

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 amongst refugees declined from May 2018. However, the overall proportion of refugee households with food stocks increased greatly with 74 percent having food stocks which was a 23 percent increase from May 2018 except for Bidi-Bidi. Dependency on food assistance remained the main source of food stocks for refugees. The proportion of households with acceptable food security scores remained higher amongst the host community than refugees.



Photo: WFP/Riccardo Gangale



Households with at least one income earner among refugees declined from 45 percent in May 2018 to 38 percent in Sept 2018. The main sources of livelihood among refugees were: Food assistance (64%); Food crop production/sales (13%) with the majority in Rwamwanja at 44%; agricultural wage labour (7%) and non-agricultural wage labour (5%). Results indicate an increase in dependency on food assistance as a source of livelihood from the May 2018 survey by 14 percent. 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 (55%) undertaking debt mainly to buy food (47%), cover health expenses (29%) and pay for education(13%). Debt prevalence remained higher in the host community (70%) than among the refugee community (55%) and there was a significant difference between the two groups.



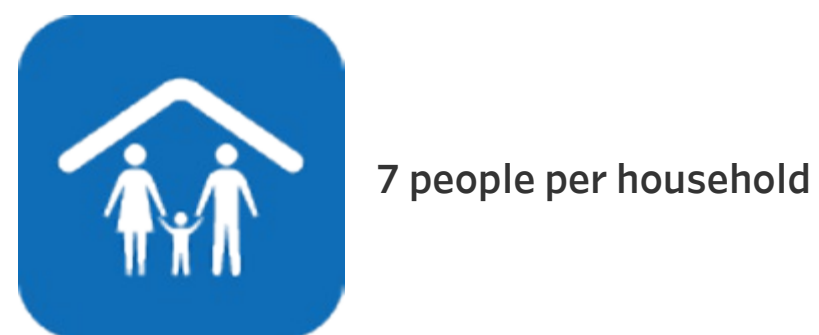
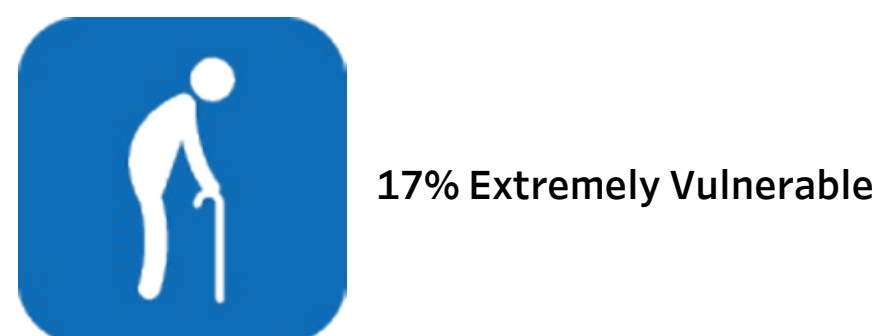
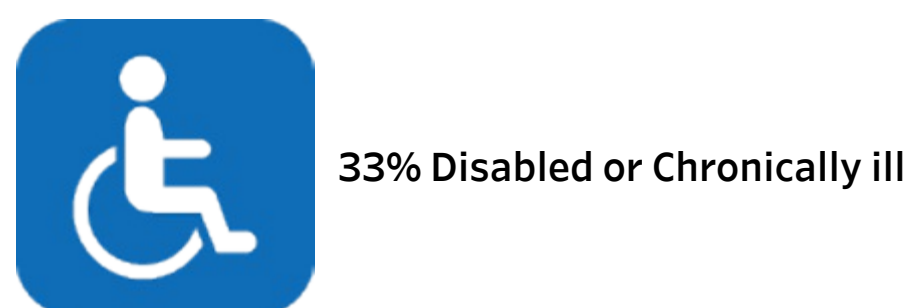
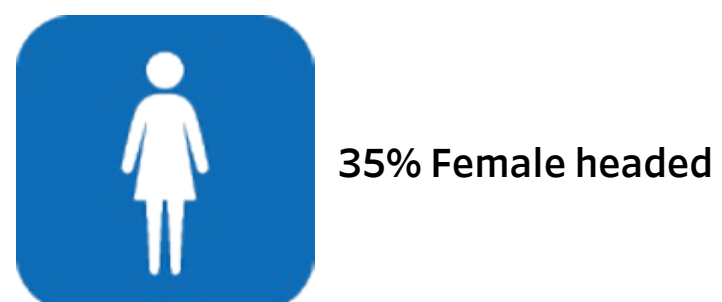
The main difficulties faced in accessing food were lack of funds to purchase food specifically in Rwamwanja and Kiryandongo; followed by loss of employment and high food prices. Levels of application of food consumption coping strategies remained fairly stable with an overall negligible change in the mean coping strategy index. Most frequently used food insecurity coping strategies were; relying on less preferred food (81%) and reducing number of meals eaten in a day (68%). New admissions to SFP significantly dropped in August and September 2018 as compared to the same months in 2017 across the six settlements especially in Bidi-Bidi and Rwamwanja. In addition, the average cure rates per settlement increased except for Rhino Camp and Rwamwanja.

