

WFP Uganda

Mobile Vulnerability Analysis & Mapping (mVAM)

Karamoja Region Early Warning Bulletin—September 2017

Key Highlights

- ◆ 50 percent of the households had food stocks in September, increasing by 17 percent since July. Nakapiripirit and Abim had the highest share with 96-88 percent respectively;
- ◆ Overall, 78 percent of the households had acceptable FCS in September, compared to 49 percent in July, signifying an improvement in the food security situation following the September-to-October harvest. Similarly, there was a significant improvement compared to 2016;
- ◆ Despite an improvement in the food security situation, some households continued to use negative coping strategies *reducing the number of meals, purchasing less expensive foods, and limiting portion sizes at meal time*. The mean rCSI remained high at 19, compared to 14 in July;
- ◆ 22 percent of the overall households reportedly earned incomes by selling food (produce). Food sale was mainly in Amudat (47%), Abim (37%) and Kotido (31%).

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 - 30th September 2017.

896 interviews were completed in Karamoja, with 647-249 Males and Females respectively.

Outlook for October and November, 2017

In September, the proportion of households in Karamoja reporting food stocks increased since July, due to September-to-October harvest. The share of households depending on market purchase fell by 39 percent. Available food stocks during September are expected to last for about a month. The continuation of the harvest period in October will help replenish stocks at household level. Average prices for key commodities across major markets continue to fall, more so in Abim, Kotido and Nakapiripirit driven by improved supplies on the markets. Maize grain harvest is reportedly lower than expected following an outbreak of fall army worm (FAW), particularly in Nakapiripirit, Amudat, Napak and Tapac Sub-county in Moroto. However, with the ongoing selling of food, stocks are expected to deplete earlier than expected, which will force households to heavily rely on markets, and this is likely to result to increased demand, subsequently influencing the market prices for key commodities.

Recommendation

- ◆ Need to continue sensitizing communities on the food management, mainly in Abim, Amudat, Kotido and Napak. Some individuals have started selling food to earn incomes and this has to be limited if stocks are to last longer.

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Food stocks

Half (50%) of the overall households had food stocks in September, showing a gradual increase since May, due to the replenishment of household stocks from the recent harvest across the region. Nakapiripirit (96%) and Abim (88%) had the highest proportion of households reporting food stocks. Both districts are the traditional main producing areas. 45 percent had food stocks among female headed households, which was lower compared to 52% for male headed households. Compared to September 2016, proportion of households reporting food stocks was significantly higher this year. The below average harvest in 2016 was driven by the prolonged dry spell experienced across the country.

The September food stocks are expected to last for nearly one Month (24 days). However, the harvest period still continues through October.

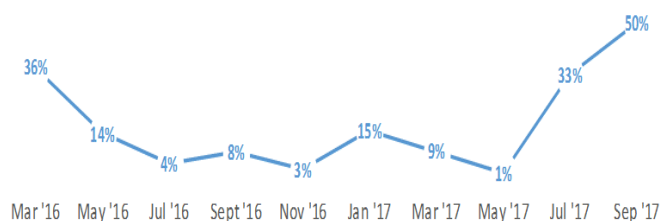
Households mainly derived their food from own production (54%) and markets (43%). In Moroto, markets were the only source of food stocks. Compared to July, the percentage of households reporting own production as a main source of food stocks increased from 9% to 83%.

Furthermore, own production was the main source of food stocks for both Male and Female led households. However, the proportion was slightly higher among Females.

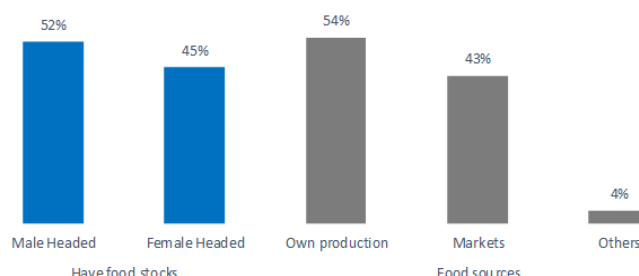
"Crops were destroyed by fall army worm (FAW), resulting to limited supplies due to low crop production" a Male respondent in Atunga (Otalabar), Abim

