UGANDA - KARAMOJA

NEARLY 361,000 PEOPLE IN KARAMOJA EXPERIENCING HIGH LEVELS OF ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY

IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY ANALYSIS

MARCH 2021 - JANUARY 2022

Issued July 2021

CURRENT ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY MARCH - JULY 2021

361,000
30% of the population

People facing high acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above)

IN NEED OF URGENT ACTION

Phase 5	0 People in Catastrophe
Phase 4	75,000 People in Emergency
Phase 3	286,000 People in Crisis
Phase 2	433,000 People Stressed
Phase 1	413,000 People in food security

PROJECTED ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY AUGUST 2021 - JANUARY 2022

188,000
16% of the population

People facing high acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above)

IN NEED OF URGENT ACTION

Phase 5	0 People in Catastrophe
Phase 4	28,000 People in Emergency
Phase 3	160,000 People in Crisis
Phase 2	471,000 People Stressed
Phase 1	549,000 People in food security

Overview

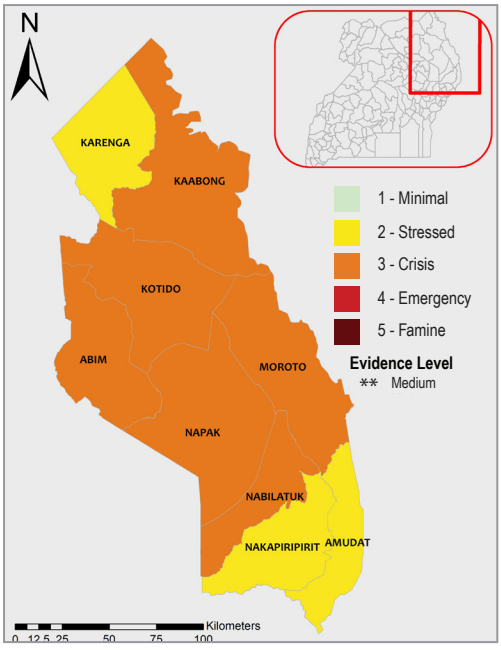
Karamoja, located in the north-east, is one of the poorest regions in Uganda, with income poverty at 61% and food poverty at 70% (UNHS, 2016/17). The region comprises of four livelihood zones i.e. sorghum-livestock zone, maize-livestock zone, mixed crop zone and apiary-potato zone. The population is mainly rural, with livelihoods based on livestock and crop production, and of recent, a growing range of diversified livelihood activities. The region continues to have the highest food insecurity and malnutrition levels in Ugand, due to factors related to inadequate food, poor dietary diversity, structural poverty, limited livelihood options, poor hygiene and sanitation, and disease, with a recent overall improvement in safe water source access but low water use. The region also faces a predisposition to recurrent climate-related shocks such as long mid-season dry spells / drought, erratic rainfall, that often causes floods / water logging, etc. There is pronounced vulnerability to other shocks such as food price increases, declines in livestock or crop production and market disruptions.

In the current period (March – July 2021), six districts in Karamoja are classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis), with 30% of the population (361,000 people) faced with high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) in the region. With the exception of Amudat, Karenga and Nakapiripirit districts, that are in IPC Phase 2 (Stressed), all the other districts have been classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis). Overall, the food security situation in the region has deteriorated with the highly food insecure population (IPC Phase 3 or above) increasing from 27% in June 2020 to 30% in March 2021. Households faced with high acute food insecurity have large food consumption gaps and can only meet their minimum food consumption requirements after employing Crisis and Emergency coping strategies. Children in these households are also facing high levels of acute malnutrition due to inadequate access to food.

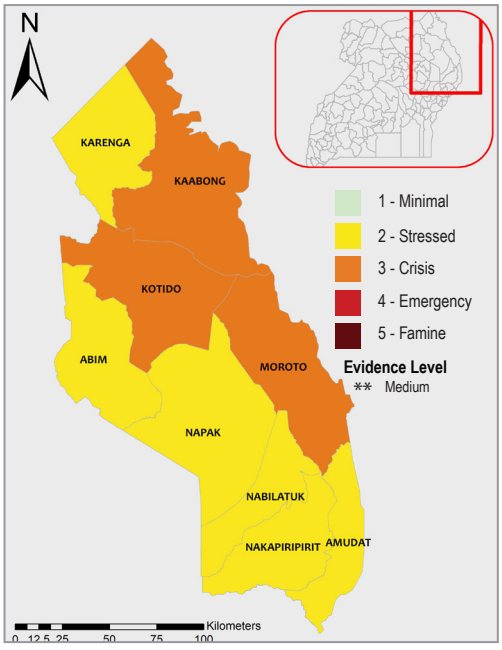
It is expected that the food security situation will slightly improve in the projection period of August 2021 – January 2022, due to seasonal expected harvest and milk availability, with the population facing high acute food insecurity declining from 361,000 (30%) to 188,000 (15%). The districts of Abim, Napak and Nabilatuk are projected to improve from IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) to IPC Phase 2 (Stressed), whereas Kaabong, Kotido and Moroto will remain in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) through the projection period.

Based on both Acute Food Insecurity (AFI) and Acute Malnutrition (AMN) analyses of Karamoja, the current results indicate a similar classification in Karenga, Nakapiripirit, Moroto, Kotido and Napak. The remaining districts of Kaabong, Nabilatuk, Amudat and Abim showed different classifications for AFI and AMN, with high levels of AMN but low levels of AFI in Kaabong and Amudat, while Nabilatuk and Abim had high levels of AFI and low levels of AMN. Notably, Kaabong and Amudat had different classifications, with severe AMN classifications mainly attributed to very poor quality and quantity of food, high food insecurity, poor sanitation / latrine coverage, low per capita water use and reduced child care and inadequate breastfeeding, exposing the children to recurrent infections leading to increased malnutrition incidences.

Current AFI March - July 2021



Projected AFI August 2021 - January 2022



Key Drivers

COVID-19

Movement restrictions, related insecurity, high agricultural input prices, crop/animal diseases and reduction of cultivated areas.

Conflict and insecurity

Cattle raids, theft and loss of productive assets.

Price shocks

Above average prices for staples and reduction in purchasing power from declines in seasonal incomes.

KARAMOJA CURRENT SITUATION OVERVIEW AND KEY DRIVERS (MARCH – JULY 2021)

Out of the nine districts in the Karamoja region, three districts (Amudat, Karenga, Nakapiripirit) have been classified in IPC Phase 2 (Stressed) whereas the other six districts (Abim, Kaabong, Kotido, Moroto, Nabilatuk and Napak) have been classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis). Overall, the region has about 30% of the population facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 and above). In terms of magnitude, the districts with the highest populations in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) or above are Kotido (94,900), Kaabong (51,500), Napak (56,300) and Moroto (42,400). In terms of severity, the districts with the highest percentage in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) or above are Kotido (45%), Kaabong (40%), Moroto (35%), Nabilatuk (35%) and Napak (35%); while Kaabong, Kotido, Moroto and Nabilatuk all have 10% in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency).

