

### I. HIGHLIGHTS

- **JUBA TALKS RESUME AT END OF JANUARY FOLLOWING REPLACEMENT OF LRA DELEGATION**
- **HEPATITIS E IN KITGUM UNCONTAINED 3 MONTHS AFTER INITIAL OUTBREAK**
- **OVER 320,000 IN FLOOD-AFFECTED DISTRICTS NEED FOOD AID FOR FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 2008**
- **12,000 KENYAN REFUGEES POUR INTO UGANDA FOLLOWING VIOLENCE IN WAKE OF ELECTIONS**

### II. SECURITY AND ACCESS

#### SECURITY

The general security situation remained calm in **northern Uganda** during the reporting period, although instances of criminal activity, mostly involving theft, were recorded. Five incidents of theft of goods and/or malicious damage to United Nations properties were recorded during the reporting period, as were two accidents involving United Nations vehicles: one in Luwero town, the other in Pader. One fatality was reported in connection with the former accident. Two additional accidents involving vehicles belonging to members of the humanitarian community were reported by OCHA in Kitgum.

General insecurity persisted in the **Karamoja** sub-region, particularly in Kotido and Kaabong districts. Three road ambushes, including one on a vehicle that had previously escorted and dropped off staff from the World Food Programme (WFP) in Kaabong, were recorded in January, as were 31 raids (21 successful). Of the latter, at least 10 were occurred in Kaabong district, two of them on protected kraals. The attacks were serious enough for the Karenga-Kapedo road to be closed on 27 January, when a large group of illegally-armed Karimojong were sighted. In Moroto, 12 people were killed and nine injured in a cattle raid on Lokitimo village on 4 January. Seven disarmament operations were carried out by the Uganda People's Defence Force (UPDF), resulting in the recovery of four (4) weapons.

From 7 to 8 January, security chiefs from the Governments of Uganda and South Sudan met at Kidepo National Park in Kaabong District to discuss how to end arms trafficking in the region.

#### ACCESS

Barring the Karamoja sub-region, all areas of humanitarian operations continued to be accessible to humanitarian agencies without the use of military escorts, although the WFP continues to use light escorts for food distributions.

In northern Uganda, the movement of internally displaced persons (IDPs) to transit sites and villages of origin continue to increase steadily, albeit at a slower than expected rate in the Acholi sub-region. Among the principle causes to which the slower movement is attributed is the fear of contamination by landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO). In Pader district, 164 suspected landmine or UXO locations have been reported, but descriptions of the devices, GPS coordinates and other detailed location information are available for only 51 of the locations. Mine risk education and training activities continue, but the deployment of a permanent Mine Clearance Rapid Response Team to Pader is not expected before the third week of February.

### III. 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 Source WFP	1,111,987	659,459	59%	407,155	37%	44,749	4%
Lango Source IOM	466,103	2,159	0.4%	-	-	463,944	99.6%
Teso* Source OCHA	142,951	110,000	77%	22,000	15%	5,300	4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,721,041</b>	<b>771,618</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>429,155</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>513,993</b>	<b>28%</b>

Source: IASC Working Group, November 2007.

In the **Acholi** sub-region, the number of IDPs returning home or to transit sites has been rising, albeit at a slow rate. In Gulu and Amuru, the United Nations Refugee Agency, UNHCR, estimates that 104,000 people had moved to transit sites and villages of origin by December 2007, only a 3.4 per cent rise over the October figures. In Kitgum, about 32 per cent of the more than 292,000 IDPs has moved to return areas. In addition to suspected landmine/UXO contamination, inadequate resources, crime and lack of resolution in the on-going Juba Peace talks have contributed to the slower pace.

In contrast, the return process in **Lango** is nearly complete. The sole remaining IDP camp in the sub-region is Olilim, the population of which stands at 1,234 extremely vulnerable individuals (EVIs). The Lira District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC) is expected to conduct an assessment of the camp for possible degazetting during the month of February.

In **Teso**, updated IDP figures are being collected and are expected to be released in February.

