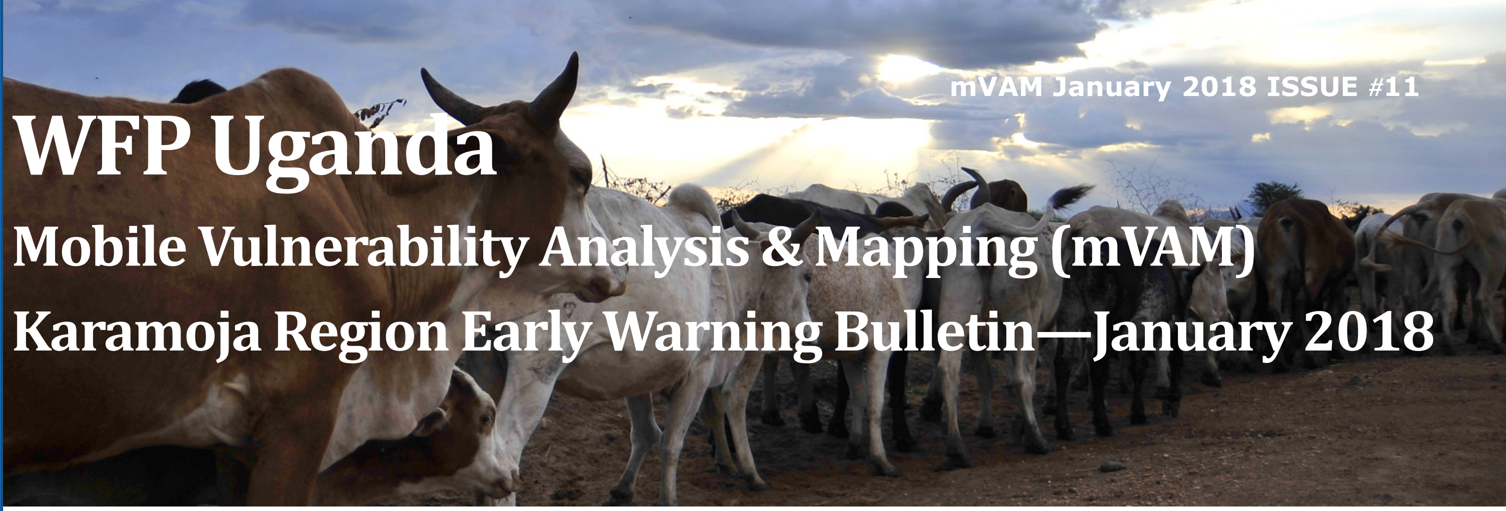

mVAM January 2018 ISSUE #11

# WFP Uganda

## Mobile Vulnerability Analysis & Mapping (mVAM)

## Karamoja Region Early Warning Bulletin—January 2018

## Key Highlights

- The proportion of households with food stocks declined by 11%, from 70 percent in November 2017, more so in Amudat, Kaabong, and Nakapiripirit;
- Half of the households in Karamoja had acceptable FCS, compared to 78% in November 2017. The decline was significant in Amudat (70%), Kaabong (49%), Abim (36%) and Nakapiripirit (33%);
- Since September, the overall mean rCSI has steadily been reducing, with similar trends observed in Abim, Napak and Nakapiripirit. The mean rCSI was at 15;
- The total admissions to SFP increased from 4,724 in November 2017 to 5,280 in January 2018. Kaabong (1,573) and Nakapiripirit (1,084) had the highest admissions to SFP, while Abim, Amudat and Napak had the least;
- The average retail prices for maize grain and sorghum continued to be below 2017 and the long term average, due to improved supplies on the market.

## Overview

The mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM) was initiated in 2016 by WFP Uganda Country Office to provide real-time analysis of the performance of food security indicators and serve as a core pillar of WFP's Food Security and Nutrition Early Warning System.

This mVAM bulletin is based on the data collected between 22nd-29th January 2018.

992 households were reached on phone, 41% of the respondents were Females, while 18% of the overall households were Female headed. The average family size was 8, and 17% of the household heads have no formal education.

***Note:** While the AME is constantly expanding the reach of the M-VAM work, note that the current sample is not a statistically representative sample but rather information and data is collected via phone from households in order to provide a constantly updated snapshot of the current on-ground food security situation.*

## Outlook for February to March 2018

Following declines in the proportion of households with food stocks and an anticipated increase in the retail price for staple foods, the food security situation is expected to continue deteriorating in February through March. Majority of the households are expected to resort to markets in the second week of March as food stocks are steadily depleting. The average retail prices for staple foods are expected to increase in February and March but will remain lower than 2017 levels, revealing households are likely to get stressed in accessing food.

Recommendations

- There is need for close monitoring of the food security situation across Karamoja, particularly in Amudat, Nakapiripirit and Kaabong;
- With the increasing sale of food by communities, there is need to continue sensitizing communities on food management, to reduce the sale of food;
- As majority of the households are likely to resort to market purchases in March, there is need for monitoring of staple food prices.