Comparing the AMN analysis of Karamoja to the AFI analysis that took place simultaneously, in the current period, high acute food insecurity and acute malnutrition were evident in Kaabong, Kotido, Moroto and Napak, with Kaabong having the highest level of acute malnutrition. In the projection period, only two districts (Kaabong and Moroto) show high levels of acute malnutrition and acute food insecurity, despite the expected seasonal improvements.

According to the Food Security and Nutrition Assessment (FSNA) of 2021, 55% of households in all analyzed regions of Karamoja had acceptable food consumption, while 45% had insufficient/inadequate food consumption (Poor + Borderline FCS). Categorically, 8% had poor food consumption, implying they were eating less than the required foods needed to live a productive and healthy life. The most affected districts were Karenga, Kotido, Nabilatuk and Kaabong where, respectively, 63%, 60%, 56% and 55% of the households were categorised to have both poor and borderline FCS. Alternatively, Amudat (92%) and Nakapiripirit (79%) had households with the highest proportion of households having acceptable food consumption. Households that suffered some form of hunger in 30 days prior to the assessment (IPC Phase 3 or above, according to the Household Hunger Scale) were mostly found in Moroto (66%), Nabilatuk (46%) and Napak (51%) districts. At the time of the assessment, 52% of the households were already employing Crisis and Emergency livelihood coping strategies, due to continued lack of food, with Nabilatuk (80%), Kotido (74%) and Napak (70%) districts being the most affected. Begging and consuming seed stock contributed mostly to the registered Crisis and Emergency strategies. In Nabilatuk district, sale of productive assets including bicycle, motorcycle, sewing machines, etc., was relatively high at 23%.

The recent FSNA of March 2021 indicates the acute malnutrition prevalence in the Karamoja region is 10.7%, with Kaabong (18.6%) and Moroto (14.2%) being most affected. The rate of children being underweight in the region, mostly as a result of inadequacy in food quantity and quality, is 29.1%, with Kaabong (37.8%), Kotido (34%), Moroto (32.4%) and Karenga (32.8%) having the highest proportion of under-fives that are underweight.

The COVID-19 restrictive measures, instituted by the government since March 2020, have gradually been lifted, allowing the economy to return to normalcy. As of April 2021, no measures are in place that grossly restrict trade within the country or with neighbouring countries, save for the screening of drivers at border points. However, the temporary ban on maize imports imposed by the Kenyan government and the later announced food safety standards to control aflatoxin have reduced trade between the residents of Amudat district and their Kenyan counterparts. The sporadic insecurity in Tapac sub-county has also negatively impacted trade between the residents of Moroto district and their Kenyan counterparts.

Organised cattle thefts / raids intensified during the COVID-19 lockdowny, leading to loss of livestock and consequently a reduction in livestock production and sale / consumption of livestock products. As security personnel concentrated more on COVID-19 response activities and there was restricted movement on the population, households could not recover their stolen livestock, yet reduction in income generating activities during the lockdown gave rise to increased thefts and raids. The insecurity situation has continued into 2021, forcing the authorities to re-introduce protected corrals in some areas, which negatively impacts on livestock production. The outbreak of FMD, that led to prolonged livestock movement quarantines in 2020 and other diseases like swine fever, East Coast Fever, CBPP and PPR, has further exacerbated the situation, with continued livestock deaths reported in the districts of Abim, Nabilatuk, Nakapiripirit and Moroto. The apparent situation only serves to lead to further deterioration in the food security situation of households whose livelihoods mainly depend on livestock keeping.

The unexpectedly above average rains in April to May and July 2020 caused water logging that led to the rotting of the young crops, and later flash floods that swept away the crops, especially in the green belt of Napak, Abim, Kotido and Karenga districts. The rains also negatively affected the early growth of sorghum in Kaabong and Moroto districts, forcing farmers to replant, and the late planted sorghum was also affected by a mid-season dry spell leading to low production. Crop pests and diseases, more so the Fall Army Worm, sorghum smut, meadow-spittle-bug and bean fly, affected the production of maize, sorghum, beans and millet. The influx of desert locusts, that started in February 2020 and continued almost until September 2020. did not only cause low production of already planted maize, but also reduced land opening, as farmers negatively speculated the impact of the desert locust invasion / attacks. Additionally, the locust invasion that happened in March and April 2020 coincided with the onset of rains that would have favoured pasture and water availability for livestock production, and devastated rangelands for the pastoralist community in the region. The impact of this invasion on livestock production has continued into 2021.

Due to reduced land opening as a result of unfavourable climate and insecurity / conflicts, there has been reduced opportunity for provision of agricultural wage labour, yet district level by-laws in some districts now limit the burning and sale of charcoal which has limited household income. The consequential loss in income, coupled with food and commodity price increases, has reduced household purchasing power.

At the time of the FSNA conducted in March 2021, 25% of the households had debt, with 40% having borrowed to buy food (an increase from the 29% recorded in 2020) and only 14% borrowed to re-invest. The raising food-related debt burden has not only been as a result of the dwindling income sources, but also increasing prices for staple foods. According to the March FEWSNET price bulletin, sorghum prices increased by about 20% between December 2020 and March 2021 across the region. Specifically, the sorghum retail price rose by about 11-19% in Moroto, Nakapiripirit, Kotido and Kaabong districts in January 2021 and up to 41% in Napak. The reported periodic impact of recent insecurity may also have affected trade routes, causing a further increase in prices as a result of reduced supply. The temporary ban on maize imports imposed by the Kenyan government and the later announced food safety standards to control aflatoxin have reduced trade between the residents of Amudat district and their Kenyan counterparts. This reduces income earned from maize exports, but positively increases supply in the local markets, which may gradually lead to reduction in prices. Increased reliance on the market for food, increasing cereal prices and declining livestock incomes have affected the purchasing power of some households leading to reduced food access. In addition to the above factors, poor post-harvest handling due to general lack of improved storage facilities reduced food stock availability, prompting many households to resort to market purchases.

Food availability is a major limiting factor in Kotido and Nabilatuk districts, mainly due to the low harvests of 2020. Alternatively, it is a minor limiting factor in the other seven districts (Abim, Amudat, Kaabong, Karenga, Moroto, Nakapiripirit and Napak). Maize and sorghum are reportedly generally available in Nabilatuk (at household level and in the markets) though no other food stuffs, including legumes, that could serve as sauce, are available. The heavy rains of April to July 2020 (except in June) led to intense water logging that caused rotting of the already germinated crops. In some districts the rains caused flash floods that washed away the young crops, forcing famers to plant again. For instance, millet and sorghum failed in Abim due to water logging that forced households to plant again; but the late planted millet was again affected by an intense mid-season dry spell. Land opening in some districts was affected by the insecurity or violence arising from planned cattle raids / thefts and land conflicts. Even where households had access to land, the rudimentary tools used, particularly the hand hoe, did not allow for the effective opening of agricultural land. Of recent, however, tractor and ox ploughing are being adopted in Moroto and Napak districts, which will improve food production in future. Wild life (particularly buffalos and elephants) that escaped from Kidepo National Park moving southwards towards Abim destroyed crops in Karenga, Kaabong and Kotido districts, affecting mostly Lolelia and Sidok sub-counties.

