



# FOOD ECONOMY CASE STUDY: RWANDA

## HOW FOOD ECONOMY ANALYSIS CAN HELP IN THE INTERPRETATION OF INDICATORS

### The Context:

Poor families in Gikongoro and Butare, Rwanda are obliged to seek income-earning opportunities off their own farms - this is due mostly to the small size of their landholdings. Before the war, migration to other regions in search of employment was an important source of income. But this is no longer an option, due in part to ethnic tensions, and in part to a decrease in labor demand from these traditional surplus-producing areas. Income has also been lost because of increased competition for local agricultural labor.

**Food economy analysis provides important contextual information for the interpretation of indicator data, adding value to ongoing monitoring systems.**

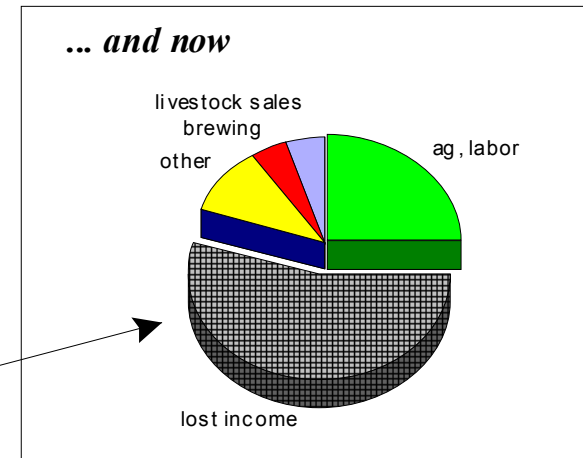
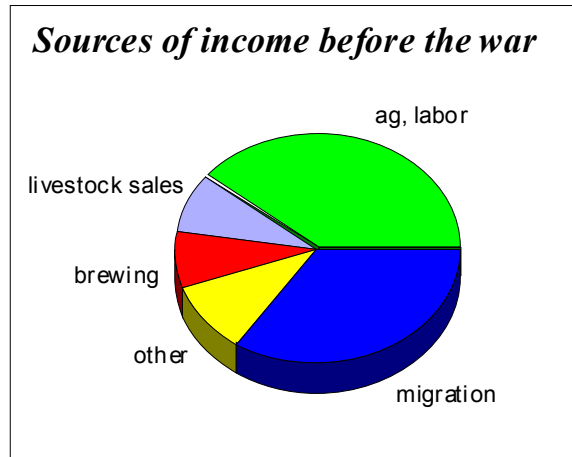
### The trend in key indicators suggested...

that households should have enough food since daily agricultural wage rates in areas of normal labor demand had increased roughly in line with the increase in the price of the basic food basket.

### But food economy analysis showed that:

Poor households had lost more than half of their income because traditional areas of employment were off-limits and local demand for agricultural labor could not take up the slack.

Poor households no longer able to migrate in search of employment



The pie represents 100% of annual income for a typical family  
Source: Save the Children Fund-UK