



05th

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Press statement on flooding and landslides in Uganda: Urgent action and long-term solutions needed to deal with the Climate crisis.

As a coalition of feminist organisations working on gender and climate change, our hearts and thoughts go to individuals, families and communities that were devastated by flooding and landslides that occurred in the Mt. Elgon region over the weekend. We stand in solidarity with them.

We appreciate the efforts of government and other stakeholders in offering relief and taking care of emergencies.

However, this is not sustainable given that what is currently happening is a clear picture that Uganda is at the frontline of the impacts of climate change which in turn requires an urgent frontline action and long-term solutions.

The current catastrophe in Mt. Elgon region is as a result of a sequence of extreme environmental destruction that has caused havoc on people's livelihoods and communities in the country.

The drought that has left hundreds reportedly dead in Karamoja region; massive crop failures as a result of long dry spells in different parts of the country; extreme storms; rainfall and floods, and rising water levels that have destroyed lives and livelihoods show how climate change is a grave threat to our wellbeing and planet.

The floods in Mbale are currently making it very difficult for people to move from one area to another and mainly school going children that are missing school because of destroyed roads and bridges. Small holder farmers in Nambale have lost their small pieces of land where they have been getting food and income. Additionally, nearby water sources have been destroyed and access to clean water has become a challenge.

The climate crisis continues to affect the marginalised communities in a very devastating way and yet not so many decisions or actions are being made to combat the effects of the crisis.

The Uganda Climate Change policy highlights the vulnerability of communities and especially women, but apart from victimising them, they have been left out in the implementation of these policies and plans. These communities have been left powerless in cases of injustices where the powerful are degrading ecosystems and especially taking over wetlands, clearing forests and other ecologically sensitive areas.

We, therefore, recommend that the government should accelerate efforts to confront this climate crisis which is mainly affecting the marginalised especially women and destroying the future of young people whose lives largely depend on natural resources for survival.

The Government should actively implement the Climate change Act 2021, which governs Uganda to respond to climate change, and involve communities to come up with inclusive community-led solutions to climate adoption and mitigation.

The encroachers of environmental protected areas like the wetlands, forests and rivers should be dealt with as per the article 26 of the Climate Change Act 2021. The government should be accountable to people not encroachers and polluters.

The Uganda National Metrological Authority should play their role of availing timely information to the grass root communities on weather forecasts.

Uganda will be part of the climate change discussions in COP27 taking place in November in Egypt, aimed at limiting the global temperature rise below 1.5 degrees Celsius as envisaged in COP21 in France and therefore, as leaders take part in discussions, the cries of those who have lost their lives should be a turning point to save the remaining.

Women and youth should be at the centre of climate action and these discussions and their initiatives to combat climate change should be amplified.

Now more than ever, we need to see radical system change and real solutions - a just transition away from fossil fuels, large-scale hydro, agro fuels and other forms of dirty and harmful energy, whilst simultaneously building the alternatives. Now more than ever we need leaders who care not about political expediency and personal enrichment in the present, but for their legacy in making a contribution towards solving the climate crisis.

Silence, is a privilege we cannot afford. Inaction is a luxury. We ask the government to actively take action on the climate crisis because it affects marginalized communities most. We have one country, one continent, one world and we all have to take action against Climate Change in order to protect it.

We stand with those taking action on the crisis. We stand with young people raising their voices to call for urgent action and we urge them to stand with frontline communities who are already facing impacts.

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