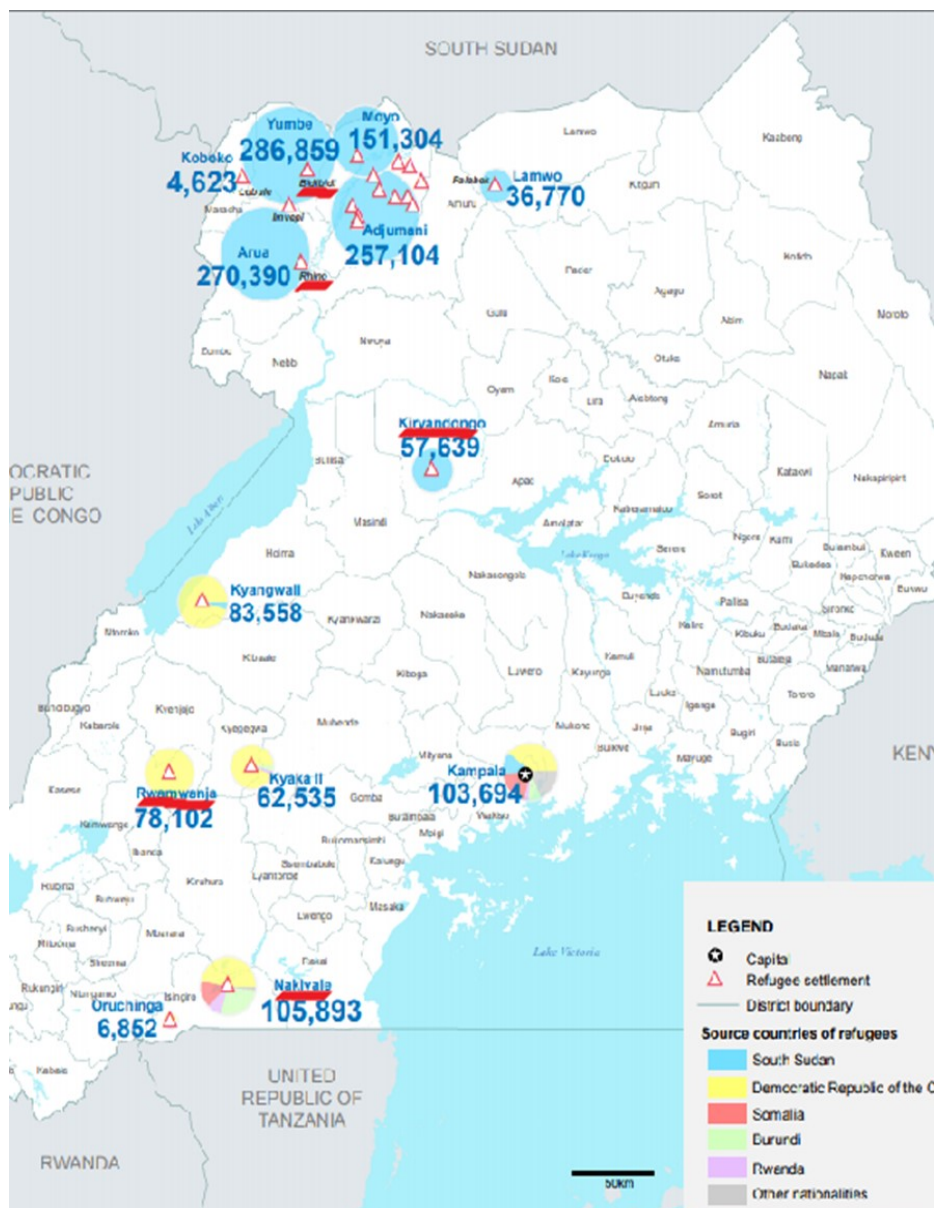


WFP Uganda mVAM Bulletin

Issue #5 - December 2018



Situation Overview

- ⇒ Based on more than 1,000 telephone interviews conducted by mVAM, food security deteriorated in all the settlements between September and December 2018. However, the host community had a better level of food security compared to the refugee community.
- ⇒ The proportion of interviewed refugee households with poor and borderline food consumption increased by 26 percent from 35 percent in September 2018.
- ⇒ The proportion of interviewed refugee households with food stocks decreased by 12 percent from 74 percent in September 2018.
- ⇒ Significant differences were observed between interviewed households in refugee settlements and host community in terms of; household size, availability of food stocks, debt prevalence, debt sources, debt amount, reasons for obtaining debt, food consumption scores and households experiencing shock.



The food security of refugees deteriorated in all settlements between September and December 2018, particularly Palorinya and Bidibidi. The proportion of interviewed households with acceptable food security scores remained higher amongst the host community (83 percent) than amongst refugees (39 percent). Food assistance remained the main source of food stocks for refugees.



The main difficulties faced by respondents to access food were high food prices, sickness of household head, floods and lack of funds.



The percentage of refugees interviewed who had at least one income earner in the household remained stable (38 percent). Households with an alternative source of livelihood beyond food assistance increased by 28 percent since September 2018.