Trends on households with food stocks

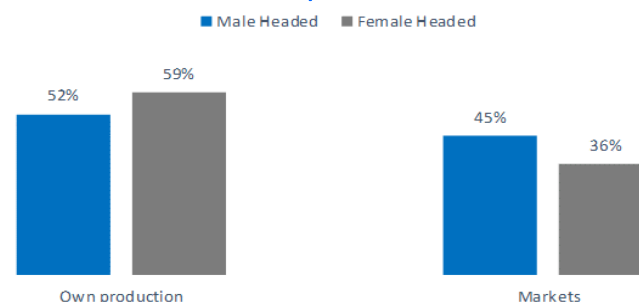
(Mar 2016-Sep 2017)



Households with food stocks by gender and main sources

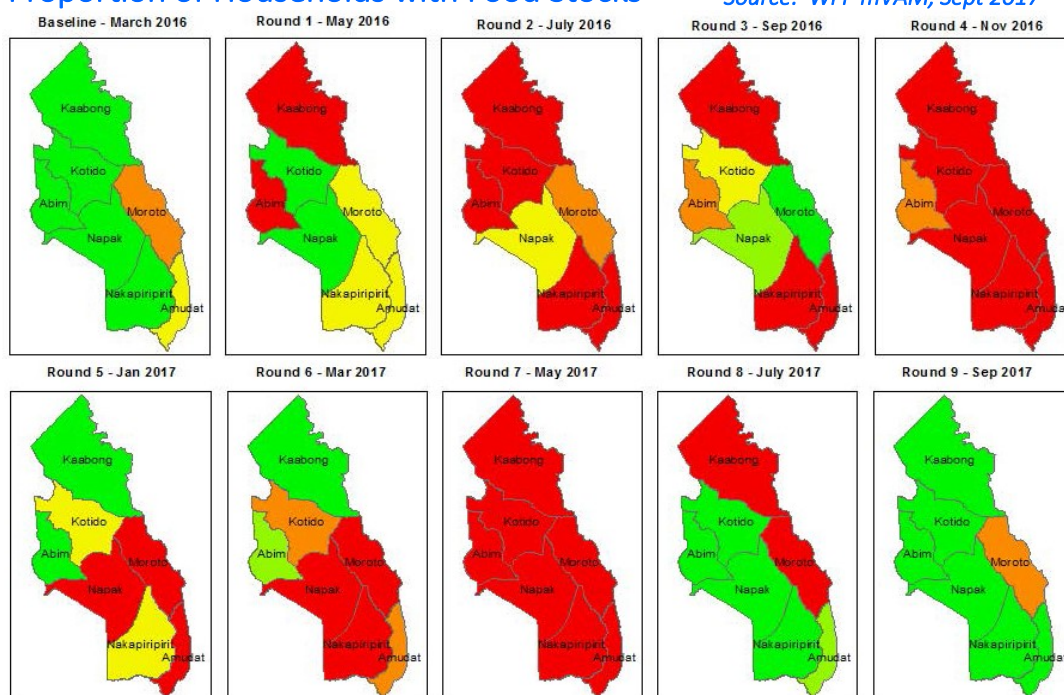


Main food sources by Gender



Source: WFP mVAM, Sept 2017

Proportion of Households with Food Stocks



"There is some harvest, but not as much as expected for each household. Majority of the households harvested about 1-2 bags of cereals and a bucket (less than 30 Kgs) of beans" a Male respondent in Kotido Rural, Kotido

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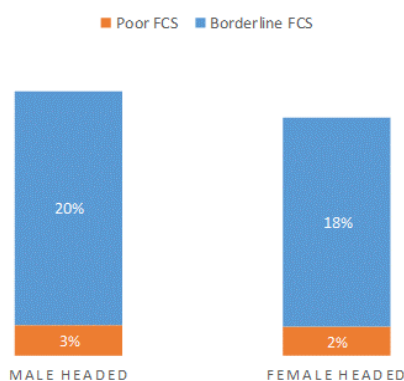
Food Consumption Score (FCS)

Following September-to-October harvest in Karamoja, the overall food security situation continues to improve, with 78 percent of the households having acceptable FCS in September, revealing a significant increase from 48 percent in July. Significant improvement were observed in Kaabong and Kotido. In September, Nakapiripirit (98%) and Amudat (93%) had the highest share of households with acceptable FCS. Male and Female led households had similar levels.

