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### UGANDA FOOD SECURITY MONITORING- Refugees & Host Communities



Food security levels between September 2017 and January 2018 generally improved particularly among refugees in Palorinya and Nakivale given the recently concluded harvest and the decline in staple food prices making food available and accessible. Food security level in the host community was generally better compared to refugee community.



There was a 14% decline in percentage of refugee households with at least one income earner. Food assistance (40%), food crop production/sales (22%) and agricultural wage labour (12%) were the main livelihood sources for refugees. Host community households were more likely to have at least one income earner than refugees. Debt prevalence increased by 20% with about 53% of refugee households undertaking debt mainly to buy food (41%), cover health expenses (25%) and pay for education(16%). Debt prevalence was higher in the host community (62%) than the refugee community (53%) and this was significantly different between the two groups.



The main difficulties faced by refugee households in accessing food were lack of funds to purchase food specifically in Rhino Camp, Rwamwanja and Bidi-Bidi; crop loss due to drought and high food prices. Refugee households applied food consumption coping strategies to food insecurity including; reducing number of meals taken per day (71%); reliance on less preferred food (67%) and limiting portion sizes at meal time (64%).



Photo: WFP/Claire Nevill

#### Situation Update

Out of the six settlements, Food security levels of refugees in Bidi-Bidi and Rwamwanja were not as good as the other settlements for all food security parameters measured. Analysis showed that host community households had good food security levels except in Kiryandngo and Rwamwanja. The low food security level in Rwamwanja and Kiryandongo could be because of the poor crop harvest as a result of the drought effect in addition to the pests and diseases. Households in the host community were less likely to apply food consumption coping strategies compared to the refugees.

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**Households Surveyed**  
1,019



**26% Host community**



**32% Female headed**



**30% Disabled or Chronically ill**



**25% Extremely Vulnerable**



**6 people per household**



**13% No formal education**

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### Food stock, livelihood and income sources

The proportion of refugee households with food stocks remained fairly high with nearly two-thirds of households (62%) having food stocks but with a slight decline from Sept/Oct 2017. The food stock levels could be attributed to the harvests in the previous season that are steadily getting depleted. The proportion of Extremely Vulnerable House-holds (EVH) and Female Headed Households (FHH) with food stocks was not significantly different from the average. Among the households in the host community, there was a decline in proportion of households with food stocks except for Kiryandongo and Palorinya. This is probably due to the decline in stocks from harvest and absence of alternative food sources with a significant proportion depending on own production (83%). The major source of food stocks remained food aid (59%) even though dependency on own production for food stocks increased by an average of 21% across the settlements except in Nakivale.

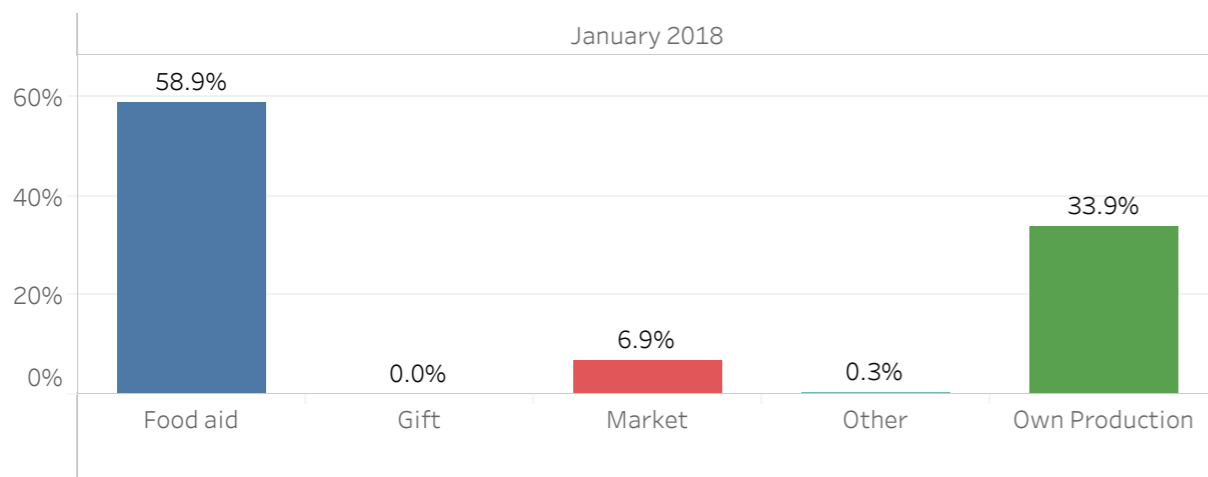
About 41% of refugee households reported having at least one income earner in the household although this was slightly lower than the Sept/Oct 2017 baseline survey by 24%. This can be explained by the decline in opportunities for agricultural wages following the end of the agricultural season. About 82% of host community households had at least one income earner. The main sources of income in the host community were: Food crop production/sales (56%) with the majority in Rwamwanja (74%) and Palorinya (62%); non-agricultural wage labour (14%) and petty trade (10%).

