

WFP Uganda

Mobile Vulnerability Analysis & Mapping (mVAM)

Karamoja Region Early Warning Bulletin—November 2017

Key Highlights

- ◆ Following the September-to-October harvest, the proportion of households with food stocks increased to 70 percent in November from 50 percent in September. The 2017 harvest has been relatively better with each district having at least 20 percent of the households with food stocks compared to November 2016 where it was only Abim that had 5-10% of the households with food stocks at the time of the harvest;
- ◆ In November, 78 percent of the households had acceptable FCS, revealing stability in the food security situation since September;
- ◆ The overall mean rCSI improved in November (16) compared to September (19), with a similar trend observed in four (4) of the seven (7) districts of Karamoja, more so in Abim, Napak and Amudat. Despite the improvement, majority of the households continue to use negative food related coping strategies;
- ◆ Compared to September, the share of households selling food crops reduced by 9 percent to 13 percent in November.

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 of the mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM) food security monitoring is based on data that was collected between 27th November and 1st December 2017.

A total of 948 households across the seven districts of Karamoja were interviewed through telephone. 41 percent of the overall respondents were females.

Outlook for December 2017 and January 2018

The food security situation in Karamoja is expected to remain stable through December and January following the September-to-October harvest. Available food stocks are likely to sustain majority of the poor households through December and for some through January. While some farmers in Abim, Kotido and Nakapiripirit continue to sell food, the available stocks are likely to deplete in January 2018 and households might resort to markets. Retail market prices for staple foods are expected to remain stable through December and January. However, with a significant proportion of households in Moroto, Kaabong and Amudat depending on markets, staple food prices are expected to slightly increase in December, but lower than the 2016 average price.

Recommendations

- ◆ At least 20 percent of the households in all districts have food stocks mainly from own harvest. So, there is need for continued sensitization of communities on food management to reduce food sale which is likely to cause scarcity;
- ◆ There is need to continuously monitor food prices especially in Moroto where more households are market dependent and prices are relatively high.

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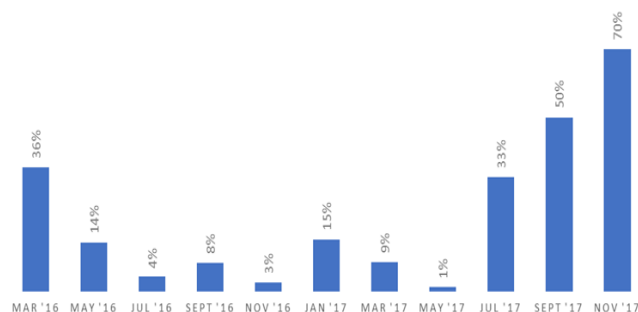
Food stocks

Since July, the proportion of households with food stocks have continued to increase. In November, 70 percent of the overall households reportedly had food stocks compared to 50 percent in September, due to the September-to-October harvest that replenished stocks both in households and on markets. Abim (99%), Kaabong (97%) and Amudat (70%) had the highest share of households reporting food stocks. Male and female headed households had similar proportions. Compared to 2016 levels, the overall proportion of households with food stocks in November was significantly above by 63 percent, due to the below average harvest coupled by high food prices in 2016.

Food stocks for November will last for less than one month (23 days), this is expected since nearly half (48%) of the households had only one bag grains. As stocks are expected to deplete by the last week of December, more households will resort to markets. With the anticipated high demand in December, market prices for staple foods in the region are likely to increase.

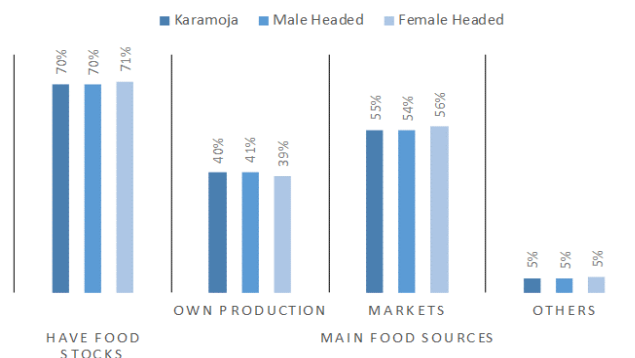
While 40 percent of the households reported own production as a source of stocks, more than half (55%) derived stocks from markets. Household reliance on markets was high in Moroto (92%), Kaabong (87%) and Amudat (86%), due to the below average harvest following a one month's delay in the onset of the rains and an outbreak of the fall army worm (FAW).

