline, except in Afar where it increased between March and May. The decline between February/March and August is significant. The current improvement in diet diversity can be attributed to better access to food through home production including increased availability of milk, green vegetables and root crops through the Belg rains. In August 2016, Amhara region had the highest proportion of households with low dietary diversity. Overall, about 31% (less by 4% from May, 2016) of the households still have low diet diversity, consuming mainly cereal,

Figure 5: Percent of relief households with low dietary diversity



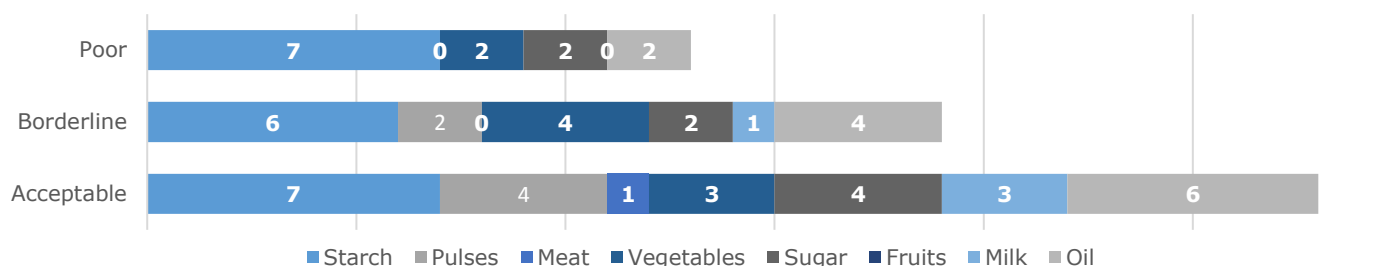
of the households still have low diet diversity, consuming mainly cereal, In August 2016, Amhara region had the highest proportion of households with low dietary diversity. Overall, about 31% (less by 4% from May, 2016) of the households still have low diet diversity, consuming mainly cereal,

Figure 6: Mean days of consumption, relief households by region



oil and sugar. It is worth noting that low diet diversity has a strong relation to the rate of malnutrition among young children, who may not have access to sufficient quantities and appropriate food options at the household level.

Figure 7: Relief mean number of consumption days by food consumption group



Households in Tigray had better diet diversity than in other regions, consuming pulses, oil and vegetables for more days of the month. There was little difference in terms of diet diversity households, with relief households averaging one more day of consumption due to their consumption of pulses and sugar. Relief households in the poor consumption group did not consume pulses at all over the 7 day recall period, against 2 days for the borderline group and 4 days for those with acceptable consumption. Households in the poor consumption group consumed 7 days of starch/cereals, 2 days of vegetables and 2 days of oil and sugar each on average. About 7% of the relief households in the survey fall into poor consumption group.

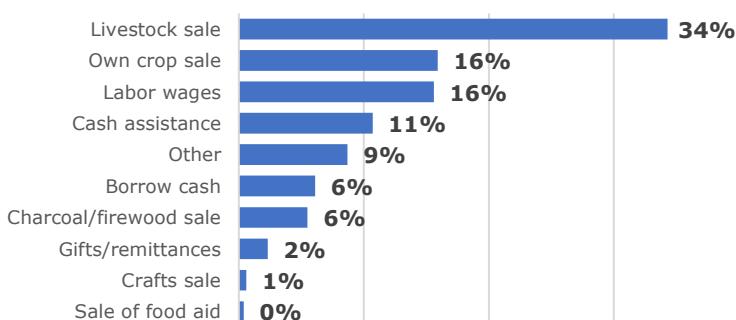
The majority of relief beneficiaries continue to receive less than the ration size they are entitled to. About 75% of the respondents reported receiving less than 1.5 kg of pulses per person and only 34% reported receiving 15kg cereals per person. In addition, dilution of assistance is evidenced by discrepancies in the actual household size against the number of members registered for assistance, with a difference of 1 to 2 members between the two.

PROVISION OF PULSES:		PROVISION OF CEREALS:	
QUANTITY	% OF BENEFICIARIES	QUANTITY	% OF BENEFICIARIES
<1.5 kg	75%	< 6 kg	13%
1.5 kg	21%	6 kg - 12 kg	24%
>15 kg	5%	>12 kg <15 kg	22%
		15 kg	41%
		>15 kg	6%

Main Sources of Cash Income

The findings of the survey show that the major sources of household cash income for the purchase of food and non-food items are livestock sales, own crop sales, labor wages and cash assistance (figure 2). Regional comparisons show that livestock sales contribute the majority of cash income to sample households in Afar, Oromia, Amhara, Somali regions. Contributions from gifts/remittance are relatively high in Tigray and Somali regions, but the overall contribution of remittances is low when compared to other sources. Labor wages contribute more in Tigray region when compared to other regions. The borrowing of cash is high in Amhara and Oromia regions, whereas the sale of charcoal is relatively high in Oromia.

