

A COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT OF WFP NUSAF2

KARAMOJA REGION

(Moroto, Napak, Kotido & Kaabong)



Analysis Conducted by:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

WFP Uganda country office conducted a follow-up assessment in November this year to the one done in 2013 in order to monitor outcomes on an annual basis. Data for the two assessments was generally collected during the same periods of the year (October/November). WFP supports the implementation of NUSAF2 programme in Karamoja and the main focus is on public works to enhance food accessibility for the food insecure households (with able-bodied members) experiencing recurrent shocks with conditional transfers of food or cash in exchange for participation in building productive community assets and trainings.

1. Strategic Results Framework and Programme indicators

- The average household asset score (HAS) increased from 3.1 in 2013 to 3.7 in 2014 representing 19% increase.
- Ninety five percent (95%) of the people of who collect food assistance on behalf of the household are adults of which 84% are female.
- About 7% of the NUSAF2 beneficiaries incurred additional costs for transporting their food ration home.
- On average beneficiaries take 4 hours at the distribution ground before they receive their food ration.
- Among 74% of NUSAF2 households decision on what to do with the ration received from WFP is taken by women while among 24% it is done together by men and women.
- Approximately 67% of the NUSAF 2 beneficiaries knew how people were selected into the program, 70% knew their entitlement and 30% knew where or how to contact WFP or partners in case they had a complaint. Therefore there is need for continued sensitization of the beneficiaries to enhance their full participation into the NUSAF2 projects.
- Community assets (CAS) are equally low with communities having a maximum of 6 (of 17) enumerated assets; the most frequently cited asset required was storage facilities (79%).

2. Food security status of NUSAF2 beneficiaries receiving food in Karamoja

WFP NUSAF2 beneficiaries received 3 normal cycles of conditional food assistance in September/December 2013; March/April/May 2014; and a contingency distribution in September 2014. Results from the data collected in October, 2014 indicate that;

Food consumption

- Fifty one percent (51%) of the NUSAF2 have acceptable food consumption scores. This is mainly due to the WFP food assistance interventions and ongoing harvest.
- Thus 49% of the NUSAF2 households are food insecure as a result of poor crop harvests and limited income generating activities. Moroto and Napak depict worse off food consumption patterns than Kaabong and Kotido.

Food Availability and accessibility

- In reference to the crop production calendar and status of food stocks 2013/14, there were limited food stocks at household level beginning March to August 2014. In normal seasons, food stocks from own production are expected beginning July which was not the case this year. Thus food accessibility at the household level was limited.
- Food was relatively available largely thru markets and food assistance. 58% of the households received cereals (staples) from food assistance and 22% accessed through own production. 66% and 70% of the households accessed roots/tubers and pulses through market purchase (with cash) respectively. Own production was a major source for eggs (70%), nuts (55%) and orange vegetables (47%).
- All NUSAF2 households in Kotido had at least one income earner, followed by Kaabong (78%), Moroto (56%) and then Napak (30%). The main income generating activities mentioned are sale of firewood/charcoal, food assistance and brewing.
- Based on the coping strategies employed in October 2014 (the time expected to be of less coping), food accessibility is still a challenge mainly due to delayed harvest and limited livelihood activities.

3. Status of markets and prices

- Twenty six percent (26%) and fifty one percent (51%) of the NUSAF2 households have access to markets within a distance of less than 5Km and between 5-10Km respectively. The main commodities purchased from the market are sorghum, maize grain, beans and maize flour.
- Price trends for sorghum (staple food) indicate that prices are usually high during the peak of the lean season i.e. between March and August.
- During the lean season (March-August), most of the food sold on markets is brought by traders from neighbouring districts. Therefore, this calls for additional market analysis on supply chain and integration between markets in Karamoja and neighbouring districts (source of food supplies).

4. Recommendations

Food Assistance:

- Since 87% of the NUSAF2 households have access to agricultural land, food assistance is most appropriate in the lean season between March and August. Depending on rainfall variability (extended dry spells), additional assistance may be provided in September/October.
- Priority for any NUSAF2 related interventions ought to be given to Napak and Moroto as they have relatively poor food consumption. Furthermore these 2 districts also report far less number of income earners per family when compared to Kotido and Kaabong.
- There is still need for more support towards income generating activities like public works through food or cash for work to enhance offseason food accessibility.

Transfer Modality:

- Karamoja being a food deficit producing area, in-kind food assistance takes precedence.
- In case the accessible markets can support additional demand then, a combination of cash transfers and in-kind food assistance is feasible
- Priority for any planned cash transfer related intervention be given to 26% of NUSAF2 beneficiaries who have access to markets within 5Km distance and then 51% accessing markets between 5-10Km be considered on a case by case basis.
- For the remaining 23% of NUSAF2 beneficiaries (>10km from functional market) it might be more appropriate to only plan for in-kind food assistance.

Food availability and Market functionality:

- There is need to carry out additional analysis on household crop production to determine household food stocks/food availability from own production and how long this will last. This will help in timely programming for food assistance, duration (for how long) and resource requirements.
- A detailed market analysis is necessary to support the implementation of cash transfers. This will help to understand the supply chain dynamics, food availability on markets, purchase and sales condition, market functionality as well as traders' capacity to respond to increased demand.

BACKGROUND

A robust monitoring and evaluation system that provides timely and accurate information is fundamental to effective programming of food assistance. Such a system not only plays a critical role in facilitating programmatic decisions that improve the effectiveness of WFP Uganda operations but also serves the demand from governments and donors to give clear evidence of functional processes and impact among the targeted populations. Hence, World Food Programme (WFP) Uganda secured funds with the overall objective to strengthen outcome measurement and reporting at country level in 2014 and as such improve the efficiency of the M & E system.

Using the secured funds, Open Data Kit (ODK) technology which is a tablet-based technology has been employed by the Uganda Country Office to pilot the implementation of a Food Security and Outcome Monitoring system. Using the ODK tablet-based technology, Uganda country office carried a follow-up assessment on selected food security outcome indicators among NUSAF2 beneficiaries.

Capacity Building – For this exercise, capacity building was a clear objective for WFP. Capacity building has been emphasized as an objective in the UNDAF process, of which WFP is an integral member and the present exercise was thus an opportunity to focus on this. Therefore rather than only concentrating trainings at Kampala level, WFP conducted trainings at the field in Moroto on 29th and 30th of October and was attended by 40 participants. All participants got a thorough grounding on food security indicators, data collection tools and basic analysis. Participants were also taught how to use mobile tablet technology.

OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSESSMENT

The key objective of the assessment was a follow-up to the NUSAF2 assessment of 2013 in order to monitor outcomes on an annual basis.

Note: For detailed information related to the status of markets and prices with regard to cash assistance and baseline information with respect to cash related initiatives in Karamoja and / or refugees settlements, please refer to related WFP assessments, also released in November 2014.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

Geographic: The study consisted of 410 NUSAF2-WFP supported households interviewed in Kaabong, Kotido, Moroto and Napak.

Time-Frame: The activity took place from September 29th (when training started) with the bulk of data collection occurring from the 15-29th of October.

STUDY DESIGN AND SAMPLING PROCEDURES

The assessment employed a multi stage cluster sampling methodology involving purposive sampling.

DATA COLLECTION AND MANAGEMENT

Tablet based (Open data Kit) technology was employed for quantitative and qualitative data collection. Responses were entered into the tablets and replicated to a central server. Data analysis for quantitative data was conducted in SPSS while for qualitative analysis, excel was used to code responses, derive themes and make assessment of key points.

NUSAF PROGRAMME – KARAMOJA

Karamoja region continues to lag behind in socio-economic indicators. It has the highest prevalence of acute malnutrition, some of the poorest food security indicators and high levels of poverty. The limited livelihood opportunities have exacerbated the problem with a resultant chronic food and nutrition insecurity.

