Overview

In the Karamoja region of Uganda, the impact of ongoing average to below-average food and livestock production over the last three years due to climate related shocks / hazards and endemic pests/diseases, coupled with a currently fragile security situation are causing widespread food insecurity. In the current analysis (April – August 2023), which corresponds to the lean season of 2023, all the nine districts of Karamoja region are classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis), with 45 percent of the population analysed (582,000 people) facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above). An estimated 102,000 people (8% of the population analysed) are classified in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) while 480,000 people (37% of the population analysed) are classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) through to 45 percent in May 2023.

The deterioration in the food security situation is attributable to the continued localised insecurity that has led to loss of livestock and limited access to farmland, and low household purchasing power, among other factors. The situation is exacerbated by the effects of the below average production of 2022 main harvest. Households facing high levels of acute food insecurity currently have large food consumption gaps with a minimal capacity to meet their minimum food consumption requirements. Employment of coping strategies is being limited by the increasing levels of destitution. The current situation depicts a lack of appropriate and feasible actions being undertaken to address acute food insecurity and inadequate food consumption in the region.

It is anticipated that the food security situation will slightly improve in the projection period (September 2023 – February 2024), with the population in IPC Phase 3 or above reducing from 582,000 people (45%) to 342,000 (27%). About 48,000 people (4% of the population analysed) will be in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) and 293,000 people (27% of the population analysed) are classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis). Of all the nine districts analysed, Kaabong district has the highest share of the population in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) and 480,000 people (37% of the population analysed) are facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above). An estimated 102,000 people (8% of the population analysed) are classified in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) while 480,000 people (37% of the population analysed) are classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) through to 45 percent in May 2023.

The deteriorating food security situation is attributable to the continued localised insecurity that has led to loss of livestock and limited access to farmland, and low household purchasing power, among other factors. The situation is exacerbated by the effects of the below average production of 2022 main harvest. Households facing high levels of acute food insecurity currently have large food consumption gaps with a minimal capacity to meet their minimum food consumption requirements. Employment of coping strategies is being limited by the increasing levels of destitution. The current situation depicts a lack of appropriate and feasible actions being undertaken to address acute food insecurity and inadequate food consumption in the region.

Key Drivers

- **Climate shocks**: Erratic and poorly distributed rainfall with water logging, flash floods and hailstorms in some districts.
- **Low household purchasing power**: High market prices of essential food and non-food commodities, against low household income.
- **Seasonal diseases, pests and vectors**: Seasonal crop pests and diseases as well as endemic livestock vectors and diseases.
- **Localised conflict and insecurity**: Endless localised conflict and civil insecurity.
ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY CURRENT SITUATION MAP AND POPULATION TABLE IN KARAMOJA (APRIL – AUGUST 2023)

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
* Acceptable
** Medium
*** High

Population table for the current period: April – August 2023

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. Marginal inconsistencies that may arise in the overall percentages of totals and grand totals are attributable to rounding.
ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY CURRENT SITUATION OVERVIEW AND KEY DRIVERS IN KARAMOJA (APRIL – AUGUST 2023)

The Karamoja region in North-east Uganda has been chronically plagued by food insecurity and malnutrition, which are closely linked to weather related fluctuations, poor environmental conditions, high prevalence of diseases, weak infrastructure, high food prices, localised conflicts and civil insecurity, inadequate food access, poor dietary diversity, structural poverty, low-value livelihood options, poor hygiene and sanitation, and morbidity. The region has the highest food insecurity and malnutrition levels in the country. It is one of Uganda’s poorest regions, with income poverty at 66 percent (having increased from 61% in 2017) and food poverty at 75 percent (having increased from 70% in 2017), a dependency ratio of 124, and with 65 percent of the households being female headed (UBOS: UNHS 2019/20). Additionally, about 70 percent of the household heads and 76 percent of the women and caregivers have no formal schooling background (FSNA, 2023). Insecurity, especially from armed cattle rustlers, remains the most important driver to food insecurity in recent years, in addition to the recurrent climate-related shocks, pests/vectors and diseases, and unprecedented price increases.

In the current IPC analysis, all nine districts in the Karamoja region have been classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis), with about 45 percent of the population facing high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above), of whom eight percent of the population analysed (102,000 people) are classified in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) and 37 percent of the population analysed (480,000 people) are classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis). In terms of severity, the districts with the highest percentage in IPC Phase 3 or above are Kotido (60%), Kaabong (50%), Moroto (50%), Nabilatuk (50%) and Napak (50%). The other four districts equally have high populations facing high acute food insecurity, with the lowest severity registered in Amudat and Karenga districts, each having 30 percent of the population analysed in IPC Phase 3 or above. Ten percent of the population in each of Kaabong, Kotido, Moroto, Nabilatuk and Napak districts has been classified in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency), with all the other four districts each having 5% of the population classified in IPC Phase 4. In terms of magnitude, the districts with the highest populations in IPC Phase 3 or above are Kotido (132,000), Napak (83,000), Abim (73,000) and Kaabong (67,000). Compared to same season of analysis 2022, the food security situation has remained bad in most of the districts, but also worsened in Abim, Kotido, Nabilatuk and Nakapiripirit districts. On the other hand, Karenga district registered a 5% reduction in the population facing high levels of acute food insecurity compared to 2022.

Food Consumption and Dietary Diversity: According to the recent Food Security and Nutrition Assessment (FSNA), 18 percent of the households (an increase from the 8% in 2022) in the Karamoja region had a “Poor” Food Consumption Score (FCS), 47 percent (an increase from 39% in 2022) had “Moderate” FCS and 35 percent (a reduction from 53% in 2022) were classified with acceptable food consumption. The highest proportion of households eating less than the required foods needed to live a productive and healthy life i.e. households with a poor FCS, are found in Kaabong (32%), Nabilatuk (30%) and Moroto (28%) districts. Similarly, households with an insufficient/inadequate FCS (Poor + Borderline FCS) are mostly found in Kaabong (81%), Karenga (78%), Nabilatuk (73%) and Napak (64%). Although households in Karenga district generally have enough food stocks, these food stocks only comprise of the main staples which are maize and sorghum, with limited access to other food items available in the markets. This limits diversity thus putting most of the households in the category of Borderline or Poor FCS. Further analysis of the dietary diversity indicates that 12 percent of the households in the region consumed 0-2 food groups in the 24 hours prior to the assessment, 41 percent consumed 3-4 food groups while 47 percent were able to consume 5 or more food groups. The most affected households that consumed four or less food groups were found in Kaabong (69%), Moroto (69%), Kotido (63%), Napak (57%) and Nabilatuk (52%). Only 32 percent of the households are able to consume Vitamin A-rich foods for 7 days a week while 22 percent are not consuming these at all. On the other hand, only 20 percent of the households consume Protein-rich food for 7 days a week with 18 percent not consuming these at all, yet 69 percent of the households do not consume iron-rich foods, according to the recent FSNA.

Household Hunger: With reference to the Household Hunger Scale (HHS), results from the recent FSNA show that 63 percent of the households (66% in 2022) across the region suffered some form of hunger (moderate or severe) in the last 30 days prior to the assessment (IPC Phase 3 or above), with the most affected districts being Moroto (80%), Kotido (78%), Kaabong (77%), Nabilatuk (72%) and Napak (68%). Only Karenga with 28 percent of the households with moderate or severe hunger history seems to be having lesser food access problems compared to the other districts in the region. Four percent of the households in Kotido are classified in IPC Phase 5 (Catastrophe) according to the HHS, with two percent of households in Moroto and Napak districts also being in a similar phase.
Food Coping Strategies: An increasing number of households are employing coping mechanisms at various magnitude to cope with the deteriorating food security situation. Overall, only 17 percent of the households (19% in 2022) are not employing food coping strategies with those coping mainly reducing number of meals eaten in a day, relying on less preferred foods and limiting portion size at meal time. Many of the households employing critical food coping strategies that put them in IPC Phase 3 or above, according to the Reduced Coping Strategies Index (rCSI), are found in Kotido (50%), Kaabong (46%), Moroto (36%) and Napak (25%) districts.

Livelihood coping strategies: In reference to the Livelihood Coping Strategies Index (LCSI), 48 percent of the households (38% in 2022) in the region are not employing livelihood coping strategies to reduce food consumption gaps and try to meet the minimum food consumption requirements, with 18 percent (36% in 2022) and 11 percent (12% in 2022), respectively employing crisis and emergency livelihood coping strategies. A reduction in the proportion of households adopting crisis and emergency strategies is not ideally an indicator of an improved food security situation in the region but rather increasing levels of destitution with more households having lesser assets to dispose of in order to purchase food. Many of the households employing Crisis and Emergency livelihood coping strategies are found in Amudat (48%), Nabilatuk (42%), Kotido (32%) and Nakapiripirit (30%).

Acute Malnutrition: The Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) prevalence in the Karamoja region stands at 11.3%, an improvement from the 13.1% recorded in 2022, but a deterioration from the 9.7% recorded in 2020. The most affected districts are Kaabong and Kotido where the GAM prevalence is 18% and 13.8% respectively. Underweight among children under five years, mostly as a result of inadequacy in food quantity and quality, is 30% (32% in 2022 and 29% in 2021), with Kotido (37%), Moroto (35%), Kaabong (34%) and Karenga (34%) districts having the highest proportion of children under the age of five that are underweight.

Key Drivers

Seasonal agricultural production performance

The region experienced unfavourable weather conditions characterized by late onset, limited and erratic rainfall with poor distribution patterns during 2022 cropping season leading to poor crop yields and reduced harvests. Information provided by District Production Offices shows that, across the region, seasonal rains started in early April 2022, as opposed to the usual rainfall calendar of mid to late March which meant farmers had to plant later than usual. The April rains were erratic and poorly distributed which affected germination of crops in a number of sub-counties. Rains started again briefly in May that aided replanting and germination, but these were also followed by a sharp prolonged dry spell through June that caused massive wilting of crops especially maize, beans, groundnuts, vegetables and short-term sorghum. Except in some districts that received second rains starting July and August, the districts of Kaabong, Kotido and Nabilatuk registered total crop failure in many sub-counties as they did not have any second rains that could have aided growth of the remaining crops in the gardens.

