PRESS RELEASE
Land Slides ravage Bududa district, Eastern Uganda; dozens of lives lost.

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Over 34 lives lost in Bududa Mudslides

Background

On 11th October 2018, heavy rains that lasted for about 2 hours from 2:15 p.m. hit areas of Bukalasi Sub-county in Bududa district, eastern Uganda. River Suume which is within the same sub-county filled up, burst its banks and the heavy overflow swept off houses in the neighbouring villages, leaving over 34 people dead.

The villages affected include: Suume, Nnayinza, Namalira, Nyekhe, Malanda, Shishambwa, Nanyenga, Bunamwamba among others.

Three (3) trading centres of Naposhi, Nalutumu and Wanjenuwa were also severely affected, halting business and affecting access to social services.

The mudslides have had a devastating effect on the lives of people, livestock, plantations and human settlement. Many people have been displaced while others have had to move to neighbouring villages for shelter with relatives and close friends.

Uganda Red Cross Response

Mbale, Bubulo and Bududua Red Cross branch volunteers mobilised and swung in action to share alerts, mobilise other trained community responders to conduct search and rescue, as well as evacuation of people from the affected areas.

A technical team has been dispatched to conduct a rapid assessment to establish the magnitude of the disaster and ascertain support needed for the response.

Uganda Red Cross has positioned relief items (blankets, jerrycans, soap, aqua tabs, tarpaulins, and kitchen sets among others) to support the affected families. These will be distributed on Sunday 14th October, 2018 in Bududa district.

Sensitisations on climate change affects, disaster preparedness and response will continue in all disaster prone areas in Eastern Uganda and elsewhere in the country for community preparedness and safety.

Key figures

34 deaths reported

Dozens still missing

30 Red Cross Volunteers conducting search and rescue

Quote:

“We are deeply saddened by the incident in Bududa. We identify with the families that lost their loved ones. Uganda Red Cross will do whatever we can to mobilise resources and support the affected families. Our teams are on ground to continue with search and rescue and also support the evacuation process.” Says Robert Kwesiga – Secretary General – Uganda Red Cross Society.
Editor’s Notes
Bududa district in 2010 registered a similar incident where over 100 lives were claimed. The district remains among the disaster prone areas where Uganda Red Cross has heavily invested in disaster preparedness and response efforts as part of supporting communities to prepare, mitigate, and respond to any disasters to save lives.


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