

### I. HIGHLIGHTS

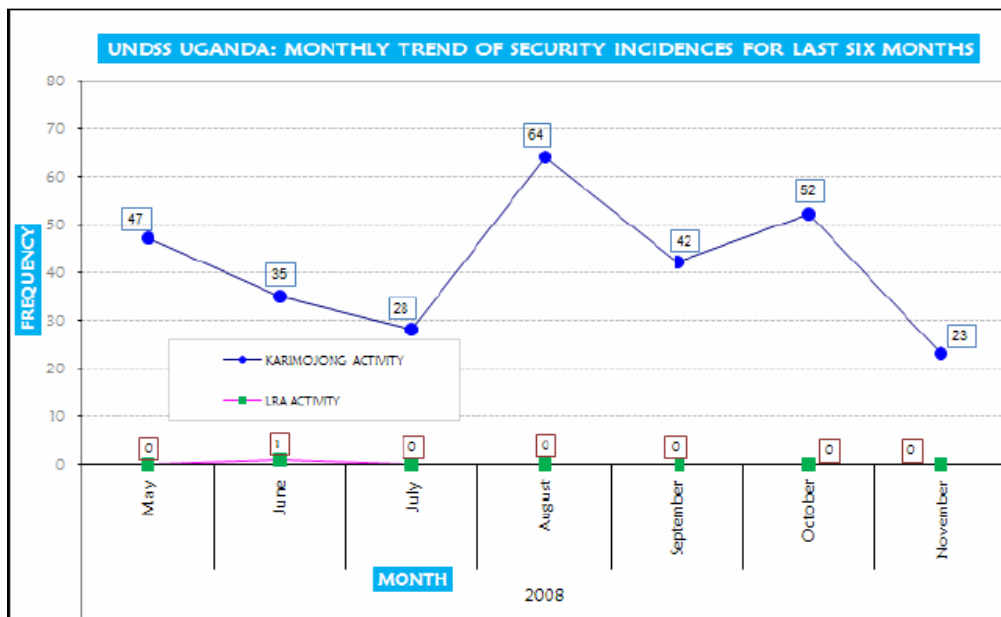
- **LRA COMMANDER ONCE AGAIN FAILS TO SIGN FINAL PEACE AGREEMENT, BUT PEACE PROCESS CONTINUES**
- **SOME 30,000 CONGOLESE REFUGEES NEWLY ARRIVED IN UGANDA SINCE AUGUST 2008**
- **HEAVY RAINS LEAD TO LOCAL ACCESS CONSTRAINTS IN SOME AREAS OF NORTHERN UGANDA AND KARAMOJA IN NOVEMBER**
- **HEPATITIS E VIRUS OUTBREAK CONTINUES MORE THAN ONE YEAR AFTER FIRST REPORTED; MORE THAN 9,100 CASES RECORDED IN KITGUM AND PADER; NO NEW CASES IN GULU AND AMURU FOR TWO MONTHS**

### II. SECURITY AND ACCESS

#### SECURITY

The general security environment continued to be calm across northern Uganda during the reporting period. No LRA activity or sightings were reported within the sub-region even as the group was said to be active in the remote border regions of northeastern Democratic Republic of Congo. While crime has emerged as the biggest security challenge in the sub-region, incidents of criminal activity reduced during the month. Isolated cases of theft and break-ins were recorded, but of greater concern were two armed robberies in Pader District targeting civilian vehicles, resulting in one civilian death, several injuries and the loss of money and cell phones.

General hostility persisted in the Karamoja sub-region, but aggressive Karimojong activity was at its lowest in November, a result attributed to increased disarmament operations and patrols by the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF). Five disarmament operations were undertaken in Kaabong, Kotido and Moroto districts. One road ambush on a UPDF patrol by suspected illegally armed Karimojong was reported in Nakapiripirit District, while at least 19 Karimojong raids were recorded in the sub-region.



