

WFP Uganda

Mobile Vulnerability Analysis & Mapping (mVAM)

Karamoja Region Early Warning Bulletin—May 2017

Key Highlights

- ◆ The proportion of households with food stocks has continued to decrease, with only 1.2 percent in May, a decrease from 9 percent in March 2017.
- ◆ 34 percent of the households had acceptable FCS, indicating a significant decrease by 26% since March 2017.
- ◆ Abim (20) and Nakapiripirit (19) had the highest mean rCSI, implying households are increasingly stressed in meeting their food needs due to reduced food stocks.
- ◆ 13,179 moderately malnourished were admitted to supplementary feeding programme (SFP) in May, showing an increase by 50% compared to March. The increase was more significant in Abim, Nakapiripirit and Moroto;

Overview

WFP Uganda Country Office initiated mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM) in May and June 2016 whereby data collection is carried out through phone calls. Main objectives of mVAM are to:

- a) Provide real-time analysis of the performance of a few key food security indicators;
- b) Serve as a core pillar of WFPs Food Security & Nutrition Early Warning System.

This issue is based on data that was collected between 29th May and 5th June 2017.

A random sample of 849 telephone interviews evenly distributed across Seven Districts of Karamoja Region. 29 percent of the respondents were Females.

Outlook for June and July, 2017

Few households had food stocks in May 2017 an indication that nearly all households were dependent on markets for their food needs and this situation is expected to continue in June and July. The average market prices for staple foods are not expected to significantly change, but will remain above 2016 average levels. However, the situation is expected to start improving in July, following the start of the green harvest in Karamoja and the first season (June-to-July) harvest across the country, this is expected to increase supplies both at household and on markets. Furthermore, households are expected to continue deriving incomes from agricultural wage labor, which will enable the poor and very poor households to meet their food needs. However, following the reported outbreak of fall army worm across the region, particularly in the maize producing areas (Nakapiripirit, Napak and Tapac-Moroto), the harvest is expected to be below the 2016 average levels.

Recommendations

- ◆ Following the start of the green harvest, there is need to start community sensitization on food mismanagement, particularly in Nakapiripirit, Kotido and Kaabong where farmers reportedly sell a lot of food during and after harvest.
- ◆ There is need to continue monitoring the food security situation, including market prices for staple foods following an outbreak of fall army worm, which is expected to affect the harvest.

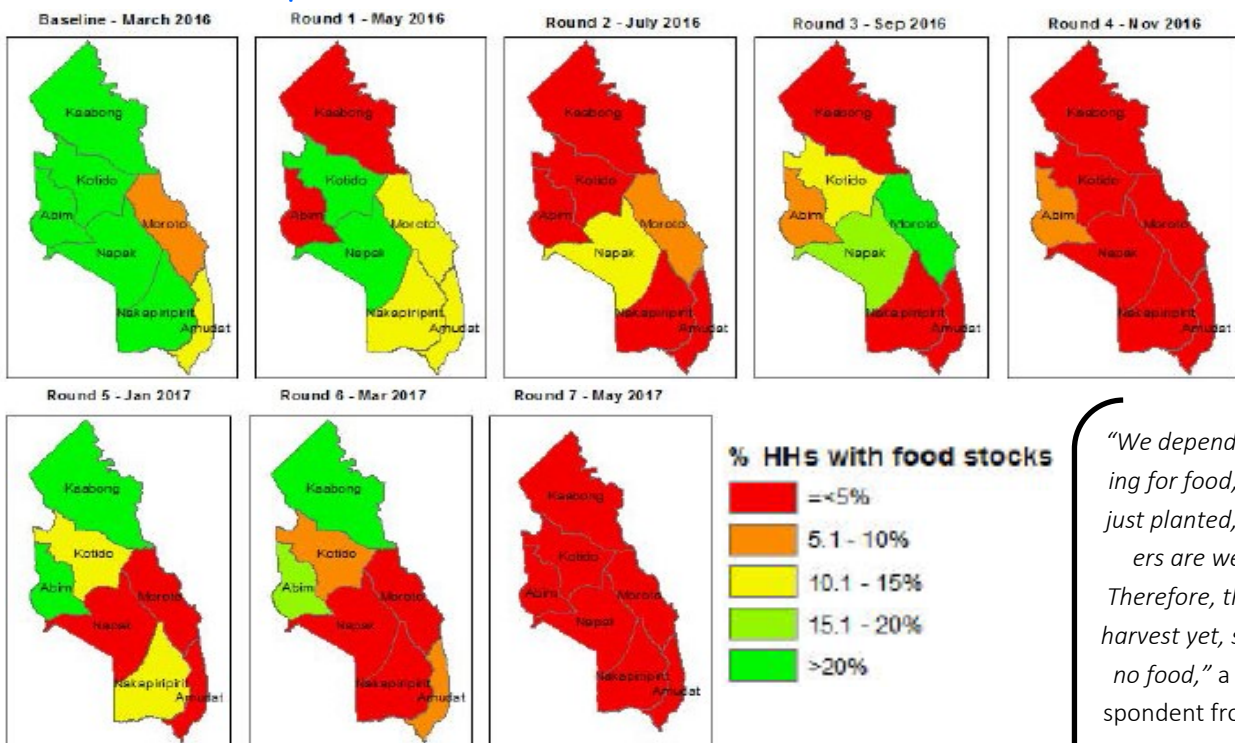
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Food stocks

