



**ECHO
involvement
with
pastoralists?**



ECHO Mission Statement

ECHO's mission is to equip people with agricultural resources and skills to **reduce hunger and improve the lives of the poor**. ECHO is achieving this mission through:

- (a) disseminating **technical agricultural information** (www.ECHOcommunity.org) and **packets of seeds** to field workers
- (b) offering networking opportunities through annual conferences, forums and ECHO's websites, (through **Symposia** like this) and
- (c) providing **training opportunities, internships**, and short-term study at the Global Farm and its Regional Impact Centers

ECHO engaging in pastoralist initiatives

When I joined ECHO in 2012 I had just worked in a project disseminating food security initiatives in 48 villages in northern Tanzania.

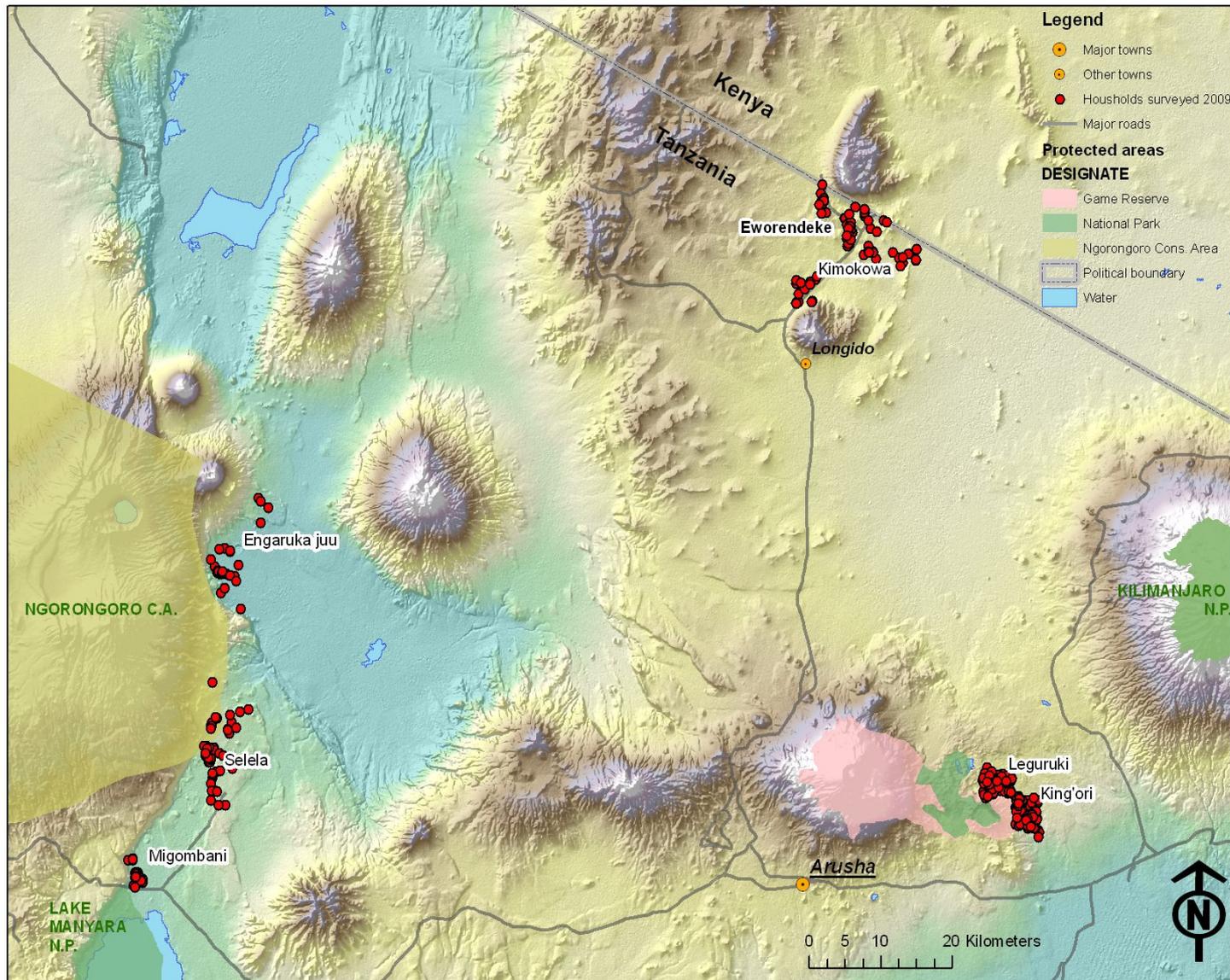
We discovered some stark realities facing pastoralist communities; they were by far less food secure than agro-pastoralist communities and agricultural communities.

