



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

**STATEMENT ON POTENTIAL DISASTER IMPACTS OF
THE MARCH-APRIL-MAY (MAM) RAINFALL SEASONAL
OUTLOOK 2023**

BY

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23/3/2023

I welcome you all to this press briefing on the disaster impact of the first season rains in the country.

The Uganda National Meteorological Authority (UNMA) released the March-April-May (MAM) seasonal rainfall outlook for 2023. This outlook reveals the first rainfall season for the country as seen below;

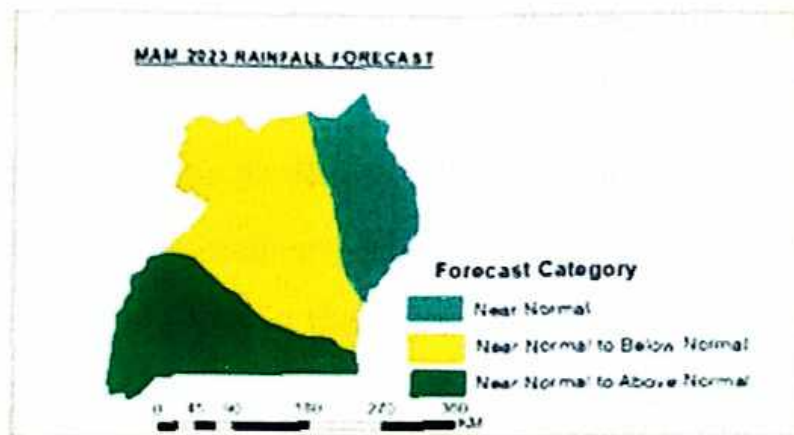


Figure 1: Seasonal Climate Outlook for March to May (MAM), 2023.

According to the forecast, during the (MAM) season, the country is expected to experience the following;

- Near Normal rainfall in Karamoja, Bugisu and Bukedi.
- Near Normal to Below Normal rainfall in several parts of the country (Busoga, Teso, West Nile, Bunyoro, Lango, and Acholi)
- Near Normal to Above Normal rainfall in some parts of the country like the Rwenzori, Kigezi, Central and the Lake Victoria basin

The MAM season is already witnessed in the Rwenzori, Kigezi and Lake Victoria areas. However, rainfall is expected in the Northern part of the country from late March to early April.

We, therefore, should expect the following potential Disaster impacts;

- Flooding and waterlogging in the low-lying areas and parts of lower slopes of Mt. Elgon, Butaleja, Butebo, Rubanda and Kasese. This is likely to lead to destruction of farmland and crops.
- Landslides and mudslides, as well as increased soil erosion in highland areas in the Elgon, Rwenzori and Kigezi.
- Hailstorms at the onset of rains may cause destruction in the Districts of Kibaale, Sembabule, Ibanda, Bukomansimbi, Rakai, Isingiro, Mbarara, Mitooma, Tororo.
- Increased incidences of crop pests and diseases such as Fall Army Worm.
- Additionally, there is also an increased likelihood of water-related diseases such as cholera, typhoid, dysentery and malaria.

Strategies that Government of Uganda has put in place so far;

- Construction and relocation of persons at risk of landslides in Bugisu region under the Bulambuli Resettlement Program.

A Total of 305 houses have been constructed so far, of which 42 are newly constructed. Relocation of households will take place by April, 2023.

- Dissemination of the MAM seasonal weather forecast at regional level.
- Strengthening existing community level disaster risk management capacities.
- Disseminating warning information through community radios
- Implementing the Cash transfer program with *Give Directly*, to persons at high risk of landslides in the districts Bududa, Manafwa, Sironko, and Namisindwa.
- Procured relief food for provision to communities that will be affected by disasters during the MAM season.

Advisories

1. Disseminate early warning messages to the vulnerable communities to enable them understand the risks they are most likely to face.
2. Build capacity of individuals, communities and institutions to reduce risk and enhance greater resilience.
3. Activate district contingency Plans.
4. Improve Storm Water drainage system capacity and clear drainage channels in urban areas especially where flash floods are common.

5. Communities on the steep slopes of Elgon and Rwenzori highland areas are advised to be on high alert and where possible, relocate to host families in safer areas.
6. Install lightning arresters on public and private buildings in areas prone to lightning such as Bushenyi, Mitooma, Kibaale, Kyegegwa, Nwoya, Amuru, Lira, Kalangala, Busia, Tororo and Bugiri.
7. Carry out good environmental practices such as tree planting to reduce the runoff speed of water.
8. Drivers, cyclists and pedestrians should not attempt to cross flooded sections of roads carelessly.
9. Harvest and store animal feeds as silage. Hay making, is encouraged.
10. Promote good sanitation and health practices in communities to avoid diarrheal diseases such as Cholera and Dysentery.

As we continue to monitor these changes and the progress of the rainfall episodes, we encourage the Disaster management structures at the district level, such as District Disaster Management Committee/District Disaster Policy Committee members to continue with sensitization and monitoring of early warning signals and encourage the communities to take early action. I thank all development partners and agencies that continue to give support to government of Uganda in efforts to project, detect and mitigate disaster occurrences.

For God and my Country.



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Hon. Esther Davinia Anyakun

Minister of State for Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees.