

## Nigeria Livelihood Profiles

### Northern Floodplains, Irrigated Rice, wheat and Vegetable (NGII)<sup>1</sup>



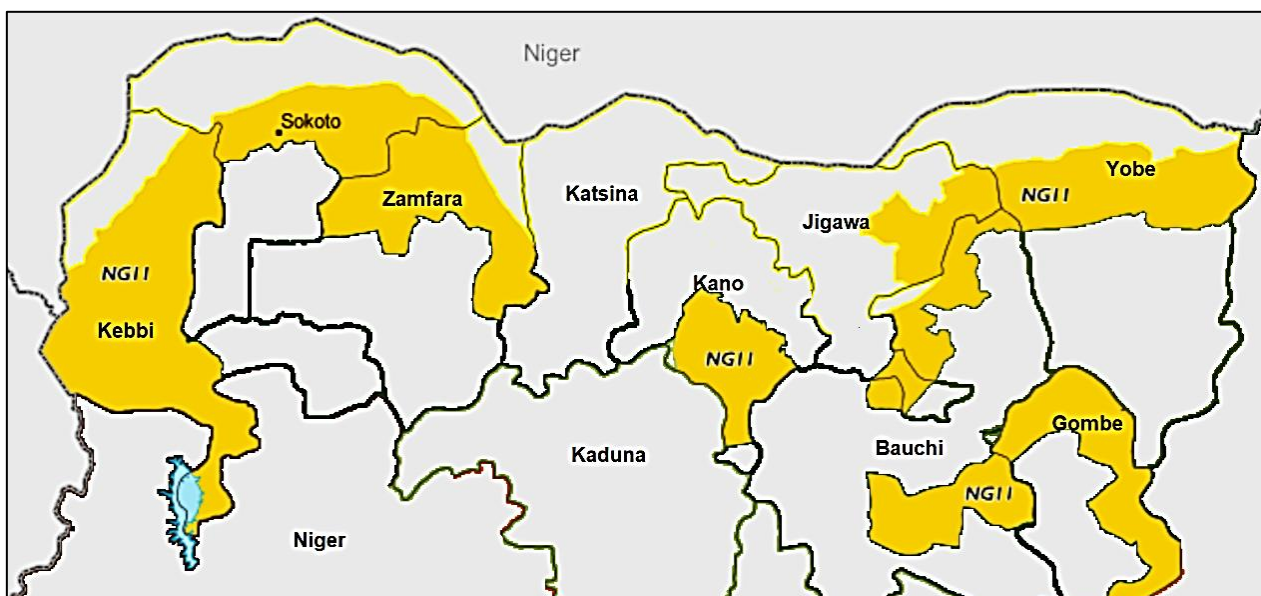
<sup>1</sup>Fieldwork for this profile was undertaken in April 2018. The information presented refers to the consumption year from September 2016 to August 2017. Provided there are no fundamental and rapid shifts in the economy, the information in this profile is expected to remain valid for approximately five to ten years (i.e. until 2028). **Note the baseline data collection was done in Jigawa state Only**

## Zone Description

The zone lies in the northern part of the country and stretches from east to west through parts of Yobe, Gombe, Bauchi, Jigawa, Kano, Zamfara, Sokoto and Kebbi States. The zone is Agro-pastoral with production of food (*Millet, sorghum, maize, rice, wheat, groundnuts and vegetables*) and cash crops (*Sesame, pepper, and roselle*) and keeping of livestock (*cattle, goats and sheep*) which are the main sources of food and cash income. The zone is found in the semi-arid to arid lowlands characterised by temperate climate. The typical vegetation cover is short to moderate grasses interspersed with patches of bush. Fish and Gum Arabic are main natural resources although only fish is currently exploited by some households in the zone.