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## Food stocks

In January, the overall proportion of households with food stocks was relatively high, at 59 percent irrespective of the slight decline in the proportion of households with food stocks by 11 percent, from 70 percent in November (**Fig 1**). The decline was mainly in Amudat, Kaabong and Nakapiripirit, possibly due to the depletion of stocks from the September-to-October harvest. Available stocks are expected to last for more than a month (about 40 days), indicating that stocks will get depleted in the second week of February. Food stock levels were high among female headed households compared to male headed (**Fig 2**).

Own production (75%) and markets (23%) remain the main sources of food stocks (**Fig 2**). Majority (97%) of the households in Moroto continue to highly depend on markets, and this could be attributed to a poor harvest in 2017 following a prolonged dry-spell and an outbreak of fall army worm in some parts of the district.

***Figure 1: Trends on households with food stocks (Jan '17-Jan 18)***

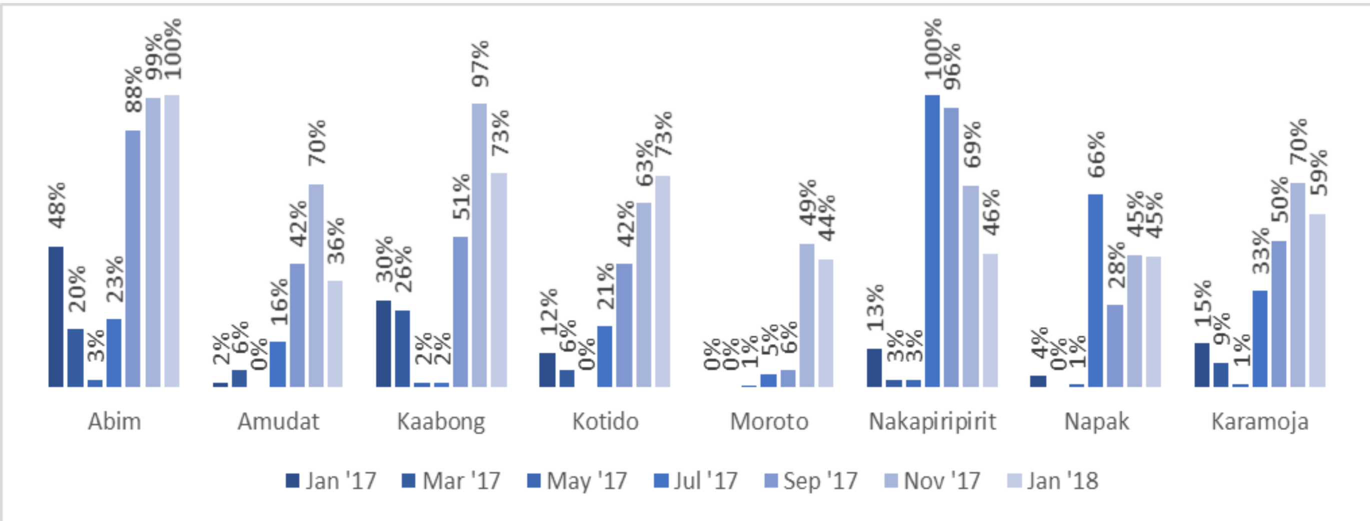
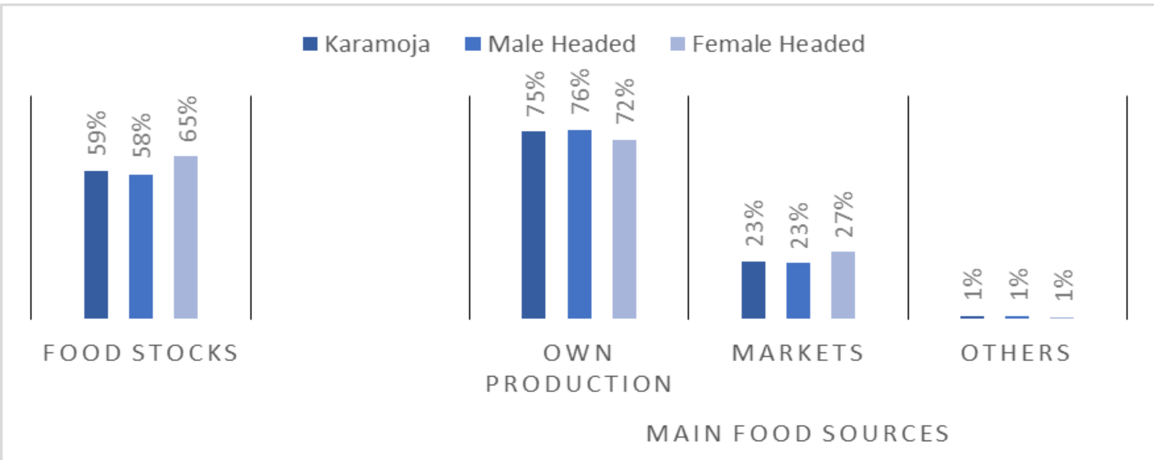



***Figure 2: Food stock levels and sources by gender***




*Source: WFP mVAM, January 2018*

*"To me, the food security situation is fair because last year's harvest was better, compared to the previous year, I think the situation would have even been much better if people had not feared cultivating due to the 2016 drought. Usually, when a dry spell is experienced, communities don't invest much the following planting season"* a Female respondent in Kangole, Napak