The prolonged lack of rainfall in the months of December 2020 to March 2021 significantly reduced pasture and water availability, crippling livestock production and leading to reduced availability of livestock products (particularly milk). The intended movement of livestock keepers to the green belt and other gazetted grazing areas, with better water and pasture access, has been curtailed by the increasing insecurity and cattle raids / thefts. The re-introduction of protected corrals is reducing livestock production by increasing the livestock disease burden, as livestock are congested in smaller areas without regard to the origin and disease history. Livestock production has significantly been affected by current disease outbreaks, particularly swine fever, CBPP, Anaplasmosis, and PPR, among others.

At the time of the assessment in early March 2021, only about 56% of the households in the region indicated they had food stocks, a reduction from the 66% who had food stocks at the same time last year. Of those who had food stocks, about 59% reported that their food stocks would not last more than one month, indicating these either did not have or had very little stocks at the time of the analysis in April 2021. Districts with the lowest food stocks in March 2021 were Moroto (15%), Napak (33%), Nakapiripirit (34%), Kotido (51%) and Nabilatuk (52%). However, even with the low availability of household food stocks, Moroto and Nakapiripirit still benefit from the good market availability of food stuffs from traders. The markets in these districts are mainly supplied by traders who procure food stuffs from Mbale, Kween, Soroto and other districts of Teso and Lango sub-regions.

About 96% of the households in the region have opened land for crop production in 2021, with 15% said to have opened larger plots than in 2020, 50% the same and 31% less. The highest proportion of households that have opened less land than in 2020 is in the districts of Kaabong (52%), Moroto (47%) and Napak (42%). More households in Nabilatuk district (26%) and Kotido (23%) have opened larger plots than in 2020 compared to households in the other districts. Kitchen gardening is still low in the region (16%), with the highest percentage of households involved in kitchen gardening being in Kaabong district (35%) and the lowest in Amudat, where less than 1% of the households are involved.

Food access has been and continues to be a major challenge in all districts in the region. Even in Kotido and Nabilatuk districts, access has been rated a minor factor, since the major issue was availability and it is difficult to generally portray households as having failed to access food that was in the first case not available. Across the region, prices of staples, including sorghum, maize and beans, gradually increased between December 2020 and March 2021, yet those of livestock gradually decreased. The March FEWSNET assessment indicates that sorghum prices increased by about 20% between December 2020 and March 2021, due to increased demand because of below average production and harvest in 2020. The retail price of sorghum has been reported to have risen by about 11-19% in Moroto, Nakapiripirit, Kotido and Kaabong in January 2021 and up to 41% in Napak. Since many households don't have stocks, they have resorted to markets as the primary source of food ith this increased demand, driving the prices upwards.

The periodic impact of recent insecurity in some districts and/or sub-counties may have had an effect on trade routes, causing a further increase in prices due to reduced supply, like in Rupa and Tapac sub-counties in Moroto district. Against the rising prices, the sources of income, which are significantly limited even in a normal year, have not recovered to typical levels after the COVID-19 restrictions and other factors. The delayed rains of 2021 have reduced opportunities for casual agricultural labour. FEWSNET reports that reduction in off-season labour opportunities led to a fall in casual labour wages by about 25% in Moroto and Kaabong districts in March 2021. Due to some district restrictions and by-laws, charcoal burning and wood cutting have been curtailed in some areas, yet even where charcoal is still being sold, the prices have reduced due to low effective demand. For instance, the price of charcoal declined by over 30% in Moroto, Nakapiripirit and Kaabong districts at the beginning of 2021. Increased food prices with no positive change in typical income not only reduces purchasing power, but also affects terms of trade. This mix of increasing food prices and reducing income has therefore constrained most poor households from accessing food, yet this population does not have sufficient food stocks from own production of the previous season.

Food utilization is a major limiting factor in all districts, except in Abim and Napak, where it is a minor limiting factor. There are inadequate storage facilities for most households in the region, which leads to post-harvest losses, thus reducing the food stocks at household level. Additionally, though the majority of households can access improved water sources. except for Amudat, Karenga and Nakapiripirit districts, where access stands at 73%, 71% and 68% respectively, the per capita water use remains relatively low in all districts. Across the region, 83% of the households have access to safe sources of water (75% borehole / tube well, 8% tap / standpipe), with only 17% accessing water from unsafe sources (surface water, open streams, etc). From the recent FSNA assessment, 54% of the households indicated they were satisfied with the current water sources. Surprisingly, even with this availability of safe water sources, households tend to collect water that is not sufficient for use by all household members, either due to long distance and long queuing time at the sources, or other factors that need to be investigated. Per capita water use across the region is 15 litres (similar to 2020), with only about 30% meeting the WHO requirement of 20 litres per person per day (an increase from 26% in 2020). No district in the region has been able to achieve the per capita water use of 20 litres, with the best performing districts being Nabilatuk (17.9 litres) and Abim (17.7 litres), and the worst performing being Karenga (12.1 litres) and Kaabong (13.2 litres). The average time taken to collect water is 57 minutes, with households in Kaabong, Karenga and Napak districts (averagely 68 minutes) taking more time than those in other districts. Moreover, in most cases, households share water from the same sources with livestock, further reducing the opportunity to have enough water for domestic household use.