## IV. CLUSTER RESPONSE

### **CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM)**

Two Kitgum camps, Amida and Lagoro, have been identified to pilot a district camp phase-out programme. Both camps have seen a higher proportion of IDPs depart for transit sites and/or villages of origin. In preparation for the programme, Camp Management Committees (CMCs) have been established in several sub-counties; establishment of CMCs in the remaining sub-counties is on-going. The district is also working on a population movement and return strategy. Key issues include revitalisation of the Local Council (LC) system and the procedure for handing over camp administration to the LCs.

Pader District has formed the Camp Closure Working Group (CCWG) out of the CCCM/Population Movement Sub-Committee. The new Working Group was due to hold its first meeting on 7 February.

In Soroti, the cluster has continued to identify communities willing to return to areas of origin. In Magoro sub-county, some households have registered to return to Angisa Parish following the deployment of the Anti Stock Theft Unit (ASTU). The parish has been devoid of human settlement for over 50 years.

### **SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFIs)**

In Pader, a total of 323 households were affected by fires during the reporting period; the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) provided the response. On emergency NFIs, the working group agreed to hold a meeting in February to discuss a response strategy in the event of floods and/or fires involving, including the dissemination of information messages by radio.

### **EDUCATION**

In Gulu and Amuru, support continues to be needed for displaced schools returning to their original locations: 53 of 92 primary schools in Amuru are in the process of returning, adding to 10 that have already relocated. However, 40 per cent of these schools have no permanent structures at their original sites. In Gulu, only one of the 65 primary schools intending to return has effected the move, as has only one secondary school out of the seven planning to relocate.

In Kitgum, the district's performance in the 2007 Primary Leaving Examination dropped by 50 per cent from the previous year. In response, the district has planned consultations with head teachers, local councillors and Sub-County Administrative Officers (SCAOs) to identify issues and forge a way forward. The cluster has highlighted the shortage of housing for teachers as affecting the re-opening and effective functioning of some returned schools. While some organizations are prepared to intervene in this regard, available resources are insufficient to meet needs. One proposal is to encourage community contributions, for example, providing thatching grass.

Pader District also registered a drop in performance in the recent O-Level examinations, with only 81 students attaining the first grade this time around, compared to 122 in 2006. A pressing challenge is the absence of essential infrastructure, particularly for returned schools. Some 63 of these schools lack classrooms and latrines. Other challenges include lack of clean water sources, inadequate number of teachers and a shortage of teacher housing.

Karamoja recorded impressive performances in the Senior Four examinations, despite low enrolment in the sub-region. All Kotido secondary students who sat the exams passed: 141 students in total. In Moroto, 360 candidates passed their exams, with only one failure. Similarly, only one student failed the exam in Abim District. Unfortunately, enrolment rates remain the lowest in the country, estimated at 18 to 22 per cent in primary school.

In Lango, customised performance contracts for head teachers and their deputies have been introduced by the district education department to ensure conformation to expected standards of performance in Government primary schools. As part of the strategy to improve the quality of teaching and learning in schools, the education sector, in partnership with the cluster members, intends to strengthen its inspection and supervision functions. There are also plans to undertake radio advocacy on the need to cover meal requirements as school feeding will only cover the first term.

In Teso, 104 primary schools received food deliveries: 43 in Amuria, 46 in Katakwi, 12 in Soroti and 13 in Kaberamaido. A number of schools requiring Food for Education (FFE) support have not been covered, however, due to resource constraints, including schools in Acowa, Aberilela and Wera sub-counties (Amuria district), and all schools in Katakwi sub-county (Katakwi district). The food situation in these areas is especially severe, which is expected negatively to affect school enrolment.

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

During the reporting period, much of the population of northern Uganda continued to harvest second season crops and prepare land for the first cropping season of 2008.

In Gulu and Amuru, the cluster conducted an Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) from 16 to 23 January to assess ongoing IDP food and non-food assistance needs. The Department of Agriculture and Food Production in Gulu presented a report on flood-affected households, which showed a total of 4,523 affected households. In response, the Ministry of Agriculture has allocated 188 million Uganda shillings (nearly US\$110,000 ) for the purchase of bean and millet seedlings for distribution to affected households, each of which will receive three kilogrammes (kg) of finger millet and 15 kg of bean seedlings.

