

## The impact of climate change on the wellbeing of pregnant and postpartum women in Uganda. A case study of Ntoroko District

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**Background:** Climate change has been implicated in many negative outcomes for pregnant and post-partum women among which include anemia, eclampsia, pre term birth, miscarriages, stillbirths, low birth weights, posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and depression. Hence this study was carried out to assess the impact of climate change on the wellbeing of pregnant and post-partum women in Uganda.

**Methodology:** A descriptive design was employed. Eighty respondents were selected to the study using simple random sampling procedure. Data was collected using interview guides.

**Results:** Respondents faced health impacts as 50 (62.5%) delivered low birth weight babies, 48 (60%) suffered depression and anxiety, 59 (74%) reported increased prevalence of malaria, 24 (40.7%) delivered prematurely, 60 (75%) suffered from anemia, 6 (7.5%) suffered miscarriages. Respondents faced socioeconomic impacts as 60 (75%) were displaced from their homes, 50 (62.5%) lost income generating activities, 80 (100%) experienced increasing poverty, 45 (56.3%) scattering of family members, 54 (68%) food insecurity and 45 (56.3%) failure to ensure adequate nutrition during pregnancy.

**Conclusion:** Pregnant and post-partum mothers faced various health and social economic impacts due to climate change including anemia, low birth weight, food insecurity and family displacement

**Recommendations:** The key recommendations included regular sensitization of community members about climate change, its causes, potential dangers and its prevention.



**Kiconco Penenah** is a midwife, a young midwife leader, and an advocate for midwives and women of reproductive age, with more than 12 years of professional experience working at various health facilities in Uganda. She belongs to the National Midwifery Association of Uganda, an ICM member organisation. She has been able to be part of initiatives aimed at enhancing maternity and child healthcare capability. She is passionate about sexual reproductive health Rights and midwifery. She looks forward to advancing her career and making more significant contributions to maternal and child health across the globe and as well as the midwifery profession.