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# ALERTS & UPDATE ON RIFT VALLEY FEVER (RVF)



The Food and **Agricultural** Organisation (FAO) and Inter-governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) warned against out break of Rift Valley Fever (RVF) over the region at the beginning of May 2021, calling upon Countries to enhance preparedness since the risk of RVF occurrence remained high to both animals and humans attributed to either environmental conditions or mobility of infested animals.

The rainfall forecast for the period June-August 2021 highlights above-average rains in the region, particularly in July and August, suggests that the risk remains high in the predicted hotspots in central-southern Kenya, South Sudan, northern Tanzania and localized hotspots in Uganda, Sudan, Somalia, Rwanda, Burundi, Ethiopia and highlighted the urgent need to ensure adequate preparedness for potential disease outbreaks, in particular through the One Health coordination.

#### FAO and IGAD recommendations

- National Veterinary Authority to increase awareness about the disease, assess the current situation and the specific risk to the country regarding RVF, and identify the actions to increase its preparedness to RVF outbreaks.
- National Veterinary Authority to get in touch with their public health counterparts to coordinate joint preparedness activities, especially in countries where there is no One Health platform; to ensure a coordinated One Health and humanitarian approach to this threat.
- An RVF contingency plan with SOPs for outbreak control exists and was endorsed/activated.
- In Uganda, RVF out break has already been confirmed in Kiruhura District
- Staff are trained and equipped to implement the plan in case of outbreak and to conduct passive and possibly active RVF surveillance in high-risk areas.

#### **Key facts about RVF**

- RVF is an acute, vector-borne, viral, and zoonotic disease that has severe impacts on livelihoods, national and international markets, and human health
- The disease has been observed in sheep, goats, cattle, buffaloes, camels, and humans and is spread primarily by mosquitoes and the movement of animals.
- Heavy rains and prolonged flooding increase habitat suitability for vector populations, determining massive hatching of RVF competent mosquitoes (e.g. Aedes and Culex), thus influencing the risk of RVF emergence, transmission and spread.
- RVF outbreaks can disrupt the livestock sector in depleting the future generation of affected herds and therefore constitutes an important socio -economic and food security threat to vulnerable households. In addition, it can also affect the funds directly available to households through their animals and impact their capacities to access health care and child education. Moreover, it results trade ban and affect national and regional economy.

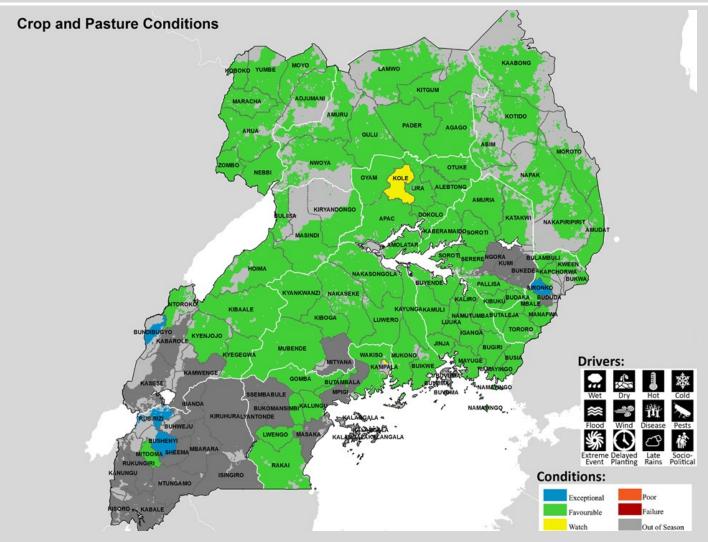
Source: FAO RVF Alert, MAY 2021

# RVF Transmission Cycle TRANSPORT OF INFECTED AEDES SPECIES EPIZOOTIC Persistence in Humid Or Irrigated Area Proct horizontal transmission Indirect transmission Indirect transmission Vertoal transmission Vertoal transmission Vertoal transmission Vertoal transmission



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#### **CROP & PASTURE CONDITIONS MAP OF UGANDA (JUNE 2021)**



**Source:** Crop Monitor of Uganda. This crop conditions map synthesizes information for selected crops and pasture as of 15th June 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

#### 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. There is noticeable improvement in Gomba, Nakaseke and Luweero though ground observations indicate stress on the seasonal crops.