In Kitgum, an agricultural trade show was held to promote information sharing among farmers, enable the sale of products and promote input dealers. One lesson from the event was the need to pay more attention to the long-term impact of the support provided to farmers, particularly in regard to marketing of produce. Meanwhile, on the food aid

side, a gap in funding has been reported, requiring curtailment of programmes including Food for Education, Food for Health, and Food for Assets. General food distributions will continue throughout the year.

In Pader, the Ministry of Agriculture released a nearly 285 million UGX (over US\$166,000) for the purchase of inputs for distribution to 7,000 flood-affected households. However, that figure falls far short of the 12,760 affected estimated by district authorities. Some 56,719 households in 39 camps and transit sites were reached during the first GFD distribution cycle of 2008.

In Lira and Oyam, cluster members completed mapping of activities for the first season of 2008 and will be distributing seeds, tools and animals; carrying out crop multiplication; and implementing farmer field schools, among other activities. However, there are concerns in Lira that most activities are concentrated in the central and southern parts of the district, rather than the north where return has been much slower.

Results from the Crop and Food Supply Assessment (CFSA), conducted in October/November 2007 in flood-affected districts, indicates that nearly 321,000 people in the worst-affected sub-counties will require additional food and agricultural assistance in the first six months of 2008, until the next harvest.<sup>1</sup> A second round of food distributions to the most vulnerable began in the Teso sub-region on 11 January. Households in the first sub-counties where distributions began, particularly in Kapelebyong sub-county, had reported that food stocks were nearly depleted. Other vulnerable areas include northern parts of Obalanga and Kujju sub-counties in Amuria District. There are fears that some returnees they may be forced back into camps in the central part of the district. Another assessment, in Usuk sub-county, revealed that communities there also require food aid, yet the sub-county is not among those identified for targeting under the CFSA. The cluster recommends that the constant review of the food situation in the sub-region given fears that the situation could worsen in March/April. The cluster is also targeting an estimated 70,000 households for food security interventions.

In Karamoja, meanwhile, the CFSA identified the worst flood-affected areas as Nyakwae and Lotukei (Abim), Kaabong Rural and Karenga (Kaabong), Kacheri (Kotido), Lopei and Iriiri (Moroto), and Lorengedwat, Lolachat and Namalu (Nakapiripirit). General food distribution is recommended for 100,999 people for six months starting from March. Also recommended is provision of seeds, cassava cuttings and sweet potato vines to the worst-affected households by early February. Meanwhile, a rapid assessment undertaken by food security actors in all five districts in the sub-region found widespread food insecurity resulting from the late rains, floods, honeydew crop disease, livestock diseases and raiding.

#### **GOVERNANCE, INFRASTRUCTURE AND LIVELIHOODS (GIL)**

As northern Uganda makes the transition from relief to recovery and the Parish Approach becomes operational, there is need for better coordination at the sub-county and parish levels. To that end, in Gulu and Amuru, discussions between OCHA (humanitarian coordination), UNDP (development coordination) and the DDMCs have been planned aimed at mobilising resources to train district local authorities on disaster management and early recovery issues. The agencies will also work with government partners to review current coordination structures at the sub-county level.

In Lango sub-region, as in other flood-affected areas, it is noted that the 2007 floods affected the road network, requiring heavy investment in this sector. Some agencies and non-governmental organisations are trying to address the problem through projects such as a voucher for work scheme, but more intervention is needed.

In the Teso sub-region, the launch of the quick impact projects initiative was planned for early February.

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

Kitgum district continues to record new cases of Hepatitis E, three months after the initial outbreak. During the reporting period, 102 new cases were registered in Madi Opei sub-county. Two neighbouring sub-counties, Paloga and Mucwini, also registered two cases each, bringing the total number of recorded cases in the district to 237 since the initial outbreak. Most of the new cases have occurred in transit sites. Key interventions are focusing on social mobilisation and community dialogue at the parish level, hygiene promotion in the community and in schools, and sensitisation of health workers. A weekly task force meeting takes place at the district level, chaired by the Resident District Commissioner, to coordinate response activities. However, successful containment of the disease is likely to prove difficult given reports of an outbreak in Tseretenye, just across the border in southern Sudan. The district has also expressed disappointment at the lack of financial support from the Ministry of Health in its control efforts.

