

***Kigali, Rwanda, October 18 (Infosplusgabon) - Heavy rain in several parts of Kamonyi, a district in the central-southern Rwanda, has destroyed several houses leaving at least 22 families homeless.***

The rain also damaged several hundred hectares of crops in neighbouring wetlands of Kamiranzovu and Rwabashasha, a senior local administrative official in the region told PANA on Wednesday in Kigali.

The affected crops are maize and rice that were destroyed after the rain lashed a large part of Kamonyi district late on Tuesday night, according to the acting District Mayor of Kamonyi district, Thaddeé Tuyizere.

The period between September and December is when heavy rain, accompanied by strong winds, hits several parts of Rwanda, the Rwanda Meteorological Department said.

"In collaboration with the central government, we are currently assessing the damage in a move to take measures to offer relief to the affected farming communities," Tuyizere said.

Latest estimates by the Ministry of Disaster Management and Refugees Affairs in Kigali indicate that since January this year, natural disasters have wreaked havoc in Rwanda, killing 52 people, destroying about 127 houses and 2,000 hectares of crops.

In addition, the recent natural disasters have, overall, caused direct economic losses of 6.5 billion Rwandan francs (7.7 million dollars).

Meanwhile, the Rwandan ministry of Disaster Management and Refugees Affairs has said it is working on a project that will ensure the safety of every member of the community in case of an emergency.

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