Debt prevalence slightly declined from 55 percent in September 2018 to 49 percent in December 2018. The majority of debts were contracted to buy food (44 percent), cover health expenses (23 percent) and pay for education (19 percent). The use of negative coping strategies declined as seen from the decrease in rCSI from 14 points in September to 5 points in December 2018. The most frequent coping strategy was relying on less preferred food (81 percent).



With the exception of Kyungwali, Kyaka II and Koboko, the number of new admissions in the Supplementary Feeding Programme (SFP) decreased compared to 2017. A significant decline was observed in Rwamwanja and Bidibidi.

Mobile vulnerability analysis and mapping (mVAM) enables WFP to use mobile voice technology for the remote collection of household food security data to monitor seasonal variations in refugee hosting areas in Uganda. WFP introduced mVAM in Uganda in January 2018 and it is still in the pilot phase, rendering a small sample size which may result in a larger-than-average sampling error.

The live telephone surveys were conducted from 29 November to 11 December 2018 with 1,158 households randomly chosen from a master list. Households were located in Bidibidi, Palorinya, Rhino Camp and Koboko-Lobule in the West Nile Region and in Kiryandongo, Nakivale, Rwamwanja, Kyaka II and Kyangwali in southwest Uganda. Results were compared with the September 2018 results, except for Koboko-Lobule, Kyaka II and Kyangwali where results were compared to the May 2018 baseline.



Refugee Community overview

Household food stocks: Generally there was a **decline** in the proportion of interviewed households with food stocks, especially in **Kyaka II and Kyangwali**. Only **62 percent** of interviewed refugee households had food stocks compared to 74 percent in September 2018. The depletion of food stocks from June/July 2018 harvests and from previous in-kind food assistance (November 2018) could have contributed to this decrease. Households in Kyaka II and Kyangwali notably received a double food assistance ration in October to cover their food needs for a two-months period (October to November 2018) hence the decline in number of households with food stocks.

- ⇒ Rhino Camp and Bidibidi had the highest proportion of interviewed households with food stocks (97 and 95 percent respectively).
- ⇒ Kyaka II and Kyangwali had the lowest proportion of interviewed households with food stocks (36 and 35 percent respectively).
- ⇒ The proportion of Extremely Vulnerable Households (EVH) and Female Headed Households (FHH) with food stocks significantly decreased from 77 and 72 percent in September to 62 and 61 percent in December 2018.
- ⇒ The majority of households (61 percent) had less than one bag of 50kg of maize and/or sorghum in stock. Households expected their food stock to last on average 17 days from the day of the survey.

Source of food stocks: Food assistance remained the key source of food stocks among refugees (**Figure 2**).

- ⇒ The depletion of food stocks from June/July 2018 harvests could have contributed to the increased reliance on food assistance. In addition, August to October is usually a planting season with the majority of households clearing land, ploughing and planting for the September-November rainfall season.
- ⇒ In Bidibidi, all respondents stated that food assistance was their only means of meeting their food needs.
- ⇒ Rwamwanja had the lowest proportion (64 percent) of respondents relying on food assistance and 36 percent relying on own food production. Kyaka II had the highest proportion (16 percent) of respondents relying on markets to meet their food needs.

Settlement	Host	Refugee	EVH	FHH	Disabled and chronically ill HH	Overall (n)
Bidi-Bidi	52	98	34%	30%	18%	150
Kiryandongo	66	56	11%	48%	7%	122
Koboko-Lobule	61	72	14%	37%	2%	133
Kyaka II	22	104	27%	30%	12%	126
Kyangwali	52	96	20%	22%	8%	148
Nakivale	37	86	19%	46%	24%	123
Palorinya	48	46	35%	37%	12%	94
Rhino Camp	52	89	13%	18%	6%	141
Rwamwanja	25	96	2%	11%	25%	121
Overall	415	743	21%	31%	12%	1158

Table 1: Sample size of respondents for the different settlements (n), December 2018

Settlement	Sept/Oct Baseline 2017	Jan-18	Mar-18	May-18	Sep-18	Dec-18	Trend	EVH	FHH
Rhino Camp	65%	68%	72%	50%	78%	97%	↗	94%	89%
Bidi-Bidi	70%	54%	76%	84%	78%	95%	↗	83%	59%
Palorinya	92%	75%	76%	55%	70%	65%	↘	80%	57%
Overall	68%	63%	63%	30%	74%	62%	↘	62%	61%
Kiryandongo	64%	62%	56%	36%	82%	61%	↘	26%	42%
Rwamwanja	48%	51%	20%	8%	40%	60%	↘	50%	62%
Nakivale	74%	65%	77%	69%	91%	59%	↘	69%	55%
Koboko-Lobule	-	-	-	42%	-	47%	↗	92%	100%
Kyaka II	-	-	-	57%	-	36%	↘	53%	50%
Kyangwali	-	-	-	52%	-	35%	↘	62%	59%

