



Vol. 03

## The Official Government of Uganda Inter- Ministerial/Agencies Monthly National Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning Bulletin

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15th FEBRUARY - 15th MARCH 2020

Issue No. 40

## **DESERT LOCUSTS UPDATE**

After Desert locusts devastating thousands of hectares of crops in countries located in the horn of Africa (Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya and Eritrea), on Sunday, February 9th, at around 5 pm, swarms of desert locusts in Uganda through Amudat, in less than one week they reach Moroto, Nakapiripirit,Napak, Amudat, Nabilatuk, Abim, Kaabong, Agago, Kotido, in the Karamoja Sub-region, Kitgum and Agago in Acholi sub-region and Katakwi in Teso Sub-region.

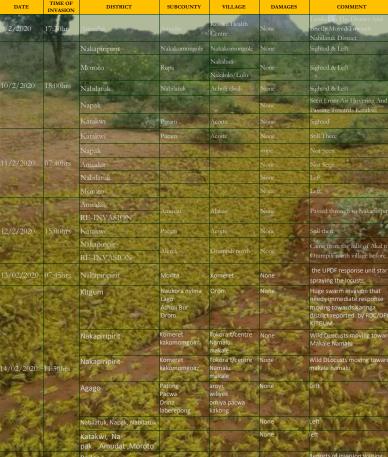
- In the early hours, the National Task Force coordinated by the Prime Minister's Office called an emergency meeting to communicate the implementation of the contingency plan.
- The armed forces team on the ground also include the Uganda Wildlife Authority;
- There are three spray teams trained by the UPDF in each of the several districts affected by desert locusts.
- National authorities are working hard on the ground, spraying and the results are being positive (several square kilometers sprayed and millions of dead desert locusts).
- According to the OPM reports, the desert locusts have not yet caused any damage to the pasture and crops.
- FAO is committed to working with the National authorities to limit the destruction of deadly pests in the

food and agriculture sector.

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#### What to do?

- Desert locusts cause massive destruction of green vegetation including crops leading to susceptibility to famine. There is need to store enough food as a precautionary measure. If you spot the desert locusts in your neighborhood, You can also call us Toll Free on .....and please alert your nearest extension worker, parish chief or/and local leaders.
- Contact your nearest extension worker for advice on food storage facilities if you don't have granaries in your home or neighborhood.
- Desert locusts come in millions of numbers and cover a relatively large area for individual farmers to control.
- Report the presence of the swarms or hopper bands (millions of young ones instars moving together) to local authorities. Government will then intervene with ground and aerial spraying for control in the shortest time.







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## LEARN MORE ABOUT WHAT A DESERT LOCUST IS

#### What is the desert locust?

Desert or yellow locusts are short-horned grasshoppers belong to the family Acrididae.

They have big hind legs for jumping. Locusts differ from grasshoppers in that they have the ability to change their behaviour and habits and can migrate over large distances. They are capable of forming 'swarms' (adult's congregation) and 'hopper bands' (nymphal congregation).

### Life Cycle

They live for 90 days and eat voraciously—the equivalent to their bodyweight every day. They feed on green, leafy plants and always travel during the day time.

Locusts take 50 days to develop from eggs to an immature stage. The immature locusts take another 30 days to reach the egg-laying stage. Once egg laying is done, the insects die.

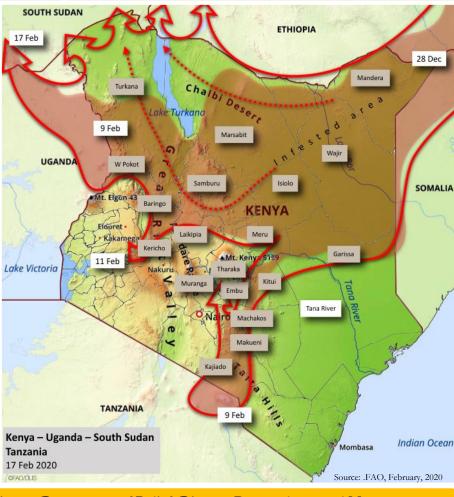


When conditions are favourable for reproduction, locust numbers increase 20-fold in three months. The favourable conditions for breeding include moist sandy or sand / clay soil to a depth of 10-15 cm below the surface, or some bare areas for egg-laying, and green vegetation for hopper development.

