



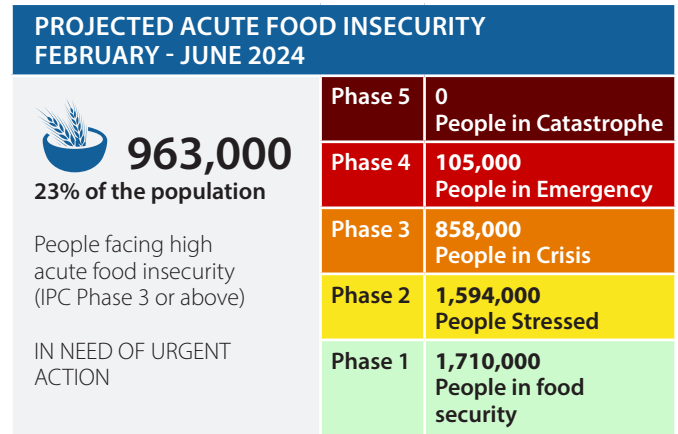
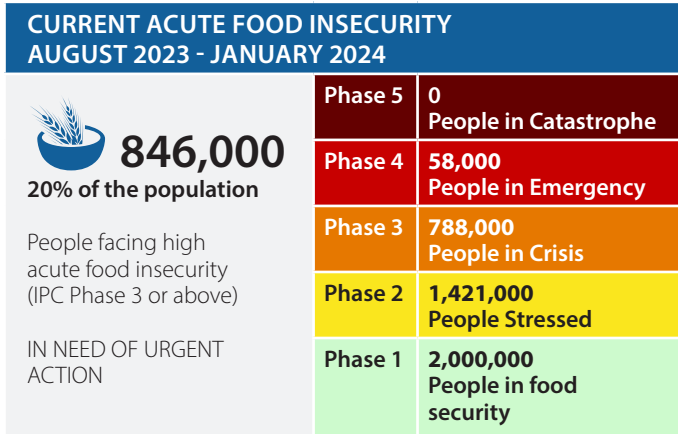
UGANDA

REFUGEE HOST DISTRICTS IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY SITUATION

IPC ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY ANALYSIS

AUGUST 2023 - JUNE 2024

Published on November XX, 2023

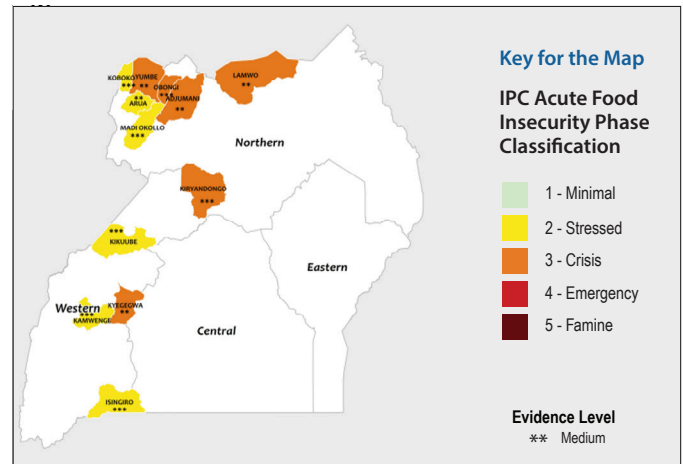


Overview

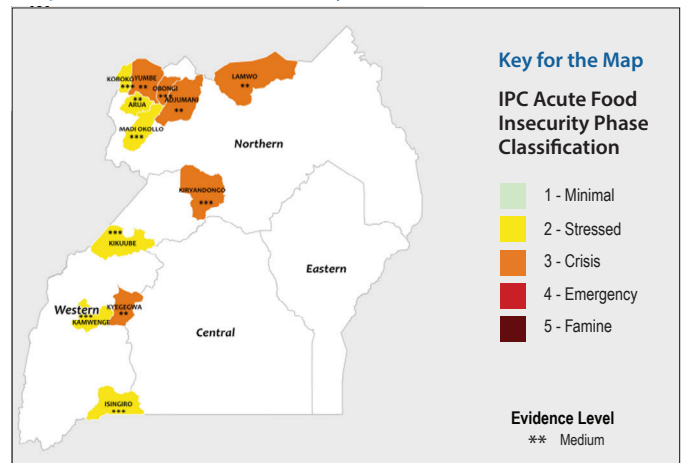
In the current analysis (August 2023 – January 2024), which covers the first season 2023 harvest and the second season 2023 planting and harvesting period, six of the twelve analyzed refugee hosting districts (i.e., Adjumani, Kiryandongo, Kyegegwa, Lamwo, Obongi, and Yumbe) have been classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis), and the remaining six districts classified in Phase 2 (Stress). Of the total analyzed population, 20 percent (846,000 people) are facing high levels of acute food insecurity, of whom 1 percent (58,000) are in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency). Compared to the analysis of 2022 (September 2023 – January 2024), the food security situation is found to have deteriorated in Kyegegwa, Lamwo, Obongi and Yumbe districts, with the situation remaining similar in all other districts. A sizeable proportion of households in IPC Phase 3 and above are facing widening food consumption gaps and employing typical crisis and emergency coping strategies due to low food stocks and reduced purchasing power. It is, however, important to note that the situation is most likely to improve towards the end of the current period as second season harvests of major staple crops (sorghum, sweet potatoes, peas) are expected in most districts from late September through to January 2024 in all districts.

