



This report was issued by OCHA Uganda. It covers the period from 3 to 7 March 2010. The next report will be issued on or around 11 March.

I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- **83 bodies have been retrieved from the three villages buried under landslides in Bududa District; over 300 people are still missing.**
- **5,000 people are expected to be relocated from Bududa District disaster area.**
- **The likelihood of water-borne disease outbreaks remains high in Butaleja District, where floods have either submerged or cut off health facilities, schools, and other critical infrastructure.**

II. Situation Overview

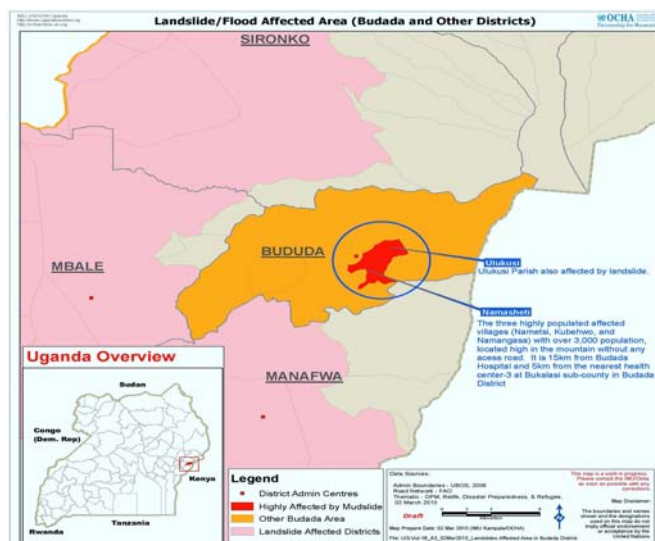
On Monday 1 March 2010, landslides and floods occurred in the areas around Mt. Elgon in eastern Uganda following consecutive days of heavy downpours.

In **Bududa District** where landslides buried three whole villages in Nametsi Parish of Bukalasi sub-county, the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) confirmed 83 bodies have been retrieved as of 7 March 2010, while over 300 residents remain unaccounted for. Search and retrieval operations led by the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) are expected to continue.

The area's remote location high up in the mountain has prevented the deployment of more effective earth moving equipment, leaving the UPDF and local volunteers to employ shovels, hand hoes, and sticks. Nearly a week after the disaster, attention is turning to the relocation of residents to safer areas amid continuing rains and heightened fear of more landslides. Temporary relocation sites for the 5,000 people who have indicated willingness to move have been identified at Bulucheke sub-county headquarters located at least 7 km from the scene of the disaster. Previously Bukalasi, situated 4 km distant, was identified as a prospective site but further assessment has deemed the location as inappropriate.

In **Butaleja District**, which is located at the foot of Mt. Elgon, floods submerged crop fields and vital infrastructure, including some roads, schools and houses. In the sub-counties of Budumba, Busaba, Nawanju, Busolwe, Busabi and Busolwe Town Council, thousands of acres of paddy rice fields, cassava sweet potatoes, maize, sorghum, millet and vegetables – the major source of livelihood – have been affected by water, translating into an-as-yet undetermined loss of crop yield. In total, as many as 20,000 households may have been affected by the disaster with 1,000 households (6000 people) of immediate concern.

Two suspected cases of cholera have been reported: one at Nawoyo Health Centre III in Nawoyo sub-county and another at Kabasa Memorial Hospital in Mazimasa sub-county. An estimated 15,000 households may be under threat of water-borne diseases as a result of submerged pit latrines. Additionally, Doho Health Centre II in Mazimasa sub-county and Namulo Health Centre II in Himutu sub-county are surrounded by water and have been rendered inaccessible.



Four primary schools – two in Mazimasa and two in Himutu - with a total population of 2,159 pupils have been closed, while five additional schools are under threat of submersion should the rains continue.

The Government of Uganda continues to lead the humanitarian response, with two inter-agency teams dispatched to Butaleja and Bududa on 3 March 2010. The United Nations and partners participated in the assessments and are active in coordination and response to the disasters under the government's auspices.

Further assessments are ongoing.

III. Humanitarian Needs and Response

Search and Rescue

With bodies beginning to decompose, search and retrieval teams in Bududa District require personal protective gear, including gloves, masks and gowns.

Education

The four submerged primary schools of Doho and Namehere in Mazimasa sub-county, and Lubembe and Bugombe in Himutu sub-county need to be relocated, as do the two primary schools of Namwetsi and Tumwatsi threatened by landslides in Bududa District. Identification of suitable temporary locations is ongoing. Subsequent needs will include construction of classrooms at the new sites and provision of essential school supplies and scholastic materials.

For the schools partially affected by flooding, there is urgent need for mobile pit latrines.