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## Food Consumption Score (FCS)

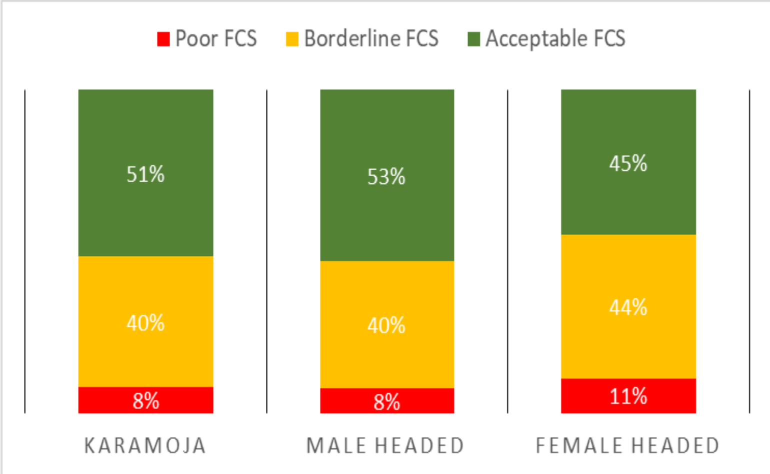
Half (51%) of the households in Karamoja had acceptable FCS in January 2018 , compared to 78 percent in November 2017 (**Fig 3**). The decline in the proportion of households with acceptable FCS was significant in Amudat (70%) and Kaabong (49%). About 53 percent of the male headed households had acceptable FCS, compared to 45% among female headed.

Comparing different food consumption groups, the proportion of households with food stocks was high among households with acceptable FCS (65%), compared to those with borderline FCS (57%) and poor FCS (41%). Generally, own production was the main source of food stocks for all food consumption groups, although high among households with poor FCS (94%), compared to 71% for those with acceptable FCS.

Household consumption of animal proteins and fruits remained low (**Fig 5**) in January, with households mainly consuming cereals followed by pulses and vegetables.

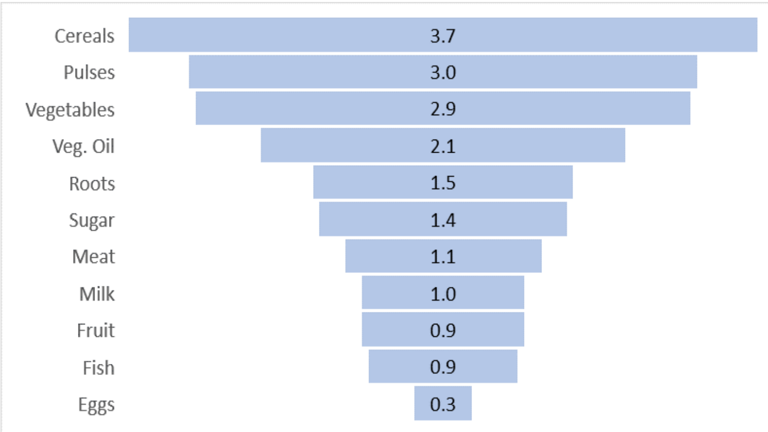
*"The consumption of certain foods is low, especially fish, due to low standards of living. People are poor, and can't afford to purchase certain food communities,"* a Male respondent in Lokolia, Kaabong

