

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

Key points



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



In March 2021, 42 percent of settlement based refugees had insufficient (poor or borderline) food consumption, similar to February 2021. This was higher than for Kampala refugees (31 percent) and host community nationals (14 percent). Overall, whilst Kampala-based refugees were worse off than host community households, they were fairly better-off than settlement based refugees.



In urban areas, 11 percent of urban households had inadequate food consumption, similar to February 2021. Karamoja on the other hand experienced a slight improvement with a 6-percentage point improvement in proportion of households with insufficient consumption between February 2021 (49 percent) and March 2021 (43 percent).



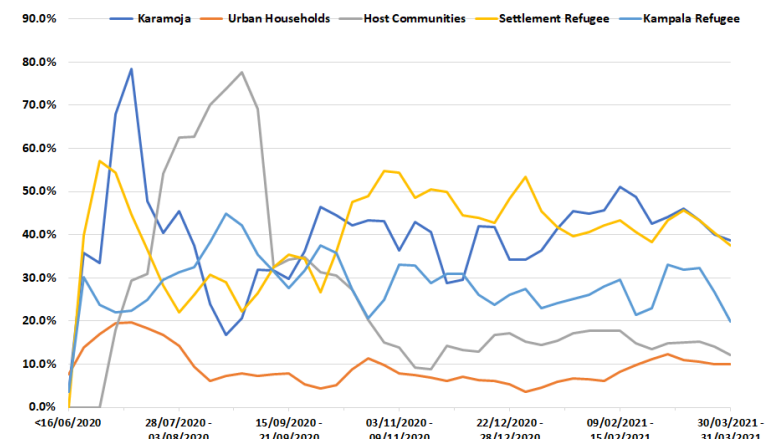
Situation update

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

The proportion of households with insufficient/inadequate food consumption in March 2021 amongst settlement-based refugees was almost similar to February 2021 (42 percent in March Vs 42 percent in February). In Karamoja, the proportion of households with insufficient food consumption decreased to 43 percent in March from 49 percent in February 2021. On the other hand, household food consumption amongst host communities slightly improved to 14 percent in March 2021 from 16 percent in February 2021 (**Fig. 1**). The food security of urban households continued to improve (11 percent in March Vs 13 percent in February).

In March 2021, 31 percent of Kampala-based refugees had inadequate food consumption, a 1-percentage point improvement from February 2021. **Figure 1** demonstrates that Kampala-based refugees remain relatively better-off than settlement-based refugees.

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



Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, March 2021



Food consumption (FCS)

Urban Areas and Kampala Based Refugees

Household food consumption was comparable to February 2021 (**Fig. 2**). Only 11 percent of urban households had inadequate food consumption, similar to February 2021. Insufficient consumption was higher in female headed households for households in urban areas while among kampala refugees insufficient consumption was higher among male headed households compared to male headed households.

The highest percentage of households with inadequate food consumption was observed in Mbale (18 percent) and Jinja (16 percent). Compared to February, the household food consumption results were mixed with some areas experiencing improvement (Wakiso, Jinja, Kampala, Mukono, Mbarara) while others faced deterioration (Lira, Gulu, Kasese, Hoima, Kabarole, Arua).

Kampala refugees still had a high proportion of households with inadequate food consumption at 31 percent compared to urban nationals although slightly lower than February 2021 (32 percent). Kampala refugees were however better off than settlement refugees (42 percent).

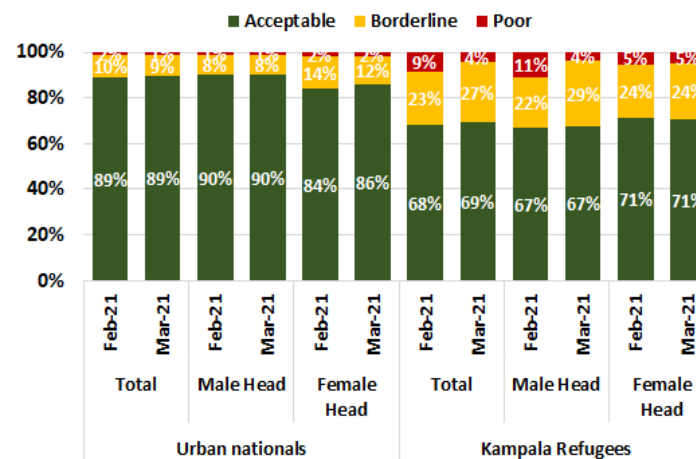
Settlement Based Refugees and Host Communities

Refugee households with inadequate food consumption remained similar to February 2021 (**Fig. 4**). Palorinya, Adjumani and Kiryandongo had a noticeable improvement in household food consumption, while there was a significant deterioration in Kyaka II and Imvepi (**Fig. 5**). Palabek (67 percent) and Oruchinga (59 percent) had the highest proportion of households having inadequate food consumption while Bidi Bidi had the lowest.

Host community households having inadequate food consumption slightly improved from 16 percent in February 2021 to 14 percent in March 2021 (**Fig. 4**). Overall, an increase in the percentage of households having inadequate food consumption was seen in four of the host communities, notably in Palabek and Lobule while Kyaka II and Kyangwali registered no change (**Fig. 5**).