Compared to 2016, food security levels improved significantly in nearly all districts, due to improve crop yield this year. However, Abim and Kotido despite being among the main producing districts had higher levels of food insecurity, and this calls for the need for close monitoring of the food security situation.

Comparing households in the three food consumption groups, results show that 75% and 47% of the households with poor and borderline FCS respectively relied on markets as their main food source, while 41 percent of those with acceptable FCS derived food stocks from markets, signaling that households are spending on food.

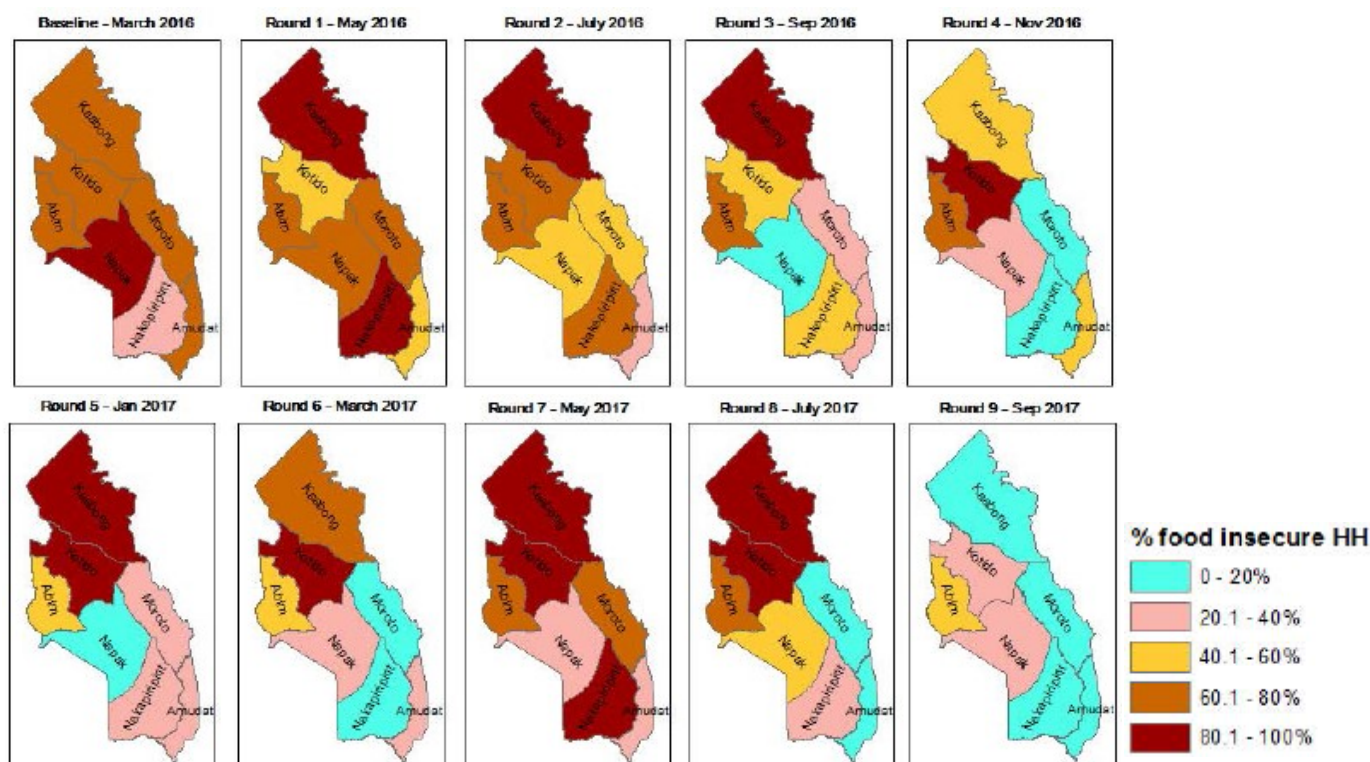
Food Consumption Score (FCS) by Gender



"The food security situation is fair since we realized some harvest at last. However, we predict food shortage after three months due to below average harvest" a Male respondent in Lokuwas, Napak

Source: WFP mVAM, Sept 2017

Proportion of Food Insecure Households (Poor + Borderline)



