UN FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT DIALOGUE 2021

U-Report Poll Results
The principle of embracing multi-stakeholder inclusivity in the sub national and national Food System Summit dialogues creates a need to strive to showcase as many voices as possible, capturing diverse cultural, professional and gender specific perspectives to ensure design policy options that deliver against multiple public goods and across these various systems. Mobile technology and SMS platforms of recent have represented low-cost means with the potential to reach a wide population and foster open dialogue on issues of public concern.

It is against this background that the United Nations Resident Coordinator’s Office in Uganda partnered with UNICEF to develop a concept for the use of the U-report as an innovative component under the communications area to offer a platform that complements the planned dialogues to showcase as many voices as possible on the food systems.

**U-Report:**

U-Report is a free SMS-based platform that allows Ugandans to report on issues affecting them and their communities as well as to get real-time information and feedback on new initiatives or campaigns. U-report offers young Ugandans and the public at large a chance to voice their opinions on pertinent issues like health, education, water, sanitation and hygiene, youth unemployment, HIV/AIDS, disease outbreaks like Ebola and COVID-19 and natural disasters like drought, floods and landslides.

**U-Reporters in Uganda Today**

523,684 Partnering with 15,924,795 U-Reporters in 86 Countries Worldwide

**Objectives of using the U-Report Uganda**

- To compliment the media plan to raise greater awareness and provide valuable information on the food system summit
- Amplify the voices of more people including youth and women on issues regarding food systems in the country and what should be done for the future
- Using the platform to encourage dialogue among the population on issues related to food systems

**Expected outcomes**

- Views from more people including youth and women involved in food systems in Uganda taken up to inform the Uganda commitment paper from the national dialogues
- More people made aware of the food systems summit
- More dialogues among the population about food systems encouraged

**Participating groups**

**Gender:** 71% of U-Reporters who participated in the food systems summit dialogue polls were male while 29% were females. This is mainly male dominated because currently they are the majority of U-Reporters registered on the system nationally. However steps are underway to close the gap between males and females.

**Age Groups:** The majority of U-Reporters (52%) who participated were between 24—64 years old. This is so because U-Report mobile phone and its this age group that most people do own phones.

**Occupation:** The majority 27% of the U-Reporters who participated in this survey were students while 19% were farmers.
Poll Summary

- Poll questions and awareness messages were developed alongside 05 action tracks and these were run concurrently across all the districts. Each track had at least 10 main questions and about 05 follow up questions.

- **Questions/Messages:** Messages were both informational and poll questions. Informational messages were sent subsequently with poll questions to create awareness about the food systems dialogue, poll questions were either multiple-choice allowing a single answer, or open-ended response allowing U-Reporters to express themselves freely without having to select from any given options.

- **Dates:** All the five action tracks were run within the months of July through August 2021 which each action track running on weekly basis. Action track 1 was run on 16th July and the last action track 5 was run on 16th August, and closed on 21st August 2021.

- **Sample Size:** The initial and consent message was sent to a group of 264,000 randomly selected U-Reporters to ask to introduce the food systems summit dialogue and ask for their consent to participate and 67,970 U-Reporters consented. A group composed of these consented U-Reporters was then created and made a target group upon which all the five action tracks were surveyed on.

- All the five action tracks generated an overall total of 941,720 messages in form of poll responses and comments of U-Reporters expressing their own independent views about the food systems summit dialogue.

- **Links to poll results in the U-Report public website**
  - Action Track 1: https://uganda.ureport.in/opinion/5193/
  - Action Track 2: https://uganda.ureport.in/opinion/5195/
  - Action Track 3: https://uganda.ureport.in/opinion/5230/
  - Action Track 4: https://uganda.ureport.in/opinion/5259/
  - Action Track 5: https://uganda.ureport.in/opinion/5260/

### Poll Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Groups</th>
<th>Gender Distribution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child (&lt;13 years)</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adolescent (13-19 years)</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Action Track Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action Track</th>
<th>Poll Date</th>
<th>No of Polls/ Messages</th>
<th>No of Participants</th>
<th>Total No of responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Action Track 1: Ensuring access to safe and nutritious food for all with focus on ending hunger and all forms of malnutrition including diet-related non-communicable disease, and enabling all people to be well nourished and healthy</td>
<td>16/07/2021</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>39,607</td>
<td>399,070</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action Track 2: Shifting to sustainable consumption patterns</td>
<td>26/07/2021</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>49,894</td>
<td>274,743</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action Track 3: (i). Protect natural ecosystems against new conversions for food and feed production (ii). Sustainably manage existing food production systems to the benefit of both nature and people (iii) Restore degraded ecosystems and rehabilitate soil function for sustainable food production</td>
<td>01/08/2021</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>29,247</td>
<td>131,038</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action Track 3: (i). Protect natural ecosystems against new conversions for food and feed production (ii). Sustainably manage existing food production systems to the benefit of both nature and people (iii) Restore degraded ecosystems and rehabilitate soil</td>
<td>31/07/2021</td>
<td>29,352</td>
<td>131,792</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action Track 4: 1) Promoting full and productive employment and decent work. 2) Transforming smallholder to commercial agriculture. 3) Reducing risks for the country’s poorest, vulnerable and marginalized groups.</td>
<td>08/08/2021</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9,218</td>
<td>59,931</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Action Track 5: (i) Building resilience requires that people, institutions, infrastructure, services of the Food Systems have the capacity to anticipate shocks, manage risks, prevent or reduce exposure, absorb (respond to and cope), adapt to evolving risks. (ii) A functional early warning system is vital in Anticipation, Prevention and Adaptation to vulnerabilities shocks and stress to food systems (iii) Enhanced market information helps to Prevent overreaction to shocks and gives an opportunity to informed decision making</td>
<td>16/08/2021</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10,942</td>
<td>76,938</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
About the Data

This poll series data reflects the information provided by the respondents, and is not statistically representative of young people globally, or in any specific country or region. U-Report as a community does not have a goal of statistical representativeness among its membership and no sampling stratification was employed. Post-stratification weighting was not applied during the analysis of this poll.

U-Report data should not be used as a single source of information to make decisions, but rather should be used to complement more statistically robust methods of gathering data.

UNICEF values the voices of young people and seeks to recognize their experiences and views, and the data are considered a reliable reflection of the information the respondents have provided to UReport.

Action Track 1: Ensuring access to safe and nutritious food for all with focus on ending hunger and all forms of malnutrition including diet-related non-communicable disease, and enabling all people to be well nourished and healthy"

⇒ Action Track poll questions were developed based “ensuring access to safe and nutritious food for all with focus on ending hunger and all forms of malnutrition including diet-related non-communicable disease, and enabling all people to be well nourished and healthy” thematic area and was futher subdivided into two three parts : A). Food Security B). Safe Food and C). Nutitios food .

⇒ 24 polls questions including follow up questions were administered in this action track, 39,607 U-Reporters opted in to participate thereby generating a total of 399,070 messages including poll responses and comments triggered by the informational messages and questions.

⇒ Polling dates: Respondents started polls between 16th upto 22nd 2021, and data was last collected for analysis on 26th July. Link to poll results: https://uganda.ureport.in/opinion/5193/

PART A: Food Security

QN One: How can you describe the food security situation in your household and community?

39,607 Total Participants

U-Reporters in their own words

““Food Security” situation in yumbe district is worst ,insufficient, unsafe and not nutritious for an active and healthy life. All year round worsened by rampant drought” U-Reporter M, Yumbe

“At the moment things are not good because most parents had just paid fees for their children. And the little which has remained can not sustain for long” U-Reporter, F Kampala

“Food is sufficient in my house besides we are farmers hence most of our food comes from the garden.” U-Reporter, M, Zombo

“Before covid 19 pandemic my family and community food security was fair but currently some members in the community have single meal”. U-Reporter, M, Bulambuli

“Food security depending on my household is inadequate, and in the community its worse because we are in lockdown and people arent working so we are starving”. U-Reporter, F, Iganga
QN Two: Do you sometimes face food inadequacies?

Overall food inadequacies or lack of food was over 90%, with smaller portions of respondents indicating food adequacies.

Gender: While there are some slight variances, the trends on food inadequacies are very similar among different genders.

Age groups: The young adolescents 13 - 19 the majority 19% indicated No. Reason for this is believed to be due to the sacrifice parents/adults make in terms of food so that the young ones have what to eat.

Follow up to those who said “YES”: In that case how do you recover/cope up from lack or food inadequacies?

A follow up question was sent to those that responded affirmatively to food inadequacies in question two so as to ascertain ways in which they cope up with the situation.

The majority 24% indicated that they buy from the shops and markets, 21% cope through planting fast growing food crops such as vegetables and growing plenty or extra more so that they are left with what to consume in the future.

QN Three: What could be the common reasons as to why some people do not have enough food sometimes?

This was an open ended question and the majority 37% mentioned about poverty related issues due to lack of jobs and money in response to the above question.

U-Reporters sample quotes:

“Some are many in families and they lost their jobs because of lockdown, and in this case, they don’t have money to buy enough food for the family.”

“It is because when they work and get money are able to buy food of that day and a have a feeling that also tomorrow were going to work and we buy other food.”

“Some are in town areas where by they don’t have land to grow their own food, and some they lack jobs so that they can buy food for their families.”

“It is commonly brought by poor harvest due to bad weather and that is what is happening right now in Karamoja sub-region.”
QN Four: On average, are people involved in both food production and animal husbandry to ensure diversity of food (e.g., cereals, legumes, fruits, vegetables, milk, fish, meat and oils among others) are available for consumption? Yes or NO?

The majority 56% responded affirmatively that people in their communities are involved in both food production and animal husbandry. A follow-up question was sent to both those who responded with YES and those with NO to probe more on the reasons and challenges for their responses respectively;

Follow up to “YES”: 10,567 responses received, Majority 28% mentioned mixed farming at small scale as the common farming methods practised in their communities

Follow up on “NO”: 8,530 total responses received. Among the key challenges they faced include lack of “land of land for cultivation” and lack of start up capital.

Follow Up for “YES”: If so, which methods

Follow Up for “NO”: If not, what is the challenge?

QN Five: Where is the critical challenge of food security A). It is at production B). Storage C). Distribution D). Trade or access in terms of affordability.

16,712 Total Participants

General Perspective

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenge</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>It is at Production</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade/access in terms of afford</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storage</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distribution</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Gender Breakdown

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenge</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Distribution</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It is at production</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storage</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade/access in terms of afford</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

QN Six: How best should the Government of Uganda fix the food insecurity problem in your area?

17,490 Total Participants

Sample U-Reporters responses in their own words

“Introducing food Sacco where each individual is requested to contribute either food or money in the sacco WC will be used in times of need”

“The government must intervene quickly by giving same money 2 support them b,se the rate of malnutrition 2 very very high p,ple will begin dying soon”

“Providing insecticides to prevent damage on crops by the pests, creating more better roads for transporting food to markets and building more ware houses”

“By suprtng home steads,farmers via creatng community based devt prjcts and regulatng prices to prvd engh for citizens to secure engh for the future security”

“Sensitizing people how 2 store their food for future use provision of insecticides & other preservatives 2 keep our food fresh and free from weavels”
**QN Seven:** Do you believe that the Parish Development Model is an opportunity to address food insecurity at the grass roots? YES or NO

**General Perspective**

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>40%</td>
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</table>

**Gender Breakdown**

Overall the majority **62%** of U-Reporters who participated in this poll believe that the parish development model addresses food security at the grass roots.

Gender Comparison: More women **63%** responded affirmatively as compared to their male counterparts. This is probably because women are always available and take part in these initiatives than men.

**17,074 Total Participants**

**PART B: Safe Foods**

**QN Eight:** Are you worried of the safety of food whenever you visit the market? YES or NO

**General Perspective**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Gender Breakdown**

This was the first question of Part B “Safe Foods” of the first action track. Overall, the majority **81%** worry about the safety of food in markets and **19%** said they are not worried at all.

Gender Breakdown: More males **83%** seem to worry about the safety of food in markets as compared to the females. Amongst the age groups, More U-Reporters between the age bracket of 25-65 years indicated that they worry about the food safety in the market as compared to other age groups.

