

## Nigeria Livelihood Profiles

### Sahel Mixed Cereals and Livestock (NGI3)<sup>1</sup>



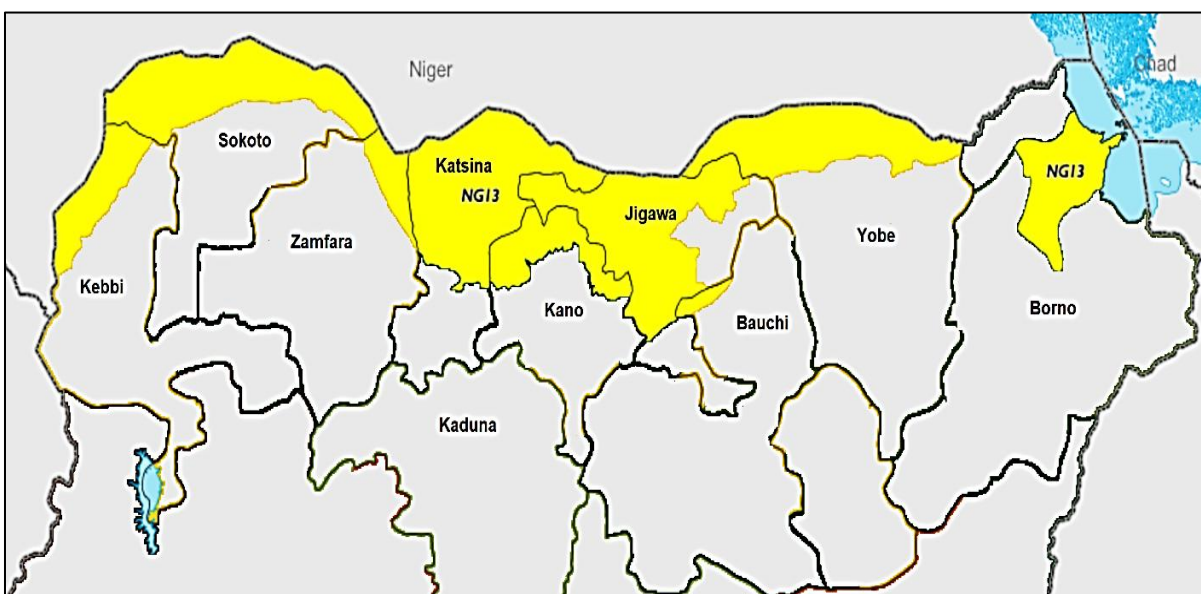
<sup>1</sup>Fieldwork for this profile was undertaken in April 2018. The information presented refers to the consumption year from September 2016 to August 2017 which was a relatively average year. Provided there are no fundamental and rapid shifts in the economy, the information in this profile is expected 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 Sahel Mixed Cereals and Livestock livelihood zone is in northern Nigeria occupying the West to East border stretch with Niger right into lake Chad. The zone covers LGAs in northern parts of Kebbi, Sokoto, Zamfara, Katsina, Kano, Yobe, Borno, and central and northern Jigawa States. The zone is found in the semi-arid lowlands, with subtropical climate and is characterised by savannah vegetation and sand dunes in some parts. The zone has relatively fertile but sandy soils and receives relatively reliable rainfall of 400-700 mm/year which falls between May/June to September/October. The zone is moderately productive supporting production of cereal crops (*millet, & sorghum*), legumes (*cowpea, groundnut, and sesame*) and cash crops (*pepper and roselle*) which are the primary livelihood source in this zone. Cereals and pulses with exception of sesame are grown under mixed cropping while sesame is grown in rotation with other crops. Off-season market gardening is common with production of tomatoes, onions and water melons. Fertilisers and chemicals are used in crop production

The success or failure of season has strong implications on the food security of households. Poor households own and cultivate smaller pieces of land as they do not own oxen which are used as drought power, consequently they do not rely on own production to meet their annual food needs as they must purchase food for most of the year. The income for these food purchases is obtained from on on-farm and off-farm labour, though they earn some small income from crop sales particularly during the first couple of months of the harvest and livestock sales (*goats and chicken*).

Livestock kept under communal free grazing is a more important source of income than in neighbouring zones (*NG11 and NG12*), with most households keeping some goats, sheep and poultry; middle and better-off households can afford to keep more livestock, including large cattle herds. Better-off households earn a significant portion of their income from livestock and livestock product sales which compliments incomes from crops sales. The better off can produce their annual food needs and incomes are mostly invested in productive inputs, social services and non-staple food expenditures (*cooking oil, sugar, meat and pulses*).