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



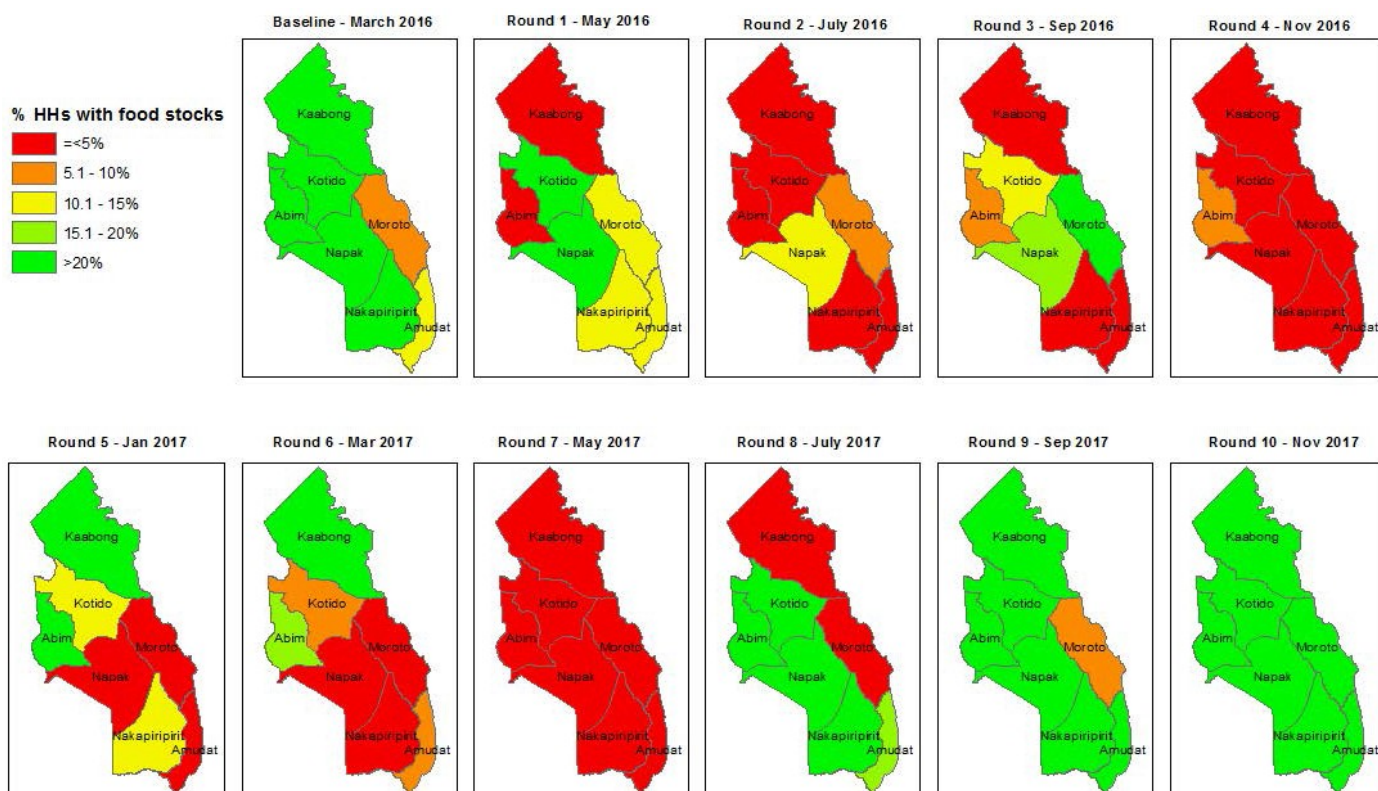
Source: WFP mVAM, November 2017

Households with foods stocks by gender and main sources



Source: WFP mVAM, November 2017

Trends on Households with Food Stocks by district (Mar 2016-Nov 2017)



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Food Consumption Score (FCS)

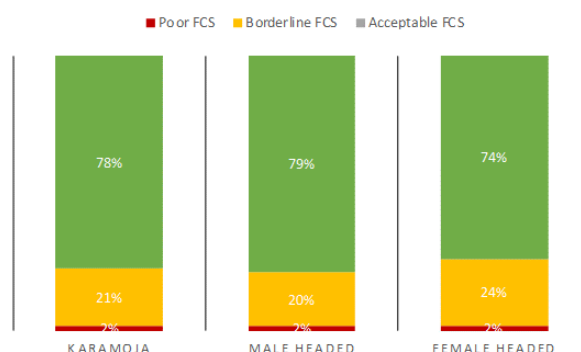
In November, the overall proportion of households with acceptable FCS was 78 percent, revealing stability in the food security situation since September. Nakapiripirit (99%), Moroto (94%), Abim (86%) and Amudat (84%) had the highest share of households with acceptable FCS in November. However, the food security situation is deteriorating in Kaabong and Napak, with the share of households having acceptable FCS reducing by 22% and 21% respectively since September. Among male headed households, 79 percent had acceptable FCS compared to 74 percent for female headed.

The dietary diversity was fair, but the consumption of animal proteins and fruits remains low. Cereals and pulses were mainly consumed during the month, with an average consumption of 4.7 and 3.6 days respectively in a week.

