

### I. HIGHLIGHTS

- **THE SECURITY SITUATION IN KARAMOJA REMAINS VOLATILE; AMBUSHES AND CATTLE RAIDS PERSIST**
- **THE ARMY AND POLICE HAVE BEGUN IMPLEMENTING A NEW PHASE OF THE DISARMAMENT PROGRAMME; 172 KARAMOJONG, INCLUDING JUVENILES, WERE ARRESTED AND DETAINED IN AUGUST**
- **THE LAST REMAINING OFFICIAL CAMP IN AMURU DISTRICT HAS BEEN DECOMMISSIONED**

### II. SECURITY AND ACCESS

#### SECURITY

The situation remained unstable in Karamoja, with aggressive activities by illegally armed Karamojong persisting during the reporting period. A Kotido District official was killed in a road ambush on 10 July, while another official from Kaabong District was shot at but uninjured as he drove along the Kaabong-Kotido road in mid-August. In Nakapiripirit, two ambushes occurred in two days, the first along the Nakapiripirit-Moroto road on 27 August and the second on the Namalu-Chepchikunya road resulting in injuries to four passengers. Humanitarian workers were also targeted in such incidents, with two employees of an international Non-Governmental Organization coming under fire but escaping unhurt in Ngoleriet sub-county of Moroto. The travel advisory limiting travel hours for UN vehicles along the Abim-Kotido road remained in force throughout the reporting period.

Amid continuing cattle raiding activity, the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) has re-evaluated its strategy, announcing in August that it would disband all protected and big kraals hosting more than 10,000 animals on the ground, among others, that they attracted or sheltered raiders. The disbandment exercise has been launched in Nakapiripirit, Moroto and Napak districts and will reportedly be rolled out to the remaining districts in due course. The UPDF also announced the commencement of a so-called second phase of the disarmament programme premised on Section 266 of the Uganda Penal Code, which prescribes life imprisonment for the crime of cattle rustling involving the use of deadly weapons or resulting in death or grievous harm to other persons.

In the Acholi region, an unexploded ordinance (UXO) went off in July in Nwoya District, killing one person and injuring five others. The victims had reportedly found the device in a garden in Gok village of Anaka sub-county and had tampered with it. There has been no LRA-related activity in this region for four years.

Nationally, security was beefed up following twin bomb blasts in Kampala on 11 July that killed 78 people and injured scores. The bombs were detonated by suspected terrorists in two public places packed with revellers watching the final of the soccer World Cup. At least one other bomb was defused by police in a third location. The Somali-based extremist group, Al Shabaab, claimed responsibility for the blasts, having previously issued threats against Uganda and Burundi for sending peacekeepers to Somalia.

#### Access

During the reporting period, south Karamoja continued to experience rains, unusually heavy for this time of year, leading to further deterioration in road conditions. Flooding and slippery road conditions impeded access to several areas, particularly for heavy vehicles and food trucks, while travel time increased significantly.

### III. POPULATION MOVEMENT

With the return of relative stability to northern Uganda, 90 percent of the displaced population in the Acholi region has now moved to villages of origin or locations closer to home, leaving an estimated 76,836 in the main camps. Some 114,701 people are residing in transit locations.

In Karamoja, a new settlement in Morutit, situated at the border between Kaabong and Kotido districts, had attracted an estimated 230 people as of the beginning of August 2010. While no assessments have been carried out at the site thus far, there are strong indications that significant gaps exist in the population's access to basic services. The location of the settlement renders it difficult to determine which district it belongs to, with both Kaabong and Kotido districts disclaiming jurisdiction. Meanwhile, plans for the proposed Kobebe settlement in Moroto District have been finalized. The site is located within the green belt in Rupa sub-county, and is intended to attract communities seeking

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<sup>1</sup> The UNDSS advisory, issued on 28 July, limits UN movement along the road to between 09.00Hrs and 16.00Hrs in reaction to a spate of attacks in which several people were killed.

agricultural livelihood opportunities. As of the reporting period, there were no communities on-site, although a dam had been constructed and security personnel deployed to the area.

