

Food Security Monitoring: Urban Areas, Refugee Hosting Areas and Karamoja

Key points



To monitor the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on household food security, WFP Uganda expanded the coverage and intensity of its food security monitoring system to include urban areas in addition to refugee settlements, refugee hosting districts and Karamoja. Starting from May 2020, data was collected continuously from 13 refugee settlements and hosting districts, all the 9 districts of Karamoja districts, Kampala based refugees and 13 urban areas (cities, municipalities and towns).



The proportion of households with insufficient food consumption was 48 percent among settlement-based refugees, 26 and 22 percent among Kampala-based refugees and nationals in host communities, respectively. Overall, the food consumption levels amongst settlement-based refugee households continues to deteriorate.



In urban areas, the proportion of urban nationals having insufficient food consumption slightly deteriorated to 9%, whilst in Karamoja, household food consumption was fairly stable between September (38%) and October (40%).



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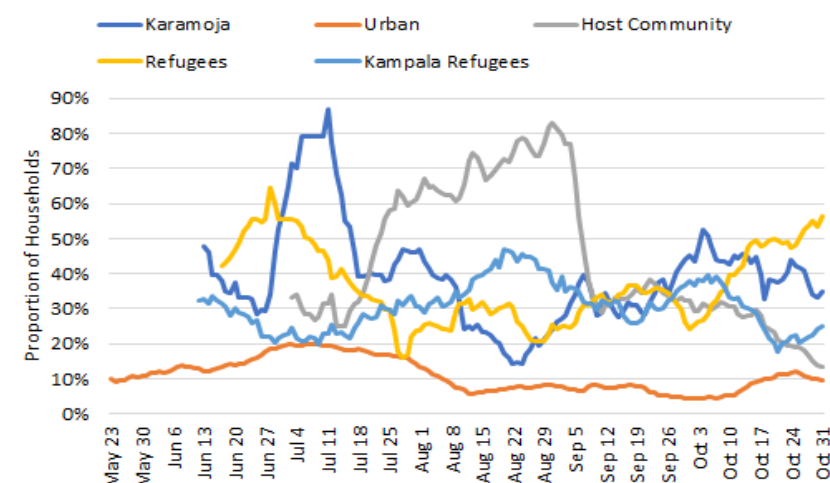
Situation update

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the government of Uganda instituted restrictions to economic activity and physical movement from the 18th of March 2020. To monitor the impact on some of the most impacted populations, WFP Uganda expanded its remote monitoring system (mVAM) to provide near-real time updates on the food security situation in refugee settlements, refugee hosting communities, urban centres across the country and in the Karamoja region.

In October 2020, 48 percent of the settlement-based refugee households had insufficient food consumption compared to 32 percent in September and 56 percent in March 2020 (Before COVID 19 restrictions). In Karamoja, household food consumption was fairly stable between September (38%) and October 2020 (40%), whilst an improvement was observed in the refugee host communities (22 percent in October vs 30 percent in September 2020) (**Fig. 1**). The food security of urban households slightly deteriorated between September (6 percent) and October (9 percent).

Kampala based refugees continue to experience improvement in household food security with around 26 percent reporting having insufficient food consumption in October 2020 compared to 35 percent and 40 percent in September and August, respectively. Figure 1 also demonstrates that Kampala-based refugees were relatively better off compared to settlement-based refugee households.

Fig. 1: Proportion of households with poor or borderline food consumption



Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, October 2020



Food consumption

Urban Areas and Kampala Based Refugees

In October 2020, about 1 in 10 (9 percent) surveyed households in urban areas reported having inadequate food consumption. A 3 percent increase compared to September 2020 (Fig. 2). According to gender, female headed households (15 percent) were worse off compared to male headed ones (8 percent)

Whilst refugee households in Kampala remained worse-off than other national urban population groups, there is a gradual improvement in their food consumption since August 2020. In October 2020, 26 percent of Kampala based refugees had inadequate food consumption compared to 35 percent in September. The improvement is largely because of the WFP cash assistance in October.

The highest percentage of surveyed households reporting inadequate food consumption in October 2020 was recorded in Jinja (13 percent) and Mbale (12 percent), with both experiencing a 5 percent increase compared to September. Overall, the deteriorating food consumption amongst urban nationals could partly be due to high food retail prices across urban towns.

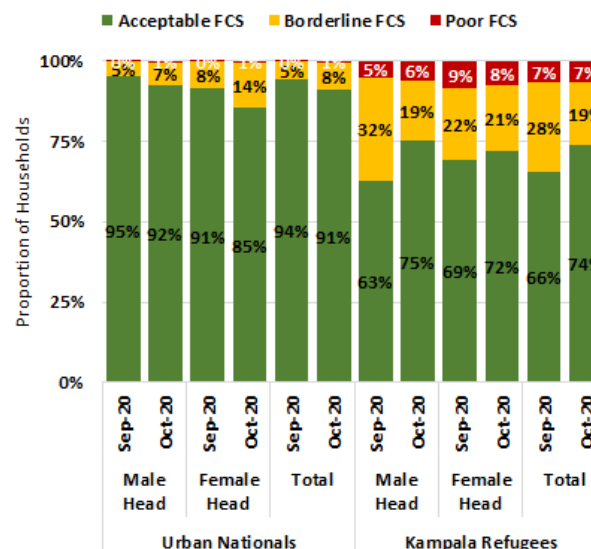
Settlement Based Refugees and Host Communities

The food consumption amongst settlement based refugees continued to deteriorate. Overall, about half (48 percent) of settlement-based refugee households in October 2020 had inadequate food consumption (10 percent poor and 32 percent borderline), a 16 percentage point increase since September (Fig. 4). The increase in the share of households having inadequate food consumption was notable in Nakivale, Oruchinga and Imvepi increments of 38, 35 and 30 percent respectively were observed.

