

NABILATUK DROUGHT BULLETIN SEPTEMBER 2021

Pro-Act Project, Strengthening Shock Responsive Systems in Karamoja



NABILATUK

Legend

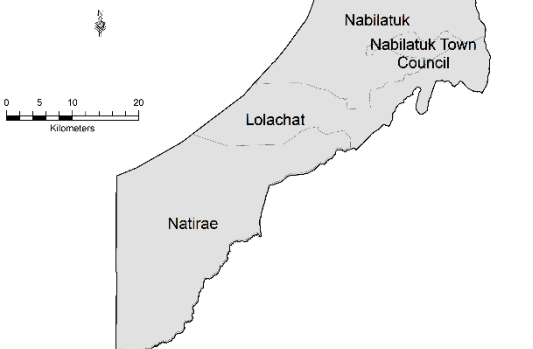
□ District boundary

Sep-21

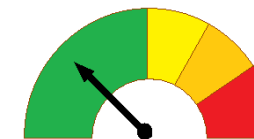
□ Dry

□ Normal

□ Wet



Watch



Normal

Sectors	July	August	September
Livestock	Watch	Watch	Watch
Livelihood -Socio	Watch	Watch	Watch
Crops	Watch	Watch	Alarm
Water	Normal	Normal	Normal
Health	Watch	Watch	Watch





Sub counties	July	August	September
Lolachat	Watch	Alarm	Normal
Lorengedwat	Alert	Watch	Normal
Nabilatuk	Normal	Watch	Normal
Nabilatuk TC	Normal	Watch	Normal
Natirae	Watch	Watch	Normal

Situational Overview:

Nabilatuk district is partly considered to be at **NORMAL** stage since sectoral indicators such as Livestock migration and Water access are in **NORMAL** stages. Pastures and water points remain readily available for animals and households. There is reduced stress of animals moving long distances in search for water and pasture. Relatedly, the most recent interventions (vaccinations, treatments, deworming and spraying of the animals which were carried out by district/development partners, reduced incidences of livestock disease and parasites ailments. However, the agro-pastoral zone is considered to be at **ALERT** stage due to increased incidences of Livestock theft/raids; Crop failures/low yields realized, limited food stock due to wilting/scorching, fall army worm, hailstones that affected crops growth. The Livelihood options for the community is at **ALERT** stage since most of the indicators are fluctuating outside the normal ranges. The prices of food stuffs (maize, sorghum, beans and others) are increasing gradually, while the average cost of daily wages earned by casual laborers have reduced by about 40% (2,000 Ugx/Day) as compared to the normal range (5,500-7,000 Ugx/Day).

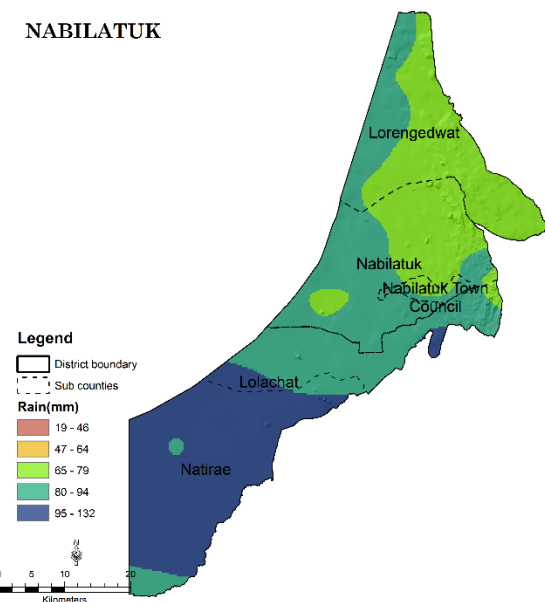
The Drought Bulletin is representative of at least 3 parishes of the five sub counties in Nabilatuk.

