Key Highlights

- 33 percent of the overall households had food stocks, increasing from 1 percent in May;
- The proportion of households with acceptable FCS increased from 34% in May to 49% in July, due to the start of the harvest across the region. Amudat (87%), Moroto (84%) and Nakapiripirit (71%) observed the highest proportion of households with acceptable FCS;
- The overall mean rCSI was relatively stable since May, households in Abim (19) and Nakapiripirit (18) are highly coping. The main coping strategy employed by households was reducing the number of meals (91%);
- 46 percent of the overall households had debt, increasing by 9% since May. Households are mainly borrowing to buy food (54%);
- Total admissions to SFP reduced by 5% from 13,179 in May, and more so in Abim and Nakapiripirit by 74-23 percent respectively.

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 25th - 28th July 2017, this was the last week of July.

A total of 844 telephone interviews were completed across Seven districts of Karamoja region.

Outlook for August and September, 2017

Following the start of the harvest across Karamoja, the proportion of households reporting food stocks increased from 1 percent in May to 33% in July. Similarly, household stocks are expected to replenish, reducing household reliance on markets. However, the harvest, particularly for maize grain is expected to be significantly below average, following an outbreak of fall army worm (FAW) across the region. Despite an anticipated decline in the average retail prices for staple foods, average prices will continue to be above 2016 levels. The demand for staple foods is also expected to be high, both at the National and Regional level, following the below average harvest in 2016, this will have an influence on the market prices. However, the food security situation is expected to slightly improve in August and September.

Recommendation

- There is need to continue sensitizing communities on food management, to mitigate excessive sale of food, which will result to scarcity;
- Following an outbreak of FAW affecting productivity, there is need to monitor both the food security situation in the region, particularly in Kaabong and Kotido;
- Need for regular monitoring of market prices across key markets in Karamoja, due to an anticipated high demand both within Uganda and at the regional level, following below average harvest in 2016.
Food stocks
The overall proportion of households reporting food stocks significantly increased from 1 percent in May to 33 percent in July, with the highest increase observed in Nakapiripirit (98%) and Napak (65%). This is due to an on-going harvest in Karamoja, coupled by the June-to-July first season harvest across the country, replenishing stocks both within households and on markets. Households reporting food stocks was slightly higher among Female headed (36%) compared to Male headed (32%) households.

However, available food stocks are expected to last for only 9 days. Majority (84%) of the households reportedly had less than one bag of grains. Market purchase (81%) remained the main source of foods stocks, with 17% of the households reportedly deriving their stocks from own production. While there is an ongoing green harvest, majority of the households are expected to continue depending on markets, following a delay in the onset of the rains early this year, subsequently delaying the planting season by a month.

Trends on households with food stocks (Mar 2016-Jul 2017)

Source: WFP mVAM, July 2017

Households with foods stocks by gender and main sources

Source: WFP mVAM, July 2017

Proportion of Households with Food Stocks

Source: WFP mVAM, July 2017
Food Consumption Score (FCS)

Overall, 49 percent of the households had acceptable food consumption score (FCS), rising by 15% from May. Amudat, Moroto, and Nakapiripirit had the highest proportion with 87-84-71 percent respectively. Households headed by Males and Females reported relatively similar levels of acceptable FCS, 49-45 percent respectively. The improvement may signal increased supplies within households and on markets, following the start of the harvest in Karamoja and the June-to-July first season harvest across the country. Despite the improvement, households in Kaabong and Kotido continue to report higher levels of food insecurity. Following a delayed onset of the rains, the food security situation in Kaabong and Kotido is expected to deteriorate and/or remain at similar levels in August.

Source: WFP mVAM, July 2017

Proportion of Food Insecure Households (Poor + Borderline)

“Food is too scarce in the community and members are foreseeing danger in the nearby future, there is no food, not even signs of a good harvest,” a Male respondent from Lorengecora, Napak
Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI)
In July, the overall mean reduced coping strategy index (rCSI) was at 14, slightly higher compared to May. Households in Abim, Nakapiripirit and Napak reported a higher mean rCSI, both districts also had a considerable proportion of households reporting food stocks during the month, revealing households are stressed in meeting their food needs.

