

The information contained in this report has been gathered by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) from sources including United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations, the Red Cross movement and the Government of Uganda.

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- **New population movement figures available: 97% of former IDPs in Lango have returned to villages of origin**
- **River blindness reported in Kitgum and Pader Districts**
- **13,000 displaced Congolese seek refuge in Uganda from tensions in eastern DRC**

## I. SECURITY AND ACCESS

### SECURITY

The security situation in **Northern Uganda** remained relatively stable during the reporting period, although seven non-aggressive incidents of suspected activity by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) were reported. This is the highest number since April 2007. The seven incidents included two food raids, three sightings and two reported surrenders. Criminal activity, including the potential involvement of ex-combatants, continued to be reported. Several incidents related to ordinary criminal activities also occurred, including theft, breaking and entering, banditry and vehicular accidents were perpetrated against humanitarian staff. In Kitgum district, an aggressive attack by illegally-armed Karimojong was also reported.

Within **Karamoja**, aggressive Karimojong activities reached their highest levels since March 2007. Disarmament operations by the Uganda People's Defence Force (UPDF) also increased and have been met with resistance. In total, eight ambushes resulted in two deaths and two injuries (one NGO staff; one escort soldier); two robberies and one shooting of a commercial vehicle. Seventeen attempted cattle raids were recorded, nine successful. Two rapes and two UPDF-Karimojong clashes were also reported.

### ACCESS

In **northern Uganda**, most areas remain accessible without the use of military escorts, including in Karimojong-affected parts of Pader district, where use of military escorts was previously recommended.

Access restrictions continued to be experienced due to the impact of the flooding and water-logging, primarily in eastern Uganda, as well as in northern Uganda. A prolonged dry spell during October helped improve access to some areas. However, although some roads dried out, many remain in bad condition with rough and sometimes unusable surfaces. National authorities began to carry out road repairs, but progress has been slow.

## II. POPULATION MOVEMENT

Region	Original camp population (end 2005)	Estimated camp population May 2007	% of original camp population	Population in transit sites	% of original camp population	Population in villages of origin	% of original camp population
Acholi <sup>1</sup> Source WFP	1,111,987	702,000	63%	387,000	35%	23,000	2%
Lango Source IOM	466,103	16,000	3%	-	-	450,000	97%
Teso* Source OCHA	142,951	110,000	77%	22,000	15%	5,300	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,721,041</b>	<b>828,000</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>409,000</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>478,300</b>	<b>28%</b>

<sup>1</sup> The figures on returnees in villages of origin in the Acholi region is not consistent with previous figures, due to the current re-vamping of how the figures are calculated in Amuru and Gulu regions. These figures will be updated by the Protection Cluster.

In the Lango sub-region, the return process is nearly complete, with 97 per cent of former internally displaced persons (IDPs) settled in their villages of origin. The Oyam and Lira District Disaster Management Committees (DDMCs) are planning to conduct an assessment in November to determine if the remaining IDP camps can be de-gazetted, based on return trends. The camp phase-out process, which started in September 2007, has seen more than 20 camps cleaned, rehabilitated and transformed into viable communities.

In the Acholi sub-region, the return process has been more cautious, with only two per cent of IDPs resettled in their villages of origin. Movement out of the camps is expected to increase in December, when thatching grasses used for roofs will be ready for harvesting. However, there is some concern over the fact that such thatching grass is already being burned; usually, burning of the grass occurs in February when hunters burn remaining grass to flush out animals.

The need for population movement monitoring to include people arriving/returning from districts outside northern Uganda – such as Masindi district – was noted in Pader district, where an estimated 66,081 such persons were identified during a re-validation exercise.

### III. HUMANITARIAN REPORTS BY CLUSTER/SECTORAL (NORTHERN UGANDA)

**Monthly cluster reports for October were received from the following clusters: Health, Nutrition and HIV/AIDS and Protection.**

**CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT:** From Kitgum, OCHA reports that the cluster has begun to form Camp Management Committees, the main objective of which is to streamline activities carried out by humanitarian actors in the return process. The cluster also plans to train Local Councils (LCs) to involve them and the community in data collection on return.

