MIGRANTS' RESPONSE TO UGANDA GOVERNMENT'S MIGRATION AND RESETTLEMENT POLICIES DUE TO CLIMATE CHANGE DISASTERS

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SECTION ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

The definition of climate change shifts from scholar to scholar but the major underpinnings is alteration of the global atmosphere due to human activity orchestrated either directly or indirectly (UNFCC,1992) variating natural weather conditions over a long period of time. The United Nations International Organisation for Migration (IOM) defines migration as "when a person or a group of persons voluntarily or involuntarily cross an international or border or are displaced within a state. This encompasses refugees, internally displaced persons, economic, social and climate migrants (IOM, 2022). Migration is an old-age phenomenon comprising voluntary and involuntary movements involving internal and international migrations, which have been an integral part of Uganda's history (Mukwaya et.al, 2012). Internal migration is the change of usual residence within the administrative boundaries of countries (Reese, 2020). Such movement can be short-term or long-term. The term "climate refugees" was first used by Klepp (2017) in reference to policy discussions that have dominated most of the 21st Century. With the term, he described people forced or voluntarily leaving their homes due to social and environmental developments. Other scholars have used terms such as "environmental migrants" to describe a similar population.

Several studies have used the migration theory to develop environmental frameworks to link climate change to migration, especially in Europe and Latin America. As there is still a dearth there is a dearth of similar studies in Africa, particularly tackling the policy issues around resettlement and adaptation of "climate refugees." This study will employ the migration theory, specifically, the environmental frameworks designed by Government Office for Science in the United Kingdom after conducting multiple case studies in Nicaragua, the United States of America, Canada, and Venezuela, Perch Nielsen et al. (2008) found other complexities around climate change and migration. Whilst the trio were studying only two hazards, floods and rising sea levels, their findings offer a benchmark for which this study will be built to investigate why vulnerable or risky populations would rather stay in disaster-prone areas than resettle in safer parts.

The global climate is changing, and predictions show that the climate system will experience more changes. Uganda is ranked 12th among the countries most prone to climate hazards (Government of Uganda, 2014; Okaka,2020) and 36th among countries with least capacity to adapt from the same. Worldwide, the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) is estimated to be about 55 million (IDMC,2021), and Uganda has been among the top countries with a huge number of IDPs (IDPs rose to about 1.6 million in 2006 (UNHCR,2007). The prevalence of such numbers of IDPs has been a serious population issue in the 20 years. Of late, climate change migration has been on the rise in Uganda, in which environmental shocks related to climate change are driving displacement and human mobility in Uganda (Maastricht School of Governance, 2017). The recurrent floods, droughts and conflicts compel some people to move to urban areas. Since 2016, every year after has been recorded as the hottest on record by the country's metrological department, the forest and wetland cover have reduced by over 75% according to the National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA, 2016) and the movement of people due to climate disasters and hazards has grown exponentially since the first landslides in 2012 in the Elgon region.

Last year alone, more than 250,000 fled their homes in Kasese when River Nyamwamba burst its banks for the third time in a row following the melting of glaciers on Mountain Rwenzori, the highest block mountain in the region. In East Uganda, Lake Victoria displaced residents in Serere District while floods and landslides destroyed homes and killed scores in Bududa and Mbale districts respectively. Expert projections by National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) predict more rainfall reductions and increase in temperatures between 20° to 50°C in the next 50 to 80years. Exposures to extreme weather events like rainstorms, drought, flooding, and landslides are increasing in frequency and severity and adversely affect livelihood and ecosystem.

1.1.1 Climate Change Events

In Uganda, livelihoods and socioeconomic development are largely dependent on environmental and natural resources (Freduah et. al, 2017). This high nature dependence makes environmental and natural resource degradation a major concern (Asongu et. al, 2019). Forest cover has reduced from 24 per cent of the country’s surface area in the 1990s to 12 percent which is approximately two percent of the annual loss of forest cover, which is among the world’s highest cover loss (MWE, 2019). At this rate, unless forest conservation and restoration take place, Uganda could

lose all forest cover by 2041(National Forestry Authority, 2016). Wetland cover has also reduced significantly from 17 percent of Uganda's land area in 1964 to 15.6 per cent in 1994 and is currently approx. 8.9 percent (NEMA,2020).

Uganda's vulnerability to different climate-related hazards is largely influenced by the high dependence on natural resources and climate sensitive sectors (most especially on rainfed agriculture), weak institutional capacity, high poverty levels and limited access to climate information services, among others (Berrang-Ford et al, 2012; Nkuba et al, 2020). The impact of climate change affects almost all sectors but most especially agriculture, livestock, production, energy, water, tourism, transport, and human settlements among others. Land and ecosystem degradation, and biodiversity loss are majorly driven by the increasing population and the need for land for settlement and agriculture expansion among others. For example, between 1990 and 2015, 80 percent of the land lost from forestry and wetlands was converted into agricultural land (NEMA,2020). Environmental degradation reduces ecosystems' resilience to climate variability and climate change which amplifies the negative impacts of climate change in the country. Besides, biodiversity loss decreases the structural diversity of vegetation, affects social nutrients and structure and can lead to soil erosion which in turn increases vulnerabilities to climate shocks and extreme weather events (World Bank, 2016).

Soil erosion and soil nutrient depletion constitute the two most important forms of land degradation and major threats to sustainable agriculture in Uganda. Between 60 and 90 per cent of land in some parts of the country is affected by soil erosion. Severe soil erosion occurs in the rangelands of the cattle corridor, most especially in Karamoja, Kiruhura, Luweero and Nakasongola where overstocking and overgrazing have obliterated the fragile vegetation cover. Soil fertility loss in Uganda is one of the highest in Sub-Saharan Africa mostly due to the slow uptake of fertilizers, soil erosion and other poor farming methods.

Environmental degradation is being exacerbated by the impacts of climate change, more especially through droughts, intense rainfall, and flooding, compounded by the degradation of wetlands and catchments linked to deteriorating water quality and quantity. Severe water shortages are a rising concern in the cattle corridor, especially in the Karamoja sub-region and will worsen with the changing climate.

1.2. Research Problem

Research works have shown that most government resettlement policies have been shunned by vulnerable migrants. There is a lack of a participatory approach between different stakeholders at the policy level, which fails to permeate the social and cultural fabric of the target groups. While most people perceive migration as temporary, some government interventions have required migrants to move permanently which becomes an issue for migrants that need to relocate temporarily due to several reasons which include but are not limited to facts that migration would breed land conflicts.

To identify the policy gaps around climate change and migration, a careful and sufficient study of the existing laws, policies and strategies is prudent. Some of the documents to be studied include the National Internally Displaced Persons Policy (2004), Climate Change Policy (2015), Climate Change Act (2021), The National Risk and Vulnerability Atlas of Uganda (2019), National State of the Environment Report (2018-19), the Land Act, Uganda Sustainable Mountain Development Strategy, among others.

1.3. Research Questions

RQ1: What is the mismatch between the emergency disaster preparedness policies and target populations?

RQ2: What are the policies enacted by the government to handle the resettlement of climate change migrants are enforced?

RQ3: Does the government takes into consideration the cultural and social norms when planning for climate change migrants?

RQ4: What consultations take place before resettling victims of climate crises to other areas?

RQ5: What factors influence “climate refugees” to shun government resettlement efforts to the extent that some forcefully return to their endangered homelands?

1.4 Research Objectives

1.4.1. General Objective

To investigate why climate migrants, shun government interventions by government.

1.4.2 Specific Objectives

1. To analyze the Uganda government response mechanisms to climate emergencies in the last 10 years.
2. To analyze the migration and resettlement trends Uganda has recorded and adopted post 1986 when the current government took power.
3. To determine the consultative process, if any, that the Ugandan government employs before implementing her migration and resettlement policies in crisis-hit areas.
4. To establish the gaps between Uganda's migration policies and her human resettlement efforts.

1.5 Justification of the Study

Uganda is not short of resettlement and migration policies. In fact, the country has under the Office of the Prime Minister, enacted more than a dozen laws and policies to support its disaster and preparedness interventions. However, targeted beneficiaries of these laws have over time come to crossroads with them, some outright ignoring government policy interventions while others grudgingly concede.

With the climate crisis looming large, Uganda needs to revisit its migration and resettlement policy framework to build better consensus with communities that are prone to natural hazards and disasters and those selected to host the so called "climate refugees" for peaceful coexistence.

With Uganda ranked No.12 on the list of countries that will be hit the hardest by the climate crisis, this study could not have come at a better time as the number of human migration is likely to increase increasing pressure on natural and other resources in proposed host communities thus fueling internal conflicts.

1.6 Value of the study

The findings this study will generate will help the government and other relevant stakeholders to revisit the existing policy frameworks, amalgamate some and create better emergency preparedness for future climate crises as opposed to the current, almost reactionary approach.

To the academia, its the view of the researcher that this study will be helpful in theory building to other researchers in the field of Climate Change and be a launchpad for future academic studies. This study will contribute to future literature on Uganda's migration laws, make recommendations for adaptation and influence debate on the need for consultative processes with the different stakeholders, including the targeted beneficiaries beforehand.

Furthermore, this study can also be utilized by the management practitioners in the field of Climate Change in other countries, particularly in the areas of human migration to learn from Uganda's example, to plan and implement their policies and laws as guided by the findings - especially in areas where the context and cultures are similar like the Great Lakes Region.

SECTION TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

To identify the policy gaps around climate change and migration, a careful and sufficient study of the existing laws, policies, and strategies is prudent. Some of the documents to be studied include the National Internally Displaced Persons Policy (2004), Climate Change Policy (2015), Climate Change Act (2021), The National Risk and Vulnerability Atlas of Uganda (2019), National State of the Environment Report (2018-19), the Land Act, Uganda Sustainable Mountain Development Strategy, among others.

2.2 Theoretical Framework

This study is anchored on the Environmental Migration Frameworks under the broader Migration Theory.

2.2.1 Environmental Migration Frameworks

Current scholarship oscillates between several frameworks to ground migration studies as there no concrete theory that links climate change to human migration. However, scholars under the Foresight Network developed a set of Environmental Migration Frameworks anchored on the Migration Theory to draw a correlation between climate change and involuntary migration flows from Africa to Europe. They argue with certainty that adverse changes in weather over time have been an indirect driver of migration by exacerbating the severity of direct drivers such as hunger, droughts, flooding which cause displacement (Foresight, 2011). They further argue that the lack of safety nets in political, social, and economic spheres of life in vulnerable countries and the inability to recover quickly and adapt to extreme weather conditions make the conditions for migration inevitable (Tacoli, 2009).

The core of their thesis is that it is critical to protect transhumance as a catalyst for to realizing food security – one of the major drivers for migration in Africa. It is possible to achieve adaptation through cross-border mobility, especially for transhumant livestock in pursuit for water and grazing pastures.

2.3 Geography and Climate

Uganda sits in East Africa in the path of the Equator. It's tropical climate, lushy savannah, mountains and vast water bodies earned for the country a moniker of the "Pearl of Africa" from the former British Colonial Chancellor, Winston Churchill. Uganda shares her borders with Kenya to the East, South Sudan to the North, the Democratic Republic of Congo to the West, Rwanda in the Southwest, and Tanzania in the South. With a population of slightly above 40m as of the 2014 National Population Census, Uganda's is the world's third biggest host of refugees with over 1.5m currently registered according to data from the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR, 2022).

Previously, Uganda had a fairly stable rainfall supply throughout the year but things have changes in the recent past with some parts of the country experiencing no rainfall at all all-year-round forcing communities to desertify while other parts receive abnormal amounts of rainfall that causing flooding, landslides, destruction of crops, homes and livelihoods, forcing people flee their homes. Climate extremes and hazards including extreme temperatures, prolonged droughts, severe windstorms and rainstorms, floods, high temperatures and increase in pests and diseases, among others, affect Uganda and are increasing in frequency and severity (Government of Uganda, 2017; Oriangi et al., 2020). The impacts are unevenly distributed throughout the country (World Bank Group,2015). For example, frequent droughts have been mainly documented in the northeastern and the cattle corridor regions (Eguru et al, 2014; Makuma-Massa et al., 2012) while recurrent floods have been mainly occurring in the east, central and western regions of Uganda (Sliuzas et al., 2013). The major climate hazards and disasters being experienced in the country include floods, drought, landslides, and intense rainfalls and the projected climate shows that the frequency and severity of climate hazards and disasters are likely to increase significantly.

2.4 Weather Extremes

Rainfall patterns in East Africa are largely characterized by large scale inter seasonal and inter annual variability, which results in frequent extreme weather events such as rainstorms, droughts and floods. These extreme weather events have become more frequent over the years (Haile, 2005).

Emerging evidence further shows that climate change will increase rain variability and the frequency of extreme weather events (IPCC, 2007). Uganda has suffered from both natural and human-induced disasters but most severely in the period 1996 to 2010(FAO, 2010). Over 70 per

cent of the disasters experienced in Uganda are climate related and have led to loss and damage. For example, climate-related disasters accounted for a 3.5 percent reduction in GDP between 2010 and 2014. In 2010/2011, drought affected 35 districts and caused loss equivalent to 7.5 percent of GDP. In 2016/2017, prolonged drought reduced the country's GDP by about 2.3% and poverty levels rose from 19.7% to 21.4%. In Eastern Uganda, the heavy and erratic rainfall in the Mt. Elgon subregion causes landslide disasters that cause displacement of people. In low-lying areas, floods destroy crops, homesteads, and infrastructure (Kansiime, 2016).

(a) Sudden onset events

(i) Floods

Floods occur when rivers overflow (burst banks), when landslides occur and due to dam breakages (OPM,2011). Flood hazards are particularly concentrated in five areas of Uganda ie. (i)the central region, in the Victoria basin, (ii) the eastern region mainly east of Kyoga (The Teso sub-region), (iii) the northwestern part along the West Nile, (iv) around the southern lakes (Rakai, Isingiro and Kiruhura) and (v) south along the border with DRC especially along Semiliki river. Since 2011, more than 1000 flood events have occurred in Uganda that have caused approx. 500 deaths, damaged 50,000ha of crops and affected more than four million people directly and indirectly. Flooding is the main climate hazard in Teso region. The rivers flowing from the Mt. Elgon region discharge a lot of water in the low-lying areas of Katakwi district during heavy rains which adversely affects farmers and displaces people. The most affected areas are Omasia and Ngariam which are repeatedly affected by flooding and water logging.

(ii) Landslides

Uganda has continued to experience an increased occurrence and intensity of landslides, especially in Elgon mountainous sub-region in eastern Uganda (Sironko, Bududa, Mbale and Kapchorwa districts), the Rwenzori mountains in Western Uganda (Kasese, Bundibugyo and Ntoroko districts) and the southwestern highland region (Kisoro, Kabale, Rubanda and Kanungu districts.

Bududa district in the Mt. Elgon sub-region has experienced the most disastrous landslides that have caused severe loss and damage and displacements. With the projected increase in rainfall, in the near term, mid and end of the century, landslide events are expected to leave a great population of Ugandans in these high communities helpless at the fate of this disaster (Kansiime et.al.2015).

(iii) Earthquakes

Most earthquake epicenters in Uganda are hosted in the western arm of the East African rift valley putting the western region at higher risk of experiencing earthquakes (NEMA,2019). In 1996, a major earthquake, that is the Toro earthquake with a magnitude of 6.8 occurred in the Rwenzori Mountain sub-region in western Uganda causing about 157 deaths and left more than 5800 buildings damaged in the current Kabarole, Bundibugyo and Kasese districts. By 2018, the most prone districts were Arua, Buhweju, Bundibugyo, Bunyangabo, Bushenyi, Banda, Kagadi, Kamwenge, Koboko, Kyenjojo, Moyo, Ntoronto, Nebbi, Pakwachi and Zombo (NEMA,2019).

(b) Slow onset events

(i) Rising temperatures

Uganda has one of the fastest changing climates with temperatures predicted to rise between 1.50 and 50 by 2100(NEMA,2019) The rising temperatures will hit up Uganda causing higher evaporation and water stress. Rising temperatures, directly and indirectly, impact economic and social sectors and hence affect growth and livelihood systems. In Karamoja and Teso sub-region, around 475,000 people were food insecure between January and March 2019 due to water stress caused by extreme temperatures. Caravani (2019) observes that the past two generations have witnessed persistent water shortage, hunger and loss of livelihood in the Karamoja sub region that forced several agro-pastoralists to migrate and resettle in areas more suitable for agriculture. It is estimated that by 2050, the land area suitable for growing coffee, especially Arabica coffee could reduce by 50 percent as a result of warm temperatures. (NEMA,2019).

(ii) Drought

Most of the droughts and dry spell in Uganda are seasonal (lasting for about 3-4 months) and meteorological in nature (NEMA,2019). Droughts have been associated with water scarcity. Close to 5 million people suffer water shortages in Uganda due to the reduction of ground water that serves more than 70 per cent of rural households. Apart from causing significant water shortage, droughts cause cracking of the soil and wilting of plants, leading to severe shortage of pastures and crop failure which in turn causes famine and hunger, poor health, reduced incomes and rising poverty. All these social economic hardships cause displacement and migration of people. The

effect of climate change is causing hardships that manifest as hunger and food security, water shortage and rising poverty.

2.4 Existing Migration and Resettlement Policies in Uganda

Uganda is closely linked to the Bantu and Luo migrations that occurred several centuries ago (Vansina, 1995) and migrations continued throughout precolonial, colonial and post-independent Uganda. During the precolonial era, migration was predicated on the conflicts among traditional kingdoms and chiefdoms. During the colonial era, migration was predominantly driven by conflicts and violence and labour migrations occurring most especially from the southwestern and northwestern parts of Uganda to the sugar cane plantations and private coffee farms in central and eastern Uganda.

Migration in the colonial and post-colonial period was also fueled by resettlement policies. The migration promoted rural-rural migration from densely populated areas of the southwestern part and eastern part to the central and western of Uganda.

Uganda is a signatory to several international conventions and agreements on migration and climate change including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCC), Kyoto Protocol, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through these policy frameworks, Uganda commits to the adaptation and implementation of policies and measures designed to address climate change migrations.

Regarding internal displacements, the African Union in 2009 adopted the Kampala convention to protect and assist IDPs, including climate refugees. Uganda's constitution enacted in 1995 signs a social contract to building a better future for Ugandans through creating system based on the principles of unity, peace, equality, democracy, freedom, social justice, and prosperity. Chapter 4 and 15 of the Constitution requires the state to fulfill the fundamental rights of all Ugandans to social justice and economic development by ensuring: social and cultural wellbeing of people, access to education, health services, clean and safe water, decent shelter, food security and property rights. The Constitution further obliges the state to put in place effective mechanisms for addressing and responding to natural or manmade hazards and disasters that result in the displacement of people or disruption of normal life.

Uganda's primary climate change policy is the National Climate Change Policy and the recently signed National Climate Change Act, 2021. However, migration as an adaptation to climate change is neither comprehensively considered within the country's climate change policy nor completely ignored. Uganda Vision 2040 states that the country aspires to achieve a green economy, clean environment and resilience to climate change while at the same time achieving sustainable development and poverty eradication. Uganda has developed other policy documents to guide climate change adaptation and increasing resilience among others, the National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA), and the National Determined Contribution (NDC). However, migration as an adaptation to climate change is neither comprehensively considered within the country's existing climate change policy frameworks nor completely ignored.

While the NAPA proposed sustainable land management strategies to reduce the impact of climate change on rural livelihoods as a way of easing migration to urban centres, no plan or strategy was proposed to manage migration to urban areas (Farley Kiwanuka & Yiga 2020). Besides, NAPA does not specifically refer to the nexuses between climate change impacts and migration, nor migration as an adaptation strategy. On the other hand, National Climate Change Policy observes that declining rural livelihoods (especially agriculture, forestry and fisheries) cause rural-urban migration and lead to the formation of slums. The policy also recognizes the existence of environmental refugees highlighting that disaster risk management is key to addressing socio-environmental conflicts and human security concerns, both locally and regionally that cause and or affect climate refugees. However, the policy does not specifically refer to the rural-rural migrations and displacements that are driven by both slow onset and sudden onset events like rising temperatures, droughts, floods, landslides. Uganda's first Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and the National Climate Change Act 2021 are both silent on migration, without even a single mention of it.

On the other hand, the National Adaptation Plan for the Agricultural sector (NAP.Ag) attempts to bridge food security, availability and climate change but stops short of proposing actionable strategies to increase food production by reducing dependence on rainfed agriculture, for example. In areas such as the Karamoja region that registered over 2,000 deaths due to famine could benefit from irrigation farming and resilient inputs to boost their adaptive capacity in the semi-arid regions given the increased desertification of the cattle corridor and norther region of the country. After

the 2019 landslides in Bududa, in Eastern Uganda, residents declined to move to Kiryandongo district, opting instead to stay and rebuild (Fred Wambede & Leonard Mukooli, 2019). Consequently, they remained vulnerable to further damage as landslides hit the Mountain Elgon district again. Between 2012 and 2019, Relief Web reported that landslides killed more than 1,000 people.

SECTION THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the research approach and methods that will be used to collect data and analyse findings for the study. This section also describes the specific research design, population, target population, sample size, sampling technique and research instruments that will be used in the process. Furthermore, it also describes the data collection procedures, as well as the ethical considerations that will be considered during the study.

3.2 Research design

A research design is a general but well-structured plan that an individual employs to tackle a research problem and generate answers to research questions (Kumar, 2019) while Grover (2015) notes that it involves collection of data, assessing it so that meaningful and well interpreted conclusions can be made. This study will use a case study design which Bergen and While (2000) describe as a design that requires gathering detailed "information" from different "sources" concerning a specific individual, institutions, "including the accounts of subjects themselves." A study that employs a case study seeks to understand a detailed meaning of a problem, occurrence, or an issue in its ordinary situation (Crowe, et al, 2011).

