

RETURNEE FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOOD ASSESSMENT

DECEMBER 2015



Assessment conducted by WFP in partnership with MIDIMAR in Nyamasheke and Musanze districts. Data collection took place in December 2015.

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Acronyms and abbreviations

BPR: Banque Populaire du Rwanda

CARI: Consolidated Approach for Reporting Indicators of Food Security

CFSVA: Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis

CSI: Coping Strategy Index

DRC: Democratic Republic of Congo

EDPRS: Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy

EICV: Enquête Intégrale sur les Conditions de Vie des ménages

FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization

FEWS NET: Famine Early Warning Systems Network

FCG: Food Consumption Group

FCS: Food Consumption Score

FGD: Focus Group Discussions

FNSMS: Food and Nutrition Security Monitoring System

FS: Food Security

GoR: Government of Rwanda

Ha: Hectare

MIDIMAR: Ministry of Disaster Management and Refugee Affairs

ODK: Open Data Kit

RFSLA: Returnees Food Security and Livelihoods Assessment

RIM: Réseau Interdiocésain de Microfinance

PDA: Personal Digital Assistant

SACCO: Savings and Credit Co-operative

UNDP: United Nations Development Programme

UNHCR: United Nations High Commission of Refugees

VAM: Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping

WFP: World Food Programme

Executive summary

The 1994 genocide resulted into massive outflows of Rwandans to neighboring countries.

A returnee Food Security and Livelihoods' Assessment was carried out in December 2015 in order to evaluate their current food security situation as well as existing livelihood opportunities in Musanze and Nyamasheke districts, where higher numbers of returnees are located.

The assessment included primary data collection from 230 returnee households in the two districts. Additionally, qualitative complementary information was collected in 8 focus group discussions.

Findings indicated that 57% of the surveyed returnees are food insecure (58% in Musanze vs. 55% in Nyamasheke); which is higher compared to the 2015 CFSVA results whereby only 20 % and 35% are respectively in the same areas. Female headed households are found to be more food insecure compared to male headed households. The assessment also revealed that returnee households in the district of Musanze tend to use more food consumption coping strategies compared to Nyamasheke.

The larger part of food consumed in households is sourced from the market and food is diversely available at the markets all year round.

There were three main shocks that affected 60% of returnee households in the last 6 months: serious illness or accident of household member, loss or reduced employment for a household member, and drought/irregular rains, prolonged dry spell.

The daily labor (cash) is the main livelihood activity for most households followed by agriculture. Within these two main livelihood groups, more than half of households are food insecure.

The livelihood challenges facing returnee households are mainly lack of enough livelihood activities, poor soils and related low yields, reintegration process which is still incomplete for some, incapacity to compete on labor market, and lack of land to cultivate.

98% of returnee households received WFP food assistance once since they came back, and the larger part of the food received was consumed. 24% of all households have received some other types of assistance. The most common types of assistance are food assistance, financial assistance, agricultural and livestock assistance, and health assistance.

Returnees' needs in term of livelihoods and food security are the increase of the food ration, job opportunities, improved seeds and other agricultural inputs, shelter, and income generating activities.

The returnees need for cash may not be only for food needs, but to cover other essential non-food need as well as capital for investment to start small scale businesses. Therefore, there is a better need of synergy with other stakeholders involved in the management of returnee resettlement in order to provide more livelihood opportunity to returnees.

I. Historical background

Subsequent waves of Rwandan refugee outflows took place in 1973, and in 1994 when the tragic genocide occurred. During the latter period, over one million Tutsi and moderate Hutus were killed. Both situations resulted in massive outflows of the Rwandan population who were forced to flee their country.

The Rwandan government in 2005 re-established the traditional community court system called “Gacaca” (pronounced GA-CHA-CHA). In the Gacaca system, communities at the local level elected judges to hear the trials of genocide suspects accused of all crimes except planning of genocide. The Gacaca trials also served to promote reconciliation by providing a means for victims to learn the truth about the death of their family members and relative.

From 1994 to December 2014, UNHCR, with the assistance and support of the international community, was able to repatriate over 3,323,250 Rwandan refugees through an organized voluntary repatriation programme. Different Transit Centers were established to receive returnees before they are transported to their respective zones of origin and helped to reintegrate in the society. Initial assistance during the transitional phase is provided by GoR, UNHCR and WFP.

In September 2009, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres visited Rwanda, DRC and Uganda to examine the political situation in the Great Lakes Region. Since his visit, elaborate consultative processes have laid the foundations for the recommendation made by UNHCR on 31st December 2011 that the Cessation Clause for Rwandan refugees comes into force by 30th June 2013. In this context, a three-year strategy and action plan for the comprehensive conclusion of the Rwandan refugee situation was formulated, as well as the GoR - One UN Sustainable entitled “Return and Reintegration of Rwandan refugees” to address the specific needs of Rwandan returnees in the areas of return.

Since 2009, UNHCR is implementing protection monitoring activities in the areas of return by conducting periodic monitoring missions to different field locations. According to reports from this monitoring system, the food package of three months is not enough to ensure a smooth transition between the time of return and the reintegration into local communities. In order to fill this gap, the 2012 – 2014 joint “Return and Reintegration of Rwandan refugees” programme mentions that WFP will provide additional ration of 3 months to all the returnees at the transit centers. With this additional ration returnees would be entitled to cumulative 6 months food ration delivered at the transit centers.

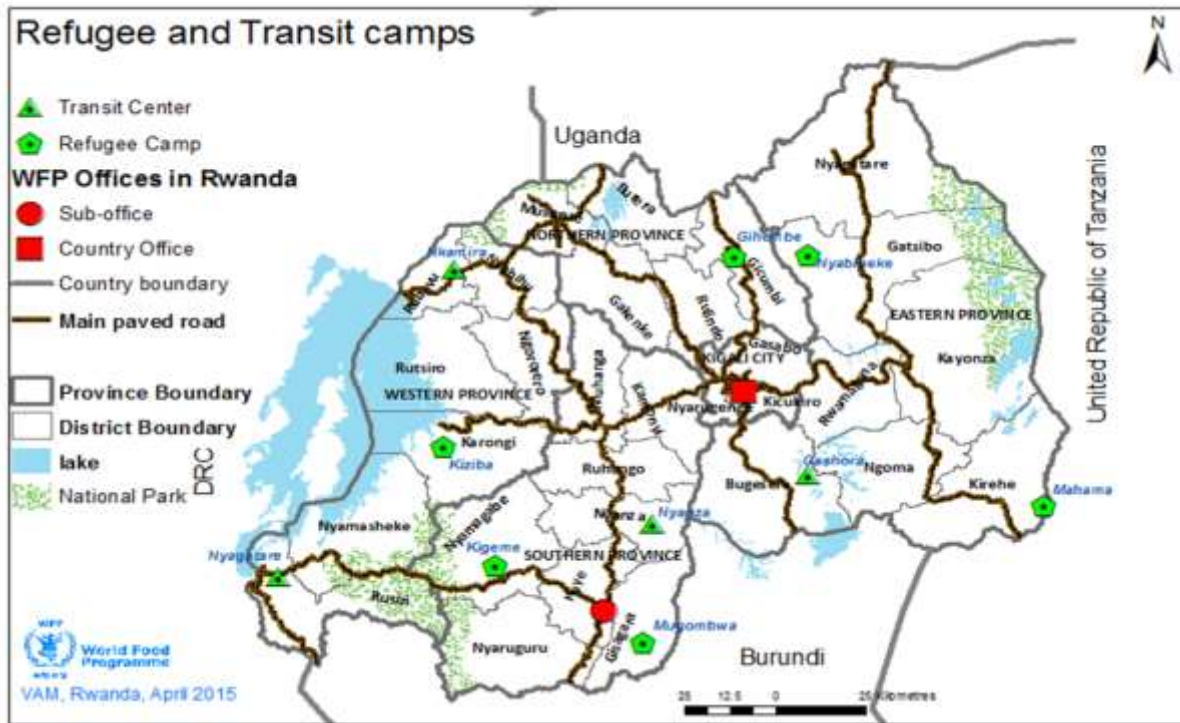
The Returnee Food Security and Livelihood assessment conducted in September 2012 in the districts of Musanze (Northern Province) and Karongi (Western Province) showed that 65% of the surveyed returnee households were food insecure, very high compared to the national average