UNICEF and Save the Children in Uganda are active in Bududa, the latter providing two temporary structures and four latrines. There are currently no operational partners in the sector in Butaleja.

Emergency Shelter & Non-Food Items

As of this report, 899 households from the landslide-affected areas in Bududa District have been registered at the Bulucheke temporary relocation site.

Since the relocation site in Bukalasi has been deemed inappropriate, the District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC) is now discouraging any further relocations to the site and today transferred over 300 people from Bukalasi to Bulucheke.

At present, the Government and partners have responded with:

Shelter: 55 camping tents (OPM); 1,000 pieces of plastic sheeting (UNHCR); 750 tarpaulins (UNICEF, ICRC and URCS); 10 pieces of 72m² tents and 50 pieces of 24m² tents (UNICEF); 6,110 blankets (OPM, ICRC, URCS, UNICEF and AVSI);

UNDP has provided 10 hydraform machines to be used in the construction of huts and community structures.

NFIs: 1,350 kits (UNICEF, CRS), 2165 plates (ICRC, AVSI); 4,000 cups (ICRC, AVSI); 506 cooking pots (ICRC, AVSI); 1,994 buckets with lids (UNICEF, AVSI); 6,657 jerrycans of 20 ltrs each (URCS, ICRC, UNICEF, AVSI).

An additional 7,500 blankets are required, particularly for Butaleja, which also needs 1,500 extra 20-ltr jerrycans. Full NFI needs are contingent on the outcome of the resettlement question, i.e. camps, host families, or both.

Food and Nutrition

According to the DDMCs of the two districts, 5,300 people will need food aid for three months in Bududa, and 120,000 people in Butaleja require relief food for a month.

OPM has delivered 200 bags (each 100 kg) of maize flour and 60 bags of beans to the Bulucheke site. An additional 700 bags will also be dispatched.

FAO will supply 10 kg of seeds per household, targeting 1,000 households in Bududa, and another 10 kg of seeds per household targeting the 20,000 people whose crop fields were submerged in Butaleja. CRS plans

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to distribute seed packages to 500 households. Both FAO and CRS are providing two hoes per household for a total of 1,000 households in Bududa.

Health & Nutrition

Urgent health needs include: support in accessing medical facilities; improving essential drugs supply; instituting measures to mitigate outbreaks of especially water-borne diseases, including rapid diagnostic kits, monitoring and surveillance systems, outreach services, sensitizations programmes and messages, and reinforcing the health workforce; providing psychosocial support; and conducting a nutrition assessment.

WHO has provided two cholera kits, while the Ministry of Health has prepositioned one in neighbouring Mbale District.

UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health with two Inter-agency Emergency Health Kits (IEHK) basic units (basic drugs and equipment to treat wounds, eye infections, diarrhea and other diseases serving up to 1,000 people for three months or 10,000 for one month), one IEHK supplementary drugs 1a, and one IEHK supplementary 3 (syringes, dressing supplies etc, serving up to 10,000 for three months). Some 250 body bags have been provided by UNICEF, WHO and ICRC.

UNICEF and UNFPA have dispatched reproductive health kits, while UNHCR has distributed insecticide-treated nets.

Logistics & Transport

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

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 supports to the Government's command center to support ground operations.

Protection

Protection concerns remain over children who may have lost their parents or who are separated from their families. Additional needs include ensuring that the ill, elderly and other vulnerable populations have access to services, and monitoring of sexual and gender based violence.

UNFPA has provided 1,200 dignity kits, comprising a bucket, t-shirts, underwear, washing soap, sanitary pads, towel, and razor blade.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

Immediate needs include safe drinking water, water storage containers, water purification/chlorination tablets, latrines and soap.

UNICEF has dispatched 5,200 packs of water purification tablets and 100 sachets of water disinfectant powder. An additional 380 purification tablets have been provided by ICRC, through URCS.

UNICEF has also provided two 10,000 litre water tanks and one 2,500 litre tank, while the Government is making available two tankers.

Partners, including ICRC through URCS and Save the Children in Uganda, have distributed jerrycans and soap.

AVSI provided 100 plastic slabs for emergency latrines

Other urgent needs include: trucking of water to the affected populations; drilling of boreholes and rehabilitation of water springs; completion and extension of a gravity water flow scheme in Bulucheke; water quality surveillance; provision of mobile and Ecosan toilets, and construction of latrines.

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IV. Coordination

Coordination is being led by the Office of the Minister for Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees under the Office of the Prime Minister. The second coordination meeting at the OPM Kampala Coordination Center took place on Saturday 6 March to discuss results of the field assessments and map the needs and response.

V. Funding

The Government is in the process of developing an appeal, which is scheduled for launch on 10 March 2010.

VI. Contact

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