For refugee host communities, household food consumption continues to improve due to availability of food from the first season harvest. The proportion of households with inadequate food consumption in October was 22 percent, compared to 30 percent and 71 percent in September and August, respectively. A significant decrease in food insufficiency was recorded in Palabek and Rhino-Camp (Fig. 5). Palorinya had the highest proportion of households with inadequate food consumption in October, and experienced a 13 percentage deterioration from September.

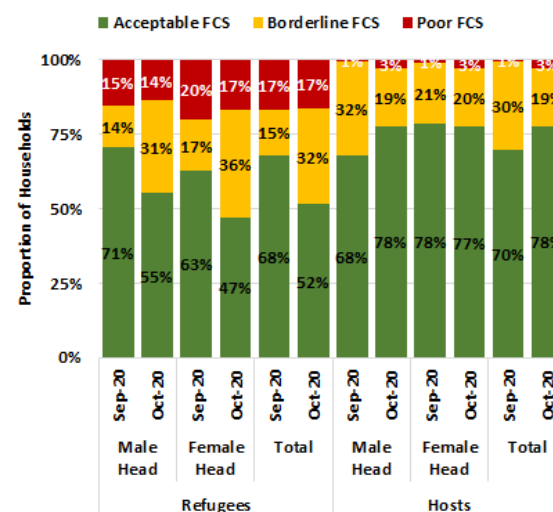
Data available in October was not sufficient for inferential analysis to be conducted Lobule, Kyaka II, Palabek, Rhino camp, Moroto & Amudat.

Fig. 2: Food consumption of nationals in urban areas and Kampala based refugees



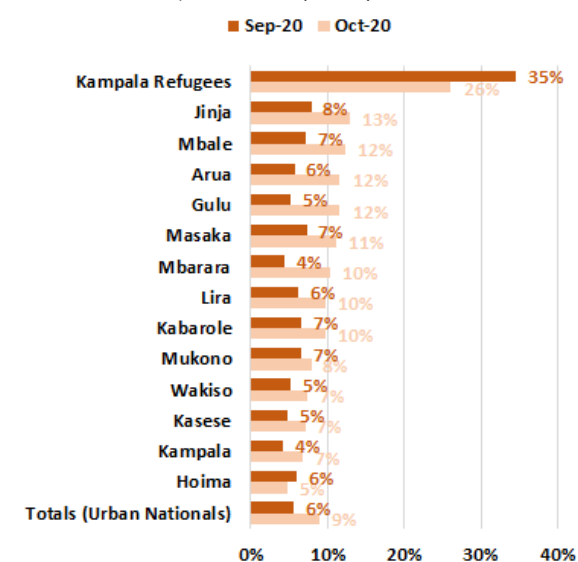
Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, October 2020

Fig. 4: Food consumption of host communities and settlement based refugees



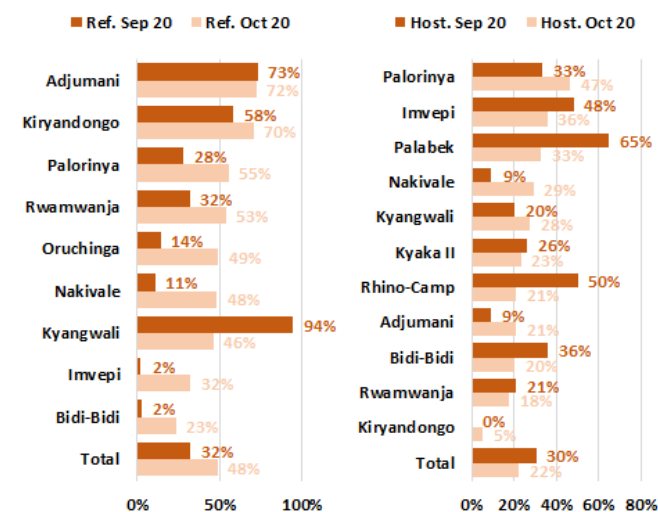
Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, October 2020

Fig. 3: Proportion of households with insufficient (poor and borderline) food consumption by district



Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, October 2020

Fig. 5: Proportion of households with insufficient (poor and borderline) food consumption by settlement and Host District.



Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, October 2020



Food consumption

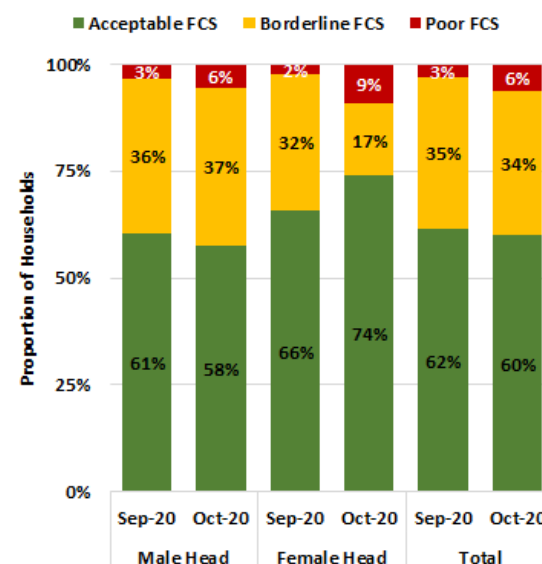
Karamoja

Overall, household food consumption in October 2020 remained stable (Fig. 6). About 4 in 10 surveyed households in October 2020 reported having inadequate food consumption of which 6 percent poor and 34 percent borderline. Figure 6 also demonstrates that male headed (42 percent) were worse off compared to female headed (26 percent) households.

Kaabong (59 percent), Karenga (54 percent) and Nakapiripirit (45 percent) recorded the highest percentage of households with inadequate food consumption (Fig. 7). Compared to September 2020, improvements were noticed in Nakapiripirit and Napak, whilst a deterioration was experienced in Nabilatuk, Karenga and Abim.

