

I. HIGHLIGHTS

- **SUSTAINED CALM IN NORTHERN UGANDA PROMPTS UPDF WITHDRAWAL FROM IDP CAMPS**
- **LOW AND UNPREDICTABLE RAINFALL THREATENS FOOD SECURITY IN TESO**
- **HEPATITIS E OUTBREAK REMAINS UNCONTAINED, BUT STEADY DECLINE IN NUMBER OF NEW CASES**

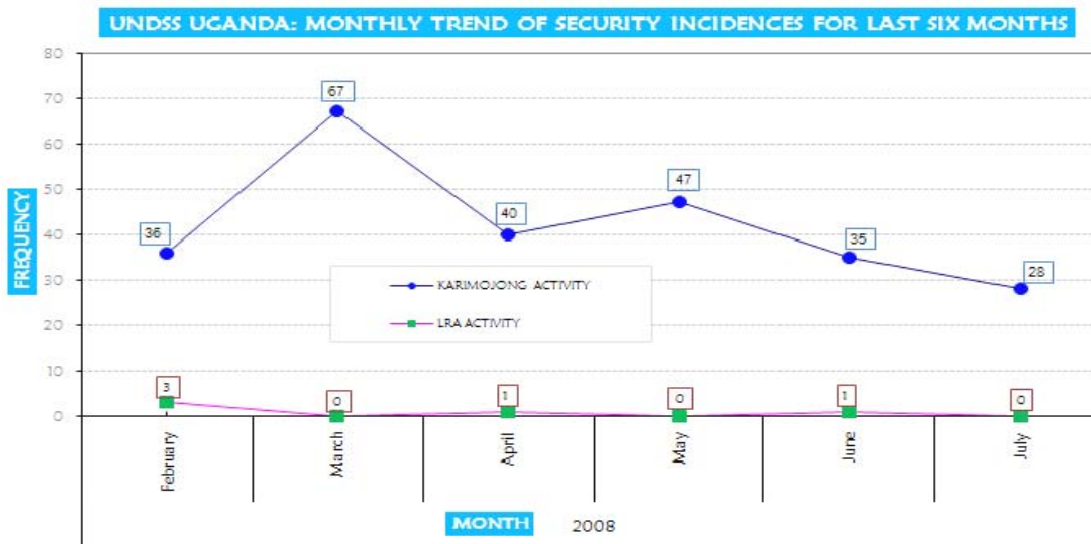
II. SECURITY AND ACCESS

SECURITY

Due to the prevailing stability in the security situation in northern Uganda, the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) have begun withdrawing troops from camps in northern Uganda and redeploying them to border areas and other strategic locations. Special Police Constables (SPCs) are expected to take over from the UPDF. However, due to the limited nature of current SPC deployments and foot patrols to parishes and villages, there are concerns about a possible security vacuum in the areas vacated by the UPDF.

Meanwhile, criminal activities continue to pose the main security challenge in the region, including burglaries, armed robberies and attacks. Several instances of criminal activity by security personnel, have been reported during the period, including incidents in Kitgum District, where a member of the Local Defence Unit (LDU) shot and killed six civilians at a discotheque, while another LDU officer killed his wife and child before committing suicide. In Gulu district, SPC guards allegedly broke into the offices of an NGO and made away with computers, bicycles and other valuables, while two separate attacks on motorists in the municipality resulted in one death and one serious injury. In response to the attacks, police in the district have imposed a restriction on the movement of motorists beyond 20:00 hours.

In Karamoja, the Resident District Commissioner (RDC), District Chairman and UPDF Brigade Commander in Kotido announced in mid-July that protected kraals similar to those initiated for the Dodoth in Kaabong district, would also be established for the Jie. Six such kraals, one in each sub-county, would be set up in the district, with the aim of collecting illegal guns, checking criminal activity and recovering stolen cattle. The protected kraals are also intended to curb Karimojong raids into neighbouring districts. Meanwhile, disarmament operations by the UPDF continue, with at least 12 missions conducted during the month in Moroto, Kaabong, Kotido and Nakapiripirit districts. Concerns have also been expressed at the presence of Turkana from Kenya in the Karamoja region, given the perception that they are bringing in additional small arms. The Turkana are reportedly seeking water and pasture for their animals.



