

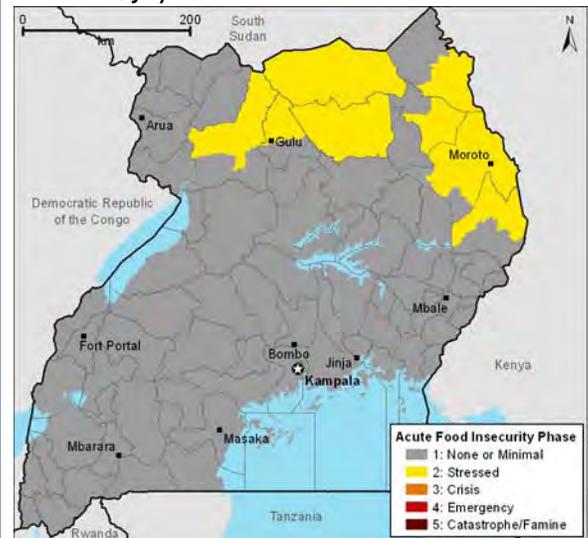
UGANDA Food Security Outlook

July to December 2011

First season harvesting begins in some bimodal areas

- Average but delayed rains in northern Uganda are expected to result in average crop harvests in August and September. The first season harvest and planting of second season crops are overlapping, and the above-normal rains expected during the harvest could affect drying and quality of produce. Household access to food is expected to improve through December in northern Uganda but livelihoods are expected to remain stressed due to the low resource base.
- Harvests of pulses and vegetables are increasingly improving household food security in Karamoja. The main cereal harvest starting in September is expected to further bolster food access. However, the continued closure of livestock markets in Amudat and Nakapiripirit districts due to foot and mouth disease (FMD) remains a concern.
- Price declines have followed the harvest of some crops such as beans. However, maize prices are 208 percent above the five-year average, a record high. Though maize harvests starting in late July are expected to improve market supplies, price declines are likely to be modest and short-lived due to high regional demand arising from large deficits. The prices of other staples such as matooke and sorghum are expected to decline through September but remain above the five-year average. Matooke prices are expected to rise from October through December, but other staples are expected to increase briefly in October before declining again through December.

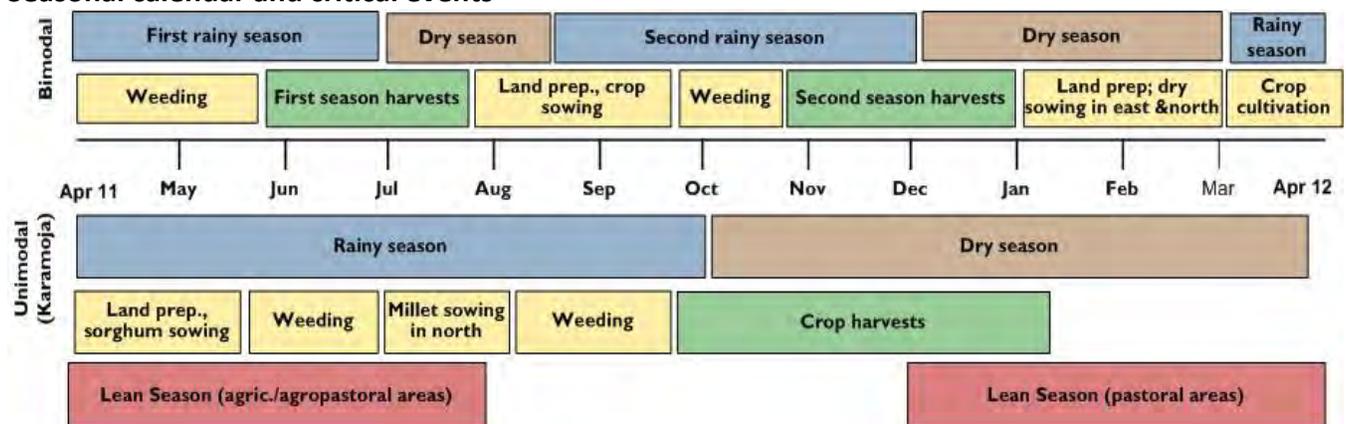
Figure 1. Current estimated food security outcomes, July 2011



Source: FEWS NET

For more information on the IPC Food Insecurity Scale, please see: www.fews.net/FoodInsecurityScale

Seasonal calendar and critical events



Source: FEWS NET

Most likely food security scenario (July to December 2011)

The first season harvests have started in some areas and fresh produce, especially beans and green maize and vegetables, is available in the market and for household consumption. In southern, central and western Uganda, where the first season rains were good, the crop harvest is expected to be above average. The bulk of the dry harvest is expected to enter the market starting in late July through August.

Across northern, northwestern, and parts of eastern Uganda, first season harvests are expected to be average due to average to less-than-average rains received during the cropping season. Due to late establishment of the rains in these areas, planting was staggered and delayed by about one month, and main crop harvests are also late. Typically, the bulk of the harvesting of maize, beans, groundnuts, sweet potatoes and other first season crops would be in progress now. However in Acholi sub-region, only green maize is currently available with the main harvests expected to begin in August through September. Most of the crops in the field are doing well with the exception of the dry belt in western Agago and Kitgum districts where some crops like maize, finger millet and groundnuts are stressed due to inadequate rains. However, the hardier and drought-resistant long-term sorghum, the staple food, is doing well. The majority of households in Acholi are relying on available cassava, vegetables and very low sorghum household food stocks to meet their food needs, supplementing with market purchases, especially of beans. Harvest of beans and sim sim (sesame) in neighboring Lango sub-region has increased supplies to Acholi and resulted in decline in prices there (Figure 2). Additional supplies of beans are coming in from Elgon sub-region in eastern Uganda.

In western, central and southern Uganda, the first season rains performed well and above-average harvest of food crops are expected. The bean and matooke harvests have started and prices of these commodities have begun to fall in main supply and consumption markets. Green maize is also readily available and the dry grain is expected to enter the market at the end of July. The majority of households are increasingly meeting their food needs from their own crop production. Very low stocks of maize, a major trade commodity within East Africa, coupled with very high demand within the region, have sustained price increases observed since the beginning of the year. By June, maize prices were 61 and 208 percent above May 2011 and the five-year average, respectively (Figure 3). Although a good harvest starting in July is expected to result in increased maize supply in the market, anticipated price declines are likely to be modest and short-lived due to high demand, especially from Kenya, which has a large maize deficit. For rural household food security, availability and/or accessibility of maize is not a main concern as many alternative foods are available, such as matooke, cassava, sweet potatoes, and rice.

In pastoral and agro-pastoral areas of Karamoja, household access to milk remains adequate due to good rangeland conditions. Pastoralists are relying on the available milk and grain purchase to meet their food needs although price of staples remains high due to low grain supply. The resurgence of foot and mouth disease (FMD) in June means that the quarantine, and subsequent closure of livestock markets, remains in effect in Amudat and Nakapiripirit districts. Households in these two districts are depending on firewood and charcoal sales to earn cash income to purchase food from the market. The high supply of these commodities within a limited market has resulted in their prices dropping yet cereal prices have continued increasing, leading to deterioration of terms of trade for pastoralists and increasing vulnerability of households to heightened food insecurity. Normally, livestock sales account for about 80 percent of annual household

Figure 2. Nominal Retail bean prices in Kitgum district

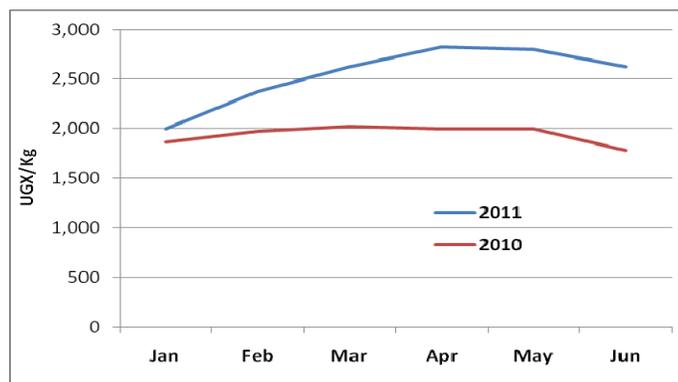
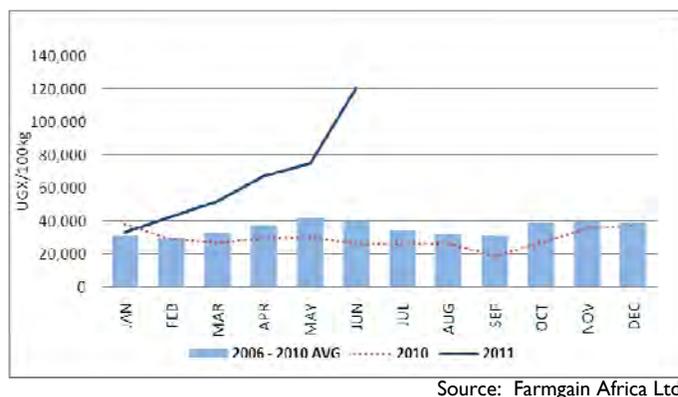


Figure 3. Nominal wholesale maize prices in Masindi district



income while 20 percent is derived from firewood and charcoal sales in Amudat district. In agro-pastoral areas of Moroto, Napak and Kotido districts not affected by FMD, households are relying on purchases from the market to meet their food needs using income from livestock sales, labor, firewood and milk in areas near urban centers. Household food consumption is improving as own harvest of vegetables and pulses becomes available in households, signaling the end of the lean season. Overall, a large proportion of the population in these areas remains Stressed, IPC Phase 2 (Figure 1).

The most likely scenario from July to December 2011 is based on the following assumptions:

- The likelihood of normal to above-normal rainfall for the period July to September means that rangeland conditions and subsequently livestock productivity, is expected to be good.
- Livestock migration to dry season grazing areas is expected to begin in October/November.
- Cereal prices in Karamoja are likely to decline from August to December as household harvest becomes available.
- Livestock markets in Nakapiripirit and Amudat districts will remain closed due to FMD through December.
- Above normal rains in northern Uganda during second season are likely to result in above-average production.
- Increases in food supply from first season harvest will result in price decreases.

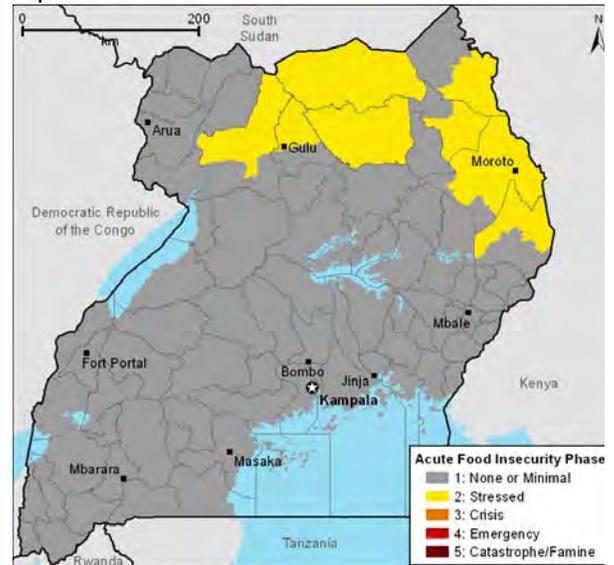
Pastoral areas of Karamoja

During the outlook period, milk is expected to remain an important source of food for pastoral households up to October when the dry season is expected to begin and milk supply declines. This will be supplemented with green harvest of grain and pulses in July. Between August and October, households will depend on own harvest of maize, sorghum and pulses, supplemented with milk and meat to meet food needs. Typically, own crop production contributes 25 percent of annual food needs. The continued closure of livestock markets means that the main sources of income are likely to be sale of firewood and charcoal, and limited sales of honey between September and November. If livestock markets remain closed during the lean season starting in December and households are not able to sell livestock, household vulnerability to food insecurity is likely to increase and the lean season may be more severe than normal.

The likelihood of near-normal to above-normal rainfall for the period July to September means that rangeland conditions and subsequently livestock productivity, are expected to good. Livestock migration to dry season grazing areas is expected to begin in October/November. Cereal prices are likely to decline from August to December as household harvest becomes available and marketable surplus from supply areas outside Karamoja increases after July harvests there, including October harvests from Elgon region.

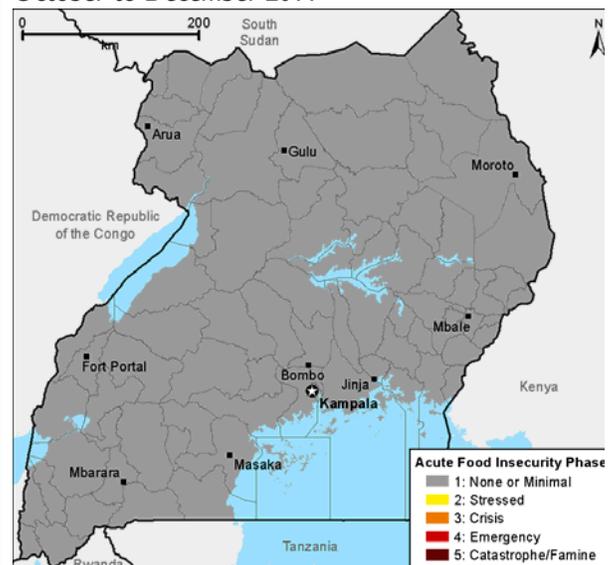
The main shock affecting pastoral livelihoods is the continued closure of livestock markets in Amudat due to FMD throughout the outlook period. This is likely to result in reduced household incomes especially in December at the start of the lean season, when households depend on purchases to meet food needs. Also, delay in control and management of FMD is likely to affect livestock conception starting in August.

Figure 4. Most-likely food security scenario, July to September



Source: FEWS NET Uganda

Figure 5. Most-likely food security scenario, October to December 2011



Source: FEWS NET Uganda

In response to loss of income from livestock sales, households are expected to increase engagement in other economic activities such as charcoal and firewood sales to earn income to purchase cereals. These activities earn less than livestock sales. As a result, supply of these products will continue to increase and their prices will fall. As cereal prices continue to increase starting in December, terms of trade of firewood and charcoal to cereals will deteriorate. Also, resurgence of FMD could result in diseased animals failing to conceive at the next conception period between August and October. This would reduce herd replacement through births and therefore livestock holding, resulting in fewer lactating cows in 2012 and less milk available for household consumption and sales starting in March 2012.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industries and Fisheries, together with partners, are likely to facilitate acquisition of more doses of FMD vaccine to enable veterinary officials in the pastoral areas carry out vaccination so that the quarantine can be lifted by December. This would allow livestock markets to reopen at the end of the outlook period.

These events could result in low school attendance and higher drop-out rates due to inability of households to pay school dues in FMD affected areas. Poorer households are likely to remain stressed between July and September (IPC Phase 2), but suffer minimal food insecurity between October and December when harvests are available for household consumption (IPC Phase 1).

Agro-pastoral areas of Karamoja

As in the pastoral areas, milk is an important source of food throughout the outlook period, especially between July and October when the dry season normally begins. Up to the end of August, households will consume green harvests of maize and sorghum, and beans from their own production, supplemented with milk. From September to December, households will depend on own harvest of maize, sorghum, bulrush millet and pulses to meet food needs. Typically, own crop production contributes about 40 percent to annual food needs.

As in Amudat district, the quarantine in Nakapiripirit district has forced agro-pastoralists there to rely on sell of firewood, charcoal and agro-labor to earn cash to purchase food from the market. Loss of income from livestock sales is likely to cause households to increase engagement in other economic activities such as charcoal and firewood sales to earn income to purchase cereals. These activities earn less than livestock sales. As a result, supply of these products will continue to increase and their prices will fall. As cereal prices continue to increase starting in December, terms of trade of firewood and charcoal to cereals will deteriorate. However, this may be mitigated to some extent by sales of agricultural labor during the harvest season when payment in kind is likely to increase due to limited access to cash among middle and better-off households. These middle and better-off households are also likely to increase crops sale from September to December to meet other household needs. However, in other districts within the livelihood zone, crop sales are likely to be normal. Furthermore, as in the pastoral zone, FMD could affect herd replacement and milk availability at the start of the next rain season in March 2012. Livestock traders from outside Karamoja are likely to increase livestock purchases from districts not affected by FMD.

The above conditions are likely to result in unsustainable sale of livestock in areas not affected by FMD due to attractive prices offered. Also, inadequate income due to the quarantine is likely to affect access to education. Nonetheless, poorer agro-pastoral households will remain stressed between July and September (Figure 4) but are likely to meet their basic food consumption needs between October to December (Figure 5).

Bimodal areas

Average rainfall in Acholi sub-region is likely to result in average first season harvests starting in late July. From late July through September, households will meet their food needs from their own production of maize, cassava, millet, sweet potatoes, rice, and groundnuts. Generally, stocks from the first season harvest are expected to last through the second season harvest starting in October/November when harvests of sorghum, rice, beans, simsim, bulrush millet (in Lamwo district), and pigeon peas are expected. Some of these crops, especially simsim, maize and sunflower, are sold for cash income. Also, cotton, an increasingly viable commercial crop, will be ready for harvest in October. Due to delay in the start of the rainy season, the end of the first season is expected to overlap with the beginning of the second season. This will put pressure on household labor for harvesting, land clearing, and planting.

According to the Department of Meteorology, there is a likelihood of above average rains during the second season starting in August. This is likely to result in good crop production and harvests starting in October. However, this could interfere

with drying of first season crops resulting in reduced quality of produce, especially maize and groundnuts, due to increased contamination with aflatoxins, and reduction in income. Nonetheless, households are expected to have access to adequate food and cash income from crop sales, and therefore will experience no or minimal food insecurity (IPC Phase 1) between September and December.

In the southern half of Uganda, the cropping season is proceeding normally. The average to above-average rainfall forecast for this region is expected to result in average to above-average crop production which will increase market supplies and reduce the price of staples in markets at harvest in July. Between July and September, households will rely on own harvest to meet their food needs and are not expected to face any acute food insecurity through December.

Table I: Less likely events over the next six months that could change the above scenarios.

Area	Event	Impact on food security outcomes
Amudat and Nakapiripirit districts	Livestock markets in FMD affected areas could remain closed throughout the outlook period.	This could result in significant reduction in incomes from other sources such as firewood and charcoal due to increased supply in the market and further deterioration in terms of trade of these products to cereals. This would make the start of the lean season in Amudat more severe for households.
Agro-pastoral and agricultural areas of Abim, Kaabong, Kotido, Moroto and Napak districts	Much less than average rainfall between July and September	Less than average rainfall could result in below average crop harvest and the lean season could start earlier than April 2012.
Northern Uganda (Acholi subregion)	Below average rainfall between August and October	If the rains are worse than forecast, second season production would be less than predicted. Coupled with average first season harvests could result in deterioration in food security by March 2012.