which was of 21% in March/April of the same year. The assessment recommended implementing the 6 months ration instead of 3 months.

In 2014, 5,686 Rwandan refugees returned to Rwanda. All 5,686 Rwandans who returned home were provided with a three-month food ration upon arrival in transit centers to facilitate their integration. In addition, a refresher course on agricultural practices especially for the targeted crops and other life skills was provided to 1867 household.

In the framework of creating livelihoods opportunities to returnees, a market-oriented skills training to returnees and vulnerable groups in host communities and business start-up support were provided to 1,419 beneficiaries in March 2014. Similar support was provided to 1,512 beneficiaries who received livestock with cash support to purchase vet kits in January to March 2014.

Despite all these supports, the poverty rate is still high at the national level (39.1%), particularly 34.9 % in Musanze and 62% in Nyamashke.¹ Furthermore, the food security status is worsening. For instance, in 2012, there were 70% of households with unacceptable food consumption.² In addition, in 2015, there were 73% of households with poor/borderline food consumption.³



¹ EICV4, 2014

² CFSVA, 2012

³ CFSVA, 2015

II. Assessment objectives and key questions

This “Returnee Food Security and Livelihoods Assessment” focused on returnees who were reintegrated during two years prior to the assessment. The purpose of this assessment is to look into what the main needs of the returnees are in terms of food security and livelihoods, the effect of food ration provided to them at the transit centers and evaluate better assistance transfer modality.

Key questions of this assessment are:

1. What is the food security status of the returnees?
2. What are the main livelihoods returnees rely on and what challenges do they face in rebuilding them?
3. How is the food ration distributed by WFP used by returnees and does it address their needs?
4. What are the needs of returnees in terms of livelihoods and food security and how can they best be addressed?

III. Approach and Methodology

3.1. Concepts definitions

The assessment included both quantitative and qualitative data as well as the review of available secondary data.

For the quantitative data, the RFLSA analysis follows the logic of the new standard method, the Consolidated Approach for Reporting Indicators of Food Security (CARI) was used to calculate the food security situation of returnees. The CARI combines food security indicators in order to establish an explicit classification of households into four food security categories: food secure, marginally food secure, moderately food insecure, and severely food insecure. In other words, the CARI domains represent two key dimensions of food insecurity (figure 1):

The current status domain uses food security indicators which measure the adequacy of households' current food consumption such as the food consumption score and/or food energy shortfall indicators.

The coping capacity domain employs indicators which measure households' economic vulnerability and asset depletion. Specifically, this domain is based upon a combination of the livelihood coping strategy indicator and either the food expenditure share indicator or the poverty status indicator.

In particular for this Food security assessment, the CARI combines on current status (Food Consumption Score) and coping capacity (share of food expenditure and livelihood coping strategies) to classify households.

The Food Consumption Score (FCS) is a proxy indicator for households' food access and is used to classify households into three different food groups (Poor, Borderline and Acceptable) based on frequency and diversity of items consumed during the week prior to the survey.

The Coping capacity focuses on behaviors that affect assets, both financial and human. The aim is to gauge households' ability to cope in the future. Households' strategies are classified into three groups: stress, crisis and emergency.

Finally, these three indicators are combined to produce a food security index for returnee households:

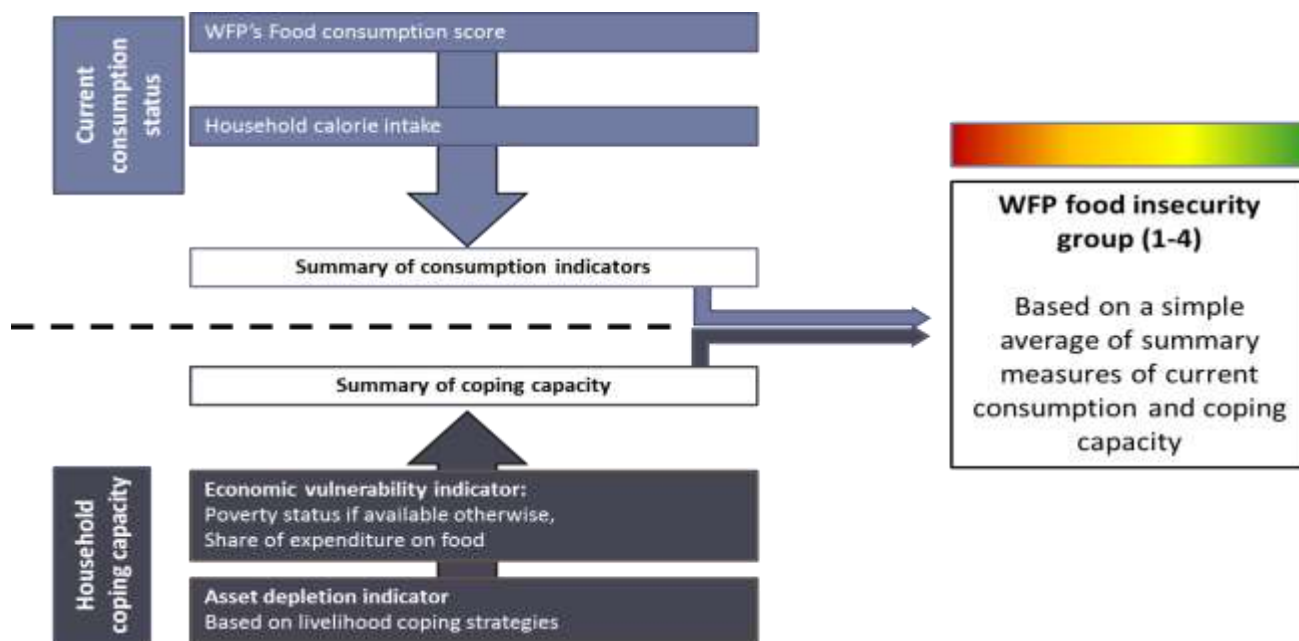
Food secure – Are able to meet essential food and non-food needs without engaging in atypical coping strategies

Marginally food secure - Has minimally adequate food consumption without engaging in irreversible coping strategies; unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures

Moderately food insecure - Has significant food consumption gaps, or marginally able to meet minimum food needs only with irreversible coping strategies

Severely food insecure - Has extreme food consumption gaps, or has extreme loss of livelihood assets that will lead to food consumption gaps, or worse.

