

Floods destroy 800 acres of crops in Nebbi district

NEBBI
By Benedict Okethwengu

Hundreds of farmers in Alwi sub-county, Nebbi district are counting losses, after a heavy downpour, characterised by floods, destroyed over 800 acres of their crops on Monday.

The floods also cut off the road connecting Alwi and the sub-county of Panyimur to Pakwach.

The most affected crops were beans cassava, cotton, mangoes and oranges supplied under the Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) programme, raising fears of an outbreak of hunger in the sub-county.

Steen Omito, the district councillor representing Alwi sub-county, told *New Vision* on Monday that the crops were destroyed completely.

He explained that floods followed a heavy downpour on Sunday morning, adding that the most hit areas are Abok and Pangieth parishes.

Nebbi district has been experiencing rainfall in the recent weeks after suffering a



Children wading through the flood waters on Monday in Alwi sub-county, Nebbi district. Photo by Benedict Okethwengu

prolonged dry spell.

According to Omito, the affected farmers are yet to receive help from the district.

"We are compiling the lists of the affected farmers for submission to the relevant

authorities for possible assistance, although I know that 16 villages are affected," he said.

He, however, expressed fear of a possible outbreak of hunger, arguing that affected

areas are the food basket for the entire sub-county.

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Omito called on the Government and civil society organisations to come to the rescue of the farmers.

"All hopes are lost for my people. This was their only source of livelihood, that is why a quick response from the Government is urgently needed," he said.

He said the sub-county is too incapacitated to cater for the affected farmers.

Celsius Wororach, 42, one of the victims who said she lost over two acres of her crops, said her life has been shattered because of the destruction caused by the floods.

He explained that he had the hope of raising school fees for his children from his cotton has now been destroyed.

John Okumu, the LC1 chairperson of Payila central village, said it was the second time such floods were being reported in the area.

In 2015, over 1,000 acres of crops were also destroyed by floods, prompting the Government to intervene with relief.

Godfrey Odia, the Nebbi district information officer, said the district is waiting for the data from the sub-county to forward to the Office of the Prime Minister.

Geoffrey Okaka, the Nebbi chief administrative officer, said the district would dispatch a team to establish the facts about the floods.

"We have sent out a team to assess the situation for appropriate actions," she said.