3.3 Population

Population can be understood as a cluster, category of themes, ideas, occurrences, or situations that being researched about and therefore form the basis for one's research (Wimmer & Dominick, 2013). This study will target climate migrants who were resettled from Bududa District in the Elgon region to Kiryandongo District. According to the Office of the Prime Minister in which the Ministry of Disaster Preparedness and Refugees is domiciled, at least 54,000 people live in the settlements.

Additionally, 15 officials from the Office of the Prime Minister will be involved with this study as respondents.

3.4 Sample size

This study will interview at least 25 settlement community members who have lived in the settlement since 2010. These will include local leaders, opinion leaders, government officials and lay people.

The sample size is not too big because as noted by Crouch and Mckenzie (2006), such a sample size in qualitative research will increase the possibilities of the researcher having more time with the interviewees. Similarly, the sample size is deemed fit because as indicated by Onwuegbuzie and Collins (2007), it will enable the researcher to attain data will sufficiently use and thus guard against overload that consequently be underutilized.

3.5 Sampling techniques

This study will employ purposive sampling method. According to Denzin and Lincoln (2000), purposive sampling can be applied to refer to a process in which the researcher engages a given group of persons or individuals from whom answers for the research questions have to be generated in the study being undertaken, these are sampled as a way to devoid probability. Etikan et al (2016) note that purposive sampling in qualitative studies is used to obtain a deeper understanding of a phenomenon because purposive sampling "subjects" involves choosing on the basis that the chosen subjects will share exceptional and contextual understanding which is critical to the study.

3.12 Data analysis

The researcher will transcribe audios of content generated from interviews to have them captured into texts. This will be followed by a process of thematically assessing and analysing the said texts/documents to identify the words and phrases or even ideas that repeatedly said or made. These major outstanding issues will then be supplemented by supporting responses made by the respondents.

3.13 Ethical Considerations

The researcher recognizes how intrusive this study can be for families, especially children and will go through deep lengths to seek for informed consent before conducting interviews. Majority of the documents to be reviewed are open-source and available on the internet. However, the researcher will be sure to attribute to sources to avoid plagiarism.

The researcher will ensure that the respondents are informed about the topic and purpose of this study any data is collected from them as this would therefore provide for transparency. This will be done through informed, written and oral consent forms. Similarly, the respondents will also be made aware of their ability to withdraw their consent at any stage of this research in case they find it to be uncomfortable for them to be responding to the questions.

SECTION FOUR: RESEARCH FINDINGS

This chapter presents research findings as organized around the objectives of the study. They findings are organized around the different methods of data collection from document review to the interviews.

4.1 Response Rate

The researcher set out to interview 25 respondents and the study has a 95% response rate after reaching only 20 of the targeted respondents. The deficit of 5% will be halved by the findings from the document review.

4.2 Uganda government response mechanisms to climate emergencies in the last 10 years

The United Nations' Global Compact on Migration promotes secure, structured, and consistent migration procedures, with a specific focus on climate change as a leading cause of migration. The Paris Agreement obliges nations to consider the rights of migrants while developing climate change strategies. More specifically, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's Cancun Agreement urges nations to implement strategies to improve knowledge, coordination, and cooperation concerning displacement, migration, and planned relocation triggered by climate change. Referring to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), SDG 13 requires nations to urgently address climate change and its consequences (IOM, 2021) .

In response to the issues of internal displacement, the African Union (AU) adopted the Kampala Convention in 2009, which was intended to provide support and protection to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). This was part of a larger strategy to address the regional challenges of forced migration, environmental damage, conflict, and human rights abuses. The Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) has implemented strategies to tackle challenges related to Migration, Environment and Climate Change (MECC) that particularly affect highly climate-sensitive communities. In 2012, IGAD established the Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD) with a mission to encourage, facilitate, and advocate for a sustainable, gender-sensitive development approach in arid and semi-arid regions (ICPALD, 2020).

The IGAD further endorsed a protocol on transhumance in 2018, designed to enhance the free movement of pastoralists residing in IGAD member states' border areas, who often move in search

of pasture for their livestock during drought periods (Musau, 2021). This protocol is projected to mitigate livestock loss due to recurring droughts in the IGAD region and simultaneously improve the security of pastoralists and their host communities. Notably, the efforts to establish transhumance corridors via cross-border stock route mapping, animal health management, and integrated climate change early warning systems have gained momentum since the signing of various Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs).

In the last 10 years, the Ugandan government has established a comprehensive policy framework to guide its climate change response efforts. The National Climate Change Policy provides the overall direction for climate action, emphasizing adaptation, mitigation, and resilience-building. Additionally, National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs) have been developed to identify priority adaptation measures for various sectors, such as agriculture, water resources, and health.

To enhance climate resilience, Uganda has implemented several adaptation strategies and programs. Climate-resilient infrastructure development, such as flood protection measures and climate-proofed roads, aims to minimize the impacts of extreme weather events. Community-based adaptation approaches, involving local communities in decision-making and capacity-building, have been utilized to address specific vulnerabilities. Climate information services, including early warning systems, have been strengthened to improve preparedness and response to climate-related risks. Water resources management has been prioritized to ensure sustainable water supply amidst changing rainfall patterns. Disaster risk reduction measures, including improved disaster response systems, have also been implemented.

The Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) plays a critical role in coordinating and overseeing the government's response mechanisms to climate emergencies in Uganda, it provides strategic leadership, policy coordination, and ensures effective collaboration among stakeholders to address climate change challenges and build climate resilience in the country.

> “The OPM plays a key role in mobilizing climate finance from both domestic and international sources. It coordinates efforts to access funding for climate change adaptation and mitigation projects, working closely with relevant ministries, development partners, and financial institutions,” Respondent One.

The study found that policies that integrate climate change considerations into sectoral plans, such as agriculture and water resources management, can contribute to creating resilient communities, reducing displacement pressures. For instance, sustainable land management and climate-smart agriculture, contribute to reducing climate-induced migration by enhancing local livelihood opportunities and food security.

The institutional arrangements for climate change governance, led by the Ministry of Water and Environment and supported by the Office of the Prime Minister, have a role in addressing climate-induced migration. These institutions collaborate with local governments, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders to implement climate change initiatives. By strengthening local capacities and resilience, these response mechanisms aim to reduce the need for migration as an adaptation strategy.

Uganda also has in place National Adaptation Programmes of Action – a collection of strategic documents that outline priority adaptation measures for countries vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Code named NAPAS, the documents serve as a framework to guide climate change adaptation efforts. They have helped identify areas and communities most affected by climate change, including those at high risk of displacement and migration due to climate-related factors.

> "By understanding the specific climate change impacts on livelihoods, ecosystems, and infrastructure, NAPAs help identify areas where migration pressures may arise," Respondent 4."

NAPAs in Uganda are intended to be integrated into national development plans and policies. This linkage ensures that climate change adaptation becomes a mainstream consideration in development efforts. By mainstreaming adaptation measures into broader development planning, the NAPAs contribute to sustainable development, potentially reducing the drivers of migration and promoting climate-resilient livelihoods.

In 2015, the OPM worked closely with the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development to address the social aspects of climate migration, such as gender equality and social protection in the Elgon region and in the Kiryandongo settlement. Collaboration with local governments, civil

society organizations, and development partners further strengthens the coordinated response to climate-induced migration.