**14,347 Total Participants**

**QN Nine:** How do you always know whether the food you buy or use is safe?

Sample U-Reporters quotes:

- “Like wrapped food i check on the expiry date and unwrapped one easy to identify because you might it rotten and appearing different from the good ones”
- “If the packaging used is safe and clean, if the natural characteristics like colour, texture, taste etc haven’t changed. If the environment and handler”
- “when it is still fresh, maybe it can be safe coz we dont have advanced food storages like large area refrigeration for perishable foods like fish, fruits”
- “The appearance of the food appeals your eyes towards it and the way the vendor handles food when giving you plus the environment around the food area”
- “It should be fresh and clean, the person selling or cooking should be clean and the environment at the same time.”
- “I am allowed to see and to touch the i’m going to buy before i buy so that makes me to take unsafe food”
**QN Ten: Are cases of food-related illnesses common in your household or community? YES or NO**

- **General Perspective**: 54% Yes, 46% No

- **Gender Breakdown**: 56% Yes (Male), 44% Yes (Female)

- **Breakdown by Age Groups**:
  - Under 15 years: 40%
  - 15-35 years: 25%
  - 35-64 years: 10%
  - Over 64 years: 25%

**12,324 Total Participants**

Food Related Illness: overall 54% of U-Reporters who participated in this poll believe that the illness associated to food are common in their community while 46% disagree.

Compared by Gender, more men 56% seem to be affected by food related illnesses as compared to women.

**QN Eleven: Which activities/actions/practices in your area commonly lead to food becoming unsafe?**

- Poor Storage and Preservation methods: 45%
- Poor Post Harvest Handling (Transportation, drying): 12%
- Inappropriate chemical spraying: 12%
- Poor Harvesting Techniques (Premature): 8%
- Poor Hygiene & Sanitation: 8%
- Overspending in the market: 7%
- Pests and Diseases: 4%
- Bad weather conditions (Rain): 4%

**10,975 Total Participants**

When asked about the practices that lead to food becoming bad in their areas, the majority 45% mentioned about “Poor storage and preservation methods”.

**U-Reporters quotes in their own words**

- “Spraying using the wrong drugs for example some people use wrong drugs to spray their tomatoes and they end up making losses”
- “Poor storage building and preserving equipments especially perishable goods and much is kept in bulky semi processed or form and many are still cons”
- “Miss use of insectise in time of production and storage and some time at time of transportation to market place”
- “hygiene ( places, people and food itself) corrupt heath inspectors end up allowing unsafe foods ignorance of...”

**QN Twelve: Who is to blame for unsafe food finding its way to the market and on our plates?**

- Government: 40%
- Primary Producers and Consumers (buyers, sellers): 28%
- Farmers: 15%
- Officials/Leaders/Health workers: 10%
- UNBS, Regulatory Authorities: 6%

**10,617 Total Participants**

**QN Thirteen: What measures should be put in place to ensure that Ugandans access safe food?**

- Community Sensitization and awareness campaigns of both farmers, sellers and buyers: 51%
- Promoting good Sanitation and Hygiene in the markets: 32%
- UNBS to conduct Monitoring & enforcement of the set policies and regulations: 12%
- Use of non toxic chemicals and sprays in food preservation: 3%
- By using Local varieties of seeds: 2%

**10,033 Total Participants**

**Action Track 1:** Ensuring access to safe and nutritious food for all with focus on ending hunger and all forms of malnutrition including diet-related non-communicable disease, and enabling all people to be well nourished and healthy
**PART C: Nutritious Food**

**QN Fourteen:** On average, how often do people eat a diversity of food groups at meal time e.g., cereals, legumes, fruits, vegetables, milk, fish, meat and oils among others?

*General Perspective*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less Often</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More Often</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Often</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Gender Breakdown*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less Often</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More Often</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Often</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>11%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Never</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>12%</td>
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</table>

*Breakdown by Age groups*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Less Often</th>
<th>More Often</th>
<th>Never</th>
<th>Often</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adolescent (13-19 years)</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult (25-64 years)</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child (&lt;13 years)</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elderly (65+ years)</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young adult (20-24 years)</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>80%</td>
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</table>

**QN Fifteen** Follow Up for often, more often: If so, kindly tell us which are those commonly eaten food groups? **7,798 Participants**

When asked how often people eat a diversity of food groups at meal times, the majority 52% said they eat these less often and only 18% said more often.

Follow up to often and more often: When asked about the commonly eaten food groups, Cereals, Legumes, and vegetables were the top 3 commonly eaten food groups.

Follow Up for less often, and never: Poverty, lack of money are among the key challenges as to why these foods are less often or never consumed at all.

**QN Sixteen:** Follow Up for less often, and never: If so, kindly tell us what is the challenge?

**QN Seventeen:** Are problems of overweight, obesity and diseases like diabetes, hypertension and cancers common in your community? **YES or NO**

*General Perspective*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>44%</td>
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</table>

*Gender Breakdown*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Response</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
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</table>

*Breakdown by Age groups*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adolescent (13-19 years)</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
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<td>45%</td>
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<td>60%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elderly (65+ years)</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young adult (20-24 years)</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8,752 Participants

Overall, 56% of the respondents said that problems of obesity and diseases like diabetes, hypertension and cancers are common in their communities.

When compared by gender, women seem to be more affected with 1% edge as compared to males, adults between 25—64 years seem to be the most affected as compared to other agegroups.
QN Eighteen: Are people in your area aware that eating foods that contain too much energy/calories can increase risk of non-communicable diseases like diabetes, hypertension and cancer? Yes or No

Follow Up for “Yes”: If yes, what is being done to reduce these risks?

QN Nineteen: To what extent are people valuing and consuming fruits and vegetables in your community? (8,069 Participants)

QN Twenty: How can local, safe & nutritious foods be promoted to reduce malnutrition (in Uganda)? (7,341 Participants)
Action Track 2: Shifting to sustainable consumption patterns

- Action Track poll questions were developed based “Shifting to sustainable consumption patterns” thematic area.
- 10 polls questions alongside 07 Informational messages were administered in this action track. 49,894 U-Reporters opted in to participate thereby generating a total of 274,473 messages including poll responses and comments triggered by the informational messages and questions.
- Polling dates: Respondents started polls between 26th July and was closed after on 1st August 2021. Link to the U-Report poll results in the public website: https://uganda.ureport.in/opinion/5195/

QN One: Do you think your diet is healthy? A). Yes B). No

General Perspective

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th>No</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>35%</td>
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Gender Breakdown

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>55%</td>
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Breakdown by Age groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adolescent</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult (25-64)</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child (&lt;13)</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elderly (65+)</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young Adult (20-29)</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>40%</td>
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40,429 Participants

An informational message was sent to the participants about a healthy diet and kinds of food that constitute it to enhance their knowledge before the actual question was asked. When asked whether their diet is healthy or not, the majority 64% responded with Yes and 36% said No.

More women believe that their diet is healthy as compared to the males 63%. When compared amongst different age groups,

QN Two: What would a healthy and sustainable diet mean/look like for you?

23,114 Participants

This was an open ended question and the majority of U-Reporters 36% believe that a healthy diet to the majority is composed of fruits and vegetables, 32% mentioned that Food rich in proteins.

"Eating well cooked and clean food like vegetables, fruits, meat, Cassava, beans at least balancing it and eating at least two or three times a day”

“A diet with all vitamins, proteins and carbohydrates, but due to Covid, it's hard for me to have a healthy diet.”

Actually, a healthy and sustainable diet food would have quantity & quality suitable for consumption. Should not bring any health problem to a person.”

QN Three: Have you observed any change in the consumption of processed foods in your community/place of work/among households/ your children/ or in yourself? A). Increase in consumption B). Decrease in consumption C). No change .

20,199 Participants

General Perspective

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Increase in consumption</th>
<th>Decrease in consumption</th>
<th>No - Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Gender Breakdown

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Increase in consumption</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decrease in consumption</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No - Change</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Breakdown by Age groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Increase in consumption</th>
<th>Decrease in consumption</th>
<th>No - Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adolescent</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult (25-64)</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child (&lt;13)</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elderly (65+)</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young Adult (20-29)</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sample U-Report quotes
Action Track 2: Shifting to sustainable consumption patterns

QN Four: What factors would you attribute this change to?

19,925 Participants

When asked about factors they attribute to the increase in the consumption of processed foods, 38% of U-Reporters mentioned Lack of access to healthy foods, 32% mentioned limited knowledge on healthy diets among others.

Other factors attributed to the changes - U-Reporter’s sample quotes
- "Went home during lockdown where some are bought and some from garden sometimes"
- "Increased knowledge on the risk of eating processed foods and availability of unprocessed foods since food is home grown"
- "I said no change, people in the community have continued to depend on processed food, because of their availability and no any other options"
- "We know the disadvantages of taking processed food we discourage children and ourselves from taking them we prepare snacks with less"

QN Five: What measures can you, ur family, school or community take to ensure continuous access of healthy and safe food?

16,623 Participants

When asked about measures they can take to ensure continuous access of healthy and safe food, 37% of U-Reporters mentioned that raising awareness about healthy diets, 26% believe that setting kitchen gardens in the backyard is the best way to go.

QN Six: What ways do you learn about healthy diets?

15,333 Participants

Overall, 33% of the respondents mentioned that they learn about healthy diets through the school curriculum, 24% mentioned through Radio talk shows

Compared by different agegroups, the majority of adolescents 13-19 years mentioned through school curriculum. This is mostly because the majority of school going children are under this age.

Other ways to learn about healthy diets - U-Reporter’s sample quotes
- "Ceminers concerning food quality and health, from the experts who teach people abt food balance in the community”
- "From friends especially when someone had illness and was advised to eat certain food he/recommends me and that’s how we do it with other stuff"
- "my personal research project at the University as a research student at makerere university"
**Action Track 2: Shifting to sustainable consumption patterns**

**QN Seven: What are the reasons people in your community/school/place of work/among households waste/throw away food?**

**General Perspective**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rotten</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failure to get market for the produce</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contaminated</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Left on plate</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spoilage in storage</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Damaged during harvesting</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food left in the field</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spillage/loss during transport/processing</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Gender Perspective**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rotten</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failure to get market for the produce</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contaminated</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Left on plate</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spoilage in storage</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Damaged during harvesting</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food left in the field</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spillage/loss during transport/processing</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

14,091 Participants

Most respondents mentioned food rotting 28% is the key reason as to why food gets wasted, 22% mentioned Failure to get market for their products. When compared by different age groups, most males 24% mentioned failure to get market for their produce, this is mostly because more men are engaged in trading and hence they experience market factors than women. On the hand the majority of women mentioned food rotting probably because they are the ones involved in the kitchen work and witness the balance of food prepared on daily getting to waste.

**Other reasons for food waste - U-Reporter’s sample quotes**

“First and foremost ignorance of people on how make use of surplus foods produced”

“There is a point when we prepare too much that we can’t consume hence the balance we throw”

“Greed, if the food was shared, nobody would be hungry and nothing would be wasted, poor storage and waste during harvest are added to that”

“Low prices and some times are in plenty especially fruits, and lack of processing factories such as ovacado, mangoes guavas, etc”

**QN Eight: What do you think needs to be done to support you, ur school or community to reduce the amount of food wasted?**

**General Perspective**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meal planning at household level</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting farmers to harvesting at the right time</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investing in improved postharvest practices and technologies</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improvement in storage hygiene</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behavior change communication</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy reforms on food waste</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Gender Perspective**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meal planning at household level</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting farmers to harvesting at the right time</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investing in improved postharvest practices and technologies</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improvement in storage hygiene</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behavior change communication</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>15%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Other to reduce food wastage - U-Reporter’s sample quotes**

“Teaching farmer good farming methods like crop rotation and advising them on the dangers of monocropping”

“Improve the feeder roads so that even the local markets can be easily reached”

“Harvesting equipments lyk carpets should be provided”

“Creating market for their products and increasing on the price of agricultural products”

“just getting some money to people such that they can know that they are lead by people not those who puts in their stomachs yet the people are totally dying”
Action Track 3: Protect natural ecosystems against new conversions for food and feed production, Sustainably manage existing food production systems to the benefit of both nature and people and Restore degraded ecosystems and rehabilitate soil

- Action Track 3 poll questions were developed based on three thematic areas of: (i) Protect natural ecosystems against new conversions for food and feed production (ii) Sustainably manage existing food production systems to the benefit of both nature and people (iii) Restore degraded ecosystems and rehabilitate soil

- 10 polls questions including were administered in this action track, 29,354 U-Reporters opted in to participate thereby generating a total of 131,792 messages including poll responses and comments triggered by the informational messages and questions.

- Polling dates: Respondents started polls between 31st July unto 8th August 2021. Link to poll results: https://uganda.ureport.in/opinion/5230/

PART (i)

“Protect natural ecosystems against new conversions for food and feed production”

QN One: Do you know of any current interventions in Uganda and your area in particular that promote protection of natural ecosystems against new conversions for food and feed production? YES or NO

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Perspective</th>
<th>Gender Breakdown</th>
<th>Breakdown by Age groups</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="chart1.png" alt="General Perspective Chart" /></td>
<td><img src="chart2.png" alt="Gender Breakdown Chart" /></td>
<td><img src="chart3.png" alt="Breakdown by Age groups Chart" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

25,700 Participants

Overall the majority of U-Reporters 66% did not know of any current interventions on protection of natural ecosystems while 34% responded affirmatively

Gender Comparison: Most male 35% are aware of interventions on protection of natural ecosystems as compared to women. This is most likey because Men are the most active in the fields of farming as women concentrate most in domesticated work

QN Two (Follow up to Yes): What are the current Challenges?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Perspective</th>
<th>Gender Breakdown</th>
<th>Breakdown by Age groups</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="chart1.png" alt="General Perspective Chart" /></td>
<td><img src="chart2.png" alt="Gender Breakdown Chart" /></td>
<td><img src="chart3.png" alt="Breakdown by Age groups Chart" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6,447 Participants

A follow up question was sent to those who had responded “YES” to question one to find about their current challenges. Overall the majority 28% selected all the given options as some of the current challenges faced

Gender Comparison: As much as there is general consesus on all the listed options, Most males 23% indicated a challenge in “Wetland restoration is not at the required scale” while their female counterparts (22%) mentioned that “Water for production is not at the required scale”

This is so mainly because men are so much involved in the wetland reclamation practices while women are more concerned about water due to their involvement in domesticated work
Action Track 3: Protect natural ecosystems against new conversions for food and feed production, sustainably manage existing food production systems to the benefit of both nature and people, and restore degraded ecosystems and rehabilitate soil

QN Three (Follow up to Yes) What are the Gaps and Emerging Issues?

**PART (ii)**

"Sustainably manage existing food production systems to the benefit of both nature and people"

QN Four: Do you know of any current interventions in Uganda and your area in particular that is helping to sustainably manage existing food production systems to the benefit of both nature and people? YES or NO

**15,487 Participants**

Overall 49% of U-Reporters polled know of interventions helping to manage food production systems to benefit both nature and people, the majority 51% did not know of any

**Gender Comparison:** Knowledge and awareness levels of the interventions undertaken are much lower in female

QN Five: Follow up to "Yes" If yes, what are the current Challenges?
6,447 Participants

As much as the most of the U-Reporters selected all the given options as the challenges faced by the current interventions to manage food production systems, among the top key challenges include Limited access to markets (24%), Lack of information (18%) among others.

U-Reporters sample quotes

“The mass is ignorant about the environment so there is need to educate the mass and also involve all the stakeholders with in the concerned areas.”

Lack of knowledge from the local people about the usefulness of the eco systems

“Deforestation and river encroachment has led to climate change hence a change in farming seasons leading to poor crop yields.”

Policy in Uganda is driven by the interest of those in authority such that an ordinary citizen can’t utilize any resource gazetted by government to benefit the ecosystems.

QN Six: What are the current Gaps and Emerging Issues?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Perspective</th>
<th>Gender Perspective</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Promotion of high quality seeds that are drought tolerant and early maturing</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limited application of new technologies</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There is need to promote e-agriculture &amp; use of ICTs – design applications and provide them free of charge (many people have access to Internet)</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There is need for intensive research for user friendly pesticides that do not harm the environment</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implement the national Land Use Plan; sort out land ownership problems.</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PART (iii)

“Restore degraded ecosystems and rehabilitate soil”

QN Seven: Do u know of any current interventions in Uganda & ur area in particular that is helping to restore degraded ecosystems & rehabilitate soil function for sustainable food production? Yes or No?

General Perspective

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>56%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Gender Breakdown

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Breakdown by Age groups

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adolescent (13-19 years)</th>
<th>Adult (25-64 years)</th>
<th>Child (&lt;13 years)</th>
<th>Elderly (65+)</th>
<th>Young adult (20-24 years)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>44%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

12,154 Total Participants

The majority 56% of U-Reporters polled know of current interventions aimed at restoring a degraded ecosystem while 44% did not know of any. Gender Comparison: Knowledge and awareness levels of the interventions undertaken are much greater in male (56%) as compared to their female counterparts. This is probably because men are believed to be more informed than women.
Action Track 3: Protect natural ecosystems against new conversions for food and feed production, Sustainably manage existing food production systems to the benefit of both nature and people and Restore degraded ecosystems and rehabilitate soil

QN Eight: Follow up to “Yes” on Question 7: what are the current Challenges?

General Perspective

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenge</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population pressure has driven people to wetlands</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All the above</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological and environmental risks associated with climate change that result in pests, exploitation &amp; increase in diseases occurrences</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water resources under threat from many Pollutants</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High rate of refuge influx has exerted pressure on land</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Gender Perspective

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenge</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High rate of refuge influx has exerted pressure on land</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water resources under threat from many Pollutants</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>27%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>36%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

QN Nine: Follow up to “Yes” on Question 7: If yes, what are the current gaps and Emerging Issues?

General Perspective

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenge</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farmers lack the knowledge about conserving nature, there is need to recognize those farmers who don’t convert now land for food production</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmers are working independently, there is need to engage with ministry of agriculture across ministry for proper land use</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boundaries of forests, wetlands are not properly demarcated, hence there is need to re-define the boundaries</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There is need to increase resources and manpower to address restoration</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The rate of restoration does not match the rate of resource extraction, there is need to increase resources and manpower to address restoration</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor infrastructure around agriculture and industry, there is need to engage with ministry of agriculture across ministry for proper land use</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Gender Perspective

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenge</th>
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<td>8%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Action Track 4: “A). Promoting full and productive employment and decent work B). Transforming smallholder to commercial agriculture C). Reducing risks for the country’s poorest, vulnerable and marginalized groups”

☞ Action Track 3 poll questions were developed based on three thematic areas of: (A). Promoting full and productive employment and decent work B). Transforming smallholder to commercial agriculture C). Reducing risks for the country’s poorest, vulnerable and marginalized groups”

☞ 10 polls questions were administered in this action track, 9,218 U-Reporters opted in to participate thereby generating a total of 59,931 messages including poll responses and comments triggered by the informational messages and questions.

