Highlights	Methodology	Livelihood and income sources	Food consumption score and Coping strategies	Contacts

UGANDA FOOD SECURITY MONITORING- Refugees & Host Communities

There was an overall improvement in household food security levels from January 2018 particularly among refugees in Kiryandongo and Bidi-Bidi given the available food stocks from food assistance, Nov/Dec 2017 crop harvest and the stable staple food retail prices. The proportion of refugee households with food stocks remained fairly high and stable with nearly two-thirds having food stocks. However, Rwamwanja reported a significant decline in proportion of refugee households with food stocks. Dependency on food aid increased on average by 15% while dependency on own production for food stocks decreased by 14% among the refugees in all settlements.

Food security level in the host community was generally better compared to refugee community.

Food assistance (48%), food crop production/sales (14%) and agricultural wage labour (10%) remained the main livelihood sources for refugees similar to January 2018. Host community households were more likely to have at least one income earner than refugees.

Debt prevalence increased by 5% with about 58% of refugee households undertaking debt mainly to buy food (51%), cover health expenses (29%) and pay for education(16%). Debt prevalence was higher in the host community (72%) than among the refugee community (53%) and there was a significant different between the two groups.

Photo: WFP/Claire Nevill

The main difficulties faced in accessing food were lack of funds to purchase food specifically in Rhino Camp, Rwamwanja and Nakivale; followed by decline in food aid and loss of employment.

Levels of application of food consumption coping strategies remained fairly stable with negligible change. Most frequently used food consumption coping strategies were; relying on less preferred food (77%); limiting portion sizes at meal time (76%) and restricting consumption by adults (56%) .

Situation Update

Generally, food security parameters measured indicated a slight improvement in food security levels among refugees in all the settlements except for refugees in Rwamwanja and Palorinya. Analysis showed that host community households had an im-provement in food security levels compared to the refugee community and January 2018 survey.

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Households Surveyed
1,000

31% Host community

32% Female headed

26% Disabled or Chronically ill

18% Extremely Vulnerable

6 people per household

12% No formal education

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Food stock, livelihood and income sources

The proportion of refugee households with food stocks remained stable with the overall percentage of households (63%) with food stocks similar to Jan 2018 survey. Nakivale, Palorinya & Bidi-Bidi had the highest perentage of household with food stocks at 77%, 75% & 74% respectively. However, Rwamwanja reported a significant decline in proportion of households with food stocks by 29%. Also, the proportion of Extremely Vulnerable Households1 (EVH) and Female Headed Households (FHH) with food stocks was not significantly different from the overall average.

Overall there was a slight increase in proportion of host community households with food stocks except for Kiryandongo and Rwamwanja. This is probably due to the decline in stocks from harvest and absence of alternative food sources in Palorinya and Rwamwanja. Palorinya had the highest number of households with food stocks (74%). Food aid remained the key source of food stocks among the refugees with an average increase in proportion of households depending on food aid by 15%. This could be attributed to the decline in food stocks from November/December 2017 harvests. January to March is normally dry season with majority of individuals clearing land, ploughing and planting in preparation for the March-June rainfall season.

About 45% of refugee households reported having at least one income earner in the household although this was slightly higher than Jan 2018 by 4%. Rwamwanja settlement had the highest proportion of households (92%) with income earners given that it is among the oldest settlements while Palorinya had the lowest proportion of households with income earners. This can be explained by the fact that the sources of income are minimal and available especially to those who arrived earlier.

About 78% of households in the host community households had at least one income earner although this was a decline from the January 2018 assessment by 4%.

There was an overall increase in the proportion of refugee house-holds with an alternative source of livelihood beyond food assistance by 9% except for Bidi-Bidi and Nakivale settlement. This can be explained by available agriculture labour opportunities from land preparation activities for the next crop production. The reliance on crop production/sales as a source of liveli-hood decreased to 14% from 23% in the January 2018 as households relied on last season harvests. Among the host community households, the main sources of income were: Food crop production/sales (55%) with the majority in Nakivale (70%) and Kiryandongo (66%); salary (15%); non-agricultural wage labour (6%) and petty trade (6%).