Figure 1: Refugee respondent households with food stocks, December 2018

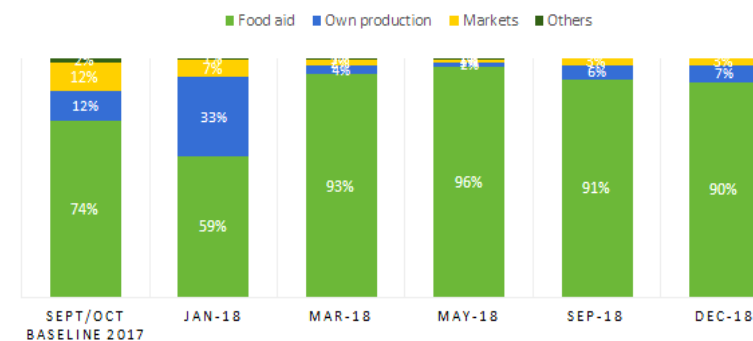


Figure 2: Refugee respondent households main sources of food stocks, December 2018

Livelihood Profile

Income Earners: Overall, more than one-third (38 percent) of refugee respondents reported to have at least one income earner in the household. This percentage remained stable compared to September 2018 (**Figure 3**).

- ⇒ Only 19 percent of refugee respondents in West Nile had income earners, while 59 percent of refugee respondents in the southwest had income earners.
- ⇒ Rwamwanja settlement still had the highest proportion of refugee respondents with income earners (77 percent), while the lowest proportion was in Bidibidi (3 percent).

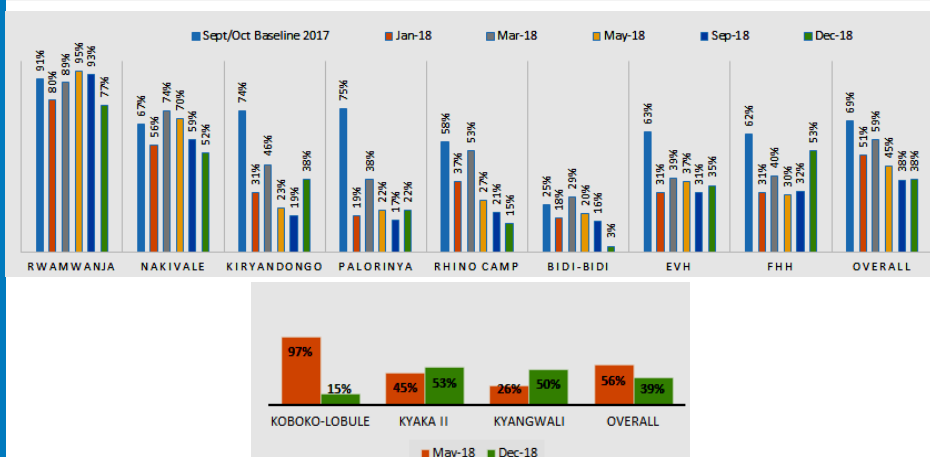


Figure 3: Trend of households with income earners, December 2018

Household Livelihood Status: Refugee households with an alternative source of livelihood beyond food assistance increased by 28 percent compared to September 2018 (**Figure 4**).

- ⇒ The reliance on crop production/sales as a livelihood source slightly decreased to 11 percent from 13 percent in September 2018, as households depleted food stocks from previous season harvests.
- ⇒ In addition, there was a decline in reliance on agriculture labour opportunities since agricultural season had ended. Only 6 percent of respondents relied on agricultural wage labour for their livelihood in December 2018.

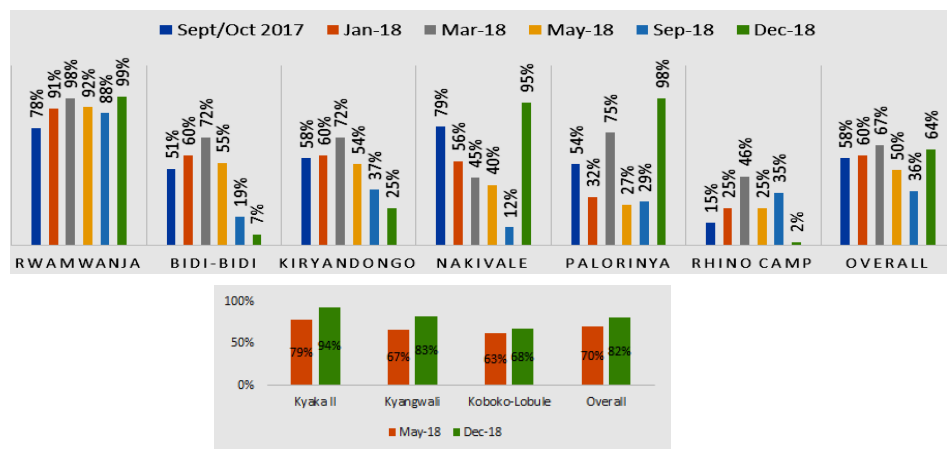


Figure 4: Trend of households with alternative sources of Livelihood², December 2018

Debt prevalence

Approximately 49 percent of interviewed households were indebted. The debt amount ranged between 20,000 UGX and 100,000 UGX for 43 percent of the indebted households.