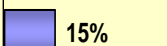
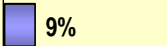




The start of rain season is preceded land preparation which is usually done in the two months before May. The agricultural tasks are carried out by women, men and other family members. The period May to August is the peak months of agricultural activity, which is when the poor and very poor earn most of their incomes. This period coincides with the lean season when food stocks are either low or depleted and marks the rise in market demand and food prices in the year. This is the period that marks high vulnerability among poor households who rely on food purchases during this period. The September to December is the peak period of food and income access following harvest of food and cash crops, it is also a period when food prices are at their lowest.

The reference year received average rainfall which resulted in average to above average crop production. Some parts of the zone experienced mid-season dry spells and pest infestation that saw some localised drop in yields. Prices of commodities increased in the later part of the year due to rise in inflation which affected the country.

## Wealth Breakdown

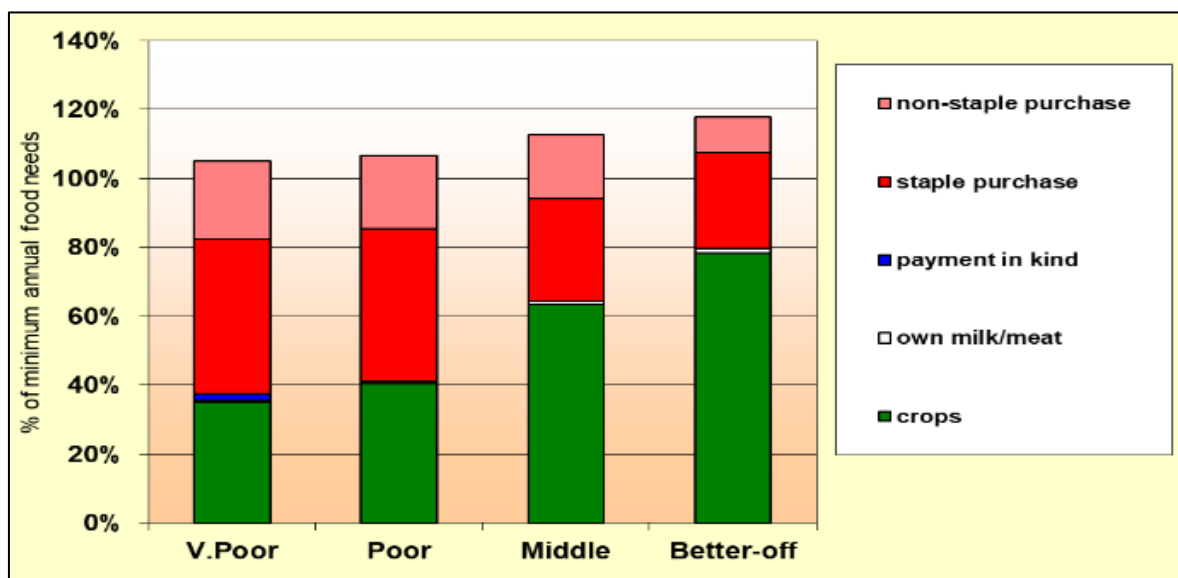
|                 |   | Wealth Group Information |                      |                   |       |       |       |
|-----------------|---|--------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|
|                 |   | HH size                  | Land area cultivated | Cattle owned      | Goats | Sheep | Hens  |
| Very Poor       |  48% | 5-7                      | 1-2 ha               | 0                 | 3-5   | 1-3   | 3-5   |
| Poor            |  28% | 8-10                     | 2-4 ha               | 1-3 (oxen)        | 5-7   | 2-4   | 10-15 |
| Middle          |  15% | 9-15                     | 5-10 ha              | 6-14 (incl. Oxen) | 8-10  | 6-12  | 10-26 |
| Better-off      |  9%  | 12-18                    | 10-15 ha             | 10-18 (incl.oxen) | 10-18 | 8-20  | 18-26 |
| % of population |   |                          |                      |                   |       |       |       |

The main differences in wealth are in land owned and area cultivated, livestock ownership and household sizes. Wealthier households cultivate more land and can hire labour from the poorer households. The lack of other assets amongst the very poor households, notably in livestock, makes them very vulnerable to any negative economic shift, whether climatic problems for production, or high food prices, or a downturn in the employment opportunities among wealthier people. Very poor and poor households are mostly composed of monogamous households while the middle and better-off have polygamous families with 2 to 3 wives. This explains the variation in household size where it increases with wealth. 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

The main food sources are crop production and food purchases for all wealth groups. The middle and better-off households usually produce crops enough to cover over 60% of their requirements while the poor and very poor produce less than 40% of their requirements for the year. All wealth groups complement their production with purchase of staple and non-staple food which covers the remaining needs. The very poor also receive food payments in exchange for labour during harvesting time while the middle and better off also access milk from their cattle. The dependency on purchases makes all groups vulnerable to price fluctuation although the very poor and poor are most vulnerable as they depend on markets for over 60% of the minimum food needs.

