

Food Security & Nutrition Assessment

Karamoja, July 2016

Gender Supplement



Enabling Factors for Food Security

Demographic characteristics

Female household heads were significantly more likely not to have attained any formal education and were more than twice as likely to be either disabled or chronically ill as male household heads (**Table 1**). Given the demonstrated influence of these demographic factors on household food security and child nutrition status, it is essential that systematic mechanisms to target female headed households with these characteristics are developed across programmes in the region. Priority should be given to Moroto and Napak districts which were found to have the highest percentages of female headed households (60% and 55% respectively).

Household asset ownership

Overall, female headed households were significantly less likely to own any of the enumerated household assets compared to their male counterparts, earning a much lower household asset score (**Table 1**). In particular, female headed households were less likely to own a radio or cell phone. **Critically, this lack of access to information systematically**

reduces the ability of women to receive messages on food security early warning as well as agricultural advisories and represents a significant inequity between male and female headed households.

		Male Headed Households	Female Headed Households
Household head demographic characteristics	Disabled or chronically ill	7%	17%
	No Education	62%	83%
	Participated in at least one development programme	48%	49%
Household asset ownership	Household Asset Score (Mean)	4.7	3.8
	Own Radio	14%	9%
	Own Cellphone	22%	13%
	Own Axe	56%	52%
	Own panga	75%	71%
	Own Hoe	93%	88%
	Own Oxplough	18%	12%
	Own Seed store	22%	15%
Food availability	Own Food store	31%	25%
	Have no Livestock	48%	59%
	Have access to agricultural land	92%	87%
Access to food	Have Food Stocks	28%	17%
	Have no income earner	24%	47%
	Food crop production/sales	17%	10%
	Agricultural wage labor	24%	12%
	Sale of firewood/ charcoal	19%	25%
	Have debt	38%	32%
	Food Expenditure Share	58	64
> 50% of food consumed from markets	79%	70%	
Utilization	Acceptable FCS	48%	46%
	Borderline FCS	37%	32%
	Poor FCS	15%	22%
Stability	Dietary Diversity Score (Mean)	4.7	4.6
	rCSI (Mean)	18.0	19.0
Overall Food Security Classification	Did not adopt livelihood coping strategies	31%	40%
	Food Secure	14%	12%
	Marginally Food Secure	39%	36%
	Moderately Food Insecure	37%	39%
Severely Food Insecure	11%	13%	

Table 1: Comparison between male and female headed households

Access to agricultural land

Findings suggest equal potential to practice agriculture with similar access to agricultural land among male and female headed households.¹ Nonetheless, it is evident that **female headed households are less likely to own livestock, a factor which contributes to food insecurity**, and at the time of the survey had no stocks compared to their male counterparts.

Household production decisions

Results show that women are more likely to participate in decision making related to crop production than livestock production. Indeed, an almost equal percentage of males and females make decisions on crop production (i.e. when, what, how and where to plant, weed, harvest, etc.), though joint decision-making is limited, observed in only 28% of households (**Figure 1**). In contrast, decision making on livestock production (i.e. which animals to keep, when to buy or sell livestock and livestock products, etc.) are predominantly made by men, and to a much lesser extent by women (13%) or jointly by both spouses (19%). **Findings suggest inequality in management of household productive assets which is a potential contributor to poor food security outcomes.**