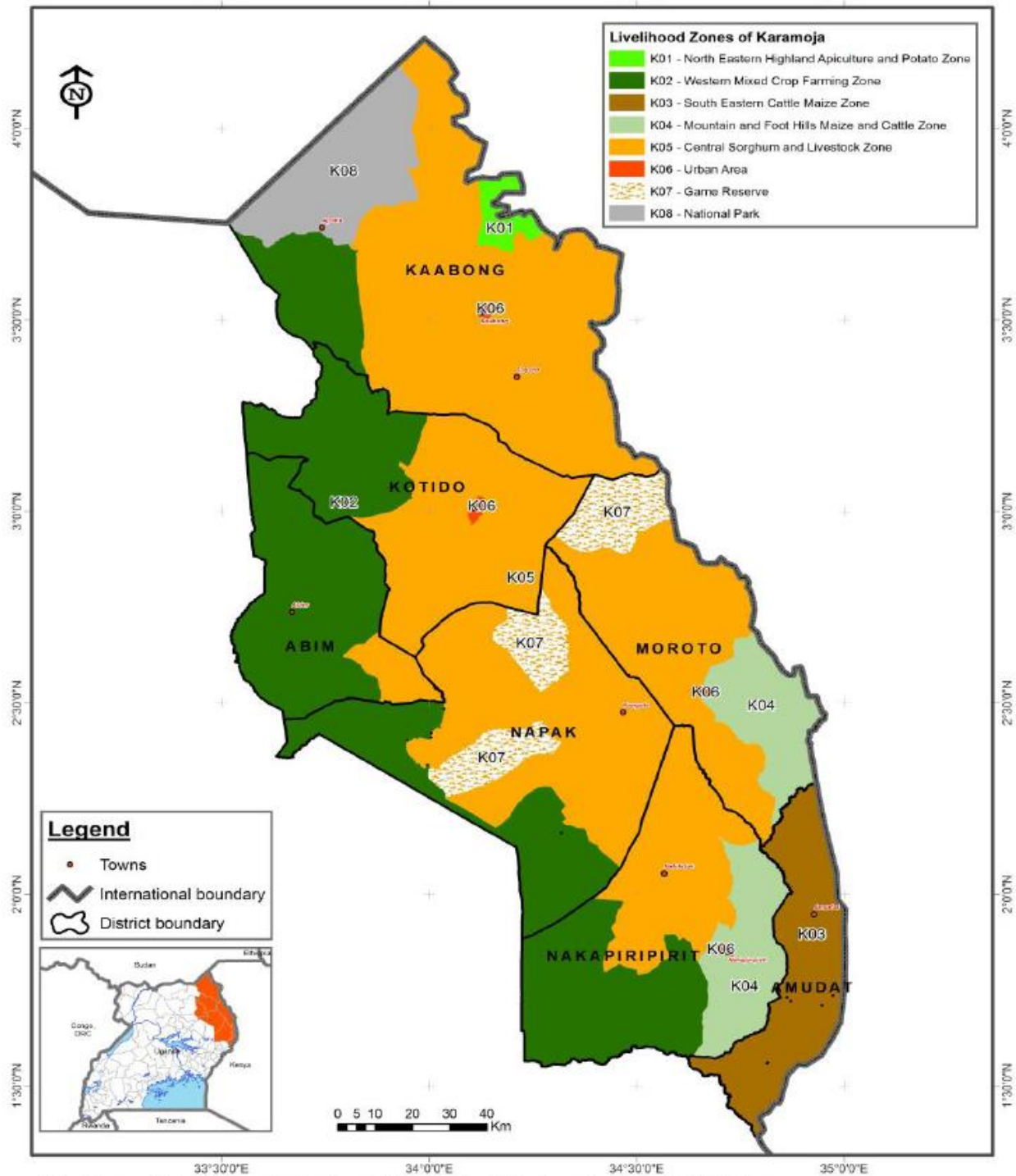
The Northern Uganda Social Action Fund two (NUSAF2) is a programme of the government of Uganda, the purpose of which is to address development differentials between the greater north and the rest of the country through targeting poor households across the region. The aim of the programme is to improve access to income earning opportunities and basic social services.

WFP supports implementation of the NUSAF2 programme in Karamoja. Overall, it is envisaged that NUSAF2 programme in Karamoja will facilitate acquisition of improved and sustainable sources of income to address the issue of chronic poverty that afflicts the sub region. In addition, the programme is anticipated to provide safety nets for the participating households against resorting to negative coping strategies especially during seasons of scarcity.

The focus of WFP-NUSAF2 programme is public works that establish an important link between social protection, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction by targeting food insecure households experiencing recurrent shocks with conditional transfers of food or cash in exchange for participation in building productive community assets , tools, agricultural inputs and training to enhance production and household incomes. The assessment in Karamoja aims at assessing WFP NUSAF2 beneficiaries in order provide information on programme indicators as well as baseline information for cash programmes in the sub region.

Due to limited resources, NUSAF2 programme operates in only four out of the seven districts in Karamoja region i.e. Kaabong, Kotido, Moroto and Napak. During the 2013/14 cycle, WFP NUSAF2 programme was operational in twenty eight (28) sub counties in the four districts. However, the targeted number of sub counties for WFP NUSAF2 in the four districts for the 2014/2015 cycle is 17 and out of these the survey was carried out in nine (9). And according to the latest livelihood zoning, majority of the beneficiaries fall under zone five (central sorghum and livestock zone) as indicated in figure 1.

Figure 1: Karamoja Region – Livelihood zones



Source: FAO/FEWSNET (Uganda-Karamoja region Livelihood Zones & Descriptions Nov. 2013)

HOUSEHOLD DEMOGRAPHY

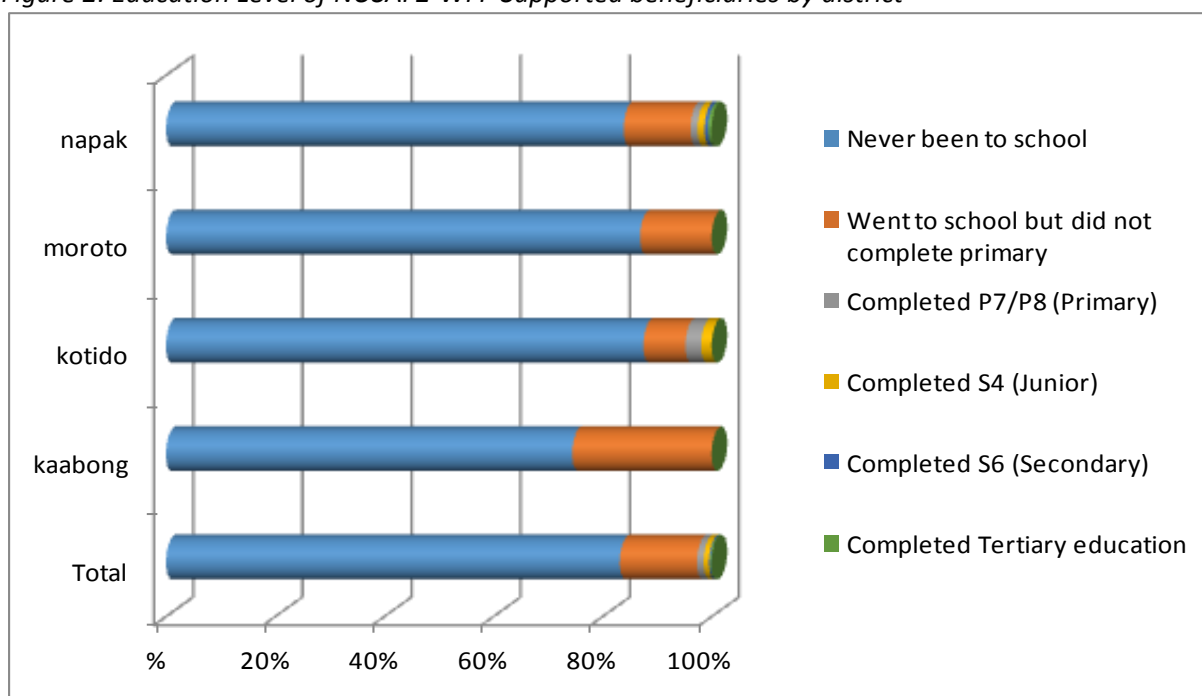
The sample consisted of 410 NUSAF2-WFP supported households in Karamoja across four districts. Ninety households were randomly selected from Kaabong, 104 from Kotido, 61 from Moroto and 155 from Napak.

The average household size was seven members per household which is higher than the national figure of five (UBOS 2010)¹. Kotido has the highest average household size of eight, while Moroto had the lowest figure of six. Majority of the household members are below the age of 60 years and within this cohort, children below the age of 18 account for 64%. This signifies a high dependence ratio and the resultant negative effects on household food security and economic development.

EDUCATION

NUSAF2 –WFP supported households were asked about the level of education of the head of the household. The data indicates that 83% have never been to school with only 14% reporting having gone to school but not having completed primary.

Figure 2: Education Level of NUSAF2-WFP Supported beneficiaries by district



HOUSEHOLD ASSETS

Fourteen assets were used in calculation of the household assets score (HAS) for the case of NUSAF2 beneficiaries and these include; radio, axe, hoe, panga/machete, plough, water tank, seed store, poultry, goats/sheep/pigs, bulls, donkey, cows and oxen. HAS is a composite score

¹ Uganda National Household Survey 2009/2010 (UBOS)

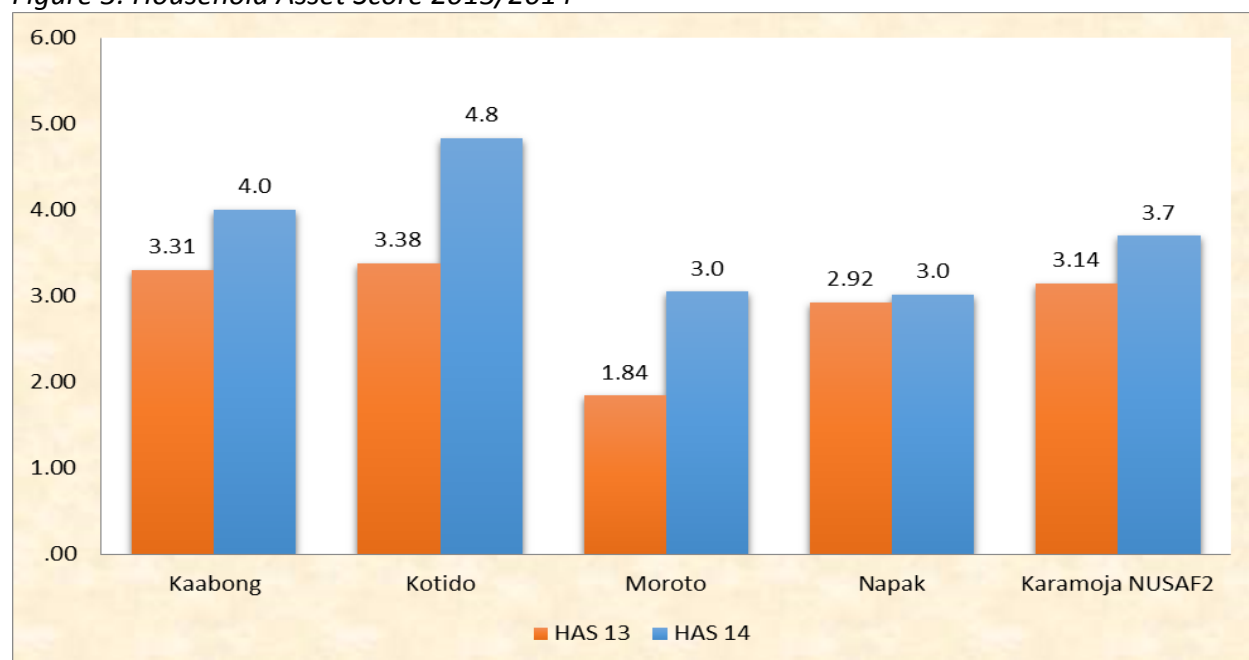
set to capture increase (created or restored) in household disaster mitigation assets over a baseline. Therefore we are using data on assets collected in 2013 as our baseline.

A comparison of the HAS between 2013 and 2014 was done at district and regional level looking at the fourteen assets mentioned in table 1. Results indicate an improvement in the average household asset score at regional level from 3.1 in 2013 to 3.7 in 2014. Similarly at district level there was an improvement in the average HAS among NUSAF2 beneficiaries as can be seen in figure 3.

Table 1: Ownership of Various Assets (Percentage of NUSAF2 Households)

	Household Asset	%age 2013	%age 2014	%age Change
1	Hoe	85.4%	94%	8.6%
2	Panga/Machete	47.4%	62%	14.6%
3	Axe	51.4%	57%	5.6%
4	Food Store	53.0%	57%	4.0%
5	Seed Store	43.5%	45%	1.5%
6	Poultry	29.7%	41%	11.3%
7	Goat/Sheep/Pig	21.7%	37%	15.3%
8	Cow	14.2%	24%	9.8%
9	Oxen	16.3%	17%	0.7%
10	Plough	16.5%	17%	0.5%
11	Water tank	6.4%	14%	7.6%
12	Bull	6.4%	12%	5.6%
13	Radio	7.8%	7%	-0.8%
14	Donkey	2.8%	3%	0.2%

Figure 3: Household Asset Score 2013/2014

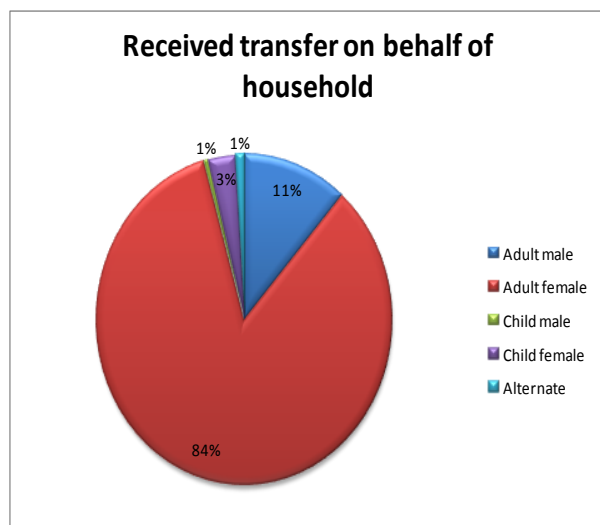


Source: WFP data

PARTICIPATION IN WFP ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

All the 410 households interviewed had received food during the last distribution by the time of data collection. Cash transfers were made during the March 2014 distributions. For distributions made in April/May and September all was in-kind food assistance.

Figure 4: Participation in WFP food assistance



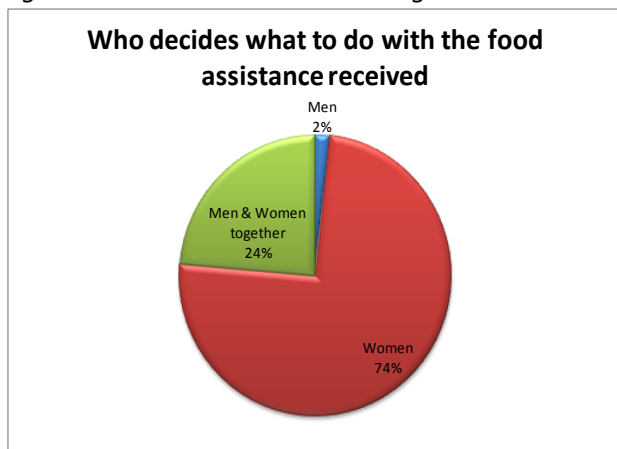
Among the people who collected the food on behalf of the household, 95% were adults of which 84% were female and 11% male. Only 4% were children. Apart from NUSAF2 assistance, 17% of the households reported to be benefiting from other WFP food assistance programs which include School Meals, Maternal Child Health and Nutrition, Community Based or Health Centre Based Supplementary Feeding and / or Therapeutic Feeding.

Time taken at distribution points: On average, NUSAF2 beneficiaries take an average of 4 hours at the distribution ground before they receive their food rations.

About 93% of the NUSAF2 beneficiaries reported that they did not incur any additional cost to transport their food home. This could be due to the fact that distribution points are accessible and near their households. For the beneficiaries who incurred transport costs, 1% paid cash; an average of 1700 UGX while 6% paid part of their ration approximately 3.6kg on average.

However, there is need for continued sensitization about WFP food assistance intervention because only 67% of the NUSAF 2 beneficiaries knew how people were selected into the program to receive food, 70% knew their entitlement and only 30% knew where or how to contact WFP or partners in case they had a complaint.

Figure 5: Gender & Decision making



The survey results indicate that women take the lead on deciding what to do with the food assistance received from WFP at 74%. This is followed by collective decision making by men and women together at 24% while men alone take 2%. On average, NUSAF2 households send 2 members at distribution points to collect food assistance. Results indicate that 98% of the NUSAF2 beneficiaries did not encounter any safety problems as a result of accessing food assistance.