The proportion of households reporting any food stocks has continued to decrease, with only 1.2 percent of the overall households having food stocks in May, of which these food stocks are expected to last for 30 days, from the time of the survey. Typically at the peak of the lean season, food stocks from harvests get significantly depleted, food prices increase, lowering food access at household level. Compared to March 2017, there was a significant reduction in the percentage of households with food stocks in Kaabong (25%) and Abim (18%).

Data shows that own production (60%) was the main source of food stocks particularly in Kaabong, Nakapiripirit and Napak. Generally, the main coping strategies reported by households across Karamoja was reducing the number of meals (86%), followed by limiting portion size (84%) and consuming less preferred/less expensive food (84%).

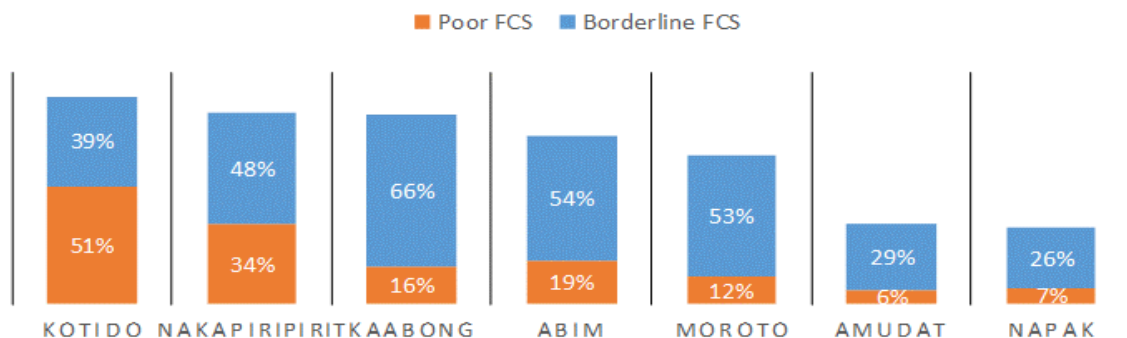
Proportion of Households with Food Stocks



"We depend on farming for food, we have just planted, and others are weeding. Therefore, there is no harvest yet, so there is no food," a Male respondent from Karita, Amudat

Food Consumption Score (FCS)

34 percent of the households in May 2017 had acceptable FCS, and this portrays a significant decrease from 60% in March. The decrease was more significant in Nakapiripirit (64%) and Moroto (60%). Several factors contribute to this, including depleting food stocks and high food prices across the region as a result of the below average harvest in 2016 both in the region and across the country. Female compared to Male headed households are worse off. Only 26% of the female headed households had acceptable FCS compared to 36% among the male headed.

