



Influenza Alert

Influenza Virus

Seasonal influenza is an acute respiratory infection caused by influenza viruses which circulate in all parts of the world. The Ministry of Health recently announced an outbreak of Influenza Type A and B in schools

Symptoms

Seasonal influenza is characterized by:

- Sudden onset of fever,
- Cough (usually dry),
- Headache,
- Muscle and joint pain,
- Severe malaise (feeling unwell),
- Sore throat and a runny nose.

Who is at risk?

All age groups can be affected but there are **groups that are more at risk** than others. These include;

- Pregnant women,
- Children under 59 months,
- The elderly,
- Individuals with chronic medical conditions (such as chronic cardiac, pulmonary, renal, metabolic, neurodevelopmental, liver or hematologic diseases)
- Individuals with immunosuppressive conditions (such as HIV/AIDS, receiving chemotherapy or steroids, or malignancy).
- Health-care workers.

Transmission:

Seasonal influenza spreads easily, in crowded areas including schools and nursing homes. When an infected person coughs or sneezes, droplets containing viruses (infectious droplets) are dispersed into the air and can spread up to one meter, and infect persons in close proximity who breathe these droplets in. The virus can also be spread by hands contaminated with influenza viruses.

The time from infection to illness, known as the **incubation period**, is about 2 days, but ranges from one to four days.

Prevention

Apart from vaccination and antiviral treatment, the public health management includes measures like:

- Regular hand washing with proper drying of the hands
- Good respiratory hygiene – covering mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing, and disposing of them correctly
- Early self-isolation of those feeling unwell, feverish and having other symptoms of influenza
- Avoiding close contact with sick people
- Avoiding touching one's eyes, nose or mouth
- Health care workers are at high risk acquiring influenza virus infection due to increased exposure to the patients and risk further spread particularly to vulnerable individuals.
- Cover mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing

Source: WHO



Wear a mask



Wash your hands





Keep a distance

COVID 19 | Statistics

 **2,465,948**
Tested overtime

 **07**
New Cases

 **17,197,954**
Vaccinated

 **3,595**
Deaths

As of 21st Mar 2022

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

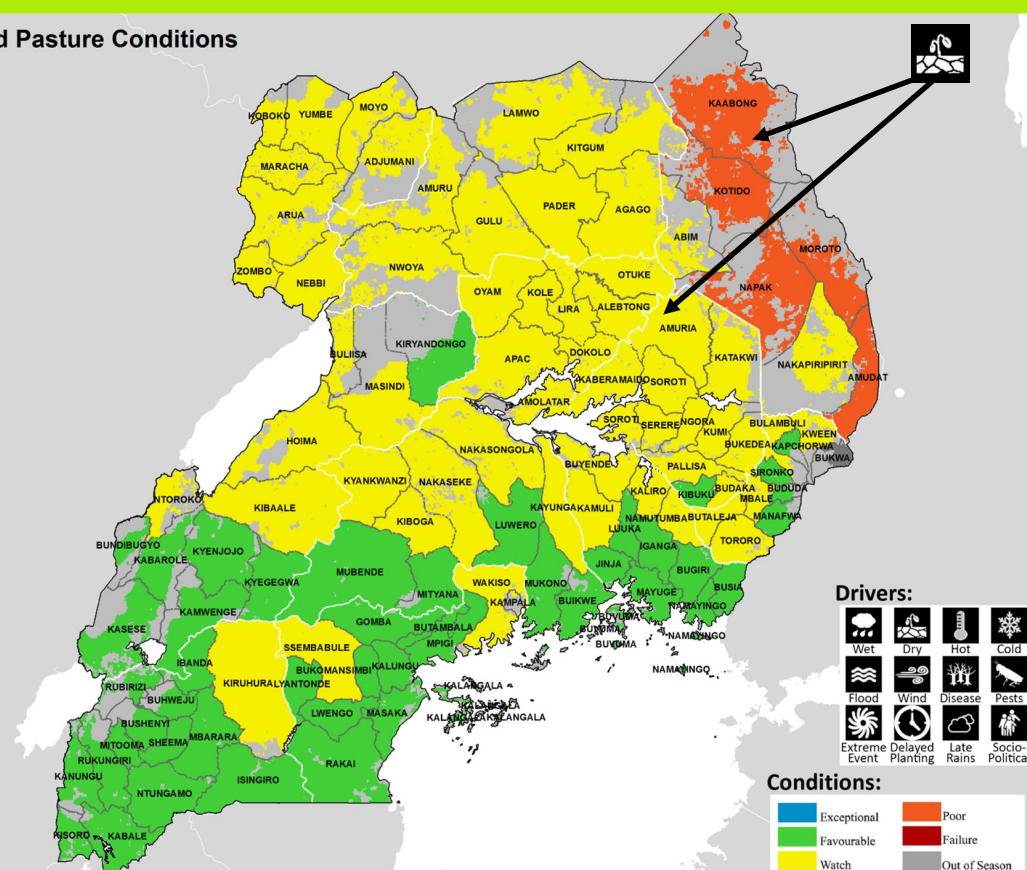


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CROP & PASTURE CONDITIONS MAP OF UGANDA (MARCH 2022)

Crop and Pasture Conditions



Source: Crop Monitor of Uganda. This crop conditions map synthesizes information for selected crops and pasture as of 15th March 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: Much of the region remained under favorable conditions. Whereas improvements were recorded in some districts possibly due to the off-season rains that were received till the end of February, several other districts also recorded decline in crop and pasture conditions due to spatial variability's in the distribution. The affected districts in this case include **Sembabule** and **Wakiso**. **Nakasongola**, **Nakaseke**, **Kyankwanzi**, and **Kiboga**, sustained watch conditions from the previous month. The MAM season is slowly getting established over the region and farmers are advised to start planting as soon as the onset stabilizes. The cattle farmers in the watch should de-silt livestock watering dams and harvest water for their livestock.

Elgon: Favorable conditions observed in the Kapchorwa, Sironko, Bududa and Manafwa districts. The rest of the districts in the region either sustained or declined to watch conditions. The MAM season is getting established slowly and with, wide spatial variability's in distribution. Farmers are advised to start planting as soon as they receive rains. Short maturing crops should also be prioritized during this season to ensure steady food supply.

West Nile, Acholi, Lango: All the districts in the region sustained watch conditions for two months consecutively. Improvements are expected in the next few weeks as 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. Communities living in flood prone areas should also ensure flood proofing homesteads by digging drainage channels. Farmers should prepare for planting.

Early Warning for Regions!

Teso and Karamoja: Where as all the districts in Teso region sustained watch conditions that were worsening. All the Karamoja districts declined to poor conditions except **Abim** and **Nakapiripirit** that sustained watch conditions though with steady decline. The MAM season is getting established and farmers are advised to plant. The poor conditions in Kaabong and Karenga escalated the problem of human- wild life conflicts that tend to discourage farmers from land preparation because of compaction tendencies of the big animals. Authorities to ensure establishment of natural resource based barriers between communities and the park areas to avoid such conflicts.

Western and South Western: All the districts remained under favourable conditions except Ntoroko and Kasese. Stable harvests of Banana crop expected from the region but farmers advised to plant agroforestry trees around their banana plantations as a long term measure against strong winds and heavy storm destruction on plantations. Planting of seasonal crops should also start as the season gets established.

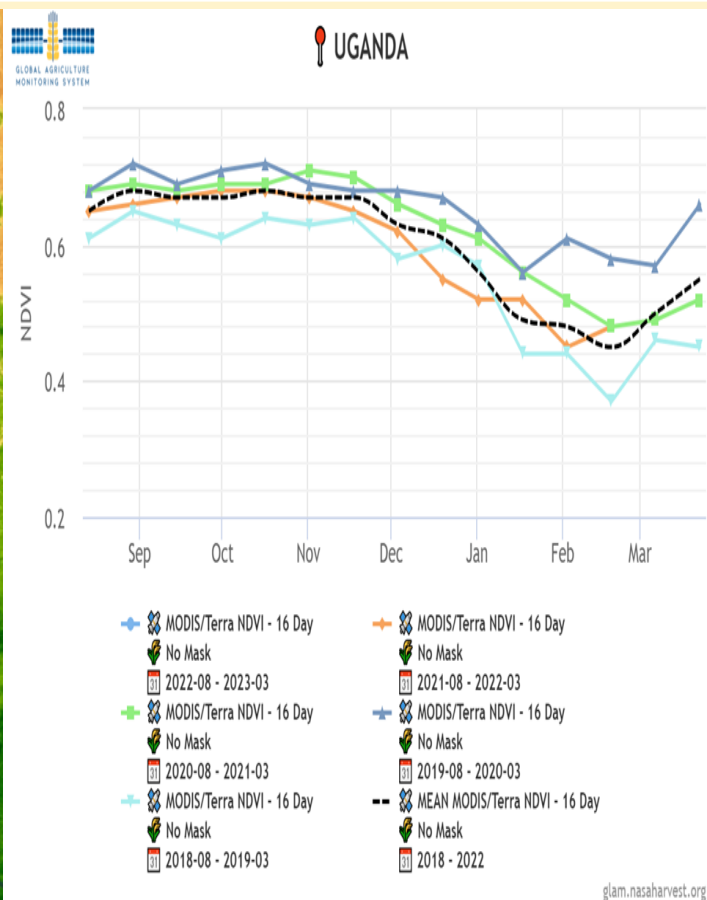
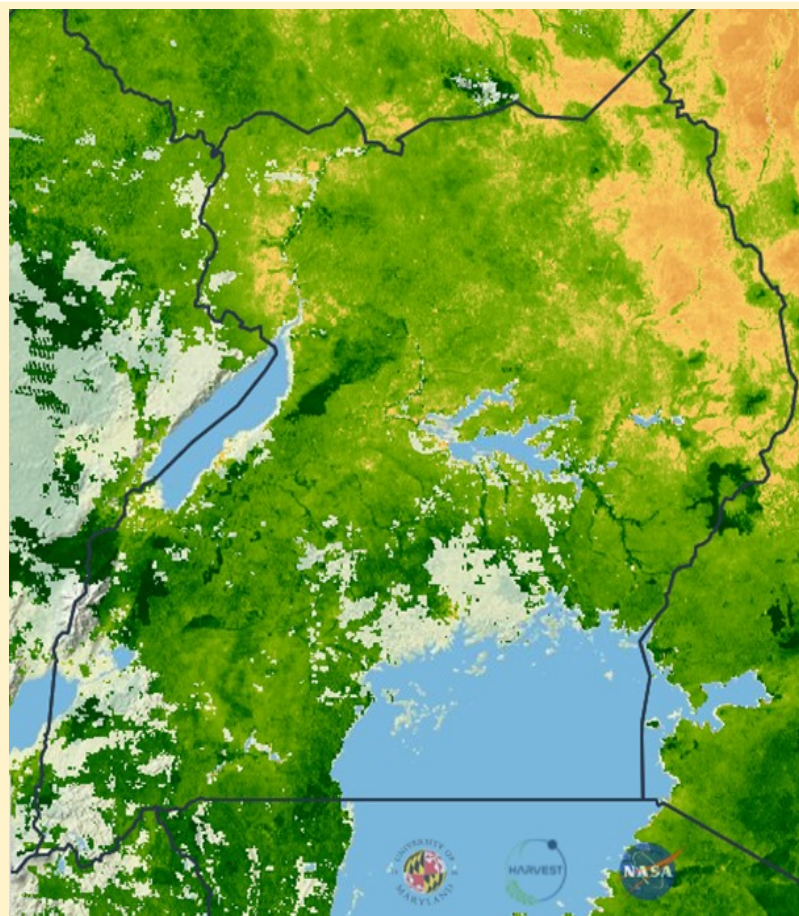
East central sub region: Most of the districts maintained favorable conditions except **Buyende**, **Kaliko** and, **Namutumba** that sustained watch conditions for two months in a row despite the off season rains received across the Country. **Kamuli** district also declined to watch during this period. Farmers are advised to plant, not only sugar cane but also prioritize food crops for home consumption. 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 (18th FEBRUARY - 5th, MARCH 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 18th February - 5th, March, 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 could be associated with delayed rains over those areas. The **brown to dark brown** areas represent areas that are currently dry, also due to delayed seasonal onset. Due to cloud cover, anomalies cannot be assessed in the grey areas.

The slow but steady performance of the February - March rainfall over most parts of the Country explains the continuous increase in the NDVI values with exception of Karamoja where most districts showed persistence in poor to watch conditions with NDVI values of ranging from 0.28 - 0.36. Pockets of areas in other regions similarly showed poor to watch conditions. Though actual values are characterized by regional spatial variations as shown by the map, on average, much of the Country is slowly recovering to watch and favourable conditions despite the delay in the full establishment of the MAM season rains. This is attributed to the off season rains that were received across the Country prior to MAM. Overall, the NDVI values are tending above the long term average from late February 2022. This trend is expected to improve as the MAM season gets established. Pasture conditions and water availability are expected to improve throughout the Country. 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 red line represents the conditions for eight months from August 2021 until February 2022 as it shows upward trend above the average conditions (black line) towards the end of February for the period (2018 - 2022). While the dark blue line represents the 2020 and green line shows 2021 conditions during the same period. The blue line shows 2019 conditions.

It is observed that from August 2021 to February 2022, the NDVI values persistently stayed below the average values, till late February when it made an upward trend an indication of slow but steady MAM seasonal onset. Further observations made shall be corroborated with the MAM seasonal forecast and subsequent updates to validation and further advisories.



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RAINFALL OUTLOOK OVER UGANDA

CENTRAL REGION LAKE VICTORIA BASIN AND EASTERN UGANDA

Western parts of Central (Nakasongola, Luwero, Kyankwanzi, Kakumiro, Kasanda, Nakaseke, Kiboga, Mubende, Kasanda, Sembabule, Lwengo, Lyantonde, Kyotera, and Rakai) districts. Overall, there is a high chance for this region to receive near normal rains with a slight tendency to above normal rains.

Eastern parts of Central (Mukono, Buikwe, Kayunga, Buvuma) districts. Overall, near normal rainfall with a high tendency to above normal rainfall is expected.

Central and Western Lake Victoria Basin (Kalangala, Kampala, Wakisso, Masaka, Lwengo, Mpigi, Butambala, Gomba, Kalungu, Bukomansimbi, and Mityana) districts. Overall, there is a high chance for near normal with a slight tendency to above normal rainfall.

Eastern Lake Victoria Basin & South Eastern: (Jinja, Bugiri, Kamuli, Iganga, Buyende, Bugweri, Luuka, Namutumba, Kaliro, Busia, Mayuge, Namayingo and Tororo) districts. Overall, this region has a high chance of receiving near normal to above normal rainfall.

Central Eastern: (Pallisa, Budaka, Butebo, Kibuku, Mbale, Sironko, Manafwa, Bududa, Bulambuli, Namisindwa, Kapchorwa, Kween, Bukwo, Bukedea, Kumi, Kalaki, Ngora, Serere and Soroti) districts. Overall, there is a high chance for near normal (closer to average) rainfall to above normal rainfall conditions to prevail over this region.

North Eastern: (Amuria, Kapelebyong, Katakwi, Nabilatuk, Moroto, Kotido, Nakapiripirit, Abim, Napak, Amudat, Karenga and Kaabong) districts. Overall, high chance for near normal (closer to average) to above normal rainfall conditions to prevail over this 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 (closer to average) with a high tendency to above normal rainfall is expected.

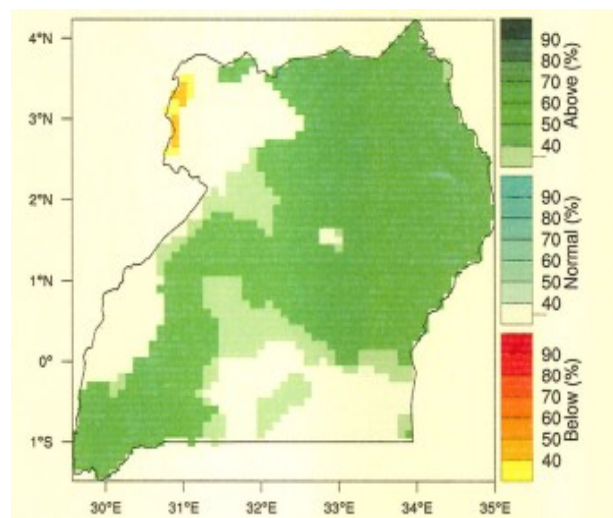
Central Western (Bundibugyo, Ntoroko, Kabarole, Bunyangabu, Kyenjojo, Kyegegwa, Kamwenge, Masindi, Buliisa, Hoima, Kakumiro, Kagadi, Kikuube and Kibaale) districts. There is a high chance for the area to experience near normal with a high tendency to above-normal rainfall.

NORTHERN REGION

North Western (Zombo, Nebbi, Pakwach, Madi-Okolo, Arua, Maracha, Terego, Koboko, Yumbe, Moyo, Obongi, and Adjumani) districts. Overall, this region is likely to receive near normal (closer to average) rainfall.

South-Eastern areas of Northern Parts: (Lira, Alebtong, Amolatar, Kitgum, Lamwo, Agago, Otuke, Pader, Kole, and Dokolo and Kaberamaido) districts. Overall, near normal (closer to average) rainfall is expected over this region.

Central Northern Parts: (Gulu, Omoro, Nwoya, Amuru, Oyam and Kiryandongo) districts. Overall, this region is expected to receive near normal (closer to average) with a slight tendency to above normal rainfall.



RAINFALL OUTLOOK

Overall, near normal to above normal rainfall is expected over most parts of the country with a high probability of occurrence over some parts of North Eastern Uganda.

The onset of the seasonal rains is expected around late February to early March in several parts of the southern sector that include the southwestern, western, and Lake Victoria basin. The onset is expected to progressively extend to northern parts of the country around mid-March to early April, characterized by isolated thunderstorms associated with lightning and hailstorms over several parts of the country.

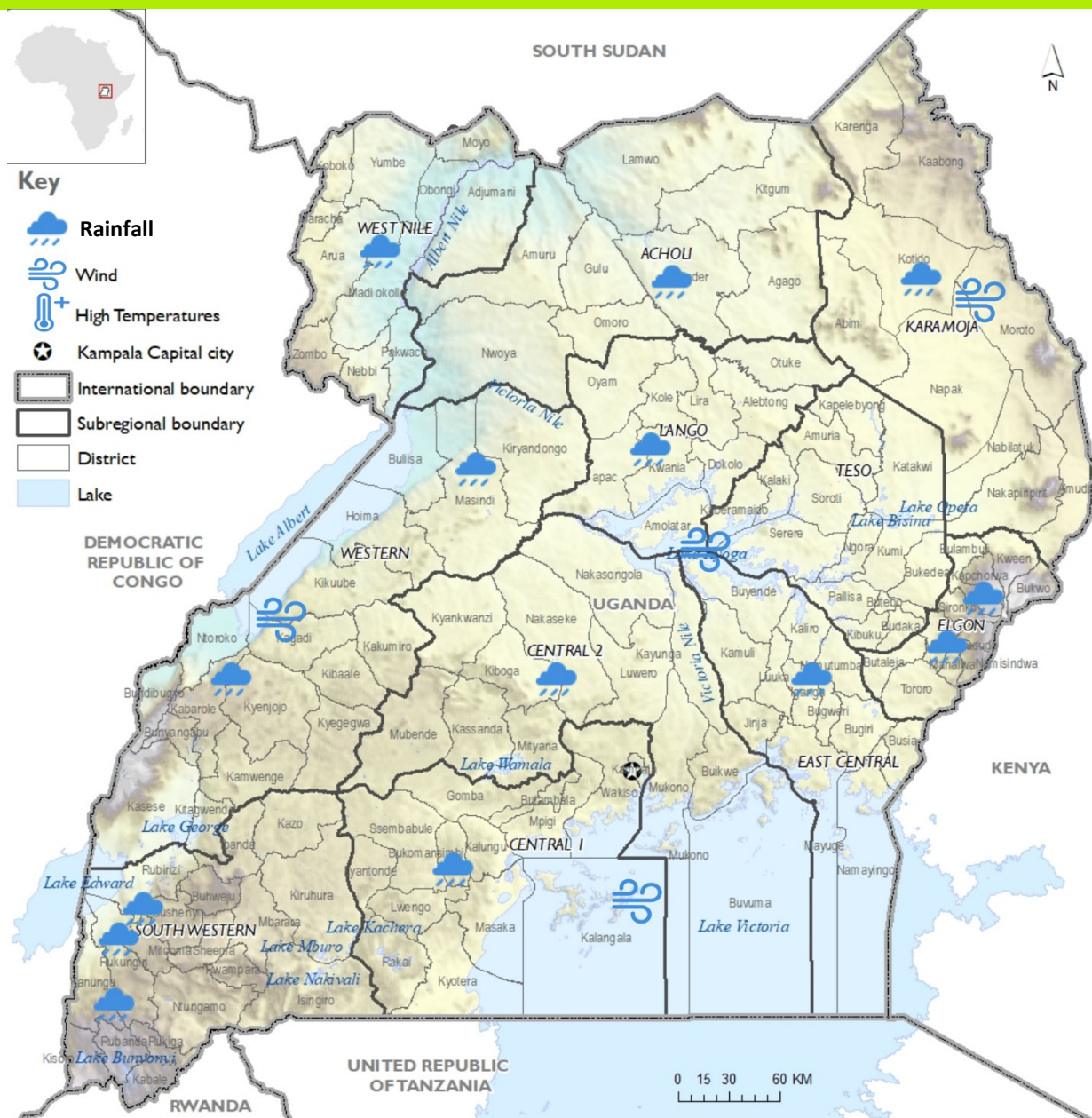
Potential Impacts

The forecast presents good prospects for improved agricultural production across the country. The following are advisories to the communities;

- ◆ Farmers are advised to finalize land preparation and plant early in order to optimize all the available water
- ◆ Proper seed and crop selection based on seasonal characteristics with the aid of the agricultural extension staff is encouraged.
- ◆ Farmers are encouraged to practise water harvesting for micro-irrigation where necessary.
- ◆ Stocking of livestock veterinary drugs against water borne diseases such as worms across all pastoral communities and small-holder farmer level
- ◆ Harvesting and storage of animal feeds is encouraged.
- ◆ Planting of trees is highly encouraged through agroforestry
- ◆ Strong/violent winds may be experienced that can cause structural damages to buildings.
- ◆ De-silting drainages and other water channels to curtail flooding is encouraged
- ◆ Urban authorities need to clear and reduce blockages of the drainage systems to avoid waterlogging on streets.

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**MULTI HAZARD EARLY WARNING PROBABILITY MAP –15TH MARCH
–15TH APRIL 2022**



BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

Communicable disease outbreaks, epidemics and health emergencies

- ◆ The MAM rainfall outlook indicates that most parts of the country are expected to receive near normal to above normal rainfall with early onset and cessation over several places. The associated risk of outbreak of diseases such as cholera, dysentery, bilharzia, asthmatic cases, rift valley fever in the cattle corridor; is at hand. 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.
- ◆ The public is advised to enhance diseases surveillance in flood –prone areas for prevention and treatment .
- ◆ Monitor and reposition stocks of drugs & routine distribution of long –lasting insecticide mosquito nets.
- ◆ Encourage routine water treatment at all levels

*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 MARCH - 15th APRIL 2022

BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

Disease outbreak

The MAM rainfall outlook indicates that most parts of the country are expected to receive near normal to above normal rainfall with early onset and cessation over several places. The associated risk of outbreak of diseases such as cholera, dysentery, bilharzia, asthmatic cases, rift valley fever in the cattle corridor; is at hand. 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.

- 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-METEREOREOLOGICAL HAZARD

Floods and Wind storms

The rainfall outlook for March indicates that most parts of the country are expected to experience near normal to above normal rainfall conditions which are likely to be accompanied by intense rainfall events that may lead to flash floods in some localized places, especially urban areas.

- Urban authorities need to clear and reduce blockages of the drainage systems to avoid water logging on streets.
- 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.
- 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.

Alert Level: Moderate → High

TRANSPORTATION ACCIDENTS

Considering that March will be characterized by flash floods, lighting 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.

Alert Level: Moderate → High

TRANSPORT TECHNOLOGICAL HAZARDS

Transport Accidents: Any Location

Fire: Any Location

Alert Level: High → Moderate



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DISASTER STATISTICS – MARCH

TRANSPORT/ TECHNOLOGICAL EVENTS

Motor and Aero Accidents

Reported in | Across the country.



CATTLE RUSTLING | Karamoja Sub-Region 08 Reported

Affected: 08 | Deaths: 08 | Injured: 00

DROWNING | 05 Reported

Affected: 05 Deaths: 05 Injured: 00

Lightning | 01 Reported Deaths: 03 Injured: 00

Source: NECOC/OPM, and Partners – February Summary

FIRE

Fire incidents across the country.

Reported :15 Affected: 06 Injured: 01 Deaths: 06

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

BRIEF ON FOOD SECURITY SITUATION

HIGHLIGHTS

In February, an outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) led to a livestock quarantine and the closure of livestock markets in Rakai and Kyotera districts. FMD is endemic to these areas of the cattle corridor, and outbreaks are frequent. As a result, households lose income due to inability to sell their livestock, impacting household livelihoods and wellbeing. Reasons for the recurring outbreaks include low livestock vaccination rates caused by low supplies of genuine veterinary drugs, movement of cattle across the Tanzanian border, and sharing of grazing areas in the national park.

Since January, restrictions on most sectors of economic activity have been fully lifted. There has been a marked increase in the availability of income-generating activities that is supporting households' access to income and facilitating their ability to purchase both food and non-food items for their normal living. Despite these improvements, high fuel prices since December have resulted in an increase in the prices of some basic food and non-food items such as sugar, cooking oil, wheat flour, and soap, which are limiting improvements in purchasing power. High fuel prices are also expected to be straining those livelihood activities dependent on fuel, such as in the transportation sector.

EWPC (EARLY WARNING PHASE CLASSIFICATION)



■ NORMAL ■ WATCH
■ ALARM ■ EMERGENCY

Month	Sectors				
	Livestock	Livelihood	Crops	Water	Health
Dec 2021					
Jan 2022					
Feb 2022					

Districts	Months		
	Dec 2021	Jan 2022	Feb 2022
Nakapiripirit			
Nabilatuk			
Napak			
Amudat			
Moroto			
Abim			
Kotido			
Kaabong			
Karenga			

Karamoja sub region has been largely classified in the Drought Early Warning phase WATCH in the month of February 2022. Seven (7) of the nine (9) districts were in WATCH phase with Amudat and Moroto districts in ALARM phase.

Livestock pest and disease prevalence, limited to no pasture and water for livestock, livestock migration, insecurity, depleted food stocks from the households (HHs) and wildfires that have destroyed several HHs in Moroto and Nabilatuk districts, have been reported to pose severe threats to the livestock sector and people's livelihood in the sub region.

Concerted efforts must be made across all sectors with interest of enabling preparedness and resilience of the communities in Karamoja sub region. Therefore, individual districts of Karamoja sub region are advised to activate their contingency plans as a response to initiate anticipatory and early actions.

Source - Drought Early Warning System (Karamoja) - PRO-ACT | FAOUG



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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)

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: OPM-DRDPM & MSB Team, carrying out training for the development of a Subcounty Disaster Risk Management Plan in Dzaipi Subcounty. Participants were drawn from Parish Development Committee, Refugee Welfare Committee, Subcounty Executive, Technical & SDRM Committees (March, 2022)