The food security situation is projected to gradually deteriorate during the projection period of February to June 2024, with the population in IPC Phase 3 or above increasing from 846,000 people (20 percent of the analysed population) to 963,000 people (23 percent of the analysed population). Of the twelve analysed refugee hosting districts, the food security situation is only anticipated to deteriorate in Madi Okollo from IPC Phase 2 (Stress) to IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) with the rest of the districts retaining a similar phase as in the current analysis period.

Current Situation: August 2023 - January 2024



Projected Situation: February - June 2024



Key Drivers



Climate-related shocks and hazards

Climate related shocks and hazards – poor rainfall performance across the districts, water logging and flash floods, and hailstorms in some districts



Crop/diseases

Seasonal crop pests/diseases and endemic livestock vectors/diseases



Conflict

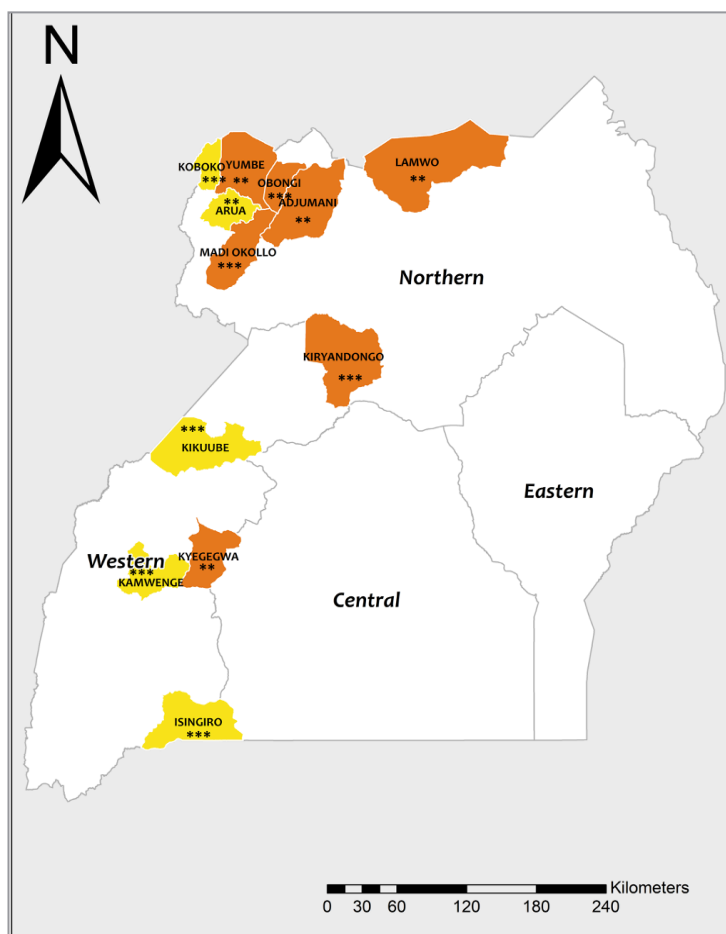
Recurrent land conflicts between refugees and host communities - leading to lack of adequate land for agricultural activities



Price shocks

High and increasing food prices of food and essential non-food commodities

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY CURRENT SITUATION MAP AND POPULATION TABLE FOR REFUGEE HOSTING DISTRICTS (AUGUST 2023 – JANUARY 2024)



Key for the Map
IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Classification
 (mapped Phase represents highest severity affecting at least 20% of the population)

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

Evidence Level
 ** Medium

Population table for the current period: August 2023 - January 2024

District	Total population analysed*	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5		Area Phase
		#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	
Adjumani	240,000	108,000	45	60,000	25	60,000	25	12,000	5	0	0	3
Isingiro	658,100	296,145	45	263,240	40	98,715	15	0	0	0	0	2
Kamwenge	372,000	241,800	65	93,000	25	37,200	10	0	0	0	0	2
Kikuube	414,400	186,480	45	165,760	40	62,160	15	0	0	0	0	2
Kiryandongo	339,200	152,640	45	101,760	30	67,840	20	16,960	5	0	0	3
Koboko	287,500	115,000	40	129,375	45	43,125	15	0	0	0	0	2
Kyegegwa	551,900	165,570	30	248,355	45	110,380	20	27,595	5	0	0	3
Lamwo	148,100	37,025	25	44,430	30	59,240	40	7,405	5	0	0	3
Madi okollo	176,800	53,040	30	88,400	50	35,360	20	0	0	0	0	3
Obongi	52,300	20,920	40	15,690	30	13,075	25	2,615	5	0	0	3
Terego	251,500	100,600	40	113,175	45	37,725	15	0	0	0	0	2
Yumbe	775,000	232,500	30	271,250	35	232,500	30	38,750	5	0	0	3
Grand Total	4,266,800	1,709,720	40	1,594,435	37	857,320	20	105,325	2	0	0	