ACCESS

Due to the recent heavy downpours, roads in Gulu and Amuru are becoming impassable thereby limiting travel, particularly in return areas. Torrential rains have created big gullies and rendered some roads muddy, forcing motorists to use long diversions. While some agencies and the districts are engaged in activities to open up roads in

areas of return, those efforts are not adequate. Moreover, a lack of bridges to some areas is limiting the impact of such efforts.

III. POPULATION MOVEMENT

Region	District	Estimated original camp population (end 2005)	Estimated Camp population	Estimated % remaining in camp	Estimated IDPS in transit Sites	Estimated % in transit areas	Estimated returnees in villages of origin	Estimated % in villages of origin	Number of transit areas
ACHOLI	Gulu / Amuru	453,359	215,121	47%	128,247	28%	109,991	24%	147
	Kitgum	310,140	73,947	24%	150,019	48%	86,174	28%	422
	Pader	339,369	89,161	26%	182,021	54%	68,187	20%	511
	Acholi Total	1,102,868	378,229	34%	460,287	42%	264,352	24%	1080
LANGO	Lira	350,828	-		-		350,828	100.0%	0
	Oyam / Apac	115,275	-		-		115,275	100.0%	0
	Lango Total	466,103					466,103	100%	
TESO	Katakwi	70,534	14,000	20%	1,000	1%	49,000	69%	8
	Amuria	72,417	18,000	25%	5,000	7%	49,417	68%	31
	Teso Total	142,951	32,000	22%	6,000	4%	98,417	69%	39
Grand Total		1,11,922	410,229	28%	466,287	23%	828,872	64%	1119

Source: UNHCR, June 2008

IV. HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

CAMP MANAGEMENT AND CAMP COORDINATION (CCCM)

In Gulu and Amuru, the District Disaster Management Committees (DDMCs) have inaugurated District Camp Phase Out Committees (DCPCs) in line with the guidelines issued by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM). The DCPCs are to lead the camp phase out process by guiding and monitoring implementation in the field and recommending strategic directions on the process to the DDMCs. They are also entrusted with ensuring community mobilisation to facilitate proper rehabilitation and transformation of camps into viable communities. About 60 per cent of the camps in Gulu have met the government's criteria for phase out. Of the district's 23 camps, five (Opit, Awoo, Awach, Minakulu and Okwir) have been identified to begin the exercise. In Amuru, where less than 25 per cent of the district's 30 camps qualify for phase out, four (Amuru, Anaka, Lacor and Alero) have been earmarked for the exercise.

In Pader, protection partners are supporting the district in strengthening local government structures, particularly in relation to population movement monitoring. Training in data management was conducted at the district and sub-county levels to harmonize data collection and strengthen the capacity of the local government structures. Also in Pader, a total of 200 huts are being constructed to enable extremely vulnerable individuals (EVIs) and people with special needs to return to their villages. The huts are in the final stages of completion, and the process of identifying the EVIs in the camps is ongoing.

In Teso, the cluster is currently identifying needs and providing support to recently returned IDPs. Some 924 selected individuals, most of them EVIs, from 100 villages in Acowa, Obalanga and Ongongoja sub-counties in Amuria district, benefited from kitchen sets, sanitation kits, and support for hut construction. Meanwhile, two camps in Amuria have been degazetted by the camp phase out committee, while 17 out of 44 camps in Katakwi await formal degazetment.

EDUCATION

Inadequate infrastructure remains a critical challenge in the education sector across northern Uganda. Thirteen out of 66 primary schools in Amuru and about 10 per cent of the schools in Gulu have been unable to return to their original locations due to poor infrastructure. In Pader, the district continues to seek support for 47 schools that lack any kind of infrastructure.