Rainfall varies throughout the zone, but the distinguishing feature for livelihoods is the riverine lowlands from which farmers can harvest two crops in two seasons per year, the first, main harvest in September/October and, and the second in February to May. The proximity to many bodies of water and high reliance on irrigated cereal production makes livelihoods vulnerable to flooding in August/September. Cereals and pulses with exception of sesame are grown under mixed cropping while sesame is grown in rotation with other crops. The risk of flooding and availability of land constrain second season production. Poor households rely on market purchases for food which makes them vulnerable to variations in food prices particularly between July and September when there is least diversity in income opportunities.





The main livestock are cattle, sheep and goats which are kept under free grazing and stall-feeding. Cattle provide milk during the rainy season and early months of the dry season especially for middle and better-off households. Rivers, shallow wells and seasonal pools are the sources of animal drinking water. Livestock are sold throughout the year but mostly peak between April to August to purchase food during lean season and agriculture inputs in preparation for planting season. Sheep and goats are the livestock commonly slaughtered particularly during festivals and ceremonies.





It is notable that local labour employment and livestock sales are at peak in the months of agricultural activity, which coincides with the lean season a period when food prices are highest in the year. The poor households who rely on food purchases during this period are most vulnerable and their ability to earn enough income determines their food security during this period as their food production is usually depleted by May. The reference year recorded average rainfall, with good production for the two seasons. There was no major conflict recorded within the reference year and migration was recorded to be normal. However, an increase in the general price of commodities because of inflation across the country in the reference year.

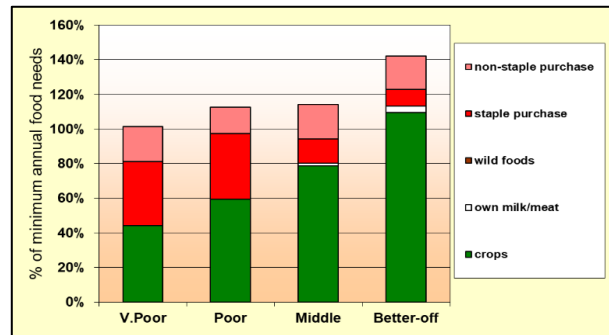
## Wealth Breakdown

		Wealth Group Information					
		HH size	Land area cultivated	Cattle	Goats	Sheep	Hens
Very Poor	 41%	6 - 7	0.5 - 2 ha	0	0-3	0	2-9
Poor	 29%	8-10	2 - 3 ha	0	2-3	1-2	3-10
Middle	 21%	13-15	4-7 ha	2-6	5-15	5-10	10-20
Better-off	 9%	18-22	7-15 ha	4-8	10-20	5-20	15-35
% of population							

The key wealth determinants are land area cultivated, livestock ownership and labour units in a household. The land areas cultivated by the middle and better-off are more than 2 times more compared to the poor and very poor. The middle and better off can cultivate more land as they own larger pieces of land, have livestock for draught power and are able to hire additional labour to their already bigger households. The bigger household sizes are mainly driven by polygamy in richer households with 2 to 3 wives. Field information also indicated that richer households buy land in addition to what is obtained through inheritance. The poor and very poor households depend on the richer households for labour. The relationship between wealth groups is found in the practise where richer households give some of their livestock for poorer households to look after and in return poorer households receive profit shares after animals are sold. Additionally, richer households provide ZAKAT to poorer households during harvest times. These forms of exchange are local social protection mechanisms.

## Sources of Food

Crop production and food purchases are the main food sources for people in this livelihood zone. The middle and better-off households can produce all their food needs and only buy non-staple foods (*oil, beans, meat and sugar*) and staples that they do not produce (*pasta*). The poor and very poor must complement their production with market purchases to meet their annual food needs. In the food purchases of poorer households, a bulk of their purchases is staple food as their production only covers 40-60% of their needs. The middle and better-off also have access to milk and meat which contributes up to 2% of their food needs. To alleviate the lean season poorer people, look for labour in richer households for cash to buy food.



