



**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

Uganda – Complex Emergency

Situation Report #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2004

October 21, 2003

BACKGROUND

Armed conflict in northern and eastern Uganda combined with violent looting and cattle raids by Karamojong pastoralists in the east have resulted in high numbers of internally displaced persons (IDPs), creating Uganda’s worst humanitarian crisis in 17 years. More than 1.2 million people were displaced as of September 30, 2003, according to the U.N. World Food Program (WFP). Ongoing conflict has threatened food security, even in typically productive agricultural areas, and insecurity has undermined the effective delivery of humanitarian assistance.

Since 1986, the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA), led by Joseph Kony, has waged an insurgency in northern Uganda, primarily using southern Sudan as a base for attacks on government forces and civilians. LRA attacks have displaced more than 80 percent of the ethnic Acholi population in Gulu, Kitgum, and Pader districts. During the conflict, the LRA has abducted more than 20,000 children for the purposes of forced conscription and sexual exploitation. Prior to April 2002, northern Uganda enjoyed 18 months of relative stability. However, continued attacks and unsuccessful cease-fire negotiations led the Government of Uganda (GOU) to launch Operation Iron Fist in March 2002. Under an agreement with the Government of Sudan (GOS), the GOU sent 10,000 Uganda Peoples Defense Forces (UPDF) troops to disable the LRA’s camps in southern Sudan. As a result of this operation, LRA forces have entered northern and eastern Uganda, attacking villages and camps and creating a humanitarian emergency.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	SOURCE
Internally Displaced Persons	Total: 1,217,332 WFP (September 2003)
Refugees in Uganda	Total: 210,600 160,000 from Sudan 14,300 from Rwanda 20,000 from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) 5,000 from other countries U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and U.S. Committee for Refugees (UCSR)
Ugandan Refugees	Total: 20,000 10,000 in the DRC 5,000 in Sudan 5,000 in Kenya UNHCR and UCSR

Total FY 2003 USAID/OFDA Assistance to Uganda..... \$3,990,215
Total FY 2003 USG Humanitarian Assistance to Uganda\$70,349,912

CURRENT SITUATION

Peace process remains stalled, LRA attacks continue.

After a brief cease-fire in March 2003, hostilities resumed in April when LRA forces killed a GOU peace envoy. The LRA has rejected a GOU amnesty offer and continues to attack IDP camps. On September 12, the GOU renewed its “Operation Iron Fist” agreement with the GOS, extending by three months its ability to carry out operations against the LRA in southern Sudan.

Since the end of the cease-fire, the LRA has become more violent and has extended its attacks beyond the usual northern zones of conflict. In June, the LRA began to attack villages and IDP camps south of the Acholi Region, including the of Apac, Lira, Kaberamaido, Katakwi, and Soroti districts of Langi and Teso regions. In addition, LRA attacks have extended to Adjumani and Moyro districts in the

northwestern West Nile Region and the Kotido District in northeastern Karamoja Region. In October, the GOU began to build camps for IDPs that have been living with host families or in public areas.

Number of IDPs increases in Acholi and Teso regions.

In the Acholi Region, where fighting has displaced more than 80 percent of the population, the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (UN OCHA) estimates that 379,500 IDPs reside in Gulu District and that 229,115 IDPs live in Pader District. WFP estimates that 105,058 people are in camps in Kitgum District.

In the Teso Region, LRA attacks have displaced 333,000 residents since June. The total number of IDPs is 104,000 in Katakwi, 136,000 in Soroti, 34,000 in

Kaberamaido, and more than 59,000 in Kumi. The IDPs have either been absorbed by local households or have settled in public areas including schools, hospitals, and churches. Soroti officials have recently received GOU permission to establish a new IDP camp. However, the new camp capacity is limited to 10,000 inhabitants.

Effects of LRA attacks on children.

An estimated 20,000 children have been abducted in the course of the 17-year civil war, with the rate of kidnappings increasing since the breakdown of the peace process. According to U.N. estimates, 8,400 children have been abducted in LRA raids between June 2002 and June 2003. An additional 2,000 children have been abducted since July, of whom an estimated 1,280 have been recovered by the GOU.

An estimated 13,000 and 7,000 “night-stayers” in Gulu and Kitgum, respectively, commute to sleep within the security provided by the city limits. According to an international NGO, the number of night-stayers in Gulu town tripled between February and May 2003. The majority of night-stayers are children who walk up to 10 km to seek refuge from the threat of LRA abductions. However, many lack shelter and must sleep in the open, increasing the risk of abuse and sexual exploitation. USAID/OFDA is concerned about this development and continues to monitor the situation.

Since January 2003, an estimated 4,000 displaced children have fled LRA attacks in Pader District, and remain stranded in the neighboring Karamoja Region. Many are enrolled in local schools and receive food from WFP. Due to the insecure environment, children cannot reunite with family members.

Insecurity restricts humanitarian access in the north.

Access to IDPs in the northern Acholi, Teso, and Karamoja regions remains restricted due to LRA attacks. Humanitarian deliveries are frequently ambushed and relief workers killed. In April, Karamojong warriors ambushed and fired on a World Vision International (WVI) vehicle in the Karamoja Region, killing a staff member. In August, the LRA ambushed three trucks carrying WFP food from the Katakwi District in Teso to the northeastern district of Moroto in Karamoja. UPDF military escorts are used when transporting and distributing food assistance.

Food security deteriorates in northern Uganda.

Until early 2002, many residents in IDP camps maintained access to their farming plots. However, the resurgence in LRA violence has limited agricultural activities. The LRA has targeted IDP camps, ambushed road traffic, and looted or burned many crops, therefore curtailing access to the agricultural fields and increasing dependence among IDPs on humanitarian assistance. According to the USAID Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS NET), LRA

activities hampered humanitarian operations in Gulu and Pader districts, where only 50 percent and 30 percent of camps were reached, respectively. In Kitgum District, all IDP camps and drought-affected sub-counties received food assistance due to better security.

In June, when conflict spread to the Teso Region, 333,000 residents fled their villages and fields, and became increasingly dependent on humanitarian relief organizations. Under a USAID/OFDA grant, the Ugandan Red Cross provided immediate assistance of non-food items to IDPs in Soroti District, Teso Region. WFP currently supplies 90 percent of IDP nutritional needs. On September 29, WFP began to distribute 2,244 metric tons (MT) of food, valued at \$1.2 million, to 292,000 Teso Region residents. However, on October 10, the lack of a GOU military security clearance and logistical constraints prevented food distributions. USAID/OFDA continues to monitor the situation.

On September 11, FEWS NET reported that IDPs in northern and eastern Uganda face moderate to high food insecurity. Low production in early 2003 has increased the risk of food insecurity and diminished the likelihood of any improvement in food access during the next four to six months. WFP anticipates a shortfall of 18,000 MT of cereals and 9,000 MT of pulses from October through December 2003. To meet the pulses shortfall, WFP has called forward 10,000 MT of red pinto beans from USAID/FFP. After other international contributions, WFP anticipates that the remaining cereal shortfall will be approximately 10,000 MT. WFP is completing an Emergency Food Needs Assessment (EFNA) including an assessment of IDPs’ coping mechanisms and may adjust ration levels based on the EFNA results.

Improved harvests, violence in Karamoja Region.

After two years of severe drought, the northeastern Karamoja Region received rain in May 2003. A FEWS NET assessment team determined that the region received near normal, well-distributed rainfall. The rains have improved livestock conditions and food security. FEWS NET concluded that the region may not require emergency food assistance, but WFP will continue target feeding programs for school children and hospitals. Incidents of cattle rustling, looting, raping, and killing among the Karamojong and with neighboring ethnic groups have continued. On September 20, a Karamojong cattle raid killed 31 people, most from the Ngariam IDP camp in Katakwi. Due to the insecurity, WFP is the only international organization operating in the Karamoja Region.

Deteriorating health situation in eastern Uganda.

In eastern Uganda, the increasing number of IDPs has overwhelmed the capacity of local relief organizations to respond, triggering a health crisis. Crowded IDP

camps with inadequate water and sanitation facilities have led to poor health among IDPs. Where schools double as IDP housing, illnesses quickly spread to students and local residents.

Most doctors in the Kumi and Soroti districts face drug shortages. In late August, doctors exhausted medicine necessary to cure easily treatable diseases. Malaria, measles, diarrhea, and pneumonia kill a number of children on a daily basis. Drug shortages have occurred, and the Ministry of Health (MOH) has not increased normal drug stock allotments since LRA attacks began in June. However, in other districts, the GOU has refused assistance from the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), stating that local health authorities must first purchase stocks with GOU allocated money.

The presence of thousands of IDPs living in local schools has disrupted education for students in Teso Region. Meanwhile, most IDP students lack access to educational services. In Soroti District, the school system has absorbed only 5,000, out of an estimated 15,000, IDP students.

Relocation of Sudanese refugees creates difficulties.

In early September, the GOU relocated approximately 16,000 Sudanese refugees from the congested Kiryandongo Camp in Masindi to the West Nile settlements of Madi Okollo and Ikafe, in Arua and Yumbe districts, respectively. The GOU did not inform the UNHCR or the international community prior to the relocation. According to international press reports, the new camps lack adequate schools and sanitation facilities. On September 28, the UNHCR began the process of reuniting 448 Sudanese minors that were separated from their families during the relocation.

Rwandan refugees to return home.

On August 4, the GOU announced plans to repatriate Rwandan refugees following an agreement with the Government of Rwanda and UNHCR. The repatriation is scheduled to begin on November 1, 2003.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

On October 1, 2003, U.S. Ambassador Jimmy Kolker redeclared a disaster in response to the ongoing complex humanitarian emergency in northern Uganda. In response to the humanitarian crisis during FY 2003, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$4 million in emergency humanitarian assistance to Uganda.

USAID/OFDA is providing assistance in the emergency health and nutrition and water and sanitation sectors to conflict-affected areas of Uganda. In response to security and access concerns, USAID/OFDA provided \$300,000 to UN OCHA during FY 2003 to enhance coordination efforts among the humanitarian relief community and to establish an office in Kitgum.

During FY 2004, USAID/OFDA plans to increase levels of assistance to respond to the escalating humanitarian crisis in Uganda. The rising number of IDPs, restricted access to agricultural land and livelihoods, and intensifying LRA attacks in northern and eastern Uganda compound already critical emergency needs.

USAID/Uganda's strategic interventions in the northern and western districts of Uganda aim to mitigate the impact of conflict and increase community resilience through humanitarian and relief-to-development assistance. USAID/Uganda's \$15 million Community Resilience and Dialogue (CRD) activity, from September 2002 through 2007, assists conflict victims, including communities living under the threat of attack, families that have moved to IDP camps, current and former abductees, and ex-combatants who have received amnesty.

In FY 2003, USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) provided to Uganda 102,160 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance valued at more than \$58 million. These commodities included maize, corn-soy blend, vegetable oil, and pulses.

The Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) continues to support the humanitarian needs of refugees in the region through funding to UNHCR, WFP, the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and NGOs. In FY 2003, State/PRM has provided \$3.2 million to UNHCR for assistance to refugees in Uganda, support for environmental programs and refugee children's programs. State/PRM also contributed \$170,000 to the IFRC to provide assistance to Rwandan and Congolese refugees in Uganda. Other State/PRM funding includes \$2.4 million to WFP, more than \$519,000 to Lutheran World Relief (LWR), and \$246,000 to International Medical Corps.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO UGANDA – COMPLEX EMERGENCY FY 2003			
<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Regions</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE			
AAH/USA	TFC / Nutrition Activities	Northern Uganda	\$283,500
AmRC	Assistance to conflict areas	Northern Uganda	\$445,866
AVSI	Health, water, and sanitation	Gulu, Kitgum, and Pader Districts	\$393,600
CARE	Emergency health	Gulu District	\$586,636
GIRD	Emergency health	Pader District	\$131,599
IMC	Emergency health and nutrition	Kitgum, Gulu, and Pader Districts	\$600,000
IRC	Emergency water and sanitation	Kitgum and Lira Districts	\$366,000
IRC	Water and sanitation	Kitgum, Pader, and Lira Districts	\$349,883
MEDAIR	Water and sanitation	Pader District	\$200,000
UN OCHA	Coordination of humanitarian activities	Country-wide	\$100,000
UN OCHA	Establishment of OCHA office	Kitgum	\$200,000
Uganda Red Cross	Emergency non-food items through USAID/Kampala	Northern Uganda	\$100,000
WVI	Sanitation	Northern Uganda	\$233,131
TOTAL FY 2003 USAID/OFDA			\$3,990,215
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			
WFP	102,160 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Country-wide	\$58,579,572
TOTAL FY 2003 USAID/FFP			\$58,579,572
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
COREDA	Water rehabilitation through Ambassador's Fund project	Kyaka II, Kyenjonjo District	\$18,755
IFRC	Assistance to Congolese refugees	Nebbi and Bundibugyo	\$50,000
IFRC	Assistance to Rwandan refugees	Southern Uganda	\$120,000
IMC	Sexual and Gender-based	Mbarara and Hoima	\$246,053
IRC	Health, Water, and Sanitation	Masindi	\$725,000
LWR	Assistance to refugees	Adjumani	\$519,889
UNHCR	Assistance to refugees	Country-wide	\$2,200,000
UNHCR	Support for environmental programs	Country-wide	\$100,000
UNHCR	Support for refugee children's programs	Country-wide	\$440,000
UNHCR	Assistance to DRC refugees	Country-wide	\$255,000
UNHCR	Assistance to Sudanese refugees	Arua and Yumbe	\$285,000
WFP	Assistance to refugees	Country-wide	\$2,400,000
TOTAL FY 2003 STATE/PRM¹			\$7,359,697
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO UGANDA IN FY 2003.....			\$70,349,912



Bernd McConnell
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¹ State/PRM figures for FY 2003 do not include unearmarked funding for UNHCR and ICRC Africa-wide programs.

*USAID/OFDA bulletins can be obtained from the USAID web site at http://www.usaid.gov/hum_response/ofda/situation.html