



# U – NIEWS

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



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Issue 52

## Floods, mudslides, Landslides, Strong winds & Lightning alert



The General Public is informed that the first-season-rains have begun; it will be heavy and above normal in several sub-regions of the country.

In the coming days; massive floods and landslides are expected in Elgon, Rwenzori and Kigezi Subregions and lowlands around these areas.

Urban dwellings with poor drainage channels will experience flooding.

Most parts of the country will experience strong winds and lightning; fishermen, especially on Lake Victoria and Lake Albert, should adhere to safety and lifesaving measures.

## LIFE SAVING ALERT !!

Those living near river banks and on steep slopes should shift to homes of relatives and friends in safer locations.

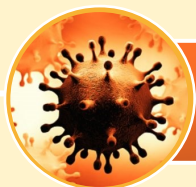
Urban authorities and communities should clear drainage channels near their homes and workplaces.

People should reinforce their roofs and walls where necessary.

People are strongly advised not to walk or to allow a driver or bodaboda-rider take them through flooded roads or bridges even if when the floods appear very low below the knees or rim of the vehicle.

Store enough food and firewood to last three months.

Take extra care of children, the elderly and other vulnerable persons over the next three months.



## UGANDA COVID 19 OUTLOOK COVID 19 Update and Vaccination Centres across Kampala

**40,591**  
Confirmed cases

**719**  
Active cases

**15,099**  
Cumulative recoveries

**334**  
Deaths

As of 16th March 2021 the District with highest cases include: Kampala (23) Hoima (2) Adjumani (1) Jinja (1) Tororo (1).

Data sources: Uganda Ministry of Health.  
Link: <https://covid19.gou.go.ug>.

The Ministry of Health, rolled out vaccination of COVID-19 with arrival of initial batch of 864,000 doses of Astra-Zeneca vaccines that arrived on 5th March 2021, and Vaccination began on 10th March 2021. The first phase of the exercise will focus on categories such as, Health workers, Security personnel (UPDF, Police and Prisons), Teachers (Public and Private), Persons from age 50 years and above, Persons with underlying conditions aged below 50 years, Other emerging high risk priority essential groups (Airlines, Media, Prisoners, Tour operators and guides, Bankers, Immigration officers, UWA, URA, Humanitarian workers others to be identified). The Total number of people that have so far received the first round of vaccine is 1,215.

### VACCINATION CENTRES - KAMPALA

#### Makindye Division

Kiruddu National Referral Hospital  
Kisugu Health Center III  
St. Francis Nsabya Hospital  
Kibuli Hospital

#### Central Division

Kisenyi Health Centre IV  
Vine Medical Centre  
City Hall clinic  
Kamwokya Christian Caring Centre

#### Nakawa Division

Butabika Hospital  
Kiswa Health Center III  
China-Uganda Friendship Hospital-Naguru  
UMC Victoria Hospital - Bukoto

#### Kawempe Division

Komamboga Health Centre III  
Kisaasi Church of Uganda Medical Centre  
St. Stephen Mpererwe Hospital  
Kawempe National Referral Hospital

#### Lubaga Division

Lubaga Hospital  
Mengo Hospital

**NOTE: Vaccination in other districts is at designated health center III, IV, General Hospital and Regional referral Hospitals.**



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## Uganda National Integrated Early Warning System – Monthly Bulletin

### CROP & PASTURE CONDITIONS MAP OF UGANDA (MARCH 2021)

#### Crop and Pasture Conditions

##### Sorghum



##### Conditions:

**Favorable:** Conditions range from slightly below to slightly above average.

**Watch:** Conditions are not far from average, with potential production risk

##### Cassava



##### Drivers:



##### Conditions:



**Source:** Crop Monitor of Uganda. This crop conditions map synthesizes information for selected crops and pasture as of 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021. 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, and Central 2:** Most of the districts are under favorable crop condition in the region. Except Kiboga, Kyankwanzi, Nakaseke and Nakasongola that are under watch conditions.

**Elgon:** Save for Kween, the region is under favourable crop conditions and is likely due to the rains that have been received in this region at the start of February and late January.

**Karamoja, Lango, Teso and Acholi:** Most of the districts are under poor crop condition in the region. Except for Nwoya, Napak and Dokolo that are under watch crop and pasture conditions the area was previously under watch conditions, the worsening condition may be due to flooding around lake shores and slow onset of rains in the region.

**West Nile:** Most parts of the sub region is under poor crop condition in the region. Except for Nebbi and Zombo that are under watch crop and pasture conditions, the worsening condition might be attributed to slow onset of rains in the region.

