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IOM UGANDA

Information Counseling Referral Services (ICRS) Bulletin

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ICRS Programme Supported in Uganda

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reporters, who have already received their reinsertion packages, were identified within the 633 backlog, consequently the backlog figure within this time period dropping down to 611. Since the project is providing for the procurement, storage and distribution of 1,000 reinsertion kits, the balance of (1,000-611=389) kits is held on reserve for new Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) reporters.

New data base software has already been installed in Kampala AC office, Gulu and Kitgum Demobilization and Resettlement Teams' (DRTs) offices. A timetable to install the new software and the end user training for AC staff in Kasese, Mbale and Arua DRTs is set for September 2008.

From May 1st 2008, IOM Uganda started to provide technical assistance to the AC, through the ICRS approach and methodology, with the support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the United Nation Development Programme (UNDP).

This crucial, results-oriented close co-operation between IOM and AC, aims at enhancing the effectiveness and capacity of the AC in fulfilling its mandate for the implementation of the Amnesty Act 2000 in order to ensure the safe, orderly, voluntary return, reinsertion and reintegration of former combatants, supporters and abducted victims of the armed rebellions in Uganda.

Figure 1: 611 Backlog Cases by District

District	Beneficiaries	District	Beneficiaries
Amuru	88	Kyenjojo	1
Apac	5	Lira	7
Arua	22	Luwero	34
Bugiri	2	Masaka	8
Bundibugyo	2	Masindi	2
Bushenyi	5	Mayuge	1
Gulu	154	Mbale	13
Iganga	2	Mbarara	2
Kabale	2	Mpigi	3
Kabarole	1	Mukono	2
Kaberamaido	1	Nakasongola	3
Kampala	15	Nebbi	2
Kamuli	3	Ntungamo	3
Kanungu	1	Oyam	4
Kapchorwa	3	Pader	74
Kasese	21	Palisa	2
Katakwi	12	Rukungiri	8
Kibaale	1	Sironko	2
Kiboga	3	Soroti	3
Kisoro	1	Ssembabule	1
Kitgum	79	Tororo	3
Kotido	1	Wakiso	3
Kumi	1	Yumbe	5

AC Database Improved

IOM teams of 2 ICRS Data specialist and 2 GIS Specialists have been analyzing and cleaning the AC data, which was availed to IOM on May 15, 2008. They have established that from 2000 to July 16th, 2008, a total of 22,760 reporters have been amnestied and 4,509 have not received their reinsertion packages. The focus of USAID and UNDP funding is on the post January 1, 2006 caseload giving a figure of 2,969, of which 633 of the backlog had not received their reinsertion kits. Through constant analysis of the data, 22 cases of



Distribution of Reinsertion Kits

As of August 29th, 2008 a total of 200 reporters from the backlog have received their reinsertion packages. IOM procured an ISO container for the storage of the NFI (Non Food items) kits at the AC offices in Kampala. Storage facilities were established in Gulu and Kitgum districts, while storage rooms were improvised within DRT offices in Mbale and Kasese. All NFI items were subjected to the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) for quality certification.



NFI Kits Ready for Distribution (IOM Photo)

Each reporter receives a combined NFI kit and cash component of UGX 263,000. AC and IOM agreed to issue forms prepared in three originals; one for AC, IOM and for the reporter. The 3 forms and the Amnesty Certificate of the reporter receiving the kit are endorsed with the AC stamp "Received" and the date of receiving the kit. The forms are signed by three parties, AC, IOM (as witnesses), and the reporter. The information is entered into the database thereafter.

GIS Mapping for Referral Services

An IOM team of 2 GIS specialists, 3 Data Entry Clerks, and 11 Enumerators have been posted to the AC offices in Kampala and the 5 DRT offices. They are mapping Education, Health, Microfinance, cost-efficient temporary accommodation, and Humanitarian Agencies, Local and International NGOs' Programme services for referral. Data collected is used by the AC IOM-ICRS team for information counseling and referral of reporters on the available socio-economic reintegration opportunities. Several maps have been developed from the collected data and the process is ongoing. GIS software licenses with associated GPS devices are procured for the AC

AC staff in the Kampala and the 5 DRT offices will be trained next month on how to effectively use the devices to improve the quality of their data. Joint AC and IOM ICRS outreach teams use the data and maps to conduct backlog tracing and follow-ups. VSAT Communication devices with line rentals have been installed in Gulu, Kitgum, Mbale, Kasese and Arua DRT offices to enhance MIS communication systems with the AC Kampala office.

Support for Immediate Transitional Needs of Reporters

IOM has its existing Migration Health Unit operating from IOM offices in Kampala. The unit consists of a Medical Doctor, Nurse and HIV/AIDS Counselor. The Unit has been enhanced with two Caseworkers, to perform outreach and monitoring of individuals and family groups. While the Unit is on standby for any sudden influx/repatriation of LRA/ADF defectors, it has been active in delivering services to special groups of ex-LRA commanders granted amnesty and a few other LRA and ADF reporters. Services delivered include routine and thorough medical check-ups (including chest X-ray, voluntary pre and post counseling and HIV/AIDS tests), and everyday psychosocial support and counseling.

AC Infrastructure Enhanced

With the support from USAID and UNDP, 1 Nissan double cabin Pickup, 2 Motorbikes, 2 Laptops, 3 Desktops Computers, office furniture for the AC Chairman and DRT Central have been procured for the AC Kampala offices and the DRTs, as part of enhancing their effectiveness and capacity. The process is ongoing to facilitate the various DRT offices.

Missing Link:

Information and statistical data being established by the IOM GIS/Database specialist continuously indicates that there is a critical gap of community based interventions for sustainable reintegration. Premised on IOM over 16 years worldwide experience in the field of Demobilization and Reintegration of former combatants and their dependants, IOM's position is that ICRS approach in Uganda is well placed to provide the basis to strengthen the cohesion for a community based reinsertion-reintegration support to reporters and other war affected groups. IOM Uganda is fundraising to fill this critical gap.

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