



**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 #2, Fiscal Year (FY) 2004

March 18, 2004

Note: The last situation report was dated October 21, 2003.

BACKGROUND

Since 1986, the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA), led by Joseph Kony, has waged an insurgency in northern Uganda, primarily using camps in southern Sudan as a base for attacks on government forces and civilians. According to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), LRA attacks have displaced more than 80 percent of the ethnic Acholi population in Gulu, Kitgum, and Pader districts. LRA tactics to brutalize Ugandan civilians include looting, burning houses, torture, mutilation, and abduction of children for the purposes of forced conscription, forced labor, and sexual servitude. Prior to April 2002, northern Uganda enjoyed 18 months of relative stability. However, continued LRA attacks and improving relations between Uganda and Sudan, led the Government of Uganda (GOU) to launch ‘Operation Iron Fist’ in March 2002. Through an agreement with the Government of Sudan (GOS), the GOU sent 10,000 Uganda Peoples Defense Forces (UPDF) troops to disable LRA camps in southern Sudan. As a result of this operation, LRA forces entered northern and eastern Uganda, attacking villages, assaulting camps for internally displaced people (IDPs), and exacerbating the humanitarian emergency.

During 2003 and early 2004, the humanitarian situation in northern Uganda deteriorated dramatically. LRA attacks expanded from the Acholi districts of Kitgum, Gulu, and Pader into Lira, Apac, Kaberamaido, Katakwi, and Soroti districts of Langi and Teso regions in eastern Uganda. The escalating civil conflict and violence directed towards civilians combined with looting and cattle raids by Karamojong pastoralists in eastern Uganda have resulted in Uganda’s worst humanitarian crisis in 18 years. According to the U.N. World Food Program (WFP), nearly 1.4 million Ugandans have fled their homes and live without shelter or in camps. Many IDP camps lack adequate protection, sanitation facilities, and health care, leaving displaced Ugandans vulnerable to further LRA attacks and to disease. The conflict threatens food security, even in normally productive agricultural areas, and continued insecurity hinders the ability of relief workers to provide humanitarian assistance and deliver relief commodities. As the scale of the conflict widened during 2003, LRA child abductions increased. The U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF) estimates that the LRA abducted 8,500 Ugandan children in 2003, in addition to approximately 20,000 abducted between 1986 and 2003. A significant number of northern Ugandans, especially children seeking protection from abduction, have become night commuters, traveling each evening from vulnerable rural communities to spend the night in the perceived safety of urban centers.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Internally Displaced Persons	1,397,899	WFP (February 2004)
Refugees in Uganda	207,654	UN OCHA (December 2003)
Ugandan Refugees	Total: 20,000 10,000 in the DRC 5,000 in Sudan 5,000 in Kenya	U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the U.S. Committee for Refugees (USCR)

Total FY 2004 USAID/OFDA Assistance to Uganda..... \$3,991,053
Total FY 2004 USG Humanitarian Assistance to Uganda\$28,564,483

CURRENT SITUATION

Peace process remains stalled; LRA violence continues. Areas of northern and eastern Uganda remain insecure due to continued LRA brutality against civilian populations. Fear of attack continues to force vulnerable Ugandans into IDP camps, which are largely unprotected. According to UN OCHA, on February 5, members of the LRA, dressed as UPDF soldiers, entered the Abia IDP camp, near the town of Lira, and

killed approximately 50 residents. IDP witnesses reported that between 300 and 350 armed combatants attacked the camp. Many of the IDPs relocated to other camps in Lira District following the attack, which came less than one week after the UPDF searched Pabbo camp in Gulu District to arrest suspected LRA collaborators. International media reports indicate that a fire destroyed 4,000 homes during a UPDF operation

USAID/OFDA bulletins can be obtained from the USAID web site at
http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/countries/fy2004_index.html

U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO UGANDA

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
AAH/USA	Nutrition	Gulu	\$500,000
GOAL	Nutrition, Health	Pader	\$299,918
IMC	Health	Pader, Kitgum, Soroti	\$695,000
IRC	Health, Water and Sanitation	Pader, Kitgum, Soroti	\$749,985
MEDAIR	Water and Sanitation, Non-Food Items	Pader	\$273,650
UNFAO	Coordination, Food Security, Agriculture	Countrywide	\$211,000
UNICEF	Health Coordination Funds	Countrywide	\$250,000
UN OCHA	Coordination	Countrywide	\$500,000
WVI	Sanitation, Shelter	Gulu, Kitgum, Soroti	\$500,000
Administrative Costs			\$11,500
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$3,991,053
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			
WFP ²	P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance – 38,040 MT	Countrywide	\$24,573,430
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$24,573,430
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO UGANDA IN FY 2004			\$28,564,483
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO UGANDA IN FY 2004.....			\$28,564,483

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents committed and/or obligated amount as of March 18, 2004.

² Estimated value of food assistance.



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