WFP Uganda

Mobile Vulnerability Analysis & Mapping (mVAM)

Karamoja Region Early Warning Bulletin—September 2018

Key Highlights

♦ Overall, 27% of the sampled households in Karamoja had food stocks in September. Moroto (47%) and Kaabong (37%) had the highest. Compared to same period last year, the overall stock levels fell by 24%, due to a delayed harvest this year;

♦ 64 percent of the overall households had acceptable food consumption, more so in Moroto (86%), Amudat (80%) and Nakapiripirit (70%). Overall, there was a decline by 24% compared to 2017;

♦ In September, 16 percent of the overall households were highly coping. The proportion of households that were highly coping was high in Kotido (24%) and Kaabong (23%). The main food coping strategies employed were *consuming less preferred foods* and *limiting portion sizes at meal times*;

♦ 37 percent of the overall households reportedly sold productive assets to meet their household food requirements, with Amudat and Abim having the highest;

♦ Total admissions of moderately malnourished individuals to supplementary feeding programmes reduced from 5,962 in August, to 4,601 in September. More females (2,964) than males continue to be admitted.

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.

Because the sample size was relatively small, as m-VAM is in a pilot stage in Uganda, estimates are surrounded by a larger-than-average sampling error.

This mVAM bulletin is based on the data collected between 1st-9th September 2018.

♦ A total of 855 households were interviewed and 28% of these households were female headed;

♦ 21 percent reported that they receive assistance from world food programme (WFP);

♦ Overall, 29 percent of the households are enrolled in the extremely vulnerable households (EVHs) programme and 23% of the household were headed by either a disabled or chronically ill individual;

♦ The average age of the household head remained at 39.

Outlook for October to November 2018

In spite of the severe damage on crops especially sorghum by flooding and water logging in Karamoja, the proportion of households with acceptable food consumption in October through November will remain fairly stable as household stocks will be replenished from the ongoing harvest. Similarly, application of negative food coping strategies is expected to decline. Majority of the households will continue engaging in unsustainable income sources such as sale of firewood and/or charcoal to earn incomes to supplement their household food requirement.

Recommendations

♦ With a low harvest expected, there is need to monitor the food security situation during the projected period;

♦ There is need for sensitizing communities on food management, especially in Abim and Nakapiripirit. 28 percent and 17 percent of the households in Abim and Nakapiripirit, respectively sold crops to earn incomes in September.

Food stocks

Since January, the overall food stock levels have been gradually falling. In September 2018, the stock levels was at 27% (Fig 1), with Moroto (47%), Kaabong (37%) and Abim (33%) having the highest.

Food stock levels were similar among male and female headed households (Fig 1). Results showed that food stock levels was at 38% among households that receive WFP assistance.

Compared to the same period in 2017, the proportion of households with food stocks fell by 24%, with similar trends observed across all districts except Moroto. The decline was significant in Nakapiripirit (74%), Abim (55%) and Kotido (32%), and this is attributed to a delayed harvest following heavy rains during the planting season that disrupted planting. In Moroto, there was an increase by 42%.

Figure 2 shows, households mainly derived their foods from own production (49%) and markets (48%). Majority (86%) of households in Moroto relied on market purchases, while in Abim, Amudat and Nakapiripirit, own production was a main source of food.

In September, 51% of the households reportedly lacked funds to purchase food (**Fig 3**).

Available food stocks are expected to last for 43 days. Stocks will last minimally longer among male headed households (44 days), compared to 39 days for their female counter parts. However, food stocks are expected to replenish from the ongoing harvest.
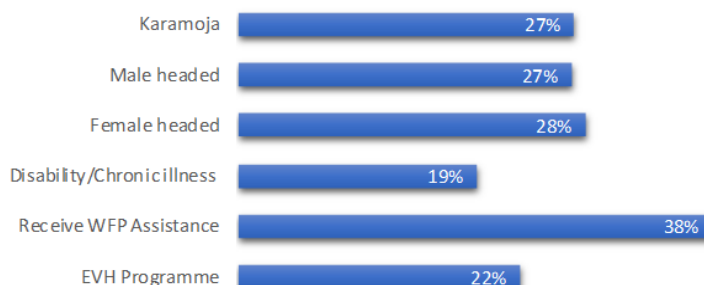
Figure 1: Food stock levels

Karamoja	27%
Male headed	27%
Female headed	28%
Disability/Chronic illness	19%
Receive WFP Assistance	38%
EVH Programme	22%