#### IV. HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

##### EDUCATION

An outbreak of cholera occurred in Kotido Mixed Primary School and in Kalas Boys' Primary School in Amudat District, resulting in the death of a pupil in the latter school. In response, the districts' Education departments developed minimum basic hygienic standards and conducted joint monitoring with sectoral stakeholders in all primary schools to ensure compliance.

Following the UPDF's decision to disband protected and big kraals in Karamoja, Education partners are concerned that more children will consequently drop out of school in order to look after animals - a role that is typically shared in the communal kraals. Also of concern are raids by illegally armed Karamojong, which disrupt learning and have affected enrolment, particularly in Nadunget sub-county in Moroto and areas in Napak District. The average school attendance rate in the region is 78 percent, with the lowest (57.5 percent) registered in Kaabong District. More critical analyses of the factors contributing to the gap between enrolment and attendance are ongoing.

Table 1: Enrolment and Attendance Figures in Karamoja, July-August 2010

District	Enrollment			Attendance			Pupils Fed			Attendance Rate
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	
Moroto	15,325	11,969	27,294	11,410	8,828	20,239	11,502	7,690	19,192	74.2
Kotido	12,142	8,298	20,440	9,627	5,848	15,476	9,476	5,781	15,257	75.7
Abim	12,575	11,452	24,027	9,504	15,232	24,737	10,503	10,945	21,448	103.0
Kaabong	23,463	17,653	41,116	14,017	9,638	23,655	14,278	9,685	23,963	57.5
Nakapiripirit	12,553	11,196	23,749	10,327	9,007	19,334	8,741	7,921	16,662	81.4

Source: WFP

In Acholi, attendance rates stand at 79 percent in Gulu and Pader and 64 percent in Amuru, according to information from the District Education departments. Beside questions regarding the quality of education in the region, concerns linger over gaps in basic infrastructure.

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

The final cycle of General Food Distribution (GFD) in the Acholi region was concluded in July, with erstwhile beneficiaries now expected to be incorporated into other food security programmes by the districts and their partners. As part of its support to the sector, the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) under the Peace, Recovery and Development Programme (PRDP) dispatched tractors to all Acholi districts to facilitate land opening, accompanied by the distribution of seeds, including beans, maize and sorghum for planting. By the end of August, 70 percent of the planned 1,824 acres of land had been successfully opened. On a negative note, Congress Weed (*parthenium hysterophorus*) remains one of the major hazards to the sector, having invaded Pader and Agago districts and threatening to spread to bordering districts. The weed, which inhibits plant growth, reduces crop yields, taints milk and meat products and causes allergies in humans, has been reported in Kilak and Awere sub-counties of Pader, and in Arum, Lirapalwo and Lamiyo sub-counties in Agago.

In Karamoja, food distribution continued without any major associated incidents of insecurity as happened between April and June. Some 600,000 people in the region are estimated to be moderately food insecure, but imminent harvest prospects are expected to significantly reduce food assistance needs until December 2010.<sup>2</sup>

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

In response to the outbreak of Nodding Disease, medical experts from the Atlanta based Centers for Disease Control traveled to Kitgum, Pader and Lamwo districts to carry out a second round of investigations. Preliminary results from the first round proved inconclusive as to the plausible causes. In Pader, 117 children in Atanga sub-county were reported to be affected by this mentally and physically disabling disease, prompting the district to administer one-year doses in the affected areas as part of a mass immunization exercise. Treatment was initiated in the other districts as well, but worries over supply and cost sustainability have been expressed.