A baseline study of 7 villages, done by Savannas Forever, a research engine connected with UMN

On most dimensions the seven villages cluster into two groups:

- predominantly agricultural with access to water, higher food security, more prosperous and more educated.**
- predominately pastoralist, located in drier microclimates, poorer nutrition indicators, lower food security and suffered more severe livestock losses during droughts which have been more frequent in past decade.**

Overview of Seven Villages



9 Questions on Food Security:

The food insecurity index used in this analysis is based on responses to questions about household food availability during the previous four weeks.

The questions range over nine food insecurity scenarios from those asking about mild forms of food insecurity (e.g., "worry that your household would not have enough food") to those implying severe food shortage (e.g., "no food to eat of any kind in your household because of lack of resources").

A higher food-insecurity score is assigned to households that indicate frequent occurrence of these situations, especially the more severe ones.

1. In the past four weeks, did you **worry** that your household would not have enough food?
 - 0 = No; 1 = Yes

2. In the past four weeks, were you or any household member **not able to eat the kinds of foods you preferred** because of a lack of resources? 0 = No; 1 = Yes

3. In the past four weeks, did you or any household member have to **eat a limited variety of foods** due to a lack of resources? 0 = No; 1 = Yes

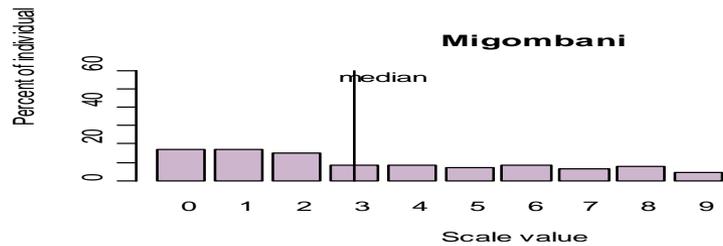
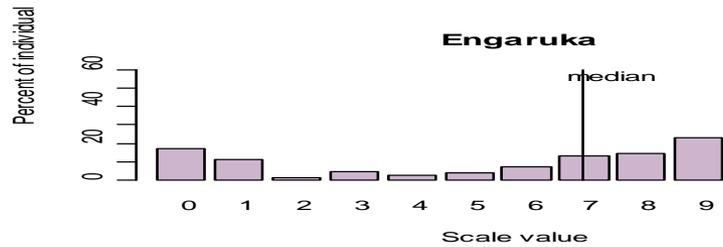
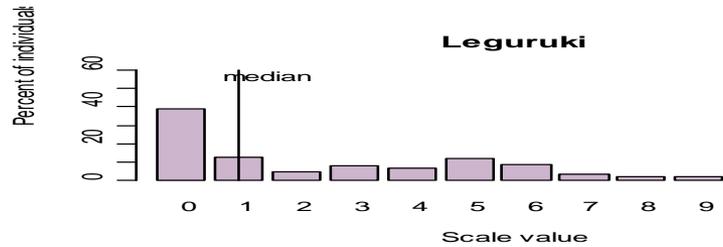
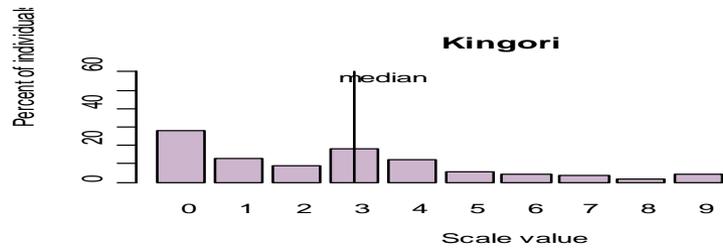
4. In the past 4 weeks, did you or any household member have to **eat some foods that you did not want** to eat because of a lack of resources to obtain other types of food? 0 = No; 1 = Yes

