

Worksheet F

Human Stories of Climate Change in Uganda

Drought

Uganda has always suffered from droughts (lack of water) but these are becoming more common due to climate change. This makes growing crops and keeping cattle very difficult.

Here Martina Longom from Karimoja carries water. There was a 3 year drought in her area. She says:

“In the past there was enough rain. Whenever it rained the fields would yield all kinds of fruit and our mothers would store lots of food in our granaries. We used to have plenty of boiled sorghum and porridge to eat and plenty of milk to drink. But now things are different. Cows are dying.

The rains have disappeared. And when it rains these days, it just drizzles. The drizzle does not enable the *sorghum* (a grain) to grow properly.



“The drinking water that we used to fetch from the riverbeds can no longer be found. The riverbeds have dried up as well. There is a lot of thirst... I ask ‘what can I do to address this thirst? Even if you have food to cook, you still need water to do the cooking. What can I do? There aren’t enough words to express the pain”.

Unpredictability

Farmers are not sure about the weather anymore. This means they do not know what is best to grow, and have to try to grow different crops to sell for money instead. In Uganda women are the main farmers.

Florence Madamu,
from Bulirehe says:

“The cassava no longer *yields* (this means the amount you grow), there are flies that eat up the leaves. This area no longer produces beans; we’ve tried and failed...

Because of the current weather changes the yields have completely gone down. All this is a result of long spells of

sunshine – the sun is prolonged until the end of September - and whenever it rains it rains so heavily it destroys all our crops in the fields. You can plant a whole acre or two and come out with nothing”.

Seasonal planting is now very hard as farmers do not know what to plant at the right times. Florence says:

“We’ve stopped even seasonal planting, because it’s so useless...Now we plant and plant again. We waste a lot of seeds that way, and our time and energy. We regret it so often, why we planted... Sometimes you feel like crying.”