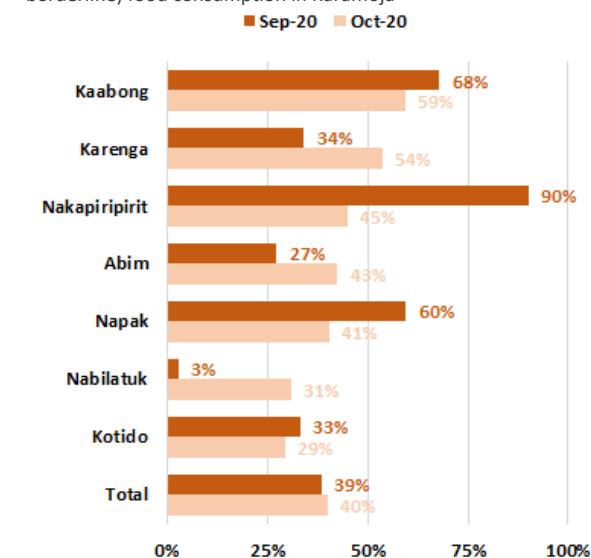
Inadequate food consumption means that in the preceding days, surveyed households were not able to eat a sufficient dietary intake comprised of most of the recommended food groups: cereal, legumes, fat/oil, milk or other dairy products, animal protein (e.g. meat, fish or eggs), vegetables, fruits and sugar.

Fig. 6: Food consumption of nationals in Karamoja



Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, October 2020

Fig. 7: Proportion of households with insufficient (poor and borderline) food consumption in Karamoja



Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, October 2020



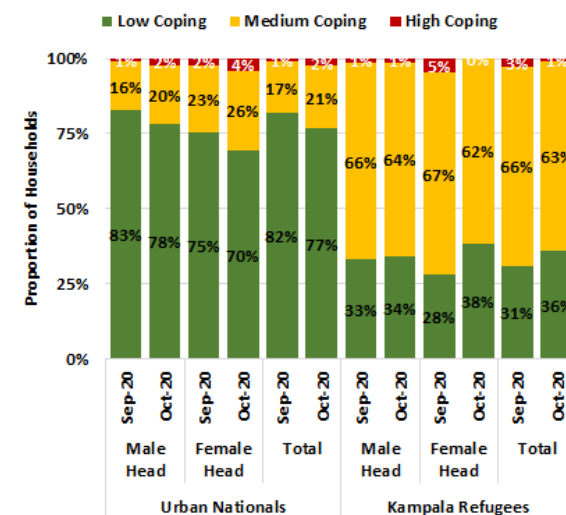
Food based coping strategies

Urban Areas and Kampala Based Refugees

Whilst use of negative food-based coping strategies slightly increased amongst urban nationals, there was a minor improvement for Kampala-based refugee households although the share remained higher than other population groups (Fig. 8). In October 2020, 23 percent of the surveyed urban households used medium or high food-based coping strategies, demonstrating a 5 percent increase compared to September. Amongst Kampala-based refugee households, there was a reduction from 69 percent in September to 64 percent in October 2020.

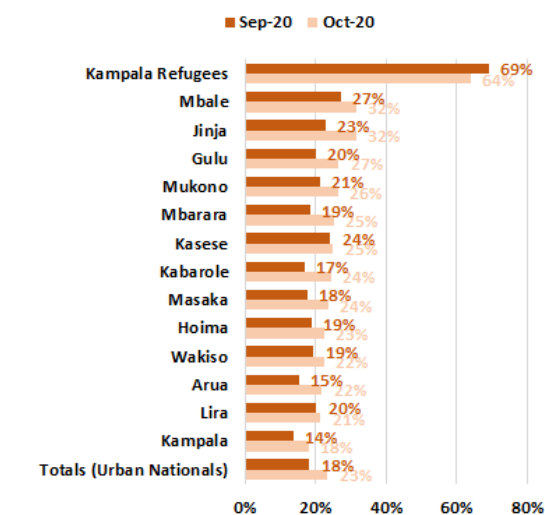
In October 2020, the highest share of surveyed households reporting using medium or high food-based coping strategies was recorded in Mbale (32 percent) and Jinja (32 percent), with a 4 and 9 percentage increase compared to September. On the other hand, Kampala and Lira had the least percentage of households using medium or high food-based coping strategies in October 2020 (Fig. 9).

Fig. 8: Proportion of households employed food based coping



Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, October 2020

Fig. 9: Proportion of households employed medium/high food-based coping by district



Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, October 2020



Food based coping strategies

Settlement Based Refugees and Host Communities

In October 2020, the use of negative food-based coping strategies was higher amongst settlement-based refugees than host communities. About half (52 percent) of the surveyed settlement-based refugee households used medium or high food-based coping strategies, compared to 38 percent in September (*Fig. 10*). Female and male headed households employed food based coping strategies at similar levels.

Kyangwali (78 percent), Oruchinga (70 percent) and Imvepi (68 percent) had the highest proportion of surveyed households that employed medium or high food-based coping strategies in October (*Fig. 11*). Kyangwali also recorded a 56-percentage point increase compared to September.

Amongst host community households, the share of survey households that reported having used medium or high food-based coping strategies slightly increased from 15 percent in September to 22 percent in October 2020 (*Fig. 10*). Nakivale (37 percent) and Adjumani (27 percent) with the highest proportion of households reporting using medium or high food-based coping strategies, also recorded an 18-percent increase compared to September (*Fig. 11*).

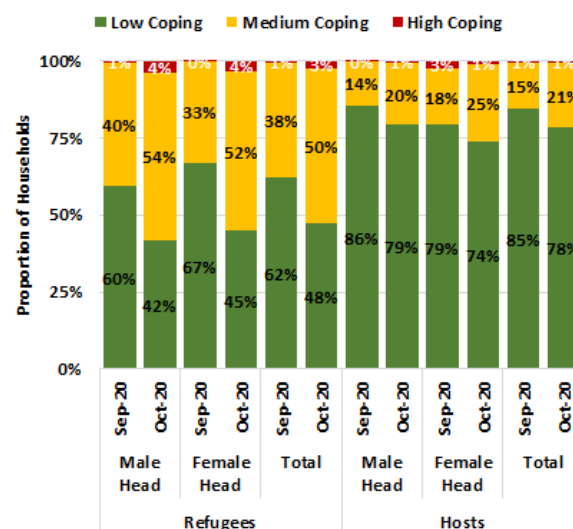
Karamoja

In October 2020, about 4 in 10 surveyed households were classified as medium or high food-based coping, demonstrating a 23-percentage point increase compared to September. The share of households using negative food-based coping strategies was higher among female headed (52 percent) than male headed (40 percent) households (*Fig. 12*).