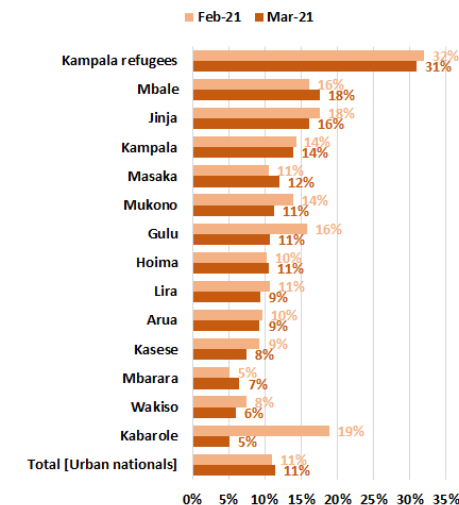
Although there was a slight improvement in proportion of households having inadequate food consumption for both female and male headed households, female headed households were still worse off than male headed households.

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



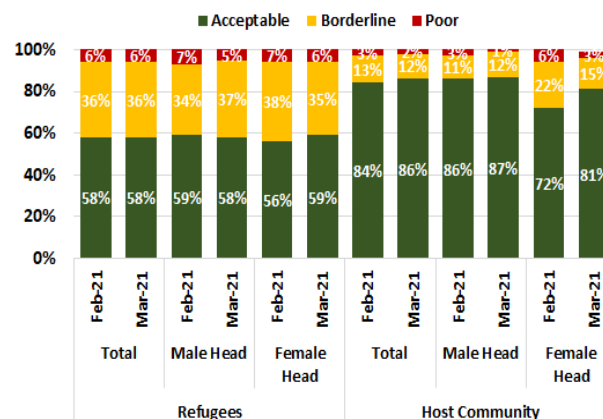
Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, March 2021

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



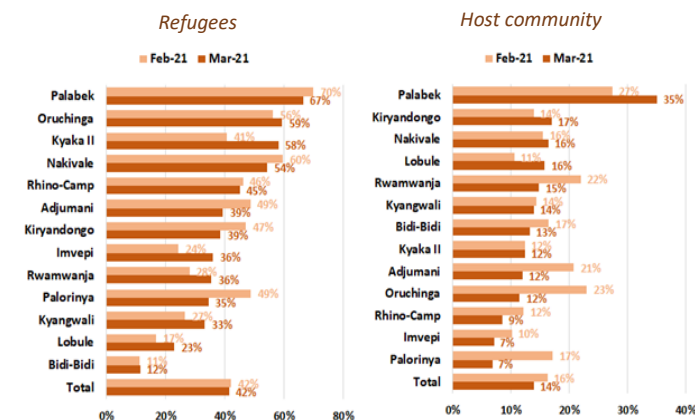
Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, March 2021

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



Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, March 2021

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



Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, March 2021



Food consumption

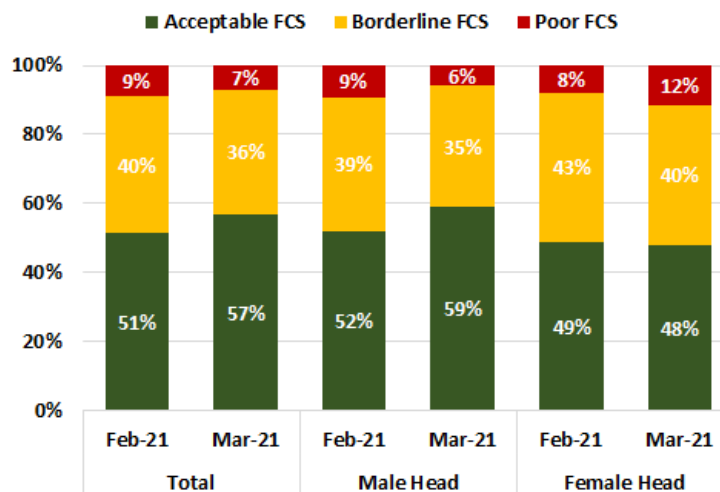
Karamoja

Karamoja experienced a slight improvement in household food consumption. About 43 percent of the households reported having inadequate food consumption in March 2021 compared to 49 percent in February 2021 (Fig. 6). Female headed households (52 percent) were slightly worse off compared to male headed households (41 percent).

The highest percentage of households with inadequate food consumption were in Karenga (57 percent), Napak (49 percent) and Kaabong (48 percent) in Fig. 7. Napak was the only district that reported an increase in proportion of households with inadequate food consumption from February 2021 to March 2021 while Moroto recorded no change.

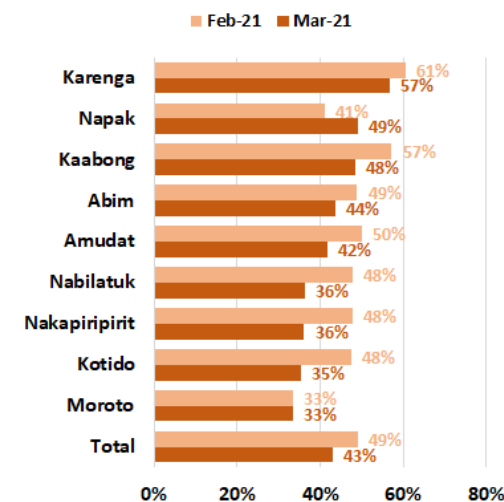
Inadequate food consumption means that in the preceding days, surveyed households were not able to eat a sufficient dietary intake comprised of most of the recommended food groups: cereal, legumes, fat/oil, milk or other dairy products, animal protein (e.g. meat, fish or eggs), vegetables, fruits and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

Fig. 6: Food consumption of nationals in Karamoja



Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, March 2021

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



Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, March 2021



Food based coping strategies (RCSI)

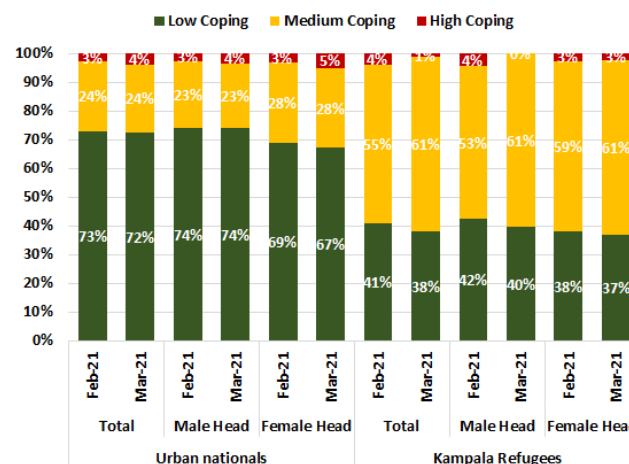
Urban Areas and Kampala Based Refugees

In March 2021, 28 percent of households in urban areas used medium to high negative food-based coping strategies slightly lower than February 2021 (27 percent). Female headed households were more likely to use negative food-based strategies compared to their male counterparts.

The highest proportion of households using medium or high food-based coping strategies was in Jinja (39 percent), Mbale (38 percent) and Gulu (35 percent). Gulu and Arua had an increase in household using medium and high food based coping strategies by 22 percent and 14 percent respectively.

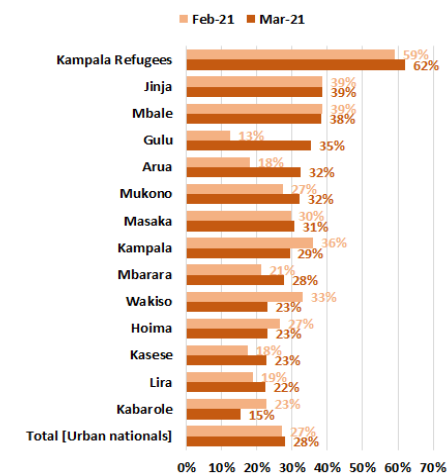
Kampala refugees experienced a slight deterioration compared to February 2021 in use of negative food-based coping strategies from 59 percent in February 2021 to 62 percent in March 2021.

Fig. 8: Proportion of households employed food based coping



Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, March 2021

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



Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, March 2021



Food based coping strategies

Settlement Based Refugees and Host Communities

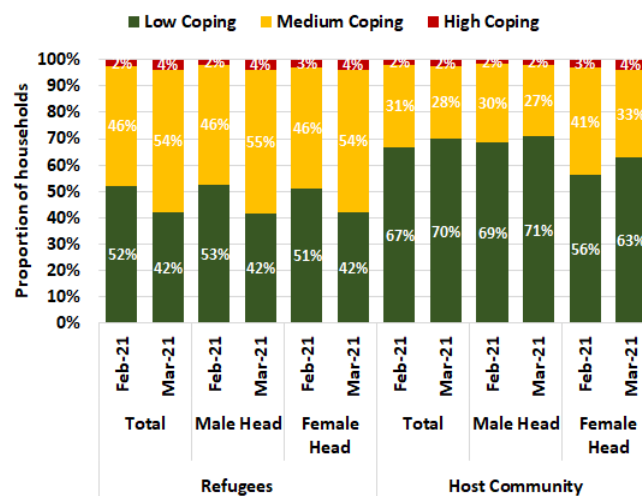
There was a 10 percent overall increase in household use of negative food-based coping strategies for settlement refugees (58 percent in March 2021 Vs 48 percent in February 2021). Use of negative coping strategies was similar between male headed households and in female headed households (Fig. 10).

Use of negative food-based coping strategies was highest in Kyangwali (83 percent) and Oruchinga (70 percent). It was lowest in Palabek and Palorinya at 36 percent and 37 percent respectively (Fig. 11).

Host community households use of medium or high food-based coping strategies slightly declined (33 percent in February 2021 Vs 30 percent in March 2021) as shown in Fig. 10. Lobule (38 percent) and Palabek (37 percent) had the highest proportion of households reporting using medium or high food-based coping strategies (Fig. 11).

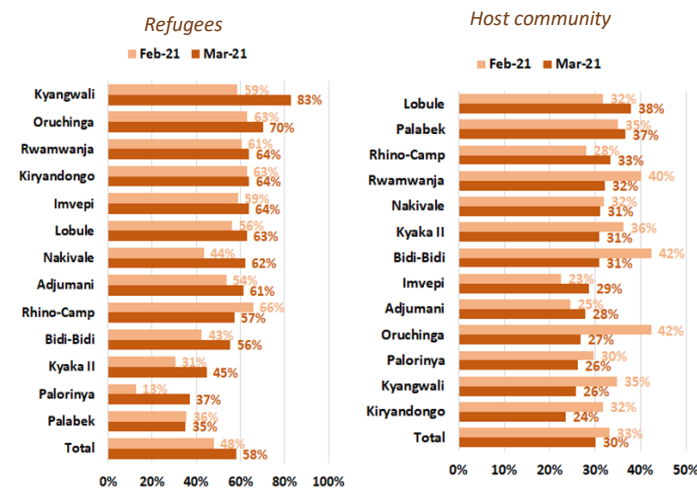
Coping due to lack of food or money to buy food was higher among settlement refugees than host community households.

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



Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, March 2021

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



Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, March 2021

Karamoja

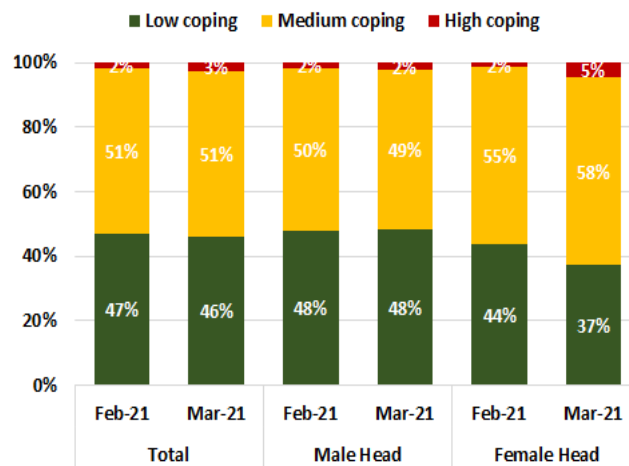
The proportion of households in Karamoja using negative food-based coping strategies slightly increased to 54 percent from 53 percent in February 2021 (Fig. 12).

Kaabong (69 percent) and Nakapiripirit (66 percent) had the highest proportions of households using medium-high coping strategies.

Compared to February 2021, Kaabong, Nakapiripirit and Amudat reported a significant increase in household use of negative food-based coping strategies by 18 percent, 16 percent and 15 percent respectively (Fig. 13).

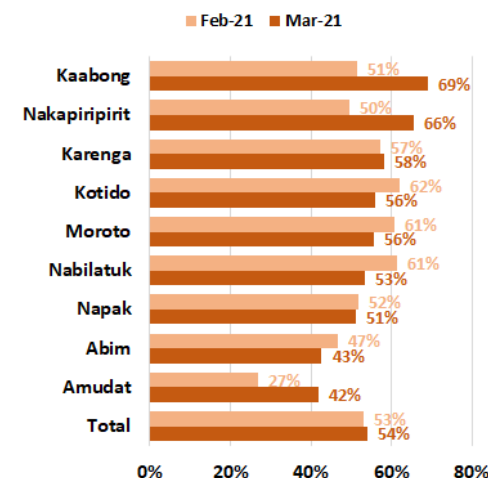
Negative food consumption strategies means re-adjusting to poor diets, for example reducing the number of meals or eating cheaper, less preferred meals, reducing meal portions or restricting consumption of certain persons in the last 7 days prior to the interview due to inadequate food availability at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

Fig. 12: Proportion of households employed food based coping



Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, March 2021

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



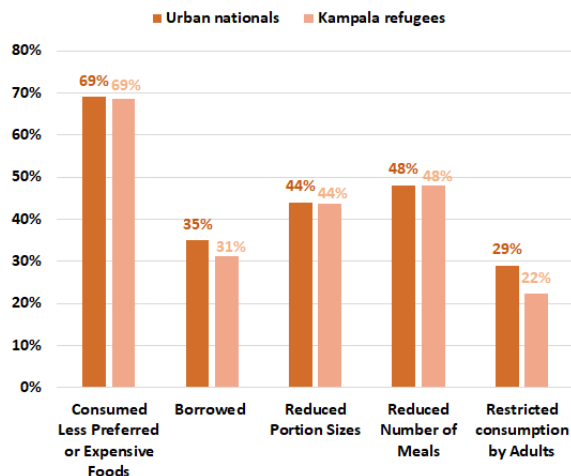
Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, March 2021



Livelihood Coping Strategies — Urban areas

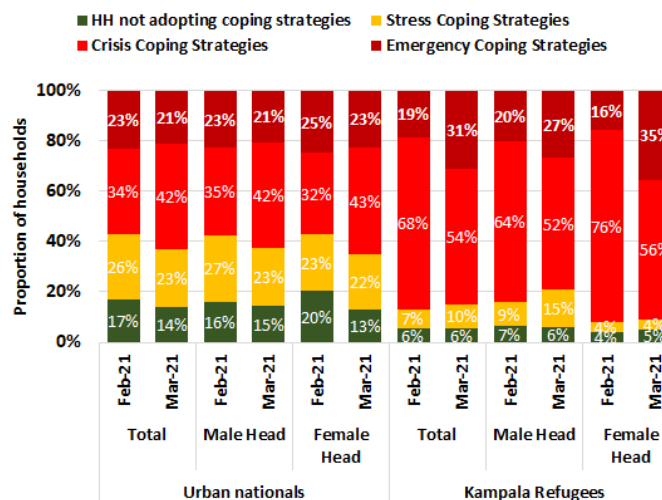
Crisis or emergency coping means households are employing severe negative livelihood coping strategies so as to meet their food needs or meet other basic needs. Use of these negative strategies/ measures impacts erodes their asset base and future livelihood options. Examples of crisis and emergency strategies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