ANALYSIS OF SECTORS

Sectors	Sectoral levels	Comments and Recommendations
Socio-economic		<p>Socio-economic indicators i.e. Average cost of labor, daily wages terms of trade, prices of food stuffs, livestock and daily wages show unusual fluctuations outside expected seasonal ranges, but these fluctuations are still minimum.</p> <p><u>Recommendations.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reserve food stocks, use foods sparingly and preserve for the period of scarcity.
	Watch	
Livestock		<p>No significant livestock migration confirmed, movements reported were in between parishes within same Sub County to the grazing grounds.</p> <p><u>Recommendations.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reported cases of livestock theft and diseases to the local and district authorities as soon as possible for immediate follow up. • Follow vaccination and animal treatment programmes as advised by animal husbandry officers.
	Watch	
Water		<p>The water sources are adequately distributed in the district. The boreholes were reported well distributed deep villages within Parishes, while tap waters sources were reported in community trading centers and urban areas within Sub County/Town Council). Natural sources of water (rivers, ponds, springs and wells) provided alternative options for very few HHs</p> <p><u>Recommendations.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use boreholes / taps as the main sources water of drinking water, boil water from natural sources (rivers, wells and springs) before drinking, protect and maintain proper hygiene and sanitation around water sources (boreholes, taps, springs/wells) and report borehole breakage to authorities.
	Normal	
Livelihoods		<p>During the three months period, most of the HH (70% - 80% plus), reported depending on causal labor, sale of firewood and sales of charcoal to get money to access food items from markets.</p> <p><u>Recommendations</u></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 food stuff for stocking. • Use money realized from other sources of income (causal labor, brewing, sale of firewood, sales of charcoal) to stock more food stuff.
	Watch	

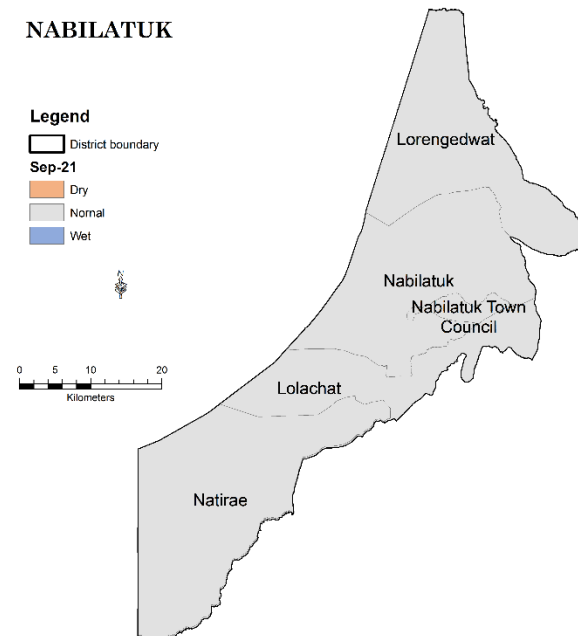
Drought Severity and Outlook

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Rainfall in the first 20 days of September

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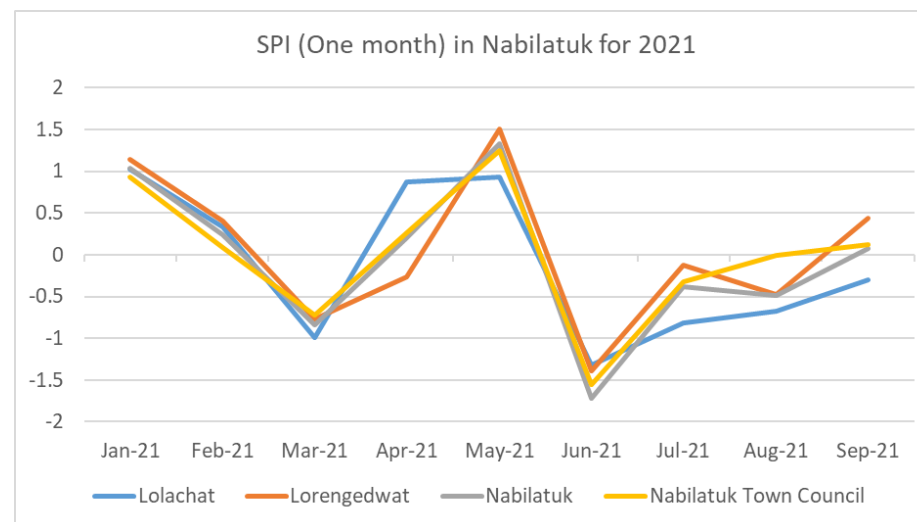
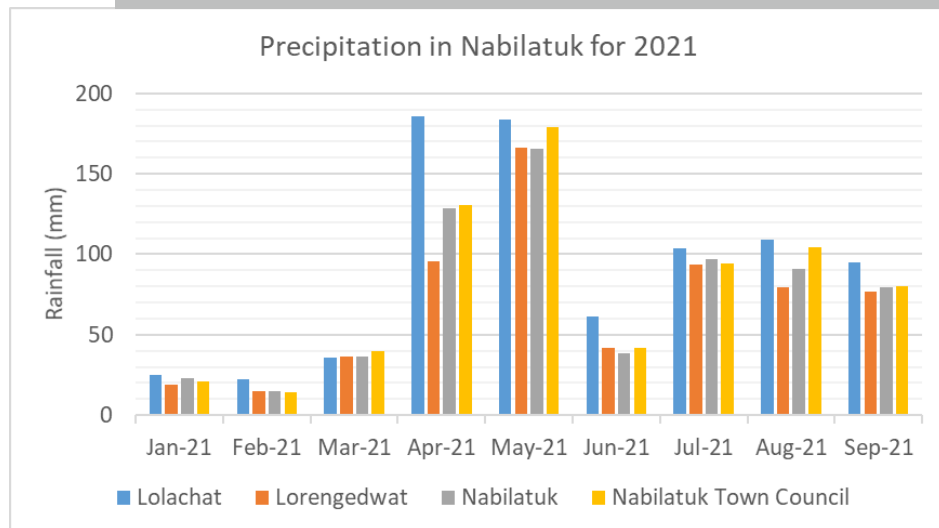
Drought Severity and Magnitude based on SPI

The whole of Nabilatuk received more than average rainfall. The southern parts of the district in Natirae sub county experienced the most rainfall in the first 20 days of the month averaging at about 100 mm (map on the far left). The amount of precipitation reduces northwards but with the whole district receiving above 75 mm of rain. These rainfall values resulted into normal conditions for Nabilatuk 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.

Source: FEWSNET



Precipitation

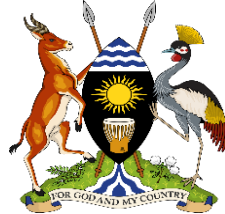


May include 3 months SPI (weighing options)

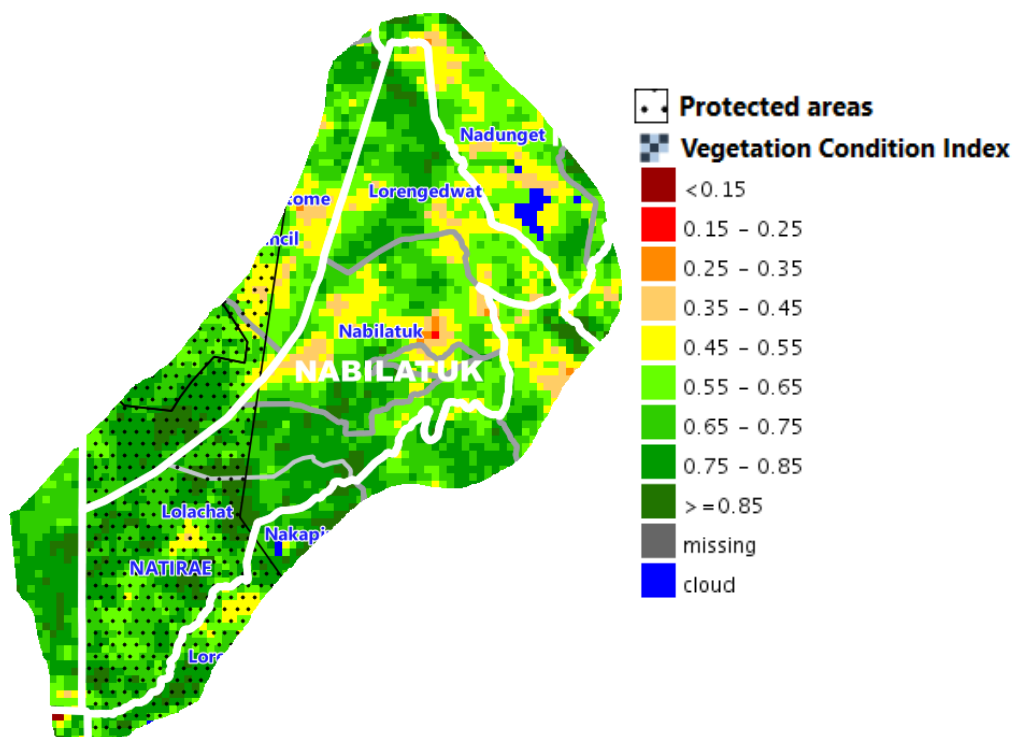
Trends in Precipitation:

The graphs above show how rainfall (left) and drought categories (right) have been fluctuating since the beginning of the year in January to September 2021. In Nabilatuk district, the months of Jan to March were characteristically dry, while April and May experienced between wet to wetter than normal conditions. This was followed by period of dry-spell and limited showers which were experienced between June and July. However, August and September characteristically varied from wet (Lolachat and Natirae) to wetter than normal in most parts of Nabilatuk district (Nabilatuk Town Council, Nabilatuk and Lorengedwat Sub Counties) and incidences of hailstones and crop damage were reported. Relatedly, the SPI values also varied from below zero/negatives (Jan, Feb, March, June, July) to a more favourable conditions (above zero/positive) between August and September. While most of the sectoral indicators showed fluctuation outside the normal ranges, but were still minimal.

NB: In the graphs, Natirae is still part of Lolachat



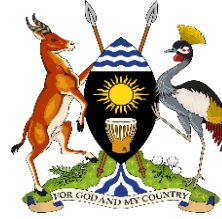
Vegetation Condition



The vegetation conditions based on Vegetation Condition Index (VCI), are above average for the southern part of the district. In comparison to previous months, the vegetation conditions in September has greatly improved, most parts of the district (Lolachat, Natirae, Nabilatuk Sub County and Lorengedwat) indicating between 65-75% green cover. This is also attributed to increased rainfall received within the period.

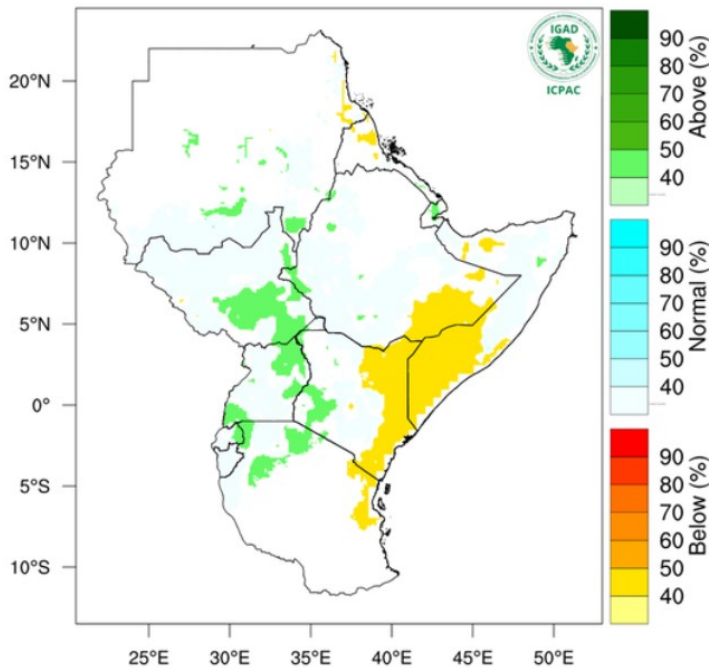
However, localized areas of southern Lorengedwat, Lolachat and Nabilatuk Town Council showed minimal signs of vegetation and crop stress of between 45 to 55% below long-term average. The VCI evaluates the current vegetation health in comparison to the historical trends. The VCI relates current dekadal (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:

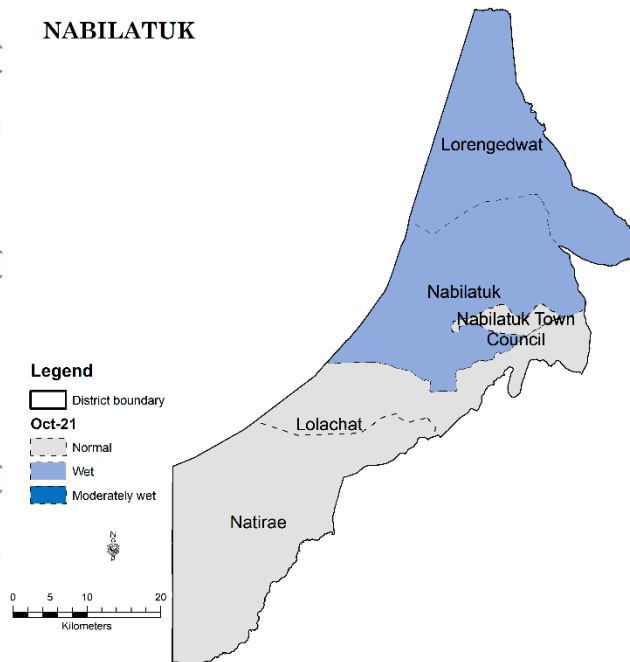


Weather Forecast

Rainfall Probabilistic Forecast for October 2021



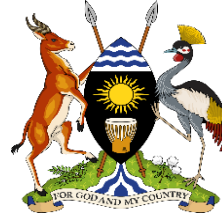
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Rainfall Forecast:

Rainfall forecast for October 2021 is favorable, with a greater chance of experiencing wetter than usual conditions (above normal rainfall conditions) predicted for Nabilatuk 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 45% or better possibility for wetter than usual conditions. A localized computation of the ICPAC prediction highlights that Lolachat, Natirae and Nabilatuk Town Council are expected to receive normal rains in October. While areas of Nabilatuk Sub County and Lorengedwat Sub County are expected to experience above normal rains/ wetter than usual (map on the right).

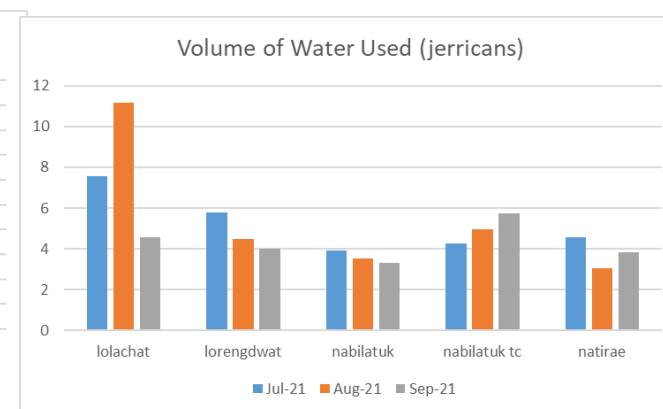
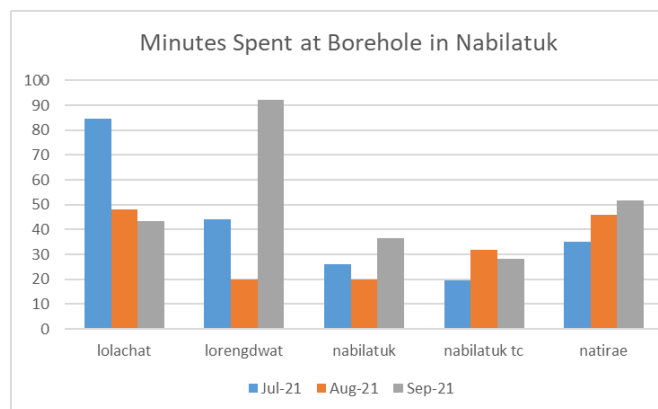
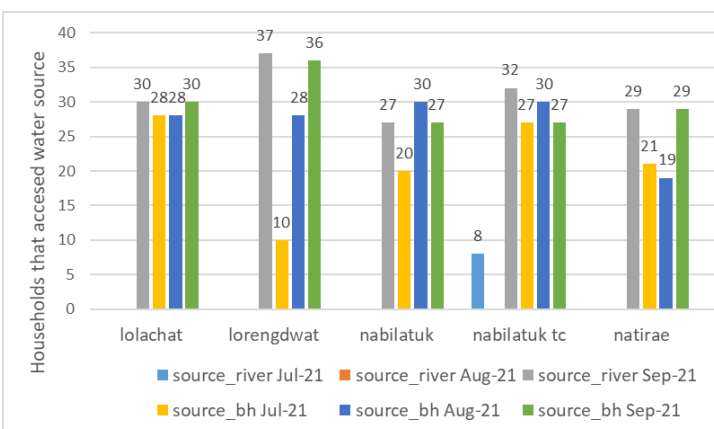
Source: ICPAC – IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Center.



Risk of Drought

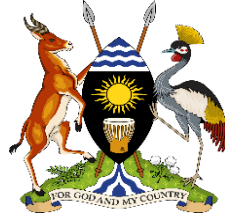
Despite negative SPI values for most of the district since June, the risk of drought is low based on the forecast for the month of October above. The district experienced characteristically wetter than normal conditions in most parts of Nabiratuk district (Nabiratuk Town Council, Nabiratuk and Lorengedwat Sub Counties) between August and September. And as compared to the subsequent months of June and July 2021, the vegetation conditions have greatly improved in most parts of the indicating between 55 to 65% green cover. Relatedly, sectoral indicators such as Livestock migration and Water access are in NORMAL stages since pastures and water points remain readily available for animals, households; with reduced stress of animals moving long distances in search for water and pasture. The period of August to September also showed changes in the SPI values from below zero/negatives in the subsequent months, to positive SPI values in September 2021.