Similar to the previous round (May), the main coping strategies employed by households in Karamoja were to reduce the number of meals (91%), consume less preferred/less expensive food (87%) and limit portion sizes (87%). However, there was an increase in borrowing by 8%, from 56% in May. Generally, reduction of the number of meals, limiting portion sizes and restricting consumption by adults were mainly employed by Female headed households.

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.

Applied coping strategies by gender

Household income
While agricultural wage labor (22%) has continued to be a main source of income for households in Karamoja, the percentage of households deriving incomes from it was slightly lower compared to May. 30 percent of households led by Females derived incomes from agricultural wage labor compared to 20% among Male led households, this is expected as agricultural work within the society is said to be a Woman’s responsibility. Other income sources reported were: petty trade (16%), and brewing (14%).
In Kaabong and Amudat, the main income source was agricultural wage labor, whereas in Abim, Napak and Nakapiripirit, households earned income from petty trade. In Kotido, households generated incomes from the sale of firewood and non-agricultural wage labor. All these income sources are unsustainable, and pose a danger to the environment, calling for the need for skilling households and scaling up of cash for work activities in the region.

The proportion of household selling their animals to buy food has continued to decline, following the start of the harvest, thus improving supplies at household level.

“Currently, community members are mainly engaged in casual wage labor while some are doing some petty trades for survival, but food prices have risen drastically,” a Female respondent in Kotido T/C, Kotido

Main income sources by Gender

**Source:** WFP mVAM, July 2017

Trends of incomes derived from sale of Livestock

**Source:** WFP mVAM, July 2017

**Main income sources**

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

Prevalence of debt

The debt prevalence was at 46 percent in July, increasing by 9% since May. The increase was more significant in Kaabong, Moroto and Abim by 45-15-13 percent respectively. The debt prevalence was higher among Male headed (34%) households compared to Female headed (12%).

As in the previous round, households continue to mainly borrow to: buy food (54%), pay for school/education costs (15%) and invest in business (12%). The proportions of households borrowing to buy food increased by 14%, from 40% in May. In July, households in Kaabong (84%), Moroto (82%) and Napak (65%) continue to mainly borrow to buy food.
Trends on borrowing to buy food (May 2016-May 2017)

While both Female headed (63%) and Male headed (50%) households mainly borrowed to buy food, the percentage was higher among Female led households, signaling stress in meeting food needs.

Proportion of households with debt

Karamoja Market prices for staple food

The average retail price for maize grain was below June average by 10%, due to improved supplies at household level following the start of the harvest. However, the price continued to be above 2016 average.

The overall average price for sorghum increased by 9% compared to June, and more significantly in Moroto (62%), and this is driven by increased demand from households engaged in brewing local beer (‘Ekweete’).

“The situation is worsening, people are trying to survive, they sell local beer to earn money for food,” a Female respondent from Rupa, Moroto

“We heavily depend on markets for food, so, we buy food from the markets but, it is very expensive since we have not yet harvested,” a Male respondent from Amudat T/C, Amudat

“A lot of food in the market is from far, so, it is very expensive and people are very poor to buy,” a Female respondent from Lob-alangit, Kaabong
Commodity price changes in Karamoja

Source: WFP's ProMIS

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

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.

Commodity price changes in Karamoja

Source: WFP's ProMIS

Admission Trends by District January-June; 2016/2017

Compared to May, the total admissions to SFP in Karamoja reduced by 5% from 13,179, and more significantly in Abim (74%) and Nakapiripirit (23%). Despite an observed decrease in 5 of 7 districts, total admissions remained above 1,000 in all districts except Amudat (849) and Abim (235).

The highest admissions were observed in Kaabong (4,033), and this is not surprising since Kaabong also had the highest proportion of households having poor FCS (62%), indicating severe food insecurity in the district.

However, with the start of the green harvest across the region, which is expected to improve supplies at household level, total admissions to SFP will continue reducing, but gradually.
ADMISIONS OF MODERATELY MALNOURISHED CHILDREN AND MOTHERS INTO SUPPLEMENTARY FEEDING PROGRAMME (JAN-JUL 2016/2017)

2016

JANUARY

MARCH

MAY

JULY

2017

JANUARY

MARCH

MAY

JULY

M&M Admissions

- No Data
- ≤ 250
- 251 - 500
- 501 - 750
- 751 - 1000
- >1000

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

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