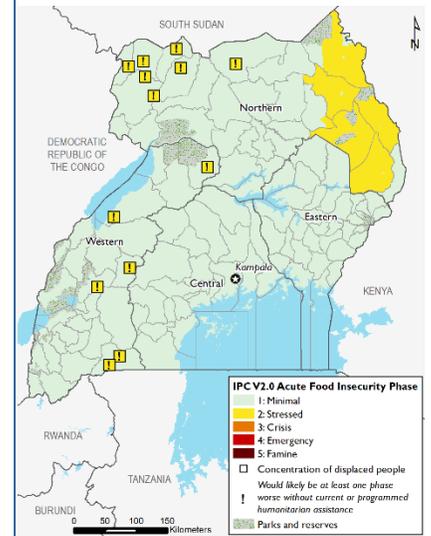


Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes expected in Karamoja through at least May 2019

KEY MESSAGES

- Poor cumulative October to December rainfall in central, southwestern, and eastern Uganda is expected to result in slightly below-average national first season production in bimodal areas. Most poor households will experience Minimal (IPC Phase 1) outcomes through May 2019. In Karamoja, exceptionally dry conditions are causing early declines in livestock production, while rising food prices are expected to drive declines in the terms of trade. The lean season will begin early in February, and reduced food availability and access is expected to result in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes in large parts of Karamoja.
- Although staple food prices have remained below the five-year and 2017 averages across most of Uganda, sorghum is now trading significantly above average in several key reference markets in Karamoja. Surplus first season production, a reduction in net exports, and anticipated second season production had driven down prices nationally. However, scarce local food supply is now beginning to impact Karamoja. In Kotido, the terms of trade for sorghum against firewood, charcoal, and goats are now below the five-year and 2017 average, significantly restricting food access for poor households.
- Uganda hosts more than 1.15 million verified refugees as of October 31st, who have predominantly fled conflict in South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo. According to WFP, humanitarian food assistance is planned, funded, and likely to maintain current rations from December through March, but funding is not guaranteed for in-kind food assistance beginning in April and for cash vouchers beginning late March. Stressed! (IPC Phase 2!) outcomes are likely to be maintained through March but, should ration cuts occur, food security would deteriorate to Crisis (IPC Phase 3).

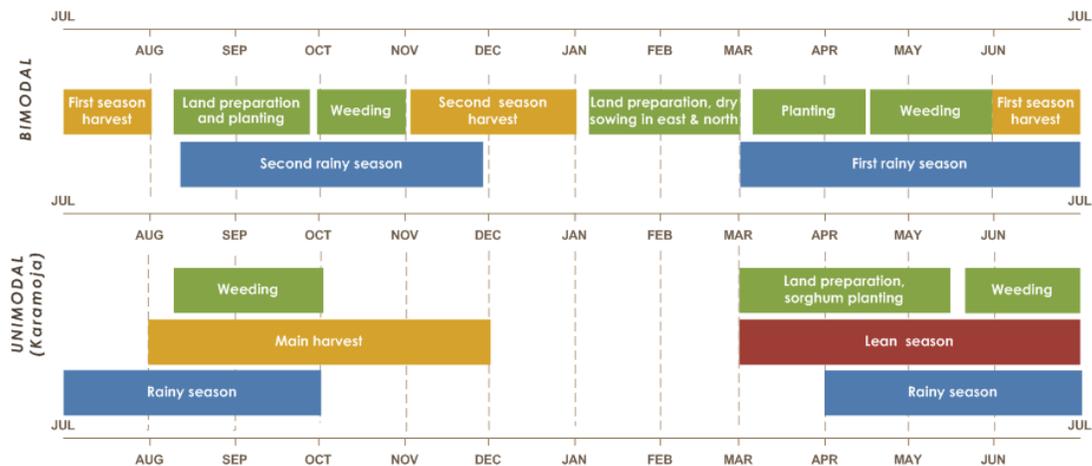
Current food security outcomes, December 2018



Source: FEWS NET

FEWS NET classification is IPC-compatible. IPC-compatible analysis follows key IPC protocols but does not necessarily reflect the consensus of national food security partners.

SEASONAL CALENDAR



Source: FEWS NET

NATIONAL OVERVIEW

Current Situation

In bi-modal Uganda, second season rainfall (September – December) has been primarily erratic with poor temporal and spatial distribution, and cumulative rainfall is 70 to 85 percent of average in central and eastern areas according to satellite-derived estimates (Figure 1). Although there has been at least a 70 percent chance of an El Niño forming since October, seasonal rainfall performance is worse than originally forecasted due to a lack of atmospheric response to warming sea surface temperatures, which are important for the enhanced rainfall typically associated with El Niño events. The most affected areas include Nakasongola, Nakaseke, Luwero, Kayunga, Kabale, Kisoro, Ntungamo, Amuria, Kumi, Kaberamaido and Lango districts, where the start of season was 15 to 30 days late and dry spells were more frequent. In other areas, poor rainfall was punctuated by brief, torrential rains. This led to severe flash floods and landslides in several highland areas of eastern Uganda in October, which affected more than 700 people, caused at least 50 deaths, and left hundreds temporarily displaced.

