

### I. HIGHLIGHTS

- **An escalation in cattle raids in Karamoja has prompted the UPDF to consider reintroducing protected kraals**
- **Contagious Caprine Pleuro Pneumonia (CCPP) has been confirmed in Abim district**
- **At least 400 households are estimated to have been affected by crop losses as a result of hailstorms in Kitgum District**

### II. SECURITY AND ACCESS

#### SECURITY

The security situation in Karamoja did not improve from the last reporting period. On the contrary, cattle raids increased in the region, with Napak and Moroto districts accounting for three quarters of all 20 reported incidents documented by the UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS). In response to the escalated raids, the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) outlined a plan to reinstate protected kraals, which had been disbanded in July 2009. While the UPDF is yet to set the terms and conditions guiding the composition of such kraals, it has indicated that they will be under the direct protection of Local Defence Units who were recruited in July 2010 and expected to be commissioned in November. Road ambushes also persisted during the reporting period, particularly affecting Abim, Kotido and Nakapiripirit districts. Since January 2010, an average of two ambushes has occurred per month. The UPDF continued to conduct daily patrols along the Abim-Kotido road.

Incidents of killings continued to take place in the region, mainly involving shootings by suspected illegally armed Karamojong and by the UDFP encountering resistance from suspects during cordon and search operations. In Moroto, according to police reports, 15 deaths from arrow shootings were recorded. Clashes between the UPDF and the illegally armed Karamojong also persisted, particularly in Napak, Moroto and Nakapiripirit.

There were no major incidents with implications on humanitarian activity in the Acholi region. Petty crime and some land conflicts continued to dominate the security situation.

Nationally, campaigns ahead of next year's general elections were launched following the nomination of candidates in October. While general excitement was evident across the country, there were no serious incidents related to the politicking. Security, particularly in Kampala, remains tight amid the campaigns as well as in response to new terrorist threats from the Somalia-based Al Shaabab militant group.

### III. POPULATION MOVEMENT

The September-October period witnessed increased population movements in Karamoja as communities sought local construction materials. An estimated 300 people were reported to have camped between Gampusi and Angorom along the Abim-Kotido road close to military detachments to harvest thatching grass and collect poles. Good rains this year have allowed vegetation to flourish and communities are eager to take advantage before the dry season and its associated wild bushfires set in.

An inter-district (Kotido and Kaabong) assessment of Moruitit resettlement site in October suggested that less than 25 per cent of the originally estimated 2,264 people were actually living at the site. Construction of shelters was still ongoing with less than 60 per cent completed. The mobility of the population complicates attempts to establish the actual resident population. The site is located halfway along the Kotido-Kaabong highway. Land issues, particularly at the common border, remains a point of contention between the two districts. Two other sites in Payangara sub-county in Kotido have been identified for resettlement by communities.

### IV. HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

#### EDUCATION

During the reporting period the cholera outbreak in Nakapiripirit District led to the closure of Namototo and Nakale primary schools after 15 pupils were infected. The closure affected the preparation of candidate pupils ahead of the national Primary Leaving Examinations (PLE). In response to the outbreak, educational materials on sanitation were dispatched to all primary schools in the district and minimum basic hygienic standards were set by the District Education Office. Regionally, joint monitoring was undertaken in all primary schools in Karamoja to assess compliance

with the minimum sanitation standards. Meanwhile, following the lifting of the staffing ceiling on primary school teachers, Abim District has been able to increase its teachers' pool from 396 to 537, thereby improving the teacher-pupil ratio from 1:61 to 1:45 – well above the national average of 1:55.

In Teso, floods affected 10 schools (five each) in Amuria and Katakwi districts. A total of 266 Primary Seven pupils were consequently displaced and had to be relocated to other centres to sit the PLE. Both districts subsequently received 100 tents and 60 tarpaulins to support the relocation of the schools to enable their pupils sit the examinations.

The sector in Acholi remains constrained by infrastructure challenges. For instance, only an estimated 49 per cent of the pupils enrolled in primary schools across the region have desks, the rest having to sit on the floor during learning. The quality of teaching also continued to raise concerns. A baseline survey was initiated during the reporting period to assess the implementation of the new Basic Requirements and Minimum Standards (BRMS) manual in the region's schools. The manual sets key minimum standards to be met by all schools in the country with the aim of improving quality and performance in schools.

#### **FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURAL LIVELIHOODS (FSAL)**

Karamoja experienced above-normal crop production this season due to sustained rains, translating into less reliance on food assistance. The last cycle of food distribution for moderately food insecure households was concluded in October while food assistance to extremely vulnerable individuals' (EVI) households will be discontinued after November.

Livestock, a major source of livelihood in Karamoja, remain susceptible to diseases. In October, an outbreak of Contagious Caprine Pleuro Pneumonia (CCPP) was confirmed in Abim District, while suspected cases were reported in Moroto. By the end of the month, over 2,100 goats had died in Abim. Sector partners have responded by providing supportive therapy, de-wormers, acaricides and antibiotics in affected parishes. In Kaabong, vaccination of 20,000 shoats was completed, with the district indicating that it has adequate supplies to cover the vaccination of the entire 180,000 estimated shoat population. Kotido District received 100,000 vaccines. Other suspected disease outbreaks in the region awaiting laboratory test confirmation include Newcastle and Foot Rot.