Figure 2: Main sources of food stocks

Own Production · Markets · Others

	Own Production	Markets	Others
Karamoja	49%	48%	2%
Male headed	47%	51%	2%
Female headed	62%	35%	3%
Disability/Chronic illness	61%	37%	2%
Receive WFP Assistance	27%	68%	5%
EVH Programme	44%	53%	4%
Napak	69%	31%	0%
Nakapiripirit	74%	26%	0%
Moroto	8%	86%	6%
Kotido	58%	33%	8%
Kaabong	42%	56%	0%
Amudat	75%	25%	0%
Abim	81%	19%	0%
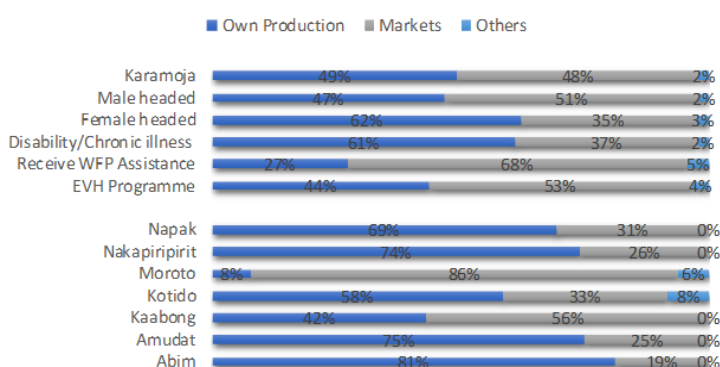
Figure 3: Main difficulty in accessing food

No funds to purchase food	51%
Floods/heavy rains	12%
Crop loss due to drought/pests & diseases	8%
Sickness/ Disease	6%

Figure 4: Trends on households with food stocks (2017-2018)

> "This year, crops were damaged by floods, leading to food shortage" a Respondent from Alerek, Abim
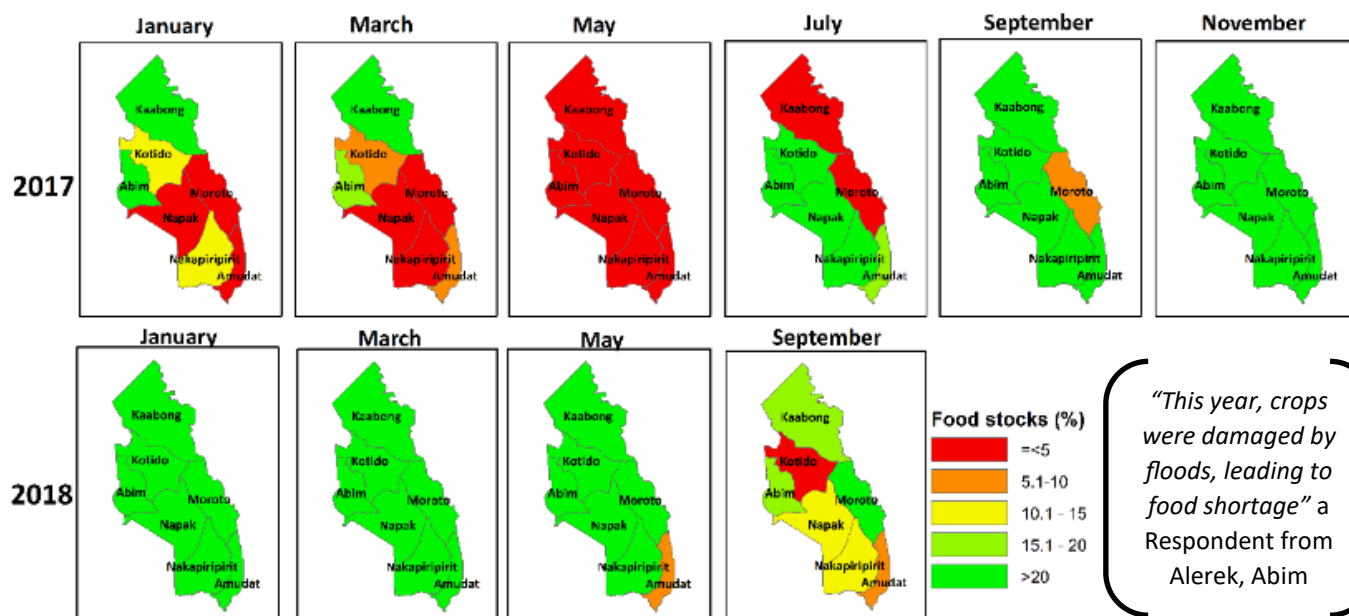
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Household Food Consumption

Overall, 64 percent of the households had acceptable food consumption, with 28% and 9% having borderline and poor food consumption, respectively (**Fig 5**). Moroto (86%), Amudat (80%) and Nakapiripirit (70%) had a significant proportion of households with acceptable food consumption.

