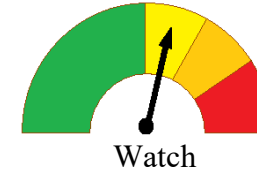
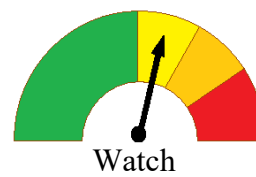


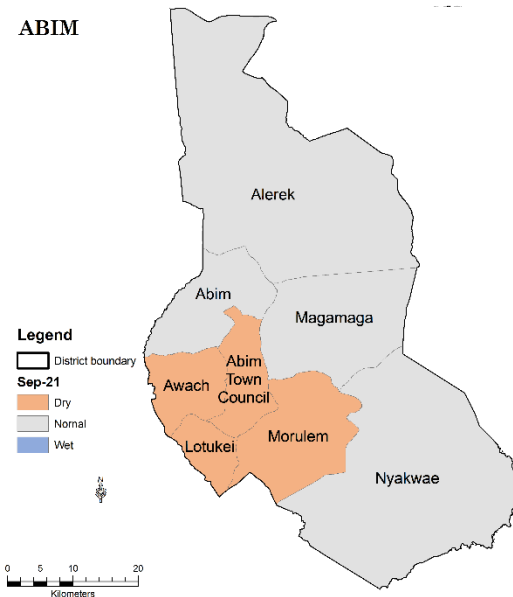
# ABIM DROUGHT BULLETIN SEPTEMBER 2021

## Strengthening Shock Responsive Systems in Karamoja



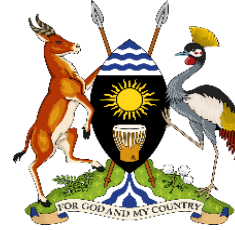
SECTORS	July	August	September
Livestock	Normal	Normal	Normal
Crops	Watch	Alarm	Watch
Water	Normal	Normal	Normal
Livelihoods	Watch	Alarm	Watch
Health	Watch	Watch	Watch

Sub counties	July	August	September
Alerek	Watch	Alarm	Alarm
Abim TC	Alert	Alarm	Watch
Morulem	Normal	Watch	Watch
Nywakae	Normal	Watch	Normal
Lotuke	Watch	Watch	Watch

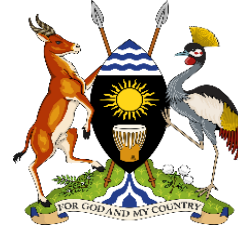


### Situational Overview

Overall the district and crop sector is considered to be at WATCH stage across the entire District; this is attributed to the depletion of food stocks at household level, high food prices, poor harvest realized, an estimated 60% of the households that cultivated crops registered 80% crop loss due to the prolonged dry spell, hailstorm and wild animal destruction, while about 40% realized below average harvest. The Livestock Section is considered to be at NORMAL stage across the Sub Counties; this is attributed to the low vector load, adequate pasture and water for the animals as a result of rains received. The Water Sector is at NORMAL stage due to the rains received, functional boreholes and the tap water system extended to the Sub Counties of Alerek and Nyakwae. The Livelihood Section is considered to be at WATCH stage across the because of the depletion of food stocks at household level and high food prices.



