



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

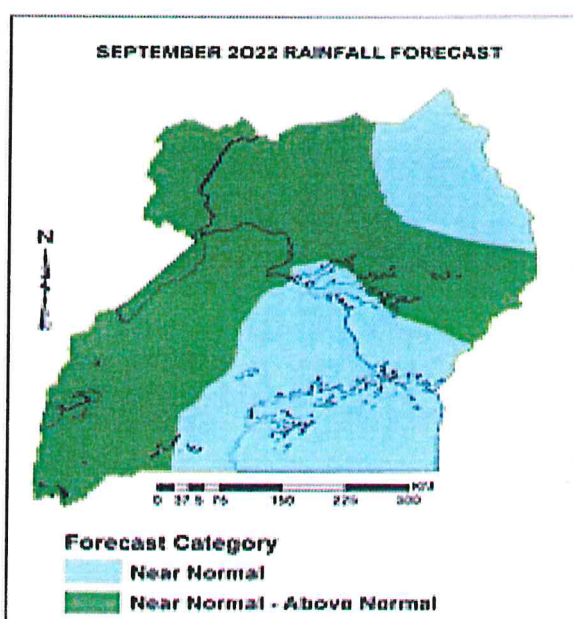
OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

THE GENERAL PUBLIC

FLOOD DISASTER ALERT FOR SEPTEMBER 2022

Introduction:

The Uganda National Meteorological Authority (UNMA) released the seasonal weather forecast for September, October, November and December 2022, just after some areas in the North, and parts of Eastern recorded substantial rains during the month of August. The month of September is projected to experience near normal (average) with a tendency to above normal (enhanced) rainfall. The enhanced rains are expected in the South West, Mid-western, West Nile, some parts of the northern, areas around the L. Kyoga basin and Elgon sub region. This implies possible floods, lightning, hailstorm and landslide episodes. The rest of the country is expected to receive near normal rains during the month of September, with the peak of the rains in early October 2022.



Source: Uganda National Meteorological Authority (UNMA)

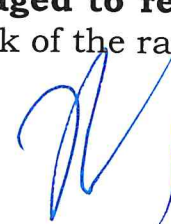


Possible Impacts of the Rainfall in the Month of September, 2022

- i. Heavy downpours cause floods in low lying areas and parts of Elgon, Teso, Butaleja, Butebo, Rubanda, and flash floods in Urban areas such as Kampala, along the River Nile and around Elegu boarder area in Amuru. Low lying areas around Rwenzori like Kasese, Ntoroko, Bundibugyo have also experienced flooding incidents.
- ii. Landslides and mudflows may occur in the highland areas of Elgon, and Kigezi.
- iii. Epidemics - There is a likely surge of water related diseases like, cholera, typhoid, dysentery and increased transmission of malaria due to fertile breeding grounds for mosquitoes.
- iv. Delays in transport services due to surges in water volumes in river channels and possible displacement in some parts of the country.
- v. Road Accidents due to the reduced visibility brought about by the rain episodes. There is a likelihood of increased incidences of accidents on highways and other service roads.

ADVISORIES:

- Communities are advised **not to take shelter under tall structures or trees when it is raining** to avoid risk of lightning strikes.
- **Avoid washing dishes, showering or taking a bath, or doing laundry during heavy storms.** Plumbing and bathroom fixtures can conduct electricity.
- **Avoid contact with metal objects** (Farm equipment, motorcycles, bicycles, etc.) during heavy storms.
- **Stay inside until at least 30 minutes** after you last hear thunder or see lightning.
- Municipal / City Authorities **should intensify efforts to ensure proper solid waste management and disposal** to reduce the urban flooding risks.
- Desilt drainage systems especially in urban areas.
- In the event it has flooded, **communities are advised to avoid crossing flooded road sections** at all times. It is advisable to wait until the water has receded.
- Avoid **settling or making any developments in environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands, with buffer zones of river banks and / Lake shores.**
- **Dig/ Open drainage channels** around households and gardens.
- In the event of a flood risk, **communities are encouraged to relocate from low lying areas to high lying places** towards peak of the rains.



- Advise school children who pass roads prone to flooding on the way to school, to remain at home or at school until the route is proved safe by a responsible adult.
- **Listen for any unusual sounds that might indicate moving debris, such as trees cracking or boulders knocking together.** Look out for flowing or falling mud or debris that may precede larger landslides. Moving debris flows quickly, sometimes without warning.
- **If you are near a stream or channel, be alert for any sudden increase or decrease in water flow and for a change from clear to muddy water.** Such changes may indicate landslide activity upstream, so be prepared to move quickly. Don't delay! Save yourself, not your belongings.
- **Be especially alert when driving.** Embankments along roadsides are particularly susceptible to landslides. Watch the road for collapsed pavement, mud, fallen rocks, and other indications of possible debris flows.
- If you are in a car, **avoid touching metal or other surfaces** in and on your vehicle during a heavy storm.
- **Monitor signs of landslides like cracks, saturated soils, leaning trees,** and report to the nearest Authorities.
- **Communities living in high raised areas should relocate to safer areas** and stay with host families until the cessation of rains.
- **Increase disease surveillance** especially for areas that will receive enhanced rainfall. Village Health teams are encouraged to look out for any disease outbreaks such as cholera and quickly report to authorities.
- **Communities are encouraged to maintain good hygiene practices** such as the use of latrines, proper disposal of waste.
- Use **safe drinking water and treated mosquito nets**
- **Avoid driving/ riding and walking** across flooded road sections.
- **Avoid speeding during rain** and periods of low visibility.

The Public shall be kept updated as the season evolves, with subsequent weather updates from Uganda National Meteorological Authority.

The Public may report any emergencies to the National Emergency Coordination and Operations Centre (NECOC) on **0800 177777**

Keep Alert, Keep Safe!



Keith Muhakanizi
PERMANENT SECRETARY