#### Early Warning for Regions!

**Western and South Western:** Except Ntoroko that is under poor crop watch conditions, Kibaale, Hoima, Masindi and Kiryandongo that are under watch, other districts are under favorable crop condition in the region. Several districts have been receiving relative rainfall since the start of March. Communities are expected to have good harvests from long maturing crops like Cassava.

The current near normal rains are likely to continue and might intensify, communities are advised to plant early maturing crops like beans and maize. And those living in highlands of Mt. Rwenzori are advised to shift to safer areas.

These conditions are in line with UNMA's MAM seasonal rainfall outlook indicates that there is an increased likelihood of near normal (closer to average rainfall conditions) to above normal (wetter than usual) rainfall over several parts of the country. Northern and in North eastern are expected to have a gradual progression at around late march to mid April 2021.

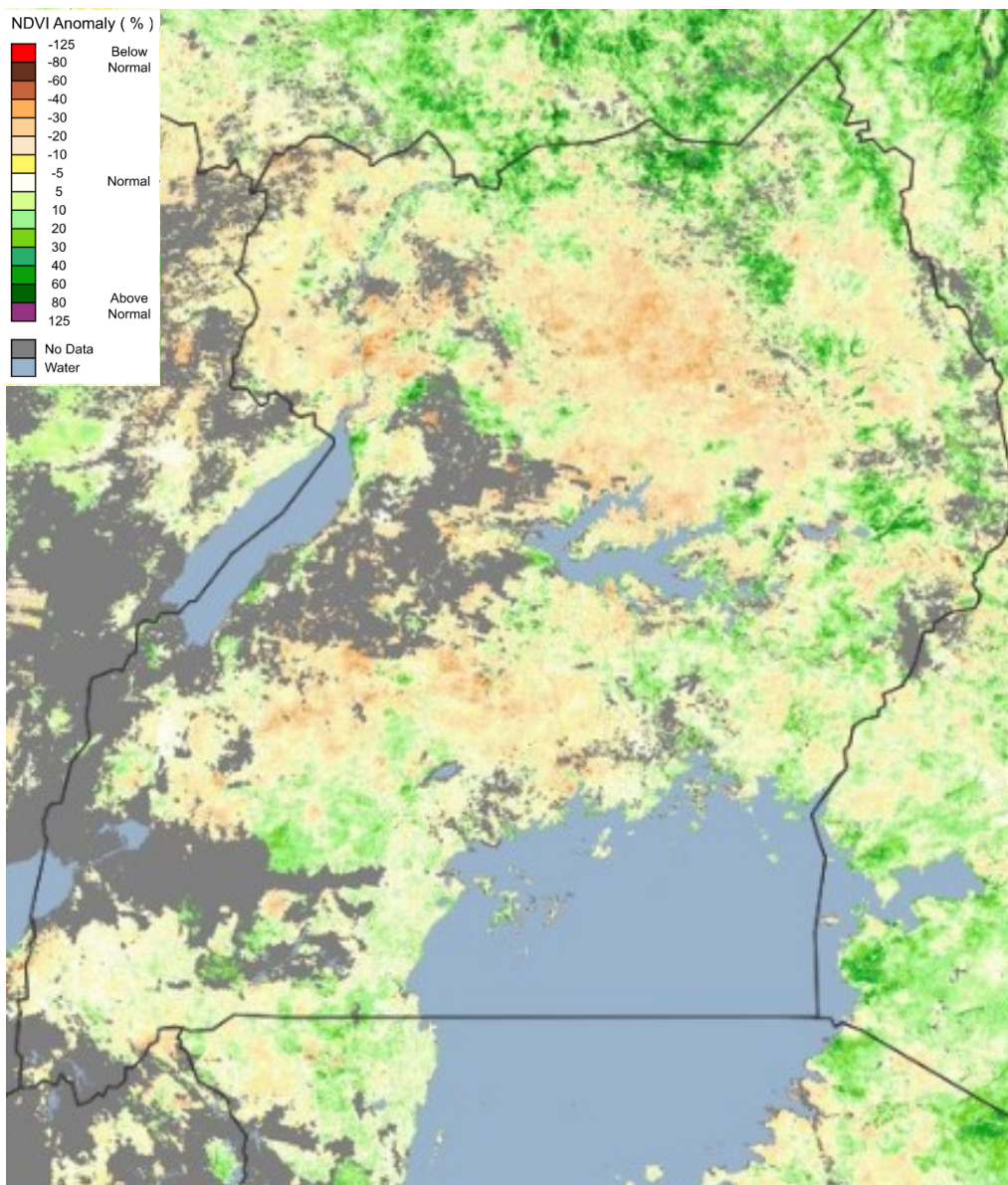




# U – NIEWS

## Uganda National Integrated Early Warning System – Monthly Bulletin

### HIGHLIGHTS - NDVI Anomaly (08<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>, MARCH 2020)



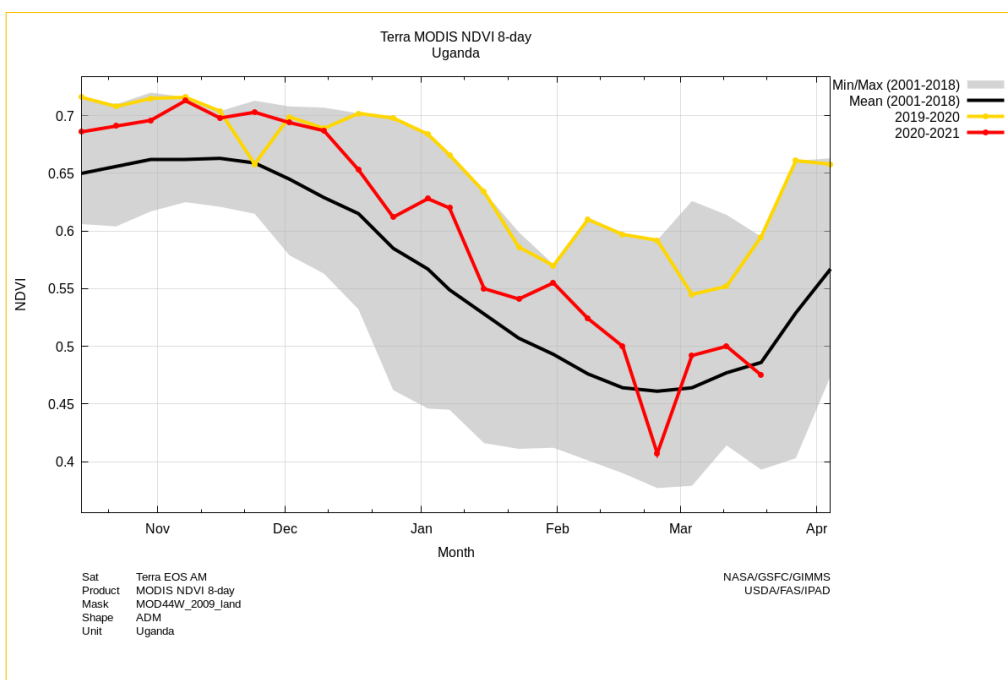
The Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) is used to characterize the health of the vegetation for a particular timeframe compared to what is considered normal. In agricultural monitoring, negative values can be a good indicator of poor crop conditions or a slower growth rate of the crop due to a variety of environmental conditions such as drought or a significantly delayed season is commonly used as an indicator for droughts early warning which enable preventive early action to minimize their impacts.

NDVI anomaly is the difference between the average NDVI for a particular period of the year and the average NDVI for same period over a specified number of years.

For the period of 03 to 16 March 2021, the NDVI anomaly image shows in green color the 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 which could be associated with delayed onset of rains over those areas. Due to cloud cover, anomalies cannot be assessed in the grey areas.

The early start of the second rainy season have contributed to the revitalization of vegetation and crop growth. Early rains have improved water availability for irrigation, enhancing productivity and contributed for improved availability of local agriculture products on the market with positive implications for gradual improvements on food availability and access.

The data behind the image above showing the current vegetation conditions is graphically represented below it. The red line represents the average conditions for four months until March 2021 and compares with the average conditions (black line) for the same period (2001- 2018). The grey area shows how values tend to spread from the mean (min/max). For the country, current conditions are aligned with the long-term maximum deviation from the above-average. It is observed that in March 2021 the NDVI continues to improve from the first week with slight drop in the last week. Relatedly, UNMA’s MAM seasonal rainfall outlook indicates that there is an increased likelihood of near normal (closer to average rainfall conditions) to above normal (wetter than usual) rainfall over several parts of the country. Northern and in North eastern are expected to have a gradual progression at around late march to mid April 2021.