The dry spells of 2022, led to reduced pasture and water for livestock, affecting production in this sector as well. A long dry spell between November 2022 and March 2023 exacerbated the problem, consequently causing high reduction in livestock production across all livestock-dependent households. The scattered rains received in late March and April 2023 in some
areas offered temporary relief to the livestock sector, but the spatial distribution of this rainfall was generally uneven across the region. There has been reduced access to milk and other livestock products at household level, yet those households that depend on sale of livestock to purchase food can no longer access the much-needed income. Migration of livestock to greener areas to try and access pasture and water was limited by the civil insecurity causing severe emaciation and in some instances death of livestock due to lack of pasture and water.

**Conflict and civil insecurity**

Insecurity and organised cattle raids / thefts have intensified in the last two years since 2021 leading to massive loss of livestock and isolated incidents of death among the population. The fragility of the situation did not only limit households from accessing their farmland for fear of being killed but also continues to deny them the ability to access income for food purchase and access to safe grazing areas for their herds. There has been increased limit to free movement among the local population and traders from other districts with unprecedented negative impact on socio-economic activities. The reported sources of the conflict are as diverse as the reported effects. Whereas the central government attributes the civil insecurity to resurgence of organised rustlers / livestock thieves as a result of reduced number of security personnel and unemployment among the youth (Karacunas), the local administration attributes the same to inter-tribal / inert-ethnic struggle for resources among the Jie, Dodoth, Matheniko and Bokora ethnic groups which has also drawn in the Pokot of Uganda / Kenya, Turkana of Kenya and Toposa of Sudan.

**Endemic diseases, pests and vectors:**

The region continues to grapple with high malaria incidences in majority of the districts, except in Amudat and Moroto where the prevalence seems slower. During the rainy periods, there are increased incidences of water-borne diseases like diarrhoea and dysentery in areas with unimproved water sources. Although the relationship between disease in adults and food availability/access has not been well statistically established, it has been reported by districts that households with sick people spend more time and other resources on treating the sick with lesser time being spent on food production activities.

The region is affected by a range of crop pests and diseases that include maize streak, bacterial wilt, sorghum smut, tomato blight, bean fly, aphids, variegated grasshoppers, mildew, bean foliage beetles, red spider mites, and the Fall Army Worm. The unstable and varying weather conditions create favourable conditions for multiplication of major pests. On the other hand, livestock production was affected by a number of vectors and diseases, that included Anaplasmosis, Heart water, CBPP, CCP, PPR, East Coast Fever, Mange, Foot and Mouth Disease, Helminthiosis, Trypanosomiasis, New Castle Disease and Bacillary White Diarrhoea. There was low access to vaccination and treatment due to limited availability of extension workers and low coverage of veterinary supply chain in the region. The prevailing diseases coupled with poor pasture conditions lead to poor livestock body conditions leading to poor production and productivity.

**Wildlife invasion:**

Wildlife-human conflict has been reported in the districts of Abim (Abim, Alerek, Atunga and Chamkok sub-counties), Kotido (Lokomebu, Kotido and Kacheri sub counties), Kaabong and Karenga. Wildlife, particularly elephants and buffalos, that escape from Kidepo National Park destroy crops and this has been going with no solution in the past and also envisaged in the near future. The main crops destroyed by wildlife last year were maize, sorghum, beans and sunflower. Whereas Karenga district reported that about 80% of maize and sorghum in areas near the park was destroyed, Kaabong district reported an estimated 736 acres of crop that were destroyed by the wild animals. Data on the acreage destroyed in Abim and Kotido districts was not readily available at the time of the analysis.

**Market price and trends:**

The increased demand for food from the markets against the low supply from within and imports from neighbouring regions has led to sharp increases in prices of staples. Recent district and WFP analyses / reports have indicated an unusual increase in prices of maize, sorghum and beans across the region. The price of sorghum increased by 6% between March and April 2023, when aggregated across markets, yet the increase in the 2019-2023 period was 26%. Although the price of maize increased by 1% between March and April 2023, it had actually overall increased by 14% between April 2022 and April 2023. The highest increase in sorghum prices was recorded in Moroto, Nabilatuk, Nakapiripirit and Napak markets whereas
the highest increase in maize prices was recorded in Abim, Amudat, Nabilatuk and Nakapiripirit markets. Due to the poor body condition, prices of livestock have decreased implying households earn less income from sale of livestock to cater for food and non-food expenses. With no increase in income as most households depend on low-value income generating activities, the purchasing power of households has dwindled forcing market dependent households to employ regressive coping strategies like reducing number of meals, reducing portion size at meal time and selling off productive assets.

Limited income opportunities:
Due to reduced land opening as a result of unfavourable climate and insecurity/conflicts, there has been reduced opportunity for provision of agricultural wage labour, yet by-laws in some districts now limit the burning and sale of charcoal which has limited household income. The consequential loss in income, coupled with food and commodity price increases has reduced household purchasing power.