In response to the problem of pupil absenteeism, the Education Department in Katakwi District organised a consultative meeting to discuss solutions. The meeting also sought to engage stakeholders in identifying new approaches to dealing with the educational concerns of returnees in the district.

Meanwhile, some 279 metric tons (MT) of food was provided under the Food for Education (FFE) programme in Gulu and Amuru Districts. The programme, which aims to sustain enrolment and retention of children in schools, targeted 45,175 children in 123 schools during the reporting period. In Karamoja, some US\$ 85,000 (USH 140,175,000) in budgetary support was extended to the local governments of all five districts. The funds cover a tri-monthly implementation schedule developed by the district local governments and focused largely on the timely enrolment of six-year old children as well as ensuring retention and completion of school.

FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURAL LIVELIHOODS

In Gulu and Amuru, harvesting of first season crops is taking place concurrently with land preparation and planting of second season crops. A dry spell at the end of June and beginning of July had affected land preparation for the second planting season and led to delayed harvesting of crops like groundnuts and beans, particularly in Amuru district. Also in Gulu, the Agriculture Livelihood Recovery project has completed the opening of 73 km of roads in a labour-based, voucher programme. Some 3,720 community participants benefited from vouchers worth approximately US\$ 40,000 (USH 66,648,000), which they exchanged for agricultural inputs.

In Pader, an assessment of the damage caused by a hailstorm in Lukole sub-county on 23 July estimated that a total of 403 acres of crops, including sorghum, pigeon peas, maize, beans, simsim (sesame) and cotton had been destroyed. Sweet potatoes and much of the ground nuts were not affected.

A pipeline break caused by a lack of timely supplies from local farmers has meant that cereals were not included as part of food distributions in northern and eastern Uganda during the period under review. The majority of IDPs in northern Uganda received only vegetable oil and beans. In Karamoja, only 85,760 people out of the planned 707,934 beneficiaries during the month received distributions. General food distributions to IDP camps in the Teso sub-region concluded at the end of July and the pipeline break may hinder a proposed extension of the programme in subsequent months. While other programmes, including the food for assets, support for individuals living with HIV/AIDS and school feeding will continue, the needs of larger food insecure communities will remain largely unmet.

Meanwhile, low and unpredictable rainfall in Teso has triggered a deteriorating food security situation in Amuria and Katakwi Districts. First season rains commenced in late April but were erratic and inadequate, punctuated with long, unexpected spells of dry weather between June and July. As a consequence, land opening and cultivation were delayed, with a resultant delay in harvests by one to two months. Findings of an assessment of 12 villages in eight sub-counties conducted by the Amuria DDMC in partnership with food security actors indicated limited or no stocks of food, as a result of which nearly 86 per cent of adults and 64 per cent of children in the majority of the villages were reportedly surviving on one meal a day.

In Karamoja, some 2,500 households in Moroto district were supported with agricultural tools and planting materials, cassava cuttings, sweet potato vines and groundnut seeds. However, the lack of rain gauges or weather monitoring facilities in most of the sub-region, save for Kotido Town Council, continues to be of major concern as no comprehensive picture of rainfall patterns can be drawn to inform agricultural planning and humanitarian response. A limited number of such equipment has been procured and will be installed once locations are determined.

Animal inoculations are ongoing in Karamoja, with 500,000 doses of PPR (*Pestes des Petits Ruminants*) vaccines despatched to the sub-region. An additional 500,000 doses, as well as 50,000 doses of CBPP (*Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia*) are being processed. There are also plans to procure one million doses of CBPP vaccine and two million doses of PPR vaccine to ensure eighty per cent coverage of both cattle and small ruminants in the sub-region.

GOVERNANCE, INFRASTRUCTURE AND LIVELIHOODS (GIL)

The clearing of the 12 km Latwong road and the 10km Pawel-Lalem road in Gulu District, conducted through a Food for Work programme, has concluded. In Amuru, community meetings were held in Giragira in preparation for road openings to Olwal and to Guruguru.

In Teso, Amuria district received an estimated US\$ 240,000 (USH 400 million) from the Ministry of Works to rehabilitate Morungatuny-Obalanga sub-county road, and US\$ 180,000 (USH 300 million) for the repair of the feeder road from Obalanga to Amotom. Ongoing road works include Obalanga-Alito, Acowa-Abarilela-Wera, and Wilwill-Alere. In addition, three community access roads in the district have been identified for rehabilitation through the Quick Impact Projects at a cost of US\$ 5,000. Meanwhile, 29 parish chiefs and five Assistant Community Development Officers have been recruited and deployed in the district as part of the implementation programme for the Peace, Recovery and Development Plan (PRDP).

Mine Action:

In Pader, the continuing risk posed by unexploded ordinances (UXOs) was highlighted by the death of three children in a landmine explosion in Lapono sub-county on 6 July 2008. During the reporting period, 82 assorted devices and 166 rounds of ammunition were recovered by the mine action team. At the time of reporting, no mine risk education is taking place in Aruu County, following the conclusion of CPAR's programme on 31 July. While its application for extension of the programme is awaiting approval, the agency is appealing to other organisations to fill the gap.

In Kitgum, a team from the Uganda Mine Action Centre (UMAC) has now set up base in the district and will soon begin demining activities.

HEALTH, NUTRITION AND HIV/AIDS

In Kitgum, Pader and Gulu a steady decline in the number of new cases of Hepatitis E has been recorded in the last 4 weeks due to intensified response efforts by the Government of Uganda and partners (see Special Focus Section), while the malaria and cholera outbreaks in Lira district and eastern Uganda are now under control.

A joint assessment of the health services delivery in Amuru district was carried out by the cluster in partnership with the district health department. The assessment found several constraints to effective service provision in the district, including a weak drug supply chain exacerbated by frequent stockouts of medicines, inadequate personnel at most health centres despite the recent recruitment, high staff absenteeism compounded by a high absenteeism rate, and long delays in the disbursement of salaries. Positive developments identified by the assessment included: progress in disease surveillance, timely reporting, good antenatal clinics (ANC) coverage, and increased access to HIV/AIDS services.

In an effort to increase the staffing level, the health department in Gulu has completed the recruitment of 154 medical practitioners, a figure that is likely to raise the district's staffing level to 75 per cent. In Amuria, some 240 health workers have been recruited under the implementation programme for the PRDP. However, a general lack of accommodation for staff, as well as medical equipment, particularly laboratory tools, continue to constrain health service delivery in both northern and eastern Uganda.

In Kaabong, the Health Centre III in Kalapata sub-county has been shut down due to hygiene concerns arising as a result of the facility's proximity to a protected kraal. The kraal's upslope location within 100 metres of the Health Centre has resulted in a high amount of animal faecal matter and flies. With the onset of the rains in the area, water mixed with faecal matter flows downward to the Centre. The district is pursuing the matter with the UPDF, which established the kraal in the area a few months ago.

HIV rates in Karamoja continue to show a worrying trend. The District Health Office in Abim is currently studying data indicating that 28 per cent of some 1,164 people who turned up at a Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT) centre in one location tested positive. In June, at least three per cent of a total 3,279 new mothers attending antenatal clinics (ANC) in all five districts of the sub-region were found to be positive. Yet, the percentage of mothers offered antiretroviral drugs (ARVs) for prevention was only 53, a situation attributed to poor ANC attendance as well as a preference by most women to deliver from home.

PROTECTION

An emerging protection concern in Karamoja is an apparent campaign by police to discourage Karimojong from wearing traditional attire, commonly known as *sukas*. An ad hoc inspection of police cells in Kotido district on 24 June 2008 found eight Karimojong allegedly arrested because they were dressed in *sukas*. Another case, in which *sukas* were forcefully removed by police from Karimojong men in Moroto Municipality on 15 July 2008, was also monitored. The police are reportedly invoking a section of the Penal Code Act which bans public nudity and exposure of private parts.