An average adult locust swarm eats as much as about 10 elephants, 25 camels or 2,500 people.

## Ecology

When conditions are not favourable, their numbers decrease either by natural mortality or through migration. It restricts itself to the semi-arid and arid deserts of Africa, west and south Asia that receive less than 200 mm of rain annually. This is an area of about 16 million square kilometres, consisting of about 30 countries. In the current case, climate change-induced unseasonal rain or frequent cyclones have been considered to be the main reasons for the infestations. Apart from India, the pests have attacked 60 countries in two major continents, comprising 30 sq kms



#### Map of Desert Locust situation update 17 February 2020



#### What is a coronavirus?

Coronaviruses are a group of viruses that cause diseases in mammals and birds. In humans, the viruses cause respiratory which are typically mild including the common cold but rarer forms can be lethal. In cows and pigs, they may cause diarrhoea, while in chickens they can cause an upper respiratory disease

#### Summary of Coronavirus outbreaks

On 31 st December 2019 the World health Organisation was notified of a cluster of cases displaying symptoms of a "pneumonia of unknown cause" linked to the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market, Hubei province, Wuhan. On 7 January 2020, Chinese authorities confirmed that they had identified the new virus. Between January 26<sup>th</sup> and February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020, over 10,000 new cases had . been identified globally, with close to 20,000 cases under investigation. This number is expected to continueraising due to the rapid spread of the infection and absence of available treatment.



#### Situation in Uganda

Uganda has no confirmed case of 2019-novel Coronavirus. However, the Ministry of Health remains vigilant to identify any person who may develop or arrive with the disease. As of 10th February, 220 travellers from and with links to China have been assessed by the medical teams at the airport and advised on appropriate measures to take in case they develop signs and symptoms of the coronavirus infection. They are under isolation at their homes with daily follow up by the surveillance officers. 100 have completed 10 days. None have developed signs and symptoms of the 2019- novel coronavirus. The Ministry of Health has undertaken the following measures to prevent, detect and respond to 2019-Coronavirus importation.

Ensured that Uganda Virus Research Institute has the necessary equipment and reagents to test and confirm any suspected 2019-Coronavirus samples in-country. This will enable early case detection, containment and management of the disease.

1. Developed an information sheet that is distributed to travelers with telephone numbers of officers. This will facilitate travellers who are not feeling well to call for information and help at any time.

2. Strengthened screening at Entebbe International Airport. This is done using a Thermo scanner that is able to pick a person's temperature within a crowd in a range of 4- 20 meters. It then identifies the person with raised temperature and creates a picture of the individual with finer details on a different screen. A health worker monitors images generated by the scanner from a different screen. The larger screen where people would view themselves was removed after concerns that photographs were being taken without the people's consent. The filled forms are deposited with the health worker at the health checkpoint before the traveller proceeds to the Immigration checkpoint.

**3.** Travellers from affected countries are provided with information on 2019-novel coronavirus, where to report and seek care should they develop symptoms, and on self-isolation for a period of 14 days. These travellers are being followed up by surveillance officers on a daily basis for up to 14 days.

**4.** Provision of information to the public through the available media outlets and other communication channels.

**5.** Risk mapping and assessment of vulnerable locations in the country. This is to identify possible avenues of importation of 2019-novel coronavirus and high-risk areas for intensified surveillance.

6. Entebbe and Naguru referral hospitals have been strengthened to

manage people who might fall sick. Ambulances have been provided to

transport the suspected cases to the appropriate level of care.

7. The Ministry of Health appeals to all people especially travellers from the affected countries to cooperate with health workers to strengthen and sustain vigilance against 2019-Coronavirus.