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

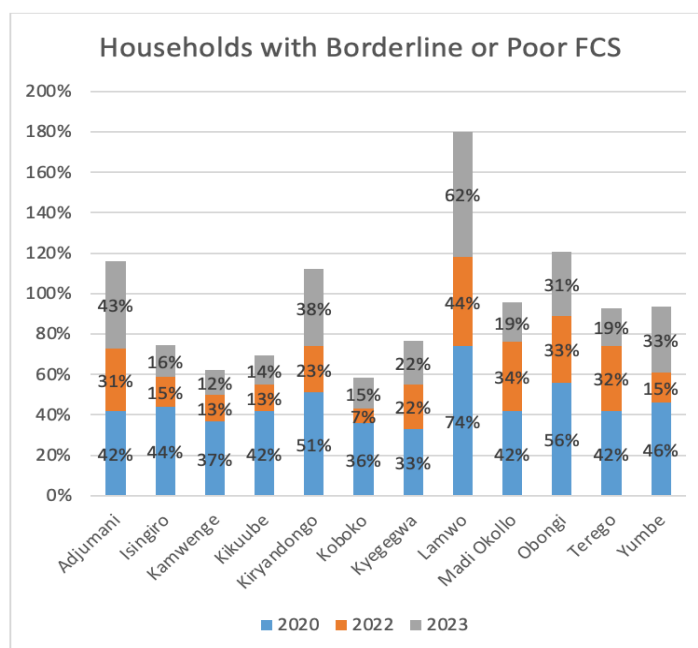
ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY CURRENT SITUATION OVERVIEW AND KEY DRIVERS

In Uganda, refugees are hosted in 13 Districts. Six of these are in West Nile (Adjumani, Arua, Koboko, Madi Okollo, Obongi, Yumbe), one in Mid-North (Lamwo), four in Western (Kamwenge, Kikuube, Kyegegwa, Kiryandongo), one in Southwestern (Isingiro) and lastly one in Central (Kampala) District. The current IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analysis (August 2023 to January 2024) covered 12 of these districts except Kampala.

The main source of livelihood for households in these refugee hosting districts is agriculture (crop and livestock). The IPC data indicates that the food security situation for the analyzed refugee host districts has been negatively affected by poor performance of both crops and livestock during the last two consecutive seasons mainly due to climate related shocks and high incidences of crop and livestock pests and diseases. The reduction in food production, together with high prices of food and essential non-food commodities together with low purchasing power for most households have caused wide spread of food insecurity among most of the households in these districts.

Uganda hosts slightly over 1.4 million refugees in 13 districts, of which six are in West Nile (Adjumani, Koboko, Madi Okollo, Obongi, Terego and Yumbe), one is in mid-North (Lamwo), four districts are in Western (Kamwenge, Kikuube, Kiryandongo and Kyegegwa), one is in Southwestern (Isingiro) and one is in Central (Kampala). All refugee hosting districts, except Kampala, are included in this analysis. Between August 2023 and January 2024, six (6) districts are classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and six districts are classified in IPC Phase 2 (Stressed). Whereas Adjumani, Kiryandongo, Kyegegwa, Lamwo, Obongi and Yumbe have been classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis), Isingiro, Kamwenge, Kikuube, Koboko, Madi Okollo and Terego districts have been classified in IPC Phase 2 (Stressed). Of the total population analyzed, 20 percent (846,000 people) are classified in IPC Phase 3 or above (IPC Phase 3+) of whom 1 percent (58,000) have been classified in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency). In terms of severity, Lamwo (40 percent), Yumbe (30 percent) and Isingiro (25 percent) districts have the highest percentage of population classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) or worse acute food insecurity; while Kamwenge (10 percent) has the lowest percentage classified in IPC Phase 3 or worse. Adjumani, Lamwo and Yumbe districts have each 5 percent of the population classified in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency). In terms of magnitude, the districts with the most affected population (IPC Phase 3 or worse) are Yumbe (232,500 people), Kyegegwa (110,400 people), Isingiro (98,700 people), Kiryandongo (67,800 people) and Adjumani (60,000 people). Obongi district has the lowest number of people (10,500 people). Compared to the analysis of 2022 (September 2023 – January 2024), the food security situation is found to have deteriorated in Kyegegwa, Lamwo, Obongi and Yumbe districts, with the situation remaining similar in all other districts.

