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

5th AUGUST - 15th SEPTEMBER 2023

Issue 81



August forms the last month of the first season break in Uganda. Predictions from the Uganda National Meteorological Authority-UNMA released the dekadal outlook for the second dekad of August 2023 indicating increased likelihood of normal to above normal rains in the northern segment of the Country. The Southern segment remained relatively drier as the rainfall relaxation of the seasonal break unfolded. Generally conditions improved in Karamoja during the period under observation except Moroto and Amudat that remained drier. From the regional climate outlook centres, its expected that the current El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) coupled with the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) trends are likely to yield an El Nino.

OPM EARLY WARNING ADVISORY FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2023.

General Public

- ◆ Government will monitor the evolution of SOND and issue advisories whenever the need arises.
- ◆ Follow the seasonal weather outlook and subsequent advisories.
- ◆ Communities in high-risk areas are advised to identify areas for temporary relocation from landslide and flood prone areas to avoid loss of lives and livelihoods.
- ◆ Always use of rubber shoes and avoid taking shelter under trees to minimize the risk of lightning.

Farmers

- ◆ De-silt flash flood control structures such as water storage dams and drainage channels in gardens and around homes.
- ◆ Farmers with more arable land are advised to make use of the expected SOND seasonal enhanced rains to open up more gardens in preparation for second season planting.
- ◆ Diversify farming activities by planting fruit trees alongside traditional crops to take advantage of the expected good SOND season.

Road users

- ◆ Exercise extra care on the road; avoid crossing flooded road sections,
- ◆ Observe speed limits as road sections are likely to become not only slippery during the rains but also dark irrespective of the time of the day during the rain season.
- ◆ Motorists should watch out for stationery vehicles and avoid overtaking in blind corners
- ◆ Visibility will be reduced on misty days that calls for extra caution while on the road.

Emergency contact information:

The National Emergency Coordination and Operations Centre

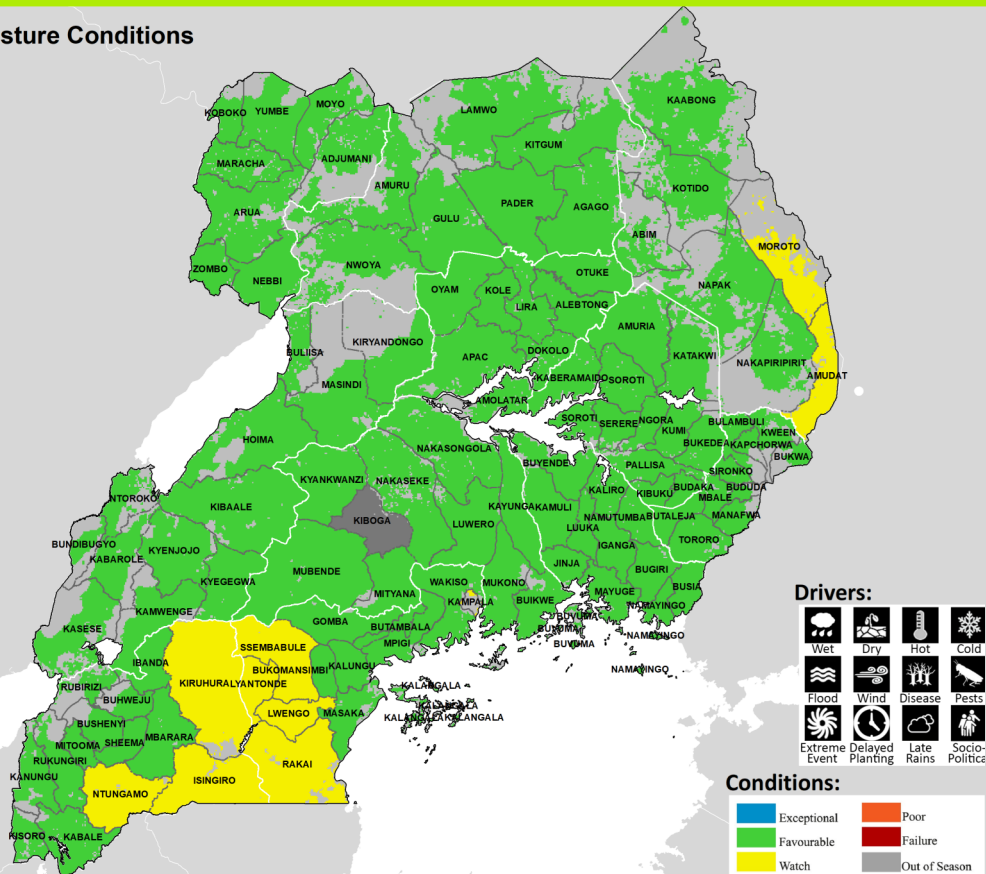


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CROP & PASTURE CONDITIONS MAP OF UGANDA (AUGUST 2023)

Crop and Pasture Conditions



Source: Crop Monitor of Uganda. This crop conditions map synthesizes information for selected crops and pasture as of 28th July 2023. Crop and Pasture conditions over the month of July 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: Most of the districts in central 1&2 maintained favorable conditions during the month August 2023 with stable to declining values as the August forms the last month in the June July August (JJA) relaxation. Due to the warming of the sea surface temperature, there has been sustained favourable conditions in the northern segment of the Country. The farmers are advised to continue planting various crops and monitoring crop fields for pests and disease incidences. Livestock farmers should continue observing proper biosafety measures in the farms including disease surveillance and control of vectors to ensure sustained production amidst the favourable conditions.

East central sub region: The entire sub region maintained favorable but stable conditions, during the last decade of July 2023. This is typical of the harvesting break of the season. Occasional rains have enabled timely planting ahead of the SOND season and farmers are expected to take advantage of the season to produce enough food by ensuring proper agronomic practices of weed and pest control among others.

Elgon: All the districts in the sub region have been experiencing favorable conditions with stable to declining values. Significant intra-district variations during the evolution of JJA resulted into moderate drought in the low lying parts of Bulambuli, Sironko and Kween Districts. To mitigate the food security and livelihood impacts of this kind of phenomenon, Government should consider investing in irrigation infrastructure that will manage the flooding as well as provide water for irrigation in lower Bulambuli, Sironko, districts. Farmers in this sub region should consider promoting fruit trees to diversify income sources and withstand the season shocks of dry spells. The occasional rains have enabled early planting and so, all other operations (weeding, spraying) should be timely to safeguard yields.

Early Warning for Regions!

West Nile, Acholi, Lango: The region largely sustained the favorable and stable conditions attained during the month of June-July. The improvements come as a result of the steady rainfall activity in the northern segment of the Country. Favorable yields are expected from the sub region for the first season crop as well as early planting for the second season. Post harvest handling is likely to be the major challenge in the sub region. Farmers should take appropriate measures to safeguard crop quality from post harvest losses and damages.

Teso and Karamoja: Most of the districts in the sub region maintained favorable but stable conditions through out the month of July, except **Moroto** and **Amudat** that sustained watch conditions resulting from suppressed July rainfall. This has had negative implications on the pasture conditions, the crops having been stressed since the onset of the MAM. **emphasis should be put on short ripening crops of two to three months** to enable the communities have some steady food supply as opposed to staple food supply. In the districts of Kaabong and Karenga, there were incidences of wildlife damage on crops that may need be addressed by the relevant authorities. The security situation in Karamoja should be restored to ensure that the farmers can access gardens and produce food during the remaining months of the year. **The relief food should target the highly vulnerable households in phases two and three of the IPC report as of June 2023.**

Western and South Western: Favorable conditions were maintained in all other districts with stable values except the districts of **Sembabule, Kiruhura, Bukomasimbi, Lwengo, Rakai, Isingiro** and **Ntungamo** where the conditions deteriorated to watch moreover with low values. This is however not expected to affect pasture conditions as the onset of SOND is expected soon.



U - NEWS

Uganda National Integrated Early Warning System – Monthly Bulletin

HIGHLIGHTS - NDVI Anomaly (21st - 28th, JULY 2023)



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.

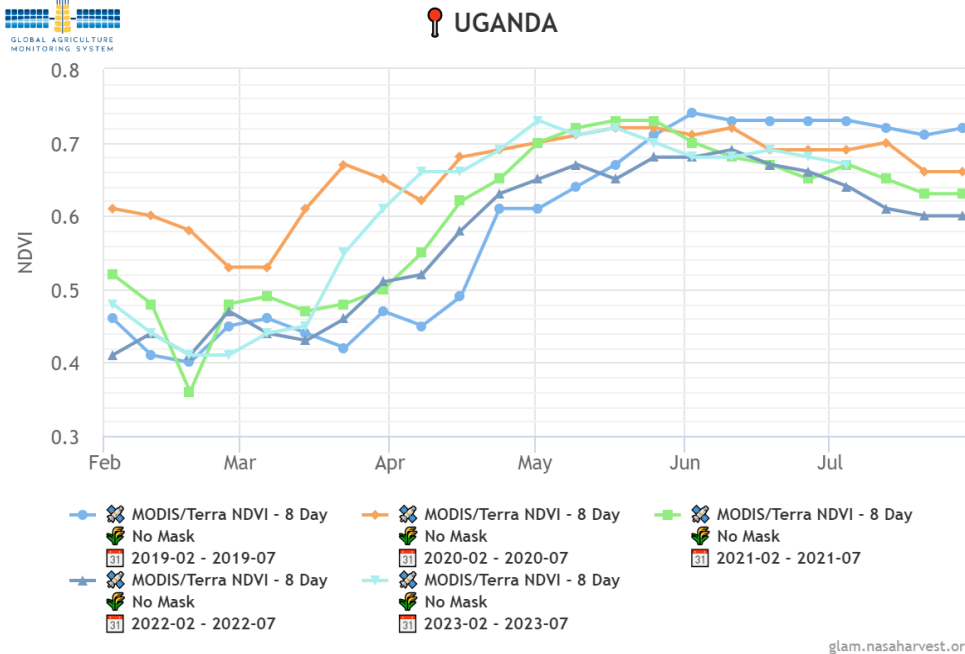
NDVI anomaly is the difference between the average NDVI for a particular period of the year and the average NDVI for same period over a specified number of years.

For the period of 21st - 28th July May, the NDVI anomaly 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 to dark brown areas represent areas where the vegetation conditions are below normal and associated with delayed onset of MAM over those areas. Due to cloud cover, anomalies cannot be assessed in the grey areas.

It is observed that much of the Country had normal to near normal conditions except, parts of Karamoja (Moroto and Amudat) that remained yellowish depicting watch conditions due to suppressed rainfall during June July. This has affected the expected yields and will likely affect the pasture conditions. Also affected under this category is the Southern cattle corridor that declined to watch in most of the districts.

Below is a graphical representation of the current vegetation conditions. The blue line above the others represents the conditions for six months from February - July 2019 and the orange line shows the same period of 2020 as it performs slightly below the 2019. The green line indicates the conditions for 2021 and the light blue line that ends in July indicates the current conditions of 2023 has caused vegetation stress in some regions though in overall, the performance has been normal for JJA.

Generally, the NDVI values have presented near normal conditions all over the Country for the period of June to July but with varying relaxation dates from late May to mid June that characterizes the



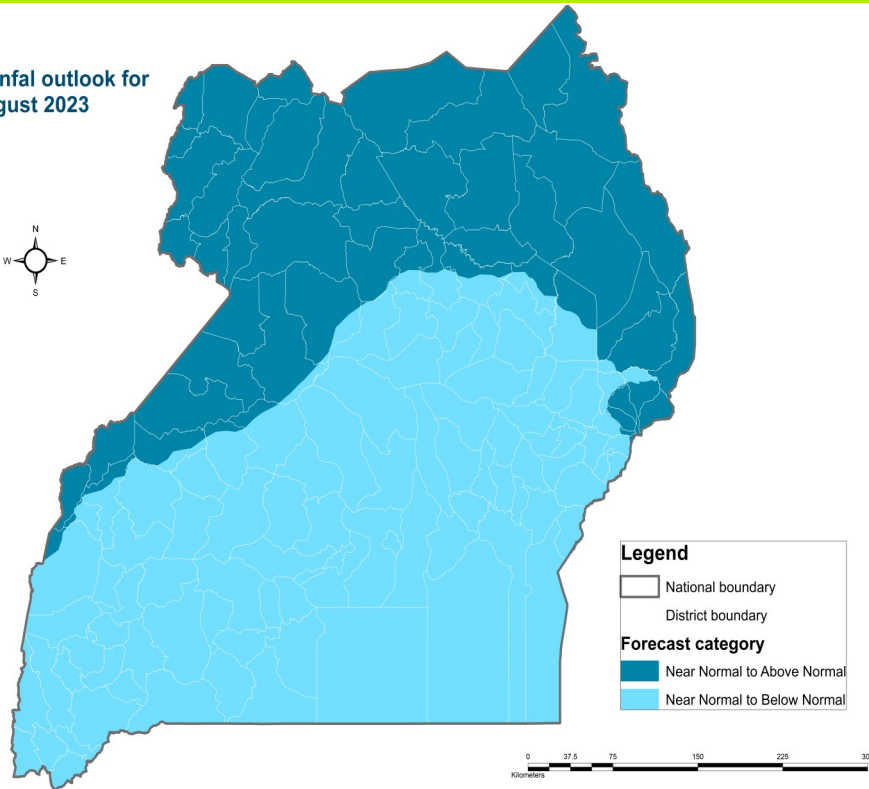
observed regional performance. Farmers are therefore advised to ensure timely planting of all second season crops, manage water within and around farms as well as carrying out other agronomic practices for improving production as the SOND is expected to be wetter than the previous periods.

Office of the Prime Minister in collaboration with Uganda National Meteorological Authority (UNMA) and the District Disaster Management Committees shall continue monitoring the conditions and provide subsequent updates and area specific advisories to the public.



RAINFALL OUTLOOK OVER UGANDA

Rainfall outlook for August 2023



RAINFALL OUTLOOK

There is a high likelihood of near normal rainfall (slightly enhanced) over the Northern, some parts of Eastern and Mid-western Uganda while below normal rains are expected in the Central and the Western parts of the country characterized by on and off rainfall.

Potential impacts

Pastoral region: We expect improved pasture conditions due to the current and predicted increase in the rains for the coming month across these areas

Northern and Eastern Uganda: There is a likelihood of strong winds that might destroy crops across these regions as the season picks up.

Local Authorities: We expect to have incidences of flash floods especially in the urban areas under near normal rainfall category in September to December.

Health: There is a high likelihood of malaria outbreak due to the on and off rains predicted in the month of August to December.

Local Authorities: We expect to have incidences of flash floods especially in the urban areas under near normal rainfall category.

Disaster management: There is a high likelihood of floods in the low lands, down streams of rivers and streams, and urban areas with poor drainage network. These incidences are expected in areas under near normal to above normal rainfall.

Advisories

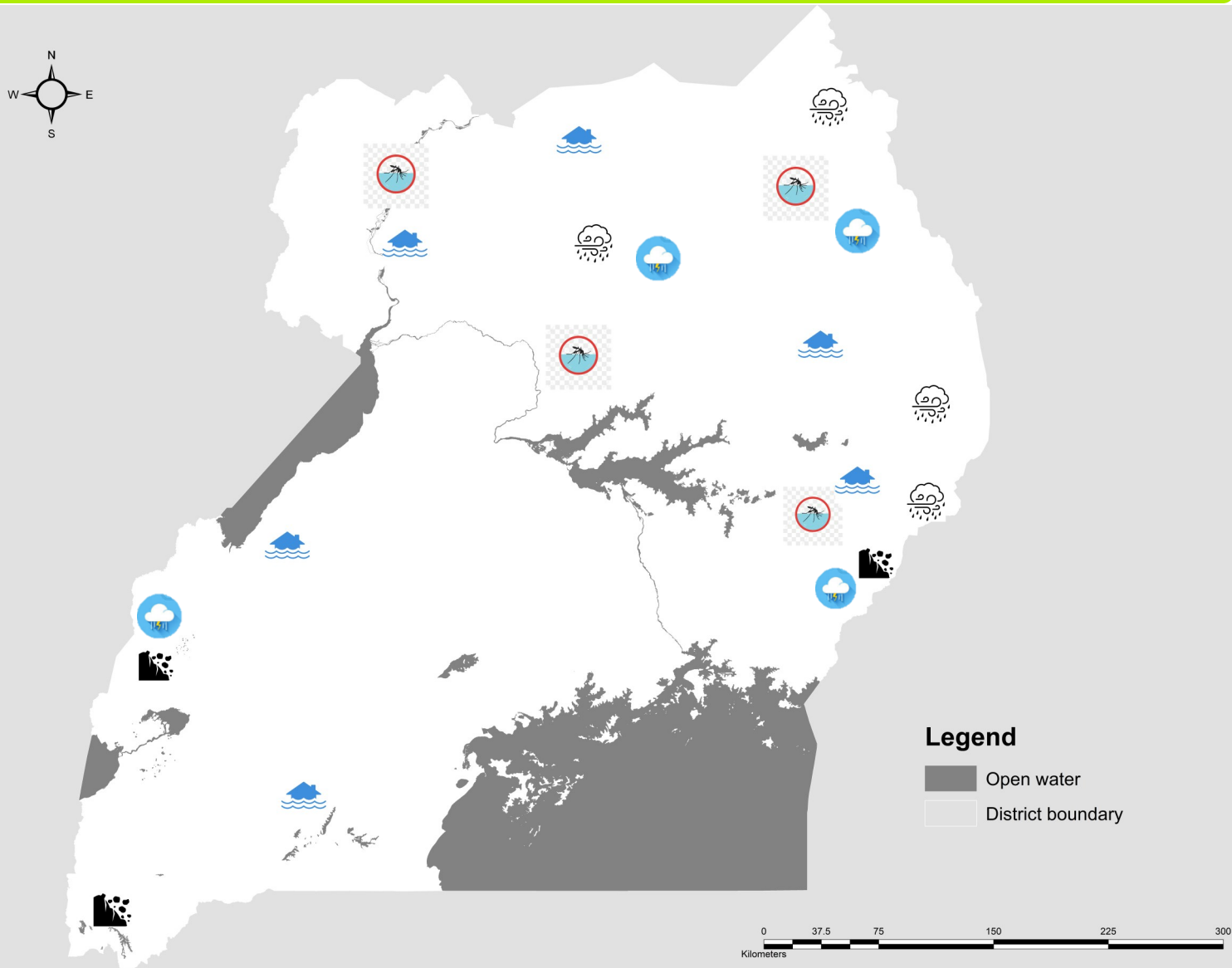
The predicted rains over most parts of the country are expected to have impacts. The following are advisories to the communities and respective authorities;

- ◆ Farmers in areas under near normal (slightly enhanced) rainfall are expected to continue weeding their gardens and apply pesticides where necessary with guidance from agricultural officers. Areas whose rainfall onset is yet should embark on preparing their lands for the next season.
- ◆ Strong winds have been predicted over near normal areas. As such farmers are advised to take necessary actions such as staking their crops, early harvest, planting wind barriers among others to reduce loss.
- ◆ With the predicted rains over the northern and eastern parts of the country, local authorities have been advised to embark on widening and desilting of rivers and drainage channels to reduce the impact.
- ◆ Pasture preservation and management is highly encouraged among the pastoral regions of the country.
- ◆ Farmers are also encouraged to harvest water for domestic use and irrigation purposes to improve on water availability. This is to support continued production despite the on and off characteristics of the coming rain.
- ◆ Due to the expected malaria incidences, health education and awareness raising on malaria prevention across the country is highly recommended.
- ◆ Disease surveillances units should be activated to monitor incidents of malaria and WASH diseases outbreak in the near normal areas. Also equipping of health centres with enough supplies especially in the northern, eastern and some part of mid-western region is highly recommended.

U – NEWS

Uganda National Integrated Early Warning System – Monthly Bulletin

MULTI HAZARD EARLY WARNING PROBABILITY MAP – 15th August –15th September



BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

Communicable disease outbreaks, epidemics and health emergencies

- ◆ The August 2023 rainfall outlook indicates high chances of Near Normal to Above Normal rainfall over the Northern parts of the country. The predicted rains are also observed to be on and off especially to the central and western parts. As a consequence, an increased prevalence of malaria is expected in West Nile, Northern and Eastern regions. The associated risk of water borne diseases such as cholera, diarrhoea is expected in areas with limited access to WASH facilities.

HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL HAZARDS

Landslides: Landslides have been predicted to occur in the mountainous regions of Elgon, Rwenzori and Kigezi. Community is advised to relocate to safer areas and relatives in low risk areas after observing prolonged rains.

Floods: Floods have been predicted to occur in the flood plains of Karamoja, Teso, Albertine region, Sebei and Rwenzori.

Windstorms: The incoming rains are predicted to come with strong winds that may destroy crops and property. Reinforcement of roofs and staking of crops is highly recommended to reduce impacts



U – NEWS

Uganda National Integrated Early Warning System – Monthly Bulletin

DISASTER EARLY WARNINGS AND OUTLOOK - 15th August –15th September

BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

Disease outbreak

- ◆ The rainfall outlook for SOND indicates a high likelihood of experiencing heavy to very heavy rainfall over most parts of the country. The associated risk of outbreak of diseases such as malaria, typhoid, and dysentery is most likely. Therefore the general public is advised to implement malaria prevention measures within their homes.
- These may include clearing bushes, opening of drainages, use of mosquito nets, fumigating in & around homesteads is encouraged as a precautionary control measure against malaria.
- Restocking of health supplies within the national hospitals and health centres is highly recommended to prepare for the incoming El Nino incidents
- 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.

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-METEOROLOGICAL HAZARD

Landslides, Flooding, Flash floods, Wind storms & Water logging

The rainfall outlook indicates that the North, East and some parts of Mid-West of the country are expected to experience near normal to above normal rainfall conditions that may result into bursting of rivers, urban floods, and water logging conditions in the country.

- Clearing and expansion of drainage channels and rivers is highly recommended to reduce flooding incidents.
- Implementation of flood risk mitigation measures at community level e.g. sand bags, overtops, channeling etc. is recommended
- Early harvest of produce should be implemented by farmers especially in the northern parts of the country near to above normal rains are expected.
- De-silt drainage channels and dams.
- Secure the roofs of building structures and stake crops from the predicted windstorms.
- Objects outdoor that may blow around in high winds should be secured.
- Activation or formulation of DDMC should start now to prepare for the incoming EL Nino conditions

Alert Level: **Moderate** → **High**

TRANSPORT TECHNOLOGICAL HAZARDS

Transport Accidents: Any Location

Fire: Any Location

Considering that there is a high likelihood of experiencing near normal rainfall over some parts of the country during this period, it is 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

- Road users should watch their driving speeds especially after it has rained as roads tend to be slippery.
- 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**



DISASTER STATISTICS – JULY

TRANSPORT/ TECHNOLOGICAL EVENTS

Motor and Aero Accidents

Reported in | Across the country.



PLANE CRASH: Reported: 04 | Affected: 00 | Death: 02 | Injured: 00

CATTLE RUSTLING in Karamoja Sub-Region

Reported: 02 | Affected: 00 | Deaths: 02 | Injured: 00

DROWNING: Reported: 07 | Affected: 00 | Deaths: 18 | Injured: 02

ARSON: Reported: 04 | Deaths: 02 | Injured: 00

ELECTROCUTION: Reported: 05 | Death: 06 | Injured: 00

FIRE

Fire incidents across the country.

Reported: 36 | Affected: 00 | Injured: 00 | Death: 01

Source: NECOC/OPM, Uganda Police Force, August 2023



BRIEF ON FOOD SECURITY SITUATION

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY (AFI)

In **Karamoja**, Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes are expected in July, with the worst affected households facing Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes, characterized by reliance on severe coping strategies and wide food consumption gaps. In July, cumulative rainfall was 45 to 75 percent of the long-term average, negatively impacting the grain filling and maturation stages of sorghum growth. While the lean season typically ends in July with the onset of the green and dry harvests, poor rainfall and production constraints have delayed the harvest, which is anticipated to begin in August at below-average levels. However, some localized access to green harvests in July is driving a small seasonal decline in sorghum prices. While staple food prices in Karamoja remain high and well above the five-year averages, the relative value of firewood in purchasing staple foods has improved by 16 to 35 percent in June, slightly improving access to food. However, ongoing insecurity in the Karamoja sub-region and neighboring districts is disrupting livelihoods, driving some households to migrate to Soroti, Mbale, and Kampala in search of food and income. Poor household purchasing power and deteriorated coping capacity continue to limit food consumption and dietary diversity.

CROP PESTS AND DISEASES IN KARAMOJA

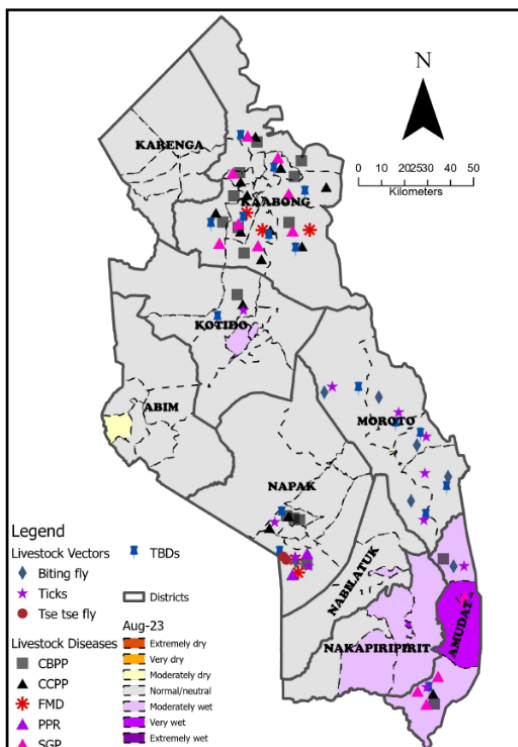
Crop Pests and Diseases Risk Phase	Crop Pests and Diseases Risk Phase Description
Normal	0-10% of cropland is infested by pests
Watch	10 -20% of cropland is infested by pests
Alarm	20 – 35% of cropland is infested by pests
Emergency	>35% of cropland is infested by pests

Like the livestock sector, the rains from March to May (MAM) had a profoundly beneficial impact on the crop production, that had been severely affected by a prolonged period of drought. The positive impact of the MAM rains was interrupted by a dry spell that began after mid of May to late June. The dry spell escalated concerns in the crop sector as the sub region has experienced poor crop performance for three seasons consecutively. The most affected districts include Moroto, Napak, Nakapiripirit and Amudat where crops have failed in large portions of the districts.

The performance of crops that were planted in late April and early May wilted due to reduced soil moisture because of the dry spell and a good proportion of farmers who anticipated to plant in mid-May did not due to the dry spell that started after the second week of the month. Security still remains a concern for a number of communities in Karenga, Kotido and Kaabong whose farms are far from homesteads to carry out farm operations. The persistent insecurity continues to threaten the food security of the sub-region.

Presence of crop pests and diseases was reported in Abim, Amudat, Kaabong, Karenga, Napak and other districts. Fall armyworm, grasshopper, bean fly, Aphids, leafspot and streak virus were the major pests and diseases reported respectively. The crop pests and diseases hazard is rated at WATCH during the cropping season for most of the sub region but ALARM for Amudat and Napak.

Karamoja Multi-Hazard Map (July/August 2023)



EXTRACT | Karamoja MHEW Bulletin



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:

- **Extra ordinary Disaster Risk Reduction Platform Meeting 17 Augus 2023 at DRDPM OPM**
- **Validation of the SOPs on Displacement of Persons due to natural disasters | Regional Migration Coordination Committee (RMCC) in Djibouti, before the IGAD Regional Consultative Process on migration (RCP) 29-30th August.**

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: State Minister for Relief Disaster Preparedness and Refugees Hon Davinia Anyakun during the Roundtable Dialogue which focused on localising the refugee response in Uganda.