Water Access & Usage



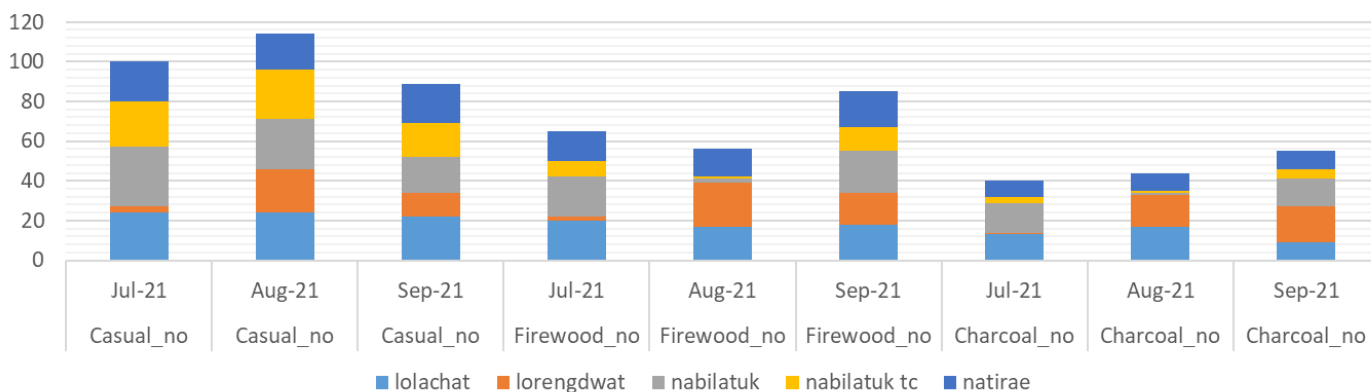
Trends in Access to Water and Usage:

Throughout the period of July to September, boreholes and rivers were the main sources of water accessible by HHs in all the Sub Counties in Nabiratuk, attributed to adequate distribution of within villages and parishes of Nabiratuk. Except for a few cases reported in Lorengedwat and Lolachat Sub Counties where a few HHs visited reported cases of borehole breakdown, with rivers providing alternative water sources and where HHs/villages are located a bit far away from boreholes. Relatedly, Most HHs visited reported spending between 30 to 40 minutes to access water, volume of water used by HHs consistently ranged from 4 to 6 jerricans (20 liters) per day.

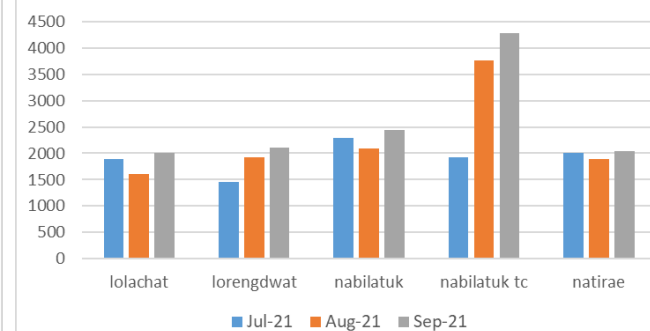


Sources of Income

Respondents and their Key Sources of Income July - September in Nabilatuk



Coping Labour Wages (UGX)

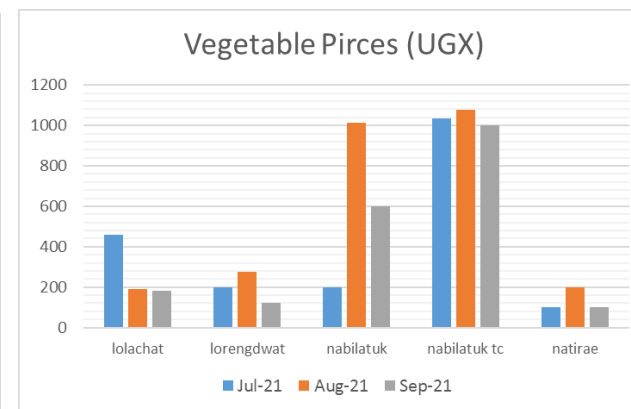
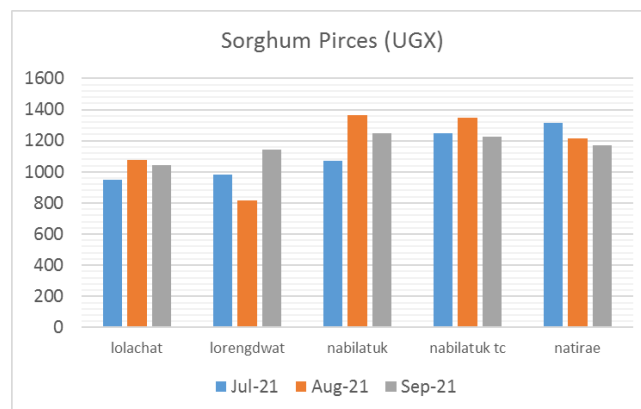
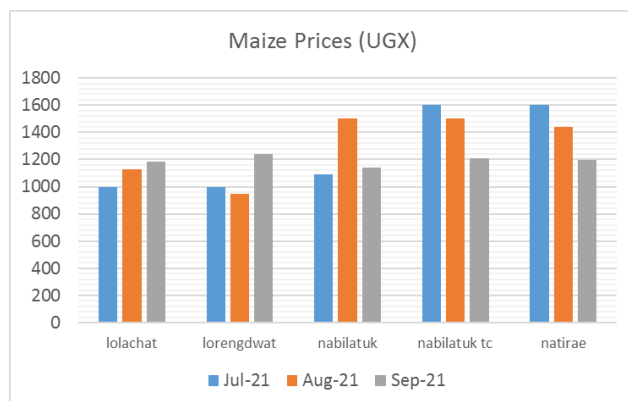


Trends in Income Sources and Coping Labor Wages

Casual labour is predominantly the major sources of income, followed by sales of firewood and charcoal respectively for most of the households visited between July and September. This has always been the case especially during the lean season (June, July and August inclusive) where HH members get engaged in alternative options to get money to buy food from markets. Thus, use of casual labor was common in urban centers/areas around trading centers such as Nabilatuk Town Council, Nabilatuk Sub County and Lolachat, as compared to HHs in rural Sub Counties such as Lorengedwat and Natirae reported more engaged in sales of firewood and charcoal as alternative sources of income and coping strategies. Similarly, the period July and August was also characterized by reduced labor wage of about 40% (2,000 Ugx/Person/Day) as compared to the normal range (5,500-7,000 Ugx/Person/Day).

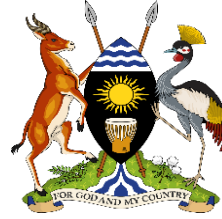


Food prices



Trends in Prices of Maize Sorghum and Vegetables

Maize Sorghum and Vegetables were the most common food stuff consumed in HHs visited during the period. The average prices of these food stuff gradually increased over the months of July and August through September in all Sub Counties. For instance, a kilo of maize which was sold at 1,000 Ugx in July increased to 1,200 Ugx and 1,600 Ugx between August and early September. Similarly, a kilo of sorghum which was sold at 800-900 Ugx in July increased to 1,100 Ugx and 1,400 Ugx. The average prices were notably high in Natirae, Nabilatuk Council and Nabilatuk Sub County as compared to Lolachat and Lorengedwat Sub Counties. This is attributed to high demand of these foodstuff and restricted market operations in these location. However, the average prices declined slightly in September, due to increased supply and household food stock from harvests. The average prices of vegetables were consistently high in urban centers/Sub Counties (Nabilatuk Town Council and Nabilatuk Sub County where demands were also presumably high by urban center dwellers, as compared to rural communities where vegetables were sometimes accessible from the wild, own kitchen gardens and through social access.