- ⇒ Kyangwali (84 percent) and Palorinya (81 percent) had the highest debt prevalence percentage, while Nakivale (21 percent) and Koboko (20 percent) recorded the lowest.
- ⇒ Main sources of credit were informal, i.e. from traders (37 percent) especially in Nakivale, relatives (25 percent) mostly in Kyangwali, money lenders (8 percent) especially in Koboko-Lobule and others (27 percent) including friends/neighbours. The percentage of households borrowing in banks/microcredit institutions was negligible across settlements.
- ⇒ The main reason stated by households to contract a debt was buying food (44 percent) as indicated in **Figure 6**.

Settlement	Sept/Oct 2017	Jan-18	Mar-18	May-18	Sep-18	Dec-18
Kyangwali	-	-	-	43%	-	84%
Palorinya	30%	31%	33%	40%	30%	81%
Rwamwanja	55%	73%	85%	84%	83%	62%
Rhino Camp	22%	45%	48%	40%	40%	61%
All settlements	49%	53%	58%	56%	55%	49%
Kyaka II	-	-	-	56%	-	39%
BidiBidi	31%	41%	43%	32%	42%	34%
Kiryandongo	24%	48%	46%	40%	52%	26%
Nakivale	44%	79%	83%	82%	78%	21%
Koboko-Lobule	-	-	-	72%	-	20%

Figure 5: Trend of households with debts, December 2018

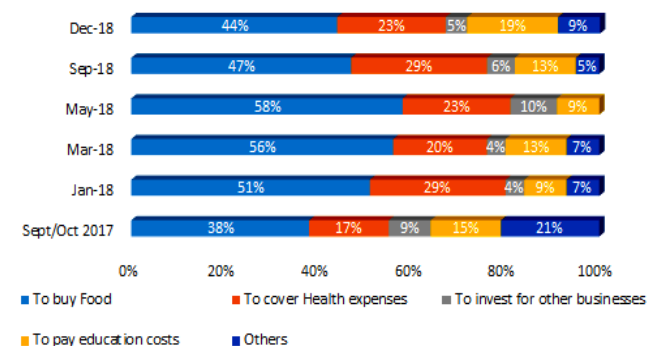


Figure 6: Trend of the main reasons for debts, December 2018

² Alternative sources of livelihood engaged in by refugees to sustain life for a given lifespan included; food crop production/sale, cash crop production/sale, agricultural wage labour, non-agricultural wage, sale of firewood/charcoal, petty trade and salary.

Food Consumption Score

Overall the proportion of households with poor and borderline food consumption increased. Only 39 percent of households had acceptable food consumption. This represented a 26 percent decline compared to September 2018 (Figure 7).

- ⇒ Bidibidi continued to have the highest percentage (96 percent) of refugee households with poor and borderline food consumption. This represented a significant increase (48 percent) compared to September 2018. This could have resulted from the depletion of food stocks and fairly high staple food retail prices.
- ⇒ The proportion of households with poor and borderline food consumption was slightly similar among refugee households headed by women (65 percent) and extremely vulnerable households (69 percent). Cereals and pulses were the most consumed food groups. Household consumption of animal proteins, vegetables and fruits was low, possibly due to low supplies in the market and lack of access to these food groups.

Settlement	Sept/Oct 2017	Jan-18	Mar-18	May-18	Sep-18	Dec-18	Overall trend
Nakivale	51%	25%	45%	46%	34%	59%	
Rhino Camp	25%	21%	33%	26%	27%	49%	
Kiryandongo	49%	44%	25%	21%	29%	68%	
Rwamwanja	59%	54%	32%	39%	40%	70%	
Bidi-Bidi	29%	72%	39%	15%	48%	96%	
Palorinya	78%	31%	39%	13%	30%	89%	
Koboko-Lobule	-	-	-	19%	-	41%	
Kyaka II	-	-	-	33%	-	20%	
Kyangwali	-	-	-	46%	-	49%	
Overall	47%	41%	35%	28%	35%	61%	

Figure 7: Trend of food insecure households (percentage of borderline + poor FCS), December 2018

Access to Food

A majority of interviewed refugee households (79 percent) suffered at least one shock during the 30 days before the survey. Shocks mentioned included high food prices (28 percent), sickness of household head (11 percent) and floods (6 percent) as indicated in Figure 8e. The percentage of households lacking funds to purchase food decreased by 17 percent. The lack of funds to purchase food was most common in Koboko-Lobule (89 percent), Bidibidi (49 percent) and amongst extremely vulnerable households (Figure 8d). Similarly, most of respondents (65 percent) did not have enough food or money to buy food seven days before the survey, mainly because of lack of funds (36 percent) and decline in food assistance (27 percent).