***Figure 3: Food Consumption Score by gender***



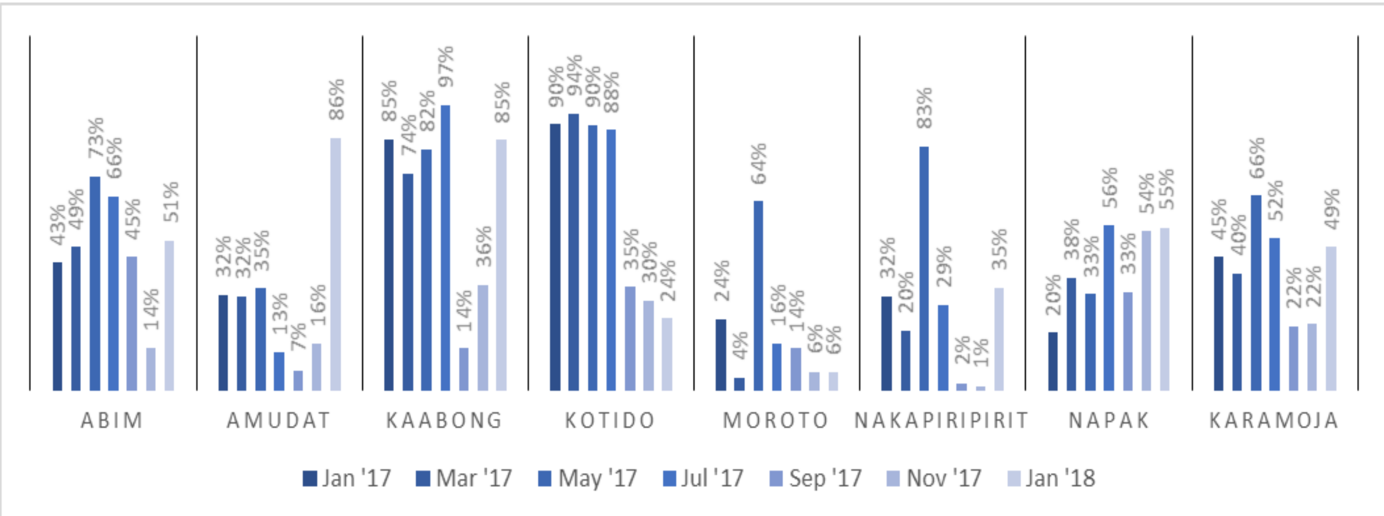

*Source: WFP mVAM, January 2018*

**Figure 5: Household Dietary Diversity**




*Source: WFP mVAM, January 2018*

***Figure 4: Trends on food insecure (Poor+Borderline FCS) households (Jan 2017-Jan 2018)***




*Source: WFP mVAM, January 2018*

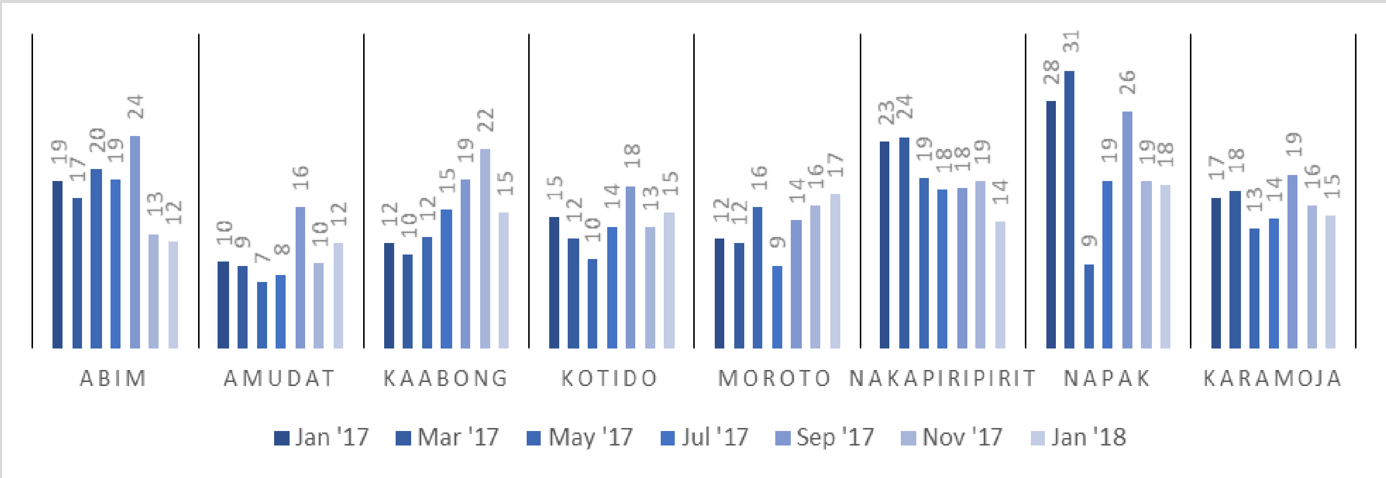

## Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI)

Since September 2017, the mean rCSI in Karamoja has been steadily reducing (**Fig 6**), with similar trends observed in Abim, Napak and Nakapiripirit. The decline in the mean rCSI could be attributed to a better harvest in 2017.

The mean rCSI in 2018, was slightly lower compared to the same period in 2017, indicating households were highly coping in 2017, possibly due to the below average harvest in 2016.

The main coping strategies used were: *consuming less preferred food*; *reducing the number of meals*, and *limiting portion sizes at meal times* (**Fig 7**). Use of negative coping strategies was slightly higher among female headed households compared to male headed.

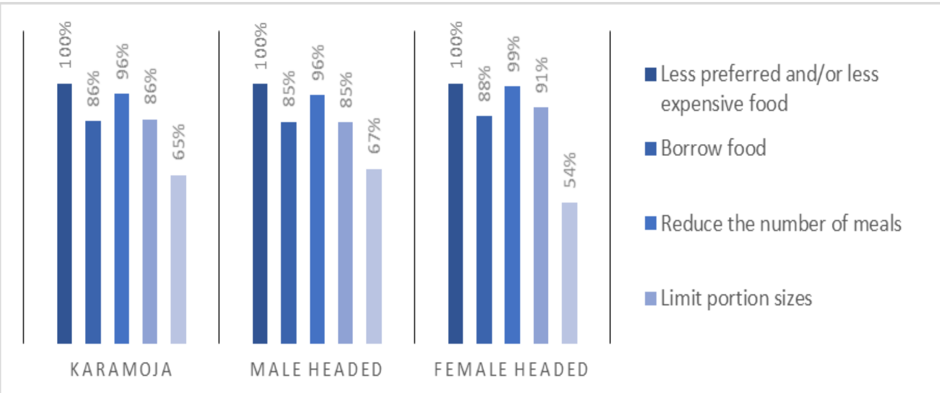
***Figure 6: Trends on the mean rCSI (Jan 2017-Jan 2018)***