☞ Polling dates: Respondents started polls between 8th upto 16th August 2021. Link to poll results: https://uganda.ureport.in/opinion/5259/
**Action Track 4:** “A). Promoting full and productive employment and decent work B). Transforming smallholder to commercial agriculture C). Reducing risks for the country's poorest, vulnerable and marginalized groups”

**PART (A)**

“Promoting full and productive employment and decent work”

**QN One:** What groups are most excluded from full, productive and decent work within the food systems activities and related sectors

**General Perspective**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Female (%)</th>
<th>Male (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peasant Farmers</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The poorest in the community</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PWDs (Disabled, blind etc)</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elderly</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children and Young People</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vulnerable groups(Sick, expectant etc)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youths</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Gender Perspective**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Female (%)</th>
<th>Male (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Peasant Farmers</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>25</td>
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<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children and Young People</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vulnerable groups(Sick, expectant etc)</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youths</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**8,983 Participants**

Overall the majority of U-Reporters 33% mentioned peasant farmers as the most excluded group of people. Among other groups include;
- Vulnerable groups(Sick, expectant etc)
- Children and Young People
- Elderly
- PWDs (Disabled, blind etc)
- Peasant Farmers
- The poorest in the community

**QN Two:** What are the reasons why they are left out?

**General Perspective**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>They are weak and unproductive</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limited Funds/Capital</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ignorance, lack of knowledge &amp; skills</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor government policies &amp; lack of support</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They have no ownership of land</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corruption &amp; favouritism</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty amongst these groups</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of Raw materials(Seeds)</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Gender Perspective**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Limited Funds/Capital</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corruption &amp; favouritism</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They are weak and unproductive</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ignorance, lack of knowledge &amp; skills</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor government policies &amp; lack of support</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They have no ownership of land</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty amongst these groups</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of Raw materials(Seeds)</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poor government policies &amp; lack of support</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**7,730 Participants**

Overall 39% of U-Reporters polled mentioned “Being weak and unproductive” is one of the reasons the mentioned groups are most excluded from full, productive and decent work within the food systems activities and related sectors. Other reasons include;
- Lack of Raw materials(Seeds)
- Poverty amongst these groups
- Corruption & favouritism
- They have no ownership of land
- Poor government policies & lack of support
Action Track 4: “A). Promoting full and productive employment and decent work B). Transforming smallholder to commercial agriculture C). Reducing risks for the country’s poorest, vulnerable and marginalized groups”

QN Three: What should be done to ensure that these groups are integrated & get opportunities for full & productive employment & decent work within the food systems/other sectors?

6,582 Participants

The majority 40% of U-Reporters polled mentioned the need to carry out “Community dialogues & awareness campaigns” is one to integrate and get opportunities for full and productive employment/decent work within the food systems. Other reasons include;

- Giving them equal opportunities
- Laws to combat corruption
- Create markets for farmers goods
- Provision of start up capital
- Forming groups (saccos)
- Financial Support & Soft Loans
- Government intervention/support
- Creating employment/job opportunities for

QN Four: Who should be responsible in ensuring that these groups are integrated & get opportunities for full/productive employment & decent work?

5,661 Total Responses

The majority 56% of U-Reporters polled mentioned “Lack of start up capital” as one of the challenges that hinder small holder farmers. Other include;

Unfertile/exhausted soils, Poor Transport/Road network, Lack of access to farm inputs(seeds, tools and equipments), Low/Fluctuation of Prices of agric products, Weather and climatic factors, Ignorance, Limited Knowledge and skills, Lack of market for agricultural products and Limited/Lack of land
PART (B)

“Transforming smallholder to commercial agriculture”

QN Five: What challenges hinder smallholder farmers particularly youth, women, vulnerable & marginalized from making a sustainable living/livelihoods from agriculture?

General Perspective
- Lack of start up capital: 24%
- Limited/Lack of land: 17%
- Lack of market for agricultural products: 14%
- Ignorance, Limited Knowledge and skills: 14%
- Weather and climatic factors: 9%
- Low/Fluctuation of Prices of agric products: 8%
- Lack of access to farm inputs (seeds, tools and equipments): 7%
- Poor Transport/Road network: 7%
- Unfertile/exhausted soils: 2%

Gender Perspective
- Ignorance, Limited Knowledge and skills: 16%
- Unfertile/exhausted soils: 14%
- Poor Transport/Road network: 8%
- Lack of access to farm inputs (seeds, tools and equipments): 8%
- Lack of start up capital: 24%
- Low/Fluctuation of Prices of agric products: 8%
- Weather and climatic factors: 6%
- Lack of market for agricultural products: 16%
- Limited/Lack of land: 20%

5,661 Participants

The majority 56% of U-Reporters polled mentioned “Lack of start up capital” as one of the challenges that hinder smallholder farmers. Other include:
- Unfertile/exhausted soils
- Poor Transport/Road network
- Lack of access to farm inputs (seeds, tools and equipments)
- Low/Fluctuation of Prices of agric products
- Weather and climatic factors
- Ignorance, Limited Knowledge and skills
- Lack of market for agricultural products

QN Six: What should be done to address these challenges to enable smallholder farmers benefit from the food system thru increased productivity & incomes improved food security and nutrition?

Training/capacity building on modern farming methods: 27%
Financial support thru affordable/Soft loans: 18%
Readying Market for farmers produce: 14%
Introduction of modern/better farming methods (Irrigation): 10%
Provision of farm inputs like seeds: 10%
Provision of capital to smallholder farmers: 9%
Forming small savings groups: 8%
Land consolidation/ownership: 5%

5,086 Total Participants

The majority 27% of U-Reporters polled mentioned “Training/capacity building smallholder farmers” as one of the solutions to address challenges faced by smallholder farmers. Others solutions include:
- Land consolidation/ownership
- Forming small savings groups
- Provision of capital to smallholder farmers
- Provision of farm inputs like seeds
- Introduction of modern/better farming methods (Irrigation)
- Readying Market for farmers produce
- Financial support thru affordable/Soft loans
Action Track 4: “A). Promoting full and productive employment and decent work B). Transforming smallholder to commercial agriculture C). Reducing risks for the country’s poorest, vulnerable and marginalized groups”

QN Seven: What are some of the good practices and models that can transform smallholders from subsistence to commercial agriculture?

The majority 18% of U-Reporters polled mentioned “Widening the market base & fixing prices” as one of the good practices that can transform smallholder farmers from subsistence to commercial agriculture. Other good practices include:
- Village/Parish Model Farming
- Mulching
- Adapting Modern farming methods & techniques
- Practising Mixed Farming
- Irrigation
- Use of fertilizers/Manuring
- Agricultural Mechanization like use of tractors
- Changing from small to Large Scale/ commercial Farming
- Funding through soft loan schemes

5,086 Total Responses

4,144 Participants

The majority 27% of U-Reporters polled mentioned “Financial support/funding and soft loans to farmer’s groups” as one of the interventions & reforms Government should undertake to transform subsistence into commercial agriculture. Othersuggested reforms include;
- Reducing taxes on agriculture products
- Land aquisition and reforms
- Provide modern/better tools and equipments(Tractors, machines)
- Providing ffarmers with good quality seeds
- Markets for farmers produce
- Introduce and training farmers on modern farming

PART (C)

“Reducing risks for the country’s poorest, vulnerable and marginalized groups”

QN Nine: What risks do the poorest, vulnerable and marginalized groups face in their pursuit of improved food security and nutrition and means of earning decent living?
**Action Track 4:** “A). Promoting full and productive employment and decent work B). Transforming smallholder to commercial agriculture C). Reducing risks for the country’s poorest, vulnerable and marginalized groups”

3,769 Participants

The majority **27%** of U-Reporters polled mentioned “Pests and diseases” as one of the risks poor, vulnerable & marginalized groups face. Other risks include;
- Theft of their produce
- Lack of knowledge and skills
- Poor storage facilities
- Lack of transport means for their goods
- Weather and climatic changes
- Limited/lack Access to markets for their

**QN Ten:** What ability/capacity of people, households, communities and agricultural systems is necessary to mitigate, adapt and recover from shocks and stresses in a manner that reduces their risks?

3,293 Participants

This question seem not to have been well interpreted by U-Reporters, however among the key mentioned abilities include;
- Ability to do Good planning
- Ability to be leaders Leaders
- Should be a Youth
- Government agencies

**QN Eleven:** What interventions should government take to reduce the risks faced by the poorest, most vulnerable and marginalized groups in Uganda?

3,037 Participants

The majority **41%** of U-Reporters suggested that “Extending financial support & funding (loans, capital etc)” is one of the interventions government should undertake to reduce the risks faced by these groups. Other suggested interventions include;
- Providing security to the poor
- Reduce/fix prices of their products
- Better quality seeds and inputs
- Markets for their goods
- Sensitizing them
Action Track 5: A). Building resilience requires that people, institutions, infrastructure, services of the Food Systems have the capacity to anticipate shocks, manage risks, prevent or reduce exposure, absorb (respond to and cope), adapt to evolving risks. B). A functional early warning system is vital in Anticipation, Prevention and Adaptation to vulnerabilities shocks and stress to food systems. C). Enhanced market information helps to Prevent overreaction to shocks and gives an opportunity to informed decision making.

10 polls questions were developed based on three thematic areas of: (A) Building resilience requires that people, institutions, infrastructure, services of the Food Systems have the capacity to anticipate shocks, manage risks, prevent or reduce exposure, absorb (respond to and cope), adapt to evolving risks. (B) A functional early warning system is vital in Anticipation, Prevention and Adaptation to vulnerabilities shocks and stress to food systems (C) Enhanced market information helps to Prevent overreaction to shocks and gives an opportunity to informed decision making.

10 polls questions were administered in this action track, 10,942 U-Reporters opted in to participate thereby generating a total of 76,978 messages including poll responses and comments triggered by the informational messages and questions.

Polling dates: Respondents started polls between 16th August upto 22nd August 2021. Link to poll results: https://uganda.ureport.in/opinion/5260/

PART (A)

“Building resilience requires that people, institutions, infrastructure, services of the Food Systems have the capacity to anticipate shocks, manage risks, prevent or reduce exposure, absorb (respond to and cope), adapt to evolving risks”

QN One: Over the past 12 months, what are the shocks that you have experienced in your household and have affected food availability?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Perspective</th>
<th>Gender Perspective</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prolonged Drought</td>
<td>Poverty 7% Male, 11% Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COVID-19 Pandemic/Lockdown</td>
<td>12% Male, 12% Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of enough money/income</td>
<td>9% Male, 8% Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pests and diseases</td>
<td>Changing weather and climatic patterns 12% Male, 10% Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty</td>
<td>Land shortage and wrangles 4% Male, 3% Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changing weather and climatic patterns</td>
<td>Pests and diseases 7% Male, 11% Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Price fluctuatons of farm products</td>
<td>Low Crop yields 10% Male, 16% Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Crop yields</td>
<td>COVID-19 Pandemic/Lockdown 10% Male, 11% Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Job Loss rendered unemployment</td>
<td>Lack of enough money/income 3% Male, 4% Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land shortage and wrangles</td>
<td>Job Loss rendered unemployment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prolonged Drought 30% Male, 30% Female</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Overall the majority of U-Reporters 37% mentioned “Prolonged Drought” as one of the of the shocks they experienced and have affected food availability. Other shocks mentioned include:

- Land shortage and wrangles
- Job Loss rendered unemployment
- Low Crop yields
- Price fluctuatons of farm products
- Changing weather and climatic patterns
- Poverty
- Pests and diseases
- Lack of enough money/income
- COVID-19 Pandemic/Lockdown
**Action Track 5:** A. Building resilience requires that people, institutions, infrastructure, services of the Food Systems have the capacity to anticipate shocks, manage risks, prevent or reduce exposure, absorb (respond to and cope), adapt to evolving risks. B. A functional early warning system is vital in Anticipation, Prevention and Adaptation to vulnerabilities shocks and stress to food systems. C. Enhanced market information helps to Prevent overreaction to shocks and gives an opportunity to informed decision making

**QN Two:** In your locality, are there mechanisms in place to detect climate, environmental, natural, health and economic shocks/disasters and stresses that can affect food production? YES or NO

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Perspective</th>
<th>Gender Perspective</th>
<th>Breakdown By Agegroups</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes: 30%</td>
<td>Male: 26%</td>
<td>Adolescents (13-19 years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No: 70%</td>
<td>Female: 35%</td>
<td>Adult (25-64 years)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Child (13+)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Elderly (65+)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Young adult (20-24 years)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Overall the majority of U-Reporters 70% did not have any mechanisms in place to detect climate, environmental, natural, health and economic shocks/disasters and stresses that can affect food production

Gender Comparison: Most females 35% responded affirmatively as compared to their male counterparts.