### MAM SEASONAL RAINFALL OUTLOOK OVER UGANDA

#### Lake Victoria Basin and Central Region

**Western parts of Central** (*Nakasongola, Luwero, Nakaseke, Kyankwanda, Kiboga, Mubende, Kasanda, Sembabule, Lwengo, Lyantonde, and Rakai*) districts. **Near normal to average rainfall conditions are expected with a slight tendency to above normal rains.**

**Central and Lake Victoria Basin:** (*Mukono, Buikwe, Kayunga, Buvuma, Kalangala, Kampala, Wakiso, Masaka, Mpigi, Butambala, Kalungu, Bukomansimbi, Gomba, Mityana, ) districts. Near normal to average rainfall conditions are expected with a slight tendency to above normal rains.*

**Eastern Lake Victoria Basin** (*Jinja, Bugiri, Busia, Mayuge, Namayingo and Tororo*) districts. **Near normal to above normal rainfall is expected**

#### Eastern Region

**South Eastern:** (*Kamuli, Iganga, Luuka, Namutumba, Buyende, Kaliro, and butaleja*) districts **Near normal to above normal rainfall is expected.**

**Eastern Central:** (*Pallisa, Butebo, Budaka, Kibuku, Mbale, Sirronko, Manafwa, Bududa, Bulambuli, Namisindwa, Kapchorwa, Kween, Bukwo, Bukedea, Kumi, Kalaki, and Soroti*) districts. **Near normal to above normal rainfall conditions are expected.**

**North Eastern:** (*Amuria, Kapelebyong, Katakwi, Moroto, Kotido, Nakapiripirit, Nabilatuk, Abim, Napak, Amudat, Karenga and Kaabong*) districts. **Near normal with slight tendency to above normal rainfall is expected.**

**North Western:** (*Zombo, Nebbi, Pakwach, Madi-Okolo, Arua, Koboko, Terego, Maracha, Moyo, Yumbe, Obongi, Adjumani*) districts. **Near normal rainfall is expected.**

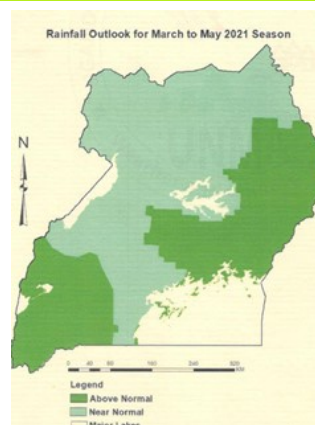
**Eastern Northern Part:** (*Lira, Kitgum, Agago, Otuke, Pader, Kole, Dokolo and Kaberamaido*) district **Near normal rainfall is expected.**

**Central Northern Parts:** (*Gulu, Apac, Kwanja, Pader, Lamwo, Nwoya, Amuru, Oyam and Kiryandongo*) districts **Near normal rainfall is expected.**

#### Western Region

**South Western:** (*Kisoro, Kabale, Rubanda, Rukiga, Rukungiri, Kanungu, Ntungamo, Rwampara, Kasese, Mbarara, Kiruhura, Isingiro, Ibanda, Bushenyi, Buhweju, Mitooma, Sheema, Rubirizi, Kitagwenda and Kasese*) districts. **Near normal with high tendency to above normal rainfall is expected.**

**Central Western:** (*Bundibugyo, Ntoroko, Kabarole, Kyenjojo, Kyegegwa, Kamwenge, Masindi, Bulisa, Hoima, Kakumiro, Kagadi, Kikube and Kibaale*) districts. **Near normal with a slight tendency to above normal rainfall is expected.**



#### MAM SEASONAL RAINFALL OUTLOOK OVER UGANDA

March-April-May constitutes the first major rainfall season over Uganda. Overall there is an increased likelihood of near normal (closer to average rainfall conditions) to above normal/wetter than usual rainfall over several parts of the country. The onset seasonal rains as observed mid march is characterized by several isolated lightning, thunder and hailstorms.

#### POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF FORECASTED CONDITIONS in DIFFERENT SECTORS and VULNERABLE GROUPS

##### ON DISASTERS RISKS

Most parts of the country are expected to experience near normal to above average rainfall for the MAM 2021 rainfall season. This will have various implications to the disaster and risk management sector.

This will bring the risk of floods, water logging and rise of water levels in water bodies especially in eastern and central Uganda, landslides in the highland areas of Rwenzori, Kigezi and Elgon with a risk of displacement of people.

The condition may be suitable for locust invasion and there is a risk of making people food insecure.

##### ON AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK & PASTURE AND DEPENDENT LIVELIHOODS

The MAM seasonal forecast presents good prospects for improved agriculture production across the country. Farmers and other agricultural practitioners are encouraged to take advantage of the good rains to optimize food and crop production.

##### Infrastructure, Works and Transport sector

The anticipated near normal rains to above normal rainfall patterns are likely to be accompanied by intense rainfall events that may lead to flash flooding, in some localities especially the urban areas.