Current state of food security dimensions

Food availability is a minor limiting factor in all districts. The below-normal rainfall performance in most districts during the cropping season of 2022 greatly impacted food production and hence food availability for most households. In the 2022 cropping season, three-quarters of households in the Karamoja region (75%) cultivated sorghum, with the highest proportion in Nabilatuk (99%) and the lowest in Amudat (1%). About two-thirds of the households (68%) cultivated maize, with Amudat registering the highest proportion (99%) and Nabilatuk the lowest (32%). Almost half of the households (49%) cultivated beans, with the highest proportion in Kaabong (73%) and the lowest in Amudat (26%). The cultivation of groundnuts and millet was most prominent amongst the households in Abim district. Across the region, civil insecurity was reported by 42 percent of the households as the most common constraint to production, and was more pronounced in Abim, Karenga and Kotido districts at 71 percent, 70 percent and 67 percent, respectively. On the other hand, three out of every ten households had challenges of parasites or diseases, and these were more prominent in Amudat and Kaabong districts (54% and 52%, respectively), whereas theft was much of a problem in Napak district (24%). These factors greatly affected food availability at the household level. Although there was little food available from own production, traders availed food in the markets through internal purchase and transfer and also imports from other regions. Most food in the markets in Karamoja comes from neighbouring regions of Sebei, Bugisu, Teso, Acholi and Lango.

Slightly more than one-third of the households in Karamoja region (37%) reported having some sorghum or maize in stock in March 2023. The highest proportion of households with food stock was in Karenga district (84%), followed by Abim with 41 percent, and the lowest proportions were in Nakapiripirit and Kotido districts (18% and 24%, respectively). The proportion of households that have food stocks has declined by almost half from 66 percent in 2020 to 37% in 2023. In relation to the available quantity, the proportion of households with food stock that was estimated to last for at least two months decreased from 50 percent in 2020 to 26 percent in 2023. This scenario depicts decreasing food production and overall crop productivity in the region.

Slightly more than one-third of households in the region (36%) own livestock, with the highest proportion in Amudat district (85%) and the lowest in Moroto district (14%). Only 1 out of every 10 households in the region own high livestock holding (>5 TLU), majority from Amudat district (53%). On the other hand, thirteen percent own negligible holding (<0.5 TLU) and are mainly from Abim and Karenga districts (31% and 23%, respectively). There has been a drastic reduction in the TLU in Karamoja as a whole compared to five years ago, due to cattle rustling and diseases.
Food access is a major limiting factor to food security in all districts. Across the region, prices of staples including sorghum, maize and beans gradually increased between January and April 2023 yet those of livestock gradually decreased, as indicated in recent district and WFP analyses / reports. The periodic impact of insecurity that has spread almost across the whole region is having a negative impact on some trade routes causing a further increase in prices.

The main source of income for most households (33%) in the region is sale of food crops, notably maize, followed by sale of alcoholic beverages / petty brewing (11%), provision of agricultural casual labour (11%) and provision of non-agricultural casual labour (10%). The sale of crops was greatly affected by the below average harvest of 2022 yet prices of livestock have significantly reduced as already indicated above. Currently, poor and very poor households are reportedly engaged in various low-value income-generating activities such as selling firewood, charcoal, building poles, thatching grass, and sand, retailing of local brew (Kwete), and stone quarrying, while a few others are engaged in petty trading. However, the increasing civil insecurity in the region is adversely affecting these income sources. The delayed and unevenly distributed rains of 2023 have reduced opportunities for casual agricultural labour, which restricted poor households from earning incomes needed for food and other agricultural inputs that would aid in early planting with the resumption of rains in April 2023.

Because the incomes have not kept pace with the price increases, household purchasing power has reduced forcing many households into employing regressive coping strategies and poor and very poor households have been pushed into emergency levels of food insecurity as they are increasingly unable to meet their minimum food consumption needs. The FSNA reports a relatively high number of households with members engaged in begging within the region at 7%, with most of these found in Kotido (15%), Nabilatuk (11%) and Kaabong (8%).

Food utilization is a major limiting factor in Amudat, Kotido and Moroto districts and a minor limiting factor in the other remaining districts. Most households in the region consume cereals and legumes. There is low dietary diversity due to lack of financial resources to purchase other food items and a historical preference for cereals, particularly sorghum. Only 32 percent of the households are able to consume Vitamin A-rich foods for 7 days a week while 22 percent are not consuming these at all. On the other hand, only 20 percent of the households consume Protein-rich foods for 7 days a week with 18 percent not consuming these at all, yet 69 percent of the households do not consume iron-rich foods. Additionally, there are inadequate storage facilities for most households in the region, which leads to post-harvest losses, thus reducing the food stocks at household level.

Although the availability of improved sources of water for drinking stands at 92 percent (highest in Nabilatuk at 100%) and that for water for other purposes at 91% (highest in Kotido and Nabilatuk at 99%), the per capita water use and water treatment practice remain relatively low in all districts. Across the region, boreholes are available to 79 percent of the households and tap / standpipe water is available to nine percent of the households while eight percent draw water from unsafe sources, especially surface water. However, findings from the recent FSNA indicate that households tend to collect water that is not sufficient for use by all household members. Only 21 percent of the households are able to meet the WHO requirement of 20 litres per person per day (a decrease from the 30% in 2021, although a slight increase to the 20% in 2022). Many households in the region are not treating water before use, particularly drinking, with only 11 percent doing so, yet only seven percent treat using an appropriate water treatment method. The worst performing districts are Napak and Amudat where only, three percent and one percent respectively, are treating drinking water.

Access to improved sanitation and toilet facilities is low across the region. Open bush and air defecation stand at 58 percent with only 11 percent able to use a pit latrine with slab, 22 percent are using latrines without slab while three percent use open pits. Worst performing districts are Amudat, Napak, Nakapiripirit and Moroto where open defecation stands at 91 percent, 78 percent, 69 percent and 65 percent respectively. The low per capita water use, coupled with limited access to improved sanitation and toilet facilities, poses serious hygiene challenges which affects food utilization.