*In the graph, food access is expressed as a percentage of minimum food requirements, taken as an average food energy intake of 2100 kcals per person per day.*

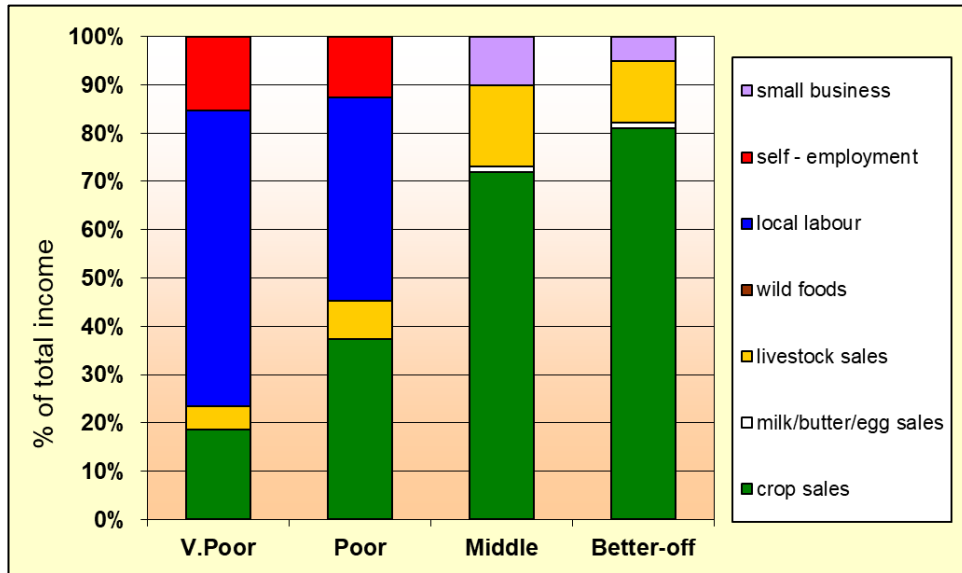
The middle and better off households can keep 11% to 13% of their production as stock into the following consumption year and they sell 60% to 72% of their cereal crop respectively. In comparison the poor and very poor do not keep any stock and only sell part of their crops (*less than a third*) to raise money for meeting other basic needs not that its surplus. The difference in production is driven by amount of land cultivated which is determined by access to draught power, use of fertilisers and hired labour to work on bigger plots. The yield per unit area for better off is 2 times more compared to very poor households.

## Sources of Cash

The income pattern shows two different but related spheres of economy. The poor sphere is based heavily on local work: agricultural labour for richer households, construction work and very small-scale trading. Income from these activities account for 55% and 72% of the incomes for poor and very poor households. Additionally, incomes for the poor sphere are complemented by incomes from crop sales and sale of animals, mostly goats and chicken. The better-off sphere is heavily dependent on production: crop sales, livestock and milk sales. Income from these activities contribute 90% and 95% of the incomes of middle and better-off households. Additional income for these two richer groups comes from trade activities.

