



IN BRIEF



# WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY AND HUMANITARIAN ACTION (WPSHA)

## A SITUATION REPORT ON KISORO FLOODS (JANUARY 2022)

### THE ISSUE

Photo credit: New Vision

This situation brief highlights the impact of the floods and landslides that hit Kisoro district in January 2022. While the issue may have been overtaken by the insecurity in neighboring DRC that led to high influx of Congolese refugees into Kisoro district, the aftermath of the floods on especially women and children remains dire and in need of attention.

Kisoro district experienced landslides and floods following heavy rains on the night of the 24th of January 2022. The most affected areas were Nyarusiza and Muramba sub counties and Bunagana Town Council, where 9 (5F, 4M) people lost their lives. The disaster led to extensive loss of property estimated to be over one billion Uganda shillings affecting 1060 households (4600) individuals who lost their property.

physical damage of the floods and landslides. Data regarding the sex disaggregation of the 4,600 people affected by the landslides is not available. Disaggregating data by sex and vulnerabilities is vital to inform more targeted response that ensures that the most affected are served first.

**Loss of Livelihoods at a time when most people were only recovering from the socioeconomic challenges of COVID 19:** The Comprehensive Report on the disaster by the District Disaster Management Committee notes that business people lost merchandise worth 86 million shillings and live in constant fear of arrest, given their inability to service the loans. Lack of sex or age disaggregated data makes it difficult to ascertain who was most affected.

**Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH):** Water supply was affected as the Buzeyi village booster station's 58 cubic meter tank was rendered unusable; latrines were washed away or filled with mud, increasing the risk of a cholera outbreak and other diseases. While the lack of water for households affects all, the effect was particularly felt by women and girls, given their care roles and menstrual health needs. While no sanitary pads were distributed to women and girls, it was noted as a major need by the District Community Development Officer.

**Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS):** DDMC noted that the affected individuals were suffering "psychological torture" and needed psychosocial support. Whereas the DDMC, OPM and Uganda Red Cross were among the first responders to the



A situation analysis conducted by UN Women noted the following:

**Limited gender data to inform gender responsive interventions:** Assessments conducted by district disaster management committee (DDMC) focused on

disaster, psychosocial support was not given to the victims of the disaster.

**Access to roads and infrastructure:** 2km of road rendered impassable, including the one leading to Mount Muhabura and Mgahinga National Park, hindering transportation of agriculture produce and tourism. The impassable roads made it difficult for the rescue teams to access the affected areas as big boulders/stones had been piled in the middle of the road. The roads have been worked on and are now passable.

**GBV child protection and physical safety:** Gender based violence and child abuse were flagged by district officials as key areas of risk as families struggle to cope with their new realities that include homelessness and poverty.

**Health related challenges like disease outbreaks and poor nutrition:** affected population faced with high risk of disease outbreak like Cholera. Loss of gardens and businesses increased the likelihood of food nutrition challenges. These would affect children, pregnant and lactating women and the elderly.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

**Collect and use sex and age disaggregated data to inform responses:** this requires building the capacity of District Local Government and partners (local women's organisations) on rapid gender assessment with a focus on gender statistics and gender-responsive disaster and climate risk reduction and resilience.

**Enhance GBV and child protection responses:** this includes sensitization and support services for the prevention of GBV and Violence Against Children (VAC) among the affected communities.

**Increase access to health services,** including Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRHR), provision of dignity kits for women and girls and sensitization of communities on aspects of WASH.

**Support MHPSS staffing & skilling:** this entails building the capacity of District Local Government and local partners as first responders to integrate mental health psychosocial support in response services, including psychosocial support to children to enable them resume school

**Extend livelihoods support:** Provide affected families with financial and technical support to rebuild their homes in safe places, build latrines and water harvesting tanks.

**Prioritize education access:** support children from affected families to access education, particularly girls who are the most at risk of dropping out of school to care for younger siblings and boys who may be withdrawn from school to help supplement family livelihoods.

**Promote environmental protection and regeneration interventions:** including promotion of Climate smart agriculture and tree planting and relocation of families located in areas prone to climate disasters.