##### Health

There is a high risk of malaria cases in wetter areas of Teso, L. Victoria Basin, L. Kyoga basin and low lands of Elgon and Karamoja region. Cholera risk is high in Bulisa, Busia, south western, Bulambuli, Karamoja sub region and Namayingo district.



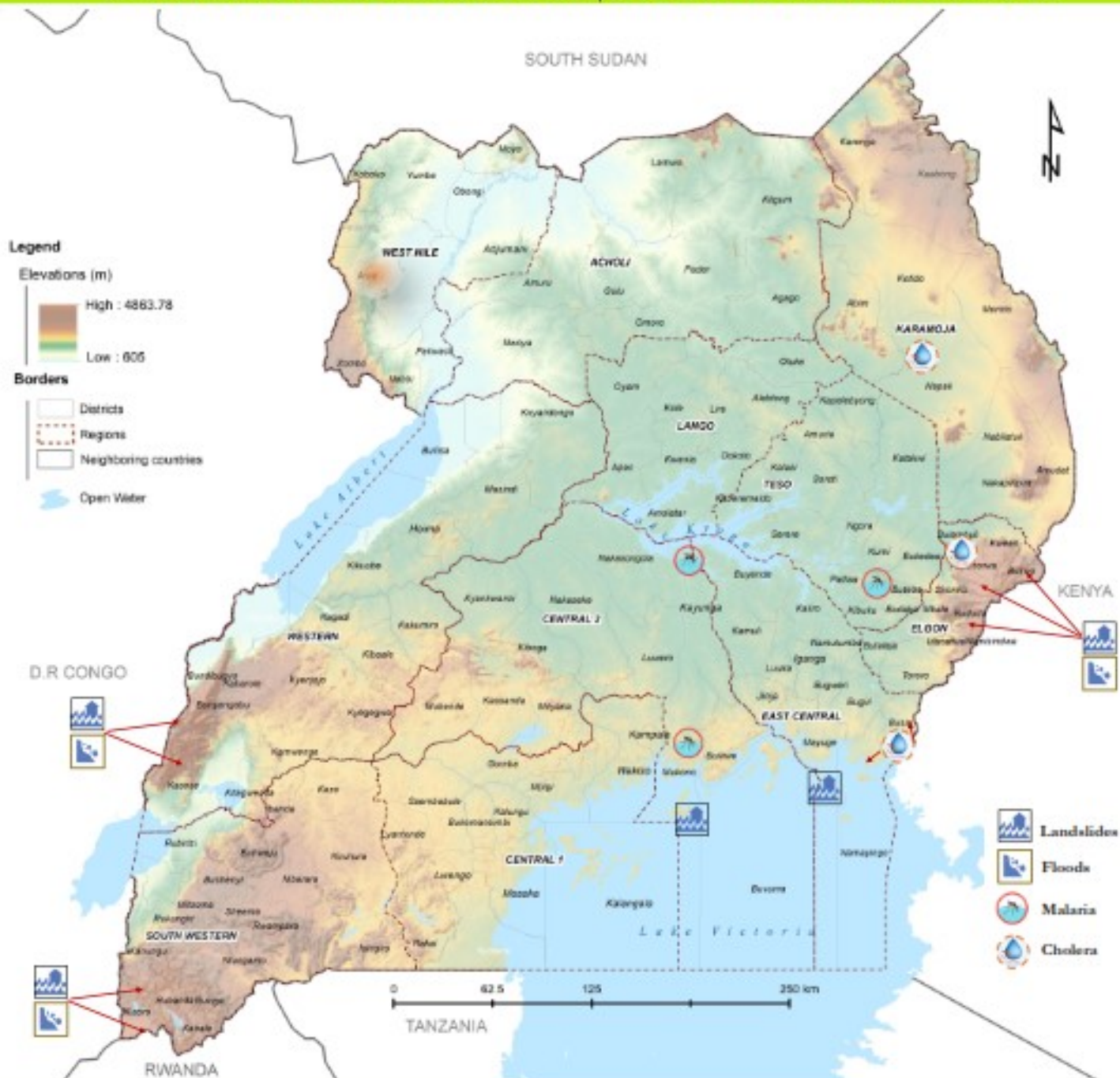




# U - NIEWS

## Uganda National Integrated Early Warning System – Monthly Bulletin

MULTI-HAZARD EARLY WARNING PROBABILITY MAP – 15<sup>th</sup> MARCH - 15<sup>th</sup> APRIL



### BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

#### Communicable disease outbreaks, epidemics and health emergencies

- \* With the first season rains that are gradually intensifying, the associated risk of disease outbreak is eminent. Many urban dwellings with poor management of surface water runoff may be affected most. Areas along shores and banks of water bodies and low lands that are prone to water logging are expected to have increased risk of the outbreak..
- \* The MAM seasonal forecast by UNMA indicate that the country will have near normal with high tendency to above normal in most parts, this is always associated with flash floods and water logging favoring breeding of mosquitoes and other dangerous insects. Therefore, people are advised to spray the indoor walls and ceilings of their homes with insecticides and to follow District Water Official guidance regarding to safe sources of water for consumption. Households are reminded to sleep under mosquito nets as one of the most effective ways of preventing and avoiding malaria outbreaks that might come from stagnated water from the rains.