5. In the past four weeks, did you or any household member have to eat a **smaller meal** than you felt you needed because there was not enough food? 0 = No; 1 = Yes
6. In the past four weeks, did you or any household member have to eat **fewer meals in a day** because there was not enough food? 0 = No; 1 = Yes
7. In the past four weeks, was there ever **no food to eat** of any kind in your household because of lack of resources to get food? 0 = No; 1 = Yes
8. In the past four weeks, did you or any household member **go to sleep at night hungry** because there was not enough food? 0 = No; 1 = Yes
9. In the past four weeks, did you or any household member **go a whole day and night without eating** anything because there was not enough food? 0 = No; 1 = Yes

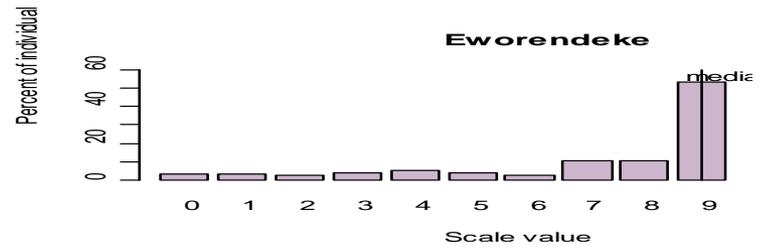
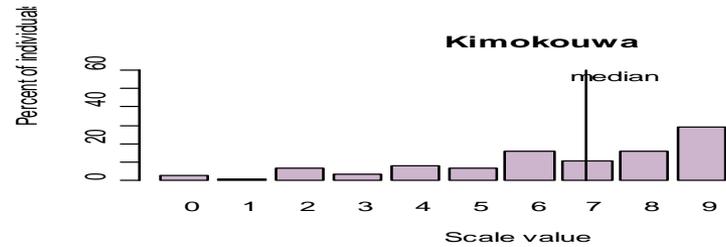
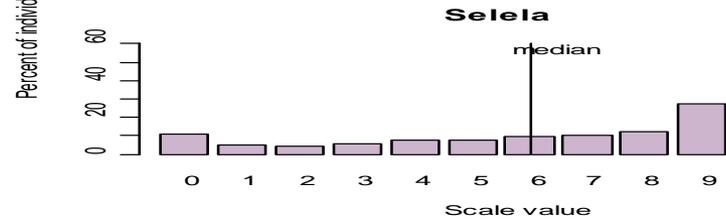
Results

- Food security is better in the villages with greater **access to water** and which have been less hard hit by drought.
- Having large numbers of **larger livestock (cattle, sheep, goats) had NO impact** on food security. HOWEVER, having poultry was the **ONLY** positive correlation between livestock and food security: households which had chickens had a higher food security than those without.
- **Female-headed households** in the first seven villages have substantially higher food insecurity levels (average scale value **6.0**) than households headed by men (average 4.3).
- In longitudinal data comparing 2006 to 2009, the **number of female-headed households increased significantly in pastoralist villages** which comprises primarily livestock-keepers which were particularly hard hit by drought and livestock losses. Many men left to find work in cities or moved their cattle to other pastureland.