#### Key messages

- Avoid close contact with people who are visibly sick with flu-like symptoms (fever, cough, sneezing and running nose).
- Cover the mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, then throw the tissue in the dustbin and wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water.
- When infected with any flu avoid crowds, and use a face-mask to cover the nose and mouth.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Stay home and call for help from health workers when you experience symptoms of coronavirus to avoid spreading illness to others.
- Regularly clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces such as door handles.
- The Ministry of Health further appeals to the general public to remain calm and report any suspicious cases to the nearest health facility or call our toll free lines 0800-203-033 and 0800-100-066, and the following officers- Mr. Atek Kagirita-0782 909153, Dr. Allan Muruta-0772 460297, Dr. Opar Bernard- 0772 469323

Source: .Ministerof Health, February, 2020

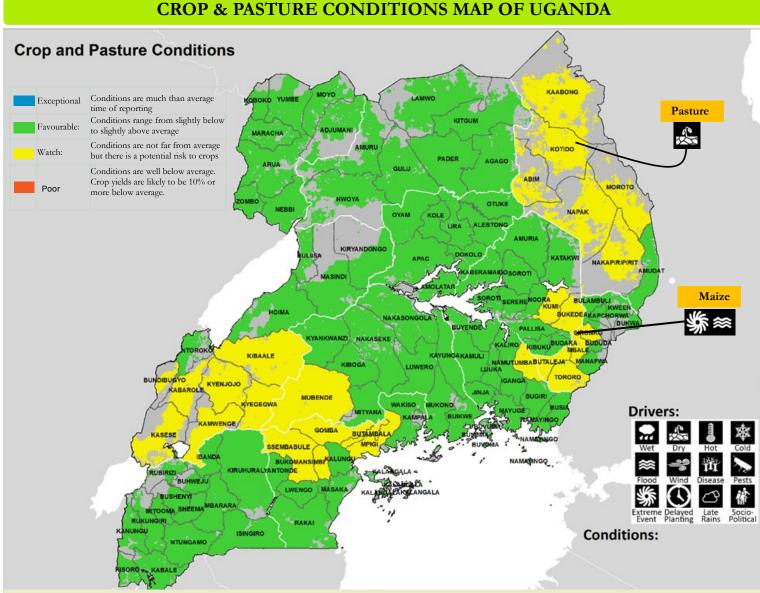
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Source: Crop Monitor of Uganda. This crop conditions map synthesizes information for selected crops and pasture as of 01 th February 2020. Crop conditions over the main growing areas are based on a combination of national and regional crop analysts' inputs along with remote sensing and rainfall data.

#### Early Warning for Regions!

**Central 1:** The region is under favourable crop and pasture apart from Mubende, Gomba, Butambala, Ssembabule and Mpigi that are under watch. Extended SOND rains greatly explain the observed conditions.

**Central 2, South Western, West Nile, Lango and Acholi:** Favourable crop conditions persist across the regions due to above average and extended rainfall of January. The rainfall has created excellent conditions for perennial crops and pastures but poor conditions for cereals and tubers. Second season harvest has ended in most areas across the region with slightly below average yields.

**Karamoja:** Watch pasture conditions prevail across the region except for Amudat, which is under favourable conditions. Lean seasons is due and therefore locals are recommended to store some water for their animals.

#### Early Warning for Regions!

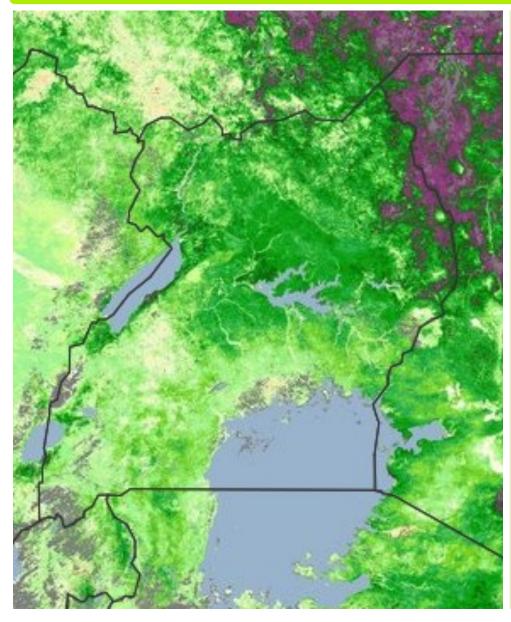
Western: The region is under favourable crop conditions except for districts of Kasese, Bundibugyo, Kabarole, Kyenjojo, Kibaale, and Kyegegwa that are under watch. Localized floods due to extended above average rainfall in December-January largely account for the mixed conditions. Harvesting of second season crops has ended.

**East Central, Elgon** & Teso: Favourable crop conditions persist in the regions due to extended January rains. However, these rains have resulted into localized floods thus watch crop conditions for Mbale and Sironko in Eglon, Butalejja, Tororo, and Namutumba in East Central, Kumi Katakwi, bukedea and Soroti in Teso and Kyenjojo, Kasese, Bundibugyo, Kabarole, Kasese, Kibaale in Western region.