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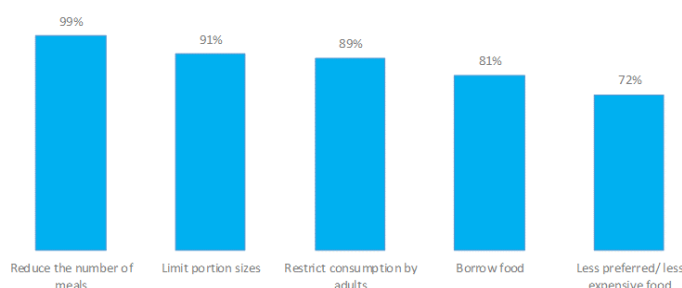
Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI)

Overall average mean rCSI has continued to increase since May, currently at 19. Compared to July, the increase in the mean rCSI was significant across all districts except Nakapiripirit, portraying high coping by majority of the households. The mean rCSI was slightly higher among male led households compared to females.

The mean rCSI in September 2017 was above 2016 levels. Some of the coping strategies such as relying on a meal per day are becoming part of normal means of making a living. Among households with food stocks, only 1 percent in September relied on food assistance as their main source of food, possibly explaining the increase in the household coping.

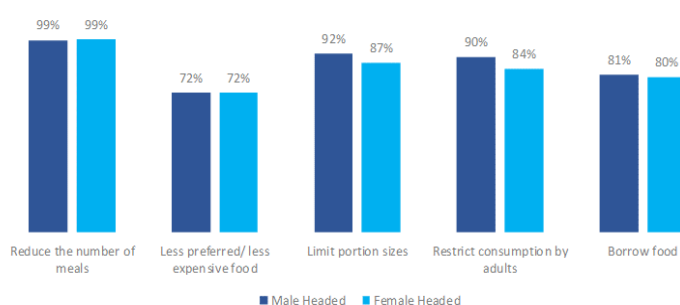
Generally, use of negative coping strategies remained high since May. Majority of the households *reduced the number of meals*, *purchased less expensive food*, *limited portion sizes* and *restricted consumption by adults*. There were similar proportions of male and female headed households that *reduced the number of meals* and also *bought less expensive food* in September. However, application of negative coping strategies was marginally higher among male headed households.

Applied Coping strategies by households



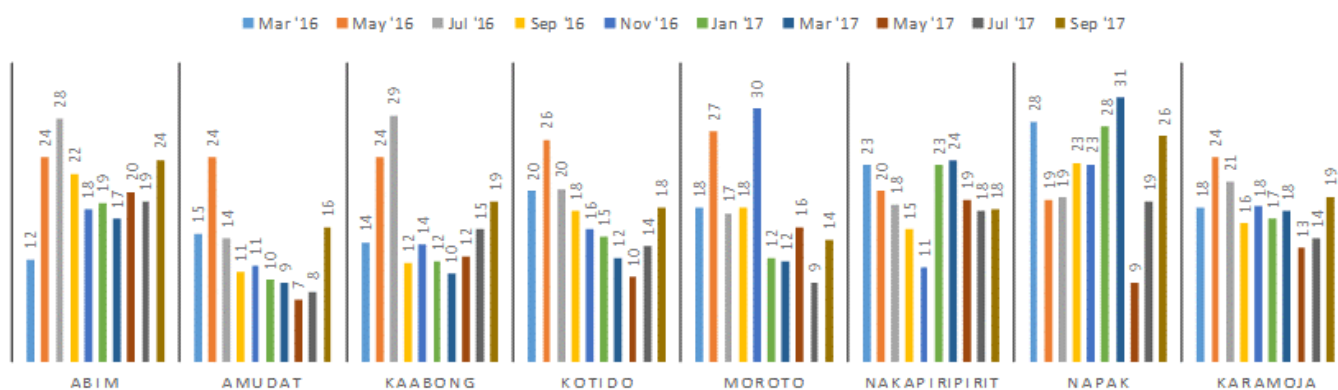
Source: WFP mVAM, July 2017

Applied coping strategies by gender



Source: WFP mVAM, Sep 2017

"I would say the food security situation in my community is fair, following a better harvest this year. However, we still rely on leafy vegetables and pumpkin" a Male respondent in Lopeei, Napak



Source: WFP mVAM, Sep 2017

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>.

