

### I. HIGHLIGHTS

- **An outbreak of yellow fever has been confirmed in northern Uganda; 189 cases with 48 deaths reported as of the end of December 2010**
- **Over 300 households in Napak and Moroto districts have been affected by fire outbreaks**
- **Flooding and waterlogging destroyed more than 19,000 acres of crops in Pader in November 2010**

### II. SECURITY AND ACCESS

#### SECURITY

Cattle raids, road banditry and the on-going Government disarmament campaign dominated the security situation in Karamoja during the reporting period. Cattle raids persisted but at lower rates compared to the month of October, with Napak District worst affected followed by Moroto. Aggressive activity by illegally armed Karamojong also noticeably declined in November. Nevertheless, between 29 December 2010 and 2 January 2011, the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) intensified cordon and search operations in Rengen and Kacheri sub-counties of Kotido District. The operations followed an incident on 26 December in Kaabong District during which some UPDF soldiers were reportedly killed during a clash with suspected Jie tribesmen in Sidok sub-county. The Jie and the Dodoth of Kaabong District were also reported to have carried out raids against the Pokot and Turkana of Kenya, while the Turkana along with the Matheniko of Moroto executed joint raids in Kotido. The cross-border raiding activities prompted the UPDF to issue an advisory to humanitarian organizations active in Kalapata and Loyoro sub-counties of Kaabong emphasizing the need for vigilance and prior consultation ahead of travel to these areas. In Moroto, a joint Police and UPDF operation in Moroto municipality recovered locally made weapons, including 60 bows and arrows, in Katamukono and Acholi Inn villages. Arrows have accounted for at least six deaths in the slums of Moroto municipality in the last four months. Humanitarian actors were not targeted in any of the security incidents during the reporting period.

On the national scene, campaigns ahead of February's presidential, parliamentary and local government elections have been generally peaceful. However, a few incidents were registered during the reporting period. In Gulu, six supporters of a parliamentary candidate were reportedly poisoned with chloroform in November, while a group of youths were arrested in December for alleged involvement in a militia reportedly linked to an opposition political party. In Nakaseke District, an opposition candidate's property was vandalized on New Year's Eve.

#### Access

Heavy rains in northern Uganda caused deterioration and destruction of several roads and bridges during the period under review. Floods destroyed culverts in Pader District and an important bridge connecting Nwoya District to Gulu.

In Karamoja, the onset of the dry season increased pressure on pastoralists to move in search of water and pasture for livestock. However, in the absence of express authorization, UPDF-imposed restrictions on livestock and kraal movements continued to hamper their access to the greener areas westwards or even to sites like Loongor dam in Kacheri sub-county with sustainable water sources.

### III. POPULATION MOVEMENT

Eight months after the landslides in Bududa District, the Government closed Bulucheke camp where the displaced population had been temporarily accommodated. The last batch of the 297 IDP households (1,680 individuals) was relocated to Kiryandongo in Masindi District (western Uganda) in November 2010.

During the reporting period an estimated 1,000 Turkana from Kenya moving with over 5,000 heads of cattle crossed into Tapac sub-county of Moroto District. Such movements are typically in search of pasture and water, suggesting the advent of adverse weather conditions in their areas of origin. More Turkana are likely to cross the border into Karamoja if such conditions persist, even as some Karamojong are expected to move to neighboring Teso sub-region for similar reasons.

Meanwhile, approximately 300 people have moved into a new resettlement site at Kanagorok located southwest of Panyangara sub-county in Kotido. The site has attracted people mainly from the three sub-counties of Panyangara, Nakapelimoru and Kotido who plan to engage in crop cultivation once the rainy season begins. Of concern, however, is the area's vulnerability to flooding given its low lying topography. Moreover, the threat of conflicts pitting the resettlers against pastoralist or kraal communities remains real and is compounded by the absence of official guidelines on establishment of resettlement sites.

## IV. HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

### FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURAL LIVELIHOODS (FSAL)

In the Acholi region, torrential rains threatened food security as they led to flooding and submersion of crop fields. According to the report of a floods assessment carried out in seven sub-counties of Pader in November, a total of 19,371 acres of crops were completely destroyed. The affected crops included simsim (sesame), beans, millet and rice. Livestock and domestic fowls were also killed, while an increase in tick-borne diseases and worms were noted in the aftermath of the floods.

