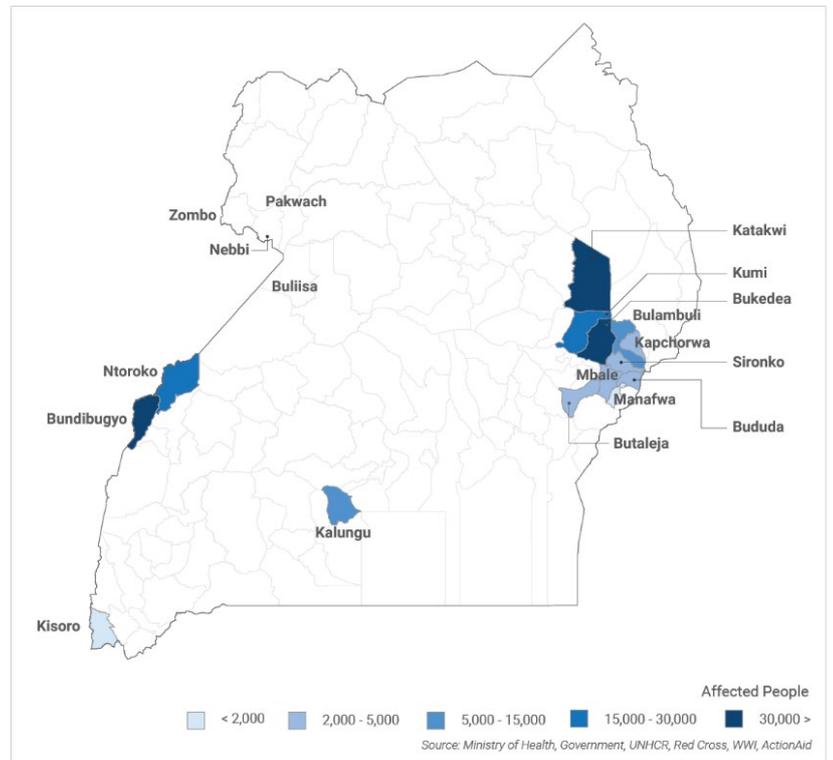


HIGHLIGHTS

- Torrential rains are being experienced across Uganda. According to the Uganda National Meteorological Department (UNMA), above-normal rains will continue until the end of the year.
- At least 38 people have died due to floods and landslides in Bundibugyo, Bududa and Sironko districts, and over 150 people have been injured. At least 300,000 have been affected and an estimated 65,000 people are displaced, according to Government sources.
- The floods and landslides have left a trail of destruction, including damaged homes, infrastructure, agriculture and livelihoods.
- The Government of Uganda, with the support of humanitarian partners, is responding to the most urgent needs of people affected.



SITUATION OVERVIEW

Due to heavier than normal rains since September—enhanced by the positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)—several districts in Uganda have been experiencing flash floods (mostly in urban areas) and landslides (in rural/hilly areas).

According to preliminary estimates from a rapid assessment conducted by the Office of the Prime Minister in the most affected sub-regions of Mount Elgon and South Western Uganda in early December, at least 300,000 people have been affected, including 65,000 people reportedly displaced by the impact of heavy rains since September 2019. Over 21,500 hectares of crop and plantations are reportedly damaged in these areas. As of 17 December, 38 people have reportedly lost their lives, including in the mountainous Bundibugyo district in the western region and the Mount Elgon area in eastern Uganda. Water systems in Bundibugyo have been destroyed, exacerbating the risk of outbreaks of water-borne diseases. In the week of 16 December, three suspected cholera cases were reported in Bundibugyo district. However, they tested negative and there have been no confirmed cholera cases since November 2019, according to the Ministry of Health and WHO.

In the eastern lowland sub-regions of Teso and Bukedea sub-regions, thousands of people have been affected and hectares of crops destroyed. Damage to infrastructure, including roads and bridges, has been reported in the hilly south-western parts of Kigezi and Ruwenzori, the low-lying district of Ntoroko, the central sub-region of Buganda, western sub-regions of Ankole and Bunyoro, and northern sub-regions of Acholi, and Karamoja regions. This has hampered access to affected communities. Districts along the banks of the River Nile in West Nile sub-region have also suffered losses of crops and destroyed and damaged homes due to flooding.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

The Government, through the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) which is responsible for Disaster Preparedness and Response, has released 20 billion Uganda Shillings (about US\$5.4 million) for emergency procurement of inflatable boats, tarpaulins, blankets, relief food, drugs for water borne diseases and culverts for fixing washed away bridges under the life-saving and rescue phase from November 2019 to January 2020.

The National Emergency Coordination Center (NECOC) has been activated to receive information from all parts of the country. The NECOC and the URCS are providing immediate assistance and have reportedly identified safe homes for displaced people among host communities. The Government has taken mitigation measures including the following: villages at high risk were visited, and awareness and sensitization meetings were held with persons at risk; safe homes in affected neighbourhoods were identified and requested to host households at risk from September to December; early warning messages were run on TV stations, FM radio stations, newspapers and through SMSs. The OPM is also activating sectoral meetings co-chaired by various Government Ministries with the United Nations agencies. Key supplies requested by the Government include: shelter (tarpaulins), blankets, kitchen kits, jerrycans, soap, mobile toilets, chlorine tablets, mosquito nets, first line medication for cholera, malaria and diarrhoea, and food assistance.

The Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) has developed a three-month integrated emergency preparedness and response plan (EPRP) to respond to, and mitigate the impacts of, anticipated adverse weather events in 10 districts. The EPRP requires nearly 1,656 million Ugandan Shillings (about \$450,000) to support families with emergency relief non-food items, temporary shelter for displaced people, health and life-saving interventions, hygiene promotion, access to safe and clean water, early warning sensitization for communities on climate and potential disease outbreaks, training of more disaster response volunteers, offering psycho-social support, among other immediate needs.

The UN in Uganda has activated its internal Emergency Response Cell and requested funding from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to support the Government-led efforts.

Health: WHO has dispatched a health kit to Western Uganda—which can treat 10,000 people for three months—accompanied by technical personnel. Other supplies dispatched include community cholera modules such as oral rehydration salts for the treatment of diarrhoea, malaria control medicines and two vehicles to support the local government in the response. On 10 December, the Ministry of Health as part of its strategic plan to prevent cholera outbreaks during this rainy season, launched a campaign to administer oral cholera vaccinations (OCV) to at least 700,000 people above 1 year old in five cholera hot spot districts of Bududa, Buliisa, Nebbi, Pakwach and Zombo.

Shelter and Non-Food Items: UNHCR has supported affected households in Bundibugyo district with 5,000 blankets, 5,000 sleeping mats, 1,500 jerry cans, 500 cartons laundry soap, 100 rolls of plastic tarpaulins, 2,000 plastic buckets and 2,000 shovels. UNHCR provided space for 7,000 people displaced in Bukukwanga Transit Center while the rest are being hosted at Semuliki Secondary School. The Uganda Wildlife Authority has been providing firewood to affected families while debris on affected roads is being removed by district works department. World Vision International distributed blankets, mosquito nets, food (rice and beans) to 1,000 affected households in Butaleja district in November 2019. In Bududa, equipment such as spades and hoes were distributed to affected families to help them clear their compounds from debris.

Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH): UNICEF has provided WASH supplies, including: a box of aquatabs and 19 boxes of soap to 49 households in Bududa district; 12 boxes of aquatabs and 199 boxes of soap to 517 households in Sironko district; 27 boxes of aquatabs, 69 jerry cans and 494 boxes of soap to the most vulnerable 1,286 displaced households in Bundibugyo's Semuliki and Bubukwanga settlements.

Food Assistance: The Government has provided hosting and hosted families with 500 bags of rice and 200 bags of maize flour in Bundibugyo, Butaleja and Bududa districts.