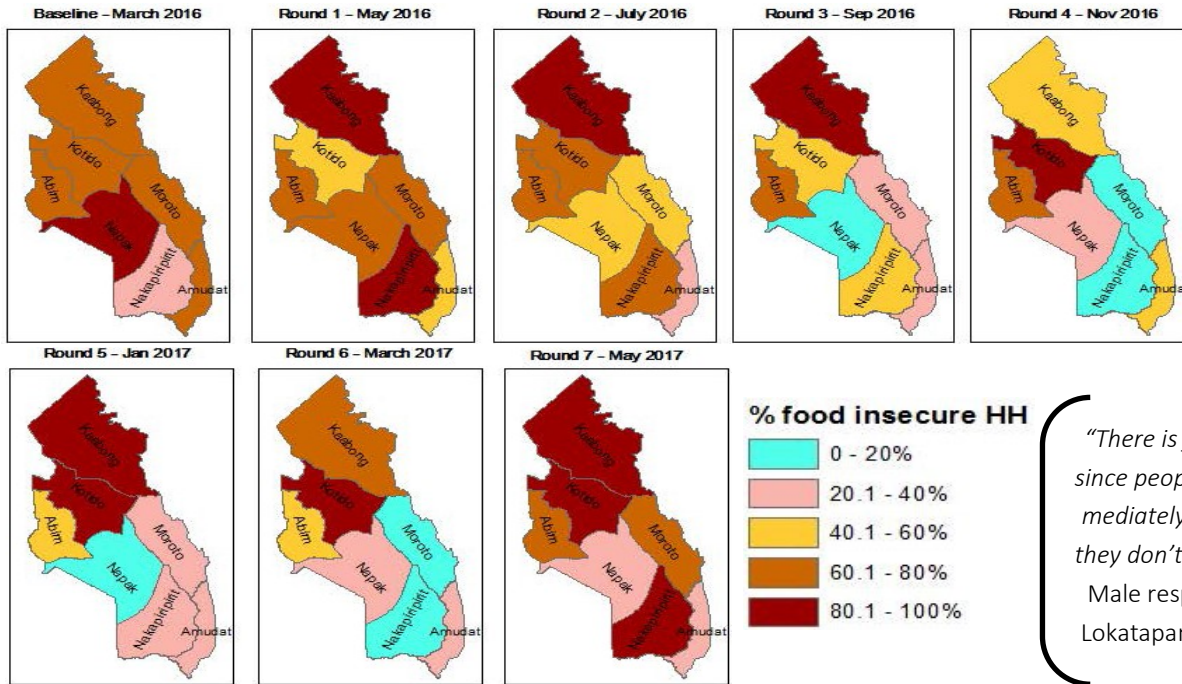


Source: WFP mVAM, May 2017

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As shown on figure below, a considerable percentage of food insecure households was observed in nearly all districts, with the highest proportion in Kotido (90%), Nakapiripirit (83%), and Kaabong (82%). With the decreasing food stocks and high food prices, there is an anticipated deterioration of the food security situation in June across all districts.