In Kiryandongo settlement, the OPM implemented the Community-Based Resilience Enhancement (CORE) project which focuses on enhancing the resilience of vulnerable communities through livelihood diversification, natural resource management, and capacity-building. By providing alternative income sources and strengthening community resilience, such initiatives reduce the necessity for migration as an adaptation strategy.

Recognizing the impact of the landslides on the livelihoods of the affected populations, the OPM implemented programs to restore and diversify livelihood opportunities. This included providing agricultural inputs, vocational training, and microcredit facilities to support income-generating activities. The OPM collaborated with relevant stakeholders to develop sustainable livelihood options and improve economic resilience for the Bududa landslide victims.

Despite all the above, Uganda lacks a comprehensive migration policy/legislative framework that also recognizes environmental or climate change migration. The current migration policy frameworks are fragmented and do not mainstream climate change. There is a need for Uganda to develop a comprehensive migration policy that covers both internal and international migration, voluntary and forced migration, as well as planned relocation and/or resettlement, and migration as adaptation strategy. The different segments national policies related to migration need to be consolidated to inform actions for migration as an adaptation strategy.

Currently most Government ministries departments and agencies (MDAs), and in particular the district local government, are not deeply engaged in migration management. The focus has been mainly on refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) handled by OPM and UNHCR in a rather top-down approach with highly centralized processes, and yet migration is multi-causal and multi-dimensional. It is thus essential that inter- agency and inter-ministerial coordination and cooperation on migration and climate change or disaster risk reduction (DRR) are developed and supported.

It is crucial that migration is mainstreamed into local development plans and adaptation strategies especially for districts where out-migration and in-migration take place to enable them manage migration. Currently, however, there are no guidelines to enable environmental and climate-smart

migration policy development and implementation at national and local levels. Therefore, it will be crucial that guidelines for migration management, including planned relocation, that address the climate and environmental risks and vulnerabilities be developed to guide national and local governments to document and manage migration.

> "Currently, technical staff both at national and district levels lack capacity (knowledge and skills) to document and manage internal migrations, including those driven by environment and climatic shocks and stresses," Respondent 5.

In addition, districts lack institutional structures for managing migration. It is, therefore, essential that technical staff at national and local levels are trained and skilled on how to plan for and manage climate and environmental migrations and relocation. Capacity needs assessment should be conducted, and capacity enhancement toolkits and manuals developed and used for training and skilling of technocrats at various governance levels on continuous basis.

The formulation of environmental and climate-friendly migration policy and programmes remains significantly constrained by limited credible and reliable evidence on the impact of environment and climate change on migration in Uganda. As USAID (2017) put it, "There is no programmatic experience or evidence" on the scale, routes, and trends of environmental migration and displacement. Whilst the Uganda Bureau of Statistics estimates that 5% of Uganda's population has migrated (UBOS, 2021), and some of the migrations are climate-induced with migrants being mainly the youth moving to urban areas (UBOS, 2016a), the scale and trends of how environment or climate change induces migration is not deeply understood. Therefore, very little data is available to support the linkage between migration, environment and climate change in Uganda.

4.2.2 Analysis of Uganda's migration and resettlement trends Uganda post 1986

Uganda has experienced diverse migration and resettlement trends since 1986, including internal displacement, refugee inflows, resettlement of returnees, rural-urban migration, and migration due to environmental factors. These trends have been influenced by various factors such as political changes, conflicts, economic opportunities, and environmental factors. Migration due to environmental factors is often a complex decision influenced by a combination of push and pull

factors, including the desire for improved living conditions, access to resources, and social networks in destination areas.

Environmental factors, such as droughts, floods, and land degradation, have also influenced migration patterns in Uganda. Communities facing the adverse effects of climate change have been forced to relocate in search of more favorable living conditions. This internal migration often leads to increased pressure on already scarce resources in other regions.

According to a recent study, if no effective action is taken regarding climate change and development, it is projected that by 2050, the countries in the Basin region could witness a significant movement of people within their borders (Rigaud et al., 2021). This movement would be a consequence of gradual climate impacts, such as water stress, reduced crop and ecosystem productivity, and rising sea levels intensified by storm surges. The World Bank study suggests that as many as 38.5 million individuals could be affected by these climate-induced shifts in population. This figure could represent up to 10.48 percent of the total population of the Basin countries in 2050 under the most pessimistic scenario, which combines high greenhouse gas emissions with unequal development.

Understanding the magnitude and patterns of these population shifts caused by climate change is crucial for informing policy discussions, planning, and actions aimed at preventing, minimizing, and effectively managing climate-induced migration. The goal is to achieve dignified, productive, and sustainable outcomes for those affected. Sitting in Kampala in 2022, the Ministers of Environment, Ministers of Interior and Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the EAC and IGAD and States of the East and Horn of Africa signed a ministerial declaration on migration, environment and climate change.

The major tenets of the Declaration show that the region is cognizant of climate change as a major driver migration. These include:

- Build and strengthen climate resilience and adaptive interventions of all communities living in fragile ecosystems, flood prone water basins, low lying areas and mountain slopes including enacting urgent regional and national legislation, policies, and strategies for actions.

- Implement and domesticate the provisions of the United Nations Convention to Combat Decertification (UNCCD) underscoring State role to address desertification, land degradation and drought as one of the drivers of poverty and forced mobility.
- Facilitate a conducive regulatory and policy environment to harness the socio-economic benefits of remittances, trade, and investment.
- Engage multilateral development banks and financial institutions and development partners to create/extend financing relief for countries hosting migrants and disaster displaced persons.
- Create and/or increase investment in the circular economy, renewable energy and energy efficiency, climate smart agriculture, green economy, blue economy, digital economy, and nature-based solutions.
- Develop comprehensive urban plans to address population surges in urban arising because of adverse impacts of climate change in marginal rural areas including promoting rural-urban collaboration to reduce vulnerability and create adaptive mechanisms for safe migration and access to sustainable livelihoods.
- Work with the private sector to improve urban-rural connectivity for the youth and traders through internet access, technological advancement, provision of energy and road/rail infrastructure.
- Establish and strengthen regional and national weather and climate institutions and systems to generate accurate, timely data and information on climate change impacts on human mobility; and increase collaboration between/among Member States and with the IGAD Centre of Excellence for Climate Prediction and Applications (ICPAC).
- Address knowledge gaps by understanding and applying indigenous knowledge and practices in the development of appropriate adaptation responses, to reduce the context-specific vulnerability of communities to the impacts of climate change.
- Apply and integrate gender and human rights-based approaches in the design and establish an IGAD-EAC and States of the East and Horn of Africa, Inter-Ministerial Working Group on Climate Change, Environment and Migration; develop a Plan of Action for the implementation of this Declaration and monitor and report regularly on progress of implementation by Member States (Kampala Ministerial Declaration, 2022).

Uganda being an agrarian economy, climate change has had adverse effects on agriculture, a crucial livelihood for many Ugandans. Shifts in rainfall patterns, prolonged droughts, and increased frequency of extreme weather events have led to crop failures and reduced agricultural productivity in certain regions. As a result, farmers, and communities dependent on agriculture have been forced to migrate to areas with more favorable climatic conditions or seek alternative livelihood options in urban centers. Climate change will continue to impact the movement of people within Uganda, a country where over 70 percent of its population is involved in agriculture (World Bank 2020b).