*Source: WFP mVAM, January 2018*

*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.*

***Figure 7: Applied coping strategies by households***




*"At least food for consumption is available, much as people are consuming less so as to reserve it for the forth coming months,"* a Male respondent in Longaroi, Napak

*Source: WFP mVAM, January 2018*

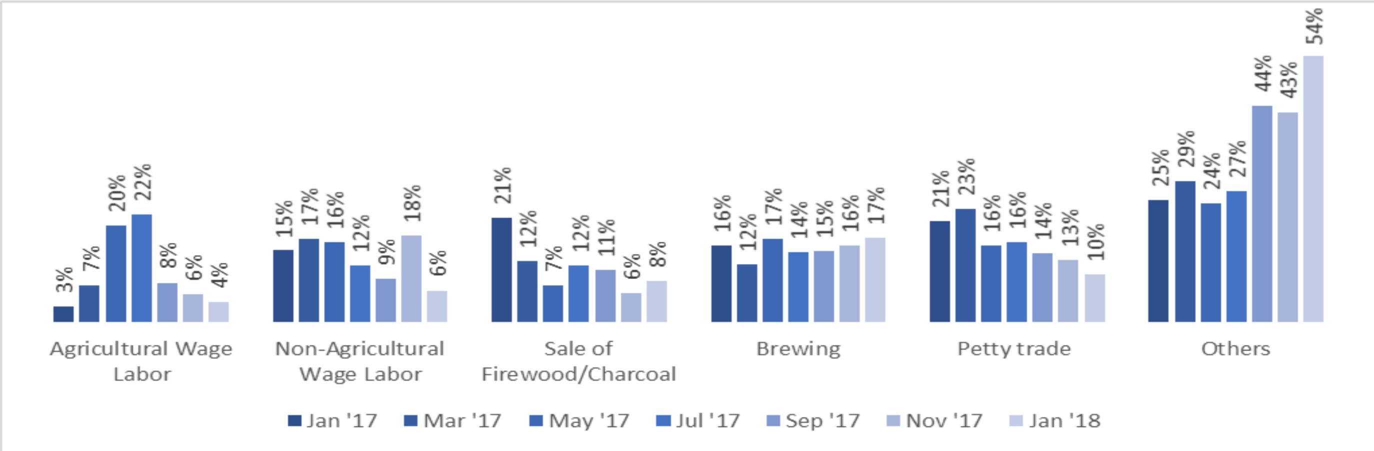
## Household income

In January 2018, the main income source was food sales (36%), followed by brewing (17%) and petty trading (10%). Both male and female headed households earned from the sale of crops (**Fig 9**), despite the proportion being higher among males. The proportion of households earning from brewing and sale of firewood was high among female headed households, and this is not surprising since both sources have a correlation with household roles spearheaded by women.



Furthermore, the proportion of households selling food increased from 13 percent in November 2017 to 36 percent in January 2018 (**Fig 10**). The increase was significant in 5 of the 7 districts of Karamoja, and this could be attributed to the opening of schools as parents send children to school.

***Figure 8: Trends on main sources of incomes (Jan '17-Jan '18)***




*Source: WFP mVAM, January 2018*

*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*

***Figure 9: Main income sources by gender***

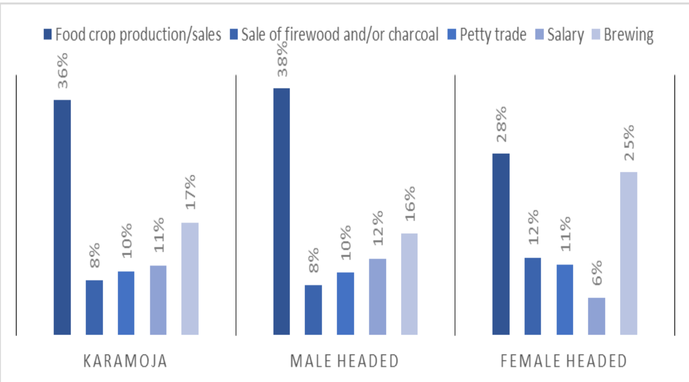
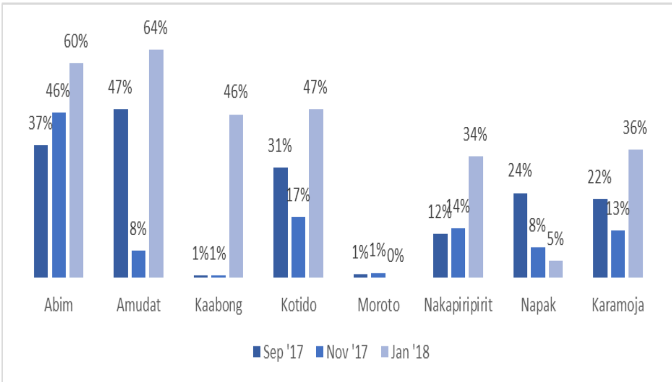



***Figure 10: Trends on selling food (Sep '17-Jan '18)***




*Source: WFP mVAM, January 2018*

*"At the moment, there is no agricultural related work, so, people in the community engage in income generating activities like sale of firewood and charcoal to earn some money and to buy some food supplements,"* a Female respondent in Kopoth, Kaabong

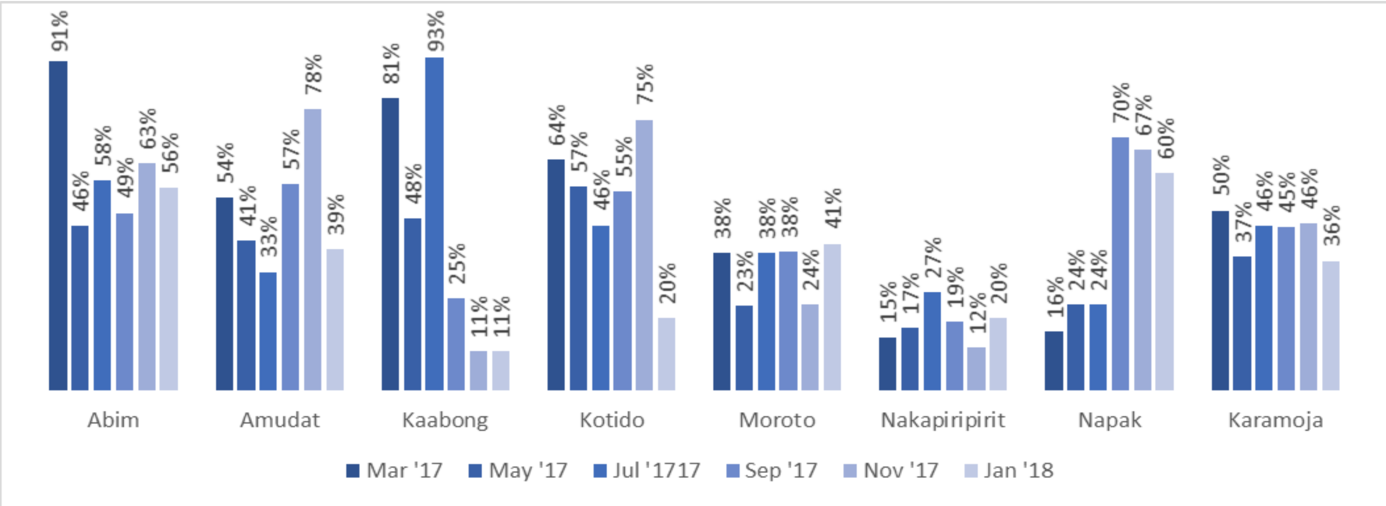
## Prevalence of debt

The overall debt prevalence declined from 46 percent in November 2017 to 36 percent in January 2018, with a significant decline observed in Kotido and Amudat (**Fig 11**). Among male headed households, 36 percent reportedly had debt, compared to 34 percent among female headed. Generally, the debt prevalence was lower in 2018, compared to the same period last year.

The main reasons for debt were: *to buy food* (29%) and *to pay school and/or education costs* (26%). The proportion of households borrowing to buy food and pay school was high among male headed households, compared to female headed, while those borrowing to cover health expenses were high among female headed households (**Fig 12**).

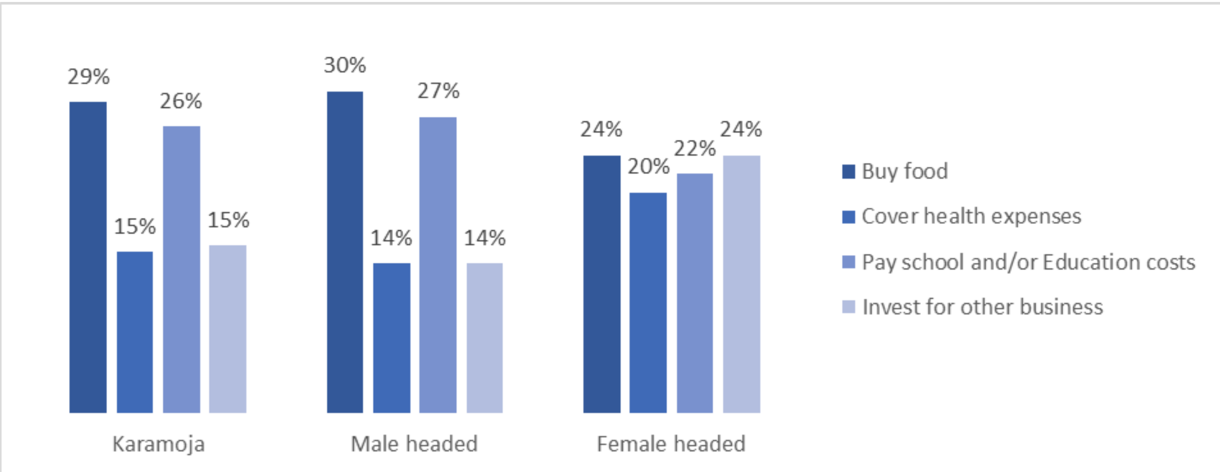
Similarly, the overall proportion of households borrowing to buy food remained stable in January 2018. However, reductions were obserevd in Kotido, Moroto and Napak since July, due to a better harvest in 2017.