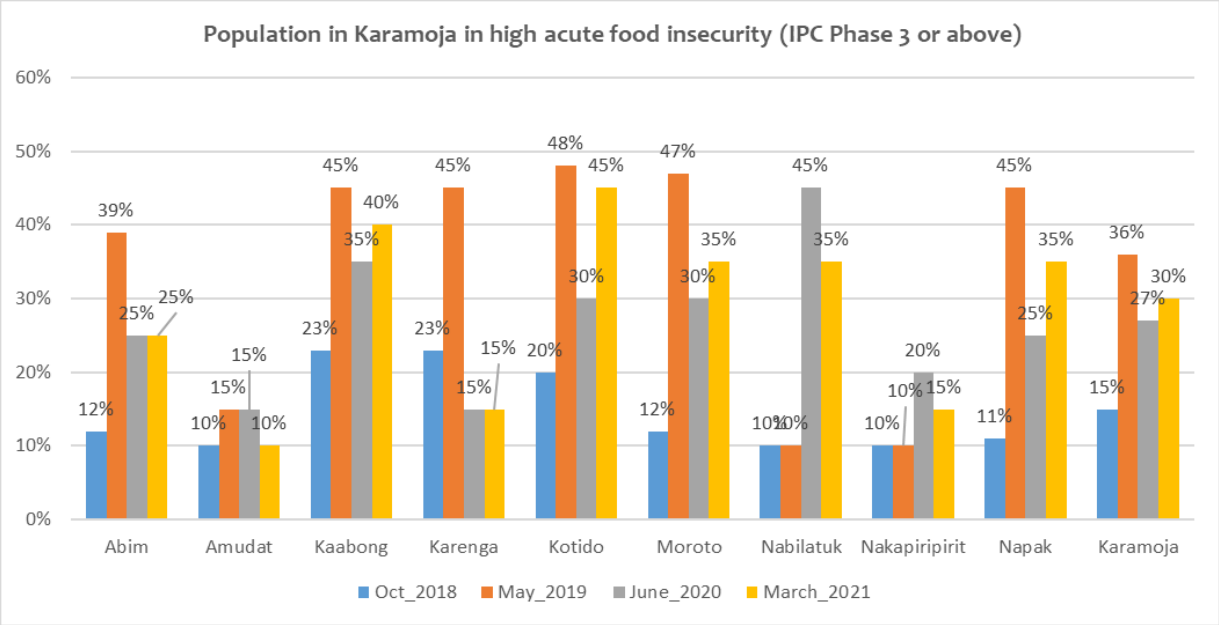
Access to improved sanitation and toilet facilities is low across the region. Open bush and air defecation stands at 60%, with only 12% able to use a pit latrine with slab, 20% are using latrines without slab while another 8% use open pits. Worst performing districts are Amudat, Kotido, Napak and Nabilatuk where open defecation stands at 84%, 83%, 71% and 73% respectively. The low per capita water use, coupled with limited access to improved sanitation and toilet facilities, pose serious hygiene challenges, which affect food utilization. For instance, diarrhoea prevalence among children is 15% in the region, with the worst-hit districts being Kotido (24%), Nabilatuk (22%) and Nakapiripirit (18%).

About eighty eight percent of the households in the region use firewood as the main source of cooking fuel, with another 8% using charcoal. The only advantage is that the majority of the households (68%) use open cooking places (outdoors), reducing the chances of respiratory infections / problems arising from the use of unclean cooking fuel. Even for those cooking from indoors, 13% have a separate building / room used as a kitchen and are not cooking from the residential rooms / house. However, the continued use of fuel wood has a gradual but increasing negative impact on the environment, which increases chances of drought in the region. Moreover, the increased time required to fetch firewood could potentially reduce time for women to care for the children. On average, households take 191 minutes to collect firewood with those in Nabilatuk (368 minutes), Kotido (289 minutes) and Moroto (229 minutes) taking more time than households in other districts.

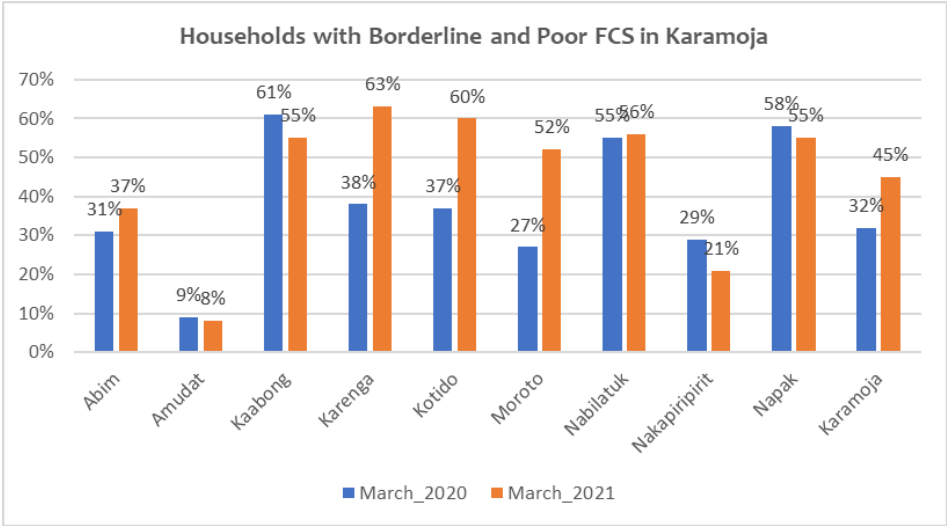
COVID-19: The COVID-19 pandemic movement restrictions, that came into effect in late March 2020, coincided with the onset of the agricultural season in the region, forcing households to open less land than in normal years. An assessment by the Karamoja Resilience Support Unit (KRSU) on the COVID-19 impacts in Karamoja, conducted in August 2020, showed that about 45% of the households in Abim, Amudat and Moroto districts opened less land compared to a normal year. During the same period, insecurity increased as security personnel concentrated more on the COVID-19 response activities, forcing more households to abandon crop planting and production. With movement restriction and an increase in average transport costs (mainly boda boda transport), the cost of agricultural inputs increased unusually by about 26%.

Comparison to previous analyses

The food secure population in the Karamoja region (IPC Phase 1) has increased from 20% in May 2019 to 32% in June 2020 and to 34% in March 2021. The Stressed population (IPC Phase 2) has declined from 44% in May 2019 to 41% in 2020 and to 36% in March 2021. The proportion of the population in Crisis that had reduced from 32% in May 2019 to 22% in June 2020, has now increased to 24% in March 2021. The population in an Emergency situation (IPC Phase 4) has steadily increased from 4% in May 2019 to 5% in June 2020 and now to 6% in March 2021. The current analysis shows that the population in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) or above, that is in need of urgent action to protect livelihoods and save lives by reducing food consumption gaps, that had reduced from 401,800 people in May 2019 to 312,800 people in June 2020, has now increased to 360,900 people in March 2021.



Food consumption in the region deteriorated in 2021, with the percentage of households having a poor or borderline FCS, increasing from 32% in March 2020 to 45% in March 2021, with the most affected districts being Karenga (38% in 2020 to 63% in 2021), Kotido (37% in 2020 to 60% in 2021), and Moroto (27% in 2020 to 52% in 2021).



