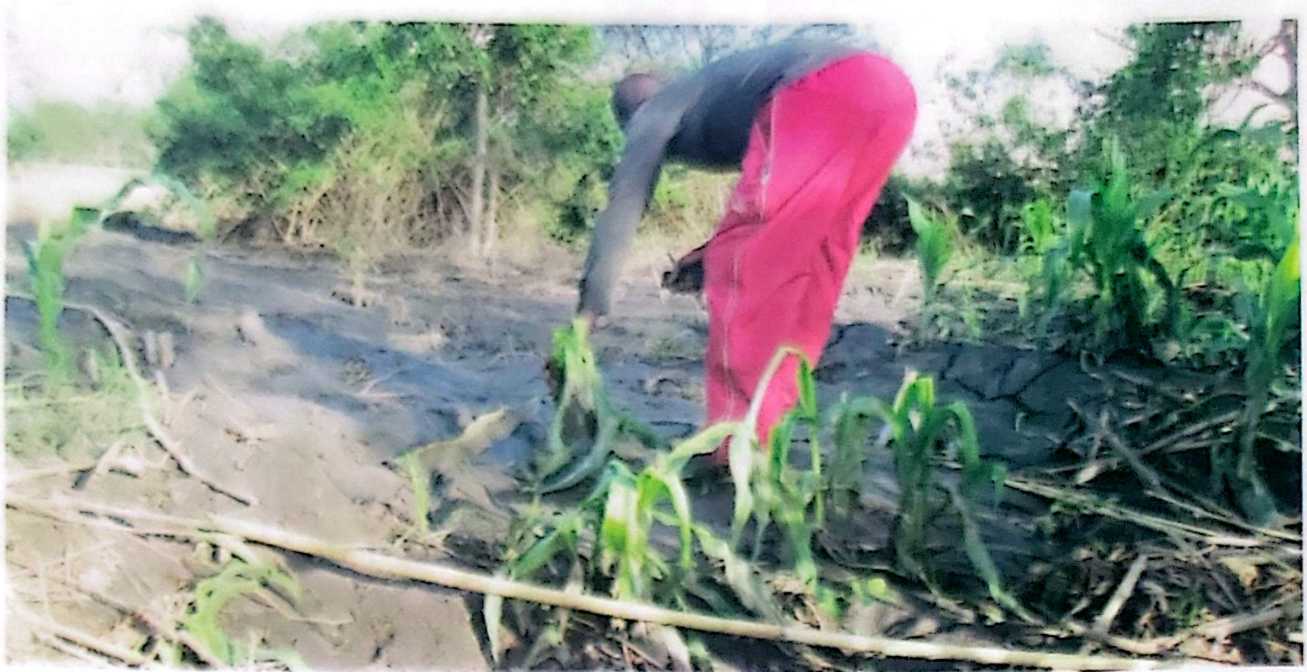




A farmer shows how his maize plantation was destroyed by floods in Kasese District recently. Natural disasters such as floods have contributed to food insecurity in Uganda.

PHOTO BY MORIS NUMBERE

Blame. The report states that many people, especially in remote areas, survive on porridge and wild roots.

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Food insecurity remain big threat to Uganda

About 69 per cent of the total population of Uganda is food insecure, a report released by Office of the Prime Minister's department of relief, disaster preparedness and management titled food security assessment says.

The report says food insecurity has been a great threat to Uganda as some Ugandans hardly access a meal a day.

It states that many people, especially in remote areas survive on porridge and wild roots.

Large movements of people today are presenting complex challenges, which call for global action.

Many migrants arrive in developing countries, creating tensions where resources are already scarce, but the majority, about 763 million, moves within their own countries rather than abroad.

Political instabilities in the neighbouring countries have led many immigrants to come to Uganda thus creating tensions where resources, especially land are scarce. Unrest, poor climatic changes, land shortage and natural hazards are some of the factors causing food insecurity in the country.

According to the UN statistics, Uganda currently hosts 1.2 million refugees, majority being from Southern Sudan with close to 800,000 people registered.

This follows the political unrest in their country that has inflicted famine, death and injustices to people especially women and children

making them flee. This number of people creates scarcity on the already small resources in the country, hence food insecurity.

Mr David Kazungu, the commissioner for refugees says about 2,000 refugees enter Uganda every day.

According to Food and Agriculture Organisation, internal migrations stand at 763 million. These people migrate within their countries due to uncertainties in their communities, poverty being the main cause.

Poor soils and climatic conditions are also lined as a cause of hunger in the country.

In the National Food Security Assessment report, Dr Ruhakana Rugunda the Prime Minister of Uganda, says natural disasters have caused poor yields and food shortage, despite Uganda having favourable conditions for food growth.

"As part of my mandate and effort to solve the persistent food insecurity, a comprehensive five-year food insecurity eradication strategic plan is being developed that will reduce over reliance on rain-fed production. Government is embarking on small, medium and large scale irrigation schemes as well as enhancement of mechanised production" Dr Rugunda says in the report.

According to the report, the country will sensitise its masses on how to carry out effective farming through modernised irrigation and other farming methods, address climate conditions that increase drought, train farmers on farm management and to also adopt technology that can help increase in production.

It also notes that modernisation, especially improvement in infrastructure will help increase on food security. "A major theme of this report is the recognition that addressing food insecurity

in Uganda requires transforming agriculture from subsistence livelihood into a profitable business, as such transformation would be a major driver for lifting millions of people out of poverty," the report reads in part.

Statistics released by Uganda Bureau of statistics show that the level of poverty in Uganda has increased for 19.7 to 27. This implies that people need to be sensitised on how to work for the better.

The According to the latest IPC report, an estimated 10.9 million people in Uganda are experienc-

ing an acute food insecurity, of which 1.6 million are in a crisis.

A report by FAO shows that despite international efforts to address food insecurity, around 108 million people living in 48 food-crisis countries were at high risk of food insecurity in 2016, a dramatic increase compared with 80 million in 2015, according to a new global report on food crises released in Brussels recently.

The dramatic increase reflects the trouble people have in producing and accessing food due to conflict, record-high food prices in local markets in affected countries and extreme weather conditions such drought and erratic rainfall caused by El Niño.

Civil conflict is the driving factor in nine of the 10 worst humanitarian crises, underscoring the strong linkage between peace and food security, says the Global Report on Food Crises 2017.

The 108 million people reported to be facing severe food insecurity in 2016 represent those suffering from higher-than-usual acute malnutrition and a broad lack of minimally adequate food even with external assistance. This includes households that can cope with their minimum food needs only by depleting seeds, livestock and agricultural assets needed to produce food in the future.

"As part of my mandate and effort to solve the persistent food insecurity, a comprehensive five-year food insecurity eradication strategic plan is being developed that will reduce over reliance on rain-fed production. Government is embarking on small, medium and large scale irrigation schemes as well as enhancement of mechanised production,"

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