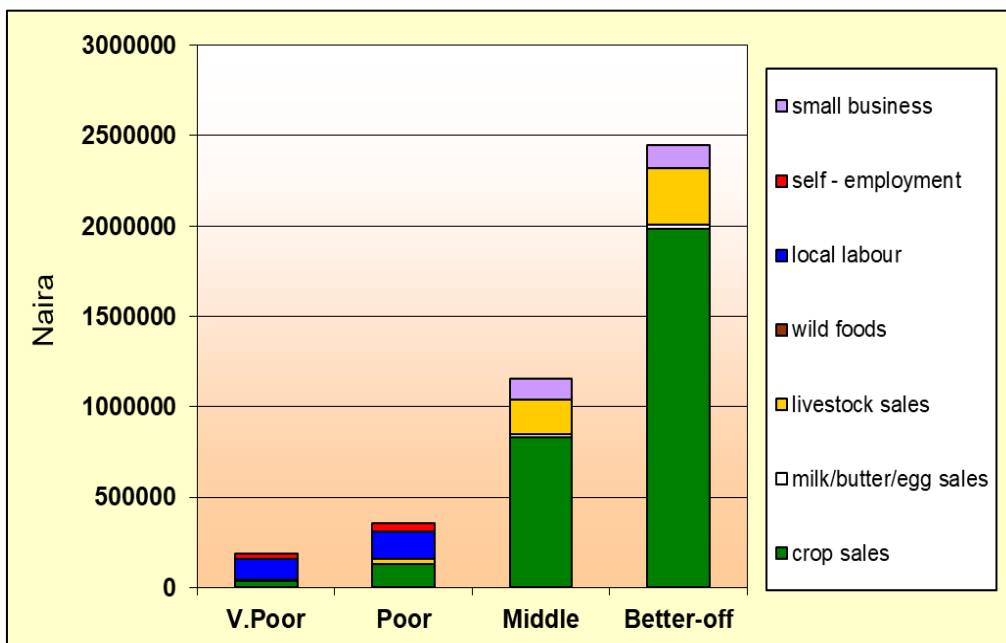
The relationship in incomes between wealth groups is mainly through casual labour in which poorer households work for richer households in exchange for cash which the poorer households depend on for their food and non-food needs. The success of agriculture production in richer households is dependent on the availability of labour from poor households. This relationship has influence on the success of the two spheres of economy.

There is high income inequality among the poor and richer households. The annual income for better-off wealth group is 13 times more than that for the very poor. If analysed by per capita income<sup>2</sup>, the annual income of the better-off is 4.5 times more than the income of very poor.



	Very poor	Poor	Middle	Better-Off
<b>Annual Income</b>	186,082	353,948	1,157,016	2,445,321

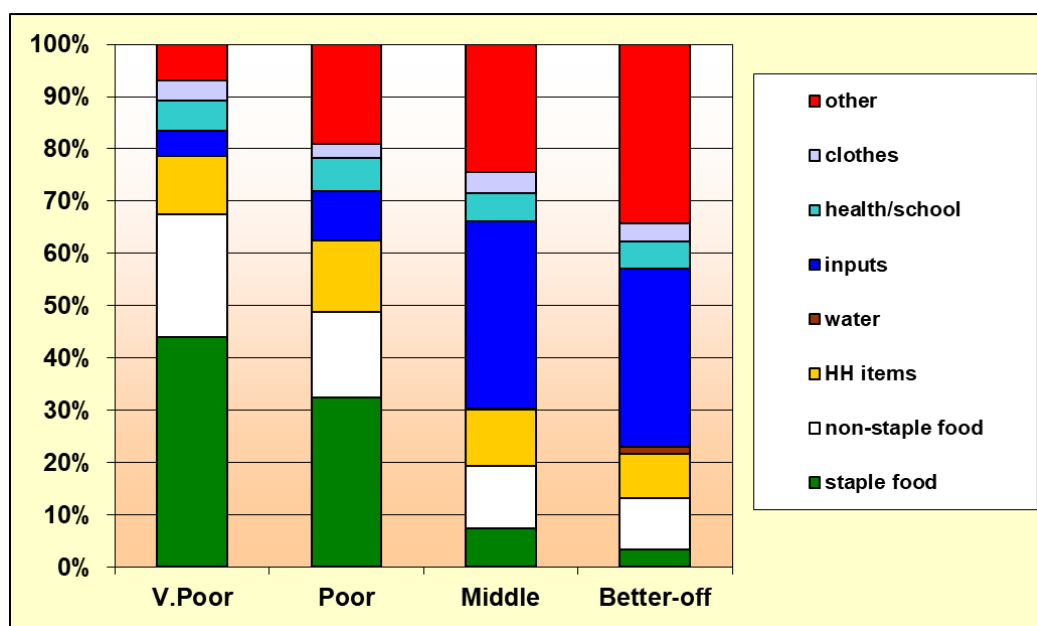
The graph provides a breakdown of total cash income according to income source.