Humanitarian Food Assistance

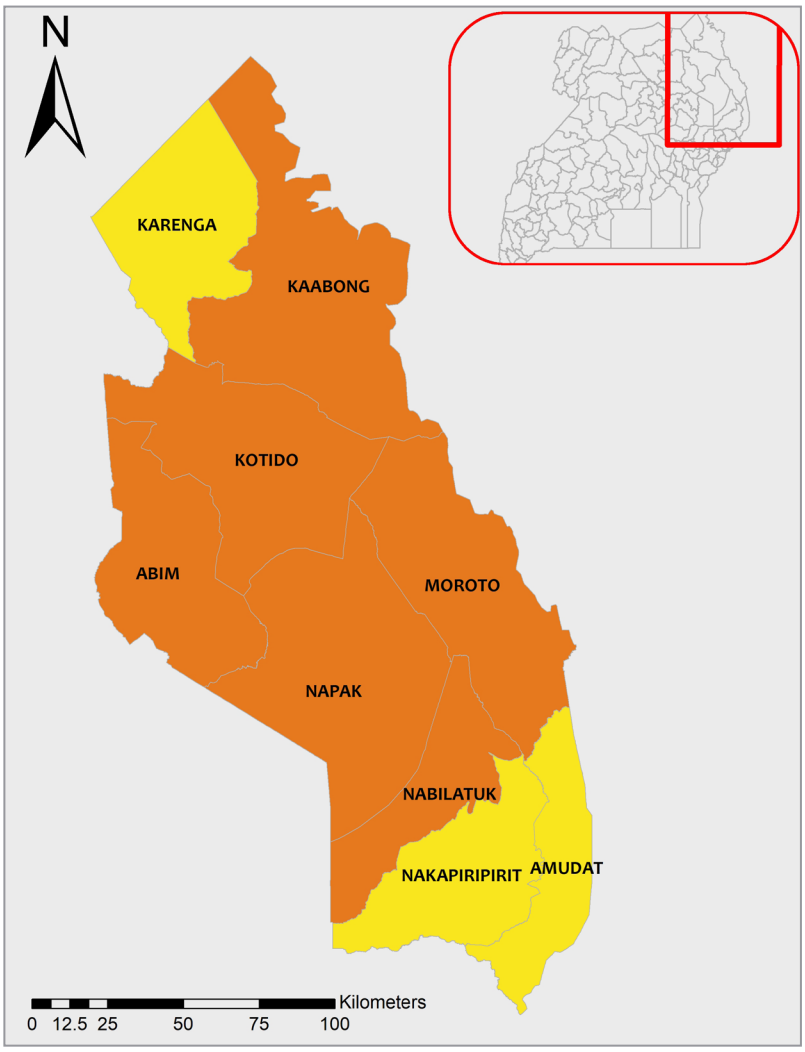
Generally, the Karamoja region benefits from a School Feeding Programme (SFP), through which WFP provides food to all primary and secondary schools in the region. Over 100,000 children are reached every year, with at least one meal a day – either a mid-morning snack or lunch, although the programme had temporarily stopped after closure of schools. As schools fully open after the COVID-19 restrictive measures ended, the SFP has resumed.

The Office of the Prime Minister occasionally provides relief food to the hungry population in the region, though there is no readily available information on any such distribution for the analysis period.

In the current analysis, these parishes are expected to be particularly vulnerable:

District	Sub-counties	Parishes	District	Sub-counties	Parishes
Abim	Alerek	Kulodwong, Loyoroit	Moroto	Katikekile	Kakingol
	Awach	Barlyec, Awach		Nadunget	Acherer, Komaret, Nadunget
	Magamaga	Willela, Koya		Rupa	Mogoth, Rupa
	Morulem	Katabok East, Katabok West, Adea, Angolebwal		Tapac	Katikekile, Nakwang, Tapac
	Nyakwae	Opopongo, Kobulin, Pupukamuya	Nabilatuk	Lorengedwat	Kamaturu, Nathinyonoit
Kaabong	Kaabong East	Losogolo, Morulem, Lokolia, Kalongor		Lolachat	Nakuri, Sakale, Lorukumo
	Lodiko	Kangios, Kotome, Sakatan, Kajiir, Lopedo		Nabilatuk	Acegeretolim, Kosike & Kalokwameri
	Loyoro	Lomeruma, Lokanayona, Toroi	Kotido	Nakapelimoru	Lookorok, Watakau, Potongor
	Kaabong West	Lomoruitae, Kaabong, Lokerui		Rengen	Lokadeli, Lopuyo, Naponga, Nakwakwa, Kotyang
	Kakamar	Kotirae, Kitelore, Morunyang, Kakamar		Kacheri	Lokiding, Losackuchia, Kokuwam
	Kalapata	Meus, Moroto, Morunyang		Kacheri	Lokiding, Losackuchia, Kokuwam
	Lotim	Kakutatom, Kosui, Kaloboki		Panyangara	Kamoru, Loletio
	Kathile	Teregu, Naryonomoru, Lemugete	Amudat		
	Kathile south	Lois, Nachukul, Lokali	Karenga		
	Lolelia	Loteteliet, Lochokei, Narogos	Nakapiripirit		
	Sidok	Kasimeri, Longaro, Locherep	Napak		
	Lobongia	Lomusian, Pajar			
	Lolelia south	Leeny			

KARAMOJA ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY CURRENT MAP AND POPULATION TABLE (MARCH - JULY 2021)



Key for the Map

IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Classification

(mapped Phase represents highest severity affecting at least 20% of the population)

- 1 - Minimal
- 2 - Stressed
- 3 - Crisis
- 4 - Emergency
- 5 - Famine

Evidence Level
** Medium

Karamoja population table for the current period: March - July 2021

District	Total population analysed*	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5		Area Phase	Phase 3+	
		#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%		#people	%
Abim	162,900	65,160	40	57,015	35	32,580	20	8,145	5	0	0	3	40,725	25
Amudat	140,400	84,240	60	42,120	30	14,040	10	0	0	0	0	2	14,040	10
Kaabong	128,600	45,010	35	32,150	25	38,580	30	12,860	10	0	0	3	51,440	40
Karenga	69,900	31,455	45	27,960	40	6,990	10	3,495	5	0	0	2	10,485	15
Kotido	210,900	52,725	25	63,270	30	73,815	35	21,090	10	0	0	3	94,905	45
Moroto	121,200	24,240	20	54,540	45	30,300	25	12,120	10	0	0	3	42,420	35
Nabilatuk	93,800	28,140	30	32,830	35	23,450	25	9,380	10	0	0	3	32,830	35
Nakapiripirit	118,100	41,335	35	59,050	50	17,715	15	0	0	0	0	2	17,715	15
Napak	161,000	40,250	25	64,400	40	48,300	30	8,050	5	0	0	3	56,350	35
Total	**1,206,800**	**412,555**	**34**	**433,335**	**36**	**285,770**	**24**	**75,140**	**6**	**0**	**0**		**360,910**	**30**

Note: A population in Phase 3+ does not necessarily reflect the full population in need of urgent action. This is because some households may be in Phase 2 or even 1 but only because of receipt of assistance, and thus, they may be in need of continued action.