Figure 8a: Main difficulties in accessing food 30 days before the survey, Jan 2018

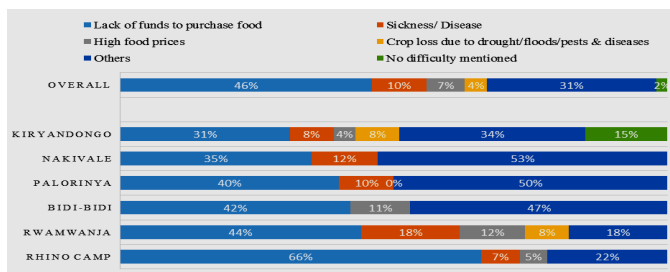


Figure 8b: Main difficulties in accessing food 30 days before the survey, May 2018

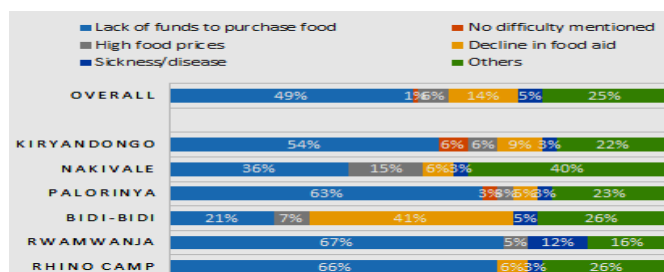


Figure 8c: Main difficulties in accessing food 30 days before the survey, March 2018

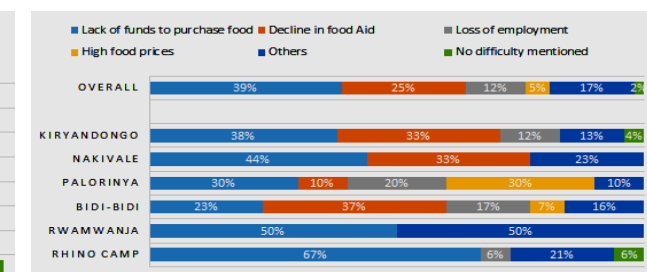


Figure 8d: Main difficulties in accessing food 30 days before the survey, September 2018

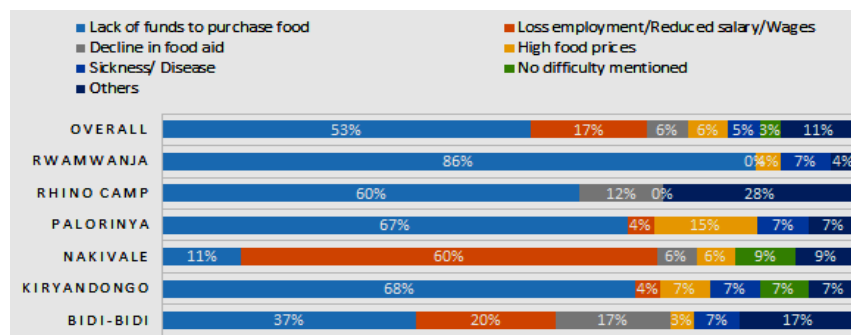
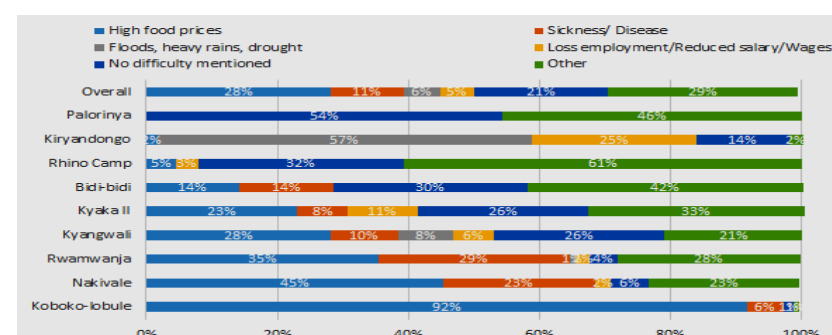


Figure 8e: Main difficulties in accessing food 30 days before the survey, December 2018



Coping Strategy Index (CSI)

The use of food consumption coping strategies declined across the settlements except for respondents in Kiryandongo and Palorinya (Table 2). This indicated a fairly improved food security situation basing on this food security indicator. Interviewed respondents in Kiryandongo had the highest coping strategy index (CSI), indicating increased vulnerability and food insecurity compared to other settlements. Respondents in Rhino Camp had the lowest rCSI, with a significant decrease of 8 points compared to September 2018. A significant decrease in the CSI was also observed in Rwamwanja and Nakivale compared to September.

Settlement	Sept/Oct 2017	Jan-18	Mar-18	May-18	Sep-18	Dec-18
Kiryandongo	12	17	15	16	15	15
Palorinya	12	13	11	11	12	13
Nakivale	20	20	21	19	15	11
Kyaka II				17		11
Bidi-Bidi	13	10	12	7	11	10
FHH	15	16	16	16	14	10
EVH	17	15	15	14	15	9
Overall	14	15	14	15	14	9
Rwamwanja	13	17	21	20	17	7
Kyangwali				16		7
Koboko-Lobule				13		6
Rhino Camp	14	13	14	14	12	4

Table 2: Trend of mean rCSI per settlement, December 2018

The majority (81 percent) of households coped with food insecurity by relying on less preferred food. However, the commonly applied food consumption coping strategies were mostly in Koboko-Lobule, indicating household vulnerability to food insecurity.

