

I. HIGHLIGHTS

- **KARAMOJA EXPERIENCING THE WORST INSECURITY SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR**
- **AN ESTIMATED 47,000 IDPS IN ACHOLI HAVE MOVED OUT OF CAMPS SINCE FEBRUARY 2009**
- **FOOD INSECURITY IS WIDENING IN TESO AND PARTS OF ACHOLI**

II. SECURITY AND ACCESS

SECURITY

The security situation in northern Uganda remained stable during the reporting period, but some concern has been expressed by sections of the population in Kitgum District in light of reported movements of military personnel and hardware in and out of the district. Joint operations of Police and the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) continued in return areas throughout the region in response to increased criminal activity, particularly armed robbery. Murder was also reported to be on the increase as a result of domestic wrangles, while the latest inter-clan dispute over land in Amuru District resulted in the destruction of crop fields and the torching of two huts in Pabbo sub-county.

In Karamoja, continued aggressive activities by illegally armed Karimojong ensured that the general security environment in the sub-region remained sensitive and unpredictable. The number of aggressive activities recorded during the month was the highest since the beginning of the year, with Kaabong, Kotido and Moroto particularly affected. At least 32 deaths from 21 incidents occurred, according to the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS), while several fatal clashes between illegally armed Karimojong and the UPDF were also reported.

Access

Following successful de-mining activities by the Uganda Mine Action Team (UMAT) in Kitgum District, some IDPs were able to access areas of their villages of origin in Potika parish of Agoro sub-county.

Rains in early May adversely affected access roads in Lopuyo and Nakwakwa in Rengen sub-county, and parts of Nyakwae sub-county in Karamoja's Abim District, temporarily hampering some movement. Meanwhile, work on the 115 km Lolelia-Kapedo access road has been completed, while progress on the Loyoro-Kaabong access road has stalled on account of insecurity.

III. POPULATION MOVEMENT

Region	District	Original camp population (end 2005)	Estimated camp population	% of original camp population	Population in transit sites	% of original camp population	Population in villages of origin	% of original camp population
Acholi	Amuru	204,000	75,000	37%	44,000	22%	46,000	23%
	Gulu	257,000	45,000	18%	20,000	8%	176,000	68%
	Kitgum	310,140	120,000	39%	88,000	28%	164,000	53%
	Pader	339,000	42,000	12%	89,000	26%	236,000	70%
	Acholi Total	1,110,140	282,000	25%	241,000	22%	622,000	56%
Teso	Amuria	72,000	9,000	13%	3,000	4%	106,000	147%
	Katakwi	71,000	5,000	10%	-	-	56,000	79%
	Teso Total	143,000	16,000	11%	3,000	2%	115,000	80%
Grand Total	1,253,000	345,000	28%	283,000	23%	653,000	52%	

Source: Protection Cluster, May 2009

While population movements out of camps progresses across northern Uganda, the latest statistics indicate that the process continues to unfold unevenly across the region. For instance, in Amuru district the number of IDPs now living in villages of origin has stagnated at about one quarter of the original camp population since February 2009, even granted that some IDPs might have moved to other districts. In contrast, the number of IDPs living in villages of origin

in Pader District has increased by 45 per cent in the same three-month period. In total, an additional 47,000 people are estimated to have left the camps for villages of origin or transit sites closer to home since February 2009.¹

In Karamoja, an estimated 500 households in Kotido District moved to a new settlement in Kacheri sub-county. However, local government officials have indicated that the site in Lobanya, located in Losachua parish, has limited access to basic services; it is 22km distant from the nearest health centre II, while the major water source – the Lotanyat River – is located 5km away.

As of May 2009, a total of 363 Congolese women and children have either been registered, screened, or successfully repatriated to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Congolese have been moving to Kotido District from parts of northern and western Uganda seeking repatriation support.

IV. HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

EDUCATION

While poor or absent infrastructure, particularly in return areas, remains a considerable constraint in the education sector in northern Uganda, efforts are continuing to address the gaps. Bids for 72 schools in Oyam (4), Lira (8), Gulu (12), Kitgum (18), Pader (18) and Amuru (12) have been opened and are under evaluation in a project that envisages rehabilitation or construction of 157 classrooms, 6 teachers' houses, 362 latrines, one office, one staff room, one store, 17 boreholes and 12 rainwater harvest systems. Additional rehabilitation work of schools is ongoing at 14 primary schools in Kitgum and Pader districts. Also in Amuru, Marawobi and Abbot primary schools, two of the five schools still displaced in the district, have now been earmarked to benefit from the School Facilities Grant. In Pader, funding is anticipated from the Peace, Recovery and Development Plan (PRDP) to facilitate the construction of at least four classrooms in 21 of the 30 schools that have no infrastructure whatsoever.