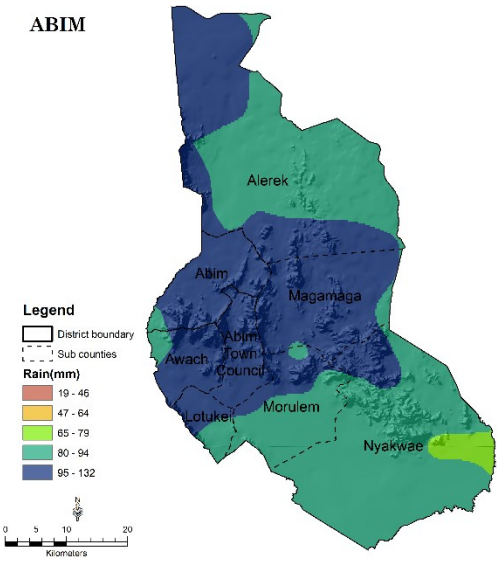
Sectors	Sectoral levels	Comments and Recommendations
Socio-economic		<p>The Social Economic sector is at Watch stage. This is attributed to food insecurity as a result of delayed poor harvest for first season, COVID-19 restrictions, and livestock raids have together reduced local food availability and household ability to buy food. However improvements are expected since some harvest are being realized, the opening of markets allowing fresh food from the nearby districts at a relatively cheaper prices.</p> <p><b>Recommendations:</b></p>
	Watch	
Livestock		<p>The livestock sector is noted to be <b>Normal</b> across the District. This is attributed to the availability of pastures and water for the animals across the Sub Counties No significant livestock migration confirmed, movements reported were in between parishes within same Sub County to the grazing grounds. Cases of livestock theft, and Animal disease are reported.</p> <p><b>Recommendations.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take initiatives to spray and deworm livestock routinely.</li> </ul>
	Normal	
Water		<p>The water sector is <b>Normal</b>. This has been attributed to the availability of other water sources like taps, seasonal rivers and valley tanks. Boreholes and taps remains the main source of safe water being used by the communities in the district due to its stable functionality across the two livelihood zones.</p> <p>The hour taken by the household to fetch borehole water and other water points remains less than 30 minutes. This trend is normal and it is expected to remain stable.</p> <p>The volume of water fetched daily per households relatively increased as presented in the graphs below. This is a normal trend, and it has been attributed to the reliable rainfall that has improved the water table of the various water sources for the households</p> <p><b>Recommendations.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The communities should keep their water points clean to avoid contamination from animals</li> </ul>
	Normal	
Livelihoods		<p>The livelihood sector is at Watch because of the poor purchasing power from all the livelihood coping options. However improvement are expected since some harvest are being realized, fresh food from the nearby districts are being sold in the district at a relatively cheaper prices. Generally, the terms of trade is also improving in most common commodities sold in the district. However, the sector still need close monitoring.</p> <p><b>Recommendations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communities are advised to plant short maturing crops especially vegetables in order to reduce the food shortages.</li> <li>• Farmers are advised to sell a few of their animals in order to purchase food.</li> </ul>
	Watch	



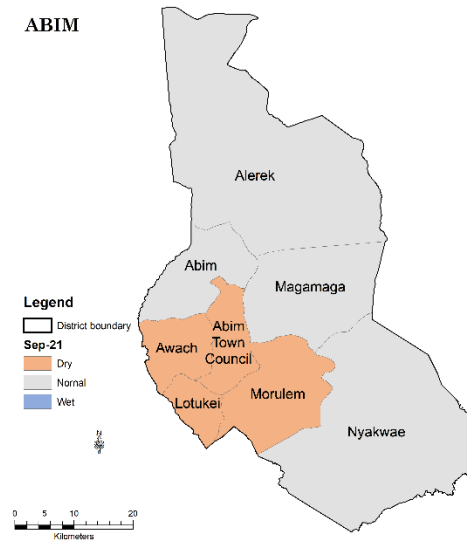
# 2- DROUGHT SEVERITY AND OUTLOOK

## Rainfall and Current Conditions

ABIM



ABIM



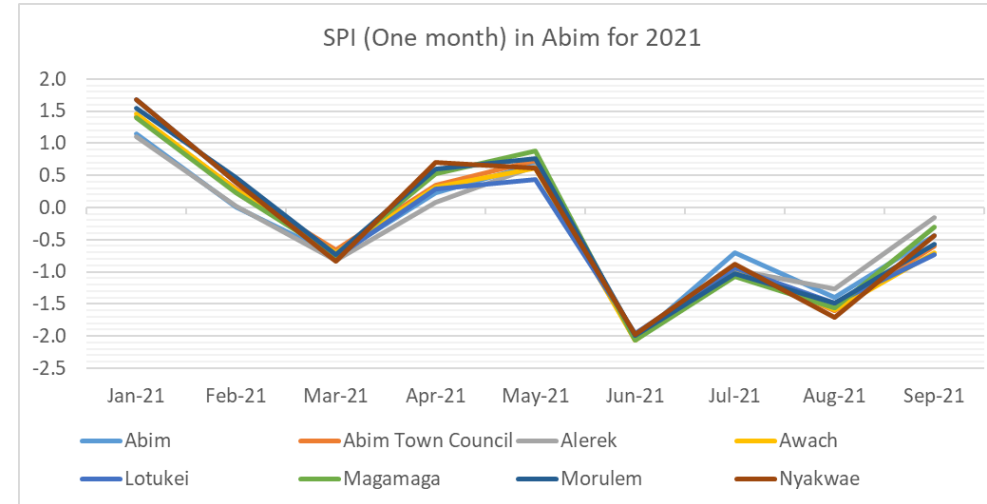
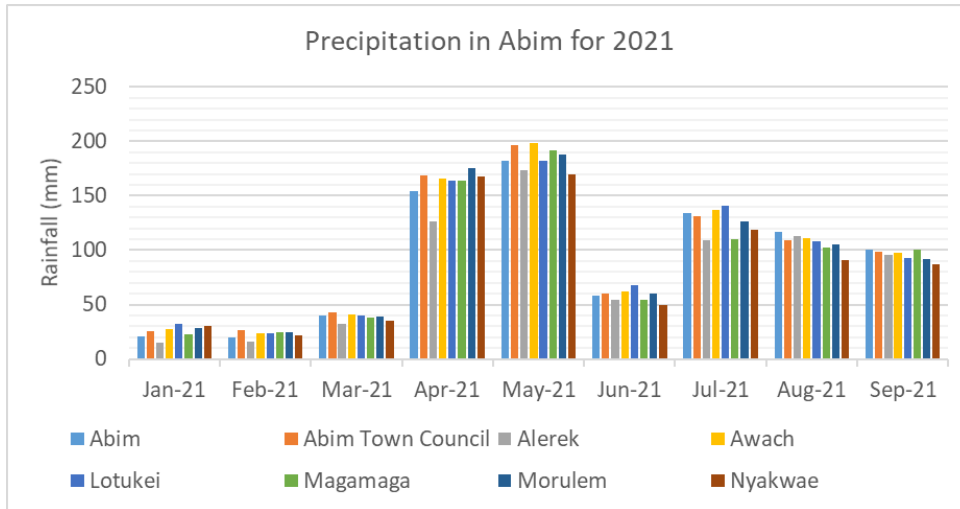
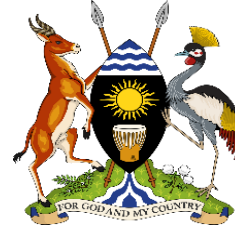
Abim district received more than 87mm of rainfall during the first 20 days of September 2021. The implication is that it spurred agricultural/production activities in the district, water and pasture for the animals has improved.

The farmers are still urged to always harvest enough rain-water to support production especially during dry spells.

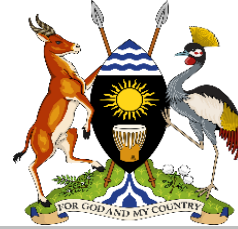
*Source: FEWSNET*

*Rainfall in the first 20 days of September*

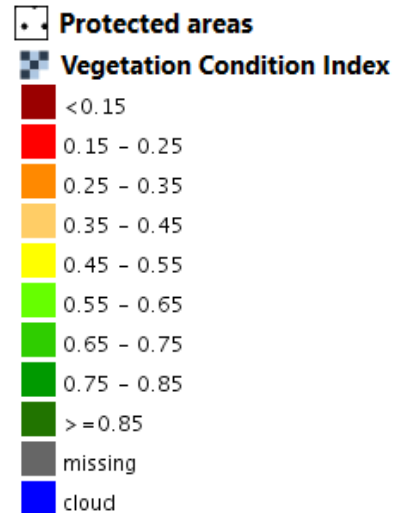
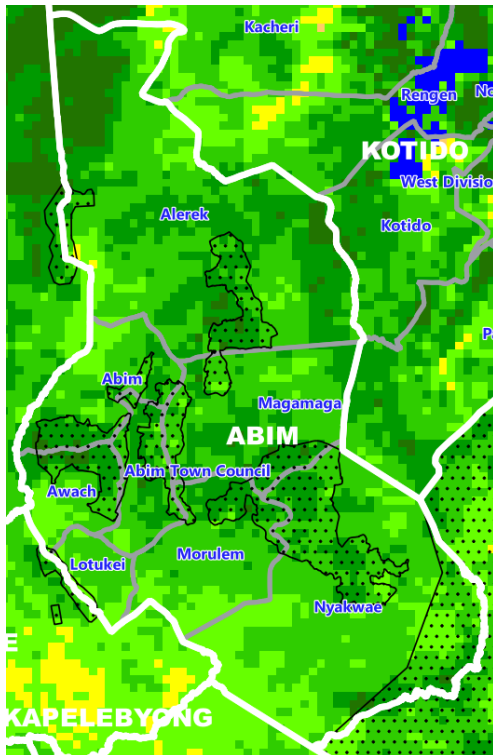
*Drought Severity and Magnitude based on SPI*



September 2021 Standard Precipitation Index Values for eight (8) sub counties in Abim district (Abim, Abim town Council, Alerek, Awach, Lotukei, Magamaga, Morulem and Nyakwae) fall below zero (are in negative values). Environmental indicators show unusual fluctuations outside expected seasonal ranges especially in Alerek and Awach sub-counties. The return to near normal rainfall is helping farmers who have planted beans, groundnut and other crops though the rains are still below the normal amount for the month of September (making standard precipitation index values remain in negative values). The graphs above show how rainfall (left) and drought categories (right) have been fluctuating since the beginning of the year in January. Much improvement in rainfall amount is expected in October



# Vegetation Condition

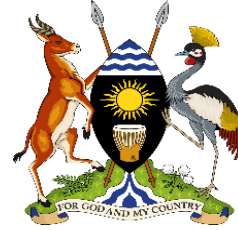


Abim had a dense and green vegetation cover all over the district (see NDVI map above). This is attributed to the rainfall received during the month that favored the growth of this good vegetation (see rainfall graph page 4). The greener vegetation provided enough pastures for the livestock and contributed to the good performance of livestock in good condition (see page 5).

The vegetation conditions based on Vegetation Condition Index (VCI), are above average for most parts of the district.

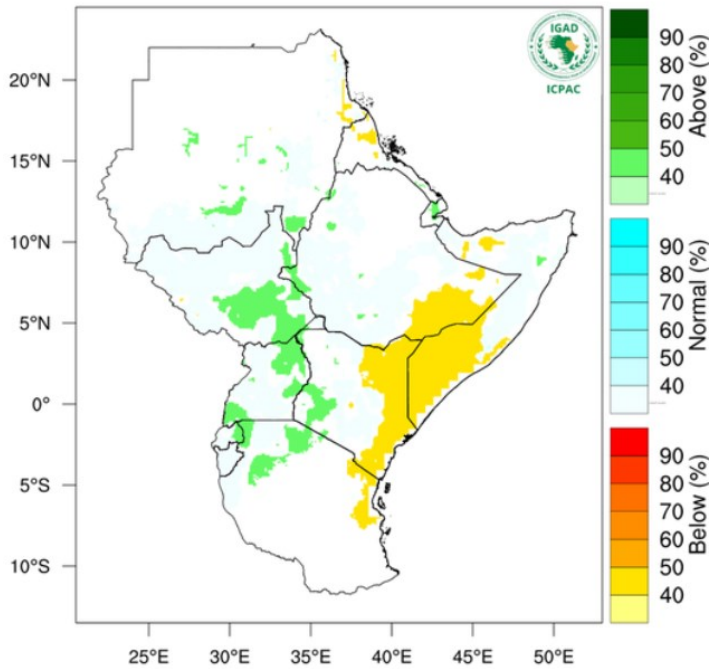
The VCI evaluates the current vegetation health in comparison to the historical trends. The VCI relates current dekadal (10 – day) Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) to its long-term minimum and maximum, normalized by the historical range of NDVI values for the same dekad/10 days. The VCI was designed to separate the weather-related component of the NDVI from the ecological element.

**Source:** FAO Earth Observation – Country Indicators:  
<http://www.fao.org/giews/earthobservation/country/index.jsp?lang=en&code=UGA>

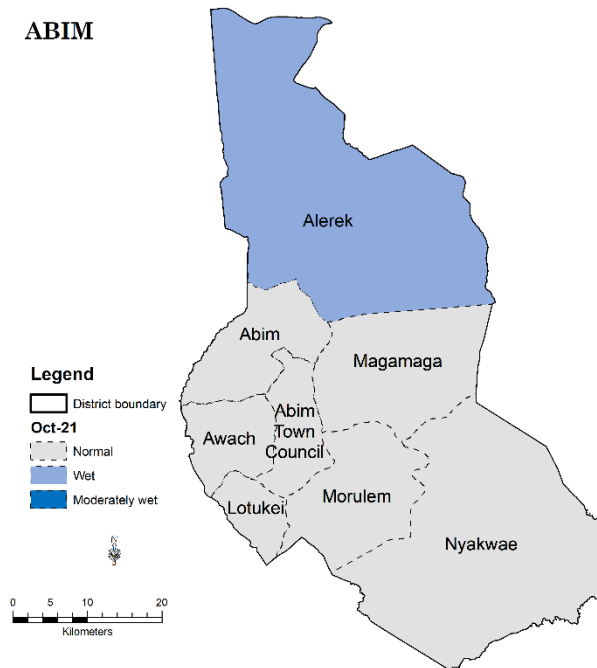


# Weather Forecast

Rainfall Probabilistic Forecast for October 2021



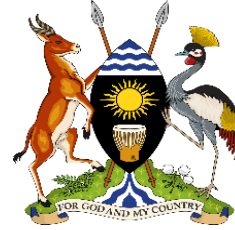
## ABIM



### Rainfall Forecast:

Rainfall forecast for October 2021 is favorable, with a greater chance of experiencing wetter than usual conditions (above normal rainfall conditions) predicted for Abim district as a whole. The seasonal forecast issued by the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) is presented in the map on the left. The forecast puts at least 40% or better possibility for wetter than usual conditions. A localized computation of the ICPAC prediction highlights that Nyakwae, Morulem, Magamaga, Lotukei, Awach, Abim and Abim Town Council are expected to be within normal drought magnitudes in October. While areas of Alerek Sub County are expected to be wetter than usual (map on the right).

Source: ICPAC – IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Center.

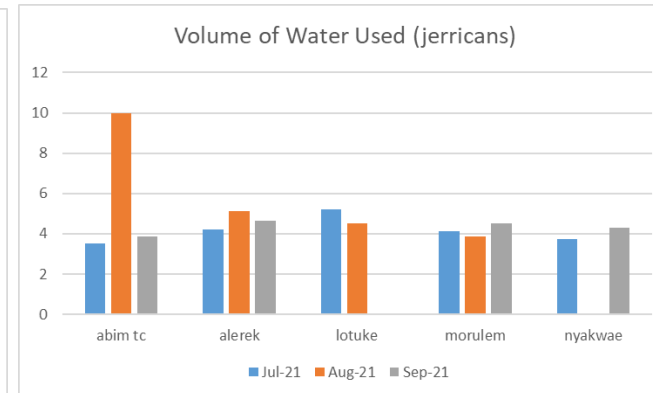
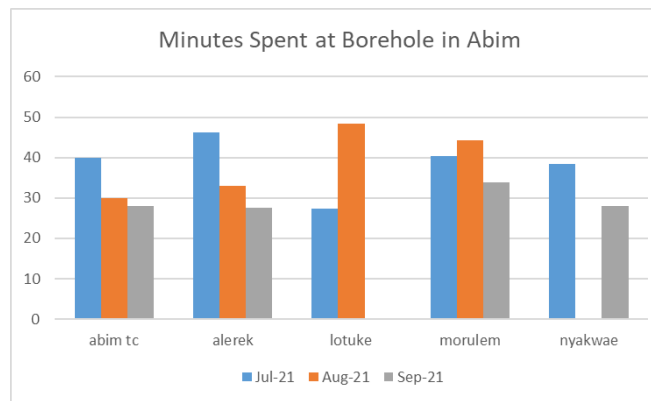
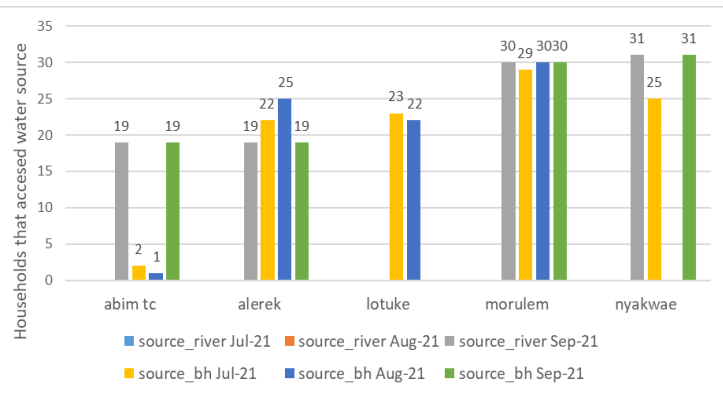


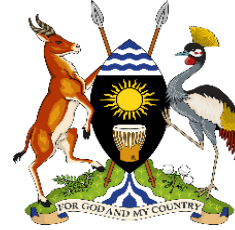
### Risk of Drought

Despite negative SPI values for most of the Sub Counties since June, the risk of drought is low based on the forecast for the month of October above.

September 2021 Standard Precipitation Index Values for eight (8) sub counties in Abim district (Abim, Abim town Council, Alerek, Awach, Lotukei, Magamaga, Morulem and Nyakwae) fall below zero (are in negative values). Environmental indicators show unusual fluctuations outside expected seasonal ranges especially in Alerek and Awach sub-counties. The resumption to near normal rainfall has reduced the risk of drought experience in Abim for the month of October.

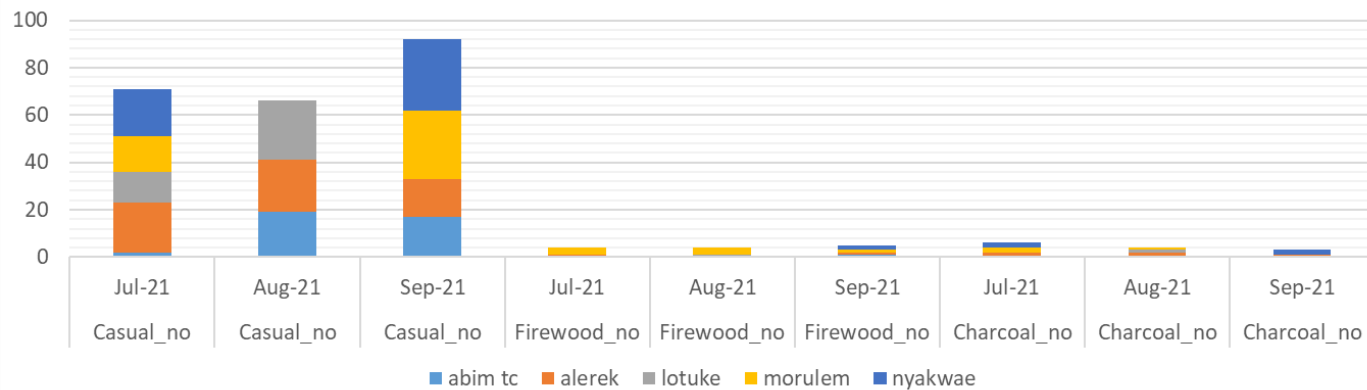
## Access & Usage of Water



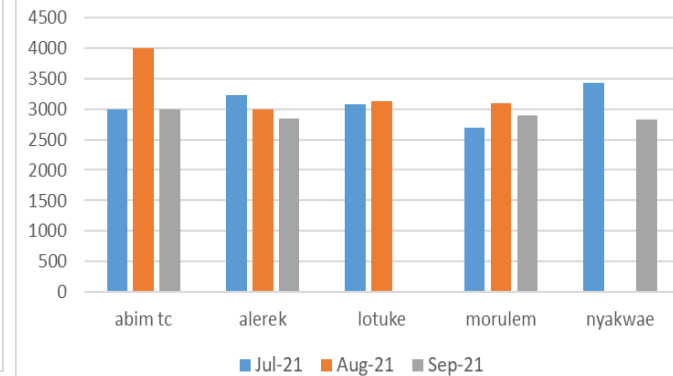


## Sources of Income

Key Sources of Income July - September in Abim



Coping Labour Wages (UGX)



### Trends in Water access, Income Sources and Food prices

The month registered an increase in the quantity of water fetched daily. This is attributed to the training of water user committee at various water points and borehole rehabilitations and water harvesting at household level for domestic use. This improved on the functionality of the boreholes

Hand pumps, Valley tanks, Natural Ponds are the main water sources used by the communities in the Nyakwae, Lotuke and Morulem. Hand pumps and Taps were the main sources of water used by the communities in the Urban Centers (Alerek and Abim Town Council).

The major source of income is Casual labor across the District as shown in the above graph. Firewood and charcoal follows mainly in Alerek and Morulem Sub Counties.

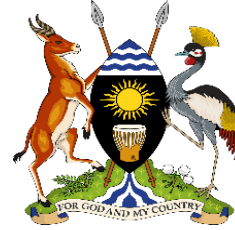
The decrease in the labor price is attributed to high supply of labor due to food depletion at the household level. Many casual laborers are willing to offer their services at a lower rate so as to get money to buy food for the household.

### Sorghum Prices

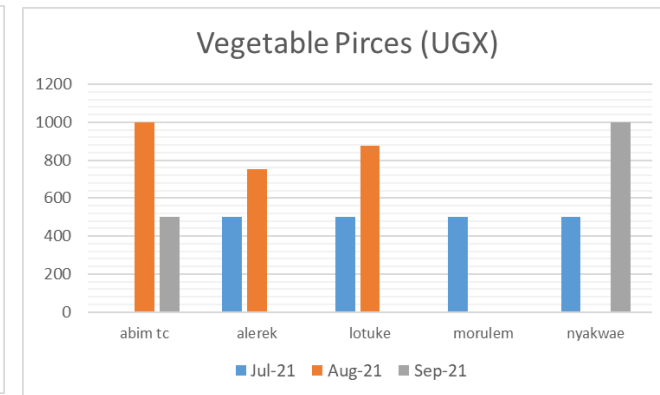
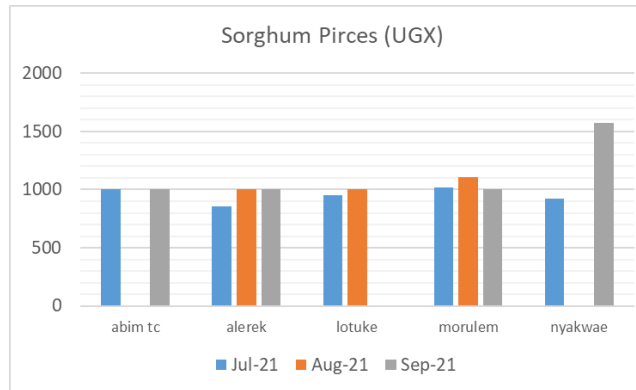
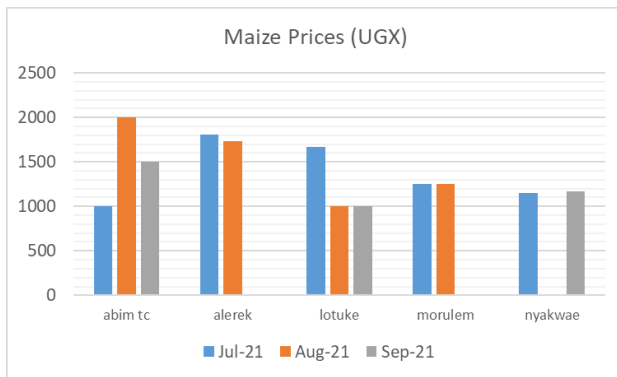
The price of sorghum is on the rise across the district. This is attributed to the low harvest of other crops like Maize and Millet which was caused by the dry spell. Most sorghum being sold in the local market is being brought from other districts

**Source: District Commercial Office.**



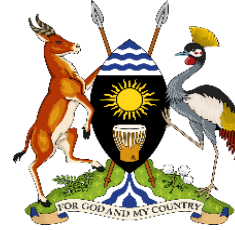


## Food prices



## Contingency Activation

Recommendation to activate emergency plan for Abim Districts. This is because Alerek Sub County has been classified in the Drought Early Warning (DEW) **Phase 3 (ALARM)** since the September 2021 SPI value falls below zero (in negative). The SPI values for Alerek Sub County fell below zero for 4 consecutive months (June, July, August and September 2021) and reached below negative two (-2) at least once in the month of August 2021. The sectorial indicators are fluctuating outside normal ranges. The prolonged dry spell and erratic rainfall experienced in the period of June, July and August 2021 led to wilting and scorching of crops in the gardens. Maize and beans were most affected, visibly water stressed/wilted, dried while in the gardens. This was worsened by the prevalence of crop pests (fall army worms, leaf miners/hoppers and beetles) that seriously affected maize and Beans crops. Relatedly, crops planted late in the season (July and August 2021) experienced stunted growth leading to low yields. Other Sub Counties (Abim, Awach, Lotuke and AbimTown Council), have been classified in the Drought Early Warning (DEW) **Phase 2 Watch** since September 2021 SPI value for falls below zero (in negative), and for 3 consecutive months, reached negative one (-1) in the months of June and August and September 2021. The sectorial indicators fluctuate within the normal ranges, the green harvest (sorghum, maize) is expected to replenish HH food stock, ensure more food supply in the market



## Early Action Messages

No	Sector	Early Warning Message
01	<b>Socio-Economic and Livelihoods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The communities should report all security issues or any suspicion to the police or their nearest local council on time to reduce the rampant cases of stealing household's properties and the livestock in the district.</li> </ul>
02	<b>Livestock</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take initiatives to spray and deworm livestock routinely.</li> <li>Keep hygiene in the kraals and routinely check for cases of foot rot.</li> <li>Report any disease outbreaks to the extension officers.</li> <li>The district is advised to conduct routine livestock disease surveillance across all Sub Counties to avoid sudden outbreak.</li> </ul>
03	<b>Crops</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Practice vegetable growing and kitchen gardening to provide alternative food supplements to HHs.</li> <li>Harvest and stock foods and use harvested foods sparingly and reserve for period of scarcity.</li> <li>Minimize post-harvest losses during the harvesting and protect harvested crops from rains and animals.</li> <li>Liaise with agriculture extension workers and timely report prevalent cases of crop diseases and pests.</li> </ul>
04	<b>Water</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The communities should keep their water points clean to avoid contamination from animals.</li> <li>Communities are encouraged to use boreholes / taps as the main sources water of drinking water so as to avoid infections.</li> <li>Protect and maintain proper hygiene and sanitation around water sources (boreholes, taps, springs/wells).</li> <li>Make use of water harvesting facilities under roofs like tanks and drums to harvest rain water when and if it rains.</li> <li>Report any borehole breakages to the right authorities as soon as possible so that they can be helped in time.</li> <li>District water department is encouraged to carry boreholes/taps functionality assessments to help map out faulty ones for repairs.</li> </ul>
05	<b>Health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow Covid-19 standard operating procedures (SOPS) issued by the Ministry of Health (social distancing, washing hands regularly with soap, wearing masks especially when in crowded places).</li> <li>Go for COVID-19 vaccination when an opportunity presents itself.</li> <li>Sleep under mosquito nets and clear bushes around HHs and homesteads.</li> </ul>