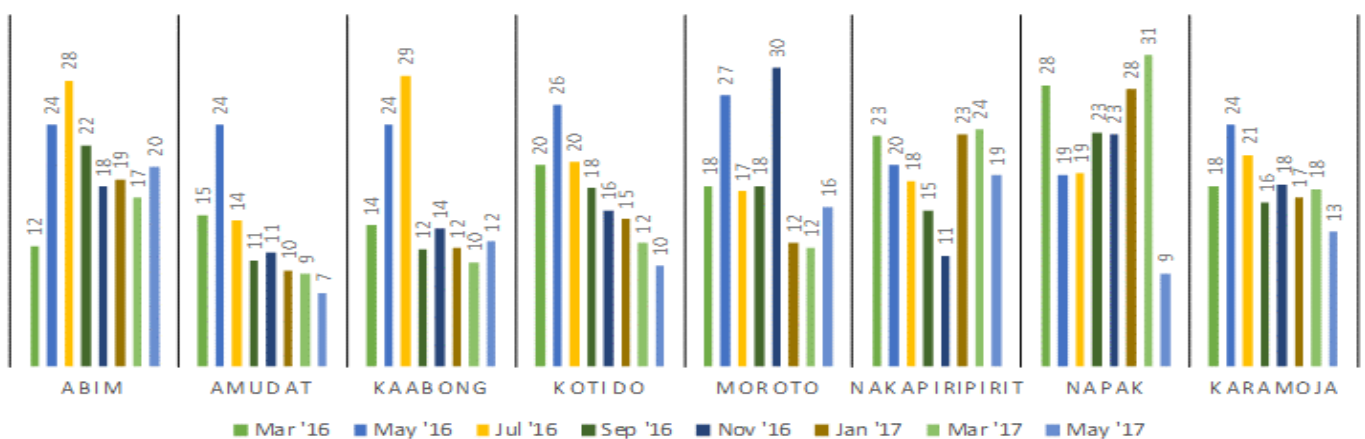
Proportion of Food Insecure Households (Poor + Borderline)



Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI)

The highest mean rCSI was reported in the most productive districts in the region: Abim (20) and Nakapiripirit (19), indicating increased stress. Female headed households reported a higher mean rCSI (17), compared to Male headed (13). The main coping strategies employed by households were; reducing the number of meals (86%), limiting portion sizes at meal times (84%) and relying on less preferred and/or less expensive food (84%), implying households are stressed in meeting their food needs.

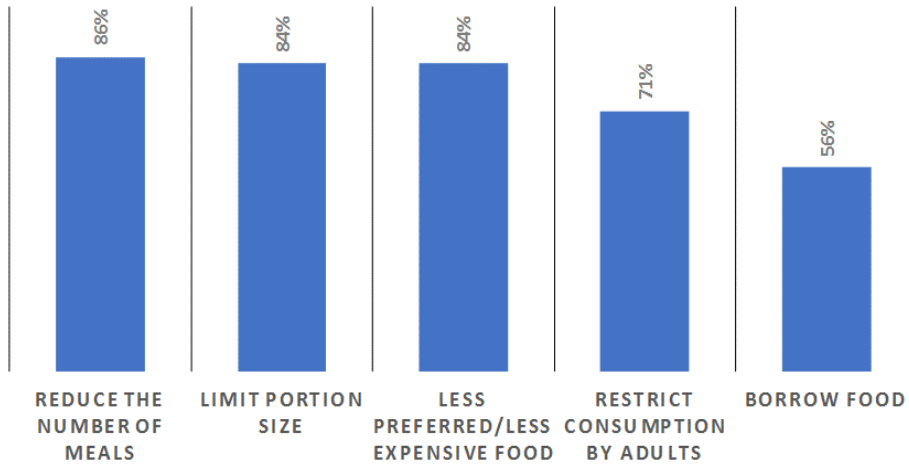
The Reduced Coping Strategy Index (RCSI) measures food insecurity by considering the activities undertaken by households to manage food shortages. More information on rCSI can be found at <http://resources.vam.wfp.org/node/6>.



Source: WFP mVAM, May 2017

“The situation is too bad at the moment, people have resorted to begging for food from others, including relatives and friends and also eating wild foods like leaves,” a Male respondent from Watakau, Kotido

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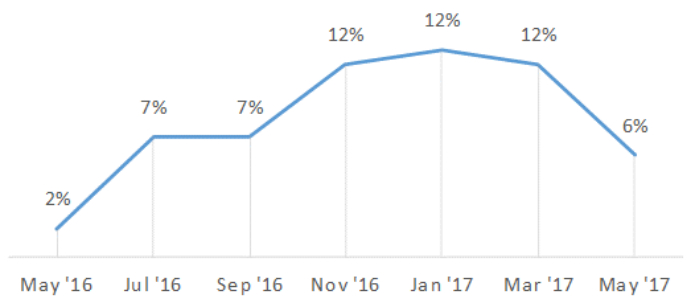
Applied Coping strategies