The highest percentage of households classified as medium or high coping was recorded in Abim (47 percent), Karenga (46 percent) and Kotido (44 percent) (*Fig. 13*). Figure 13 shows that Abim, Karenga and Kotido experienced a significant increase in the share of households using negative food-based coping strategies compared to September 2020.

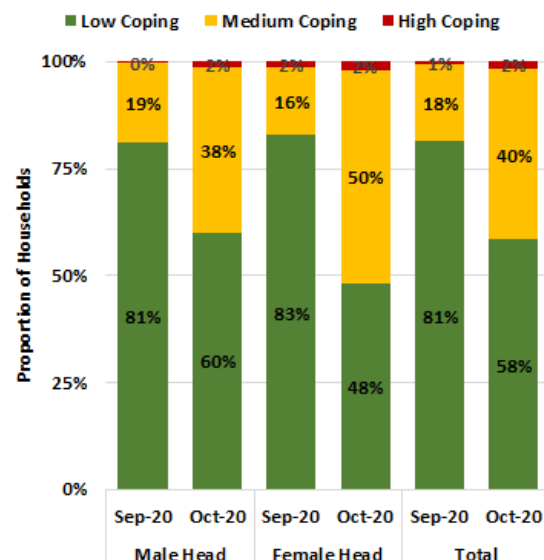
Negative food consumption strategies means re-adjusting to poor diets, for example reducing the number of meals or eating cheaper, less preferred meals, reducing meal portions or restricting consumption of certain persons in the last 7 days prior to the interview due to inadequate food availability at the Household Level.

Fig. 10: Proportion of households employed food-based coping



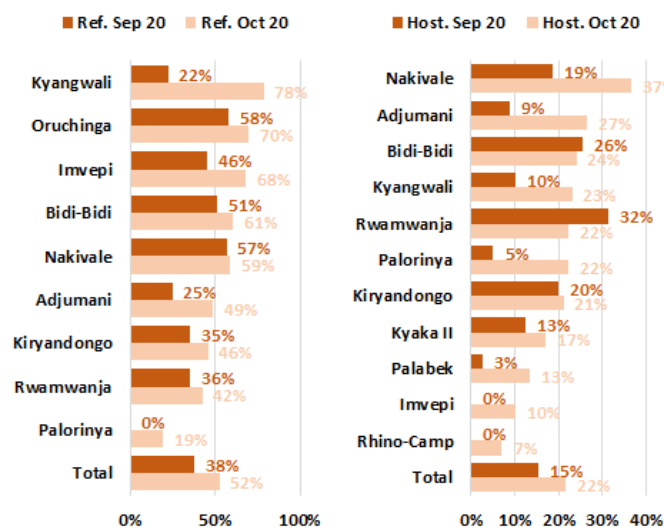
Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, October 2020

Fig. 12: Proportion of households employed food based coping



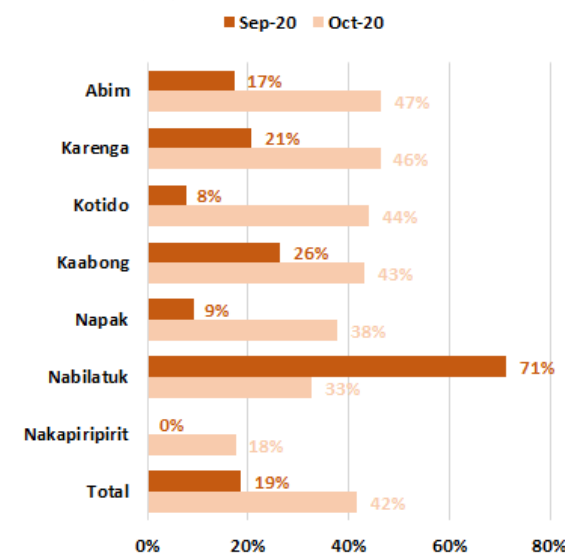
Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, October 2020

Fig. 11: Proportion of households under high or medium food-based coping by settlement



Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, October 2020

Fig. 13: Proportion of households under high or medium food-based coping by district



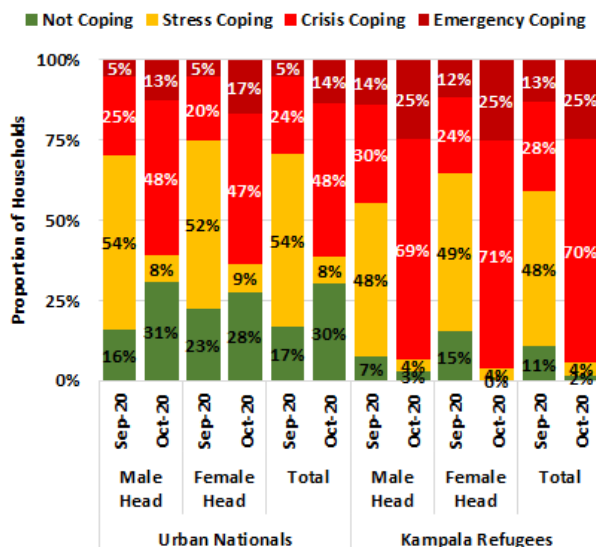
Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, October 2020