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## HIGHLIGHT'S—NDVI ANOMALY (02th TO 09 rd FEBRUARY 2020)



The figure beside represent the Normalized Different Vegetation Index (NDVI%) anomaly for the period of 02 <sup>th</sup> to 09 <sup>rd</sup> February 2020

The green color represents areas where conditions are "above normal."

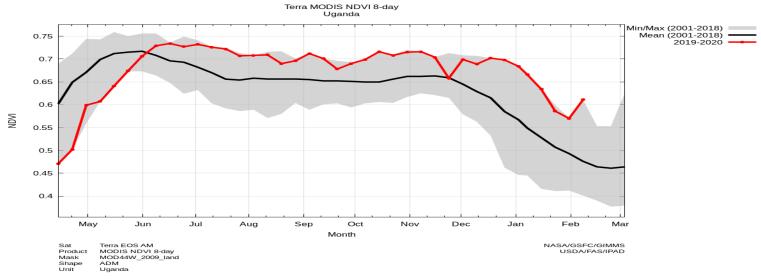
The light green color represents areas where conditions are better than "normal".

The yellowish brown areas represent areas where the vegetation conditions are near normal.

Gray areas are areas where no data was collected due to cloud cover. The green color represents areas where conditions are "above normal."

The chart below complements the data represented on the map showing the current vegetation conditions. The red line represents the average conditions and compares with the average conditions (black line) for the same period. The gray area shows how values tend to spread from the mean (min / max). For the country as a whole, current conditions were aligned with the long-term maximum deviation from the above-

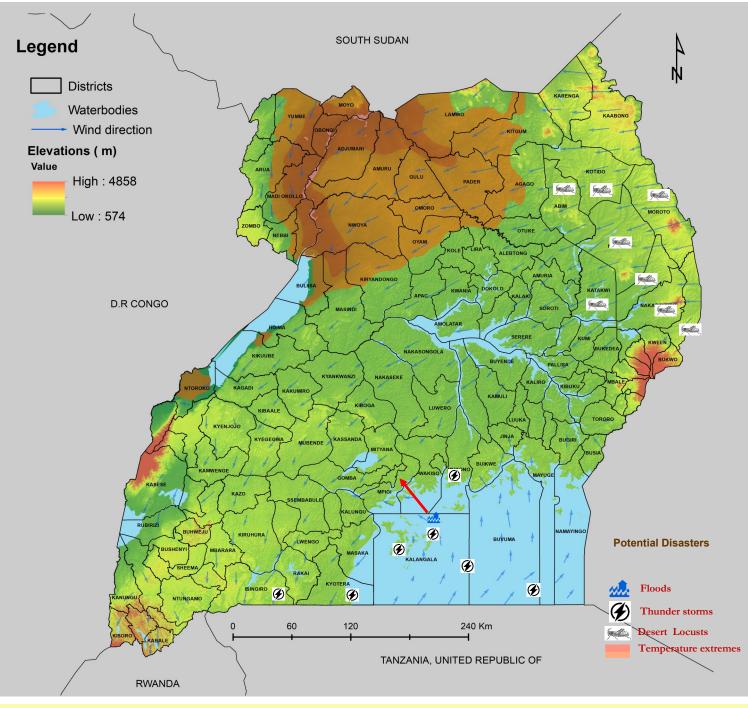
As indicative in the map image, during this period of analysis, the country is generally experiencing healthier NDVI condition largely as a result of above average 2019 SOND rainfall.





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### MULTI HAZARD EARLY WARNING PROBABILITY MAP – FEBRUARY / MARCH 2020



#### **Biological disaster Warning!**

- Desert locusts arrived in Uganda, from Karamoja Sub-region and some districts in Acholi and Teso Sub-region are already invaded;
- Keep animals away from already sprayed areas to avoid intoxication.;
- Harvest all produce before spraying areas where desert locusts have been identified.