Food insecurity comparison

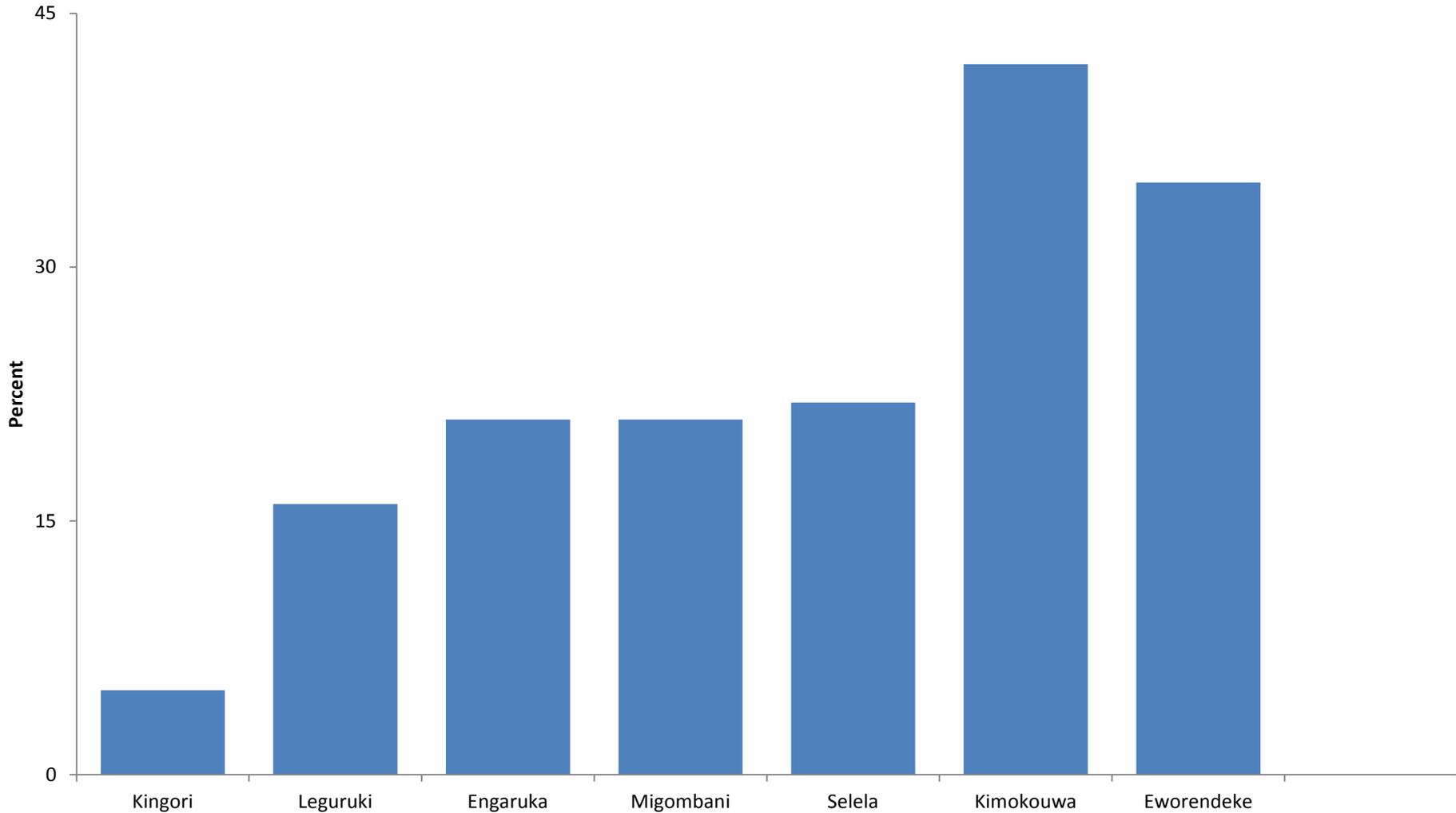


Food insecurity scale (9 = r



Comparison of

Percent Female Headed Households



Food security comparisons between female-headed and male-headed households

71% of female-headed households worried they would not have enough food,

compared to only 53% of male-headed households.

72% of female-headed households ate smaller meals, while only 50% of male-headed households did so.

74% of female-headed households ate fewer meals, compared to only 51% of male-headed households.

