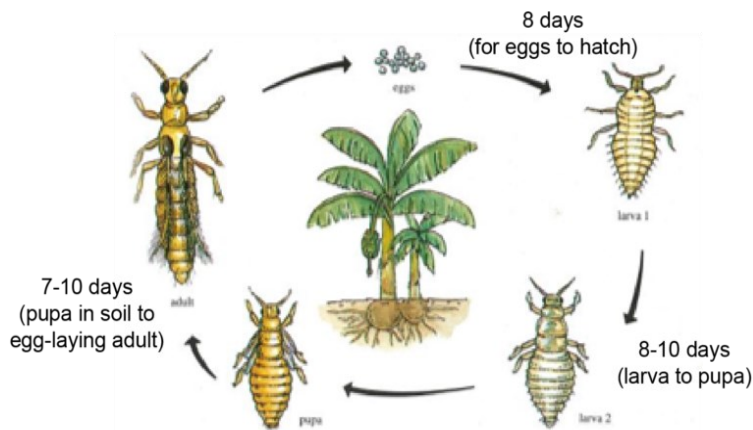




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15th MARCH - 15th APRIL 2024

Issue 88



Banana Rust Thrips; What are they?

Thrips are small yellow insects with narrow fringed wings which cause damage by feeding on the tender green skin of young banana fruits. The bananas are damaged at the flowering stage and the mature bananas appear brown, purplish to black. The discolouration however is on the surface of the fruit peel. In extreme cases of severely affected fruits, the whole bunch appears blemish.

They cause more severe damage to younger fruits, often the symptoms do not manifest until after 2 months as the fruits begin to mature. When the peel gets damaged as a result of feeding by the thrips, the affected fruits first appear as grey and dusty, later turning rusty brown. As affected fruits continue to grow, sometimes the peel cracks causing scarring.

Can the peels of such matooke still be used to feed animals without side effect?

Yes, the affected peels can be fed to the animals without any effect. But the appearances compromises the “quality” of bananas

How thrips spread?

- * Infected planting materials.
- * Cutting old leaves and detashing in the same field. (the Pest hides in dry leaves and camouflages)
- * To a less extent the thrips directly fly from one plant to another.

What are the Symptoms of thrips infestation?

- * Banana peel appears brown, purplish to black.
- * Discoloration is only on surface of fruit peel.
- * Cracked fruit peels causing scarring

Control / Treatment:

- * Use healthy planting materials from clean source.
- * Avoid cultivating host plants near or within banana plantations (E.g sun flower, Guava, Lantana camara).
- * Immediately at flowering, use commercial recommended clear polythene bags of 0.08mm thickness that is perforated at 76mm interval with hole of 12. 7mm to cover the bunch as it opens.
- * Cut down the affected banana fruits and bury them to reduce the population of insects in the fields
- * Remove neglected plantations as these can serve as ground for thrips to multiply.

Other Commonly used methods of thrips control

- * Cut off the male flowers early enough; Cut off the male flower if there is space between the bunch and the flower.
- * Use of pesticides like Dudu acelemectin for spraying sprayers with long nozzles to reach the banana plant/ bunch. Spraying done twice a week when matooke is out of “germination stage”
- * Do not spray when the plant has young male flower because you will kill the bees.
- * Chemical control / treatment usually takes a month or more for effective results.

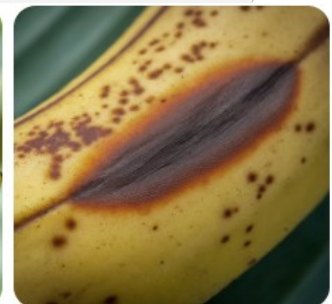


Photo credits; Internet and UNIEWS team

For more information; Contact you area based extension worker or the District Production Officer.

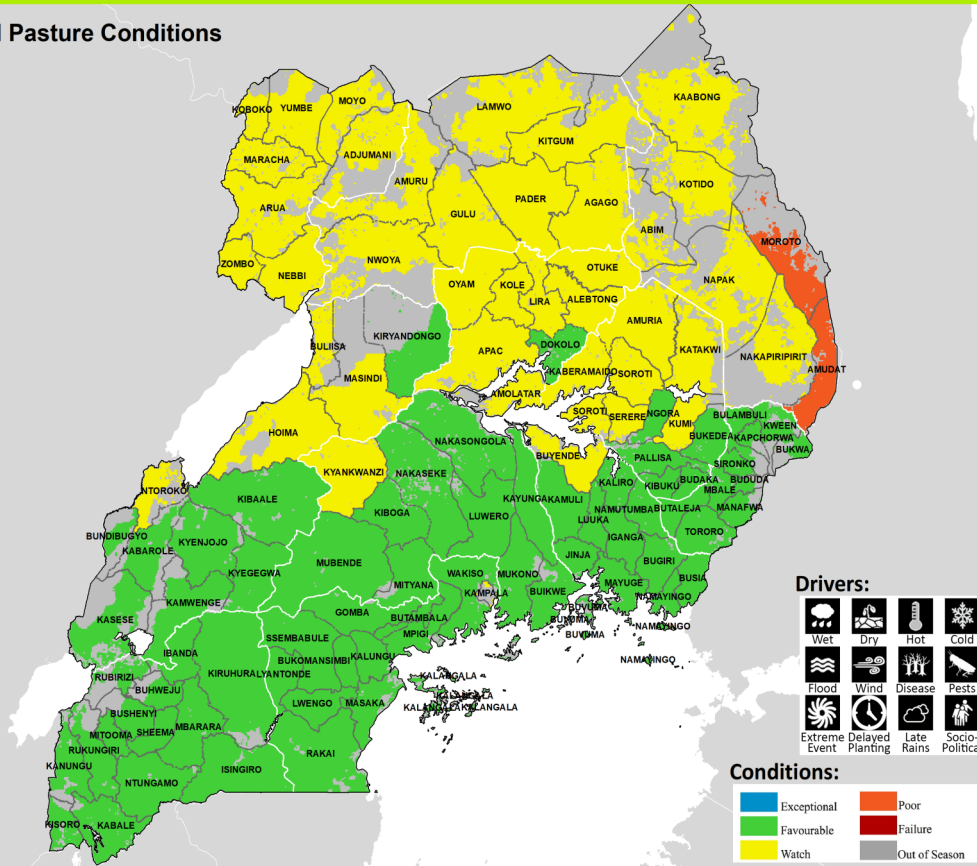


U - NEWS

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CROP & PASTURE CONDITIONS MAP OF UGANDA (AUGUST 2023)

Crop and Pasture Conditions



Source: Crop Monitor of Uganda. This crop conditions map synthesizes information for selected crops and pasture as of 10th March 2024. Crop and Pasture conditions over the month of February based on a combination of national and regional analysts' inputs along with remote sensing and rainfall data.

Early Warning for Regions!

Central 1, and Central 2: All the districts maintained favourable and declining conditions with relatively stable values due to the persistence of El nino conditions and the early onset of the MAM 2024. This is expected to improve as the season gets established and farmers planting more gardens that had been prepared. Generally, the farmers planted perennial crops at different periods throughout the year leading to a multiplicity of stages of the crops in the gardens. Therefore those who haven't planted are encouraged to plant before the end of March, those who had planted should ensure weeding and pest/disease control measures are undertaken and, those whose crops are maturing to plan the harvest before MAM rains get established to avoid post harvest losses due to excess moisture.

Elgon: Favorable conditions were maintained in the sub region with stable values for the second month of observation. (January and February) except **Kween** district that maintained watch conditions. Since the onset of MAM 2024 is already on, Communities residing on cracked hill slopes are advised to be on alert and watch out for any signs of floods and landslides including; changes in the colour of river/stream waters, reduction in stream/ river water volumes. Farmers are encouraged to speed up planting and weeding operations. complete land preparation and get ready for planting as the season starts.

West Nile, Acholi, Lango: Much of the sub region maintained the watch conditions developed in the previous month, the values continued to decline but pasture conditions were sustained. With the onset of MAM 2024, farmers are advised to fast track the planting to avoid last minute rush for labour and agricultural mechanization equipment. The uncultivated areas are still very prone to bush-fires since the rains are not yet fully established. The communities are advised to continue being on the look out of fire incidences as the season steadily gets established.

Early Warning for Regions!

Teso and Karamoja: **Moroto and Amudat** districts are currently facing the worst conditions having descended to poor from watch while **Kotido** district maintains the poor conditions for the second month of observation. The rest of the Districts in Teso and Karamoja sustained watch conditions with very low values. There is high risk of water shortage for humans, livestock and wildlife in both watch and poor condition districts which may result into conflicts. Security agencies are advised to intensify surveillance and patrol to prevent conflicts. Farmers should be planting in those areas where the rains are on and finalizing land preparation in the areas where the seasonal onset has not been felt. Dams should be desilted in preparation for the seasonal onset. should be managed sparingly to ensure households have enough stock to take them through the next season.

Western and South Western: The sub region maintained favourable conditions in all the districts but with slower than usual decline in values. The season has generally been stable and majority of the farmers are making preparations for MAM season though some farmers have already planted. Pasture and water are widely available. Anthrax infestation remains the most serious threat to the livestock production in the sub region. Farmers are still encouraged to follow the recommended treatment regime and preventive guidelines.

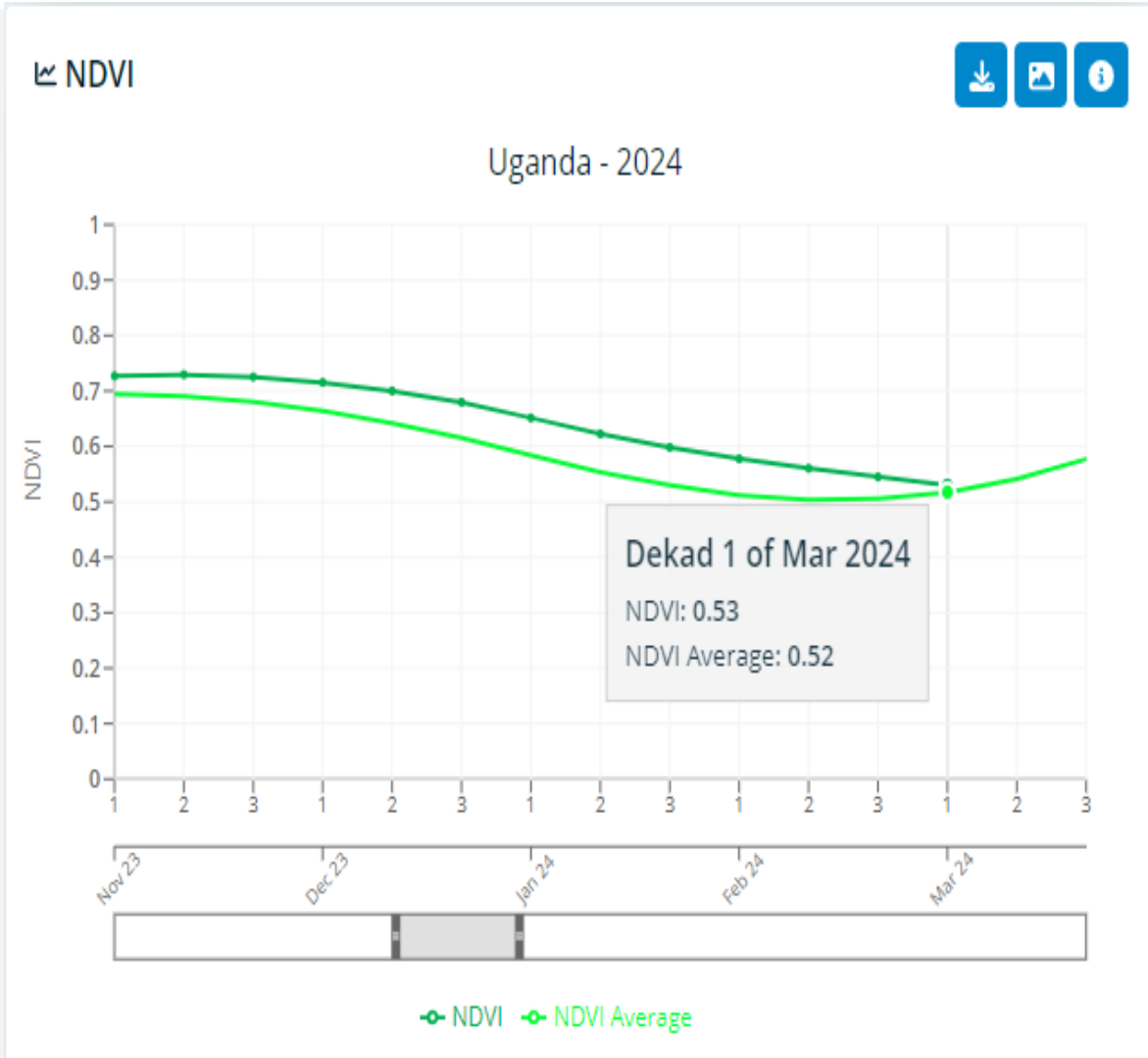
East central sub region: The sub region sustained favorable conditions with declining values except **Buyende** that declined to watch. Like the rest of the regions that sustained favourable conditions, some farmers have already planted though the majority are still preparing land for planting. Farmers are advised to fast track planting to ensure uniform crop growth during the season. Livestock farmers are advised to conduct vaccination and follow vectors and diseases - especially foot and mouth disease preventive guidelines.



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HIGHLIGHTS - NDVI Anomaly (26th FEB - 6th, MARCH 2024)



The Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) is used to characterize the health of the vegetation for a particular timeframe compared to what is considered normal. In agricultural monitoring, negative values can be a good indicator of poor crop conditions or a slower growth rate of the crop due to a variety of environmental conditions such as drought, dry spell, timing of growing season or an indication of a significantly delayed season commonly used as an indicator for drought monitoring and early warning which enable preventive early action to minimize their impacts.

NDVI anomaly is the difference between the average NDVI for a particular period of the year and the average NDVI for same period over a specified number of years.

The NDVI curve is intended to show a graphical representation of the current vegetation conditions for the period 26th Feb - 03rd March 2024. The dark green line represents the conditions for 2023/24 and the light green line shows the long term

average (2002 –2013) of the same period. The graph presents evidence of the enhanced vegetation growth in the Country as a result of the persistent rains during January and February 2024 and how it normalized during the first decade of March 2024 as the dry spell became more pronounced from the second to third dekad. (see graph section between third dekad of February and first dekad of March 2024).

Generally, the NDVI values have presented above normal conditions for the usually dry months of January and February to March - (First deka). Sectors, farmers, businesses and communities are therefore advised to follow advisories issued from time to time, but most importantly;

- ◆ Finalize land preparation and start planting in those regions already receiving rainfall
- ◆ Desilt water dams and rehabilitate water sources and other drainage control infrastructure in all districts in preparation for the MAM season
- ◆ Intensify livestock and poultry disease **Prevention, Control, and Containment measures** already instituted especially for anthrax and Food and mouth disease infested districts through vaccination, surveillance and carcass management.
- ◆ Households are advised to **store adequate food reserves** to take them through the lean season to the next harvest
- ◆ Ensure adequate water intake especially by those working outdoors during this period to avoid dehydration.
- ◆ **Intensify risk communication;** On common livestock and poultry disease outbreaks, fire risk awareness, Community education on wildlife behaviors during dry seasons and personal safety measures as may be dictated by the prevailing weather and road conditions
- ◆ Monitor the weather pattern and follow guidelines issued from time to time.

Office of the Prime Minister in collaboration with Uganda National Meteorological Authority (UNMA), the District Disaster Management Committees and other relevant Agencies shall continue monitoring the conditions and provide subsequent updates and area specific advisories to the public.



RAINFALL OUTLOOK OVER UGANDA

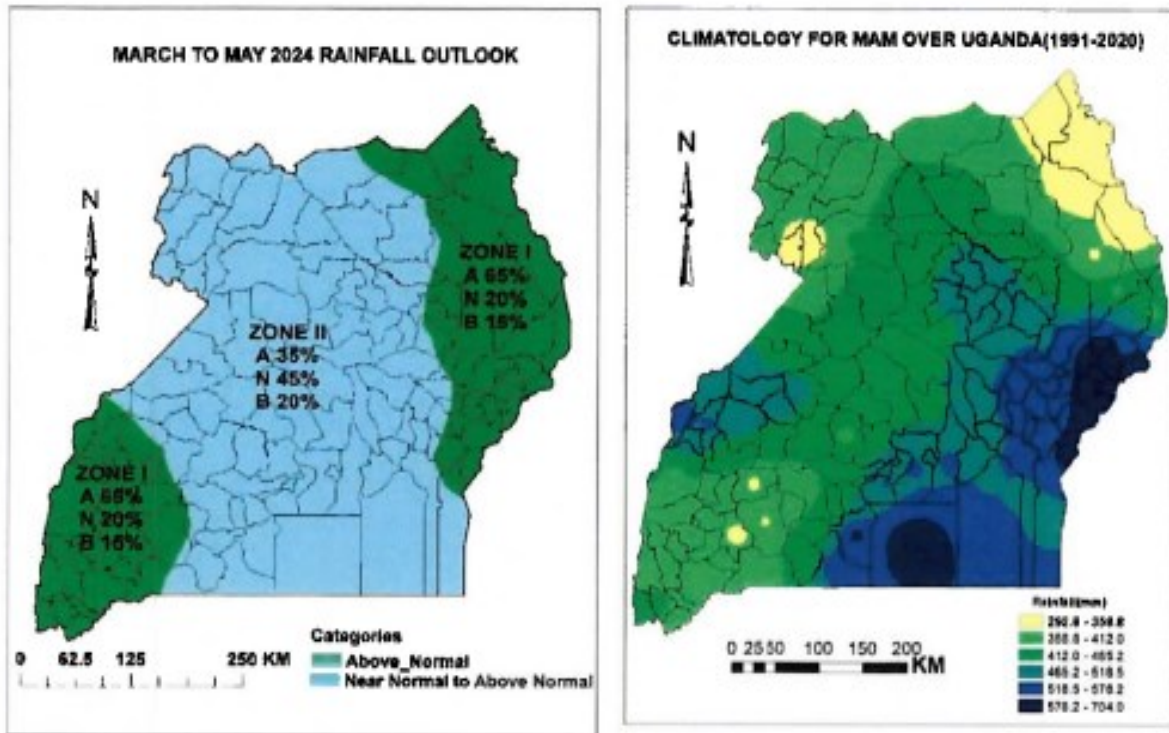


Figure 1: Seasonal climate outlook for March to May (MAM), 2024 (left). The Long Term Mean rainfall (LTM).

RAINFALL OUTLOOK

Overall, the country is expected to experience near-normal to above-normal rainfall over several parts of the country. However, some areas of the Southwestern, Eastern, parts of Central, and Victoria basin are expected to receive above normal rainfall. The onset of the seasonal rains is expected to be established around march and is likely to be characterized by isolated thunderstorms associated with strong winds, lightning and hailstorms over several parts of the country.

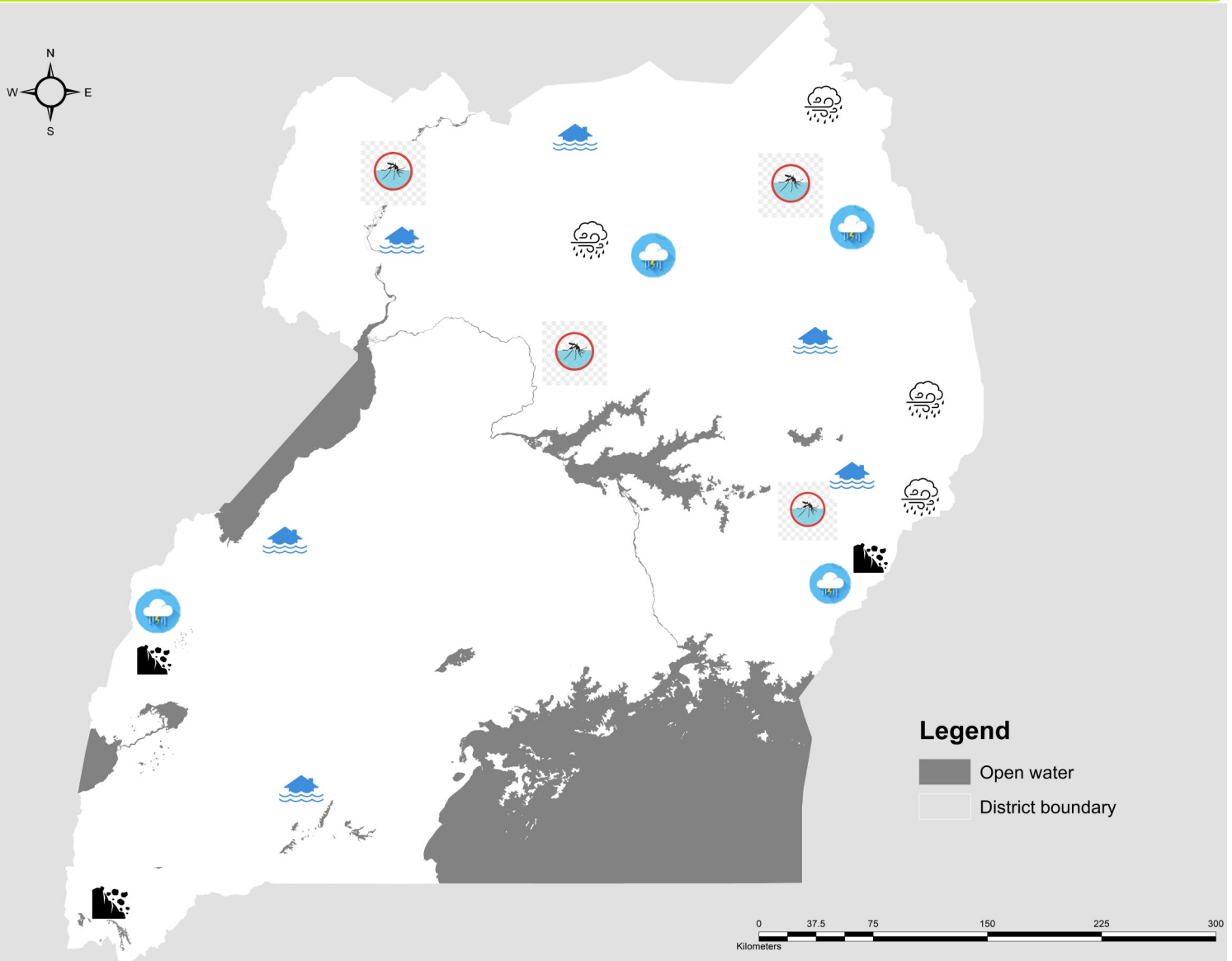
The predicted rainfall outlook is likely to perform from near normal to above normal and this is likely to impact on activities especially agriculture and food security sub sectors. The following are advisories to the communities and respective authorities are set as below;

- ◆ Activation of contingency plans in South Western, Eastern and North Eastern parts of the Country. Activations should be undertaken at a case by case basis.
- ◆ The general public may call **NECOC Toll Free 0800-177-777** to report any emergency incidents in their areas.
- ◆ Farmers should practise sustainable soil and water conservation measures such as contours and terraces.
- ◆ Monitor and report any emergence of crop pests and diseases as well as animal parasites to the responsible authorities
- ◆ Kampala and other urban centres are advised to open up drainage channels to avoid flash floods.
- ◆ Intensify monitoring of water resources for both quality and quantity.
- ◆ Communities are advised not to take shelter under tall structures or trees when it is raining to reduce lightning strike risks. Use of lightning arrestors on public buildings such as health centres, schools is highly recommended.
- ◆ Communities are encouraged to harvest rainwater for both domestic use and agricultural use.
- ◆ District health teams are advised to continuously sensitize communities on disease control measures like sleeping under mosquito nets and minimize breeding sites for mosquitoes by clearing bushes near homes, to control malaria.
- ◆ Partners are advised to collaborate with local governments to prepare, monitor and respond to any eminent risk or

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MULTI HAZARD EARLY WARNING PROBABILITY MAP 15th March-15th April



BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) Outbreak

FMD has been reported in most of the cattle corridor districts in the country., leading to a total ban on animal movement and sale of animal products outside affected areas. FMD affects cows, sheep, pigs and goats and is a virus that is transmitted via direct contact with infected or indirect contact with secretion or excretions from infected animals or by mechanical vectors.

HYDROMETEOROLOGICAL HAZARDS

Landslides, Floods, Lightning & Hailstorms: Above normal to near normal rains are projected for Kigezi , parts of Ankole, Rwenzori, Bugisu, parts of Teso, Bukedi and Karamoja for the MAM season 2024 .These areas are prone to the risk of landslides, floods, lightning and hailstorms . Communities from Bududa, Sironko, Manafwa, Bulambuli, Kabale, Rukungiri, Rukiga, Rubanda are advised to be very vigilant and immediately evacuate to safe areas incase of any eminent risk. They are also encouraged to desilt drainage channels, valley dams and rivers to avert the risk of floods.



BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

Disease outbreak

- ◆ Due to the above normal to near normal rains expected during this season, some areas may experience a surge in water borne diseases like cholera, vector borne like malaria, increased respiratory infections like Asthma, and zoonotic diseases due to increase contact with animals. Therefore the general public is advised to implement prevention measures within their homes as follows;
 - The general public is urged to sleep under treated mosquito nets.
 - Clearing bushes and stagnant water around their homes
 - Restocking of health supplies within the national hospitals and health centers.
 - Have good hygiene practices like proper human waste disposal and utilization of WASH facilities to avoid diarrheal diseases such as cholera and dysentery.
 - Indoor residual spraying
 - Risk communication and sensitization on malaria risks
 - Districts and community to support VHTs and provide regular performance feedback

To minimize public health risks

Alert Level: Moderate → High

HYDRO-METEREOLOGICAL HAZARD

Landslides, Flooding, Flash floods & Water logging and Lightening

The rainfall outlook indicates that the South western, Eastern and North Eastern are expected to experience above normal rainfall conditions over the season that may result into mudslides, riverine floods, urban floods, and water logging conditions. Clearing and expansion of drainage channels and rivers is highly recommended to reduce flooding incidents.

- Immediate evacuation to safe areas incase of suspected flood or landslide incident
- High vigilance to landslide indicators such as cracks and slanting trees in highland areas.

Alert Level: Moderate → High

TRANSPORT TECHNOLOGICAL HAZARDS

Transport Accidents: Any Location

Fire: Any Location

Considering that there is a high likelihood of experiencing rainfall episodes over some parts of the country during this period, it is associated with increased occurrence of accidents due to poor visibility and state of the roads and operator errors.

- Road users should take extra care to avoid driving or walking through flooded road sections and under poor visibility conditions
- Road users should watch their driving speeds especially after it has rained as roads tend to be slippery.
- Local Government Authorities should consider providing mechanisms to update the public on the state of the roads in their areas of jurisdiction.
- Communities should be encouraged to open drainage channels to avoid flood risks.
- Schools should implement fire mitigation guidelines as provided by government to reduce the risk of fires.

Alert Level: High → Moderate



DISASTER STATISTICS – FEBRUARY

TRANSPORT/ TECHNOLOGICAL EVENTS

Motor and Aero Accidents

Reported in | Across the country.



62

Motor Accidents



141

Affected



68

Injured



73

Deaths

DROWNING: Reported: 17 | Affected: 24 | Deaths: 24 | Injured: 00

ARSON: Reported: 02 | Deaths: 00 | Injured: 00

SOIL COLLAPSE: Reported: 02 | Death: 03 | Injured: 08

LIGHTNING: Reported: 00 | Death: 00 | Injured: 00

ELECTROCUTION: Reported: 01 | Death: 01 | Injured: 00

Source: NECOC/OPM, and Partners – February 2024

FIRE

Fire incidents across the country.

Reported: 25 | Affected: 02 | Death: 01 | Injured: 01

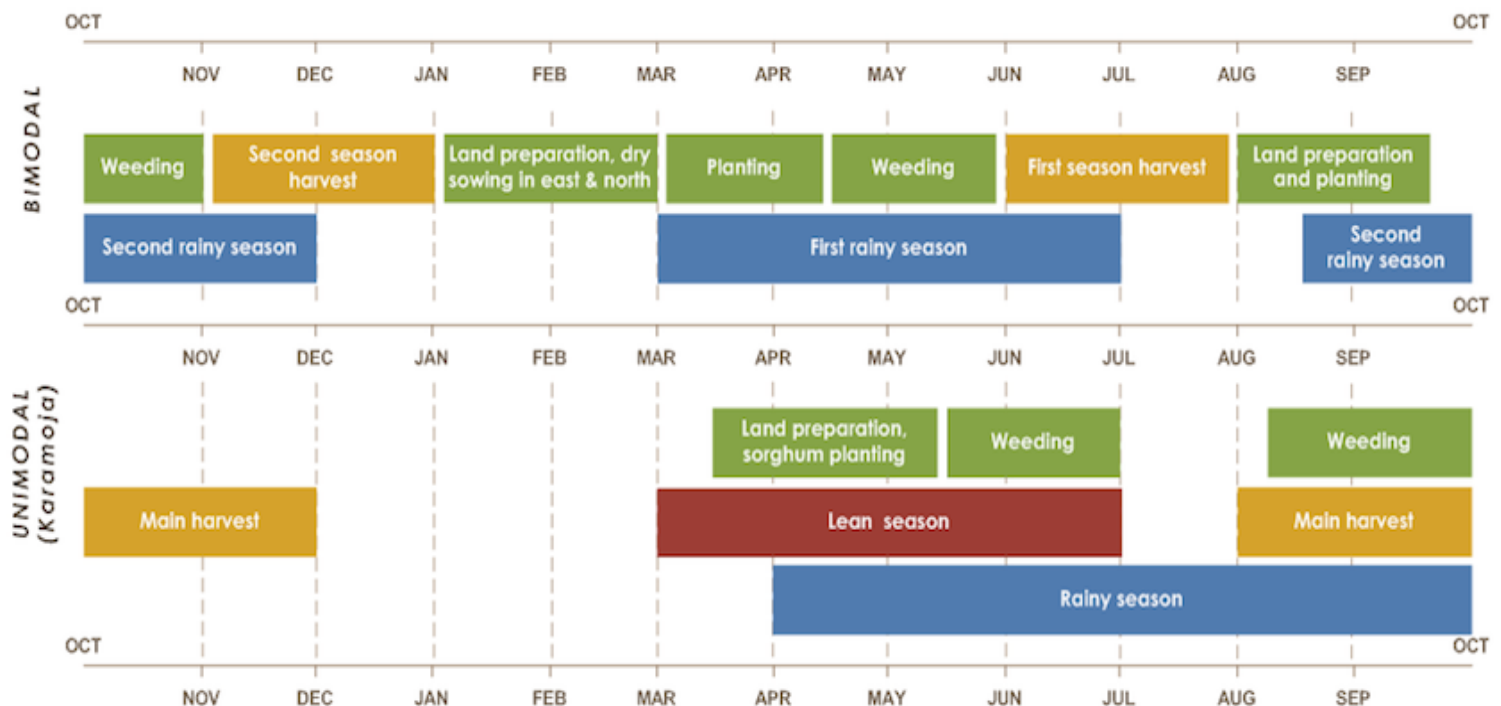
Source: NECOC/OPM, Uganda Police Force, February 2024



KARAMOJA SUB-REGION FOOD SECURITY OUTCOMES

Food security outcomes are expected to continue deteriorating from February to May, given the early start of the lean season. However, overall, levels of acute food insecurity are expected to be higher than levels observed in 2022 and early 2023. Overall, access to food through food purchases is expected to remain constrained, given limited income-generating activities and unfavorable terms of trade as the lean season progresses. Many households will continue to rely on less-preferred foods, inadequate meal sizes, and limited health expenditures. Average rainfall from April to May is expected to provide near-normal labor opportunities and harvests for 2024, likely slightly improving access to food. Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes are expected to be prevalent. At the same time, the worst-affected households will likely experience Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes given the high levels of acute malnutrition expected.

Source :Fewsnet





National Emergency Coordination and Operations Centre (NECOC)

The Office of the Prime Minister’s Department for Disaster Preparedness and Management established the National Emergency Coordination and Operations Centre (NECOC) in October 2014, with the support of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Uganda’s National Emergency Coordination and Operations Centre (NECOC) is a 24 hour, 7- days a week central facility for early warning dissemination and coordination of emergency and crisis response and recovery action. The NECOC is established under the National Policy for Disaster Preparedness and Management of Uganda (NPDPM) with the purpose of contributing towards the functionality and characteristics that make creation of an integrated and multi-sectoral system approach to planning, preparedness and management of disasters that is fundamental to sustained productivity and socio-economic growth of the country.

UPCOMING DRM EVENTS!

Stakeholder consultation for the Network of Early Warning for Africa, 20th - 24th March, Kampala Uganda

GEOGLAM Crop monitor Learning Exchange, 18th - 22nd March 2024, Naivasha, Kenya

The Water week 18th - 22nd March, World / Country Wide

Office of the Prime Minister (OPM)

National Emergency Coordination and Operations Centre (NECOC)

5th Floor, Postel Building, Clement Hill Road
P.O Box 341, Kampala Uganda.
Tel No. 0414 342 104

Website: www.necoc-opm.go.ug



Photo credit: The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister Robinah Nabbanja closed a high-level policy dialogue on sustainable development goals at Makerere University.