Fig. 14: Food-Based coping strategies used



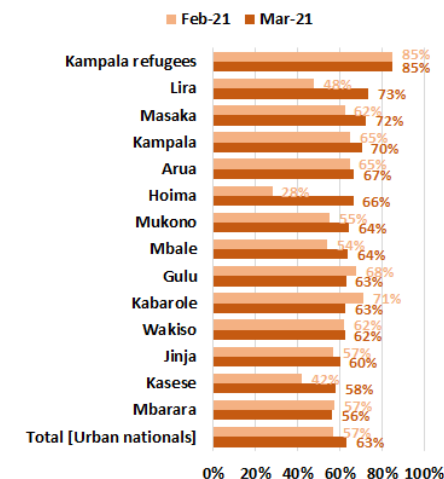
Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, March 2021

Fig. 15: Proportion of households employing livelihood based coping strategies



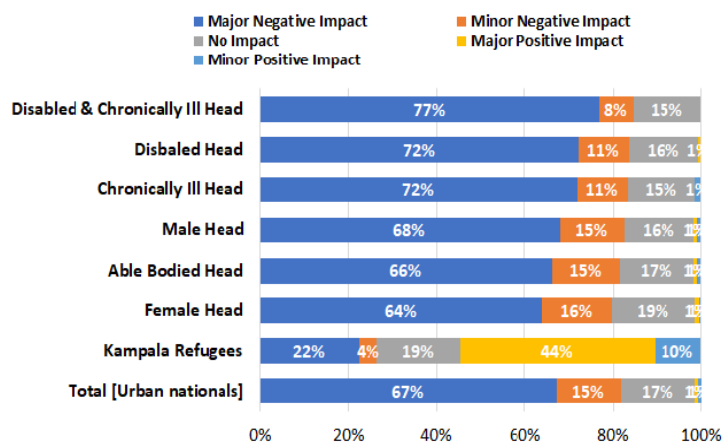
Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, March 2021

Fig. 16: Proportion of households employing crisis or emergency livelihood coping strategies by district



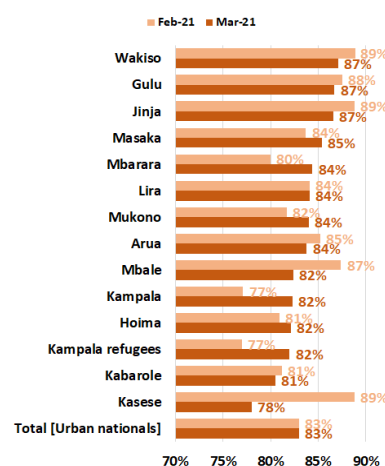
Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, March 2021

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



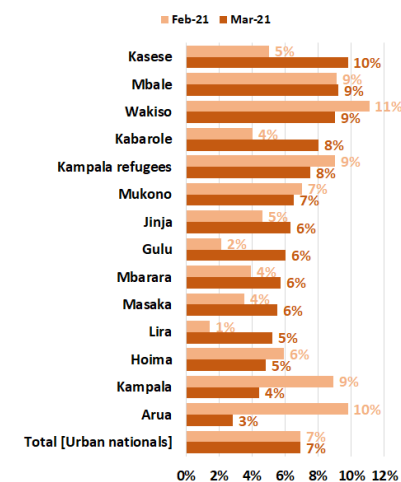
Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, March 2021

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



Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, March 2021

Fig. 19: Food assistance to households by any organization

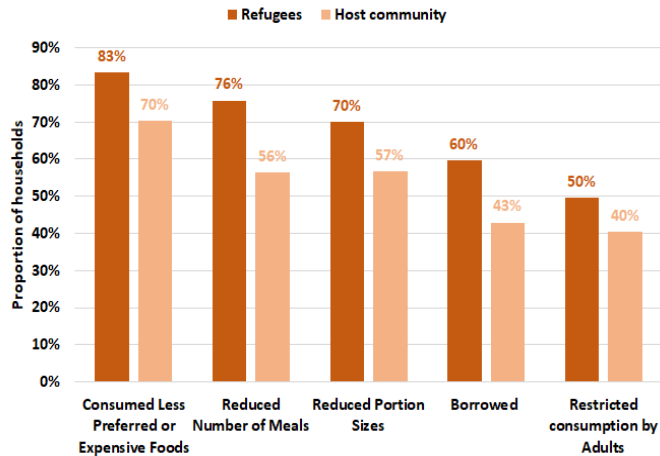


Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, March 2021



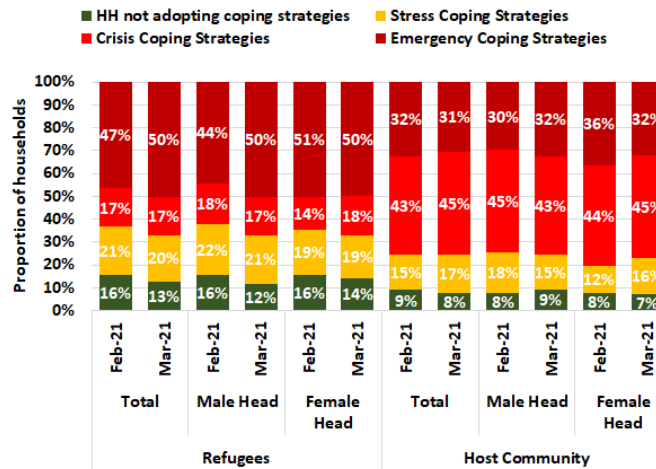
Livelihood Coping Strategies — Refugee hosting areas