Eighty nine percent of the households in the region use firewood as the main source of cooking fuel with another 10 percent using charcoal. The only advantage is that majority of the households (52%) use open cooking places (outdoors) reducing the chances of respiratory infections / problems arising from the use of unclean cooking fuel. However, the continued use of fuel wood has a gradual but increasing negative impact on the environment which increases chances of drought in the region.
Humanitarian Food Assistance

Generally, the Karamoja region benefits from humanitarian assistance provided by the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), United Nation Children’s Fund (UNICEF), Save the Children and the Office of the Prime Minister. Available data from WFP indicates that between January and April 2023, about 209,600 children benefited from the School Feeding Programme and 25,500 children benefited from the Supplementary Feeding Programme.

The Office of the Prime Minister occasionally provides relief food to the hungry population in the region. Available data shows that recently the OPM distributed food in Kotido (380,000kgs of maize flour and 190,000kgs of beans), Moroto (180,000kgs of maize flour and 90,000kgs of beans), Nabilatuk (60,000kgs of maize flour and 40,000kgs of beans) and Napak (30,000kgs of maize flour and 15,000kgs) districts.

However, the available HFA data was short in terms of details on coverage and calorie contribution and thus could not be evaluated for inclusion in the IPC analysis.

Comparison to previous analyses

The food secure population in the Karamoja region (IPC Phase 1) has decreased from 32 percent in June 2020 to 21 percent in May 2023, while the Stressed population (IPC Phase 2) has declined from 41 percent in June 2020 to 34 percent in May 2023. The proportion of the population in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) has increased from 22 percent in June 2020 to 37 percent in May 2023 while the population in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) has steadily increased from five percent in June 2020 to eight percent in May 2023. The current analysis shows that the population in IPC Phase 3 or above that needs urgent action to protect livelihoods and save lives by reducing food consumption gaps increased from 313,000 people in June 2020 to 582,000 people in May 2023.

The food secure population in the Karamoja region (IPC Phase 1) has decreased from 32 percent in June 2020 to 21 percent in May 2023, while the Stressed population (IPC Phase 2) has declined from 41 percent in June 2020 to 34 percent in May 2023. The proportion of the population in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) has increased from 22 percent in June 2020 to 37 percent in May 2023 while the population in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) has steadily increased from five percent in June 2020 to eight percent in May 2023. The current analysis shows that the population in IPC Phase 3 or above that needs urgent action to protect livelihoods and save lives by reducing food consumption gaps increased from 313,000 people in June 2020 to 582,000 people in May 2023.

Figure 3: Food insecure population in Karamoja, 2020 - 2023. Source: IPC
ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY PROJECTED SITUATION MAP AND POPULATION TABLE IN KARAMOJA (SEPTEMBER 2023 – FEBRUARY 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

IDPs/other settlements classification
Area receives significant humanitarian food assistance (accounted for in Phase classification)

Areas with inadequate evidence
Areas not analysed

Urban settlement classification
Acceptable
Medium
High
Scarce evidence due to limited or no humanitarian access

Evidence Level
* Acceptable
** Medium
*** High

Map Symbols

Population table for the projected period: September 2023 – February 2024

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<th>District</th>
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<th>Phase 1</th>
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<th>Phase 3</th>
<th>Phase 4</th>
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</table>

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. Marginal inconsistencies that may arise in the overall percentages of totals and grand totals are attributable to rounding.
During the projection period (September 2023 – February 2024), the food security situation is expected to slightly improve in light of favourable agricultural and livestock production prospects for 2023 in the Karamoja region. Of the nine districts in the region, five districts are anticipated to be in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) and four districts are anticipated to be in IPC Phase 2 (Stressed) during the projection period. No district is projected to improve to IPC Phase 1 (Minimal). Abim, Amudat, Karamoja and Nakapiripirit districts are anticipated to improve from IPC Phase 3 to IPC Phase 2, whereas Kaabong, Kotido, Moroto, Nabilatuk and Napak districts will remain in IPC Phase 3 as they have been classified in the current period. In terms of severity, the districts expected to have the highest percentage in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) or worse are Kotido (40%), Kaabong (35%), Moroto (35%) and Nabilatuk (35%). Whereas Kotido district is anticipated to have 10% of the population in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) through the projection period, Kaabong, Moroto, Nabilatuk and Napak are each projected to have 5% of the population in this phase during the projection period. In terms of magnitude, the districts projected to have the highest populations in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) or worse are Kotido (88,000), Napak (50,000), Kaabong (47,000) and Moroto (44,000). Overall, the number of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity and requiring food assistance and livelihood improvement interventions in the Karamoja region is expected to reduce from 582,000, which is 45% of the population analysed, to 342,000, which is 27% of the population analysed. Four percent of the population (48,000 people) is expected to be in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) in the projection period, a decrease from the eight percent (102,000 people) in the current period, while 23 percent of the analysed population (293,000 people) is expected to be in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) in the projection period, a reduction from the 37 percent (480,000 people) in the current period.

Compared to current analysis period, food consumption and incomes from own production and other livelihood opportunities will tend to improve in the projection period, however, they are expected to start declining during or after December 2023 owing to the projected low harvest and seasonal price changes. On the other hand, dietary diversity may not improve in the projection period due to food preferences and limited knowledge among mothers and caregivers. Likewise, sanitation and hygiene may not likely improve.

