

Rethinking Poverty in Nigeria: The Demographics of Food Insecure Households

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Background

- ❖ Measurement of living standards is crucial to health and poverty alleviation
- ❖ In poor countries like Nigeria absolute poverty better portrays household living conditions (Falkingham and Namazie, 2002)
- ❖ Poverty is episodic but there has been limited longitudinal analyses of food insecurity

The Present Study

- ❖ Compares two measures of household socioeconomic status – wealth and food security
- ❖ Investigates trends in household food security in Nigeria over a two-year period – 2010-2013
- ❖ Examines transitions into and out of food insecurity over time
- ❖ Utilizes more recent and panel data (2010-2013 NGHS)

Data and Sample

- ❖ Nigeria General Household Survey (NGHS)
 - ❖ 2010-2013 (Four visits, one per annum)
- ❖ Analyses of trends in household food insecurity
 - ❖ About 4,600 households at each wave
- ❖ Analyses of transitions into and out of food insecurity
 - ❖ 3,618 food secure households
 - ❖ 3,391 food insecure households

Method

- ❖ Discrete-time multinomial logistic regression
- ❖ Food security status (0 = food secure, 1 = moderately food insecure, 2 = severely food insecure)
- ❖ Transition into food insecurity (Food secure → Food insecure)
- ❖ Transition out of food insecurity (Food insecure → Food secure)

Results

Figure 1. Predicted Probabilities of Severe Household Food Insecurity by Household Wealth

