

Uganda – August 2021

Rapid Needs Assessment: Impact of the Kasese Floods on Older People

Context

Since 12 July 2021 heavy rainfall has been affecting western and northern Uganda. The heavy rains particularly affected the Nyamwamba River in the Kasese District (Western Region) causing the river to overflow and burst its banks. This has resulted in the destruction and damage to houses and roads in about 30 villages such as Katiri, Namuhunga, and Kyanjuiki. This has led to displacement with many inhabitants being hosted in temporary government accommodation including in tents and local school and church halls, others are residing with relatives or friends' houses. Furthermore, the floods have impacted people's livelihoods with gardens, a vital source of food and income, being damaged.

Key findings

Priorities

Top priorities for older people interviewed were food (42%), cash (38%), and shelter (17%).



Food

79% of older people do not have access to sufficient food. A key cause was that 56% reported that their gardens were damaged or destroyed.



Shelter

33% of older people reported their shelter needs majors' repairs, with 17% needing minor. Furthermore, 56% of older people do not feel safe in their shelter due to fear of future flooding.



Health

The three biggest barriers to accessing health services were 37% said they were too expensive, 23% not enough medicine, 12% negative attitude of health workers.



Wellbeing

51% of older people reported they feel depressed or upset while 61% said they felt nervous, either daily or weekly. This increased with age.



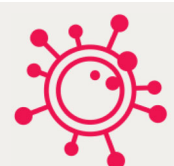
Care

90% of older people interviewed are providing care for children with 50% providing care for 5 or more children.



COVID-19

69% of those interviewed who had not received a COVID-19 vaccine, if offered, would very likely take it while 19% said somewhat likely and only 8% said they would not take it. 49% of older people faced barriers to COVID-19 messaging. The preferred method of receiving messages was through the radio (88%).

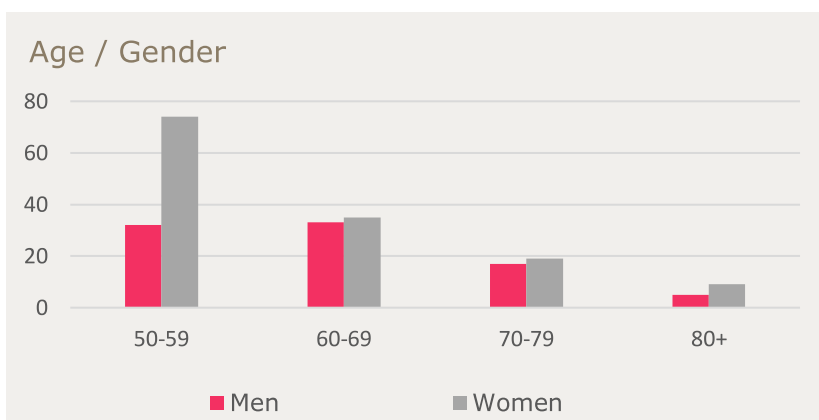


Recommendations



1. Implement an inclusive multi-purpose cash transfer intervention for displaced older people and their families to help them rebuild their lives.
2. Provide cash grants to older persons to support with repairs of damaged houses and gardens.
3. Establish outreach teams & services for those who are unable to reach static health facilities and who require additional care and support.
4. Establish a safe space to provide psychosocial support to older adults experiencing anxiety and depression.
5. Design and deliver strategies on COVID-19 information and prevention through local radio stations.
6. Strengthen the early warning system in Kasese District to trigger alerts for people to move away from the riverbanks in the months when the floods occur.
7. The district local government and the central government should consider relocation of populations living along the riverbanks.
8. Other civil society and the district local government should rehabilitate damaged infrastructure including roads, bridges and health centres to ensure access to services needed by the older persons.

Demographics



97% of older people have at least one health condition

Joint aches and pains: 60%

Hypertension: 34%

Gastro: 29%

Heart problems: 20%

Respiratory: 20%

Diabetes: 9%

Skin disease: 4%

HIV/AIDS: 2%

27% of older people have at least one disability

Walking: 15%

Communication: 10%

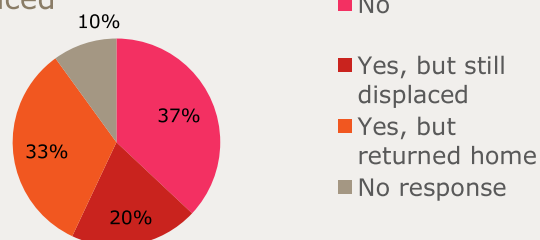
Self-care: 8%

Sight: 6%

Hearing: 5%

Remembering and concentrating: 5%

Displaced



Dashboard – click **here** to access all data from the assessment.

Methodology

During the assessment 224 older people were interviewed across the five villages in the Kasese districts: 66 in Katiriri, 57 in Namuhunga, 56 in Kyanjuiki, 28 in Nyakabingo and 17 in Kyondo. The interviews took place between 11 and 13 August 2021. The assessment used a purposive sampling approach to reach women and men aged 50 and above. The interviews were conducted by 8 local data collectors (3 female, 5 male).

Contact

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