

I. HIGHLIGHTS

- **MORE THAN TWO THIRDS OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS HAVE LEFT THE CAMPS OF NORTHERN UGANDA**
- **FOOT AND MOUTH LATEST ANIMAL DISEASE TO CHALLENGE FOOD SECURITY IN KARAMOJA, PARTS OF NORTHERN UGANDA**
- **POTENTIAL FLOOD ASSESSMENT REVEALS NO INDICATION OF FLOODING IN EASTERN UGANDA**

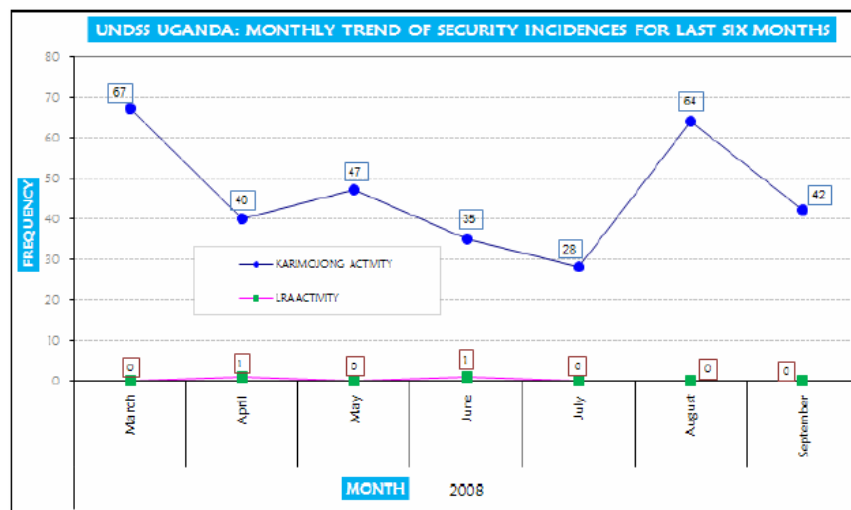
II. SECURITY AND ACCESS

SECURITY

Northern Uganda continued to experience a calm security environment during the month of September, with no reports of LRA activity within the region. However, isolated criminal incidents – mostly involving theft, break-ins and robberies – remain of concern, particularly in areas of return. In Kitgum and Pader Districts, thieves have reportedly targeted solar panels, most of which have been installed to power motorized boreholes. Police have been urged to deploy at all locations with solar panels.

In the Teso sub-region, increased cattle raiding by illegally-armed Karimojong was reported in parts of Katakwi District, with at least 88 head of cattle raided in Olilim and Odoot villages in Ngariam sub-county during the month. The District Internal Security Officer (DISO) to advise that these areas, as well as other frequently targeted villages, specifically Okocho and Obwobwo, in Ongongoja sub-county, remained insecure. The DISO also expressed concern about the effectiveness of Anti Stock Theft Units (ASTUs) due to food shortages. The Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) has reportedly deployed to complement the effort of the ASTUs.

Within Karamoja itself, insecurity persisted, albeit at a reduced level over the previous month. Some 35 deaths were reported as the result of 20 incidents, including ambushes, armed raids on protected and non-protected kraals and clashes between the UPDF and illegally-armed Karimojong. On a positive note, the security situation in Kotido and Kaabong Districts reportedly improved, attributed to heavy UPDF deployment along the roads and increased foot patrols at major hot spots. The temporary travel restriction imposed on United Nations agencies via the direct Moroto-Lopei-Kotido route was lifted..



ACCESS

Heavy rains in northern Uganda continue to negatively impact access to populations in return areas, owing to damaged or submerged roads, bridges and culverts. Consequently, several agencies and the local governments have introduced various community feeder road rehabilitation programmes. In Kitgum work on opening community access roads has begun in Madi Opei and Palabek Kal sub-counties under the Cash for Work programme, but frequent breakdowns of the district's machines are likely to delay completion of the project.

In Karamoja, a deterioration in the condition of the Namalu-Lolachat-Nabilatuk road due to the current rains threatens to affect the operation of the general food distribution programme in some sub-counties as relief aid trucks often get stuck.

III. POPULATION MOVEMENT

An additional 145,144 IDPs have reportedly to have left the camps for transit sites and villages of origin since May 2008, bringing the percentage of IDPs having left the camps to 75 per cent (based on figures for IDPs in camps as of 1 January 2005), including the 466,103 former IDPs returned to their villages of origin in the Lango sub-region.