Situation Update

Based on the household food consumption, there was a slight decline in food security levels among refugees in all settlements in September with 35% households with poor or borderline food consumption up from 28% in May especially for refugees in Bidi-Bidi. Host community households also had a slight improvement in their food security levels even though proportion of households with food stocks declined. Food security levels were also better in the host community compared to the refugee community and the May 2018 survey.

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mVAM offers the opportunity to use mobile voice technology for the collection of household food security data remotely to monitor seasonal variations of food security situation over time. This specific live telephone survey was conducted from 28th August to 07th September 2018 in Rwamwanja, Nakivale, Bidibidi, Rhino Camp, Kiryandongo & Palorinya settlements amongst the refugees and host communities. The report is divided into refugee section and host community section. Because the sample size was relatively small as mVAM is still in a pilot stage in Uganda, estimates are surrounded by a larger than average sampling error.



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Food stock, livelihood and income sources

Compared to May 2018, the overall proportion of refugee households with food stocks increased greatly with 74 percent households having food stocks which was a 23 percent increase from May 2018 except for Bidi Bidi. Nakivale had the highest proportion of refugee households with food stocks at 91 percent while Rwamwanja still had the lowest proportion of households with food stocks at 40% similar to May 2018 period. This is probably because households depleted food stocks & most receive food aid in form of cash and depend on markets whose prices fluctuate from time to time. Also, the proportion of Extremely Vulnerable Households1 (EVH) and Female Headed Households (FHH) with food stocks was significantly different from May 2018 survey with 77% and 72% having food stocks respectively compared to 56% and 49% having food stocks in that order in May 2018. About 67 percent of the refugee households had less than one bag of 50kg of maize and/or sorghum and expected to last on average 15 days from the day of the survey. Food aid remained the key source of food stocks among the refugees.

Among the households in the host community, there was a significant increase in proportion of households with food stocks to 66% from 42% probably because house-holds still had some food stocks from the previous harvests.

About 38 percent of refugee households indicated to have at least one income earner in the household and this was a decline from 45% in May 2018. Rwamwanja settlement still had the highest proportion of households (93%) with income earners while Bidi-Bidi had the lowest proportion of households with income earners. This is probably because sources of income are minimal and mainly available especially to refugees who arrived earlier. About 73% of households in the host community had at least one income earner although this was a 7% decline from the May 2018 survey.

There was an overall slight decline in the proportion of refugee households with an alternative source of livelihood beyond food assistance for refugees by 14% except for Rhino Camp and Palorinya settlement. The reliance on crop production/sales as a livelihood source among refugee households increased from 9% in the May 2018 survey. Compared to May 2018, the overall proportion of refugee households with food stocks increased greatly with 74 percent households having food stocks which was a 23 percent increase from May 2018 except for Bidi Bidi. Nakivale had the highest proportion of refugee households with food stocks at 91 percent while Rwamwanja still had the lowest proportion of households with food stocks at 40% similar to May 2018 period. This is probably because households depleted food stocks & most receive food aid in form of cash and depend on markets whose prices fluctuate from time to time. Also, the proportion of Extremely Vulnerable Households1 (EVH) and Female Headed Households (FHH) with food stocks was significantly different from May 2018 survey with 77% and 72% having food stocks respectively compared to 56% and 49% having food stocks in that order in May 2018. About 67 percent of the refugee households had less than one bag of 50kg of maize and/or sorghum and expected to last on average 15 days from the day of the survey. Food aid remained the key source of food stocks among the refugees.