**Elgon:** Except Sironko which is under exceptional conditions, the rest of the region is under favourable crop conditions sustained since May 2021. This is attributed to the steady rains that have been received in the region since onset of March April May rainfall season.

West Nile, Acholi, Lango, Teso and Karamoja: Most of the districts are under favourable crop condition in the region. Generally, the conditions are improving in all the districts Except Kole, district in Lango sub region that has sustained the watch crop and pasture conditions. In Teso, most of the districts are under stable and favourable conditions. All the districts in Karamoja showed considerable improvements in both pasture and crop conditions since the month of May accounting for the observed favourable conditions.

The UNMA's rainfall performance review for the month of May 2021 and the June July August and September (JJAS-2021) outlook confirms this observation.

#### Early Warning for Regions!

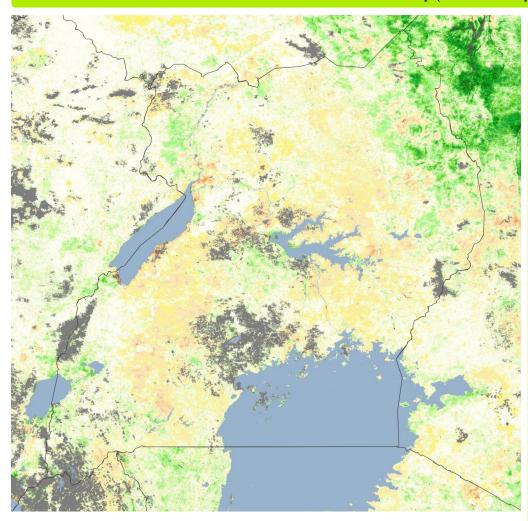
Western and South Western: Only Bundibugyo has maintained exception conditions, most districts under favorable crop condition in the region. have showed improvements in the last 30 days. There has been a noticeable break in the March April May (MAM) and June July August and September (JJAS) that has partly caused the observed stress conditions on mostly the seasonal crops. However, the predicted early onset of JJAS 2021 will normalize this trend.

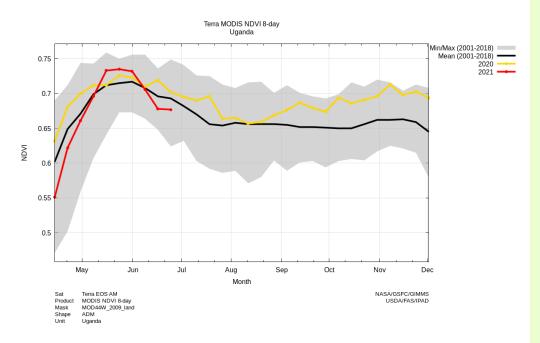
The observed and predicted trends for the month of June 2021 presents a steady performance of the annual crops but may have negative effects on the seasonal crops, especially in the regions that had delayed onset of MAM and late planting including parts of Central 1, East Central, Teso and Lango sub regions that will all require closer monitoring in the next 30 days.



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#### HIGHLIGHTS - NDVI Anomaly (17th to 24th 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 17 to 24th 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 early cessation of the rains over those areas. Due to cloud cover, anomalies cannot be assessed in the grey areas.

The March– April– May rainy season of 2021 has therefore been characterized by both delayed onset and early cessation thereby contributing to the poor vegetation and crop growth. This was confirmed by the crop conditions map where most districts showed favourable but stable conditions and ground observations indicating stress on most annual crops.

