



**STATEMENT TO PARLIAMENT**

**ON**

**THE STATUS OF DISASTERS IN THE COUNTRY AND  
CURRENT INTERVENTIONS BY GOVERNMENT**

**BY**

**MINISTER FOR RELIEF, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS  
AND REFUGEES,  
OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER**

**SEPTEMBER, 2021**

Rt. Hon Speaker,

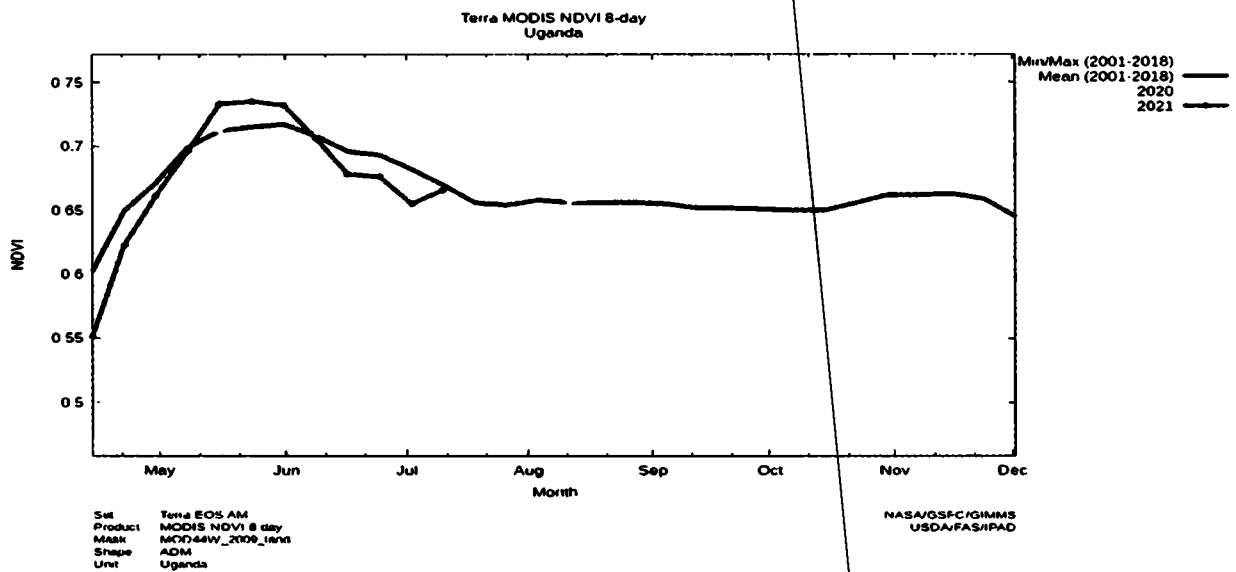
Hon Members

## **Introduction**

- 1.0 This information paper seeks to address Parliament on, (i) Current status of disasters in the Country (ii) Effects on livelihoods and service delivery and (iii) response interventions by Government towards the various disasters across the Country.
  
- 2.0 Rt. Hon Speaker, as you may be aware, the Country has been affected by torrential rains that led to flash flooding and the rising water levels in various parts of the Country during both the first and second rain seasons of 2020. This phenomenon led to inundation of human settlements and other livelihood activities located at the shores of Lake Victoria (**Kampala, Wakiso, Mpigi, Kalungu, Masaka, Rakai, Buikwe, Mayuge and Namayingo**) Lake Kyoga (**Nakasongola, Kayunga, Buyende, Amolatar, Serere, and Apac**) Lake Albert (**Ntoroko, Bullisa, Hoima**) and the banks of River Nile in **Pakwach** and **Obongi** District. Despite the Government efforts to resettle the affected communities since 2020, scores of the population still remain either in displacement or at high risk because a slight increase in rainfall always triggers a rise in water levels in the above mentioned areas.

