IPC
Integrated Food Security Phase Classification

# UGANDA FOOD SECURITY BRIEF

## Special Brief - Post First Season 2010 Analysis

*November 2010 Issue*

## *Key Findings*

The overall food security situation of the country in the second half of 2010 has improved when compared to the first half of 2010. This has been the result of the good distribution and performance of the 1st season rains, that have resulted into increased production and above average harvests in different parts of the country. There has been a general increase in market supplies of food items and a decline in food prices.

In northern Uganda, former IDPs have now returned to their villages of origin and resumed crop cultivation. Even in Karamoja that has had a history of droughts , 2010 has reportedly been a normal year. It is expected that if rains continue as forecasted, an above average 2nd season harvest will be received in November and December. However low lying areas of Teso and Elgon regions will have to be monitored as above normal rains could increase the likelihood of floods and landslides.

Generally, an improvement in the food security situation of the country has been registered from 2008 -2010 with the populations of Karamoja and Acholi moving from humanitarian Emergency phases (Phases 3 and 4) to a non-Emergency phases (phase 2). It will be noted, that the same populations together with West Nile, and Teso are just ***borderline or moderately food insecure***, which implies that appropriate responses and strategies are still necessary to increase resistance and resilience of the livelihood systems to reduce the risk to hazards and address structural hindrances (such as access to Health, education, water and sanitation) that will prevent these populations from slipping back into humanitarian phases and ensure increased production and household food sustainability in future.

***Table 1 : Uganda Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, Crisis Phases, Aug. 2010—Jan. 2011***

| **Region** District | **Current Phase** | **Previous Phase** | **Projected Trend** | **Risk of Worsening Phase/Magnitude** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Elgon** | | | | |
| Bududa | 1B | 3 | Mixed signals | Watch/Alert |
| **Teso** | | | | |
| Katakwi, Amuria, Soroti, Kumi | 2 | 2 | Mixed signals | Moderate risk |
| **Acholi** | | | | |
| Gulu, Kitgum, Pader, Amuru | 2 | 2 | Improving | Watch/ Alert |
| **Karamoja** | | | | |
| Moroto, Kotido, Kaabong | 2 | 3 | Mixed signals | Moderate to high risk |
| Abim | | | | |
| Nakapiriprit | | | | |

***Table 2 : General Descriptions of IPC Phases***

| | Phase | General Description |
|---|---|---|
| 1A | **Generally Food Secure** | Usually adequate and stable food access with moderate to low risk of sliding into Phase 3, 4, or 5. 1A is more resilient than 1B. |
| 1B | **Generally Food Secure** | |
| 2 | **Moderate/Borderline Food Insecure** | Borderline adequate food access with recurrent high risk (due to probable hazard events and high vulnerability) of sliding into Phase 3, 4, or 5. |
| 3 | **Acute Food and Livelihood Crisis (AFLC)** | Highly stressed and critical lack of food access with high and above usual malnutrition and accelerated depletion of livelihood assets that, if continued, will slide the population into Phase 4/5 and/or likely result in chronic poverty. |
| 4 | **Humanitarian Emergency (HE)** | Severe lack of food access with excess mortality, very high and increasing malnutrition, and irreversible livelihood asset stripping. |
| 5 | **Famine / Humanitarian Catastrophe** | Extreme social upheaval with complete lack of food access and/or other basic needs where mass starvation, death, and displacement are evident. |

**FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURAL LIVELIHOODS CLUSTER**

IPC TWG Secretariat
c/o Stella Sengendo
FAO - Uganda
Buganda Rd Plot 88
Kampala
Tel:+256 414 340324/5
Cell: +256 772 419649
stella.sengendo@fao.org

**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS**

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Humanitarian Aid

## *Implications for Immediate Response in Borderline food insecure regions*

***Livelihood Support is needed*** to allow for sustainable use of livelihood assets and redress structural hindrances in Karamoja, Teso, Acholi and West Nile regions.

The support should be targeted to all livelihood groups (in the agricultural, agro-pastoral and pastoral zones ) of **Karamoja** region and should specifically address the following:

- Monitoring weather conditions by providing regular forecasts
- Improving security situation in the area
- Grading and maintenance of roads
- Continue disarmament of communities
- Construction and rehabilitation of bridges and improvement of drainage system
- Enforcement of laws and policies regarding livestock movements and quarantines
- Vaccination of livestock and provision of drugs for diseases like Brucellosis

***Livelihood Support*** targeted to all livelihood groups in **Teso region-** *Kaberemaido, Katakwi, Kumi, Bukedea, Pallisa, Budaka, Soroti and Amuria* districts.

- Introduction of flood tolerant crops
- Introduction of disease and pests resistant crop varieties especially Cassava Brown Streak Disease (CBSD).
- Vaccination of animals against communicable diseases like FMD, CBPP, rabies, and Newcastle disease
- Putting in place sanitation facilities like latrines
- Building awareness on disaster management

***Livelihood Support*** targeted to all livelihood groups in **Acholi region–** A*muru, Gulu, Pader, Agago and Kitgum* districts

- Increased provision of pest resistant seeds and improved pest control measures. Particular mention is made of the recent outbreak of the congress weed which needs to be controlled.
- Provision of early warning and weather forecast information to communities
- Discourage the growing of crops on low lying areas along river banks that are prone to floods.
- Emphasize early planting
- Advocate for the speedy disarmament of the Karamojong cattle rustlers.
- Advocate for increased government support to EVIs in Acholi Region.

***Livelihood Support*** targeted to all livelihood groups in **West Nile region -***Arua, Nebbi, Maracha, Terego, Yumbe, Adjumani and Moyo* districts

- Government early warning measures should be strengthened
- Awareness creation on environmental conservation
- Need for a deliberate survey for the whole region on nutrition and health
- Enforcement and strengthening of regulations on Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary measures and bye-laws or ordinances.

