



U - NIEWS

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

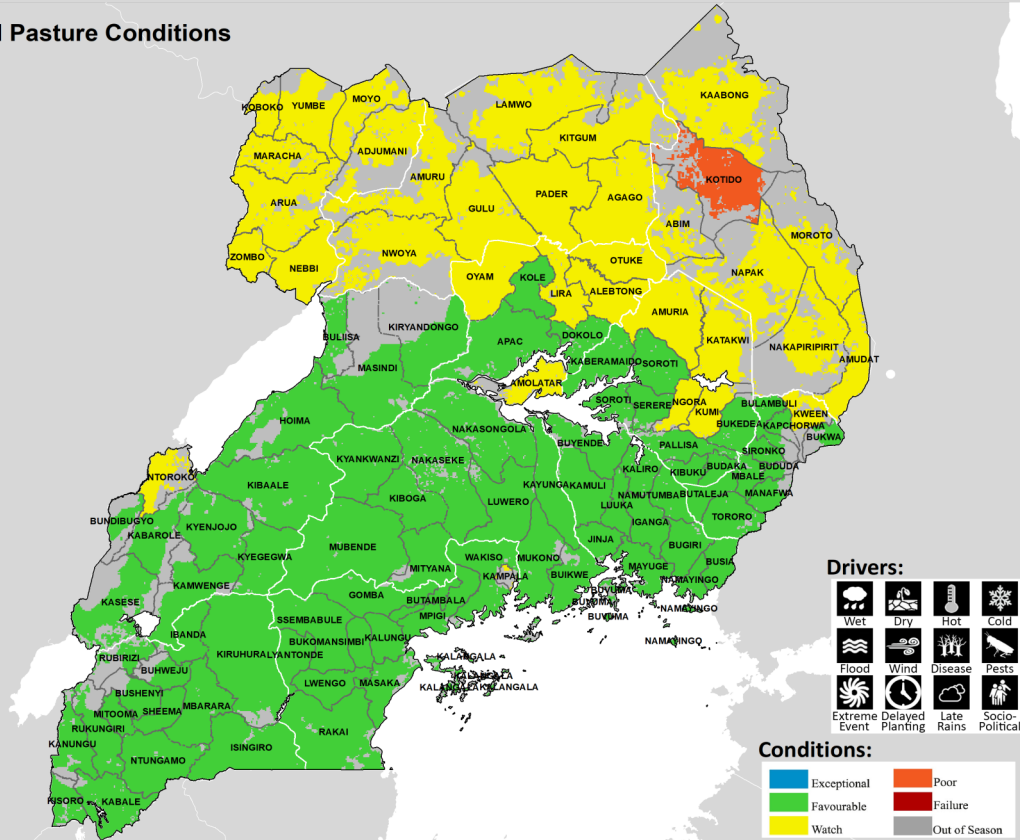


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15th FEBRUARY - 15th MARCH 2024

Issue 87

Crop and Pasture Conditions



Source: Crop Monitor of Uganda. This crop conditions map synthesizes information for selected crops and pasture as of 11th February 2023. Crop and Pasture conditions over the month of January 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: All the districts maintained favourable and declining conditions with significantly low values. Generally, Due to the the persistence of El nino conditions, crop, pasture and water conditions remained favourable and farmers are already undertaking land preparation though others especially in low lands are advised to plant. Good yields are expected within the sub region throughout the advisory period. Farmers in the Anthrax infested districts and surroundings should continue observing and practicing preventive measures of quarantine and vaccination.

Elgon: Favorable conditions were maintained in the sub region with stable values throughout the month of January except **Kween** district that declined to watch conditions. The warning previously issued to those in cracked hill slopes is hereby relaxed until further advisories are issued. Farmers are encouraged to complete land preparation and get ready for planting as soon as the season starts. Vaccination of livestock and poultry is also encouraged during this hot/dry period especially against Anthrax and New Castle Disease in all areas that haven't had an out break yet.

West Nile, Acholi, Lango: Much of the sub region declined to watch conditions but with relatively higher values. Pasture and water are still largely available. Land preparation should be carried out now to avoid last minute rush for agricultural mechanization equipment. Adequate care must also be taken to prevent the risk of bush fires that are common during such seasonal breaks. Authorities should sensitize communities on fire safety and preventive measures. Communities should adhere to the bye laws on bush burning. The water resources may start being scarce as the situation continues declining and so, the available water should be managed well. Vaccination of livestock and poultry is equally encouraged.

Early Warning for Regions!

Teso and Karamoja: **Kotido** district is currently facing the worst conditions having declined to poor from watch. The rest of the Districts in Karamoja sustained watch conditions with very low values that indicates decline to poor at any moment. In teso sub region, **Ngora, Kumi, Katakwi** and **Amuria** districts also descended to watch conditions. With the rest of the districts remaining under favourable conditions with declining values. Land preparation should be the main focus of the farmers at this time. Livestock, including poultry vaccination should also be prioritized to eliminate the risk of disease outbreak due to communal access to water dams. Harvested food crops should be managed sparingly to ensure households have enough stock to take them through the next season.

Western and South Western: The sub region moved to exceptional to favourable conditions in the districts of **Bundibugyo, Bushenyi, Rubirizi and Kabarole** and, maintained favorable conditions with declining values in the rest of the sub region except **Ntoroko** that declined to watch conditions. pasture and water will still be sustained throughout the warning period. Anthrax cases have been reported in the region and vaccination, prevention and control measures should be enforced to prevent its spread.

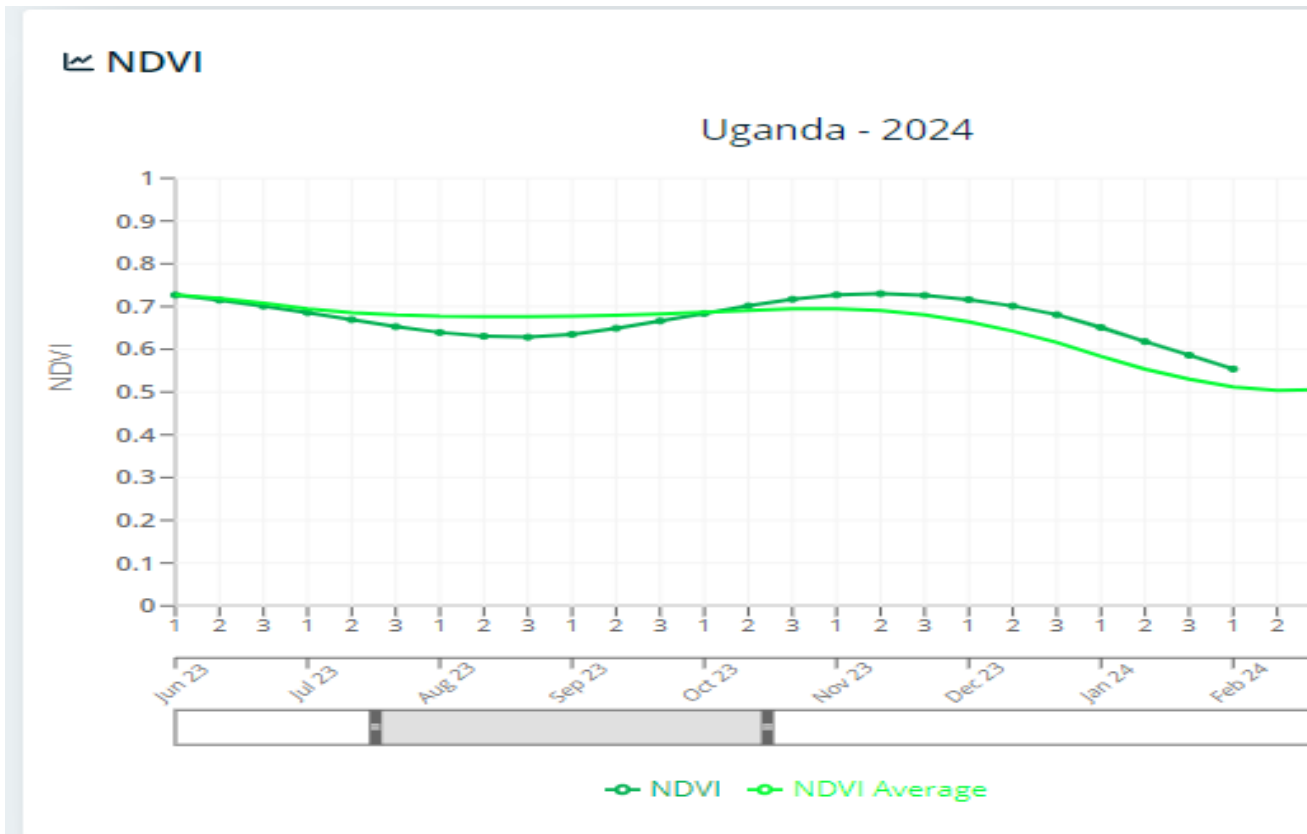
East central sub region: The sub region sustained favorable conditions with declining values. Farmers are advised to fast track land preparation to catch up with the next season having had an extended season occasioned by the off season rains resulting from persistence of El nino conditions. Like the rest of the Country, vaccination of livestock and poultry is paramount to the sustainability of this important component of livelihoods. Households should also keep adequate food stock to take them through the next harvest by not selling all the harvested stock.



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Uganda National Integrated Early Warning System – Monthly Bulletin

HIGHLIGHTS - NDVI Anomaly (03rd - 11th, FEBRUARY 2024)



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 drought monitoring and 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.

The NDVI curve is intended to show a graphical representation of the current vegetation conditions for the period **3rd - 11th February 2024**. The dark green line represents the conditions for 2023/24 and the light green line shows the long term average of the same period. The graph presents evidence of the enhanced vegetation growth in the Country as a result of the persistent rains during January and February 2024. (see section; February 2024) monthly rainfall outlook.

Generally, the NDVI values have presented above normal conditions for the period of December 2023 (Second dekad) to February (First dekad) and therefore, confirmed the persistence of SOND 2023 El nino conditions. Sectors, farmers, businesses and communities are therefore advised to follow advisories issued from time to time, but most importantly;

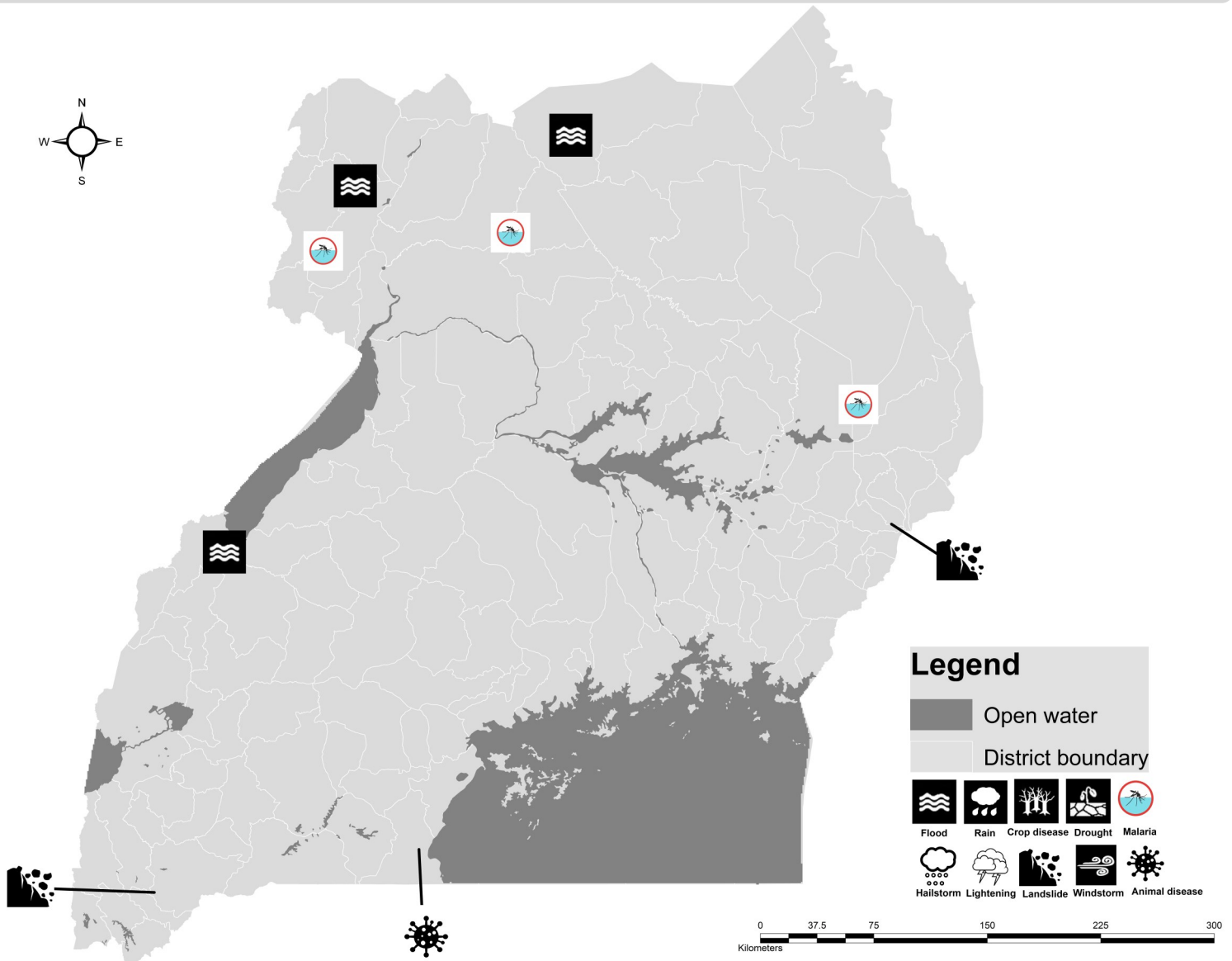
- ◆ Intensify livestock and poultry disease **Prevention, Control, and Containment measures** already instituted especially for anthrax infested districts through vaccination, surveillance and carcass management.
- ◆ Utilize the current moisture in the soil (the off season rains) to prepare land for season 2024A planting
- ◆ Households are advised to **store adequate food reserves** to take them through the lean season to the next harvest
- ◆ Assess and rehabilitate water sources and other drainage control infrastructure in all districts
- ◆ Erecting **fire lines** to prevent fire risks and wildlife invasion in the fire prone sub regions of West Niles, Acholi, Lango, Karamoja and Teso as dry season advances.
- ◆ **Intensify risk communication;** On common livestock and poultry disease outbreaks, fire risk awareness, Community education on wildlife behaviors during dry seasons and personal safety measures as may be dictated by the prevailing weather and road conditions

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

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MULTI HAZARD EARLY WARNING PROBABILITY MAP 15th February–15th March



BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

Anthrax Alert

- ◆ An Anthrax outbreak was reported in Ibanda district. Most people who get sick from Anthrax are exposed while working with infected animals or animal products such as skins and hides or eating undercooked meat from infected animals. Continued sensitization of communities on health risks of eating meat from animals that have died from unknown causes, regular meat inspection, and annual vaccination of animal is recommended.



Malaria Alert

- ◆ The relaxation of rains in the northern part of the country coupled with gradual warming of the region and the water logging conditions as a result of enhanced rainfall in the last month, creates a conducive environment for mosquito breeding. This will result into a surge of malaria cases across these areas. The most affected areas will include Lango, Acholi, West Nile, Elgon, Teso, Busoga, and Albertine regions.



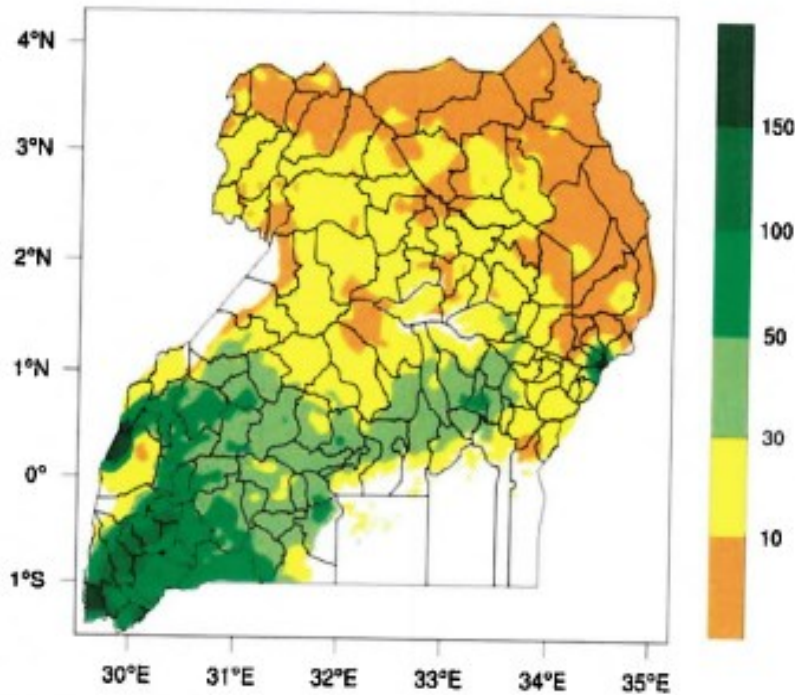
HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL HAZARDS

Landslides and floods: A shift of rainfall to the south western part of the country increases the risk of landslides and floods in the Kigezi region. Communities from Kabale, Rukungiri, Rukiga, Rubanda are advised to be very vigilant and immediately evacuate to safe areas in case of any eminent risk.



RAINFALL OUTLOOK OVER UGANDA

Rainfall Forecast (mm): February 2024



RAINFALL OUTLOOK

The rainfall outlook indicates a likelihood of dry, sunny and hazy conditions to persist over most parts of the country. However, areas around the South-Western are likely to experience wetter conditions while isolated parts around Central, Lake Victoria basin stretching to Eastern region are expected to experience occasional rainfall.

Advisories

The predicted sunny and hazy weather conditions over most parts of the country and wet conditions in South Western, Central and Lake Victoria basin are expected to have impacts. The following are advisories to the communities and respective authorities are set as below;

- ◆ Activation of contingency plans in South Western parts of the Country. Activations should be undertaken at a case by case basis.
- ◆ The general public may call NECOC Toll Free 0800-177-777 to report any emergency incidents in their areas.
- ◆ For Karamoja sub region, the community is encouraged to monitor and conserve available water resources.
- ◆ Monitor and report any emergence of crop pests and diseases as well as animal parasites to the responsible authorities
- ◆ For those regions in the low land and urban areas, local authorities have been advised to embark on widening and desilting of rivers and drainage channels to reduce flooding impacts.
- ◆ Communities are advised not to take shelter under tall structures or trees when it is raining to reduce lightening strike risks. Use of lightening arrestors on public buildings such as health centres, schools is highly recommended.
- ◆ Farmers are also encouraged to handle their harvest (post harvest handling) with care. Use of solar driers is highly encouraged .
- ◆ Due to the expected malaria incidences, health education and awareness raising on malaria prevention across the country is highly recommended.



BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

Disease outbreak

- ◆ The ministry of health declared a malaria pandemic across the country due to increased rainfall that has resulted into flooding and water logging conditions. The northern part of the country is the most at risk with current flooding conditions as a result of rainfall relaxation and subsequent warming of the Northern regions. Such conditions create a conducive environment for mosquito breeding thus the malaria pandemic. Therefore the general public is advised to implement malaria prevention measures within their homes as follows;
 - The general public is urged to sleep under treated mosquito nets.
 - Clearing bushes around their homes
 - Anthrax suspects are encouraged to immediately report to health facilities for immediate support by government health team.
 - Restocking of health supplies within the national hospitals and health centres.
 - High vigilance to anthrax outbreak.
 - Indoor residual spraying
 - Risk communication and sensitization on malaria risks

Alert Level: **High**

HYDRO-METEREOLOGICAL HAZARD

Landslides, Flooding, Flash floods & Water logging and Lightening

The rainfall outlook indicates that the south western , central and Lake Victoria basin are expected to experience wet conditions over the month of February that may result into mudslides, riverine floods, urban floods, and water logging conditions . Clearing and expansion of drainage channels and rivers is highly recommended to reduce flooding incidents.

- Immediate evacuation to safe areas incase of suspected flood or landslide incident
- High vigilance to landslide indicators such as cracks and slanting trees in highland areas.

Alert Level: **Moderate** → **High**

TRANSPORT TECHNOLOGICAL HAZARDS

Transport Accidents: Any Location

Fire: Any Location

Considering that there is a high likelihood of experiencing rainfall episodes 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.
- Schools should implement fire mitigation guidelines as provided by government to reduce the risk of fires.

Alert Level: **High** → **Moderate**



DISASTER STATISTICS – JANUARY

TRANSPORT/ TECHNOLOGICAL EVENTS

Motor and Aero Accidents

Reported in | Across the country.



DROWNING: Reported: **10** | Affected: **11** | Deaths: **11** | Injured: **00**

ARSON: Reported: **08** | Deaths: **02** | Injured: **02**

EXPLOSIVES: Reported: **01** | Death: **01** | Injured: **00**

LIGHTNING: Reported: **02** | Death: **04** | Injured: **02**

ELECTROCUTION: Reported: **04** | Death: **04** | Injured: **00**

Source: NECOC/OPM, and Partners – January 2024

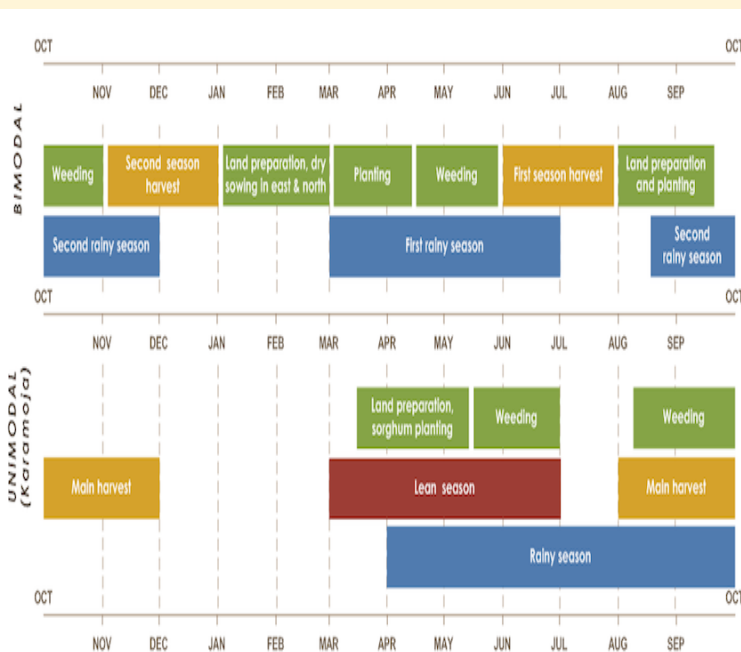
FIRE

Fire incidents across the country.

Reported: 40 | Affected: **07** | Death: **04** | Injured: **03**

Source: NECOC/OPM, Uganda Police Force, January 2024

Seasonal Calendar



FOOD SECURITY AND

ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY (AFI)

Above-average second season staple food production has increased household and market food stocks and access to income from crop sales, supporting Minimal (IPC Phase 1) outcomes. In eastern Uganda, some farmers with access to tractors are already plowing and preparing land for 2024's first season of cultivation. Farmers reliant on hand hoes for land preparation will likely use the light to moderate off-season rains to begin preparing their land for the March to May season. Forecasted above-average and on-time March to May rainfall is expected to support improved vegetation conditions, favorable first season cultivation, and average to above-average agricultural labor demand.

In Karamoja, households continue to face Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes amid an early onset of the lean season in January. However, the number of acutely food insecure households has reduced slightly compared to last January due to the reduced staple prices associated with the increased food supply from the Acholi sub-region and cash interventions by the Parish Development Model (PDM) government program and other NGOs. While food prices have declined, income-generating activities remain limited in Karamoja, constraining household purchasing power among highly purchase-reliant households for food. Additionally, income from charcoal sales is below average due to governmental restrictions on charcoal-making.

Above-average second season harvests and low regional grain demand from deficit-producing countries supported stable staple food prices in most of Uganda. Meanwhile, retail prices for maize and sorghum were stable month-on-month, primarily due to the increased grain supply from western and central Uganda. Overall, staple food prices are expected to remain stable or decline in most bimodal areas through March before seasonally increasing in April with the reduced market supply and increased regional demand by Rwanda, Kenya, and Tanzania. Despite seasonal fluctuations, most staples – except beans – will likely remain below 2023 levels through May. The reduced sta-



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!

Entry Mobilisation Meeting for Sensitisation and Mapping of Parcels of Land of Households to be Relocated under the Government Cash Transfer Strategy

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

CLINICAL SIGNS OF FOOT & MOUTH DISEASE

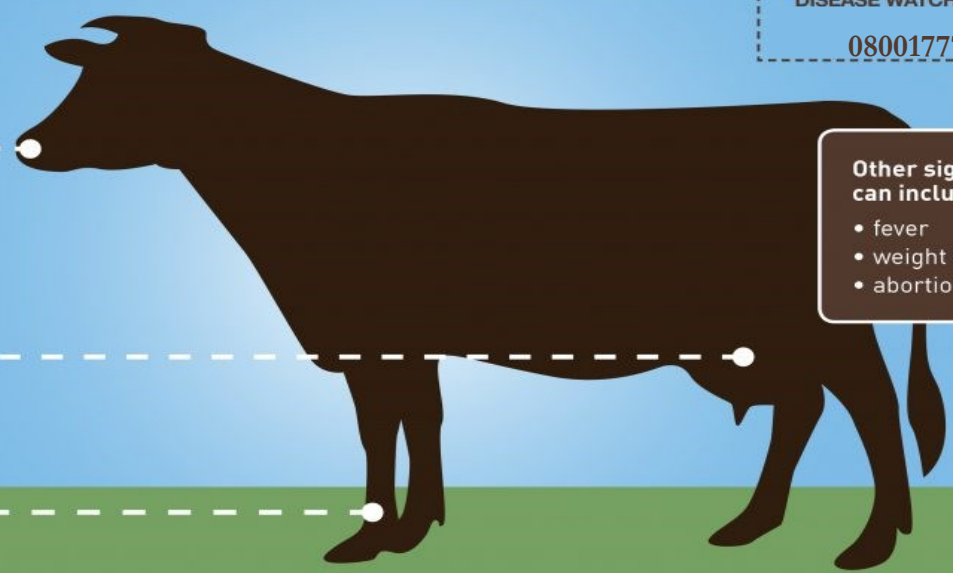


EMERGENCY ANIMAL DISEASE WATCH HOTLINE
0800177777

- tongue & mouth lesions/ blisters
- drooling
- reduced food intake

- lesions/ blisters
- reduced milk production

- lesions/ blisters
- lameness



- Other signs can include:
- fever
 - weight loss
 - abortions

FMD is a viral disease that is not currently present in Australia that can affect cloven hooved animals such as cattle, pigs, sheep, goats,