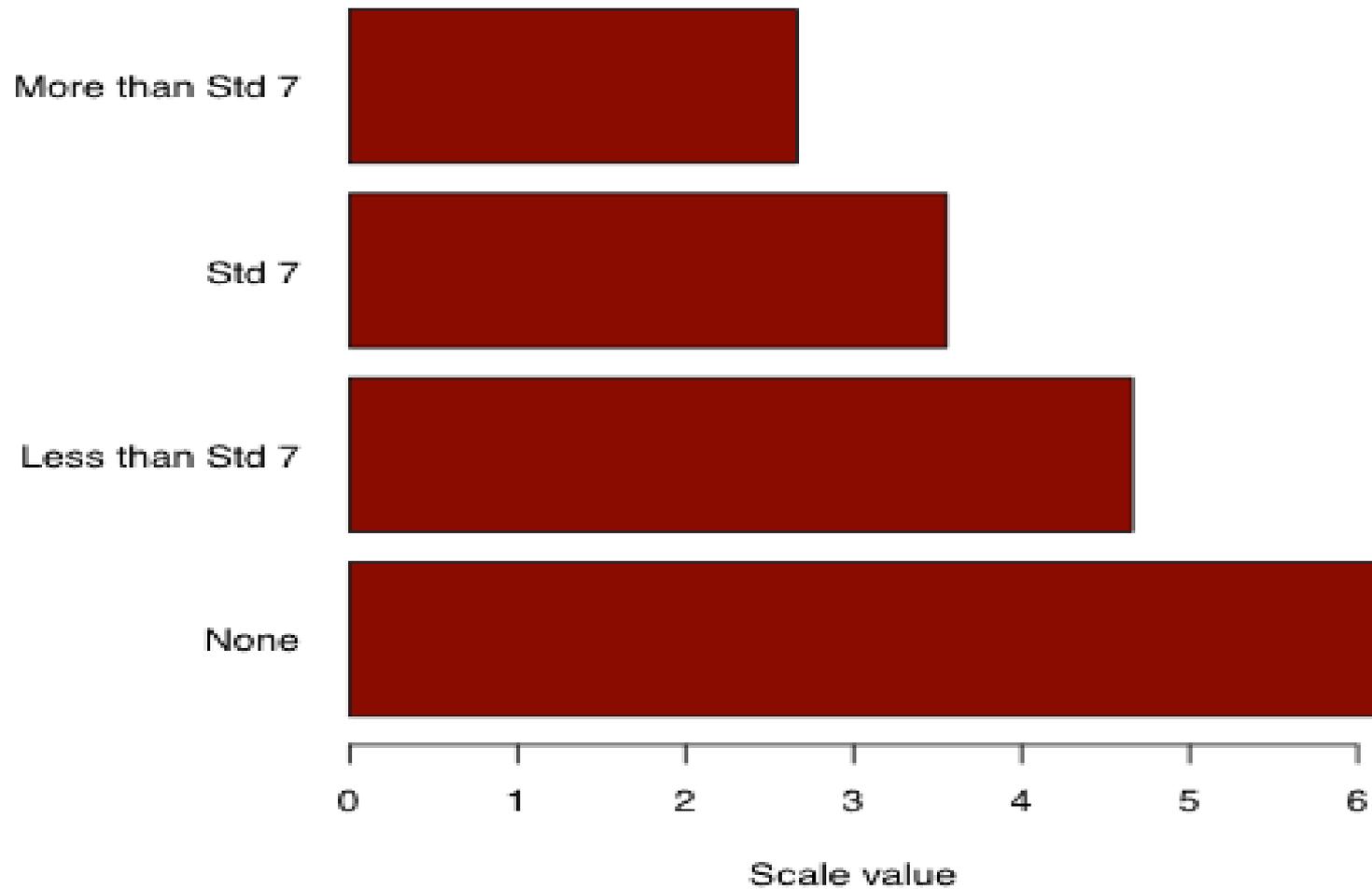
48% of female-headed households went to sleep hungry, while only 30% of male-headed households did so.

53% of female-headed households had no food at one point, compared to only 35% of male-headed households.

