



UGANDA

PARTIAL IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY ANALYSIS IN REFUGEE-HOSTING DISTRICTS

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY JUNE - AUGUST 2022	
<p>857,000 21% of the population analysed</p> <p>People facing high acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above)</p> <p>IN NEED OF URGENT ACTION</p>	Phase 5 0 People in Catastrophe
	Phase 4 109,000 People in Emergency
	Phase 3 747,000 People in Crisis
	Phase 2 1,045,000 People Stressed
	Phase 1 2,203,000 People in food security

Overview

Consecutive poor seasonal food harvests and below-average livestock production, coupled with sharp increases in prices of food and essential non-food commodities caused widespread food insecurity in the refugee hosting districts. Between June and August 2022, 21% of the population (857,000 people) in refugee-hosting districts experienced high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 and above). Of the total 12 districts analysed, 9 districts were classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis), while the other three were classified in IPC Phase 2 (Stressed). Compared to the analysis conducted in June 2020, the food security situation was found to only have improved in two districts with the situation remaining similar in the other districts. Overall, the food security situation in the host districts remained almost similar to the June 2020 analysis with the proportion in IPC Phase 3 or above only reducing from 24% in June 2020 to 21% in June 2022. At the time of the analysis, a sizeable proportion of households in IPC Phase 3 or above were facing widening food consumption gaps and employing atypical crisis and emergency coping strategies.

It is anticipated that the food security situation will improve in the projection period of September 2022 to January 2023, with the population in IPC Phase 3 or above decreasing from 857,000 (21%) to 473,000 (11%). The districts of Koboko, Kyegegwa, Lamwo, Madi Okollo, Obongi, Terego and Yumbe are projected to improve from IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) to Phase 2 (Stressed), whereas Adjumani and Kiryandongo will remain in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) throughout the projection period. Compared to a previous analysis of the same period, the population in IPC Phase 3 or above is projected to reduce by 6% (from 17% September to December 2020 to 11% September 2022 to January 2023) due to the expected improvement in availability of food - particularly cassava, sorghum and highland / cooking bananas (matooke).

Key Drivers



Climate shocks

Poor rainfall performance across the districts, with water logging, flash floods and hailstorms in some districts.



Seasonal diseases, pests and vectors

Seasonal crop pests and diseases as well as endemic livestock vectors and diseases.



High food prices

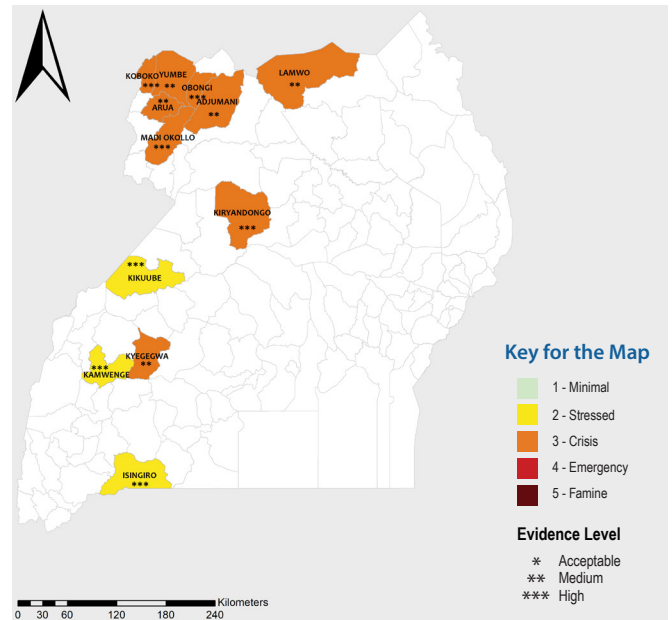
High and increasing prices of food and essential non-food commodities against low incomes.

IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY ANALYSIS JUNE 2022 - JANUARY 2023

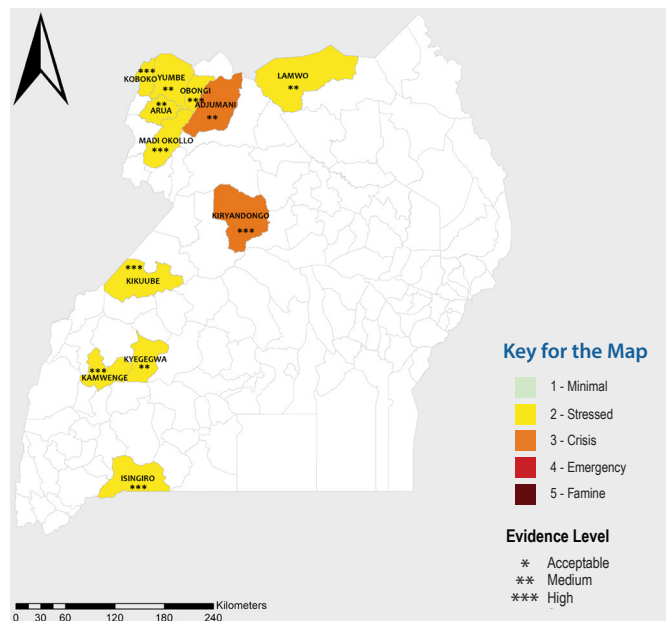
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PROJECTED ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY SEPTEMBER 2022 - JANUARY 2023	
<p>473,000 11% of the population analysed</p> <p>People facing high acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above)</p> <p>IN NEED OF URGENT ACTION</p>	Phase 5 0 People in Catastrophe
	Phase 4 9,000 People in Emergency
	Phase 3 464,000 People in Crisis
	Phase 2 1,054,000 People Stressed
	Phase 1 2,577,000 People in food security

Acute Food Insecurity: June – August 2022

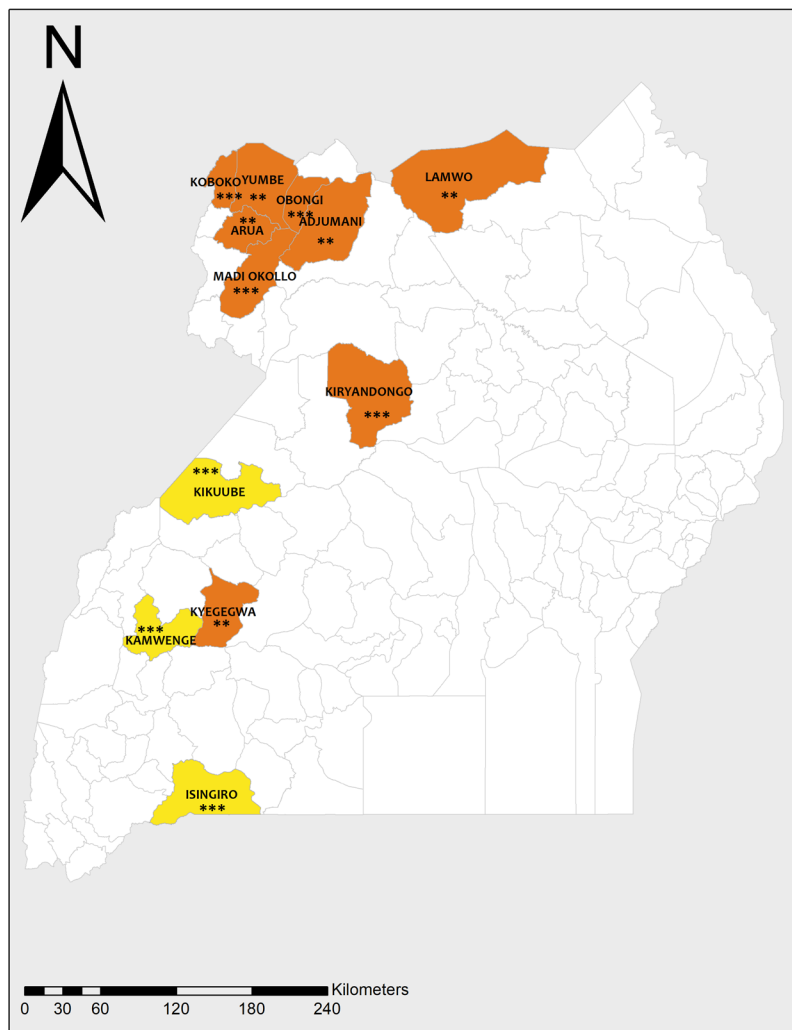


Projected Acute Food Insecurity: September 2022 – January 2023





IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY SITUATION MAP AND POPULATION TABLE (JUNE – AUGUST 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

