Acute food insecurity forecast, 2022

1.5–2.0M people were forecast to be in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) in February–May 2022

During the forecast period, the food security situation is expected to marginally improve, particularly in urban areas following the gradual lifting of COVID-19-related restrictions and in the bimodal rainfall areas due to availability of second season food stocks, albeit below average.

3–5% of the analysed population was forecast to be in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above)

This FEWS NET analysis covers 100% of the country’s total population of 45.7 million people.

The conflict and insecurity in neighbouring countries, poor performance of the 2021 rains, and the long-running effects of COVID-19-related restrictions will limit food access and households’ purchasing power in Uganda in 2022.

Conflict/insecurity
In January–May 2022, an increasing number of refugees are projected to be in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) due to below-average harvests, particularly in the northern refugee settlements, and even with humanitarian food assistance (FEWS NET, December 2021). Livestock raids and related insecurity are expected to continue limiting households’ access to livestock products, particularly milk, and incomes from sales of live animals and products (FEWS NET, December 2021).

Weather extremes
In the bimodal rainfall areas, below-average harvests and food stocks are expected following inadequate October–December 2021 seasonal rains. Below-average income from crop sales, high cereal prices due to tight supplies, and limited income-earning opportunities during the February–March 2022 dry season are expected to limit households’ access to food. Particularly concerning is unimodal Karamoja, where below-average harvests and faster-than-usual deterioration of pasture and water availability, due to delayed and erratic April–September 2021 seasonal rains, coupled with a likely prolonged lean season, are expected to drive Crisis (IPC Phase 3) area-level outcomes, with some of the worst-affected households in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) (FEWS NET, December 2021).

Economic shocks, including COVID-19
Poorn households, especially in urban areas, are expected to continue having low purchasing power and constrained food access, having not fully recovered from the economic impacts of two COVID-19-related nationwide lockdowns. While maize prices declined by 15–30 percent in January as newly harvested crops increased market supplies, they remained 25–45 percent above their year-earlier levels, mainly due to below-average cereal production in 2021 (FAO-GIEWS, March 2022).