Source: UNDSS

#### Access

Torrential rains at the end of October adversely affected main access roads into north Karamoja from Moroto District, leading to pipeline breaks in food aid and distribution during November. Additionally, Kamion and Timu parishes in Kalapata sub-county in Kaabong District were cut off in November by an overflowing river. In Teso, humanitarian access to camps and returning areas, particularly in Magoro, Ongongoja, Usuk and Omodoi sub-counties in Katakwi District, was hindered due to the damage caused to access roads by heavy rains in the first half of November. Rehabilitation of the Ngariam – Magoro road has since been initiated.

### III. POPULATION MOVEMENT

Region	District	Original camp pop. (end 2005)	Estimated Camp Pop.	% of original camp population	Estimated Pop. in Transit Sites	% of original camp population	Estimated Pop. in Villages of Origin	% of original camp population
Acholi	Amuru	204,000	108,000	53%	74,000	36%	18,000	9%
	Gulu	257,000	154,000	60%	100,000	39%	110,000	43%
	Kitgum	310,000	118,000	38%	58,000	23%	134,000	39%
	Pader	339,000	78,000	23%	118,000	35%	143,000	42%
	<b>Acholi Total</b>	<b>1,110,000</b>	<b>459,000</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>350,000</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>405,000</b>	<b>36%</b>
Teso	Amuria	72,000	13,000	18%	4,000	6%	55,000	76%
	Katakwi	71,000	8,000	11%	-	-	57,000	80%
	<b>Teso Total</b>	<b>143,000</b>	<b>21,000</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>112,000</b>	<b>78%</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>1,253,000</b>	<b>479,000</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>354,000</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>517,000</b>	<b>41%</b>

Source: UNHCR, October 2008

Heavy rains during the reporting period led to the displacement of some populations in northern and northeastern Uganda. In Pader District, water-logging in the sub-counties of Puranga and Omot forced some 154 households to return to camps from their original homes following the destruction of their huts and crops. Worst affected were Atege, Okwange and Teoboke villages in Acholpii parish in Omot sub-county, and all four parishes (Aringa, Oret, Parwech and Apwor) in Puranga. In Karamoja, a field visit to Lotome sub-county of Moroto District conducted in the wake of media reports of the displacement of some 15,000 people found that the displacement lasted only between three to seven days, and that the affected people returned to their homes upon recession of the flood waters.

Following a consultative visit to Masindi District by officials of Gulu and Amuru districts, a significant number of people displaced to the district from the Acholi sub-region expressed a willingness to return to their original villages once they are assisted with transportation, and once they have harvested current crops. An estimated 55,000 IDPs from Acholi are currently living in Masindi, mainly in Kiryandongo and Mutundo sub-counties.

Meanwhile, close to 1,500 migrant Congolese women are reported to have settled in north and north-eastern Uganda, with the Karamoja districts of Moroto and Kotido accommodating over 350. Assessments to determine the presence and number of Congolese women in other districts of the region have been planned.

### IV. HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

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

The onset of the dry season in northern Uganda has brought with it the usual risk of fire outbreaks, particularly in Kitgum District. Fires in the district have reportedly become a daily occurrence since 25 November, resulting in the destruction of 150 huts, among which were those belonging to three households who lost all their property in the infernos. In the latest incident, which occurred in Ngomoromo camp in Lokung sub-county, more than 200 huts were affected, of which 140 were completely razed. Kits of non-food items (NFIs) have been distributed to affected households. Residents are now reportedly resorting to leaving their property outside during the night.

Findings from an identification exercise carried out three months ago in Pader reveal that persons with special needs (PSNs) make up on average seven per cent of camp populations, with Lacekocot camp hosting the highest number at 1,034 PSNs (12 per cent). The largest category of PSNs are single-headed households (19 per cent), followed by older persons (18 per cent) and persons with disabilities (17 per cent), with needs ranging from shelter to medical and educational assistance. In Kitgum, there are 2,501 PSNs, of which 40 per cent are older persons at risk. In Gulu, the number of extremely vulnerable individuals in all 31 camps in the district is estimated at 3,000.