- * Acceptable
- ** Medium
- *** High

Population table for the period: June – August, 2022

District	Total population analysed*	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5		Area Phase	Phase 3 or above	
		#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%		#people	%
Adjumani	238,800	95,520	40	59,700	25	71,640	30	11,940	5	0	0	3	83,580	35
Isingiro	637,300	414,245	65	127,460	20	95,595	15	0	0	0	0	2	95,595	15
Kamwenge	359,500	251,650	70	71,900	20	35,950	10	0	0	0	0	2	35,950	10
Kikuube	395,200	276,640	70	59,280	15	59,280	15	0	0	0	0	2	59,280	15
Kiryandongo	330,800	148,860	45	99,240	30	66,160	20	16,540	5	0	0	3	82,700	25
Koboko	277,500	138,750	50	83,250	30	55,500	20	0	0	0	0	3	55,500	20
Kyegegwa	512,400	307,440	60	102,480	20	76,860	15	25,620	5	0	0	3	102,480	20
Lamwo	146,800	58,720	40	44,040	30	36,700	25	7,340	5	0	0	3	44,040	30
Madi okollo	172,800	95,040	55	25,920	15	43,200	25	8,640	5	0	0	3	51,840	30
Obongi	51,300	23,085	45	15,390	30	10,260	20	2,565	5	0	0	3	12,825	25
Terego	245,300	98,120	40	98,120	40	49,060	20	0	0	0	0	3	49,060	20
Yumbe	736,400	294,560	40	257,740	35	147,280	20	36,820	5	0	0	3	184,100	25
Total	4,104,100	2,202,630	54	1,044,520	25	747,485	18	109,465	3	0	0		856,950	21

Note: A population in Phase 3 or above 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. Marginal inconsistencies that may arise in the overall percentages of totals and grand totals are attributable to rounding.



SITUATION OVERVIEW AND KEY DRIVERS (JUNE – AUGUST 2022)

Refugees in Uganda are hosted in 13 districts of which, six are in West Nile, one in mid-North, four in Western, one in south Western and one in Central Uganda (Kampala). The West Nile districts are Adjumani, Koboko, Madi Okollo, Obongi, Terego and Yumbe whereas only Lamwo hosts refugees in the mid-north. In western Uganda, Kamwenge, Kikuube, Kiryandongo and Kyegegwa districts host refugees. In southwestern Uganda, Isingiro district hosts refugees. This analysis includes all refugee hosting districts, except Kampala. Between June and August 2022, three districts were classified in IPC Phase 2 (Stressed) while 9 districts were classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis). Whereas Adjumani, Kiryandongo, Koboko, Kyegegwa, Lamwo, Madi Okollo, Obongi, Terego and Yumbe districts were classified in IPC Phase 3, Isingiro, Kamwenge and Kikuube districts were classified in IPC Phase 2. Of the total population analysed, 21% (857,000 people) were classified in IPC Phase 3 or above of whom 3% (109,000) were classified in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency). In terms of severity, the districts with the highest percentage of population classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) or above acute food insecurity were Adjumani, Lamwo and Madi Okollo with each having 35%, 30% and 30% of the population, respectively, in IPC Phase 3 or above while the lowest severity was registered in Kamwenge district that had 10% of the population. Five percent of the population in each of Adjumani, Kiryandongo, Kyegegwa, Lamwo, Madi Okollo, Obongi and Yumbe districts was classified in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency). In terms of magnitude, the districts with the highest populations in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) or above were Yumbe (184,100), Kyegegwa (102,500) and Isingiro (95,600), yet Obongi (12,800) had the lowest population in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) or above. Compared to the June 2020 analysis, the food security situation was found to only have improved in 2 districts with the situation remaining similar in the other districts.

The main source of livelihood for the host communities is agriculture (crop and livestock) followed by casual labour, trade (large and petty), fishing and salaried employment. In normal times, a large part of the host community population get food through their own production with only an estimated 28% accessing food through market purchase and about 5% from gifts, food aid and other assistance. There is no programmed general food assistance for any of the host districts as they have been relatively stable without civil or other conflict hindrances.

According to the Food Security and Nutrition Assessment (FSNA) conducted in June 2022, 77% of the households in the refugee hosting districts had an *Acceptable* Food Consumption Score (FCS) while 20% had *Borderline* FCS and 3% had a *Poor* FCS. The most districts that had *Poor* or *Borderline* FCS scores were Lamwo (44%), Madi Okollo (34%), Obongi (33%), Terego (32%) and Adjumani (31%). On the other hand, Koboko district had the lowest proportion of households (7%) that were found to have either *Borderline* or *Poor* food consumption behaviours. It was also found that 27% of the households in the host districts suffered some form of hunger in the last 30 days prior to the assessment (IPC Phase 3 or above, according to the Household Hunger Scale - HHS), with the most affected districts being Kiryandongo (40%), Koboko (37%), Yumbe (36%), and Adjumani (36%). Kyegegwa and Kamwenge districts registered the lowest proportion of households that had suffered some form of hunger during a 30-day period, with each of them having, respectively, 11%.

The proportion of households employing food and livelihood coping mechanisms to cope with the deteriorating food security situation was not found to be unusual, although some districts were more affected than others. Overall, only 18% and 22% of the households were employing crisis or worse food coping and livelihood coping strategies, respectively. Households in Yumbe (31%), Kiryandongo (28%) and Terego (24%) employed crisis or worse food coping strategies by mainly relying on less preferred foods, reducing the number of meals eaten per day and some of them borrowing food from neighbours. On the other hand, many of the households employing crisis and emergency livelihood coping strategies were found in Adjumani (37%), Kiryandongo (37%), Koboko (28%) and Madi Okollo (26%).

The Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) prevalence in the host districts stands at 2.6%, with 2.5% of the children under five years-old moderately malnourished and 0.1% severely malnourished, indicating an improvement in the malnutrition situation from the 8.2% recorded in June 2020. Madi Okollo district with a GAM rate of 4.4% has the highest prevalence while Kyegegwa district has the lowest prevalence at 0.8%.

Key Drivers

Climate shocks and hazards:

There were episodes of prolonged dry spells across all refugee hosting districts leading to below-average production in the second season of 2021, consequently depriving households of stocks that would take them through the pre-harvest period of 2022. District reports indicated a below-normal performance for maize, beans, groundnuts, Irish potatoes and sorghum during 2021. Additionally, the onset of the March-May 2022 rainy season was delayed to early April (except in Isingiro district) which negatively impacted crop planting and germination. Across most districts in the west and southwest, the March-May rains were characterized by a delayed onset, erratic spatial and temporal distribution and severe rainfall deficits. The onset of rains in April 2022 prompted farmers to plant, however, a dry spell started in early May lasting about two to three weeks, which affected crop growth for seasonal crops like beans, Irish potatoes, and maize, resulting into total crop failure in some places and low performance in others. The poor rainfall performance caused high temperatures and gradual loss of soil moisture, which affected pasture growth, consequently negatively impacting livestock production. Many livestock water points, particularly ponds, also dried up limiting water access for the livestock.