<sup>2</sup> Total cash income divided by number of people in household.

## Expenditure Patterns

Food and basic household items constitute a greater part of the expenditures of the very poor (78%) and poor (62%) compared to less than 30% for middle and better-off. In contrast, production inputs and social services (*health & education*) account for at least 40% of the expenditures of the middle and better off groups compared to less than 15% for poor and very poor. 'Other' expenditure include social expenditure (*celebrations & funerals*). The devotion of a bigger proportion of expenditure to food by the poor highlights their vulnerability to fluctuations in food prices and the limited flexibility in their expenditure choices especially during bad years.



## Hazards

**Chronic hazards:** Crop production is affected by flood and pests. Livestock is mainly affected by diseases and theft particularly between herdsman.

**Intermittent hazards:** Food price spikes and perioding droughts have major effect in this zone more especially during the lean periods in these years. Conflict is also a major problem in the eastern parts of the zone.

## Coping Strategies

The poor and very poor households who typically produce less than their requirements look for more labour in the zone and local towns and to supplement their incomes while richer households sell more of their livestock to smoothen consumption. The extra sale of livestock for poor and very poor is encumbered by low livestock holdings and is therefore only limited to goats and chicken. In exceptional problem years households migrate to other zones and far towns in search for opportunities.



For failed crops, the only recourse is re-planting, if that is affordable and not too late. The very poor may not afford to buy seed due to limited income earnings during the planting season and may have to look for additional labour. For livestock disease, veterinary drugs are purchased on the market. The livestock drug outlets are found in local towns, and through traders.

## Development Priorities

The following were highlighted as key development priorities by key informants:

- ✚ Provision of piped water particularly for the poor and very poor who cannot afford to develop own protected water sources
- ✚ Access to affordable/subsidised agricultural and business loans to enhance production
- ✚ Access to health care centres that have professional workers with adequate supply of medication.
- ✚ Improvement of the road network and the mobile coverage
- ✚ Provision of electricity

## Key Parameters for Monitoring

The table below provides a list of key parameters to monitor for changes in livelihood access:

Item	Key Parameter - Quantity	Key Parameter – Price
<b>Crops</b>	Maize, Sorghum, Millet, Rice, Wheat, Cowpeas, Groundnuts, Pepper, Sesame and Onions	Maize, Sorghum, Millet, Rice, Wheat, Cowpeas, Groundnuts, Pepper, Sesame and Onions
<b>Livestock production</b>	Cattle, Goats, and sheep	Cattle, Goats, and sheep Cow milk
<b>Other food and cash income</b>	Weeding and harvesting labour, construction labour, Firewood/charcoal, and Petty trade	Weeding and harvesting labour, construction labour, Firewood/charcoal, and Petty trade



## Annexes

### List of participants

Name	Organisation
IBI Clement Yusuf	
UMAH Onyemaechi	
BELLO Auwalu Mohammed	Jigawa state Ministry of Budget and Economic planning
GARBA Abubakar	Jigawa State ADP
HARUNA Abubakar	NEMA Bauchi State
Abubakar SADIQ Hassan	Bauchi State ADP
NAFISA Gullah	NBS Jigawa
BISHOP Oheoma	NBS Abuja
Anyaegebu, CHINEDU	Save the Children

### List of villages and LGAS assessed

LGA	Village
GURI	KASAGA
	DAGANA
KIRIKASAMA	MAI KANYU
	KUIT
KAFIN HAUSA	AGURA
	GAMAYIN
KAUGAMA	DABUWARAN
	ZABURAN
MIGA	HANTSU
	TAKA LAFIYA



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### **Further information:**

Save the Children International, Bureau Régional Afrique de l'Ouest et du Centre ;  
Save the Children International Niger;

- [www.hea-sahel.org](http://www.hea-sahel.org)