Meanwhile 1,891 children who missed school continued to learn at 58 centres in Kitgum and Pader districts under the accelerated learning program with 40 per cent of the attendees transferred and mainstreamed into the formal schooling system.

In north Karamoja, Alternative Basic Education for Karamoja (ABEK) programme centres in Kotido District face infrastructure challenges related to sanitation. While four centres have been supported with latrine structures, they comprise less than seven per cent of the 68 ABEK centres in the district.

In south Karamoja, food distributions under the school feeding programme were unable to cover all primary schools during the second cycle due to the pipeline break. Those schools will now be prioritized for the next distributions.

FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURAL LIVELIHOODS

Growing food insecurity has emerged as a serious concern in northern and eastern Uganda in the context of a prolonged dry spell in some areas, the quarantine on livestock as a result of the Foot and Mouth Disease, and the hike in prices due to limited supply and high local and external demand. Coupled by persistent media reports portraying acute famine as well as deaths from hunger, the situation prompted the launch of a rapid food security assessment in Pader, and in the Teso districts of Soroti, Amuria, Katakwi and Kaberamaido. In Amuru, where food insecurity was reported to be most dire, results from seven assessed sub-counties indicated that while no deaths occurred as a result of hunger, many families were surviving on one meal a day. Moreover, in a situation of inflated prices, most households were forced to spend more than half (51 per cent) of their incomes on food in contrast to a normal year when the bulk of expenditures goes towards medical treatment and school fees. Similarly in Pader, where the assessment covered eight sub-counties and 238 households, three quarters of respondents indicated spending all their incomes on food, and the majority (75 per cent) reported having only one meal a day.

During the reporting period, general food distribution (GFD) to extremely vulnerable individuals (EVIs) in northern Uganda reached a total of 49,709 beneficiaries in Gulu and Amuru, 34,656 in Pader, and 16,732 in Kitgum. Due to resource constraints, food assistance to non-EVIs remains suspended, notwithstanding the current seasonal hunger period in the region.

Pipeline breaks affected GFD across north Karamoja, and further breaks for soya and cereals are anticipated in the coming months. As a result, roughly 30 per cent of the planned beneficiary caseload in Moroto was not reached, while the exercise was additionally disrupted by the mass polio immunisation campaign and logistical constraints in Kaabong. Meanwhile, a process to ensure consistency between beneficiary lists and population estimates is ongoing in Kotido and Moroto, the two districts in which the highest discrepancies have been discovered. The exercise is being undertaken in consultation with the districts' population offices and local councillors at the sub-county level, and is expected to last through June 2009.

¹ Note that the figures in the population movement matrix above are based on data from local councillors (LCs) assisted by the Protection cluster, as opposed to previous estimates which relied solely on cluster input. Hence, there are likely to be a few discrepancies.

Other food security interventions are ongoing across the Acholi, Karamoja and Teso sub-regions. In Gulu and Amuru, new locations for cassava multiplication are currently being sought, to add to the existing 600 sites; a total of 200 acres of land have already been identified in Patiko Ajul and Lakwana sub-counties. In Karamoja, a total of 659,300 kg of seeds, including groundnuts, maize, beans, sorghum, cowpeas and millet, were distributed to some 120,000 households during the reporting period. And, in Teso, some 10 MT of Nerica IV rice seeds have been distributed to date to farmers in Amuria and Katakwi in a project that targets 3,000 farmers and 1,500 acres of land.

Results of the recently concluded integrated food security phase classification (IPC) of Karamoja indicate that compared to 2008, the situation has improved in southern Nakapiripit, remained unchanged as a humanitarian emergency in eastern Kaabong, and worsened in Moroto (with the exception of Moroto Municipality, Kathile and Ngoleriet sub-counties).

GOVERNANCE, INFRASTRUCTURE AND LIVELIHOODS (GIL)

Distribution of goats to community projects under the Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) scheme was carried out in Gulu and Amuru during the month. In total, 556 goats were distributed to eight groups in Amuru and nine groups in Gulu.

HEALTH, NUTRITION AND HIV/AIDS

Since the onset of Hepatitis E in northern Uganda, 1,093 cases of the virus and 160 fatalities have been recorded in Kitgum District, and 194 cases with eight deaths have been registered in Pader District. The virus remains uncontained eighteen months after it was first reported in Kitgum.

The cluster in Gulu and Amuru conducted community mobilisation activities ahead of the third round of polio immunisations scheduled for early June. No new cases of the virus were reported during the month, but one out of three suspected cases in Pader has now been confirmed as the wild polio virus type one. In Karamoja, the third round of vaccinations against polio did not take place in May as originally planned, and were postponed to June.

Support to outreach programmes in Moroto District continued during the month, with drugs and other items delivered to settlements in Apeitolim, Lomaratoit and Okududu. More attention needs to be directed towards HIV/AIDS programming, particularly in new settlements. Overall, the HIV prevalence rate in Karamoja remains much lower than the national average, but according to a report to the Nakapiripit DDMC in April, results from a testing and counseling exercise at the Okudud settlement revealed that 17 out of 18 people tested for HIV were positive. In Kotido, only 400 of the estimated 1,000 people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWA) are currently able to access anti-retroviral treatment, while voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) services in Abim have reportedly been hampered by a shortage of test kits. Some funding – approximately \$4,500 for Moroto, \$5,000 for Kaabong and \$7,000 in Soroti – has been provided to support Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) services and paediatric care in Karamoja and Teso.

The District Health Office in Kotido has established a mobile clinic with Apalopama kraal. The clinic, developed in response to the need to meet the health requirements of nomadic communities, will move with the kraal as it looks for food and pasture for animals, providing continuous curative services for common ailments and hygiene-focused health education. Apalopaus kraal in Moroto District piloted the model in May 2008.

PROTECTION

Assessments have been completed in the 10 camps in Amuru deemed ready for decommissioning, pending the decision of the DDMC in July. In Gulu, the District Executive Committee (DEC) has finally declared six camps officially decommissioned and recommended an additional 10 for closure. Assessments are ongoing in the district's 15 remaining camps. During the same period, 16 out of the original 31 camps in Pader were assessed by the camp phase out working group, bringing the total number of assessed camps for phase out to 20. In Kitgum, the camp phase out technical committee held its first meeting of 2009, and proposed that 10 camps – Akwang, Palabek Gem, Palabek Ogili, Palabek Kal, Padibe East, Padibe West, Madi Kiloc, Oryang, Lagoro, and Kitgum Matidi - be assessed for phase out. The assessments are expected to take place in June.

Land disputes continued to be registered in northern Uganda, particularly in Kitgum District. Lokung sub-county recorded at least three disputes per week during May, while one incident in Palabek Gem had to be referred to the Grade One Magistrate's court following failed resolution attempts by the sub-county.

Human Rights and Rule of Law: Some 126 officers from the UPDF's intelligence sections in Abim District received human rights training during the month. The training was intended to equip the middle level members of the intelligence corps with the basic knowledge to oversee the respect for and promotion of human rights during the ongoing forceful disarmament operations. Nevertheless, rights violations related to the disarmament campaign continue to be recorded in Karamoja. In Kotido, for instance, reports indicated that three Karimojong from the Apalopama kraal in Kacheri sub-county were shot dead, while several were beaten and detained during the month.

Mine Action: During the reporting period, 89 unexploded ordnances (UXOs), six mines and 269 small arms ammunition were discovered and destroyed by the Uganda Mine Action Centre (UMAC) in Gulu and Amuru, while the

Uganda Mine Action Team (UMAT) in Kitgum has begun de-mining areas in Lokung sub-county along the Uganda-Sudan border.

Child Protection: Under the leadership of the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, the sub-cluster is in the process of developing an inter-agency child protection recovery strategy for northern Uganda for 2009 to 2011, covering conflict-affected districts in the Acholi, Lango and Teso sub-regions. The strategy fits within the overall PRDP framework and is expected to be endorsed by the Government by the end of June 2009.

In Karamoja, ten juvenile cases in Abim District and seven in Kotido District remain in police custody awaiting trial. The districts have expressed their incapacity to meet the estimated \$600 cost per district required to facilitate the transfer of the suspects to Kampiringisa Remand Home in Mpigi District. In Moroto, reports indicate that nearly one in seventeen pupils of Lodoi Primary School in Matany sub-county is forced to sleep in classrooms at night due to insecurity in home villages. Also in Moroto, a database has been established to track child protection issues, with the information regularly updated by Child Protection Committees (CPCs) and sub-county child protection working groups.