Figure 1: The CARI approach for classifying households



Source: VAM/WFP

The livelihood assessment is based on the interpretation of responses given by returnees' households. It is important to understand what returnees are currently doing as livelihood activities and how they perceive opportunities for change face livelihoods' challenges.

By definition, livelihoods are the resources used (human capital, social capital, physical capital, natural capital, and financial capital) and the activities undertaken in order to live.

3.2. Geographical Coverage

The survey covered two districts of Rwanda: Musanze and Nyamasheke, because they had relatively higher numbers of returnees. In addition, these two districts are geographically and socio-economically different, so that contextual differences can be taken into account in the analysis:

- **Musanze** district is located in the North province, accounts 15 sectors, 68 cells and 432 villages (Imudugudu). Its surface covers 530.4 km², from which 60 km² corresponds to the

Volcanoes National Park and 28 km² to Lake Ruhondo. The district is bordered in the North by Uganda, the DRC and the Volcanoes National Park; in the South by Gakenke district; in the East by Bukera district; and in the West by Nyabihu district. The population density of Musanze (695/km²) is above the national average (416/km²).⁴ Most of the land in the Musanze District is in small holdings, the mean size of land cultivated per household is 0.45 ha, which is below the national average (0.59). 62.6% of households are raising livestock in the district, which is much less than the national average (68.2%).⁵

The proportion of poor and extreme poor population in Musanze district was 34.9 % and 16.8% respectively, very low compared to the national average (39.1% of poor and 16.3% of extreme poor), according to the 2014 EICV4.

- **Nyamasheke** district is located in the South-western part of the Western Province, accounts 15 sectors, 68 cells and 588 Villages (Imidugudu). It has a surface area of 1,174 km² including 225.85 km² as part of Nyungwe forest and 346.53 km² of the water surface as part of Lake Kivu. The average density is 326 inhabitants per km² with an average annual growth rate of 1.7%.⁶ Shortage of land constitutes a big challenge to the agriculture, 52.6% of households cultivate less than 0.3ha in Nyamasheke district. About 50% of the households in Nyamasheke district own cattle and some of them produce milk.⁷

Compared to the national average, the proportion that are both poor and extreme poor are highest in Nyamasheke district where 62 % and 39.2% of the population are poor and extreme poor respectively, according to the 2014 EICV4.

3.3. Data collection and Sampling Approach

Data collection was undertaken during the first week of December 2015 by two teams of 10 enumerators over a period of 9 days. Each data collection team was accompanied by a staff member from WFP as a supervisor. Prior to field data collection, the assessment team conducted a 2-day training of enumerators on the household questionnaire. Primary data was collected from 230 returnee households within the 2 districts (Musanze and Nyamasheke).

Households were selected randomly from the lists provide by the district authorities. Quantitative data collection was administered by 10 enumerators, 5 per district. Information was gathered on household demographics, food consumption, household food expenditure, non-food expenditure, incomes and livelihood, coping strategies, shocks, food assistance, money

⁴ MIDIMAR/OIM 2012

⁵ EICV4

⁶ Republic of Rwanda, 2013

⁷ EICV4

savings and transfers. Tablets programmed with the questionnaires under ODK were used for the primary data collection.

With regards to qualitative data collection, 8 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were organized in each district by the supervisor. The FGDs mainly focused on challenges returnees faced in terms of livelihoods and food security, the best ways to address challenges, returnees' main livelihoods activities, returnee's opinions about different transfer modalities, money savings and transfers of returnees and access preferences.

3.4. Assessment Limitations

Prior to data collection, 2 staff members of WFP went to the 2 selected districts for 3 days to check if they could have accurate lists from the district authorities. Unfortunately, there were no updated lists of returnees in the field prior to the survey, which made the work very difficult for the staff members.

As households of returnees were scattered in different villages of the sectors, reaching them took a long time for enumerators.

IV. Main Findings

4.1. Demographic characteristics of returnee households

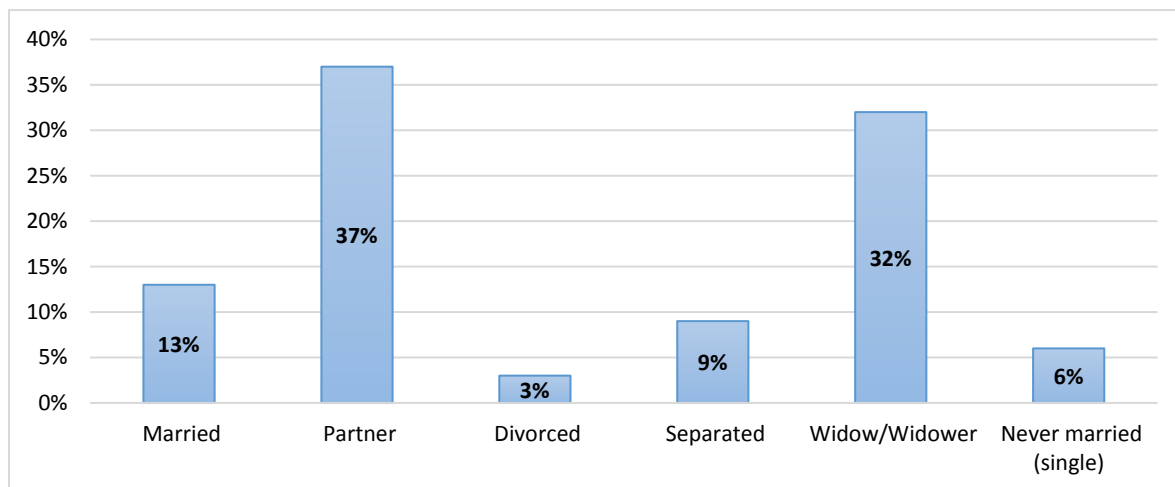
As a result of the 230 returnee households surveyed, on average the household size is 7 persons, quite higher than the national average household size which was 4.6 persons according to the EICV14. Nyamasheke recorded the highest household size (9 persons) compared to Musanze (6 persons). The average household head's age is 42 years.

In relation to the sex, there were 57% male-headed households with an average household size of 8 persons, and 43% female-headed households with an average household size of 6 persons.

The household head's level of education is very low, only 16% of them have completed primary school. 36% of household head did not attend school at all, and 39% of them had just a primary school level.

Regarding returnee households head marital status, 37% of them are living as partners, and 32% are widow/widower (figure: 2).

Figure 2: Marital status of the household head



Source: RFSLA surveys, 2015

To measure the proportion of dependents based on the number of household members, a dependency ratio is used as an indication of the burden faced by the household. The dependency ratio is the number of young and elderly people in a population divided by the total adult population. Consequently, the average dependency ratio for all returnee households is 1.53 very higher than the national average which was 0.82 according to the EICV14. The larger the dependency ratio is, the greater the burden on the average adult because the needs of the dependents must be met by the rest of the adult population. For instance, the dependency ratio

of 1.53 means that for every 10 workers in the returnee households, there are 15 people not of working age. This finding indicates that the economically active returnees face a greater burden to support and provide the social services needed by children and older persons.