Among different food consumption groups, 73 percent of households with acceptable FCS had food stocks in November compared to 60% and 47% for those with borderline and poor FCS respectively. The mean rCSI is 15, 18, and 23 for households with acceptable, borderline and poor FCS respectively.

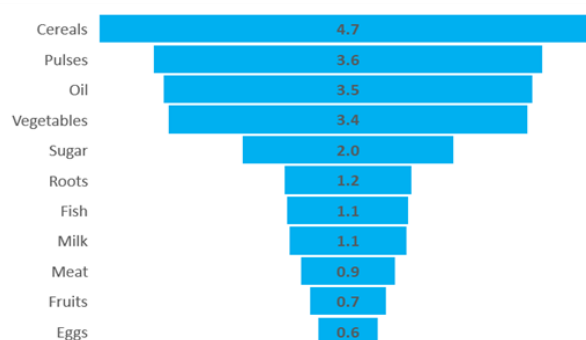
“Currently, there is high consumption of food, more number of meals unlike before due to the recent harvest. People have harvested some food,” a Male respondent in Kalakala, Abim

Food Consumption Score (FCS) by Gender



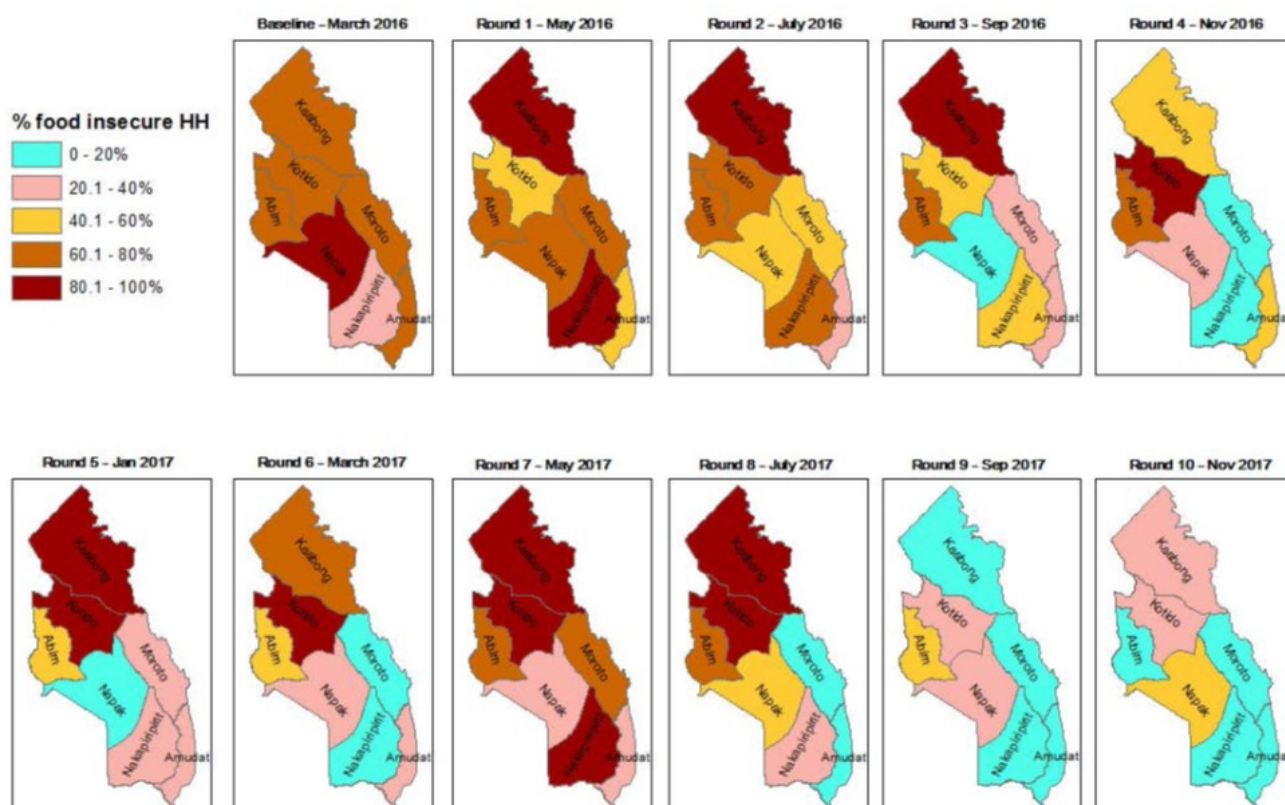
Source: WFP mVAM, November 2017

The dietary diversity



Source: WFP mVAM, November 2017

Trends on food insecure (Poor+Borderline FCS) households by district (Mar 2016-Nov 2017)



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Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI)