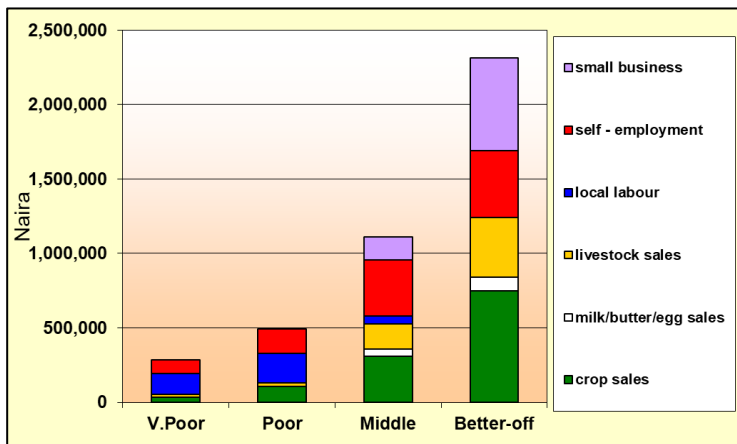
The middle and better off households can keep 11% to 13% of their production as stock into the following consumption year and they sale close to a tenth (7%) to over a third (32%) of their production respectively. In comparison the poor and very poor do not keep any stock and only sale part of their crops 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 1.5 times more compared to very poor households.



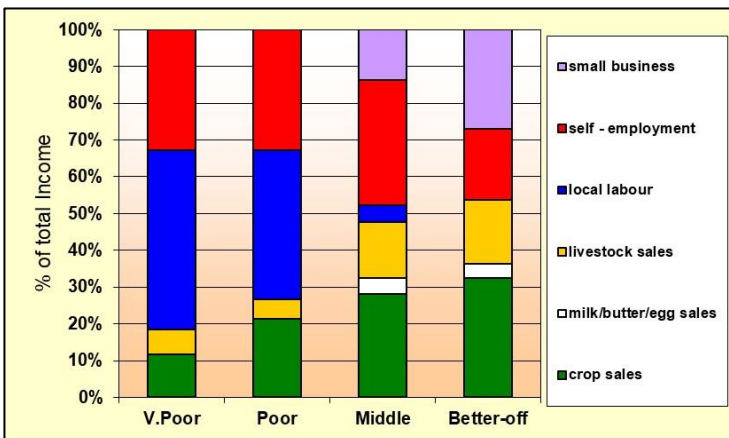
*In the graph, food access is expressed as a percentage of minimum food requirements, taken as an average food energy intake of 2100 kcals per person per day.*

## Sources of Cash

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



|                      | Very poor | Poor    | Middle    | Better-Off |
|----------------------|-----------|---------|-----------|------------|
| <b>Annual Income</b> | 284,226   | 490,433 | 1,108,858 | 2,313,002  |



All wealth groups depend upon labour and self-employment at all levels. Poorer households obtain over 70% of their income from casual labour (*agriculture and construction*) and self-employment (e.g. *selling handicrafts, fodder sales, and petty trade*). In comparison better-off and middle households obtain between 45% to 52% of their respective annual incomes from self-employment (*transportation & petty trade*) and small businesses. The other income sources for all wealth groups is obtained from crop and livestock sales. For the poor and very poor who produce less crops and own less livestock these sources contribute less than 30% and 20% of their respective annual incomes while it contributes 48% to 53% for middle and better-off respectively. The middle and better

off obtain incomes from sale of milk from cattle. The wealthier households employ poorer households to work in their fields and pay them with cash and food.

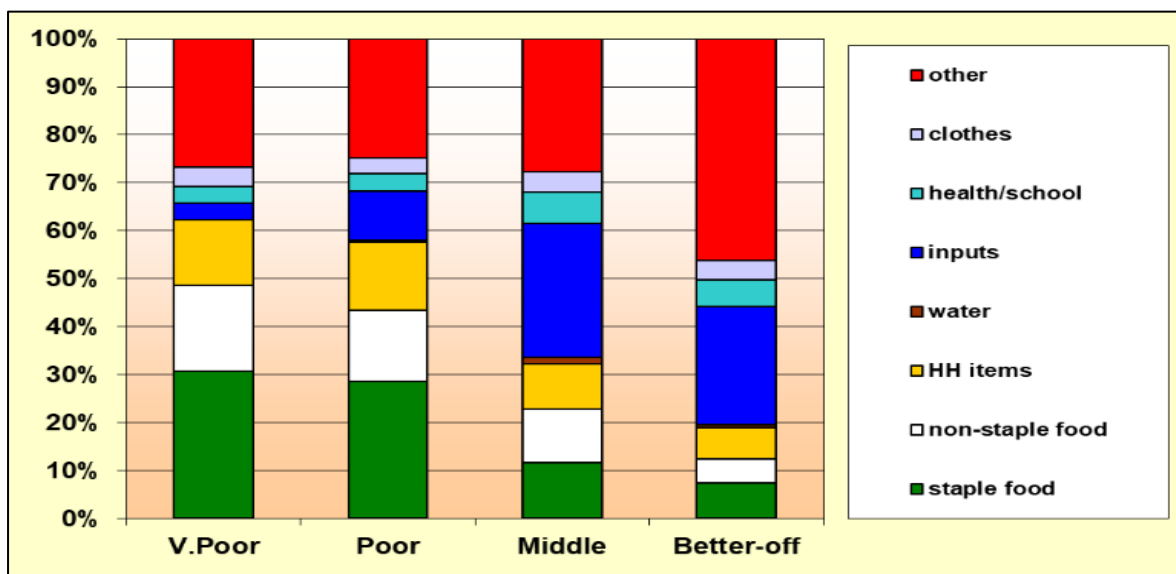
There is high income inequality among the poor and richer households. The annual income for better-off wealth group is 8 times more than that for the very poor. If analysed by per capita income<sup>2</sup>, the annual income of the better-off is 3 times more than the income of very poor.

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

## Expenditure Patterns

Food expenditures constitute a greater part of the incomes of the poor (48%) and very poor (68%) compared to less than 30% for middle and better-off. In contrast, production inputs and social services (health & education) account for close to 40% of the expenditures of the middle and better off groups compared to less than 20% for poor and very poor. This trend indicates that richer households invest more in their production as they have more land and their incomes are not crowded by the need for immediate basics. The devotion of a bigger proportion of expenditure to food by the poor highlights their lack of flexibility of expenditures and vulnerability to food prices fluctuations particularly in bad years.

*The graph provides a breakdown of total cash expenditure according to category of expenditure.*



## Hazards

**Chronic hazards:** Floods, quelea birds, pest outbreaks, drought affect crop production. Animal diseases which occur affect livestock. This zone is also prone to livestock theft.

## Coping strategies

**Increased sale of livestock:** This is a coping strategy mainly employed by the middle and better-off households who own big herd sizes for cattle, sheep and goats.

**Labour Migration:** The poor and very poor tend to look for casual jobs in the zone or neighbouring zones.

## Development priorities

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

- ✚ Access to health care centres that have professional workers with adequate supply of medication.
- ✚ Access to affordable/subsidised agricultural and business loans to enhance production
- ✚ Breeding stock for -restocking of animals particularly cattle among the poor and very poor.
- ✚ Supply of portable water

## Key Parameters for Monitoring

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

| <b>Item</b>                       | <b>Key Parameter - Quantity</b>  | <b>Key Parameter – Price</b>   |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Crops</b>                      | Sorghum, Millet, Cowpeas, Groundnuts, Sesame, and Roselle  | Sorghum, Millet, Cowpeas, Groundnuts, Sesame, and Roselle  |
| <b>Livestock production</b>       | Cattle, Goats, and sheep<br>Cow milk yields  | Cattle, Goats, and sheep<br>Cow milk   |
| <b>Other food and cash income</b> | Weeding and harvesting labour, Firewood/charcoal, Petty trade, Livestock brokering and self-employment | Weeding and harvesting labour, Firewood/charcoal, Petty trade, Livestock brokering and self-employment |



## Annexes

### List of participants

| <b>Name</b>       | <b>Organisation</b>                                   |
|-------------------|---|
| Esther Mira Ladan | NEARLS ABU Zaria                                      |
| Ibrahim Turaki    | Jigawa State Ministry of Budget                       |
| Mahmood Bala Umar | State Ministry of Agriculture Bauchi                  |
| Binjamin Morris   | Christian Association                                 |
| Bulama Dauda      | NPFS Abuja  |
| Labaran Salisu    | Jigawa state Ministry of Budget and Economic planning |
| Abubakar Hassan   | Jigawa state Ministry of Budget and Economic planning |
| Abdou, Malam Dodo | Save the Children                                     |
| Usman Duste       | State Ministry of Agriculture Katsina                 |

### List of villages and LGAS assessed

| <b>LGA</b>              | <b>Village</b> |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| <b>GWIWA</b>            | INDIRAWA       |
|                         | UNGOAN GANTI   |
| <b>BIRNIWA</b>          | DOLEN KWANA    |
|                         | KASABUR        |
| <b>RINGIM</b>           | AMAGUWA        |
|                         | SHAFAR         |
| <b>SULE TAN KAR KAR</b> | ASAYAYA        |
|                         | UBAN DAWA      |
| <b>GAGARAWA</b>         | MALAN ADA      |
|                         | DAN MADAI      |



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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)