Livelihood Coping Strategies — Urban areas

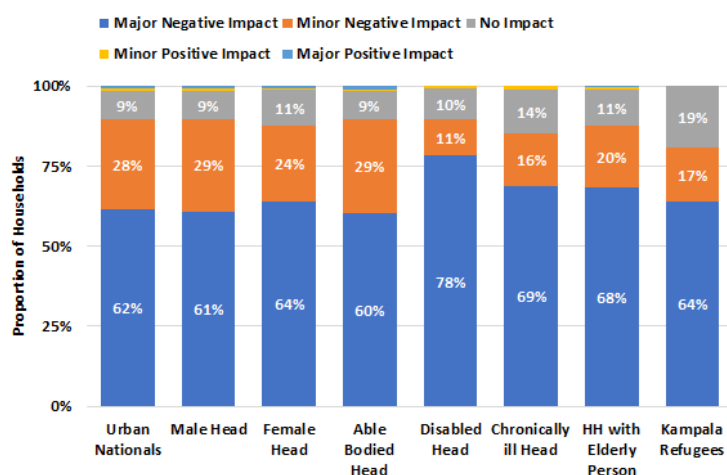
Crisis or emergency coping means households are employing severe negative livelihood coping strategies so as to meet their food needs or meet other basic needs. Use of these negative strategies/ measures impacts erodes their asset base and future livelihood options. Examples of crisis and emergency strategies include; Sell of productive assets, Begging, sell of land/houses, reduce expenditure on healthcare, engage in illegal activities and withdrawal of children from school

Fig. 14: Proportion of households employing livelihood based coping strategies



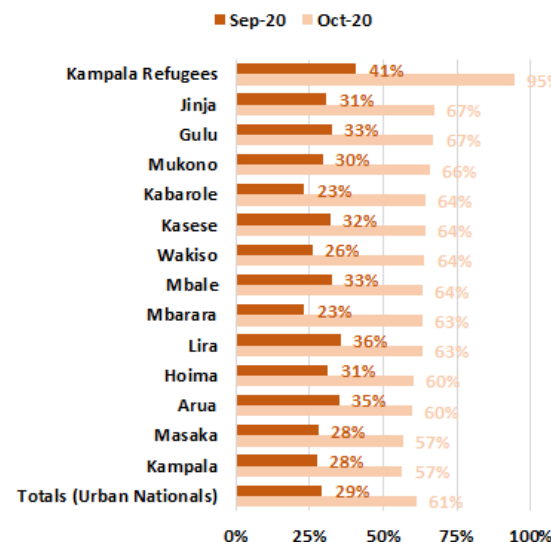
Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, October 2020

Fig. 17: Proportions of households with specific demography affected by the coronavirus and the government restrictions



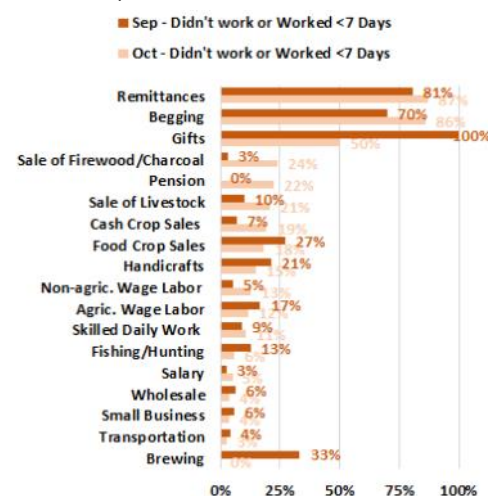
Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, October 2020

Fig. 15: Proportion of households employing crisis or emergency livelihood coping strategies by district



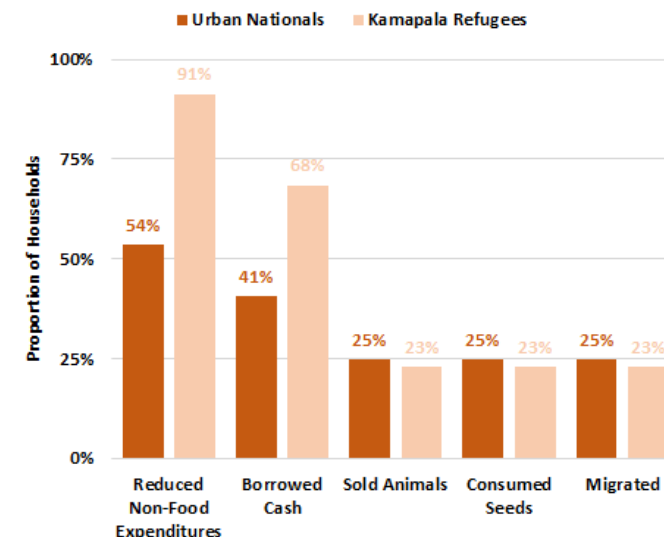
Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, October 2020

Fig. 18: Proportions of households whose livelihoods have been affected by COVID 19



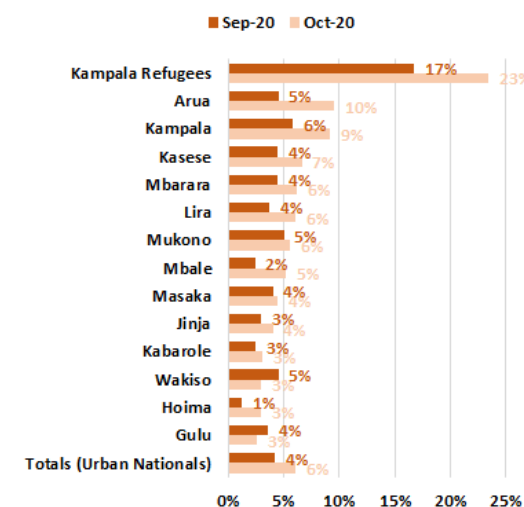
Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, October 2020