Hepatitis E remains uncontained in the Acholi region, nearly three years since the initial outbreak in Kitgum District; during August, one death from the disease was reported in Orom sub-county. A cumulative 10,604 cases with 168

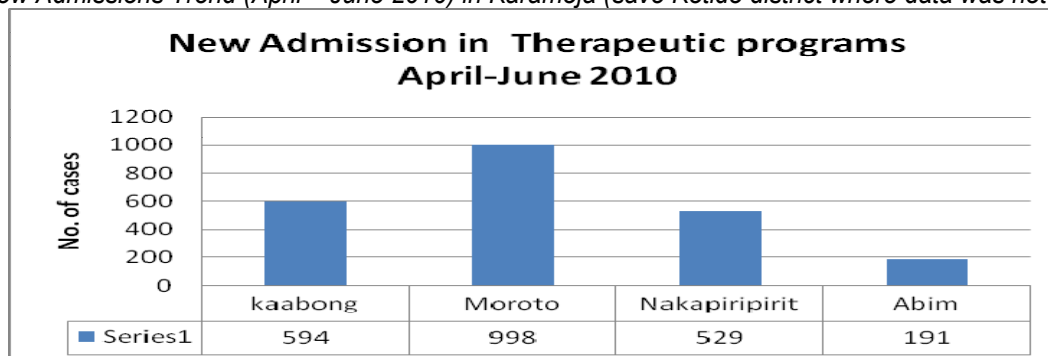
<sup>2</sup> FAO/Global Information and Early Warning System, *Uganda Country Brief, 8 September 2010*

deaths (CFR of 1.6 percent) had been registered by the end of the reporting period. The District Health Working Group has consequently been put on alert, but funding towards response interventions continues to be inadequate.

No Hepatitis E cases were registered in Karamoja, leaving the cumulative number of cases and fatalities unchanged at 511 and 16, respectively. But, cholera cases in the region reached 1,434, with a resurgence occurring in Moroto where five new cases were reported. The district, which had not registered any new cases since 14 July, had a cumulative 674 cases and 15 deaths as of the end of the reporting period, followed by Kotido District with 561 cases and 11 deaths in total. Some 204 cases and five deaths were reported in Amudat, but public health response interventions there are limited due to poor capacity in the district, coupled with funding constraints. In Moroto, the District Cholera Task Force has been reactivated and plans initiated to re-establish the treatment centres and streamline response and preventive activities following the occurrence of new cases.

Admission of malnutrition cases continued to increase at health centres in Karamoja offering therapeutic feeding support. Nutrition performance indicators for April-June 2010, which were released during the reporting period, showed an improvement in cure rates (73.6 percent), although they were still shy of the SPHERE standard of 75 percent.

Figure I: New Admissions Trend (April – June 2010) in Karamoja (save Kotido district where data was not available)



Source: UNICEF

Table II: Nutrition Performance Trend (April – June 2010) for Karamoja region

Performance indicators	April	May	June	Total
Cure rate (%)	75.54	73.17	72.90	73.61
Death rate (%)	2.15	1.87	0.82	1.46
Defaulter rate (%)	12.13	14.66	11.19	12.46

Source: UNICEF

Between July and August, a total of 2,834 pregnant Karamojong women attending ante-natal clinics (ANC) were tested, with 31 (1.1 percent) found to be HIV positive and subsequently enrolled in the prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) programme. The figure was lower than the May - June 2010 positivity rate of 2.6 percent.

## PROTECTION

Some 90 percent (108 out of 121) of the camps for the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) across the Acholi region have now been closed. In July, Amuru District closed its last remaining camp – Bibia camp – thereby becoming the first Acholi district to have decommissioned all its (34) official camps. In the Teso region, only one camp - Amolotoon Original - remains open due to fears of attacks from Karamojong cattle rustlers in areas of return. For the Acholi region, land disputes continued to be a major constraint to effective return in some areas. In Pabbo sub-county, for example, where land squabbles led to violence between two clans in June 2010, an assessment by the district and protection partners confirmed that 50 households had fled the site of the conflict and returned to a former camp in Guru Guru. In response, a mediation process led by the district and local leaders has been initiated. Mediation is also ongoing to resolve another inter-clan land conflict preventing return from the last active IDP camp in Gulu District, Corner Agula Camp, where an estimated 494 individuals remain.