Household income

In September, 44 percent of the overall households in our sample earned their incomes from other sources, followed by brewing (15%) and petty trading (14%). Moroto (43%) and Kotido (20%) had the highest percentage of households earning from brewing. In Nakapiripirit and Kaabong, petty trading and sale of firewood/charcoal respectively were the main sources of income. Compared to July, households engaged in agricultural wage labor fell to 8 percent from 22 percent in July, due to the decline in agricultural related work following the end of the season.

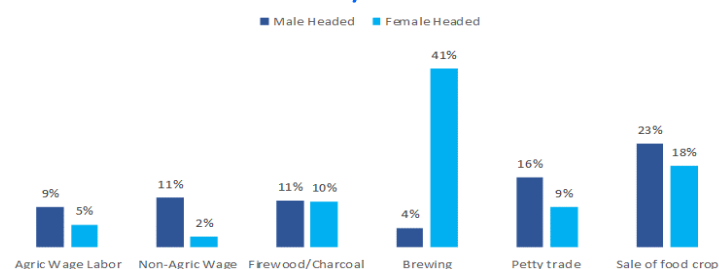
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Similarly, households are increasingly selling food to earn incomes, with 22 percent in September compared to 5 percent in 2016, possibly due to improvement in the average harvest this year. Therefore, there is need for sensitization of communities on food management. Amudat (47%), Abim (37%) and Kotido (31%) had a high proportion of households selling food in September.

Male headed households mainly earned incomes from selling food crops (23%) in September compared to female headed households that earned from brewing (41%).

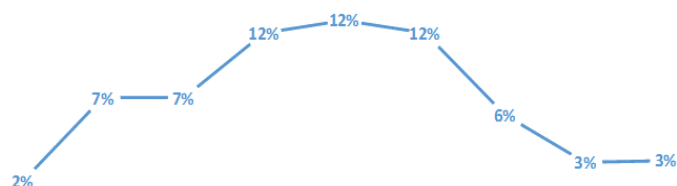
Compared to July, there was no observed change in the overall proportion of households earning from the sale of livestock during the month. However, the proportion of households selling livestock to earn income declined by 4 percent compared to the same period in 2016.