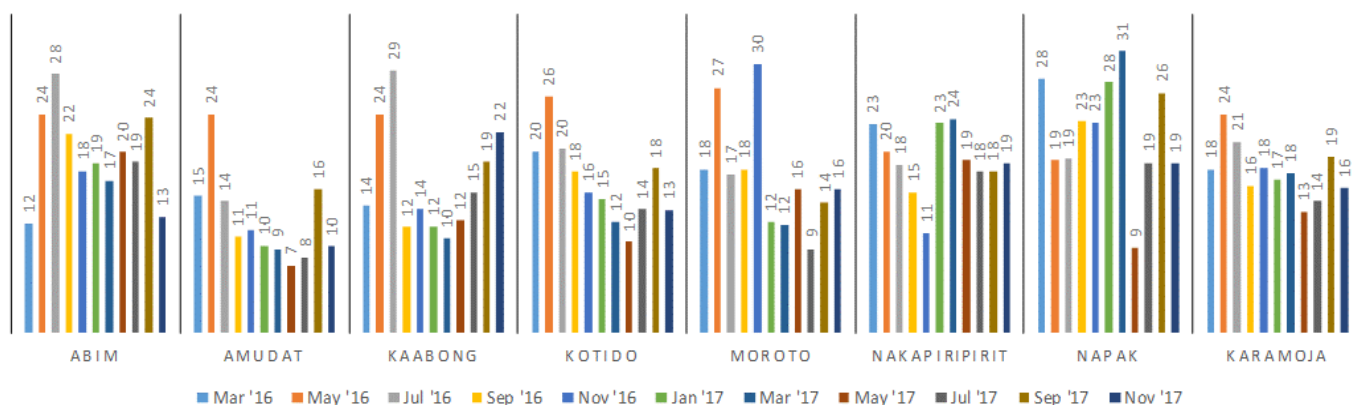
The overall mean rCSI reduced from 19 in September to 16 in November, and significantly in Abim, Amudat and Napak. The highest mean rCSI was observed in Kaabong (22), Napak (19) and Nakapiripirit (19). The mean rCSI was slightly higher among female headed households (17) compared to male headed (16). Although the food security situation is improving, households are highly coping to meet their food needs.

Despite a decline in the rCSI, majority of the households continue to employ negative coping strategies. Coping strategies used are: *consuming less preferred and/or less expensive foods, reducing the number of meals and limiting portion sizes*. The proportion of households *limiting portion sizes and restricting consumption by adults* was slightly higher among female headed households.

Compared to the same period in 2016, the mean rCSI was slightly lower. It declined in five (5) of the seven (7) districts, but more significantly in Moroto, due to the relatively better harvest during the September-to-October harvest season that improved household food supplies.

“What I can say is, the situation is somehow poor with some households relying on residue from local beer (‘Ekweete’) to survive, and this affects their nutrition levels,” a Female respondent in Nagule-angolol, Napak

Trends on the mean rCSI (Mar 2016-Nov 2017)



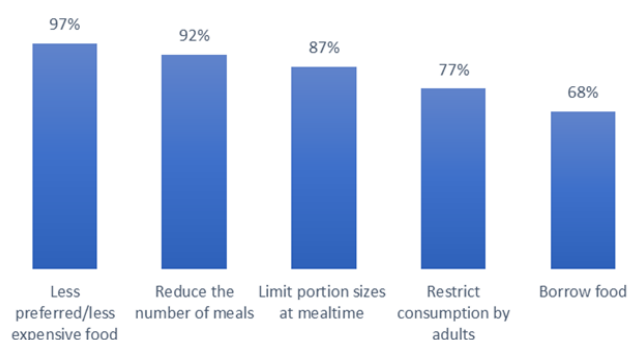
Source: WFP mVAM, November 2017

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

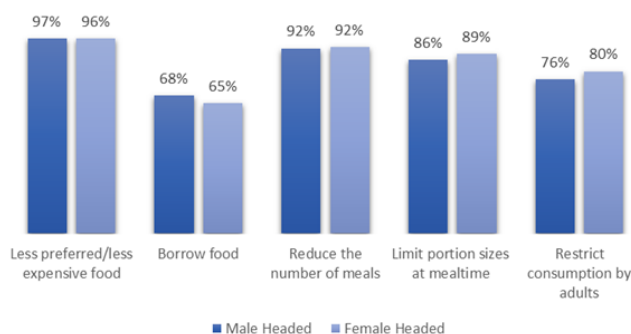
Overall, other income sources continue to be the main income source for most households, with 43 percent earning income from other sources. Similarly, households in November also earned income from *non-agricultural wage labor* (18%), *brewing* (16%) and *petty trading* (13%). Furthermore, 13 percent of the households in November sold crops, reducing by 9 percent since September due to increasing awareness on proper food management. The share of households selling food crops was higher among male headed households (15%) compared to female headed households (9%).

