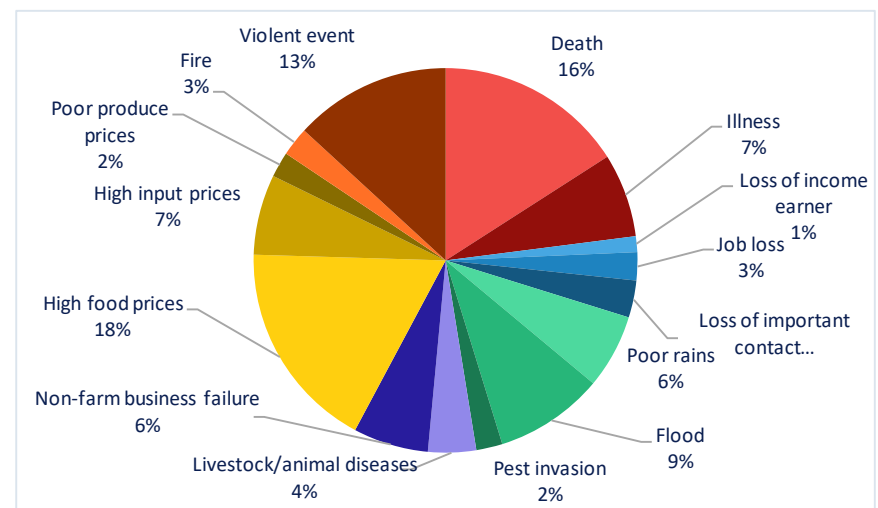
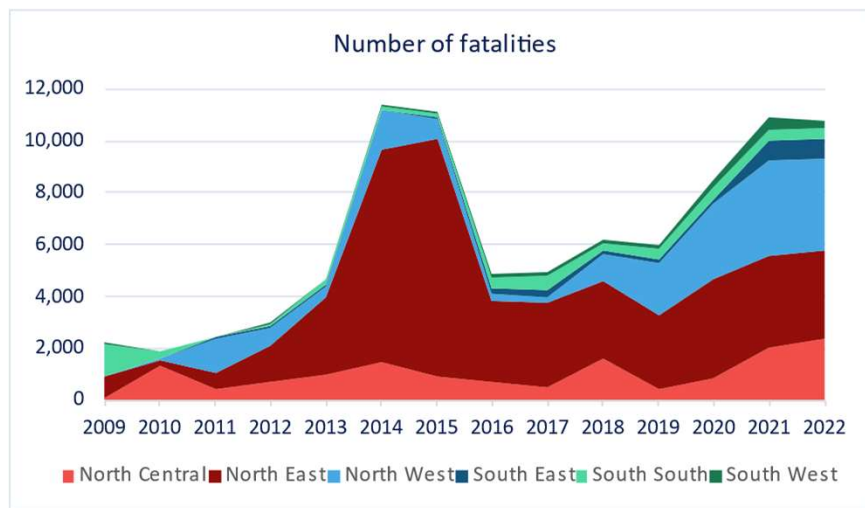