KARAMOJA PROJECTED ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY SITUATION OVERVIEW (AUGUST 2021 - JANUARY 2022)

During the projection period (August 2021 – January 2022), the food security situation is expected to improve in the Karamoja region, due to seasonal improvements such as expected harvest and pasture for the pastoralists, which will improve both food security and nutrition at household level. Of the nine districts in the region, three districts are anticipated to be in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and six districts are anticipated to be in IPC Phase 2 (Stressed) during the projection period. No district has been projected to improve to IPC Phase 1 (Minimal Acute Food Insecurity). Abim, Nabilatuk and Napak districts are anticipated to improve from IPC Phase 3 to IPC Phase 2, whereas Kaabong, Kotido and Moroto districts will remain in IPC Phase 3, where they have been classified in the current period. Alternatively, Amudat, Karenga and Nakapiripirit districts will remain in IPC Phase 2, where they have been classified in the current period of analysis. In terms of magnitude, the districts projected to have the highest populations in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) or above are Kotido (63,300), Kaabong (25,700), Moroto (24,300) and Napak (24,100). In terms of severity, the districts expected to have the highest percentage in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) or above are Kotido (30%), Kaabong (20%) and Moroto (20%), while Kaabong, Kotido, Moroto and Nabilatuk will all have 5% in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency). Overall, the number of people in the Karamoja region that are facing high levels of acute food insecurity and require food assistance and livelihood improvement interventions is expected to reduce from 360,900 people, which is 30% of the population analysed, to 187,700, which is 15% of the population analysed. The population in IPC Phase 3 or above in Moroto and Kaabong are expected to halve compared to the current (42,000 to 24,000 and 51,000 to 25,000, respectively). Futhermore, the population in Phase 3 or above in Kotido is expected to reduce by a third (from 95,000 to 63,000). 2% of the Karamoja population (27,800 people) is expected to be in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) in the projection period, a decrease from the 6% (75,100 people) in the current period, while 13% of the analysed population (159,900 people) is expected to be in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) in the projection period, a reduction from the 24% (285,800 people) in the current period.

The current insecurity, arising from cattle raids or thefts, and the delayed rains are anticipated to largely affect production in the districts of Kaabong, Kotido and Moroto, as farmers have not been able to open as much land for agricultural production as in a normal year. Even with the less land opened, hand-hoe tillage is still the main method employed, with limited use of ox and tractor ploughing, which further affects food production in the region. There has been a tendency of youth workers diverting from agricultural production to other income-generating activities especially in Moroto district (mainly stone quarrying, small scale mining, and others), but these are expected to be affected by the ongoing insecurity. The closure of the Labour-Intensive Public Works (LIPW) programme, which was funded under the Disaster Risk Financing component of the NUSAF III, will greatly affect income generation and survival in all districts. As the rains intensify, water logging and flash floods are anticipated to affect the currently germinating and young crops, though the same will cause improvement in the availability of water and pasture for livestock. New desert locust invasions are highly anticipated in the region, which will affect production (both crop and livestock) in some districts.

Compared to the current analysis period, food consumption, dietary diversity and incomes from own production and other livelihood opportunities will tend to improve in the projection period, however, they are expected to start declining during or after December 2021.

Assumptions for Projection

Overall, the projection for the period August 2021 to January 2022, which is a post-harvest season for Karamoja, has been based on the following assumptions:

Global supply chain & cross border trade disruptions: The COVID-19 restrictive measures instituted by the government since March 2020 have gradually been lifted, allowing the economy to return to normalcy. These measures are expected to be further lifted with hope that all will have been relaxed by August 2021, provided there are no new increased Coronavirus infections. There is currently free movement for informal cross-border trade, thus, smaller traders who travel on bicycle and on foot are able to sell food and other items such as second-hand clothing. The improved road network within the Karamoja region and the neighbouring areas has improved trade between the people of Karamoja and those of the regions of Acholi, Teso, Bugishu and Lango, including as far as Busoga, which has on the other hand improved food availability in the markets, save for the high prices of cereals, legumes and other essential non-food items. The above factors are most likely to remain throughout the projection period of August 2021 to January 2022 and thus, no trade disruptions are anticipated.

General livelihood / economic activity will slowly recover: Even as COVID-19 prevention measures are relaxed, the restoration of economic activity has been and will continue to be slow during the projection period. Income and other livelihood access are expected to slowly improve as lockdown measures have been eased, though income will most likely remain below average through at least 2022. The economic hardships existing in the region prior to the pandemic have become more pronounced, driving more families into poverty and those already there, even deeper.

Rainfall: The 2021 rains across the region started in late March in a few districts and early April for most of the districts. Late onset of rains has led to late planting and consequently will be followed by late harvesting. The harvest will only be normal or even above normal if the rains are well distributed and also received on time, reducing the impacts of flash floods, water logging and a long mid-season dry spell. Should the rains reach cessation in early June, this may cause wilting of the growing crops, negatively affecting production of some crops, especially the long-term cereals. There are currently no reliable rainfall forecasts for the projection period.

Income from typical livelihood strategies will improve: With the expansion of natural resource sales as a livelihood strategy and low demand for the same, the prices of the extracted/obtained products (firewood, charcoal, sand, bricks) are likely to remain below normal through the current period. Even with the current slow recovery of most activities, poor households are likely to expand income-earning potential through selling firewood and charcoal or sending household members to seek labour in urban areas, since purchasing power in urban areas has tremendously improved after the COVID-19 lockdown. However, the demand for agricultural labour will gradually reduce in the projection period due to reduced agricultural activities. The labour-intensive public works programme under the Disaster Risk Financing component of NUSAF III has closed and is likely not to run again until the end of 2021.

Schools will fully open: Schools have been opened, albeit in a staggered manner, and it is expected that they will be fully operating by the start of the projection period in August 2021. As schools open, children will have access to school feeding, and as such, intra-household distribution of food will improve and previously negative food coping strategies will reduce. It is anticipated that WFP will continue the School Feeding Programme (SFP), but at the same time, close the current Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme (BSFP).

Harvest for 2021 will be average: The 2021 rainy season has had a late onset in April for most districts and the cumulative precipitations between April and early June are estimated to be normal with a tendency to above normal. The current rains are already enabling germination and establishment of crops and improved rangeland conditions. However, water logging is also expected in lowland areas and flash floods are expected in areas with sandy-loam soils. There has been distribution of improved maize and bean seeds through the Operation Wealth Creation programme, which will improve the production of the two crops. Harvest of maize, sorghum, legumes and cassava is expected to be above average depending on the damage caused by in-coming locust swarms, FAW, sorghum smut disease and other crop pests and diseases. It is expected that the green harvest will start as early as July and continue into the projection period, with progression to dry harvest.

Human diseases will increase: During the projection period, there is an increased chance of malaria, water-borne diseases and acute respiratory infections (ARIs), in line with historical seasonal changes. There is already a cholera outbreak (Moroto and Nabilatuk); skin disease (scabies), and diarrhoea. Diarrhoea and malaria are already at high levels in Kotido and Nabilatuk, causing a serious health concern.

Desert locust impact will be low: Based on the recent FAO desert locust update, the locusts are anticipated to enter through Amudat district and move northwards, most likely causing some crop damage in Abim, Kotido and Kaabong districts. There has been reported a presence of immature swarms in northern and central Kenya, which will move westwards into the Turkana areas and finally into the Karamoja sub-region. However, the government's existing surveillance and response mechanisms, if strengthened, are likely to prevent widespread crop failure. There is no anticipation of ecologically favourable conditions for desert locust breeding, and therefore, their chances of multiplication during the projection period are very minimal.