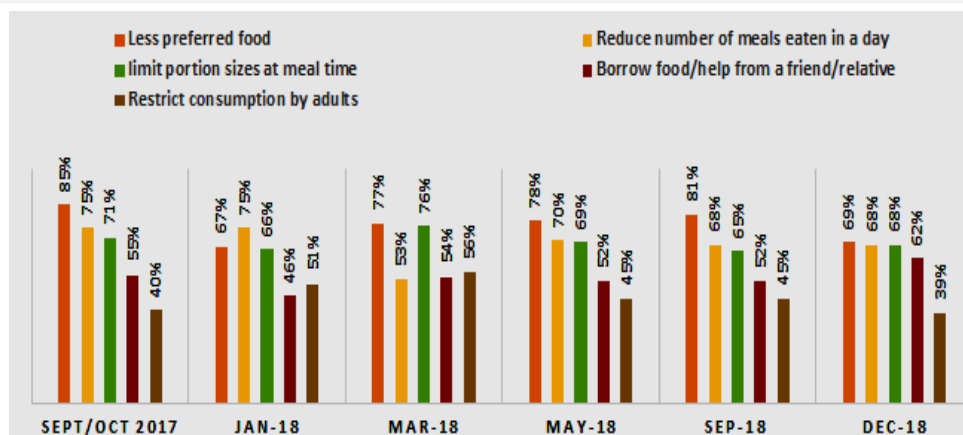


Figure 9: Food security coping strategies among refugees, December 2018

Supplementary Feeding Programme (SFP)

Admissions to the SFP provide an indication of the levels of malnutrition in an area. With the exception of Kyangwali, Kyaka II and Koboko, the number of new admissions to SFP decreased compared to 2017. A significant decline was noted in Rwamwanja and Bidibidi (Figure 9 and Figure 10).

Between October and December 2018, new admissions to SFP significantly dropped in the majority of settlements. With the fair food security situation, admissions to the SFP are expected to remain stable.

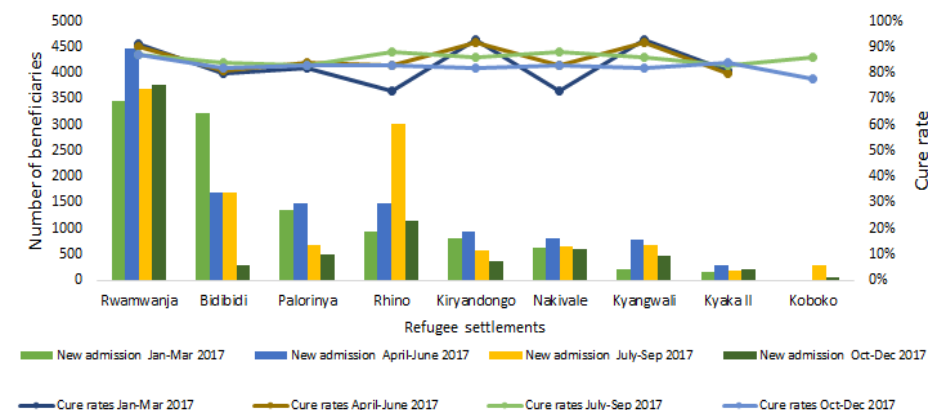


Figure 10: Quarterly new admissions to SFP trends and cure rates by settlement for 2017

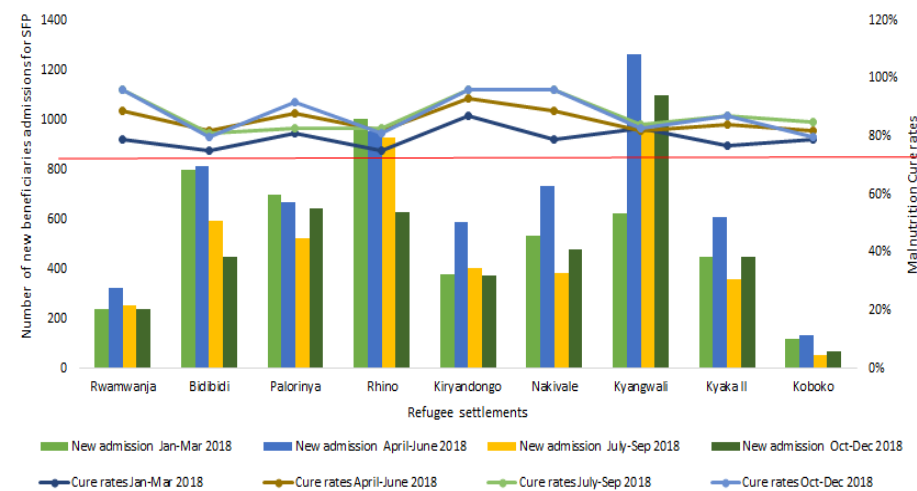


Figure 11: Quarterly new admissions to SFP trends and cure rates by settlement for 2018

In general, the host community had a better level of food security compared to the refugee community. Households in the host community were less likely to apply food consumption coping strategies compared to the refugees.