#### Early Warning for Hydro-Meteorological and Geophysical disasters!

- According to UMA, 11th 20th February temperature extremes are forecast for West Nile and Districts of Acholi sub-regions are expected to experience the highest maximum temperatures in the range 28 to 32 degrees centigrade (°C). These extreme events are expected to worsen pasture conditions, and uncomfortable living temperatures.
- The expected prevailing wind direction is easterly blowing from east) and northeasterly (blowing from the northeast into the country). This information is very significant in tracking potential areas where locusts are likely to move and in the position of spraying equipment.

#### Health Hazard Warning!

- First confirmed case of coronavirus in Africa (Egypt), we advise the public to follow the recommendations of the Ministry of Health. In case of any suspicious symptoms, immediately go to the hospital.;
- Neighbouring countries, such as S.Sudan, DRC, Kenya, Tanzania are experiencing Measles outbreak, cholera, Measles, Leishmaniasis, (cVDPV2), EDV and Monkey pox.
- Border districts are advised to strengthen health surveillance near their border areas



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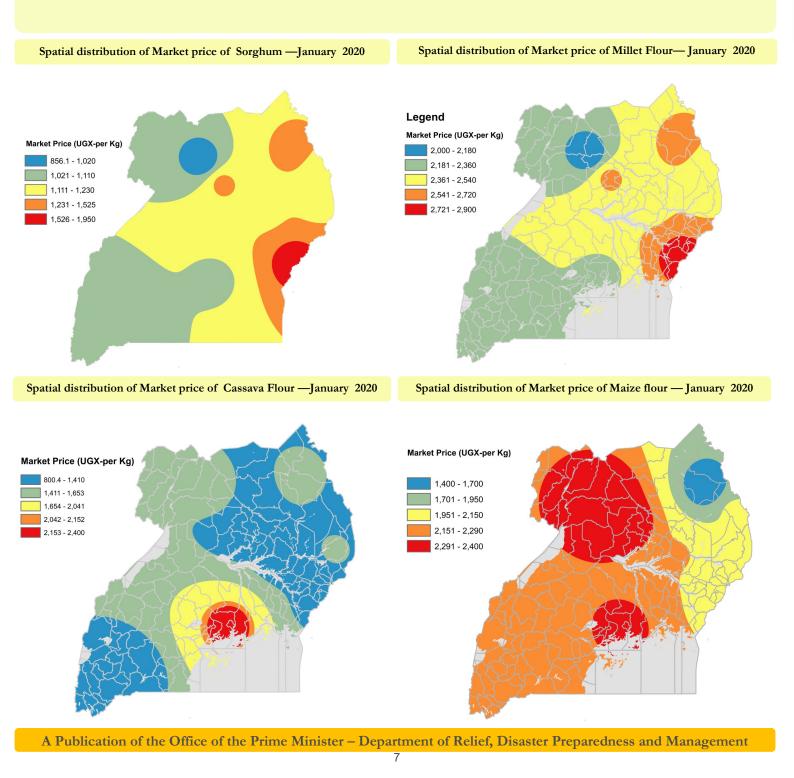
Brief update on Food security and Market Prices of Selected Crops - (January/February-2020)

#### Highlights!

The above-average 2019 SOND rainfall, and above average extended January 2020 rainfall in different regions of the country favored the rapid growth of crops, and rapid harvest making food available in the markets.

Desert locust pests can be a threat to food security if left unchecked in the coming days due to their potential to destroy crops and pastures for animals. The situation is, even more, worrying in the areas that were affected by floods and landslides, where families lost crops and pastures because of October-December 2019 disasters.

According FEWS NET (Famine Early Warning Systems Network), in the agropastoral Karamoja Region, food security conditions have recently improved from "Crisis" to "Stressed" due to the availability of the recently harvested crops. Although the below-average crop production will result in an earlier-than-usual depletion of household cereal stocks, the above-average availability of livestock products will maintain a stable food security situation and the lean season is expected to begin as usual in March.





