



# UGANDA HUMANITARIAN SITUATION REPORT

## 1 – 29 FEBRUARY 2008

### I. HIGHLIGHTS

- **GOVERNMENT OF UGANDA AND LRA SIGN AGREEMENT ON LAST AGENDA ITEM AT JUBA; NOW AWAITING FINAL PEACE AGREEMENT**
- **SECURITY AT A 6-MONTH HIGH IN KARAMOJA, CRIME AT 6-MONTH LOW IN NORTHERN UGANDA, BUT CLASHES REPORTED BETWEEN LRA AND UPDF IN PADER**
- **WITH 415 CASES AND 11 FATALITIES REPORTED HEPATITIS E EPIDEMIC CONTINUES TO CHALLENGE KITGUM DISTRICT**

### II. SECURITY AND ACCESS

#### SECURITY

Among reported incidents in **northern Uganda**, Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) remnants were reportedly in confrontation with the Uganda People's Defence Force (UPDF) on 9 and 18 February in Pader district. No civilian injuries or abductions were reported, although three alleged LRA were killed in the confrontations. In Kitgum, there were also reported sightings of LRA elements in Agoro and Lokung sub-counties and across the border in South Sudan. Incidents of cattle raiding by illegally armed Karimojong were reported in Padibe and Lukole sub-counties, Pader District, and in Madi Opei, Kitgum District. In Gulu, UPDF confronted and killed a Local Defence Unit (LDU) deserter, recovering two guns. In a reported domestic dispute, a hut in Awere IDP camp, Gulu District, was set ablaze, killing nine people and injuring two others. Overall, the general security situation in northern Uganda remained calm during the month; for humanitarian organisations and UN agencies, the biggest security threat remained burglary and other theft of goods.

In **Karamoja**, insecurity was also at its lowest in six months, although general hostility prevailed. There were two road ambushes reported in February, while the number of raids throughout most of the sub-region has declined. The exception was Kaabong District, where attacks and cattle raids continued. Of particular concern is the failure by the UPDF to defend the protected kraals adequately. Since the beginning of 2008, four attacks on protected kraals in Kaabong District have been reported, including a reported five-hour raid on 17 February in which 400 to 600 head of cattle were taken. The UPDF conducted eight disarmament operations during the month, in which five people were reportedly killed, one injured, four guns collected and more than 100 Karimojong detained. The number of weapons being gathered by the UPDF in its disarmament operations has dropped considerably: in 2007, the UPDF was gathering an estimated 2,000 weapons per month, whereas only a few hundred are estimated to be gathered now.

#### ACCESS

Improved security has meant increased access by internally displaced persons to agricultural land and increased access to return areas for humanitarian organizations. Only the World Food Programme (WFP) continues to use light military escorts for food convoys, particularly in sub-counties close to the border with South Sudan or adjacent to Karamoja. However, IDP return movement reportedly continues to be hampered by the feared presence of landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO). In Pader, for example, there are close to 200 reported suspected landmine or UXO locations.

### III. POPULATION MOVEMENT

Region	Original camp population (end 2005)	Estimated camp population January 2008	% 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	693,019	63%	347,146	31%	62,273	6%
Lango Source IOM	466,103	1,234	0.3%	-	-	464,869	99.7%
Teso* Source OCHA	142,951	90,123	72%	25,293	20%	9,575	8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,721,041</b>	<b>784,376</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>372,439</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>536,717</b>	<b>31%</b>

Source: IASC Working Group, January 2008.

Population movement across the Acholi sub-region does not seem to have accelerated as expected at the end of the rainy season. In January, only an estimated 5,000 people moved out of the camps in Gulu and Amuru<sup>1</sup>, a figure substantially lower than had been projected. The slow return is attributed to challenges such as the lack of thatching grass, inadequate basic services in return areas, and personal insecurity. Aid agencies and Amuru district authorities were expected to meet in early March to plan for joint confidence building and monitoring visits to IDP camps and return areas. In Gulu, the District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC) has established a taskforce to promote voluntary return. Its strategies will be piloted in Lalogi sub-county and will involve, among others, promoting basic service provision in all areas of settlement.

In Kitgum, general movement trends indicate a preference for transit sites over villages of origin. Only an estimated nine per cent of IDPs leaving the camp during the reporting period returned to their villages of origin, while 34 per cent moved to transit sites. Return movements in some areas have been higher than in others: in Chua County, for instance, over 80 per cent of the population in some camps has moved to transit sites or villages of origin. The district plans to phase out six camps beginning in March 2008.

In the Lango sub-region, Olilim camp in Lira district remains the only officially-recognised camp, accommodating 1,234 IDPs. During the month of March, the District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC) plans to conduct a second assessment of the camp to determine what its status should be. The remaining vulnerable population in camps is a source of some concern in the sub-region; a consultative meeting to discuss the plight of these populations in Lira and Oyam is planned for 27 March 2008.

In Karamoja, increased movements to Apeitolim in Moroto district have led to concerns over the welfare of the new arrivals. During the course of the last two months, over 4,000 people have moved to the area, a four-fold population increase against October 2007 figures. Yet basic services in the area remain extremely sparse, with only one nursing aid and one borehole available. In Nakapiripirit, between 8,000 and 10,000 people have moved to Lokales in Karita sub-county. These shifting population patterns have been attributed in part to improved security in the receiving districts.

#### IV. CLUSTER RESPONSE

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

In northern Uganda, fire outbreaks in IDP camps are common during dry seasons. During the reporting period, some 240 huts were gutted in Gulu and Amuru, leaving about 230 households without shelter. Fires were recorded in Bobbi (48 huts burnt), Amuru (156 huts burnt) and Attiak camps.

Also in Gulu and Amuru, a draft guideline on camp phase out has been presented to the district. The guideline is intended to define the roles of stakeholders, including the district, provide mechanisms for transfer of authority from camp commandants to local leaders and lay out the roles of the police and UPDF in related to protection.

In Pader, the CCCM/Population Movement Sub Committee is finalizing the camp closure process and conducted a pilot assessment on 25 February. The cluster will review the status of 19 Sub-County DMCs to see which need strengthening of linkages between the district and sub-county government authorities. To solve the problem posed by abandoned huts, the cluster has drafted guidelines on the demolition of abandoned huts. Simple messages in Luo are to be produced and posted on abandoned huts during discussion of the draft guidance.

**Shelter and NFIs Working Group:** Also in Pader District, the Emergency NFIs Working Group lead agency has proposed developing a strategy to prevent and respond to fires and flood emergencies in the district. The plan is to identify a focal point for first responders, designate particular interventions to identified organisations and provide guidelines for responding to emergencies with agreed upon kits. A meeting to discuss the proposal is expected to take place in March.

##### **EDUCATION**

The return process in Gulu and Amuru continues apace, with 74 schools re-locating to their pre-war sites during the reporting period, 33 in Amuru and 41 in Gulu. Meanwhile, enrolment at some host schools has almost doubled

---

<sup>1</sup> Please note, the figure for the IDP camp population in Acholi has increased on the January numbers over the November ones; however, this is not expected to reflect an actual move back to the camps, rather more people being counted and some uncertainty due to commuting patterns.

over 2007, suggesting reluctance on the part of students to return to pre-displacement locations. Among purported reasons for the reluctance are the lack of facilities for teachers, including housing; lack of qualified teachers; absenteeism among teachers; and the poor learning environment, including lack of classroom facilities.

In Kitgum, 45 schools have returned to their original sites since the first term began, with 35 more expected to relocate by year's end. Many of the returned schools face significant challenges, notably the lack of adequate facilities such as latrines, teacher housing and water points. According to the District Education Officer (DEO), at least 30,000 tarpaulins are required to set up temporary structures at the various return sites. An emerging problem is conflict with landlords: in Omiya Anyima sub-county, for example, a landlord sued and won a case against the district over the location of Wigweng Primary School.

Inadequate facilities also remain a major challenge in Pader district. The current pupil to classroom ratio (PCR) is 1:80 against the national average of 1:54. Classes in 63 schools take place under trees due to a lack of classrooms. About 2,800 classrooms will need to be constructed to bring the PCR ratio to par with the national standard.