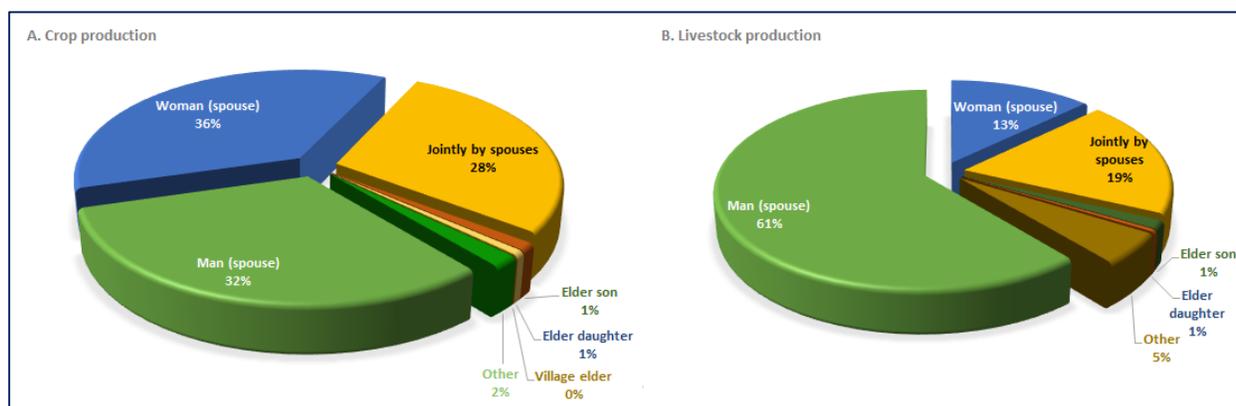


Figure 1: Intra-household decision making on crop and livestock production

Income

Findings indicate significantly lower incomes among female headed households given that up to 47% had no income earner compared to 24% among male headed households (**Table 1**). Moreover, among households with income earners, **female headed households were more dependent on the sale of firewood/charcoal compared to male headed households** which also depend on agricultural wage labor and food crop production/sales.

Dependence on markets

A high percentage of both male and female headed households was found to depend on markets for food consumed (79% male headed; 70% female headed). However, given relatively lower incomes among female headed households, the finding that female headed households dedicate proportionately more of household expenditure to food (64%) vis-à-vis essential non-food commodities is not surprising and indicates significantly low access to food among these households.

¹ It should be noted that access to agricultural land is not secure for Ugandan women who own a small fraction of land in Uganda.

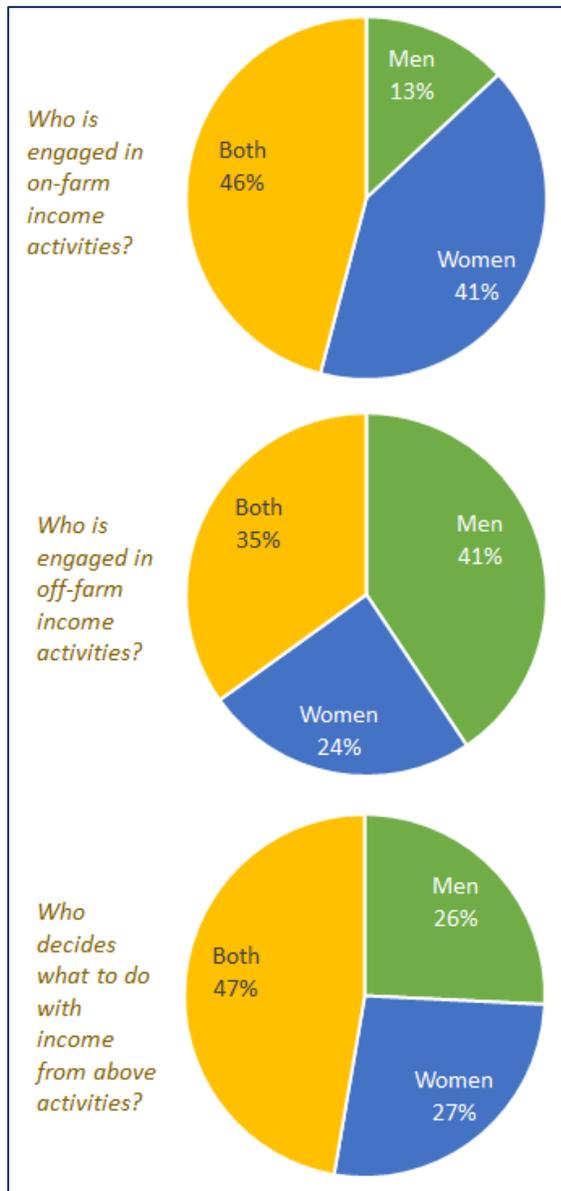


Figure 2: Household decision making

Intra-household decision making on income generation and utilization

Findings show that men are less involved in on-farm income activities compared to women, but are more involved in off-farm income activities (**Figure 2**).