Following a delayed harvest this year, the overall share of households with acceptable food consumption reduced by 14% compared to the same period in 2017. A similar trend was seen across districts, more so in Kaabong and Nakapiripirit by 44% and 27%, respectively.

Figure 5 shows male and female headed households had a similar share of households with acceptable food consumption. The proportion was above the sub-regional average among households receiving WFP assistance and those on EVH programme.

Cereals, vegetables and fats/oil continue to be the main consumed foods (**Fig 6**). The consumption of vegetables and fruits fell significantly during the month compared to May 2018. However, in spite of low consumption of milk and dairy products, there was an increase compared to May, due to the presence of animals at homes.

Generally, the food security situation is likely to remain fairly stable through November due to the ongoing harvest across Karamoja.
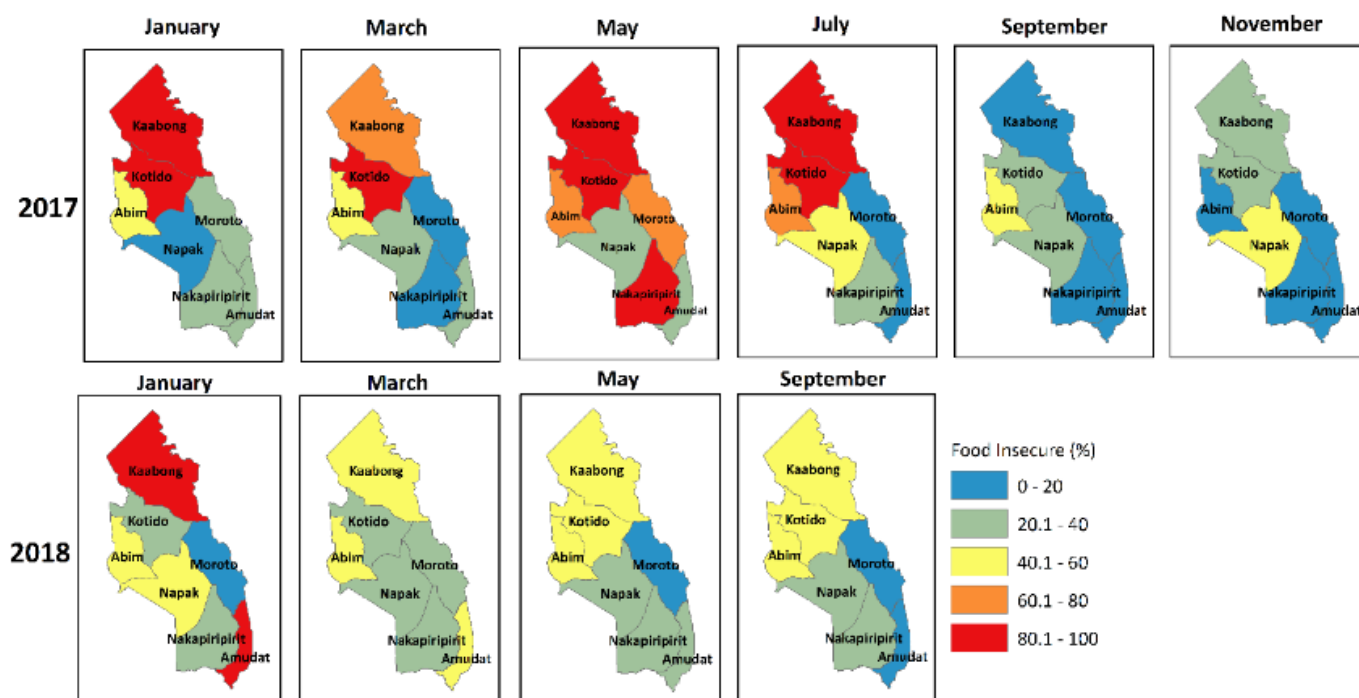
Figure 5: Household food consumption by gender and vulnerability, September 2018
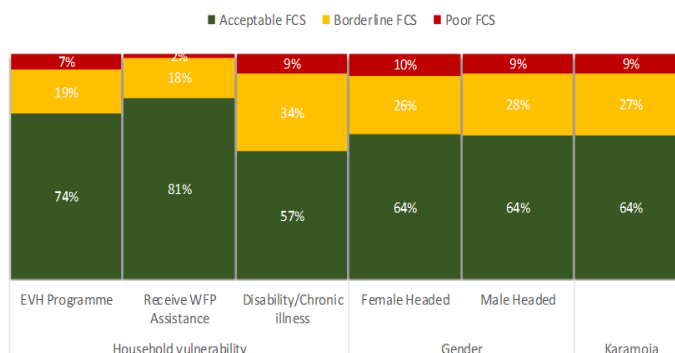
Figure 6: Household Dietary Diversity, September 2018
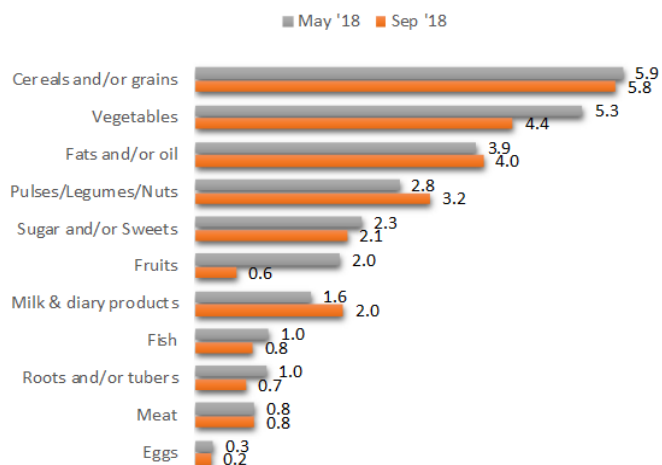
Figure 7: Trends on households with poor or borderline food consumption (2017-2018)