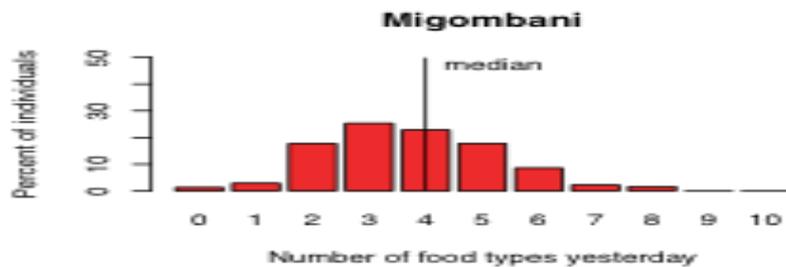
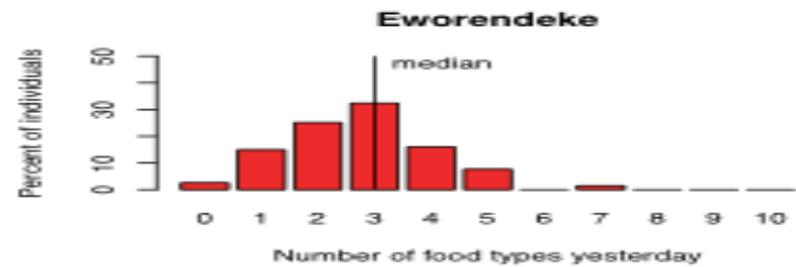
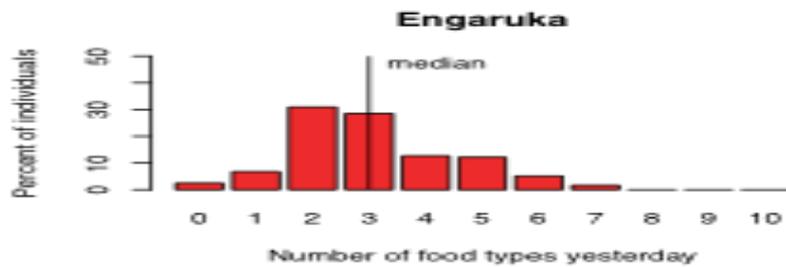
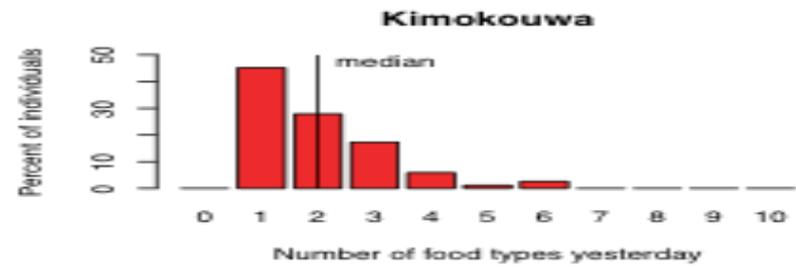
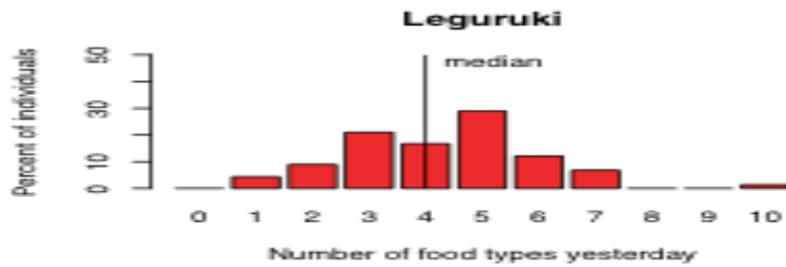
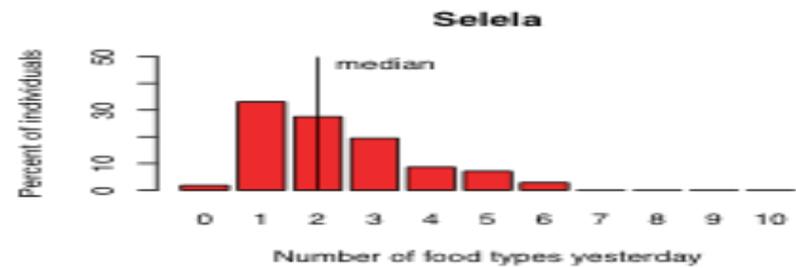
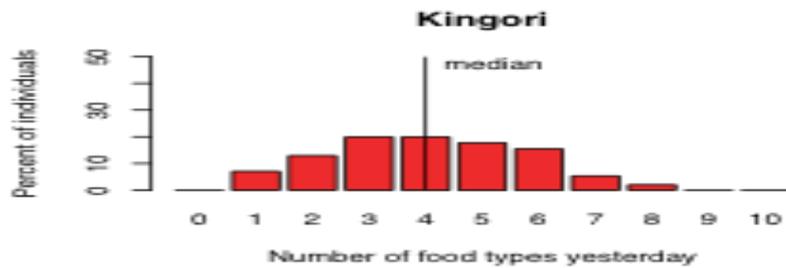
41% of female-headed households went a day and night with no food, while only 30% of male-headed households did.

Comparison of

Average food insecurity by education of household head



Village diet & nutrition comparisons as to the Food types eaten previous day



Conclusion

In the context of our mission in East Africa, if ECHO's concern is to reduce hunger and improve the lives of the poor, we cannot avoid to work with and support those who work with pastoralists who are the most vulnerable population group in the region.