

May 2014

Overview of the Food Security Situation across Karamoja, May 2014

The food security status in Karamoja in May 2014 is worse than last year. While not an emergency, the situation can be termed as serious. The districts most affected are Napak, Kaabong, Moroto and Kotido.

- 18% of the population is in IPC phase 3 (Crisis); approximately 252,000 of the 1.37 million people in Karamoja. A further 58% of the population are classified as being in Phase 2 (Stressed)
- The recent assessments found that household food stocks to be exhausted by March.
- Food consumption of households has deteriorated when compared to consumption patterns in December 2013.

In March and April 2014, key assessments were carried out in Karamoja which gives us a timely analysis of the food security situation in Karamoja.

The findings of the March 2014 joint FAO/WFP/MAIFF Food Security Assessment indicate that overall, the districts of Kaabong, Kotido, Moroto and Napak exhibit a significantly poorer performance across various key food security indicators. The poor household food insecurity across the region can be attributed to a combination of reduced access to food and a lack of sufficient food being produced (availability) in the area.

The Integrated Phase Food Security Classification (IPC) analysis was carried out for Karamoja in the first week of April. The findings state that the overall phase for the region is Phase 2 (stressed) with 18% of the population classified as being in Phase 3 (Crisis). This population analyzed as being in Crisis Phase is spread across the districts of Kaabong, Kotido, Moroto and Napak. These findings are in line with the FAO/WFP/MAIFF joint report.

The IPC analysis also underlines the fact that in the most food insecure areas, the situation would be even more critical if not for current humanitarian assistance levels

The situation is such that additional (scaled-up and/or accelerated) action is required to help people meet their food needs in the immediate and very short term (now to late 2014). While various safety net programmes exist, the existing programme coverage/scale of implementation is not adequate. However existing safety net programmes do provide opportunities for the provision of additional assistance.

Summary of findings

Food Access: *The lack of employment opportunities and the inability of most HHs to generate sufficient income*

- a. Households find it difficult to meet their food needs primarily due to insufficient employment opportunities and the low number of income earners, on average, per household.
- b. Low agricultural productivity and inability of HHs to derive incomes from this.
- c. Households relying on debt as a continuous coping mechanism; over 30% households taking debt; main reason cited as purchase of food.

- d. Various coping strategies are adopted by households across the region; and it is seen that unsustainable coping strategies were more prevalent in Kotido, Nakapiripirit and Napak.

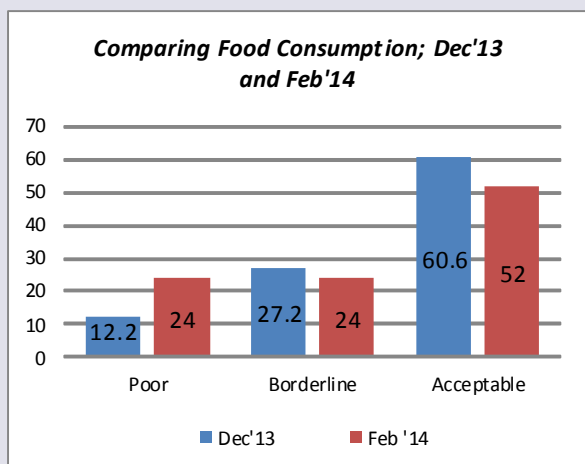
Food Availability: *The inability of landowners to increase the low agricultural productivity*

- a. Low levels of agricultural productivity in Karamoja despite relatively high land access. Despite over 90 percent of sampled HHs reporting access to land (average size of 1.3 hectares per HH); income derived from sale of crops is not a main source of income by HHs from any district.

- b. The major constraints to agriculture is the inability to access key agricultural inputs (seeds, tools, labour, fertilizers) further exacerbating the effects of lack of rainfall.
- c. The lean season has started 2 months earlier than usual, due to the poor harvest in 2013.
- d. Yields are still far below the average yields reported in other parts of the country.
- e. Household stocks at the time of the assessment were only expected to last for duration of one month on average i.e. end of March 2014.
- f. There were considerable post harvest losses and this is a crucial factor adversely affecting household food availability., throughout the region

Food Consumption & Utilization

a. A little more than half the sampled households (52 percent) exhibit Acceptable levels of consumption while the remaining 48 percent of the sample are evenly distributed as having Poor and Borderline consumption with the poorest consumption observed in Kaabong and Napak. Food consumption of households has deteriorated when compared to consumption patterns in December 2013.; and this deterioration of food consumption is expected to continue given that HH food stocks were exhausted by March.