## *Karamoja* *[Nakapiriprit, Moroto, Kotido, Kaabong ,Amudat, Napak and Abim districts]*

The population in Karamoja region was classified as ***moderately or borderline food insecure– phase 2*** with a moderate risk of change in magnitude of the phase for the agriculture and agro-pastoral livelihood zones. A high risk level of warning is indicated for pastoral livelihood zone and Namalu. An alert or watch level of warning is indicated for Karenga, Labwor, Abim, Morulem and parts of Namalu, Karita and Lolelia.

Though the region had previously suffered from persistent droughts the only planting season of 2010 performed well with a marked improvement in food availability and access. Above average harvests have replenished household food stocks and increased market supplies, resulting in improved food access for the majority of households. The 2nd season rains started on time but majority of farmers were hesitant to plant due to the poor performance in the preceding last three seasons. Generally the rainfall performance was good and no dry spell was recorded. Internal cattle raids contributed to delay in planting due to theft of oxen. Army worm attack was registered in Nakapiripirit in June at the 1st weeding stage. Crop performance was good but sorghum was affected by honey dew causing losses of 80 to 90 percent.The traditionally high food producing areas such as Karenga and Iriiri will generally realize below average harvest due to high vegetative growth caused by excessive rainfall. This has been made worse by Ergot (honeydew) attack on sorghum and pearl millet which hit most parts of Kotido, Moroto, Nakapiripirit and Karenga destroying nearly all the late planted crop. Nonetheless, traditional varieties such as Kabir did manage to escape all the diseases and have generally yielded well across the region. Harvesting is ongoing in most parts of the region and is expected to continue till December to January.

FAO/October 2010/P. Emuria

*Bulrush millet attacked by Honey Dew, Karenga Karamoja,*

A decline in maize prices was registered in Kaabong and Kotido districts signifying improved market supplies from the just concluded cropping season. Current maize prices are 45 percent lower than at the peak of the lean season in May. The markets are adequately supplied from key maize production areas in northern Karamoja. Most foods including maize, sorghum, cassava, sweet potatoes and beans are available in the market at normal cost. Most foods are imported from neighbouring districts. Food availability has improved from own production and purchases from the market.

There is adequate pasture and water available and livestock body conditions are fair to good resulting in increased milk production and availability. There was initial loss of some livestock at the beginning of the rains attributed to bloating due to the lush pastures. CBPP is still endemic in the area and an out break has been reported in Abim district in September 2010. Livestock market prices are high but the selling rates are low.

Terms of trade have improved with good livestock prices thus improving the purchasing power of the pastoralists. Main sources of income at the moment are the sale of sheep and goats, charcoal burning, sale of firewood, sale of local brew and casual labour. Households are now consuming two meals per day. Generally households have enough food from own production and purchases from the market. Households are currently employing normal coping strategies. Vulnerable households are still receiving relief food. Supplementary feeding programs are ongoing targeting the affected populations. There has been increase in the number of beneficiaries enrolled for Monitoring of Child Health and Nutrition in affected sub-counties. A Cholera outbreak was reported in October. Latrine usage and coverage has improved in 2010 compared to the last 2 years.

FAO/October 2010/P. Emuria

*Kabir sorghum ready for harvest, Karenga Karamoja,*

The earlier predictions that this promised to be a normal year have been realized. As stocks from this region dwindle by December, supplies will be brought in from production areas outside Karamoja such as Lira district. Prices are likely to remain low as sorghum, the main staple, becomes available in September through December. This implies that households in these areas are not likely to face acute food insecurity through December. Overall near normal rainfall conditions are expected in this region.

**In the high risk pastoral Zone** milk production and availability are likely to decline as the dry season sets in October. Livestock prices are also likely to remain high through September but decrease from October to December as livestock sales begin to increase, which typically occurs at this time of year. However, grain prices will remain high up to September and decrease thereafter up to December as harvests from agricultural and agro-pastoral areas become available on the market. Water availability and access is likely to decline as the dry season sets in from October. Tension and conflict are likely to restrict movement as concentration of many animals during migration exposes them to attack and disease transmission. This could result in poor access to pastures and water which could result in reduction in milk production and access. Livestock holding and household income from milk and livestock sales will also be affected.

FAO/October 2010/P. Emuria

*Cattle herd in Lolelia, Kaabong district ,October2010*

The immediate causes of food insecurity include crop diseases (honey dew, sorghum smut and the striga weed) , human disease (Cholera and brucellosis), animal diseases like CBPP, brucellosis, PPR and Inter-ethnic clashes.

## *Acholi* *[Gulu, Kitgum, Pader, Agago and Amuru districts ]*

The population in this region was classified as ***moderately or borderline food insecure- phase 2***. Sub-counties bordering Sudan that stretch from Nimule to Kaabong are under alert or watch level of warning. Generally there has been an improvement in agricultural production in all the districts in the region. The food security situation is stable. The good performance of the first rains, of March to July 2010, have resulted in above average harvests for most households in the region. This has increased income earning opportunities to meet basic food needs and lead to decline in prices of common food products as the supply of food commodities to markets increases. First season harvesting of cassava, sweet potatoes, beans, millet and simsim is continuing , increasing market supplies, household food availability, and access. Own production contributes most to household consumption followed by market purchase with reliance on food aid, gifts and donations declining.

The region is currently experiencing its peak rains punctuated by short lived dry spells. The rains are expected to decline and cease in mid October to early November. Over all there are high chances of normal to above normal rains over most parts of this region. This is likely to ensure food access for poor households. Stocks will run low in October before the second season harvest expected in November and December. However, the region still faces the challenge of above normal rainfall which may result into water logging and incomplete resettlement of displaced populations to their original homesteads.

Some factors limiting crop production in northern Uganda are inadequate access to planting materials and inability to increase acreage under crop production, due to limited resources to pay for additional labour and lack of tools to clear land that has been fallow for more than two decades during the conflict.

Since the end of the humanitarian phase in Acholi region, there is lack of new information on health and nutrition indicators which restricts a full analysis of the food security situation of returnees. As communities move back to their land from IDP camps, access to safe water points remains a big challenge because of low coverage. Sanitation still poses a great threat especially when it comes to latrine coverage in return areas. However information from UNOCHA 2010, has shown that there has been great improvement in basic service accessibility in the region though some indicators are still below the national standards. There has been an improvement in security conditions in Acholi region which has allowed for the return of the IDPs, thus leading to better access to land . The residual caseloads still in the camps comprise of a few IDPs who have not yet made up their mind to return, or have land conflicts in their villages of return, EVIs who cannot return on their own due to inability to fend for themselves and build shelters.

Civil security in the region is generally stable and reports of isolated cases of armed robbery have declined due to the increased number of security personnel at sub-county level. Incursions into Pader district by illegally armed Karamojong has greatly reduced because of the disarmament process in Karamoja by the government. Land disputes characterized by inter clan, family and individual disputes over pieces of land and boundary disputes are still very rampant causing civil disorder among the returnees in the region. Domestic violence is also reportedly still high. There is need to monitor the current peace prevailing in Northern Uganda so that insurgency does not return to the region. The border areas with southern Sudan will need to be monitored especially in view of the upcoming Southern Sudan referendum on secession. Population movements as a result of an up surge in violence are anticipated and will need to be monitored.

**Immediate causes of food insecurity**

- Above normal rains which could cause water logging and thus affecting most of the low lying areas and affecting tuber crops especially.
- The recent decline in food prices especially of cereals is likely to discourage more planting and this will result into low production and hence low access and availability of food in the next year.
- Rampant increase in crop and livestock pest and disease infestation and weeds. An outbreak of congress weed infestation has been reported especially at former IDP camp sites.

**Key underlying causes of food insecurity**

- As communities return to their homes there is increased deforestation due to population pressure, charcoal burning, increased demand for wood fuel and timber and wetland reclamation.
- Poor infrastructure, especially roads which are expected to worsen during the rainy season
- High poverty levels of the population .

## *Teso* *[Kaberemaido, Bukedea, Katakwi, Kumi, Palisa, Soroti and Amuria districts]*

FAO/October 2010/A.Atingi

*Drying cassava in water logged compound kaberamaido district*

The population in Teso region is classified as ***Moderate or Borderline Food Insecure - phase 2*** with hot spots under moderate to alert level of warning for the validity period of August 2010 to January 2011. The population has access to more food as a result of increased crop production due to the evenly distributed rainfall. Increased agricultural activities in the season provided labour opportunities for poor households that helped improve on their incomes. Availability of sorghum, sweet potatoes and cassava have significantly improved food stocks and increased market supplies. There is a general decrease in prices of staple foods. Normal coping strategies are employed by the population to cover gaps in dietary requirements.

Improved security in the region has resulted in over 90 percent of the IDPs returning to their villages and resuming production. The region has also experienced an improvement in sanitation especially in the latrine coverage except for Amuria district which still has a low latrine coverage. Many households in the region are now accessing water although the districts of Soroti, Budaka, and Amuria are showing a decline of 6 percent in water access.

***Table 3: Sub-counties prone to flooding***

| District | Sub county | Phase |
|---|---|---|
| Amuria | Acowa, Kapelebyong, Obalanga ,Abarilela | 2 |
| Katakwi | Ongongoja, Ngariam, Magoro, Palam, Usuk,Kapujan | 2 |
| Kumi | Ongino, Kapir | 2 |
| Bukedea | Malera, Kolir | 2 |

The food security situation though reportedly better than the previous season, indicates mixed signals as an increase in rainfall amounts has lead to flooding in some areas. However the areas listed in table 3 have been identified as hotspots that will need to be closely monitored as their vulnerability could lead to a change in the magnitude of phase should the rains continue to be above normal as predicted by the weather forecast.These areas are low lying and it is likely that the population (which make up 33 percent of the population in the region) will be greatly affected if flooding occurs. Reports from Teso region indicate that the flood waters are raising and some bridges might become impassable for instance the Awoja bridge. Flooding of fields has been reported in Katakwi and Serere districts.

FAO/October 2010/A.Atingi

*Flooded field in katakwi district*

FAO/October 2010/A.Atingi

*Water pumping station in Soroti damaged and overrun by flood waters*

**Immediate causes of food insecurity**

- Water logging/Flooding
- Unpredictable weather
- Poor sanitation
- Pests and disease outbreaks
- Infrastructure break down

**Key underlying causes of food insecurity**

- Unpredictable weather
- Lack of diversification of farming practices
- Lack of disaster preparedness
- Lack of knowledge on Early warning systems

## *Elgon* *[Kapchorwa, Bukwo, Sironko, Mbale, Manafwa, Bududa, Budaka Tororo and Busia districts]*

The region was classified as ***generally food secure- phase 1B*** with no early warning indicated. The food security situation has more or less remained the same as it was in April 2010. The good performance of the rains has lead to good first season harvests which has increased the availability and access to food in the region. There is normal access to food due to adequate stock in households and good expected crop performance in the months to come. The food security situation is expected to remain stable. The peak rains are expected to continue up to late September through to mid October over the Mt. Elgon areas with high chances for normal to above normal rains. The rains are expected to decline and cease in late October to early November. If the La Niña event continues to be moderate, it is likely to be beneficial to crops, resulting in good harvests from November 2010 to January 2011. However, enhanced rainfall conditions due to this phenomenon are likely to result in heavy rainfall, which could cause landslides in these areas and flooding in flood-prone areas downstream.

In the disaster hit areas of Bududa district that experienced mudslides in the last season the Humanitarian response has been adequate, with previously displaced people in Bulucheke camp being resettled in Kirayadongo Masindi district.


OPM/October 2010/P.Komujuni

*Displaced persons from Bududa being relocated from Bulecheke camp to Kiryandongo*


OPM/October 2010/P.Komujuni

*Reception site in Kiryandongo Masindi district*

**Key underlying causes of food insecurity**

- Environmental degradation
- Climate variability.
- Conflicts with neighboring regions
- Uncontrolled population growth- Fast increasing population at average of 3.29 percent which has led to declining land per capita and situation is likely to get worse in the subsequent years.
- Liberalization policy on trade of food stuffs.
- Literacy levels are still low

**Immediate causes of food insecurity**

- Uncontrolled sales of food staff
- Crop pests and diseases
- Use of unimproved crop varieties
- Poor agricultural practices
- Landslides
- Soil erosion

## *Lango* *[Lira, Apac, Oyam, Amolatar and Dokolo districts]*

The population in this region was classified as ***generally food secure-phase 1A.*** Food access and availability in the region have remarkably improved and is likely to remain so until the next harvest due to the favourable climatic conditions. Besides, all households have returned to their original homes and are fully engaged in agricultural production. Due to increased food production, prices have decreased to affordable level by most households.

Generally the food prices for cereals and cassava have drastically decreased, pulses prices have increased slightly but generally the prices for animal products have remained fairly constant. The population are employing insurance coping strategies such as borrowing from neighbours and from credit associations, continuous planting of crops especially early maturing varieties and growing food security crops like cassava and sweet potatoes. The access to the markets on average was good but the abundance of food in the market and the declining food prices especially cereals and tubers have resulted in low sales. The region has good diet diversity and availability of food especially after first season's harvest in July.

There is no new information on nutrition indicators though previous analysis showed a decline in malnutrition. However chronic malnutrition is still problem at 33.9 percent and underweight rate of 13 percent respectively will need to be addressed. The low latrine coverage particularly in Amolatar and Dokolo and the anticipated wet conditions will increase the likelihood of incidences of water borne diseases for both human and livestock but generally access to safe water is taking on positive trends in all districts in the region.

**Immediate causes of food insecurity**

- Poor post harvest handling and storage.
- Crop pest diseases e.g. Cassava Brown streak disease.
- Livestock diseases e.g. African Swine fever in pigs and Newcastle disease in poultry.
- Declining soil fertility.
- Poor extension coverage.
- The declining food prices may lead to low production of some crops e.g. Maize.

**Key underlying causes of food insecurity**

- Poor infrastructure, especially link roads, which worsen during the rainy seasons.
- Uncoordinated marketing system.
- Environmental degradation e.g. wetland encroachment.

***Table 4: Uganda Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, Non Crisis Phases, August. 2010— January 2011***

| **REGION** District *(Sub county)* | **Current Phase** | **Previous Phase** | **Projected Trend** | **Risk of Worsening Phase/Magnitude** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **WESTERN** | | | | |
| All except sub counties below | 1A | 1A | Improving | - |
| Hoima *Kigorobya, Kabwoya,, Kyangwali, Buseruka* | 1B | 2 | | |
| Kamwenge *Nkoma and Rwamwanja* | | | | |
| Kyegegwa *Mpara* | | | | |
| Bundibugyo Ntoroko | | | | |
| Kibaale *Mpefu and Ndaiga* | | | | |
| Bulisa *Biso* | | | | |
| **EAST CENTRAL** | 1B | 1B | Improving | - |
| **WEST NILE** | 2 | 2 | Improving | Watch |
| **LANGO** | 1A | 1A | Improving | - |
| **TESO** (excluding Amuria and Katakwi districts) | 2 | 2 | Mixed signals | Watch-Moderate |
| **ELGON** | 1B | 1B | Improving | Watch |

*Table 3: Uganda Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, Non Crisis Phases, August 2010— January 2011*

| REGION<br>District *(Sub county)* | Current Phase | Previous Phase | Projected Trend | Risk of Worsening Phase/Magnitude |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **SOUTHWESTERN** | | | | |
| Outside 'Cattle Corridor' | 1A | 1A | Improving | Watch |
| Kihruhura | | | | |
| Kasese<br>*Katwe, Munkunyu, Karambi and Kitch-wamba* | 1A | 2 | | |
| **CENTRAL 1** | | | | |
| Outside 'Cattle Corridor' | 1A | 1A | Improving | Watch |
| Lyantonde<br>*Kaliro, Kasagama* | 1B | | | |
| Masaka<br>*Lwabenge, Bigasa, Kitanda, Malongo, Lwengo, Ndagwe, Kyazanga, Ngando* | | | | |
| Mpigi<br>*Maddu, Kyegonza, Mpenja,Kabulasoke, Ngando,Kituntu* | | | | |
| Sembabule<br>*Ntusi, Rwebitakuli* | | | | |
| Rakai<br>*Kakuto, Kyalulangira, Kakyera, Kibanda, Kyebe* | | 2 | | |
| **CENTRAL 2** | | | | |
| Outside 'Cattle Corridor' | 1B | 1A | Improving | No Early Warning |
| Kiboga<br>*Butemba, Kyankwanzi, Dwaniro, Nsambya* | | 1B | | |
| Luwero<br>*Bamunanika, Butuntumula, Kikyusa* | | | | |
| Mityana<br>*Kikandwa, Sekanyonyi Malangala, Kakindu* | | | | |
| Kayunga<br>*Galiraya* | 1B | 2 | | |
| Mukono<br>*Nagojje, Buvuma, Buikwe and seeta* | | | | |
| Nakasongola<br>*Nabiswera, Nakitoma, Wabinyonyi* | | | | |
| Mubende<br>*Kasambya* | | | | |
| Nakaseke<br>*Kaapeka Wakyato, Semuto* | | | | |

## *West Nile* *[Adjumani, Arua, Moyo, Nebbi, Yumbe, Nyadri and Koboko districts]*

The population in this region was classified as ***moderately or borderline food insecure – phase 2*** with alert level of warning; a moderate level of warning was indicated for the Midigo and Kei (Yumbe); Ludara and Kuluba (Koboko); Dufile, Metu, Moyo and Lefori (Moyo); Dzaipi (Adjumani); Paidha, Jangkoro and Zeu (Nebbi).