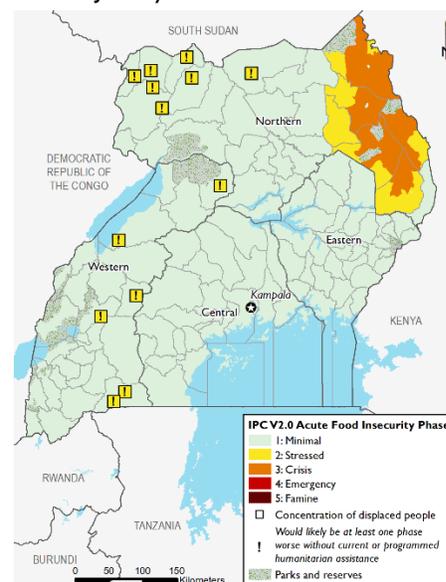
Overall, area planted and crop development have been slightly below normal. The erratic start of season led farmers to stagger or plant crops late in several parts of southwestern, central, and eastern Uganda. In addition, significantly low farm-gate maize prices, which were driven by a bumper first season harvest that flooded the market with surplus supply, demotivated farmers from cultivating large acreage. Crop growth was then hindered by early season rainfall deficits, though the enhanced mid-November rainfall helped to improve crop and pasture conditions across most bimodal areas. In areas experiencing moisture stress, however, crops are currently stunted and are indicative of reduced yields.

In areas where planting was delayed and atypically staggered, the main harvest will be delayed by up to nearly a month. As of early December, late-planted maize and other cereals were post-flowering and mostly at the grain formation stages, and harvesting of beans and other pulses in western and central regions is underway. In addition, green maize consumption is already ongoing in several parts of southeastern, central, and western Uganda. According to field observations and key informant reports, Fall Army Worm (FAW) incidence has been significantly low this season compared to same period last year, leading to negligible loss in maize production.

In bimodal cattle corridor districts, vegetation conditions measured by Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) anomaly and confirmed by field reports are generally indicative of near-average pasture and water resource levels. As a result, milk production and livestock body conditions are generally within normal levels due to early December rainfall that improved pasture and water conditions in areas vulnerable to overgrazing, including Ntungamo, Kiruhura, Nakasongola, and Isingiro districts, among others. In southern cattle corridor areas, such as Isingiro, the government of Uganda is enforcing a quarantine on livestock in efforts to control spread of zoonotic diseases such as Rift Valley Fever (RVF) and Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD). This has led to a slight decrease in livestock sales, which is straining the ability of some households to afford education and health services.

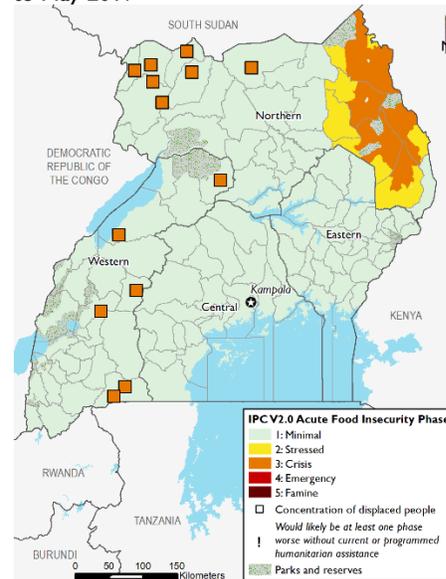
In Karamoja sub-region, conditions have been exceptionally dry since the rainy season ended in September. Cumulative rainfall is 70 to 85 percent of normal or worse (Figure 1), and vegetation conditions measured by NDVI anomaly have been significantly below both the long-term and 2017 averages since September. Since NDVI tends to lag rainfall by one-month, additional deterioration is anticipated. Land surface temperatures 3 to 7 C° above average are accelerating the seasonal deterioration of

Projected food security outcomes, December 2018 to January 2019



Source: FEWS NET

Projected food security outcomes, February to May 2019



Source: FEWS NET

FEWS NET classification is IPC-compatible. IPC-compatible analysis follows key IPC protocols but does not necessarily reflect the consensus of national food security partners.

pasture and water resources, leading to declines in livestock productivity earlier than usual. Seasonal livestock migration to traditional dry season grazing areas bordering Teso and Lango sub-regions began in October, which is one month earlier than normal. This has minimized milk availability and consumption for transhumant household members remaining at the homestead.

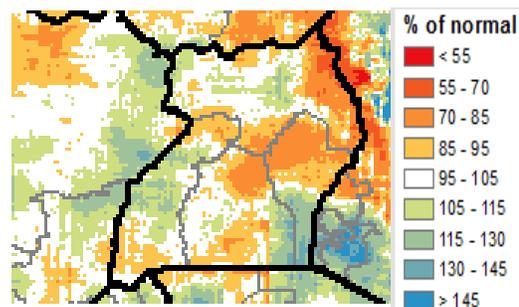
In most bimodal areas, households still have adequate carryover staple stocks from bumper first season harvests and income from crop sales has been normal. Seasonal agricultural labor opportunities such as weeding, harvesting, herding, and post-harvest handling are at near-average levels and average wage rates, as are other income generating activities including petty trading, brewing, and running small businesses. However, parts of Teso sub-region in Katakwi, Bukedea, Amuria, and Kumi districts harvested below-average first season cassava, sweet potatoes, and groundnut crops due to excess rainfall and waterlogging. In these areas, seasonal household incomes from crop sales were atypically low and household stocks of these staple foods have been depleted earlier than normal. However, own produced vegetables and fruits, such as oranges and mangoes, as well as second season green maize and other cereals, are currently available.

Unimodal harvests across Karamoja were completed in October. Significantly below-average production was widespread, and FEWS NET estimates that production was 60 to 80 percent below average across the sub-region's districts. In Kaabong and Kotido districts, specifically, production was significantly below average to failed. By November, most poor households had already depleted their household stocks from the harvest. As a result, they are primarily relying on markets for their food needs, and some households choose to supplement this with wild fish, game, and vegetables where they are available.