There were reports of floods and water logging in some districts that caused washing away of gardens and in some instances rotting of the



young crops. In Yumbe district, waterlogging and flooding affected the sub-counties of Ariwa, Kululu and Romogi with some hailstorm episodes also experienced. Kikuube district suffered heavy storms in Kyangwali, Kabwoya, Kiziranfumbi, Buhimba and Bugambe sub-counties, affecting over 3,750 people whose crop gardens and property were destroyed. In Okollo subcounty, Madi Okollo district, a dam being constructed along the Nile River caused river banks to burst causing heavy flooding that washed away crop gardens. Bursting of Nile River banks due to rising water levels in Lake Victoria did not only cause flooding in Obongi district but also later affected post-harvest handling of the early dry harvest. The incidence also negatively impacted livestock production as grains that are used as feed for livestock were washed away. The floods also led to reduction in fish catch, complete loss in fish catch of some species like Nile perch and eventual destruction of fish ponds and all fish handling facilities at landing sites. Intermittent showers in Adjumani district caused flooding, especially in the lowland areas of Pakele, Itirikwa, Ukusijoni and Adropi sub counties.

Conflict:

There has been reported frequent conflict between the host population and refugees, in the struggle to occupy more farm land which affected crop production in Palorinya, Itula and Gimara sub-counties in Obongi district. The continuing dispute over land cultivation rights between the Madi and Acholi in the Akaa area on the border of Adjumani and Amuru districts caused displacement of people from the areas with fertile soil to less productive areas, resulting in low crop production. Additionally, isolated incidents of food theft in Kyegegwa district were a source of endless conflict between the refugee and host populations, especially for communities around Katonga game reserve in Ruyonza and Rwentuha sub-counties.

Small land holding:

Because land is shared between refugees and the host population, households now own between 0.5 to 3 acres on average, which has greatly impacted food production in the host communities. The challenge has been more pronounced in Terego district where host communities own far less land than their counterparts in other districts.

Seasonal diseases, pests and vectors:

Crop production was affected by a range of crop pests and diseases that included maize streak, groundnut rosette and cassava brown streak disease, Fall Army Worm (FAW), African Army Worm (AAW), cassava mosaic virus, white flies (especially in cassava), thrips, aphids, pod sucking bugs and weevils, smuts in sorghum, rusts, powdery mildews in simsim, Anthracnose, variegated grasshoppers and bacterial blight in vegetables and legumes. The Coffee Twig Borer was also rampant in Isingiro district, due to erratic changes in weather characterised by high temperatures. The FAW and AAW worms were majorly controlled by chemical spraying.

On the other hand, livestock production was affected by a number of vectors and diseases, that included New Castle Disease (NCD), East Coast Fever (ECF), Babesiosis, Anaplasmosis, Trypanosomiasis, Helminthiasis, Mange, Contagious bovine pleuro-pneumonia (CBPP), Contagious caprine pleuropneumonia (CCPP), Peste des petits ruminants (PPR), Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), lumpy skin disease, swine fever and Bacillary White Diarrhoea. In Terego district, an outbreak of swine fever killed about 400 pigs, yet CBPP killed 139 cattle, CCPP killed 339 goats, and NCD killed 1,439 local chicken between February and July 2022. There was reported low access to vaccination and treatment in most districts during the six-month period of February to July 2022.

Market price and trends:

As most households realised below average production for the 2021 second season and 2022 first season, their reliance on market access drastically increased. The low market supply coupled with the relatively high external demand from South Sudan, Kenya, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the high transportation costs caused prices of staple foods and essential non-food commodities to increase over and above the five-year average. Reports from the District Commercial Offices indicated an unusual increase in prices of food items especially maize, cassava, millet and beans. For instance, in Yumbe district, cassava flour prices increased from about UgX700 to UgX2,000 (185%) with the fish also as expensive as UgX12,000 for a medium sized fish. In Kyegegwa district, maize grain and maize flour cost UgX2,000 and UgX4000 per kg respectively, by July 2022, having increased from UgX800 and UgX2,200. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) released by the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) indicated that annual food inflation had reached a record 15.8% across the country, increasing from 13.8% recorded in June 2022. It is worth noting that households can only ably depend on markets if their incomes remain relatively good and the prices of food and essential non-food items are kept in check. Unfortunately, through the current period of analysis, incomes of poor and very poor households remained lower than normal causing a drastic drop in the purchasing of this category of households.

District reports also indicated that rising agro-input prices made production too costly for the poor farmers as these households were facing difficulties meeting demand for most of the major crop inputs. For instance, in Kiryandongo district, a 50 Kg bag of urea fertilisers cost UgX270,000 up from UgX110,000 in 2021, with the improved maize seed costs also following suit with at least a 17% increase.



Limited labour opportunities:

Following the poor rainfall performance, planting was delayed while other seasonal activities provided less than normal labour opportunities from which poor households obtain their income. As a result, households obtained below average incomes from this source to enable them access to both food and essential non-food items.

Fuel price impact:

Domestic fuel prices in Uganda increased throughout 2021 and the upsurge continued in 2022. A study by the Economic Policy Research Centre (EPRC) indicates that between January and November 2021, average domestic petrol prices increased by nearly 21%, and diesel by about 16%, yet paraffin/kerosene prices remained more stable, with a negligible increase of about 1.2% during the same period (EPRC, 2022). The rising fuel prices are largely attributed to changes in the International fuel prices, followed by the local tax on fuel and distribution and marketing costs. The rebound in global and local economic activity, after lifting of the Covid-19 measures, also led to an increase in fuel demand that was set against the already disrupted supply chains. The high fuel prices significantly affected transportation costs which in turn negatively impacted transportation of agricultural inputs and outputs. With more expensive inputs, crop production was affected in the host districts yet reduced access to veterinary services and consumables impacted livestock production. Prices of food and non-food commodities have also been rising since the later part of 2021 through 2022 due to increased transportation costs.

Russia-Ukraine conflict:

The Russia-Ukraine conflict has disrupted the supply of oil, wheat, corn, sunflower oil and aluminium metal, as the two countries are major producers and exporters of these products. This supply disruption has caused a major upward shift in the prices of cooking oil, soap and wheat in Uganda. Vegetable oil prices in Uganda rose by 23% by end of March 2022 (FAO, 2022) and there has been a significant increase in soap price from about UgX3,500 in December 2021 to Ug. shillings 7,000 by end of July 2022 (an increase of 100%). This price shift has adversely affected demand and use of the two products causing a shift in diet (in regard to cooking oil) but also affecting hygiene practices (in regard to soap). The increase in wheat prices from about UgX2,000 in December 2021 to UgX3,700 by July 2022 had and continues to have a significant impact on the consumption of wheat products (especially Chapati) that are a basic source of food for poor individuals involved in casual labour and other forms of low-value income generating activities. The Russia-Ukraine conflict limited fertiliser availability and led to an upsurge in prices of fertilisers, both countries being major exporters of the raw materials for fertiliser manufacturing. It is highly anticipated that this conflict has also escalated the already high international fuel prices, causing a rebound effect on the economy.

Long term COVID-19 effects:

Households in the refugee hosting districts still suffer secondary effects of the Covid-19 pandemic including loss of employment which continues to affect income earning and access to food. It was reported that many small scale businesses closed due to effects of Covid-19 and high cost of running businesses (high cost of transport, high cost of essential commodities, high rental costs, etc.) limiting self-employment and thus negatively impacting purchasing power. The ability of poor households, that were involved in self-employment or providing labour to small scale enterprises, to purchase both food and non-food items for a normal living has significantly been affected by the long term Covid-19 effects.

Current state of food security dimensions

Food availability was found to be a minor limiting factor in all refugee hosting districts. Production of cereals, pulses and legumes was below average both in the second season of 2021 and first season of 2022. The poor performance of rainfall in both seasons resulted in low food stocks and consequently inadequacy in food availability at household level. Poor access to agricultural land and other factors already highlighted above also affected the level of food production in the host districts, with the poor and very poor households only able to access 0.5-1.0 acre of land for production purposes while those that could access over 10 acres did not make good use for production purposes. Although no full scale market assessment was done prior to this IPC analysis, information provided by District Commercial Officers indicated availability of staple foods in the markets across all districts, with districts in the south and western parts having more market supply than those in West Nile and Acholi sub-regions. Except Adjumani and Terego districts that had inadequate market supply of cassava, the other districts had a moderate supply of cassava, maize and beans in the market, albeit the prices being higher than usual.