**Figure 11: Trends on the debt prevalence (Jan 2017-Jan 2018)**



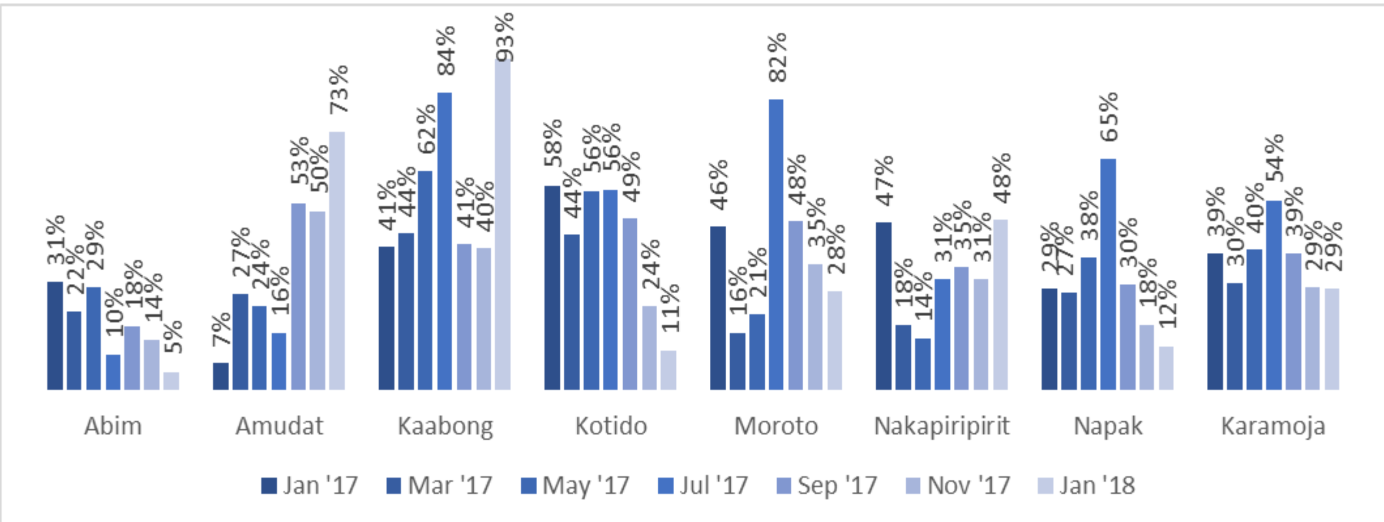

*Source: WFP mVAM, January 2018*

***Figure 12: Main reasons for borrowing by gender***




*Source: WFP mVAM, January 2018*

***Figure 13: Trends on borrowing to buy food (Jan 2017 to Jan 2018)***




*Source: WFP mVAM, January 2018*

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## Karamoja Market prices for staple food

The average retail prices for sorghum and maize grain have remained below 2017 and the long term (2013-2017) average. Compared to December 2017, the price for maize grain reduced by 11% in January, while sorghum price remained stable due to high supplies on the market.

The reduction in the retail price for maize grain was significant in Amudat (53%) and Moroto (14%). Similarly, sorghum price was below December levels by 17% and 7% in Moroto and Nakapiripirit respectively. The gradual price decline is attributed to an improved harvest during the September-to-October harvest season.

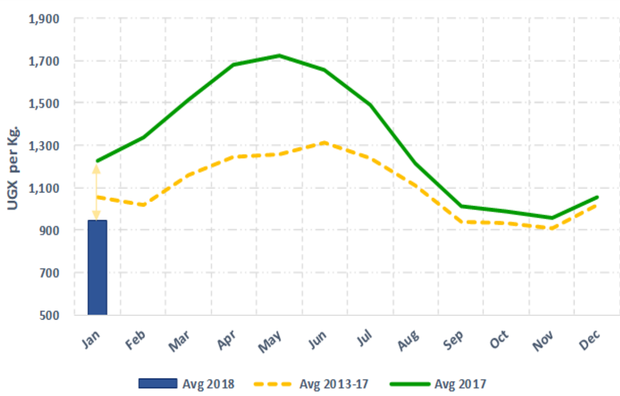
However, the retail prices are likely to increase in February, through March as food stocks are increasingly depleting. Results revealed that 59% of the households reported food stocks in January 2018, compared to 70% in November.

*"The food stock levels are fair, but depleting with current stocks expected to sustain families for the next two months, due to an outbreak of fall army worm and hailstorms during the planting season,"* a Female respondent in Tepeth, Napak

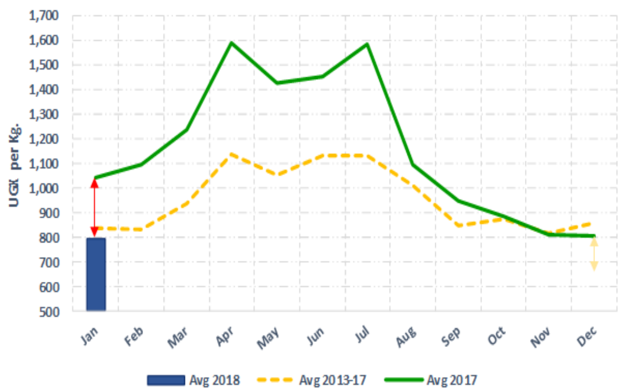
*"Food for consumption is available on markets, generally food is sold at relatively lower prices, making it affordable,"* a male respondent in Otalabar Abim

## Trends on food prices in Karamoja

### Maize Grain




### Sorghum Grain




*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.