Targeting in Protracted Crises: Nigeria Case Study

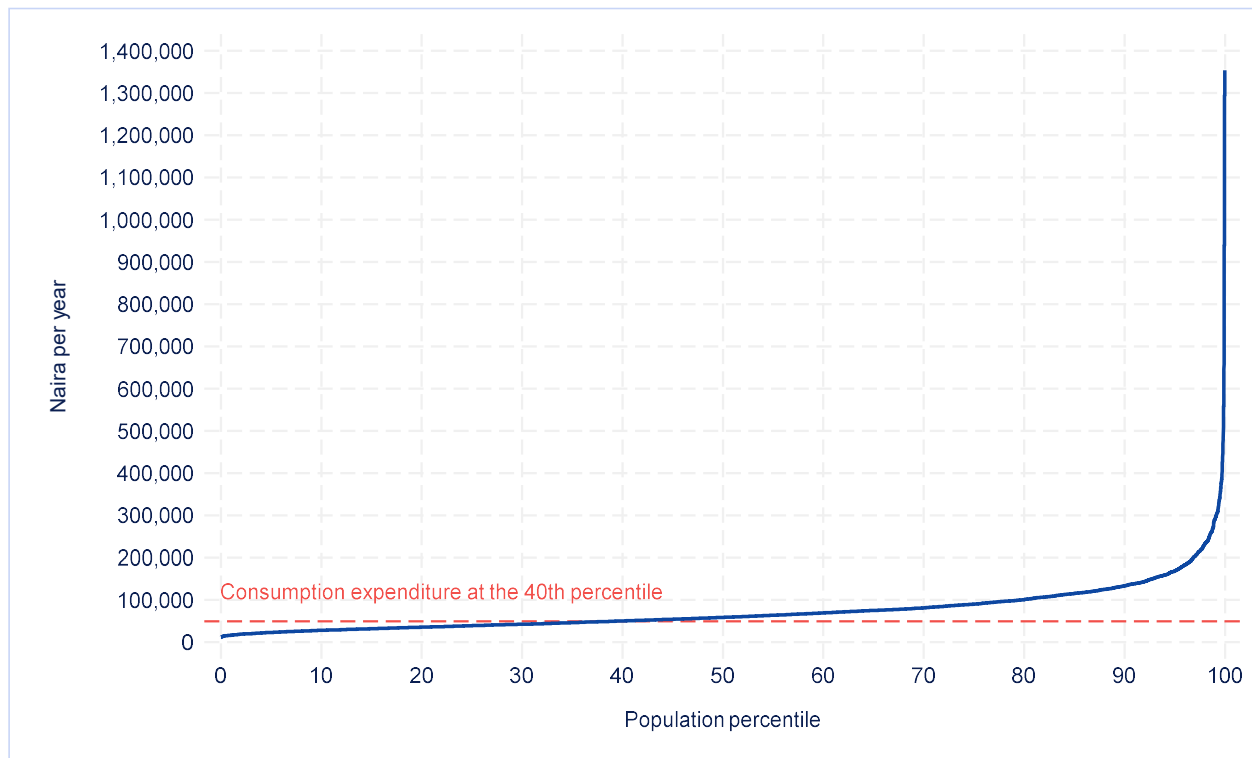
Fred Merttens, Louis Hodey, and Alexandra Doyle

Context: violence and other shocks



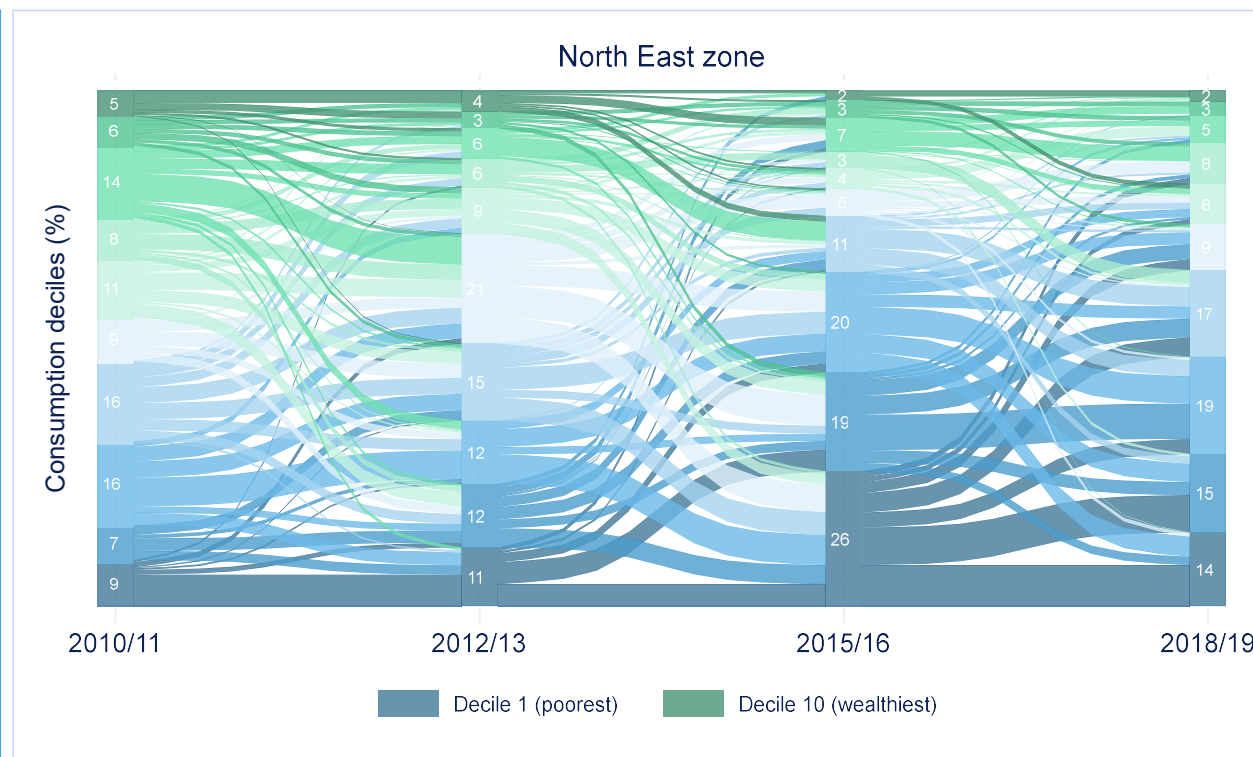
- Violence and shocks make it very difficult for households to grow consumption
- Structural challenges with labour market and lack of investment in infrastructure and human capital mean livelihoods not effective in lifting people out of poverty