Cases of Contagious Caprine Pleuro Pneumonia (goat plague) continued to rise in Abim District following the disease's outbreak in September 2010. Over 3,122 goats had died as of December, according to official records. The district's outreach programme was hampered by logistical constraints, which also affected the surveillance and monitoring of the outbreak. On a positive note, the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fishers (MAAIF) launched the Vaccinations for Control of Neglected Animal Diseases (VACNAD) project, which is expected to run till August 2011. The project, supported by the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) will be implemented in Karamoja, northern and eastern Uganda. The Ministry has already received 758,500 doses of *peste des petits ruminants* (PPR) vaccines and 500,000 doses of contagious caprine pleuropneumonia (CCPP) vaccines for hotspot vaccination of goats and sheep. It is expected that at the end of the project, 700,000 shoats in high risk areas will have been vaccinated against PPR and 450,000 goats against CCPP. Additionally, three million farmers will have been sensitized on livestock disease control and 50 technical staff trained on diagnosis and surveillance of selected livestock diseases.

### HEALTH, NUTRITION AND HIV/AIDS

New and old epidemics continued to be of serious concern across northern Uganda and Karamoja. An outbreak of yellow fever, which was first reported in Abim District in November, rapidly spread to neighbouring districts in Acholi. While initial attempts at diagnosis pointed to but later ruled out plague, four test results subsequently proved positive for yellow fever prompting a formal declaration of the outbreak by the Government. By 31 December, a total of 189 cases including 48 deaths had been reported from Abim, Agago, Kitgum, Kaabong, Kotido, Lamwo, Arua, Lira, Pader, and Gulu districts.

Table 1: Yellow Fever in Northern Uganda and Karamoja as of December 2010

District	Cumulative Cases	Cumulative Deaths	CFR (%)	Cases in isolation ward
ABIM	33	13	38.2	00
AGAGO	63	16	25.4	12
KITGUM	65	12	18.5	00
GULU	04	01	25	00
ARUA	02	02	100	00
LIRA	15	02	13.3	00
Kaabong	06	02	33.3	04
Kotido	01	00	00	00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>25.4</b>	<b>16</b>

Source: WHO

The Ministry of Health has established a national yellow fever task force and was expected to request for vaccines from the International Coordination Group, the body charged with distributing the drugs worldwide. The last incidence of yellow fever in Uganda occurred in the 1970s.

In November, one death from Hepatitis E was reported in Kalongo Hospital in Agago District. No cases were registered in Karamoja, the last case having been reported in April 2010.

The number of new cholera cases in Nakapiripirit declined over the reporting period; seven cases were registered in December against 56 cases and two deaths in the previous month. No new cases were reported in the district from 16 December onwards. As of the end of the reporting period, a cumulative, 214 cases and 10 deaths had been registered in Nakapiripirit since the onset of the epidemic in October 2010. For South Karamoja as a whole, a total of 1,092 cholera cases and 30 deaths have been recorded since April 2010. While the epidemic has been contained,

vulnerability factors within the communities have not been addressed and the communities remain susceptible to future outbreaks.

Following the confirmation of a wild polio virus case in the eastern district of Bugiri as well as reports of an outbreak in the neighbouring Kenyan province of Turkana, the Ministry of Health (MoH) and WHO conducted two rounds of polio vaccinations in all high risk districts across the country, with a third round scheduled for January 2011.

#### **PROTECTION**

As of December 2010, an estimated 43,000 persons in the Acholi sub-region were living in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps or settlements. The vast majority resided in camps that had already been decommissioned; only 5,664 IDPs, consisting largely of extremely vulnerable individuals (EVIs), were living in 13 remaining active camps.<sup>1</sup> Besides extreme vulnerability or special needs, other factors hampering the return of these residual IDPs to villages of origin include: poor infrastructure and inadequate basic services; land conflicts; fear of Karamojong cattle rustling activity, particularly in Agago District; and, concerns over mines and unexploded ordnance (UXOs), mainly in Lamwo District. Outside of northern Uganda, some 25,077 Acholi IDPs were living in settlements in Masindi and Kiryandongo districts, according to a recent assessment.