Human Rights and Rule of Law:

In Pader, persistent transportation challenges have prompted protection partners to propose that the High Court consider convening some sessions in the district.

In Kitgum, Local Council (LC) Courts received training on the Local Government manual courtesy of the District Human Rights Promotion and Protection (DHRPP) committee. There are plans to train Community Development Officers (CDOs) to enable them monitor the operation of the LC courts, given that one of the most persistent constraints to access to justice has been the inconsistency in hearings scheduled by those courts.

Also in Kitgum, the Magistrate in Kitgum Town has decided to bar the humanitarian community from attending the Chain-Link meetings of the judiciary. In response, the District Protection Cluster has resolved that the matter be taken up by its national counterpart, even as the cluster lead continues to engage with the Magistrate.

Child Protection:

In Gulu and Amuru, the Child Protection Working Group documented 597 cases of child abuse during the month, the most prevalent of which was exploitative labour, constituting 25 per cent of the cases. Other common forms of abuse included child neglect (11 per cent), corporal punishment (10 per cent) and early marriage (9 per cent).

In Pader, agencies have expressed concern at child exploitation and labour in schools. The practice, in which pupils are made to work in school gardens during class hours, is reportedly common in return areas.

During the reporting period, 240 Karimojong including 152 children who were withdrawn from the streets of Kampala returned to Moroto. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has been facilitating the voluntary and safe return

from Kampala and ensuring the involvement of the Moroto Task Force in the process. Furthermore, 200 family kits and three tents were provided through the district local government to support the Moroto Task Force in responding to the emergency needs of the children and women returned from the streets.

Gender Based Violence:

The sub-cluster in Gulu is engaging the District Police Commander (DPC) and the Chief Magistrate to address challenges faced by GBV victims in accessing justice. It is hoped the discussions will lead to the formation of practical guidelines regarding victims’ access to the police and to Police Form 3 (PF3). Particularly, access to police services by GBV victims continues to be a major challenge due to alleged demands by police for payment of transport and other costs.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

In Pader, agencies have noted that although sanitation kits have been provided, communities are not utilizing them appropriately. Latrine slabs are reportedly being used for door steps, and hand washing facilities are rarely re-filled once they have run out of water. The cluster is advising agencies to carry out hygiene education prior to the distribution of sanitation items, and to make follow ups to ensure that the facilities are used appropriately.

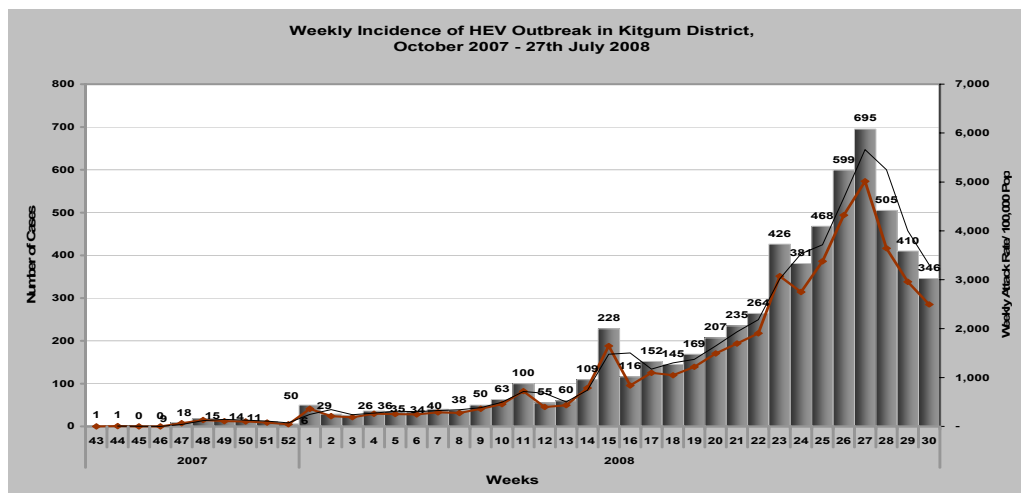
In Teso, a lack of safe water sources in return areas continues to be a major constraint to return movements. Where water sources exist, the quality is often poor and the quantity insufficient. In Amuria district, for instance, several parishes including Agolebwal and Amero in Acowa sub-county; Amootom and Agonga in Obalanga sub-county; Obwobwo, Aketa and Okuda in Ongongoja sub-county; and Kamenu and Angisa in Magoro sub-county have only one borehole supplying a camp, school, health centre and surrounding villages. In Katakwi district, residents of Kamenu and Okorio villages depend on water from Lake Opeta, some 6 kilometres away.

