

Highlights	Methodology	Livelihood and income sources	Food consumption score and Coping strategies	Contacts
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UGANDA FOOD SECURITY MONITORING- Refugees & Host Communities



Food security levels among refugees slightly improved from March 2018 particularly among refugees in Bidi-Bidi given the available food stocks from food assistance and the stable although high staple food retail prices. Basing on the Food Consumption score, the proportion of food insecure households generally declined except for Nakivale. Food security level in the host community was generally better compared to refugee community. The proportion of refugee households with food stocks declined with only half having food stocks and the significant decline was in Rhino Camp. Dependency on food aid remained the main source of food stocks among refugees.



Food assistance (50%), food crop production/sales (9%) and agricultural wage labour (8%) remained the main livelihood sources for refugees. Results indicate a decline in dependency on food assistance from the march 2018 survey by 2%. Host community households were more likely to have at least one income earner than refugees. Debt prevalence was still high with over half of refugee households (56%) undertaking debt mainly to buy food (58%), cover health expenses (23%) and pay for education(9%). Debt prevalence remained higher in the host community (68%) than among the refugee community (56%) and there was a significant different between the two groups.



The main difficulties faced in accessing food were lack of funds to purchase food; followed by crop loss due to drought and high food prices. Levels of application of food consumption coping strategies slightly increased with a significant increase in percentage of refugee households reducing number of meals eaten in a day compared to March 2018. Most frequently used food consumption coping strategies among refugees were; relying on less preferred food (78%) and reducing number of meals eaten in a day (70%). New admissions to SFP in March continued to drop except for Nakivale and Rwamwanja. In April, new admissions to SFP continued to decline except for Kiryandongo, Bidi-Bidi and Rwamwanja.



Photo: WFP/Hugh Rutherford

Situation Update

There was a slight improvement in food security levels among refugees in all the settlements in May with only 28% food insecure down from 35% in March except for refugees in Rwamwanja and Nakivale. Host community households also had a slight improvement in their food security levels even though the proportion of households with food stocks declined. Food security levels among the host community households were also better compared to the refugee community and the March 2018 survey.

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Households Surveyed
1,012



28% Host community



34% Female headed



32% Disabled or Chronically ill



14% Extremely Vulnerable



6 people per household



14% No formal education

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Food stock, livelihood and income sources

The proportion of refugee households with food stocks generally declined except for Bidi-Bidi. About 51% of refugee households had food stocks compared to 63% of refugee households with food stocks in March 2018. Bidi-Bidi had the highest proportion of refugee household with food stocks at 84% while Rwamwanja had the lowest proportion of refugee households with food stocks at 8% and this is probably because households depleted food stocks & most receive food aid in form of cash and depend on markets from time to time to buy food. Also, the proportion of Extremely Vulnerable Households (EVH) and Female Headed Households (FHH) with food stocks was not significantly different from the overall average with 56% and 49% having food stocks in that order. Also 73% of the households had less than one bags of 50kg of maize and/or sorghum and they were expected to last on average 12 days from the day of the survey.

Among the households in the host community, there was a significant decline in proportion of households with food stocks. This is probably due to the decline in food stocks from harvest and absence of alternative food sources. Palorinya had the highest number of host community households with food stocks (64%).

Food aid remained the key source of food stocks among the refugees with 50% of refugee households depending on food aid. This could be because of depletion of food stocks from November/December 2017 harvests. In addition, March to June is usually a planting season with the majority clearing land, ploughing and planting for the March-June rainfall season. In May beneficiaries are waiting to harvest for extra food sources. Nonetheless, Rwamwanja still had the lowest percentage of refugee households meeting their basic food needs from food aid (60%) with some proportion of refugee households meeting their basic food needs through a combination of own food production (20%) and markets (20%). This is because food aid is received as cash for some beneficiaries who depend on markets and coupled with fairly stable retail market prices and the beneficiaries have alternative income sources.