- b. Incidence of diseases are expected to increase with the start of the rains due to poor hygiene, sanitation and food preparation practices.
- c. Child malnutrition is still high due to poor dietary diversity and poor child care and feeding practices.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Increase Food Availability by reducing farming input costs and increasing crop and livestock productivity.

- Expand or initiate extension activities for better agronomic practices, pest control and post-harvest handling;
- Stakeholders consider assisting farmers by increasing their access to key agricultural inputs. Such interventions should necessarily include Moroto, Kaabong, Kotido and Napak;
- Agencies, need to obtain more in-depth information related to household food stocks and post harvest losses;
- Stakeholders to ensure there are no pipeline breaks in food assistance in the months of June and July – during which time households across the region are expected to face highest food deficits;
- Expansion of conditional transfers that can encourage communities to build and rehabilitate agriculture related community infrastructure;
- Provision of veterinary support for treatment and prevention of livestock pests and diseases through improving access to vaccines and drugs .

Increase Access to Food

- Expand cash for work assistance in Moroto, Kaabong and Kotido, the districts where poor food access is the main drive of food insecurity;
- Increase formal and semi-formal access to credit across districts;
- Encouragement of the non-food sector so as to provide HHs with greater income generating opportunities especially in Nakapiripirit;
- Replenishment or restocking of larger livestock-cattle beginning with Abim, Napak and Moroto;
- Continue monitoring the markets and market prices of staple food commodities across Karamoja and update stakeholders accordingly for immediate action where necessary.

Increase Household Food Consumption and Nutritional Status

Stakeholders analyse the feasibility of expanding food assistance interventions in these districts in districts

PLANNED WFP RESPONSE FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2014

NUSAF 2 (WFP):

WFP in 2014 plans to continue supporting an estimated 33,000 households across 17 sub-counties with conditional food or cash transfers, for participating in public works programmes starting in June.

Furthermore, funds permitting, WFP aims to either

- a. Scale up NUSAF 2 in the 4 districts (Napak, Kaabong, Moroto and Kotido) to achieve full coverage of all sub-counties (except for urban areas). This corresponds to an increase of 9 sub-counties and approximately 19,800 beneficiary households over the above planned targeting. Indicative cost: USD 3.4 million.
- a. Provide an extra distribution as a protection ration at the height of the lean season to the 33,000 households currently targeted for the 2014/15 NUSAF2 work season in the 4 districts. Indicative cost: USD 1.2 million.

Targeted food distributions for Extremely Vulnerable Households (EVH):

Thirty three thousand (33,000) households, with a total of 155,000 members, are receiving unconditional food assistance at 50% of the Recommended Daily Allowance (RDA), for the duration of the lean season. This assistance kicked off earlier than usual this year in light of the predicted early start of the lean season.

In the light of the present food security situation, WFP is seeking funds to enable an increase of the amount of food transfers to Extremely Vulnerable Households (EVH), from 50% RDA to 100%, during the months of June and August, in the 4 most vulnerable districts. Indicative cost: USD2.4 million.

Community Based Supplementary Feeding programme (CBSFP):

Twenty five thousand (25,000) malnourished individuals are receiving a monthly ration of fortified food commodities and awareness raising sessions to address moderate acute malnutrition.

School Feeding:

One hundred and nine thousand (109,000) school children in all schools in Karamoja will receive school meals in the period January to December 2014 to alleviate short-term hunger and maintain attendance. In case of a worsening food security situation in 2014, this component can be scaled up by providing an additional fortified mid-morning snack to all students to satisfy their RDA.

Maternal Child Health and Nutrition (MCHN) programme:

All pregnant and lactating women and children under two who seek ante-natal, post-natal and young child health services in Karamoja will receive highly-fortified food to prevent stunting

Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC)

Uganda/ Karamoja - (Current)

Acute Food Insecurity Situation Overview

Valid from: 5th /04 /2014 to 5th /8/2014

Created on: 5th /04/2014

Key for Map

Acute Food Insecurity Phase

- 1 Minimal
- 2 Stressed
- 3 Crisis
- 4 Emergency
- 5 Famine
- Grey square: Areas with Inadequate Evidence
- White square: Not Analyzed
- Black circle: Urban/Settlement
- Exclamation mark: Area would likely be at least 1 Phase worse without the effects of humanitarian assistance