Camp phase out activities are continuing across the Acholi sub-region. On top of the six camps in Gulu that began piloting the exercise three months, ten additional camps are scheduled for phase out activities in December 2008. To-date, clean up activities have resulted in the demolition of 4,954 huts, 720 latrines, 131 rubbish pits and 431 bath shelters, with a further 8,483 huts marked for demolition during December. In Amuru District, phase out activities are taking place in 4 pilot camps, and the handover of leadership from Camp Commandants to Local Councillors is slated for early December. Some 2,203 huts, 193 latrines, 10 rubbish pits and 268 bath shelters have so far been demolished. In Pader District, camp phase out activities are ongoing in Puranga, Omot, Pader Town Council and Kalongo Town Council in Pader District. Currently, over 4,300 abandoned huts have been demolished and 400 pit latrines filled in various camps in the district. In Kitgum, the phase out exercise was launched in Amida camp, while Labuje and Mucwini camps await the directive of the District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC) to begin the process.

The reverse is evident in Teso, where low participation by district officials in the camp phase out process has led to a temporary halt to the programme in Amuria and Katakwi districts.

## **EDUCATION**

Education authorities in Gulu have noted as critical the need to clean up teachers' payrolls and regularise appointments following a verification exercise in 112 primary schools. The exercise revealed that while 11 teachers had died and 19 had absconded from duty, their names were still on the payroll, as were the names of 8 non-existent teachers. Moreover, 128 had been transferred but continued to earn salaries from their former schools. Up to 152 teachers were awaiting regularisation of their appointment, while a similar number was yet to be confirmed.

The lack of infrastructure in several schools continues to be one of the biggest challenges to the education sector in northern Uganda. In Amuru District, for example, 13 schools are yet to return to their original locations due to the absence of classroom structures in those sites. An estimated 173 plastic sheets are required as a stopgap measure to facilitate return and basic functionality by the beginning of the first term in 2009. Mobilisation by cluster partners has secured resources to enable two of the schools – Kocklila and Lii – to begin their return by early December 2008. In Pader, distribution and installation of 32 tents intended for primary schools lacking classroom structures were hampered by the rains, which rendered some roads impassable and prevented the transportation of the tents. The exercise is expected to resume in December.

In Katakwi, an assessment of the impact of water logging on primary schools found that pit latrines in most of the schools had either collapsed or were overflowing with water and faeces, raising the danger of disease outbreaks. The District Disaster Management Committee recommended that all affected schools, which include Odoot, Amoruongora, Ngariam, Aakum, Palaam, Obulejet, Oriau and Ocwiin, with a total population of 3,792 pupils, be closed.

Pipeline breaks due to poor road conditions meant that schools in north Karamoja did not receive food under the Food for Education programme during the reporting period. Moreover, food insecurity within communities in some locations resulted in attendance rates dropping to less than 50 per cent, as parents preferred to send their children to work for food or money during school hours.

## **FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURAL LIVELIHOODS**

During the reporting period, water logging due to excessive rains in Pader resulted in the reported destruction of 1,572 crop fields belonging to 547 households in Omot and Puranga sub-counties, while hailstorms in Parabongo sub-county destroyed 24 acres of mostly rice.

General food distribution (GFD) will be phased out in seven sub-counties of Gulu and Amuru districts effective January 2009, following recommendations based on three assessment reports.<sup>1</sup> The sub-counties include Bobi, Bungatira, Koro and Ongako in Gulu, and Amuru, Koch Goma and Purongo in Amuru District. In Kitgum, four sub-counties have been recommended for GFD phase out after the 2008 harvest (i.e. in January 2009), according to preliminary results of food security assessments, including Amida, Kitgum Matidi, Layamo and Lokung. The identification of these districts for phase out is still to be confirmed in the final report. Six sub-counties in Pader have similarly been recommended for GFD phase out in January 2009.

In north Karamoja, the GFD for November was affected by the pipeline breaks caused by the inaccessibility of roads due to heavy rains. Moreover, insecurity and chaos marred distribution in Kaabong District as security organs had to shoot in the air to disperse rowdy crowds from areas not included in the beneficiaries list. An extra-ordinary District Security Committee was expected to meet with partners during the first week of December to discuss the problem.

Meanwhile, Kotido District continues to lack vaccines for Foot and Mouth Disease and there are fears that the onset of the dry season will set animal owners on the move in search of pasture and water, thereby complicating efforts to monitor and control the disease. In Teso, vaccination of animals in Katakwi District has been halted due to a stock-out of the drugs, but the District Veterinary Office has indicated that the disease has now been contained.

In an effort to support returning communities as well as promote crop varieties that are resistant to pests and diseases in Amuria District, some 267 acres of land in Acowa sub-county and 288 in Abarilela sub-county were opened for the multiplication of sweet potato vines and cassava cuttings during the reporting period.

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

In a bid to improve community infrastructure as well as economic livelihood opportunities for returning populations, 47 kilometres of roads were rehabilitated in Amuru under the Voucher for Work programme. The programme, worth approximately US\$ 35,000, has provided some 1,328 participating households with access to livestock, basic agricultural tools, construction materials and vegetable planting materials. An additional 10 kilometres of the road connecting Patira to Laminato has been cleared.

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<sup>1</sup> The reports are: *Nutrition Assessment Report*, February 2008 (WFP & MoH); *Emergency Food Security Assessment*, May-June 2008 (FAO); *Land Use & Crop Yield Assessment*, October 2008 (DED)

**Mine Action:** Two land mines, one near Kitenye IDP camp on the Pader-Pajule road and another at Olworongu Primary School in Pader Town Council were detonated by the Mine Clearance Rapid Response Team during the reporting period. In Teso, the Mine Action Team has been notified of the presence of unexploded ordinances (UXOs) in Acowa sub-county of Amuria District, and is due to remove the devices during the first week of December.

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

More than a year after it was first reported, the Hepatitis E outbreak in northern Uganda remains uncontained, although there have been signs of a levelling off in the number of new cases in Kitgum District - the epicentre of the outbreak – in the last three epidemiological weeks. Control measures have been inadequate in villages of origin, compounded by poor water and sanitation coverage in those areas. As of the end of the reporting period, a cumulative 9,071 cases and 136 deaths had been recorded in the district. While cases of the disease have been registered from all 19 of the district's sub-counties, Mucwini, Padibe East, Padibe West, Kitgum Matidi, Lokung and Agoro sub-counties continue to register the highest number of new cases. In Pader, seven deaths and 84 cumulative cases have been registered from 15 out of the district's 19 sub-counties since the outbreak was first reported in May 2008. Agencies have noted the need to scale up interventions in Pader Town Council, Acholibur, Laguti and Pajule sub-counties where the number of new cases appears to be rising. In Gulu and Amuru, only nine of 34 reported cases have been confirmed to-date, but no new cases have been reported in over two months.

Results from the recent Rapid Epidemiological Mapping of Onchocerciasis (REMO) by the Ministry of Health in Kitgum and Pader indicate a worry prevalence of the disease, or symptoms associated with it. In Pader, for instance, the REMO shows that the disease is endemic in 10 out of the 13 assessed villages, with onchocercal nodule prevalence ranging from 26 to 78 per cent in the most affected villages of Lajeng, Latek West, Lamac South and Angagura. The incidence of epilepsy, a condition that can be associated with onchocerciasis, was found to be abnormally high in some villages, including Angagura, where at least two cases per household were recorded. In villages close to the Aswa, Agago, Nyadyang and Ajan rivers, the population of black flies was noted to be very high.

Also of concern is the reported outbreak of wild polio virus in South Sudan, where eight cases of the disease have been reported since January 2008. The District Health Team, WHO and UNICEF have conducted a rapid assessment of new immunisation posts in communities along the border. The findings indicate that the surveillance system is weak and most health centres in sub-counties bordering South Sudan do not conduct routine outreaches for immunization. The lack of outreach must be addressed and cross-border surveillance continued. The Ministry of Health is to be called on to arrange sub-National Immunization Days in the district.

Indoor residual spraying to combat malaria has been completed in all sub-counties of Katakwi District, with a total of 48 parishes with a total population of 150,000 people covered by the exercise. Additionally, 240 pieces of Insecticide Treated Nets (ITNs) have been provided to Aketa Health Centre III, while Bisina, Olilim and Akoboi Health Centre IIs each received 120 pieces. Meanwhile, rehabilitation work at Aketa and Olilim health centres was completed during the month.

In Karamoja, two health centres in Nakapiripirit (Lorengchora Health Centre II and Lolachat Health Centre III) and one in Kotido (Panyangara Health Centre II) are due to be rehabilitated, while outreach services to returnees have commenced in the resettlement sites of Apeitolim, Lomaratoit, and Nabwal in Moroto.

### **PROTECTION**

The Protection Cluster in Kitgum has noted that there is low commitment among district authorities to solve the issue of displacement and, thus, ensure protection for IDPs. There has been little actual implementation of programming to ensure that IDPs achieve durable solutions, although the raising of the issue at the district council and technical committee may indicate a breakthrough. In particular, the lack of clear guidance for those IDPs wishing to integrate locally at the site of former camps on how to proceed and/or what support the government might give them constitutes a gap. In parallel, the host community (owners of the land on which IDP camps are located) have received unclear messages regarding compensation and rehabilitation of their land; such uncertainty could lead to arbitrary evictions of IDPs. A clear statement on local integration and voluntary return, as well as decision implementation of said statement, is urgently needed. The cluster lead is discussing the issue with the government at both the national and district levels.

**Human Rights and Rule of Law:** Concerns have been raised in Pader following the suspension of open criminal court sessions in Patongo Prison by the Grade One Magistrate during the first week of November. With the prison's authorities lacking means to transport inmates to the district court located 35 kilometres away, there are fears that inmates will be denied their rights and access to justice. Currently, the prison holds 215 inmates against an intended capacity of 76. Of this number, only 18 have been convicted, while 154 await a court hearing.

Access to justice also remains an issue in Kitgum, where police presence remains limited, particularly in return sites. The Local Council courts continue to exhibit inefficiency and poor functionality, despite training, and performance evaluation is not occurring. Moreover, although the magistrate court has been elevated to a chief magistrate court, there is no chief magistrate posted. Other challenges include lack of sufficient legal aid service, especially for the poor;

limited access to information on the rule of law; and insufficient supervision, leading to lack of accountability and high absenteeism rates among police.

In Karamoja, Human Rights and Rule of Law sub-clusters have been established in Kotido, Abim and Kaabong districts.

**Child Protection:** The influx of Karimojong women and children into Katakwi and Amuria districts in search of food and employment continues to be of concern to protection actors. Most of the migrant Karimojong are reportedly engaged in domestic work, raising fears of child labour. Data collected in Amuria by the Community Development Office indicate some 675 Karimojong children - 214 boys and 461 girls - in the district. The district has recognised the need for continuous awareness-raising on the rights of the migrants, as well as the need to follow up on cases of abuse.

In Gulu, cluster partners have aired radio spot messages over Mega FM Radio, one of the most popular radio stations in the north, with focus on sexual abuse and exploitation, school drop out and exploitative labour. The messages also provide information on referral points for victim assistance. Priority child protection concerns raised in a recent assessment by Community Development Officers include school drop out, lack of parental care, and parental neglect. The number of child neglect cases in other Acholi districts also remains high. In Kitgum, a proper referral pathway needs to be established.

**Gender Based Violence (GBV):** In Katakwi, the District Human Rights Promotion and Protection (DHRPP) committee has recommended that Anti Stock Theft Units (ASTUs) engage in dialogue with communities in Ngariam and Ongongoja sub-counties as a way of building trust, following reports implicating ASTU personnel in defilement and gender based violence.

