

BY JOHN MASABA

The Government is seeking up to about sh75.3b from the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD) to support communities affected by climate-related disasters across Uganda, the Ministry of Water and Environment officials have said.

Speaking during a national workshop on loss and damage held at the water and environment ministry headquarters in Luzira, Kampala, Bob Natifu, the acting commissioner for the climate change department, said Uganda is positioning itself to access the new global climate financing mechanism aimed at supporting countries suffering irreversible climate impacts.

GROWING BURDEN

Natifu said Uganda's proposal is intended to address the growing burden of climate-induced disasters, including floods, droughts, landslides, infrastructure destruction and displacement of

Govt seeks sh75b for climate-related disasters



A stranded family in Bulambuli's Simu Pondo trading centre staring at their destroyed house shortly after landslides and floods ravaged the area

communities. "We are using this opportunity to respond to a call by FRLD, which requires countries to apply for grant funding of up to \$20m," Natifu said.

He noted that although the amount may appear small compared to the scale of climate destruction, it presents an important opportunity for

Uganda to build resilience among vulnerable communities.

The workshop brought together government officials, engineers, climate experts and development partners to discuss Uganda's concept proposal and how it can be aligned with national priorities.

Natifu said climate risks continue to threaten infrastructure,

freshwater resources, ecosystems and livelihoods across the country, forcing the Government to rethink adaptation and resilience strategies.

"We face climate risks on a daily basis. The question is how do we manage those risks," he said.

Natifu added that adaptation interventions must operate at three

levels; addressing climate hazards, reducing people's exposure to danger and tackling vulnerability among affected populations.

He cited the Mt. Elgon region which receives between 1,500mm and 3,000mm of rainfall annually as one of the country's most disaster-prone areas due to recurrent floods and landslides.

PROPOSAL

On her part, Sadie DeCoste, a climate researcher with the Loss and Damage Policy Institute, welcomed Uganda's efforts to prepare proposals under the new established fund.

"The FRLD is something many of us thought we would never see," she said.

DeCoste noted that while the fund remains under-resourced compared to the scale of global climate destruction, it offers hope for frontline communities.