

Spatial determinants of dietary diversity

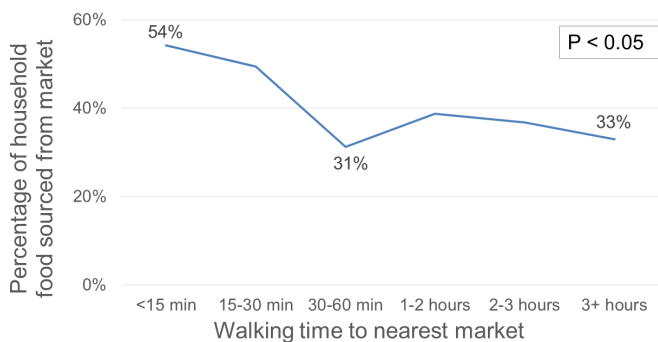
Evidence from rural Malawi

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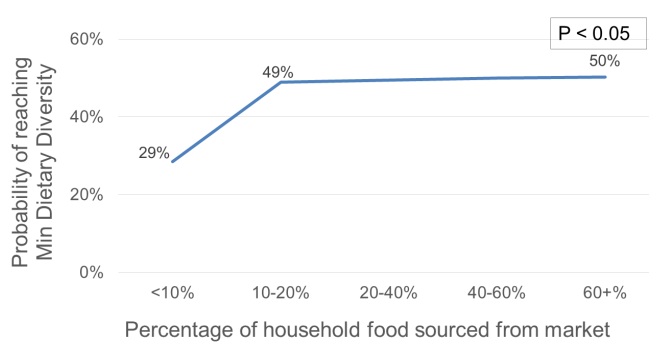


Overview: This analysis utilises monitoring data from a stunting prevention programme to assess the relationship between dietary diversity and market accessibility among beneficiary households. WFP, in collaboration with World Vision and with financial support from the Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF), has been supporting the Government of Malawi to implement the programme in Malawi's Ntchisi district since 2013, combining a range of both nutrition-specific and -sensitive interventions to target children aged 6-23 months and pregnant and lactating women (PLW).

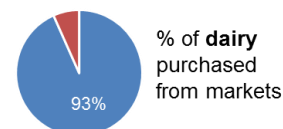
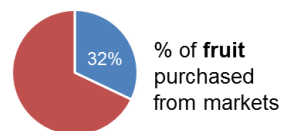
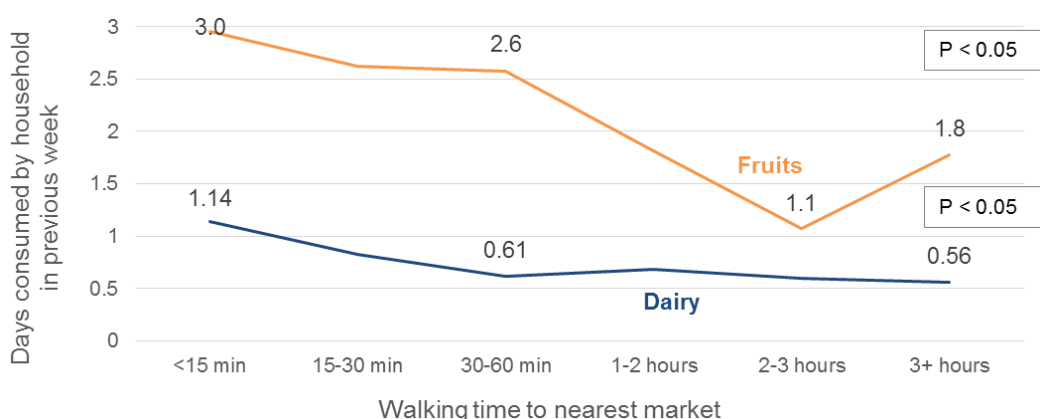
Households living closer to markets tend to buy more food from markets



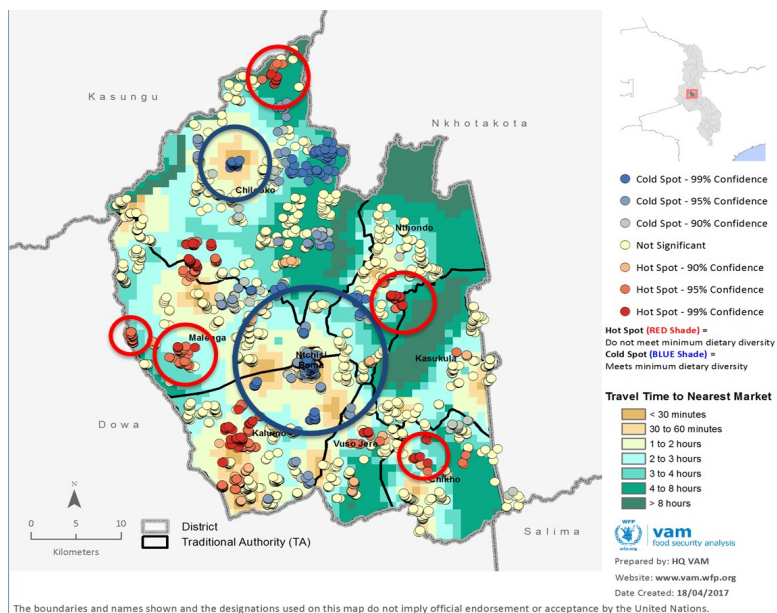
Households buying more food from markets tend to have better child dietary diversity



Households living further from markets consume food groups like dairy and fruit less often



Children reaching min dietary diversity tend to cluster in areas with good market access, and vice-versa



Findings: Collecting geospatial data can reveal key trends that impact nutrition. The above results suggest that limited market accessibility is linked to poorer diet quality, which can inform programming decisions on the resource transfer modality in the context of a humanitarian response. For example, in-kind transfers of certain foods may be advantageous for those living in hard-to-reach areas, as opposed to cash-based transfers.