Returnees who participated in this assessment reported that 97% of household heads fled from Rwanda, 89% of them fled between 1990 and 1994, and the remaining (11%) between 1995 and 2007. Among the household's members, 59% of household heads are returnees. From the household size, there are 4 returnees per household, namely 57% of returnees.

4.2. Returnees food security status

4.2.1. What proportion of households is food insecure?

The **CARI** console (Consolidated Approach for Reporting Indicators of food security) has been used to calculate the overall prevalence of food insecurity in the interviewed returnee households.

Table 1: CARI description of the different food security classification groups

Food security group	Description	Food secure/Food insecure
1 = Food secure	Able to meet essential food and non-food needs without engaging in atypical coping strategies	Food secure
2 = Marginally food secure	Has minimally adequate food consumption without engaging in irreversible coping strategies; unable to afford some essential non-food expenditures	
3 = Moderately food insecure	Has significant food consumption gaps, OR Marginally able to meet minimum food needs only with irreversible coping strategies	Food insecure
4 = Severely food insecure	Has extreme food consumption gaps, OR Has extreme loss of livelihood assets will lead to food consumption gaps, or worse	

4.2.2. What proportion of returnees is food insecure?

Overall, among surveyed returnees in the two districts, 56.5% of households are food insecure, meaning that they are either severely food insecure (6.5%) or moderately food insecure (50%), according to the CARI food security classification (table 2). In particular, the district of Musanze presents a bit high proportion of household food insecure (58 % in Musanze vs. 55 % in

Nyamasheke). This food security index per district from the assessment is very high compared to the 2015 CFSVA (20 % in Musanze and 35% in Nyamasheke).

Based on this finding, an important consideration needs to be taken into account with regards to this proportion of food insecure households.

Table 2: Returnee household food security classification

Food insecurity index	Overall	Nyamasheke	Muzanze
Food Secure	12.6 %	15 %	11 %
Marginally food secure	30.9 %	30 %	31 %
Moderately food insecure	50 %	51 %	50 %
Severely food insecure	6.5 %	4 %	8 %

Source: RFSLA surveys, 2015

About 62% of female-headed households are food insecure as compared to 52% of their male counterparts (table 3). From the main livelihood activity for all surveyed returnees, the daily labour (cash), female headed are 38% compared to 62% of male. Within the female headed households that had experience shocks during the last 6 months, 42% had reported shocks such as “serious illness or accident of household member” and 30% for “loss or reduced employment for a household member”.

Table 3: Sex of household head and food security group

Sex of household headed	Food secure	Marginally food secure	Moderately food insecure	Severely food insecure
Male	17%	31%	47%	5%
Female	7%	31%	54%	8%

Source: RFSLA surveys, 2015

4.2.3. Which indicators contributed most to each of the four food security classifications?

Tables 4 to 6 show, for households in each food insecurity index category, how factors collectively performed against each of the CARI console indicators (food consumption groups, food expenditure share, and livelihood-based coping strategies).

From the table 4, all severely food insecure households recorded poor food consumption (100 %). Of the moderately food insecure, 21 % had poor consumption and 79 % borderline consumption.

Table 4: Food insecurity index by food consumption group

Food insecurity index	Food consumption group			Total
	Acceptable	Borderline	Poor	
Food Secure	100 %	0 %	0 %	100 %
Marginally food secure	44 %	56 %	0 %	100 %
Moderately food insecure	0 %	79 %	21 %	100 %
Severely food insecure	0 %	0 %	100 %	100 %

Source: RFSLA surveys, 2015

Of the severely food insecure households, 73 % directed more than three-quarters of their household expenditures to food. In contrast, among moderately food insecure households, only 17 % directed more than three-quarters of their household expenditures to food (table 5).

Table 5: Food insecurity index by food expenditure share

Food insecurity index	Food expenditure share				Total
	<50 %	50 % -<65 %	65 % -<75 %	≥75 %	
Food Secure	86 %	14 %	0 %	0 %	100 %
Marginally food secure	65 %	17%	5 %	13 %	100 %
Moderately food insecure	37 %	25 %	21 %	17 %	100 %
Severely food insecure	0 %	7 %	20 %	73 %	100 %

Source: RFSLA surveys, 2015

Table 6 shows that 60 % of severely food insecure households used crisis coping strategies in the 30 days prior to interview; the remainder either used stress or crisis coping strategies in the proportion of 20 % each. For moderately food insecure households, their livelihood coping strategies are mainly stress and crisis strategies (30 % and 49% respectively).

Table 6: Food insecurity index by livelihood coping strategies

Food insecurity index	Livelihood coping strategies				Total
	Household not adopting coping strategies	Stress coping strategies	Crisis coping strategies	Emergencies coping strategies	
Food Secure	62 %	38 %	0 %	0 %	100 %
Marginally food secure	39 %	35 %	24 %	2 %	100 %
Moderately food insecure	11 %	30 %	49 %	10 %	100 %
Severely food insecure	0 %	20 %	60 %	20 %	100 %

Source: RFSLA surveys, 2015

4.2.4. Nature of food consumption and dietary diversity

Based on the diversity dietary for the past 7 days, the most frequently eaten food items by the food insecure household (moderately and severely food insecure) were cereals/tubers and vegetables, which possibly lacks the desired nutrients to ensure a healthy life. The remainder food group such as pulse, fruit, meat/fish, milk, sugar, and oil are consumed less frequently, which might affect their nutritional status. In addition, table 7 shows there was no significant difference eaten cereals/tubers and vegetables based on food security group, demographic characteristics, and costumes.

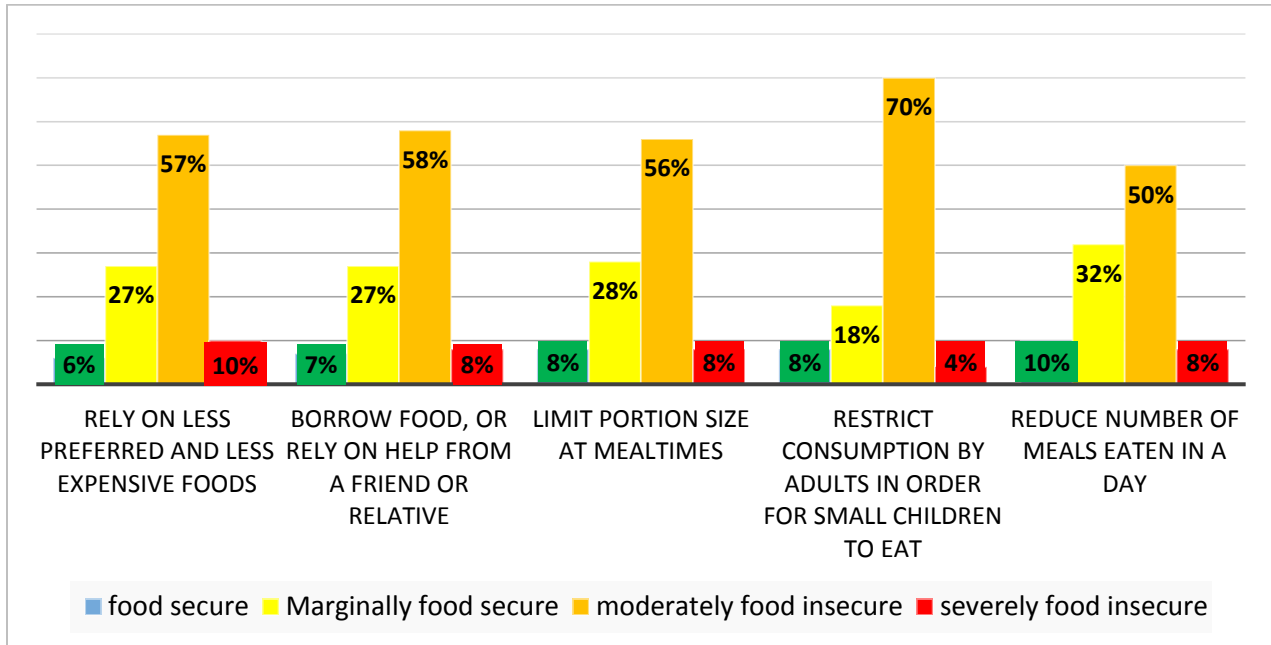
Table 7: Dietary diversity of food security group