Approximately 58% of refugee households had incurred debt, a 4% increase from the January 2018. Debt prevalence was highest in Rwamwanja (85%) & lowest in Palorinya (33%). About 58% FHH had debt while 60% of EVH had debt. The main sources of debt among the refugees were traders (58%) and the average amount of money borrowed ranged between UGX 20,000 and UGX 100,000. The main reasons for debt among refugees were to: buy food (51%); cover health expenses (29%) and to a limited extent pay for school (16%). Households in Rwamwanja (86%) & Nakivale (52%) incurred debt to buy food; Households in Palorinya (60%) mainly obtained debt to cover health expenses while households in Kiryandongo mainly obtained debt to pay for school fees (33%).

Debt prevalence was significantly higher among host community (72%) than the refugee community (58%). Unlike the refugees, majority (62%) obtained their credit from credit institutions suggesting access to financial services.At the same time, majority obtained debt to; pay for school (32%) and less buy food (17%) or cover health expenses (14%).

Household sources of food stocks
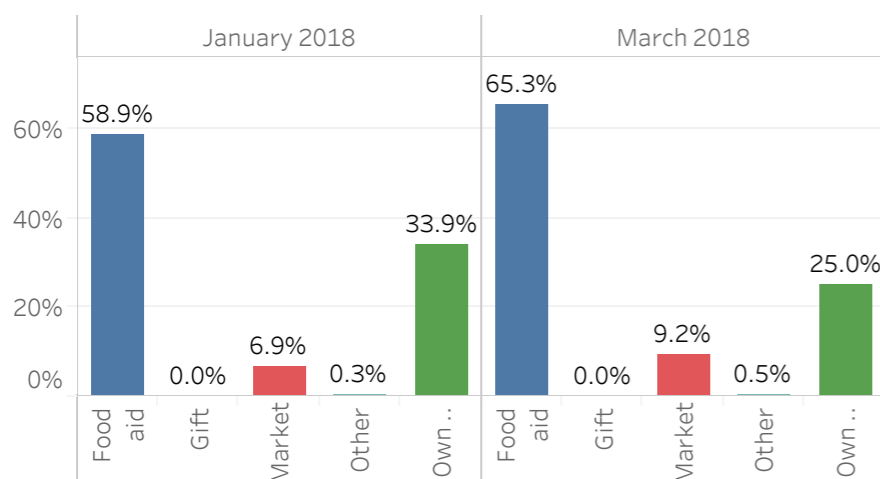
% of Households with alternative sources of Livelihood
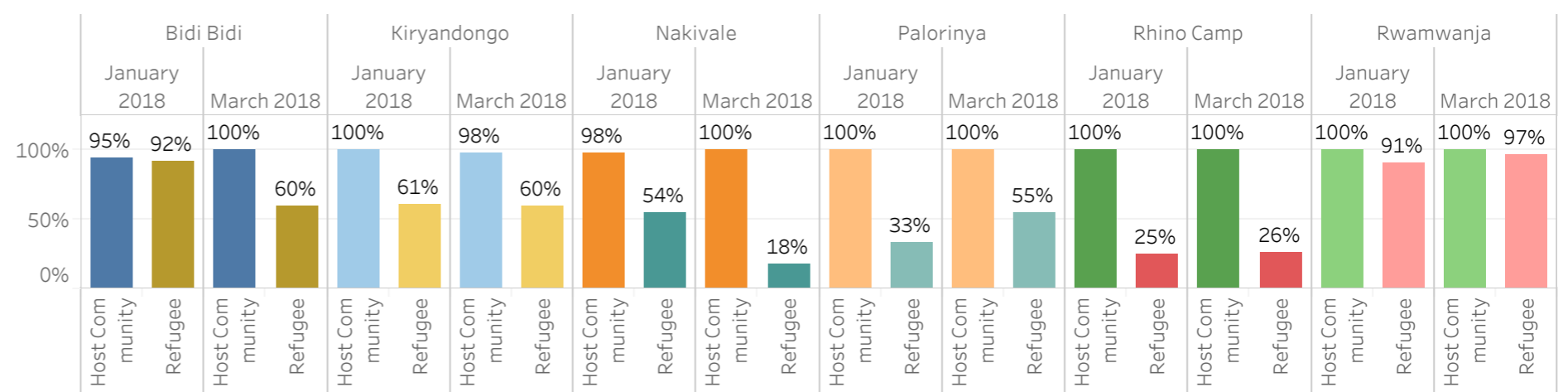
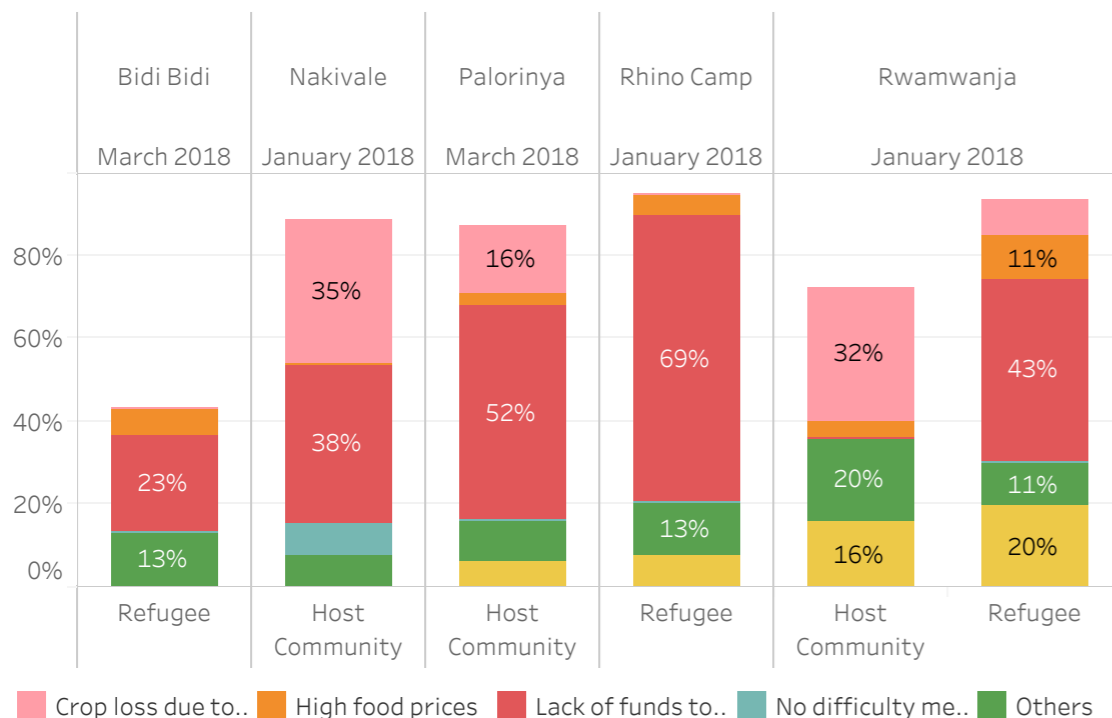| Highlights	Methodology	Livelihood and income sources	Food consumption score and Coping strategies	Contacts

Food consumption Coping Strategy Index (rCSI)

Approximately 98% of refugees suffered at least one shock with the main difficulties faced being; lack of funds to purchase food (39%), decline in food aid (25%) and loss of employment/reduced salary (12%). The percentage of refugee households lacking funds to purchase food declined by 9%. In addition, the lack of funds to purchase food was most common in Rhino Camp.