The variations in climate have led to increased soil erosion and decreased crop yields (Uganda MAAIF and MWE 2015; World Bank 2020a). Livestock production has been challenged by droughts and higher temperatures, while the rising temperatures in southwestern Rwenzori have caused a decline in snow cover, affecting water flow in rivers and streams as well as biodiversity (USAID 2015; World Bank 2019 and 2020a). The occurrence of extreme weather events and temperature changes has accelerated the degradation of Uganda's lakes and posed a threat to the fisheries sector. Vulnerability to the effects of climate change is particularly high among impoverished households and women, who often lack the resources to adapt effectively.

Land degradation, including soil erosion, deforestation, and desertification, has affected several parts of Uganda. In areas where land becomes infertile or unsuitable for agriculture, communities may face food scarcity and limited economic opportunities. These environmental challenges have driven migration as people search for more fertile land or seek alternative livelihoods in other regions. Land and resource conflicts are evidently on the rise in both migrant destination areas and places of origin, exacerbating poverty. The poor communities, women, children and people with disabilities are the worst hit and affected by these conflicts (IOM, 2021).

According to the World Bank, the southeastern locality of Mbale and its surroundings, Mount Elgon, the capital (Kampala), and the southwestern locality of Ntungamo, could be climate in-migration hotspots, primarily due to increases in water availability and crop production. Many of these places already face severe environmental challenges due to climate change, including landslides, flooding, droughts, and land degradation (Mafabi 2017; Mbogga 2012; Tumushabe et al. 2013; Uganda Department of Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees 2016; Uganda NPA 2020; UN-Habitat 2011; World Bank 2015). They also face development challenges, including

high poverty rates, informal human settlements, and weak services and infrastructures (Mafabi 2017). Focusing on these hotspots and considering the spatial dimension of the challenge will build resilience and readiness across time scales.

4.2.3 Uganda's consultative before implementing migration and resettlement policies in crisis-hit areas

In 2010, Uganda instituted the National Policy for Disaster Preparedness and Management (DPM). This policy aimed to create structures and procedures designed to decrease the susceptibility of people, livestock, plants, and wildlife to disasters, including those prompted by climate hazards such as droughts, floods, and landslides.

The DPM proposes a framework for responding to and supporting communities during disasters, in conjunction with administrative, legislative, and technical measures. It oversees disaster management in Uganda, encompassing disaster prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery. Its overarching goal is to facilitate vulnerability assessment at a national level, risk mitigation, disaster prevention, readiness, effective response, and recovery in a way that merges risk management with development planning and programming.

Uganda's disaster policy emphasizes preemptive actions in disaster response, including early warnings, physical planning, legal frameworks, public awareness, sensitization and advocacy campaigns, regular surveillance, education, and training. It also includes research, documentation, coordination, monitoring and evaluation, resource mobilization, capacity building, partnerships, and an integrated disaster management approach that encourages collaboration among different stakeholders in managing disasters within Uganda and beyond.

> "While the Department of Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Management is the central institution, the responsibilities of disaster management are decentralized to Local Governments, other departments and agencies, including NGOs and INGOs," Respondent 13.

Indeed, the lack of coordination has left the OPM playing a more reactive rather than proactive role in disaster management, later on migration issues that ensue.

> “The disaster management policy doesn't incorporate strategies to tackle climate change and the resultant migration or displacement issues. It largely focuses on managing disaster-induced displacement and mobilizing extensive relief aid for displaced communities,” Respondent 18.

Some of the the relief aid includes food supplies, household necessities (like clothes, blankets, and cooking utensils), and the planned relocation to safer areas (OPM, 2011) where often, more issues arise.

Despite Uganda being one of the few countries with a national Internal Displacement Policy (IDP) in place since 2004 and a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) developed in conjunction with the World Bank, several complaints continue to emerge regarding resettlement for affected people, particularly climate migrants.

More than 95% of the respondents interviewed said that the Government did not engage them on resettlement plans but instead forced a decision on them to move from Bududa in the Elgon region to Kiryandongo District where they have lived for more than eight years. The study also found that more than 1,000 internally displaced people who has been resettled in Kiryandongo from land-slide prone Bududa district went bank to their vulnerable homes citing poor living conditions, land conflict and hunger.

> “These relocations are not participatory and the views of us the affected people are not taken seriously. That is why some of our people decided to go back home well knowing the risks, but they found life here unbearable. We have a different culture, speak different languages, the food we like to eat cannot grow here and our children are exposed to other mannerisms. It would have been good for us to more to areas where we share some characteristics,” Respondent 17, Local Leader.

Last year, the remaining climate migrants who were resettled from Bududa District to Kiryandongo petitioned Parliament of Uganda to allow them to return to their home district due to the high levels of hostility they have received from the host communities since 2010 when they arrived. In the five-page petition, the migrants cite poor housing conditions, poor health and education infrastructure that has impeded their children from access quality education and

healthcare. 12 years later, more than 289 households do not have proper shelter while the 114 houses that the government undertook to construct in 2010 remain incomplete to date.

These discrepancies highlight the lack of citizen involvement and participatory planning in the resettlement process that overtime spill over causing further conflicts with host communities who are equally unprepared for their unexpected guests. Some of the respondents said that the host communities view them as threats to their well-being because they compete for the same meagre resources such as land, water and food.

> "We were promised ownership of the land on which we live now but for eight years now, no titles have come through. Last year, a certain group of people calling themselves Bunyoro Kitara Repatriation Agency tried evicting us from the land government gave us claiming ownership of the same. We live in fear. You don't want to start growing crops because you are not sure if you will have time to harvest them or not," Respondent 20.

And this issue is not just with the climate migrants resettled in Kiryandongo. The Norwegian Refugee Council reported in 2018 that some internally displaced people of Kween district (Mt. Elgon) have ended up encroaching on riverbanks (along fragile slopes) for cultivation and as a result got more exposed to repeated hazards resulting into repeated landslides. The question of land wrangles exacerbating after resettlement and migrants encroaching on protected areas is critical to peaceful coexistence in Uganda. In fact, it is partly why the country came up with the National Land Acquisition, Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policy in 2018 – one of the documents reviewed for this study. Therein, the Government tackles the compesation of climate migrants for loss and damage, compesation of host communities for providing land to resettle climate migrants and offers to give land titles to the migrants as sign of security. However, since 2010 when landslide victims were moved to Kiryandongo District, they have neither received financial compesation or land titles.

While the Local Government systems are informed prior of the resettlement efforts in their areas, they are not given resources and capacity to accommodate and provide for the in-migrants. As a result, they find themselves on collision courses with climate migrants and host communities over the available meagre resources.

> "Kiryandongo, for example, was a very new district in 2010 with an operating budget of less than Ushs200m. It would have helped much if the government and the international development agencies assisted to boost their budgets to hire staff to help the migrants settle in well but this wasn't done until late 2015 towards the presidential elections. After the elections, the taps closed again," Respondent 13.

Cooperation between national and local governments, along with other stakeholders such as civil society, development partners, and local communities, is vital. This partnership is not only crucial for delivering humanitarian aid and protection to those impacted, but it also plays a significant role in planning and implementing sustainable development programs that boost long-term resilience. The active involvement of the communities affected is particularly key for development initiatives to gain local acceptance and leadership. This enables these initiatives to tap into the communities' traditional knowledge on managing disaster risks, ensuring that the solutions are rooted in local wisdom and experiences.

