



This report was issued by OCHA Uganda. It covers the period from 8 to 16 March 2010. The next report will be issued on or around 16 March.

I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- **94 deaths have been confirmed and 300 people are still missing following the landslides that buried three villages in Bududa District on 1 March 2010.**
- **788 households have been registered at Bulucheke camp; up to 900 households are expected to ultimately move to the site.**
- **The likelihood of water-borne disease outbreaks remains high in Butaleja District, where floods submerged critical infrastructure, including water sources, health facilities, schools, roads and bridges.**
- **Over 33,000 households have been affected by the floods.**

II. Situation Overview

As of 16 March 2010, 94 bodies have been retrieved while over 300 people are missing following the landslides in **Bududa District**.

The landslides occurred on the evening of 1 March 2010, burying the three villages of Nametsi, Kubehwo and Namangasa in Bukalasi sub-county following consecutive days of heavy downpours in this mountainous area.

Search and retrieval operations led by the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) continue in the three villages. On 10 March, the UPDF, the Ministry of Works and the UN Peacekeeping Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) conducted an assessment of the area to determine the possibility of deploying more effective earth moving equipment in the retrieval operations. The UPDF has now cleared a landing site expected to be used by MONUC to airlift the equipment.

Attention is now focused on the relocation of at-risk populations to safer areas. A temporary camp has been established at Bulucheke sub-county headquarters located some 7 km from the scene of the disaster.

Some 788 households – 3,282 individuals - have moved to the camp and are receiving assistance. However, there are concerns that the area is not large enough to accommodate the estimated 900 households expected to ultimately move to the site. A proposed second site has not yet been identified. A permanent resettlement site is also being discussed, one proposal for which is an area of land in neighbouring Sironko District.

In **Butaleja District**, floods submerged crop fields and vital infrastructure, including roads, schools and houses. An inter-agency assessment on 12 March estimated that 33,305 people, mainly from Mazimasa, Himutu, Kachonga and Butaleja Rural sub-counties have been affected, largely through loss of crops. Most of the affected villages are situated in a low lying flood prone area close to the banks of River Manafwa.

Two cases of suspected cholera earlier reported at Naweyo Health Centre III in Naweyo sub-county and at Kabasa Memorial Hospital in Mazimasa sub-county have been declared negative by the World Health Organization (WHO). Nevertheless, with many water sources contaminated, populations in the affected area are susceptible to epidemic outbreaks of water-borne diseases.

At present, the rains have reduced and the flood waters have receded, but four heavily affected primary schools – two in Mazimasa and two in Himutu - with a total population of 2,159 pupils remain closed.

The Government of Uganda continues to lead the humanitarian response, with two inter-agency assessment teams dispatched to Butaleja and Bududa in the wake of the disasters. The United Nations and partners participated in the assessments and are active in coordination and response under the Government's auspices.

In western Uganda, the Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) reports that flooding and landslides have affected nearly 2,500 households, many of whom have been displaced, in the districts of Kabale, Kabarole, Kasese, Kisoro and Bundibugyo.

Further assessments are ongoing in all affected areas.

III. Humanitarian Needs and Response

Search and Retrieval

Search and retrieval teams in Bududa District require personal protective gear, including gloves, masks and gowns, as bodies buried under the mud have begun to decompose.

MONUC is supporting the Government with a heavy-lift helicopter to help deploy backhoes to the site.

Education

The Bududa District Education Officer (DEO) reported to the District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC) that up to 63 pupils perished in the landslides, while a total of 1,022 were displaced from the two primary schools of Nametsi (648) and Tunwatsi. Both these schools, along with the four submerged primary schools in Butaleja District have now been temporarily integrated into other schools or relocated. Pupils in primary classes 1 to 4 will be able to learn in temporary structures constructed within the camp, while pupils in classes 5 to 7 are being encouraged to enroll in Bumwalye, a neighbouring primary school.

In the host schools, however, pupils are facing a variety of challenges ranging from inadequate sanitary facilities to having to walk long distances. Additionally, No proper teaching is taking place due to overcrowding in classes and inadequate facilities.

UNICEF has dispatched recreational kits for up to 800 children and, together with World Vision and Save the Children in Uganda (SCiUG), plans to provide education services within Bulucheke camp catering to children in lower classes. Construction of temporary classroom structures in the camp has been completed.

SCiUG has provided two temporary structures and four latrines, as well as establishing child friendly playing space.

For the schools partially affected by flooding in Butaleja, there is urgent need for mobile pit latrines. In many schools visited by the inter-agency assessment team, latrines were flooded and pupils did not have access to adequate and safe latrine facilities. Moreover, the classrooms in some of the schools have developed cracks and pose serious risks to the pupils.

Emergency Shelter & Non-Food Items

In Bududa, the Government and partners, including URCS, UNICEF, UNHCR, ICRC, AVSI and CRS, have been active in the sector. A total of 90 tents of various sizes have been provided by UNICEF and the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM). NFI kits comprising a blanket, tarpaulin, plates, cups, soap, saucepans, and a jerrycan and basin/bucket have been distributed to all households in the camp. Each of the 788 households has also received a mattress (2 for mothers with young babies) courtesy of the Indian community in Uganda, in addition to 2 mosquito nets. The district has received and is continuing to receive plenty of additional supplies.

At present, there are insufficient numbers of tents available for all individual families.

In Butaleja, UNICEF distributed: 838 NFI kits; 1,333 plastic jerrycans (20 litres); 2,000 blankets; 5,600 mosquito nets; and, 1,000 buckets with lids (20 litre capacity).