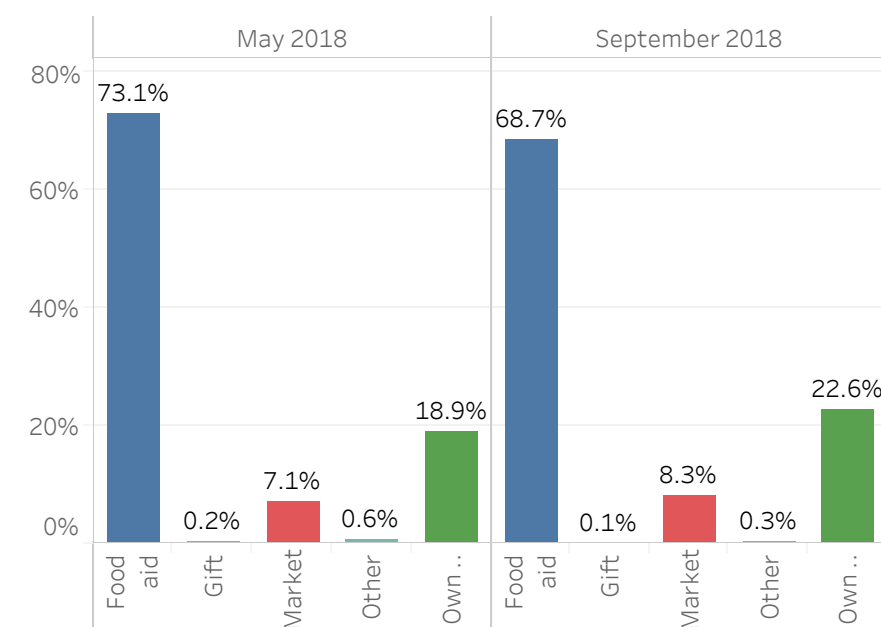
Among the households in the host community, there was a significant increase in proportion of households with food stocks to 66% from 42% in May probably because house-holds still had some food stocks from the previous harvests.