The study also found glaring gaps in information asymmetry between the local community and government expectations regarding resettlement as a risk reduction policy for Bududa as one of the reasons that resettlement failed to yield fruit. It is important to appreciate the significant contextual backgrounds and differences between these two districts; socially, culturally and economically. Communities in Bududa are used to settling in the highlands as compared to those in Kiryandongo who are used to settling in lowlands. The cultural practices of these two peoples are also different; in Bududa the annual male circumcision "Imbalu", a rite of passage signifying transition of the young boys to manhood is celebrated and held to such high esteem because it constructs the Bagisu identity, while those in Kiryandongo do not practice these cultural practices, making it difficult for the Bagisu to fit in. Economically, the people from Bududa are farmers owing mainly to the highly fertile volcanic soils while Kiryandongo has less fertile soils and are mainly mixed farmers but predominantly herdsmen.

The majority of the community members that were consulted in this ottom-up approach did not have the opportunity to carefully think through the issues, be educated upon and make an informed decision hence the community members lack the right information on issues affecting them.

While most respondents conquered that relocation was the best course of action, they argue that it was more costly for the government to move them further from their home districts where safe

districts such as Kween, Soroti, Katakwi that are regarded safe from landslides were available as options. The destination for resettlement was discussed extensively and this influences the willingness to be relocated. Most groups preferred to be resettled anywhere in greater Masabaland where they share the same language and culture.

4.2.4 The gaps between Uganda's migration policies and her human resettlement efforts

Whilst we the other findings above have attemped to respond to this research objective already, further glaring gaps have been spotted from the document review process. For this study, the researcher analysed the following statutory, policy and working papers: the National Land Policy 2013, the Resettlement Policy Framework, Resettlement Action Plans, the National Policy for Disaster Preparedness and Management, National Climate Change Policy, the National Adaptation Programme for Action and the Uganda National Development Plan III.

Summarily, Uganda has over 14 policies, strategies, plans and acts that in many ways focus on mitigation of climate disasters that might lead into human migration. However, the implementation of these documents have left a lot to be desired. Some of the personnel charged with implementing them were not aware they even existed in first place. As a example, the researcher asked all the interview respondents from the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) if they were aware of the National Environment (Mountainous and Hilly Areas Management) Regulations enacted in 2000 to streamline how people living in "dangerous" mountainious areas like Bududa District should be handled before predictable crises such as landslides occur. Only one personnel said they had interacted with this policy.

The absence of an all-encompassing national migration policy, coupled with inadequate coordination on migration matters, presents a significant challenge. With migration data dispersed across various institutions and no standardized method for recording irregular migration, human smuggling, and trafficking, it hampers effective migration documentation, integration, and management. Moreover, the limited utilization of migration data in strategic planning and its insufficient integration into developmental frameworks exacerbate these challenges. Information on how both immigrants and emigrants contribute to Uganda's economic landscape is notably deficient, and the data on internal migration and its impact on development is scarce. This lack of

comprehensive data and insight restricts our understanding of migration's intricate dynamics and its potential as a powerful development tool, thus impeding the creation of more nuanced, effective policies and strategies.

Broadly speaking, there is a striking absence of evidence indicating that the existing and suggested migration-related policy frameworks expressly integrate environmental and climate change aspects as factors driving migration or enhancing migrants' vulnerability. These policies do not appear to consider migration as an adaptation strategy to environmental and climate change-related shocks and stresses. Similarly, the concept of adaptation and resilience as potential mechanisms for managing migration is not distinctly articulated within these policy frameworks.

Some of the policies analysed seemed like short-term stopgaps designed for the climate disasters of the day but left with little agility to tackle new, emerging phenomena that might arise in the long-term. There are very few robust strategies in place designed for the medium to long term, aimed at strengthening resilience to prevent future displacements. While the national risk and vulnerability atlas identifies areas vulnerable to climate and environmental shocks, it fails to specifically pinpoint those hazard-prone locations that serve as migration pathways. These areas are crucial and necessitate comprehensive planning and response measures to mitigate risks effectively.

4.3 Summary of Findings

Over the last decade, the Ugandan government has initiated a multitude of policies in response to climate emergencies. The National Climate Change Policy, the National Policy for Disaster Preparedness and Management (DPM), and National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs) are among these, aiming to mitigate climate-related impacts and build resilience. Collaborative efforts between local and national governments, civil society, development partners, and affected communities are essential for these policies' success. However, despite these measures, shortcomings persist.

While the United Nations Global Compact on Migration and various regional agreements encourage member states to consider climate-induced migration, current policies in Uganda often

neglect to incorporate these factors. Additionally, there is a notable lack of policy frameworks addressing climate change-induced migration or displacement. Instead, much emphasis is placed on managing displacement due to immediate disasters and providing relief support.

Data collection and management surrounding migration is fragmented and inadequate, hindering a comprehensive understanding of migration's impact on Uganda's economy and development. Furthermore, current policies fail to adequately consider migration as an adaptation strategy or to develop long-term mechanisms to build resilience and mitigate future displacements.

Implementation of existing policies is also inconsistent and often lacks community engagement and participatory planning. For example, climate migrants who were resettled from Bududa District to Kiryandongo reported poor living conditions and hostility from host communities, which led some to return to their vulnerable homes. Many feel the relocation process did not consider their views or cultural and economic differences between the regions.

In addition to this, while the government has tried to create legislation and policies to mitigate the effects of climate disasters leading to human migration, the practical application of these documents is lacking. Key personnel responsible for implementation are often unaware of their existence or the protocols they establish.

Despite significant strides in policy development addressing climate change and disasters, Uganda still has considerable gaps in addressing climate-induced migration. The need for comprehensive, well-coordinated migration policies that incorporate climate change as a key factor is apparent. Such policies should be aimed at both managing immediate impacts and building long-term resilience. The active involvement of communities affected by these policies, and a robust system for data collection and management, are also crucial elements to be considered in the development and implementation of these policies.

SECTION FIVE: DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF FINDINGS

5.1 Introduction

In particular order, this section discusses findings following the research questions set out in section one. The research questions were: What is the mismatch between the emergency disaster preparedness policies and target population? What are the policies enacted by the government to handle the resettlement of climate change migrants are enforced? Does the government takes into consideration the cultural and social norms whEn planning for climate change migrants? What consultations take place before resettling victims of climate crises to other areas? What factors influence “climate refugees” to shun government resettlement efforts to the extent that some forcefully return to their endangered homelands?

5.2 Discussion of Findings

The climate scenario in Uganda has been marked by a heightened occurrence and intensity of drastic weather phenomena, including prolonged dry spells, floods, and landslides. The dry seasons in Uganda have become lengthier and more recurrent, as reported by the World Bank in 2020. In the span of three decades from 1990 to 2020, the country has grappled with a significant nine instances of severe droughts, impacting close to five million of its populace.

Uganda has made significant strides in weaving the implications of climate change, internal climate-induced displacement, and refugee issues into its legal and strategic plans. The National Development Plan (NDP) for 2020/21 - 2024/25 acknowledges that climate change significantly contributes to forced displacement, hunger, and the derailment of many developmental objectives. Additionally, the 2015 National Climate Change Policy specifically notes that climate change impacts on sectors like agriculture, forestry, and fisheries could prompt individuals to relocate to urban areas, often leading to the emergence of slums.

In terms of refugee response, Uganda is a pioneering country in implementing a Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), which establishes a link between humanitarian responses to forced displacement and long-term development strategies. In 2020, the nation also enacted the Water and Environment Sector Refugee Response Plan (WESRRP) which ensures long-term water supply and sanitation provisions for refugee settlements and the communities hosting them.

