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



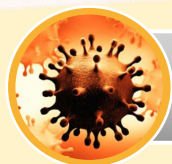
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Vol. 04

15th FEBRUARY 2022 – 15th MARCH 2022

Issue 63

UPDATE ON CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) February 2022



UGANDA COVID 19 OUTLOOK Updates and advisories

SCHOOL BASED SURVEILANCE, What is it and how is it being done?

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES) developed the Education Sector Covid-19 Response Plan (MoES, 2020), focusing on three main objectives; ➤To ensure continuity of learning during the closure of school ➤To prepare the sector for safe resumption and management of schooling once the COVID-19 situation is manageable ➤To build the sector’s capacity for resilience and response to emergencies in the post Covid-19 period. Against this background, the COVID -19 Incident Management Team (IMT) proposed a school based surveillance (SBS) to help track the incidences of Covid-19 outbreak in schools and ensure its control.

What does SBS Involve?

- Every learning institution should have a school task force comprising of seven members including the learner’s representatives
- Teach the learners about respiratory etiquettes,
- Have isolation centres,
- Build networks with health facilities for timely management of cases.
- Establish mechanisms for management of pregnant girls at school
- Identify and support Learners with underlying health conditions and mental health issues

What did MOH IMT put in place to support SBS?

- Shared Mapping Tools with the School COVID -19 task force members
- carried out action planning during the training on SOPs between the schools and the facilities
- Proposed routine/ Periodic meeting between the schools and facilities
- Proposal to adopt / include school members as part of the health unit management committee (HUMC)
- Integrated Mental Health and Psychosocial Support training school based surveillance training.
- Allow time for learners to engage in extracurricular activities such as sports, MDD, etc
- Encourage children to be part of a club
- Allow learners communicate with their parents and/or care-takers whenever necessary

Key Messages

- COVID-19 Pandemic and the subsequent lockdown measures have serious psychosocial and mental health effects in the general population.
- All partners Health, Education, Protection, and Livelihood should Re-think programming around schools and community in the NEW NORMAL e.g. Livelihood partners can support schools or school communities to produce liquid soap for SOPs
- A women’s group or teenage mothers can be trained to make face masks for a neighboring school



