



# U – NIEWS

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



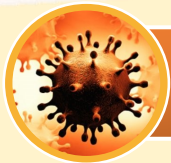
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Vol. 04

15<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2022 – 15<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2022

Issue 62

## UPDATE ON CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) January 2022



### UGANDA COVID 19 OUTLOOK Updates and advisories

#### FACTS ABOUTOMICRON

In November 2021, WHO designated the variant **B.1.1.529** a variant of concern (VOC) and was given the name Omicron. Omicron is a highly divergent variant with a high number of mutations, including 26-32 mutations in the spike protein, some of which were likely to be associated with humoral immune escape potential and higher transmissibility.

The overall risk related to Omicron remains very high for a number of reasons. First, the global risk of COVID-19 remains very high overall. Second, current data indicate that Omicron has a significant growth advantage over Delta, leading to rapid spread in the community. The overall threat posed by Omicron largely depends on four key questions: (i) how transmissible the variant is; (ii) how well vaccines and prior infection protect against infection, transmission, clinical disease and death; (iii) how virulent the variant is compared to other variants; and (iv) how populations understand these dynamics, perceive risk and follow control measures, including public health and social measures (PHSM). This global risk assessment, and public health advice, are based on the currently best available evidence and will be updated frequently as more information becomes available in relation to these key questions.

#### Priority actions:

- Surveillance and testing.
- Reporting (publicly or through IHR) the weekly relative prevalence of Omicron
- Vaccination
- Use of well-fitting masks, physical distancing, ventilation of indoor spaces, crowd avoidance
- A risk-based approach to adjust itravel measures
- Clinical care of patients with COVID-19 and those infected with any SARS-CoV-2 variant
- Ensure mitigation plans are in place to maintain essential health services and the necessary health care resources are in place to respond to potential surges
- Ensure early warning systems are in place to inform efficient and rational adjustment of public health and social measures,
- Enhance surveillance, including increasing testing and sequencing efforts.

Sources: **ADOPTED** from WHO Global technical brief and Priority areas of action on Omicron, 7th January 2022



Wear a mask




Wash your hands




Keep a distance

 **2,279,236**  
Tested overtime

 **37**  
New Casess

 **12,430,501**  
Vaccinated

 **3,437**  
Deaths

As of 9th Jan 2022

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

**With learners back in classes for studies, schools are strongly advised to continue with observance of COVID 19 SOPs and procedures.**