Source: WFP mVAM, May 2017

Household income

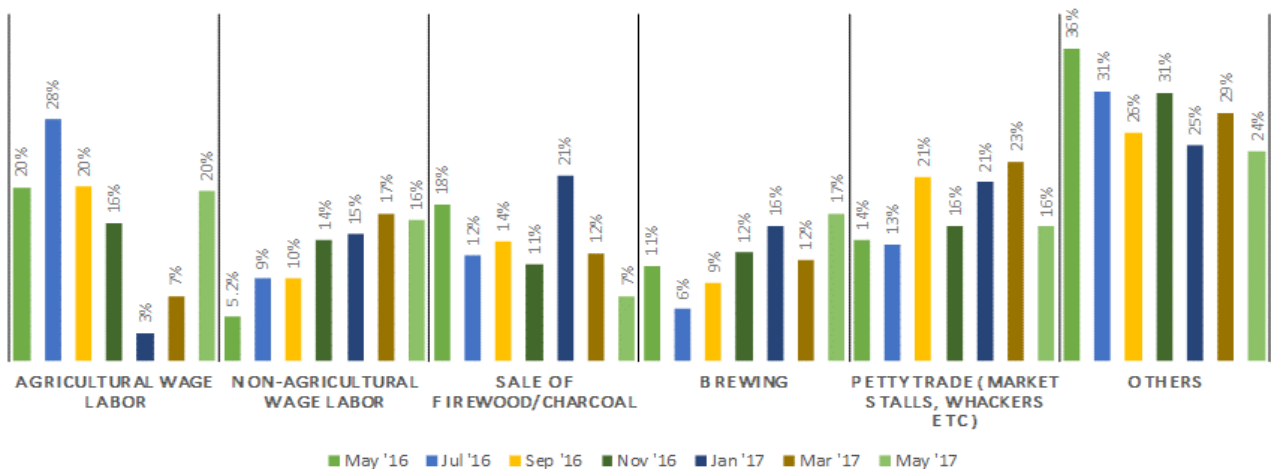
Households in May reported agricultural wage labor (20%) as the main source of income, followed by petty trade (16%) and non-agricultural wage labor (16%). There was a significant percentage increase in the number of households deriving incomes from agricultural wage labor from 7% in March to 20% in May 2017 (also similar to same period last year). In both Abim and Kaabong, 36% reported agricultural wage labor as their main source of income while non-agricultural wage labor was reported as key in Kotido (36%) and Moroto (27%). Similarly, sale of livestock (26%) has continued to be the main source of income for households in Amudat although a 14% decrease has been noted compared to March and this could possibly be due to available alternative sources including brewing (25%) and petty trading (17%).

Trends on income derived from sale of livestock (May 2016-May 2017)



Source: WFP mVAM, May 2017

“People are surviving on small wages earned from casual labor which they use to purchase food for their families,” a Male respondent from Moruangibuin, Kotido



Source: WFP mVAM, May 2017

Other income sources encompass; Fishing/Hunting; Food Assistance; Salary; Income derived from sale of Livestock and/or animal products; Remittances; Food crop production/Sale; Pensions, Government allowances; Gifts/begging; Cash crop production/Sales and Handicrafts

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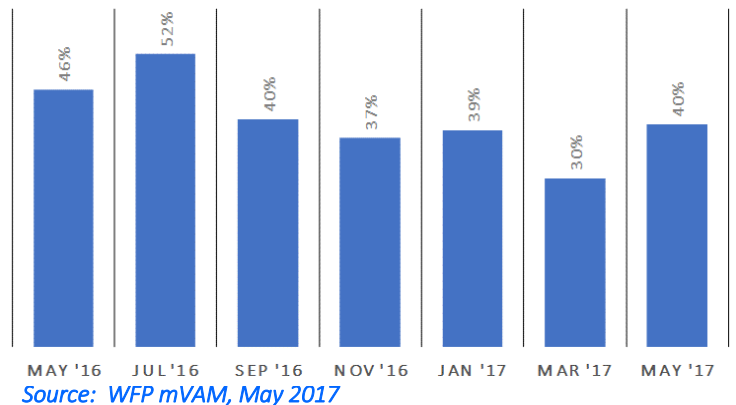
Prevalence of debt

37 percent of the overall households reportedly had debt in May 2017, reducing from 50% in March. The debt prevalence reduced across all districts, and more significantly in Kaabong (33%) and Moroto (15%).