Also presented here is a graphical representation of the current vegetation conditions. The red line represents the average conditions from the month of May to June 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 improved exponentially and peaked in early June, and thereafter, started declining. Relatedly, UNMA's rainfall outlook for June 2021 indicates that most parts of the country were expected to experience near normal rains as drier conditions were already getting established.



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#### MAY 2021 RAINFALL OUTLOOK OVER UGANDA

#### **WESTERN REGION**

Central Western (Bundibugyo, Ntoroko, Kabarole, Bunyangabu, Kyenjojo, Kyegegwa, Kamwenge, Masindi, Buliisa, Hoima, Kakumiro, Kagadi, Kikube and Kibaale) districts This region has been experiencing dry conditions since mid-May which is expected to persist up to late June to early July when occasional rainfall is expected to set in . Overall, near normal (near average) rainfall is expected

South Western (Kisoro, Kabale, Rubanda, Rukiga, Rukungiri, Kanungu, Ntungamo, Rvvampara, Kazo, Mbarara, Kiruhura, Isingiro, Ibanda, Bushenyi, Buhweju, Mitooma, Sheema, Rubirizi, Kitagwenda and Kasese) districts Dry conditions have been prevailing over this region since mid-May which are expected to continue up to early / mid-July, thereafter, occasional showers continue until the end August. Overall, near normal (average) with tendency to below normal rainfall is expected

#### LAKE VICTORIA BASIN AND CENTRAL REGION

Northern and Southern parts of Central (Nakasongola, Luwero, Nakaseke, Kyankwanzi, Kiboga, Mubende, Kasanda, Lwengo, Lyantonde, Sembabule, and Rakai) districts. This region has been experiencing isolated rainfall showers and thunderstorms which is gradually reducing with dry conditions expected to set in around mid-June up to early July. Thereafter, occasional rainfall punctuated by some dry spells is expected to prevail and continue up to the end of the season. Overall, there are high chances of near normal (near average) rainfall.

Eastern parts of Central (Mukono, Buikwe, Kayunga, Buvuma) districts. The region has been experiencing occasional rains which are expected to continue until mid to late June when relatively dry conditions are expected to prevail till mid-July. The occasional rainfall is expected to prevail towards the end of forecast period. Overall, there are high chances of near normal (near average) rainfall conditions.

Central and Western Lake Victoria Basin (Kalangala, Kampala, Wakiso, Masaka, Mpigi, Butambala, Gomba, Kalungu, Bukomansimbi, and Mityana) districts The region has been experiencing occasional rainfall with dry conditions over most parts which are expected to continue up to the end of June. Thereafter, isolated showers are expected to prevail until end of the forecast period. Overall, near normal (near average) rainfall is expected over most parts of this region.

Eastern Lake Victoria Basin: (Jinja, Bugiri, Busia, Mayuge, Namayingo and Tororo) districts. Isolated rainfall showers that are being experienced over several parts of this region are expected to continue until late-June. Thereafter, occasional rains punctuated by dry spells are expected to continue up to the end of the forecast period. Overall, near normal (average) rainfall with a tendency to above average (wetter than usual condition) is expected.

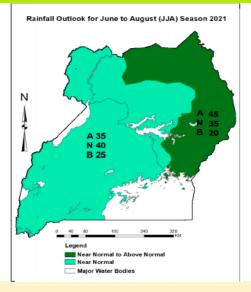
#### EASTERN REGION

**South Eastern:** (Iganga, Kamuli, Luuka, Namutumba, Buyende, Kaliro, and Butaleja) districts The current dry conditions with isolated showers being experienced over this region are expected to continue up to late-June when occasional rains are expected to set in and prevail until the end of the season. Overall, there are high chances of this area receiving normal (average) with a slight tendency to above normal rainfall conditions.

Eastern Central: (Pallisa, Budaka, Butebo, Kibuku, Mbale, Sironko, Manafwa, Bududa, Bulambuli, Kapchorwa, Kween, Bukwo, Bukedea, Kumi, Kaberamaido, Kalaki, Serere and Soroti) districts. The region has been experiencing dry conditions punctuated with isolated showers, which are expected to continue until mid-July. Thereafter, rainy







#### RAINFALL OUTLOOK

Overall, there is an increased likelihood of normal with tendency to above normal (enhanced) rainfall conditions over the northern and eastern parts of the country while the remaining areas are expected to experience near normal conditions.

North Eastern: (Amuria, Kapelebyong, Katakwi, Nabilatuk, Moroto, Kotido, Nakapiripirit, Abim, Napak, Amudat, Kaabong and Karenga) districts The region has been experiencing occasional rains which are expected to continue up to late June when steady rains are expected to set in up to the end of forecast period. Overall, near normal with a tendency to above normal rainfall is expected over most parts of this region.

#### **NORTHERN REGION**

North Western (Arua, Maracha, Terego, Koboko, Yumbe, Moyo, Adjumani, Obongi, MadiOkolo, Zombo, Nebbi and Pakwach) districts The occasional rains which are being experienced over this region are likely to continue up to late-June when the steady rains are expected to set in and progress up to the end of the season. Overall, near normal rainfall conditions are expected.

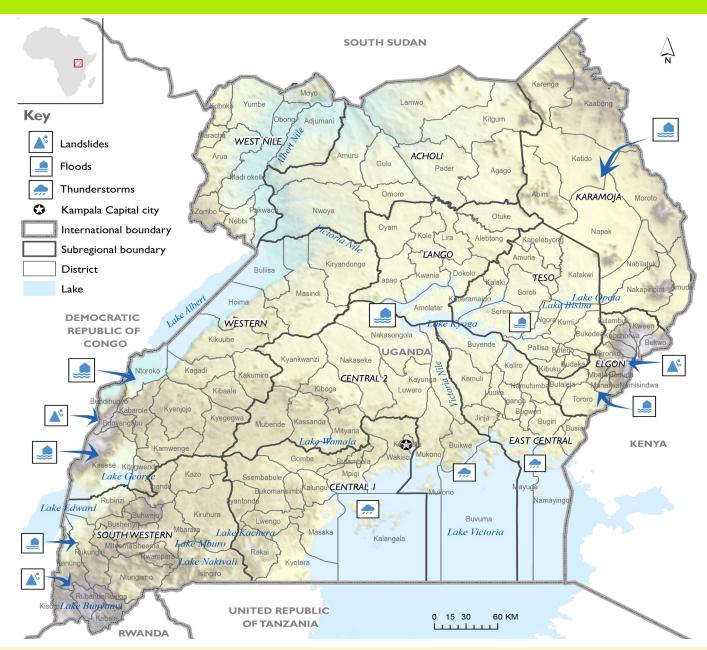
Eastern Northern Parts: (Kitgum, Lamwo, Agago, Lira, Otuke, Pader, Alebtong, Kole, and Dokolo) districts Most parts of this region have been experiencing occasional showers which are expected to continue up to late-June. Thereafter, steady rains punctuated by some dry spells are expected to get established until the end of the forecast season. Overall, there are high chances for this region receiving near normal with a slight tendency to above normal rainfall

Central Northern Parts: (Gulu, Nwoya, Amuru Apac, Oyam and Kiryandongo) districts The region has been experiencing isolated rainfall conditions which are expected to continue up to late-June. These rains are likely to relax around mid to late July. Thereafter, steady rains are expected to set in and continue up to the end of the season. Overall, there are high chances for near normal with slight tendency to above normal rainfall (wetter conditions) over this region.



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#### MULTI HAZARD EARLY WARNING PROBABILITY MAP -JUNE 15th-JULY15th



#### **BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS**

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

- \* Overall, there is an increased likelihood of normal with tendency to above normal (enhanced) rainfall conditions over the northern and eastern parts of the country while the remaining areas are expected to experience near normal conditions; the associated risk of disease outbreak is at hand, especially in areas that will receive enhanced rainfall as well as those that will experience reduced rains. Dwellings with inadequate management of surface water run -off may be affected. Areas close to the shorelines and banks of water basins as well as low lands prone to water logging are mostly likely to have disease outbreaks.
- \* With most places of the northern and eastern parts of the country expected to receive near normal to above normal (enhanced) rainfall, the period is normally dry season over most parts of South western, Central, Lake Victoria basin and parts of Eastern region but a continuation of rainy season for northern Uganda. 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 condi-



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#### DISASTER EARLY WARNINGS AND OUTLOOK - 15th JUNE- 15th JULY 2021

#### **BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS**

Disease outbreak

With most places of the northern and eastern parts of the country expected to receive near normal to above normal (enhanced) rainfall 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 parts of the Karamoja sub region and other low lying areas. 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.
- The increase and prevalence of the COVID-19 variants in the Country is another area of concern in the country with confirmed positivity rates of 18 - 21% among the samples tested. Health authorities are still compiling data on the variants causing morbidity and mortality in the Country.

Alert Level:

Moderate



#### HYDRO-METEREOLOGICAL HAZARD

#### WATER LOGGING/ FLASH FLOODS

The seasonal forecast indicates an increased likelihood of normal with tendency to above normal (enhanced) rainfall conditions over the northern and eastern parts of the country particularly the Karamoja and Elgon sub regions while the remaining areas are expected to experience near normal conditions

- 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



#### LANDSLIDE/MUDSLIDES

Considering enhanced rainfall is expected for the seasonal forecast in the mountain areas of 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 Elgon subregion 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; selfevacuate or follow other protective behaviours.

Alert Level:

Moderate



#### **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 com-
- 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

#### TRANSPORT TECHNOLOGICAL HAZARDS

Transport Accidents: Any Location

Fire: Any Location

Alert Level:

Moderate



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#### **DISASTER STATISTICS - MAY**

#### TRANSPORT/ TECHNOLOGICAL EVENTS

Motor and Aero Accidents

**Reported in** | Accross the country.



92
fected people



Motor Accidents



42 Injured



Death

CATTLE RUSTLING | Karamoja Sub-Region

Affected: 0 | Deaths: 02 | Injured: 0

**DROWNING** | 07 Reported

Affected: 11 Deaths 11 Injured 00

LIGHTNING | 01 Reported Deaths: 04 Injured:00

Source: NECOC/OPM, and Partners - May Summary

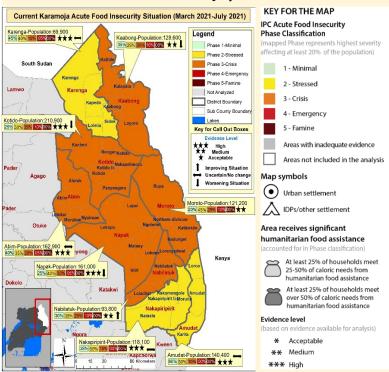
#### FIRE

Fire incidents across the country.

Affected: 08 Injured: 05 Deaths: 03

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

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



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

# BRIEF ON FOOD SECURITY STATUS IN REFUGEE SETTLEMENTS& HOSTING DISTRICTS

#### **HIGHLIGHTS**

The proportion of refugee households with insufficient/inadequate food consumption has remained stable since the turn of the year. Similar to March 2021, 42% of settlement refugees had inadequate food consumption in April 2021. In comparison, refugees in Kampala had better food consumption. 33% of Kampala based refugees had inadequate food consumption, a 2 percent deterioration from March 2021 (31%).

Host community households on the other hand had improved food consumption in comparison to refugees in both Kampala and Settlements. In April 2021, 14% of host households had inadequate food consumption similar to March 2021.

In Karamoja, about 41 percent of the households reported having inadequate food consumption in April 2021 compared to 43 percent in March 2021. However in urban areas, the percentage of households with insufficient food consumption slightly improved in April 2021 compared to March 2021. (10 percent in April Vs 11 percent in March.

Some households had adopted use of negative food-based coping strategies for example reducing the number of meals or eating cheaper, less preferred meals, reducing meal portions or restricting consumption of adults so that children can eat highlight increased household food security stress and vulnerability. These practices reflect the immediate inter-household strategies households utilize when faced with little or no food for consumption. The most worse-off areas reflected by the increased use of negative food-based coping strategies are Karamoja (63%), refugees in settlements (64%) and Kampala based refugees (59%). Fewer households in host communities (32%) and urban areas (27%) reported that they had used the negative coping strategies due to lack of or inadequate access to food.

More than 1 in 2 refugee households (55%) of refugees reported that due to inadequate food, they had to restrict the consumption of adults so that children can eat. Only Karamoja (69%) had a higher proportion of adults foregoing to eat so that children can eat. In the host community, this percentage was 38%; and 29% and 30% for urban nationals and Kampala based refugees respectively.

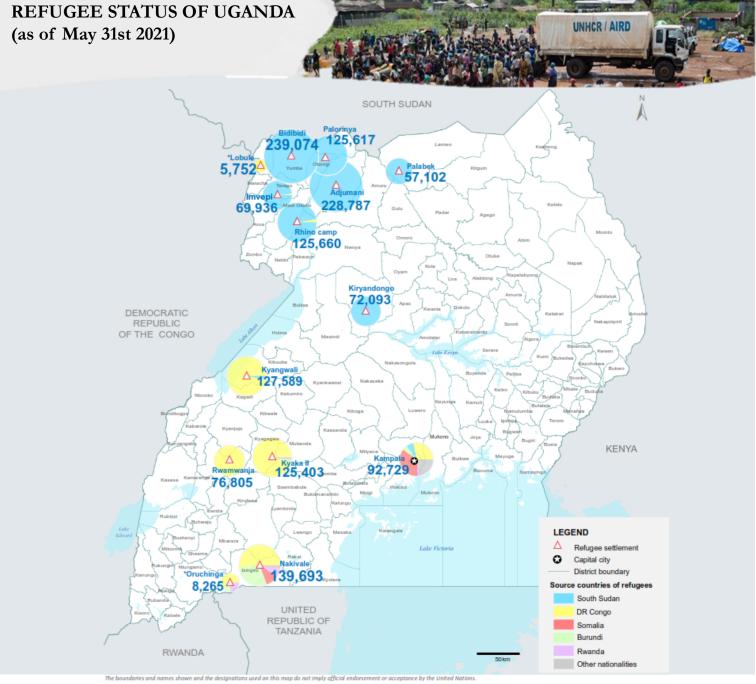
#### **COVID 19 & Related Restrictions**

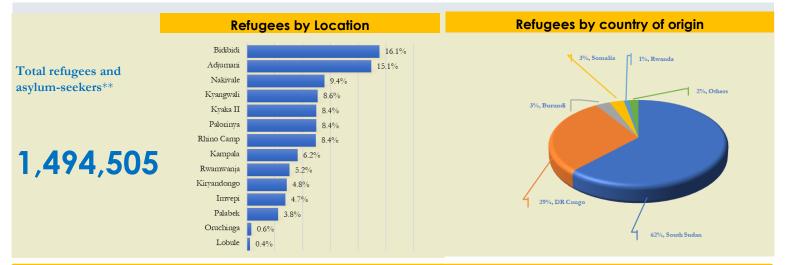
COVID 19 continues to have a significant negative impact on the lives of households everywhere. In all assessed areas, more than 7 in 10 households reported that COVID has had a negative effect on their livelihoods. Specifically, a negative effect was reported by 69% of Kampala based refugees, 82% of urban nationals, 68% of refugees in settlements, 75% of host communities and 78% of households in Karamoja.

Evidence shows that then restrictions had a differentially higher negative effect on the vulnerable (households with chronically ill or disabled household heads and female-headed households).

Key markets remain inaccessible in urban areas, Karamoja and refugee areas

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<sup>\*</sup>Oruchinga and Lobule symbols not to scale



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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 the 15th 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. <u>0414 342 104</u>

