El Niño and health
UGANDA overview - January 2016

EL NIÑO FORECAST AND HUMANITARIAN CONSEQUENCES

• El Niño is likely to result in above-average rainfall persisting up to February 2016. Kasese and Mt. Elgon are expected to be most affected. It is estimated that 800,000 people will be at risk of landslides and floods with humanitarian consequences that could last until mid-2016.

CURRENT AND PROJECTED HEALTH CONDITIONS

• Wet conditions may increase the incidence of infectious diseases such as malaria, cholera and dysentery. Acute respiratory infections may rise to outbreak levels in 30 of 112 districts. These districts will need additional support to mitigate El Niño effects.
• Some of the effects of the floods may result in damage to health facilities, flooding of latrines and destruction of crops in the affected districts.

HEALTH PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE ACTIONS

• In October 2015, the Ministry of Health in Uganda, supported by WHO and partners produced a National Health Sector Contingency Plan (that was integrated into the National El Niño Preparedness and Contingency Plan coordinated by the Office of the Prime Minister and the Department of Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Management) that costs USD 938,333.
  - Main activities are:
    - Coordination of partners/stakeholders;
    - Monitoring of the health response;
    - Uninterrupted provision of essential drugs and medical supplies to affected population;
    - Health education and community mobilization;
    - Epidemic preparedness and response.

*INFORM (Index for Risk Management) is a global risk assessment index for humanitarian crises and disasters: http://www.inform-index.org/