Applied Coping strategies by households



Source: WFP mVAM, November 2017

Applied coping strategies by gender



Source: WFP mVAM, November 2017

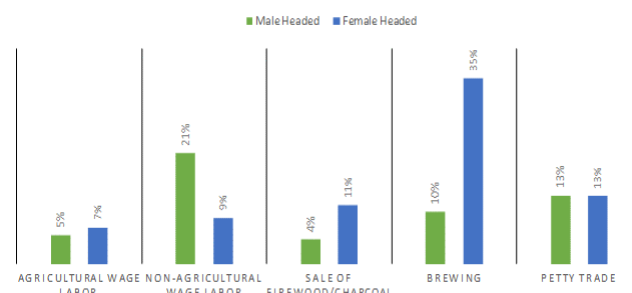
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Among male headed households, 21 percent earned income from non-agricultural labor, increasing by 10 percent since September. Female led households are earning from an unsustainable livelihood activities like brewing and sale of firewood or charcoal. Generally, with many alternative income sources, male headed households are relatively better in terms of earnings compared to their female counter parts.

In November, 9 percent of the overall households earned incomes from the sale of livestock and animal products, revealing an increase of 6 percent since September. Nearly half (46%) in Amudat derived income from selling livestock and animals products, followed by Kotido with 11 percent. The share of households selling livestock in Amudat increased from 5 percent in September to 46 percent in November, possibly due to low harvest following an outbreak of fall army worm in this year.

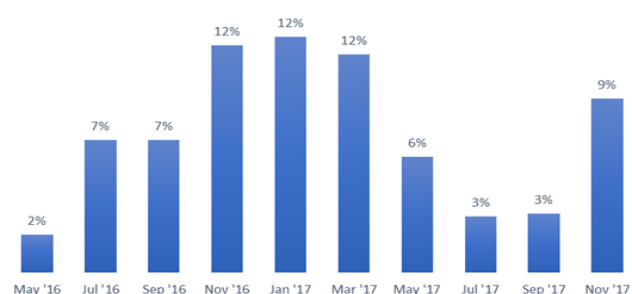
"We had some harvest this year, however, we can't say there is no food shortage as some people usually sell food after harvest rather than storing, this makes them beg and so much depend on others during times of scarcity," a Male respondent in Toroi, Kaabong

Main income sources by Gender



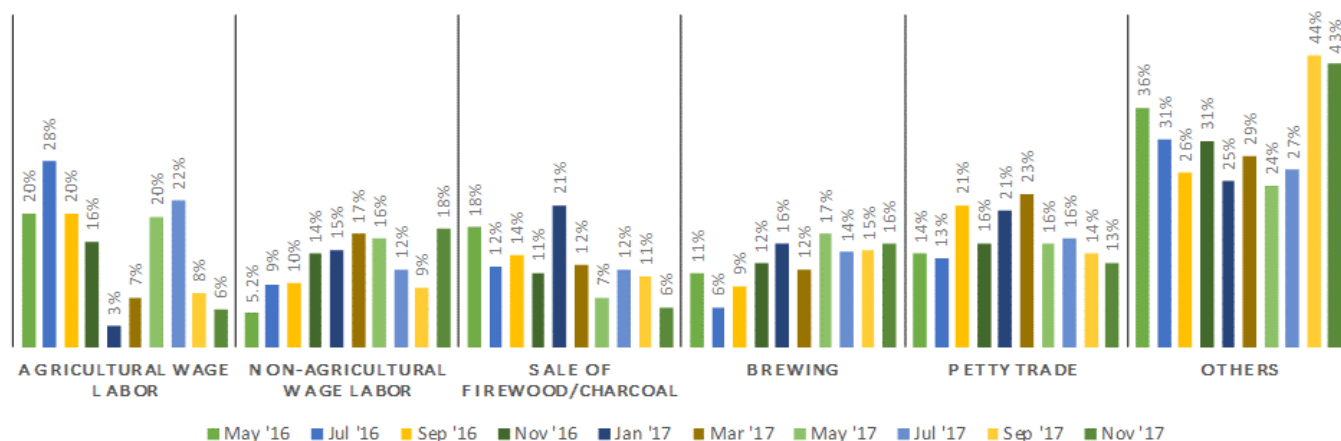
Source: WFP mVAM, November 2017

Trends of incomes derived from sale of Livestock



Source: WFP mVAM, November 2017

Main income sources



Source: WFP mVAM, November 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

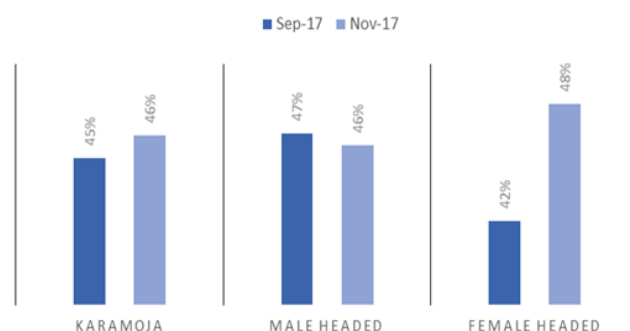
Since July, the debt prevalence has continued to be relatively stable. Nearly half (46%) of the overall households reportedly had debt in November. The debt prevalence was high in Amudat (78%), Kotido (75%) and Napak (67%). Among male and female headed households, the debt prevalence was relatively similar. For female headed households, the proportion of those with debt increased by 6% from 42% in September.