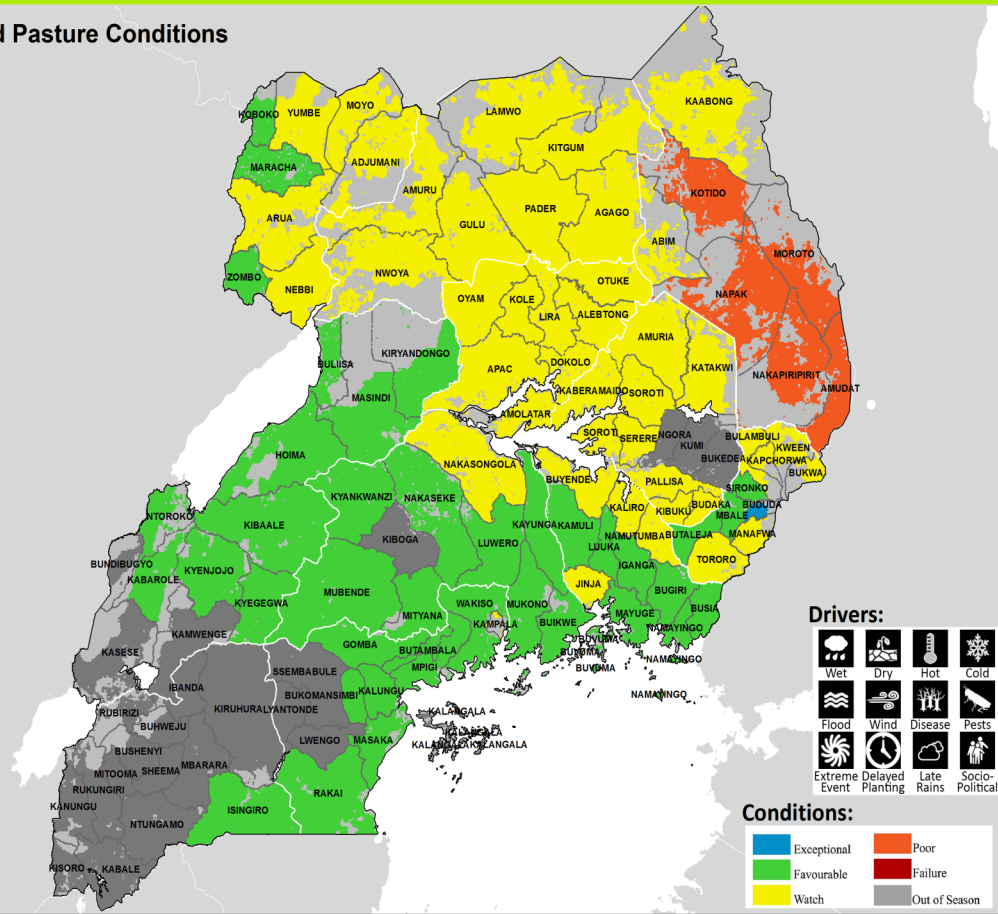


# U - NEWS

## Uganda National Integrated Early Warning System – Monthly Bulletin

### CROP & PASTURE CONDITIONS MAP OF UGANDA (JANUARY 2022)

#### Crop and Pasture Conditions



Source: Crop Monitor of Uganda. This crop conditions map synthesizes information for selected crops and pasture as of 15th January 2022. Crop and Pasture conditions over the long dry season in the Country based on a combination of national and regional analysts' inputs along with remote sensing and rainfall data.

#### Early Warning for Regions!

**Central 1, and Central 2:** The region remained under favorable crop conditions. Improvements recorded during the previous observation has been sustained though a few districts have declined to watch conditions in response to the long dry season in the Country. Generally the region has remained stable except Nakasongola district that has fast declined to watch conditions. The main food crops under observation being bananas and pasture. Water accessibility is already a challenge both for domestic use and to the livestock farmers in Nakasongola and neighboring districts. Livestock farmers in the sub regions are strongly advised to prioritize water management from the current sporadic rains.

**Elgon:** Favorable conditions observed in the Elgon districts except **Kapchorwa, Kween, Bukwo and Tororo** that have declined to watch conditions. The rest of the districts present slow but stable decline tending towards watch conditions all in response to the long dry season. The major crops under observation are Banana's, Rice and pasture. Farmers are advised to ensure land preparation during this period in preparation for early planting. Households are encouraged to ensure efficient use of the harvested crops to avoid crisis situations in the coming months.

**West Nile, Acholi, Lango:** Favorable pasture conditions were observed in Maracha, Koboko and Zombo. The rest of the districts in the sub regions have steadily declined to watch conditions throughout the regions. Continued decline is expected as dry season comes to the peak. The water levels that had displaced many communities along the shores of Lake Kyoga have receded and situation restored to normalcy. Water and pasture will remain a challenge in the next few months. Government should utilize this period to plan the relocation of the displaced communities on the Shores of Lake Kyoga to avoid humanitarian emergencies during the onset of March-April-May season of 2022. Communities should also be mobilized to implement flood risk mitigation measures during this period.

#### Early Warning for Regions!

**Teso and Karamoja:** All the districts in Teso sub region have declined to watch conditions as the dry season unfolds. The main crop under observation being pasture. Karamoja districts are currently under **poor** conditions as the region had an early cessation in October 2021. The watch conditions in Kaabong and Karenga districts are attributed to the coverage of the National park. District Disaster Management Committees are advised to periodically assess the impacts of the poor conditions especially on the livestock and update the central Government and Farmers in this sub region are advised to start on land preparation.

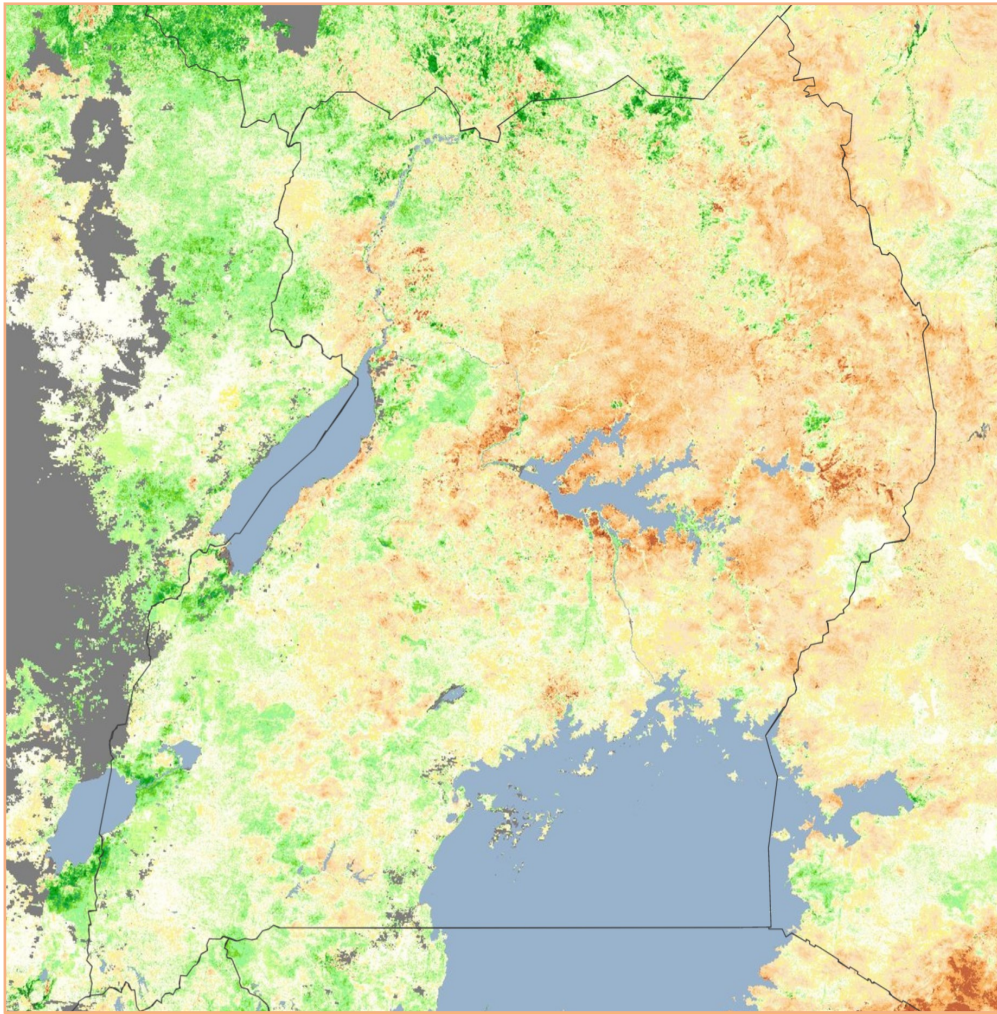
**Western and South Western:** Not much observations were made by Global Agricultural Monitoring satellites (GLAM) hence the grey areas over much of the sub regions. However, from the previous observations and the few districts observed, the improved favorable conditions can still ensure pasture availability for the livestock areas and fairly adequate moisture for the banana areas. Pasture and water management is strongly encouraged to avoid crisis incase the dry season lasts longer.

**East central sub region:** Most of the districts maintained favorable conditions, but as noted in the previous issue, this improvement came towards the end of the OND season and therefore had no positive effect on food production. **Jinja, Kaliro, Namutumba and Buyende** declined to watch conditions as the dry season unfolds. The favorable conditions observed over much of the region is due to the sugarcane plantations and not necessarily the pasture conditions as would be expected. Office of the Prime Minister shall closely monitor the evolution of the drier months of January and February 2022 across the country and validate these observations.





### HIGHLIGHTS - NDVI Anomaly (25<sup>th</sup> DEC 2021 - 1<sup>st</sup> JANUARY, 2022)

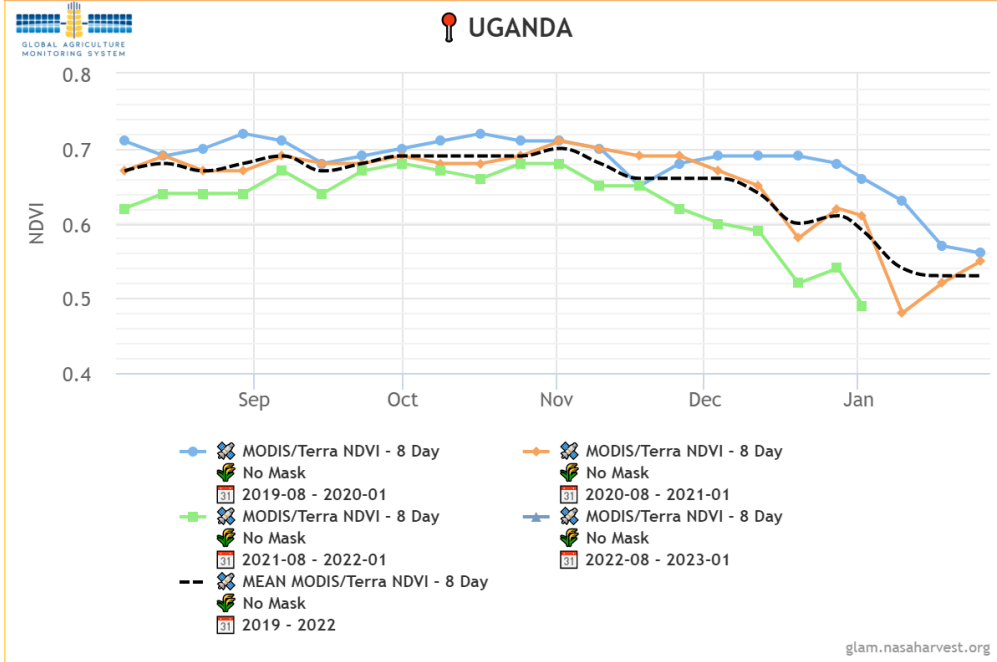


The Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) is used to characterize the health of the vegetation for a particular timeframe compared to what is considered normal. In agricultural monitoring, negative values can be a good indicator of poor crop conditions or a slower growth rate of the crop due 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 11<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup>, December, the NDVI anomaly image shows in green color in 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 below normal which could be associated with recession of rains over those areas. The **brown to dark brown** areas represent areas of that are currently dry. Due to cloud cover, anomalies cannot be assessed in the grey areas.

The performance of the December– January rainfall over most parts of the Country explains the continuous decrease in the NDVI values with Karamoja topping the decline to NDVI values of 0.26 - 0.35, i.e between poor and watch conditions during the period under observation (December - January). Though actual values are characterized by regional spatial variations as shown by the map, on average, much of the Country showed declining conditions that correlates with the current dry season. Overall, the NDVI values indicate below the long term average from mid November to January 2022. This trend was more pronounced in Karamoja, West Nile, Acholi, Lango, Teso and parts of East Central. This represents normal observations for the period as it is an off season for crops. Pasture conditions and water availability have been greatly affected in all the yellowish brown to red regions. Moreover, the dry conditions are still evolving. The Central 1 and 2 are still under favorable conditions though equally indicating declining values. No observations were made in the grey areas comprising mainly the Western region districts. Water conservation is strongly encouraged in this region to minimize on the possibility of crisis as the dry season evolves.



Below is a graphical representation of the current vegetation conditions. The green line represents the average conditions for six months until January 2022 as it falls to below the average conditions (black line) for the period (2019 - 2022). While the red line represents the 2020 - 21 conditions during the same period. The blue line shows the 2019 - 2020 conditions.

It is observed that from August 2021 to January 2022, the NDVI values persistently stayed below the average values, an indication of drought tendencies which are to be confirmed by regional and national level predictions.



### RAINFALL OUTLOOK OVER UGANDA

#### LAKE VICTORIA BASIN AND CENTRAL REGION

**Western parts of Central** (Nakasongola, Luwero, Kyankwanzi, Nakaseke, Kiboga, Mubende, Kasanda, Sembabule, Lwengo, Lyantonde, Kyotera, and Rakai) districts. Overall, near normal to below normal rainfall conditions are expected to prevail over this region.

**Eastern parts of Central** (Mukono, Buikwe, Kayunga, Buvuma) districts. Overall, near normal to below normal rainfall conditions are expected to prevail over this region.

**Central and Western Lake Victoria Basin** (Kalangala, Kampala, Wakiso, Masaka, Mpigi, Butambala, Gomba, Kalungu, Bukomansimbi, and Mityana) districts. Overall, near normal (average) with a slight tendency to below normal rainfall is expected to prevail over this region.

**Eastern Lake Victoria Basin:** (Jinja, Bugiri, Busia, Mayuge, Namayingo and Tororo) districts. Overall, near normal (average) rainfall with a tendency to average is expected.

#### WESTERN REGION

**South Western** (Kabale, Kisoro, Rubanda, Rukungiri, Rukiga, Kanungu, Ntungamo, Ruvumbarara, Kazo, Mbarara, Kiruhura, Isingiro, Ibanda, Bushenyi, Buhweju, Mitooma, Sheema, Rubirizi, Kitagwenda and Kasese) districts. Overall, near normal (average) rainfall is expected.

**Central Western** (Bundibugyo, Ntoroko, Kabarole, Bunyangabu, Kyenjojo, Kyegegwa, Kamwenge, Masindi, Buliisa, Hoima, Kakumiro, Kagadi, Kikube and Kibaale) districts. Overall, near normal (average) rainfall conditions are likely to prevail over this region.

#### EASTERN REGION

**South Eastern:** (Kamuli, Iganga, Bugweri, Luuka, Namutumba, Buyende, Kaliro, and Butaleja) districts. Overall, near normal (average) to below normal rainfall conditions.

**Eastern Central:** (Pallisa, Budaka, Butebo, Kibuku, Mbale, Sironko, Manafwa, Bududa, Bulambuli, Namisindwa, Kapchorwa, Kween, Bukwo, Bukedea, Kumi, Kalaki, Serere and Soroti) districts. Overall, near normal (average) rainfall conditions are expected to prevail over this region.

**North Eastern:** (Amuria, Kapelebyong, Katakwi, Nabilatuk, Moroto, Kotido, Nakapiripirit, Abim, Napak, Amudat, Karenga and Kaabong) districts. Overall, near normal (average) to below normal rainfall conditions are expected to prevail over this region.

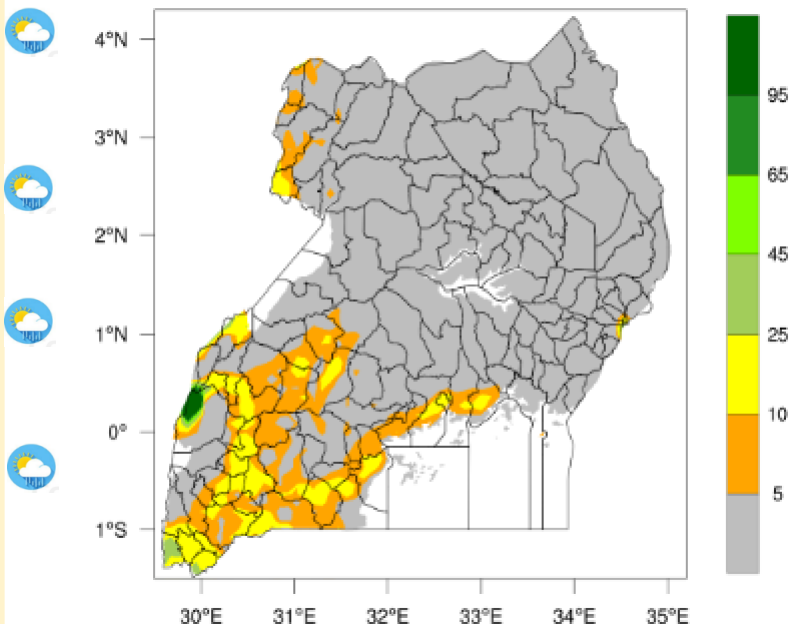
#### NORTHERN REGION

**North Western** (Zombo, Nebbi, Pakwach, Madi-Okolo, Arua, Maracha, Terego, Koboko, Yumbe, Moyo, Obongi, and Adjumani) districts. Overall, near normal (average) to below normal rainfall conditions are expected over this region.

**Eastern Northern Parts:** (Lira, Alebtong, Amolatar, Kitgum, Lamwo, Agago, Otuke, Pader, Kole, and Dokolo and Kaberamaido) districts. Overall, near normal (average) rainfall conditions are expected to prevail over this region.

**Central Northern Parts:** (Gulu, Omoro, Apac, Kwana, Nwoya, Amuru, Oyam and Kiryandongo) districts. Overall, near normal (average) to below normal rainfall conditions are expected to prevail over this region.

#### Rainfall Forecast (mm): 11 - 20 January 2022



#### RAINFALL OUTLOOK

The rainfall outlook for January indicates that dry conditions and much warmer conditions are to persist in Mid January. This is partly due to persistently clear—sky conditions over most areas in the country allowing large amounts of sun’s energy to reach the surface, which is absorbed, but later emitted by the ground, thus warming the air above it.

#### Potential Impacts

The predicted weather conditions are expected to result into the following impacts;

- ◆ Continuation of dry conditions blended with scorching and inconveniencing heat for both human beings and livestock in all regions of the country. Therefore, use of umbrellas, light clothes and regularly drinking water is encouraged to reduce discomfort from heat and higher evaporation rates.
- ◆ Livestock keepers should endeavour to tether their livestock closer to big trees from 12:00 noon up to 5pm to provide them with shelter and these animals should also be given sufficient water to drink.
- ◆ Monitor and report any emergence of crop and animal diseases, parasites and pests to technical staff at sub county and district for action.
- ◆ Communities living adjacent to a number of water sources in the country are advised to undertake vegetable growing through localised irrigation during this dry season both for home consumption and income generation.









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## Uganda National Integrated Early Warning System – Monthly Bulletin

DISASTER EARLY WARNINGS AND OUTLOOK - 15<sup>th</sup> JANUARY - 15<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2022

### BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

#### Disease outbreak

Dry conditions are expected over most parts of the country. The rain forecast portrays a continuation of dry conditions in northern, north eastern and eastern including central with erratic and light rains expected in some areas in the south western and central western. This will most likely lead to ;

- High risk of diarrheal diseases such as cholera, dysentery, typhoid fever and infections such as trachoma in some parts of the country. Communities are advised to draw water from safe water points. Village Health teams are urged to sensitize the communities to maintain good sanitation and hygiene so as to avoid exposing themselves to preventable health risks.
- Clearing bushes, opening of drainages, use of mosquito nets, fumigating in & around homesteads is encouraged as a precautionary control measure against malaria.

*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-METERELOGICAL HAZARD

#### WATER SHORTAGES

The rainfall outlook for January indicates that most parts of the country are expected to experience dry conditions while some areas in the Western and Central regions will continue to receive erratic and light rains.

- Farmers and pastoral communities are advised to fully utilize the forecasted dry conditions to harvest pasture especially in the Northern and Eastern regions.
- Practice rotational grazing and control burning of bushes
- Harvest and keep water & dry pastures.
- Enhance efficiency on water storage and use to minimize losses.
- Ensure that there is proper postharvest handling of food crops so as to meet food requirements at household level.

Alert Level: **Moderate** → **High**

### FIRE OUTBREAKS

*Considering that dry conditions are likely to prevail over most parts of the country and a rise in temperatures during the day and night, the risk of fire outbreaks are high;*

*There is a tendency in the rural communities to burn the bushes ahead of the start of the next season, this at times negatively impacts on the livelihoods and assets more so at the household level, given the nature of roofing materials used in some communities*

- Community leaders are advised to sensitize the masses against engaging in bush burning as it destroys the micro ecosystems.
- Formulate a team of community helpers to carry out regular fire safety drills in the communities.
- Fire safety education among the communities to help them know the causes of fires at household level and keep them mindful in their day-to-day activities.

Alert Level: **Moderate** → **High**

### TRANSPORT TECHNOLOGICAL HAZARDS

Transport Accidents: Any Location

Fire: Any Location

Alert Level: **High** → **Moderate**





# U - NEWS

## Uganda National Integrated Early Warning System – Monthly Bulletin

### DISASTER STATISTICS – DECEMBER

#### TRANSPORT/ TECHNOLOGICAL EVENTS

##### Motor and Aero Accidents

Reported in | Across the country.



70

Motor Accidents



123

Affected



59

Injured



64

Deaths

**CATTLE RUSTLING** | Karamoja Sub-Region 00 Reported

**Affected:** 00 | **Deaths:** 00 | **Injured:** 00

**DROWNING** | 13 Reported

**Affected:** 13 **Deaths** 13 **Injured** 00

**Soil Collapse** | 01 Reported **Deaths:** 01 **Injured:** 02

**Source:** NECOC/OPM, and Partners – December Summary

#### FIRE

Fire incidents across the country.

**Reported :**09 **Affected:** 04 **Injured:** 02 **Deaths:** 02

**Source:** NECOC/OPM, Uganda Police Force, December 2021



### BRIEF ON FOOD SECURITY SITUATION

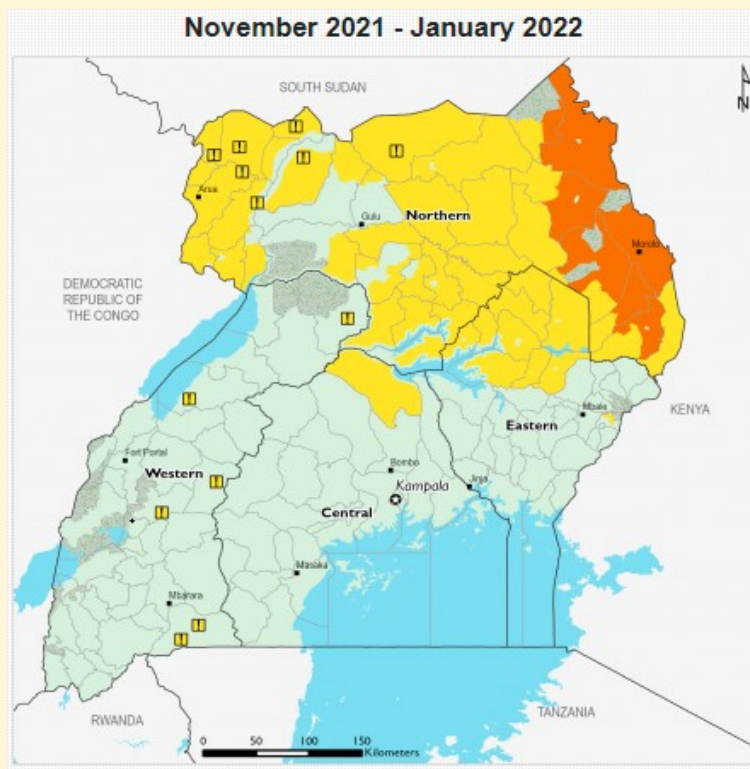
#### HIGHLIGHTS

In bimodal areas, as the harvesting comes to completion, below-average food stocks at household and market levels are already anticipated given the below-average second season harvests. While food availability and some purchases are likely to sustain Minimal (IPC Phase 1) outcomes in most areas, the greater northern Uganda including parts of Teso and eastern region are expected to continue facing Stressed (IPC Phase 2) outcomes through May. Above-average staple prices are limiting food access for poor households with greater dependence on markets, given that income sources such as charcoal and firewood sales, agricultural labor, and livestock sales have been below average. Below-average rainfall, as well as the slow-paced and uncertain economic recovery, has kept incomes below average. While income sources for poor urban households without savings and who rely on daily wages have been improving, others with limited coping capacity are expected to continue experiencing Stressed (IPC Phase 2) outcomes given the rising food and non-food commodity prices. Overall, below-average harvests in November/December have improved food availability and access though to a lesser degree than normal. Regional trade in staple commodities is exerting pressure on prices due to an increase in demand in spite of the below-average harvest since Uganda's staple prices remain competitive. Below-normal income levels because of reduced crop sales are expected to constrain poor households' purchasing power.

In Karamoja, significantly below-average harvests have left poor households highly reliant on market purchases to meet their minimum food needs. Insecurity from cattle thefts continues to negatively affect poor households by denying them the ability to access income for food purchase and safe grazing areas for their herds. Below-average terms of trade following high staple prices and below-average incomes earned from selling firewood and charcoal is limiting food access. Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes persist as many very poor households continue to limit meal sizes, substitute less preferred foods, and reduce expenditure on non-food items.

Despite the pandemic's impacts on Uganda's agricultural exports, regional demand due to drought and other natural hazards continues to drive improving cross-border trade volumes given the relative competitive staple food prices. Domestic demand for staple food commodities remains typically low due to various factors including reduced high-volume demand from institutional consumers like schools, which remain closed. Staple food prices have generally increased following seasonal reduction of household and market stocks, made worse by the below-average seasonal rainfall for the second season. Sorghum grain and maize prices are around 10 to 50 percent above the five-year average in November across major markets (Figure 3). Retail prices for maize, cassava chips, and sorghum increased by 11-77 percent in comparison to 2020. Bean prices, however, were below average for all markets monitored. The second consecutive below average harvest in December/January is not replenishing household and market stocks nor incomes from crop sales as is typical. Uganda is expected to remain a major source of regional supply although the tradeable surplus in 2021 is less than usual. Speculation over the likelihood of increased local and cross-border demand following less than usual surplus production in Uganda and Kenya is expected to keep prices above last year and the recent five-year average.

In Karamoja, sorghum prices increased significantly by around 10-55 percent compared to the five-year average and 2020 prices at the same time. This follows the significantly poor 2021 crop harvest in the region but also from surrounding districts in the bimodal areas that serve Karamoja as a food basket. Given the increase in food prices and declining value of the sale of a bundle of firewood or charcoal – a key source of income for poor households – earning less income than usual and, therefore, purchasing less food than last year and the five-year average in most local markets.



Source - <https://fews.net/east-africa/uganda/key-message-update/november-2021>



# U – NIEWS

## Uganda National Integrated Early Warning System – Monthly Bulletin

### 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.

#### UPCOMING DRM EVENTS:

- PROACT visibility event - February 2022, **WFP/EU**
- Stakeholder consultations on the national disaster preparedness and management bill - February 2022, **OPM**
- Dissemination of national risk atlas in Busoga sub region, January - February 2022, **OPM/NPA/UBOS**
- Validation and operationalization of the updated District Contingency Plans and associated concrete operational plans in West Nile, **DCA and Consortium partners with support from ECHO.**
- Engagement of Parliamentary committee to discuss CSOs position on the NBFP FY22/23 and Pre-budget dialogue on Government priorities in the FY22/23—**DCA and Consortium partners with support from ECHO.**
- Reinforcement of community-based surveillance and strengthened capacity of district rapid response teams **DCA and Consortium partners with support from ECHO.**

#### 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

Website: www.necoc-opm.go.ug

**Toll Free Hotline on all Networks:**

**: 0800 177 777**



*Photo credit: In December, 2021, Rt Hon Robinah Nabanja chaired a meeting on assessing the preparedness for implementing the Parish Development Model, a new framework for ensuring rural and community development, wealth creation & prosperity.*