Gender Based Violence: Stockouts of post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) kits have been reported at all health facilities in Pader. As re-stocking efforts continue, the health facilities have been advised to prescribe antiretrovirals (ARVs) as a stopgap measure. Meanwhile, concern continues to be expressed in the district at the lack of a Government doctor and its implication on access to justice for GBV survivors, as only evidence forms signed by a Government doctor are admissible in legal proceedings. In Kitgum, all 12 GBV cases recorded in May were reported to police, suggesting growing confidence amongst the community in the force; in the past, the majority of cases were reported to community protection groups, traditional leaders and humanitarian organisations.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

Partners continued with interventions to increase safe water coverage in return areas of northern Uganda. A total of 57 boreholes were completed and installed with hand pumps, and are expected to serve a population of more than 17,000 people in Kitgum, while over 18,000 people in Pader are expected to benefit once all 60 planned new boreholes have been installed by year's end. Drilling, rehabilitation, or construction of some 30 boreholes and 15 shallow wells in Amuru, and of four boreholes and 11 shallow wells in Gulu was also carried out during the month. The biggest challenges to the sector are reduced funding, poor road conditions in some return areas, and conflicts with a few of the owners of land in which the new facilities are being erected.

Following concerns raised at the DDMC meeting in May over the contamination of water sources around protected kraals due to the high concentration of livestock, the Kaabong District Water Office is to carry out quality analysis of the affected water sources and take appropriate action. In Kotido, the water supply to the Town Council has been restored, having been cut off since April due to a technical glitch. Meanwhile, safe water coverage in Moroto is reported to have improved to 40 per cent. In Abim, the District Health Office has reported an increase in sanitation coverage from 26 per cent in 2008 to 37 per cent to date.

V. SPECIAL FOCUS ISSUES

The mid year review (MYR) of the Uganda 2009 Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP) was conducted during the reporting period, and involved workshops in the Acholi, Teso and Karamoja sub-regions. For the Acholi sub-region, the workshops highlighted inadequate or non-existent basic infrastructure and services in return areas, vulnerability to epidemic outbreaks of disease, and poor funding to agricultural and livelihood programming (as opposed to relief food). A similar scenario was identified in the Teso sub-region, where food security has now assumed greater prominence. Negligible funding to date of the sub-region's projects means the non-governmental organisations are likely to begin pulling out. In Karamoja, the number of people in need of food assistance was noted to have increased, and food and nutritional security was expected to remain the priority.

Therefore, the most important priorities for the remainder of the 2009 Appeal are expected to include boosting food and livelihood security; enhancing basic services like water and sanitation in areas of return; increasing immunization coverage and effective disease surveillance, and, facilitating return and functional capacity of displaced schools. No significant revisions to the projects in the 2009 CAP are anticipated.

VI. FUNDING

As at the end of May, the CAP 2009 has realised 39 per cent funding, with an additional US\$ 9.5 million in uncommitted pledges. The highest funded sectors are Food (52 per cent) and Refugees (32 per cent), followed by Coordination (19 per cent), Water and Sanitation (16 per cent), Protection (11 per cent), Agriculture (10 per cent) and Health (8 per cent). Education has realized no funding to date.

VII. THE MONTH AHEAD

MONTHLY CLUSTER MEETING SCHEDULE

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1	Health, Nutrition and HIV/AIDS cluster 14.30 at WHO	GBV sub-cluster 10.00 at UNFPA	Child Protection sub-cluster 10.30 at UNICEF	Education cluster* 9.00 at UNICEF	
		Food Security and Agricultural Livelihoods 14.30 at FAO		Water, Sanitation and Hygiene cluster 14.00 at UNICEF	
Week 2	Heads of Cluster 11.15 at OCHA		IASC in Uganda 10.00 at OCHA		
Week 3	Protection Cluster 14.30 at UNHCR				
Week 4			Contact Group** 14.30 at OCHA		

* Education Cluster will meet on a bi-monthly basis in 2009: in January, March, May, July, September and November

** Contact Group will meet on a monthly basis in 2009, on the penultimate Wednesday of each month.

VIII. CONTACTS

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