**QN Three:** How are small scale farmers supported to withstand drought in your area? (List as many ways as possible)

- Through Irrigation/Watering
- Agroforestry/Tree planting
- Planting Drought resistant crops
- Mulching
- Planting drought resistant seeds
- Farming near wetlands
- Early/Planting during the wet season
- Use of valley dams

Overall the majority of U-Reporters 49% mentioned “Through Irrigation/Watering” as one of the ways small scale farmers are supported to withstand drought. Other ways mentioned include;

- Use of valley dams
- Early/Planting during the wet season
- Farming near wetlands
- Planting drought resistant seeds
- Mulching
- Planting Drought resistant crops
- Agroforestry/Tree planting

**QN Four:** In instances of shocks/stresses, how are people supported in your area to withstand the effects especially to do with food availability?

- Relief donation from government and partners/NGOs(Posho, Beans)
- Providing them with seeds for planting
- Irrigation/watering of crops
- Proper food storage for future consumption
- Planting drought resistant crops such as maize
- Forming groups and access to softloans
- Planting of trees
- Trading/Buying and selling of food

Overall the majority of U-Reporters 49% mentioned “Relief donation from government and partners/NGOs(Posho, Beans)” as one of the ways people are supported to withstand effects of shocks/stresses. Other ways mentioned include;

- Trading/Buying and selling of food
- Planting of trees
- Forming groups and access to softloans
- Planting drought resistant crops such as maize
- Proper food storage for future consumption
- Irrigation/watering of crops
- Providing them with seeds for planting
Action Track 5:

A. Building resilience requires that people, institutions, infrastructure, services of the Food Systems have the capacity to anticipate shocks, manage risks, prevent or reduce exposure, absorb (respond to and cope), adapt to evolving risks. B. A functional early warning system is vital in Anticipation, Prevention and Adaptation to vulnerabilities shocks and stress to food systems. C. Enhanced market information helps to prevent overreaction to shocks and gives an opportunity to informed decision making.

QN Five: Has Covid-19 been a major problem in your area? YES or NO

6,263 Participants

Follow up to Yes: If yes, what have the individuals in your area done to cope with its effects on food availability? (List as many ways as possible)

PART (B)

“A functional early warning system is vital in Anticipation, Prevention and Adaptation to vulnerabilities shocks and stress to food systems”

QN Six: Is there a system in your district to predict occurrence of environmental related disasters such as floods, drought, locusts, crop/animal diseases, pandemics etc. that are known to affect food availability and utilisation? YES or NO

4,399 Total Responses

Among the key activities people have resorted due to the effects of COVID-19 include:
- Farming/digging in the gardens
- Buying and selling of produce
- Storing enough food at home
- Observing SOPs, social distancing, wearing masks

5,096 Participants

Overall 49% of U-Reporters have a system in their districts to predict occurrence of environmental related disasters, 51% reported that they do not have
Action Track 5: A). Building resilience requires that people, institutions, infrastructure, services of the Food Systems have the capacity to anticipate shocks, manage risks, prevent or reduce exposure, absorb (respond to and cope), adapt to evolving risks. B). A functional early warning system is vital in Anticipation, Prevention and Adaptation to vulnerabilities shocks and stress to food systems. C). Enhanced market information helps to Prevent overreaction to shocks and gives an opportunity to informed decision making

QN Seven: In the past 24 months, have you or anyone in your household or village participated in a survey to obtain information on shocks or stresses that affect food production/storage/transportation/processing YES or NO

General Perspective

Gender Perspective

Breakdown By Agegroups

5,232 Participants

When asked if they have ever participated in the survey to obtain any information on shocks, stress, 27% of U-Reporters said yes, 51% said No. More males 74% indicated to have participated as compared to the females

Follow up QN to “Yes” If yes, who collected the data/information?

1,355 Total Responses

PART (C)

“A functional early warning system is vital in Anticipation, Prevention and Adaptation to vulnerabilities shocks and stress to food systems”

QN Eight: Do you regularly receive market information on food such as food prices, food prices/scarcity? YES or NO

General Perspective

Gender Perspective

Breakdown By Agegroups
Action Track 5: A) Building resilience requires that people, institutions, infrastructure, services of the Food Systems have the capacity to anticipate shocks, manage risks, prevent or reduce exposure, absorb (respond to and cope), adapt to evolving risks. B) A functional early warning system is vital in Anticipation, Prevention and Adaptation to vulnerabilities shocks and stress to food systems. C) Enhanced market information helps to Prevent overreaction to shocks and gives an opportunity to informed decision making.

Follow up QN to “Yes” If yes, which are the common sources of that information? (List as many sources as possible)

5,096 Participants
49% of U-Reporters reported that they regularly receive market information on food such as food prices.

A follow up question was sent to those who had responded with “YES” to find out their common sources of information. The majority mentioned that its through Radios, Television, Newspapers, Social Media among others.

QN Ten: How do farmers in your area deal with price fluctuations of foods and or animal products (milk, meat and eggs) brought about by the shocks and stresses such as floods, drought, animal diseases, covid-19?

4,356 Participants
47% of U-Reporters reported that farmers stock their produce for future use, 33% said Marketing their produce and adapting to prevailing market price are some of the ways they deal with price fluctuations of foods and animal products.

Challenges

- There was little time to run all the 5 action tracks and this affected the response rate. The recommended time for each poll is to run between 7-14 days before its closed and results analyzed and for these polls, all the 5 action tracks were spread across one month.

- Question fatigue by the participants: Each action track was composed of at least 10 poll questions excluding the follow up questions. This is quite much for the participants and most of them did not complete responding to all the questions they received.

Recommendations

- Early planning of the polls to be run at least two months for all the five action tracks to allow ample time for the participants to respond and data analysis and report writing.

- Reduce the number of questions being asked in each of the action tracks to at least 07 questions per track. Also keeping the messages short, direct and in a simpler language is vital. The recommended text message length for U-Report is 160 characters maximum.