Welfare dynamics



- Poverty trends remained basically static in the decade between 2010 and 2019
- Highly unequal consumption distribution
- Flat welfare distribution makes it difficult to distinguish between the 'poor', the 'extreme poor' and the 'non-poor'
- Shape of distribution not really changing over time

Welfare dynamics



- Lots of movement between deciles
- Movement between first eight deciles all movement in and around different tiers of poverty
- Flux is emblematic of the high degree of vulnerability and low levels of resilience among the population

Social assistance and humanitarian response

[Summarise table A.1 – pt is lots going on!]

- Very little coverage by routine social protection mitigate the above observed welfare dynamics
- SP and Humanitarian policy domains have different objectives and underpinning principles
- Need to coordinate to ensure they are complimentary
- Lack of coordination seen to be a key challenge in relation to response to current context of violence and insecurity plus other shocks

Operational context: politics and perceptions

- Targeting approaches used in social assistance in Nigeria include use of data from the National Social Register plus CBT approaches
- While it might be expected that CBT would be perceived as comparatively legitimate as a targeting approach, evidence from similar contexts suggest that formula-based or categorical eligibility criteria may also garner high levels of legitimacy
 - Research has found that populations can perceive formula-based methods to be more legitimate due to perceived manipulation by CBT implementers and/or information imperfections
- The limited available evidence from Nigeria re social assistance targeting suggests that political influence over targeting processes and outcomes is a major concern

Conclusions from our study pertinent for this webinar

- Poverty targeting in Nigeria presents two inherent challenges
 - PMT struggles to accurately distinguish between poor and non-poor households at any given point in time
 - Constant flux of households between welfare groups means that without frequent retargeting it is difficult to ethically justify poverty targeting.
- Inclusion and exclusion errors tend to be high when trying to select people in poverty no matter which targeting mechanism is adopted
- Accurately identifying food insecure households and populations is even more challenging than trying to select poor

Conclusions from our study pertinent for this webinar

- Geographic targeting can be an effective mechanism to focus resources on the areas where need is highest, but is not without complexity and involves important trade-offs and considerations re equity of treatment
- Targeting criteria should be aligned to specified policy objectives
- Communities need to clearly understand and accept targeting criteria and their rationale
- Important to build mechanisms for incorporating community voices into policy design and monitoring
- Social assistance needs to be coordinated with other policy domains, including humanitarian response
- Developing underpinning infrastructure will facilitate more efficient targeting and prevent fraud and manipulation

Thank you



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