Household food coping

In September, 16% of the overall households were highly coping, with a higher proportion in Kotido (24%) and Kaabong (23%) (**Fig 8**).

Among male and female headed households, the proportion of households that were highly coping were similar. Levels were above the sub-regional average for households with disabled and/or chronically ill heads and those on EVH programme.

The mean rCSI was at 18, revealing a decline by 11% since May. The decline was higher in Amudat (30%) and Abim (23%). In Kaabong, there was an increase by 15%, indicating households are increasingly getting stressed in meeting their food requirements.

Compared to September 2017, the mean rCSI fell by 56% and 30% in Abim and Napak, respectively. In Kaabong and Moroto, it remained above by 19% (each) and this could be due to reduced supplies at household level following a delayed harvest this year.

The main food coping strategies employed by households were: *consuming less preferred foods* and *limiting portion sizes at meal times*. Overall, there was less application of food coping in September compared to May (**Fig 9**).

Figure 10 reveals that 37% of the overall households reportedly sold productive assets to meet their food needs, with Amudat and Abim having the highest. Sale of productive assets was lower among females, due to low ownership and access. The proportion among households with disabled and/or chronically ill heads was higher than the sub-regional average.
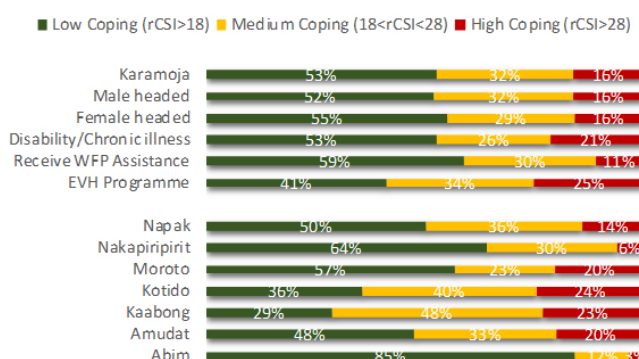
"We cannot afford some foods from the markets like beans, we have resorted to gathering foods from the bush. Others only take milk and posho" a Male respondent in Loburin, Amudat