Region	District	Original camp population (end 2005)	Estimated camp population	% of original camp population	Population in transit sites	% of original camp population	Population in villages of origin	% of original camp population
Acholi	Amuru/Gulu	453,359	184,359	41%	143,000	32%	126,000	28%
	Kitgum	310,140	131,605	42%	69,818	23%	108,717	35%
	Pader	338,939	88,056	26%	181,901	54%	68,982	20%
	Acholi Total	1,102,438	404,020	37%	394,719	36%	303,699	27%
Teso	Amuria	72,417	14,000	19%	4,000	6%	54,417	75%
	Katakwi	70,534	12,000	17%	200	<1%	53,000	75%
	Teso Total	142,951	26,000	18%	4,200	3%	107,417	75%
Grand Total		1,245,389	430,020	35%	398,919	32%	411,116	33%

Source: UNHCR, August 2008

Meanwhile, the out-migration of Karimojong to neighbouring districts, specifically Pader, is reportedly on the increase, with substantial presences of Karimojong from Kotido District reported in the border sub-counties of Paimol, Lapono and Adilang of Pader District. Whereas small scale population movements out of Karamoja traditionally occur in December and January, mainly in search of pasture, the current movements were first reported in May and continued through July and August. The primary reason cited for the increased out-migration is hunger and the lack of food, or employment to earn money to buy food, within Karamoja. Authorities in Kacheri sub-county estimate that 2,000 people have left the sub-county for Pader, while estimates from Rengen sub-county suggest that over 1,000 people have left in the last three months. Migration from the countryside to urban centres within the Karamoja districts is also taking place, with the office of the District Community Based Services reporting an increase in the number of children moving to the streets of Kotido Town Council, as well as of Bokora women and children from Moroto District.

IV. HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

CAMP MANAGEMENT AND CAMP COORDINATION (CCCM)

The process of handing over leadership structures from camp commandants to local councillors is ongoing in Amuru District, following the visit of a team led by local officials for consultations with communities in the various sub-counties during the month. At a stakeholder meeting chaired by the district, it was resolved that all 340 camp leaders and their aides receive a certificate and one goat in recognition of their work, as has already been done in Gulu District.

The camp phase out process is gathering pace across the Acholi sub-region. In Pader, phase-out activities were expected to be launched in Puranga camp during October, with three other camps (Omot, Kalongo Town Council and Pader Town Council) expected to follow. Several camps have already been assessed in Kitgum District as well and camp phase-out activities will soon be piloted there. And in Gulu, community volunteer brigades have been established, whose members receive incentives for cleaning and rehabilitating camps. During the reporting period, volunteers were able to demolish some 600 huts, in addition to filling abandoned latrines and garbage pits, levelling ground and planting trees, among other activities.

In Teso, a total of 17 camps (four in Amuria and 13 in Katakwi) have been declared closed by the respective District Disaster Management Committees (DDMCs), following the recommendation of Camp Phase Out Committees (DCPC). Thirteen of the 17 camps will require phase-out activities and profiling of extremely vulnerable individuals (EVIs).

EDUCATION

Some improvement has been registered in efforts to address the infrastructure challenges affecting the education sector in Pader. According to the District Education Department, the number of schools without any classrooms at all has declined from 63 to 45. While the department has lauded the efforts of agencies in addressing the problem, it is calling for sustained support from all stakeholders.

In both northern and eastern Uganda, pupil absenteeism continues to be a major challenge to education. Poor attendance in Gulu and Amuru has been attributed to children remaining at home to help in preparing land for the second planting season. In Katakwi, the District Education Officer (DEO) estimated that parental neglect and inadequate guidance accounted for 30 to 35 per cent of absenteeism. Compounding the problem is the growing rate of school drop outs, particularly among girls. A recent study has revealed that 35 per cent of girls in Katakwi District fail to complete primary school due to, among other factors, early marriage. In Gulu, where Patiko sub-county has recorded the highest drop out rate among girls, stakeholders concluded that the lack of female teachers in schools was one of the main contributing factors. In response, Gulu and Amuru districts, with support from Education partners, are conducting Back-to-School campaigns involving radio announcements and monitoring visits.