Main income sources by Gender



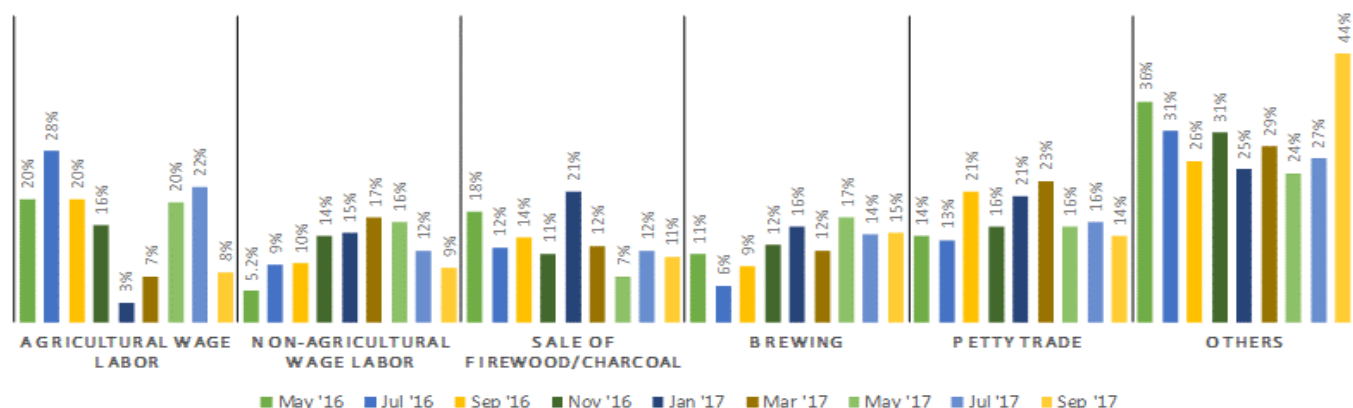
Source: WFP mVAM, Sept 2017

Trends of incomes derived from sale of Livestock



Source: WFP mVAM, Sept 2017

Main income sources



Source: WFP mVAM, Sept 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

Prevalence of debt

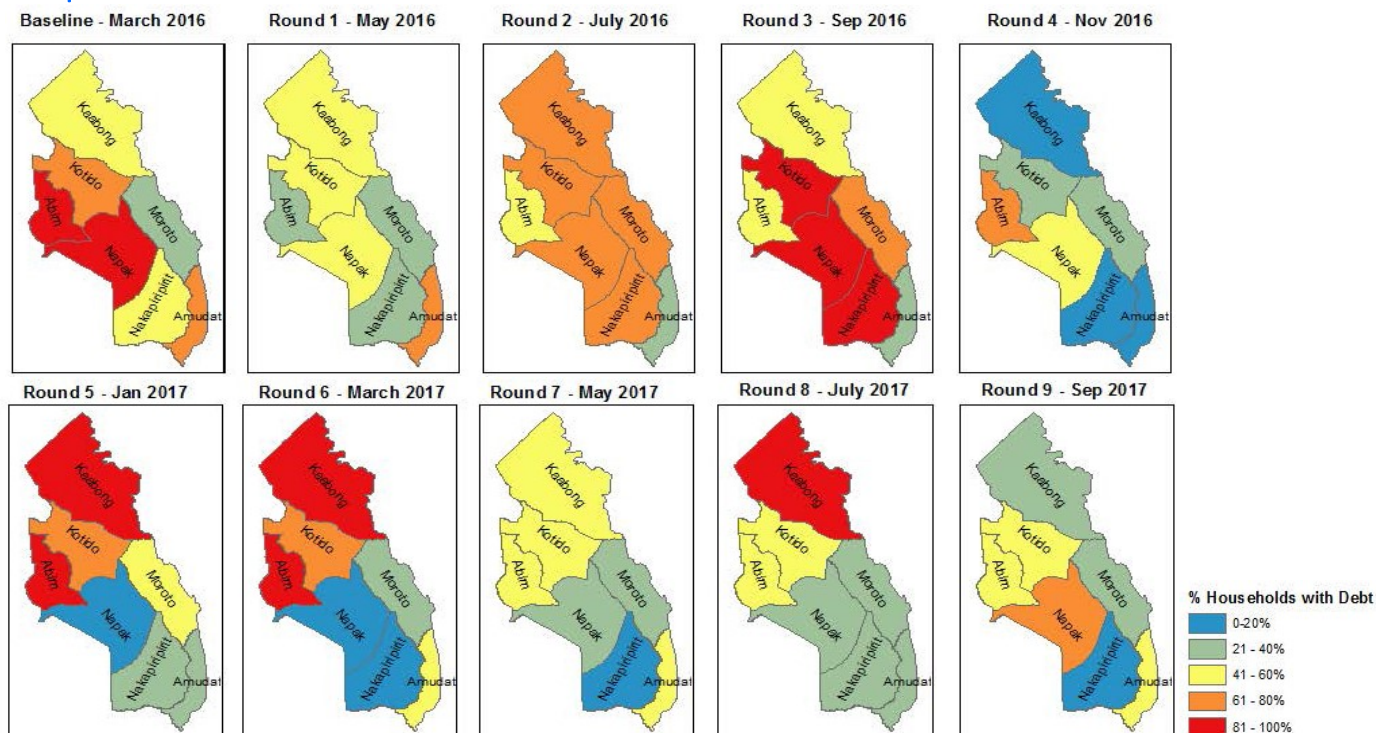
Compared to July, the overall debt prevalence remained fairly stable, with 45 percent reportedly having debt. The debt prevalence in Napak and Amudat significantly increased by 46% and 24% respectively. In Kaabong, the prevalence fell by 67% since July. The debt prevalence remained higher among male headed (47%), compared to female headed (42%). However, the debt prevalence among Females increased by 30 percent from 12 percent in July.

The debt prevalence in 2017 was significantly below 2016 levels, probably due to improvement in the average harvest as households usually borrow to mainly purchase food. Similarly, 22 percent in September sold food crops, and the proportion was high in Amudat, Abim and Kotido, possibly explaining the decline in the debt prevalence.

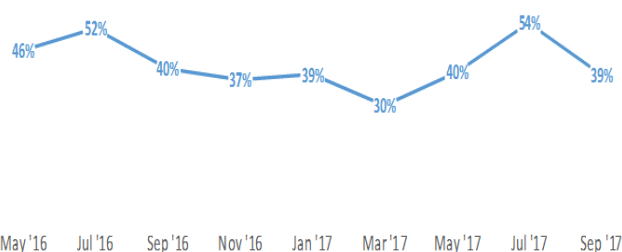
The main reason for debt was to *buy food* (39%); *pay school and education costs* (25%); and *invest in business* (15%). Amudat (53%), Kotido (49%), Moroto (48%) and Kaabong (41%) had the highest share of households borrowing to buy food. However, there was a significant decline in the overall proportion of households borrowing to buy food. Both male and female headed households mainly borrowed to buy food.

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Proportion of households with debt

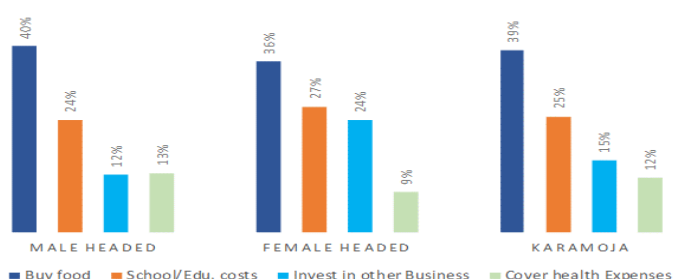


Trends on borrowing to buy food (May 2016-Sep 2017)



Source: WFP mVAM, Sept 2017

Reason for debt by gender



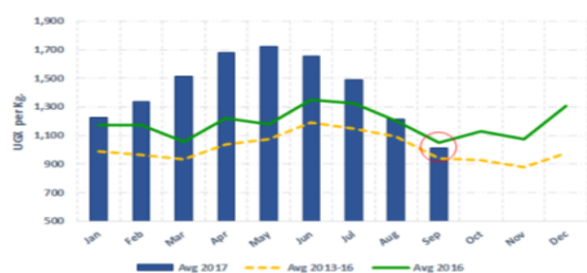
Source: WFP mVAM, Sept 2017

Karamoja Market prices for staple food

Generally, the average retail prices for cereals fell in September compared to August. The average price for maize grain and sorghum were lower by 16% and 13% respectively in September, due to low demand as food stocks were replenished from the recent harvest. Price declines were mainly observed in Abim, Kotido and Nakapiripirit.

However, average prices for maize grain and sorghum were fairly stable compared to 2016 and the long term (2013-2016) average, driven by improved supplies on the markets. Prices for cereals are expected to remain fairly stable, with marginal changes across key markets.

Maize Grain



Source: WFP's ProMIS

Sorghum

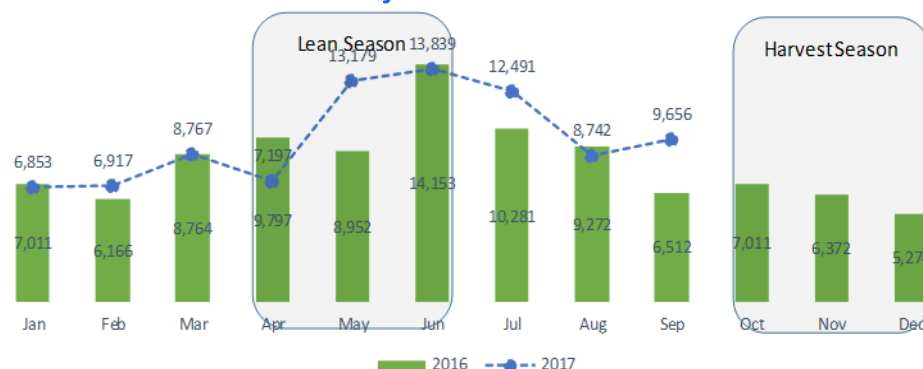


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Supplementary Feeding Admissions

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



9,656 of moderately malnourished individuals in Karamoja were admitted to SFP, revealing a 36 percent decrease since May. However, total admissions to SFP remained above 2016 levels.