**EARLY RECOVERY:** In Lango sub-region, OCHA reports that two anti-aircraft rockets were destroyed in Minakulu sub-county (Oyam district), noting the need for a fresh mine and unexploded ordnance (UXO) assessment and mine risk education in areas of suspected UXO contamination.

In Lira district (Lango), an early recovery project aimed at supporting the establishment of village banks began with the selection of target sub-counties, parishes and villages, assigning of field officers and provision of bicycles them and a two-day training for staff in how to establish effective village banks.

In eastern Uganda, OCHA reports that the Early Recovery cluster has established a presence in Soroti for the floods response and is liaising with national and local officials on recovery assistance in terms of coordination, information management and the establishment of quick impact projects (QIPs).

**EDUCATION:** OCHA reports that the Education cluster made arrangements to support the annual Primary Leaving Examinations (PLE), due to be held from 5 to 6 November, across the districts, according to OCHA reports. Humanitarian agencies provided assistance to fill gaps in transportation, accommodation and feeding of PLE candidates, particularly in flood affected areas of Uganda.

An inspection of schools in Amuru covered 91 schools in October, with key concerns including late reporting and early departure by both teachers and pupils. Low pupil turnout was also reported in the first two weeks of the term as children remained at home to assist their parents with agricultural activities. Further, lack of family contributions to school feeding for pupils has resulted in poor attendance: parents are required to provide sugar and firewood and contribute to the cooks' upkeep; however, many parents do not make that contribution.

In Pader district, the annual Education and Sports Sector Review (ESSR) was conducted by a team from the Ministry of Education and Sports, led by the Minister of State through visits to select institutions. The team observed high levels of absenteeism among teachers, affecting student attendance, as well as the need to reinforce supervision at all levels, including parents, school management committees, churches and local authorities.

In Lira, "Go Back to School" Football and Netball League's season concluded. During the three month season, 600 boys and 400 girls from 40 primary schools representing all of Lira district's sub-counties participated in hundreds of matches.

Support for improved learning outcomes was offered at Loro Core Primary Teachers' College, where training in breakthrough literacy, thematic curriculum, child friendly spaces and positive disciplining was offered. All 233 primary schools in Lira participated in the training. Teachers in Olilim, Adwari and Okwang sub-counties (Lira district) were also trained on alternative discipline.

**FOOD SECURITY:** In Gulu and Amuru, OCHA reports that a three-month resettlement ration was provided to IDPs in 20 return areas as part of a phase out strategy for food aid. Distribution of food aid at the parish level will soon be introduced.

In Lira, a consignment of 6.5 metric tonnes of beans was received from the Office of the Prime Minister, replacing an earlier consignment that exhibited poor germination rates.

From Lango, OCHA also notes that over 60 per cent of returnees have received seeds and tools as part of a agricultural return package in 2007. Many cultivated fields and were expecting a bumper harvest; however, flooding destroyed much of the harvest in return areas. More seeds and tools will be distributed by the Food Security cluster to enable planting in the first season of 2008. The original distribution of food assistance return rations was interrupted by the need to meet emergency food needs due to the flooding.

Throughout flood-affected areas of Uganda, airdrops of food assistance were arranged during the month. In Amuru, for example, airdrops delivered 75.25 metric tonnes of food for a two-month ration for more than 5,500 households.

**HEALTH, NUTRITION AND HIV/AIDS:** The cluster reports that the results of the health Services Availability Mapping (SAM) in Lango sub-region have been released, showing that 98 per cent of all health facilities in the sub-region are outside IDP camps; none of the Health Centre IVs in Apac, Dokolo and Oyam or Health Centre IIIs in any district had basic Emergency Obstetric Care (EmOC) as stipulated by the Health Sector Strategic Plan II (HSSP II); 30 per cent of all health facilities in the area reported drug stock-outs in the first quarter of 2007; and only 3.4 per cent and 34 per cent of health facilities in the sub-region met local government staffing norms for doctors and nurses. The findings underscore the need to scale up health, nutrition and HIV/AIDS services in return areas.

The cluster further reports that, following the launch of the Peace, Recovery and Development Plan (PRDP) for Northern Uganda on 15 October, and at the request of the Ministry of Health, the cluster is working to develop a health, nutrition and HIV/AIDS recovery strategy.