Wear a mask




Wash your hands




Keep a distance

 **2,389,360**
Tested overtime

 **14**
New Casess

 **14,973,29**
Vaccinated

 **3,565**
Deaths

As of 24h Feb 2022

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

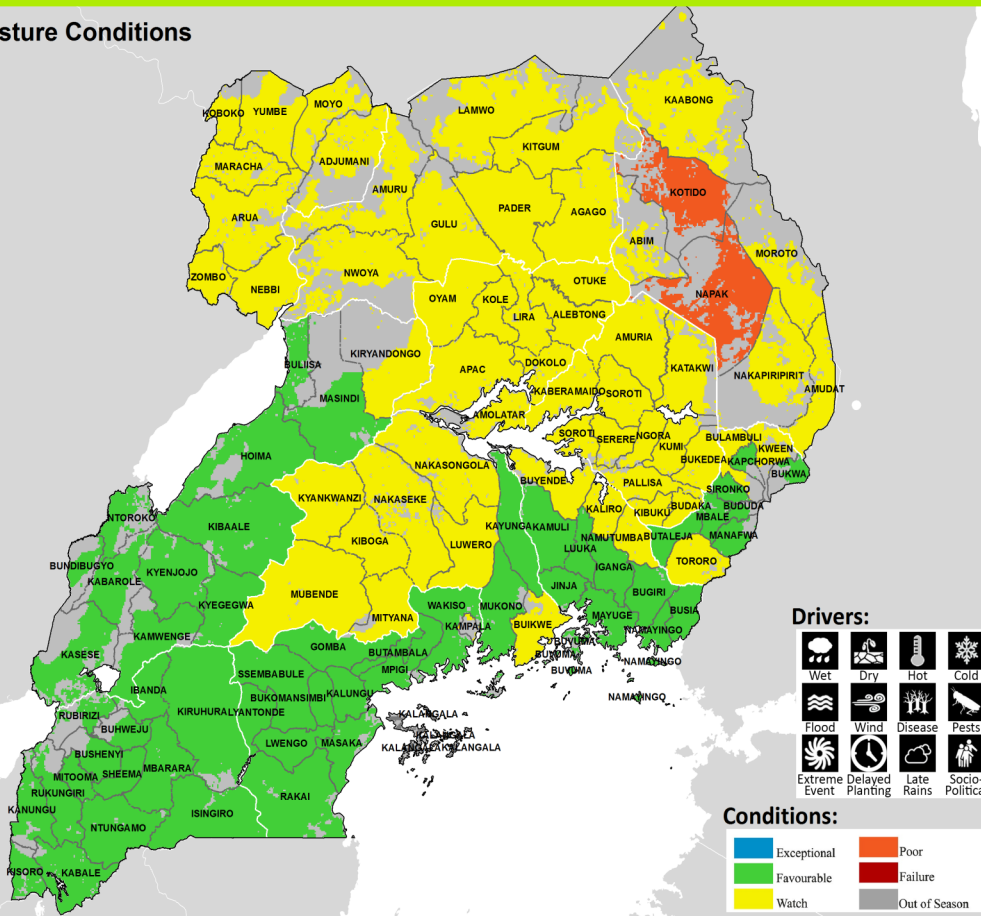


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CROP & PASTURE CONDITIONS MAP OF UGANDA (FEBRUARY 2022)

Crop and Pasture Conditions



Source: Crop Monitor of Uganda. This crop conditions map synthesizes information for selected crops and pasture as of 15th February 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 conditions. Improvements recorded during the previous observation has been sustained though more districts declined to watch conditions in response to the long dry season. As Nakasongola district sustained watch conditions, **Nakaseke, Kyankwanzi, Kiboga, Luweero, Mityana, Mubende** and **Buikwe** also declined to watch conditions. The watch conditions didn't have much effect on water accessibility due to the off season rains that continued at intervals across the sub regions. Farmers in the sub regions are advised to prioritize de-silting of dams and water reservoirs and retrofitting of home/farm structures in preparation for the MAM season. Crop farmers are advised to finalise land preparation during the coming weeks.

Elgon: Favorable conditions observed in the Elgon districts except, **Kween, and Tororo** that sustained watch conditions from the previous observations. The offseason rains caused improvements to favourable conditions in Kapchorwa and Bukwo and maintained the rest of the districts. Farmers are advised to finalize land preparation and prepare for planting in the next few weeks as early onset is expected for MAM. De-silting of river and stream channels are also strongly encouraged to reduce incidences of flash flooding during the coming months, Community and institutional housing structures should be retrofitted to minimize heavy storm effects that always characterize the MAM rains.

West Nile, Acholi, Lango: As stated in the previous issue, all the districts declined to watch conditions as the dry season came to its peak. Steady improvements are expected in the next few weeks as the MAM gets established. The water levels along the shores of Lake Kyoga and banks of the Nile are expected to rise again and cause displacements. Government should utilize this period to plan the relocation of the displaced communities.

Early Warning for Regions!

Teso and Karamoja: All the districts in Teso sub region have sustained watch conditions with minor improvements, mainly in pasture conditions as a result of the off season rains. Karamoja districts equally benefitted from the offseason rains that enabled improvement from poor to watch conditions in the districts of **Moroto, Nakapiripirit** and **Amudat**. Poor conditions were sustained in **Napak** and **Kotido**. The watch conditions in **Kaabong** and **Karenge** districts are attributed to the coverage of the National park. This also came with the problem of wild animal destruction on farmers crops that has now threatened food security in the two districts. Land preparations for planting should be scaled up. District Authorities should ensure de-silting of rivers and streams to mitigate the impacts and incidences of flash floods during MAM.

Western and South Western: All the districts remained under favourable conditions. Stable harvests of Banana crop expected during this period. However, in preparation for the stormy weather that usually destroys banana's, tree planting should be emphasized around and within banana plantations to act as wind breaks. Retrofitting, de-silting and opening drainage channels is highly encouraged.

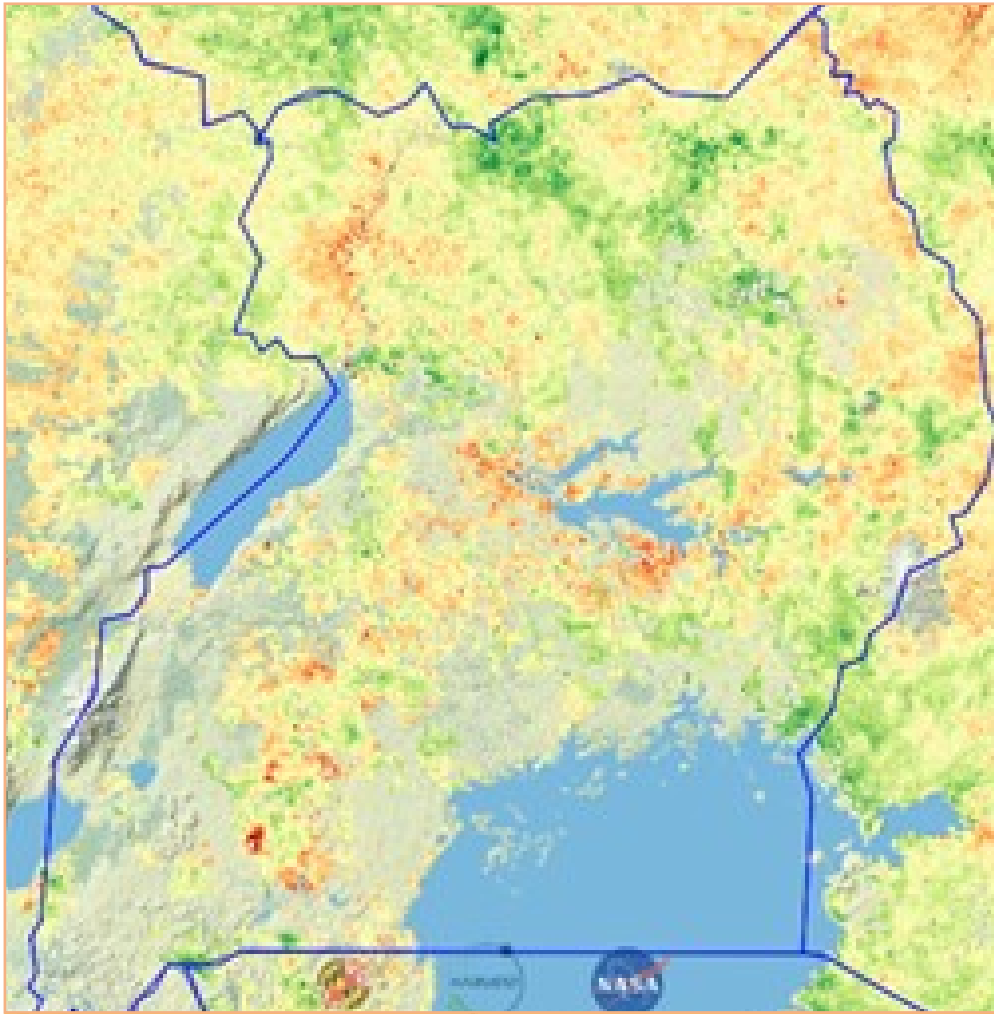
East central sub region: Most of the districts maintained favorable conditions except **Buyende, Kaliro** and **Namutumba** that sustained watch conditions despite the off season rains received across the Country. De-silting of bridges and culverts is strongly advised, Land preparation for planting should be in the final stages in preparation for MAM. Office of the Prime Minister shall closely monitor the evolution of the MAM 2022 across the country and issue timely advisories as the season unfolds.



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HIGHLIGHTS - NDVI Anomaly (10th - 17th FEBRUARY, 2022)

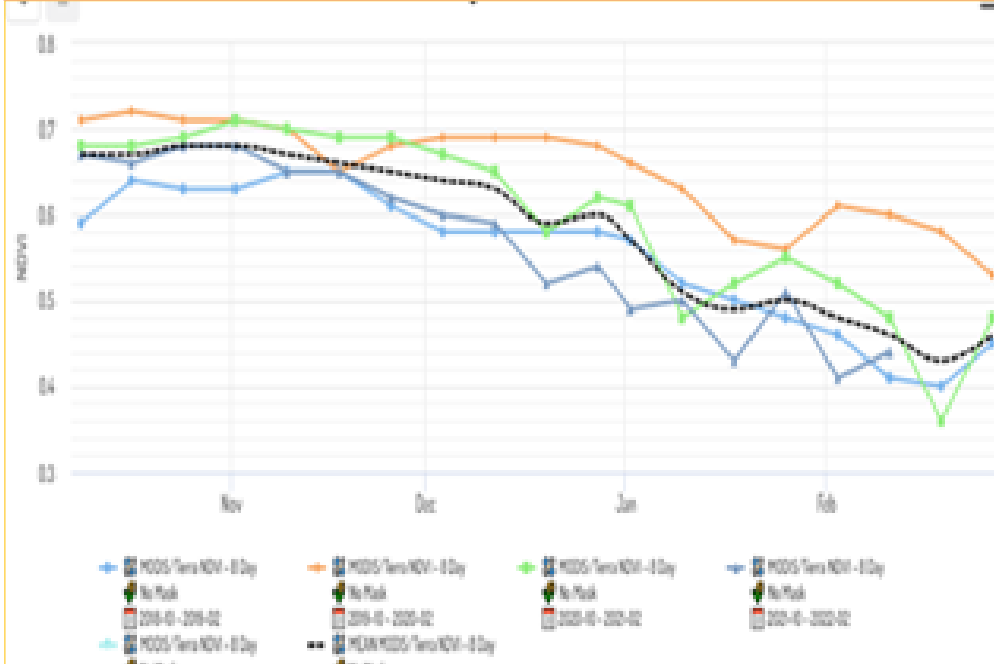


The Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) is used to characterize the health of the vegetation for a particular timeframe compared to what is considered normal. In agricultural monitoring, negative values can be a good indicator of poor crop conditions or a slower growth rate of the crop due 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 10th - 17th, February, 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 evolution of dry season over those areas. The **brown to dark brown** areas represent areas that are currently dry. Due to cloud cover, anomalies cannot be assessed in the grey areas.

The performance of the January February rainfall over most parts of the Country explains the continuous decrease in the NDVI values with Karamoja topping the decline to NDVI values of 0.28 - 0.36, i.e between poor and watch conditions. Other regions that similarly showed stable decline. Though actual values are characterized by regional spatial variations as shown by the map, on average, much of the Country declined to watch conditions despite the off season rains that were received across the Country. Overall, the NDVI values kept below the long term average from mid November to February 2022. This trend was more pronounced in Karamoja, West Nile, Acholi, Lango, Teso, parts of central and parts of East Central. The sustained NDVI values indicated below normal observations though it also coincided with the normal dry season which is usually an off season for crops. Pasture conditions and water availability have been regularly restored by the off season rains that characterized the months of January and February. With the expected early onset of MAM 2022, this is expected to improve further. Much of South Western, parts of western, Central 1 and 2 maintained favorable conditions throughout the February though with stable values. No observations were made in the grey areas



comprising mainly the South Western region and areas around L. Victoria..

Below is a graphical representation of the current vegetation conditions. The green line represents the average conditions for six months until February 2022 as it falls to below the average conditions (black line) for the period (2018 - 2022). While the red line represents the 2020 and green line shows 2021 conditions during the same period. The blue line shows 2019 conditions.



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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, 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, below normal rainfall is expected to prevail over this region.

Eastern Lake Victoria Basin: (Jinja, Bugiri, Busia, Mayuge, Namayingo and Tororo) districts. Overall, light rains are expected over region.

WESTERN REGION

South Western (Kabale, Kisoro, Rubanda, Rukungiri, Rukiga, Kanungu, Ntungamo, Ruvampara, 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, below normal 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, Bukwa, 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, below normal rainfall conditions are expected to prevail over this region.

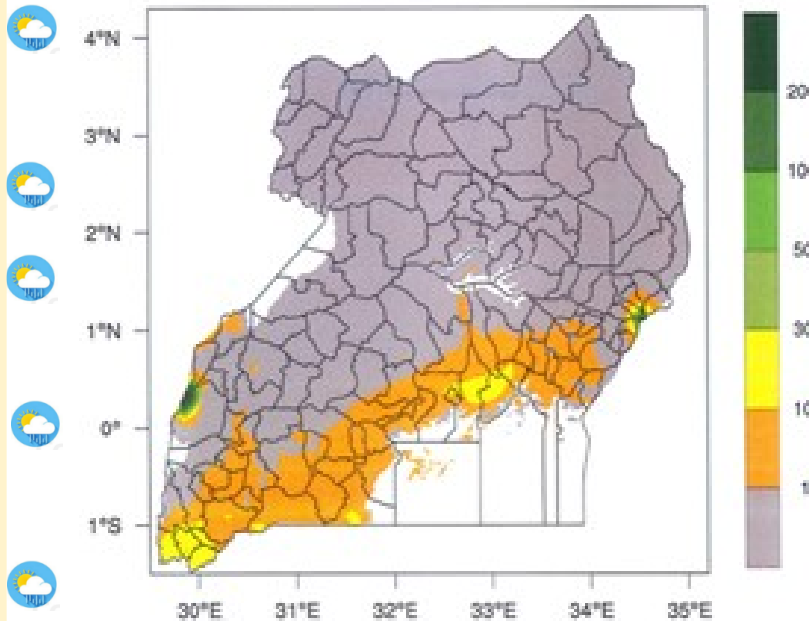
NORTHERN REGION

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

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

Rainfall Forecast (mm): February 2022



RAINFALL OUTLOOK

The rainfall outlook for February indicates that dry conditions are expected to prevail over most parts of the country, while parts of Lake Victoria basin and South Western are likely to receive light to moderate rainfall. The mountainous areas of Elgon and Rwenzori are likely to experience moderate rainfall conditions during the forecast period.

Potential Impacts

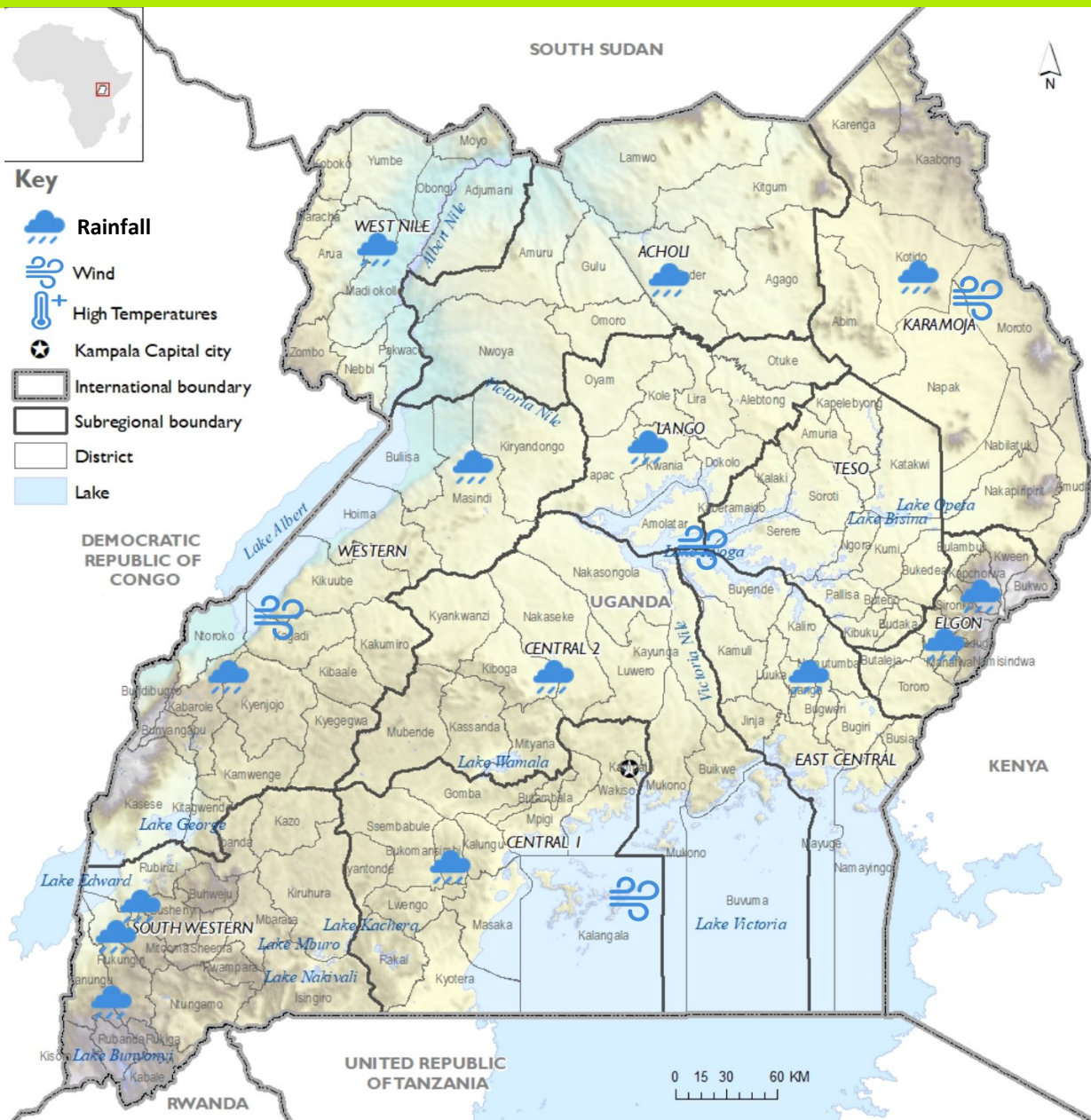
The predicted dry weather conditions are expected to result into the following impacts;

- ◆ In the pastoral areas especially in the cattle corridor, dry conditions are likely to result in further reduction in foliage and pasture for livestock so pastoralists should look for ways of storing water as water availability is likely to decline especially in the cattle corridor areas.
- ◆ There is a high risk of airborne /respiratory diseases due to dust as a result of the dry conditions
- ◆ There is a high risk of fire outbreaks due to the expected dry conditions.
- ◆ Hazy conditions are expected to prevail during the forecast period and likely to result in poor visibility for motorists and other road users.

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MULTI HAZARD EARLY WARNING PROBABILITY MAP –15TH FEBRUARY –15TH MARCH 2022



BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

Communicable disease outbreaks, epidemics and health emergencies

- ◆ weather conditions. However a few areas around lake Victoria basin, and south western are expected to experience episodic isolated rainfall during the forecast period. The associated risk of outbreak of diarrheal diseases such as cholera, typhoid fever, dysentery and eye infections; is at hand, especially in areas that have inadequate access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene. Areas close to the shorelines and banks of water basins are advised to keep their surroundings clean and in proper hygiene to avoid disease outbreaks.
- ◆ Some areas in the northern sector bordering South Sudan may experience temperatures as high as 32°C, where as areas in southern sector are expected to have temperatures from 22°C to 24°C.

*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).



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DISASTER EARLY WARNINGS AND OUTLOOK - 15th FEBRUARY - 15th MARCH 2022

BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

Disease outbreak

Dry and sunny conditions are expected over most parts of the country. However a few areas around lake Victoria basin, south-western are expected to experience episodic isolated rainfall. 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-METEREOLOGICAL HAZARD

Floods and Wind storms

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

- Secure the roofs of building structures that may be loose
- Objects outdoor that may blow around in high winds should be secured.
- Caution should be taken if driving by keeping both hands on the wheels and slowing down
- Implement flood risk mitigation measures at community level
- Prioritize resettlement of flood affected communities in Kayunga, Bullisa, Ntororko, Nakasongola and Kasese
- De-silt dams and drainage channels.

Alert Level: **Moderate** → **High**

TRANSPORTATION ACCIDENTS

Considering that March will be characterized by flash floods, lightning strikes, hailstorms at the onset of rain season, in the country. It is also associated with increased occurrence of accidents due to poor visibility and state of the roads and operator errors.

Road users should take extra care to avoid driving or walking through flooded road sections and under poor visibility conditions

- Local Government Authorities should consider providing mechanisms to update the public on the state of the roads in their areas of jurisdiction.
- Communities should be encouraged to open drainage channels to avoid flood risks.
- 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**



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DISASTER STATISTICS – JANUARY

TRANSPORT/ TECHNOLOGICAL EVENTS

Motor and Aero Accidents

Reported in | Across the country.



61

Motor Accidents



177

Affected



88

Injured



89

Deaths

CATTLE RUSTLING | Karamoja Sub-Region 06 Reported

Affected: 08 | **Deaths:** 05 | **Injured:** 03

DROWNING | 08 Reported

Affected: 08 **Deaths:** 08 **Injured:** 00

Mudslide | 01 Reported **Deaths:** 09 **Injured:** 00

Source: NECOC/OPM, and Partners – December Summary

FIRE

Fire incidents across the country.

Reported :26 **Affected:** 15 **Injured:** 04 **Deaths:** 11

Source: NECOC/OPM, Uganda Police Force, January 2022.



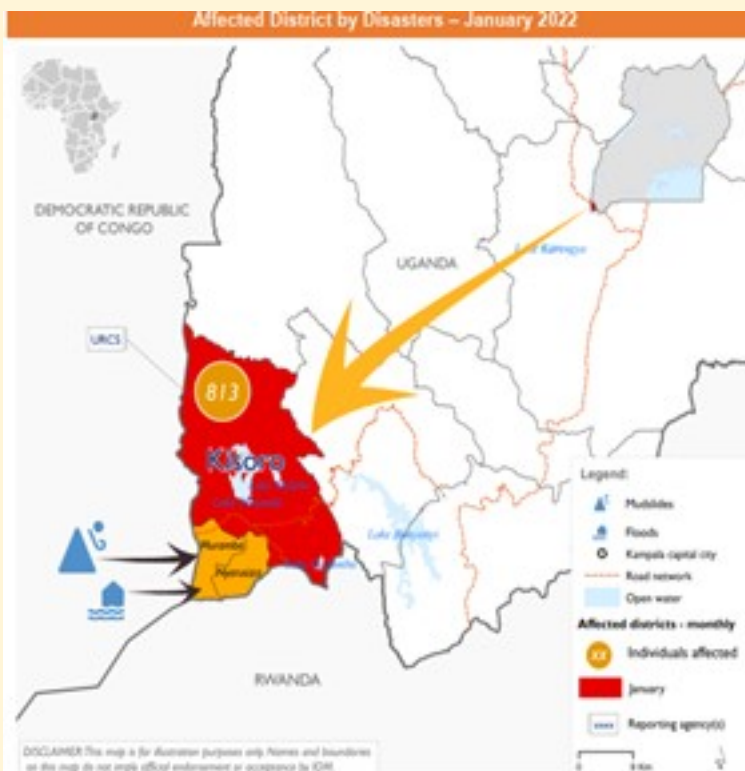
BRIEF ON FOOD SECURITY SITUATION

HIGHLIGHTS

In bimodal areas, the January dry season has been hotter and drier than normal, especially in the greater north and northeast. In mid-January, unexpected light to locally moderate rains interrupted the dry conditions countrywide— temporarily recharging minimal water resources and supporting land preparation activities—but overall dry conditions persist in most areas. Production of most staples in the 2021 second season harvest—which concluded in early January—was below average, with household and market food stocks generally lower than usual. While crop production is supporting most farming households in central and southwestern Uganda, crop production was worse in northern Uganda, also reducing households’ income from crop sales. As such, many households’ ability to afford non-food items is expected to be constrained, with Stressed (IPC Phase 2) outcomes likely widespread in northern Uganda. In other bimodal areas, Minimal (IPC Phase 1) outcomes are expected to prevail through May.

In Karamoja, Teso, and Lango regions as well as in the greater north, pasture and water availability are generally significantly below average due to early cessation of below-average rainfall and above-average temperatures since late 2021. In Karamoja, sustained insecurity related to livestock raids and thefts is constraining livestock migration to and from dry season grazing areas within Karamoja and neighboring districts, and atypical deterioration of livestock body conditions is likely in areas lacking water resources. However, in the cattle corridor districts in parts of central and southwestern Uganda, near average pasture and water resources are supporting better livestock conditions compared to the greater north. Given a revised forecast for above-average rainfall across the country, pasture conditions and water availability are expected to be restored to normal levels by March/April, with corresponding improvement in livestock productivity.

Karamoja is largely still in the WATCH stage in January 2022 because seven out nine districts are in Watch stage apart from Amudat and Abim that were in Alarm. All sectors were also at WATCH stages for the review month. Raids and theft of cattle plus other livestock are still high and on the increase. Rains in the middle of January had hardly any impact on the effects of prolonged dry spell in mid part of 2021 that marginalized harvests. Rainfall outlook for February indicates little hope for rain in that month albeit farmers having began preparing land for the growing season in 2022. Only 22 % of households declared having enough food to last beyond 2 weeks in comparison to 24% in December.



Source - Uganda Multi-hazard Infographic January 2022



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Important Note!

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.

UPCOMING DRM EVENTS:

- Consultative workshop to develop standardized disaster rapid needs assessment and comprehensive assessment tool. **March 2022, OPM & IOM**
- Documentation and dissemination of Indigenous knowledge on early warning to enhance early actions. **March 2022, DCA and consortium partners/ ECHO**
- Strengthen capacity of Natural resource Departments at district levels to utilize and disseminate forecast information. **March 2022, DCA and consortium partners/ ECHO**
- Incorporating forecast based financing components into District Multi-hazard Contingency plans. **March 2022, DCA and consortium partners/ ECHO**

For more details:

**Office of the Prime Minister (OPM)
National Emergency Coordination and Operations
Centre (NECOC)**

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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: OPM-DRDPM Team, carrying out an induction training of Early Warning Focal Persons in Arua, the same training was extended to focal persons in Yumbe, Koboko, Terego and Madi-Okollo (February, 2022)