Food insecurity index	Average days of eaten							
	Cereals and tubers	Pulses	Vegetables	Fruit	Meat and Fish	Milk	Sugar	Oil
Food Secure	7.00	5.20	6.10	1.34	1.48	0.72	2.06	4.17
Marginally food secure	6.88	3.00	6.00	0.87	0.56	0.32	0.94	3.16
Moderately food insecure	6.75	1.40	5.52	0.30	0.15	0.01	0.40	1.86
Severely food insecure	6.53	0.06	4.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.53

Source: RFSLA surveys, 2015

In the 7 days preceding the survey, the most commonly used coping strategy by the food insecure group among all the food consumption groups is the consumption of “restrict consumption by adults in order for small children to eat”. Compared to the remainder food security group, moderately food insecure household tend to use more coping strategies, more than 50 % for all the coping strategy categories (figure 3).

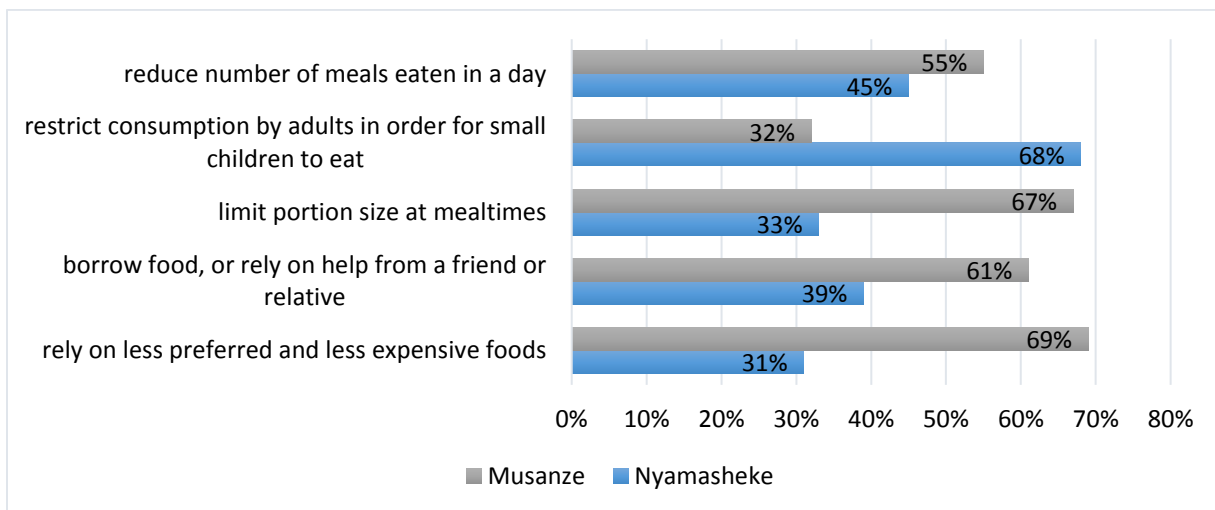
Figure 3: Food consumption coping strategies and food security group



Source: RFSLA surveys, 2015

Overall, the returnee households in the district of Musanze tend to use more food consumption coping strategies the 7 days prior the surveys (figure 4). In particular, households in Musanze district more likely rely on less preferred and less expensive foods, and limit portion size at mealtimes to deal with difficult food circumstances that affect their well-being, in 69 % and 67 % respectively.

Figure 4: Use of food consumption coping strategies per District

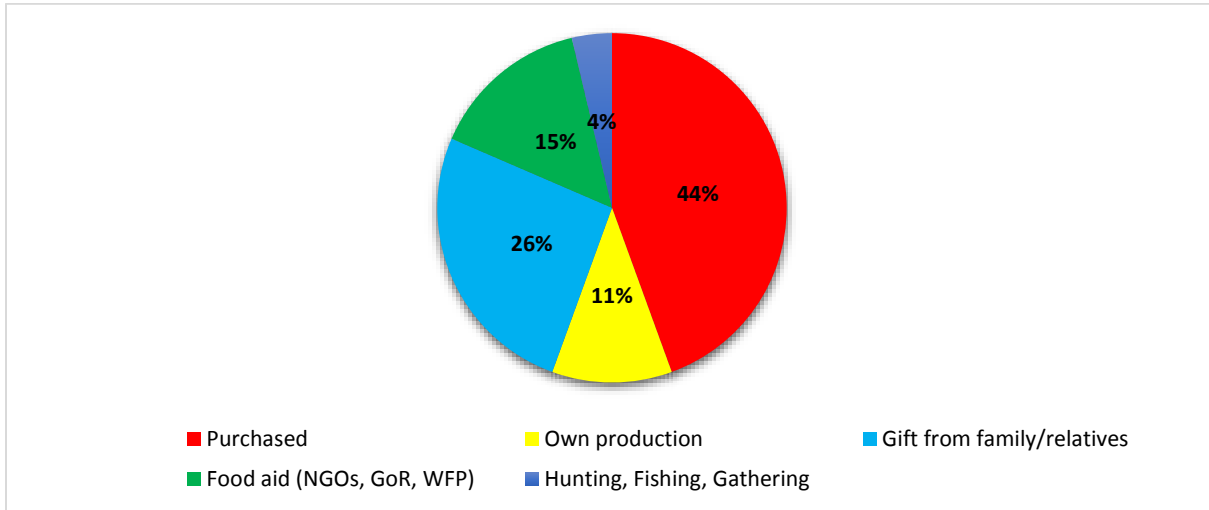


Source: RFSLA surveys, 2015

4.2.5. Food Sources

Figure 5 shows that market constitutes the main food source for returnee households (44%), followed by gifts from relatives (26%), Food aid (15%), household own production (11%), and hunting/fishing (4%). This market dependence for food is almost similar to the finding of the 2012 and 2015 CFSVAs, respectively 65% and 70%.

Figure 5: household food sources



Source: RFSLA surveys, 2015

4.2.6. Shocks and coping strategies with food shortage

During the last 6 months, 60% of the returnee households had experience shocks that affect their ability to provide food for themselves. Of those affected by shocks, 44% are female headed household compared to 56% of male.

There are three principal shocks which affected their households:

- Serious illness or accident of household member in 37%;
- Loss or reduced employment for a household member in 32%;
- Drought/irregular rains, prolonged dry spell in 13%.

When they faced food shortages, the coping strategy mostly adopted by the returnee's food insecure group is restricting consumption by adults in order for small children to eat".

The Coping Strategies Index (CSI) measures the frequency and severity of actions taken by households in response to food shortage. A high CSI means more stress and potential declining food security in a household. Returnee households showed a CSI of 15, very close to the 2015

CFSVA findings (CSI ranges from 10 to 18 for households in Rwanda). Nyamasheke district presents the highest CSI of 18 compared to Musanze district (CSI of 14).

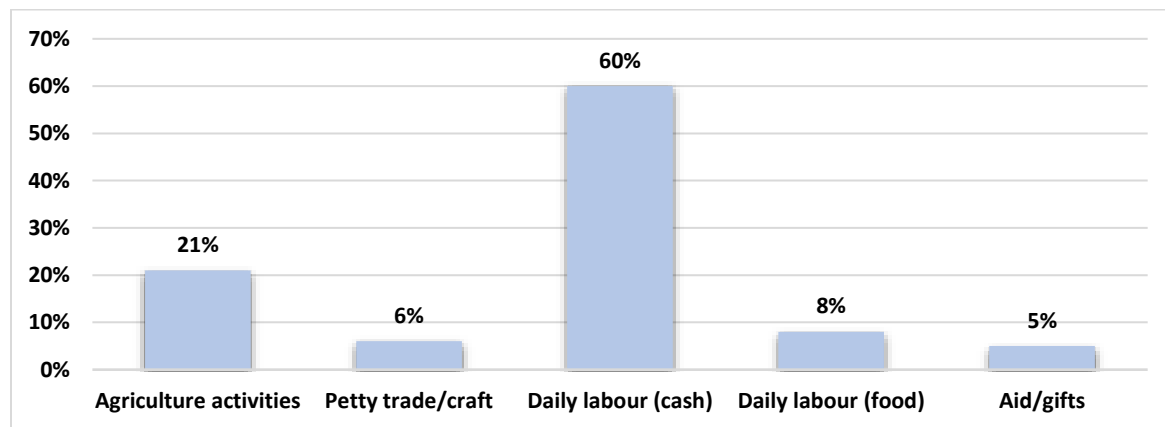
4.3. Returnee livelihoods

4.3.1. Livelihoods activities

There are 5 frequent main livelihood activities reported by returnee households: agriculture activities, petty trade, daily labour (cash), daily labour (food), and aid or gifts. Daily labor (cash) are the main livelihood activities for most households (60%) followed by agriculture activities (21%) (figure6). Female headed households are engaged in both main livelihoods activities in 38% and 53% respectively. The main type of daily labor (cash) is in agriculture related activities (90% of returnees).

Among 47% of returnee households who owned assets, 68% recovered some of their assets. Of the 30% of returnee households who owned land, only 42% recovered all of it, and 53% recovered some lands. For those owning land, only 8% have more than 0.5 hectare. In addition, 34% of returnees declared that they currently own or manage farm-animals. Of the 78% returnee households who owned houses, 42% did not recover them.

Figure 6: Proportion of returnee households by livelihoods groups



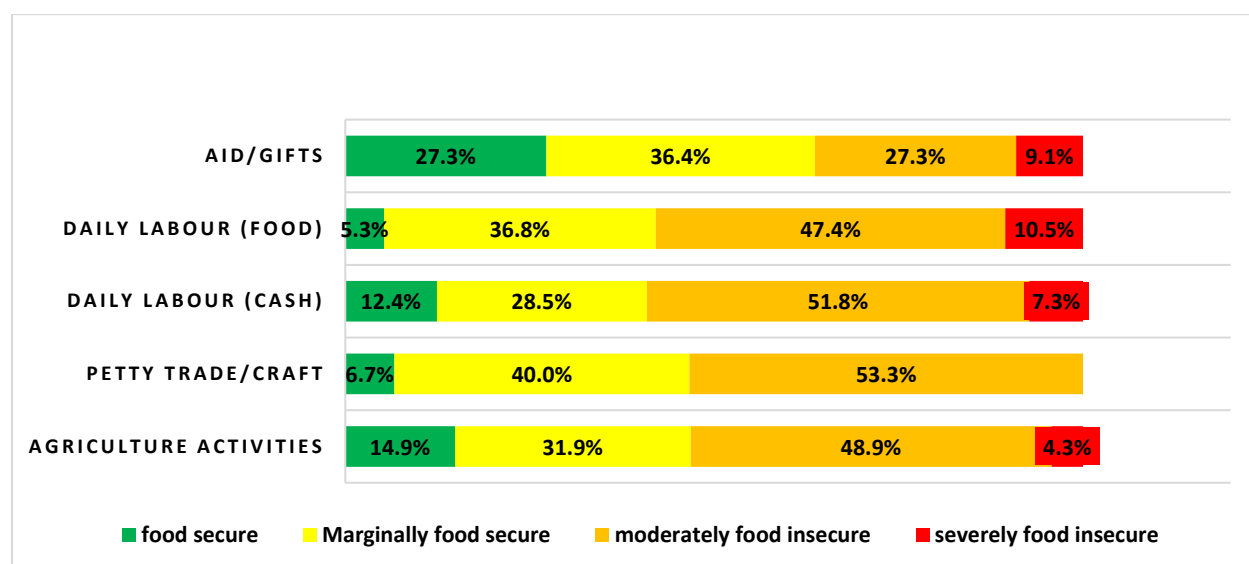
Source: RFSLA surveys, 2015

4.3.2. Livelihood groups and food security

59% of returnee households engaged in the daily labour (cash) are food insecure (figure7). This livelihood group has also the highest proportion of returnee households (60%). 82% of their incomes are derived from this livelihood activity.

53% of returnee household relying on agriculture activities are food insecure. 70% of their incomes are derived from this livelihood activity.

Figure 7: Food security by livelihood group



Source: RFSLA surveys, 2015

Table 8: Livelihood groups and some key indicators

Livelihood groups	Share of households	Nyamasheke	Musanze	Key characteristics
Daily Labor (cash)	60%	24.8%	75.2%	55% of this livelihood group are food insecure and also the largest livelihood group. 75% of households are from Musanze with 25% of the remainder being from Nyamasheke. 82% of their income are derived from this livelihood activity
Agriculture	21%	48.9%	51.1%	53% of this livelihood group are classified food insecure. 51% of households are from Musanze with 49% of the remainder being from Nyamasheke. 70% of their incomes are derived from this livelihood activity.
Daily labour (food)	8%	84.2%	15.8%	58% of this livelihood group are food insecure, the most food insecure group. 84% of households are from Nyamasheke with

				16% of the remainder being from Musanze. 75% of their incomes are derived from this livelihood activity.
Petty trade/craft	6%	6.7%	93.3%	53% of this livelihood group are food insecure. 93% of households are from Musanze with 7% of the remainder being from Nyamasheke. 73% of their incomes are derived from this livelihood activity.
Aid/gifts	5%	27.3%	72.7%	64% of this livelihood group are food secure. 73% of households are from Musanze with 27% of the remainder being from Nyamasheke. 86% of their incomes are derived from this livelihood activity.