Livelihood: From the recent assessment, the main source of livelihood for the host communities is crop production and sale (61 percent) followed by provision of agricultural casual labour (11 percent), salaried employment (6 percent) and fishing (5 percent). Generally, a large part of the host community population get food through own production, with most of the households cultivating maize (69 percent), beans (59 percent) and cassava (39 percent). Additionally, a significant proportion of households (70 percent) own some form of livestock. There is no programmed general food assistance for any of the host districts as they have been relatively stable without large scale civil or other conflict hindrances.



Food consumption and Dietary Diversity: According to the Food Security and Nutrition Assessment (FSNA) conducted between July and August 2023, 74 percent of the households in the refugee hosting districts had an Acceptable Food Consumption Score (FCS), a slight reduction from the 77 percent in 2022, while 22 percent had Borderline FCS (20 percent in 2022) and 4 percent had a Poor FCS (3 percent in 2022). The most affected districts with highest proportion of households with poor or borderline FCS were

Lamwo (62 percent, 2022 – 44 percent), Adjumani (43 percent, 2022 – 31 percent), Kiryandongo (38 percent, 2022 – 23 percent), Yumbe (33 percent, 2022 – 15 percent), and Obongi (31 percent, 2022 – 33 percent). On the other hand, Kamwenge district had the lowest proportion of households (12 percent) that were found to have either Borderline or Poor food consumption behaviours. It was also found that 67 percent of the households had been able to consume 5 or more food groups in the last twenty-four hours prior to the assessment, with 28 percent consuming 3 or 4 food groups while 5 percent consumed 0-2 food groups, according to the Household Dietary Diversity Score (HDDS). The most affected districts were Kyegegwa and Kiryandongo, where 10 percent of the households in each of the two districts had consumed 0-2 food groups.

Coping mechanisms: 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 10 percent and 28 percent of the households were employing crisis or worse food coping and livelihood coping strategies, respectively. The highest proportion of households employing crisis or worse food coping strategies was found in Yumbe (16 percent), Adjumani (15 percent) and Lamwo (15 percent) districts. On the other hand, the highest proportion of households employing crisis or worse livelihood coping strategies was found in Lamwo (34 percent), Obongi (30 percent), and Yumbe (29 percent) districts.

Acute malnutrition: The Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) prevalence in the host districts stands at 3.1 percent, with 3.0 percent of the children under five years moderately malnourished and 0.1 percent severely malnourished, indicating an improvement in the malnutrition situation from the 8.2 percent recorded in June 2020. Lamwo (7.6 percent), Kiryandongo (4.5 percent) and Madi Okollo (4.3 percent) districts have the highest prevalence while Kamwenge district has the lowest prevalence at 1.1 percent.

Key Drivers

Climate shocks and hazards: All the refugee hosting districts experienced inadequate and erratic rains. The onset of rains in April 2023 prompted farmers to plant, however, a dry spell started in early May lasting about two to three weeks, which affected growth of seasonal crops as well as pasture and water availability for livestock. Further damage was done by hailstones and flooding in some districts during the months of April. The dry season in Isingiro reached drought levels and affected performance of most crops significantly, including bananas and coffee the main sources of income for most households.

Conflict: There has been reported frequent conflict between the host population and refugees, in the struggle to occupy more farmland 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 Apaa 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.

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 characterized by high temperatures.

Livestock Pests and Diseases: 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 pleuropneumonia (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 chickens 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 realized below average production for the last two consecutive seasons for the 2022 season B and 2023 season A, 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 the regional market of Arua district, cassava flour prices increased from about Uganda Shillings 700 to Uganda Shillings 2,165 (208 percent) with the fish also as expensive as Uganda Shillings 12,000 for a medium sized fish. In Kyegegwa district, maize grain and maize flour cost Uganda Shillings 1,720 and Uganda Shillings 2,920 per kg respectively, by July 2023, having increased from Uganda Shillings 800 and Uganda Shillings 2,000. 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 power of this category of households.

District reports also indicated that rising agro-inputs 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