District Education Offices across the Acholi, Teso and Karamoja sub-regions have received scholastic materials and hygiene kits for distribution to pupils who will sit for the Primary Leaving Examination (PLE) scheduled to begin in November. The scholastic materials include exercise books, pens, pencils and erasers.

Meanwhile, the Food for Education (FFE) programme has been phased out in Kitgum and Pader Districts due to lack of support, including from the Government and donors, as well as doubts about the impact of the programme. An FFE impact assessment is planned and a comparative analysis will be undertaken in October in some of the schools in Kitgum that have benefited from the programme.

FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURAL LIVELIHOODS (FSAL)

Recent heavy downpours, particularly in Amuru and Pader Districts, have resulted in flooding and water-logging in some areas. In Amuru, floods destroyed second season crops in the worst affected sub-counties of Purongo and Alero. An assessment mission by food security actors is planned to examine the full extent of the damage. The district had already recorded a below-average harvest in the first planting season due to a dry spell between June and July. In Pader, water-logging was reported in three villages around the Lunyiri settlement site in Awere sub-county, affecting cassava, millet, sorghum, sesame, bean and groundnut crops in some 70 plots. An inter-agency assessment was scheduled to take place in the first week of October.

A clearer picture of the food security situation in both the Acholi and Lango sub-regions should be available by the end of October as the results of a land use and crop yield assessment is published. The study will also determine household food production levels and gaps. In Teso, a comprehensive food security and vulnerability assessment (CFSVA) is ongoing for the entire sub-region and is expected to inform strategic planning and design of food aid interventions in 2009.

One of the major challenges to food security both in Karamoja and in the Teso and Acholi sub-regions is the growing threat of animal diseases and epidemics. During September, an outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) was reported in Kitgum District, where it has reportedly affected over 160 cattle in Madi Opei and Amida sub-counties, and in Abim District, where 56 cases and one death in Abim sub-county have been recorded. Efforts to contain the disease and prevent it from spreading to neighbouring districts have involved a first round of inoculations in Abim targeting 985 cattle, and ring vaccinations in all 19 sub-counties of Kitgum. Abim District is also struggling to respond to other epidemics, particularly *Peste des Petits Ruminants* (PPR). The district had not completed the planned vaccination campaign against PPR by the end of the reporting period, even as an initial 500,000 doses of the vaccine had already been despatched to the Karamoja region and funding for an additional 1.9 million doses secured from donors and the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) will assist the district in carrying out the vaccinations. In Katakwi, moreover, 60 animals have been affected by the outbreak of East Coast Fever and tickborne diseases, which were first reported in August. The Veterinary Department has requested vaccines from the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) and intends to target sub-counties bordering Karamoja.

GOVERNANCE, INFRASTRUCTURE AND LIVELIHOODS (GIL)

An implementing partner for the Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) in northern Uganda has been selected, and will manage grants of between US\$1,000 – \$5,000 in the areas of livelihoods, peace and reconciliation and infrastructure, as part of the Peace, Recovery and Development Plan (PRDP).

In Gulu and Amuru, several community feeder road rehabilitation projects are taking place under various schemes involving local communities. During the reporting period, some 500 community household volunteers benefited from 1,100 livestock under the Livestock Fair and Voucher for Work projects supported by food security partners.

Mine Action: Concerns continue to be expressed by protection actors in Pader District at the lack of agencies handling mine risk education in Aruu County. An information package on mine/unexploded ordinance (UXO) awareness for the community is to be developed.

HEALTH, NUTRITION AND HIV/AIDS

Health actors in northern Uganda continue to fight to contain the Hepatitis E outbreak, which has now been reported in all 19 of Kitgum District's sub-counties. As of the end of the reporting period, a cumulative 8,459 cases and 126

deaths had been registered in the district. In Pader, 53 cumulative cases and seven deaths have been reported, with 13 of the district's 19 sub-counties affected. A recent review of response measures in Kitgum revealed a general decline in the level of implementation of key interventions, specifically in water chlorination, hygiene education and promotion, and community mobilisation. Sub-county task forces lack technical guidance, while greater commitment from district technical staff is required. The review also determined that interventions to date have not been comprehensive, while participation by community and local leaders in response activities remains low.