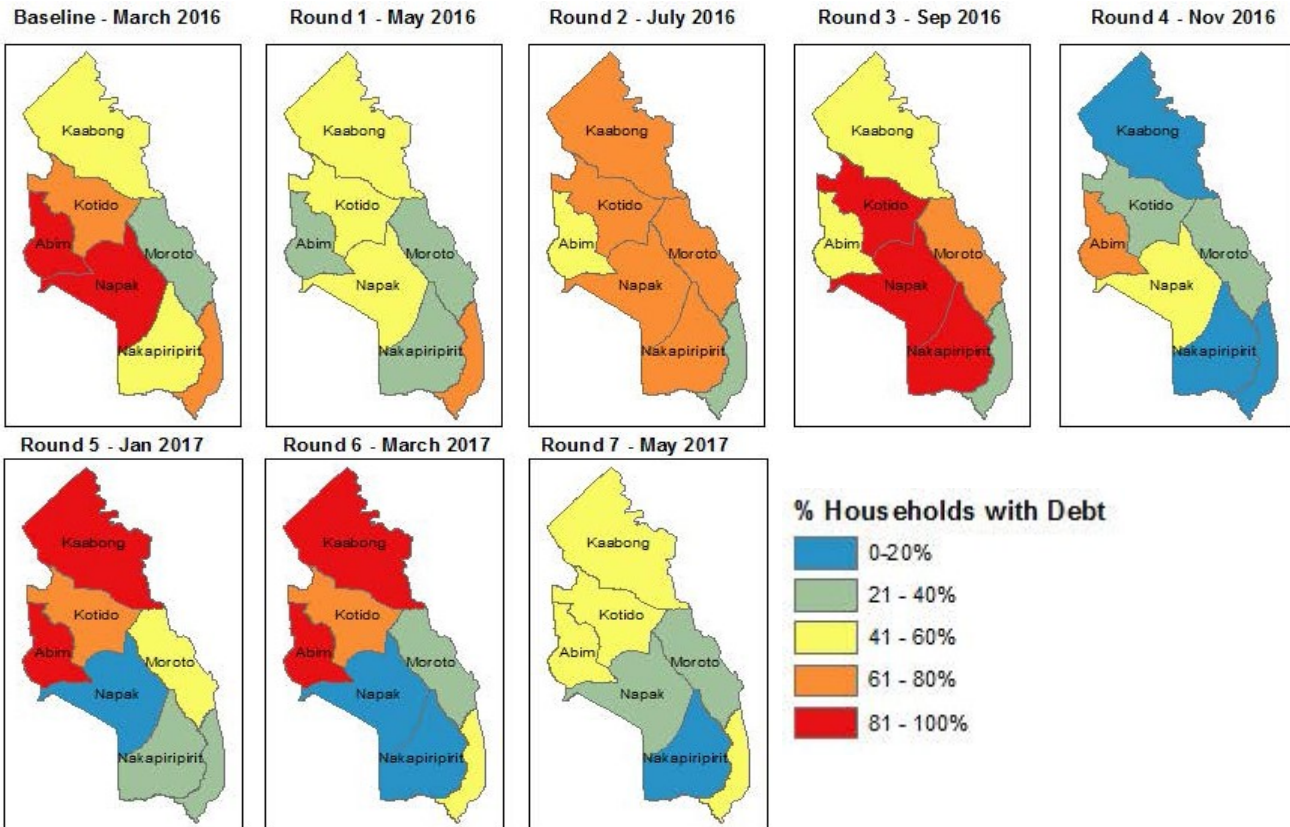
The main reason for debt was to buy food (40%), followed by investment in other business (19%) and borrowing to cover health expenses (15%). Kaabong (62%) and Kotido (56%) continue to have the highest proportion of households borrowing to buy food.

Trends on borrowing to buy food (May 2016-May 2017)

Results also show that, households in Moroto (64%) and Nakapiripirit (57%) are mainly borrowing to invest in business and this is supported by other indicators where majority of the households in Moroto derived incomes from brewing (27%) and in Nakapiripirit, petty trade (23%) as a main source of income.



Proportion of households with debt



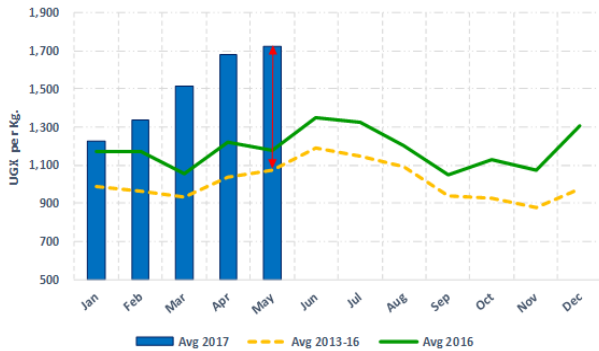
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Karamoja Market prices for staple food

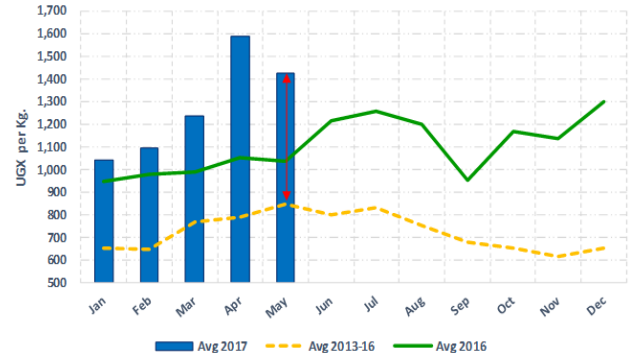
While the average retail price for maize grain was relatively stable in May compared to April, the average price for sorghum reduced by 10 percent. However, Kaabong observed a significant increase in the average price for maize grain (27%) and sorghum (20%), due to low supplies on the market.

The average retail price for maize grain and sorghum in May was significantly above 2016 average levels by 47% and 38% respectively. Similarly, the average prices for all commodities are above the long term average (2016-2013).

Maize Grain



Sorghum Grain



Source: WFP's ProMIS

“People are suffering from hunger, prices for food commodities in the markets are too high and people can't afford,” a Male respondent from Nakapiripirit T/C, Nakapiripirit

Supplementary Feeding Admissions

WFP implements a supplementary Feeding Programme (SFP) at Health Facilities. Village Health Teams (VHTs) identify Moderately Malnourished individuals whom they refer to Health Centers for both treatment and enrolment to SFP. These individuals receive nutritious foods. Admissions to SFP provide an indication of the levels of malnutrition in the region.