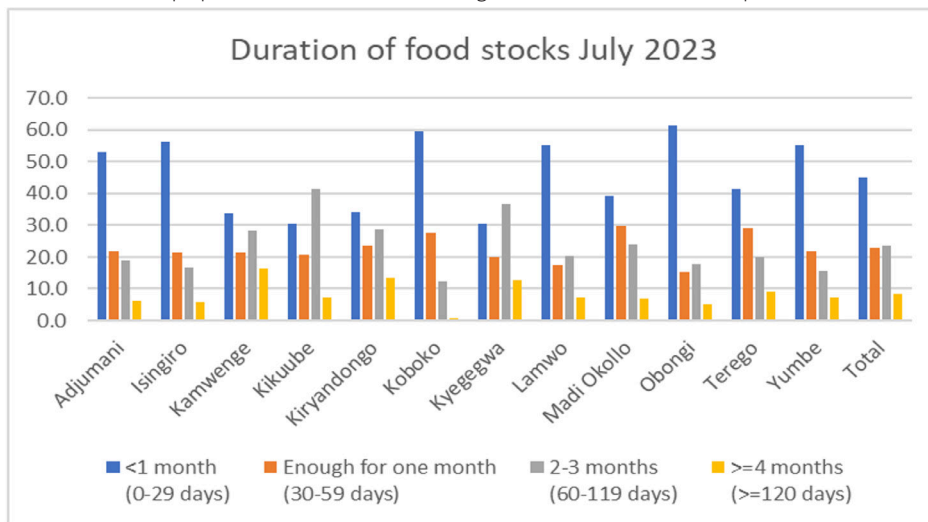
fertilizers cost Uganda Shillings 270,000 up from Uganda Shillings 110,000 in 2021, with the improved maize seed costs also following suit with at least a 17 percent increase.

Current state of food security dimensions

Food availability: Food availability in all the districts analyzed just like in most rural households of Uganda is largely achieved through own agricultural production. Food availability was found to be a minor limiting factor to food insecurity in all refugee hosting districts that were analyzed in this report. Although production of staple crops such as cereals, pulses and legumes was below average both in the second season of 2022 and first season of 2023 across all districts due to the poor performance of rainfall in both seasons resulted in low food stocks and consequently inadequacy in food availability at household level, a good percentage of households (60 percent) reported having food stocks during the time of assessment. Livestock ownership was also reported to be very high among households with Terego district reporting the highest percentage with over 87 percent livestock ownership while Isingiro reporting 53 percent of households having livestock. In addition, information from production departments and FEWSNET indicated availability of staple foods in the markets across all districts and neighboring regional markets, with districts in the South and Western parts having more market supply than those in West Nile and Acholi sub-regions.

About 60 percent of the households reported having food stocks at the time of the FSNA in July 2023, an increase from the 40 percent who reported having food stocks in June 2022. This could be attributed to the fact that at the time of the FSNA assessment, most households were harvesting the first cropping season harvest. The highest proportion of households with food stocks was found in Kamwenge (85.9 percent), Terego (76.2 percent), Kyegegwa (73.5 percent) and Isingiro (71.1 percent) districts, while the lowest proportion was found in Obongi (43.8 percent) and Yumbe (47.5 percent) districts. However, it is important to note that, up to 68 percent of households reported having food stocks that could last only for between one to two months with only 8.5 percent of households reported having food stock to last for over four months. This therefore implies that, since FSNA data was collected in July 2023, most households could have either depleted their food stocks by now or are almost depleting their stocks. The situation is expected to deteriorate further especially if second season harvest does not come soon enough.

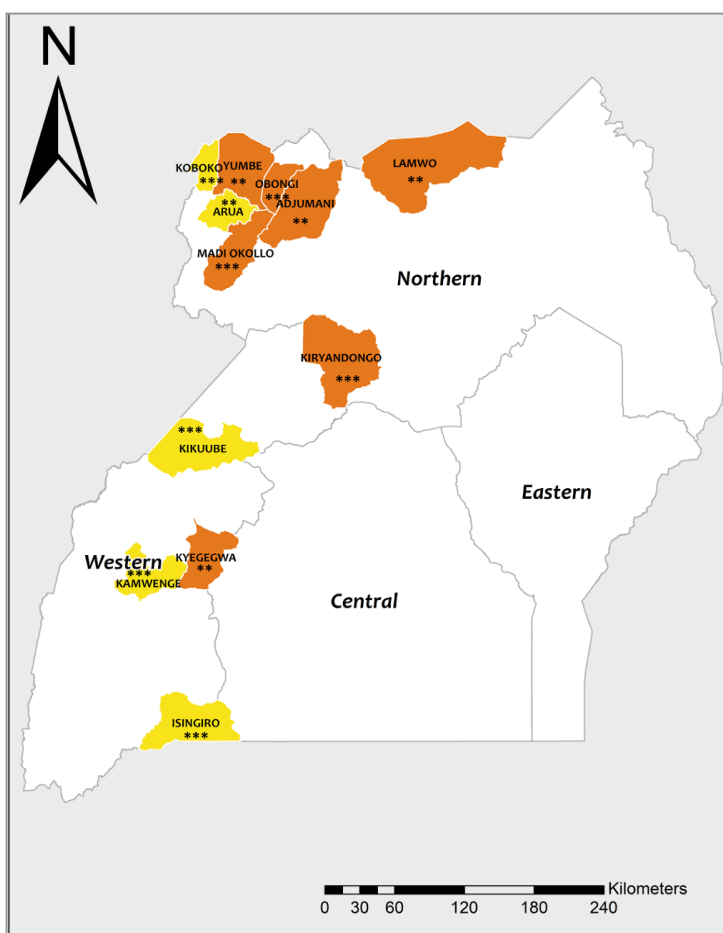
Even though up to 60 percent of households in the districts reported having food stocks during the time of assessment, only 8.5 percent of households reported having food stock which could last for four months or more with up to 68 percent of households having stock capable of lasting for only between one to two months. This however is better than 2022 whereby only 40 percent of households reported having food stocks during the FSNA assessment. Kyegegwa and Kikuube districts reported having the highest percentage of households with food stocks able to last for over two months at 49.6 percent and 48.6 percent with Koboko and Isingiro districts with the lowest population with stocks lasting over two months at 13 percent and 21.6 percent respectively.