***Figure 14: SFP admissions in Karamoja***

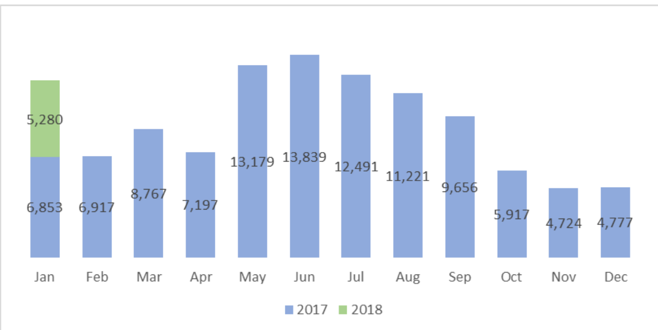
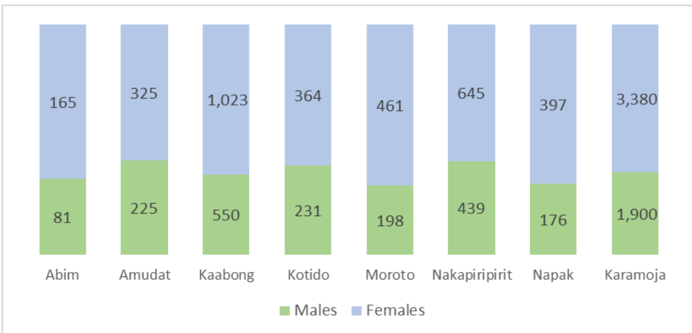



***Figure 15: SFP admissions by gender***




***Source: WFP's ProMIS***

In January 2018, the number of moderately malnourished individuals admitted to SFP , increasing by 556 from November 2017 (**Fig 14**). Compared to the same period last year, admissions were lower in January following a better harvest during the September-to-October season. **Figure 15** shows more females (3,380) than males (1,900) were admitted to SFP. Admissions to SFP are expected to continue increasing in February through March, due to the gradual depletion of food stocks.

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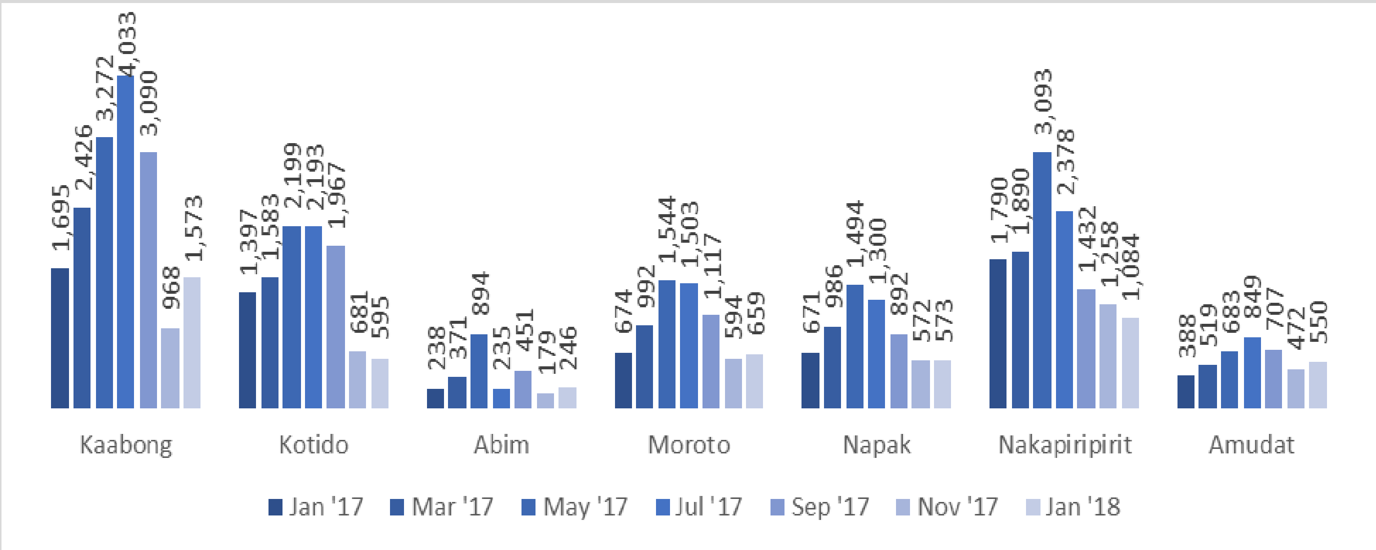
## Admission Trends by District January 2017-January 2018

In January, Kaabong (1,573) and Nakapiripirit (1,084) had the highest admissions to SFP, while Abim, Amudat and Napak continued to have the least admissions (**Fig 16**).

Despite a steady decrease in admissions since May 2017, there is an anticipated increase in March 2018, due to low stocks at household level and high food prices.

### *Figure 16: Trends on admissions to SFP by district*




***Source: WFP's ProMIS, January 2018***

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Korea International Cooperation Agency


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