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### FEBRUARY TO MARCH 2020 SEASONAL RAINFALL OUTLOOK OVER UGANDA

#### South and Central Western Uganda

South Western - Kisoro, Kabale, Rubanda, Rukiga, Rwampara, Kazo, Rukungiri, Kanungu, Ntungamo, Mbarara, Kiruhura, Isingiro, Ibanda, Kitagwenda, Bushenyi, Buhweju, Mitooma, Sheema, Rubirizi and Kasese) districts. Above normal rainfall is expected

Western Central: - Bundibugyo, Ntoroko, Kabarole, Kyenjojo, Kyegegwa, Kamwenge, Kibaale, Kikuube, Bunyagabu, Kakumiro, Kagadi, Hoima, Buliisa, Masindi, Kiryandongo districts. Near average to above average rainfall is expected (slight tendency)

#### Central Region and Lake Victoria Basin

**Western areas of Central region -**Nakasongola, Luwero, Kyankwanzi, Kakumiro, Kasanda, Nakaseke, Kiboga, Mubende, Sembabule, Western Masaka, Lyantonde, Kyotera and Rakai districts. **Near normal rainfall is expected** 

Eastern Lake Victoria and South Eastern - Kalangala, Kampala, Wakiso, Eastern Masaka, Lwengo, Mpigi, Butambala, Kalungu, Bukomansimbi, Gomba, and Mityana districts. Near average rainfall is

**Eastern areas of Central region -** *Mukono, Buikwe, Kayunga, Buvuma districts.* **Near average to above average rainfall** is **expected (slight tendency)** 

Eastern Lake Victoria and South Eastern - Jinja, Mayuge, Kamuli, Iganga, Bugiri, Namayingo, Luuka, Namutumba, Buyende, Kaliro, Bugweri, Busia and Tororo districts . Near average rainfall is expected slight tendency to above average rainfall

**Eastern Central** - Pallisa, Budaka, Kibuku, Butebo, Mbale, Sironko, Manafwa, Namisindwa, Bududa, Kapchorwa, Kumi, Kalaki, Kaberamaido, Soroti, Serere, Butaleja, Bulambuli, Kween, Bukwo, Bukedea and Ngora districts Above normal rainfall is Expected (High Chance)

North Eastern Region - Katakwi, Amuria, Moroto, Kotido, Nakapiripirit, Abim, Napak, Kapelebyong, Nabilatuk, Karenga, Amudat, Kalenga, and Kaabong

Districts. Above normal rains is expected

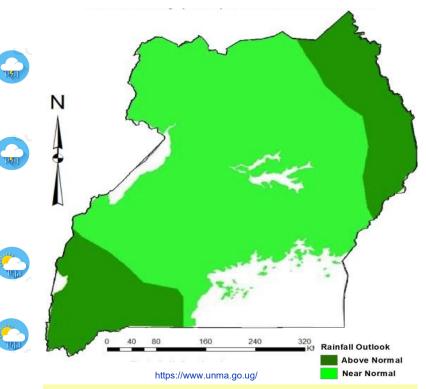
#### Northern region

North Western-Arua, Maracha, Moyo, Obongi, Madi Okollo, Zombo, Nebbi, Pakwach, Yumbe, Koboko, Terego and Adjumani districts. Near average with a slight tendency to above average rains is expected

#### **Central Northern Parts**

Gulu, Omoro, Lamwo, Nwoya, Amuru, and Oyam districts. Near average with a slight tendency to above normal rainfalls.

Southern eastern areas of northern region - Amolatar, Lira, Alebtong, Pader, Otuke, Kitgum, Agago, Kole, and Dokolo) https://www.unma.go.ug/



#### SEASONAL RAINFALL OUTLOOK OVER UGANDA- 2020 FEBRUARY (UPDATE)

#### Advisories:

#### Above Average and Near Normal Rainfall

Early prepositioning of seed and other agro/livestock-inputs in/or near agricultural | Pastoralist communities timely land preparation and early planting, expansion of farming acreages | Proper seed selection to optimize yields | water harvesting and micro-irrigation (where necessary), maximizing agroforestry | Plantation tree planting | restocking livestock farms fish ponds and apiaries; and intensifying agricultural extension | Veterinary services across all agricultural/pastoral communities | Intensify health education and awareness campaigns emphasizing the use of mosquito nets, slashing bushes, disposing of open containers, filling up open pits, and draining stagnant water around homesteads in order to reduce breeding places for mosquitoes | Frequent health inspection in all communities is encouraged | Increased prevention for airborne diseases and non-communicable illnesses should be improved |Improve domestic hygiene and sanitation around homes and schools to reduce on the contamination of water Desilt drainage systems especially in urban areas | Dig/ Open drainage channels around households and gardens | People are advised to move from low lying areas to high lying places towards peak of the rains | Avoid crossing flooded road sections | Construct flood proof houses especially in low land areas | Install water harvesting facilities at household and institutional levels | Review disaster contingency plans | Harvest and store matured crops | Map out designated centres in case of extremes. | Activate and or establish disaster management committees at the local levels. | Monitor signs of landslides like cracks, saturated soils, leaning trees, and report to the Authorities Install lightning arrestors in public premises such as schools, churches, hospitals | Sensitize the public to use rubber shoes/materials during rains .