Food access: 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, the below average production during both season two of 2022 and season one of 2023 drastically affected food availability in the markets hence leading to sharp increase in prices for most staples. For example, prices of beans was averaging at 5,000 shs from the usual average of 2,500 shs during the period of analysis. With over 70 percent of households deriving their income from sale of agricultural products and agriculture related labour, the below average harvest experienced had a direct impact on the income of the household's hence low purchasing power.

The main source of income for most households (60.5 percent) across the refugee hosting districts is sale of food crops, notably maize, beans, millet, cassava, bananas, followed by agricultural casual labour (10.69 percent) and fishing (5.06 percent). The sale of crops was greatly affected by the below average harvest of season one of 2023 which was also exacerbated by the below average harvest of second season 2022. In a similar vein, poor rainfall distribution and below normal land opening for agricultural activities

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY PROJECTION MAP AND POPULATION TABLE (FEBRUARY - JUNE 2024)



Key for the Map IPC Acute Food Insecurity Phase Classification

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

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

Evidence Level
** Medium

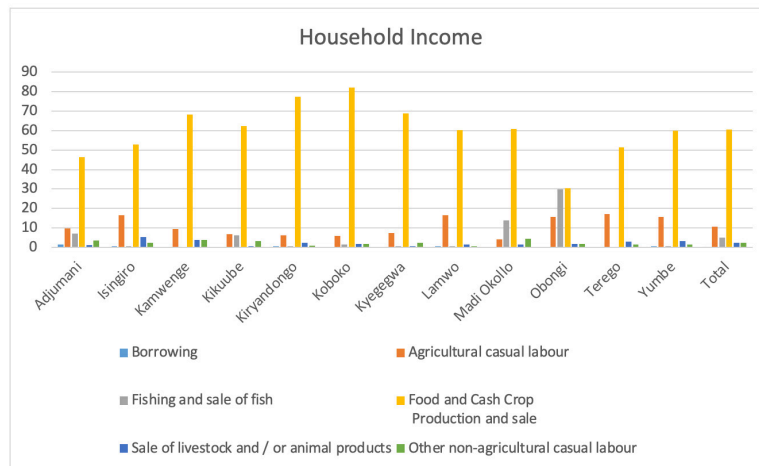
Population table for the projection period: February - June 2024

District	Total population analysed*	Phase 1		Phase 2		Phase 3		Phase 4		Phase 5		Area Phase
		#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	#people	%	
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Obongi	52,300	23,535	45	18,305	35	10,460	20	0	0	0	0	3
Terego	251,500	125,750	50	88,025	35	37,725	15	0	0	0	0	2
Yumbe	775,000	271,250	35	271,250	35	193,750	25	38,750	5	0	0	3
Grand Total	4,266,800	1,999,915	47	1,421,020	33	787,710	18	58,155	1	0	0	

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



reduced opportunities for agricultural related casual labour which is the second most important source of income. 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. In several 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 utilization: Food utilization was found to be a minor limiting factor in some districts except in Adjumani, Kikuube, Kyegegwa, Obongi and Terego districts where it was a major limiting factor. Although 68 percent of households have access to improved water sources, with the highest proportion found in Kyegegwa and Kamwenge at 75 percent and the lowest in Terego (61.8 percent) and Kiryandongo (52.7 percent) districts, the per capita water usage was found to be very low in these districts at 61.1 percent, 58.9 percent, 52.7 percent, 50.3 percent, and 50.2 percent for Kyegegwa, Adjumani, Terego, Kikuube and Obongi districts respectively. Across the refugee hosting districts, the main source of safe usable water are boreholes accessed by 55 percent of the households although there is very limited availability of these in Isingiro (3 percent) where 32 percent of the households access piped water and 26 percent use surface water (lakes, rivers, unprotected streams). The consumption of leafy vegetables had also improved during the period of assessment 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 mid-West and banana and millet in Southwestern districts. Access to and use of toilet facilities stands at 84 percent across the host districts with Kikuube, Kyegegwa and Isingiro having the highest at 92 percent and Lamwo being lowest at 74 percent and open defecation as low as 4 percent and mostly practiced in Lamwo (15 percent) and Madi Okollo (9 percent) districts.