It was, however, interesting to note that decisions on how to use incomes generated from these activities are, for the most part, made jointly by men and women, and equal proportions were made individually by either men or women. This is a positive finding for gender equality, although there is clearly room for improvement.

Utilization

Data analysis showed no significant difference between male and female headed households with regard to food consumption score. However, significant difference was found with regard to dietary quality (dietary diversity score). Female headed households had a significantly lower dietary diversity score than male headed households suggesting that **children in female headed households are less likely to consume quality diets, predisposing them to malnutrition.**

Stability

Findings indicate that female headed households had a significantly higher coping strategy index compared to male headed households (**Table 1**). This is probably linked to their comparatively lower incomes and resulting stress acquiring food for household consumption.

Gender Dimension of Malnutrition

Results from the assessment show that boys were more likely to suffer malnutrition measured against the WHZ, WAZ, and HAZ anthropometric indices (**Figure 3**). Since child malnutrition has been shown to correlate to vulnerability and adult productivity, there is a likelihood malnourished boys will remain vulnerable and less productive in adulthood. Furthermore, findings suggest boys may be more likely to suffer illness given the relationship between malnutrition and health.

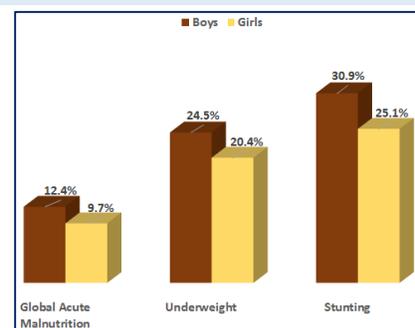


Figure 3: Prevalence of malnutrition

Gender-Based Vulnerability Analysis

WFP analysis of food security and nutrition in Karamoja has established the following predisposing factors to food insecurity:

- Disability and/or chronic illness
- Lack of formal education
- Absence of income earners in the household
- Gender of the household head

From the findings, **female headed households whose heads i) have no education and ii) have no income earners should be regarded as highly vulnerable to food insecurity and targeted in interventions.**

Analysis shows that up to 15% of households meet this criteria as shown in **Figure 4**. The majority of these households are located in Moroto (*Nadunget, Tapac & Katikekile* sub-counties); Amudat (*Loroo & Karita* sub-counties); Kaabong (*Kawalakol & Kathile* sub-counties); and Napak (*Lopeei* sub-county). Therefore, food security interventions should necessarily target these sub-counties and should be gender sensitive.

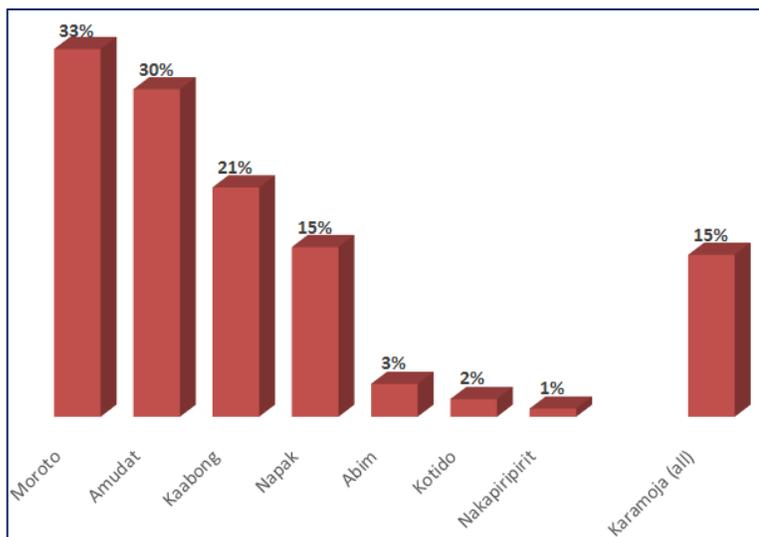


Figure 4: Female headed households with no education and no income earner

For more information related to analysis, data collection, tools and analysis software, please contact the AME Unit, WFP Uganda:

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