



# U – NIEWS



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

Vol. 04

15<sup>th</sup> MAY – 15<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2021

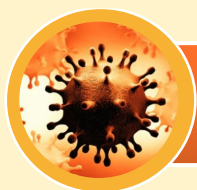
Issue 54

### ALERTS & UPDATE ON CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

### LIGHTNING SAFETY TIPS!!

The March April May seasonal rains have been characterized by violent wind and thunderstorms whose effects have already been felt in most parts of the Country. Apart from floods that have displaced communities in Kasese, Bundibogyo, Ntoroko, Rakai and Butaleja, Windstorms that destroyed houses in Tororo and mudslides in Buhweju, the National Risk and Vulnerability Atlas 2020, puts the lightning frequency in the Country at an average of 70 strikes per Square Kilometre per year which explains the current trend in the frequency of lightning strikes and its effects on lives and infrastructure. The general public is hereby advised to always observe the following safety measures;

- Avoid taking shelter under trees as lightning bolts always strike the tallest object in the surrounding
- Never connect hanging /wire lines between trees in the compound and the residential houses, kitchen or even bathing shelter as this provides direct connectivity to the susceptible trees
- Avoid using mobiles phones when its raining
- If you can afford, install lightning arresters onto your houses especially when the house is not connected to the grid
- Avoid using kitchen sinks or taking showers during thunderstorms as the plumbing system being metallic easily completes connectivity that may lead to lightning strikes. Water itself being a good conductor of electricity.
- Ensure all public buildings (administration centres, schools, health centres, churches, mosques, arcades etc) are fitted with lightning arresters to reduce risks to the population
- Please provide foot ware to your school going children to provide insulation incase of lightning strike on the school building
- Plant trees around your homesteads to protect your buildings incase of a strike in your area.



### UGANDA COVID 19 OUTLOOK

#### COVID 19; Updates on the B.1.617 variants



42,578

Confirmed



91

New cases



396,103

Vaccinated



346

Deaths



1,042,169

Tests

AS of 15 May 2021

The COVID19 **B.1.617 variant** were first reported in India in October 2020 . This edition brings highlights on the changes in **transmissibility, clinical presentation and severity, changes in public health and social measures** (PHSM) implementation by national health authorities, **geographical distribution**, and emerging evidence surrounding **phenotypic characteristics**. WHO has determined that viruses within the lineage B.1.617 have been characterized as a variant of concern (VOC) with all its three sub-lineages. As of 11 May, WHO had received reports of B.1.617 detection in **49** Countries (Including Angola, Uganda and Morocco in Africa) across all the six WHO regions. In India, WHO found that resurgence and acceleration of COVID-19 transmission had several potential contributing factors, including;

- ☐ Increase in the proportion of cases of SARS-CoV-2 variants with potentially increased transmissibility;
- ☐ several religious and political mass gathering events which increased social mixing; and,
- ☐ Under use of and reduced adherence to public health and social measures (PHSM).

#### What you need to know about VOC B.1.617

- ◆ B.1.617 sublineages appear to have **higher rates of transmission**, including **observed rapid increases in prevalence in multiple countries**
- ◆ Evidence suggests **potential reduced effectiveness** of monoclonal antibody used for COVID-19 treatment, and potentially **slightly reduced susceptibility to neutralisation antibodies** (with limited evidence is available for B.1.617.1 variant).
- ◆ **The resurgence in COVID-19 cases and deaths in India** has raised questions on the potential role of B.1.617 and other variants in circulation.

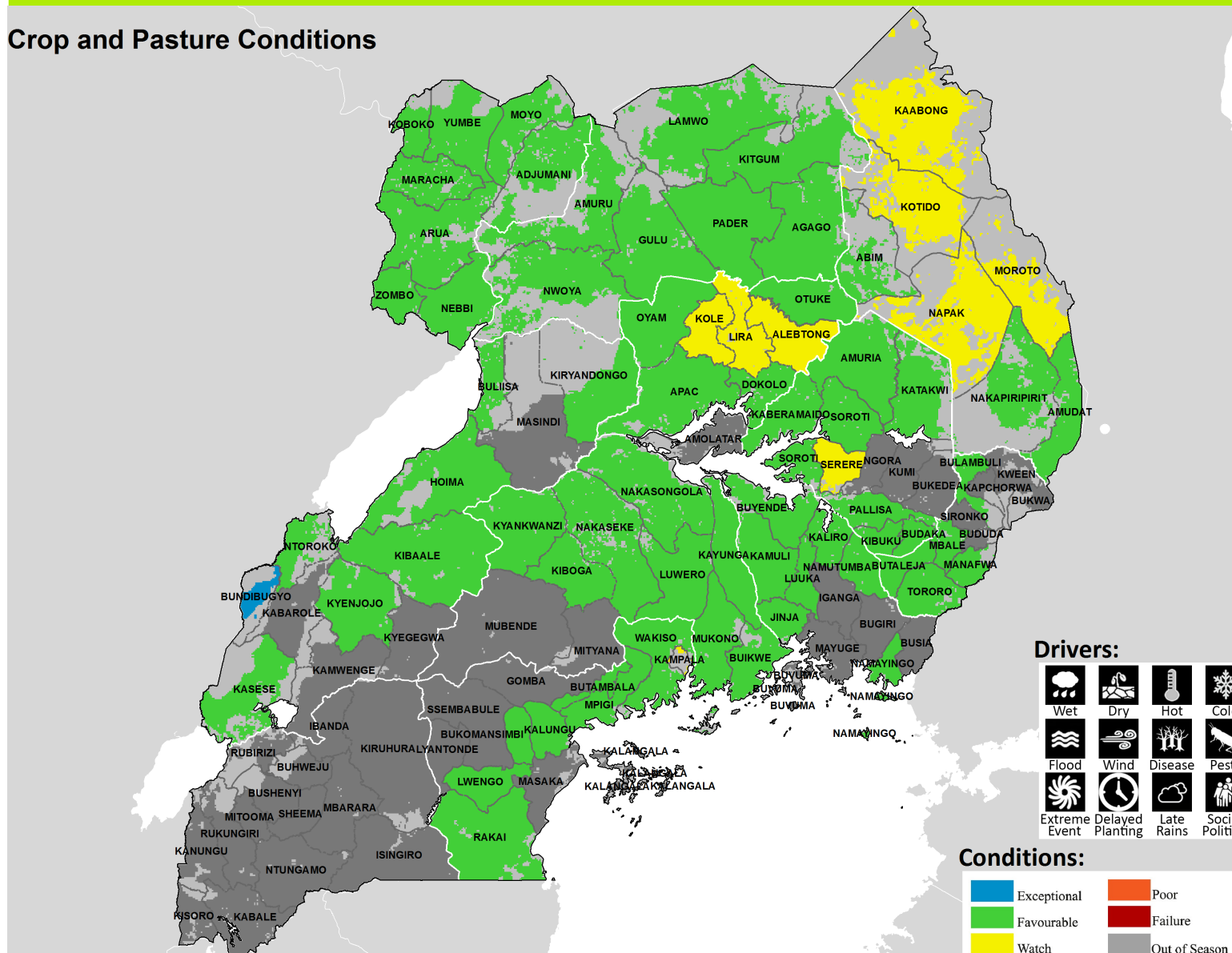


# U - NIEWS

## Uganda National Integrated Early Warning System – Monthly Bulletin

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

#### Crop and Pasture Conditions



**Source:** Crop Monitor of Uganda. This crop conditions map synthesizes information for selected crops and pasture as of 16<sup>th</sup> April 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 Kampala which is generally not a crop land.

**Elgon:** The region is under favourable crop conditions due to the steady rains that have been received in the region since onset in early April.

**West Nile, Acholi, Lango, Teso and Karamoja:** Most of the districts are under favourable crop condition in the region. Except Kole, Lira and Alebtong in Lango sub region under watch crop and pasture conditions due to delayed onset. In Teso, most of the districts are under favourable conditions except Serere district which is under watch. The watch conditions is because most farmer fields are still inundated from the 2020 floods. Napak, Moroto, Kotido and Kaabong in Karamoja are still under watch conditions, with slight improvement recorded in Kotido that was previously under poor crop conditions. Flash floods and delayed onset in these areas continue to drive the observed watch crop and pasture conditions.

The UNMA's rainfall performance review for the month of April 2021 confirms this observed trend.