FOOD AVAILABILITY

FOOD PRODUCTION

Majority of the NUSAF2 beneficiaries are in zone five (Central sorghum and livestock zone). The main food crops grown include sorghum, maize, millet, groundnuts, sunflower, cowpeas and beans while livestock ownership includes cattle especially among better-off group and goats and sheep among both poor and better-off group. Normally majority of the people subsist through own crops such as sorghum and maize, supplemented with market purchases of staples from April to June, livestock products (milk and meat), seasonal wild foods and food assistance. However due to intermittent rains and prolonged dry spells experienced in the recent years, the region suffers from poor crop harvests resulting into prolonged leans seasons.

Normally, food stocks from own production support the household from the harvest season till February when they start declining. However, this year by March 2014 stocks were already exhausted and majority of the households were highly dependent on markets and food assistance. According to the WFP/UNICEF June 2014 report², 87% of the households in Karamoja had access to agricultural land. However, 60% of the farmers in Karamoja reported drought and lowered rainfall as the single biggest factor affecting agriculture. Therefore, there are high chances of reduced crop production again this year as a result of drought and lowered rainfall. There is need to understand the level of household stocks from own production and market capacity in order to determine food availability in the area.

Table 2: Crop production Calendar 2013 and status of food stocks 2013/2014

Year	Parameter	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Normal	season	Dry		wet			Dry		wet			Dry	
2013		Dry		wet			Dry		Wet			Dry	
Normal	Agric. Activities			Planting		Crop development			Harvesting				
2013				Planting		Limited crop development			Harvesting				
Normal	food stocks	Good		Declining				Increasing					
2014		Declining		Exhausted				No food stocks					

Source: WFP, FAO, MAAIF, UBOS (Karamoja Food Security Assessment, March-2014)

WFP FOOD ASSISTANCE

Three normal cycles of food distribution were planned for in 2013/14 and started in July/ August for the first cycle. A rapid food security assessment was conducted in August 2013 and projected the lean season to start in February/March 2014 and therefore recommended food assistance at the beginning of the year. Based on this recommendation, WFP responded early in March, April and May with food and cash transfers to mitigate the adverse impacts of limited food availability

² WFP/UNICEF Food Security and Nutrition Assessment, May 2014

and accessibility on household food security. Due to the prolonged dry spell during the planting season this year, contingency food distribution was done in September 2014.

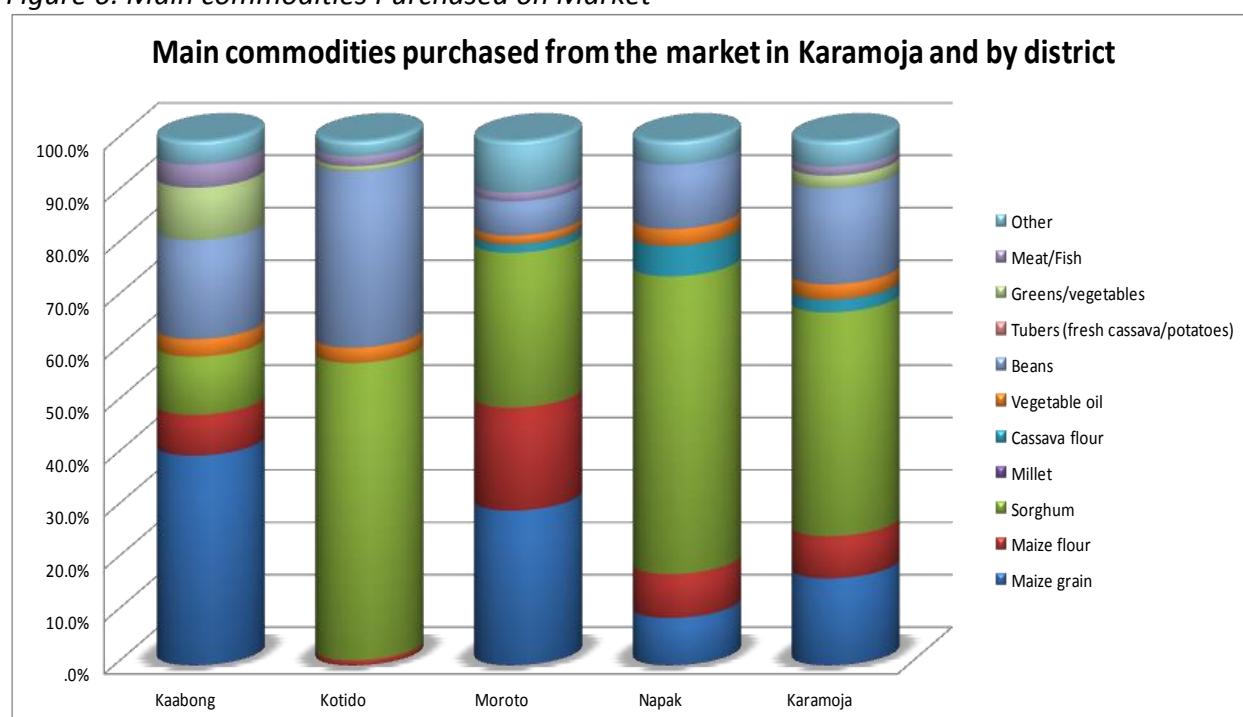
MARKETS

Market purchases

When asked about the main commodities purchased from the market, 43% of the NUSAF2 beneficiaries in Karamoja reported sorghum followed by beans (18%), maize grain (17%) and maize flour (8%). However, when we disaggregate the results by district the results vary by district as can be seen in Figure 6.

For the second main commodities purchased from the market, 42% of the NUSAF2 beneficiaries in Karamoja reported beans, 13% sorghum and 10% vegetable oil. From these results, there is evidence of participation by NUSAF2 beneficiaries in market activities and a variety of commodities being purchased although in most cases limited by low purchasing power.

Figure 6: Main commodities Purchased on Market



Market access

A quarter of the NUSAF2 beneficiaries have access to functional markets within a distance of less than 5 kilometers while 51% access markets between 5-10 kilometres. Therefore the remaining 24% have access to markets in distances as far as 10 kilometers and above.

Distance is an important factor in determining cash transfer programs. When results are disaggregated by district, Napak seems to be more appropriate for cash transfers because 45 %

of the NUSAF2 beneficiaries can access markets within 5KM compared to 21% in Kotido, 13% in Moroto and 6% in Kaabong. In case the eligibility to benefit from cash transfer extends to all households within 10 KM to a functional market then, 77% of NUSAF2 beneficiaries in Karamoja would qualify. At district level, 73% would qualify in Kaabong, 75% in Kotido, 53% in Moroto and 89% in Napak.

On average NUSAF 2 beneficiaries in Karamoja go to market twice a week and a spent an average of 13,400/= in the last seven days. In Kotido, NUSAF2 beneficiaries visit the market once a week on average below the regional Karamoja average of 2. This is partly explained by the average distance to the market and the purchasing behavior because in Kotido the main commodities purchased are sorghum and beans which can stay longer compared to maize flour and greens/vegetables that are highly purchased in other districts.

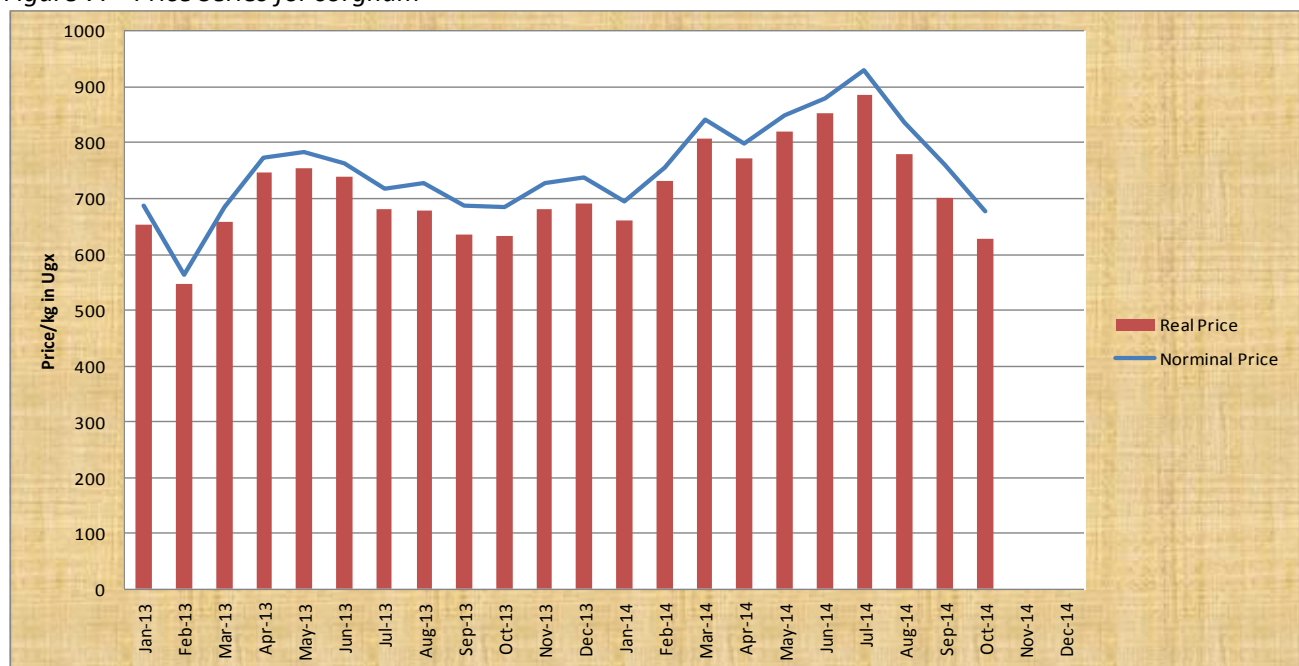
Table 3: Distance from nearest functional market

	less than 5km	Between 5-10km	Between 10-30km	More than 30km
Kaabong	5.6%	67.8%	26.7%	.0%
Kotido	21.2%	53.8%	25.0%	.0%
Moroto	13.1%	39.3%	39.3%	8.2%
Napak	45.2%	43.9%	9.7%	1.3%
Karamoja	25.6%	51.0%	21.7%	1.7%

Market Prices

Price data for sorghum (key staple) was analyzed for 2013-2014 to understand monthly trends for both nominal and real prices. Figure 7 indicates that prices are usually high during the peak of the lean season i.e. between March and August. This is mainly due to the fact that during this period, household food stocks from own production are low and majority of households are dependent on markets. During this period most food supplies on market are from districts outside Karamoja region mainly from Mbale, Teso and Acholi regions.

Figure 7: Price Series for sorghum



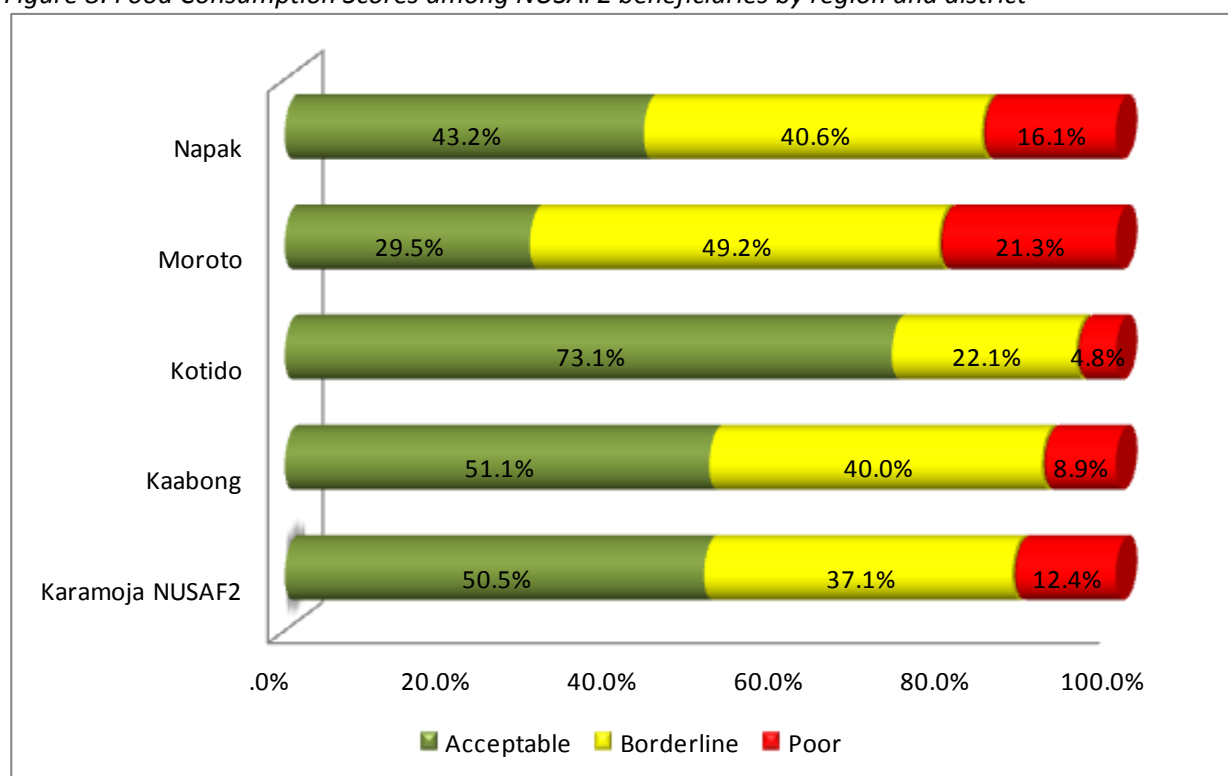
Source: WFP ProMIS data

FOOD CONSUMPTION

Information was collected on the dietary diversity of the household with respondents being asked to list the number of days a particular food item was consumed by the household in the seven days prior to the interview. Thus a '0' for fruits would indicate that a household did not consume any fruit in the previous seven days while a '4' would indicate consumption four days out of seven etc, then multiplied by the weight of the particular food group (Cereals and tubers =2; pulses =3; vegetables =1; fruits =1; meat, fish, eggs =4; milk and milk products =4; oil =0.5; and sugar =0.5). The total FCS was obtained by summing up FCS obtained for each food group and was then categorized as Acceptable (FCS>35), Borderline (FCS 21.5-35) and Poor (FCS=<21)".

Results indicate that half of the NUSAF2 beneficiaries in Karamoja have acceptable food consumption. Kotido has the highest number of NUSAF2 beneficiaries with acceptable food consumption (73%), followed by Kaabong (51%) and then Napak 43%. Moroto has the worst food consumption with only 30% of the NUSAF2 beneficiaries having acceptable scores. The fairly better food security status in Kotido is partly due to the fact that WFP food assistance was delivered in September and the ongoing harvests (though limited) by the time of the assessment.

Figure 8: Food Consumption Scores among NUSAF2 beneficiaries by region and district



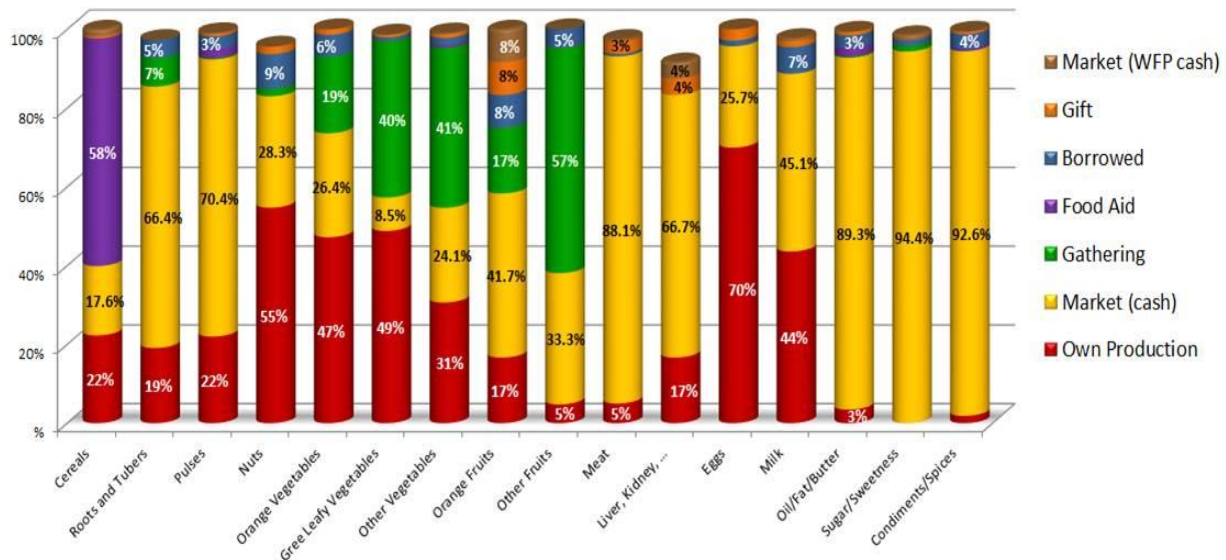
MAIN SOURCES OF FOOD

Results from the data collected indicate that there are four major sources of food consumed by NUSAF2 beneficiaries in Karamoja.

- Market purchase with cash is the main source of food consumed by NUSAF2 beneficiaries in Karamoja. This is mainly for roots and tubers, pulses, orange fruits, meat and other animal products, oil/fat/butter, sugar/sweets and condiments/spices.
- Own production (crops and animals) appeared to be the second main source of food especially for nuts, orange and green leafy vegetables and eggs.
- Gathering was third main source of food and this was most important for other vegetables and fruits.
- However, food assistance from WFP, civil society, NGOs, government, and other stakeholders was reported as the main source for cereals at the time of the assessment.

Therefore, the results in figure 9 emphasize the role of markets in dietary diversity and defining the food security status of Karamoja hence the need for continuous monitoring and market data collection and analysis to guide in programming and deciding on the appropriate transfer modality.

Figure 9: Major Sources of food consumed by NUSAF2 beneficiaries in Karamoja



SOURCES OF INCOME

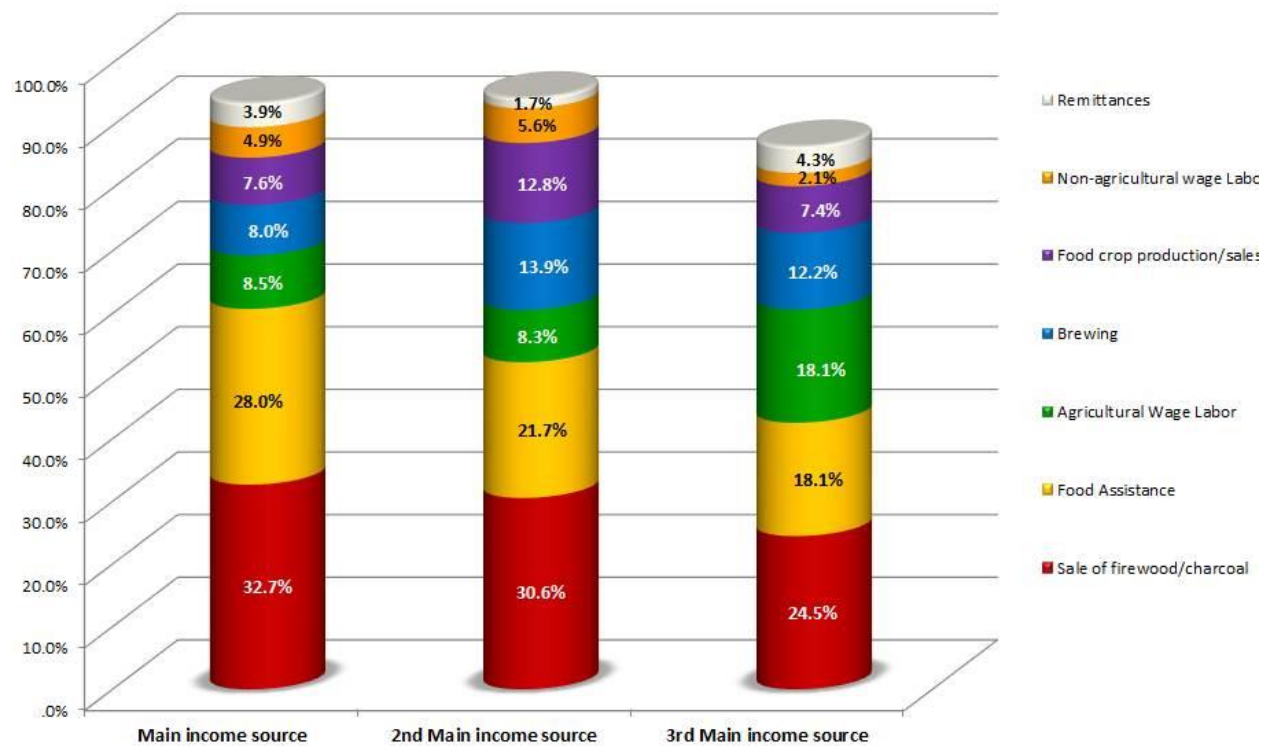
When were asked about income sources, results revealed that on average NUSAF2 households had at least one person earning income with the exception of Napak. On extrapolation of data, results indicate that all NUSAF2 households (100%) in Kotido had at least one person earning income, 78% in Kaabong, 56% in Moroto and as low as 30% in Napak. The fact that every household in Kotido reported at least one income earner is also a important causal factor to Kotido having markedly better food consumption.

Households typically generate income (& food) from a combination of activities. More often than not, a combination of specific activities is utilized by households to meet one or more household priorities (e.g., food, income, access to services). The greater the number of income generating activities generated by a household the easier the ability of the household to cope with shocks and stress.

From the figure 10, it quite clear that the dominant means of earning a living include, sale of firewood, food assistance, agricultural wage labor, brewing and food crop production/sales. Despite Karamoja being known as a pastoral region, income derived from sale of livestock and /or animal products is minimal.

The reliance of the sampled population on food assistance as a “source of income” is a telling finding; as assistance is not a source of income per se. However, a sizeable percentage of households across the sample consider assistance to be a key source of income.

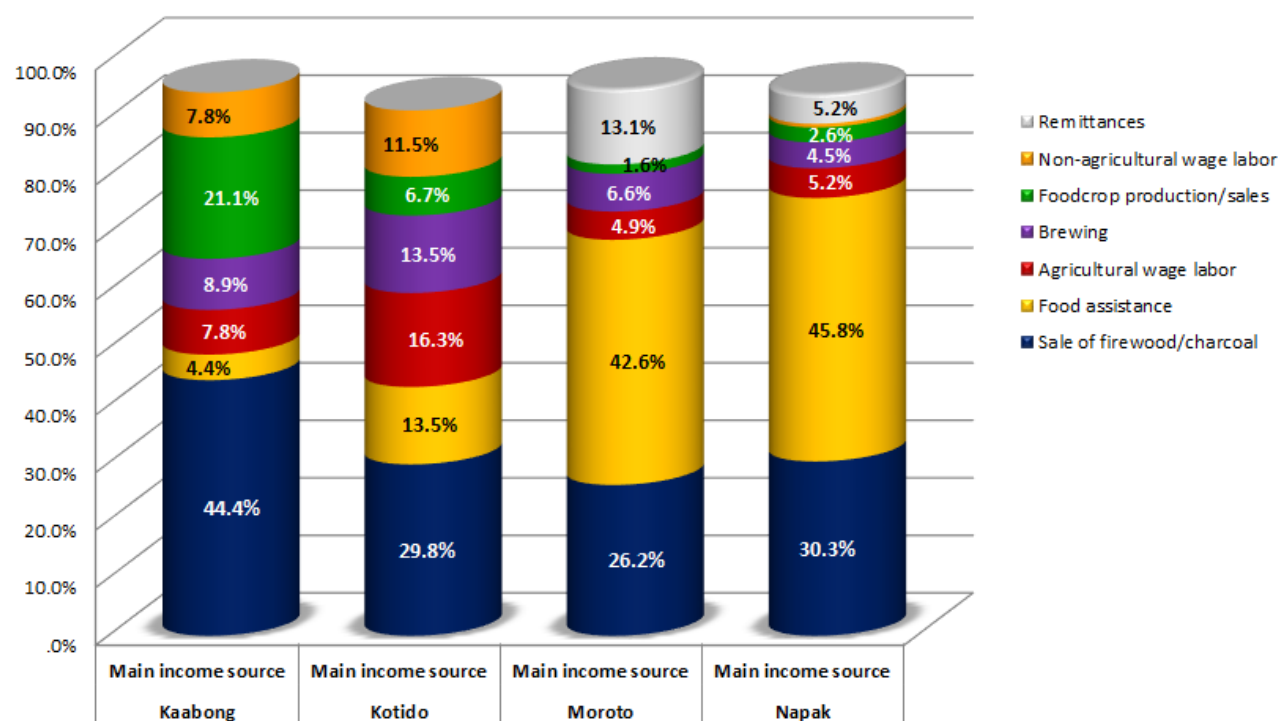
Figure10: Main Sources of income among NUSAF2 beneficiaries in Karamoja



Results at district level are in line with the regional findings for main income sources.