The region has sustained a phase 2 situation since the last food security classification for the period of April to August 2010. Overall, there was increased food crop production and available food stocks that are expected to last for three to four months across the region, however this was countered by excessive rainfall across the region that affected yields and caused the rotting of cassava tubers in the field and difficulties of drying harvested crops. Areas along the Nile belt experienced flooding that submerged crops and drowned livestock. Increased rainfall amounts predicated in the months to come are likely to affect the yields of some crops which have not been harvested yet.

During the previous six months (February to July 2010), the trend of food crop prices has been declining across the region for all food items except fresh cassava and groundnuts. Moyo and Adjumani districts registered the highest percentage declines in food item prices. The prices for pulses remained unchanged and are expected to remain constant. The price of rice and groundnuts is expected to continue to rise because these two commodities are considered to be of high value, especially in the Sudanese market. There was a general price decrease for cereals (maize, sorghum, millet) and cassava chips in most of the region and these are expected to drop further after the September harvests. A general rise in prices of livestock has been registered because of the increased demand from Southern Sudan and DRC, with the exception of Nebbi district where prices remained constant. The occurrence of diseases that caused animal deaths also contributed to price increases. Some markets along the Nile belt were not readily accessible due to the heavy rains in August and September.

Own production makes up the biggest percentage of the household food basket (50-60 percent) followed by, market purchase( 40 -50 percent) for food items that are not available from own stocks like meat, chicken, fish, maize flour, and sugar. There has been declining food access in the last five years due to commercialization of production and availability of ready markets in the neighbouring Sudan and DRC. The population is employing insurance strategies and these include casual labour, food theft and skipping meals.

The region was formerly a home for refugees from southern Sudan and DRC and had internal displacements. However, most of the refugees have been repatriated and refugee camps closed. There is a small number of remaining refugees being looked after by WFP. There is currently no evidence of new displacements. Border conflicts have remained unresolved and keep affecting production and hence food security. This is mainly inter-district, intra-district and with neighbouring countries of Sudan and DRC. Land disputes between crop and livestock farmers keep on increasing as the demand for settlement and farming rises.

Generally data on health and nutrition in this region is lacking which makes predictions very difficult. There has been an increase in the regional safe water access which is at 73 percent as more safe water sources are being constructed every year. Urban access is high but low capacity of the water sources means more time spent queuing for water. Inadequate health services also affect productivity of the population. Electricity that can be meaningfully used to attract investment and agro-processing is limited to Arua and Nebbi.

The hazards include pests, parasites, diseases, excessive rainfall and floods that trigger low productivity. Wild Animals also destroy crops across the region. The road net work is fair but the trunk roads from Arua- Koboko- Yumbe- Moyo- Adjumani-Gulu need to be bituminized. Though natural resources are available, the capacity to utilize them is constrained by limited access to electricity and limited human skills.

**Immediate causes of food insecurity**

- Pests, parasites and diseases incidence have increased food insecurity across the region as result of seasonal outbreaks. Crop diseases such as cassava brown streak, bacterial wilt and mealy bugs; Contagious Bovine Pleuro Pneumonia (CBPP) and Black quarter in Livestock are rampant.
- Excessive Rainfall, floods or hailstorms cause food insecurity due to submerging and rotting of crops, poor harvests, postharvest losses; death of livestock from drowning and diseases.

**Key underlying causes of food insecurity**

- Environmental degradation
- Climate variability.
- Conflicts with neighboring regions
- Uncontrolled population growth- Fast increasing population at average of 3.2 percent which has led to declining land per capita and situation is likely to get worse in the subsequent years.
- Liberalization policy on trade of food stuffs.
- Literacy levels are still low.

## East Central *[Bugiri, Busia, Namutumba, Iganga, Jinja, Kaliro, Kamuli, Butaleja, Mayuge and Pallisa districts]*

The population in this region was classified as ***generally food secure- phase 1B*** with no early warning indicated. Own production of households in the first season was generally above average. Food stocks in markets are good as a result prices are lower than last year at same time. Rains this year have been continuous without any major dry spell. Expected harvests this season are expected to be good. The region is generally self sufficient and the food security situation has greatly improved. The region is generally food secure but production levels for sorghum and millet, maize and beans reduced because of above normal rains received which resulted into rotting and blights. Cassava brown streak disease resulting in cassava root rot is on the rise. Nagana in cattle is on the increase because of tsetse fly multiplication associated with overgrown vegetation. Generally there were no major hazards that adversely affected food availability or access. Households are employing insurance strategies of coping and the most common is the exchange of casual labour for income to access food.

**Immediate causes of food insecurity**
The immediate hazard is possibility of flood recurrence in low lying areas e.g. Butaleja.

**Underlying causes of food insecurity**

- Heavier than normal rainfall
- Environmental degradation.
- Climate change

## South Western *[Runkungiri, Bushenyi, Kabale, Kanungu, Kisoro, Mbarara, Ntungamo, Isingiro, Ibanda and Kiruhura districts]*

The population in this region was classified as ***generally food secure- phase 1A*** with some former hot spots being classified as ***generally food secure-phase 1B*** with watch or alert level of warning indicated. Overall there has been improvement in food availability due to good rains up to mid June, and no major hazard has been experienced outside the normal seasonal changes that affect prices of food commodities. Price variation is not different from the long term average for this season to affect food access by households. The anticipated variation is usually a result of market changes, seasons and short term changes in produce and speculation. Prices of matooke and Maize have declined due to high production, whereas milk prices have increased in some places like Mbarara due to reduced production. Food is available for sale in markets.