#### Early Warning for Regions!

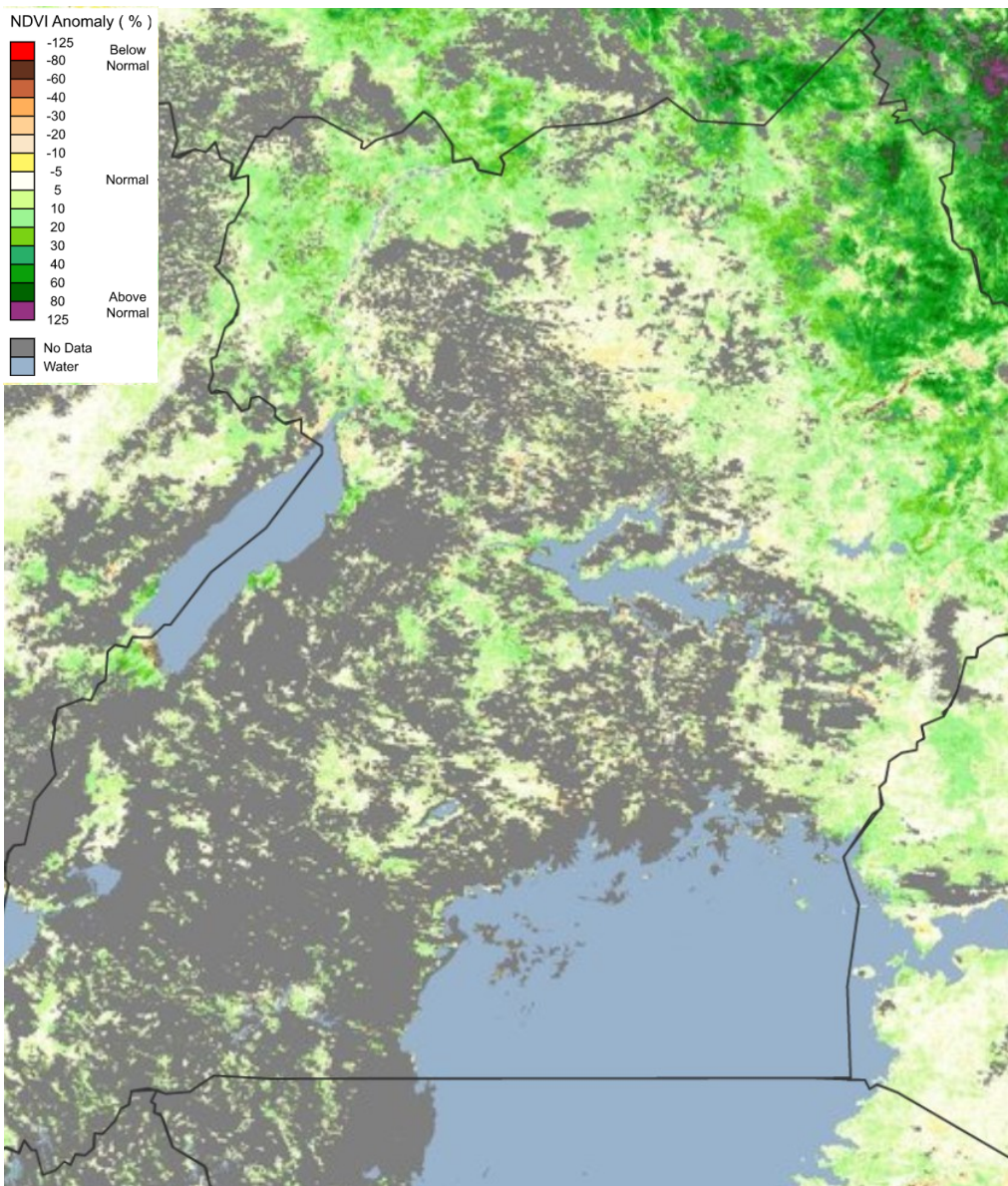
**Western and South Western:** Except Bundibugyo that is under exception conditions, most districts are under favorable crop condition in the region. Several districts have been receiving steady rains that have led to flooding and landslides in Ntoroko, Kabale and Buhewju respectively. Much as bumpy harvest is expected in the region, communities in flood and landslide prone areas of Bundibugyo are strongly advised to be on high alert with the predicted normal to above normal rainfall for the month of May 2021.

The observed and predicted trends for the month of May 2021 are likely to escalate and sustain the rising water levels in Lakes; Albert, Kyoga and River Nile, that resulted in flooding in Ntoroko, Adjumani, Obongi, Nakasongola, Amolatar, Serere, Moyo and other districts around the water bodies in 2020 and may lead to waterlogging and deterioration of the current favourable conditions and therefore requires closer monitoring.