- ⇒ Overall there was a significant decrease in the proportion of interviewed host community households with food stocks. Bidibidi had the highest percentage of nationals reporting to have food stocks (71 percent) while Nakivale had the lowest percentage of nationals with food stocks (27 percent).
- ⇒ The main sources of food stocks among the nationals were the own food production by households (76 percent) and markets (13 percent). The majority of households in Nakivale (100 percent) and Rwamwanja (89 percent) produced their own food while the majority of households in Kyaka II obtained their food from markets (30 percent).
- ⇒ Almost three-quarters (72 percent) of host community households had at least one income earner. The main sources of income were food crop production/sales (59 percent), agricultural wage labour (12 percent), salary (7 percent) and petty trade (4 percent).
- ⇒ Debt prevalence significantly decreased from 70 percent to 51 percent between September and December 2018 among nationals (Figure 13). Koboko-Lobule had the highest proportion of nationals with debt (79 percent) while Kiryandongo (17 percent) and Nakivale (19 percent) had the lowest proportion.
- ⇒ Unlike the refugee community, the majority of the host community (40 percent) obtained their credit from relatives (40 percent), credit institutions (21 percent), money lenders (14 percent) and traders (10 percent). Similarly, many households contracted debts to pay school fees (41 percent) rather than to buy food (14 percent) or cover health expenses (19 percent).
- ⇒ In the host community, about 83 percent of the interviewed respondents faced difficulty in accessing food. The main challenges faced to access food were floods/heavy rains (30 percent), high food prices (29 percent), sickness of household head (6 percent) and loss of employment (6 percent) as indicated in Figure 14.
- ⇒ Compared to September 2018, the proportion of interviewed households lacking food/funds to purchase food slightly decreased by 4 percent. About 53 percent of households lacked food or funds to purchase food 7 days before the survey. The percentage of interviewed households lacking food or funds to purchase food was highest in Koboko-Lobule (95 percent) and lowest in Kyangwali (27 percent).
- ⇒ Only 54 percent of interviewed households in the host community had an acceptable food consumption score, with the highest percentage in Rhino Camp (89 percent) and the lowest in Koboko-Lobule (18 percent). Interviewed households had a mean coping strategy index (CSI) of 8, indicating a fair food security situation. The highest CSI was in Koboko (14) while Kyaka II had the lowest CSI (3).

	Sept/Oct 2017	Jan-18	Mar-18	May-18	Sep-18	Dec-18
Palorinya	62%	64%	74%	64%	70%	52%
Kiryandongo	65%	83%	60%	51%	84%	42%
Nakivale	52%	48%	61%	41%	70%	27%
Rwamwanja	71%	63%	60%	32%	75%	36%
Bidi-Bidi	52%	39%	45%	29%	55%	71%
Rhino Camp	76%	51%	51%	29%	39%	62%
Koboko-Lobule	-	-	-	58%	-	66%
Kyaka II	-	-	-	62%	-	46%
Kyangwali	-	-	-	58%	-	46%
Overall	61%	58%	60%	42%	66%	52%

Figure 12: Host community households with food stocks, Dec 2018

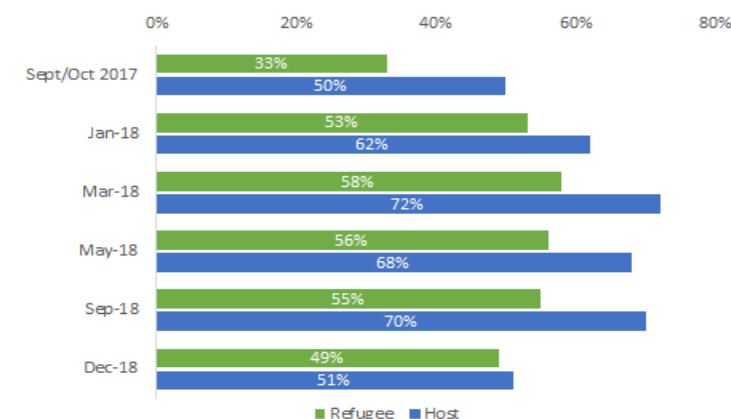


Figure 13: Host community households with debt, December 2018

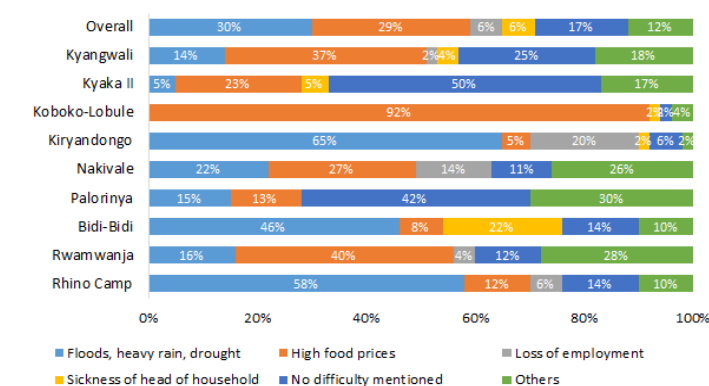


Figure 14: Host community challenges to access food, December 2018

Rhino Camp

Compared to September 2018, the food security remained fairly stable in Rhino Camp settlement with a significant improvement (19 percent) in the proportion of interviewed households with food stocks and a decline in the coping strategy index by 8 points. However, the proportion of food insecure households (49 percent) increased from 27 percent since September 2018. Economic access to food remained low given the decline in the proportion of households with income earners and alternative sources of livelihoods. Similarly, most interviewed households (76 percent) mentioned lack of funds to buy food 7 days before the survey. In addition, debt prevalence increased by 21 percent, with 60 percent of households contracting credit mainly to buy food.