The debt prevalence remained above 2016 levels by 13 percent, and significantly higher in Amudat and Kotido by 61% and 40% respectively. However, the prevalence was lower in Moroto and Nakapiripirit by 12% and 8% respectively.

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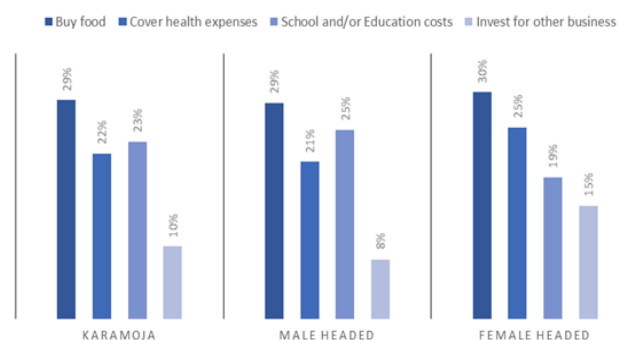
Purchasing food (29%) continue to be the main reason for borrowing, followed by *paying school and educational costs* (23%) and *covering health expenses* (22%). In Amudat, Kaabong and Moroto, 50%, 40% and 35% respectively borrowed to purchase food. This is expected as majority of the households in Amudat (86%), Kaabong (87%) and Moroto (92%) reportedly derived their food from the markets. The share of households borrowing to buy food were similar among males (29%) and female (30%) led households. Despite households mainly borrowing to purchase food, there is a gradual decline since July across all districts. Overall, the proportion fell by 10 percent in November compared to September, and more so in Kotido (25%), Moroto (13%) and Napak (12%), due to the replenishment of food stocks from the latest harvest.

Debt prevalence by gender (Sept-Nov 2017)