Fig. 20: Food-Based coping strategies used



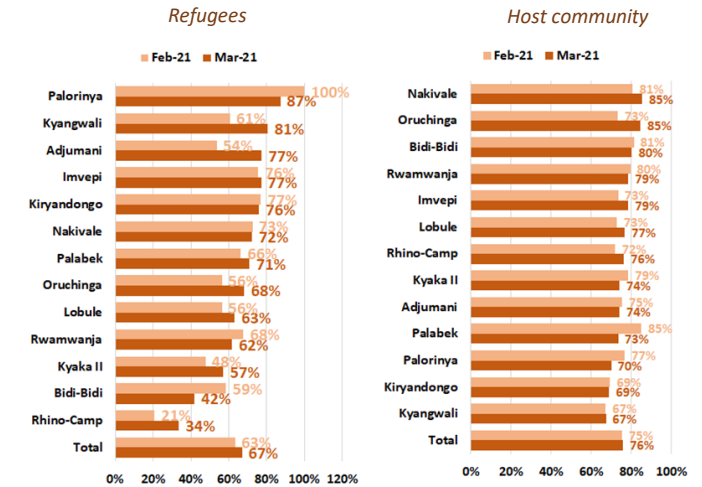
Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, March 2021

Fig. 21: Proportion of households employing livelihood based coping strategies



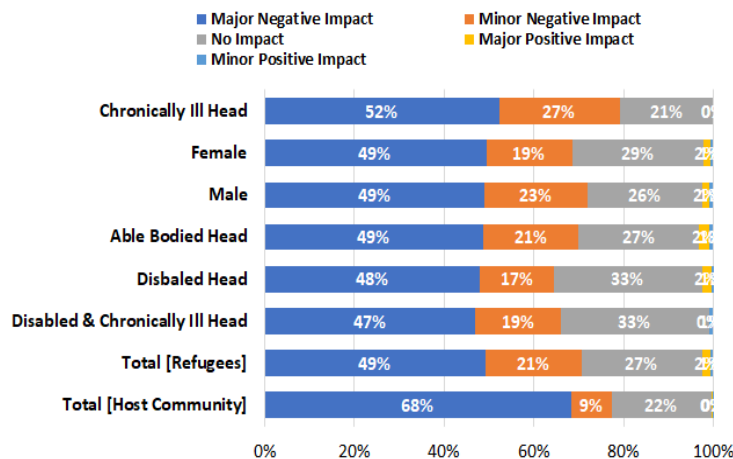
Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, March 2021

Fig. 22: Proportion of households employing crisis or emergency livelihood coping strategies by settlement



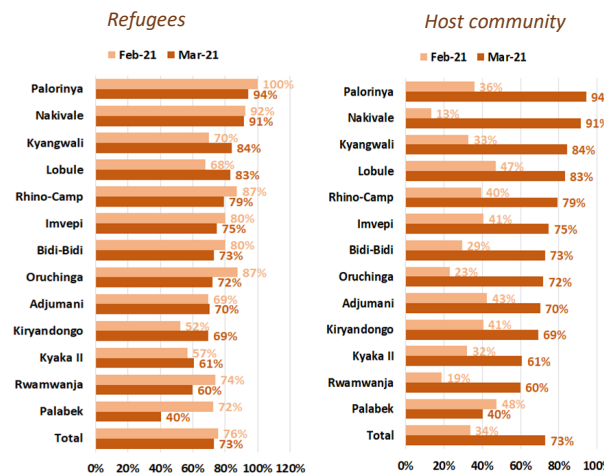
Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, March 2021

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



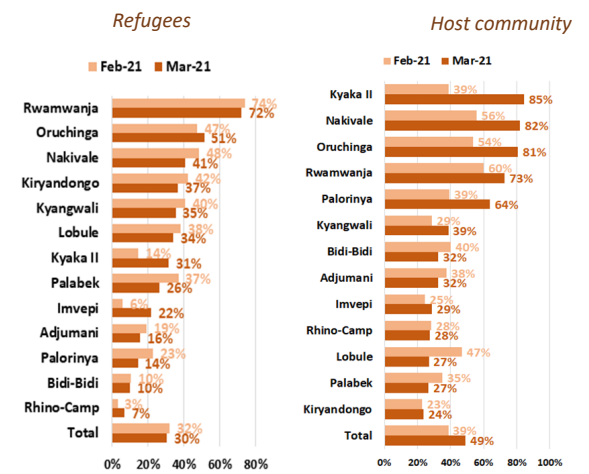
Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, March 2021

