



The Republic of Uganda

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

PRESS STATEMENT

ON

**THE DISASTERS THAT OCCURRED IN THE MT. ELGON
REGION AT UGANDA MEDIA CENTRE**

BY

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**MINISTER FOR RELIEF, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
AND REFUGEES**

2ND AUGUST, 2022

1.0 INTRODUCTION

On the night of 30th July 2022, the Bugisu and Sebei regions received heavy rains that started at 10:00 p.m. The rains were forecasted by UNMA in weather outlook for August, 2022, publication release on Friday 28th July 2022.

The heavy downpour caused some rivers from Kapchorwa district to bust their banks. This led to flooding & landslides in the districts of Mbale, Manafwa, Bulambuli and Kapchorwa. The flooding & landslides displaced thousands of locals from their homes, destroyed property, infrastructure and their livelihoods.

2.0 OCCURRENCE OF HAZARDS IN THE MT. ELGON REGION ON 30TH JULY 2022

The Elgon region is prone to a range of disasters that fall in three geographical zones.

The upper zone experiences landslides, mass wasting, development of cracks, hail storms, rock rolls, lightning, crop and animal pests/diseases. The mid zone experiences landslides, flash floods, rock falls and mass wasting while the lower is prone to prolonged dry spells, floods, siltation, high levels of water borne diseases, animal/crop pests and diseases.

During the night of 30th July 2022, Bulambuli and Manafwa districts received very heavy rainfall that lasted for more than five hours across all the three geographical zones. Some rivers originating from Kapchorwa District burst their banks and flooded.

The hazards that occurred include floods in mostly Bulambuli constituency and also along the main rivers of Manafwa, Tsusu, Liisi and Pasa causing the opening up of cracks, landslides, rock falls and massive soil erosion. The flooding destroyed riverbanks, peoples' homes, gardens (crops), animals, bridges, roads, water points (destroyed, contaminated & blocked) and sub-merged.

Six (6) Districts and one City have reported major damages and losses i.e Mbale District, Mbale City, Kapchorwa, Bulambuli, Namisindwa, Sironko and Manafwa. The most affected areas were in Mbale City arising from Nabuyonga river with more deaths recorded, Vehicles damaged, Houses, Schools and Livestock.

The floods are attributed to the encroachment on the fragile areas and bad agricultural practices. District damages is reported as follows;

Mbale City 23 deaths 2 children females, 6 Males (1 UPDF official, 1Boda rider, 5 Unknown Cadres), 4 Females. 8 patients have been Injured & rescued, 9 Cars were swept downstream by floods.

3 Have been recovered;

- Subaru 4 occupants, 2 rescued;
- 2 missing, wish 3 occupants (2 survived, 1 missing)
- Harrier No occupants- parked at home.
- Super Custom still submerged with 11 occupants. 1 driver survived.

Affected 800 Households 80 houses damaged. 30 people have taken shelter at Pencote a Private primary school. Industrial park equipment and products have been damaged with buildings submerged

3 Motorcycles; 2 Motorcycles submerged and 1 Boda Rider survived, 2 occupants are missing.

Northern city Division.

Nkoma; Bufumbo Cell; Namabasa village; Bukonde; Namanyonyi, Kibagala,

Industrial City Division (Bugema Swamp & Namatala swamp) Malukhu, Marare, Mabanga, Musoto, Masanda, Doho, Busamaga ward; Namatala, Kamonkoli, Nasenyi Industrial Park.

Bungokho S/C; - Muso Natondome, Bushurisa, Mafutu, Nambiti

Affected Health facilities;

Ahamadiyya Health Center III, Stretch of the fence 70 meters, equipment damaged, Bukasakya Health center III, Namakwekwe Health Center III.

Bridges;

(14) Busamaga Bridge, Balweta Nanyonja Bridge, MakosiNamanyonyi Bridge, Mutoto- Mukobo Bridge, Namalongo - Buboii Bridge, Musoto Bridge, Busajabwakumba Bridge, Nabisu Bridge, Doko Nabasa Bridge, Nabisolo Bridge Shakonde Busamaga, State lodge- Mago Village, Nambale Bridge- Mbale Tororo Road, Bulujele bridge in Mutoto

Schools;

(7) IUIU Primary, Shekaina Glory International School, Wanale View, Bugisu high, Namanyoyi SDA

Institutions;

Elgon Heights, Mbale Resort, Wash & Wills, Petrol Station at Nambale Bridge, Mbale Community farm in Bughoko Nayiya Enterprises, Livingstone University, Team University

Agriculture & Animal Husbandry

5000 acreage of crops destroyed cabbage, Beans Maize, Tomatoes, Onions, coffee, Bananas, rice & other horticultural crops. Cattle – 600, Piggery-111, Fish ponds 15, Poultry – 4500

Kapochworwa 3 deaths (1 adult, female 2 female children) 7 people injured have been admitted to the Kapochworwa Hospital This was a family hit by a rolling rock Areas most affected: Kapsida subcounty, Chemalim village, Tuyobei Parish

Sironko district 3 deaths. Villages around Sironko Town Council, Bukise S/C, Busambya, Bumukha, Doko, Nabirete, Dorcus, Bukiyende, Namirende. No. of people affected: Households 480.

In total **29 deaths** have been reported and the bodies are in Mbale City Mortuary, 35 people sustained injures. However, the search and rescue exercise is still ongoing.

Bulambuli district

450 households affected; 5 affected Sub Couties, Sisiyi S/C, Bufumbo, Masira Subcounty, Bumugibwole, Buginyanya, Nabongo S/C, Muyembe, Bukhalu, Bunalwelwe.

Coffee and banana plantations affected, onasimu – Buginyanya UNRA road, Nana – Bufumbu S/C – UNRA Road Areas affected include Dwikhonge S/C, Duwadwala Parish;

Villages of Diwadwala, Busiyango, Buyakha, Bunabalayo, Kori, Sipi, Bumugoya,

Labongo S/C: Mpumbura parish, Muyende S/C, Namisuni Bridge

Manafwa

5 Sub Counties affected Buwangani T/C, Manafwa T/C, Buwagogo, Bukhadala. Buwangani T/C Bukhadala, Bunabwana and Bunyinza T/C. Villages include Pasa, Liisi, Manafwa

The table below shows the affected areas in Bulambuli district.

S/N	Hazard	S/County affected	Remarks
01.	Rivers affected by floods; Sironko, Simu, Mbigi-Muyembe, Nabbongo, Sipi, Tabakonyi, Atari and streams include Nabugimbi	Bumufuni, Bwikhonge, Nabbongo (Bumaskho Parish in Bubulo and Buwanzala Villages) and Bunangakha Parish (Namunane and Bunangakha villages), Bulambuli T/c, Bukhalu, Bunalwere,	Areas along the rivers/streams are the most affected. There is need to relocate settlements and farming activities from these areas.

		Buwanyanga and Bulegeni	
02.	Cracks/landslides	Sisiyi (Kisubi parish, Villages of Nabigumba, Kisotoni, Bugwa, Nalumba & Magikili), Namisuni, Sooti, Buluganya, Nabiwutulu and Lusha	Most areas that slid had already developed cracks
03.	Mass wasting/rock falls	Bufumbo, Masira, Bulaago, Buginyanya, Bumugibole and Bumasobo.	There are high levels of erosion due to poor farming methods and unplanned settlements

Table below shows the affected areas in Manafwa district.

S/N	Hazard	S/County affected	Remarks
01.	Rivers affected by floods; Pasa, Liisi, Manafwa	Buwangani T/C, Manafwa T/C, Buwagogo	Areas along the rivers/streams are mostly affected. There is need to permanently relocate everyone who is affected.
02.	Hail storms	Bukhadala. Buwangani T/C	All areas across the District are prone

03.	Mass wasting	Across the District	There are high levels of erosion due to poor farming methods and unplanned settlements
04.	Gully development	Bukhadala, Bunabwana and Bunyinza T/C	This has been exacerbated by heavy rains. The excessive water has destroyed homes.

3.0 ACTIONS TAKEN SO FAR.

1. Rapid assessment by the Ministry of Relief, Disaster Preparedness, NECOC, Mbale Emergency Operations Center, World Health Organization, Red cross, Commissioner Emergency medical services.
2. Search, rescue and retrieval of persons/bodies by the Uganda Red Cross Society & Uganda Police Force.
3. The Ministry of Health team is on the ground taking care of emergencies
4. Delivering relief items to the rightful/ intended beneficiaries/ survivors by my ministry and URCS

4.0 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

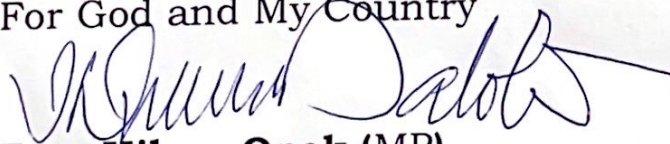
1. The implementation of the proposed course of action will employ an Inter-Ministerial, Inter-Agency approach involving the whole Government, Donors, NGOs and Communities with the Office of the Prime Minister through the Ministry of Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees taking lead.

2. The Office of the Prime Minister through the Ministry of Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees is taking lead coordinating all Sector Ministries, Local Governments, Departments, Agencies and Partners through the existing National Platform for Disaster Preparedness and Management and the National Emergency Coordination and Operations Centre using the Disaster Risk Management Plan which was recently approved.

5.0 ACTION TO BE TAKEN

- a) Infrastructure—Roads especially those in landslide and flood prone areas need urgent fixing to enable farming and commercial activities to go on. Ministry of works should help with restoration of damaged infrastructure.
- b) Medical supplies need to be delivered to the displaced families especially to vulnerable mothers and children. Ministry of health should take the lead in delivering the required medical supplies.
- c) Relief measures to deliver both food and non-food items will be undertaken by the Ministry for Relief, Disaster Preparedness and refugees.
- d) The long-term solution is to have everyone living on the slopes of Mt. Elgon and along the river banks relocated to a safer geographical landscape.

For God and My Country



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