### HIGHLIGHTS - NDVI Anomaly (09<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>, MAY 2021)



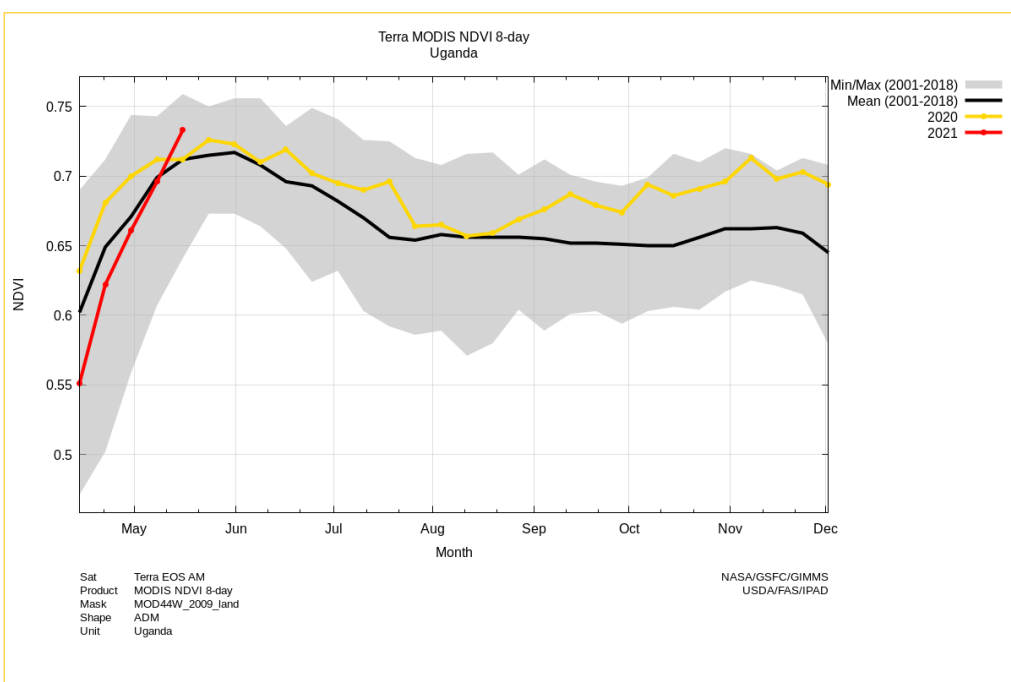
The Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) is used to characterize the health of the vegetation for a particular timeframe compared to what is considered normal. In agricultural monitoring, negative values can be a good indicator of poor crop conditions or a slower growth rate of the crop due 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 09 to 16 May 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 onset of March-April-May rainy season have contributed to the revitalization of vegetation and crop growth. The current 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.

Below is a graphical representation of the current vegetation conditions. The red line represents the average conditions until Mid-May 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 May 2021 the NDVI continues to improve exponentially. Relatedly, UNMA’s rainfall outlook for May 2021 indicates that most parts of the country are expected to experience normal to above normal rains leading to the end of this rain season.





### MAY 2021 RAINFALL OUTLOOK OVER UGANDA

#### Lake Victoria Basin and Central Region

**Western parts of Central** (*Nakasongola, Luwero, Nakaseke, Kyankwanzi, Kiboga, Mubende, Kasanda, Sembabule, Lwengo, Lyantonde, and Rakai*) districts. **Near normal rainfall conditions are expected.**

**Central and Lake Victoria Basin:** (*Mukono, Buikwe, Kayunga, Buvuma, Kalangala, Kampala, Wakiso, Masaka, Mpigi, Butambala, Kalungu, Bukomansimbi, Gomba, Mityana, )* districts. **Above normal rainfall is expected.**

**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 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 rainfall conditions are expected.**

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

#### **North Western:**

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

**Eastern Northern Part:** (*Lira, Kitgum, Agago, Otuke, Pader, Kole, Dokolo and Kaberamaido*) district. **Normal rainfall conditions are expected.**

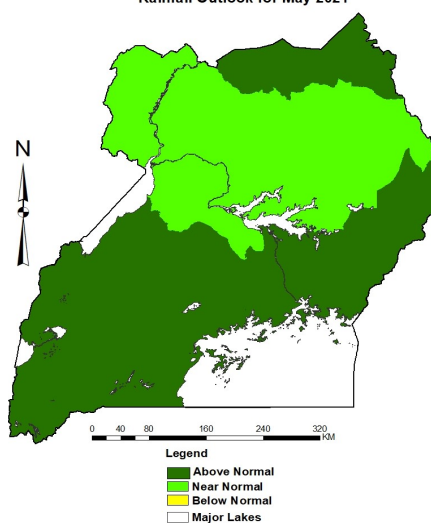
**Central Northern Parts:** (*Gulu, Apac, Kwania, Pader, Lamwo, Nwoya, Amuru, Oyam and Kiryandongo*) districts. **Normal rainfall conditions are expected.**