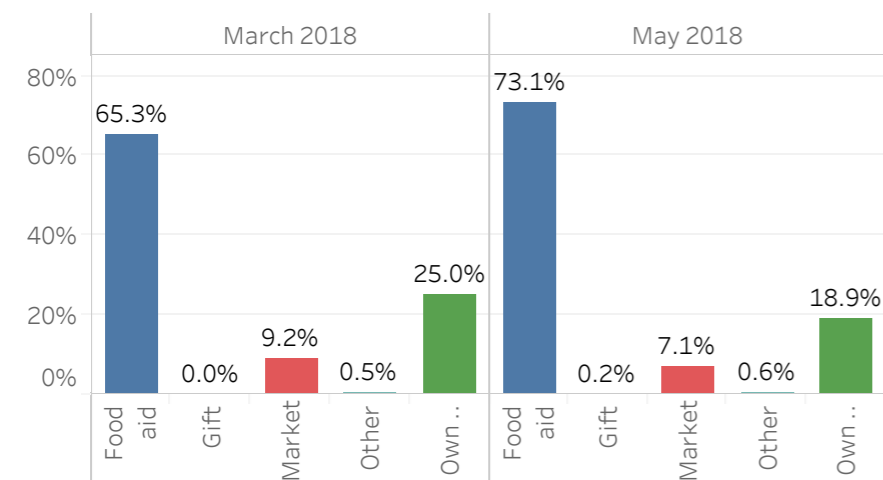
About 45% of refugee households reported to have at least one income earner in the household similar to March 2018 except for Rwamwanja. Rwamwanja settlement still had the highest proportion of refugee households (95%) with income earners while Palorinya had the lowest proportion of refugee households with income earners. This is probably because sources of income are minimal and mainly available especially to refugees who arrived earlier. About 80% of host community households had at least one income earner although this was a small increase from the March 2018 survey.

There was an overall slight decline in the proportion of refugee households with an alternative source of livelihood beyond food assistance by 2% except for Nakivale settlement. The reliance on crop production/sales as a livelihood source among refugee households declined from 14% in the March 2018 survey to 9% in May 2018 as households depleted food stocks from last season harvests. In addition, there was a decline in available agriculture labour opportunities for refugees from activities in the crop production season. The main sources of income among the host community households were: Food crop production/sales (47%) with the majority in Nakivale (76%); Salary (12%); non-agricultural wage labour (11%) and agricultural wage labour (9%).

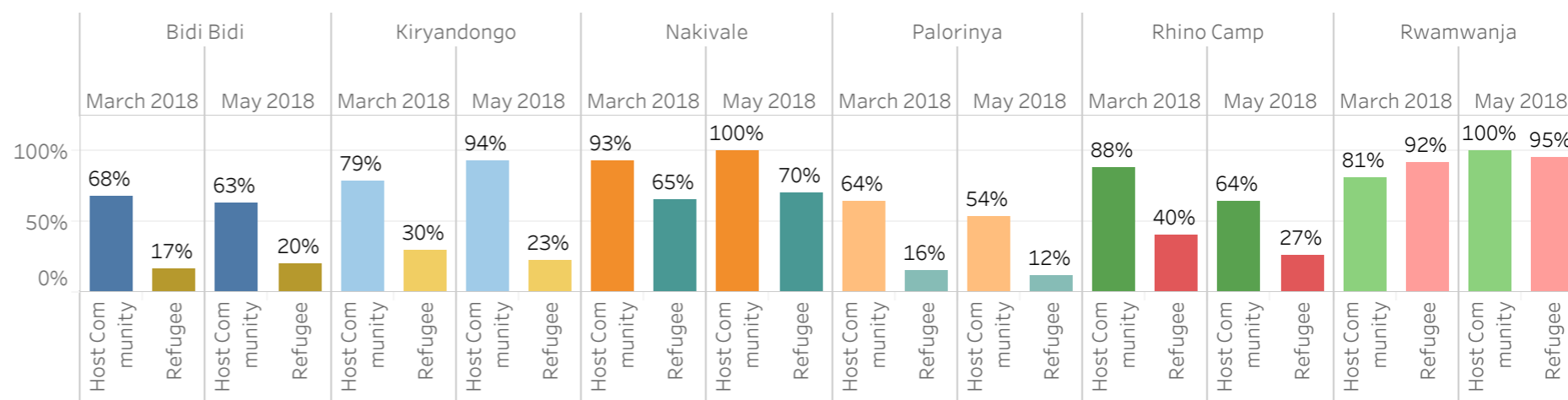
Among the refugee households, about 56% incurred debt with about 38% obtaining credit from traders. About 53% FHH incurred debt while 51% EVH incurred debt. Rwamwanja had highest debt prevalence (84%) while Bidi-Bidi had the lowest debt prevalence (32%). Refugee households mainly obtained credit from traders (54%). The main reasons for debt among refugees were to: buy food (58%); cover health expenses (23%) & to a limited extent pay for school (9%). Households in Rwamwanja (80%) & Nakivale (61%) mainly obtained debt to buy food; Households in Palorinya (48%) mainly obtained debt to cover health expenses while households in Kiryandongo mainly obtained debt to pay for school fees (20%).