Livestock vectors and diseases continue: Even though the quarantine has been lifted in most districts, the outbreak of FMD is likely to continue in Kotido, Napak, Nakapiripirit and Moroto. Contagious Bovine Pleuro Pneumonia (CBPP), Contagious Caprine Pleuro Pneumonia (CCPP), Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) and tick-borne diseases like Anaplasmosis, Babesiosis and East Coast Fever are expected to continue affecting livestock, even though vaccinations are ongoing. This continued disease infestation will affect income generation for households who depend on selling livestock and livestock products to access food.

Staple food prices will follow seasonal trends: It is likely that prices for staples (sorghum, maize, beans, millet) will decline, as green harvests come in starting July through to October 2021. Following historical trends, an increase in prices of the key staples is expected to start in November through to January 2022. The supply of goods (mainly grain, flour and beans) will not only depend on production within Karamoja region, but also other markets in Mbale, Soroti, Bulambuli and as far as Busoga region.

Insecurity will reduce, though existing conflict will continue: The current sporadic insecurity as a result of cattle raids / thefts, which not only reduces livestock ownership, but also limits the movement of livestock to traditional grazing areas, is highly anticipated to reduce or even come to an end. Current heavy deployment by the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) and the intended increase in the presence of other sister security agencies will most likely curtail the raids putting an end to the insecurity. This expected stability will lead to the restoration of livestock ownership and improved livestock production. The ongoing land conflicts in some areas that are not as a result of militarised instability will, however, most likely continue curtailing any further land opening.

Humanitarian Assistance will continue: Humanitarian Food Assistance (HFA) by WFP, in form of the ongoing School Feeding Programmey, will continue through the projection period. The targeted food assistance by the Office of the Prime Minister will also continue as and when the need arises.

Projection on contributing factors:

Food Availability

As a result of forecasted good rains, food availability is expected to be good, owing to the expected average harvest complemented by good livestock production. There will be availability of imports as markets are fully functional and all movement restrictions have been relaxed. However, post-harvest losses and livestock diseases may affect food availability at household level. Currently, the government is distributing planting materials for maize, sorghum, pulses and cassava cuttings in Amudat, Napak, and Moroto districts. The current additional input distribution assistance beyond the normal, is expected to increase the acreage and subsequently food production. Development partners are also distributing pulses as planting material to households in Iriiri, Lotome, Ngoleriet, Lorengechora and Matany sub-counties in Napak district. The invasion by wild animals (vermin) and desert locusts may affect production and household food availability in Northern Karamoja.

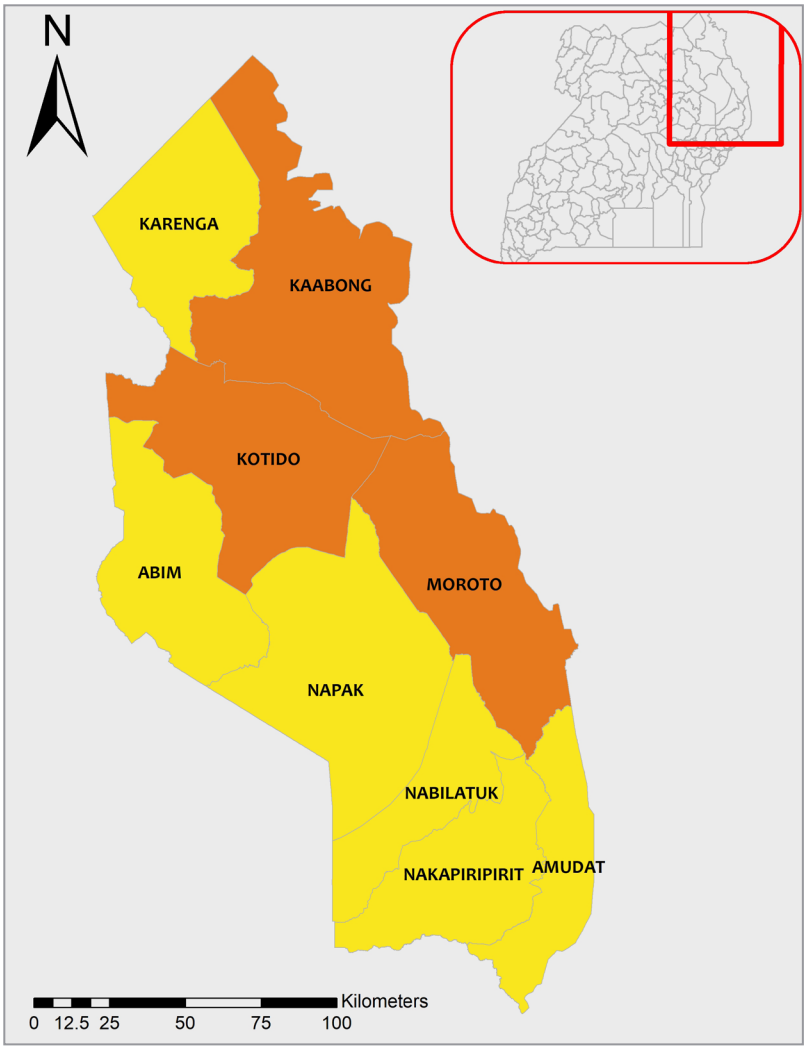
Food Access

Food access is projected to be a challenge, as livelihoods lost due to COVID-19 restrictions and lockdown will not have recovered fully, constraining the purchasing power of households. The most affected populations will be those surviving on daily non-agricultural and agricultural casual labour, petty businesses and livestock traders. Markets are expected to be fully functional through the projection period. Seasonal income from crop sales and livestock sales is likely to remain below normal for poor households through May and June 2021, but will gradually improve in the projection period as economic activity accelerates and facilitates higher demand. The purchasing power is expected to improve for many households with the resumption of the rainy season providing water and pasture for livestock. Increased milk production and alternative sources of income such as casual labour are expected to provide sources of income. In Moroto district, more cash transfer activities have been planned for the farmers whose crops were affected by the desert locusts in 2020. These cash transfers will provide cash relief to households after the loss of income that would come from the LIPWs.

Food Utilization

Food utilization is expected to remain a challenge due to inadequate storage facilities that is likely to result in post-harvest losses. Poor access to improved sanitation facilities will remain a major problem, as most households lack toilet facilities and yet the anticipated rainy season will just curtail the planned construction of toilets. Adequacy in water use is not expected to improve, even with the current access to safe water sources. Poor sanitation coverage and low water use is likely to lead to further outbreak of water-borne diseases, namely diarrhoea and cholera. Additionally, improved access to clean energy will be impossible, because the majority of households in the region rely on firewood and charcoal for cooking fuel.

