

**USAID/FFP Cash Assistance  
Post Distribution Monitoring  
Yobe State, Nigeria  
May - June 2015**



**USAID/Food For Peace Cash Assistance Project**

**Yobe State, Nigeria**

**May-June 2015**

**Funded by:**



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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Action Against Hunger – Nigeria (AAH) is implementing a cash transfer program in Yobe State funded by USAID/Food For Peace, covering Damaturu, Potiskum and Fune Local Government Authorities (LGA). The program is aiming at “Improving Food Access and Nutrition for Vulnerable Displaced and Host Populations in Yobe State (Damaturu, Potiskum & Fune) in North-Eastern Nigeria.” 3,000 beneficiaries are receiving a 10,000 Naira (NGN) cash or food voucher monthly allowance that they can use or withdraw direct to 35 traders or money agents contracted by AAH.

The Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) aims at assessing the efficiency of the modality chosen and the effectiveness of the project activities. The PDM results will be compared to the baseline results collected in January 2015 in all 3 LGAs.

This PDM is covering the two first months of the cash transfers (April and May). Within this period, 97.7% of the beneficiaries received money transfers from AAH. The 2.3% remaining were due to beneficiaries not collecting their cards or still under verification.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

A total of 3,000 households are benefiting from the USAID/FFP cash transfer program, out of which, 441 beneficiaries were randomly selected to be assessed in May and 466 in June.

In April, 220 beneficiaries were assessed in Damaturu LGA, 135 in Potiskum LGA and 86 in Fune. While for May’s PDM, 231 were interviewed in Damaturu LGA, 145 in Potiskum LGA and 90 in Fune LGA. A team of 10 enumerators were trained and involved in the data collection during 4 days.

## 3. RESULTS

Among the beneficiaries interviewed during those two PDMs, 81.9% are IDPs and 18.1% are from the host communities. 54.1% of the households assessed are headed by a woman and 45.9% by a man. 51% of them are using unconditional cash transfers and 49% the food vouchers transfer. In Damaturu and Potiskum LGAs, beneficiaries have access to both modalities, while in Fune LGA, no money agent was available, and beneficiaries are only benefiting from food vouchers.

### a) Process findings

- Delivery system

In order to mitigate the security risks for both beneficiaries and to ease the process, AAH-Nigeria is implementing its cash transfer program through the RedRose OneSolution platform, which proposes a wireless transfers, through the use of smart cards distributed to the beneficiaries and electronic devices to the traders or money agents. The system has shown its efficiency and ease to use at field level with beneficiaries and traders.

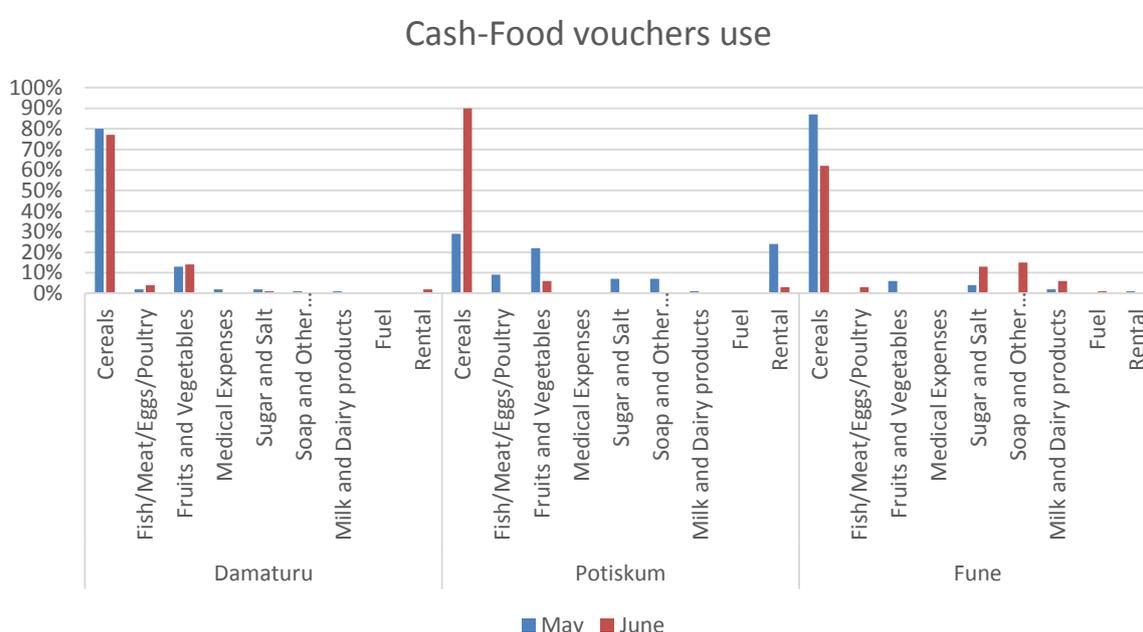
Among the beneficiaries interviewed, 91.1% reported being satisfied with the modality applied by AAH-Nigeria for the cash transfers. The 8.9% remaining who were unsatisfied mentioned that remembering the security PIN was one of their main challenges, only one household responded that

the technology employed was too sophisticated.

- Cash use

As mentioned above in Fune LGA, the beneficiaries are only proposed food vouchers, whereas in Damaturu and Potiskum LGAs, can choose between both modalities. When given the choice between cash or food vouchers, in both PDMs, 63.5% of the beneficiaries have reported using the unconditional cash as their main modality, while 36.5% reported using food vouchers.

While looking at how the cash or food vouchers were used, it appears that cereals is the main expense for the households interviewed, with an overall average of 71% between the three LGAs. The second main expenses for the households are fruits and vegetables with an overall average of 12%. It's important to note that during the second PDM, 90% of the households from Potiskum reported to have used the cash for cereals, while 29% in the previous PDM, 24% used their cash to pay their rent.



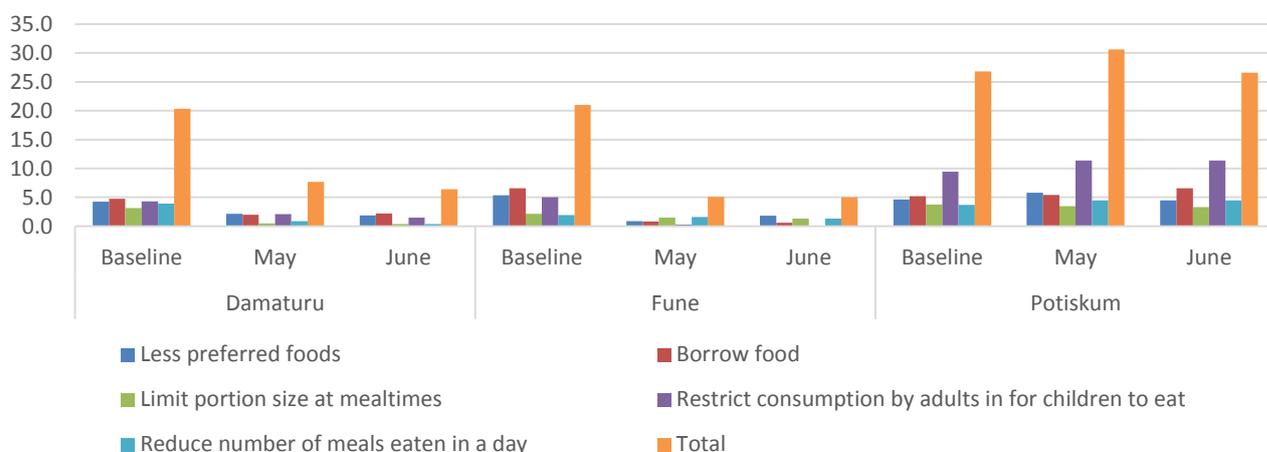
3.6% of the beneficiaries reported to have sold commodities in order to mainly pay for their children schools expenses or for health expenses.

b) Household Coping Strategies

Applying the reduced coping strategy index (CARE/WFP, 2008), a comparison between January's baseline and both PDMs was done. When asking household application of suggested coping strategies when experiencing food shortages during the past week, households reported using especially, *relying on less preferred foods*, with an average of 4.8 days in January, 3 days in May and 2.7 days in June. It's important to note that in the baseline Fune's households were largely relying on this coping strategy, while in May and Potiskum's households were the most numerous.

Overall, the use of those coping strategy has decreased in the 3 LGAs, except in Potiskum were it increases in May before decreasing in June. Although, households in Potiskum relying on coping strategies are still above the average compared to the other 2 LGAs.

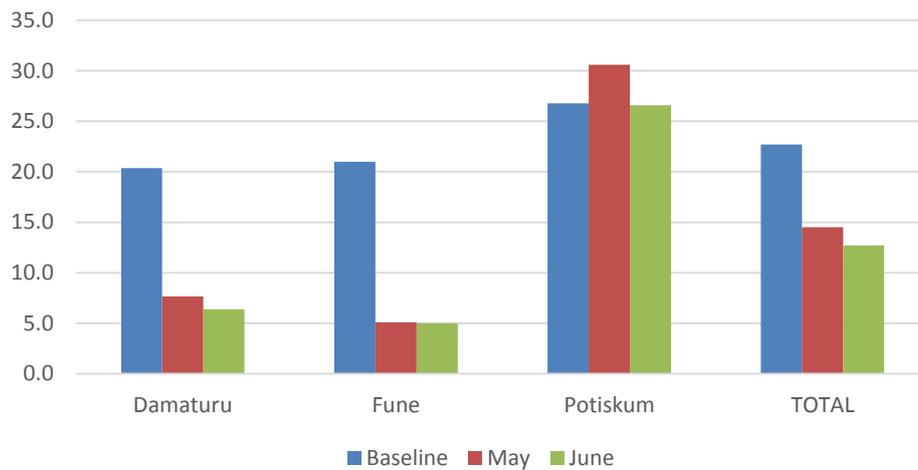
## Coping strategies employed by the households



Additionally, the households coping strategy index was calculated using a severity score (1-3) for more and less severe strategies being employed, based on the Standard Coping Strategy Index tool (Care/WFP, 2008). The maximum score feasible is 56, indicating all coping strategies are used over the past seven days. While during the baseline, the average score across the LGAs was 22.7, in May' PDM and June's PDM, this average score is decreasing with respectively 14.5 and 12.7. Those scores indicate a major decrease especially with the use of "restrict consumption by adults in for children to eat". Potiskum showed the highest score in the three surveys and smallest decrease, further assessment is needed in this LGA to understand why such a difference with the other ones.

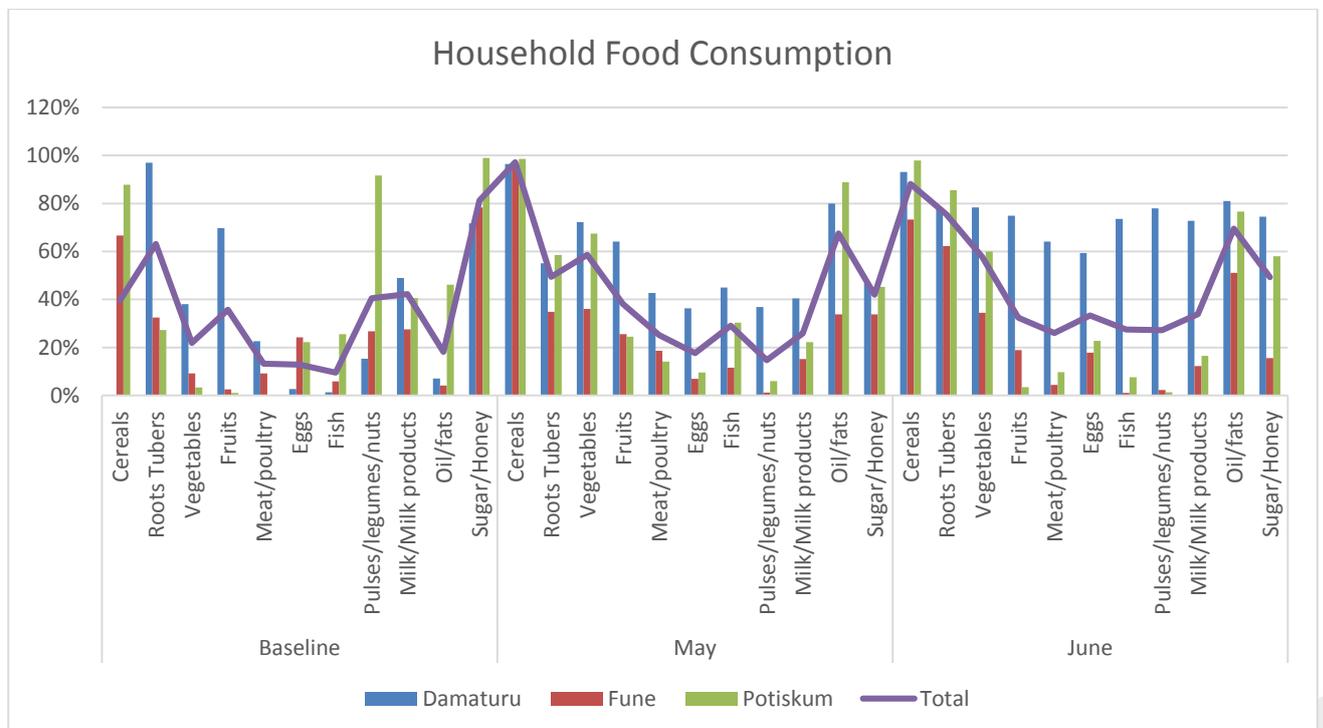
		Damaturu	Fune	Potiskum	TOTAL
<b>Baseline</b>	Less preferred foods	4.3	5.3	4.6	4.8
	Borrow food	4.7	6.6	5.2	5.5
	Limit portion size at mealtimes	3.1	2.2	3.8	3.0
	Restrict consumption by adults in for children to eat	4.3	5.0	9.5	6.3
	Reduce number of meals eaten in a day	3.9	1.9	3.7	3.2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>20.4</b>	<b>21.0</b>	<b>26.8</b>	<b>22.7</b>
<b>May</b>	Less preferred foods	2.2	0.9	5.8	3.0
	Borrow food	2.0	0.8	5.4	2.7
	Limit portion size at mealtimes	0.5	1.5	3.5	1.8
	Restrict consumption by adults in for children to eat	2.1	0.3	11.4	4.6
	Reduce number of meals eaten in a day	0.9	1.6	4.5	2.3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>30.6</b>	<b>14.5</b>
<b>June</b>	Less preferred foods	1.9	1.8	4.5	2.7
	Borrow food	2.2	0.6	6.6	3.1
	Limit portion size at mealtimes	0.4	1.3	3.3	1.7
	Restrict consumption by adults in for children to eat	1.5	0.0	9.3	3.6
	Reduce number of meals eaten in a day	0.4	1.3	2.9	1.5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>26.6</b>	<b>12.7</b>

## Reduced Coping Strategy Score - Comparison



### c) Household Food Consumption Score

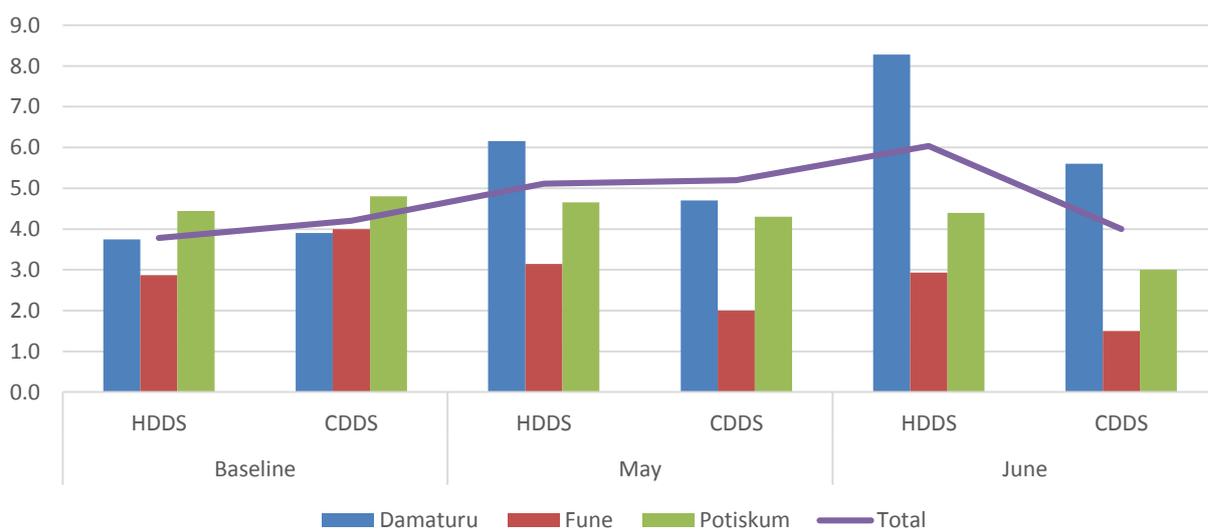
Using the standard Household Dietary Diversity Score (FANTA, 2006), households indicated the number of consumed food groups over the past 24 hours. Starchy foods with cereal and tubers, as well as oil and legumes were main consumed foods. While comparing the results of both PDMs with the baseline, a clear increase in the cereals consumption was noticed, mainly due to Damaturu LGA where none of the households reported consuming cereals while they were 98% in May and 88% in June. The vegetable consumption has also increased from 22% in January to 59% in May and 58% in June. The consumption of meat or poultry has increased from 13% in January to 25% in May and 26% in June. The consumption of eggs, fish and oil has also increased, while the consumption of pulses, milk/milk products and sugar products has decreased over the period.