### TECHNOLOGICAL HAZARDS

- \* Road Accidents: To prevent traffic accidents, drivers and riders are advised to drive and ride carefully, avoid driving through flooded areas, respect road signs and road conditions, and follow the guidelines of the Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA).



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## Uganda National Integrated Early Warning System – Monthly Bulletin

### DISASTER EARLY WARNINGS AND OUTLOOK - 15<sup>th</sup> MARCH - 15<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2021

#### BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

##### Disease outbreak

*With expected average rainfall conditions to wetter than usual rainfall in most parts of the country, and the likely risk of disease outbreak, flooding, water logging is likely to lead to:*

- \* High risk of malaria in lowlands around Elgon region, mostly Teso, Lake Victoria basin, and Lake Kyoga basin.
- \* An impending outbreak of Cholera in areas of Buliisa, Busia, Ntoroko, Bulambuli, Karamoja sub-region and Namayingo District. Communities are advised to avoid water from contaminated sources. Village health teams are encouraged to sensitize the communities of the dangers associated with water borne diseases.

*To minimize public health risks during the predicted rainy season:* There is need to conduct community awareness about the potential outbreak of the diseases in context and improve surveillance.

Alert Level: **Moderate** → **High**

#### HYDRO-METEREEOLOGICAL HAZARD

##### WATER LOGGING / FLASH FLOODS

*The MAM seasonal weather forecasted by UNMA Outlook, indicate that most parts of the country are expected to experience a near normal to above normal rainfall conditions that will bring the risk of floods, water logging and rise of water levels in several water bodies.*

- \* Communities living in flood prone areas are advised to undertake integrated flood management and mitigation strategies in their localities..
- \* Rehabilitation of drainage facilities to avoid flooding.
- \* Buffer water sources to avoid contamination.

Alert Level: **Moderate** → **High**

##### LANDSLIDE/MUDSLIDES

*Considering near normal to above normal rainfall conditions as forecasted in MAM seasonal forecast, the risk of landslides in prone areas of Rwenzori, Kigezi and Elgon is very high.*

- \* The Disaster Risk management institutions should review their contingency plans based on MAM 2021 forecast.
- \* Communities at high risk areas need to be informed in good time including to prepare for relocations.
- \* Community based early warning systems should be set up and activated through this period. Academia, NGOs and local governments are advised to invest in researching and capacitating local leaders and communities to monitor nature and early signs of landslides like cracks, saturated soils, leaning trees, and create channels for reporting hazard sign to responsible authorities; self-evacuate or follow other protective behaviours.

Alert Level: **Moderate** → **High**

#### TRANSPORT TECHNOLOGICAL HAZARDS

**Transport Accidents:** Any Location

**Fire:** Any Location

Alert Level: **Moderate** → **High**

Alert Level



# U - NIEWS

## Uganda National Integrated Early Warning System – Monthly Bulletin

### DISASTER STATISTICS – FEBRUARY

#### TRANSPORT/ TECHNOLOGICAL EVENTS

##### Motor and Aero Accidents

Reported in | Across the country.