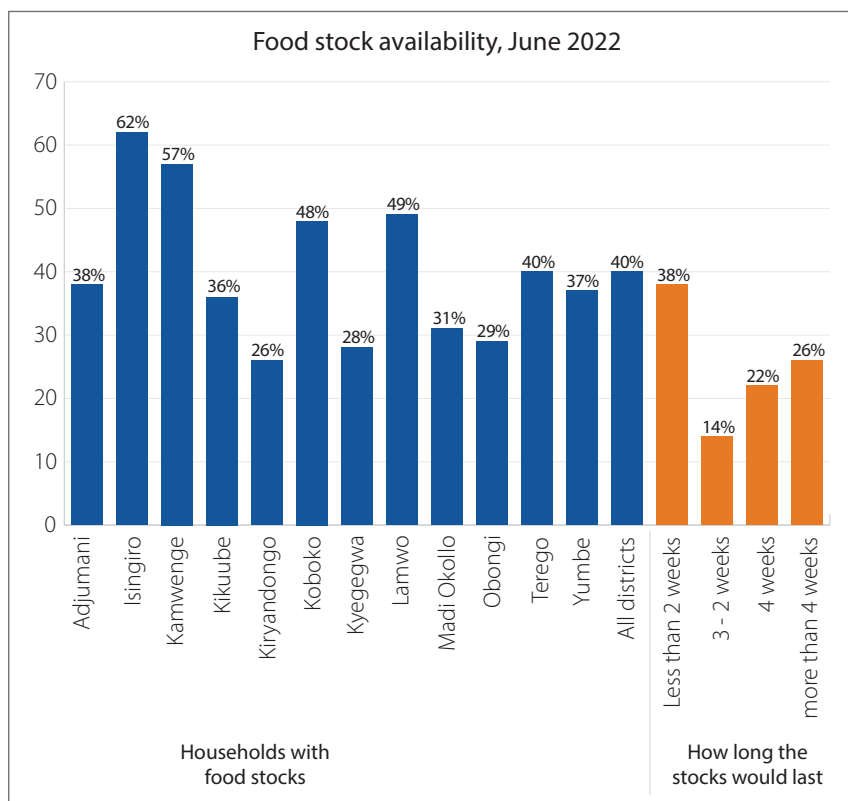
About 83% of the households among the refugee hosting communities have access to land that can be utilised for agricultural activities with Yumbe district having the highest proportion of such households (90%) and Kikuube district the lowest (72%). Generally, the land is discriminately owned with the poor and very poor having less than 1 acre while others own 10 or more acres of land. In some instances, the poor have to rent land to utilise for subsistence agricultural activities. Even with the generally good access to agricultural land, utilisation and overall productivity has been minimal in the recent agricultural seasons owing to climate related challenges, poor agronomic practices, uncontrolled pests and diseases, high cost of agricultural inputs and high cost of



mechanisation due to the high fuel costs yet the utilisation of oxen for ploughing is low among the host communities. At the time of the FSNA, about 45% of the households were found having a kitchen garden with the practice most embraced in Koboko (68%), Terego (66%) and Yumbe (64%), yet it was least embraced in Kyegegwa (15%) and Kikuube (25%) districts.

At the time of the FSNA in June 2022, only 40% of the households indicated they had food stocks, a reduction from the 68% recorded around same time in 2020. The highest proportion of households with food stocks was found in Isingiro (62%) and Kamwenge (57%) districts, while the lowest proportion was found in Kiryandongo (26%) and Kyegegwa (28%) districts.

At the time of the assessment, most households (38%) had food stocks that would not last more than 2 weeks followed by those with food stocks that would last 4 or more weeks (26%). Overall, 74% of the households had food stocks that would last 4 or less weeks. The low food stock availability among households in June 2022 is a direct result of the poor harvest realised in the 2021 second season and late planting in the 2022 first season. It was anticipated that households would replenish stocks with the first season harvests. District reports of July 2022 indicated that households in Isingiro, Kamwenge, Kikuube, Koboko, Kyegegwa, Obongi and Terego districts had replenished stocks of beans and maize, with those in Isingiro also having improved stocks of Irish potatoes and those in Kikuube reporting having more cooking banana available to them. Additionally, households in Koboko, Obongi and Terego districts reported improved stocks of cassava and groundnuts. The replenished stocks were however not anticipated to last longer than 2 months due to the average to below average seasonal harvests.



The prolonged lack of rainfall in the months of January to March 2022 and June to July significantly reduced pasture and water availability crippling livestock production and leading to reduced availability of livestock products (particularly milk). Most districts only received normal rainfall in April and although in a normal year, this should continue for two to three weeks in May before cessation, there was early cessation this year with just a few districts receiving some scattered rains in May 2022. The improved seasonal rains of April benefited pasture and water availability for livestock, with a positive impact on animal body condition and milk production, although this was short-lived as highlighted above. Higher temperatures than normal were reported across all districts, which caused further deterioration in livestock body condition, meat availability and milk production.

Food access was found to be a major limiting factor to food security in all refugee hosting districts. Although prices of most staple food commodities (cassava, maize, beans, Irish potatoes, cooking banana) generally followed typical seasonal patterns in 2021, they started increasing unusually in March 2022 reaching high levels in June 2022. The sharp increase that has been above the five-year average in all districts was mainly due to limited market availabilities arising from the low 2021 second season and 2022 first season production, sustained local demand as households are mostly purchasing food from the markets due to the depletion of their own stocks caused by consecutive poor harvests and above average export demand mostly from South Sudan and Kenya. Additionally, high prices of essential non-food commodities like soap, sugar, cooking oil and wheat, and imported food (mainly rice) caused further stress to households. High fuel prices, underpinned by the sustained effect of the war in Ukraine, have exerted additional pressure on food prices. The continually high domestic fuel prices that contributed to rising prices of basic food and non-food items by increasing transportation costs coupled by the delayed first season harvests exacerbated the situation.

The main source of income for most households (44%) across the refugee hosting districts is sale of food crops, notably maize, cassava and cooking bananas, followed by casual labour (15%) and fishing (6%). The sale of crops was greatly affected by the below average harvest of 2021 and delayed but also below average harvest of first season 2022. In a similar vein, poor rainfall distribution and below normal land opening for agricultural activities reduced opportunities for agricultural related casual labour. Non-agricultural casual labour wages, on the other hand, increased in the post-Covid period, however, such opportunities remained constrained by the closure of a number of Small and Medium Enterprises due to the 2020 and 2021 Covid-19 restrictive measures. Results from the recent FSNA show that 25% of the households do not have an income earner, while 38% have only one income earner, mostly involved



in low-paying activities. The possibilities of low-value income-generating activities such as selling firewood, charcoal burning, sand mining, road-side vending, etc. seemed to be limited and only slowly recovering from the Covid-19 effects. As a result, the purchasing power of the poor and very poor remained significantly low pushing many of them into Crisis and Emergency levels of food insecurity as they were increasingly unable to meet their minimum food consumption needs. The FSNA reported that 50% of the households had debt at the time of the assessment, with over 30% of these having debts of UgX90,000 and above. Borrowing was initiated mainly to cover school dues (27%), cover health expenses (19%), buy food (16%) and buy agricultural inputs (12%). Households with debts were mostly found in Kyegegwa (73%), Isingiro (73%), Kamwenge (69%) and Adjumani (59%) districts.

In peri-urban areas of the host districts, the recovery of the population (particularly, business and related economy) after lifting of the restrictive measures introduced to curb the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic has been slower than expected and income-earning opportunities are still low. This, coupled with the high prices of food and essential non-food commodities, significantly constrained poor households' access to food.

In a number of districts in the West Nile, food was usually available in the local markets, with good import supply from nearby and far districts. This increased the quantities of foods available to be accessed by households. Unfortunately, the prices were increasing against the low incomes, increasing households' inability to access enough food and reduce consumption gaps.

Food utilisation was found to be a minor limiting factor in all districts except in Kyegegwa and Lamwo districts where it was a major limiting factor. The diet for most households in the host communities is composed of grains, white roots and tubers and cooking banana (97%) and pulses (beans, peas) as the main source (85%). The consumption of leafy vegetables is also improving (69%) especially during the rainy periods when vegetables do well. There is low dietary diversity due to lack of financial resources to purchase other food items and a historical preference for cassava in West Nile, maize and cassava in midwest and banana and millet in southwestern districts. The consumption of milk and other dairy products stands at 16% (higher in Isingiro, Kamwenge and Kyegegwa) but that of meat is higher at 41%. There are inadequate storage facilities for most households, which leads to post-harvest losses, thus reducing the food stocks at household level. It is imperative to note that poor storage has also been found to be a source of microbial contamination of cereals which endangers the final consumer.

The majority of households (78%) can access improved water sources, with the highest proportion found in Adjumani (99%) and the lowest in Isingiro (46%) and Kyegegwa (39%) districts. Across the refugee hosting districts, the main source of safe usable water are boreholes accessed by 53% of the households although there is very limited availability of these in Isingiro (3%) where 32% of the households access piped water and 26% using surface water (lakes, rivers, unprotected streams). The majority of the households in Kyegegwa district (39%) get water from unprotected hand-dug wells. The per capita water use stands at 22 litres per person per day although households in Isingiro and Kamwenge districts (14 litres) collect and use less water than their counterparts in other districts. About 38% of households across the host districts are able to collect and use 20 litres of water per person per day but again the proportions are far lower in Isingiro and Kamwenge districts (24%). It takes the households, on average, 37 minutes to collect water from the nearest water source, irrespective of the status of such source i.e. whether protected or unprotected. Water treatment practices are still inadequate with only 40% of the households treating water before using it for drinking purposes, partly due to the fact that households regard borehole water to be very safe and not requiring any treatment before use. Water treatment practices are poorest in Obongi (19%) and Adjumani (23%) but best in Isingiro (87%) and Kyegegwa (70%) districts.

Access to and use of toilet facilities stands at 94% across the host districts with open defecation as low as 4% and mostly practiced in Lamwo (13%), Yumbe (9%) and Madi Okollo (8%) districts.

Humanitarian food assistance:

Generally, the refugee hosting districts do not benefit from any programmed humanitarian assistance. It is only at times of severe crisis that the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) provides food relief to the hungry population, although there was not enough information on any such distribution for the analysis period.

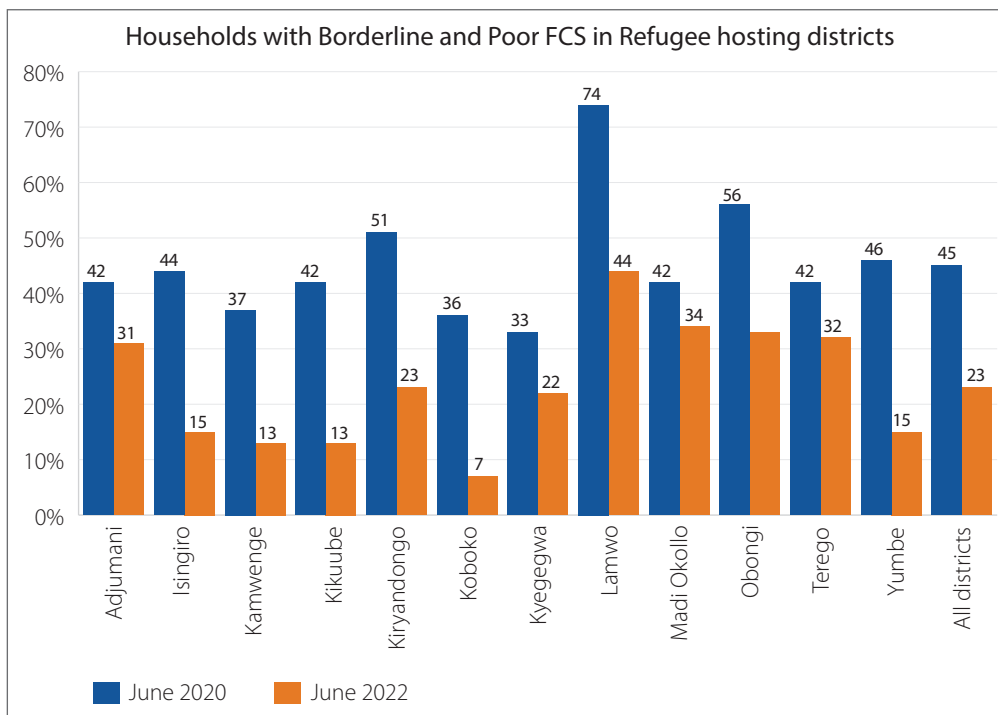
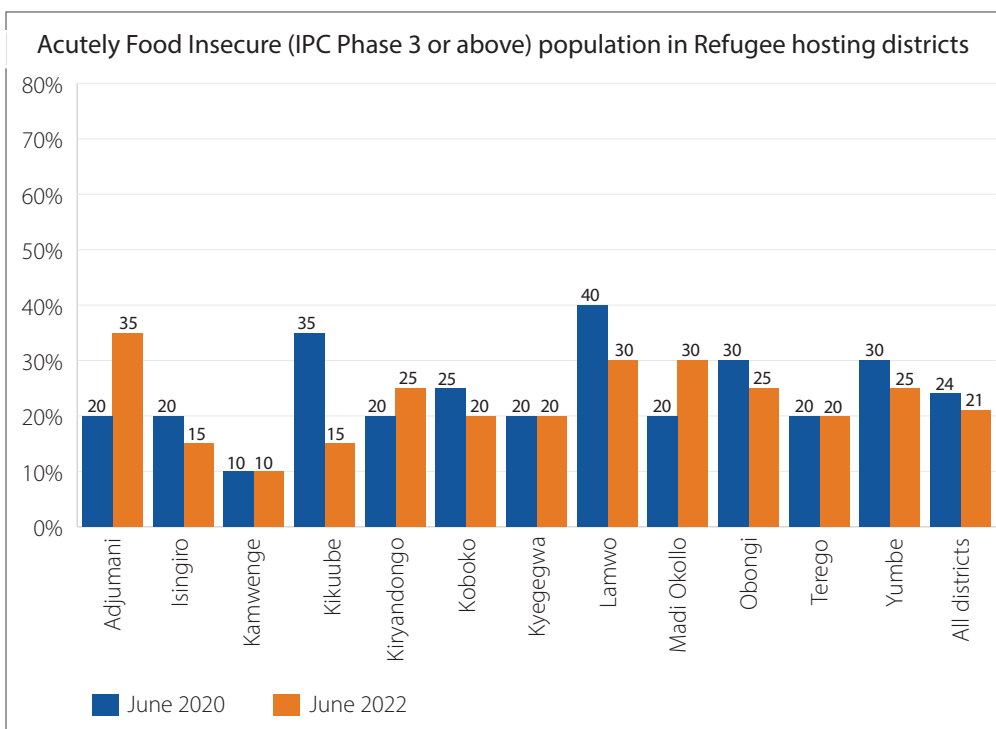
In 2022, the OPM distributed food relief to some households of Kikuube district that had been affected by storms that destroyed crop fields but there were no specific details on the quantities provided.



Comparison to previous analyses:

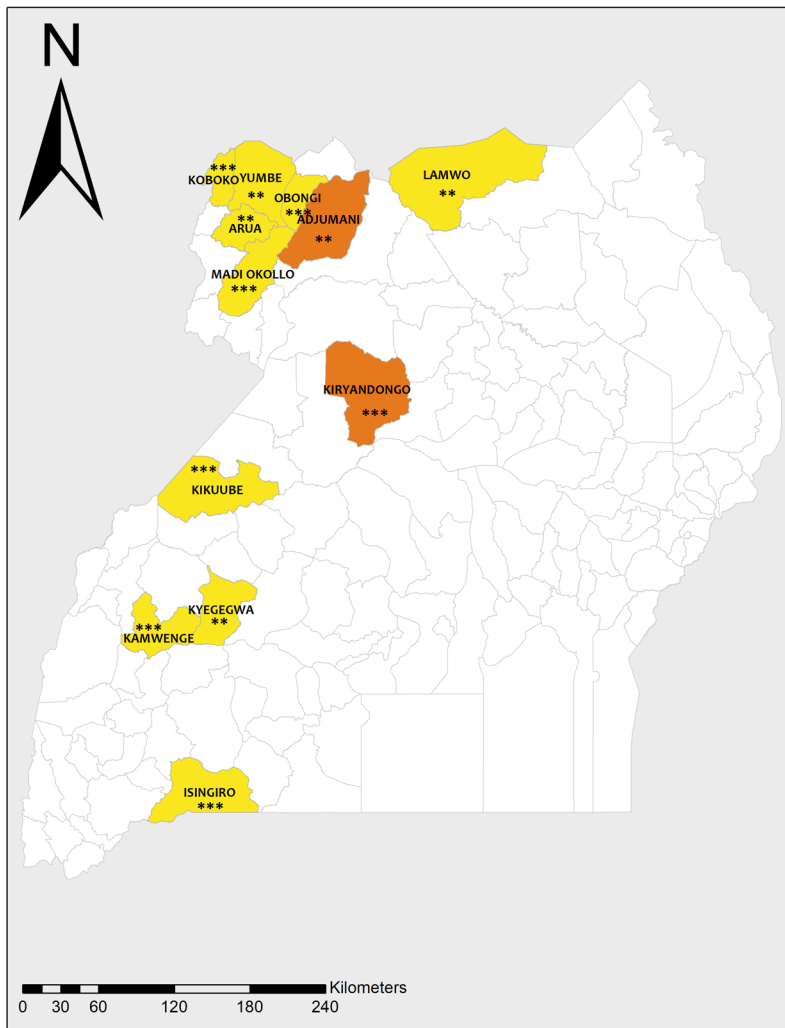
The proportion of the population in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) in the refugee hosting districts decreased from 19% in June 2020 to 18% in June 2022 with those in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) also decreasing from 5% to 3% during the same period. On the other hand, the proportion of the population in Stressed (IPC Phase 2) decreased from 37% to 25% between June 2020 and June 2022 whereas the food secure population (IPC Phase 1) increased from 39% to 54% during the same period. However, between June 2020 and June 2022 the proportion facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) in Adjumani district increased from 20% to 35%, those in Kiryandongo from 20% to 25%, and in Madi Okollo from 20% to 30%. In terms of magnitude, the population facing high levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) in all the host districts decreased from 995,400 people in June 2020 to 857,000 people in June 2022.

Food consumption in the refugee hosting districts improved in 2022 compared to 2020, with the percentage of households having poor and borderline FCS reducing from 45% in June 2020 to 23% in June 2022.





PROJECTED IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY SITUATION MAP AND POPULATION TABLE (SEPTEMBER 2022 – JANUARY 2023)



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

- * Acceptable
- ** Medium
- *** High

Population table for the projected period: September 2022 – January 2023

District	Total population analysed*	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5		Area Phase	Phase 3 or above	
		#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%		#people	%
Adjumani	238,800	107,460	45	83,580	35	47,760	20	0	0	0	0	3	47,760	20
Isingiro	637,300	477,975	75	127,460	20	31,865	5	0	0	0	0	2	31,865	5
Kamwenge	359,500	269,625	75	71,900	20	17,975	5	0	0	0	0	2	17,975	5
Kikuube	395,200	296,400	75	59,280	15	39,520	10	0	0	0	0	2	39,520	10
Kiryandongo	330,800	148,860	45	115,780	35	66,160	20	0	0	0	0	3	66,160	20
Koboko	277,500	166,500	60	83,250	30	27,750	10	0	0	0	0	2	27,750	10
Kyegegwa	512,400	333,060	65	128,100	25	51,240	10	0	0	0	0	2	51,240	10
Lamwo	146,800	66,060	45	58,720	40	22,020	15	0	0	0	0	2	22,020	15
Madi okollo	172,800	103,680	60	43,200	25	17,280	10	8,640	5	0	0	2	25,920	15
Obongi	51,300	30,780	60	12,825	25	7,695	15	0	0	0	0	2	7,695	15
Terego	245,300	98,120	40	122,650	50	24,530	10	0	0	0	0	2	24,530	10
Yumbe	736,400	478,660	65	147,280	20	110,460	15	0	0	0	0	2	110,460	15
Total	4,104,100	2,577,180	63	1,054,025	26	464,255	11	8,640	0	0	0		472,895	11

Note: A population in Phase 3 or above 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. Marginal inconsistencies that may arise in the overall percentages of totals and grand totals are attributable to rounding.



PROJECTION OVERVIEW AND KEY ASSUMPTIONS (SEPTEMBER 2022 – JANUARY 2023)

During the projection period (September 2022 to January 2023), the food security situation in the refugee hosting districts is expected to improve. Overall, the estimated number of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above) and requiring food assistance and livelihood improvement interventions is expected to reduce from 857,000 which is 21% of the population analysed to 473,000 which is 11% of the population analysed. About 9,000 people are anticipated to be in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) in the projection period, a decrease from the 109,000 people in the period between June - August 2022, while 464,000 people are expected to be in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) in the projection period, a reduction from the 748,000 people in the period between June - August 2022. Of the 12 districts included in this analysis, two districts are anticipated to be in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and ten districts are anticipated to be in IPC Phase 2 (Stressed) during the projection period. Whereas Adjumani and Kiryandongo districts will remain in IPC Phase 3, in which they were classified in the current period; Koboko, Kyegegwa, Lamwo, Madi Okollo, Obongi, Terego and Yumbe districts will likely improve from IPC Phase 3 to IPC Phase 2. On the other hand, Isingiro, Kamwenge and Kikuube districts that were classified in IPC Phase 2 in the analysis are anticipated to remain in the same phase during the projection period. In terms of severity, the districts expected to have the highest percentage in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) or above are Adjumani (20%) and Kiryandongo (20%), with Lamwo, Madi Okollo, Obongi and Yumbe each projected to have 15% of the analysed population in IPC Phase 3 or above. In Obongi district, it is anticipated that 5% of the analysed population will be in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) during the projection period. In terms of magnitude, the districts projected to have the highest populations in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) or above are Yumbe (110,500), Kiryandongo (66,200), and Kyegegwa (51,200).

The highly anticipated rains of September and October 2022 will enhance agricultural production in all the refugee hosting districts, although lack of quality seed (as farmers do not have much seed stock from the previous season), seasonal crop pests and diseases, endemic livestock diseases, and lack of enough land for agricultural activities are anticipated to largely affect production. Even for farmers that will open more land, the lack of mechanised agricultural practices and predominantly poor conservative agronomic practices will continue to impact agricultural production. As the anticipated normal to above normal rains intensify in some districts, water logging, flash floods and hail storms are highly expected to affect the germinating and young crops, although the same will cause improvement in the availability of water and pasture for livestock. The invasion of the African Army Worm, that had already wreaked havoc in some districts in the previous season, will most likely have little to no impact in the second season due to the continued efforts by the MAAIF to curtail it.

Compared to the current analysis period, food consumption 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 2022 owing to the projected average harvest and seasonal price changes. On the other hand, dietary diversity may not improve in the projection period due to food preferences, limited financial capacity to purchase other dietary foods from the markets, and general lack of knowledge among mothers and care givers. Likewise, sanitation and hygiene may not likely improve and may deteriorate in some low lying areas as the rains intensify.

Assumptions for projection

Overall, the projection for the period September 2022 to January 2023, which is a second cereals and pulses / legumes season but also main season for cassava and bananas / plantains, has been based on the following assumptions:

Rainfall: The 2022 rains started in late March in a few districts but were unevenly distributed and ceased in a short period. Normal rains resumed in April but with an early cessation experienced in May, then followed by on and off mid-season dry spells that generally affected crop performance. According to the UNMA SONDA¹ forecast, the West Nile districts (Adjumani, Koboko, Madi Okollo, Obongi, Terego, Yumbe), and Lamwo district were anticipated to receive near normal (average) with a tendency to above normal rainfall conditions that would reach peak levels in September with an expected cessation in early November 2022. The Western districts (Kamwenge, Kikuube, Kiryandongo and Kyegegwa) were anticipated to receive near normal (average) with a slight tendency to above normal rainfall conditions that would reach peak levels in mid-October with cessation expected in late November 2022. On the other hand, the low lying Isingiro district was anticipated to receive near normal (average) to below normal (suppressed) rainfall that would reach peak levels in mid-September with cessation expected in mid-November. Should the spatial distribution of the anticipated rains be good enough, then food and livestock production will improve across all refugee hosting districts. The expected rains will support germination and good growth of crops, although may result into increased incidences of pests and diseases, water logging and episodic flash floods that wash away the young crops or cause stunting. The rains will also support normal pasture and water conditions for livestock production.

Crop harvest for second season 2022: The SONDA forecast provides good prospects for agricultural production in the second season of 2022. Some households started planting as early as July 2022 with expected green harvest at the end of September or early October 2022. As a number of households did not have enough seed stock due the poor seasonal harvest, only timely distribution of improved seeds by the government and other partners or improved financial capacity to buy seeds from the markets could boost the expected production. The green harvest and later dry harvest, continued harvesting of cassava and plantains are estimated to

¹ Uganda National Meteorological Authority (UNMA) September, October, November, December (SONDA)



increase food availability from September through to December 2022. However, harvesting in some areas is expected to delay mainly because of the delays of the rains. Overall, should there be availability of quality seed, and proper control of the seasonal pests and diseases, crop production is estimated to be average to above average.

African Army Worm: The invasion by the African Army Worm (AAW) which had already been experienced in some districts is a threat to food production. The AAW is a migratory pest that moves to areas with improved vegetation cover i.e. improved NDVI. It is projected that the on-going preparedness by the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries and District Local Governments in terms of providing chemicals for spraying will mitigate the impact of the AAW on food production.

Land conflicts: The ongoing land conflicts in some areas will most likely continue curtailing any further land opening. Conflicts are expected to continue between refugees and host communities regarding the use of natural resources such as fuel, wood, water sources and mined sand. In Adjumani, Yumbe, Madi Okollo and Terego districts, refugees are sometimes denied the opportunity to collect firewood from nearby forests which causes conflicts. The land wrangles that have caused serious threats in Mboira sub-county in Kirayndongo district will continue posing a threat to food security in that district. In Kikuube district, uncontrolled migrants due to the highly anticipated oil prospects will continue being a threat to the local population leading to conflicts over land and other resources. It is also expected that theft of food from refugee owned gardens will continue in Kyegegwa district as the local population tries to survive on food grown by the refugees.

Livestock vectors and diseases: The endemic outbreak of FMD is likely to continue in most of the livestock keeping districts. CBPP, CCPP, PPR, Anaplasmosis, Babesiosis, ECF and NCD are expected to continue affecting livestock (including poultry), even with the expected vaccination drives. This continued disease infestation will affect income generation for households that depend on selling livestock and livestock products to access food. Should there be high levels of FMD infestation, then a livestock quarantine may be imposed, especially in Isingiro district, as is usually the case.

Livestock production: The anticipated normal to above normal rains will improve rangeland conditions and water available for livestock. No seasonal livestock migration to distant grazing areas is expected in any of the analyzed districts although there may be internal conflicts over grazing land in some districts. The improved rangeland, water availability and free movement of livestock are expected to improve livestock body condition, and meat and milk availability in the projection period.

Human diseases: During the projection period, there is likely an increased chance of malaria and water-borne diseases in line with historical seasonal changes. The malaria prevalence is already very high especially in the West Nile districts ranging from 79% in Adjumani to 87% in Yumbe district. Although the Government of Uganda has recently launched a district-led malaria surveillance and household-level spraying campaign in the region, the impact of this will be gradual and may not curtail the malaria challenge in the short term. High malaria incidences impact production when either the adults (who are involved in agricultural activities) get sick or when they spend time and resources taking care of the sick children.

General livelihood / economic activity: All Covid-19 restrictive measures instituted by the government since March 2020 were lifted allowing the economy to return to normalcy. The situation is expected to remain the same as there are no new increased Coronavirus infections. Even as COVID-19 prevention measures have been lifted, 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, although this income will most likely remain below average through at least 2022. Unfortunately, the economic hardships existing prior to the pandemic became more pronounced during the Covid-19 times driving more families into poverty and those already there, even deeper.

The improved road network within the refugee hosting areas has improved trade between the local population and that of other districts. Most of the refugee hosting districts are connected by high standard bitumen roads which ease trade and flow of commodities into the markets. However, Madi Okollo, Terego and Obongi districts are connected by low standard murrum roads that also get washed away during the rainy season and these are not anticipated to improve in the projection period. Adjumani district, on the other hand, is connected to Northern Uganda by a good standard murrum road that also connects to the Gulu-South Sudan road which improves trade between the people of Adjumani and those of South Sudan, through the Elegu / Nimule border point. There is currently free movement for informal and formal cross border trade at the border districts of Yumbe, Koboko, Isingiro, Adjumani and Kikuube. All these factors will improve market food availability and access during the projection period.

Income from typical livelihood strategies: Households engaged in low-value economic activities like charcoal burning, firewood collection and selling, local brew trade and other petty trade will likely get improved incomes as the economy continues to recover. The involvement of youths in sand mining, especially around lakes and rivers, will most likely continue if there are no negative restrictive measures put in place. Even with the current slow recovery of most activities, poor households are likely to expand income-earning potential through selling crops, livestock, firewood and charcoal or sending household members to seek labour in urban areas. The demand for agricultural labour will improve as the rains intensify and agricultural activities increase but start to reduce in November 2022.



Prices: The global increase in fuel prices linked to the Russia-Ukraine conflict and other supply factors is anticipated to keep local fuel prices elevated, albeit some anticipated reductions. The high fuel prices are expected to sustain atypically high prices for essential food and non-food commodities. Additionally, the domestic and international cereal prices will remain above average affecting the purchasing power of the poor. Even with improved local production, the typically high demand for maize, beans and cooking bananas will keep prices of these commodities high and far above the five-year average. Prices for charcoal/firewood are expected to remain high partly due to the general increase in transportation costs and also in line with the current inflation levels.

Russia-Ukraine conflict: The Russia-Ukraine conflict has disrupted the supply of oil, wheat, corn, sunflower oil, fertiliser, raw materials and aluminium and nickel metals, the two countries being major producers and exporters of these products. This supply disruption has caused a major upward shift in the prices of cooking oil, soap, wheat, fuel and fertilisers. The continued conflict between the two countries, which may not be about to end, will cause further supply chain disruptions keeping prices of the above products high. The conflict is having a serious impact on the imports of fertiliser raw materials which leads to increased agricultural input costs thus affecting production for the 2022 agricultural season. The proposed strategic shift by the Government of Uganda to establish new suppliers of these essential commodities has and is more likely to take even longer thus the negative impact of the conflict will likely continue through the projection period. On the other hand, even an end of the conflict before the end of the projection period will not readily bring down the prices and cause a quick shift in the negative impact as the global economy will take longer to recover.

Humanitarian assistance: There is no programmed Humanitarian Food Assistance (HFA) to the districts included in this analysis. The targeted ad-hoc food assistance by the Office of the Prime Minister will continue as and when resources allow.

Projection on food security dimensions

Food availability: As a result of forecasted good rains, food availability is expected to improve owing to the anticipated average crop harvest complemented by good livestock production, although lack of quality inputs and expected pest / disease infestation may negatively impact this. There will be availability of imports as markets are fully functional and there are no movement restrictions in the districts included in this analysis. However, lack of good storage facilities and post-harvest losses may affect food availability at household level. Any additional input distribution assistance beyond the normal is expected to increase the acreage and subsequently food production. There will likely be improved availability of livestock products like milk and meat.

Food access: Food access is projected to remain a challenge as livelihoods are recovering slowly and will take longer to return to normal levels, which constrains the purchasing power of households. Markets are expected to be fully functional through the projection period. Seasonal income from crop and livestock sales (including milk sales) is likely to improve in the projection period as economic activity accelerates and facilitates higher demand, but remain below average. Alternative sources of income such as casual labour are expected to provide further income to the poor households. However, prices of food and essential non-food items will remain high, keeping the purchasing power of poor and very poor households low. Overall, although food access will improve for most of the population, it will remain considerably low for the poor and very poor households.

Food utilization: Food utilization, which was a minor limiting factor for households in most of the analysed districts, will remain a minor challenge through the projection period. The inadequate storage facilities are not likely to be improved in the projection period resulting into continued post-harvest losses. Dietary diversity is unlikely to improve in the short term due to limited household-level and market access to nutrient-dense foods and the historical preference for cassava, beans, maize and bananas.

Current access to improved sanitation facilities will remain in a similar situation and may deteriorate for some low lying areas as the forecasted SOND rains intensify. Adequacy in water use is not expected to improve even with the current availability of safe water sources. Improved access to clean energy will be impossible because majority of households in the districts rely on firewood and charcoal for cooking fuel, which will not likely change in the projection period.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

Response Priorities

1. Urgently provide food and livelihood assistance to the populations projected to be in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and Phase 4 (Emergency) to save lives and livelihoods.
2. Further invest in provision of water for production to reduce the impact of climate shocks and hazards, particularly the recurrent drought conditions.
3. Strengthen social protection systems for nutrition and food security. Enhanced social protection systems will be key to reducing food insecurity in refugee host communities.
4. Invest in post-harvest management to reduce losses and support households to keep food stocks through the pre-harvest periods.
5. Enhance agricultural extension services with farmer training on modern agronomic practices, including climate smart agriculture technologies, to reduce impact of water logging, flash floods, pest infestation and dry spells.
6. Put in place a comprehensive livestock disease and vector monitoring and management plan to control diseases and vectors.
7. Strengthen the health system and health care to respond to population disease burden, especially malaria.

Situation Monitoring and Update

1. Floods: The expectation of normal to above normal rainfall, and an abnormal increase in the amount of rainfall water during the season may cause adverse damage to crops, livestock and other household items causing food insecurity for the affected households. Episodic flash floods resulting from heavy rainfall days may result into the bursting of major seasonal rivers causing excessive damage to households.
2. Prices: Even with improved crop and livestock production, the high fuel prices and other supply chain costs may keep the market prices for staples and essential non-food commodities beyond manageable levels.
3. Conflict: The usual conflicts between the host population and refugee population create an uncertain situation in most refugee hosting districts.

Risk factors to monitor

- Crop pests and diseases
- Livestock vectors and diseases
- Human diseases, particularly malaria
- Staple food prices which will most likely remain above average even after harvest
- Post-harvest handling practices
- Floods



PROCESS AND METHODOLOGY

TIPCTWG meetings to decide on IPC analysis dates, analysis areas and other modalities for the Refugee hosting districts were held in June and July 2022. An IPC analysis workshop (virtual and physical) for both AFI and AMN was held from 25th – 29th July, 2022. A three-day (half day each) full Level 1 training was conducted for the analysts prior to starting the actual analysis, although no certification was ensured for all those involved in the analysis. 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 based on convergence of evidence of current and/ or projected most likely conditions, including effects of humanitarian assistance to arrive at a ‘big picture’ analysis of the overall food security situation. Analysis was done in accordance with IPC Technical Manual version 3.1 and recently developed guidance provided by the Global Support Unit of the IPC on ways of conducting IPC trainings. Analysis was done with the use of the web-based IPC Information Support System (ISS), where all evidence and analysis processes have been clearly and systematically documented for further quality review by the IPC GSU and other stakeholders.

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

Evidence sources

WFP & UNHCR (2022): Refugee and Refugee Host FSNA 2022

DLGs (2022): District food security update reports

UNMA (2022): Weather performance and forecast for MAM and SOND

UBOS (2022): Mid-year district population projections

FEWSNET (2022): Food security outlook for Uganda Feb – Sept 2022

EPRC (2022): Various Policy briefs

Limitations of the analysis

1. The FSNA survey included robust information for the analysis but was the only source of data for outcome indicators, which limited triangulation of evidence.
2. Time given for the analysis preparation was short and given the volatility of the situation, analysts should be informed timely for proper planning.
3. Some analysts were using the IPC tool and process for the first time which limited their technical participation and contribution.

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.

Contact for further Information

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IPC Global Support Unit

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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.

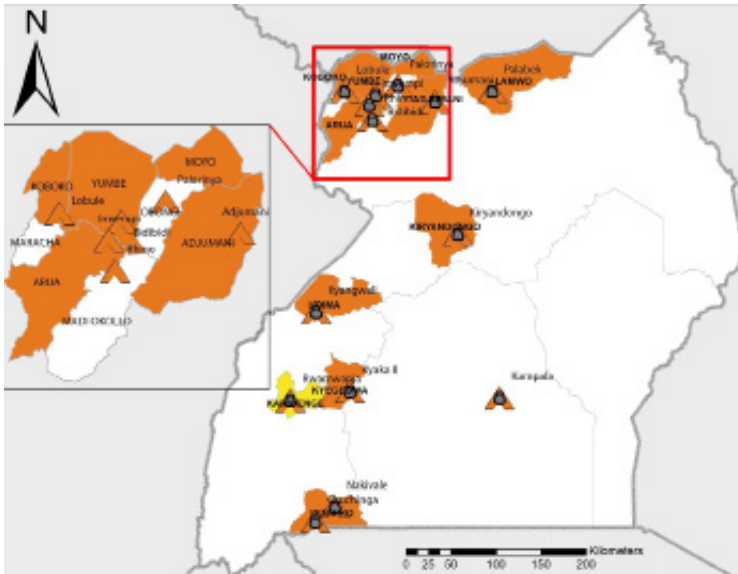
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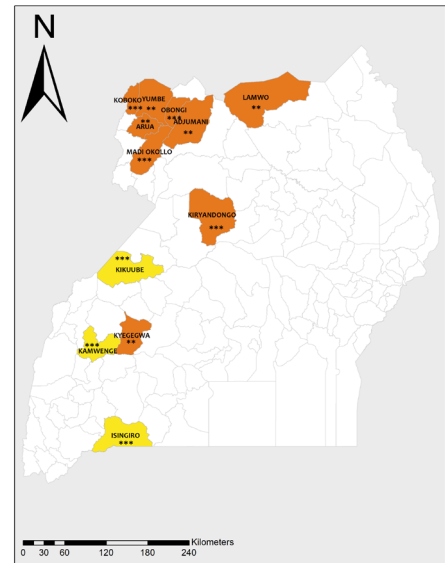


COMPARISON WITH OTHER IPC CLASSIFICATIONS

IPC Acute Food Insecurity June - August 2020



IPC Acute Food Insecurity June - August 2022

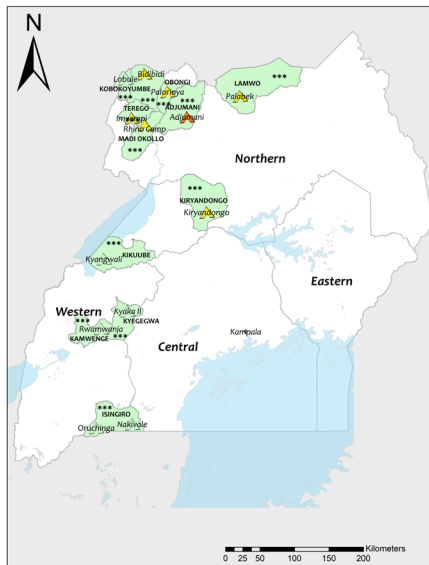


Key for the Map

IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Classification

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

IPC Acute Malnutrition February - July 2022



Key for the Map

IPC Acute Malnutrition Phase Classification

- 1 - Acceptable
- 2 - Alert
- 3 - Serious
- 4 - Critical
- 5 - Extremely critical