Figure 8: Households food coping

Figure 9: Applied coping strategies
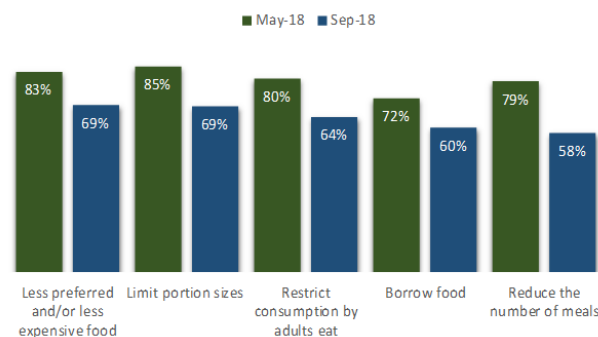
Figure 10: Sold productive assets to buy food

Figure 11: Trends on the mean rCSI (Jan 2017-May 2018)

Source: WFP mVAM, Sept 2018
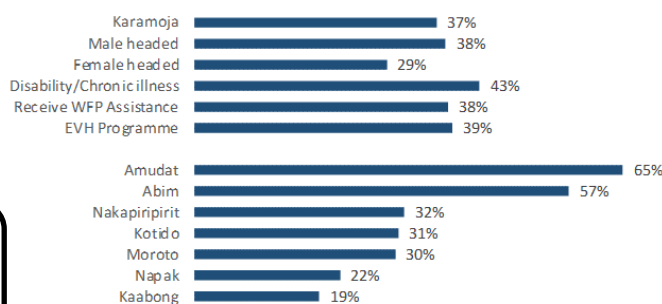
The Reduced Coping Strategy Index (RCSI) measures food insecurity by considering the activities undertaken by households to manage food shortages. More information on rCSI can be found at http://resources.vam.wfp.org/node/6.
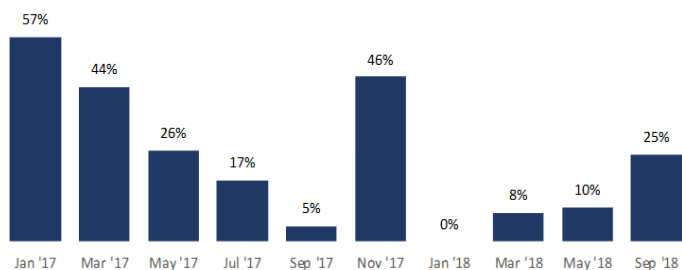
Household incomes

In September, households continued to derive their incomes from unsustainable income sources. The overall main sources of incomes were: *non-agricultural wage labor* (19%), *agricultural wage labor* (18%) and *sale of firewood* (13%) (**Fig 12**). Sale of firewood and/or charcoal was high in Kaabong (25%) and Nakapiripirit (25%), which is a threat to the environment.

Female headed households mainly earned from agricultural wage labor, while their male counter-parts derived incomes from non-agricultural wage labor. This is not surprising as farm related work is predominantly for women.

Figure 13 showed 11% of the overall households reportedly sold food crops to earn incomes, more so in Abim and Nakapiripirit. The proportion was slightly higher among females.

In Amudat, 25% of the households sold livestock (**Fig 14**), revealing an increase compared to the same period in 2017. This is an indication that households are stressed in meeting their food needs.

Figure 12: Main income sources

Source: WFP mVAM, September 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 14: Trends on sale of livestock in Amudat (2017-2018)

Figure 13: Food crop sale

Debt prevalence

The overall debt prevalence was at 73% (**Fig 15**), but markedly in Abim (85%), Moroto (84%) and Napak (81%).

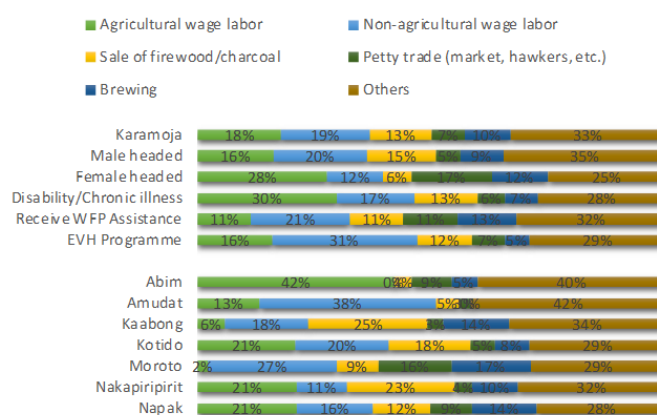Female headed households were slightly more indebted than male headed households (**Fig 15**).

Figure 16 also shows that the debt prevalence among households with disabled and/or chronically ill heads and those that receive WFP assistance was above the sub-regional average.