#### Western Region

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

**Central Western:** (*Bundibugyo, Ntoroko, Kabarole, Kyenjojo, Kyegegwa, Kamwenge, Masindi, Bulisa, Hoima, Kakumiro, Kagadi, Kikube and Kibaale*) districts. **Normal to Above normal rainfall is expected.**

Rainfall Outlook for May 2021



#### **RAINFALL OUTLOOK OVER UGANDA FOR MAY 2021**

Overall, most parts of the country are expected to continue receiving near normal to above normal (enhanced) rainfall, especially in the areas of South western, Lake Victoria basin and Eastern parts of Elgon and Karamoja are likely to experience enhanced rainfall during this month.

Conclusively, the rainfall outlook for May 2021 indicates a continuation of the rainfall over several parts of the country bringing about the cessation of seasonal rainfall towards the end of the month.

#### **POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF FORECASTED CONDITIONS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2021**

The predicted rains over most parts of the country are expected to result into the following impacts;

- ◆ Chances of flooding are still likely in low lying areas including urban centres with poor drainage system
- ◆ There is a high risk of landslides in mountainous areas due to enhanced rainfall
- ◆ There is a high risk of water borne diseases due to occasional flash floods
- ◆ There is a high risk of violent winds and lightning.
- ◆ In Agricultural sector, farmers are expected to continue planting and weeding their crops.
- ◆ In pastoral areas, these rains will lead to further improvement in foliage and pasture.
- ◆ Water harvesting should be encouraged to improve water availability.





# Uganda National Integrated Early Warning System – Monthly Bulletin

**MULTI-HAZARD EARLY WARNING PROBABILITY MAP - 15<sup>th</sup> MAY— 15<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2021**



## Communicable disease outbreaks, epidemics and health emergencies

- \* With most parts of the country expected to continue receiving near normal to above normal (enhanced) rainfall, the associated risk of disease outbreak is at hand. Dwellings in urban areas with inadequate management of surface water run-off may be affected. Areas close to the shorelines and banks of water bodies as well as low lands prone to water logging are mostly likely to have disease outbreaks.
- \* The seasonal rains already established over most parts in the country and gradually approaching the seasonal peak period. The rainfall outlook for May, 2021 indicates a continuation of the rainfall over several parts of the country. Enhanced rainfall is however expected in the South-western, Lake Victoria basin and Eastern areas including Karamoja. Therefore, communities in areas projected to receive enhanced rainfall are advised to clear bushes around their homesteads and also sleep under mosquito nets to prevent and avoid malaria outbreaks that might arise from puddles of water being used as breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

## TECNOLOGICAL HAZARDS

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



# U - NIEWS

## Uganda National Integrated Early Warning System – Monthly Bulletin

**DISASTER EARLY WARNINGS AND OUTLOOK - 15<sup>th</sup> MAY - 15<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2021**

### BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

#### Disease outbreak

*With the month of May being characterized by a continuation of rainfall over several parts of the country associated with lightning and thunderstorms, and the imminent risk of disease outbreak, flooding, water logging will most likely lead to;*

- High risk of water borne diseases such as cholera, dysentery in the areas of Busia, Tororo, Ntoroko, Buliisa, Hoima, Namayingo and Karamoja sub region. Communities are advised to draw water from safe water sources. Village Health teams are urged to create sensitize the communities on the consequences associated with water borne diseases.
- High risk of malaria in the low lying areas around Teso sub region, Elgon region, Lake Victoria basin and Lake Kyoga.

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

Alert Level: Moderate → High

### HYDRO-METEREEOLOGICAL HAZARD

#### WATER LOGGING/ FLASH FLOODS

*The month of May indicates a continuation of the rainfall over several parts of the country, some areas of South western, Lake Victoria basin and Eastern parts of Elgon and Karamoja are likely to experience enhanced rainfall during this month*

- Communities living in low lying areas and in close proximity to the water bodies, are advised to undertake flood mitigation measures.
- Open up and de-silt drainage channels in the urban areas.
- Create buffer zones for water sources to avoid contamination.
- Dig trenches around the houses to avoid water from pooling around the housing structures.
- Avoid crossing flooded sections of the roads.

Alert Level: Moderate → High

### LANDSLIDE/MUDSLIDES

*Considering enhanced rainfall is expected for May 2021 in the mountain areas of Rwenzori and Elgon, the risk of landslides in these areas is very high.*

- All people living or undertaking economic activities on steep slopes across the mountainous areas especially in the Rwenzori and Elgon subregions are advised to move to safer area and/or to avoid visiting or spending time on dangerous locations.
- Community based early warning systems should be activated for this period. Local leaders and communities should monitor early signs of landslides like cracks, saturated soils, leaning trees, and create channels for reporting hazard signs to responsible authorities; self-evacuate or follow other protective behaviours.

Alert Level: Moderate → High

### LIGHTNING

*There is increasing likelihood of lightning strikes in the areas prone to the hazard especially on lakes Albert and Victoria during storms.*

- Avoid taking shelter under trees. Lightning will always strike the tallest object in the surrounding most of which are trees in our rural communities.
- Ensure that you have trees planted around your homesteads to protect your building in case of the strike.
- Ensure all public buildings (administration centres, schools, health centres, churches, mosques, business places etc) are fitted with lightning arresters to reduce lightning risks to the population.

Alert Level: Moderate → High

### TRANSPORT TECHNOLOGICAL HAZARDS

**Transport Accidents:** Any Location

**Fire:** Any Location

Alert Level: High → Moderate





### DISASTER STATISTICS – APRIL

#### TRANSPORT/ TECHNOLOGICAL EVENTS

##### Motor and Aero Accidents

Reported in | Across the country.



124

Affected people



48

Motor Accidents



68

Injured



56

Deaths

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

Affected: 0 | Deaths: 00 | Injured: 0

##### DROWNING | 08 Reported

Affected: 12 Deaths 10 Injured 2

FLOODS| Affected :1,559hhs Displaced:485hhs

Source: NECOC/OPM, and Partners – April Summary

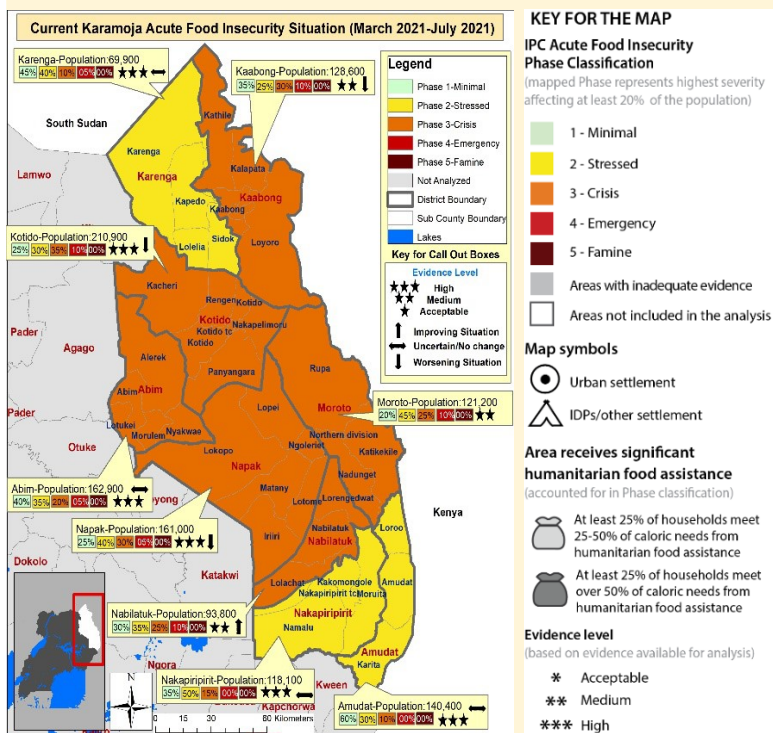
#### FIRE

Fire incidents across the country.