## Human Rights and Rule of Law

In August, the UPDF and Police launched what they are calling the second phase of the Karamoja disarmament programme, with a stronger emphasis on the restoration of law and order, guided by Section 266 of Penal Code. During this phase, cattle screening is expected to take centre stage; animals found bearing a different brand to that of the grazing ground are confiscated. Persons found in possession of such animals are arrested and transferred to detention in the district in which the animals were allegedly stolen, unless they can show proof of purchase or certificates of ownership. A total of 172 suspects were arrested under this exercise between 4-22 August in Kotido and Moroto, prompting concerns over, among others: delayed justice, given that only the High Court - which has no

presence in Karamoja - can try such cases; long pre-trial detentions in military and police facilities; and perceptions of communal punishment. While a gradual release of some of the suspects later took place, they were accompanied by allegations of torture from some communities.

Meanwhile, the Police presence in the region is reported to have expanded to some 3,800 personnel, 2,400 of whom are Probation Police Constables (PPCs) while 1,400 are Anti-Stock Theft Unit (ASTU) personnel.

**Mine Action:**

Mines and unexploded ordnances (UXOs) continue to pose a danger to returning populations in the Acholi region. Of most concern are areas in Lokung and Agoro sub-counties in Lamwo District, which continue to host demining activities. The presence of minefields in the district is a key impediment to the achievement of durable solutions by IDPs in Ngomoromo, Aweno-Olwiyo, Potika A/B, Lokung, and Pangira camps.

**Child Protection:**

An estimated 34 children were arrested and detained alongside adults during the cattle screening operations in Karamoja. Following concerns raised and advocacy by partners, the Moroto DDMC convened an emergency Child Protection meeting and recommended that the Chief Magistrate explore ways to expedite justice for the children and ensure they were not mixed with adults in the same detention facilities. The Moroto Probation and Social Welfare Office was subsequently able to transfer 29 juveniles from the Moroto Police Station to Mbale Remand Home.

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

The sector in Acholi is supporting the districts in rolling out the Participatory Hygiene Sanitation and Transformation programme aimed at improving sanitation in return villages. The programme, which targets a total of 260 villages across the region, is expected to provide training, supplies and facilities to 200 schools.

**VI. FUNDING**

As at the end of August, the revised 2010 Consolidated Appeal for Uganda (CAP 2010) was 35 percent funded with \$62,762,541 realized and \$2,773,216 in pledges. Coordination (117%), Nutrition (68%) and Protection (68%) are the highest funded sectors, followed by WASH (35%), FSAL (33%), Refugees (23%), and Health and HIV/AIDS (10%). Education and Emergency Preparedness and Response had received no funding as of the reporting period.

The Emergency Response Fund (ERF) managed by OCHA has to date attracted a total contribution of \$883,034, of which \$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. Donors to the ERF include Norway, Sweden and The Netherlands. 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.

**VII. THE MONTH AHEAD**

**MONTHLY CLUSTER 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 2010, on the last Wednesday of each month.

## VIII. CONTACTS

### **For more information, please contact:**

#### **In Uganda**

Denis Okello, National Information Officer: +256 312 244 840, +256 772 749 857 (mobile), okellod@un.org

#### **In New York**

Hannes Goegele, Desk Officer: +1 917 367 9457, +1 917 640 5592, goegele@un.org

Stephanie Bunker, Public Information Officer: +1 917 367 5126, +1 917 892 1679 (mobile), bunker@un.org

#### **In Geneva**

Elisabeth Byrs, Public Information Officer, OCHA-Geneva: +41 22 917 2653, byrs@un.org