ADRA has provided: 830 tarpaulins; 820 blankets; 830 jerrycans; 820 ITNs; 1,640 cooking pots; 2,050 plates; 2,050 cups; 20,050 pieces of washing soap; and, 20,050 pieces of bathing soap.

URCS, Caritas, Child Fund, CRS have also distributed assorted NFIs to over 2,000 households.

Food and Nutrition

On 14 March, the Government, WFP and URCS distributed a month's ration of food to the 788 households in Bulucheke camp. The food items included cereals, pulses, corn soya blend, vegetable oil and salt. Other items distributed included water, margarine, sugar, cassava and sweet potatoes.

Food items have been donated by various entities, including the Uganda and Kenyan governments, the UN, NGOs, CSOs, the private sector, companies, schools and neighbouring districts. URCS has recently announced a donation of 12 tonnes of maize meal and beans from the Kenyan Red Cross. Overall, there appears to be sufficient food stocks for the camp.

Arlington Academy of Hope, a Christian organization/school is constructing kitchen shelters for cooking in the camp. Foundation for Development, a local organization, is providing firewood for cooking.

In Butaleja, OPM has provided 320 bags of maize meal and 60 bags of beans, while WFP plans to distribute food to at least 20 percent of the affected population.

FAO is training communities in the preservation of cassava cuttings ahead of the next planting season.

Health & Nutrition

A temporary health post initially established at the camp has now been moved to the newly renovated Bulucheke Health Centre II, which has been stocked with drugs and other facilities to serve the displaced population. District health officers, URCS and medical practitioners from the Indian community are running the facility, with support from WHO and the Ministry of Health (MoH). In addition, Buchigai Health Centre III, about 1.5 km distant, has been stocked up as a backup facility.

The Indian community and a German engineering firm, Gauff, have provided three ambulances.

MoH has deployed a clinical epidemiologist, an infectious disease control specialist, and nurses.

MSF Holland has supplied anti-malarial drugs to Bulucheke Health Centre II.

Malaria, diarrhea, RTIs and cough are the most common diseases being treated. A suspected case of measles proved negative following testing at the Uganda Virus Research Institute. Immunization services against measles for children aged below 15 years and polio for children under-five have begun in the camp; the exercise is supported by MoH, UNICEF and WHO.

WHO plans to strengthen reporting and active case search, training of Village Health teams (VHTs), and epidemic preparedness and response.

A major gap is the lack of psychosocial services in the camp. The Butabika National Referral Mental Hospital in Kampala and MoH are presently exploring options for intervention.

There is also need to extend outreach services to the population remaining on the mountainside who currently have no access to a health facility following the destruction of the only health centre in the area - Nametsi - in the landslides.

In Butaleja, WHO delivered a cholera kit, and World Vision procured medicine worth approximately \$2,500. WHO also plans to undertake training targeted at VHTs, epidemic surveillance and preparedness and response.

Logistics & Transport

WFP provided two 240m² rub halls in Butaleja and is ready to utilize its warehouse in Tororo District, while CRS erected a storage facility in Kachonga parish. In Bududa, UNICEF set up a storage structure within the Town Council.

The mission of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is to mobilize and coordinate effective and principled humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors.

To facilitate transportation, WFP has made available three 15-tonne trucks, mainly for food, and UNICEF has provided one truck and a driver. The Uganda Police Force and WFP have also offered two small boats.

UNDP has provided two generators and office support to the Government's command center.

Protection

An inter-agency protection assessment was carried out by SCIUG, UNHCR, World Vision and URCS. The findings include: some trauma amongst children as a result of the landslides; fear of GBV due to poor lighting in the camp; concern amongst female camp residents at the long distances to washrooms/latrines; lack of recreational facilities for children and youth; and, the failure of relief distributors to take into account unaccompanied children, child mothers and the elderly.

UNICEF is dispatching a child protection specialist and its regional child protection coordinator to the camp to provide advisory support.

UNFPA provided 1,200 dignity kits (comprising a bucket, t-shirts, underwear, washing soap, sanitary pads, towel, and razor blade) within days of the disaster.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

Safe water is accessible to Bulucheke camp residents through tanks supplied by UNICEF. Tankers from the Ministry of Water and Environment transport water daily from Mbale District. Bududa District and URCS are facilitating the water tanking, which is supplemented by protected springs close to the camp.

To date, 23 latrine stances have been completed and are functional, while 30 more are in advanced stages of completion by Oxfam through BUSIDEF. UNICEF has supplied plastic slabs for the latrines.

Arlington Academy of Hope, OPM and URCS have supported the construction of bath shelters.

URCS has positioned hand washing facilities at strategic locations in the camp as part of a campaign to promote sanitation and hygiene. A team from MoH's Public Health Information department is conducting public awareness on sanitation.

The challenge at present is keeping the latrines clean and sustaining clean water supply to the camp.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management

While Bududa District has taken the lead, it requires technical guidance on planning, lay out, and management of the camp. A camp management structure has been established, with the District Commercial Officer appointed as camp commandant, assisted by one URCS staff member, 2 sub-county staff members, and 4 representatives of displaced persons (2 men and 2 women).

IV. Coordination

The Office of the Minister for Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees under OPM is leading the overall coordination and guidance of the response to the disasters.

V. Funding

The Government of Uganda is working on an appeal that it expects to launch soon.

Meanwhile, the URCS emergency appeal for Bududa and Butaleja realized UGX 2.2 billion (approximately \$1.1 million) of the requested UGX 2 billion (approximately \$1 million). Donors included the United States, Ireland, Denmark, DfID, ICRC, IFRC, Finnish Red Cross and Danish Red Cross. The organization has started the process of revising the appeal to cover a four-month period and include additional districts in western Uganda has started.

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