Community activities have been organized across the various locations during the 16 Days of Activism against GBV organized from 25 November to 10 December 2008. In Kitgum, interactions highlighted the vital role played by men in preventing GBV if they receive training and sensitization; in Pader, the District and GBV partners agreed a declaration on prevent and responding to GBV; and, in Moroto, the district planned to hold a campaign on gender violence involving the community including sensitization, advocacy on gender and GBV, culminating with celebrations of Human Rights Day (10 December).

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

With the return process progressing steadily across northern Uganda, cluster partners are turning their attention to water coverage in villages of origin. In Pader, partners plan to drill 60 boreholes by the end of the year, targeting a population of more than 18,000 people and aiming to improve overall water coverage in the district by 6 per cent. In Kitgum, the plan is to mobilise 74 boreholes to serve a population of over 22,000 people, thereby increasing water coverage in the district from 62 per cent to 68 per cent.

In the wake of the water logging caused by the recent rains in Katakwi, nearly 43 per cent of the 131 water sources tested by the District Water Office were found to be highly contaminated. The District has appealed to partners to provide chlorine for disinfection of the water sources.

## **V. SPECIAL FOCUS ISSUES**

#### **JUBA PEACE PROCESS**

Uncertainty continues to shroud the Juba Peace Process following the third failure of Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) Commander Joseph Kony to show up for a planned signing of the Final Peace Agreement at the end of November. The latest deadline for the LRA chief to append his signature to the agreement was issued in Kampala on 6 November in the closing statement of a stakeholders conference convened by Chief Mediator Riek Machar of South Sudan and attended by representatives of the Government of Uganda, Acholi leadership and the LRA, as well as the UN Special Envoy, Joachim Chissano. Indictments by the International Criminal Court (ICC) against Kony and some of his commanders remain the principal sticking point for the LRA, according to the Acholi elders who met with him prior to the planned signing ceremony. In withholding his signature, Kony also asked to be able to talk directly on phone with President Museveni, a request to which the latter acquiesced just prior to publication of this report. At present, it seems that the peace process continues as both Presidents Museveni and Kabila (Democratic Republic of the Congo) have agreed to its continuation.

#### **CONGOLESE REFUGEES**

An estimated 30,000 refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo have fled into Uganda since August 2008, including 9,800 now settled at the Nakivale refugee settlement in Isingiro District and 10,000 at the newly established Mutanda transit centre in Kanungu District. Another 6,500 are being hosted in local communities near the Busanza border crossing in Kisoro District and an estimated 3,700 around Ishasha border point in Kanungu, according to UNHCR. No new influxes of Congolese refugees have been reported since 28 November. In Nakivale, agencies have

noted challenges in the provision of health, water and sanitation services, particularly in the newly opened site in Juru, where construction of two accommodation shelters, water tanks and six latrine stances is ongoing.

## VI. FUNDING

The United Nations Humanitarian Appeal 2009 was launched by the Emergency Relief Coordinator, John Holmes, in Geneva on 19 November 2008. The global appeal, which seeks US\$ 7 billion to support humanitarian response in 31 countries worldwide, represents the largest appeal ever launched since the establishment of the Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP) in 1991. The Humanitarian Appeal 2009 comprises 12 consolidated appeals, including Uganda's US\$ 225,288,099 request – the third smallest of all the appeals.

The Uganda 2009 CAP, scheduled for launch in Kampala on 4 December 2008, is intended to meet the most urgent humanitarian needs of some 1.6 million vulnerable individuals in Acholi, Teso, Karamoja, and the refugee-hosting districts of West Nile and western Uganda.

Meanwhile, as at the end of November, the total requests for the revised 2008 Uganda CAP stood at about US\$ 374 million, with US\$ 244 million in contributions (about 65 per cent of requests) and an additional US\$ 3.9 million in pledges, according to the Financial Tracking Service (FTS). Coordination (82 per cent), Food Security and Agricultural Livelihoods (73 per cent), Protection (66 per cent), Nutrition and HIV/AIDS (61 per cent) are the highest funded clusters / sectors, followed by Camp Coordination and Camp Management, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, and Multi-sector (Refugees) at 53 per cent each. Funding for Governance Infrastructure and Livelihoods remained at 17 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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