In neighbouring Pader, no Hepatitis E outbreak has been reported, but the district has heightened surveillance activities. The District Health Team has also strengthened epidemic preparedness and response for meningitis, especially for this dry season. Overall, the health system in Pader seems to be up and running. Figures from the District Health Office indicate that 47 of 53 health units were operational by the end of 2007. Of concern is the very low staffing level of 33 percent. In addition, the district has only one active-duty government medical doctor.

Long-standing stress and trauma in Northern Uganda has resulted in a high prevalence of mental disorders. However, there is still minimal psychological support for the victims, owing to the inadequate number of professional staff in that field. In Gulu, for instance, only 25 per cent of health posts have been filled. The situation in Amuru is more likely to improve following recent recruitment aimed at raising coverage from 35 to 65 per cent. Nevertheless, the cluster indicates that motivation remains low despite a 30 per cent increase in remuneration for all medical staff.

<sup>1</sup> Special Report: FAO/WFP Assessment of the Impact of 2007 Floods on Food and Agriculture in eastern and northern Uganda, 18 February 2008, <http://www.fao.org/docrep/010/ah878e/ah878e00.htm>.

In Lira, the lack of essential drugs continues to hamper the fight against HIV/AIDS. By way of illustration, only 18 per cent (174) of the 894 HIV patients at Ogur Health Centre IV is currently on antiretrovirals (ARVs). Emergency drug supplies were received in January, but regular stocks were last received in October 2007.

In the Mount Elgon area, malaria and dysentery were reported to be on the rise in January. The week 4 EPI report indicated 187 cases of dysentery and a 20 per cent rise in malaria, particularly notable in Mbale and Manafwa districts. In Teso sub-region, however, there was a nine per cent reduction in cases of dysentery, from 132 in Week 1 to 120 in Week 2. The regional cluster lead closed down its offices on 31 January following the design of an exit strategy to ensure that critical gaps are covered by the end of February. A consultant has been assigned to monitor implementation.

In Karamoja, drugs supplies have been procured and pre-positioned in Moroto in anticipation of a possible meningitis outbreak. The Ministry of Health began a food nutrition and health assessment in all five districts on 28 January, which was expected to conclude on 8 February. The final report on the assessment is expected by the end of February. Among other indicators, the assessment will allow for the calculation of global and severe acute malnutrition rates in Karamoja.

## **PROTECTION**

**Human Rights and Rule of Law:** High prison congestion remains a persistent challenge in the Acholi sub-region. Gulu Prison registers a backlog of 670 people in detention against a planned capacity of 200 due to increasing referrals of offenders from other districts, the availability of only one Resident High Court Judge and increasing crime rates. Patongo Prison in Pader District currently holds over 200 inmates, despite a maximum capacity of 74. Since the district does not have a Grade One Magistrate's court, it must transfer the cases to other districts for trial. However, transportation of the prisoners is hindered by a lack of vehicles. The district relies cluster support to facilitate prisoner transport once per week.

The number of reported criminal cases involving Anti-Stock Theft Unit personnel based in Paimol, Lapono and Adilang sub-counties (Pader District) has decreased since the last reporting period. Regular dialogue has taken place between the district police authorities, the leaders of the affected sub-counties and the ASTU, focusing on the latter's duties and responsibilities. The ASTU's also received refresher training on the Code of Conduct and the Protection of Civilians.

In the Lango sub-region, the judiciary reports an increase in the number of cases it is expected to handle as a result of amendments to the Sexual Offences Bill. The addition of simple defilement to the list of offences handled by the Chief Magistrate's court means there is now a high backlog of cases before the court.

In Kitgum, the deployment of Special Police Constables (SPCs) at the parish level continues to be constrained by lack of housing. Although 200 units have been allocated per sub-county, they are yet to be constructed. Follow-up training of the SPCs on child rights, gender based violence and introduction to human rights is planned in response to concerns that the initial training during the recruitment and deployment phase was inadequate.