Debt prevalence slightly declined in the host community although it was significantly higher among host community (68%) than the refugee community (56%) especially in Nakivale (93%) and Rwamwanja (86%). Unlike the refugees: majority (48%) obtained their credit from credit institutions suggesting access to financial services. Majority of host community households also obtained debt to; pay for school (32%) and less to buy food (17%) or cove..

Household sources of food stocks



% of Households with income earners



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Food consumption Coping Strategy Index (rCSI)

Overall, 72% of refugee households had acceptable FCS with a 7% increase compared to March. On the contrary, Nakivale had the highest percentage (46%) of food insecure refugee households and this was a 1% increase from March 2018. This could be because of the depleting food stocks and fairly high staple food retail prices. Furthermore, the proportion of food insecure refugee households was similar among MHH (23%) and FHH (26%). Cereals, pulses & vegetables were most consumed food groups in May. Household consumption of animal proteins and fruits was low, possibly due to low supplies and lack of access to these food groups.

All the refugee respondents suffered at least one shock with the main difficulties faced being; lack of funds to purchase food (40%), decline in food aid (28%), crop loss due to drought (6%) and high food prices(5%). In addition, the lack of funds to purchase food was most common in Rwamwanja, Rhino Camp and among the EVH.

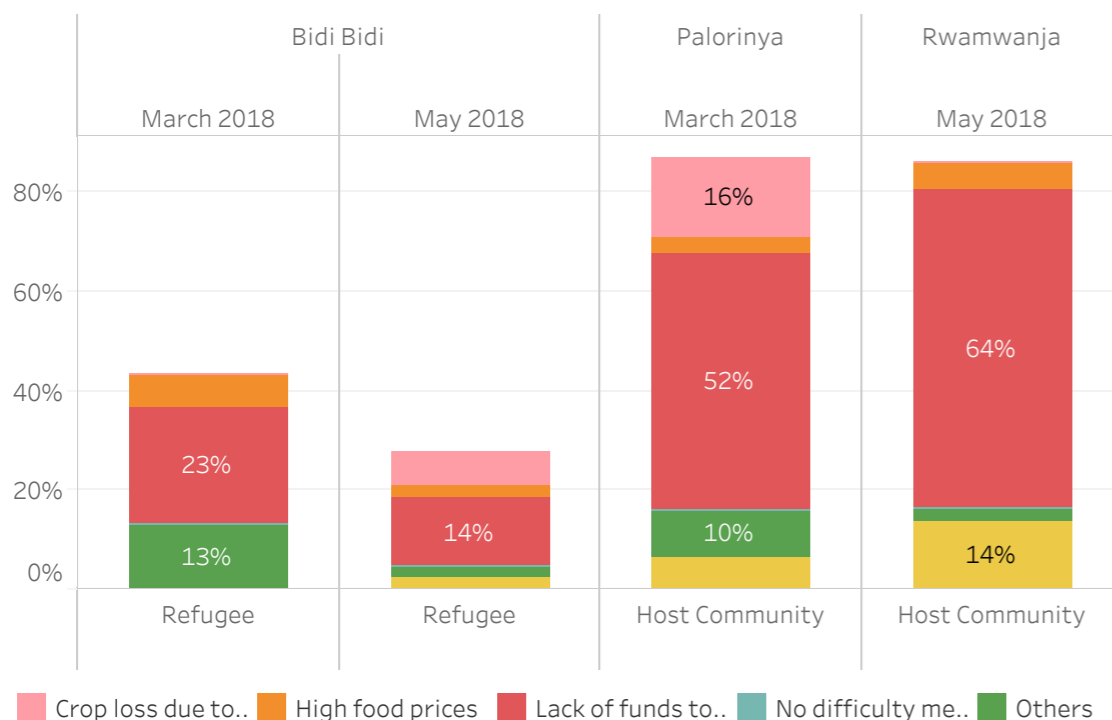
The main difficulties faced in accessing food in the host community were; lack of funds to purchase food (56%), crop loss due to drought (6%) and high food prices(6%). These were similar to the difficulties faced by refugees in accessing food. In terms of difficulties faced per settlement, Rwamwanja (67%) had the highest proportion of households affected by lack of funds to purchase food.