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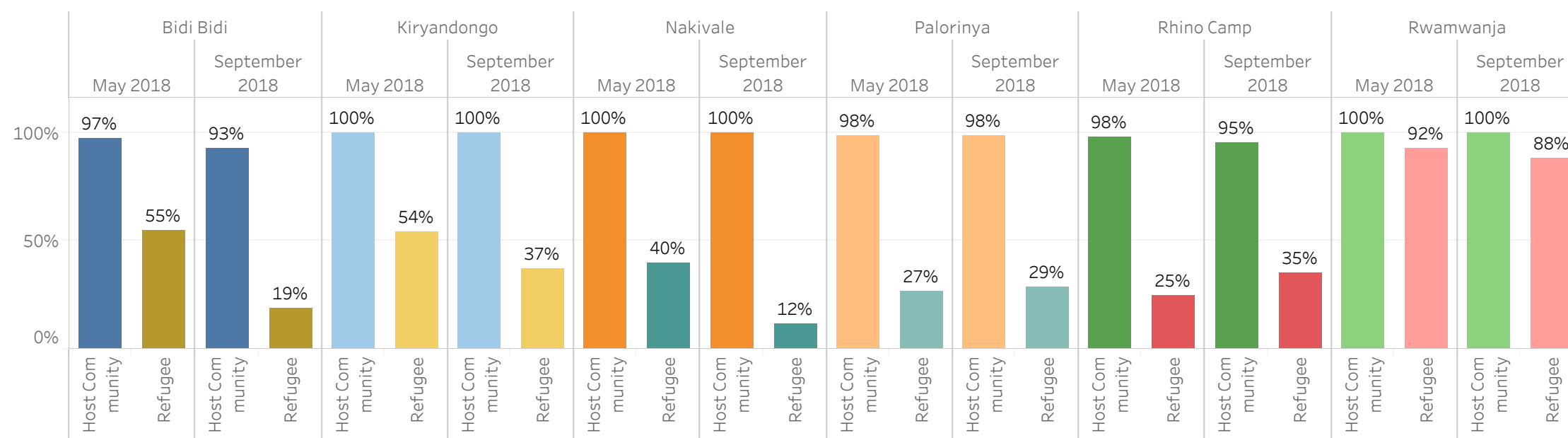
There was an overall slight decline in the proportion of refugee households with an alternative source of livelihood beyond food assistance for refugees by 14% except for Rhino Camp and Palorinya settlement. The reliance on crop production/sales as a livelihood source among refugee households increased to 13% from 9% in the May 2018 survey as households depended food stocks from last season harvests. The main sources of livelihood among refugees were: Food assistance (64%); Food crop production/sales (13%) with the majority in Rwamwanja at 44%; agricultural wage labour (7%) and non-agricultural wage labour (5%). The main sources of livelihood among the host community households were: Food crop production/sales (51%) with the majority in Rwamwanja (68%), Nakivale (63%) and Kiryandongo (60%); petty trade (10%); Salary (10%) and agricultural wage labour (10%).

Debt prevalence slightly increased compared to May 2018 and Sept 2017 especially in Rwamwanja (87%) and Nakivake(82%) although it was significantly higher among host community (70%) than the refugee community (55%). Unlike refugees who obtained credit from traders (about 47%), majority (60%) of households from the host community obtained their credit from credit institutions suggesting access to financial services. Refugees in Rwamwanja had highest debt prevalence (83%) while Palorinya had the lowest debt prevalence (30%). Overall 53% FHH incurred debt while 52% EVH incurred debt. Households mainly obtained credit to buy food (47%) although this was a decline by 11% compared to May 2018. Households in Rhino Camp (60%) & Nakivale (56%) mainly obtained debt to buy food; Households in Palorinya (50%) mainly obtained debt to cover health expenses while households in Rwamanja had highest proportion of households obtaining debt to pay for school fees (13%).

Household sources of food stocks



% of Households with alternative sources of Livelihood



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Food consumption Coping Strategy Index (rCSI)

Overall the proportion of refugee households with poor or borderline food consumption increased. About 65% of households had acceptable food consumption although this was 7% decline compared to May 2018. Bidi-Bidi had the highest percentage (48%) of households with poor or borderline food consumption and this was a significant increase from May 2018 by 34%. This could be because of the increasingly depleting food stocks and fairly high staple food retail prices. Also compared to Sept 2017, the proportion of households with poor or borderline food consumption greatly declined except for Bidi-Bidi.

The proportion of MHH and FHH with poor or borderline food consumption was 28% and 34% respectively. Cereals and pulses were most consumed food groups. Household consumption of animal proteins, vegetables and fruits was low, possibly due to low supplies and lack of access to these food groups.