The projected situation during the period of September 2023 to February 2024, is based on the following assumptions:

**Crop production and harvest for 2023:** Crop production is projected to increase compared to 2022 for households that planted early in the first season due to the good rains received in April and May 2023 and increased mechanization of farm lands under Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) that has increased land acreage under crop production. However, households that planted late will likely get below average harvest. It is anticipated the green harvest will start in late July through August but the main harvest season will likely start in September 2023. Wild foods like balanites, wild berries, including leafy vegetables (dodo and sukumawiki, akeo, akiliton), fruits, and nuts are expected to be available at typical levels from July to October 2023. Very poor households are expected to hunt for wild game like antelopes, quilla birds in Lopeei, Lokopo and Apeitolim etc through the projection period given expectation for below average production.

**Rainfall:** UNMA forecast for MAM 2023 indicated near normal to above normal rainfall in Karamoja region. In April 2023, the rains were near normal reaching peak levels in late April and a moderate relaxation thereafter. Based on precipitation to date and available ensemble forecasts, cumulative rainfall in the region will be normal with a tendency to below normal. The UNMA JJA (June-July-August) and the ICPAC June-September forecast indicate a normal with a tendency to below normal rainfall in the region during that period. It is also forecasted that there will be less than usual conditions in some districts particularly, Moroto, Napak, Nabilatuk, Kotido and Kaabong.

**Conflict / Insecurity:** The current sporadic insecurity and tribal clashes between the Karamojong, Turkana and Toposa over resources that has led to escalated cattle raids / thefts, which not only reduces livestock ownership but also limits the movement of livestock to traditional grazing areas and trade, is likely to reduce. Current heavy deployment by the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) and the intended increase in the presence of other sister security agencies will most likely curtail the raids. This expected stability will lead to the restoration of livelihoods although households that lost livestock will have to generate income through other livelihood options as there is no planned livestock restocking. The on-going land conflicts in some areas that are not a result of militarised instability will, however, most likely continue curtailing any further land opening.

Income from typical livelihood strategies: The prices of the extracted-obtained natural products (firewood, charcoal, sand, bricks, etc) are likely to increase during the projection period improving the incomes of households that derive
incomes from them, provided there are no restrictive district-level by-laws. Households engaged in local brew making are likely to increase owing to the increased urge by women to engage in this activity. The involvement of youths in stone quarrying, mining and sand selling may most likely slow down if the insecurity and violence continue. Income from sale of agricultural commodities will improve after harvests of own production in September 2023, and off-farm casual labour opportunities and incomes are expected to improve when the security situation improves.

**Livestock production:** The anticipated normal rains will improve rangeland conditions and water available for livestock. Livestock migration to traditional grazing areas that has been restricted in some areas due to tribal clashes among the Karamojong, Turkana and Toposa over resources and livestock thefts, which have escalated in the recent past compared to past years, will improve as the security situation improves. The improved rangeland, access to harvested lands, water availability and free movement of livestock are expected to improve the body condition and milk availability in the projection period. Livestock production will, however, likely start declining in November 2023 as the dry season starts.

**Livestock vectors and diseases:** The outbreak of FMD is likely to continue in most of the livestock trading districts. Returning livestock that were migrated in search for water and pasture will carry along disease causing organisms that will increase infestation levels. CBPP, CCPP, FMD, PPR and tick-borne diseases like Anaplasmosis, Babesiosis and East Cost Fever are expected to continue affecting livestock, even with the current and expected vaccination drives. This continued disease infestation will affect income generation for households who depend on selling livestock and livestock products to access food.

**Prices:** In line with historical trends, prices of staples will start declining in September 2023 as household stocks from own production and harvest increase which decreases market dependency. They will, however, likely start increasing in January 2024 as households run out of stock due to the anticipated below average harvest. On the other hand, livestock prices will remain stable at least through 20223 but may start declining in February 2024 due to increased market supply as households seek alternative income to cater for food and non-food expenses. The prices of fuel, that have been declining since August 2022 will continue to decline even through the projection period but may not return to the pre-pandemic and pre-Russia-Ukraine war levels.

**Humanitarian Assistance:** Humanitarian Food Assistance (HFA) by WFP, UNICEF and other partners in form of School Feeding Programme, Blanket Supplementary Feeding, Take Home food assistance and Cash for food will likely continue through the projection period. The targeted food assistance by the Office of the Prime Minister will also continue as and when resources allow.
COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Of the 9 districts analyzed, 6 are of concern in terms of both Acute Malnutrition (AMN) and Acute Food Insecurity (AFI) namely Amudat, Kaabong, Kotido, Moroto, Nabilatuk and Nakapiripirit.

The severity of acute malnutrition and acute food insecurity is similar and equally high in the six districts of Amudat, Kaabong, Kotido, Moroto, Nabilatuk and Nakapiripirit i.e. the districts are in Phase 3 according to both IPC AFI and IPC AMN classifications (Kaabong in IPC AMN Phase 4), indicating Crisis levels of AFI and Serious levels of AMN (Critical level for Kaabong), respectively.

The acute malnutrition situation in Amudat district, which was classified in Phase 2 in 2020, has deteriorated, and the district is classified in Phase 3 in 2023. The GAM prevalence increased from 9% in 2020 to 12.9% in 2023, with the highest GAM of 14.3% recorded in 2022. Poor food consumption among children 6-23 months and poor water and sanitation conditions are likely contributing to high levels of acute malnutrition in this district. The acute food insecurity in the district doubled between 2020 and 2023 with the population facing high levels of acute food insecurity (Phase 3+) increasing from 15 percent in 2020 to 30 percent in 2023. The deterioration in acute food security is largely attributable to drought conditions, unprecedented price shocks and endemic crop and livestock pests/vectors and diseases.

Kaabong district has the highest GAM prevalence in the region at 18%. The district, which was classified in IPC AMN Phase 2 in 2020 is now classified in Phase 4 in 2023, with the GAM prevalence increasing from 7.8% in 2020 to 18.6% in 2021 to 19.8% in 2022 after which it has slightly dropped to 18% in 2023. Inadequate food consumption is a major challenge in this district, with the proportion of children (6-23months) able to attain a Minimum Acceptable Diet (MAD) decreasing 7 times from 14 percent in 2020 to two percent in 2023. Malaria / fever and diarrhoea cases have remained consistently high and above 10 percent which not only puts a strenuous disease burden on the children but also stresses the general health service provision in the district. The other factors contributing to the high acute malnutrition in Kaabong are low per capita water use (only 13% of the households use 20 litres per person per day) and poor availability of / access to improved sanitation services. Inadequate response to the most urgent needs of the affected population over time is also a major concern in the district. The food security situation in the district is equally bad and worsening with the district classified in IPC AFI Phase 3 through the years 2020 to 2023. The population facing high levels of acute food insecurity has increased from 35 percent in 2020 to 40 percent in 2021 to 50 percent in 2022 and remained at 50 percent in 2023. Endless insecurity / localised conflict and drought conditions are leading to the worsening food security situation.

Kotido district has the highest GAM prevalence in the region at 18%. The district, which was classified in IPC AMN Phase 2 in 2020 is now classified in Phase 4 in 2023, with the GAM prevalence increasing from 7.8% in 2020 to 18.6% in 2021 to 19.8% in 2022 after which it has slightly dropped to 18% in 2023. Inadequate food consumption is a major challenge in this district, with the proportion of children (6-23months) able to attain a Minimum Acceptable Diet (MAD) decreasing 7 times from 14 percent in 2020 to two percent in 2023. Malaria / fever and diarrhoea cases have remained consistently high and above 10 percent which not only puts a strenuous disease burden on the children but also stresses the general health service provision in the district. The other factors contributing to the high acute malnutrition in Kaabong are low per capita water use (only 13% of the households use 20 litres per person per day) and poor availability of / access to improved sanitation services. Inadequate response to the most urgent needs of the affected population over time is also a major concern in the district. The food security situation in the district is equally bad and worsening with the district classified in IPC AFI Phase 3 through the years 2020 to 2023. The population facing high levels of acute food insecurity has increased from 35 percent in 2020 to 40 percent in 2021 to 50 percent in 2022 and remained at 50 percent in 2023. Endless insecurity / localised conflict and drought conditions are leading to the worsening food security situation.

In Kotido district, the acute malnutrition situation has been continually deteriorating with the IPC AMN classification changing from Phase 2 in 2020 to Phase 3 in 2023. The GAM prevalence has increased 1.5 times from 9.2% in 2020 to 13.8% in 2023, reaching the highest rate in 2022 at 14%. Inadequacy in food consumption in terms of quality and quantity...
among children aged 6-23 months (with the MAD only increasing from 4.9% in 2020 to 5.7% in 2023), high morbidity (particularly, malaria and diarrhoea), insufficient access to enough water, poor sanitation facilities and poor hand washing practices are contributing to the high acute malnutrition levels in the district. Similarly, the acute food security situation has continually deteriorated since 2020, albeit the district being classified in IPC AFI Phase 3 through the years. The population facing high levels of acute food insecurity (Phase 3+) has doubled having increased from 30 percent in 2020 to 45 percent in 2021 to 50 percent in 2022 and to 60 percent in 2023. Endless insecurity / localised conflict and drought conditions are leading to the worsening food security situation.

The acute malnutrition situation in Moroto district was of much concern since 2020 but tremendously improved in 2023, the IPC classification improving from Phase 4 in 2020 to Phase 3 in 2023. The GAM prevalence decreased from 16.9% in 2020 to 14.2% in 2021 and sharply increased to 22% in 2022 but has again decreased to 10.8% in 2023. It is not clear what the longer-term acute malnutrition situation in the district can be after the radical increases and decreases that have occurred between 2020 and 2023. Generally, poor food consumption, late and sometimes non-introduction of nutritious semisolid and soft foods to children 6-8 months, and poor water and sanitation access leading to unhygienic conditions that escalate diarrhoea cases, are the main factors contributing to acute malnutrition in the district. The acute food security situation in the district has continually worsened although the IPC AFI classification has remained Phase 3 through the years 2020 to 2023. The population facing high levels of acute food insecurity increased from 30 percent in 2020 to 35 percent in 2021 to 50 percent in 2022 and remained at 50 percent in 2023. Drought conditions, unprecedented price shocks, localised conflict and endemic livestock vectors / diseases are likely causing the food security situation to deteriorate in the district.