Comparison to previous analyses

In comparison to 2022, the food security situation shows a slight improvement, in that the proportion of the population in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) in the refugee hosting districts decreased from 21 percent in June 2022 to 20 percent in July 2023 with that in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) also decreasing from 3 percent to 1 percent during the same period. On the other hand, the proportion of the population in Stress (IPC Phase 2) increased from 25 percent to 33 percent between June 2022 and July 2023 whereas the minimally food insecure population (IPC Phase 1) decreased from 54 percent to 47 percent during the same period. Analysis of specific districts indicate that Lamwo, Yumbe and Isingiro districts had the highest percentage of their population in phase 3+ at 40 percent, 30 percent and 25 percent respectively as compared to 2022 where Isingiro, Lamwo and Madi Okollo districts had the highest percentage at 35 percent, 30 percent, and 30 percent respectively. On the other hand, Kamwenge had the lowest percentage in phase 3+ at 10 percent in both 2022 and 2023 hence the least food insecure among all the refugee hosting districts.

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY PROJECTION OVERVIEW AND KEY ASSUMPTIONS (FEBRUARY – JUNE 2024)

It is anticipated that, during the projection period (February - June 2024), the food security situation in the refugee hosting districts will gradually deteriorate as communities regress from consumption of 2023 second season harvest stocks to the lean / hunger period of April – June 2024. It is projected that the estimated number of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3+) and requiring food assistance and livelihood improvement interventions will most likely increase from 846,000 which is 20 percent of the population analyzed to 963,000 which is 23 percent of the population analyzed. About 105,000 people (2 percent) are anticipated to be in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) in the projection period, an increase from the 58,000 people (1 percent) in the current period, while 858,000 people are expected to be in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) in the projection period, an increase from the 788,000 people in the current period. Whereas all other districts will retain the same phase as in the current period, the situation in Madi Okollo district is likely to deteriorate from IPC Phase 2 (Stress) to IPC Phase 3 (Crisis). In terms of severity, the districts expected to have the highest percentage in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) or worse are Lamwo (45 percent), Yumbe (35 percent), Adjumani (30 percent) and Obongi (30 percent); while Kamwenge is projected to have the least population (10 percent). In terms of magnitude, the districts projected to have the highest populations in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) or worse are Yumbe (271,300), Kyegegwa (138,000), Isingiro (98,700) and Kiryandongo (84,800).

Although the months of February and March 2024 will be characterized by consumption of the dwindling stocks from the second season of 2023, most households are expected to run short of food stocks by April rendering them vulnerable to food shortage and increasing food consumption gaps. The anticipated normal to above normal rains, according to the Uganda National Meteorological Authority (UNMA) forecast, is expected to enhance crop and livestock production in all the refugee hosting districts. However, lack of quality seed (as farmers do not have much seed stock from the previous season), high costs of agro inputs, seasonal crop pests and diseases, endemic livestock diseases, and inadequate land for agricultural activities by some households are anticipated to largely affect production. Even for farmers that will open more land, the lack of mechanized agricultural practices and predominantly poor conservative agronomic practices will continue to impact agricultural production. It is also a normal practice in most host communities to largely sell off most of the second season stocks to cater for essential non-food expenses, particularly school fees, which leaves households with far less stock than what can sustain them through the projection period.

Compared to the current analysis period, food consumption and incomes from own production and other livelihood opportunities will tend to decrease in the projection period 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 are likely to deteriorate in some low-lying areas as the rains intensify in April and May 2024.

The projected situation during the period of February to June 2024, is based on the following assumptions:

Crop production: The current and anticipated state of rains has motivated farmers to open more land which will enhance crop production in the second season of 2023. The second season planting started in August in West Nile districts and September in mid-Western and Southwestern districts and is expected to continue through early October. There is expected average harvest of cereals, pulses, cassava and bananas which will start in October (for farmers that planted early) and continue to January 2024. Therefore, food is expected to be available and easily accessible to most households until February 2024 when stock levels decline gradually to minimal levels through the hunger period of April to June 2024.

Livestock production: The projection period of February to June 2024 is marked by a dry season that starts in December until early to mid-March. It is anticipated that rangeland conditions and availability of water for livestock will deteriorate in February and the situation will remain so until rains start in late March or early April 2024. The usual rain of April to May in most of the host districts will improve pasture and water availability which will consequently improve livestock production, but seasonal and endemic vectors and diseases may at the same time deter this anticipated production.

Rainfall: According to the UNMA, SONDA (September to December) prediction, the current rains are being experienced over most parts of the country and are expected to continue reaching peak levels around mid to late October. The cessation of the seasonal rains is expected around late November to early December. Increased rainfall, due to the highly anticipated El Niño season, will result in increased crop production, however, flooding water logging, incidences of pests and diseases and post-harvest losses due to prolonged rainfall are expected to reduce harvest and consequently food stocks. Historically, every El Niño season is followed by a La Niña season which implies most likely drier than normal conditions in the projection period.

Land conflict: Ongoing land conflicts in some areas will most likely continue curtailing any further land opening. In Yumbe and Madi Okollo districts, substantial efforts have been made by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and the Army (UPDF) to curb the impasse between the host communities and the refugees. A systematic approach of land acquisition was devised in August 2023 and is expected to harmonize land acquisition modalities for refugees. Conflicts between cattle keepers and crop farmers in Kiryandongo district (Masindi Port, Mutunda and Kiryandongo sub-counties) are expected to continue as unattended cattle stray and destroy food crops. The major conflict in Obongi district has been attributed to the new case load of refugee influx from South Sudan and also the existing high refugee population has put more pressure on land which is the primary factor of production. The usual conflicts between refugees and host communities regarding the use of natural resources such as fuel wood, water sources and mined sand will likely continue in most of the host districts.



Human and wildlife conflict in communities neighbouring Murchison Falls game park and Karuma Game Reserve will likely continue in Kiryandongo district in Mpumwe, Kahara, Kikuube, Diika, Nyinga, Karungu, Kichwabugingo, Nyamahasa, and Laboke Parishes. Here the wildlife especially elephants have been destroying farmers' crops with a consequence of inadequate food harvests and sometimes deaths have been reported. The compensation by Uganda Wildlife Authority, if effected, will mitigate the effects of the destroyed food.

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 outbreaks, then a livestock quarantine may be imposed, especially in Isingiro and Kamwenge.

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 during the early projection period. The demand for agricultural labour will improve as the first season of 2024 starts and this will continue through May 2024. 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. Poor households are likely to expand income-earning potential through selling crops, livestock, firewood and charcoal.

Prices: The current high and increasing fuel prices are expected to remain high through the projection period which will most likely keep prices of food and essential non-food items high due to high transportation costs. Due to seasonal fluctuations and increased household market access to food as the stocks dwindle, it is likely that food prices will raise after March 2024 and keep high further into the projection period. In addition, demand for cereals (maize), pulses (beans), and cassava from neighboring countries, particularly Kenya, DRC and South Sudan, is expected to cause an elevation in cereal prices to above average.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

Response Priorities for Acute Food Insecurity

1. Urgently provide food and livelihood assistance to the populations in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and Phase 4 (Emergency) to save lives and livelihoods.
2. Strengthen social protection systems for nutrition and food security. Enhanced social protection systems will be key to reducing food insecurity in refugee host communities.
3. Invest in post-harvest management to reduce losses and support households to keep food stocks through the pre-harvest periods.
4. Enhance agricultural advisory services to farmers. Training on modern agronomic practices, including climate smart agriculture technologies, to reduce impact of water logging, flash floods, pest infestation and dry spells.
5. Further invest in provision of water for production to reduce the impact of climate shocks and hazards.
6. Due to the recurrent nature of food insecurity episodes in some districts, it is important to organise a Chronic Food Insecurity analysis to not only identify areas with large populations facing long-term inability to meet minimum food requirements both in terms of quality and quantity, but also suggest solutions to the structural causes of food insecurity in refugee hosting districts.

Situation Monitoring and Update

Organize and conduct a Response Analysis to come up with more area / district specific interventions. It is also recommended that responses be conducted, implemented, and coordinated in a multi-sectoral framework for better outputs but also to reduce duplication of efforts and resource wastage.

Risk factors to monitor

- Crop pests and diseases
- Livestock vectors and diseases
- Influx of refugees from DRC and South Sudan conflicts
- Staple food prices which will most likely rise after March 2024
- Excessive sell of food, particularly maize, beans and cassava, both internally and externally
- Floods and water logging as rains intensify in April and May 2024

PROCESS AND METHODOLOGY

An IPC analysis workshop was held from 4 – 11 September 2023, and was preceded by and IPC level 1 refresher training (4 - 5 September). This was followed by the IPC Analysis workshop (6 – 11 September 2023) using protocols of the IPC Manual version 3.1. This approach draws together all available food security and nutrition information from reliable data sources. Classification is subsequently determined through the alignment of evidence related to the current or anticipated most likely scenario, taking into account the impact of humanitarian aid, in order to establish a comprehensive assessment of the broader food security scenario. Notably, participants in this process encompass government line ministries, district local authorities, as well as organizations such as WFP, FAO, and FEWS NET.

Evidence on key outcome indicators was drawn from Food Security and Nutrition Assessment (FSNA) conducted by WFP and UNHCR in all 12 refugee hosting districts of Uganda, while various reports were used for evidence on contributing factors.

Sources

Karamoja DLGs (2021): District food security update reports

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

UBOS (2020): Mid-year district population projections

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

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

Limitations of the analysis

- The FSNA survey included robust information for the analysis but was the only source of data for outcome indicators, which limited triangulation of evidence.
- There was delay in providing data on contributing factors from the FSNA which delayed finalization of the IPC analysis.

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, because of sudden changes or shocks that negatively impact on the determinants of food insecurity.

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

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