Contingency Activation

Overall, Nabilatuk district has been classified in the Drought Early Warning (DEW) **Phase 1 (NORMAL)**. This is because the monthly SPI values have fallen within the normal ranges consistently for the last 3 months (July, August and September). Other sectoral indicators such as Livestock movements and Water access are within NORMAL stages. Pastures and water points are readily available for animals and households and there are reduced stress of animals and HHs moving long distances in search for water. Relatedly, the most recent interventions (vaccinations, treatments, deworming and spraying of the animals which were carried out by district/development partners, reduced incidences of livestock disease and parasites ailments. However, the agro-pastoral zone is considered to be at **WATCH** stage due to increased incidences of Livestock theft/raids; Crop failures/low yields realized due to wilting/scorching, prevalence of fall army worm and cases of hailstones that affected crops growth. The Livelihood options for the most communities is also at **WATCH** stage since most of the indicators are fluctuating outside the normal ranges. The prices of food stuffs (maize, sorghum, beans and others) are increasing gradually, while the average cost of daily wages earned by casual laborers has reduced by about 40% (2,000 Ugx/Day) as compared to the normal range (5,500-7,000 Ugx/Day). There is therefore need to activate contingency plans to enable district to adequately handle cases of livestock theft/raids which has become so rampant in Nabilatuk (Lorengedwat); and offer adequate support HHs to enable them stock enough food stock for use during time of hardship, raise HHs assets in order to provide an adequate subsistence level and reduce vulnerability to food insecurity in the subsequent months.

The early messages for October 2021 conditions in Nabilatuk district are recommended for dissemination through different channels

Early Action Messages

(community structures – PCs, VHTs, Churches, Community, Agriculture and Animal Husbandry Offices through routine community extension services). These messages cut across Social Economic and Livelihoods, Livestock, Crop, Water and Health sectors as indicated below:

No	Sector	Early Warning Message
01	Socio-Economic and Livelihoods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harvest, stock foods, minimize post-harvest losses, use the harvested foods sparingly while reserving for consumption in the period of scarcity. Reporting cases of livestock raids, theft and potential insecurity to authorities for follow-up. Liaise with authorities to acquire relevant documents to enable them to sell off livestock.



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use income obtained from casual labor, economic activities (sales of livestock, charcoal, brewing, retail business and others) to buy food stock and reserve for future consumption. • Plant and harvest and dry green vegetables for futures consumption.
02	Livestock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cut and preserve pastures in form of hays and silages for use during season of scarcity. • Take initiatives to spray and deworm livestock routinely. • Keep hygiene in the kraals and routinely check for cases of foot rot. • Ensure correct use and application of acaricide in the market. • Routinely vaccinate livestock against notifiable diseases. • Seek help from qualified and registered service providers'/extension workers in your Sub County. • 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. • Ensure restriction in the movements of animals to control spread of livestock diseases.
03	Crops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice vegetable growing and kitchen gardening to provide alternative food supplements to HHs. • Practice soil and water conservation measures such as digging of water retention ditches, contour bans, mulching to preserve adequate soil moisture for vegetable growth. • Harvest and stock foods and use harvested foods sparingly and reserve for period of scarcity. • Minimize post-harvest losses during the harvesting and protect harvested crops from rains and animals. • The district and Sub County production/agriculture departments are encouraged to stock up crop pesticides, fungicides to support crop farmers in time. • Liaise with agriculture extension workers and timely report prevalent cases of crop diseases and pests. • Guide farmers on recommended practices (timely planting, crop rotation, use of tolerant seed varieties and organic pesticides). • The district and Sub County to conduct routine crop pets and disease surveillance during crop growth stages and take timely action.
04	Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities are encouraged to use boreholes / taps as the main sources water of drinking water to avoid infections. • Communities are encouraged to put in place water harvesting facilities under their roofs like tanks and drums to harvest rain water when and if it rains. • Communities are encouraged to maintain hygiene around existing water sources.



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make use of water harvesting facilities under roofs like tanks and drums to harvest rain water when and if it rains. • Report any borehole breakages to the right authorities as soon as possible so that they can be helped in time. • District water department is encouraged to carry boreholes/taps functionality assessments to help map out faulty ones for repairs. • District Water Officer is advised to work hand in hand with the Sub County Development Officer in mobilizing, establishing and training of water user managing committees. • District Water Officer/ DCDO/SCDO are advised to collaborate with the political leadership to ensure proper maintenance of the water points and sources.
05	Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities are encouraged to sleep under insecticide treated mosquito nets already distributed. • People Living with HIV/AIDS and are on ART are encouraged to adhere to their medication routine for effectiveness and efficiency in treating the disease. • Development partners are advised to support people leaving with HIV/AIDS in Nabilatuk district with food supplements to boost their immunity during this lean season. • DHO is advised to keep updated records and provide counselling to those living with HIV/AIDS. • Communities are advised to 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) and going for vaccination when an opportunity presents itself. • Communities are encouraged to sleep under mosquito nets and clear bushes around HHs and homesteads.

-END-