Above normal rains have been forecasted for the region and could result in floods in Rubaya, Maziba and Bukinda sub counties of Kabale District. Other areas that need to be watched include Kiruhura, parts of Mbarara, Isingiro and Ntungamo for animal diseases that normally occur during rainy seasons, for instance foot rot, ephemeral fever and Liver flukes. Bushenyi district and its emerging districts will need to be watched for increased likelihood of hailstorms and wind storms which could negatively affect major crops like bananas.

Most districts in the region are expected to have enough food to last households up to the next harvest, however, dietary diversity is not guaranteed due to the anticipated shortage in cereals and pulses in the next 2- 3 months. Land degradation, land shortage, pests and diseases, poor human health and malnutrition incidences are still common and are limiting productivity and food utilization

**Immediate causes of food insecurity**

- Floods, mud slides leading to crop destruction in Rubaya, Maziba and Bukinda sub-counties of Kabale.
- Long dry spells especially in cattle corridor districts of Isingiro, Kiruhura and Mbarara.
- Animal diseases usually occur during rainy seasons, e.g foot rot, ephemeral fever and liver flukes
- Hailstorms and wind storms.

**Key underlying causes of food insecurity**

- Poor roads maintenance leading to poor access to markets.
- Environmental degradation by littering, deforestation, exploitation**.** Climate change makes climatic patterns less predictable.
- Youth delinquency, lack of empowerment in skills, high illiteracy rates. Low life expectancy leading to human resource crisis.
- Population increase, creating environmental pressure and land fragmentation and degradation.

## *Western* [*Kasese, Kabarole, Bundibugyo, Kyenjojo, Kyegegwa, Kibale, Hoima, Bulisa and Masindi]*

The population in this region was classified as ***generally food secure-Phase 1A*** with some areas in the region falling in ***Phase 1B- Moderate or borderline food insecure***. The region is generally food secure following favourable weather conditions with early onset of normal to above normal rains which are expected to continue up to December 2010. Generally there has been high food production due to normal and above normal and well distributed rains in most districts. Most of the food consumed in this region is own produced. Inter district trade is high with bananas coming from Kabarole and Kibale; grains from Hoima, beans from Kibale and Hoima. Only 8 percent of the population in the region depend on fishing as their main livelihood. No major hazards have been experienced except for some areas in Bundibugyo and Ntoroko districts in the sub counties of Bweramule, Butungamo, Kasitu, Ngamba which have experienced floods and mud slides. This hazard is recurrent and has increased the vulnerability of this population to diseases caused by poor hygiene, like diarrhoea, and cholera especially during the rainy seasons. In addition, there is a possibility of outbreak of Black quarter in livestock from December 2010 onwards. Since these populations rely on livestock and crop sales for their livelihoods, they will be more likely to sell some of their assets to cope with human disease, and might also lose some livestock due to animal diseases. Similarly in Hoima, Ntoroko, Bulisa districts (in sub counties of Kabwoya- Nkondo parish, Buseruka- Tonya parish, Kigorobya-Kapapi parish), populations have also been exposed to floods, and are susceptible to human and animal diseases. The fishing populations in these areas have been exposed to strong winds which destroy their fishing assets, and even cause loss of human lives.

Rains have been favorable so far; and according to meteorological prediction, the overall rainfall for the season should be normal to above normal until mid December. It will be important to monitor prevalence of human and animal diseases, rainfall amounts and distribution. Ninety percent of the population in the region is food secure and will continue to be until the next season (March 2011).

SW IPC group /September 2010

*Soil Erosion in Mwezi district– Western Uganda*

**Immediate causes of food insecurity**

- Pests and diseases

**Key underlying causes of food insecurity**

- Environmental degradation caused by soil erosion
- Climate variability and change which is worsening.
- Population increase
- Low adaptation capacities to climate change effects by communities

## *Central 1 [Kalangala, Mpigi, Wakiso, Masaka, Rakai, Lyantonde, Sembabule districts]*

The population in this region was classified as ***generally food secure- phase* 1A** however the sub-counties of Kakuto, Kyebe, Kinuuka and Kasagama sub counties bordering Tanzania in Rakai district were classified as ***generally food secure- phase 1B*** and will have to be watched for civil insecurity resulting from tensions arising from movement of livestock by pastoralists in search of pasture. The environmental degradation in these hot spots is a result of population movements between the two countries Uganda and Tanzania. Disease outbreaks and drought are also problems faced in these sub-counties.

Rainfall distribution during the season has been good with heavy rains being experienced over most places. Soil productivity is declining as fertility reduces due to soil degradation. The farmers in the region have diversified enterprises. The region is characterised by mixed farming system of livestock, cash crop and food crops. Production is stable with some areas registering increased food production from the last season. The region received a bumper harvest which has resulted in decline in prices but these have been observed to be rising again as a result of increased fuel costs.

Pest and disease incidence was low during the season. Second season 2009 crop performance was good for maize, millet, beans and pulses beefing up stocks for the first season of 2010. Perennial crops like matooke, coffee, tea and sugarcane got average to above average production. The region has experienced a general decline in the prices of food crops and stabilized prices for the livestock products. Combined serious outbreak of brucellosis in both animals and human beings in 2009 was reported together with heart water and Foot and Mouth disease, Banana and fusarium wilt disease and coffee wilt have been reported in Rakai and Lyantonde districts.

Some crop and livestock diseases like the lumpy skin disease in livestock and Banana bacterial wilt and cassava brown streak have been recorded in the region. Inadequate rains are a cause for concern in Masaka, Rakai, Sembabule, Lyantonde, Lwengo, Bukomansimbi, Kalungu and these will have to be monitored . If situation persists, these areas could deteriorate into Phase 2 situation.

The region has not registered any disease breakout. The likelihood of adverse effects of hazards is low except for occurrence of plant diseases and pests in crops such as cassava, coffee and bananas. There is unsustainable utilization of the environmental resources, a high level of depletion of natural resources and poor soil and water conservation measures. The population is generally employing insurance coping strategies. There is prevailing structural peace and no displacement has been registered in the region.

