



“Disaster Risk Reduction a tool for prevention, mitigation and adaptation to disaster induced displacement in Uganda

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By the International Institute of Rural
Reconstruction (IIRR)

Introduction

- Approximately 70% of the recent disasters are weather-related and this proportion is likely to grow as climate change processes increase. While natural hazards cannot be prevented, they only get turned into disasters when affected communities are vulnerable and unprepared.

Recent disasters

- The war by the LRA that lasted for close to 23 years in Northern Uganda;
- Prolonged drought resulting in food shortage in Karamoja Region
- Disease outbreaks in Western Uganda, livestock and crop disease;
- Floods in the Teso sub region
- Mud and landslides as a result of heavy rains in Elgon region and environmental degradation

Effects of disasters on population

- Migration
- Deaths
- Destruction of infrastructure
- Diversion of national resources to respond to emergencies

Migration, climate change and the environment

- Migration, climate change and the environment are interrelated. Migration often is perceived as a failure to adapt to a changing environment. Migration can also be an adaptation mechanism and survival strategy to climate and environmental change for those who migrate. It is an essential component of the socio-environmental interactions that needs to be managed.

Displacement projections

Current projected estimates show that the number of people who will be obliged to migrate as a result of climate change and environmental degradation by the year 2050 range from 25 million to one billion. This raises important questions surrounding what should be done to prevent, mitigate and ensuring adaptation of the displaced. (IOM report 2007)

Efforts for building resilience In Uganda

Uganda has articulated a favourable policy framework for both disaster and displacement concerns

- National Policy for Disaster Preparedness and Management (2011) aims to streamline disaster management
- In 2004 Uganda put in place a policy to guarantee the right of IDPs to freely choose to return, integrate and settle.
- 2005-2015 Hyogo Framework provides the opportunity to scale-up disaster risk reduction efforts in supporting the affected communities.

Efforts to respond to Policies on displacement

- Uganda became the first state to ratify the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of IDPs in Africa (also known as the Kampala Convention)
- DRR actors have facilitated the process of building community resilience.
- IIRR with support from URCS in collaboration OPM has undertaken nation wide risk mapping to facilitate effective planning for emergency response and disaster mitigation and prevention.

Efforts continued

- IIRR in Uganda supported partners and professionals to integrate Risk Reduction into development initiatives through our capacity building programme.
- With Support from partners, the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction is working with communities to assess Disaster Risks through the Participatory Disaster Risk Assessment (PDRA)
- IIRR is supporting Communities at risk in Uganda to design intervention plans for risk reduction and resilience building.

Effort continued

- IIRR in partnership with other development partners like the UN FAO and CORD AID has supported the development of District contingency plans for effective preparedness in Karamoja and the Teso sub regions.

For effective prevention and response to disaster-related displacement and migration

In-depth analysis for policy reforms requires obtaining:

- Accurate data of the people displaced
- Ascertaining their locations
- Understanding their Livelihood situation
- Pattern of displacement
- Causes of the migrations/vulnerability
- Duration of displacement
- Appropriate response

Challenges:

- The critical challenge is ensuring linkage between disaster and displacement issues in development interventions.
- The other challenge is related to the operationalising Risk reduction and management Policies.
- Those moving across international borders as a result of hazard events are protected by international human rights law, which, however, does not entitle them to admission and stay in another country.
- There is no criteria to distinguish between voluntary and forced movements.

How to factor migration and displacement in the HFA's next period;

- Facilitate migration as an adaptive strategy to climate change.
- Empowering communities to reduce their disaster risks.
- Focus on interventions to reduce exposure to hazards such as implementing environmental regulations and sustainable management of natural resources
- Reduce the underlying causes of vulnerability of people and their homes by reducing poverty, enforcing building codes and extending critical infrastructure



Thank you for Listening.