4.3.3. Livelihood challenges

According to returnees, when they came back to Rwanda, they did not have enough means to take care of their family members. Besides this issue, 5 main challenges were underlined from the focus group discussions:

- Lack of enough Livelihood activities;
- Poor soils and related low yields for those who own land;
- Reintegration process still incomplete in some cases: those who don't have IDs cannot move to look for a job or other income generating activities;
- Incapacity to compete on labor market, especially casual manual labor;
- Lack of land to cultivate and compensate to their daily food consumption.

4.4. Assistance received by returnee households

4.4.1. Contribution of the WFP food assistance

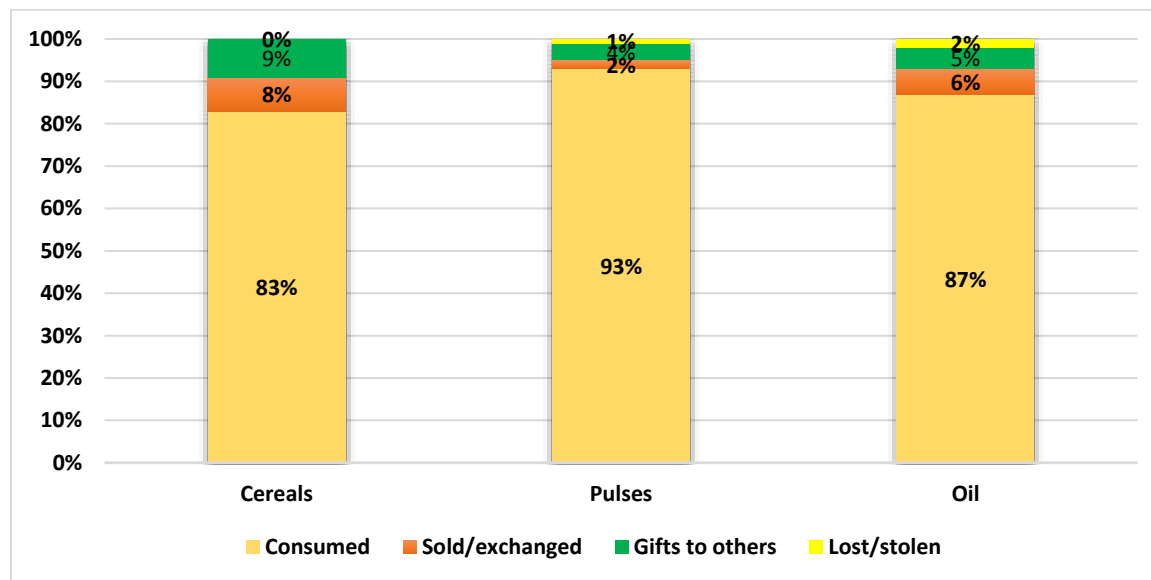
According to the survey, 98% of returnee households received WFP food assistance once since they came back. They had received maize, beans, oil, and salt at the transit camp. From there, the returnees transport food received mainly with the UNHCR car (54%), on foot (21%), and bicycle (16%).

Returnee households were asked if the three month food ration for three months provided by WFP was enough for them to be integrated and start producing/working for their own food. 87% of them replied that the food ration for three months was not enough to be integrated in the local community. Therefore, 84% of them reported that the food ratio should be increased to 6

months and above. However, 99% of returnees appreciated the quality of oil they received, followed by maize (89%), and beans (68%).

Returnees reported that the major part of WFP food received was eaten, some is sold in order to buy other types of food or to pay for other household needs, the remaining are either given as gifts to others or lost/stolen (figure 8).

Figure 8: Use of WFP food aid received



Source: RFSLA surveys, 2015

4.4.2. Other received assistance

Returnee households were asked if they had received other assistance in the 6 months preceding the survey. Out of all returnee households, 24% reported that they had received some types of assistance. These types of assistance received were food assistance, financial assistance, agricultural and livestock assistance, and health assistance according to the following proportions:

- 24% returnees reported other food assistance mainly from community (41%) and friends or relatives (46%).
- 15% of returnees received financial assistance (cash or loans) from GoR (29%), friends and relatives (46%).
- 18% of returnees received agricultural and livestock assistance from GoR (60%), and other UN Agency (26%)

- 36% returnees received health assistance from GoR (60%), other UN Agency (16%), and friends or relatives (11%).

Table 9 shows that all food security groups had received food assistance from the community. In particular, the main other food assistance for the severely food insecure group was the community during the last 6 months.

Table 9: Proportion of returnee household and other food assistance received

Food security classification	GoR	Church/Mosque	Community	Friends or Relatives	other
Food secure	0%	0%	40%	60%	0%
Marginally food secure	5%	35%	55%	5%	0%
Moderately food insecure	4%	12%	44%	36%	4%
Severely food insecure	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%

Source: RFSLA, 2015

4.5. Needs of returnees in term of livelihood and food security

4.5.1. Food and non-food items

87% of returnees who participated in this assessment reported that the three months food ration were not enough for them to be integrated in the local community and start producing / working for their own food. During the focus groups discussions, they simply suggested that the food ration should be increased to 6 months and above in order to be integrated in the local community and be independent to the food assistance. Besides this main concern, returnee households also wished to be supported on the following non-food assistance:

- Job opportunities that provide them cash to address their food and non-food needs in the market,
- Provide improved seeds to those who owned lands and support cooperatives;
- Shelters for those who lost their family members;
- Develop income generating activities or increase food distribution to the most vulnerable;

4.5.2. Cash or voucher opportunity

Asking returnees 'opinions about in kind food assistance modality, 71% of returnees mentioned preference of other transfer modalities such Cash Based Transfer or a combination. Of those who

expressed the preference of other possible transfer modality, only 44% preferred cash based transfers, and the remaining 56% preferred a mix of in kind food and cash based transfer.

The reasons they advanced are listed below:

The main advantages mentioned:

- With cash it is easy to buy any type of food according to household needs;
- It is easier to carry money than to transport food;
- With cash it is possible to start business and petty trade and participate in tontines groups;
- Once cash is used, returnees can buy food or pay for other needed services.

In contrary the returnees expressed some concerns about cash based transfer:

- ✓ Switching to cash would imply changes in the decision making at the household level on who will manage it;
- ✓ Money can be easily wasted on unplanned family' expenses;
- ✓ Risk of theft/loss if there is no banking account.

However, according to returnees, there are banking opportunity and presence: Bank of Kigali, BPR, RIM and SACCO are the most bank services available in their areas. All interviewed returnees do not have a bank account; however, 51% of them use mobile money. The main reasons reported by the 49% returnee households who do not use mobile money are: do not know about it (30%), not interested (28%), and difficult to access at any time (14%).

The returnees need for cash may not be only for food needs, but to cover other essential non-food need as well as capital for investment to start small scale businesses. Therefore, there is a better need of synergy with other stakeholders involved in the management of returnee resettlement in order to provide more livelihood opportunity to returnees. Especially with regard to the particular vulnerability:

- Of the severely food insecure households, 73 % directed more than three-quarters of their household expenditures to food;
- 59% returnee households engaged in the daily labour (cash) are food insecure;
- The proportion of poor and extreme poor population in Musanze district was 34.9 % and 16.8% respectively. Compared to the national average, the proportion that are both poor and extreme poor are highest in Nyamasheke district where 62 % and 39.2% of the population are poor and extreme poor respectively (EICV4, 2014);
- It is more common to find households renting land in the Western and Southern Provinces, where the plots owned are smaller (CFSVA, 2015);
- According to the assessment findings, there is a lack of enough livelihoods activities that can provide cash for returnees.

Regarding the cash for food, there are certain criteria that must be met for cash programming to be appropriate and feasible:

- Availability of goods and supplies locally to meet needs of returnee households;
- Ability of markets to meet the demand in response to an increase of demand of goods and supplies
- Existence of banking systems in the two areas.

V. Conclusions

According to the 2015 RFSLA findings, 57 % of the interviewed returnees are food insecure (58 % in Musanze vs. 55 % in Nyamasheke), very high compared to the 2015 CFSVA (20 % in Musanze and 35% in Nyamasheke). Female headed households are found to be more food insecure compared with male headed household. The assessment also showed that returnees household in the district of Musanze tend to use more food consumption coping strategies the 7 days prior the surveys.

A larger part of food consumed in households is sourced from the market and food is diversely available at the markets all year.

The assessment revealed three main shocks that affected 60% of returnee households: serious illness or accident of a household member, loss or reduced employment for a household member, and drought/irregular rains, prolonged dry spell.

Returnee households are engaged in diverse livelihood activities. The daily labor (cash) is the main livelihood activity for most households followed by agriculture. Within these two main livelihoods groups, more than half households are food insecure.

The assessment revealed livelihood challenges facing returnee households. These challenges include the lack of enough livelihood activities, poor soils and related low yields, reintegration process still incomplete in some cases, incapacity to compete on labor market, and the lack of land to cultivate.

98% of returnee households received WFP food assistance once since they came back, and the larger part of the food received was consumed. 24% of all households have received some types of assistance. The most common types of assistance are food assistance, financial assistance, agricultural and livestock assistance, and health assistance.

Returnees expressed a certain number of needs in terms of livelihoods and food security such as, extension of the period for food assistance, job opportunities, improved seeds and other inputs of agriculture, shelter, and income generating activities.

The returnees need for cash may not be only for food needs, but to cover other essential non-food need as well as capital for investment to start small scale businesses. Therefore, there is a better need of synergy with other stakeholders involved in the management of returnee resettlement in order to provide more livelihood opportunity to returnees.

VI. Recommendations

2015 RFSLA findings	2015 RFSLA recommendations	Target group
56.5% of returnee households are food insecure with a high CSI of 15. 60% of the returnee households had experience shocks	Conditional food assistance targeting food insecure household (food for work, food for assets, food for training).	Food insecure group and returnee households who had experience shocks
Of the 78% returnees households who owned houses, 42% did not recovered their houses with an average household size of 7 persons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local authorities should advocate with the local court to enable returnees recovering their houses; - Additional support is needed from UNHCR for shelters. 	42% of the returnee households and those who did not have shelters
Of the 30% of returnee households who owned land, only 42% recovered all of it, and 53% recovered some lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local authorities should advocate with the local court to enable returnees recovering their lands; - GoR and FAO should prioritize returnees and provide them improved variety of seeds and other agricultural inputs; - Training skills in agriculture are necessary to improve production. 	30% of the returnees who owned land
Insufficient livelihoods opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote alternative livelihood development programmes providing income and diversify livelihood opportunities; - UNHCR should advocate with relevant government agencies (MIDIMAR, local authorities, etc.) to acquire documentation for new returnees which will enable them to participate in income generating activities; - Training skills in microfinance are necessary to start small business. 	All returnees
Markets are an important source of food providing on average 44% of the food consumed by returnee households	Continue monitoring food price inflation by GoR and WFP	All returnees
71% of returnees prefer cash based transfers or a mix of in kind food assistance and cash instead of food assistance	Explore other transfers modalities as a response to livelihood recovery (small business) for vulnerable households. WFP should work with UNHCR, MIDIMAR and other partners such as UNDP and FAO in order to ensure synergy assistance to returnee. Such as providing start-up capital and start-up kits for returnee individuals or cooperatives/associations through microfinancing system activities(UNDP, NGOs).	All returnees

VII. References

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The Government of Rwanda, 2014: Sustainable Return and Reintegration of Rwandan Returnees November 2013- December 2014.

WFP, 2015: Comprehensive Food Security and Vulnerability Analysis and Nutrition Survey in Rwanda, December 2015.

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WFP, 2012: Returnees’ food security and livelihood assessment, September 2012.

Annex 1: Terms of References (TORs)

Objectives and key questions of the assessment

The proposed “Returnee Food Security and Livelihoods Assessment” will focus on returnees who were reintegrated during two years prior to the assessment. The purpose of this assessment is to look into what the main needs of the returnees are in terms of food security and livelihoods, what the effect is food ration provided to them at the transit centers and assess the possibility to include cash or voucher in food assistance to returnees.

The key questions of the assessment are:

1. What is the food security status of the returnees?
2. What are the main livelihoods returnees rely on and what challenges do they face in rebuilding them?
3. How is the food ration distributed by WFP used by returnees and does it address their needs?
4. What are the needs of returnees in terms of livelihoods and food security and how can they best be addressed?

In order to have updated information answering above questions, the World Food Programme (WFP) in Rwanda needs a consultant to conduct the 2015 Returnee Food Security Livelihood assessment.

Responsibilities and accountabilities

The services of the Consultant will cover two districts that received the high number of returnees since the last 2 years, i.e. Musanze and Nyamasheke districts.

Under the supervision of the WFP-Rwanda head of Programme and in close collaboration with the VAM Officer, the Consultant will go through the following components:

- Review of literature on returnees in Rwanda since 1994
- Review of selected literature on Food Security and livelihoods in Rwanda in general and for returnees in particular;
- Carry out consultations UN and other international organisations dealing with returnees;
- Carry out consultations with government organization at national and district level in order to acquire required information from them;
- Review the existing questionnaire/ interview guide and methodology for first hand data collection in selected communities and with selected counterparts;

- Design of analytical grid and methodology for an evaluation of the data gathered on community preparedness by defining clear and validated qualitative and quantitative indicators;
- Coordinate data collection in communities and with local actors in the two targeted districts;
- Draft a full analytical report on returnee food security and livelihoods;
- Include a list of findings and recommendations for further programming.

Outputs/Deliverables

The following outputs are expected at the end of the consultancy:

- A detailed work plan including methodology, schedule and budget.
- A detailed report on returnee food security and livelihoods including recommendations for further support and programming (max 30 pages).

Education and experience

Minimum of three to five years of relevant professional experience – in research, development and/or humanitarian sectors, knowledge management

- Strong qualitative and quantitative research skills (at a minimum in master degree)
- Strong analytical and synthesis skills
- Good understanding and knowledge in food security and livelihoods analysis
- Fluency in spoken and written English
- Fluency in French could be an asset
- Good communication, interpersonal and networking skills, and
- Computer literacy including Microsoft Word Processing programme, Ms Excel and SPSS.