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



Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, March 2021

Fig. 25: Household planted in this season

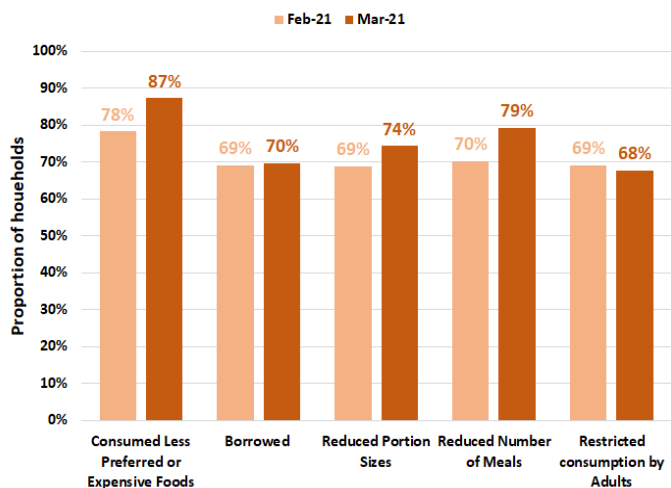


Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, March 2021



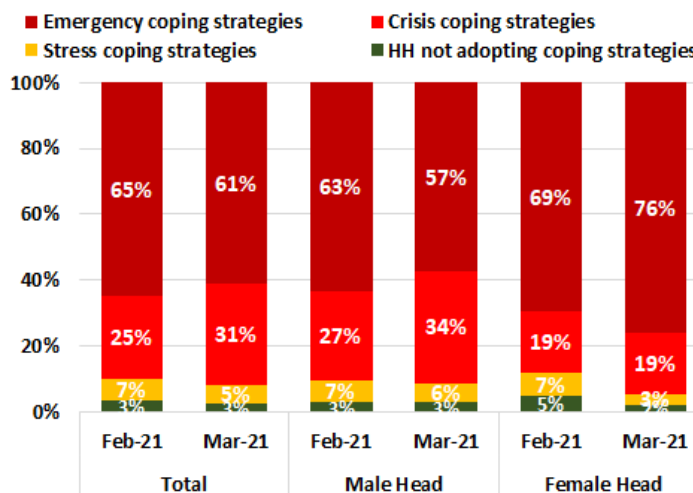
Livelihood Coping Strategies — Karamoja region

Fig. 26: Food-Based Coping strategies employed



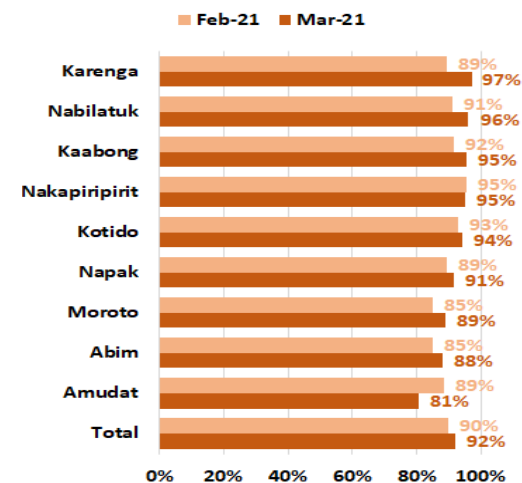
Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, March 2021

Fig. 27: Proportion of households employing livelihood based coping strategies



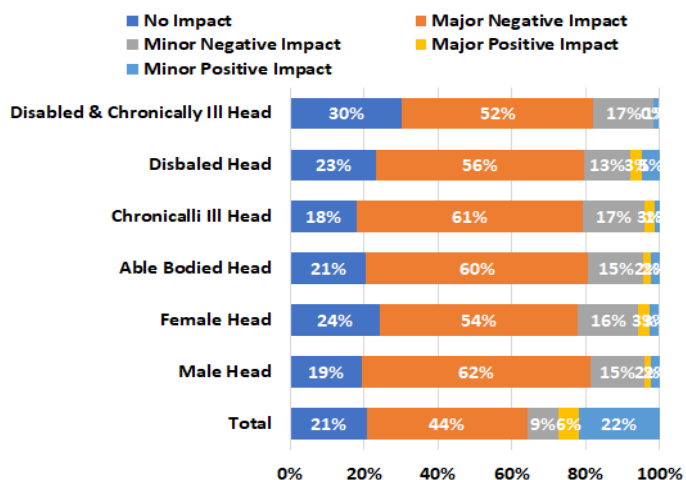
Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, March 2021

Fig. 28: Proportion of households employing crisis or emergency livelihood coping strategies by district



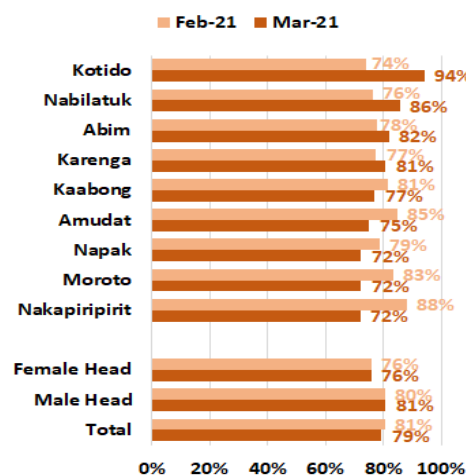
Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, March 2021

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



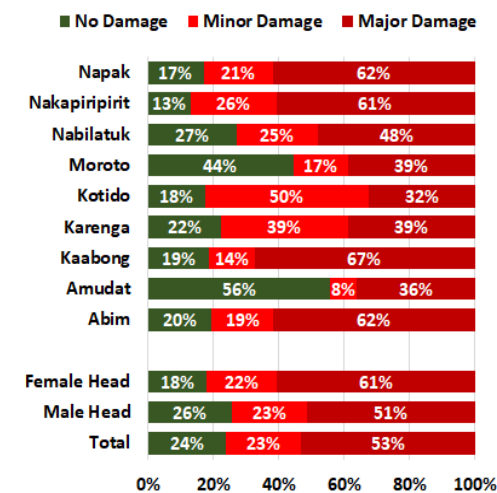
Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, March 2021

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



Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, March 2021

Fig. 31: Locust damage to agricultural activities



Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, March 2021



Market access

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

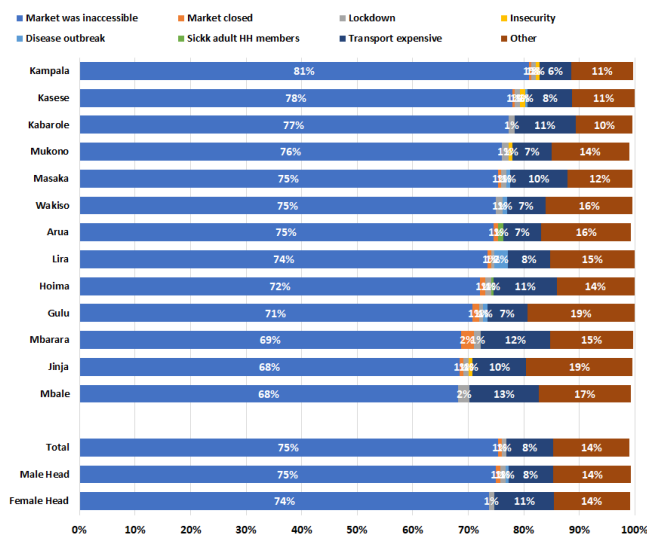


Fig. 33: Market access and reasons for not being able to access markets – Refugee hosting areas

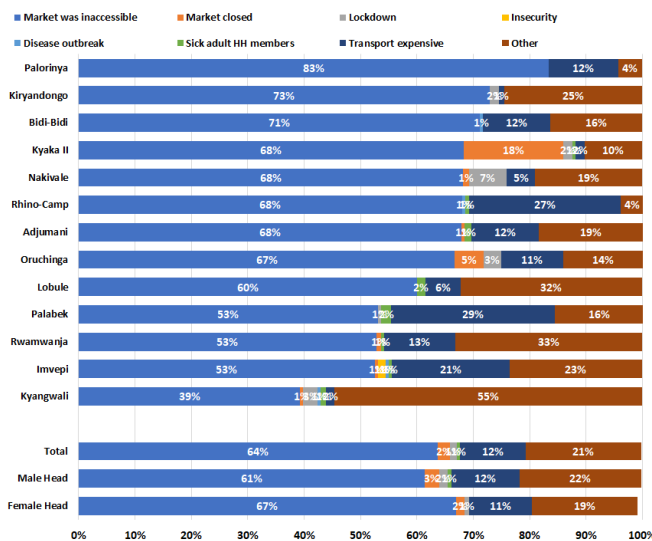
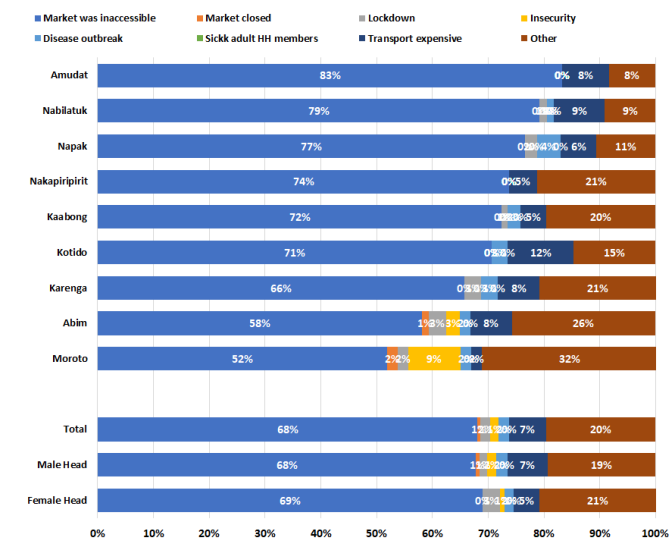


Fig. 34: Market access and reasons for not being able to access markets - Karamoja



Source: WFP Uganda, mVAM, March 2021

Methodology

The coronavirus pandemic and the strategies employed by governments to control its spread have had far reaching effects on food security and livelihoods globally. In Uganda, restrictions put in place by the Government of Uganda from the 18th of March 2020 to protect the population has disrupted livelihoods and food access for large segment of Ugandans. The increased risk of shocks to food security and essential needs coincided with increased difficulty of monitoring the situation through traditional in-person surveying and data collection. Because of the importance to maintain situational awareness, WFP Uganda scaled up its remote monitoring system to obtain near real time food security information of refugees and nationals in 13 refugee hosting areas, urban population in 13 urban centres as well as nationals in 9 districts of Karamoja region. Live telephone interviews started from 10th May 2020 and continues daily. During the reporting period of this bulletin, 4,211 national households in 13 urban centres, 2,268 refugee households and 1,267 national households from 13 refugee hosting areas, 1220 refugee households in Kampala as well as 585 national households from Karamoja region were randomly selected. Although the sample was drawn using a structured random selection technique, it may have been biased due to inequalities in mobile phone ownership along lines of wealth and gender. The sample size is statistically representative at each settlement/district at minimum with a margin of error of 10 percent at a 95 percent confidence level.



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mVAM Resources:

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