3.0 The First season (March April May) of 2021 was characterized by both delayed onset and early cessation of rains. You may recall that the rains started in Late April and ended in late May/ early June in Most parts of the Country. This trend has left serious negative impact on mostly seasonal crops with the Country currently experiencing rising food prices. The predictions/ forecasts for the second season (September October November and December) are not any better for the regions dependent on seasonal crops. The most notable regions where crop conditions deteriorated as a result of the early cessation of the first season rains include the districts of **Kaliro, Kibuku, Pallisa, Bukedea, Kumi, Ngora, Soroti, Kaberamaido, Kalaki, Amolatar, Apac and Alebtong** in the eastern and northern parts of the Country and **Gomba, Bukomasimbi, Mubende, Sembabule, Kiruhura, Kazo, Isingiro, Ntungamo, Lyantonde, Mbarara, Ibanda and Kyegegwa** districts in Central and western parts of the Country through June, July August is normally a dry season in the eastern, central and western parts of the Country, the extent of dryness was worse than the normal range.

***The graph showing how the crop/vegetation conditions in the Country responded to the early cessation of rains during the MAM season: Notice the red line below the Long-term mean.***



**Source:** OPM, *National Integrated Early Warning System, 2021*

4.0 The food security and nutrition assessment recently concluded in Karamoja by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), Ministry of Agriculture and partners equally reported acute food insecurity status (crisis phase) with **361,300** people representing **30%** of the population in Karamoja. This calls for immediate action by this house if the food insecurity threat in Karamoja is to be addressed.

5.0 As the Country prepares for the second season, **Kabale, Kasese, Bundibugyo** and **Ntoroko** Districts are already experiencing a mixture of floods and landslides that are affecting both livelihoods and critical facilities as highlighted in this report.

## Effects of the current disasters in the Country

- 6.0 All these events have been unfolding alongside other isolated disasters such as fire outbreaks, hailstorms, and lightning, among others and all together contributed to displacement of **186,525** persons in **27,629** households by the end of July 2021. In August 2021 alone, **36,406** persons from **8,775** households have been affected by disasters mainly floods, heavy winds and hailstorms. Out of these **1,392** persons from **232** households have been displaced in August. Cumulatively, a total of **222,930** persons representing **36,404** households have been directly affected by disasters from **January 2021 to-date**.
- 7.0 In the Year 2020 alone, natural disasters caused Uganda an economic loss amounting to UGX. **563,239,697,911** (US\$152.2 million). This was equivalent to **0.42%** of the nominal GDP. The economic loss was distributed across seven key sectors namely: Transport & infrastructure (mainly roads and bridges) - UGX **206.73bn**; Commercial and Residential Housing - UGX **154.21bn**; Agriculture - UGX **77.37bn**; Education - **35.44bn**; Environment and Natural Resources - UGX **33.75bn**; Health - UGX**31.86bn** and Water and Sanitation - UGX **23.88bn**. A total of **82 districts** out of 135 were affected.
- 8.0 In addition to the above natural disasters was the COVID-19 pandemic. It must be noted that COVID-19 impact on the Country's food security is mostly positive since it pushed many

people into agriculture despite the erratic weather patterns highlighted above. Although the same cannot be said for the urban dwellers whose source of food is mainly cash purchases, because their sources of income were restricted by lockdowns.

9.0 The above disasters therefore continue to negatively affect people's lives and livelihoods. In Kayunga, Bullisa, Ntoroko and Nakasongola districts for example, the rise in water levels pushed the lake shores and wetland boundaries exponentially inland up to 3kms in some areas, invading farm lands, gardens, protected areas, sub-merging infrastructure, landing sites, docking stations for ferries, human settlements, leaving a trail of destruction including displacement of entire villages.

10.0 The flood affected population lost food crops, livelihood sources and houses. Social service delivery was greatly disrupted by enormous damage to roads and bridges, health facilities, water points, education institutions, among others. From the Rapid Needs Assessment done, it was noted that there is great need for safe water supply, sanitation, nutrition, health services, food assistance and NFIs for affected persons especially the IDPs.

### **Response interventions by Government.**

11.0 To respond to the needs of the disaster victims, Cabinet approved emergency relief funding to support the relief needs of

affected Ugandans. Ministry of Finance has been releasing the funds in installments, and even though not adequate to meet the enormous needs, the funds have enabled Office of the Prime Minister to continuously come to the rescue of the most vulnerable Ugandans, through provision of relief food and non-food items, and will continue the effort as more resources are availed.

12.0 Between July 2020 and July 2021, OPM had distributed relief food and non-food items totaling to **3,655,800Kgs** of Maize flour, **1,226,800Kgs** of beans, **13,400Kgs** of sugar, **6,900pcs** of iron sheets, **35,730pcs** of blankets, **23,770pcs** of jerry cans, **33,275pcs** of tarpaulins, **23,800pcs** of mosquito nets and **2,540pcs** of basins.

13.0 Moving forward, my office already has a number of requests for relief pending response, and now the rainy season has started, hence more disasters are anticipated. In the short term therefore, there is need to continue to supporting the disaster victims with distribution of targeted food assistance, provision of cash transfers where possible, agricultural inputs (seeds, seedlings, fertilizers, tools, etc.) to restore/maintain food security and nutrition-sensitive production capacity, support for storage, transformation and marketing of essential food production. The

affected persons also need to be provided with essential non-food items for household use, hygiene and sanitation kits, mobile toilets in IDP camps, water treatment kits,

14.0 In the medium term, there is need to undertake a joint early recovery needs assessment to obtain clear and reliable data on early recovery in affected communities and households. This then will be followed with quick impact and response to enhance early recovery in affected communities and households through funding of small impact community projects. There is also need to promote climate smart agriculture and improved agriculture practices and technologies (including use of meteorological information for food production and fast-maturing nutritious foods) and upscaling Disaster Risk Financing in drought prone communities.

15.0 My office together with MAAIF and Partners launched the IPC report on the drought situation in Karamoja, and now need resources for Karamoja drought response to mitigate loss of lives and suffering. I also need resources to fund a detailed resettlement Strategy for the 30,338 IDPs displaced by rise in water levels, costed at UGX.120Bn.

16.0 My office working with government and non-government stakeholders also plans to strengthen the capacity of District



Disaster Management Committees and Local Councils to fully function during the needs assessment and distribution of emergency relief, coordinating and managing disaster issues including displacement induced by disasters.

17.0 In the long term, development priorities need to be accelerated (increase production and value addition chains, sanitation, access to safe water, health and childcare). There is also need for more predictable safety nets and interventions; improve post-harvest handling and storage for households to keep food stocks through to the lean season;

18.0 District Local Governments must enforce Physical Plans and Environment laws to prevent people from settling in protected areas and in close proximity to river banks and lake shores. It should be noted that some of the persons affected by rise in water levels were settled in zones within the gazetted boundaries for water bodies.

19.0 Lastly, deliberate measures must be in place to restore damaged mountain eco-systems and mitigate environmental degradation in order to mitigate disasters like landslides and floods.

## **PENDING DISASTER RESPONSE INTERVENTIONS, AUGUST 2021**

<b>Hazard</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Issues</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>Hailstorm</b>	<b>Otuke</b>	• Destruction of	<b>Assessment</b>

		Anepmoroto Primary school, Several Homesteads & Property by Hailstorms	ongoing
<b>Masindi</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kijunjubwa primary school class rooms and staff quarters were blown by strong winds, the walls developed cracks.</li> <li>• Immediate need for pit latrine</li> </ul>	Response drafted referring the matter to Ministry of Education for attention	
<b>Ntoroko</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hailstorm hit and destroyed 6 class room at Ngabi Progressive High School affecting over 147 students where some sustained injuries and nowhere to study from therefore requiring relief items.</li> </ul>	Issue referred to Ministry of Education and Sports.	
<b>Bushenyi</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heavy hail storms affected a total of 203 households in Nyakatamba 1&amp;2, Kayanga, Kibazi LC1, Karimuyari &amp; Kibona.</li> <li>• Banana, cassava, tea plantation and other crops were destroyed</li> <li>• Devastating hail storm and torrential rains that hit Igara East- Kyabugimbi, Ibaare and Kyeizooba sub counties</li> </ul>	Response in que, relief to be sent to affected areas	

	<b>Abim</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hailstorm, floods, prolonged dry spell have caused food increased prices, insecurity &amp; shortage.</li> <li>• Weather changing pattern have caused emergency of new crops, livestock disease &amp; pest situation.</li> </ul>	Response in que, relief to be sent to affected areas
	<b>Mpigi</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heavy storm affected &amp; left 81 residents without shelter, destroyed 15 houses and crops in the gardens.</li> </ul>	Response in que, relief to be sent to affected areas
	<b>Kabarole</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heavy rains &amp; hailstorm affected 219 households in Kabende sub county particularly Masongora and Kibiso villages where Banana plantations, beans, cassava, maize, irish potatoes, etc and (2) Houses were destroyed.</li> <li>• Rwengaaju Sub-county 2,276 households in 14 villages were affected including crops: Banana, beans, cassava etc.</li> </ul>	Response in que, relief to be sent to affected areas
	<b>Mityana</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hailstorm damage to crops and houses in</li> </ul>	Response in que, relief to be

		Kalangalo sub county	sent to affected areas
	<b>Sembabule</b>	• Hail and Windstorms in Lubaale parish Kyeera Sub County	Response in que, relief to be sent to affected areas
	<b>Butsibo Secondary School, Sheema</b>	• 70% of the class rooms de-roofed by strong wind	Proprietors advised to seek assistance elsewhere

<b>Hazard</b>	<b>Districts</b>	<b>Issues</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>Heavy rains</b>	<b>Nakaseke</b>	Destruction of Buildings at Kapeeka Primary School by Heavy Rains. School has enrolment of over 1000 pupils students left stranded.	Response drafted referring the matter to Ministry of Education

<b>Hazard</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Issues</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>Fire</b>	<b>Buvuma</b>	Sudden fire outbreak occurred damaging 40 homes & property worth millions leaving 240 displaced	Response in que, relief to be sent to affected areas

<b>Hazard</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Issues</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>Floods/ Droug</b>	<b>Ntoroko</b>	•A larger part of Ntoroko districted has been devastated by the	Response made, Relief food and non-food items

<b>ht</b>		<p>floods affected cattle &amp; crop farming, livelihoods, &amp; mobility.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Severe draught has also affected the livestock &amp; crops hence deepening poverty.</li> <li>• Raising water levels in L. Albert part of Kanara, Butungama sub-county Masaka and Kyabukunguru parishes areas that are largely plain land are affected</li> <li>• Submerged homesteads causing internal displacement.</li> <li>• Increased influx of refugees from DRC.</li> <li>• 23,500 are the persons affected</li> </ul>	<p>dispatched.</p> <p>Monitoring of the situation on-going to establish more needs.</p>
	<b>Rakai</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Severe drought and bush burning</li> </ul>	<p>Response in que, relief to be sent to affected areas</p>
	<b>Kayunga</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prolonged drought, followed by heavy rains have caused the lake to flood &amp; break its shores thus affecting the livelihoods of the people.</li> </ul>	<p>Response made, Relief items dispatched</p>
	<b>Ngora</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate change</li> </ul>	<p>Further</p>

		causing erratic weather patterns has caused below average rainfall resulting to massive crop failure.	assessment on-going
	<b>Serere</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Floods have displaced &amp; destroyed livelihoods of the people of Kadungulu, Bugondo, Labor, Pingire, Kateta and Kyere sub-counties, giving raise to the need for relief items.</li> </ul>	Response in que, relief to be sent to affected areas
	<b>Lyantonde</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Long drought has affected planting season causing food shortage</li> <li>Kabula County in Lyantonde District being within a cattle corridor has been affected by foot&amp; mouth disease causing quarantine.</li> </ul>	Response in que, relief to be sent to affected areas
	<b>Mubende</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kasambya County has been affected by quarantine of cattle so as to deal with foot and mouth disease.</li> <li>Shortage of rainfall has caused long drought hence</li> </ul>	Response in que, relief to be sent to affected areas

		resulting to food shortage.	
	<b>Lyantonde</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Dry short season has continued hitting the people by drying immature crops, shortage of water and significant reduction of production of crops resulting into famine, particularly in Kaliro, Lyakajjura, Lyandonde &amp; Mpumudde.</li> </ul>	Response in que, relief to be sent to affected areas
	<b>Kaberamaido</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>112km of the road network affected by the rising water levels, several sub counties cut off from critical services</li> </ul>	Response drafted, forwarded to ministry of Works and Transport
	<b>Bulambuli</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drought affected various crops in the lower Bulambuli.</li> </ul>	Response in que, relief to be sent to affected areas

<b>Hazard – Covid19 and Other vulnerabilities</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>Issues</b>	<b>Action</b>
	<b>Kampala, Entebbe, Jinja, Arua, Kitgum &amp; Mbarara</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lockdown effects requested for relief for the Rastafarian community in Kampala, Entebbe, Jinja, Arua, Kitgum &amp; Mbarara.</li> </ul>	Discussion ongoing

	<b>Acoa Ministries International</b>	Covid19 has affected 402 Orphans in Acoa Ministries International Church hence requesting for food assistance	Response in que, relief to be sent.
	<b>Masindi Municipality</b>	Covid19 has affected over 28,822 households and the activities which are commercial business, subsistence farming & trade etc. hence requesting for food & non-food items.	Response in que, relief to be sent to affected persons
	<b>Students stranded at different campuses of Universities around the Country.</b>	Lockdown effect due to Covid19 has affected various students in different universities in the country due to hiked means of price in transport fares many have been stranded and no food. The female students have been forced in prostitution.	Lockdown was lifted, students advised to go home.
	<b>Rakai</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lockdown effect due Covid19, with 900 people in Kagamba, Kasankala, Buyamba, Kitutunto, Lwabakoba, Rwakaroro, Lwentulege, Lwamaggwa, in Buyamba county were affected.</li> <li>• The affected people are mainly orphans &amp; widows.</li> </ul>	Response in que, relief to be sent
	<b>Kayunga</b>	• Covid19 has also caused poor living conditions to	Response in que, relief to be



		worsen at least affecting over 3,758 people in the following Ntimba, Kirasa, Kasokye, Galiraya, Namalere	sent to affected areas
	<b>Ngora</b>	• Covid19 has left many vulnerable	Response in que, relief to be sent to affected areas
	<b>Lyantonde</b>	Lockdown effect caused by Covid19 has affected income generating activities.	Response being discussed
	<b>Kibuku</b>	Due to lockdown effects caused by the Covid19 pandemic 6,712 people have been adversely affected. Covid19 and lockdown has affected vulnerable people mainly persons with disabilities, elderly, HIV Persons, orphans etc. therefore requesting for food relief.	Response in que, relief to be sent
	<b>Yumbe</b>	• Being the largest host of refugees 234,000 in the sub-African region and 692,000 household's population and Covid19 present has made the humanitarian situation worse considering many	Response being discussed

		missed the cash bailout many are vulnerable and are in need of relief. Long drought has also families.	
	<b>Mubende</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lock down effect from Covid19 pandemic, all this has led to both no and low income generating activity since market are closed.</li> </ul>	Response being discussed
	<b>Pader</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over 11,449 households have been affected mainly child headed households, persons with neglected tropical diseases such as Nodding Syndrome epilepsy &amp; recent disasters out breaks such as heavy rains, hailstorm among others.</li> <li>• Lockdown effect caused by Covid19</li> </ul>	Response in queue, relief to be sent to affected areas
	<b>Kamuli/ Municipality</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Covid19 lockdown effects</li> </ul>	Response being discussed
	<b>Nakapiripirit</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need for emergency relief</li> </ul>	Response in queue, relief to be sent to affected areas

I thank you.



**Eng. Hilary Onek (MP)**  
**MINISTER FOR RELIEF, DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND REFUGEES**