



REPUBLIC OF UGANDA
Office of the Prime Minister

CAMP PHASE OUT GUIDELINES FOR ALL DISTRICTS THAT HAVE IDP CAMPS

1.0 Background:

More than 90% (more than 1.8million) of the population in the Greater North region had been pushed into IDP camps by the insecurity as a result of LRA rebellion and cattle rustling. The abnormal situation halted development activities in this region consequently.

However, after the signing of the cessation of hostilities agreement between the LRA and Government, in 2006, there has been relative peace. ASTUs along the Karamoja border, have kept cattle rustling in check. To date, over 1 million people have either returned home or closer to their villages. Living conditions of IDPs have improved and there is increased access to land. Land that was previously occupied by IDP camps and army detachments should be returned to original owners for their use.

Considering that there is no unified approach to IDP Camp phase out, these guidelines aim at providing guidance on the camp phase out process within the framework of the National IDP Policy. The guidelines build on the lessons learnt from the Lango Sub Region where all camps have been phased out. They also borrow from the international guidelines on camp closure.

2.0 Preamble:

- Camp structures of leadership should give way to the formal Local Government structures. Where these structures already exist, their capacity should be strengthened. In order to ensure all returnees are recorded, LC1 Leaders should register the entire return population with the assistance of LC2 and LC3 Leaders.
- Camp phase out is the initial phase of a process oriented towards the achievement of the three durable solutions foreseen by the Uganda National IDP Policy:
 - a. Voluntary return,
 - b. Settlement in the former camp
 - c. Relocation to another part of the country.
- During the entire process of camp phase out, the right to Freedom of Movement must be respected. The voluntary character of the return in safety and dignity must be ensured.

3.0 Identification:

The decision to start the camp phase out process, under the lead of the District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC), should be undertaken with the following procedures:

- 3.1 When? When a consistent part of the population (50%) has left the camp. The benchmark should be agreed on by the DDMC. Therefore, the DDMC should assess the prevailing situation and decide accordingly.
- 3.2 Which camp? Based on the return figures, the DDMC agrees on which camps to be assessed by a joint assessment team, through participatory assessments and random hut visits. This is to know how many IDPs have left, and if the benchmark is met, team recommends camp phase out.
- 3.3 Who decides? The recommendation is discussed and endorsed by the DDMC, and communicated to OPM. The decision is shared with the IDP camp population and with the Local Authorities. The assessment team also takes note of resettlement kits required.

4.0 Preparation phase and planning with communities:

This includes information dissemination of camp phase out activities, establishment and training of local CPC members, negotiation and written agreement for modalities of CPC projects, conducting assessments including identifying existing infrastructure and profiling of vulnerable groups.

5.0 Camp Phase out Procedure:

The camp phase out process must be participatory with involvement of IDPs, local leaders, and partners. The District Camp Phase out Committee (CPC) designated by the DDMC implements the following:

- i. Discuss and plan the phase out of humanitarian assistance, on the basis of assessed need.
- ii. Ensure that IDPs are not evicted from camps. Procedural protection should be put in place so that evictions do not amount to forced evictions.
- iii. Identify solutions for EVIs who may need assistance to return. Durable solutions may include:
 - a. Making provisions for their return.
 - b. Local authorities should identify and rejuvenate social ties / networks for such categories of people.

6.0 KEY ISSUES FOR DURABLE SOLUTIONS

6.1. Basic Services and Infrastructure:

- These should **be established, rehabilitated, and sustained in the return areas** i.e. health units, schools, water sources, etc.

6.2. Property / facility hand over, Maintenance and repair;

- An official handover process should be established such that remaining property / facilities benefit the public. The process should include a Memorandum of Understanding between Local Authorities and DDMC / CPC.
- DDMCs shall ensure that the facilities handed over are in good working conditions. Where the facilities can be kept for future use, they should be kept by the local authorities. Relevant sectors should provide assistance based on the district development plan / priorities in liaison with relevant line ministries.
- Where these facilities are on private land, consultations should be done by the DDMCs with the relevant community and land owner.

6.3. Land ownership.

- In order to return the land to private owners and public land to development activities, durable solutions should be sought for the residual populations in the former IDP camp sites. Residual population may also be assisted to formalize their stay through the due process of law.

6.4. Environment:

- Environmental restoration programmes should be initiated to restore environment where camps are existing.

6.5. Extremely Vulnerable Individuals (EVIs):

- Profiling of EVIs remaining in the camps should be conducted in a participatory manner, to establish the numbers and needs of these people.
- EVIs should be assisted as guided above for sustainable return (5.0 iii).

6.6. Land wrangles:

- The most vulnerable groups here are widows as well as orphans who are not old enough to stand up for their rights. Area land committees, L.C Courts, Clan systems, formal courts etc should handle such cases.

6.7. Law and Order:

- Special Police Constables have been deployed in all sub counties in the return areas to ensure law and order among the returning population.

6.8. Abandoned huts:

- CPCs together with Local leaders should assess and screen camps for abandoned huts and after a verification exercise, these huts be demolished.

6.9. Information campaign:

- Clear and consistent messages should be sent by the relevant authorities to the IDPs / Returnees through radios, meetings, local media papers, etc, to enable IDPs make informed decisions.

6.9.0 Compensation:

- Provisions of the Land Act of 1998, as provided for in the IDP Policy will be followed in land recovery and allocation.

7.0 Basic Rehabilitation of former camps

- The CPC will identify rehabilitation needs in the former camps. Rehabilitation of identified needs will be undertaken by humanitarian partners and government.

7.1 First Phase as Basic Rehabilitation:

- Activities including mine risk assessment, demolishing of huts /UPDF detaches, filling in latrine and garbage pits, relocation of cemeteries, and leveling the land may be selected depending on the request of the community.

7.2 Second Phase as Turning into Viable Community

- The above may be followed by land rehabilitation, environmental education and support for re-establishing the former camp as trading centers/viable communities
- When selecting possible secondary activities, emphasis should be placed on the choices of the community in line with government plans and development priorities (provision of and rehabilitation of basic services / facilities in areas of return). It is vital that local authorities lead the Camp Phase out Committee and its implementation within the context of the district development plan and the Peace, Recovery and Development Plan (PRDP).
- For areas where IDPs opt to remain, OPM will engage Ministry of Local Government to declare these areas as town boards following the due process of law.