Fig. 16: Top 5 livelihood coping strategies used



Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, October 2020

Fig. 19: Food assistance to households by any organization

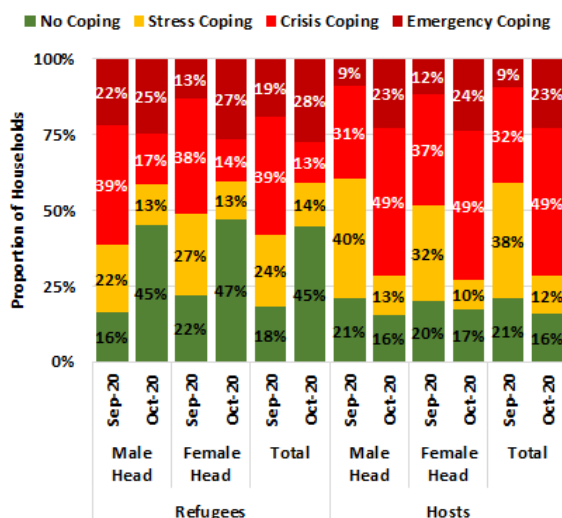


Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, October 2020



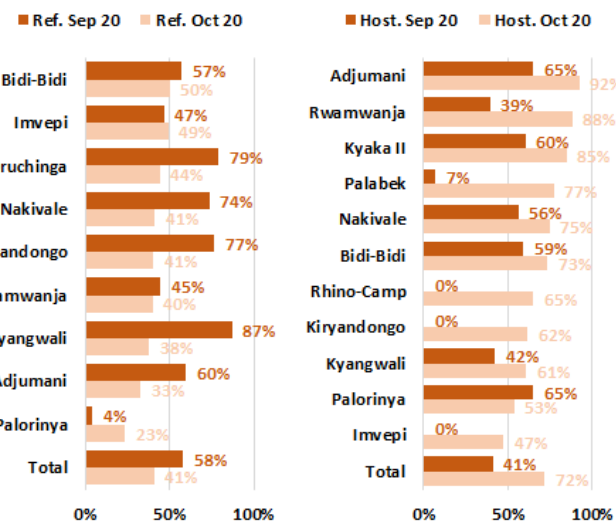
Livelihood Coping Strategies — Refugee hosting areas

Fig. 20: Proportion of households employing livelihood based coping strategies



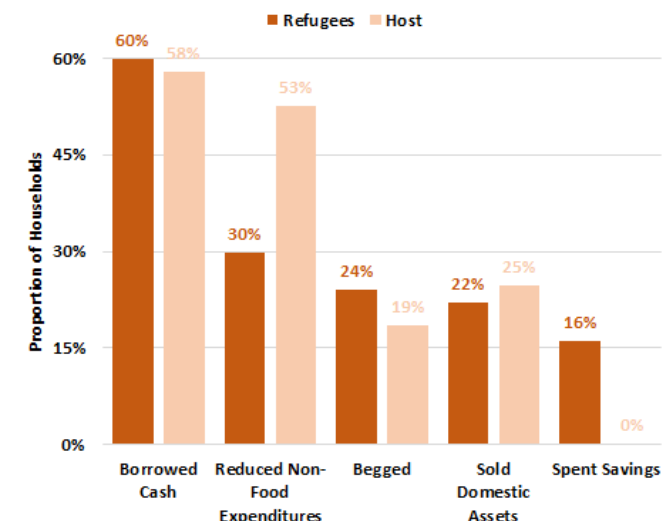
Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, October 2020

Fig. 21: Proportion of households employing crisis or emergency livelihood coping strategies by settlement



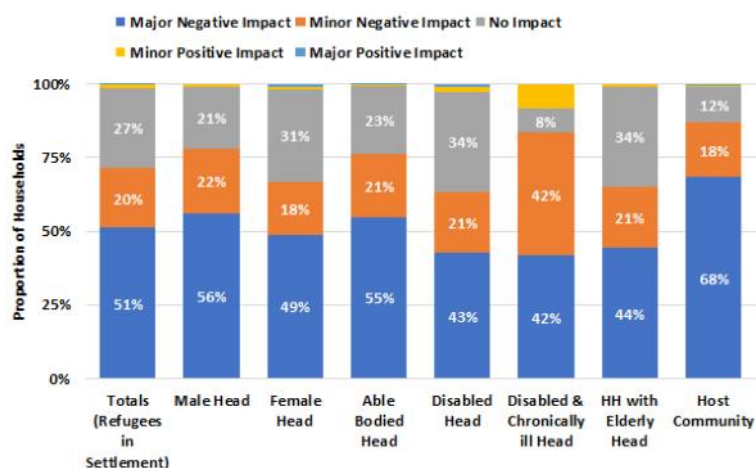
Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, October 2020

Fig. 22: Top 5 livelihood coping strategies used



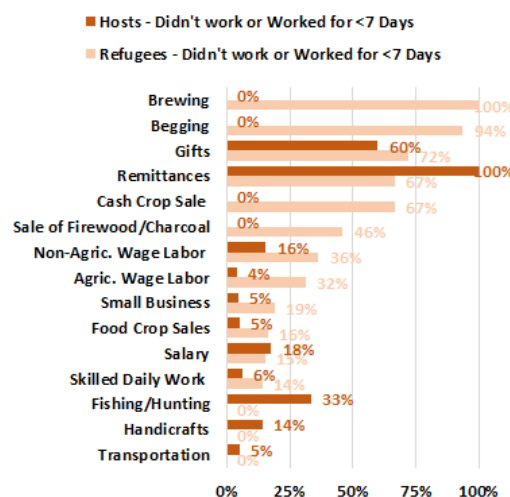
Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, October 2020

Fig. 23: Proportions of households with specific demography affected by the coronavirus and the government restrictions