In Lira and Oyam, the Education Department is focused on improving the quality of learning environments. Cluster members are seeking to raise enrolment and attendance in primary schools with upcoming campaigns to address the problem of school dropouts. However, the current school feeding program benefiting 114 schools is likely to end within the year, with a concomitant concern for a negative impact on student retention. Education stakeholders have been asked to start looking for alternative means of to provide school meals.

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

In Kitgum, the main activity for food security during the reporting period concerned the planning and distribution of seeds and tools to farmer ahead of the next planting season in March. Meanwhile, an outbreak of Cassava Brown Streak Disease (CBSD) has been reported in Matidi sub-county; a sensitization workshop is to be carried out in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture and the National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO). In Palabek Gem sub-county, an outbreak of Newcastle Disease has prompted the veterinary department to vaccinate 945 domestic birds.

In Pader, the livestock census by the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) was conducted from 18 to 25 February. MAAIF also disbursed funds for the procurement of seeds for flood-affected households in the district. Each of the identified 12,760 households will receive 4 kilogrammes (kg) of beans and half a bag of cassava cuttings, with rice distributions to 4,000 households. In March, an assessment of some 15,721 households in 11 camps and settlement sites which received a three-month food distribution in November 2007 is to be conducted, the results of which will help determine whether further food aid is needed.

Flood-affected households in Gulu will also receive assistance following the release of funds by MAAIF. Some 4,523 households will each receive 3 kg of millet and 16 kg of beans. During the period, food security activities included support for animal traction and planning for the distribution of seeds and tools for the first crop season.

In Karamoja, the rapid food security assessment begun in January was concluded. The assessment found widespread food insecurity as a result of late rains, floods, the honeydew and livestock diseases, and raids. The worst-affected sub-counties were identified as Lolachat (Nakapiripirit), Kacheri (Kotido), Kapedo and Kaabong Town (Kaabong), Matany, Lokopo, Lotome, Ngoloriet, Nadunget and resettlement sites in Iriiri (Moroto). Immediate food aid was recommended for 65,755 people. Some 762 metric tons (MT) of food has already been distributed to over 70 per cent of the targeted beneficiaries, while the remaining 17,766 were set to receive their rations in early March.

Also in Karamoja, a two-day relief planning meeting involving local governments from the sub-region, UN agencies and non-governmental organizations was held in Moroto on 22 February. Using the Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) System, participants arrived at the consensus that 55 per cent of the region's population was experiencing an acute food and livelihood crisis, while 22 per cent faced a humanitarian emergency. Only eight per cent of the region was deemed generally food secure, while the other 14 per cent of the region is chronically food insecure.

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

The Livelihood Working Group in Gulu and Amuru plans to begin mapping non-agricultural activities in both districts. A template will be developed for the exercise and is expected to capture each agency's ongoing and planned interventions in livelihoods.

In Kitgum, the inaugural GIL cluster meeting took place on 19 February.

In Lango, efforts are being made across the clusters to bring priorities in line with the Peace Recovery and Development Plan (PRDP) for Northern Uganda. However, knowledge of the PRDP is still limited among both district and agency partners.

**Mine Action:** In Pader, the fear of contamination by landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXOs) has been cited as a continuing reason for the slow pace of IDP return movements. A UPDF Mine Removal Team deployed to the district on 21 February and had removed 82 devices less than two weeks after it commenced operations. The devices consisted mainly of RPG shells, 60MM and 82 M mortars, and grenades.

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

The Hepatitis E epidemic in Kitgum continues to defeat containment measures. By the end of February, a cumulative 415 cases had been registered since the beginning of the outbreak, with 11 fatalities - a case fatality rate (CFR) of 2.7 per cent. The epidemic has persisted, due in large part to poor sanitation in IDP camps. For instance, there is only one latrine for every 112 people at the most-affected camp, Madi Opei. The cluster has developed an inter-agency contingency plan to strengthen interventions in the camp and in nine other sub-counties. Meanwhile, the district is on the alert following reports of a cholera outbreak in neighbouring Owiny-Kibul and Pajwar in Southern Sudan.