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DISASTER EARLY WARNINGS AND OUTLOOK - 15th FEBRUARY - 15th MARCH 2020

Early Warnings for 15th February/15th March- 2020

#### Disaster statistics for the month of January 2020

#### **BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS**

Desert locusts arrived in Uganda, from Karamoja Sub-region and in some districts in Acholi and Teso Sub-region, already invaded, If you spot the desert locusts in your neighborhood, please alert your nearest extension worker, parish chief or/and local leaders.

You can also call us Toll Free on **0800177777** to report the Desert Locust Invasion in your community



Measles. Nine (9) districts have detected and investigated at least one suspected measles case. Those districts include; Agago, Alebtong, Bugiri, Hoima, Isingiro, Lamwo, Moroto, Nakaseke, and Serere

AFP cases were investigated during from, Bugweri (1), Buyangabu (1), Kyenjojo (1), Lwengo (1)Napak (1), Rukungiri (2), Yumbe (1) and Zombo (1).

There is need to increase disease surveillance due to expected upsurges of epidemics of diseases related to rainy season such as malaria, cholera, bilharzia and typhoid, also increase in lower respiratory diseases



#### HYDRO-METEREOLOGICAL HAZARD - FLOODS

with the rain season coming to an end, people need to harvest runoff water in dams, and tanks for domestic use, animals and irrigation in the next pro-duction season.



#### **METEREOLOGICAL HAZARDS**

Strong winds may be experienced in Victoria River basin districts and northern, eastern and in Western regions;

Lightning: Mostly on Victoria River basin Districts and Western regions.



#### **GEOPHYSICAL HAZARDS - LANDSLIDES**

Though the rains have reduced, there's potential threats on people Living on hills of Mt. Elgon, Rwenzori and South western regions.Northern Parts of Mt. Rwenzori also need to be cautious.

Alert Level Moderate High

#### **TRANSPORT / TECHNOLOGICAL HAZARDS**

Transport Accidents: Any Location Fire: Any Location Electrocution: Any Location Drowning: Lakes Victoria and other Rivers, Lakes and Streams

Moderate High

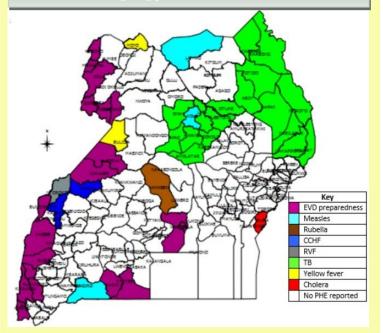
BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS (based on Weekly EPI Bulletins of MoH)

A high number of cases of Malaria, Typhoid, Animal bites, SARI and Dysentery were reported in different parts of the country.

Reported cases: 40, 983 Dead: 24

Source: EPI, MoH, 2020

Ongoing public Health Events



#### HYDRO-METEREOLOGICAL /GEOPHYISICAL HAZARD

Floods: No reported Landslide: No reported Lightening: |Reported in Masaca No of People Affected: 1 Dead: 1

#### TRANSPORT / TECHNOLOGICAL HAZARDS

Fire, drowning, fatal road accidents were occurred across the country.