In the Acholi region, food security was affected by several occurrences of hailstorms, particularly in Kitgum District. Areas in Akwang, Kitgum Matidi and Mucwini sub-counties were most affected. According to district estimates, some 550 acres of crop fields were destroyed in Akwang alone, while the full extent of the damage in the other affected sub-counties remains to be assessed. Affected crops included simsim (sesame), sweet potatoes, cassava, sorghum and cotton. At least 400 households are deemed to have been affected by the crop losses in Kitgum Matidi and Akwang. Hailstorms were also reported in Pajule, Atanga and Ogom sub-counties.

During the reporting period, Pader District launched a campaign to eradicate the Congress weed (*parthenium hysterophorus*), considered one of the world's most dangerous weeds. The weed, which inhibits plant growth, reduces crop yields, taints milk and meat products and causes allergies in humans, has already infested villages mainly in the sub-counties of Awer, Kilak, Puranga and Pader Town Council. The district has committed UGX 6,000,000 (approx. \$26,000) toward the eradication programme.

#### **HEALTH, NUTRITION AND HIV/AIDS**

Following the discovery of a polio case in Bugiri District in eastern Uganda, the Government announced plans for three rounds of Sub-National Immunization Days, with the first round scheduled for 20 and 21 November across 48 districts in eastern and northern Uganda.

In the Acholi region, disease surveillance and completeness of reporting continued to be maintained above 90 per cent, higher than the minimum recommended level of 80 per cent.

As of the end of October, a cumulative 1,537 cases of cholera and 37 deaths had been reported in Karamoja, representing an addition of 139 new cases since August. While the districts continued to be on the alert, no new cases were recorded in Kotido, Moroto and Amudat. In Nakapiripirit, where the epidemic broke out on 18 October, the number of new cases has stabilized at about three per day, having peaked on 20 October with over 20 cases.

*Table 1: Cumulative Cholera Cases and Fatalities in Karamoja as of 31 October 2010*

District	Cases	Deaths
Moroto	674	15
Amudat	204	05
Nakapiripirit	133	06
Kotido	562	11

Sector partners have supported the district in establishing response working groups, streamlining case management, and training health workers in affected and high-risk areas on cholera case management. The districts also received cholera treatment and WASH kits. While the number of new cases has dropped, cholera risk factors in the region remain unmitigated and, given continuing rains, continue to render communities very vulnerable to the epidemic. Lingered vulnerabilities also continue to be of concern in regard to the Hepatitis E outbreak in the region, but progress has been made in efforts to break the transmission cycle. The last case in South Karamoja was reported in April 2010. Consequently, in September, Abim District declared itself free of the epidemic and Kotido was expected to follow suit. In Kaabong, however, an average of four new cases was registered weekly during October 2010. As at Epidemiological Week 42, a cumulative 581 cases and 15 deaths had been recorded in the district since the index case in August 2009.

New admission of malnutrition cases continued to increase at health centres offering therapeutic feeding in Karamoja. While the performance indicators generally showed an improvement in cure rates, in some districts like Abim and Kaabong the rate was still below the SPHERE standard of 75 per cent. Moreover, the default rate in nearly all districts remained high.

Table 2: Nutrition Performance Indicators for Karamoja

Indicator	Abim	Kaabong	Kotido	Moroto/Napak	Nakapiripirit/ Amudat
Cure rates (OTC)	45.4	55.7	75.5	68.4	83.7
Default rates (OTC)	53.9	25.3	13.6	21.1	6.1
Death rates (OTC)	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.3	1.1
Cure rates (ITC)	29.9	75.3	84.9	76.3	100
Default rates (ITC)	64.2	6.1	9.7	9.6	0.0
Death rates (ITC)	6.0	18.5	4.3	14.1	0.0

Source: UNICEF

#### PROTECTION

Mediation efforts aimed at resolving the inter-clan land conflict hindering the return of internally displaced persons (IDPs) from the last remaining camp in Gulu District - Corner Agula - has made some progress. Both parties have agreed that households not directly affected by the dispute (nine households identified) can return to their land. The parties will also conduct cleansing ceremonies as part of reconciliation efforts. As of September 2010, an estimated 1,314,100 IDPs in the region had left the camps for home, while another 135,515 people were living in transit sites. Only 11,790 IDPs remained in camps.<sup>1</sup>

Meanwhile, a second rapid assessment of persons with special needs / extremely vulnerable individuals (PSN/EVIs) who were supported with shelter and livelihood assistance to return home was completed in the region. The results indicate that despite the assistance provided, some of the PSN/EVIs have not achieved any durable solution due to, among others, the loss of the livestock or failure of crops as a result of disease or poor maintenance.