SFP Admissions in Karamoja



Source: WFP's ProMIS

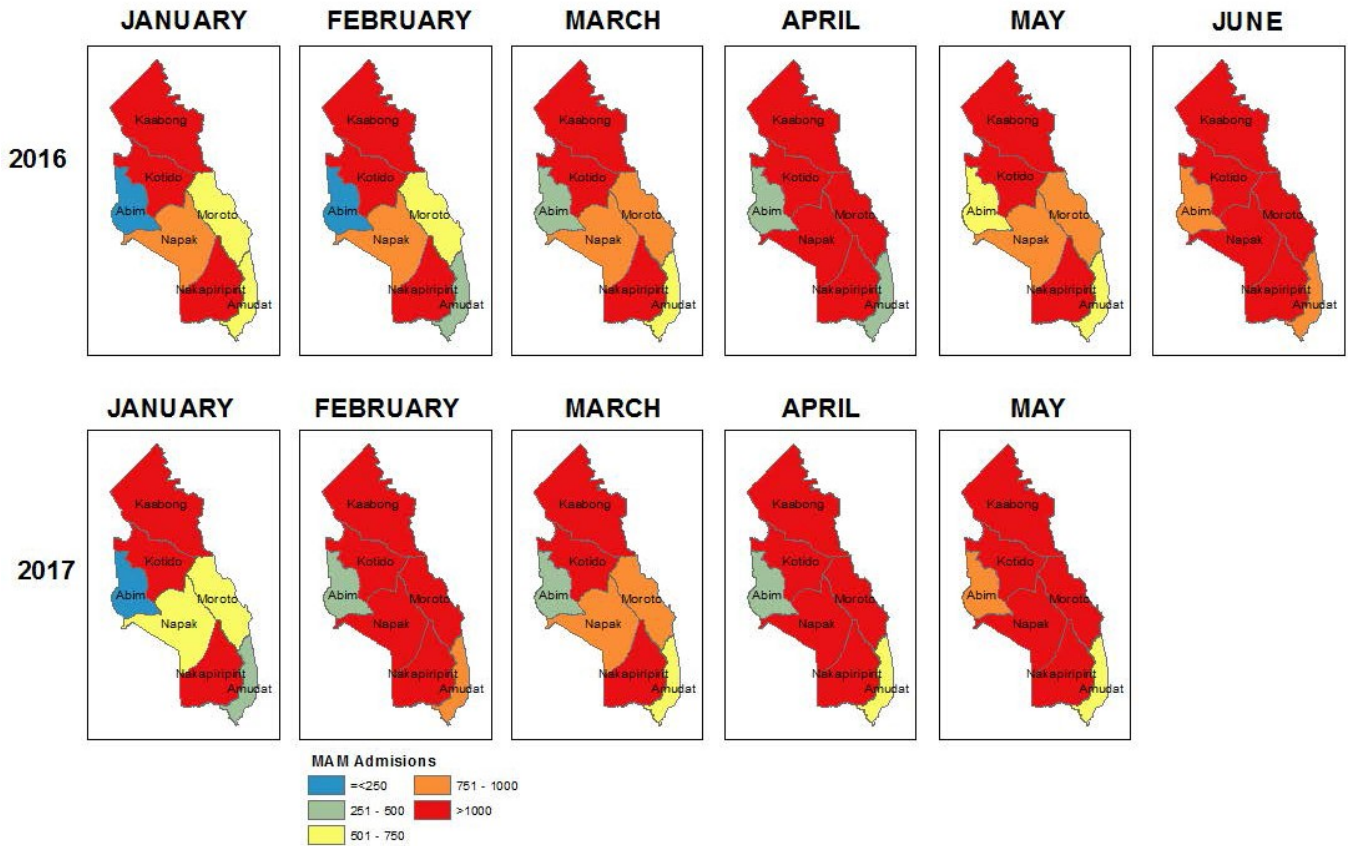
SFP admissions have continued to increase since January 2017. In May, 13,179 moderately malnourished individuals were admitted to SFP across Karamoja which is a significant increase from 8,767 in March 2017. Similarly, overall admissions were higher by 47% in May this year compared to the same period in 2016.

Admission Trends by District January-June; 2016/2017

Compared to March, the number of admissions to SFP in May increased significantly in all districts. Since January, total admissions remain above 1,000 in 5 of 7 districts in Karamoja. In May, highest MAM admissions were observed in Kaabong (3,272) and Nakapiripirit (3,093) mainly due to the deteriorating food security situation in the region and hence the need to scale up food and nutrition support in Karamoja.

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ADMISIONS OF MODERATELY MALNOURISHED CHILDREN AND MOTHERS INTO SUPPLEMENTARY FEEDING PROGRAMME (JAN-JUN 2016/2017)



Kingdom of the Netherlands



Korea International Cooperation Agency

For further information please contact the AME unit, WFP Uganda.

Siddharth KRISHNASWAMY
 Analysis Monitoring & Evaluation, Head.
siddharth.krishnaswamy@wfp.org,

Nathan LOWANYANG
 Program Assistant (AME)
nathan.lowanyang@wfp.org

Hamidu TUSIIME
 Food Security & Market Analyst
hamidu.tusiime@wfp.org