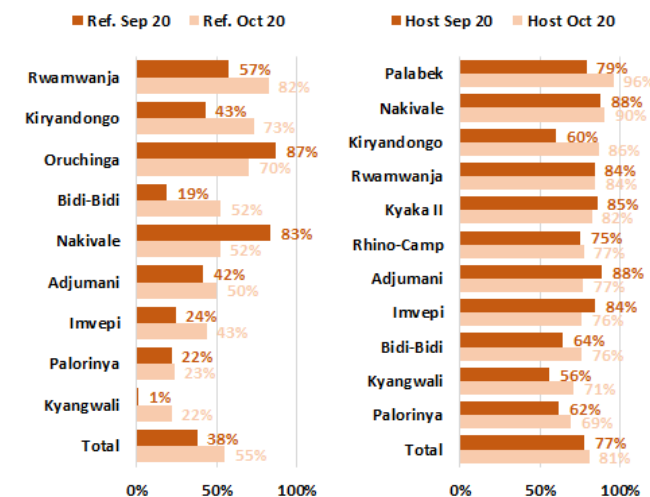
Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, October 2020

Fig. 24: Proportions of households whose livelihoods have been affected by COVID 19



Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, October 2020

Fig. 25: Household planted in this season

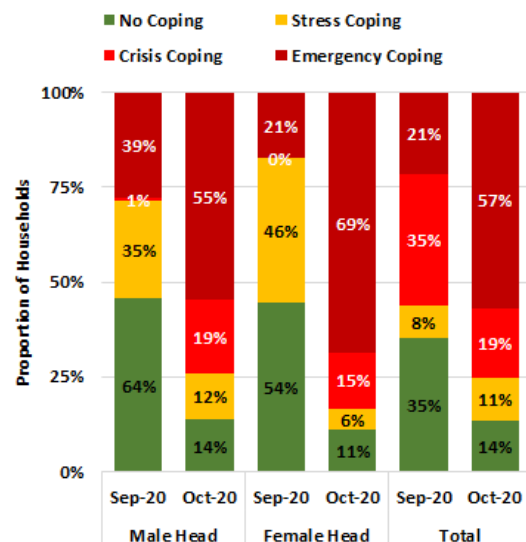


Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, October 2020



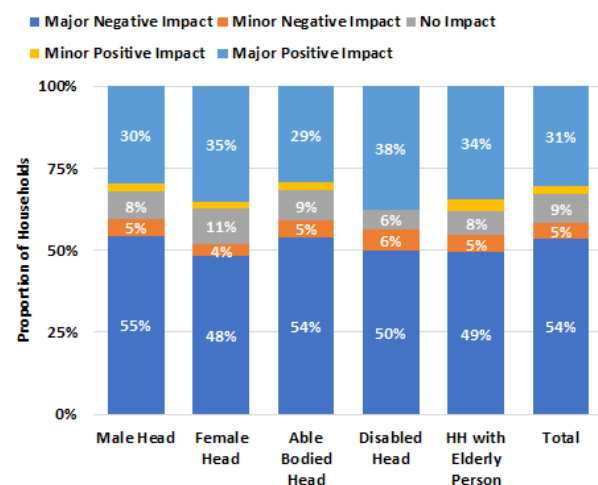
Livelihood Coping Strategies — Karamoja region

Fig. 26: Proportion of households employing livelihood based coping strategies



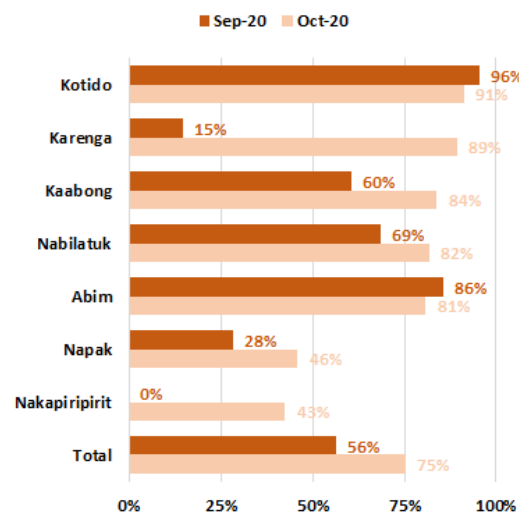
Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, October 2020

Fig. 29: Proportions of households with specific demography affected by the coronavirus and the government restrictions



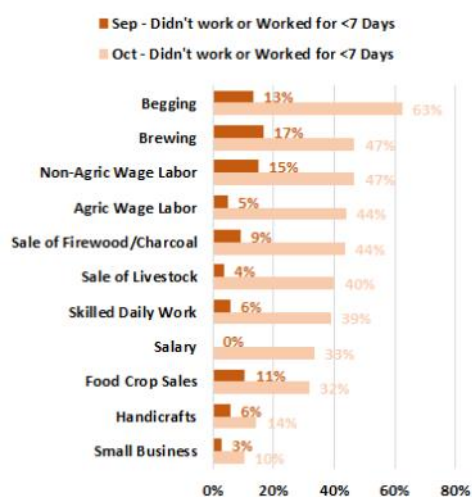
Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, October 2020

Fig. 27: Proportion of households employing crisis or emergency livelihood coping strategies by district



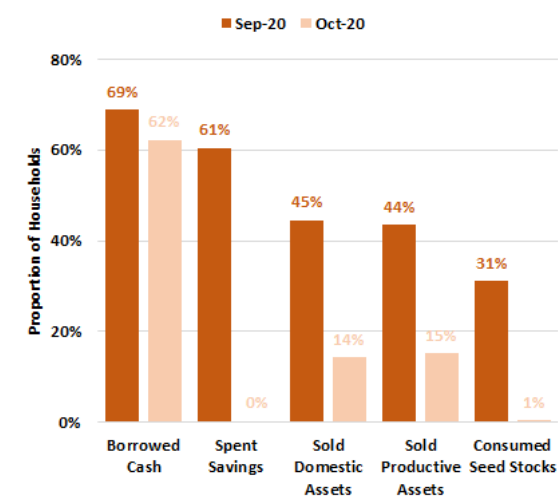
Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, October 2020

Fig. 30: Proportions of households whose livelihoods have been affected by COVID 19