Additionally, OCHA reports that one case of cholera was reported in Olwal IDP camp (Amuru district), attributed to the contamination of water sources by torrential rains earlier in the month. An increase in cases of dysentery has also been recorded, with 116 cases in Amuru and 238 in Gulu district. District authorities and partners in the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) cluster immediately began water quality assessments.

In Kitgum, black flies of the type that transmit river blindness were reported in the sub-counties of Agoro, Kitgum Matidi, and in Palabek Gem. A few cases of severe skin reactions to the flies have been reported to the District Health Officer (DHO). The disease is likely to cause blindness, epilepsy and mental retardation amongst children. The District Vector Control Officer was to visit the affected areas and assess the situation; meanwhile the District has secured drugs for treatment. Reports of river blindness are also raising serious concern in Pader district; the issue has been raised with the Ministry of Health by the DHO.

Also in Pader, OCHA notes that the Health cluster carried out an assessment of flood-affected areas. The cluster has mapped areas in which different NGOs should respond, but notes remaining gaps in Puranga sub-county, where no health agencies are operating.

Preliminary results of the health and nutrition survey conducted in Pader in August indicate a slight increase in Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) from 4.5 per cent in 2006 to 4.9 per cent at present. The GAM in all surveyed camps was below the 15 per cent emergency threshold.

**PROTECTION:** The Protection cluster reports that an increased number of landlords are reported to have forcefully evicted IDPs settled on their land, including extremely vulnerable individuals. The cluster is discussing how better to prevent this from happening and how to support victims of such evictions.

A monitoring in Kitgum district revealed two key concerns: persons with disabilities are remaining behind in camps due to lack of assistance to construct new shelters; and school-going children have been separated from their families and left in the camp.

With regard to child protection, the cluster reports that over 12,000 children are directly involved in vulnerability reduction activities in Acholi, Lango and Teso sub-regions, including life and vocational skills training, income generating activities (IGA), child/youth clubs and peer education and support groups, as well as recreational activities.

Consultations with children on accountability and reconciliation (agenda item 3) were conducted in Kitgum, Lira, Gulu and Soroti districts with 240 children participating, 65 of whom attended the national children and youth consultation in Kampala.

Support was provided to district technical planning teams in Teso, Lango, Acholi and Karamoja sub-regions to conduct accelerated birth registration. In Kitgum and Lira alone, 101,363 children received birth certificates.

In Lira, the killing of a street child has prompted increased efforts to remove children from the street and reunite them with their families. By the end of the month, 54 had been reunited with their families.

In Karamoja, 22 child participation facilitators, 88 child rights advocates, 25 district officials, 47 local council members and members of civil society organizations were trained on child rights and child protection, while 225 PDCs and LCs were trained to care for orphaned and vulnerable children.

Available data from main service providers in Acholi, Lango and Teso sub-regions indicates that 310 survivors of gender based violence self-reported during the month and were provided with support. However, the cluster reports that procedural and reporting issues, including the filling of Police Form 3 (P3) and medical examinations, remain impediments to the delivery of essential medical care for many gender based violence (GBV) survivors. As noted by OCHA, GBV survivors are often unable to submit their P3 forms to the police within the required three days, resulting in the release of perpetrators. The cluster is advocating for expedited procedures at the local level; for example, having the Gulu district police issue a letter to all police stations reminding the police about guiding principles and medical referrals to assist survivors.

The cluster is also advocating for post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) kits and training in clinical management of rape for medical staff in the Teso sub-region. Across districts, access to ambulances for GBV survivors remains a key challenge; available ambulances are often without fuel or drivers.

On access to justice and accountability, the cluster reports an improvement in law enforcement and police protection among special police constables (SPCs) in Lira district after they received training on human rights principles and standards.

In flood-affected Amuria district, up to 12 police posts and ASTU detachments have been abandoned. The cluster is calling for the urgent return of police to their duty stations and liaising with humanitarian partners to support the personnel with shelter and water treatment.

From Kitgum, OCHA reports that the district was granted magisterial jurisdiction, meaning that some criminal offences, including defilement involving children aged 14 to 17 years, will now be handled at the district level. Previously, the district court was adjudicated by a Grade One Magistrate who had limited jurisdiction over a number of criminal cases. Capital and major criminal cases were transferred to Gulu, a situation that left a number of defilement cases delayed or unattended to because the victims could not afford transport costs.

**WATER SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH):** OCHA reports that inadequate sanitation facilities in schools and communities in Lira and Oyam remain a significant challenge to environmental health and sanitation. Most school latrines have been filled with water, collapsed, or have been structurally weakened. There is need for urgent installation of safe facilities. Meanwhile, household latrine coverage is approximately 30 per cent in return areas.

Also in Lango sub-region, increasing cases of bloody diarrhoea have been reported in a few health facilities: in Okwang Health Centre III, the incidence of bloody diarrhoea has increased from one case per week to five per day according to a WASH cluster report.

Contamination of water sources in flood-affected Teso, Bugisu and Sebei sub-regions remains a critical concern. Cluster members are working to provide or rehabilitate safe water sources before available household safe water kits are exhausted. Additional organisations with water and sanitation specialists are badly needed to undertake the construction of latrines and rehabilitation of boreholes.

**EMERGENCY SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS:** OCHA reports that a camp fire broke out in Olwal IDP camp (Amuru district), razing 137 huts. Those affected have been provided with NFIs. In Pader, two camp fires broke out in Patongo camp, gutting four huts and damaging two more. Seven adults and 15 children were left homeless by the incident.

#### IV. OTHER HUMANITARIAN ISSUES (CONGOLESE REFUGEES AND FLOODS RESPONSE)

**CONGOLESE INFLUXES:** Increased tensions and conflict in North Kivu since mid-October have caused a renewed influx of Congolese refugees in Uganda. As of 29 October, an estimated 13,000 Congolese had arrived in the Ugandan border town of Bunagana. This is the third wave of Congolese movement into Uganda in as many months. Some refugees have been displaced as many as five times in two years.

Upon arrival, the refugees have been advised to move from Bunagana to Nyakabanda reception centre, where they are assisted with plastic sheets to build temporary shelters, jerry cans, blankets, soap and high protein biscuits. Medical assistance and vaccinations for children under five are also provided. Water and sanitation facilities at the reception centre have been expanded to meet the growing population.

Of significance, in the case of the August and September influxes, the refugees returned to their homeland as soon as calm returned. This time, however, many have expressed the desire to stay longer in Uganda. Registration of those who wish to remain for onward transfer to Nakivale refugee camp is being conducted. By 29 October, 1,000 people had registered.

**FLOOD RESPONSE:** The humanitarian response in flood-affected parts of Uganda continues, with an increase in the number of agencies present on the ground reported since September, although humanitarian capacity still remains insufficient to current needs.

Overall reporting of epidemiological surveillance has improved from 62 to 96 per cent across all districts, with districts not adequately covered by the response showing high incidence of malaria and dysentery.

Water analysis results from the Teso and Bugisu sub-regions indicates that 63 per cent of the 151 sources sampled were contaminated, with 52 per cent of all sampled sources showing dangerously high levels of contamination.

For additional information on the floods response, please see the Uganda Floods Situation Reports issued on a weekly basis by OCHA.

#### V. THE MONTH AHEAD

##### KAMPALA MEETINGS SCHEDULE

WEEK	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Week 1*	Heads of Cluster 11:15 - OCHA  Health, Nutrition & HIV/AIDS Cluster 14:30 - WHO	UN Country Team 10:00 - TBD  GBV Sub-Cluster 10:00 - UNICEF  Food Security 14:30 - FAO	IASC Country Team 10:00 - OCHA  Contact Group** 14:30 - OCHA	Water, Sanitation & Hygiene Cluster 14:30 - UNICEF  Education Cluster 09:00 - UNICEF	
Week 2					
Week 3	Protection Cluster 14.30 - UNHCR		IASC Working Group 11:00 - OCHA  Contact Group** 14:30 - OCHA		
Week 4					

\*The first full week of any month will be regarded as the first week according to the above schedule.

\*\* Contact Group meetings occur every two weeks, although shown on the first and third weeks for the purposes of the schedule.