Bidibidi

Compared to September 2018, the settlement has fragile food security levels with a significant increase in the proportion of food insecure households from 48 percent to 96 percent. However, the proportion of interviewed households with food stocks increased from 78 percent to 95 percent, this can result from timely food distribution. Although the proportion of interviewed households with debts decreased from 42 to 34 percent, economic access to food remained a problem. The settlement had the lowest proportion of households with income earners and alternative sources of livelihood (3 percent) and households mainly relied on food assistance. The settlement still had a fairly high food security coping strategy index (10) slightly above the average (9) for all settlements.

Palorinya

Compared to September 2018, the settlement has poor food security levels. Even though the proportion of households with at least one income earner and alternative sources of livelihood slightly improved by 5 percent, the proportion of food insecure households significantly increased from 30 percent in September to 89 percent in December 2018. The number of households with food stocks slightly declined from 70 percent to 65 percent compared to September 2018. Similarly, debt prevalence significantly increased from 30 to 81 percent. The application of food security coping strategies slightly increased, as indicated by the increase in the coping strategy index from 12 to 13.

Koboko-Lobule

The food security situation in the settlement is fair given that the settlement had a slight increase in the proportion of households with food stocks. However, a 22 percent increase was observed in the proportion of food insecure households **from 19 percent in May 2018**. The majority of respondents (89 percent) declared to lack funds to purchase food. However the level of application of coping strategies was still low as indicated by the declining coping strategy index between May (13) and December 2018 (6). The settlement also had the lowest proportion of households with debts and the lowest proportion of households with income earners.

Kiryandongo

Compared to September 2018, the food security significantly deteriorated in Kiryandongo settlement with a decline in the proportion of interviewed households with food stocks by 21 percent. A significant increase in the proportion of food insecure households by 39 percent was also observed. In addition, high application of food insecurity coping strategies were noted, indicating stress amongst the households. The situation will require close monitoring to minimise the deterioration of food security. However, economic access to food increased by 19 percent among interviewed households with at least one income earner, although alternative sources of livelihood beyond food assistance declined by 12 percent. The majority of households primarily obtained food stocks from food assistance (88 percent) with some receiving cash. Fairly high retail food prices and lack of funds to purchase food were mentioned as challenges in accessing food. Nonetheless, Kiryandongo had a significant decline and a below average percentage of interviewed households with debt.

Rwamwanja

The food security situation in Rwamwanja settlement is fair although there was a significant increase in the proportion of food insecure households from 40 percent in September to 70 percent in December 2018. However, the proportion of households with food stocks also increased from 40 percent in September to 60 percent in December 2018. Rwamwanja still had the highest percentage of households with income earners and alternative sources of income (77 percent), although there was a decline compared to September 2018 (93 percent). Debt prevalence greatly declined from 83 percent in September to 62 percent in December 2018. However, the coping strategy index in Rwamwanja significantly declined from 17 points in September to 7 in December 2018.

Nakivale

Compared to September 2018, Nakivale settlement had deteriorating food security levels with 59 percent of food insecure households compared to 32 percent in September 2018. A decline in the number of interviewed households with food stocks was also observed, from 91 percent in September to 59 percent in December 2018. The major source of food stocks remained food assistance with half of the households with at least one income earner and alternative sources of income. Food access was also a problem given that staple food retail prices were reported to be high and a large proportion of households mentioned the lack of funds to buy food. At the same time, debt prevalence decreased largely from 78 percent to 21 percent. In addition, the coping strategy index decreased from 15 to 11, although it remained above the average coping strategy index of all settlements (9).

Kyangwali

The settlement had a declining food security situation with a slight increase in food insecure households and a significant decline in the number of households with food stocks from 52 percent in September to 35 percent in December 2018. The deterioration could be attributed to the double food assistance ration provided in October 2018 to cover the food needs of households for a two-months period (October and November). Compared to May 2018, there was a significant increase in the proportion of households with at least one income earner and alternative sources of livelihood from 26 to 50 percent. In addition, there was a significant decline in the application of food coping strategies by the interviewed households indicating less stress. However, the settlement had a high debt prevalence (84 percent) indicating food access problems.

Kyaka II

The settlement had a fair food security situation with a decrease in the number of food insecure households compared to May 2018. However, there was a decline in the number of households with food stocks compared to May 2018. The deterioration in food stocks could be attributed to the double food assistance ration provided in October 2018 to cover the food needs of households for a two-months period (October and November). The settlement had a slight increase in the proportion of interviewed households with income earners and alternative sources of livelihood besides food assistance. Debt prevalence and application of food security coping strategies greatly decreased, indicating less stress in the settlement. However, the settlement should be closely monitored to avoid a deteriorating food security situation.

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES



For more information contact:

Anders Petersson anders.petersson@wfp.org

Hamidu Tusiime hamidu.tusiime@wfp.org

Amina Mubuka amina.mubuka@wfp.org