#### **Human Rights and Rule of Law**

Allegations of human rights violations emerged in the wake of the UPDF's intensification of cordon and search operations in Rengen and Kacheri sub-counties. Reports indicated that the Army rounded up hundreds of people, including the elderly, women and children, and meted out beatings as punishment, while several people were also reportedly forced to lie in the hot sun all day long.

#### **Mine Action:**

On 17 November, a UXO - a 120 mm mortar fuse - was discovered along the Kitgum–Lira road in Acholi Bur sub-county of Pader. A team from the Uganda Mine Action Centre (UMAC) in Kitgum subsequently travelled to the site and successfully removed and destroyed the device. In total, UMAC destroyed 310 small arms ammunition, two anti-personnel landmines and 257 UXO objects in the districts of Kitgum, Lamwo, Gulu, Pader and Amuru during the reporting period. An area of 3,000 square metres in the minefields of Agoro sub-county in Lamwo District and 1,802 square metres in Ngomoromo have now been cleared. However, Mine Risk Education remains a major gap.

#### **Child Protection:**

Due to the cordon and search operations at the end of 2010 in Karamoja, some children were exposed to collective punishment as the UPDF indiscriminately rounded up populations in targeted villages. In addition, school premises were used as military facilities during the operations in Kacheri and Rengen sub-counties in Kotido, creating the risk of exposure to UXOs after schools re-open in early 2011.

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

During the reporting period the districts of Amuru, Gulu, Kitgum and Lamwo were supported to carry out water quality surveillance and monitoring, targeting water sources at household level. The exercise revealed that 35 per cent of the water was contaminated, prompting the districts and partners to start developing water quality safety plans. Meanwhile, with support from the Peace, Recovery and Development Plan (PRDP) and NGO partners, 36 boreholes were drilled and furnished with hand pumps across return villages in northern Uganda. The sector in Karamoja, finalized the construction of safe water sources in 35 schools that did not have such facilities for school children.

### **V. SPECIAL FOCUS ISSUES**

In December, Napak and Moroto districts experienced a series of fire outbreaks, some human-induced and others bushfires. The fires ultimately affected 333 households in Matany, Lopei, Iriiri, Lotome and Ngoleriet sub-counties in Napak District and 79 households in Nandunget sub-county in Moroto District. The victims lost their homes and property, while two injuries were also reported. Humanitarian assistance was dispatched to the affected communities by humanitarian partners, the UPDF and the Office of the Prime Minister, although some of the priority humanitarian needs of the population in areas in Iriiri, Matany, and Lopei remain unaddressed. Most of the affected households are using community social safety nets to cope while they reconstruct their homesteads.

### **VI. FUNDING**

As at the end of December, the revised 2010 Consolidated Appeal for Uganda (CAP 2010) remained at 49 per cent funding. Coordination (108%), Protection (73%) and Nutrition (62%) were the highest funded sectors, followed by FSAL (59%), WASH (37%), Education (30%), Health and HIV/AIDS (24%), and Refugees (21%). Emergency Preparedness and Response remained the only non-funded sector. Total unmet requirements amounted to \$93,794,402.

<sup>1</sup> UNHCR, *IDP Population Update*, December 2010

The Emergency Response Fund (ERF) managed by OCHA has attracted a total contribution of \$865,725, with an additional \$69,444 pledged by the Government of Ireland. By the end of December, \$692,027 had been disbursed to six projects responding to the cholera outbreak in Karamoja and flooding in Katakwi and Amuria districts. Norway (\$313,972), Sweden (\$313,991) and The Netherlands (\$237,762) have contributed to the Fund.<sup>2</sup> The ERF in Uganda was established to facilitate rapid response at the onset of a new emergency before mainstream interventions are able to come online. 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.

## VII. THE MONTH AHEAD

### MONTHLY SECTOR MEETING SCHEDULE

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<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 2011, on the last Wednesday of each month.

\*\*\*\* HCT meetings will resume in February 2011

## VII. CONTACTS

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<sup>2</sup> Financial Tracking Service (FTS), [http://fts.unocha.org/pageloader.aspx?page=search-reporting\\_display&CQ=cq13011125312fxavejE0xg](http://fts.unocha.org/pageloader.aspx?page=search-reporting_display&CQ=cq13011125312fxavejE0xg)