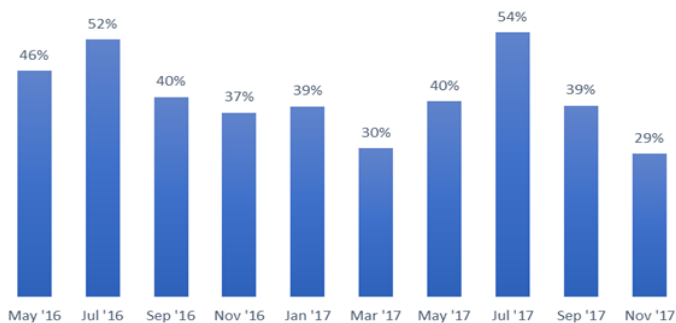
Source: WFP mVAM, November 2017

Main reasons for debt by gender



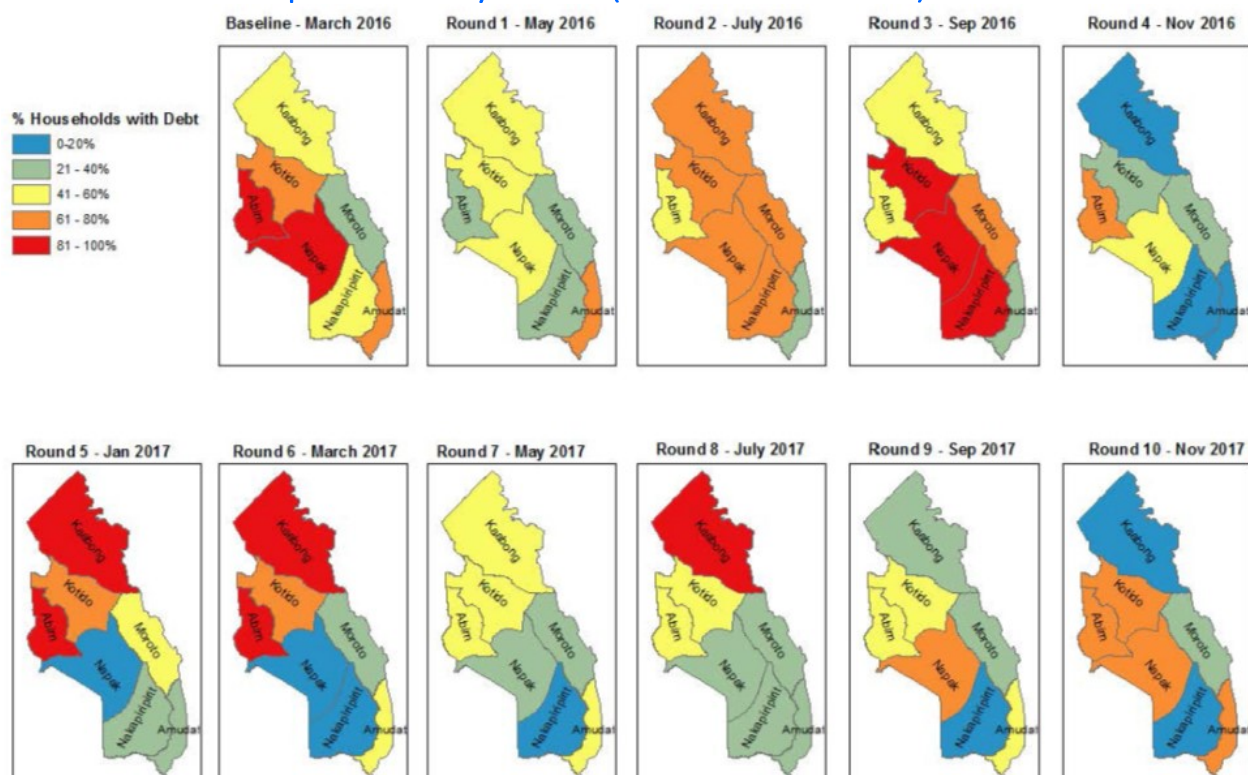
Source: WFP mVAM, November 2017

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



Source: WFP mVAM, November 2017

Trends on the debt prevalence by district (Mar 2016-Nov 2017)



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Karamoja Market prices for staple food

Following the September-to-October harvest across Karamoja, average prices for staple foods have continued to decrease. Average retail prices for maize grain and sorghum were below October levels by 3% and 8% respectively. Market prices were significantly lower in Nakapiripirit and Kaabong. However, average prices for maize grain were higher in Moroto, Napak and Amudat compared to October, due to limited harvest in these areas.

Compared to 2016, maize grain and sorghum average prices were lower by 10% and 29% respectively, more so in Nakapiripirit and Kaabong, driven by better harvest in 2017. Prices were higher in 2016 due to the below average harvest following a pro-longed dry spell experienced across the country.

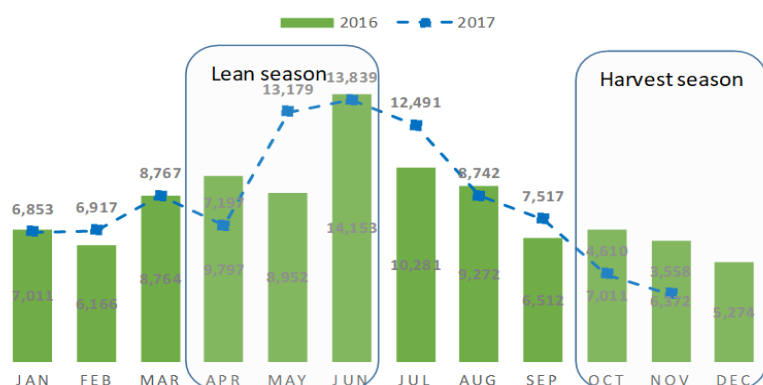
With an anticipated high demand in the last week of December, due to the depletion of available food stocks, prices are expected to start increasing.

"Compared to a few months ago and past years, the food situation is better and improving as food prices have continued to decline. However, in January, it might change because we anticipate food price increase," a Female respondent in Oporoth, Abim

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

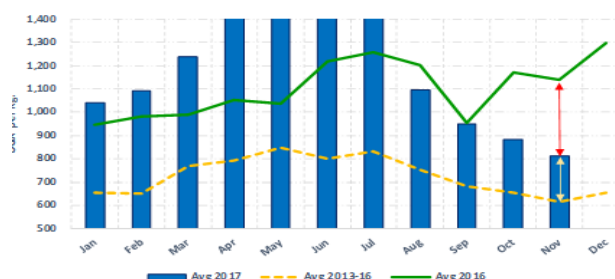
Admission Trends by District January-November; 2016/2017

In November, total admissions to SFP were 3,558 across Karamoja. Overall admissions to SFP were lower than September levels by 3,959, and this is attributable to the replenishment of household stocks from the September-to-October harvest. The reduction was significant in Kaabong and Kotido, reducing by 2,122 and 1,286 individuals respectively. In November, more females (2,239) were admitted compared to males.