**Gender Based Violence (GBV):** The fight against gender based violence continues to be hampered in northern Uganda by the legal requirement that police form 3 (PF3) be filled and signed by medical doctors. The sub-cluster in Gulu and Amuru notes that doctors are usually unavailable within most communities where GBV cases are reported. There are also reports that some police officials demand money from GBV victims in exchange for the forms. Additionally, the bureaucratic process has meant that some victims are unable to complete and submit the forms within the stipulated 72-hour period. An added complication arises from the new Sexual Offences law requiring rape suspects to undergo compulsory HIV/AIDS testing. However, medical personnel, invoking medical ethics, are reportedly reluctant to conduct tests without the consent of the suspects.

**Child Protection (CP):** A group of 250 children, most of them from Amuru, were conned of varying amounts of money by a local NGO, Faith for Action in Uganda, which promised them subsidised vocational training. The NGO's project coordinator was arrested in Gulu, and the children were returned to their homes by authorities.

In Pader, the sub-cluster has noted the need for strong advocacy and sensitisation on child rights in Lapono. The sub-county has the highest statistics relating to rape of minors, heavy child labour, physical abuse of children and early marriage. The cluster has also called for more active involvement by the district local government.

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

While there has been considerable investment by humanitarian agencies active in the WASH sector, most of that investment has been directed at increasing and maintaining water points. Less investment has gone toward improving water quality or sanitation, with the result that indicators for these areas remain low. In the Lango sub-region, where a comprehensive mapping of sanitation is yet to be undertaken, the office of the Lira District Health Inspectorate estimates that latrine coverage in the district stands at only 47 per cent.

Also in Lango, there is concern at the frequent loss, sale or personalisation of tool kits supplied to pump mechanics by humanitarian and governmental actors. The WASH cluster has highlighted the need for an inventory of the tools and the mechanics. It is also calling on the government, through the district water offices, to look into motivational factors for the mechanics, who practically work as volunteers.

In Kitgum, some agencies have begun the process of handing over operation and maintenance (O&M) of motorised boreholes to the district local government. The focus is expected to move to sensitisation in the area of hygiene and behavioural change. However, the district has expressed fears over lack of resources to maintain and manage the facilities it is inheriting.

In Soroti, the target of increasing post-flood sanitation coverage by 30 per cent may not be met. Field observations indicate that most villages in return areas either have no water sources at all or have a high population to protected water source ratio. The cluster recommends targeting these villages concurrently with the camps that had their facilities destroyed by the floods. To improve water quality and hygiene, surveillance and treatment of contaminated water sources, as well as sensitisation campaigns, are required.

## **V. SPECIAL FOCUS ISSUES**

### **JUBA PEACE TALKS**

Talks between the Government of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) resumed on 30 January at Juba before being interrupted on 5 February by the departure of the LRA delegation for a disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) workshop in Nairobi, Kenya. The LRA delegates were expected to return to Juba on 13 February. During the resumption, the parties signed a fifth extension for one month to the ceasefire which had been scheduled to end on 31 January. Furthermore, they agreed on an annex on implementation mechanisms for Agenda Item 3, Accountability and Reconciliation. Several major events occurred during the more than six-month long suspension of talks for public consultations on Agenda Items 2 (Comprehensive Solutions) and 3 including the execution of LRA Deputy Vincent Otti on the orders of LRA Commander Joseph Kony and the dismissal of several members of the original LRA delegation to the peace talks, with the replacement of Martin Ojul by David Matsanga as chief negotiator/spokesperson.

### **MENINGITIS**

As of 7 February, 657 cases of meningitis had been reported in Arua District (West Nile sub-region) since November 2007, with 50 fatalities. In follow-up to the vaccinations conducted in two sub-counties in 2007, a large-scale immunization campaign was conducted in January, reaching nearly 134,000 people in eight affected sub-counties, or 108 per cent of the targeted population. The northernmost districts of Uganda – including those in the West Nile region – are part of the “Meningitis Belt”, which stretches across sub-Saharan Africa from Senegal to Ethiopia and encompasses a population of approximately 300 million.