The main difficulties faced in accessing food among host community households were; lack of funds to purchase food (44%), crop loss due to drought (25%) and high food prices (8%). These were similar to the difficulties faced by refugees in accessing food. In terms of difficulties faced in the host community per settlement, Rhino Camp (53%) had the highest proportion of household's affected by lack of funds to purchase food. At the same time, Nakivale (38%) was mainly affected by crop loss due to drought, pests and diseases.

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 behaviors households engage in when faced with shortages cf food or finances to buy food. Levels of application of food consumption coping strategies among refugees remained fairly stable with negligible change in the mean coping strategy index except for Rwamwanja settlement. This indicated a fairly stable food security situation. The coping strategies applied included: relying on less preferred food (77%); limiting portion sizes at meal time (76%) and restricting consumption by adults (56%). The above most commonly applied food consumption coping strategies were mostly in Rwamwanja settlement indicating household stress. Households in the host community were less likely to apply food consumption coping strategies compared to the refugees.

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

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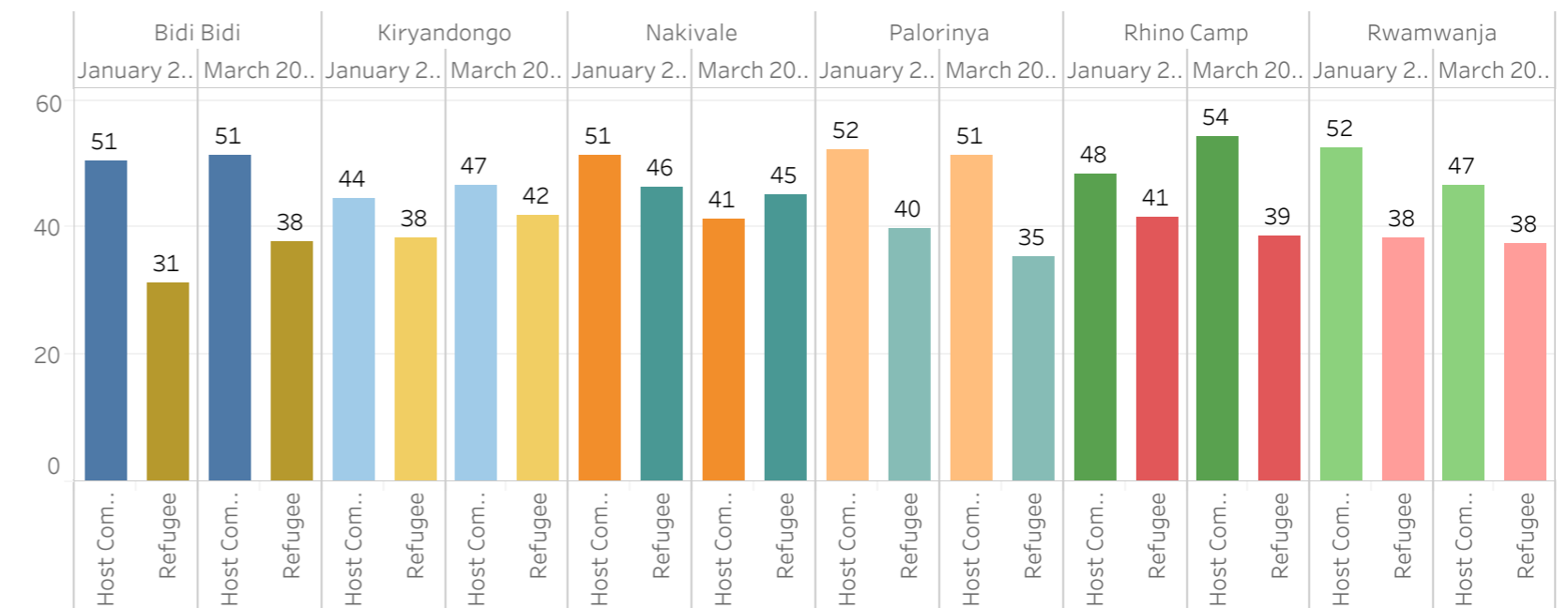
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