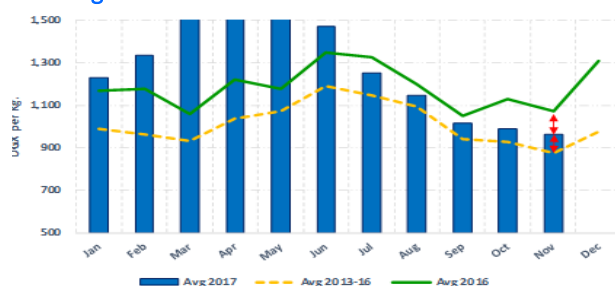
Nakapiripirit (1,258) had the highest admissions to SFP in November. However, total admissions in other districts were below 1,000. However, total admissions to SFP in December are expected to remain stable in all districts.

Commodity price changes in Karamoja

Maize Grain



Sorghum Grain

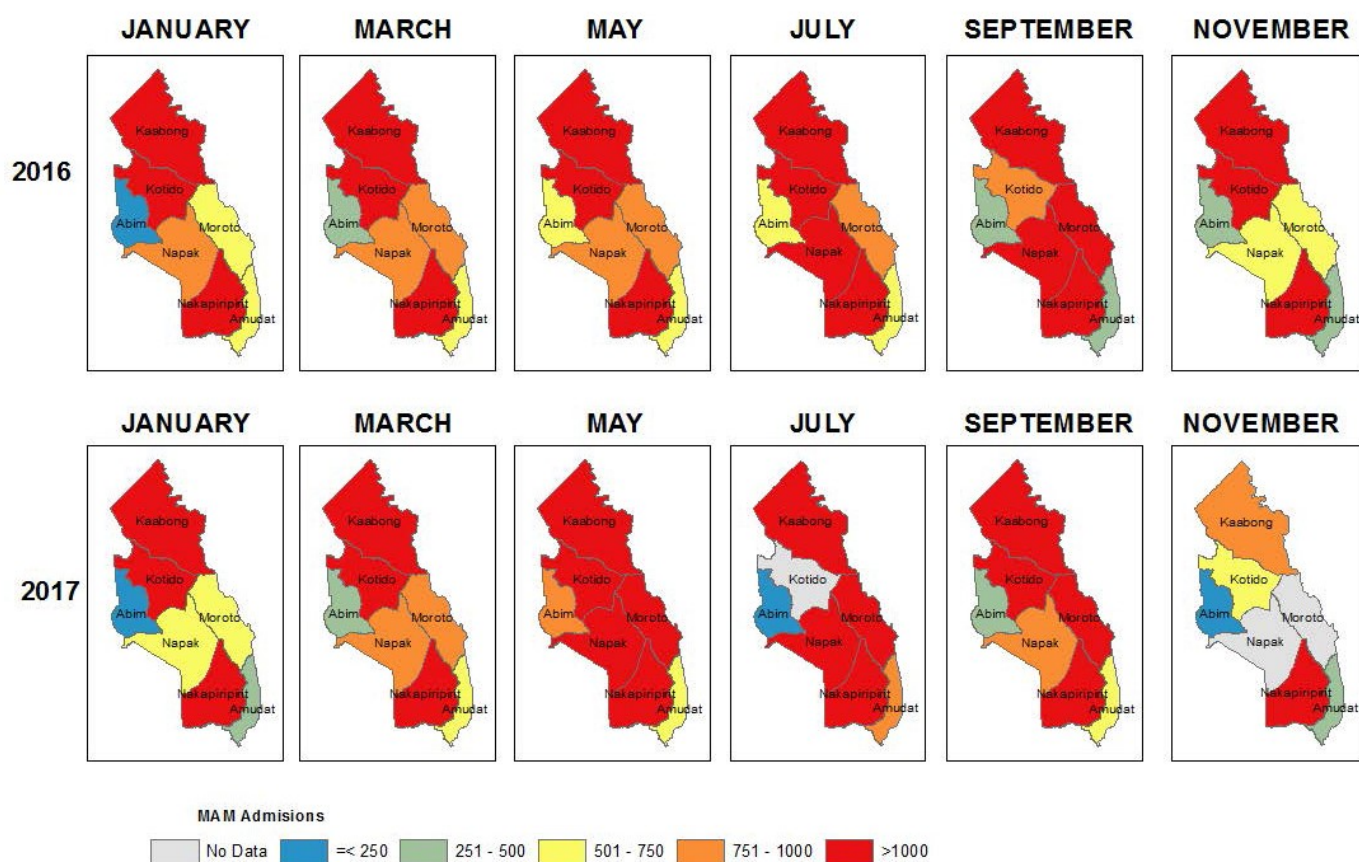


Source: WFP's ProMIS

"To be honest, the food situation is generally fair for those who cultivated. Similarly, for households that didn't cultivate, the prices for sorghum and maize grain have at least dropped, so, we can also afford," a Female respondent in Iriiri, Napak

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



국제질병퇴치기금

Global Disease Eradication Fund | KOREA

KOICA

Korea International
Cooperation Agency

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