### **KENYAN REFUGEES IN UGANDA**

In the wake of the December presidential and parliamentary polls, thousands of Kenyans – mainly from the Western province – fled uncontrolled violence to seek refuge in Uganda. By the end of January, the Government of Uganda estimated that some 12,000 Kenyan refugees were in Uganda. Initially, assistance to the refugees was provided at reception centres established near the major border crossings in Busia, Tororo (Malaba) and Bukwo districts. However, to provide assistance in a more secure environment, a transit centre was established at Mulanda (Tororo District) to host the refugees in the short-term. Transfers to the site began on 23 January. More complete coverage of the humanitarian response to the situation of the Kenyan refugees in Uganda is available in the weekly OCHA Situation Reports No. 1-8 available on ReliefWeb, at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int).

### **SUDANESE REFUGEES IN UGANDA**

Government of Uganda and UNHCR figures place the number of refugees currently in Uganda at 237,000, with Sudanese refugees making up just under 70 per cent of the total (approximately 160,000). Of the Sudanese refugees, 47,000 have registered for repatriation by April 2008. However, due to capacity constraints, particularly in terms of South Sudan's capacity to receive returnees, not all of the registered refugees will be able to be moved by April. At present, the capacity for repatriation assistance is approximately 800 to 1,200 refugees per week, although UNHCR has targeted an increase to 3,000 refugees repatriated per week for the year. Thus, the 2008 planning figure for repatriations to Sudan is 50,000. In 2007, some 25,000 Sudanese were repatriated.

## **VI. FUNDING**

As of the end of January, the \$374 million CAP for 2008, launched on 10 December 2007 at an event jointly honouring International Human Rights Day, was 4 per cent funded, with \$13.3 million in commitments (mostly pre-committed NGO funding) and \$4.3 million in pledges.

At the end of 2007, the \$348.6 million CAP for 2007 was 80 per cent funded, with \$278.4 million in contributions. The \$41 million Uganda Floods Flash Appeal was 47 per cent funded, with \$19.7 million in contributions. Unfortunately, little to no funding has been received for the recovery activities envisaged under the Flash Appeal.

## VII. THE MONTH AHEAD

### MONTHLY CLUSTER MEETING CALENDAR

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
HNHA Cluster (14:30 at WHO)	GBV Sub-Cluster (10:00 at UNFPA) FSAL Cluster (14:30 at FAO)	CP Sub-Cluster (10:30 at UNICEF) GIL Cluster (14:30 at UNDP)	Education Cluster (09:00 at UNICEF) WASH Cluster (14:00 at UNICEF)	
Heads of Cluster (11:15 at OCHA)		IASC Country Team (10:00 at OCHA) Contact Group* (14:30 at OCHA)		
Protection Cluster (14:30 at UNHCR)				
		Contact Group* (14:30 at OCHA)		

\* Contact Group meets every second Wednesday, which usually falls during the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> week of the month.

### DATES OF NOTE IN THE COMING MONTH:

**18 – 27 February:** Training on facilitation skills such as team building skills, active listening and negotiations, and meeting management in Gulu, Kitgum and Lira.

- 18 – 19 February – Gulu and Amuru at the Pearl Afrique Hotel, Gulu, from 0800
- 20 – 21 February – Kitgum and Pader at the Boma Hotel, Kitgum, from 0900
- 26 – 27 February – Lira, Oyam, Moroto and Teso at the Lira Hotel, Lira, from 0800

**8 March:** International Women's Day

## VIII. CONTACTS

**For more information, please contact:**

### *In Uganda*

- Kristen Knutson, Public Information and Donor Liaison Officer: +256 312 244 888, +256 772 759 996 (mobile), knutson@un.org
- Denis Okello, National Information Officer: +256 312 244 840, +256 772 749 857 (mobile), okellod@un.org

### *In New York*

- Chris Hyslop, Desk Officer: +1 917 367 9457, hyslopc@un.org
- Christina Bennett, Public Information Officer: +1 917 367 5126, bennett1@un.org

### *In Geneva*

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