

# Climate change poses high risks to children - report

BY DAVID MAFABI  
dmafabi@ug.nationmedia.com

KAMPALA. Climate change and urbanisation represent emerging global challenges likely to adversely affect the well-being of the poorest and most vulnerable children in future, a new study reveals.

The report launched yesterday titled: "Emerging Global Challenges; Climate-related hazards and urbanisation: Protecting Uganda's children" by UNICEF, says despite the enormous progress Uganda has made in reducing poverty and safeguarding children's rights, these challenges threaten to undermine the national potential and trap millions of children in poverty.

The report reveals that climate change, environmental degradation and urbanisation are increasingly responsible for creating new risks and putting pressure on poverty reduction efforts while fostering and deepening socio-economic inequities.

The report that highlights the impact of climate related hazards and urbanisation on child welfare also provides emergency preparedness and informs the national responses, providing a detailed analysis of the potential impact of climate-related hazards on various aspects of children's well-being.

Dr. John Ssekamatte, the deputy executive director at Uganda Bureau of Statistics said the climate variation is captured through deviation from normal climate patterns and long-term trends identifying the extent to which climatic shocks affect children's welfare by associating discrete climatic shocks with specific outcomes of interest.

"And by comparing child welfare in households with different socioeconomic characteristics and geographic locations, the report becomes timely for us in the planning sector," said Dr Ssekamatte.

He said Uganda's vision to become a middle-income country by 2040 remains highly contingent on our ability to protect children's rights in the face of mounting

challenges such as climate-related hazards and urbanisation.

Dr Diego Angemi, the chief Social policy and advocacy officer at UNICEF explained that climate change will cause weather variations that will cause disease outbreaks associated with extreme meteorological conditions that will impact greatly to children.

"More than 50 per cent of children aged under five are living in poverty, and one in five in extreme poverty but with wide variations in levels of deprivation between geographic regions, and the socioeconomic status of families," said Dr Angemi.

He explained that climate change and urbanisation threaten to undermine our national potential and could trap millions of children in poverty and called for action to develop child-centred programmes that prepare for and prevent climate-related hazards as well as ensure that children living in urban areas are protected and able to achieve their full potential.

The Minister of state for disaster preparedness, Mr Musa Eweru said the report will enable government re-strategise for the vision 2040.

Mr Eweru said Climate change, environmental degradation and urbanisation are increasingly responsible for creating new risks and putting pressure on poverty reduction efforts while fostering and deepening socio-economic inequities.

"And in that respect, this study provides a significant contribution to guide emergency preparedness and inform the national response,"  
MUSA ECWERU, MINISTER FOR DISASTER PREPAREDNESS.



Minister Eweru

d  
d  
it  
r  
e  
e  
s.  
s  
s  
t  
ra  
n  
er  
y  
se  
id  
w  
h  
it  
in  
d  
ig  
in  
n  
it  
o  
f  
re  
r  
si  
ie  
d  
e  
a  
r,  
le  
s.  
is  
d  
n  
e  
3,  
y,  
d