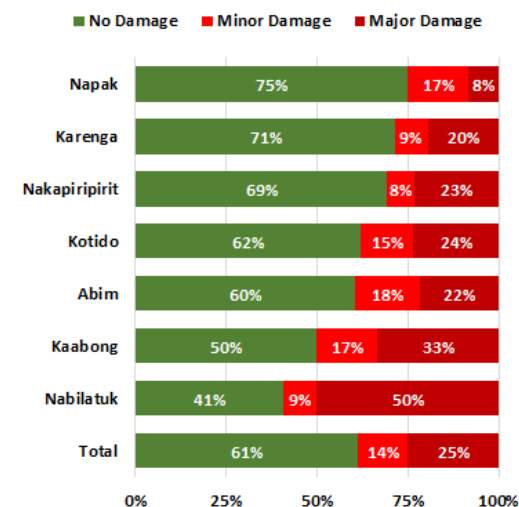
Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, October 2020

Fig. 28: Top 5 livelihood coping strategies used



Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, October 2020

Fig. 31: Locust damage to agricultural activities



Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, October 2020



Market access

Fig. 32: Market access and reasons for not being able to access markets – Urban Areas

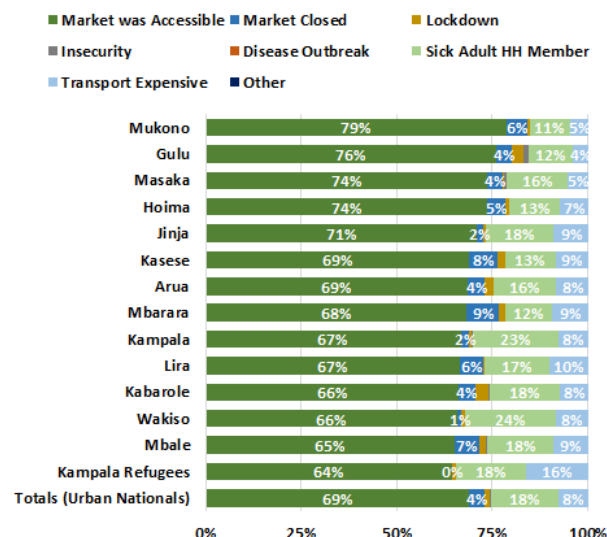


Fig. 33: Market access and reasons for not being able to access markets – Refugee hosting areas

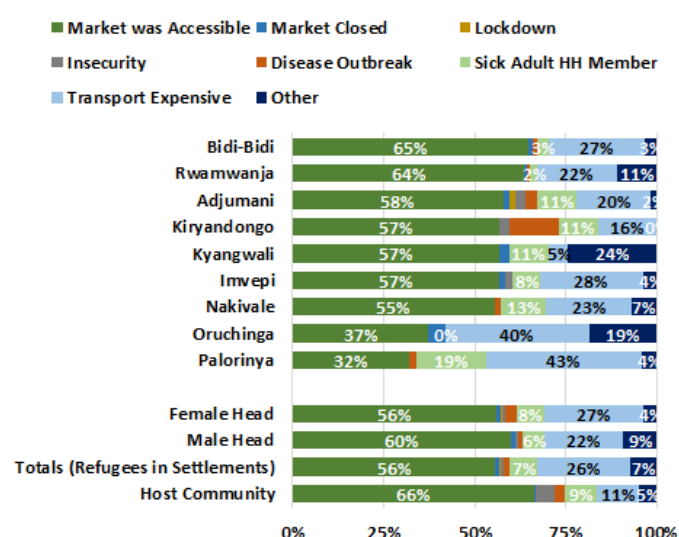
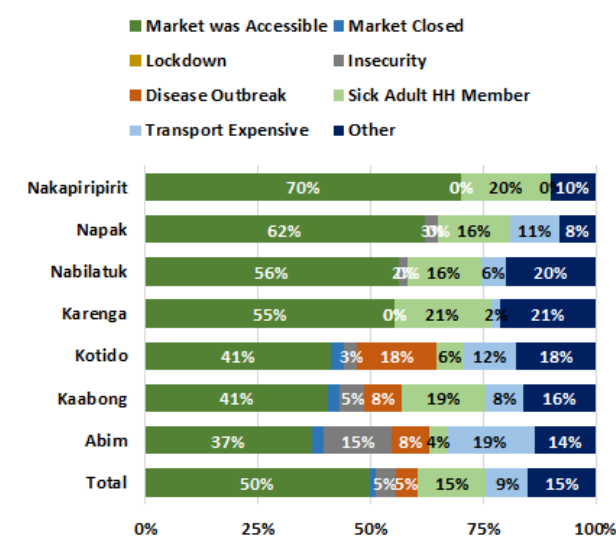


Fig. 34: Market access and reasons for not being able to access markets – Karamoja



Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, October 2020

Methodology

The coronavirus pandemic and the strategies employed by governments to control its spread have had far reaching effects on food security and livelihoods globally. In Uganda, restrictions put in place by the Government of Uganda from the 18th of March 2020 to protect the population has disrupted livelihoods and food access for large segment of Ugandans. The increased risk of shocks to food security and essential needs coincided with increased difficulty of monitoring the situation through traditional in-person surveying and data collection. Because of the importance to maintain situational awareness, WFP Uganda scaled up its remote monitoring system to obtain near real time food security information of refugees and nationals in 13 refugee hosting areas, urban population in 13 urban centres as well as nationals in 9 districts of Karamoja region. Live telephone interviews started from 10th May and continues daily. During the reporting period of this bulletin, 3,969 national households in 13 urban centres, 583 refugee households and 1,125 national households from 13 refugee hosting areas, 253 refugee households in Kampala as well as 377 national households from Karamoja region were randomly selected. Although the sample was drawn using a structured random selection technique, it may have been biased due to inequalities in mobile phone ownership along lines of wealth and gender. The sample size is statistically representative at each settlement/district at minimum with a margin of error of 10 percent at a 95 percent confidence level.



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