Compared to the same period in 2017, the overall debt prevalence was higher by 27%. The increase was significant in Nakapiripirit (48%), Moroto (45%) and Kaabong (43%).

In September, households mainly borrowed *to buy food* (44%), *meet education costs* (22%) and *invest in other businesses* (16%) (**Fig 16**).

The top most reason for borrowing among female and male headed households was *to pay education cost* (39%) and *to buy food* (47%), respectively.
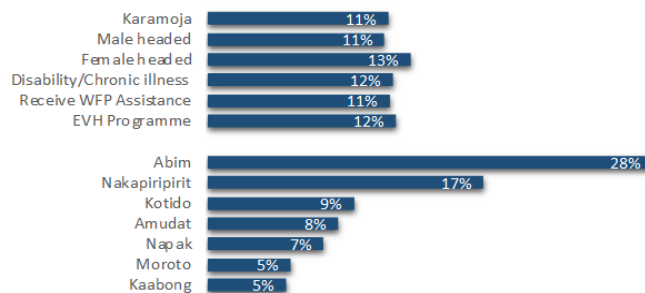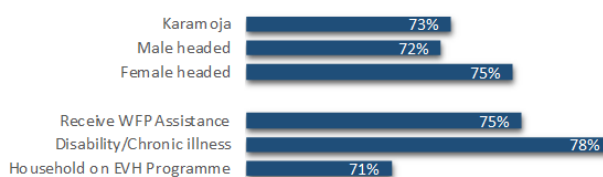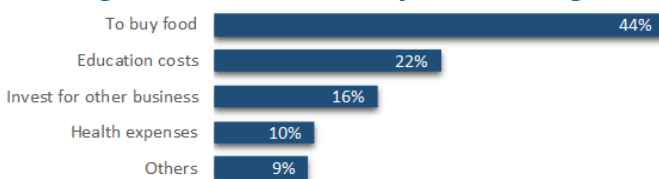
Figure 15: Debt prevalence

### Figure 16: Main reasons for borrowing

Other reasons for debt include: buy agricultural inputs, buy or rent land, buy or rent animals, buy or rent or renovate a flat/house, pay for social events/ceremonies, vehicle purchase & settling court case

The overall household dependence on debt for food was at 44%, with Amudat, Kaabong and Moroto having the highest share of households (**Fig 17**).

Household dependence on debt for food was high among male headed households compared to their female counterparts.

Figure 17: Household dependence on debt for food

Figure 18: Trends on the debt prevalence (2017 to 2018), by district
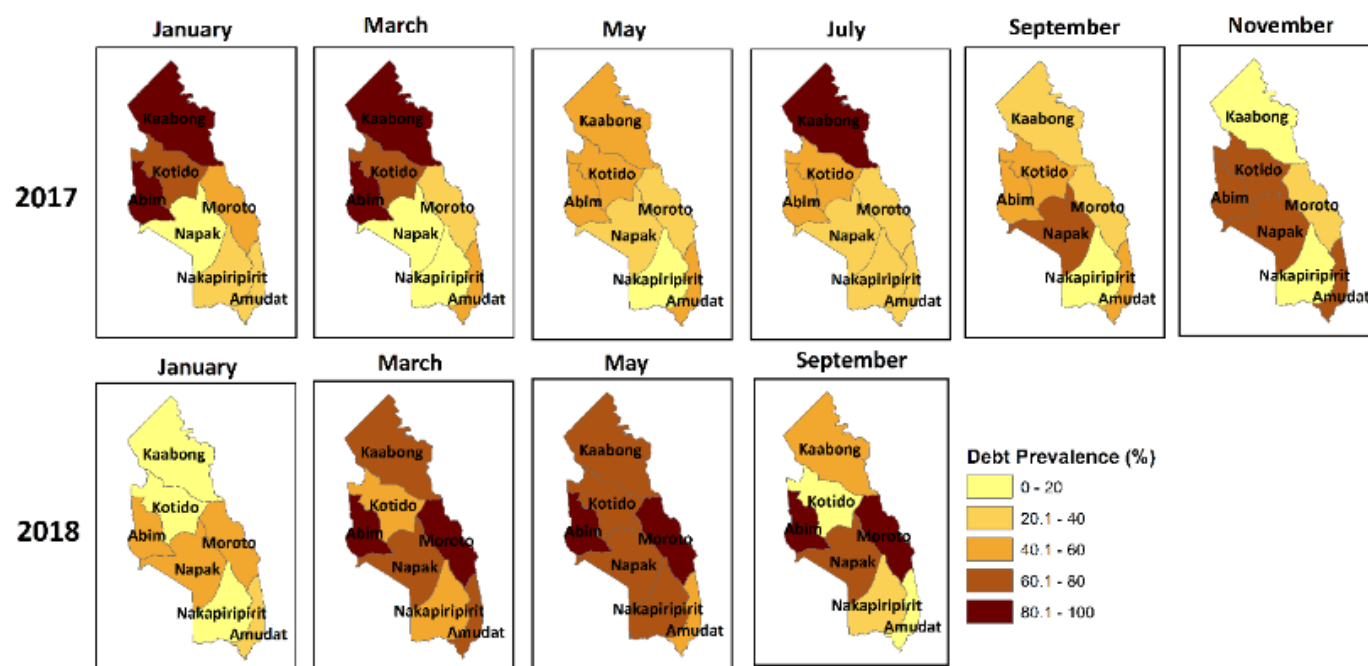
Karamoja Market prices for staple foods

