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Health at stake due to climate change

In March 2010, Bududa District was struck by a landslide that left more than 100 people dead and property lost. A series of landslides have followed in 2013, including the recent one in Sironko District that killed seven people. According to experts, this shows how bad climate change can be. It has affected the social and environmental determinants of health, clean air, safe drinking water, sufficient food and secure shelter.

It brings rise to water borne diseases, including diarrhoea, which is a big threat to the lives of children due to the continued use of contaminated water from the rampant floods in the country, especially in Kampala city suburbs. Prolonged droughts have also dried up clean fresh water sources. With malaria being the largest killer disease accounting for 27 per cent of deaths in Uganda, the rising temperatures and flooding are a threat to all government efforts geared towards eradicating malaria. Hot temperature and flooded areas provide breeding grounds for mosquitoes and other disease causing vectors.

However, there is hope as the government commits to climate change adaptation and mitigation enacting the Climate Change law.

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