#### Human Rights and Rule of Law

At the end of the reporting period, the appointed Chief Magistrate for Karamoja assumed his duties, raising hopes that some of the access to justice challenges in the region, including long remand and trial periods, will now be redressed. Based in Moroto, the Chief Magistrate will be responsible for hearing cases related to capital offences in the region.

#### Mine Action:

A stretch of land measuring 4 km by 40 m in Lelabul village of Lokung sub-county in Lamwo District was cleared of mines and quality-assured by the Uganda Mine Action Centre (UMAC) during the reporting period. The remaining challenge is to build the confidence of the community regarding the safety of the area. Unexploded ordnance have been one of the major impediments to the return of IDPs in northern Uganda, particularly in Lamwo District. Demining of Ajalikech minefield in Agoro sub-county is in progress, while a technical survey is ongoing in Yoke village in Lokung. Four explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) teams operate in Kitgum, Gulu, Pader and Amuru, responding on a call-out basis to concerns about explosive objects.

#### Child Protection:

A total of 17 Jie Juveniles were re-united with their families in Kotido District, while 12 juveniles were returned to Napak District. The juveniles had been arrested along with adults during the cattle screening operations launched by

<sup>1</sup> UNHCR/Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS) for Durable Solutions Assessment, September 2010

the UPDF in August and were part of the 32 Karamojong dispatched to the Mbale Remand Home in April. They were discharged in mid-October 2010 following advocacy by Child Protection actors. Additionally, five Bokora Juveniles released by Kotido Court were returned to Moroto.

In Napak, 86 unaccompanied children (51 girls and 35 boys), all aged 11 years or younger, were received by the district on 25 September. The Probation Office, with the support of sector partners, was subsequently able to place 78 of the children with close family members in the sub-counties of Lokopo, Iriiri, Lopei, Matany, Ngoloriet and Lorengechora. To control the outmigration of Karamojong children to other districts, a police checkpoint has been established at Iriiri in Matoro District. Unaccompanied children are detained or sent back while adults are required to prove that they are the parents of the children they are traveling with. Several protection concerns have arisen as a result of this development, not least the unsystematic manner in which the checks are conducted and the lack of appropriate or adequate logistics to carry out the directive in a manner that respects the rights and dignity of the children and adults.

#### **WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)**

In response to the cholera outbreak, funding from the Emergency Relief Fund (ERF) enabled sector partners to undertake community sanitation and hygiene campaigns in Kotido District beginning in September 2010. A total of 25 volunteers and community hygiene promoters from two parishes were trained and they, in turn, trained over 60 community members. Sanitation digging kits, aqua safe tabs and water containers were also distributed as part of the campaign. Interventions in the two selected parishes during the one month of sensitization resulted in: 51 new pit latrines with an additional 1,452 under construction; 1,761 hand washing facilities; 1,215 drying racks; 1,418 rubbish pits; and, 1,331 kitchens and 778 bath shelters.

#### **V. FUNDING**

As at the end of October, the revised 2010 Consolidated Appeal for Uganda (CAP 2010) was 49 per cent funded with \$ 90,350,746 realized, inclusive of carry-overs worth \$ 29,586,159. Coordination (108%), Protection (72%) and Nutrition (68%) were the highest funded sectors, followed by FSAL (59%), WASH (35%), Education (30%), Health and HIV/AIDS (24%), and Refugees (21%). Emergency Preparedness and Response remained the only non-funded sector.

The Emergency Response Fund (ERF) managed by OCHA has attracted a total contribution of \$883,034, with an additional \$69,444 from the Government of Ireland in the pipeline. To date, \$274,363 has been disbursed to Action Against Hunger (ACF), CARITAS and Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) to respond to the cholera outbreak in Karamoja. Norway, Sweden and The Netherlands have contributed to the Fund. The ERF in Uganda was established to facilitate rapid response at the onset of a new emergency before mainstream interventions are able to come on-line. The Fund supports interventions aimed at saving lives and/or preventing further erosion of livelihood assets and/or coping mechanisms of affected communities. The ERF is at the disposal of local and international NGOs already registered and active in areas of concern.

#### **VI. THE MONTH AHEAD**

##### **MONTHLY CLUSTER MEETING SCHEDULE**

	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
<b>Week 1</b>	Health, Nutrition and HIV/AIDS SWG 14.30 at WHO	GBV SWG** 10.00 at MGLSD	Child Protection SWG 10.30 at UNICEF	Education SWG* 9.00 at SCIUG	
		Food Security and Agricultural Livelihoods 14.30 at FAO		Water, Sanitation and Hygiene SWG 14.00 at MOWE	
<b>Week 2</b>	Heads of SSG 11.15 at OCHA				HCT in Uganda 10.00 at OCHA
<b>Week 3</b>	Protection SWG 14.30 at UHRC				
<b>Week 4</b>			Contact Group*** 14.30 at OCHA		

\* Education Sector will meet on a bi-monthly basis in 2010: in January, March, May, July, September and November

\*\* GBV Reference Group meets quarterly: March, June, September and December

\*\*\* Contact Group will meet on a monthly basis in 2010, on the last Wednesday of each month.

## VII. CONTACTS

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