A rapid gap analysis of the district health departments of Gulu and Amuru has highlighted inadequate human resource capacity to coordinate and manage the delivery of health services and recommended the stop-gap acquisition of technical personnel to handle these functions while efforts are made to recruit more health staff in the future. The assessment, which sought to identify areas requiring basic support to facilitate the transition from the humanitarian cluster approach to the traditional district health sector, also highlighted gaps in logistics and communication. In Pader, health actors have identified staff absenteeism, particularly by midwives, as one of the major factors affecting access to obstetric health services in the district. As a result, many deliveries are overseen by traditional birth attendants (TBAs), raising concern about the safety of mothers and their new-borns. Moreover, the introduction of a US\$ 5,000 fee for deliveries at Kalongo, the only hospital in the district, is likely to deter most expecting women from accessing the service.

In Karamoja, two suspected cases of meningococcal meningitis were reported in Kotido District, the samples of which have been forwarded to the Uganda Virus Research Institute, while six cases of *Kalazar* (Visceral Leishmaniasis), a disease spread by the bite of infected sand flies, were reported in Nakapiripirit District in the last week of September.

In the Teso sub-region, indoor residual spraying planned for all sub-counties in Katakwi and Amuria did not commence in September as originally scheduled, due to logistical constraints at the Ministry of Health. It is hoped that the exercise, which is now expected to start in October, will reduce the rising incidence of malaria in both districts. In Karamoja, efforts to combat malaria involve a plan by the Health Department to distribute insecticide-treated nets (ITNs) to all households in Nakapiripirit District, with each household expected to get two ITNs.

Three Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT) sessions each were conducted in Soroti and Katakwi Districts, with 559 people (163 men, 347 women and 49 children) tested at Atiira, Kyere and Opeta parishes in Soroti and 409 people (161 men and 248 women) tested in Omasia and Odoot parishes in Katakwi. Meanwhile, 20 health workers in Nakapiripirit District were trained in HIV testing, while 11 other health workers were trained in paediatric HIV/AIDS care and treatment. In total, 600 mothers attending ante-natal care clinics (ANC) in Nakapiripirit District were tested for HIV, while 90% of mothers visiting the ANC in Moroto were also tested. In Kaabong District, 49% of mothers attending ANC were tested. The district continues to face a challenge to its scaling up of prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT) activities; currently, only two health facilities in the district are able to provide such services.

PROTECTION

In a bid to facilitate durable solutions for extremely vulnerable individuals (EVIs) still left in the camps in Gulu, protection partners organised a consultation with heads of cluster and district heads of department, at which it was recommended that district authorities engage LCs on the registration of EVIs and for clusters to mainstream EVIs in their programming. In addition, the establishment of focal persons at parish level to coordinate EVI-related activities was recommended.

Protection actors in the district are continuing to investigate the eviction of 92 families from Koro Abili camp in early 2008. The main concern is that while the owner bought the land, insufficient notice was given for the IDPs to relocate, in contravention of the national IDP policy. The IDPs are seeking compensation for property lost or damaged during the eviction. In Kitgum, some 362 IDPs have been affected by the planned fencing of Mucwini Health Centre. While the majority of the affected individuals have decided to return to their villages of origin following the eviction notice, a small number remains in the camp, including an estimated 30 vulnerable individuals who were temporarily granted permission to stay by the parish authorities. As it is unclear how long that grace period will last, the cluster is monitoring the situation and exploring solutions for the group.

In Karamoja, agencies are following up on a case in which 200 men were reportedly arrested by the UPDF during cordon-and-search operations conducted in Rikitae parish and Lokitelaebu protected kraal in Kotido District. During the operations, one person died and several others were wounded after allegedly being tortured. The UPDF has arrested five soldiers in relation to the case and has announced its intention to court martial them, inviting protection agencies have been invited as observers.

Human Rights and Rule of Law: Agencies in Pader continue to monitor conditions at Patongo Prison, which currently accommodates 199 inmates, ninety per cent of whom are on remand on theft-related charges. In an attempt to help decongest the prison, the Magistrate's Court has been issuing community service orders, but the programme is hampered by a lack of supervision officers.

Child Protection: In Gulu, the Community Services Department is developing an action plan in response to the problem of child labour, following an increase in the number of cases in which children are either lured to work on farms or drafted into other activities outside of school with the promise of earning some money.

Child Protection concerns in Soroti and Katakwi include the exploitation of Karimojong children who have migrated to those districts for survival and livelihood purposes and allegations of sexual abuse of young girls by workers constructing the Soroti-Lira road. Relevant child protection NGOs, together with district authorities, are looking into the sexual abuse allegations and preparing to build response plans accordingly. They are also encouraging host families to enrol the Karimojong children in school, identify unaccompanied children and ensure family re-unification.

Gender Based Violence: The sub-cluster in Kitgum has undertaken an assessment of the clinical management of rape at Health Centres in the district, with the objective of identifying gaps in the health response to GBV survivors. Preliminary findings suggest an acute lack of health workers trained on GBV case management, as well as inadequate equipment to provide a minimum level of response to GBV cases. In Gulu and Amuru, the recruitment of five clinical officers during the reporting period is expected to lead to better access to emergency healthcare by GBV survivors. Additionally, HIV/AIDS prophylaxes and emergency contraceptive drugs have also been procured and dispatched to all health centres to enable GBV survivors access timely post-rape medical care. In Pader, an assessment carried out in 10 sub-counties indicates that only three of six health centres meant to serve GBV survivors are functional, with the rest lacking drugs and trained personnel.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

In light of the persistence of the Hepatitis E outbreak in Kitgum, safe water and sanitation coverage assessments were conducted in the six most affected sub-counties: Agoro, Padibe East, Padibe West, Mucwini, Madi Opei and Paloga. Safe water coverage in the 15 assessed parishes was at 79 per cent of targets, while sanitation coverage in 16 assessed sites stood at 38 per cent. Challenges identified by the assessment included poor supervision of water and sanitation activities at community level, inadequate reporting and collection of information, slow distribution of materials to the sub-counties, and uncertainties over responsibilities and direction by sub-county task forces.

WASH actors in Gulu have maintained hygiene promotion activities in response to Hepatitis E through radio programmes and community mobilization. Additionally, a total of 1,219 cartons of soap, 11,331 jerry cans, 1,955 plastic buckets, 5,880 packets of aqua-tabs and 904 sanitation kits consisting of shovels and pick axes for the construction of household latrines were distributed to a total of 7,000 households in Odek, Awach, Palaro, Patiko, Lalogi and Lakwana sub-counties in Gulu District, and Atiak sub-county in Amuru.

In Teso, the Katakwi District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC) completed an assessment on flood indicators in all sub-counties following heavy rains in later August and early September. While the findings revealed some low-lying areas with stagnant water and impassable roads, it found no indications of flooding. Of more pressing concern is the lack of protected spring wells and boreholes, as well as the contamination of spring wells in return areas as a result of the heavy rains. Meanwhile, a total of 13 boreholes were drilled in Obalanga (six) and Kapelebyong (seven) sub-counties, 37 repaired and 32 disinfected. Two dams were also rehabilitated during the reporting period. Mapping of all available water sources in the district has been completed, and is intended to inform appropriate response by WASH actors. In Karamoja, the Abim District Water Office announced that it will drill 21 boreholes, protect two spring wells and construct a windmill in the coming months. Sanitation statistics are still very poor in the district, with only 26 per cent of the population having access latrines.

V. SPECIAL FOCUS ISSUES

The Amnesty Commission facilitated by the World Bank launched a two-year Multi-Donor Trust Fund worth US\$ 8.25 million for an Emergency Demobilization and Reintegration project. The project aims at ensuring urgent implementation of the demobilisation and repatriation of the remaining caseload of LRA and ex-rebel groups in other part of the country, as well as facilitating the socio-economic reintegration of ex-combatants. The project targets a total of 28,800 direct ex-rebel beneficiaries, with secondary activities planned to benefit their families and communities.

VI. FUNDING

As at the end of September, the total requests for the revised 2008 Uganda CAP stood at just under US\$ 375 million, with approximately US\$ 207 million in contributions (about 55 per cent of requests) and an additional US\$ 3.2 million in pledges, according to the Financial Tracking Service (FTS).

Coordination (71 per cent), Protection (61 per cent), and Food Security and Agricultural Livelihoods (61 per cent), are the highest funded clusters / sectors, followed by: Health, Nutrition and HIV/AIDS (56 per cent); Education (54 per cent); Camp Coordination and Camp Management (51 per cent); Multi-sector (Refugees) at 50 per cent; and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (35 per cent). Funding for Governance Infrastructure and Livelihoods was at 14 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.

VIII. CONTACTS

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