Surplus first season production and reduced cross-border exports have kept retail maize prices atypically low across Uganda since August. In Mubende, Masindi, Tororo, Gulu, low prices declined even further after a government subsidy intended to incentivize traders to purchase maize from farmers at UGX 500/kg was not utilized. Traders declined to participate in the program, and farmers that had stored their stocks in anticipation of the subsidized price increase ultimately released surplus maize into an already flooded market. Sorghum, maize, and cassava prices significantly dropped from September to October, and traded an average 41 percent, 20 percent, and 26 percent below the five-year average, respectively, across eight key reference bimodal markets (Figures 2 and 3). In comparison to October 2017, sorghum, maize, and cassava traded 47 percent, 29 percent, and 43 percent below average, respectively. In contrast, bean prices were comparable to both the five-year average and 2017 prices. In addition, reduced food commodity exports and the anticipation of near-average second season production are driving food prices downward. Although low prices have reduced the income of middle and better-off households, low prices have benefited poor households dependent on market food purchases.

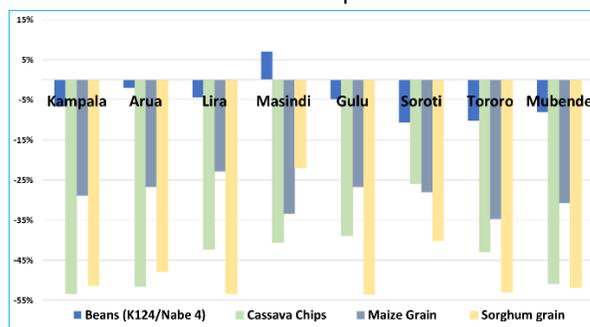
In Karamoja markets, surplus bimodal supply mitigated staple food commodity price increases through September, but the terms of trade for sorghum generally began to decline in October. Sorghum prices increased to near-average levels compared to October 2017 and the five-year average in most key reference markets; in Kotido, however, prices rose 68 percent above the October 2017 price and 18 percent above the five-year average. Meanwhile, charcoal and firewood prices in October were 31 and 16 percent above the five-year average and 36 and 24 percent above the October 2017 average, respectively. Goat prices traded near average compared to 2017 and the five-year average. Agricultural labor opportunities are seasonally limited, though

Figure 1. CHIRPS prelim rainfall accumulation percent of normal compared to 1981-2010 average, October 1 – December 15, 2018



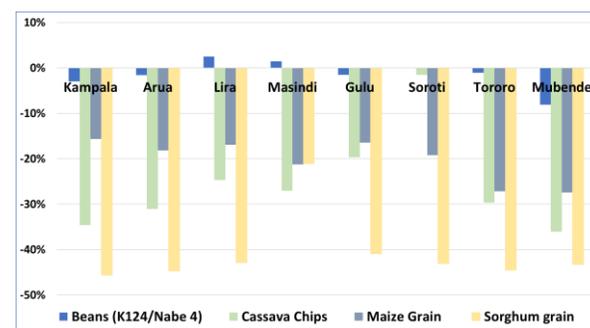
Source: USGS/FEWS NET

Figure 2. Percentage change in staple food prices in bimodal markets from October 2018 to September 2018



Source: Farmgain/WFP

Figure 3. Staple food prices as a percent of the 2013 – 2017 average in bimodal markets, October 2018



Source: Farmgain/WFP

some households are able to access casual daily labor opportunities such as sand mining, brewing, and stone quarrying. Wage levels were an average 23 percent above October 2017 wages across key reference markets, but performance is mixed. Wages were significantly below the five-year average in Moroto (-32 percent) and Napak (-50 percent), but above average in Kotido (+51 percent) and Kaabong (+33 percent).

Uganda's share of regional trade in East Africa for maize and sorghum grain declined from July to September to 44 and 65 percent below the five-year average, respectively. In comparison with the five-year average, third-quarter maize exports to Kenya and South Sudan were 36 and 15 percent below average, respectively, and sorghum exports to South Sudan, Kenya, and Rwanda were 57, 39, and 75 percent below average, respectively. The decrease in regional grain trade is due to increased national availability of staple food commodities, as a result of self-sufficient national production from the March to June harvests across the region. This has been a significant driver of the current national surplus in Uganda, which has in turn sustained below-average market prices and supported food access for the poor.

As a result of the above factors, Minimal (IPC Phase 1) outcomes prevail in bi-modal areas except in parts of Teso sub-region. Most poor households have less than a month's carryover stocks from the first season harvest or are earning adequate income from agricultural labor, petty trade, and brewing to access market food purchases at below-average prices. These households are consuming at least two meals per day. Access to clean water is normal and within WHO recommendations. In Teso's Katakwi, Bukedea, Amuria and Kumi districts, a low proportion (<20 percent) of poor households are experiencing Stressed (IPC Phase 2) outcomes as their household stocks have been depleted. Low income levels as a result of reduced crop sales are also constraining their ability to access food via market purchases. Consequently, these households are only able to access their minimum food needs by engaging in stressed and crisis consumption and livelihoods coping strategies, such as restricting portion size by adults to increase intake for children, reducing meals to two per day, selling more poultry than usual, borrowing money to purchase food or buying food on credit, and reducing essential non-food expenditures. However, reliance on these strategies is now beginning to decline given the availability of seasonal vegetables and fruits and green maize.

In Karamoja, most households are facing low food availability and reduced food access due to declining terms of trade. As a result, they are only able to meet their minimum food needs by relying on consumption and livelihoods coping strategies. Poor households in Kotido and Kaabong districts are the worst off, where strategies such as buying and/or borrowing food on credit and/or from friends and relatives, reducing food portion size, and restricting the number of meals for adults to preserve enough food for children are widespread. In addition to inadequate food purchases, wild or hunted foodstuffs such as vegetables, fruits, rodents and other herbs are being consumed. In these areas, 40 percent of the population is Stressed (IPC Phase 2), but in localized hotspots, such as in Kotido and Kaabong, an estimated 10 to 13 percent are currently in Crisis (IPC Phase 3).