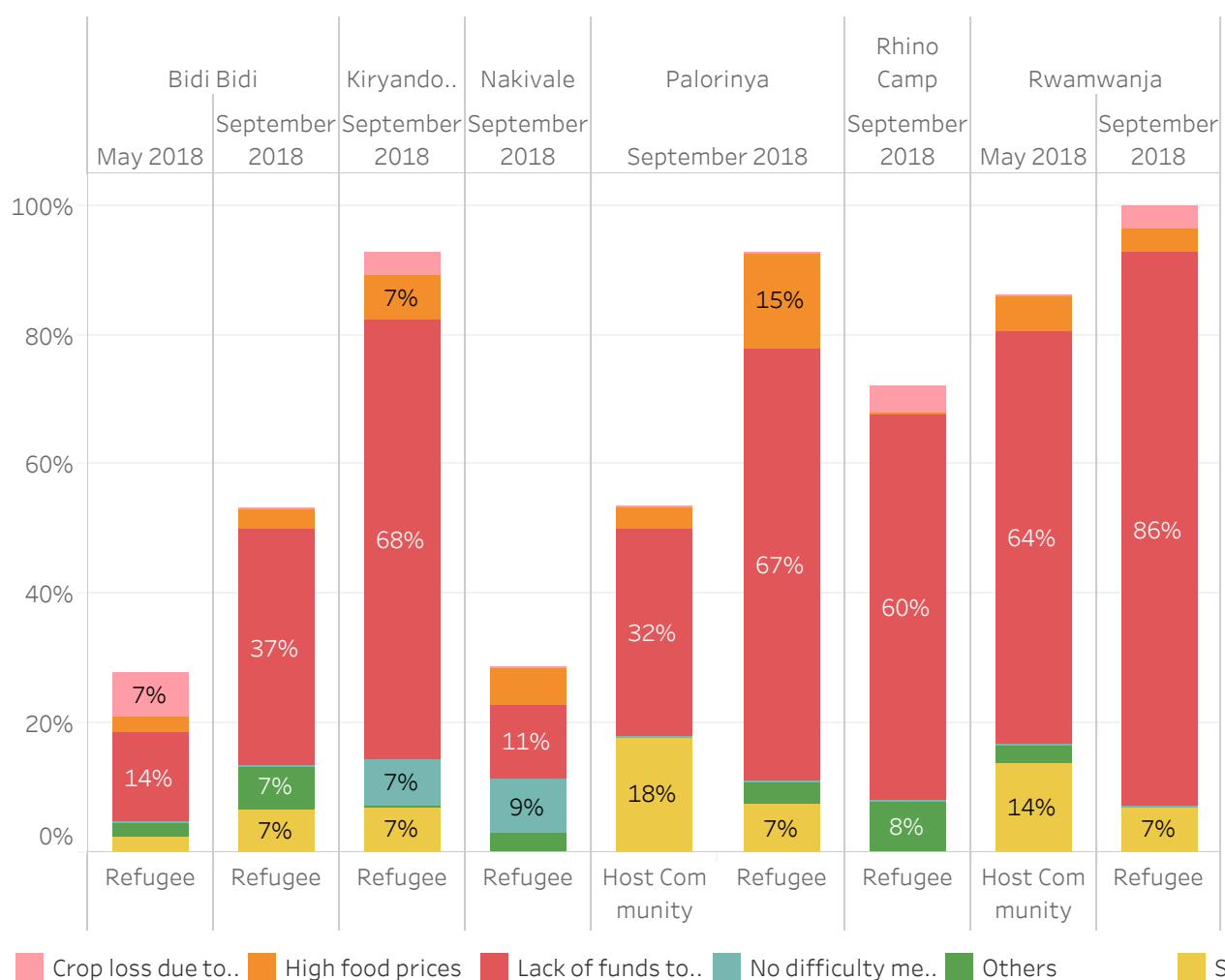
Majority of refugee households suffered at least one shock 30 days before the survey with the main difficulties; lack of funds to purchase food (53%), loss of employment (17%) and high food prices (6%). The percentage of households lacking funds to purchase food increased by 13%. In addition, the lack of funds to purchase food was most common in Rwamwanja (86%), Kiryandongo (68%) and among the EVH (40%).

In the host community, almost all respondents faced a difficulty in accessing food with the main difficulty being lack of funds to purchase food (32%) especially in Kiryandongo (44%); floods, heavy rains, drought (18%); crop loss due to drought (13%) and high food prices (13%). These were similar to the difficulties faced by refugees in accessing food.

