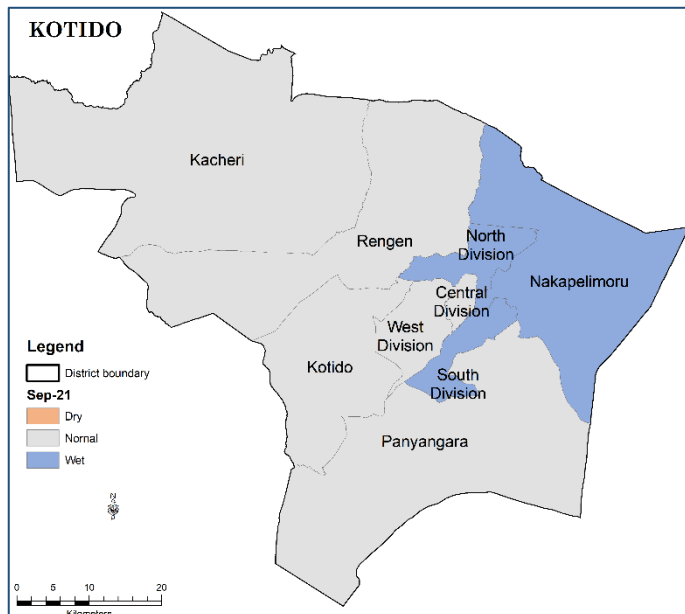


KOTIDO DROUGHT BULLETIN SEPTEMBER 2021

Strengthening Shock Responsive Systems in Karamoja

EWPC (Early Warning Phase Classification)	Normal	Watch	Alarm	Emergency
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SECTORS	July	August	September
Livestock	 Normal	 Normal	 Normal
Livelihood	 Watch	 Watch	 Watch
Crops	 Watch	 Watch	 Watch
Water	 Normal	 Normal	 Normal
Health	 Watch	 Watch	 Watch

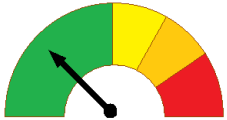

SUB COUNTIES	July	August	September
Nakapelimoru	 Watch	 Alarm	 Watch
Panyangara	 Watch	 Alarm	 Watch
Rengen	 Watch	 Alarm	 Watch
North Division	 Watch	 Alarm	 Watch
Kacheri	 Watch	 Alarm	 Watch



Situational Overview

Overall, the District is considered to be at **WATCH** phase. Two sectors, Livestock and water are at **NORMAL** stages, which is attributed to not only water and pastures favorable conditions during the wet month of September but also low livestock disease incidences in the district. Favorable precipitation conditions led to animal water and pasture availability, reduced stress of animals' movement in search for water and pasture. A livestock vaccination program is also being rolled out in the district and this could improve the livestock situation further. Drought conditions during the month are **NORMAL** and the forecast for October 2021, shows low risk of drought onset. Other sectoral indicators however are mainly fluctuating from expected values owing particularly to the COVID-19 pandemic that has had a multidimensional effect on such sectors and the effects of late onset of rains during the planting season which will go on to affect communities throughout the entire season.

ANALYSIS OF SECTORS

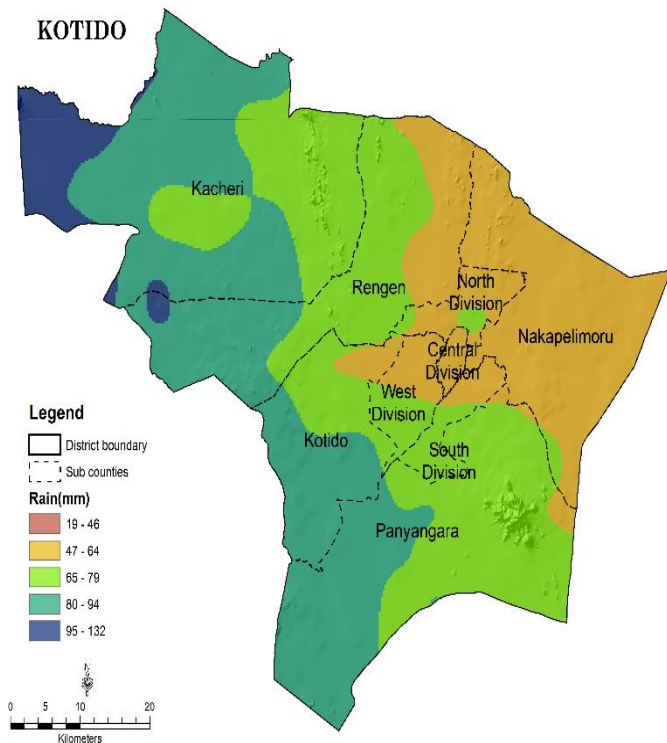
Sectors	Sectoral levels	Comments and Recommendations
Socio-economic		<p>Socio-economic indicators: Average daily rate of labor stagnated at UGX2142 during the month of September which is way below the expected normal values (UGX5500-7000). The months of July and August stood at UGX2351 and UGX2048 respectively. This daily causal labour pay which turned out to be the major source of livelihood together with sale of firewood, can only buy either a Kilogram of beans (which stood at UGX2094) or two kilograms of maize/sorghum (which stood at UGX971 and UGX947 respectively) but not both. This still constrains the ability of the households to be able to access food, let alone balance their dietary needs. Food prices were however on the decline trend during the month owing to some harvests being made in some parts of the district.</p> <p><u>Recommendations.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities should be encouraged to diversify their income generating activities.
	Watch	
Crop Sector		<p>Crop Sector indicators: During the month under review, harvesting was being done in some parts of the district. The crop sector continued to be in alarming conditions particularly for the crops that were still in the gardens. Maize and sorghum were the major crops affected among the crops that were still in the garden during the month of September. Key pests affecting these included: Sorghum anthracnose, loose or kernel and head smuts, sorghum stem borers, fall army worm, sorghum midge and parasitic weed called striga. The local varieties of sorghum and maize were more susceptible to pests and diseases compared to improved varieties. Sorghum anthracnose in particular had affected nearly 70% of the sorghum grown within the district (Source: DAO-Kotido).</p> <p><u>Recommendations.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building in grain post-harvest handling need to continue during the harvesting season to help farmers avoid losses. • Capacity building for farmers to ably identify crop physiological maturity and harvest in time is important moving forward. • Farmers should be helped to diversify their crop enterprises particularly with emerging crops including pulses such as beans, soybeans, green gram and horticultural crops. • Farmers' capacity to plant drought and disease resistant varieties need to be emphasized in the next planting season. • Capacity building among farmers in crop disease identification for early action is necessary particularly for maize and sorghum crops.
	Watch	

<p>Livestock</p>	 <p>Normal</p>	<p>There were no significant livestock migration confirmed resulting from drought coping strategies during the month under review. The sector was normal owing to favourable precipitation, pasture availability and low animal disease incidences, although some cases of animal theft were reported. The major diseases affecting livestock included: East coast fever, anaplasmosis, and trypanosomiasis for cattle, while for shoats, it were mainly helminthiasis, anaplasmosis, and contagious caprine pleuropneumonia (CCP)</p> <p><u>Recommendations.</u></p> <p>Mapping hotspots and engaging vector control, treatment, and vaccinations against the identified diseases needs to be a routine activity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for disease surveillance and deworming programs need to be routinely conducted throughout the entire district. • Continuance and intensification of routine livestock production extension and support to farmers particularly about the benefits and how to regularly treat their animals for example regular spraying, and deworming. • Encouraging farmers to avoid destruction of water catchment areas.
<p>Water</p>	 <p>Normal</p>	<p>Water sector indicators: The water sector was stable during the month under review as well as the previous two months. sources are adequately distributed in the district. Over 90% of the households were using boreholes as their main source of water. The average time spend to fetch water from boreholes remained stable compared to the previous two months (July, and August) at an average 103 minutes (1.7 Hours). This is still within normal/threshold values of less than 2 hours.</p> <p><u>Recommendations.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of safe drinking water need to continue in form of messages and or boiling to generate health benefits. • Sensitization for water sources conservation and efficient water use continues to be a priority for water use. • Water user committees need to continue to be activated or empowered where they are existing to report any water source breakages and control the use of the water resources. • Concerted efforts of communities to improve on the operation and maintenance of their boreholes to avoid regular breakdown are necessary where they are missing. • Communities should be capacitated to create more water harvesting avenues to take advantage of the wet months currently ongoing.

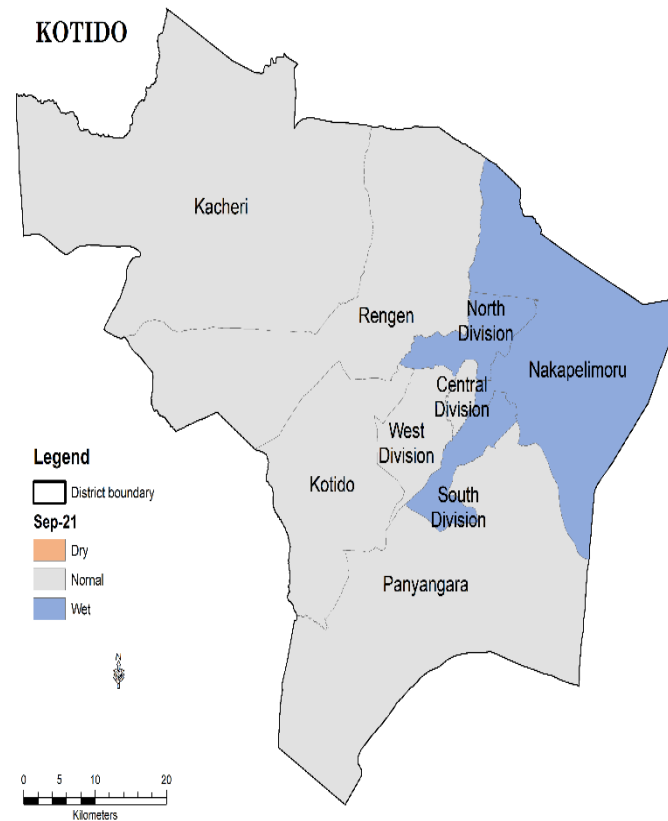
<p>Livelihoods</p>	 <p>Watch</p>	<p>Most of the households (Over 80%), reported depending on casual labor, and sale of firewood to get money to access food items from the markets. The sale of firewood was more common in Panyangara Sub County compared to other sampled areas. While 60% of the households had some food stocks in their households, they indicated it was only going to last them less than three months.</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Communities are advised to plant short maturing crops especially vegetables in order to reduce the food shortages. ➤ Farmers are advised to sell a few of their animals in order to purchase and store food when prices go low.
<p>Health Sector</p>	 <p>Watch</p>	<p>Health sector indicators: The health sector continues to be at watch phase given the prevailing COVID 19 pandemic affecting the entire world. Kotido district total Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) admissions reduced from 546 cases in July to 238 cases in August. Southern Division was mostly affected in the month of July with a total of 176 SAM admission cases while Kacheri Sub County and Central Division were mostly affected in the month of August with a total of 67 and 49 SAM admission cases respectively.</p> <p>Malaria disease incidences reduced from 4938 malaria confirmed cases in the month of July to 3456 cases during the month of August 2021. Of these cases, Rengen and Nakapelimoru Sub counties were the most affected in the month of July with 1474 and 1053 malaria confirmed cases respectively. The month of August saw the same trend with 759 cases in Rengen and 781 cases in Nakapelimoru Sub Counties.</p> <p>Acute Diarrhoea cases reduced from 1757 cases in July 2021 down to 1183 cases in August 2021. Rengen Sub County and Western Division were affected the most during the month of July 2021 with 556 and 296 cases respectively. The month of August 2021 recorded a decline in Rengen Sub County to 203 cases while Western Division only recorded a slight decline to 274 cases. Panyangara Sub County ranked highest in acute diarrhoea cases during the month of August at 382 cases. (Source: District Nutrition focal point and Biostatistics offices-Kotido)</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuance of efforts for nutrition messaging in the local language across all avenues of community gatherings. • Continue to promote sanitation and hygiene as well as mass sensitization of communities to the adherence of safety precautionary measures against the spread of COVID-19. • Continuance and or starting close monitoring of cases of malnutrition at household level by nutrition department and its relevant partners. • In collaboration with agriculture department, source and supply easy and quick to grow crops/enterprises such as pumpkin seeds, green grams, improved fruit tree seedlings, rabbits, guinea pigs and chicken which provide a quick source of nutrients but are also an important source of manure for improving fertility of backyard gardens

2- DROUGHT SEVERITY AND OUTLOOK

Rainfall and Current Conditions



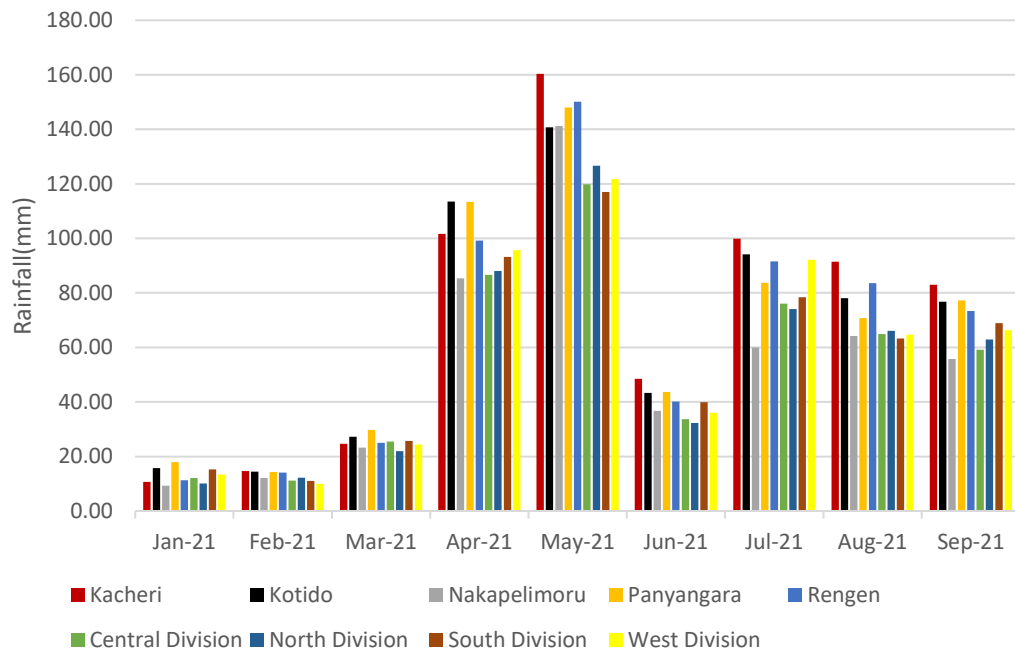
Rainfall in the first 20 days of September



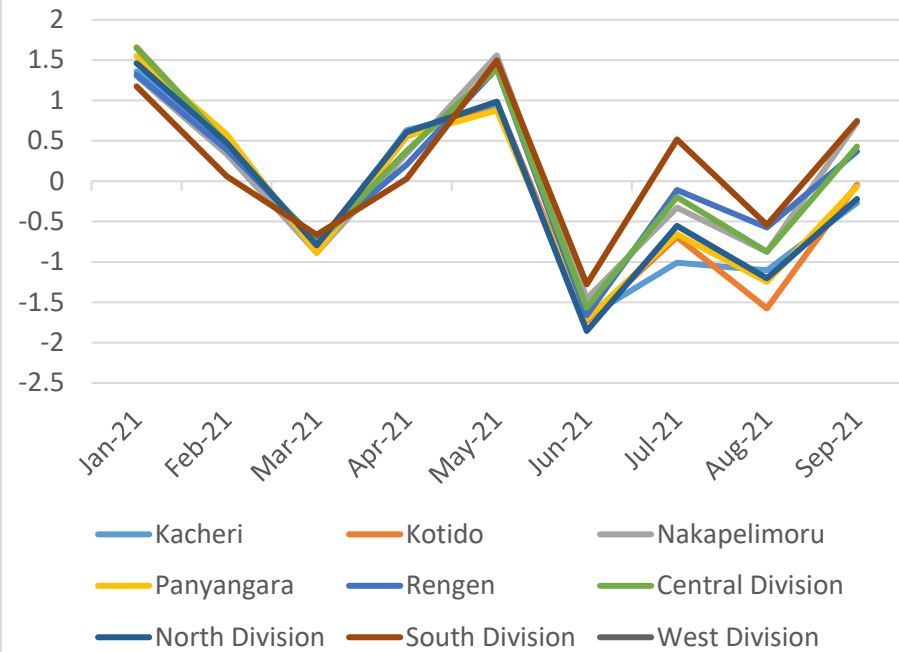
Drought Severity and Magnitude based on SPI

The month of September was a wet month for the whole of Kotido district. The eastern parts of the district particularly Nakapelimoru Sub County received less rainfall compared to the other parts of the district. Kacheri, Panyangara and Kotido Sub counties experienced the most rainfall in the first 20 days of the month averaging at about 94 mm (map on the far left). The amount of precipitation reduces eastwards but with the whole district receiving above 47 mm of rain. These rainfall values resulted into normal conditions for Kotido in terms of magnitude and severity of drought classification. The map on the right has details of all sub counties within normal or expected ranges.

Precipitation for Kotido 2021



SPI for Kotido for 2021

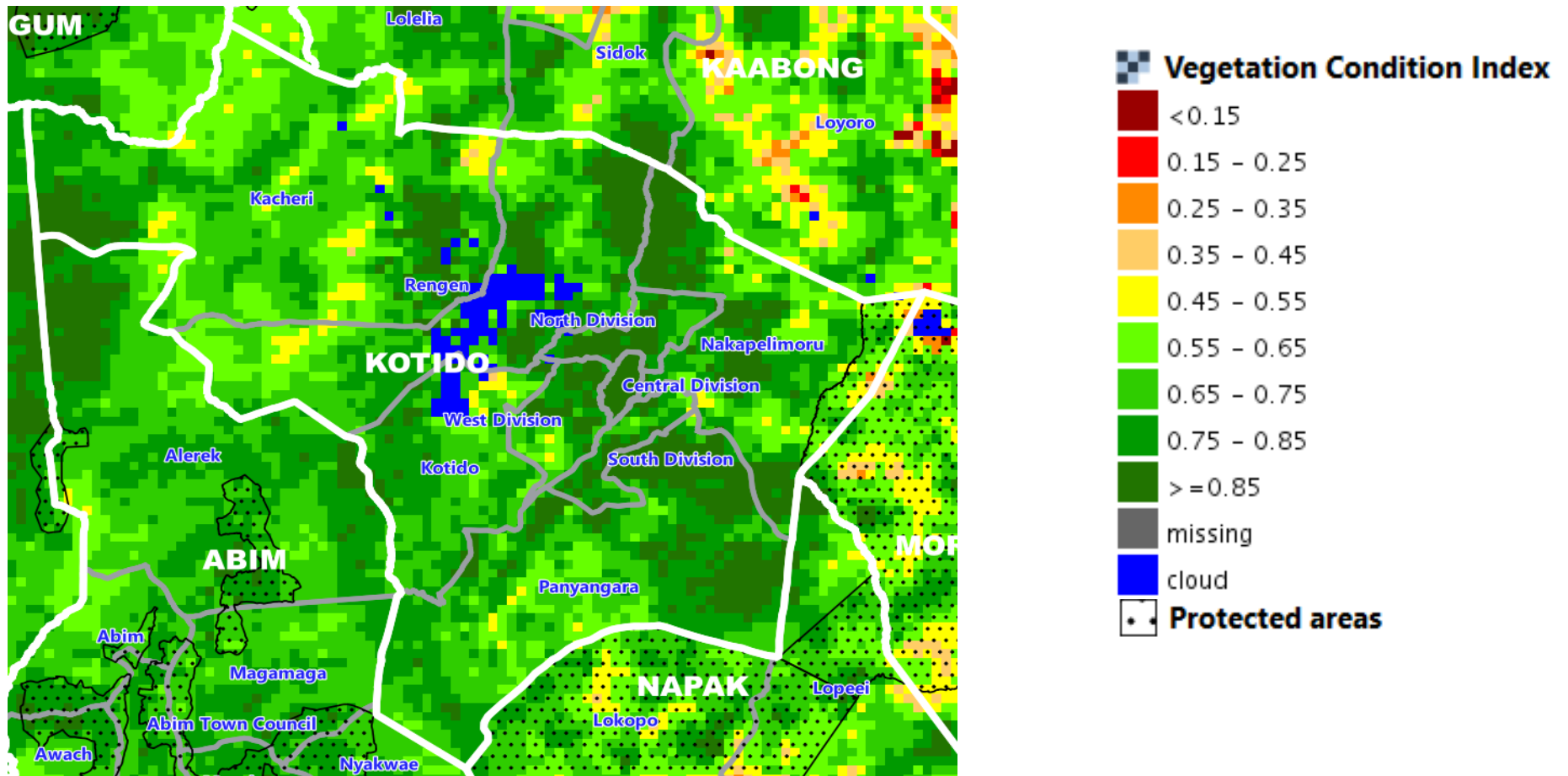


The graphs above show how rainfall (left) and drought categories (right) have been fluctuating since the beginning of the year in January.

Precipitation conditions improved from March, through April and peaked in May before dropping back in June. The months of July, August and September show an improved precipitation conditions that was adequate to support the planting of short maturing crop varieties for example pulses (beans, green grams) and vegetables.

In the month of September, Nakapelimoru Sub County received the least amount of rainfall compared to the rest of the district. Kacheri Sub County has the most favourable precipitation conditions averaging between 82 to 100mm during the months of July, August and September 2021.

Vegetation Condition for Kotido District



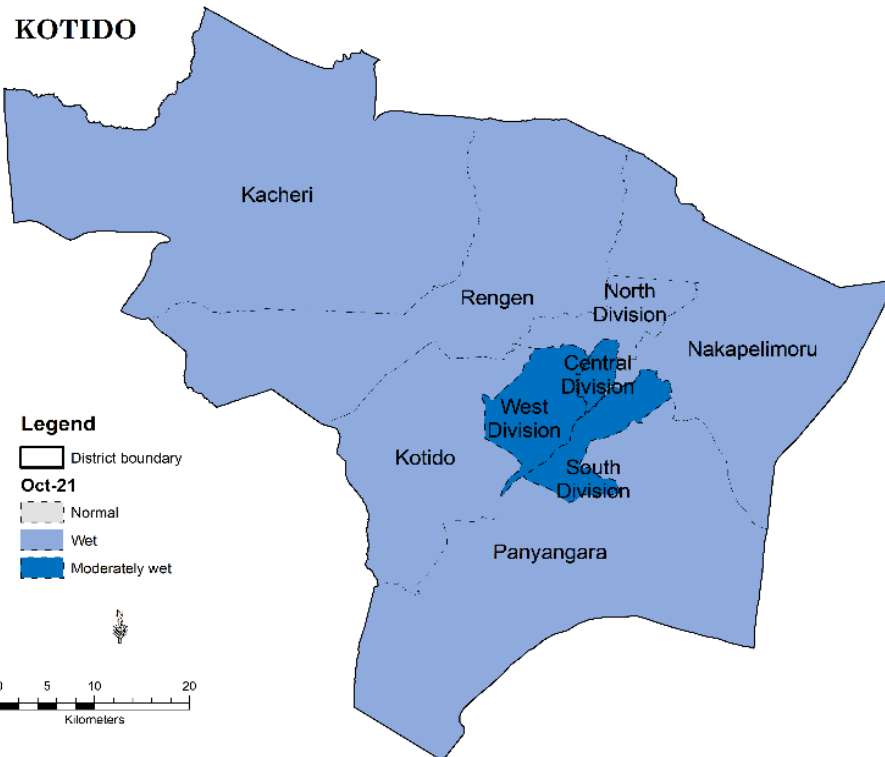
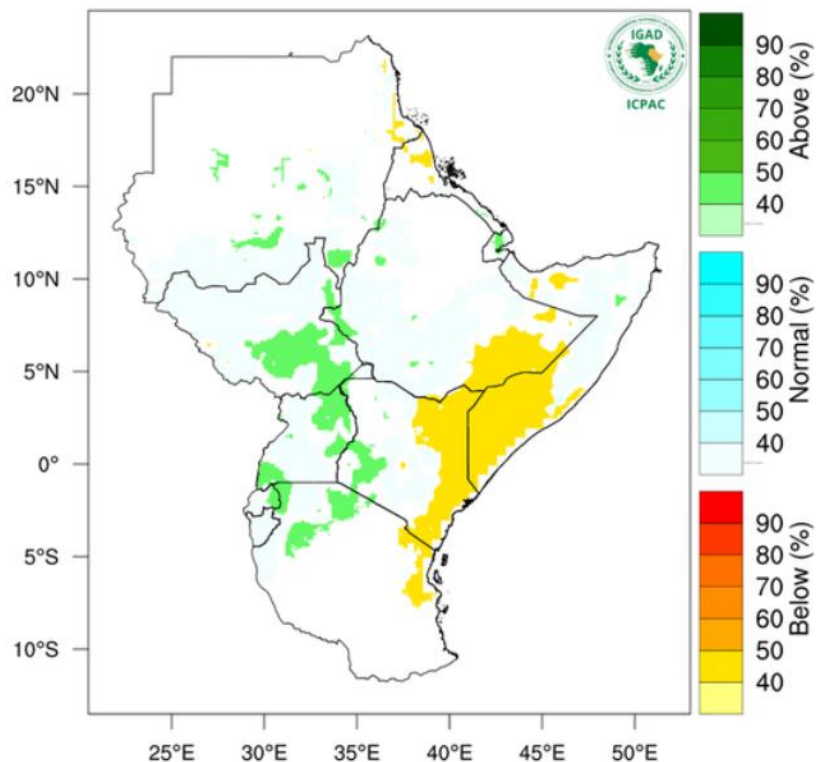
The VCI evaluates the current vegetation health in comparison to the historical trends. The VCI relates current dekadal (10 – day) Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) to its long-term minimum and maximum, normalized by the historical range of NDVI values for the same dekad/10 days. The VCI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

The vegetation conditions based on Vegetation Condition Index (VCI), are above average for the entire district. These conditions show an improvement from those of the previous month particularly for the southern and northern parts of the district which were showed vegetation stress. The vegetation conditions in the central parts of the district are well above 75%.

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



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 Kotido 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 Central, West and South Divisions are expected to receive moderate rains while the rest of the district will be wetter than usual (map on the right).

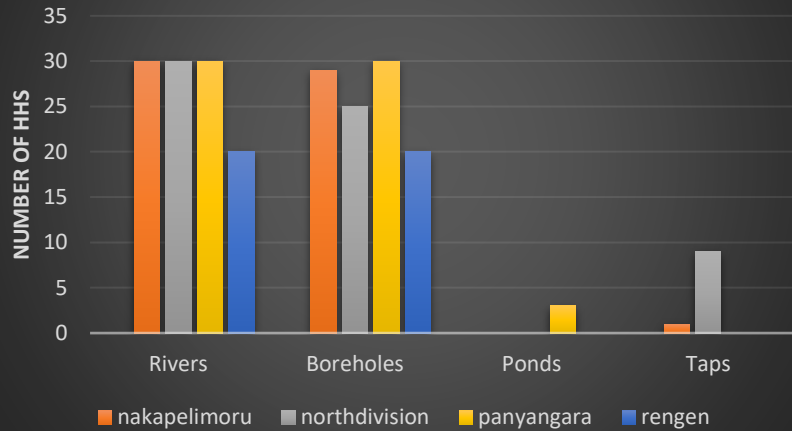
Source: ICPAC – IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Center.

Risk of Drought

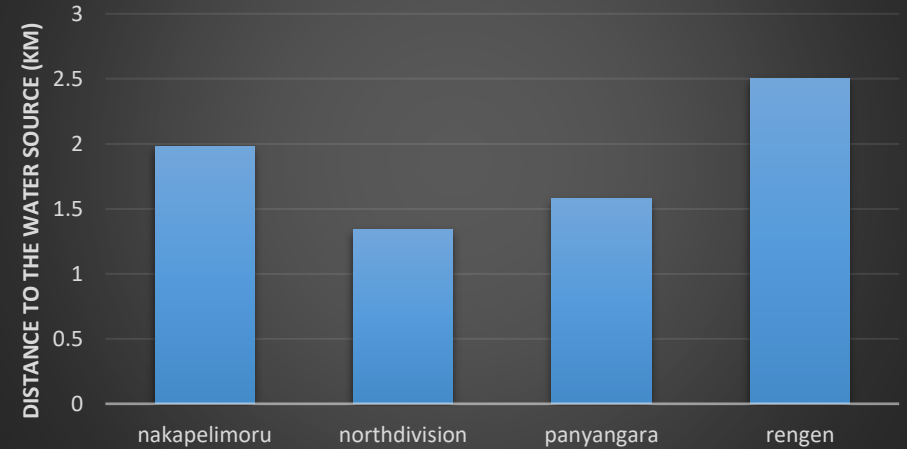
The start of July through to September 2021 shows an improvement in SPI values for Kotido district. Based on this reason and the precipitation forecast for the coming month (October 2021), the risk of drought onset is considered to be low.

Access & Usage of Water

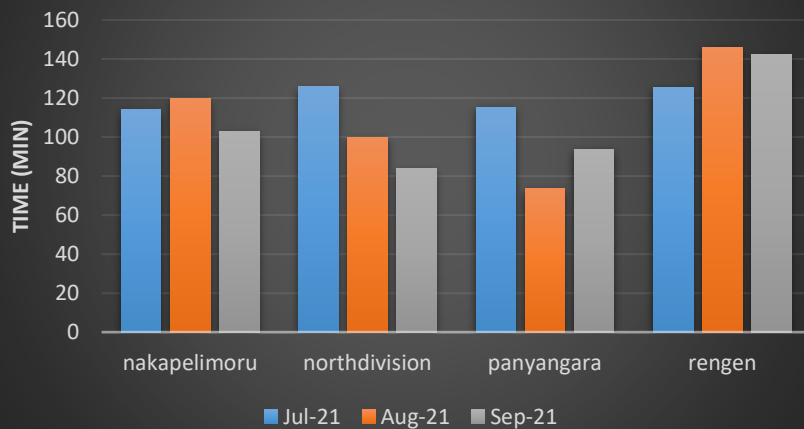
Major HH water sources in Kotido September 2021



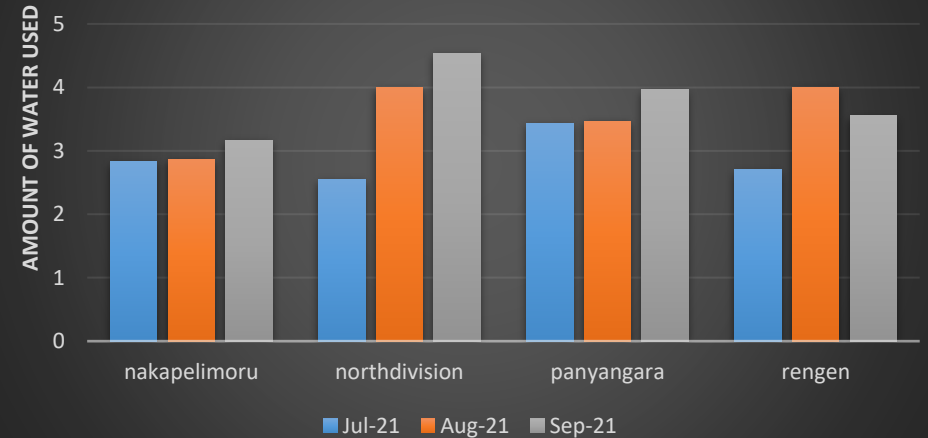
Average Distance to boreholes (km)- September 2021



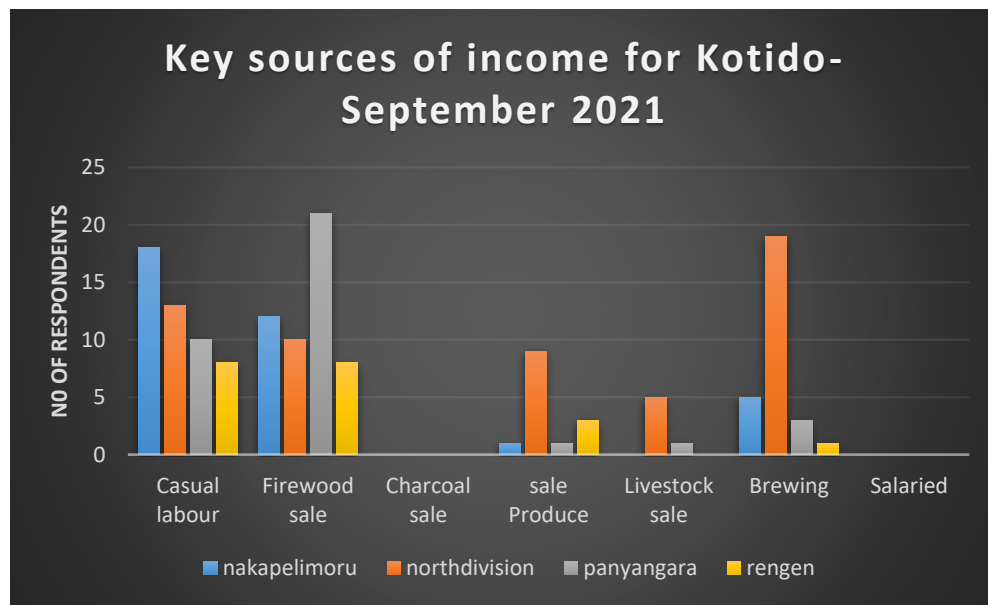
Time taken to access boreholes (july-Sept 2021)



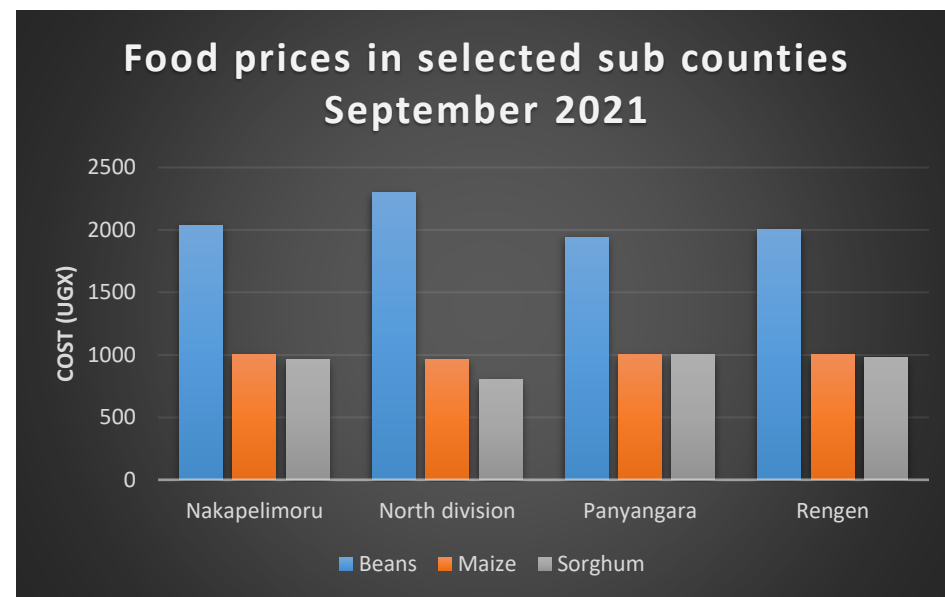
Household average amount of water used(Jerrycans) (July-Sept 2021)



Sources of Income



Food prices



Trends in Water access, Income Sources and Food prices

Boreholes and rivers remain the major water sources in the district during the month, with some access of piped water particularly in North Division and Nakapelimoru Subcounty. The distance to the water sources averaged less than 2km except for Rengen Sub County (2.5Km) during the month of September. The time taken to access the water sources has been averaging at less than 2 hours since July.

The major sources of income during the month were casual labour, sale of firewood and brewing. Firewood sale is commonest in Panyangara Sub County than any other sampled areas.

Food prices were averaging at UGX1000 for sorghum and maize while beans cost an average UGX2000, with the exception of North Division where the cost was averagely UGX2300. While these prices are within normal ranges, they are still high particularly during this period when new harvests are expected.

Contingency Activation

Drought conditions are within normal ranges for Kotido district, but the sectoral analysis shows that a range of sectoral indicators apart from water and livestock sectors, are fluctuating outside the expected/normal ranges. This is mainly due to the current COVID-19 pandemic that has affected production and livelihoods in a range of dimensions. The late onset of rains during the planting season has also contributed significantly to the harvests and household food stocks. These have also informed the phase classifications to be in the watch phase for the entire district. Based on these therefore, we recommend activating the contingency plan for Kotido District particularly to address the already threatened household food stocks, address diseases incidences both for humans, livestock and crops, and livestock insecurity in in the district.

Early Action Messages

No	Sector	Early Warning Message
01	Socio-Economic and Livelihoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communities are advised to harvest their crops at the right time, stock foods, and seek knowledge to minimize post-harvest losses while also using the harvested foods sparingly in anticipation of the inevitable eminent periods of food scarcity.• Communities are advised to be vigilant and report cases of livestock raids, theft and potential insecurity to authorities for follow-up.• Authorities and communities are advised to harmonise the process that enables farmers to have relevant documents to enable them to sell off livestock.• Communities are advised to use income obtained from casual labor, and other economic activities such as livestock sales, charcoal, brewing, retail business and others) to buy and stock foods to reserve for future consumption.

02	Livestock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Livestock farmers are advised to cut and preserve pastures in form of hays and silages for use during the incoming dry season of scarcity. • Farmers are advised to take initiatives to regularly spray and deworm their livestock routinely. • Farmers are encouraged to keep hygiene in the kraals and routinely check for cases of foot rot particularly during wet conditions. • Farmers are encouraged to ensure correct use and application of acaricide in the market or seek advice from the veterinary officers. • Farmers are encouraged to design a routine for regularly vaccinating livestock against notifiable diseases. • The concerned authorities are encouraged to build the capacity of farmers to seek help from qualified and registered service providers’/extension workers in their Sub Counties (Demand driven extension) • Communities should be empowered to identify and report any disease outbreaks to the extension officers. • The district is advised to conduct routine livestock disease surveillance across all Sub Counties to avoid sudden outbreak particularly during the wet conditions when disease cases increase. • Authorities should also continue to regulate animal movements to control spread of livestock diseases.
03	Crops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmers are encouraged to start seeking early warning information to integrate in their farming decision making • Communities are advised to plant short maturing crops this month since the forecast for the next two months is favourable. Heaping sweet potatoes and vegetables at this time may save the season. • Farmers are encouraged to practice vegetable growing and kitchen gardening to provide alternative food supplements to their households.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities are advised to practice or seek knowledge of soil and water conservation measures such as digging of water retention ditches, contour bans, mulching to preserve adequate soil moisture for vegetable growth. • Communities are advised to harvest at the right time, stock foods and use their food stocks sparingly to help them through the anticipated periods of scarcity. • Farmers are advised to seek knowledge to minimize post-harvest losses during the harvesting, storage and protect harvested crops from rains and animals. • The district and Sub County production/agriculture departments in collaboration with development partners are encouraged to stock up crop pesticides, fungicides to support crop farmers in time for the next season. • Communities are also liaise with agriculture extension workers to build capacity in basic crop and animal diseases identification for timely reporting in future. • Farmers should routinely seek guidance from their extension workers on recommended practices (timely planting, crop rotation, use of tolerant seed varieties and organic pesticides). • The district and Sub County authorities are advised to design a regular routine to conduct crop pests and disease surveillance during crop growth stages and take timely action.
04	Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities are encouraged to: • To use boreholes / taps as the main sources of water for drinking in addition to boiling it before use so as to avoid infections. • Protect and maintain proper hygiene and sanitation around water sources (boreholes, taps, springs/wells). • Attempt to wipe out open defaecation in their communities • Make use of water harvesting facilities under roofs like tanks and drums to harvest rain water when and if it rains.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report any borehole breakages to the right authorities as soon as possible so that they can be helped in time. • The District water department is encouraged to carry out routine boreholes functionality monitoring to help map out faulty ones for timely repairs.
05	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities are advised to access and sleep under mosquito nets and clear bushes around homesteads to avoid the rampant malaria cases. • The relevant authorities should continue or even intensify the efforts for nutrition messaging in the local language at all congregating areas in the district especially churches, burials, wedding ceremonies among others • Promotion of sanitation and hygiene as well as mass sensitization of communities to the adherence of safety precautionary measures against the spread of COVID-19 should continue at every possible opportunity. • Continuance and or starting close monitoring of cases of malnutrition at household level by nutrition department and its relevant partners is necessary. • The health department in collaboration with agriculture department should source and supply easy and quick to grow crops/enterprises such as pumpkin seeds, improved fruit tree seedlings, rabbits, guinea pigs and chicken which provide a quick source of nutrients but are also an important source of manure for improving fertility of backyard gardens.