In Pader, two cases of cholera were confirmed at Patongo Prison during the reporting period. Random sampling tests were done following reports that 26 prisoners were suffering from bloody diarrhoea. Containment measures involving medical, water and sanitation support are ongoing. Less attention has been directed toward the threat posed by black flies in the Aswa River valley. A large number of children in the area have contracted River Blindness since June 2007; however, the district lacks drugs to treat the disease.

In Lira, a suspected case of cholera was confirmed as dysentery in Olilim sub-county. In Oyam, there is a high prevalence of malaria, but mixed feelings among the population regarding DDT spraying. Communities are to be sensitized on the use of the DDT to allay fears. Meanwhile, human resource challenges continue to impact health service delivery across Lango sub-region. Although gaps in staffing were narrowed following the recruitment drive in the last quarter of 2007, salary payments for health workers have taken up to four months to be delivered, leading to lack of motivation.

Lack of resources generally continues to hamper the provision of health services in northern Uganda. In Gulu, 11 health centres remain non-functional despite having been earmarked for rehabilitation. The District Director of Health Services (DDHS) says maternity wards are required in six health centres but cannot be constructed due to lack of funding. Where resources are available, they are insufficient to meet all the requirements. For instance, staff houses will be constructed at only six of 11 health centres and just one third of the required 2,484 village health teams (VHTs) have been trained. The district's health staffing level stands at only 25 per cent.

In Amuru, 116 health personnel have been recruited, but their deployment is hampered by lack of staff accommodation. The district is considering building huts as a stop-gap measure.

## **PROTECTION**

Participants from all five districts of Karamoja met in Moroto on 7 February to work on a protection strategy for the region. The consultative group comprised probation, planning and gender officers from the district, as well as United Nations officials and NGO representatives. The draft strategy has been submitted to the National Protection Cluster. One key recommendation is to establish a regional protection cluster for Karamoja under the leadership of the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC).

**Human Rights / Rule of Law:** In northern Uganda, some IDPs appear to be under pressure to leave the camps, despite the principle of voluntary return. Forced evictions have been reported in Attiak (Amuru) and Koro (Gulu) sub-counties, with the pressure mostly coming from landlords, although the evictions in Attiak were initiated by the local authority on the grounds that the land was wanted for staff houses.

The deployment of Special Police Constables (SPCs) has been effected in nearly all sub-counties in Gulu and Amuru Districts, but the delay in salary disbursements has negatively undermined the protection offered by SPCs. The Government reports that it has distributed three months' salary out of the backlog of six to seven months for Gulu and Amuru.

In Kitgum, 456 SPCs received training on human rights and gender based violence (GBV), while sensitisation training on the role of the police in the community is planned for LCIIIs and LCIIIs across the district. The deployment of Anti-Stock Theft Units (ASTU) in the district has been hampered by inadequate facilities at bases; for instance, four of the seven proposed bases lack water; while the other two sites require repairs.

In Pader, a total of 30 unarmed SPCs have been deployed across the district's 19 sub-counties. The District Protection Officer has noted that the SPCs require further training on the code of conduct and the protection of civilians.

Also in Pader, concern remains over the conditions at congested Patongo Prison where more than 200 inmates are housed in a facility originally intended for a maximum of 75 persons. An acute water shortage and lack of adequate sanitary and other basic facilities has consequences for both the health and the human rights of inmates. On a positive note, access and dispensation of justice is likely to improve following the posting of a Grade One magistrate to the district. Until now, the district has had only a Grade Two magistrate.

**SGBV:** Increases in the number of GBV cases were recorded in Gulu and Amuru. During the reporting period, 92 cases were registered in Gulu (42) and Amuru (50). Nearly 65 per cent of the reported cases in Amuru were incidents of sexual violence, while 45 per cent of those in Gulu were.

Difficulties in administering Police Form (PF) 3 continue to be of concern in Pader district where the sub-cluster convened a meeting with the District Police Commander (DPC) to discuss, among other concerns, police practices in handling GBV cases that hinder victims' access to justice. The DPC informed the cluster that a notice had been posted to all police outposts clarifying that the PF3 form and police bond were free of charge. Other practical challenges to effective handling of GBV cases remain, such as the lack of photocopiers and vehicles to transport victims or perpetrators. Agencies have offered to support the police with photocopying of the PF3 forms and other communications.

**Child Protection:** In Lira, 124 street children have been reintegrated with their families. Livelihood support has also been extended to 34 families.

In Pader, discussions to merge the Child Protection and GBV Sub Clusters were held on 29 February. Members of both groups agreed to hold a joint meeting on 14 April to see if the suggestion would work in practice.

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

In Gulu, average access to safe water stands at approximately 14.7 litres per day (l/p/d), with between 70 and 75 per cent of boreholes in IDP camps functional. Water supply in return areas consists mainly of 269 deep boreholes equipped with hand pumps and 15 motorized boreholes supplying simple reticulated water systems. Other sources include shallow wells and protected springs. However, many streams have dried up during the dry season, leaving people to drink stagnant water. In some villages of return, people continue to travel four to five kilometres to fetch water. School water and sanitation facilities desperately need upgrading.

#### **CROSS-CLUSTER**

In Moroto, a special DDMC has been called to discuss how to ensure the expansion of water, health and education services in resettlement sites.

## V. SPECIAL FOCUS ISSUES

### JUBA PEACE TALKS

The peace talks between the Government of Uganda and the LRA reached their penultimate climax by the end of February, with the rapid signing of agreements and annexes on all remaining agenda items, including the permanent ceasefire and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR). Only the Final Peace Agreement (FPA) remains to be signed. The talks recessed at the end of the month, to allow the LRA delegation to consult the LRA leadership. The parties were expected to have returned to Juba in mid-March. The current sixth extension of the Cessation of Hostilities is in effect until 28 March. At present, most reports around the peace process concern the outstanding indictments for LRA Commander Joseph Kony and two of his lieutenants issued by the International Criminal Court.

### Kenyan Refugees in Uganda

As of 29 February, the Government of Uganda estimated the number of Kenyans having entered the country in the aftermath of the violence at 12,000. Of those, 1,644 were accessing assistance provided by the Government and the humanitarian community at the refugee transit centre located at Mulanda, in Tororo District. The figure for the number of refugees at the transit centre was decreased over previous figures following a re-verification exercise conducted by the United Nations Refugee Agency, UNHCR, in the last week of February. During the re-verification exercise, UNHCR asked households if they were willing to be relocated to a longer-term refugee settlement elsewhere in Uganda: 456 households expressed willingness for the move, while 40 expressed the desire to remain at Mulanda. On 28 February, Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki and leader of the opposition Orange Democratic Movement (ODM), Raila Odinga, announced they had reached a power-sharing deal under the auspices of the mediation effort led by former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

## VI. FUNDING

As at the end of February, funding of the 2008 Consolidated Appeal for Uganda remained very low, with only five per cent of requirements committed against the US\$ 374 million in funding needed, or US\$ 19,782,275. There is an urgent need for donors to avail funding for priority programming that supports the transition from humanitarian to recovery operations in northern Uganda, as well as ongoing emergency projects benefiting the displaced who remain in camps and those who have moved to transit sites and/or villages of origin.

## VII. THE MONTH AHEAD

### MONTHLY CLUSTER MEETING SCHEDULE

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:

- 11 March: Floods Preparedness Workshop to be conducted in Soroti. Dokolo and Amolatar districts have been invited.
- 13, 20 and 26 March: Meetings of the Humanitarian Technical Donors with the clusters.
- 28 – 29 March: A national Disaster Preparedness Workshop will be held in Kampala, organized by OCHA. Participants include Ugandan Government officials, including from line ministries and district authorities, representatives of the Uganda Meteorological Service and National Seismological Network, Uganda Red

Cross Society, United Nations agencies, NGOs and faith-based organizations, private sector actors involved in disaster response and donors.

- 31 March: United Nations regional coordination meeting to be held in Moroto, Karamoja District.
- 11 April: Quarterly Progress Chart to be issued.

## 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

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