Furthermore, Uganda's 2004 National IDP policy encompasses those internally displaced due to natural disasters. Globally, Uganda's refugee policy is lauded as one of the most progressive and generous. On a regional scale, the country has ratified the Kampala Convention, demonstrating its commitment to addressing these pressing issues.

Uganda has taken important steps in integrating climate change, internal displacement, and refugees into its legislation and plans. The 2020/21 - 2024/25 National Development Plan (NDP) acknowledges climate change as a major driver of forced displacement and recognizes its impact on various sectors (Uganda MWE 2015c).

However, Uganda still lacks a comprehensive, stand-alone policy specifically focused on migration. Instead, migration policy issues are scattered across various national policy documents, indicating the need for a more cohesive approach to address migration challenges effectively. The lack of a comprehensive migration policy and inadequate coordination between national and local governments create challenges in accommodating and providing for climate migrants and host communities. There is a need for participatory planning and consultation with affected communities to ensure successful resettlement initiatives. Additionally, capacity-building and training for technical staff at various governance levels are essential for effective migration management.

To strengthen Uganda's institutional framework for disaster management and health emergencies, it is recommended that a comprehensive law on disaster risk management and health emergencies be enacted. This legislation should reflect international disaster response standards and guidelines to ensure a more coordinated and effective response to climate-induced disasters and migration. One critical challenge in addressing climate migration in Uganda is the lack of comprehensive data and evidence on the impact of environment and climate change on migration. There is a need for more robust research and studies to understand the scale, trends, and drivers of environmental migration and displacement. This data gap hinders the development of effective policies and strategies to manage climate-induced migration.

The Government of Uganda has initiated the process of integrating global migration policies at a national level and formulating a domestic migration policy that will steer migration management across the country. This policy creation process is currently pivoting around the domestication of the Global Compact on Migration (GCM) through the National Coordination Mechanism on

Migration. The policies under consideration include the National Migration Policy, the National Diaspora Policy, and the National Policy on Refugees. While the latter two are still in their formative stages, the National Migration Policy has progressed significantly, with a draft policy already in existence. This policy is being designed as an exhaustive guide to managing internal, intra-regional, and international migration flows. The overarching objective of the draft National Migration Policy is to manage migration effectively for the socio-economic and political progression of Uganda.

Moreover, Uganda's disaster preparedness and management policy on a national level has dedicated sections that address the displacement repercussions of disasters. This policy covers internal armed conflicts and the displacement of individuals, and outlines a strategy for enabling large-scale disaster relief mobilization in the face of armed conflict. Nonetheless, Uganda's national disaster preparedness and management system currently lacks a combination of top-down and bottom-up emergency community systems that can promptly and effectively address the unique vulnerabilities of migrants. The national disaster coordination center is in the midst of augmenting its capacity in terms of early warning systems and is yet to categorize migrants as a distinct group susceptible to vulnerabilities.

The active involvement of affected communities is vital for the success of development initiatives and to ensure locally accepted and led solutions. Indigenous knowledge on disaster risk management plays a crucial role in designing context-specific adaptation responses to reduce community vulnerability to climate change impacts. Internal climate migration presents a significant yet untapped potential for driving growth, job creation, and economic transition within nations (Scheffran, Marmer, and Sow 2012; Rigaud et al. 2018). A cohesive strategy to handle climate migration should focus on addressing the fundamental developmental requirements such as access to food, water, and a sustainable environment, and should prioritize achieving Uganda's Sustainable Development Goals and the World Bank's objectives to alleviate poverty. It's essential to note that climate migration will unfold amidst other major shifts such as population growth, urbanization, biodiversity decline, along with technological advancements, the digital transformation, and broader economic transitions towards greener pathways.

Social capital networks serve as vital support systems for communities dealing with environmental shocks and resource scarcity, playing a particularly essential role in labour migration. Such

networks are established through the connections among individuals from the same origin who migrate to the same destination. These networks effectively reduce migration costs by providing access to information about the destination's labour market and the logistics of the migration process itself.

In the case of migrants from Karamoja, particularly women and children, they heavily rely on the networks that have already been established in urban areas and neighboring districts in the Teso sub-region. Elderly members typically engage in small-scale income-generating activities in these urban centers, including trading, hawking, street vending, household work, and casual labour, in order to sustain their livelihoods. Conversely, children often resort to undesirable actions such as begging, scrounging, or theft.

Despite the geographical distance, migrants maintain regular contact with their family members or relatives via mobile telecommunications (IOM, 2015). These well-established social networks thus form the basis of migration corridors that significantly facilitate and influence both internal and cross-border migration.

The distribution of productive land access and control is uneven across different regions, income brackets, and genders, which indirectly or directly contributes to conflicts over land and resources, as well as environmental degradation, all acting as catalysts for human movement and migration. A large number of individuals, groups, and even entire communities face land tenure insecurity, often leading to eviction and displacement. For certain groups experiencing severe hardships, displacement, and evictions, encroaching on wetlands, forests, and protected areas may seem like the only viable option for survival. However, wealthy and politically influential individuals and groups, as well as various government infrastructure projects, also lead to the eviction and displacement of impoverished and vulnerable people without providing adequate compensation.

The Constitution of Uganda and the 2013 National Land Policy provide a structure for obligatory land acquisition by the government and/or for infrastructure development, and also detail the procedures for compensating and resettling the people displaced. Furthermore, Uganda's Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) mandates the creation of Resettlement Action Plans (RAPs) prior to the implementation of significant infrastructure projects, with the intention of reducing the displacement of people and preventing the deterioration of their livelihoods. Despite this, most relocations either lack RAPs, or, if they exist, they are not inclusively developed. For

instance, the process of relocating people displaced by oil and gas exploration in the Albertine Graben included monetary compensation, resettlement, and land-for-land packages (Aboda, 2019; Mugagga et al., 2021a). Yet, a majority of the affected individuals chose the cash packages (Ogwang et al., 2018), and many ended up in worse economic conditions as the compensation funds were often mismanaged. Thus, it becomes crucial to find a balance between development pursuits and the protection of those who are displaced or evicted.

5.3 Conclusions and Recommendations

1. The study recommends that Uganda strengthens its institutional structures for disaster management by enacting a comprehensive legislation focused on disaster risk management and health emergencies. Such a law should align with international standards and guidelines for disaster response, thereby enhancing Uganda's ability to manage and mitigate the impact of disasters effectively.
2. The study also recommends that Uganda adopts a comprehensive policy addressing climate migration, resettlement and land use for climate migrants as the current policies do not wholesumly address the migration question.
3. Coordinated efforts between national and local governments, engagement with affected communities, are essential for successful migration management and adaptation strategies.

4. It is important to bolster the collaboration and coordination between various agencies, ministries, affected local governments, and communities to aid in strengthening institutional capacity to manage climate migration.
5. Increase investment in nature-based solutions such landscape restoration, livelihood diversification and land productivity in highly vulnerable areas to environmental hazards elavate the standards of life for affected communities and build their resilience against future disasters.
6. Increased public awareness of environmental management and sustainable natural resource management that is participatory with local communities will reduce vulnerability, bolster conservation efforts and curb degredation. Some communities were

not even aware that some of their practices such as bush burning, over grazing, increase their exposure to climate hazards such as floods and landslides.

7. Finally, access to timely, accurate and reliable climate information can save a lot of lives and fortify their defences of vulnerable communities to, at the very least, reduce their effect of climate hazards on their households and livelihoods. The government must develop a proactive approach (preparedness) rather than managing the aftermath of the disasters.

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