UNHCR/OPM completed the refugee verification exercise in October, which confirmed the presence of 1,154,352 refugees and asylum seekers in Uganda. Refugees from South Sudan and the DRC comprise 68 and 25 percent of the total population, respectively; the remaining 7 percent are from Burundi, Somalia, Rwanda, and other countries. The September Revitalized Agreement for the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan has ushered in new prospects for restoration of peace in South Sudan and is expected to contribute to a reduction in displacement of South Sudanese to Uganda. On the other hand, continued armed conflict and its impact on socio-economic conditions in eastern DRC continue to drive displacement to Uganda. According to UNHCR, the rate of arrival of Congolese refugees is greater than 100 per day at the southern entry points of Kisoro and less than 100 refugees per day at other active entry points along the Uganda-DRC border. Ugandan and DRC authorities are coordinating to increase cross-border surveillance to minimize the risk of cross-border transmission of Ebola Virus Disease from DRC, where the total cases stand at 549, of which 501 are confirmed and 48 are probable as of 18th December. For all refugees, key sources of food and income remain humanitarian food assistance, minimal levels of own crop production, petty trade, and some remittances. In November, refugees living in settlements received food assistance and met their minimum food needs, enabling Stressed! (IPC Phase 2!) outcomes.

Assumptions

Between December 2018 and May 2019, the projected food security outcomes are based on the following key national-level assumptions:

- In bimodal areas, the remainder of the October to December second season rains are most likely to be average. However, total cumulative seasonal rainfall is most likely to be below average in eastern and northern Uganda due to early season deficits. The latest IRI/CPC probability forecast indicates a 90 percent likelihood of El Niño conditions from December to March and a 60 percent likelihood through May 2019, combined with a neutral Indian Ocean Dipole. The March to May 2019

first season rains in bimodal areas are likely to be average; however, there remains a wide range of possible outcomes due to the forecast uncertainty associated with El Niño.

- In most bimodal areas, reduced area planted, and poor rainfall performance is expected to result in slightly below-average production for maize and all other crops. In parts of southwestern and eastern Uganda, moderate production shortfalls are expected. The harvest is expected to be delayed by up to 30 days in parts of central, southwestern, and mid-eastern Uganda due to the delayed start of season and staggered planting from August to October. Harvest activities are expected to peak in December and will be completed in January 2019.
- FAW incidence during 2019 first season production is expected to impact maize at a level comparable to the 2018 second season. However, the propensity of FAW to spread amidst average rainfall performance, limited prevention plans by the local government, and high pesticide prices that are inaccessible for most farmers could encourage a surge in infestation.
- In bimodal areas, agricultural labor opportunities are expected to be seasonally low through January. Based on the current forecast, area planted for first season production is likely to be average. During the first season cultivation period, labor demand is likely to return to typical levels at usual wage rates from February to May.
- Based on current vegetation conditions and the rainfall forecast, pasture and water resources in the cattle corridor districts of Central region and Karamoja sub-region are expected to deteriorate during the December to February dry season. Livestock body conditions and milk productivity are likely to gradually decline to below-average levels until the start of first season and unimodal season rainfall in March and April, respectively.
- Based on FEWS NET's integrated price analysis, wholesale maize grain prices are expected to remain below the five-year average. Due to the average long-rains production in the north-rift maize belt of Kenya, cereal exports to Kenya are anticipated to continue but at a declining rate. Exports to South Sudan are expected to remain below pre-crisis levels but are likely to be slightly higher than export volumes in 2018, driven by improved market and trade conditions as a result of the recent peace agreement.
- Based on FEWS NET's integrated price projections in Arua, Mubende, and Soroti, staple food prices will likely remain below the five-year average through December. From January to May, prices are expected to seasonally increase more quickly than usual due to near to below-average second season production, but prices are still likely to remain below the five-year average and below 2017 prices.

Most Likely Food Security Outcomes

In bimodal areas where near-average first season production is expected in December/January, food availability is likely to be sufficient through April. In addition to surplus stocks from the previous season, most households are expected to harvest approximately two to three months of cereals, resulting in food sufficient for at least three to four months. As stocks deplete, households will use income earned from crop sales, casual labor, and agricultural labor during the February to May cultivation period to access food through market purchases. Given that staple food prices are expected to be below average, favorable terms of trade will facilitate this. However, poor households in cattle corridor districts will have less livestock milk available for sale and consumption until March, due to decline in milk production. Overall, Minimal (IPC Phase 1) outcomes are most likely to be sustained, given that the majority of poor households are expected to have sufficient food and income sources to meet their minimum food needs through May 2019.

In Teso and parts of southwestern Uganda, food availability and access is expected to improve with the second season harvest in December/January. Slight to moderate production shortfalls in cereals, pulses, and bananas are expected, and most poor households will harvest 1 to 2 months of food stocks and will supplement own production with market purchases and wild foods. Crop sales are likely to be below-average, as the bulk of own production will be reserved for consumption. However, agricultural labor opportunities will be available beginning in February and households will earn income from the sale of poultry and small ruminants. Staple food prices are expected to seasonally increase during the December holiday season, but prices will remain below the five-year average through May as food commodity flows from surplus to deficit areas are expected at typical levels. Poor households that are more reliant on market purchases will benefit from favorable labor-to-cereals terms of trade. These seasonal food and income sources are expected to maintain Minimal (IPC Phase 1) outcomes through May, though five to eight percent of households will likely be unable to afford non-food expenditures and will be Stressed (IPC Phase 2).

