

**Welcoming Remarks for the Humanitarian Coordinator at the Launch of CAP 2009**  
**Thursday 4 December 2008 – 10:00 a.m. – Imperial Royale Hotel (Mayapple Hall)**

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Honourable Minister for Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees,  
Honourable Ministers and Representatives of the Government of Uganda,  
Distinguished Ambassadors and representatives of donor governments  
Colleagues in the humanitarian and development community  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to welcome you all today for the launch of the 2009 Consolidated Appeal (CAP 2009) for Uganda: the Consolidated Appeal, which represents our collective programme for humanitarian action in 2009 in Uganda.

Honourable Minister,

Allow me to note that the document you are going to launch today represents the culmination of more than three months of efforts. The process began in August with a series of well-attended regional consultations in the Karamoja, Acholi and Teso sub-regions, which provided the basis for the Common Humanitarian Action Plan. But most of the ground work began in May 2008 with the CAP mid-year review process.

At that time, the humanitarian community streamlined the 2008 CAP, which in its original form contained projects that were humanitarian, early recovery and recovery in nature. By objectively identifying each project as being short-term, medium-term or long-term and prioritizing the ones that responded to the most immediate of needs, we revised the CAP downwards by 13.5%, or from US\$ 430 million down to approximately US\$ 372 million.

Within this situation, one may ask, what have we been able to achieve? Among other things I will mention:

- Provision of aid to nearly two million food-insecure people;
- Support to the Government responses to outbreaks of disease such as Hepatitis E and meningitis and support to health care services to prevent the transmission of malaria, educate people about reproductive and sexual health, including sexually transmitted infections such as HIV/AIDS;
- Contribute to the increased number of school-aged children attending primary school;
- Increase the number of vulnerable individuals able to access justice in the wake of violence and discrimination;
- Provide safe water and proper sanitation to those remaining in the camps and those returning to their homes.

Honourable Minister, District Partners,

With regard to the 2009 CAP, a joint plan of action was developed by 53 international and national non-governmental organizations and 10 UN agencies across seven thematic and four geographical areas. It includes 158 projects, tailored the regional specificities of the area in which the work will be undertaken. The CAP seeks to assist approximately 1.6 million vulnerable people living in conflict-affected northern Uganda, in a state of food and livelihood insecurity in Karamoja and in parts of the country vulnerable to natural hazards, as well as nearly 150,000 people who have sought refuge in Uganda from conflict in their homelands.

All of the projects included in the CAP respond to one of the three strategic objectives developed during the regional consultations, namely:

1. To supplement Government efforts to provide basic services that save lives and alleviate suffering, as the basis for achievement of the three durable solutions;
2. To enhance food and nutritional security to save lives and alleviate suffering and kick-start livelihoods
3. To contribute to strengthening of district capacity for emergency preparedness and response.

Of course, there is still much to do and we have a solid plan to accomplish much more in 2009. But I would be remiss if I were to intimate that the humanitarian community can do everything that needs to be done on its own.

Therefore, I would like to call upon the Government of Uganda to increase its leadership at all levels to finance and coordinate the recovery and development of northern Uganda.

I would like to call upon donors and development partners to support the Government of Uganda to provide a demonstrable peace dividend in northern Uganda.

At the district level, I would like to call upon the government to provide guidance and leadership on priority issues and priority areas, in keeping with the parish-based approach developed more than a year ago, so that our short-term efforts become an integral part of the long-term whole.

Some agencies / organizations, we know, are refocusing their programmes toward recovery and development. For them to be more effective, they must be more engaged with all the coordination structures and institutions, so that they can continue to tailor programmes to the national development objectives.

At the national level, I call upon the Sector Working Groups to be more attuned to the humanitarian challenges and to incorporate these in their regular work. As development partners, we are ready to help in this endeavour.

The PRDP offers us an operational framework in which to develop and implement our programming, and indeed it has been the basis for the development of the 2009 CAP. But actualization of the PRDP – achievement of the goal of bringing standards in northern Uganda and Karamoja at par with the rest of the country – can only be achieved with the effective leadership of the Government at central and district levels.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Tackling development issues in a sustainable manner in Karamoja is certainly a daunting challenge. The region has been marginalized for too long. Far too little investments were made in developing basic services. However, there are enormous opportunities to make significant development gains, provided we all act in a more concerted and coordinated manner.

We are undertaking targeted and time-bound activities. These activities do not stand alone: they complement long-term development initiatives to redress the most extreme vulnerability. By addressing vulnerability, we want to move into a risk reduction approach in Karamoja that builds households' capabilities to withstand shocks such as droughts and enables sustainable progress, putting an end to the persistent destructive emergency cycles.

Bringing Karamoja into the path of accelerated progress on the major development indicators requires the concerted support of all stakeholders (Government, traditional leadership, communities and development partners) for an efficient and effective integrated disarmament and development approach to the Karamoja region.

Finally, I would recall the importance of ensuring that disaster preparedness and response capacity is strengthened at all levels. Here, I commend the Government for calling a mission of the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team here in Uganda two weeks ago to undertake a comprehensive assessment of its preparedness and response capacity to disasters. Uganda is the first African country to have undertaken such an initiative. We pledge support to the Government in the implementation of the 30 recommendations the UNDAC team made to strengthen Uganda's capacity to respond to disasters.

In all these respects and more, I pledge the concerted support of the humanitarian and development community to support the Government of Uganda.

And now, I have the honour of inviting the Government's representative, the Honourable Professor Tarsis Kabwegyere, Minister for Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees to take the floor and officially launch the CAP 2009.

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