Findings indicated that 4% of the overall households had Food Stocks at household level, depicting a deterioration in food security situation when compared to 36% and 14% at baseline and round 1 (May) respectively.

Overview
WFP Uganda Country Office initiated mobile Vulnerability Analysis and Mapping (mVAM) in May and June, which is carried out through phone calls. The main objectives of mVAM are:

a) Provide real-time analysis of the performance of a few key indicators;
b) Serve as a core pillar of WFP’s Food Security & Nutrition Early Warning System.

912 telephone numbers collected in Karamoja during the baseline from households willing to participate in telephone interviews formed a sampling frame. Exquisite Solutions Limited, a third party drew a random sample of 420 telephone interviews evenly distributed across seven District of Karamoja region. Due to network connectivity, 402 respondents were interviewed representing 96% of the required sample. Kotido, Moroto, Napak and Nakapiripirit districts didn’t make the minimum sample size of 60 per district.

Key Highlights
- There is a continuous deterioration in the food security situation in Karamoja, only 4% of the households reported having food stocks compared to 14% in May. None in Kaabong and Kotido reported having food stocks;
- There was a 58% increase in the number of Children admitted to supplementary feeding centers since May 2016. A total of 14,153 were admitted in June 2016;
- Markets were cited as a main source of food stocks with 47%, 18% reported WFP/Partner food distributions as a main source of food stocks;
- There is an increasing number of households getting into debt, results show a 17% increase from May with a general increase across all districts except Amudat with a 33% drop. 52% reported borrowed money is spent on food purchase.

Despite a deteriorating food security situation since March with only 4% of the households reporting food stocks in July compared to 14% in May, harvests are expected in August and September for Karamoja and across Uganda. An improvement in the food security at household level is not guaranteed however due to an anticipated poor harvest as dry spells were experienced across Uganda this year and late rains in Karamoja. Thus an insignificant improvement in food security situation is projected. Additionally, food access and availability at household level will slightly improve and Market prices will decline. Whilst since March, staple food prices have continued to rise - in June, Market prices of Maize and Sorghum across Karamoja saw a 14% and 19% increase from May 2016 (June 2016 WFP Market Monitor). There is a projected slight decline in Market prices of staple foods Countrywide, including Karamoja.

Recommendations:
- Continued close monitoring of the food security situation across Karamoja including Market prices;
- A need to continue disseminating weather related information in Karamoja;
- Community sensitizations on Post-Harvest handling to ready communities for the harvest season.

Food stocks
Findings indicated that, 4% of the overall households had Food Stocks at household level, depicting a deterioration in food security situation when compared to 36% and 14% at baseline and round 1 (May) respectively.
63% of respondents had debts representing a 17% increase from May 2016. In Moroto and Nakapiripirit, there was a 43% and 33% increase in households with debts, respectively. In June, Napak was highest with 79%. Furthermore, results indicate that households with debts were above 55% in all districts except Amudat with 38%.

In Karamoja, 80% of the households reported having at least an income earner. At district level, only 13% of the households in Abim had an income earner, compared to all other districts with over 85%. Findings show that 28% engage in Agricultural wage labor as a source of livelihood while 12% reported sale of firewood/charcoal, which is an unsustainable livelihood and a threat to environment.

Comparing districts, households with food stocks was below 5% in all districts except Moroto and Napak with 10% and 11% respectively. 47% of Households with food stocks cited Markets as main source of food, 18% reported WFP/Partner food distributions.

“Food prices in the market are high due to scarcity as there is no harvest registered in the region”
- a respondent in Lukowas, Napak

The majority of Households will mainly depend on market purchase and humanitarian assistance for the next one to two Months (August-September)

Household Income
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Similarly, 35% of households with debts had debt ranging from 100,001-500,000 UGX while 33% had debt between 20,000-100,000 UGX. 20% reported having debt of more than 500,000. Results further indicated that Abim and Amudat had 39% and 44% of households with debt above Uganda Shillings 500,000 respectively, highest comparing with other districts in the region.

Among households with debts in Karamoja, 52% borrowed money to buy food. Majority of households in all districts spent borrowed money on food purchase, Moroto and Kotido registered highest with 74% and 72% respectively.

"People survive by borrowing from their saving groups, utmost they do casual labour in order to buy food for their families"
-a respondent in Naturum, Nakapiripirit

Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI)

The Reduced Coping Strategy Index (rCSI) measures food insecurity by considering the activities undertaken by households to manage food shortages. More information on rCSI can be found at http://resources.vam.wfp.org/node/6.
Supplementary Feeding Admissions

WFP implements a supplementary Feeding Programme (SFP) at Health Facilities. Village Health Teams (VHTs) identify Moderately Malnourished individuals whom they refer to Health Centres for treatment and enrolment to SFP. These individuals receive nutritious foods. Admissions to SFP provide an indication of the levels of malnutrition in the region.

14,153 moderately malnourished in Karamoja were admitted to Supplementary Feeding Programme (SFP) in June indicating a 58% increase from May (Round 1).

The graph on the right shows increase in admissions in 2016 compared to 2015, numbers are expected to remain high.

Admission Trends by District Jan-Jun; 2015/2016

Admissions in Kaabong, Kotido and Nakapiripirit were above 1,000 since January. In Abim and Amudat, it has been below 700 except in June where it was at 897 and 788 respectively.

2,934 compared to 1,472 in May (Round 1) were admitted in Kaabong depicting a 99% increase in SFP admissions, percentage increase in numbers of admissions in other districts was above 55% except in Moroto, Napak and Amudat with 17%, 23% and 21% increase respectively.

The graphs above depict increasing numbers of Moderately Malnourished children and Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLWs) into supplementary Feeding Programme (SFP)