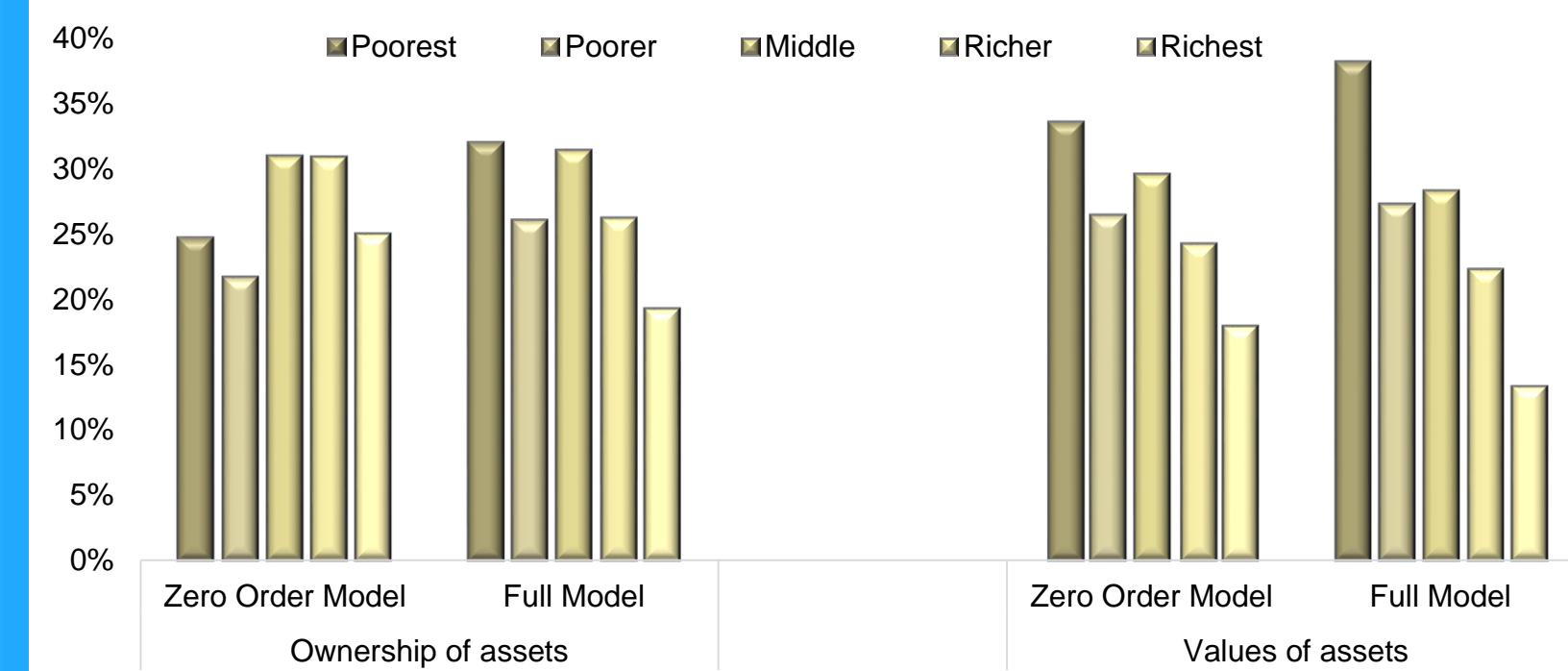


Figure 2. Trends in Household Food Insecurity in Nigeria, 2010-2013

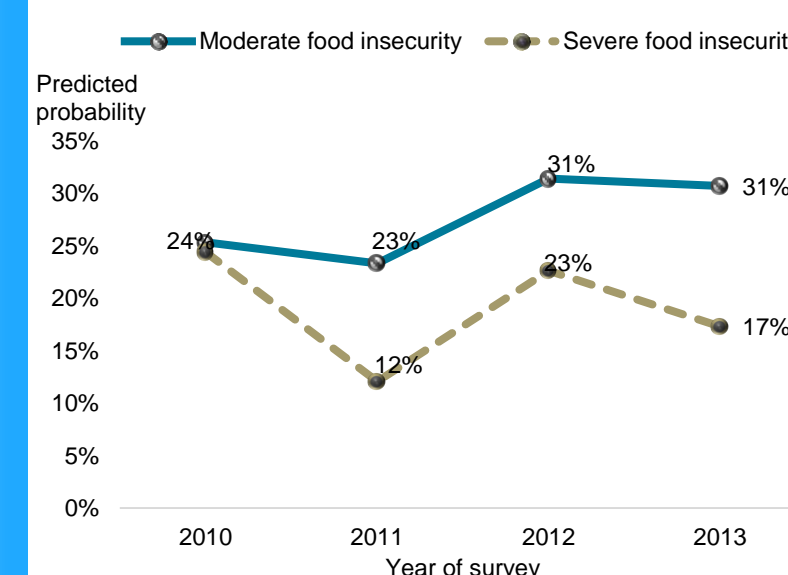


Figure 3. Transitions Into and Out of Household Food Insecurity in Nigeria, 2010-2013

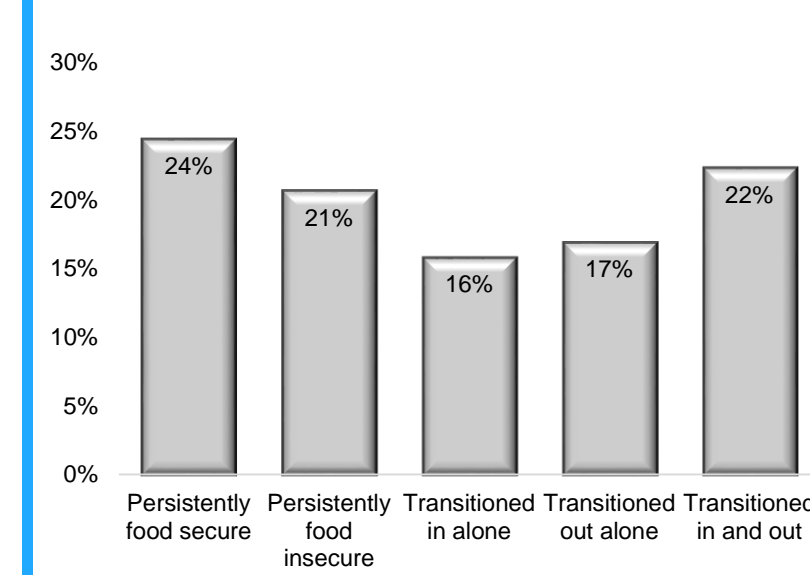
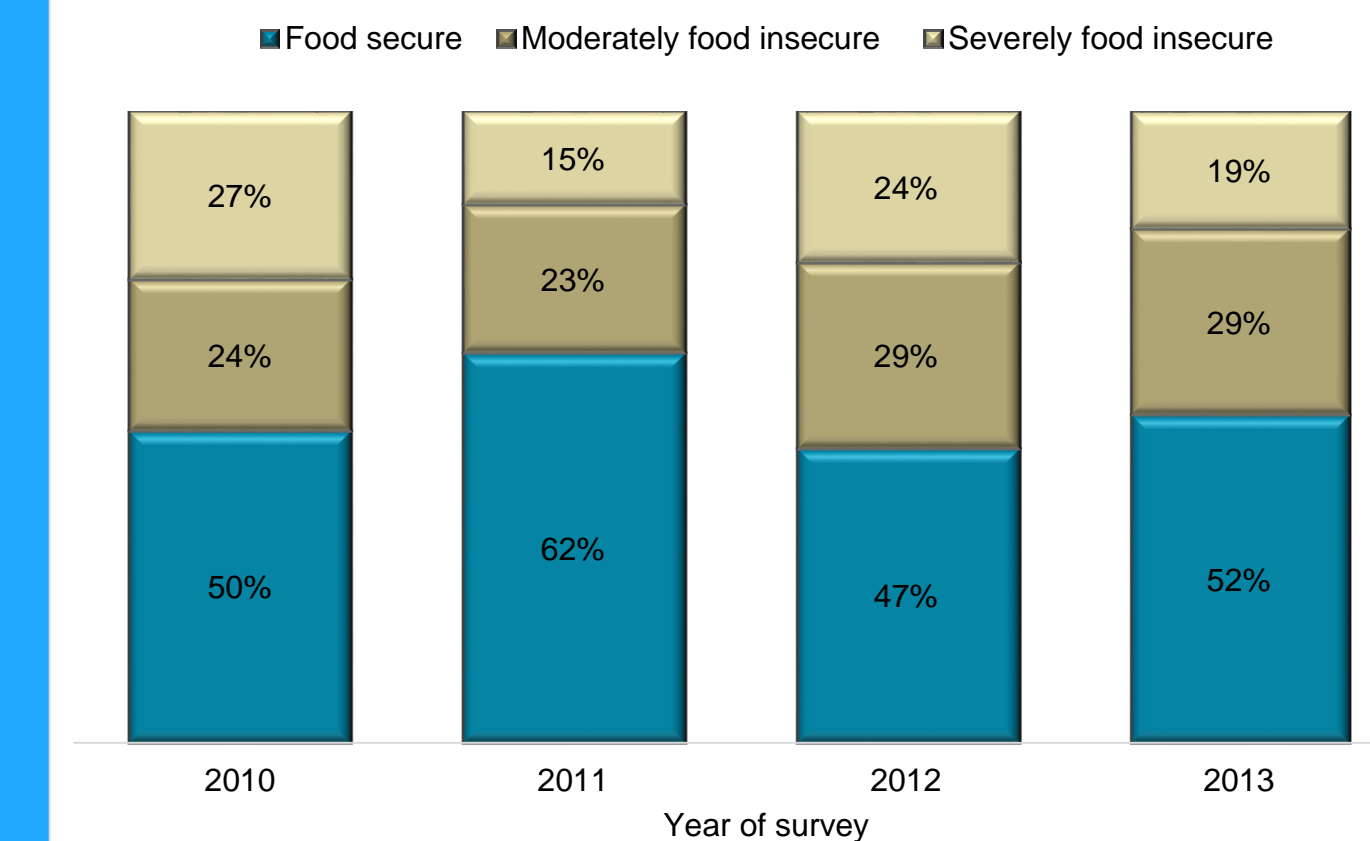