The rCSI assesses the level of difficulty households face in acquiring food for consumption by measuring the frequency and severity of the behaviours households engage in when faced with shortages of food or finances to buy food. About 24% of the households sold productive assets to obtain money to buy food.

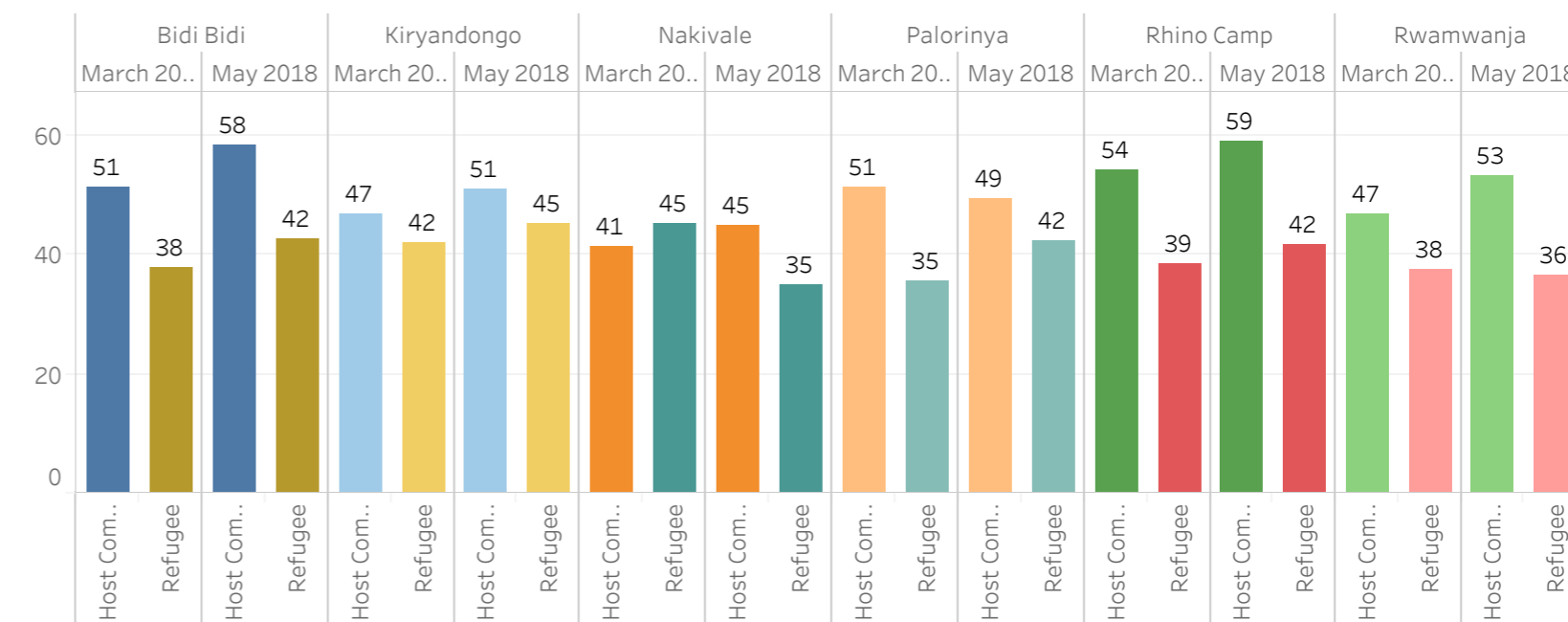
Levels of application of food consumption coping strategies remained fairly stable among refugees with an overall negligible change in the mean coping strategy index. However, Rwamwanja and Nakivale still had high CSI indicating vulnerability & food insecurity. There was a marked decline in coping strategy index in Bidi-Bidi compared to march and this was consistent with high percentage of households with food stocks and low percentage of food insecure households. This indicated a fairly stable food security situation. The commonly applied food consumption coping strategies were mostly in Rwamwanja settlement indicating household vulnerability to food insecurity. About 78% of refugee households relied on less preferred food while 70% reduced the number of meals in a day and 69% limited portion sizes at meal time.

Analysis showed that host community households had fairly stable food security levels compared to the refugees. 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



Select indicator to display FCS



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Contacts

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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