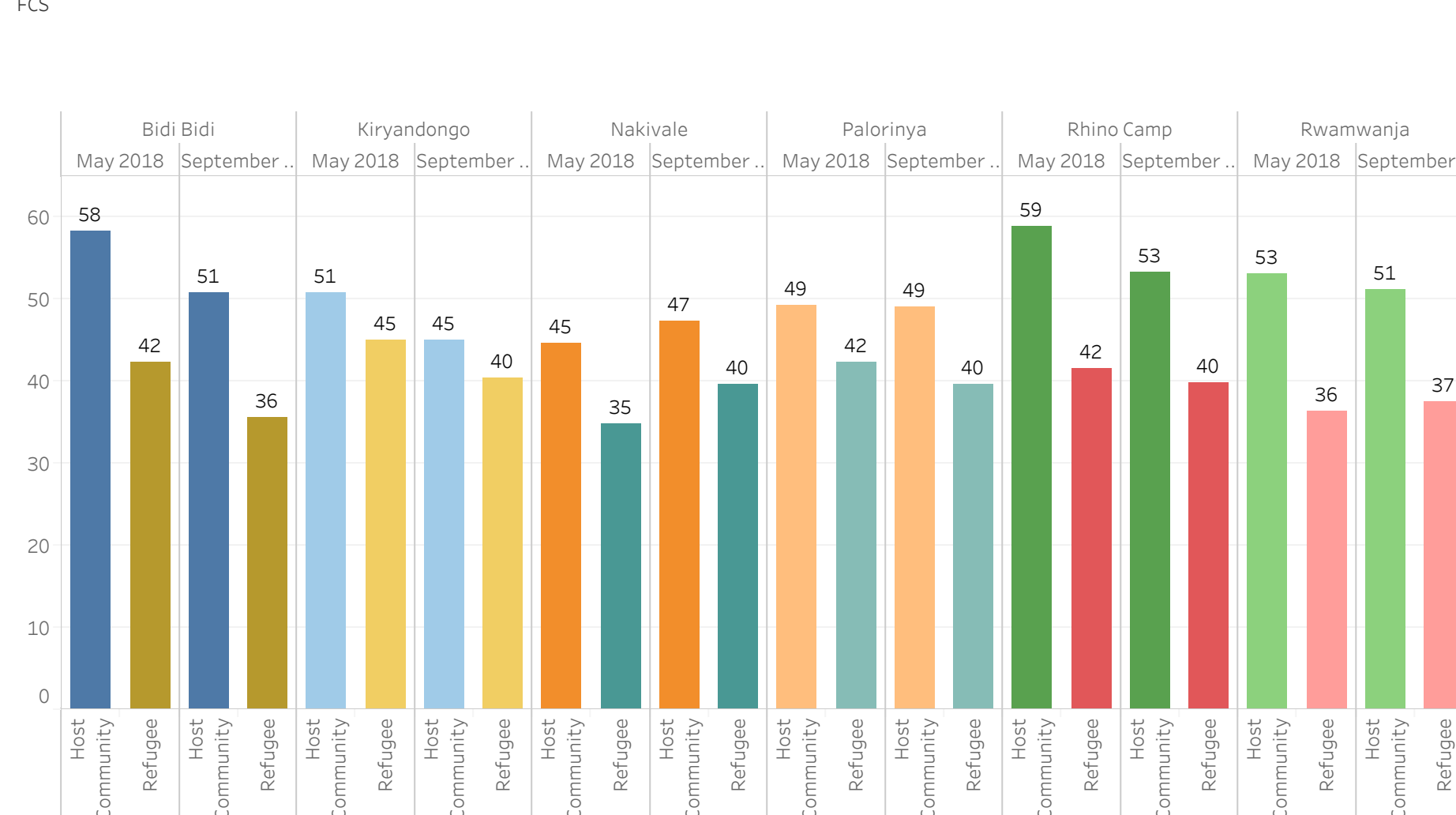
Levels of application of food consumption coping strategies remained fairly stable among refugee households with an overall negligible change in the mean coping strategy index. This indicated a fairly stable food security situation. However, Rwamwanja still had the highest CSI indicating vulnerability & food insecurity. At the same time, was a marked decline in coping strategy index in Rwamwanja and Nakivale compared to May and this was consistent with high percentage of households with food stocks and low percentage of food insecure households.

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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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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RESOURCES

mVAM Monitoring web:

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