Poor water coverage is also a significant challenge in Karamoja, with only 43 per cent on average of the sub-region’s population enjoying access to safe drinking water. Latrine coverage is even worse, at about 8 per cent.

V. SPECIAL FOCUS ISSUES

HEPATITIS E (HEV)

At the end of July, at least 6,105 cases of Hepatitis E, with 98 deaths, had been notified in northern Uganda since the outbreak of the disease in October 2007. In Kitgum district, where the virus was first reported and which accounts for over 95 per cent of all cases and fatalities, 13 out of 19 sub-counties had been affected by the end of the month. In the neighbouring district of Pader, 17 cumulative HEV cases and one death had been registered, while in Gulu and Amuru the total number of suspected and confirmed cases stood at 11. The WASH cluster in Kitgum has noted that overall, the epidemic trend continued to decline in all active sub-counties over the preceding four weeks, but has urged accelerated and controlled interventions particularly in light of the current rains in the region.



Source: WHO

Ongoing response activities include bucket chlorination, cleaning campaigns, and distribution of sanitation tool kits and slabs to affected areas. Agencies are also continuing to support the districts with clinical officers and comprehensive nurses to some of the most affected health facilities, as well as providing health education and promotion including through training and use of Village Health Teams (VHTs). On 31 July 2008, the Ugandan Government launched what it called an accelerated response to the outbreak, focusing on hygiene education, as well as improvement of sanitation through construction of latrines in camps and provision of latrine digging tools and labs to households. The programme, estimated to cost \$6 million, follows another \$6.9 million appeal made by humanitarian agencies through the Mid-Year Review of the Uganda CAP 2008 for emergency interventions to contain and reduce the outbreak in Kitgum and surrounding districts.

VI. FUNDING

The total requests for the revised 2008 Uganda CAP stood at US\$ 372 million at the end of July, with US\$ 171 million in contributions (46 per cent of requests) and an additional US\$ 4.4 million in pledges, according to the Financial Tracking System (FTS).

Coordination (71 per cent), Protection (58 per cent), Education (53 per cent) and Health, Nutrition and HIV/AIDS (50 per cent) are the highest funded clusters / sectors, followed by: Food Security and Agricultural Livelihoods (49 per cent); Camp Coordination and Camp Management (40 per cent); Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (31 per cent); and Multi-sector (Refugees) at 23 per cent. Funding for Governance Infrastructure and Livelihoods was at 13 per cent, while the Emergency Non-Food Items sector has received no funding to date.

VII. THE MONTH AHEAD

MONTHLY CLUSTER MEETING SCHEDULE

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
First Week	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)	
Second Week	Heads of Cluster (11:15 at OCHA)		IASC Country Team (10:00 at OCHA) Contact Group* (14:30 at OCHA)		
Third Week	Protection Cluster (14:30 at UNHCR)				
Fourth Week			Contact Group* (14:30 at OCHA)		

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

28 August – CAP 2009 sub-regional workshop in Moroto

29 August – CAP 2009 sub-regional workshop in Soroti

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