Figure 8 : Main sources of cash (all survey group)



Key regional findings

Table 3: Key indicators regional findings

REGION	FOOD CONSUMPTION AND DIETARY DIVERSITY		COPING	ECONOMIC VULNERABILITY	POOREST 20%
	INADEQUATE FOOD CONSUMPTION	LOW DIETARY DIVERSITY	COPING STRATEGIES	HIGH FOOD EXPENDITURE SHARE (65%+)	FOOD REQUIREMENTS COVERED THROUGH OWN MEANS
	% Households	% Households	Mean Coping Strategy Index	% Households	% monthly coverage
AFAR	29 (+2)	46 (+15)	13 (+1)	74 (-4)	31 (-3)
AMHARA	13 (+3)	48(-1)	20 (+4)	70 (-7)	16 (-6)
OROMIA	33 (+11)	29(+5)	10 (-9)	70 (-3)	22 (=)
SNNPR	55 (=)	26(-2)	5 (-9)	66 (-1)	34 (+24)
SOMALI	24 (-36)	18 (-20)	10 (-6)	75 (-3)	NA
TIGRAY	19(=)	19(-11)	8 (+1)	63(-7)	28(+11)

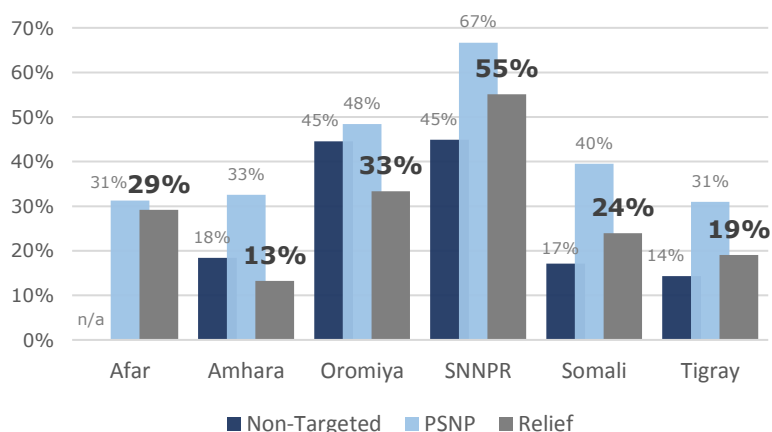


COMPARING NON-TARGETED HOUSEHOLDS, PSNP AND RELIEF BENEFICIARIES Reveals that *all* groups are stressed, suffering from high rates of inadequate food consumption, with some differences.

The proportion of households who reported inadequate food consumption is higher among PSNP households (42%), than relief (29%) and non-targeted households (28%). In all the three groups, however, the rate of inadequate consumption declined from February levels. However, an increase in the proportion of relief households with inadequate food consumption was observed in four out of the six regions from May to August.

The overall high proportion of PSNP beneficiary households with inadequate food consumption coupled with completion of PSNP assistance for 2016 merits further consideration.

Figure 9: Rate of inadequate food consumption, comparing Relief, PSNP and Non-Targeted

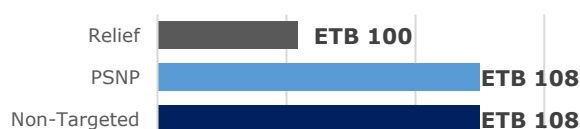


Indebtedness

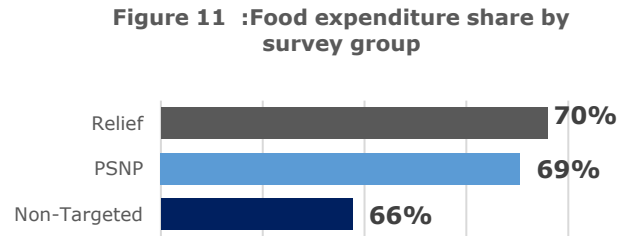
Households were asked whether they have outstanding debt to be paid. Sixty four percent (64%) of PSNP households, 54% relief households and 52% non-targeted households reported having outstanding debt. The main reasons for the borrowing of money are purchase of food (30%) and agricultural inputs (14%).

This finding is in line with the proportion of households with inadequate food, which is highest amongst PSNP beneficiary households. As indicated in previous reports, this could be due

Figure 10: Bottom 20% per capita food expenditure



to the low disposable income especially of poor direct transfer recipient of PSNP beneficiaries, the increased willingness of lenders to provide loans to PSNP beneficiaries or other related factors, such as the low purchasing power of the cash due to the seasonal increase in the price of staple food. All groups of households are economically vulnerable as shown by high share of food expenditure, Figure 11.





SURVEY COVERAGE

442 relief beneficiary households

431 PSNP households

366 non-beneficiary Households

1239
HOUSEHOLDS
TOTAL



2016 ETHIOPIA DROUGHT EMERGENCY



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