In Karamoja, food security is expected to continue to deteriorate through May. An increasing number of poor households will be unable to earn sufficient income from the expansion of normal livelihood options such as firewood/charcoal collection and brewing to meet their minimum food needs through market purchases. Agricultural labor opportunities will remain seasonally

low until crop cultivation begins at typical levels in February/March, but income from this source will only partly meet households' minimum food needs as staple food prices are expected to increase during the extended February to June lean season, impacting household purchasing power. As a result, a steady decline in food security is expected through March, and the decline will accelerate through the peak of the lean season in May as more households become unable to meet their minimum food requirements. Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes are expected among 18 to 20 percent of poor households, concentrated in Kotido and Kaabong, from February to May, while more than 50 percent will be Stressed (IPC Phase 2).

According to WFP, humanitarian food assistance for refugees from December through at least March is planned and funded. As a result, Stressed! (IPC Phase 2!) outcomes are expected to be sustained through March. However, shortfalls in guaranteed funding beginning in April would likely require ration cuts, significantly restricting refugees' primary food source. For refugees with access to small plots of arable land, first season stocks harvested in December would only provide one to two months of food and would have already been consumed by February. Should partial funding be secured so that refugees receive half or quarter rations, worse outcomes would be prevented but deterioration to Crisis (IPC Phase 3) would be expected by May. In the absence of food assistance, Crisis (IPC Phase 3) would be expected by April.

AREAS OF CONCERN

Central Sorghum and Livestock livelihood zone in Karamoja

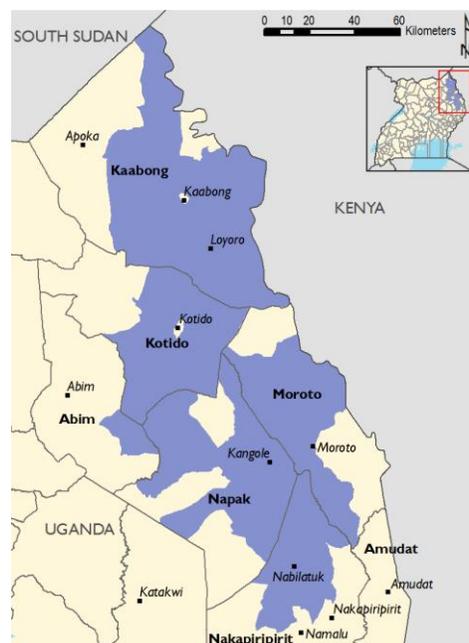
Current Situation

Since the dry season began in September, Karamoja has experienced drier than normal conditions that are leading to depletion of pasture and water resources at a faster rate, which is consequently affecting livestock productivity. Milk production typically declines during the dry season; however, the decline in production has been greater than normal. For poor households that receive in-kind milk in exchange for labor, this has had a negative impact on access to milk for consumption. Further, livestock movement to traditional dry-season grazing areas in western Karamoja began earlier than normal, which has limited milk availability for household members remaining behind at the homestead. However, the early start of livestock migration has not affected labor opportunities for hired herders, given that they move with the migrating livestock.

Poor households have already depleted their household stocks from the 2018 October/November harvest, which FEWS NET estimates were 60 to 80 percent below average. In a typical year, maize and sorghum consumption from the annual harvest would last through February. Most households are relying on market purchases and wild fruits, fish, and game as their main sources of food. Surplus production from bimodal areas has served to keep Karamoja markets well supplied with sorghum and other staple foods. Sorghum prices in reference markets in other districts are currently near average. However, due to increased market demand, the price of sorghum in Kotido district's key reference market has already increased to 68 percent above the 2017 average and 18 percent above the five-year average.

After months of above-average terms of trade across Karamoja from January to September, current price trends indicate the terms of trade for sorghum are declining, though performance by commodity and labor is mixed. In October, firewood-to-sorghum terms of trade remained above the 2017 and five-year averages in Moroto, Napak, and Kaabong, near-average in Nakapiripirit, and below average in Kotido. Charcoal-to-sorghum terms of trade was above both the 2017 and five-year averages across all districts and below-average in Kotido. Goat-to-sorghum terms of trade was highest in Nakapiripirit at 36 percent above the 2017 average and lowest in Kotido at 52 percent below the 2017 average. The labor-to-sorghum terms of trade was generally above the 2017 average in all districts except Napak and Kotido. Preliminary analysis suggests that the increase in the wage rate in Kaabong and Kotido, compared to the five-year average, is being driven by increased demand for non-agricultural casual labor in brewing, sand mining, and stone crushing, but the number of days available for this type of work remains limited. Additionally, brewing requires skilled labor and commands a higher wage. Overall, the terms of trade for sorghum are poorest in Kotido,

Figure 3. Area of concern reference map, Central Sorghum and Livestock livelihood zone, Karamoja



Source: FEWS NET

performing below the 2017 and 5-year averages, with the exception of labor-to-sorghum, which is well above the five-year average but below the 2017 average.

Aside from herding and casual labor opportunities, households are selling fewer bundles of firewood and charcoal than in previous years and agricultural labor opportunities are seasonally low. Given average to below-average levels of income and declining terms of trade, poor households in Karamoja are unable to purchase adequate food and essential non-food needs without engaging in stressed and crisis consumption and livelihoods coping strategies. In Kotido and Kaabong, poor households are buying food on credit, borrowing money to buy food, or borrowing food from friends and relatives. As a result, their debt levels are significantly higher than the same period in 2017. The frequency of reduced or skipped meals is also high and widespread.