**Immediate causes of food insecurity**

- Crop and livestock diseases
- Prolonged dry spells
- Increased transportation costs due to high fuel prices.

**Key underlying causes of food insecurity**

- Inadequate extension services
- Lack of access to disease tolerant crop varieties
- Climate change- inadequate information about weather and trends
- Poor conditions of feeder road network
- Poor post harvest management- handling technologies storage structures are inadequate.
- Environmental degradation through charcoal burning, wet land reclamation, poor waste disposal and lack of soil and water conservation practices.

## *Central 2* *[Nakasongola, Kayunga, Luwero, Nakaseke, Kiboga, Mukono, Mubende and Mityana*

The population in this region was classified as ***generally food secure- phase 1B*** with no Early warning level indicated. Reliable and adequate rainfall amounts have been received this year resulting in substantial crop production. There has been a general reduction in food prices. An increase in general fuel prices led to increased costs of production and doing business causing higher prices for inputs and high transport costs for farm produce to the markets. Torrential rains made feeder and seasonal roads impassable leading to high transportation costs. No displacement was reported but high levels of poverty and destitution among vulnerable populations (female headed households and orphans) are still present though poverty levels are lowest in central region where households boost of a high household expenditure when compared to other regions in the country.

**Immediate causes of food insecurity**

- Crop and livestock pests and diseases as a result of high rainfall amounts and poor husbandry practices e.g. late planting, and no spraying of livestock crop and Livestock diseases
- Water borne diseases
- Increased malaria incidences
- Water logging and contamination of water sources
- Torrential rains and hailstorms

**Underlying causes of food insecurity**

- Lack of policies regarding food security
- Poor post harvest handling technologies and inadequate storage structures.
- Environmental degradation caused by rampant charcoal burning, poor waste disposal and poor soil conservation
- Rapid population growth worsens the situation.
- Poor road maintenance makes roads impassable especially during the rainy season.

## *Response Options by Region*

### Karamoja

**Short term interventions**

- Monitoring weather conditions by providing regular forecasts
- Improving security situation in the area
- Grading and maintenance of roads
- Continue disarmament of communities
- Construction and rehabilitation of bridges and improvement of drainage system
- Enforcement of laws and policies regarding livestock movements and quarantines
- Vaccination of livestock and provision of drugs for diseases like Brucellosis

**Long term interventions**

- Identification/branding of animals and registration of livestock
- Improvement of physical and social infrastructure (roads, markets, schools, hospitals, water reservoirs); creation and rehabilitation of community assets e.g. Construction and rehabilitation of bridges; grading and maintenance of roads; improving drainage system
- Establishment and strengthening of Community Early Warning Systems
- Increase numbers of agriculture extension staff
- Implementation of policies and enforcement of laws agricultural, environmental and human rights) for instance the enforcement of laws and policies regarding livestock movements and quarantines
- Good governance and peace building interventions
- Establish/strengthen community institutional structures (Peace committees)
- Initiation of alternative income generating activities
- Improve access to financial services
- Environmental conservation programmes through improved water shed management, water harvesting and affordable irrigation systems. Promotion of soil and water conservation practices and promoting water management technologies are a necessity.
- Improvements in school enrolment and attendance; improvements in the quality education (Education policies)
- Civil education (to track and take part in development activities). Empowerment of communities to determine their development agendas.
- Enhance local government's capacity through training of local government leaders and authorities.
- Promotion of agriculture and income generating activities e.g Village savings and loan schemes, provision of agricultural inputs
- Promotion of livelihood diversification: Initiation of income generating activities, restocking with agricultural inputs, improve access to micro finance services

### Acholi

**Short and long term interventions**

- Advocate for accurate weather forecast
- Discourage the growing of crops on low lying areas along river banks that are prone to floods.
- Emphasize early planting
- Advocate for increased funding towards HIV/AIDS intervention from government and donors
- Advocate for the speedy disarmament of the Karamojong cattle rustlers.
- Advocate for increased government support to EVIs in Acholi Region.
- Increased provision of pest resistant seeds and improved pest control measures
- Lobby for government involvement and scale up of micro financing to farmers.
- Advocate for speedy implementation of various development interventions by government in Acholi e.g. PRDP.
- Deliberate focus for the control of congress weed at all levels (National, District and local level).
- Environmental conservation
- Regulation of sale of food to improve household stocks
- Provision of extension services to farmers and training on agronomic practices
- Promotion of village credit services and savings mobilization.

### Teso

**Short term interventions**

- Introduction of flood resistant crops
- Awareness on disaster management
- Introduction of disease/pests resistant crop varieties especially cassava brown streak disease (CBSD).
- Vaccination of animals against communicable diseases like FMD, CBPP, rabies, and Newcastle disease
- Water quality testing and treatment
- Putting in place sanitation facilities

**Long term Interventions**

- Training of community health workers/volunteers
- Regular communication on forecasts
- Introduction of flood resistant shelters
- Formulation of appropriate Disaster Management policies and community Management Disaster Reduction strategies
- Construction of all season feeder roads

## *Response Options by Region*

### West Nile

**Short term interventions**

- Need for a deliberate survey for the whole region on dietary diversity, malnutrition levels and disease situation
- Government early warning measures should be strengthened
- Awareness creation on environmental conservation

**Long term Interventions**

- Enforcement of regulations on Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary measures and bye-laws or ordinances be strengthened.
- Capacity building in soil and water conservation measures and awareness on appropriate location of human settlements (Proper land use planning).