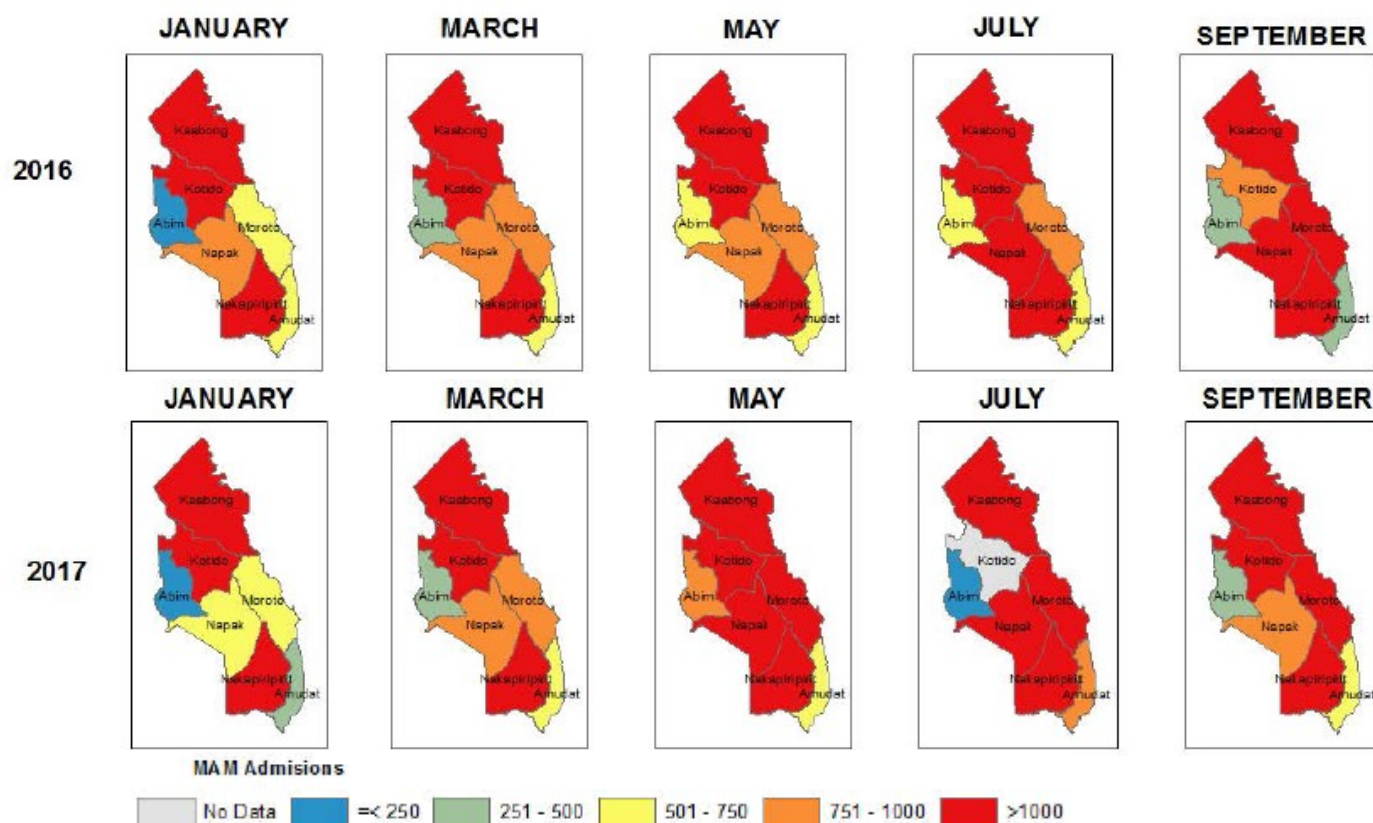
Source: WFP's PromIS

Admission Trends by District January-September; 2016/2017

Admissions to SFP are following seasonal trends, reducing by 36 percent in September compared to July 2017. Significant declines were observed in Nakapiripirit (116%), Abim (98%), Napak (67%) and Moroto (38%), due to the recent harvest across Karamoja that replenished household stocks.

Kaabong (3,090), Kotido (1,967), Moroto (1,117) and Nakapiripirit (1,432) continue to have the highest admissions. Following the recent harvest that replenished household food stocks, admissions to SFP are expected to remain fairly stable, and/or marginally decline in October through November.

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



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국제질병퇴치기금

Global Disease Eradication Fund | KOREA

KOICA

Korea International
Cooperation Agency

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