114

Affected people



01

Helicopter crash



27

Motor Accidents



28

Injured



30

Deaths

##### CATTLE RUSTLING | Karamoja Sub-Region

Affected: 0 | Deaths: 07 | Injured: 0

##### DROWNING | 02 Reported

Affected: 0 Deaths 02 Injured 0

Source: NECOC/OPM, and Partners – February Summary

#### FIRE

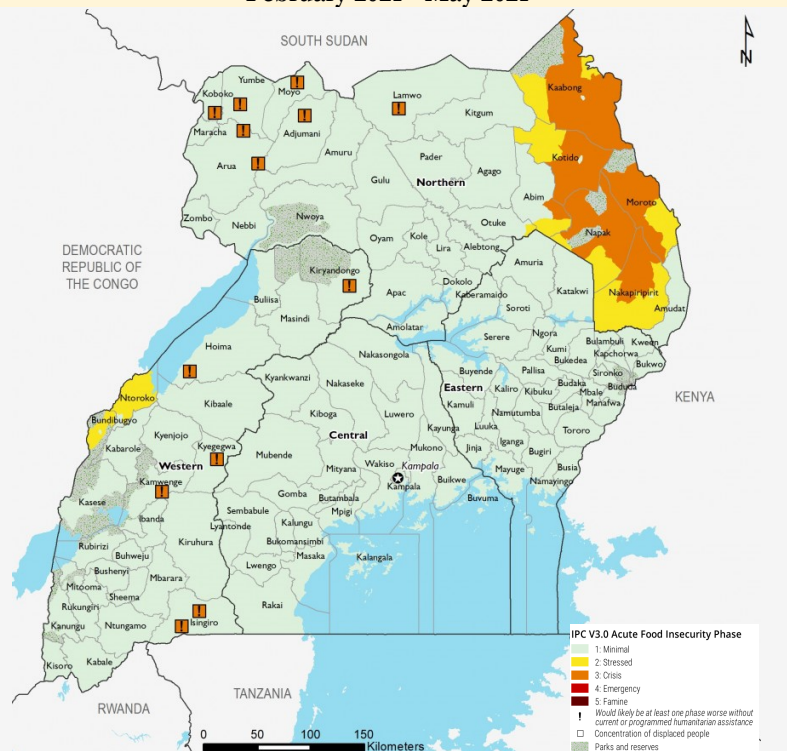
Fire incidents across the country.

Affected: 00 Injured: 00 Deaths: 03

Source: NECOC/OPM, Uganda Police Force, Feb - Mar 2021

### UGANDA PROJECTED FOOD SECURITY OUTCOMES

February 2021 - May 2021



Source - Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) (<https://fews.net>)

### BRIEF UPDATE ON FOOD SECURITY MARCH and APRIL 2021 FORECAST

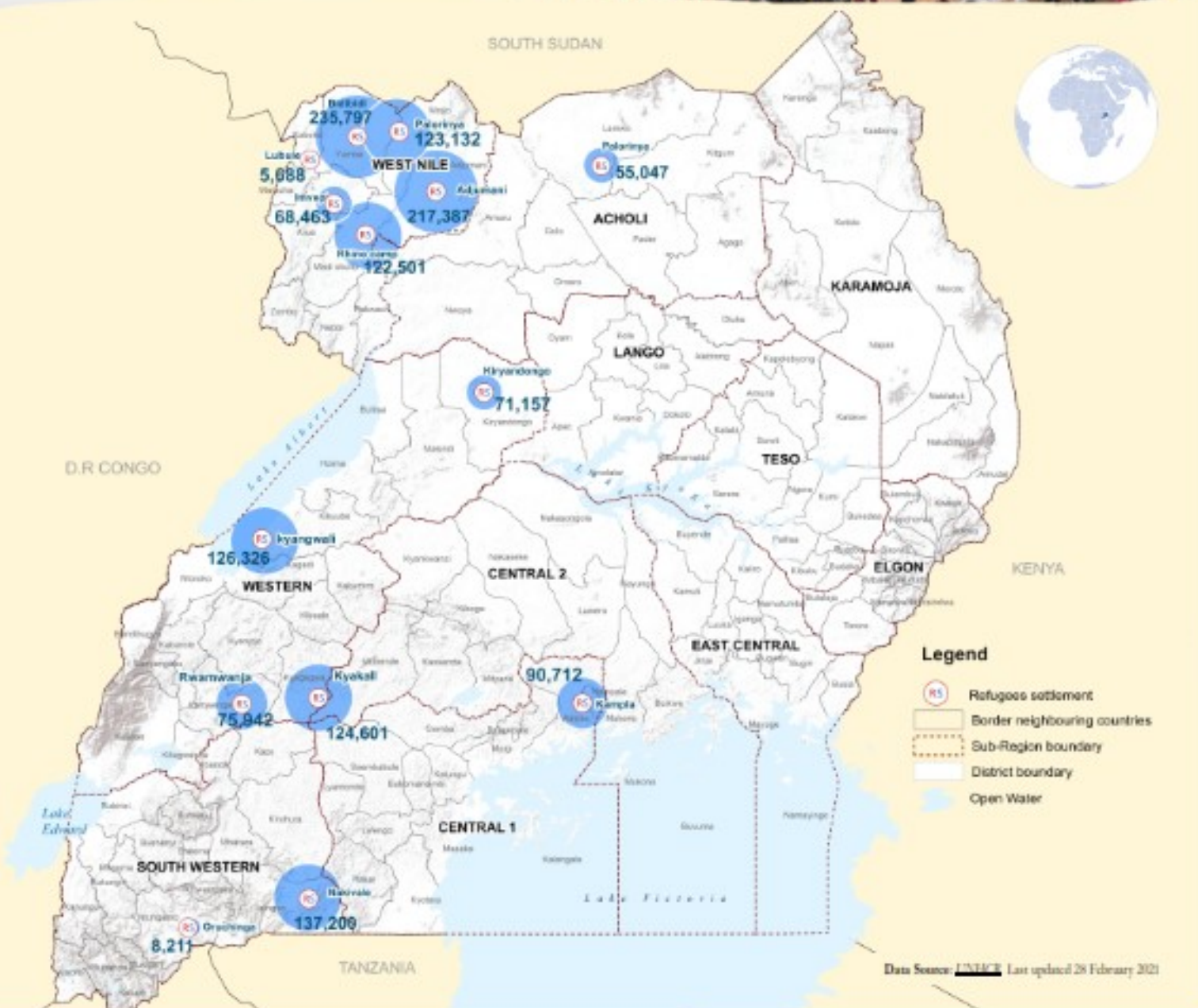
#### Highlights!

- \* Minimal (IPC Phase 1) outcomes are expected in rural and urban areas in bimodal Uganda through September, underpinned by an above-average rainfall forecast from March to May and continued economic recovery in 2021. Available data suggest agricultural production, labor demand, and regional export demand are likely to continue to improve, while low staple food prices are likely to continue to offset the effects of lagging income levels on food access. However, the number of households facing Stressed (IPC Phase 2) or Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes is still likely to be higher than average. Acutely food insecure households are most likely to be located in flood-affected areas near Lake Albert, areas that are vulnerable to floods or landslides during the rainfall season, areas where an FMD livestock quarantine is currently in place, and urban areas.
- \* In Karamoja, Stressed (IPC Phase 2) and Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes are expected to be widespread through at least July, driven by below-average 2020 crop production, below-normal household income, and declining terms of trade, among other factors. In January, the amount of sorghum that could be purchased with the sale of a goat, a charcoal or firewood bundle, or a day's wage declined relative to December, January 2020, and the five-year average in Karamoja's key reference markets. Based on the likelihood of above-average rainfall from April to September, food availability and access are expected to slowly improve as the 2021 harvest becomes available from July to September.
- \* Given limited access to income-generating activities, inadequate crop production, and low coping capacity, households in rural refugee settlements are expected to face Crisis! (IPC Phase 3!)[1] outcomes during the agricultural lean season from February through May. Planned food assistance equivalent to a 60 percent ration is anticipated to prevent worse outcomes. However, a reduction in food assistance is likely after May due to an anticipated pipeline break, based on WFP's report of a USD 114 million funding gap. Despite the availability of the first season harvest in June/July, households are likely to have slight to moderate food consumption gaps indicative of Crisis (IPC Phase 3) from June to September.





### REFUGEE STATUS OF UGANDA (as of FEBRUARY 28<sup>th</sup> 2021)



#### Total refugees and asylum-seekers

**1,462,164**



Living in Settlements Living in IDP areas

94% 1,371,452 6% 90,712

Women and Children Female

81 1,177,707 52% 754,088

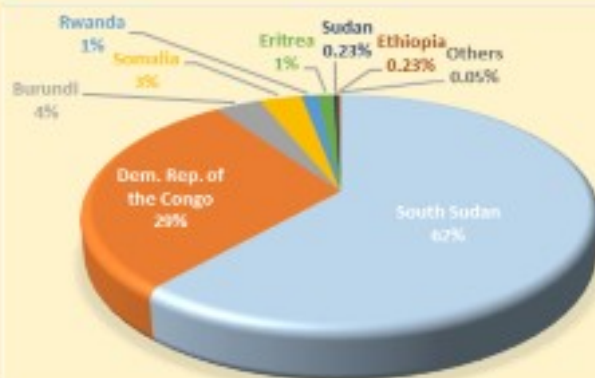
Elderly Youth

3% 41,091 24% 347,629

#### Refugees by district



#### Refugees by country of origin







# U – NIEWS

## Uganda National Integrated Early Warning System – Monthly Bulletin

### 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 the 15<sup>th</sup> of every month to notify 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. 0414 342 104

**Toll Free Hotline on all Networks:  
: 0800 177 777**



*Photo credit OPM : The Rt. Hon Prime Minister, Dr Rukhama Rugunda taking COVID 19 Vaccination, after he called on the public to embrace the exercise.*