### Lango

- Reconstruction of infrastructure, especially roads
- Advocacy to improve sanitation conditions
- Improved livestock production management
- Strengthening of ongoing NAADS programs
- Strengthening of local governance structure (enforce the law)
- Promotion of value addition to agricultural produce
- Promotion of water harvesting
- Provision of early warning messages on climatic issues
- Increase of crop production to impact household stocks and supply to the market
- Improvement of post harvest handling and storage at household level and community levels
- Community sensitization on livestock health management

### South Western

- Establish Early warning system,
- Extension service providers available to disseminate information
- Promote the planting of resistant crop varieties and formation of task forces for e.g. BBW.
- Water provision for human use and for livestock
- Sensitizing and training on rangeland improvement
- Encouragement of crop-livestock integration
- By–laws to guide people living on hill sides

### Western

- Support youth employment and also youth engagement in farming
- Prioritize and address environmental issues in the region that are leading to depletion and degradation of natural resources.
- Encourage the development of group production and marketing.
- Make meteorological forecasts accessible to farmers
- Improve care and sanitary practices to avoid chronic sanitary diseases outbreaks
- Control malaria spread in particular through distribution of treated mosquito nets to women and children

### Central 1 and 2

- Research and breeding (crop diseases)
- Farmer training on control and prevention of diseases
- Tree planting
- Post harvest regulations/ framework
- Enactment and enforcement of by laws and ordinances
- Establishment of water for production facilities like valley tanks and rain water harvesting technologies
- Strengthen early warning systems

### East Central

- Soil and water conservation
- Breeding for cassava brown streak tolerance
- Tsetse fly control measures

### Elgon

**Short term interventions**

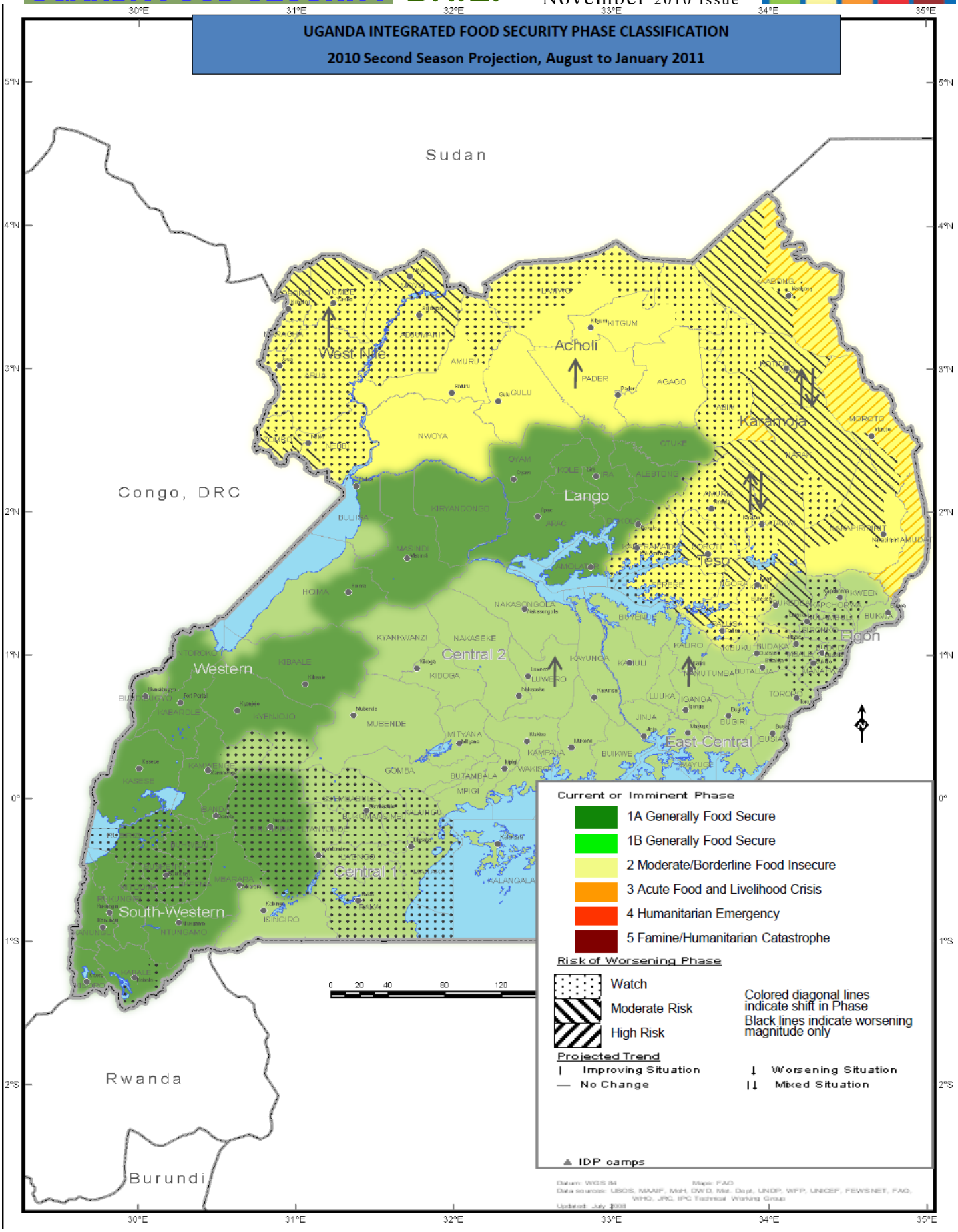
- Awareness raising on the need for preparedness for the La Nina.
- Sensitization of communities and the leaders on the need to reserve food.
- Provision of extension services for improved agricultural practices including (e.g. early maturing plants, hybrid plants and livestock etc)

**Long term Interventions**

- Population control/family planning programmes.
- Awareness creation on reproductive health policy on family planning.
- Diversify different income generating activities.
- Promote environmental conservation and awareness.
- Streamline and ensure compliance to UPE and USE by programmers to improve literacy.
- Promote education of girl child and increase school enrolment

# UGANDA FOOD SECURITY BRIEF

November 2010 Issue

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