Figure 4. Trends in Household Food Insecurity in Nigeria, 2010-2013



Multivariate Results

Table 1. Odds Ratios and Confidence Intervals, Logistic Regression Predicting First Transitions into Household Food Insecurity in Nigeria

Predictors	Zero Order	Model 1	Model 2
Log of household wealth	0.92***	0.90***	0.87***
Education of household head (0 = Primary education)			
No or other forms of education	0.68***	0.66***	0.90
Secondary education	0.97	0.94	0.99
Higher education	0.56***	0.61***	0.61***
Occupation of household head (0 = Agriculture)			
Sales and services	1.41***	1.42***	1.09
Professional job	1.00	1.25 †	1.10
Unemployed	1.46**	1.53***	1.29*
Others	1.64***	1.66***	1.33*
Household size	0.97**		1.04**
Age of household head	1.00		1.00
Dependency ratio	0.93 †		0.99
Missing dependency ratio	0.73 †		0.48***
Female household head	1.51***		1.09
Marital status of household head (0 = Married monogamous)			
Married polygynous	0.80**		0.94
Unmarried	1.30**		0.97
Religion of household head (0 = Muslim)			
Christian	1.48***		0.89
Others	1.01		0.86
Urban residence	1.38***		1.31**
Region of residence (0 = South west)			
North central	0.53***		0.54***
North east	0.61***		0.58***
North west	0.50***		0.46***
South east	2.39***		2.81***
South south	0.86		1.01
Number of waves since food security (0 = 2 waves)			
3 waves	1.15*	1.20*	1.31***
4 waves	0.43***	0.46***	0.54***
Intercept		1.25	1.95*

Source: Nigeria General Household Survey, 2010-2013; † p<0.10, * p<0.05, ** p<0.01, *** p<0.001; all zero order models control for number of waves since food security; n = 3,618 households

Conclusion

- ❖ Wealth index presents a very different picture of household socioeconomic wellbeing than food security in Nigeria
- ❖ Half of all Nigerian households were food insecure in 2010
- ❖ Food conditions improved between 2010 and 2011 but became worse in 2012
- ❖ Experiences of food insecurity in Nigeria are mostly transient, not static
- ❖ Education and wealth are protective of food insecurity
- ❖ Unemployment, larger household size, and urban residence aggravate the risks of food insecurity

Discussion

Limitations

- ❖ Characteristics of persons reporting food insecurity
- ❖ Potential bias from attrition

Next steps

- ❖ Changes in household food insecurity and health
- ❖ Regional variations in household food insecurity

Reference

Falkingham, J., & Namazie, C. (2002). Measuring health and poverty: A review of approaches to identifying the poor. *London: DFID Health Systems Resource Centre*. Accessed June 13, 2015 at <http://www.heart-resources.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/Measuring-health-and-poverty.pdf>