The acute malnutrition situation in Nabilatuk district has gradually deteriorated from IPC AMN phase 2 in 2020 to Phase 3 in 2023, with the GAM prevalence increasing from 7.1% in 2020 to 10.1% in 2023. Results from the recent assessment show a slight improvement (1%) in the situation from a GAM of 11.7% in 2022 to 10.1% in 2023. Inadequate food consumption with only two percent of children 6-23 months able to attain a MAD and high levels of food insecurity are the main factors contributing to acute malnutrition in the district. The food security situation has not improved since 2020 with the population facing high levels of acute food insecurity increasing from 45 percent in 2020 to 50 percent in 2023. Endless conflict and cattle raids, drought conditions, reduced access to fertile agricultural land, low household purchasing power against high food prices and endemic livestock vectors / diseases are likely contributing to the high levels of acute food insecurity in the district.

Generally, and looking at the regional situation, there is clear evidence that acute food insecurity and inadequate food consumption have not been addressed in all districts. Low adequate water and poor sanitation facilities coupled with high disease burden and anaemia show that acute malnutrition is likely to continue following the same trends and many more other children getting malnourished if no appropriate, relevant and feasible actions are taken to find and treat those already malnourished and prevent further worsening of the situation.
COMPARISON OF ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY AND MALNUTRITION CLASSIFICATIONS

Acute Food Insecurity: April - August 2023

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

Acute Food Insecurity: September 2023 - February 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

Acute Malnutrition: February - April 2023

Key for the Map
IPC Acute Malnutrition Phase Classification

1. Acceptable
2. Alert
3. Serious
4. Critical
5. Extremely critical

Acute Malnutrition: May - September 2023

Key for the Map
IPC Acute Malnutrition Phase Classification

1. Acceptable
2. Alert
3. Serious
4. Critical
5. Extremely critical

Acute Malnutrition: October 2023 - January 2024

Key for the Map
IPC Acute Malnutrition Phase Classification

1. Acceptable
2. Alert
3. Serious
4. Critical
5. Extremely critical

Evidence Level

55% of the population)

Areas not analysed
Evidence Level

Areas with inadequate evidence
based on MUAC
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

Response Priorities

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. As a matter of urgency, activate the lean season response planning platform and meetings, that should involve all stakeholders. Additionally, activate partnerships for lean season planning, lobbying, coordinating and resource mobilization.

3. Improve security of people and livestock to open up livelihood opportunities and trade, but at the same time reducing negative speculation among the communities.

4. Invest in post-harvest management to reduce losses and support households to keep food stocks through the lean season.

5. Enhance agricultural extension services with farmer training on modern agronomic practices, including climate smart agriculture technologies, to reduce impact of water logging, flash floods, pest infestation and dry spells.

6. Put in place a comprehensive livestock disease and vector monitoring and management plan to control diseases and vectors.

7. It is clear from recent analyses there are eminent structural challenges leading to recurrent food insecurity in the region. It would, therefore, be prudent to conduct an IPC 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 the Karamoja region.

Situation Monitoring and Update

- Organise 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.

- Update the projection in October 2023 as the crop harvest picks up and after the rainfall performance for the projection period has been realised.

Risk factors to monitor

- Security and conflict situation, including displacement, and its impact on food availability and production
- Crop pests and diseases
- Livestock vectors and diseases - FMD, CBPP, CPP, PPR, Tick-born infections
- Human diseases - Malaria, diarrhoea, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C
- Staple food prices which will most likely reduce as harvest starts but rise in November 2023
- Post-harvest handling
- Nutrition outcomes, particularly GAM and underweight
PROCESS AND METHODOLOGY

An IPC analysis workshop was held from 15 – 23 May, 2023, and was preceded by and IPC level 1 training (15 - 17 May). This was followed by the IPC Analysis workshop (17 – 23 May 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 then based on convergence of evidence of current or projected most likely conditions, including effects of humanitarian assistance to arrive at a ‘big picture’ analysis of the overall food security situation. The key participating agencies included government line ministries, CARE, WFP, FAO, FEWSNET and Uganda Red Cross Society.

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

Evidence sources
Karamoja DLGs (2023), District food security update reports
UNMA (2023), Weather performance and forecast for January to May 2022
ICPAC (2023), June-September weather forecast
UBOS (2023), Mid-year district population projections
WFP (2023), Karamoja FSNA 2023

Limitations of the analysis
The survey used solid data from the FSNA survey, but since it was the only source of information for outcome markers, triangulation of evidence was constrained.

In Uganda, the timing of the analysis is critical for informing strategic decisions; nevertheless, the timing of the analysis was impacted by logistical issues and delays in data availability.

The TWG should sustain the analysis team to ensure the quality of the analysis products because participant turnover in the IPC analysis affects the capacity established and quality of the 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, as a result of sudden changes or shocks that negatively impact on the determinants of food insecurity.

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This analysis has been conducted under the patronage of the IPC Technical Working Group of Uganda. It has benefited from the technical support of IPC GSU and financial support of the United Nations World Food Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations.

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, FEWSNET, Global Food Security Cluster, Global Nutrition Cluster, IGAD, Oxfam, PROGRESAN-SICA, SADC, Save the Children, UNICEF and WFP.

IPC Analysis Partners: