Acute Food Insecurity in Karamoja & Teso Sub-Regions and Refugee Hosting Districts

In Karamoja and Teso sub-regions and in the analysed refugee hosting districts, consecutive poor and below-average seasonal food harvests and livestock production, coupled with sharp increases in prices of food and essential non-food commodities, caused widespread food insecurity. Seasonal crop pests and diseases as well as endemic livestock vectors and diseases (and conflict in Karamoja and Teso) also contributed.

In total, between June and August 2022, around 1.8 million people (24% of the population analysed) in these areas experienced high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above), including over 250,000 people in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). In Teso, levels were particularly high, with 30% of the population (625,000 people) in IPC Phase 3 or above, and all districts classified in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis), with Bukedea and Koboko districts facing the highest levels of acute food insecurity. At the time of the assessment in July 2022, around 83% of the households were employing crisis and emergency livelihood coping strategies. In Karamoja, 25% of the population (315,000 people) were in IPC Phase 3 or above, with five of the nine districts of the sub-region classified in IPC 3 and the rest in IPC Phase 2 (Stressed). In the refugee hosting districts, 21% of the population (857,000 people) were in IPC Phase 3 or above, with none of the 12 districts classified in IPC Phase 3 and the rest in IPC Phase 2. At the time of the analysis, a sizeable proportion of households in IPC Phase 3 or above were facing widening food consumption gaps and employing atypical crisis and emergency coping strategies.

During the projection period (September 2022 – January 2023), the overall situation is expected to improve. The total population facing high acute food insecurity is expected to reduce to 1.1 million (15% of the analysed population). In Karamoja, levels of acute food insecurity are expected to remain the same, with some districts likely having some reductions (Napak and Nabilatuk). In Teso, the number of people in IPC Phase 3 or above will likely halve, with three districts improving to IPC Phase 2. In the refugee hosting districts, the number of people in Phase 3 or above will also likely halve, and some districts improving to IPC Phase 2.

Acute Malnutrition in Refugee Settlements and Hosting Districts

In the 13 refugee settlements and 12 hosting districts analysed, around 104,440 children were and will likely be acutely malnourished between February 2022 and January 2023, including around 3,340 children in refugee settlements exclusively breastfed. In refugee settlements, the number of people in IPC Phase 3 or above was 12,850 women pregnant or lactating women and people were acutely malnourished and in need of treatment.

In the refugee settlements, one district - Adjumani - was classified in IPC Phase 3 (Serious), six districts - Bidibidi, Imvepi, Palabek, Palorinya, Rhino Camp and Kiryandongo - were classified in IPC Phase 2 (Alert), while the rest were classified in IPC Phase 1 (Acceptable) between February and July 2022. During the projection period (August 2022 - January 2023), Adjumani is expected to improve to IPC Phase 2. In the refugee hosting districts, all of them were classified in IPC Phase 1 in both periods.

The major factors contributing to acute malnutrition in the refugee settlements and hosting districts are inadequate food consumption, both in terms of quality and quantity; food scarcity and insecurity; high malaria and Acute Respiratory Infection incidences and prevalence; inadequate Maternal, Infant, Young Child and Adolescent Nutrition (MIYCAN) practices / interventions; inadequate water access and the generally high levels of anaemia among children and pregnant mothers.

Acute Malnutrition Situation

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