- In Kaabong the main common income sources are sale of firewood/charcoal followed by food assistance and then brewing.
- In Kotido sale of firewood/charcoal comes first, followed by fishing and hunting and then brewing.
- However, in Moroto food assistance is the most common for first main income source, followed by sale of firewood/charcoal and the remittances.
- Similarly in Napak, the most common for the first main income source is food assistance, followed by sale of firewood/charcoal and then brewing and fishing/hunting (see figure 11).

Figure 11: Main Sources of income among NUSAF2 beneficiaries by district



SHOCKS AND COPYING

NUSAF2 households were asked about two main difficulties or shocks they encountered in the past 30 days that might have affected their household food security. Data indicated that all NUSAF2 households encountered at least one difficulty or shock while 87% faced more than one. In general the most common difficulty or shock was floods, heavy rains, drought and landslides reported by 36% of the NUSAF 2 households, then “other shock” (mainly diseases or illness of household member) reported by 30%, high food prices 14% and crop loss due to rodents 11%. Similarly, when data is reported at district level, the outstanding shocks faced by NUSAF2 beneficiaries still remain the same i.e. floods, heavy rains, drought and landslides, high food prices, crop loss due to rodents and “other shock” (see table 4).

Table 4: Main difficulties/shock that affected NUSAF2 in the last 30 days

	Shock	%age
1	Floods, heavy rains, drought, landslides	36%
2	Other shock	30%
3	High food prices	14%
4	Crop loss due to rodents	11%
5	Death household member (funerals)	8%

Coping strategies

Coping strategies generally refer to the activities or the ways a community, household, or individual adjusts their livelihood strategies in response to a shock or risk (WFP, 2009). Data was collected on the five coping strategies used in computing the reduced coping strategy index (rCSI) as well as stress, crisis and emergency coping strategies outlined below.

- Stress coping strategies: examples of this behavior include - sold more animals (nonproductive) than usual; sold household goods (radio, furniture, refrigeration, television, jewelry etc); spent savings and; borrowed money.
- Crisis coping strategies: for example - sold house or land; illegal income activities (theft, smuggling, prostitution; and begged
- Emergency coping strategies: such as -sold productive assets or means of transport (sewing machine, wheelbarrow, bicycle, car, goats, cattle etc); reduced essential non-food expenditures such as education, health etc) and; consumed seed stocks held for next season.

Despite all NUSAF2 households having faced at least one difficulty/shock in the past 30 days, only 65% adopted different coping strategies. At district level 96% adopted coping strategies in Kaabong, 72% in Kotido, 41% in Moroto and 52% in Napak. The final grouping of livelihood coping strategies indicates that 41% NUSAF2 households are classified as emergency, 16 % in crisis, 8% in stress and 35% not adopting coping strategies.

In order to understand the classification by coping, further analysis on specific coping activities was done.

- Under stress coping strategies, 'borrowing money' was mainly adopted and this was done by 32% of the NUSAF2 households at regional level (Karamoja). At district level 'borrowing money' was mainly in Kaabong where 62% of the NUSAF2 households employed this strategy and Kotido with 53%. The second stress coping strategy was 'spent savings' where 16% of the NUSAF2 households employed this strategy in general. At district level, this strategy was also common in Kaabong 33% and Kotido 17%. The third common stress coping strategy was 'selling of more animals (nonproductive) than usual' and this was employed by 10% of the NUSAF2 households altogether and mainly in Kaabong district (21%).
- The commonly adopted crisis coping strategy was 'begging' that was employed by 44% of the NUSAF2 beneficiaries at regional (Karamoja) level.
- For the emergency strategies, 34% of the NUSAF2 beneficiaries in Karamoja consumed seed stocks held for the next season and this was mainly in Kaabong (43%), followed by Kotido (39%), Napak (29%) and then Moroto (28%). Therefore, provision of seeds at the beginning of next planting season would be an appropriate intervention for the concerned stakeholders. Also 11% of the NUSAF2 households reduced essential non-food expenditures (education, health etc) in order to secure enough resources to buy food especially in Kaabong (16%), Moroto (15%) and Napak (10%). About 8% of the households sold productive assets or means of transport (sewing machine, wheelbarrow, bicycle, car, goats, cattle etc) in order to access food; mainly in Kotido (15%) and Kaabong (14%).

The key coping strategies employed reflect challenges for food accessibility due to limited livelihood activities. Therefore there is still need for more support towards income generating activities like public works through food or cash for work. In areas where markets are functional, cash transfer would be appropriate to support and sustain market development. However, for areas with no functional markets within a distance for 10km (max), in-kind food assistance is still the most appropriate intervention.

Figure 12: Classification of NUSAF2 beneficiaries by coping

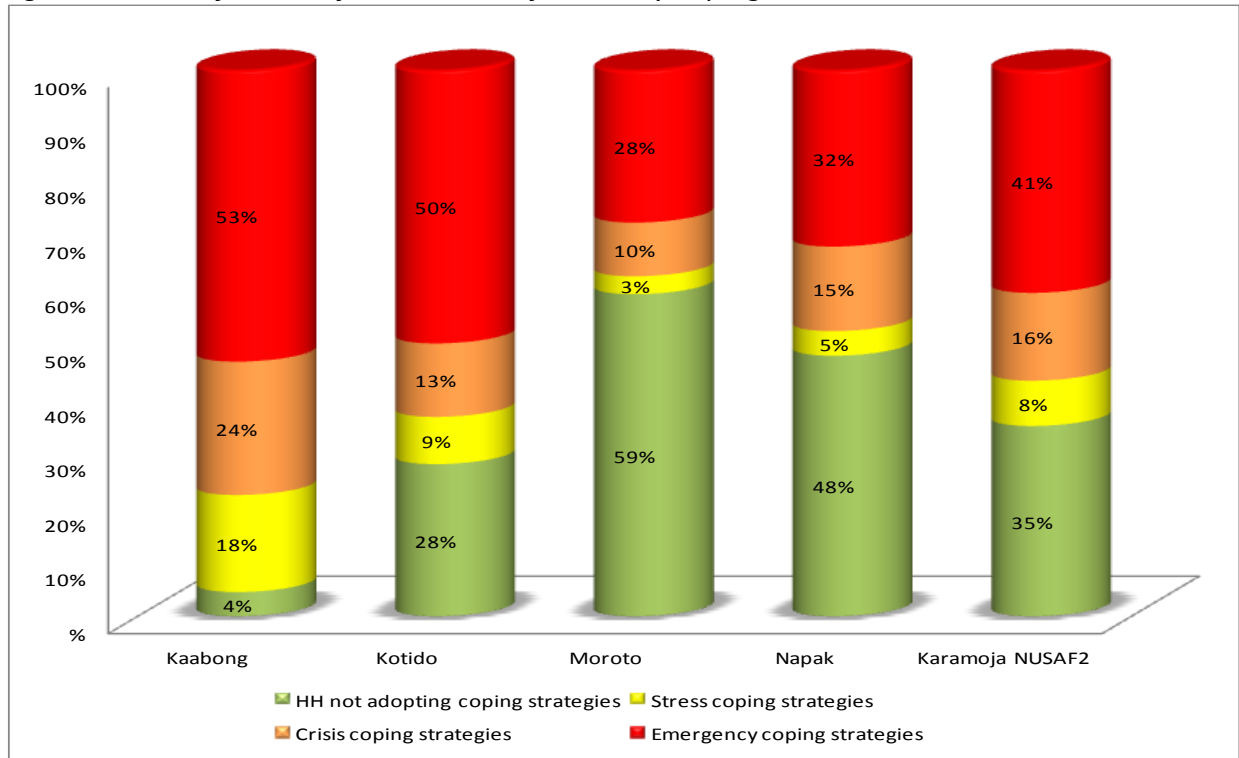


Table 5: Coping strategies adopted by NUSAF2 Households in the last 30 days

Category	Coping Strategy	Karamoja	Kaabong	Kotido	Moroto	Napak
Stress	Sold more animals (non-productive) than usual in the last 30 days	10%	21%	13%	2%	3%
	Sold HH goods (radio, furniture etc) in the last 30 days	%	%	%	%	1%
	Spent savings in the last 30 days	16%	33%	17%	2%	10%
	Borrowed money in the last 30 days	32%	62%	53%	3%	13%
Crisis	Sold house or land	1%	1%	%	%	1%
	Illegal income activities (theft, smuggling, prostitution)	%	1%	%	2%	%
	Begged	44%	61%	55%	23%	36%
Emergency	Sold productive assets or means of transport	8%	14%	15%	2%	1%
	Reduced essential non-food expenditures (educ, health, etc)	10%	16%	5%	15%	10%
	Consumed seed stock held for next season	34%	43%	38%	28%	29%

COMMUNITY ASSETS

A total of 65 community leaders were asked about the assets present in their communities and whether or not they were functional. A total of 17 assets were enumerated including roads, bridges, water infrastructure (e.g. wells, water harvesting, dams), farming infrastructure etc. A community asset score (CAS)³ was calculated as a sum of the total assets that were mentioned as present and functional in the community.

Overall, community assets were very low in all the areas with the maximum value of the CAS found at 6 (of the ideal 17). The most commonly mentioned assets were the presence of a road (75%), woodlots (46%), water catchment (32%), latrine (31%), Dam (23%) and irrigation ponds (19%). On the other hand, assets such as fishponds, contour terraces, water harvesting and irrigation canals were completely absent in all communities.

There were some notable differences in community assets at district level: Kotido had the highest number of irrigation ponds (47%), while Kaabong had none; Community latrines mostly

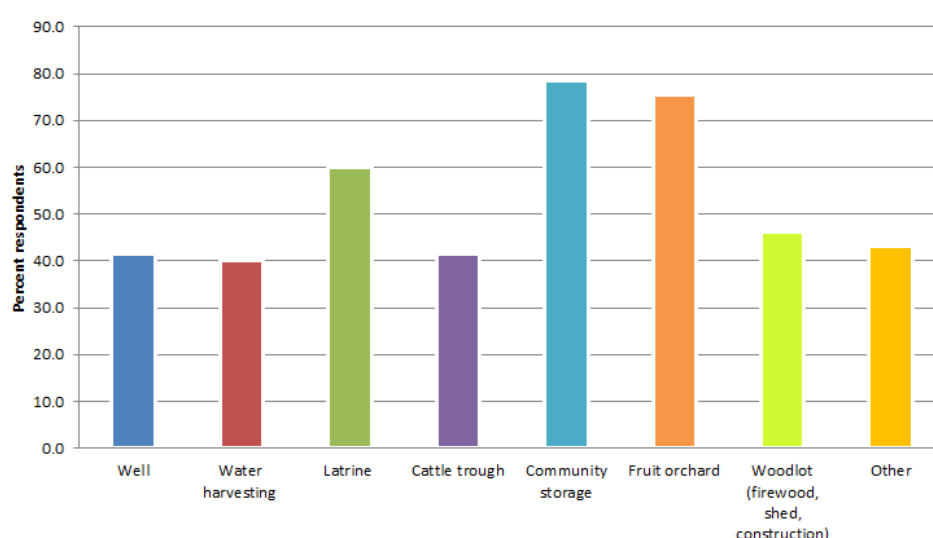
³ The CAS measures the number of functioning assets that enable a community, and the households living within it, to be more resilient, or less negatively impacted by shocks.

mentioned in Napak (58%) but less in Kaabong and Kotido (<15%); and community storage was only mentioned as present in Kotido.

When asked which assets they would like to have in their communities, the most commonly mentioned assets were as shown in the Figure 13. The most required asset across all four districts of Karamoja are assets related to community storage.

A combination of low household asset ownership with low level of community assets further indicates the vulnerability of populations in these communities. A possible solution could be Cash for work programmes which could serve a two pronged purpose; helping build these community assets therefore strengthening resilience, and creating employment for the youth in the region.

Figure 13: Desirable community assets, mentioned by at least 40% of respondents.



CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

Despite the harvest period expected between August and December under normal conditions and the food assistance interventions by WFP and other partners, food availability, accessibility and consumption as well as asset building are still a challenge for Karamoja. And based on the coping strategies employed in October 2014 (the time expected to be of less coping), food accessibility is still a challenge mainly due to delayed harvest and limited livelihood activities.

- Fifty one percent (51%) of the NUSAF2 have acceptable food consumption scores. Thus 49% of the NUSAF2 households are food insecure as a result of poor crop harvests and limited income generating activities. Moroto and Napak depict worse off food consumption patterns than Kaabong and Kotido.
- Food was relatively available largely thru markets and food assistance. 58% of the households received cereals (staples) from food assistance and 22% accessed through own production. 66% and 70% of the households accessed roots/tubers and pulses through market purchase (with cash) respectively. Own production was a major source for eggs (70%), nuts (55%) and orange vegetables (47%).

- The average household asset score (HAS) increased from 3.1 in 2013 to 3.7 in 2014 representing 19% increase.

In terms of corporate indicators, gender, protection and other cross cutting issues, it is clear that WFP NUSAF2 programme is doing well.

- Ninety five percent (95%) of the people of who collect food assistance on behalf of the household are adults of which 84% are female.
- On average beneficiaries take 4 hours at the distribution ground before they receive their food ration.
- Among 74% of NUSAF2 households decision on what to do with the ration received from WFP is taken by women while among 24% it is done together by men and women.
- Approximately 67% of the NUSAF 2 beneficiaries knew how people were selected into the program, 70% knew their entitlement and 30% knew where or how to contact WFP or partners in case they had a complaint. Therefore there is need for continued sensitization of the beneficiaries to enhance their full participation into the NUSAF2 projects.
- Only 7% of the NUSAF2 beneficiaries incurred additional costs for transporting their food ration home.
- Community assets (CAS) are equally low with communities having a maximum of 6 (of 17) enumerated assets; the most frequently cited asset required was storage facilities (79%).
- All NUSAF2 households in Kotido had at least one income earner, followed by Kaabong (78%), Moroto (56%) and then Napak (30%). The main income generating activities mentioned are sale of firewood/charcoal, food assistance and brewing.

Markets are relatively accessible in some areas and this has helped households that are highly dependent on markets to access food.

- Twenty six percent (26%) and fifty one percent (51%) of the NUSAF2 households have access to markets within a distance of less than 5Km and between 5-10Km respectively. The main commodities purchased from the market are sorghum, maize grain, beans and maize flour.
- Price trends for sorghum (staple food) indicate that prices are usually high during the peak of the lean season i.e. between March and August.
- During the lean season (March-August), most of the food sold on markets is brought by traders from neighbouring districts. Therefore, this calls for additional market analysis on supply chain and integration between markets in Karamoja and neighbouring districts (source of food supplies).

Recommendations

Food Assistance:

- Since 87% of the NUSAF2 households have access to agricultural land, food assistance is most appropriate in the lean season between March and August. Depending on rainfall variability (extended dry spells), additional assistance may be provided in September/October.

- Priority for any NUSAF2 related interventions ought to be given to Napak and Moroto as they have relatively poor food consumption. Furthermore these 2 districts also report far less number of income earners per family when compared to Kotido and Kaabong.
- There is still need for more support towards income generating activities like public works through food or cash for work to enhance offseason food accessibility.

Transfer Modality:

- Karamoja being a food deficit producing area, in-kind food assistance takes precedence.
- In case the accessible markets can support additional demand then, a combination of cash transfers and in-kind food assistance is feasible
- Priority for any planned cash transfer related intervention be given to 26% of NUSAF2 beneficiaries who have access to markets within 5Km distance and then 51% accessing markets between 5-10Km be considered on a case by case basis.
- For the remaining 23% of NUSAF2 beneficiaries (>10km from functional market) it might be more appropriate to only plan for in-kind food assistance.

Food availability and Market functionality:

- There is need to carry out additional analysis on household crop production to determine household food stocks/food availability from own production and how long this will last. This will help in timely programming for food assistance, duration (for how long) and resource requirements.
- A detailed market analysis is necessary to support the implementation of cash transfers. This will help to understand the supply chain dynamics, food availability on markets, purchase and sales condition, market functionality as well as traders' capacity to respond to increased demand.