* Discussing observations for adaption, mitigation & disaster risk reduction

**Community disaster risk management in Kotido district**

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**Background:** Communities in semi-aridregions usually experience environmental shocks like disasters and floods. Kotido district is part of the seven districts that form up the pastoral Karamoja region. This study seeks to establish factors that affected flood disaster management in Kotido district.

**Methodology:** The study focused on 238 randomly selected internally displaced camp residents. Key informant interviews were conducted and data qualitatively analyzed to assess issues that impeded successful mitigation of flood disasters.

**Findings:** Continued degradation of wetlands for crop cultivation and cattle over grazing were partly responsible for increased flooding during rainy seasons and drought during dry seasons. The absence of accessible micro-finance credit schemes to support recovery efforts of the communities’ drastically undermined measures to reduce the impact of flood disasters. The district was reported to have lacked contingency plans to show the risks and likelihood of related disasters occurring with potential effects at the community level hence impeding disaster management and preparedness. Both the government of Uganda and the local government of Kotido district had not practically earmarked emergency funds for disaster response. The affected communities had no storage facilities for emergency relief items like medicine and food. The idea of having community level food stores and granaries died out and this amplified the flood disaster with famine making disaster management difficult. The poor nature of the community’s temporary mud bricks and wattle roofed huts exacerbated the impact of the floods since many huts were just washed down prompting more relief items like tents straining the relief efforts.

**Conclusion:** Gross awareness creation at the community level and alternative means of livelihood that do not constrain non-renewable resources have to be persistently addressed to mitigate against natural disasters in the district.

**Key Words:** Disaster, risk management, community initiatives