Over half of the refugee households (61%) had alternative sources of livelihood beyond food assistance with the reliance on crop production/sales increasing from 17% in the Sept/Oct 2017 baseline to 23%. The most commonly reported sources of livelihood that sustained refugee households in the 30 days before the assessment included food crop production/sales (23%), agricultural wage (12%) and petty trade (9%). The main sources of income among households in the host community were: Food crop production/sales (56%) with the majority in Rwamwanja (74%) and Palorinya (62%); non-agricultural wage labour (14%) and petty trade (10%).

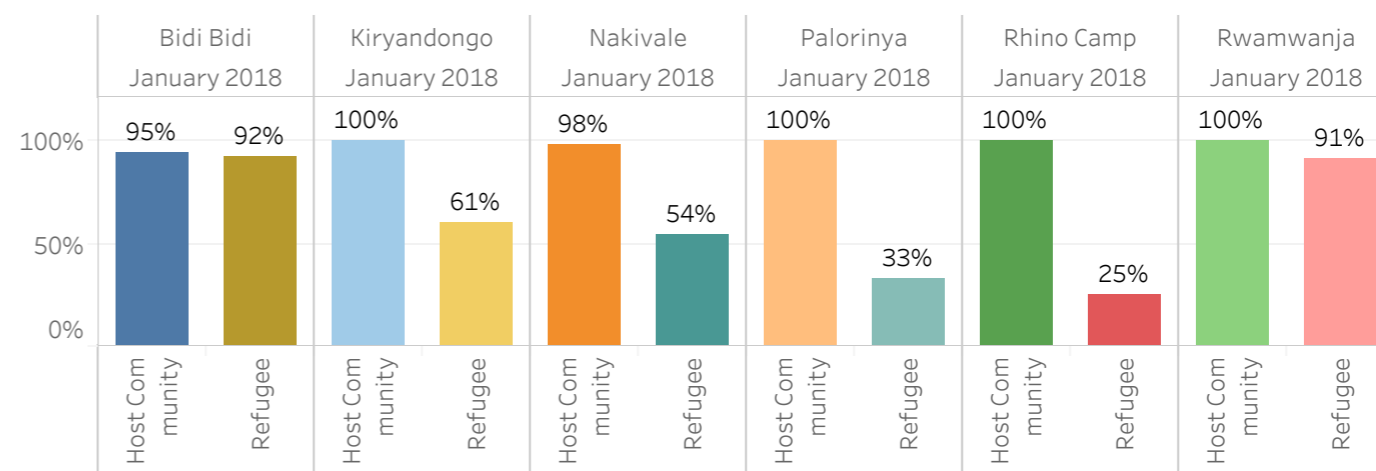
About 54% refugee households had incurred debt, a 21% increase from the Sept/Oct 2017 baseline and debt prevalence was highest in Nakivale (78%) & lowest in Palorinya (30%). EVH (50%) and FHH (47%) had below average debt prevalence. The main sources of debt were relatives (28%) and traders (27%). The main reasons for debt were to: buy food (51%); cover health expenses (29%) & pay for school (16%). Refugee households borrowing to buy food increased by 13% from the Sept/Oct 2017 baseline except for Palorinya and Rwamwanja.

Debt prevalence was significantly higher among host community (62%) than the refugee community (54%) especially in Nakivale (78%) and Rwamwanja (75%). Unlike the refugees majority of households in host community (63%) obtained their credit from credit institutions suggesting access to financial services. Majority obtained debt to; pay for school (32%) and less buy food (17%) or cover health expenses (14%).

Household sources of food stocks



% of Households with alternative sources of Livelihood

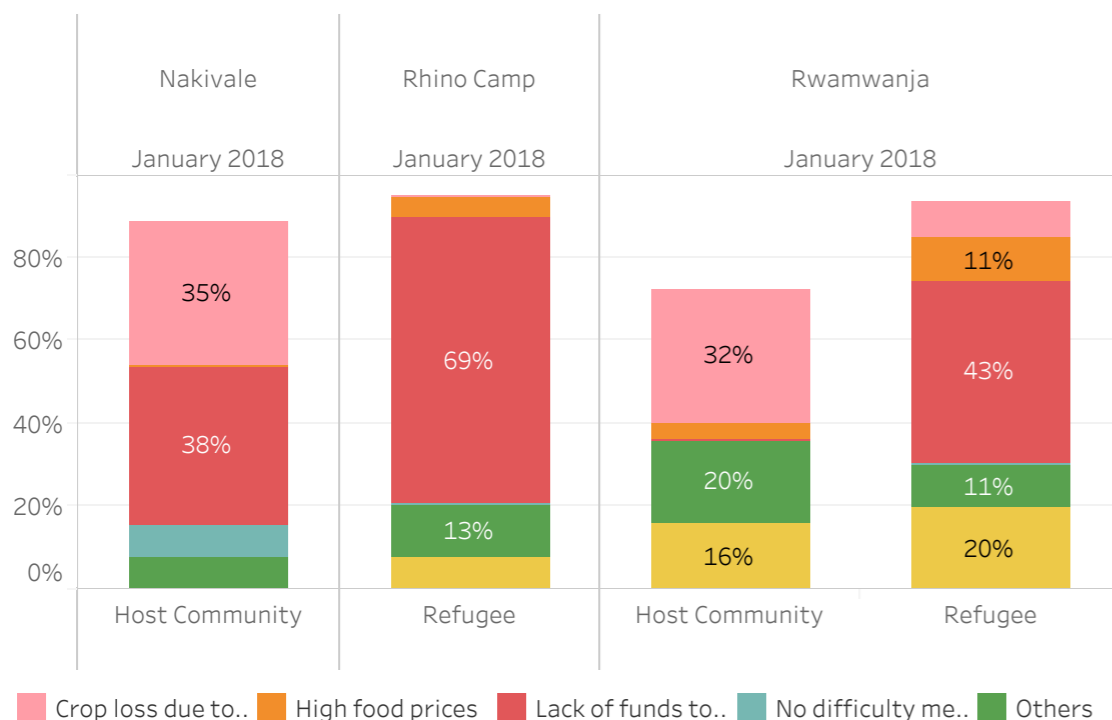


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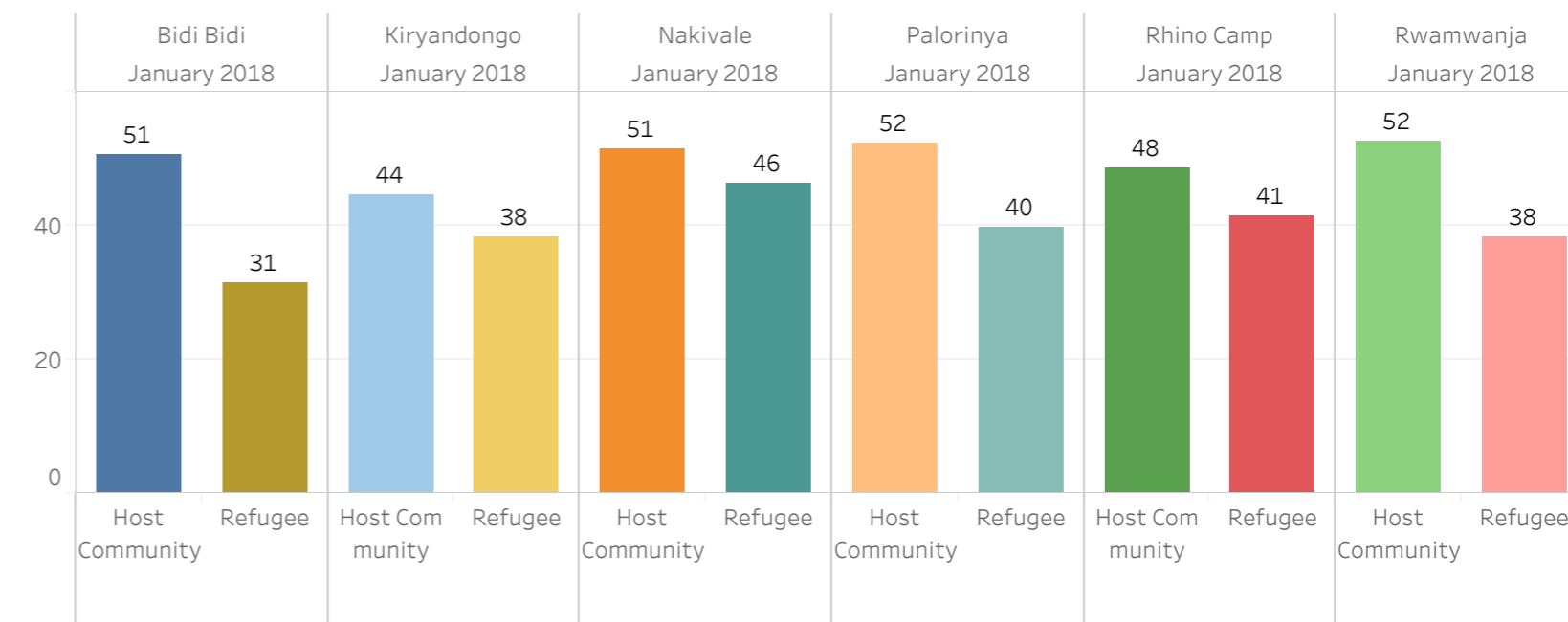
### Food consumption Coping Strategy Index (rCSI)

The main difficulties faced by refugees were; lack of funds to purchase food (48%), sickness (10%) and high food prices (7%). The lack of funds to purchase food was most common in Rhino Camp and among EVH. The main difficulties faced in accessing food among host community households were; lack of funds to purchase food (28%), crop loss due to drought (25%) and high food prices (10%). These were similar to the difficulties faced by refugees in accessing food. In terms of difficulties faced per settlement, Bidi-Bidi, Kiryandongo and Nakivale were mainly affected by lack of funds to purchase food. At the same time, Nakivale had slightly more households (8%) having no strain in getting food. The rCSI assesses whether there has been a change in the consumption patterns of a given household by measuring the frequency and severity of the behaviours households engage in when faced with shortages of food or finances to buy food. Levels of application of food consumption coping strategies remained fairly stable with negligible change in the coping strategy index among refugees except for; Kiryandongo and Rwamwanja settlements. This indicated a fair food security situation. The most commonly applied food consumption coping strategies were: reducing number of meals taken per day (71%) with the high est in Rhino camp (75%); reliance on less preferred food (67%) with the highest in Rwamwanja (46%); and limiting portion sizes at meal time (64%) with the highest in Rhino Camp (74%).

Main difficulties in accessing food in the last 30 days before the surveys



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### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

#### UGANDA

**Anders Petersson**

Head, Analysis Monitoring & Evaluation  
Anders.Petersson@wfp.org

**Hamidu Tusiime**

Food Security and Market Analyst  
hamidu.tusiime@wfp.org

**Amina Mubuka**

Programme Associate  
amina.mubuka@wfp.org

#### HQ

**Arif Husain**

Director, OSZA  
arif.husain@wfp.org

**Jonathan Rivers**

Head, mVAM  
jonathan.rivers@wfp.org

#### RESOURCES

**mVAM Monitoring web:**

[http://vam.wfp.org/sites/mvam\\_monitoring/](http://vam.wfp.org/sites/mvam_monitoring/)

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