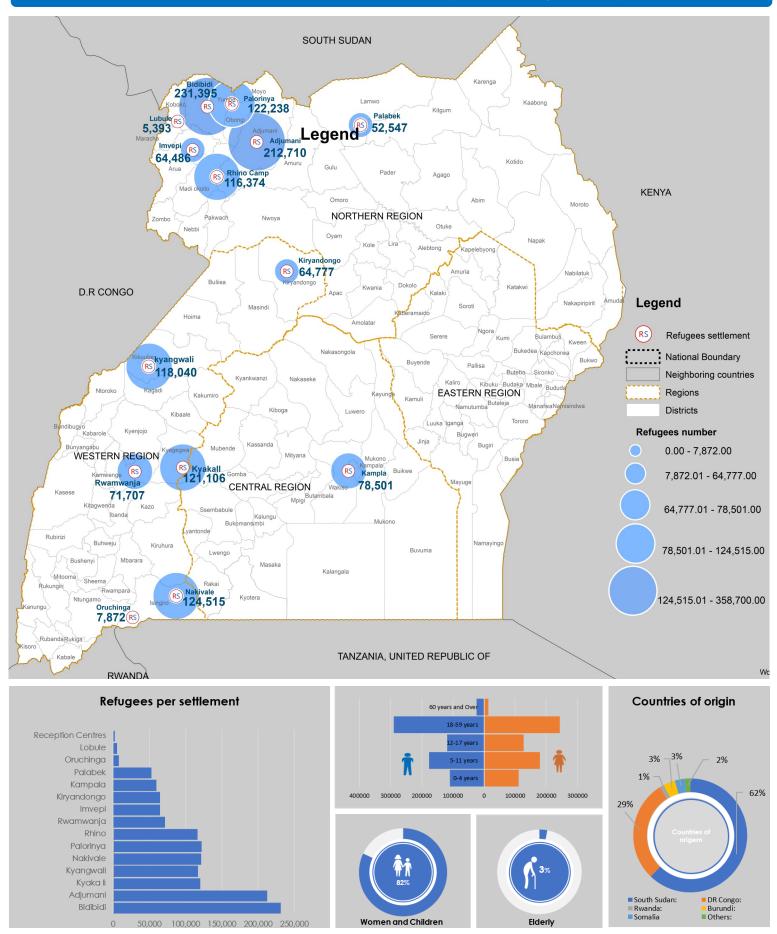
Deaths: 63 Injured: 26 Affected: 92

Source: NECOC/OPM, Uganda Police Force, January, 2020



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## **REFUGEE STATUS OF UGANDA (as of January 20, 2020)**





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#### National Emergency Coordination and Operations Centre (NECOC)

The Office of the Prime Minister's Department for Disaster Preparedness and Management established the National Emergency Coordination and Operations Centre (NECOC) in October 2014, with the support of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Uganda's National Emergency Coordination and Operations Centre (NECOC) is a 24 hour, 7- days a week central facility for early warning dissemination and coordination of emergency and crisis response and recovery action. The NECOC is established under the National Policy for Disaster Preparedness and Management of Uganda (NPDPM) with the purpose of contributing towards the functionality and characteristics that make creation of an integrated and multi-sectoral system approach to planning, preparedness and management of disasters that is fundamental to sustained productivity and socio-economic growth of the country.

### **Important Note!**

#### The Uganda National Integrated Multi Hazard Early Warning System (U-NIEWS)

U-NIEWS monthly bulletin can be used to understand the conditions of crops and pasture, food insecurity, weather/climate forecast and to determine the anticipated disasters which may occur in the days to come while providing the disaster and humanitarian response status update based on monthly statistics. The information in this bulletin can be used as baseline information for planning processes while detail information may required for respective locations through relevant local and technical agencies for local level planning. For any specific details and information, relevant sources should be contacted using the NECOC website given below. In addition, Sub national level officials are encouraged to re circulate U-NIEWS among the locals including CSO's in their respective districts. The development partners are also encouraged to re circulate this bulletin among their partners, peers and colleagues.

The information provided here is shared by the respective government, UN agencies and non governmental agencies stationed in Uganda. The Uganda National Integrated Early Warning monthly bulletin is issued on 15<sup>th</sup> of every month to notify the Ministries, Departments, Authorities, UN Agencies and General public on probable disasters which may occur without warning.

For more details:

### Office of the Prime Minister (OPM)

National Emergency Coordination and Operations Centre (NECOC)

5th Floor, Postel Building, Clement Hill Road P.O Box 341, Kampala Uganda. Tel No. <u>0414 342 104</u>

#### Toll Free Hotline: 0800 177 777 Toll Free SMS Number: 6700

Email: info@necoc-opm.go.ug

Web site: <u>www.necoc-opm.go.ug</u> Twitter:@OPMUganda & @opmdpm



Partners: OPM, MAAIF, MOH, DWRM, UNMA, UPF, UNDP, WHO, WFP, FAO, UNHCR, UNICEF, DFID, FEWSNET, URCS