Key for Callout Boxes

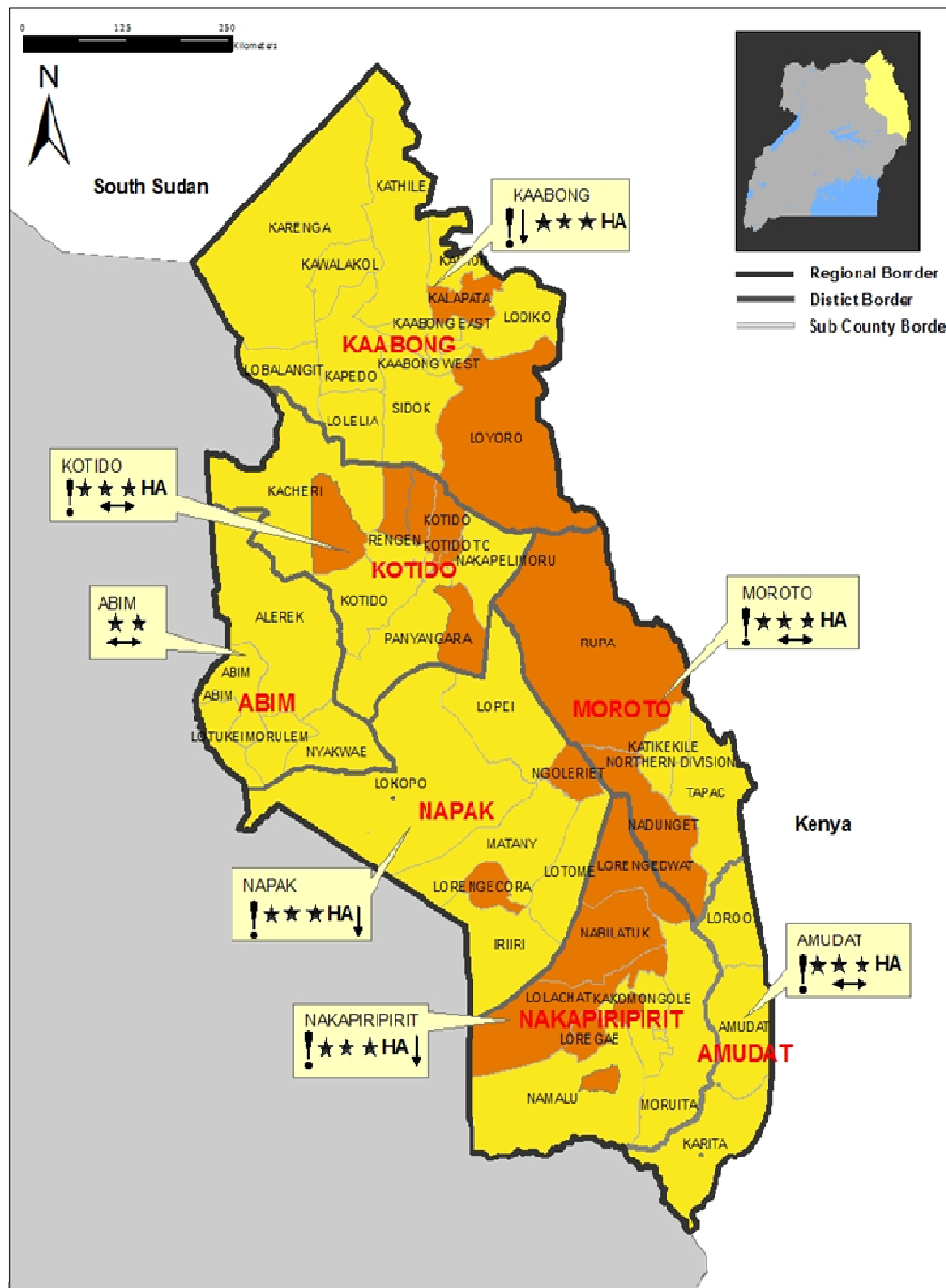
#,### (###%) Pop. and % in Phases 3, 4 and 5

Color gradient % of People in each Phase

^ Acceptable
^^ Medium
^^^ High

▲ Area has reached Phase 3,4, or 5 for more than 3 consecutive years

1 Low
2 Moderate
3 High
4 Very High



For more information, contact

IPC Technical Working Group Secretariat
Plot 88, Buganda Road, Wandegaya
Tel: +256 414 340324/5 OR Chair of the IPC TWG MAAIF
(maaifwu@yahoo.co.uk)

Analysis Partners & Supporting Organizations

MAAIF, OPM, MOH, FAO, WFP, UNICEF, ACF, URCS, FEWSNET, GOAL, PENHA, WVU, CARITAS, COMWO, ZOA, ACF, WHH, ACTED, MUK, KARAMOJA DLGs

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