According to the WFP Mobile Vulnerability Analysis & Mapping Karamoja region early warning bulletin for September 2018, supplementary feeding admissions are 52 percent below 2017. Admissions to supplementary feeding programs provide an indication of the levels of malnutrition in the region. By district, Kaabong and Nakapiripirit had more than 1,000 admissions, while Kotido admitted 750 to 1,000. The joint WFP, UNICEF, and Government of Uganda Food Security and Nutrition Assessment preliminary report for Karamoja reported that global acute malnutrition (GAM based on weight-for-height) in July was 14.8 in Kaabong, 10.6 percent in Kotido, 12 percent in Moroto, and 11.1 percent in Nakapiripirit, indicative of Crisis (IPC Phase 3). This GAM prevalence is typical in Karamoja, though it is likely that GAM levels remained stable or slightly decreased with the October harvest. Due to the above factors, more than 40 percent of households in Karamoja are currently Stressed (IPC Phase 2), while approximately 10 to 13 percent – primarily in Kaabong and Kotido – are in Crisis (IPC Phase 3).

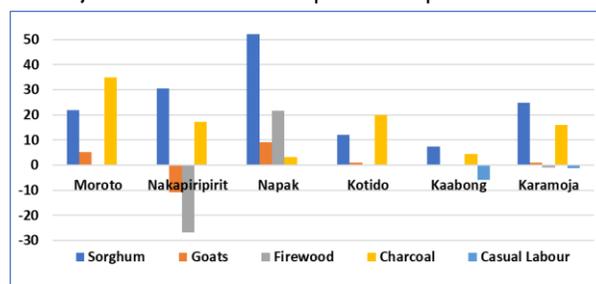
Assumptions

- According to the NOAA/CPC forecast, April to September 2019 total cumulative rainfall is likely to be average, though uncertainty exists due to the long-term nature of this forecast.
- Based on the average rainfall forecast, area planted and demand for agricultural labor for land preparation, planting, and weeding is expected to be normal from February/March through May. The wage rate is also expected to remain within normal levels. Assuming normal livestock body conditions and migration, poor households are expected to have normal access to herding labor opportunities in exchange for in-kind milk and other livestock products.
- Based on FEWS NET’s price projections, the retail price of sorghum grain and other staple food commodities are expected to increase and will likely be above the five-year and 2017 averages across all reference markets through May. Prices are likely to be significantly above-average in Kotido (Figure 6). The terms of trade for sorghum against other commodities are expected to continue to decline to average to below-average levels.
- Implementation of WFP’s supplementary feeding, school feeding, and mother-to-child feeding programs are anticipated to continue at baseline levels through May. The work-for-cash NUSAF III program is expected to complete payments to more than 33,434 people beginning in May/June, with participating households receiving UGX 5,500 per 54-day cycle of work.

Most Likely Food Security Outcomes

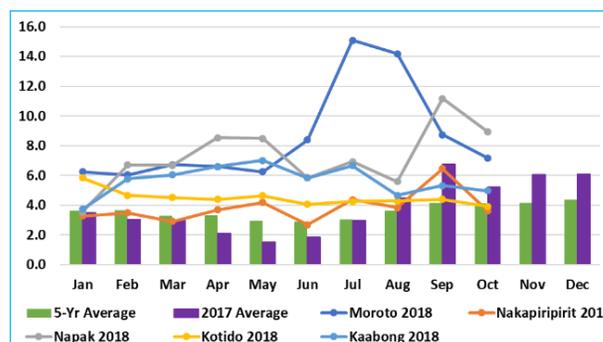
From December to May, food security across Karamoja is expected to decline and at least 20 percent of poor households will be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3). Kotido and Kaabong districts will be most severely affected. Market purchases are expected to remain the main source of food given depleted food stocks, leaving households vulnerable to rising food prices. The lean season is

Figure 4. Percentage change in price of key commodities in Karamoja in October 2018 compared to September 2018



Source: Farmgain/WFP

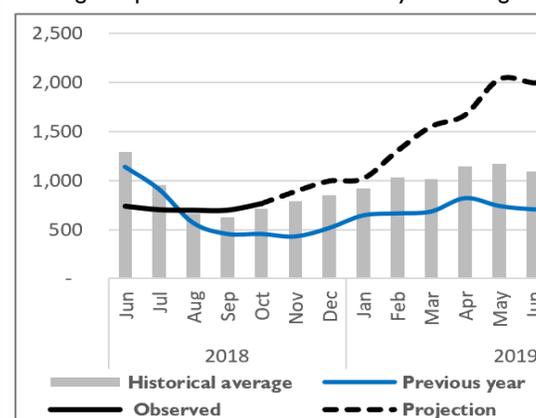
Figure 5. 2018 Monthly firewood to sorghum terms of trade compared with 5-Year and 2017 Averages



Source: Farmgain/WFP

expected to begin early in February, when food prices are projected to begin rapidly rising at above-average levels. However, timely land preparation and planting at normal levels for the 2019 production season will begin in February and March, providing agricultural labor opportunities. Given anticipated average rainfall during the April to September rainy season, households are likely to continue to access agricultural and livestock labor opportunities at typical wage rates through May. Some households will also begin to receive cash-for-work income in May. Income from these sources are expected to prevent worse deterioration in outcomes, but based on rising food prices and declining terms of trade, food consumption gaps are likely to widen. Availability of supplementary wild vegetables and other wild foods for consumption will decline throughout the dry season, then rebound to normal levels after the rainy season begins in April. In order to cope with limited food availability and access, households will seek to intensify sales of firewood, charcoal, grass, and building poles and their engagement in brewing, stone quarrying, and sand mining, but supply of these commodities and labor may exceed demand. They are also likely to increase the frequency of consumption coping strategies, such as reducing the number of meals per day, and their reliance on livelihoods coping strategies, such as selling productive assets and borrowing money for food.

Figure 6. Observed and projected price of sorghum in USH/kg compared to 2017 and the five-year average



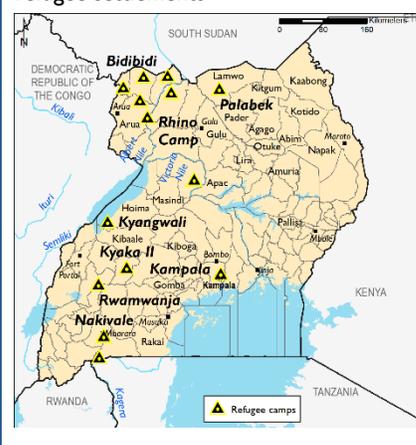
As more poor households struggle to meet their minimum food needs, the prevalence of acute malnutrition is expected to deteriorate within ‘Serious’ (GAM WHZ 10-15 percent) or to ‘Critical’ (GAM WHZ 15-30 percent) levels from February to May. Although a ‘Serious’ level of malnutrition is typical for this livelihood zone, the cumulative impact of the below-average 2018 harvest, rising food prices, and declining terms of trade is likely to elevate the GAM prevalence to ‘Critical’ in Kaabong and Kotido during the lean season, driven by decreased food intake and increased morbidity. However, supplementary feeding to infants and pregnant and breast-feeding mothers are expected to mitigate more severe deterioration and worse outcomes. Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes will be most prevalent in Kaabong and Kotido districts through May. *It is estimated that at least 20 percent of the total population in Karamoja will be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3), while approximately 50 percent will be Stressed (IPC Phase 2).*

South Sudanese and DRC refugee settlements in northern and southwestern Uganda

Current Situation

From March to October 2018, OPM/UNHCR verified and biometrically enrolled 1,154,352 refugees and asylees in Uganda out of a target population of 1.4 million refugees. Cases of multiple registrations at the height of the recent population influx, population movement within Uganda, and attrition were several factors driving the reduction in verified refugees. Of those verified, 785,104 are from South Sudan and 284,265 from the DRC. UNHCR reported that in October alone, 6,536 refugees arrived from the DRC, South Sudan, and Burundi. WFP, UNHCR and OPM rolled out new food assistance collection procedures in October, in which recipients are confirmed against biometric data collection in the verification exercise. Refugees referred to as the “new case new” registered with an arrival date after July 2015, those referred to as the “new case old” were registered between July 2012 and June 2015, and those known as the “old case” registered with arrival date prior to June 2012.

Figure 7. Area of concern reference map, refugee settlements



Refugees displaced from the DRC to Uganda are fleeing violence in DRC’s North Kivu and Ituri provinces, where political instability, hostilities by armed groups, and intercommunal violence have created a humanitarian crisis and prompted massive internal and cross-border displacement. After two years of delays, presidential elections are scheduled to take place on 23 December, with the potential to generate renewed tensions and displacement. Since August 1, 2018, North Kivu and Ituri have also been the epicenter of an Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak. Insecurity and community distrust are impeding containment and response activities, thereby raising the risk of cross-border transmission to Uganda. As of December 18, a total of 549 EVD cases have been reported with a case fatality ratio of 59 percent. Given the volume of cross-border movement from DRC to Uganda, the government of Uganda and partner organizations are implementing infection prevention and control, surveillance, and screening of refugees across seven entry points in the high-risk districts of Kasese, Bundibugyo, Ntoroko, Bunyangabu, Kisoro, Kanungu and Kabarole. In Kisoro, the Nteko, Busanja, Bunagana border

crossing points represent the active corridor for DRC refugee crossings, where an average 100 or more refugees currently arrive per day. Kyangwali and Kyaka II host the largest proportion of newly arrived refugees, though Nakivale hosts the largest number of DRC refugees, numbering nearly 99,000.

In September, parties to the conflict in South Sudan signed the Revitalized Agreement for the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan. Marking a formal end to the civil war, the agreement is expected to prioritize a permanent ceasefire, protect civilians, and improve humanitarian access. Although armed violence has been reduced and there are positive prospects for the restoration of peace, displacement as a result of civil conflict in some parts of South Sudan remains high. Bidibidi and Adjumani settlements in Yumbe and Adjumani districts in the northwest host the largest proportion of South Sudanese refugees.

For both refugee populations, humanitarian assistance is the primary source of food. WFP currently distributes a full ration to the “new case new” refugees, which constitute more than 70 percent of the refugee population. A half ration is delivered to the “new case old” refugees, which are about 13 percent of the population, while “old case” refugees, represent about 4 percent of the population, receive a quarter ration. In October, WFP and UNHCR reported that refugees were given two-month food rations in Kyaka II and Kyangwali, in an effort to minimize EVD transmission risk due to increased contact during food distribution gatherings. In addition to food assistance, many refugee households also receive a 900 square meter plot of land. According to the last Food Security and Nutrition Assessment (FSNA) conducted in October 2017, access to land reported across the 11 settlements ranged from 21 percent in Adjumani to 83 percent in Palabek. Among camps receiving the highest proportion of new arrivals, access to arable land was reported by 37 percent of households in Kyaka II and 48 percent of households in Bidibidi. According to a REACH/UNHCR needs assessment in June 2018, the percent of households with land access had increased to 50 percent in Kyaka II and 67 percent in Bidibidi. However, plots are typically too small to provide adequate food for consumption and many households rely on wild vegetables as a supplementary food source.

Limited income-earning opportunities are available to refugee settlement populations. According to the October 2017 FSNA report, 29 and 54 percent of the refugees reported sales of food assistance as their primary or secondary source of income, respectively. Refugee households living in southwestern Uganda – primarily originating from DRC – are more likely to report at least one income earner, ranging from 40 percent of households in Kyangwali to 90 percent of households in Rwamwanja. Among West Nile settlements, where South Sudanese refugees are primarily located, households reporting at least one income earner ranged from 15 percent in Adjumani to 40 percent in Lobule. These households typically pursue small business/self-employment, agricultural and non-agricultural wage labor, and crop and livestock production/sales. According to the June 2018 UNHCR/REACH assessment, 39 percent of households in Kyaka II reported casual labor as an income source, while in Bidibidi, more than 20 percent reported casual labor and natural resource sales as an income source.

Markets in Arua and Mubende are well supplied with maize stocks from first season surplus-producing regions like Gulu, Lira, Masindi, Kiryandongo and Apac. Coupled with low export volumes to South Sudan due to the conflict, prices have remained below the five-year average since August, improving food access for refugee households with an income source. Households with arable land are also benefiting from the availability of second season green maize and other staple food substitutes for maize. Combined with humanitarian food assistance, most refugees are able to meet their basic food needs and are Stressed! (IPC Phase 2!), but are unable to afford all essential non-food needs.

Assumptions

- Following the signing of the peace agreement in Juba on September 12, 2018, the enforcement of a permanent ceasefire is anticipated to decrease displacement of South Sudanese refugees to Uganda relative to 2018 rates. A limited number of refugees from Uganda are likely to attempt to temporarily return to South Sudan for farming activities by March.
- Due to heightened insecurity leading up to elections in the DRC, current refugee flows from North Kivu, Ituri, and other provinces in the DRC to Uganda are likely to be sustained or increase. Newly arrived refugees from the DRC are likely to be settled in Kyangwali in Hoima district, Kyaka II in Kyegegwa district, and Nakivale in Isingiro districts (only for reunification), where they are expected to receive plot sizes of approximately 900 square meters.
- Newly arrived refugees that do not receive a plot of land by January will not be able to engage in crop production. Old caseloads and newly arrived refugees that possess an arable plot by February are expected to cultivate crops during the March to May first season to supplement their monthly food rations. Harvests of 20 to 50 kgs of cereal per 900 m² plot are expected in December/January, which is sufficient to provide one to two months of food through February. Given the average rainfall forecast for the March to May bimodal season, a similar level of production is expected in June/July.

- For refugees that receive humanitarian assistance as a cash voucher equivalent to a 30- or 60-day ration, FEWS NET’s integrated price projections in Arua and Mubende markets – which serve as proxy markets for the refugee settlements in Northern and Western Uganda – indicate that staple food prices are expected to remain below average through May 2019.
- According to WFP, humanitarian food assistance is planned, funded, and likely at current levels through March, which includes a full-ration to “new case new” refugees, a half ration to “new case old” refugees, and a quarter ration to “old case” refugees. Although assistance is planned in April and May, shortfalls in funding are expected to result in ration cuts, at minimum, or an absence of food assistance, at worst. This scenario assumes the absence of assistance from April to May.

Most Likely Food Security Outcomes

Following the September peace agreement in South Sudan, the rate of South Sudanese refugee arrivals is likely to decline compared to arrivals in early 2018. The rate of DRC refugee arrivals is expected to be sustained or escalate due to prevailing and post-election insecurity and a worsening humanitarian situation. Refugees that arrived before September and cultivated second season crops are expected to harvest 20 to 50 kgs of cereal in December, which can be stretched to provide one to two months of food. Refugees that arrive and are allocated a plot by January are expected to plant first season crops in April, to be harvested in June/July. Refugees are expected to continue to receive current levels of humanitarian food assistance through March, which will serve as their primary food source. In addition, refugee households are likely to access wild foods as well as some market food purchases with income from labor, small business, or gifts/remittances (reported by five percent of South Sudanese refugees). In total, these food and income sources are expected to sustain Stressed! (IPC Phase 2!) outcomes through March.

However, planned levels of food assistance are not fully funded in April and May, indicating that ration cuts or an absence of assistance is likely. In the absence of food assistance, Crisis (IPC Phase 3) would be expected by April. Should partial funding be secured so that refugees receive half or quarter rations, worse outcomes would be prevented but deterioration to Crisis (IPC Phase 3) would be expected by May. Deteriorating food security would lead refugees to employ crisis and emergency coping strategies, including selling their land and moving toward urban centers in search of alternative livelihoods and labor opportunities. Other households that own productive assets, like poultry and pigs, would be likely to sell them as a last resort to obtain cash to purchase food and increase purchases on credit. All savings would be diverted to food purchases, threatening households’ ability to buy seed for the next planting season. Begging would also be likely to increase for those without assets.

EVENTS THAT MIGHT CHANGE THE OUTLOOK

Table 1. Possible events over the next eight months that could change the most-likely scenario.

| Area | Event | Impact on food security outcomes |
|--|--|--|
| National, bimodal areas | Below-average or poor distributed rainfall with unexpected dry spells during the March to May rainy season | Below-average first season production would be expected and would likely cause food prices to rise. More households would be Stressed (IPC Phase 2), especially in Teso region. |
| Karamoja region | Late start of seasonal rains, causing the dry season to be extended beyond March | Typical sources of agricultural and livestock labor income would be delayed and/or reduced, further constraining access to food. An atypically long dry season would also likely result in moisture stress and crop losses. Food insecurity would likely expand within the projected phases, with a larger number of households facing Stressed (IPC Phase 2) and Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes. |
| DRC and South Sudanese refugee settlements | Guarantee of full funding for humanitarian food assistance throughout the outlook period | Fully funded humanitarian assistance would provide planned rations to newly arrived and old refugees through May, sustaining Stressed! (IPC Phase 2!) outcomes. Some households would be likely to sell some of their assistance to purchase preferred foods and non-food needs, while also earning income from other sources, and would be Minimal ! (IPC Phase 1!). |

ABOUT SCENARIO DEVELOPMENT

To project food security outcomes, FEWS NET develops a set of assumptions about likely events, their effects, and the probable responses of various actors. FEWS NET analyzes these assumptions in the context of current conditions and local livelihoods to arrive at a most likely scenario for the coming eight months. [Learn more here.](#)