In parallel, households were asked about the consumption of food groups by children under 5 years of age. A similar pattern was observed as the adults.

While calculating the household and child dietary diversity score based on the FANTA tool (2006), a major difference was noticed between the baseline and both PDMs. The Household Dietary Diversity Score has increased for Damaturu LGA from 3.7 to 8.3 (out of 12), Fune and Potiskum LGA after a small increase in May came back to their original score, respectively 2.9 and 4.4. The major difference concerned the Child Dietary Diversity Score (CDDS), while during the baseline this score indicated that children in all LGAs had a better dietary diversity scores than adults, both PDMs show, in all 3 LGAs, the opposite trend. Whereas in Damaturu LGA, the CDDS has increased over this period, it has decreased for the two other LGAs with 2.9 for Fune during the baseline, 2 in May and 1.5 in June. While for Potiskum LGA, the CDDS was 4.8 during the baseline, 4.3 in May and 3 in June. Further field assessment will be done to ensure more understanding on why the CDDS is decreasing, while previously higher than the HDDS.

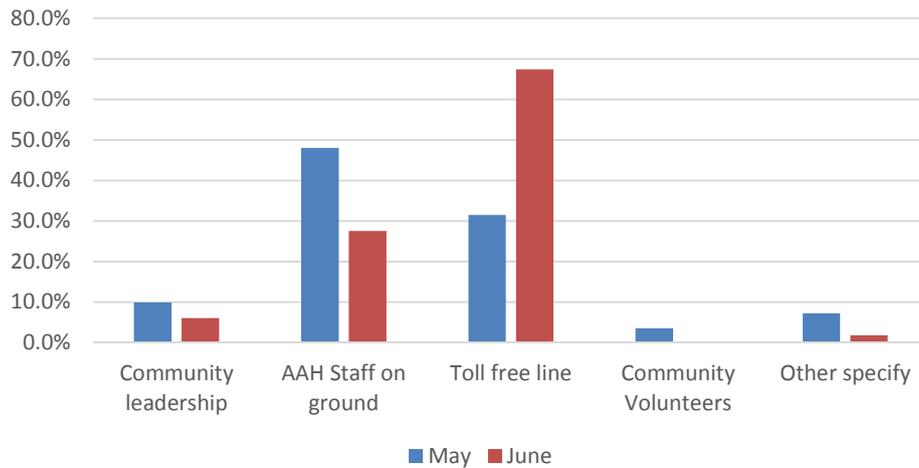
Household and Child Dietary Diversity Score



d) Feedback and complaints mechanism

In order to receive beneficiaries’ feedback and complaint, AAH-Nigeria has established two toll-free lines across Yobe State (one with MTN and one with Airtel networks). It was noticed that during the first PDM 48% of the beneficiaries were relying on AAH staff on the ground to provide feedbacks or complaints and only 31.5% were using the toll-free lines. While in June, 67.4% of the beneficiaries mentioned using the toll-free lines to provide feedback or complaints. AAH-Nigeria provides a leaflet in Hausa to each beneficiary explaining the whole cash process and where they can also find the tollfree numbers available for their feedback, a banner is also available at every traders or money agent contracted.

### Feedback mechanism

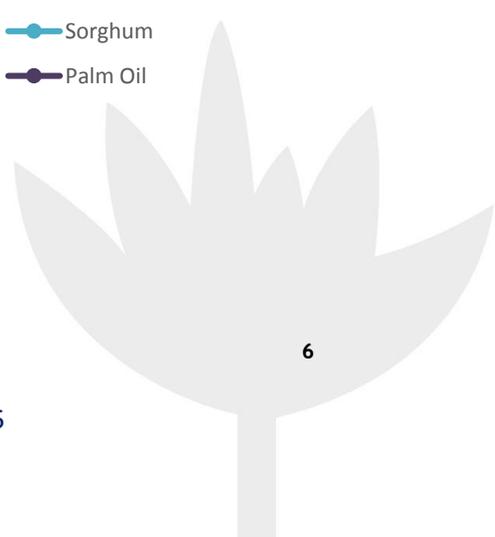
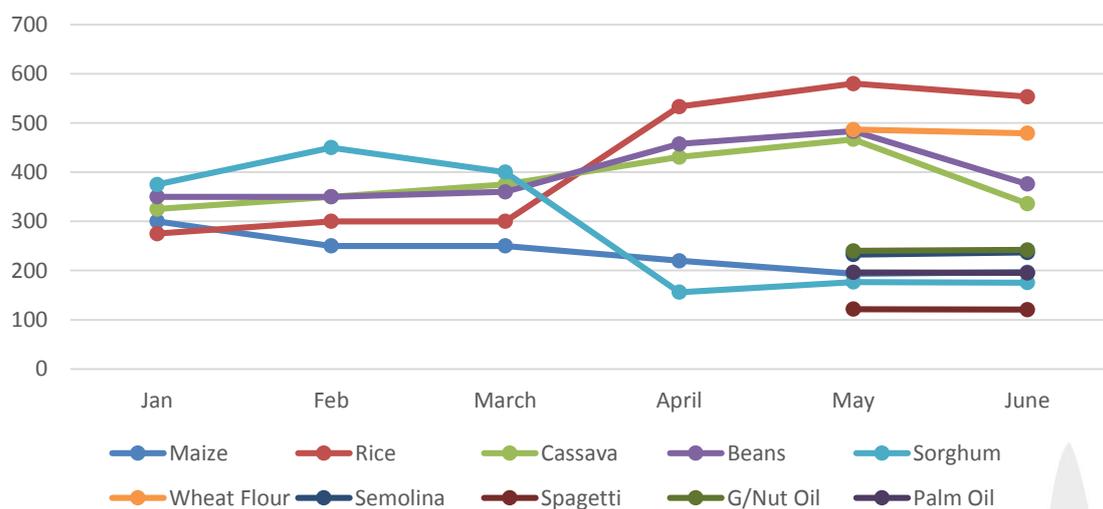


### e) Price monitoring

AAH-Nigeria is conducted price monitoring on bi-weekly basis; 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> week of each month in each LGA targeted by the program. The data collection started in January 2015, with a monitoring on 5 commodities (maize, rice, cassava, beans, sorghum), after the first disbursement, 5 additional commodities were added (wheat flour, semolina, spaghetti, groundnut oil, palm oil) to be monitored as part of the main commodities of the beneficiary food basket.

Over the period, an overall average of 3% price decrease was noticed on these commodities. Price changes showing an increase are seasonally fluctuating with the advancing lean season, as well as imported goods due to the strongly fluctuating Naira.

### Prices Monitoring - Yobe State



## 4. CONCLUSIONS

Overall, when comparing the data collected during the baseline survey, all food security indicators have improved and stabilized, exception made for the CDDS which has been decreasing and will need further investigation.

Potiskum LGA remains a concern, while analysing the food security indicators, especially when looking at the coping strategy score, which remains higher than the two other LGAs and has been increasing after the first cash transfer before decreasing to reach Baseline's level. The situation in Potiskum needs further assessment and a very closed monitoring over the coming month to get a better understanding.

While, looking at the prices monitoring, even though a major increase has been noticed since January, this increase has to be linked with the seasonal period, start of the rainy season, and a decrease is expected to occur in the coming months.

Overall and over those two first months of the program, the cash transfer program has had a positive impact on the beneficiaries' food security and improve their food access without creating distortion in the markets.