As of August, the overall average retail price for maize grain and sorghum declined by 43% and 39%, respectively, compared to July, due to the ongoing harvest across the region. Declines in the retail prices were observed in all major markets in Karamoja, but markedly in Moroto and Napak.

Compared to the same period in 2017, maize grain and sorghum retail prices were below by 46% and 40%, respectively. Overall, the decline in the prices for maize grain and sorghum was significant in nearly all major markets of Karamoja.

In September through October, prices for staple foods are likely to remain stable and/or slightly fall due to supplies from the ongoing harvest.

Figure 19: Trends on food prices in Karamoja

Maize Grain

Sorghum Grain
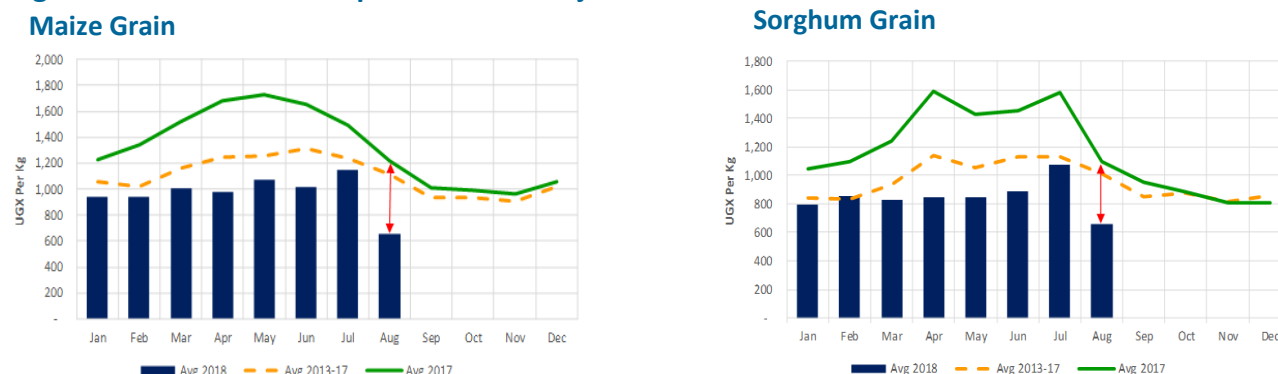
Source: WFP's ProMIS

Supplementary Feeding Admissions (SFP)

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 20: SFP admissions in Karamoja
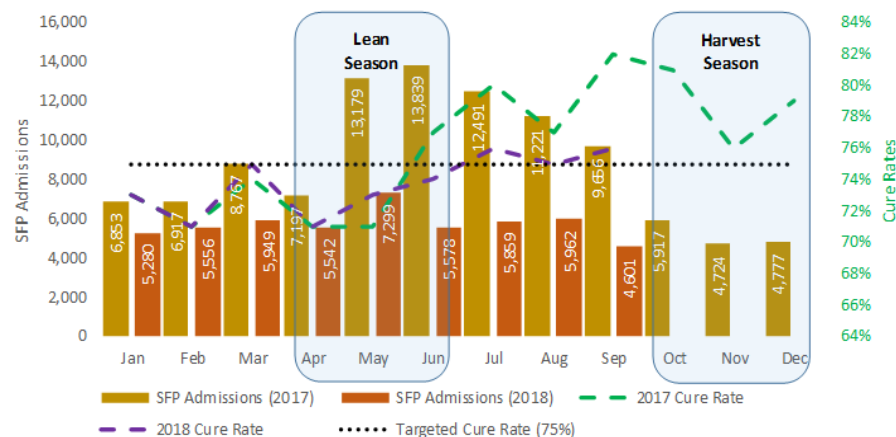
Since June 2018, admissions to SFP have been fairly stable. In September 2018, a total of 4,601 of moderately malnourished individuals were admitted to SFP (**Fig 20**). More females (2,964) compared to males were admitted at SFP. Overall admissions to SFP remained lower than 2017 by 52%, and this could be due to a favorable harvest towards the end of 2017. In August, the cure rate was at 76%.