KARAMOJA ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY PROJECTION MAP AND POPULATION TABLE (AUGUST 2021 - JANUARY 2022)



Key for the Map

IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Classification

(mapped Phase represents highest severity affecting at least 20% of the population)

- 1 - Minimal
- 2 - Stressed
- 3 - Crisis
- 4 - Emergency
- 5 - Famine

Evidence Level
** Medium

Karamoja population table for the projection period: August 2021 - January 2022

District	Total population analysed*	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5		Area Phase	Phase 3+	
		#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%		#people	%
Abim	162,900	89,595	55	57,015	35	16,290	10	0	0	0	0	2	16,290	10
Amudat	140,400	98,280	70	35,100	25	7,020	5	0	0	0	0	2	7,020	5
Kaabong	128,600	45,010	35	57,870	45	19,290	15	6,430	5	0	0	3	25,720	20
Karenga	69,900	38,445	55	24,465	35	6,990	10	0	0	0	0	2	6,990	10
Kotido	210,900	73,815	35	73,815	35	52,725	25	10,545	5	0	0	3	63,270	30
Moroto	121,200	42,420	35	54,540	45	18,180	15	6,060	5	0	0	3	24,240	20
Nabilatuk	93,800	37,520	40	42,210	45	9,380	10	4,690	5	0	0	2	14,070	15
Nakapiripirit	118,100	59,050	50	53,145	45	5,905	5	0	0	0	0	2	5,905	5
Napak	161,000	64,400	40	72,450	45	24,150	15	0	0	0	0	2	24,150	15
Total	**1,206,800**	**548,535**	**45**	**470,610**	**39**	**159,930**	**13**	**27,725**	**3**	**0**	**0**		**187,655**	**16**

Note: A population in Phase 3+ does not necessarily reflect the full population in need of urgent action. This is because some households may be in Phase 2 or even 1 but only because of receipt of assistance, and thus, they may be in need of continued action.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

Response Priorities for Acute Food Insecurity

1. Urgently provide food and livelihood assistance to the populations in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and Phase 4 (Emergency) to save lives and livelihoods.
2. Improve security of people and livestock to open up livelihood opportunities and trade, but at the same time, reducing negative speculation among the communities.
3. Strengthen comprehensive livestock disease and vector monitoring and management plan to control diseases and vectors.
4. Invest in post-harvest management to reduce losses and support households to keep food stocks through the lean season.
5. Provide agricultural inputs to enable timely planting, especially for households that have consumed seed stock and have none left for production.
6. Enhance agricultural extension services with farmer training on modern agronomic practices, including climate smart agriculture technologies, to reduce impact of water logging, pest infestation and dry spells.
7. Protection of productive assets and livelihoods through livestock restocking or appropriate avenues with links to social protection schemes.

Situation Monitoring and Update

1. Organise a response analysis to design appropriate interventions to reduce food and nutrition insecurity.
2. Update the projection in October 2021 as the 2021 harvest picks up and after a rainfall performance and forecast for the projection period has been released or when other shocks or risk factors suggest an update.

Risk factors to monitor

- COVID-19 situation as new strains are being announced
- Security and conflict situation and their impact on food availability and production
- Crop pests and diseases - Fall Armyworm, sorghum smut, meadow-spittle-bug
- Impact of locust infestation on crop and pasture
- Livestock vectors and diseases - FMD, CBPP, PPR, tick-born infections
- Livestock movement and related quarantines
- Human diseases - cholera, malaria, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C
- Loss of employment due to end of LIPWs under the DRF component of the NUSAF
- Prices of staple foods which will most likely reduce as the harvest starts but rise in November 2021
- Post-harvest handling
- Nutrition outcomes, particularly GAM and underweight levels

PROCESS AND METHODOLOGY

An inception meeting of the IPC TWG was held in March 2021 to decide on IPC analysis dates, analysis areas and other modalities. An IPC analysis workshop (virtual & physical) was held from 6th – 13th April, 2021. A "meta-analysis" approach of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) was applied. This approach draws together all available food security and nutrition information from reliable data sources. Classification is then based on convergence of evidence of current or projected most likely conditions, including effects of humanitarian assistance to arrive at a 'big picture' analysis of the overall food security situation. The analysis was done in accordance with the IPC Technical Manual Version 3.0 and recently developed guidance provided by the Global Support Unit of the IPC, on ways of conducting IPC trainings and analyses in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. By leveraging existing technologies and existing tools, such as the web-based IPC Information Support System (ISS), the IPC GSU provided an alternative approach to conducting IPC trainings and analyses through virtual modalities.

Evidence on key outcome indicators was drawn from FSNA and mVAM conducted by WFP, while various reports were used for evidence on contributing factors.

Sources

Karamoja DLGs (2021): District food security update reports

UNMA (2021): Weather performance and forecast for January to May 2021

UBOS (2020): Mid-year district population projections

WFP (2021): Karamoja FSNA 2021; monthly market monitor reports for December 2020 to February 2021; Karamoja mVAM of March 2021

FEWSNET (2021): Food security outlook for Uganda; Price Bulletins for January 2021

Limitations of the analysis

- The indicator thresholds as adopted by WFP mVAM data were different from those recommended by the IPC. Analysts, therefore, found it hard to arrive at the final classification until re-analysis of some indicators was done.
- Limited available evidences on contributing factors to inform the analysis.
- The capacity of the analysts was limited; some analysts were new to the IPC and will require IPC Training.
- Limited time for IPC analysis, affecting completion of the analysis steps in ISS.
- Turnover in the participants as a number of analysts were new to the IPC, which took them time to adapt vis-à-vis understanding the IPC tool and how it is applied.

What is the IPC and IPC Acute Food Insecurity?

The IPC is a set of tools and procedures to classify the severity and characteristics of acute food and nutrition crises as well as chronic food insecurity based on international standards. The IPC consists of four mutually reinforcing functions, each with a set of specific protocols (tools and procedures). The core IPC parameters include consensus building, convergence of evidence, accountability, transparency and comparability. The IPC analysis aims at informing emergency response as well as medium and long-term food security policy and programming.

For the IPC, Acute Food Insecurity is defined as any manifestation of food insecurity found in a specified area at a specific point in time of a severity that threatens lives or livelihoods, or both, regardless of the causes, context or duration. It is highly susceptible to change and can occur and manifest in a population within a short amount of time, as a result of sudden changes or shocks that negatively impact on the determinants of food insecurity.

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Classification of food insecurity and malnutrition was conducted using the IPC protocols, which are developed and implemented worldwide by the IPC Global Partnership - Action Against Hunger, CARE, CILSS, EC-JRC , FAO, FEWSNET, Global Food Security Cluster, Global Nutrition Cluster, IGAD, Oxfam, PROGRESAN-SICA, SADC, Save the Children, UNICEF and WFP.

IPC Analysis Partners: