

# Climate Change is a health crisis

EDITOR: Climate-induced disasters make our morning and evening news almost every day. The recent landslides in Sebei sub-region, affecting Bukwo, Kween and Kapchorwa districts, are just one of many tragedies Uganda has faced in recent months.

Families lost loved ones, homes and livelihoods in a matter of hours. Beyond the immediate devastation, survivors now face serious health risks: Unsafe water, inadequate shelter, food shortages and limited access to essential needs and services.

Across the country, droughts, floods and unpredictable rainfall are far too common. They are a constant threat to the health and well-being of millions of Ugandans. In the wake of these occurrences, rates of malaria, cholera, malnutrition and climate-related mental health challenges are rising; according to the Ministry of Health.

The World Health Organisation also highlights that nearly half of Uganda's health facilities are located in areas vulnerable to flooding or drought and more than 70% experience service disruptions during climate disasters.

These are our realities and they highlight an urgent truth: Uganda's health system must adapt quickly to a changing climate if we are to protect lives and prevent the situation from escalating. Uganda has developed strong frameworks, which outline important strategies for service delivery, infrastructure, surveillance and health workforce preparedness. Yet implementation remains slow, challenged by funding gaps, weak coordination and limited capacity.



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