Source: WFP's ProMIS

Admission Trends by District January 2017-August 2018

In September, Kaabong (1,137) and Nakapiripirit (1,216) had the highest number of moderately malnourished individuals admitted to supplementary feeding programmes (**Fig 21**). Total admissions to SFP continue to be relatively lower in Abim, Moroto and Napak.

Compared to 2017, admissions have remained lower and this could be due to a favorable harvest towards the end of 2017. In October through November, admissions to SFP are likely to remain fairly stable and/or slightly fall due to the ongoing harvest across the region. Similarly, admissions to SFP will continue to be lower than 2017 levels

Figure 21: Trends on admissions to SFP by district
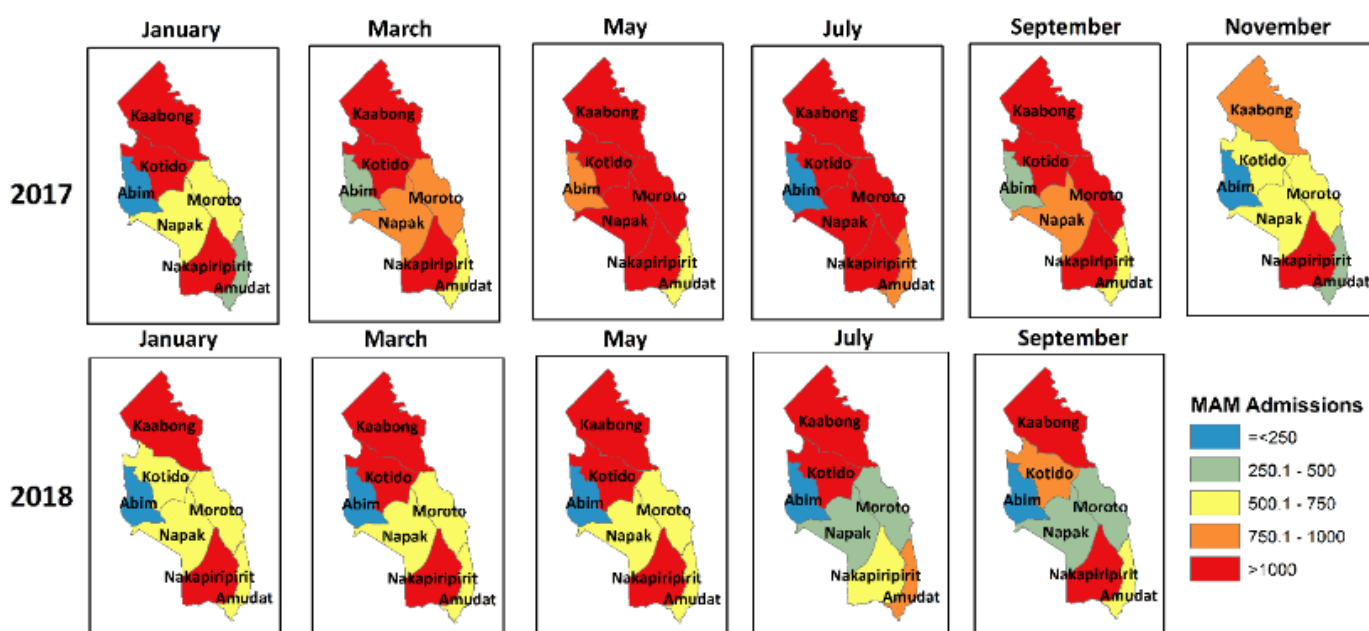
"People move from one place to another to look for food, leaving children alone at home unattended to" A Female respondent in Morulem, Abim

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