Affected: 05 Injured: 00 Deaths: 05

Source: NECOC/OPM, Uganda Police Force, April 2021

### Current Karamoja Acute Food Insecurity Situation March 2021 - July 2021



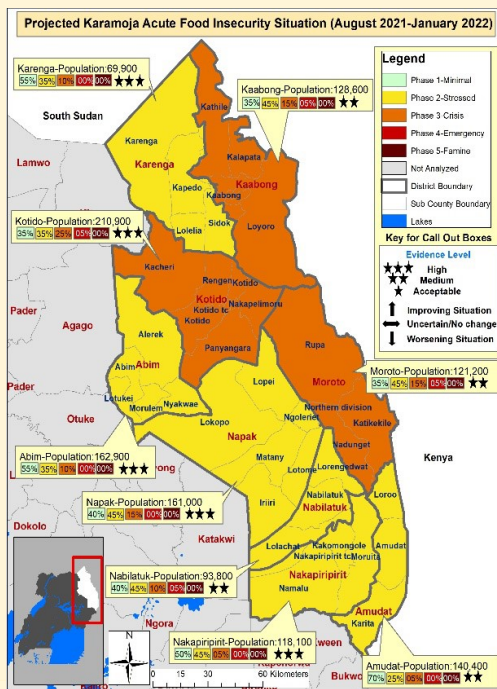
Source - UG\_IPC%20AMN\_Karamoja%20Report\_April%202021\_Final.pdf

### BRIEF UPDATE ON FOOD SECURITY WITH A FOCUS ON KARAMOJA SUBREGION

#### Highlights!

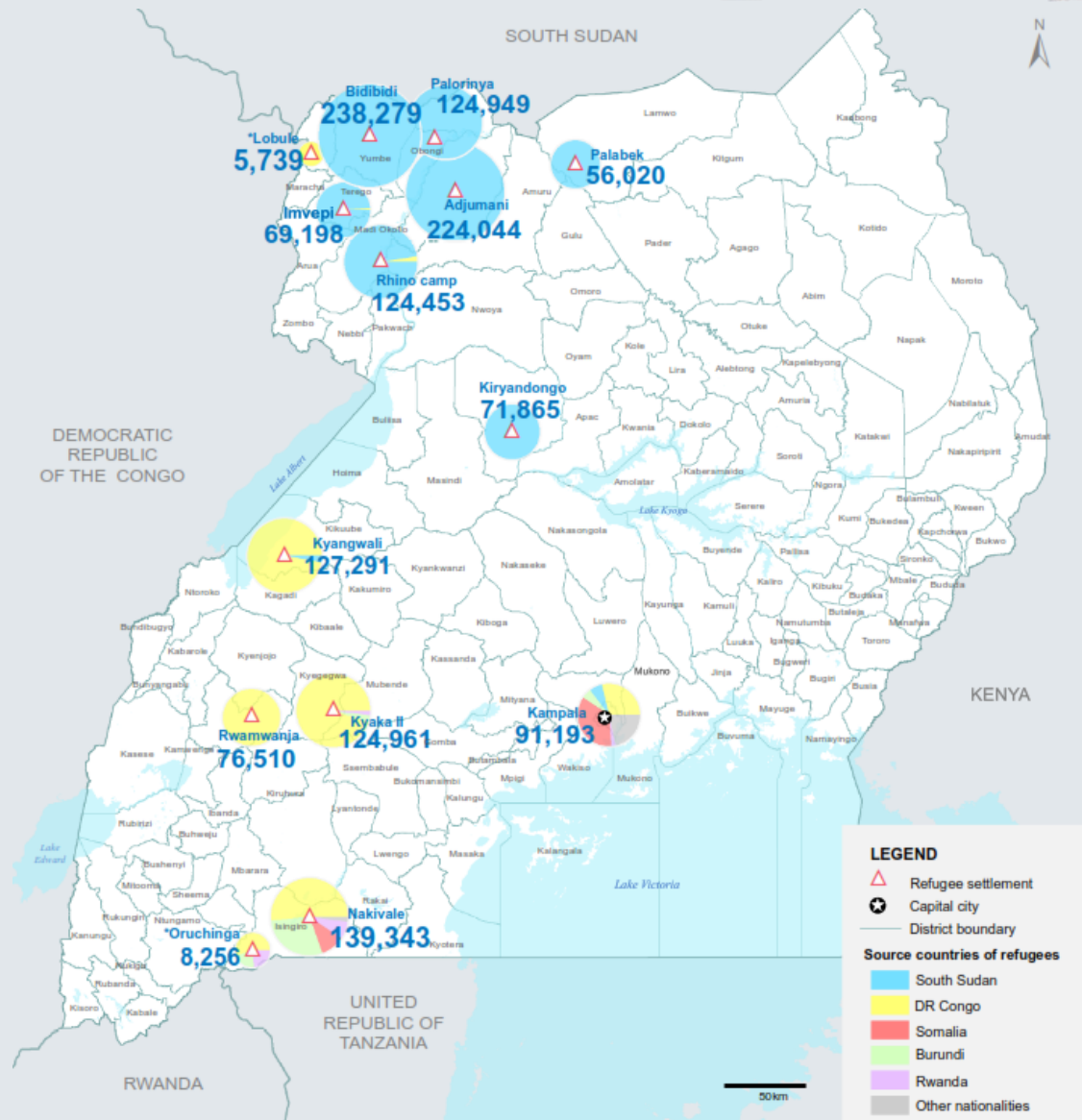
As per the survey data collected during the lean season of 2021 (February / March 2021) from the 9 districts in the Karamoja region, all of the 9 districts have over 5 percent of children affected by acute malnutrition. According to the IPC Acute Malnutrition scale, 1 district (Kaabong) has been classified in Phase 4 (Critical level of acute malnutrition) with a GAM prevalence of 18.6% and 4 districts (Amudat, Kotido, Moroto and Napak) have been classified in Phase 3 (Serious level of acute malnutrition) with GAM prevalence of 10.9%, 10.4%, 14.2% and 9.4% respectively. Although the GAM (WHZ) prevalence of Napak district puts it in Phase 2, the final Phase has been arrived at using the GAM based on MUAC (11.6%) and after putting into consideration historical prevalence. On the other hand, 4 districts are classified in Phase 2 (Alert level of acute malnutrition) and these are Abim, Karenga, Nabilatuk and Nakapiripirit with 6.3%, 9.6%, 7.8%, 8.0% and 8.2% of acute malnutrition respectively.

