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Ugandans suffering from 'serious' hunger - report

KAMPALA. Uganda is among countries suffering from serious hunger, a 2017 report by a consortium of international organisations says.

The report has been authored by Welt Hunger Life, International Food Policy Research Institute and Concern Worldwide.

Titled "Global hunger index; inequalities of hunger," Uganda has been ranked as serious.

Other categories are moderate, alarming and extremely alarming, which the country has skipped.

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It however notes Uganda's strides over the years, posting an improvement, albeit undesirable, at 24 per cent, a classification of the slowest progress in the report.

The researchers correlated families' income, social status and

location as being major factors that explain the level and extent of household hunger.

"Families' income, social status, and location often appear to play a greater role in determining whether children are stunted than does gender as data for East Africa show," read the report in part.

Town dwellers, who the report classified as living "close to the centres of power" are less susceptible to suffer hunger than their counterparts in far flung parts of the countryside.

"In Ethiopia, Tanzania, and Uganda, for instance, children are less likely to be stunted if they live in the capital city, close to the centres of power," the report noted.

This is blamed on the concentration of economic activities at the centre and therefore the distribution of resources.

At a recent government sector review conducted at the Office of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industries and

Fisheries revealed that households that have three meals a day have decreased from 83 per cent in the Financial Year 2015/2016 to 69 per cent in the Financial Year 2016/2017.

The government report was informed by a survey conducted by government, in which 30 districts were sampled.

Findings

A recent government sector review revealed that households that have three meals a day have decreased from 83 per cent in the Financial Year 2015/2016 to 69 per cent in the Financial Year 2016/2017.

The government report, which blamed rising household hunger on "prolonged dry spells, crop and animal pests coupled with inadequate knowledge on water

harvesting" noted that the Operation Wealth Creation programme is steadily salvaging the hunger situation.

National households that simply access one meal a day has also increased from 16 to 27 per cent of the population, according to the government report.

The government report places at 4.6 per cent, the number of households facing food crisis by going without any meals in a day.

Regions most bedeviled by hunger in the world, according to the report, include South Asia and Sub Saharan Africa.

The regions of the world struggling most with hunger are South Asia and Africa south of the Sahara, with scores in the serious range (30.9 and 29.4, respectively).

The scores of East and Southeast Asia, the Near East and North Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States range from low to moderate.