Kaabong district has the highest absolute number of children severely malnourished (2,263) whereas Kotido district has the highest number of moderately malnourished children (8,623). Overall, 1.9% of the children in Karamoja region are severely malnourished and another 8.8% moderately malnourished, based on the weight-for-height (WHZ) index. With MUAC, the numbers slightly go up with 3.8% severely malnourished and 9.9% moderately malnourished. Across the region, about 10,200 pregnant and lactating women are malnourished, based on the MUAC index, and in need of treatment. Moroto district has the highest number of PLWs in need of treatment (1,700) followed by Kaabong and Kotido districts, with each having about 1,600 PLWs that are malnourished.



Over all, 30% of the population in Karamoja (0.36 million people) are facing acute food insecurity and in need of urgent assistance (crisis and emergency levels of food insecurity). Six of the nine Karamoja (Moroto, Napak, Nabilatuk, Kotido, Kaabong and Karenga) districts are categorized in phase 3 (crisis) characterised by high food consumption gaps. The worst off districts are Kotido, Kaabong, Napak and Moroto.

### REFUGEE STATUS OF UGANDA (as of April 30<sup>th</sup> 2021)



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

\*Oruchinga and Lobule symbols not to scale

Population data: proGres (OPM)

Author: UNHCR Representation in Uganda

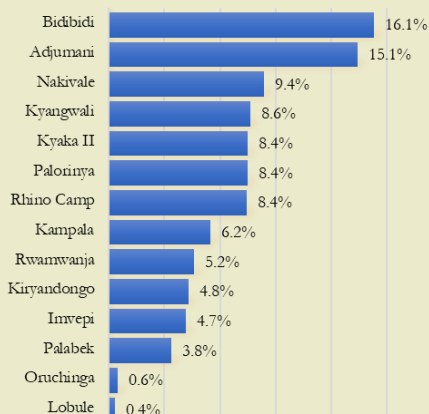
Feedback: ugakaimug@unhcr.org

For more info, please visit: [www.ugandarefugees.org](http://www.ugandarefugees.org)

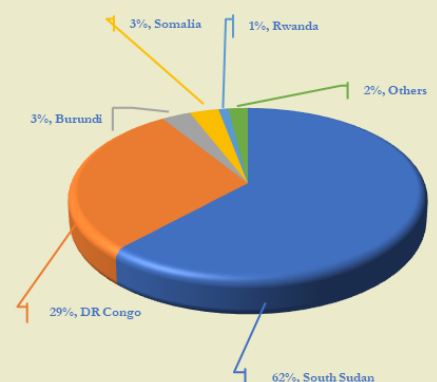
Total refugees and  
asylum-seekers\*\*

1,482,101

#### Refugees by Location



#### 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: Residents crossing a flooded section of the road in Butaleja District*

