

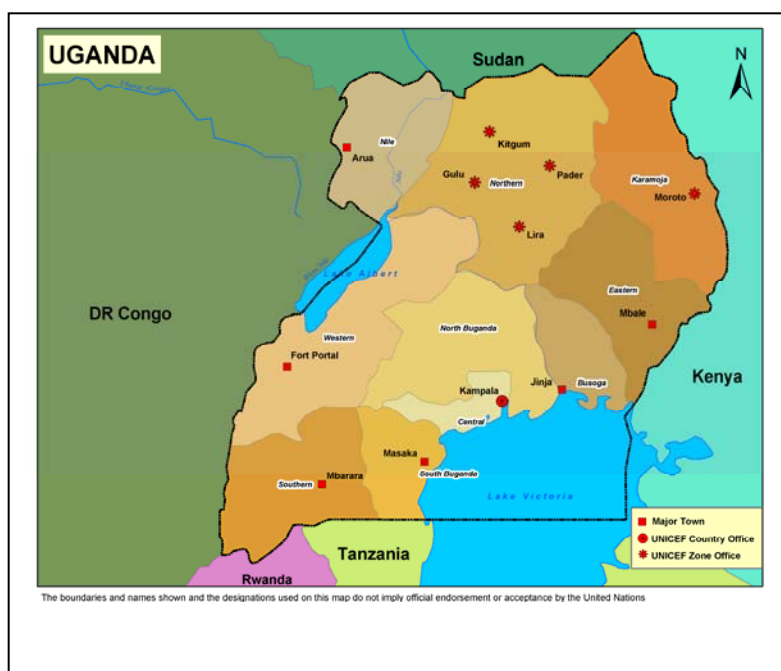
For every child
Health, Education, Equality, Protection
ADVANCE HUMANITY



UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION

UGANDA

IN 2008



CORE COUNTRY DATA	
Population under 18 (thousands)	16828
U5 mortality rate (2006)	134
Infant mortality rate 2006)	78
Maternal mortality ratio (2000-2006, reported)	510
% U1 fully immunized (DPT3)	80
% population using improved drinking water sources (rural/urban)	56/87
Estimated no. of people (all ages) living with HIV, 2005 (thousands)	310
% U5 suffering moderate and severe underweight/stunting	20/32

Source: *The State of the World's Children 2008*

Gradually secure conditions in the north have allowed internally displaced populations to return to original homesteads. But absent a permanent peace and basic infrastructure to fully absorb the recovery process, families will be averse to return all the way home. The north-east in 2007 has been affected by endemic conflict, a poor harvest and late onset of rains. Funds raised will enable UNICEF and partners to provide frontline, lifesaving assistance to 3.6 million children, including 1.5 million under-five children.

Summary of UNICEF financial needs for 2008	
Sector	US\$
Health and nutrition	8,191,920
Water, sanitation and hygiene	17,619,593
Education	13,717,400
Child protection	9,784,755
HIV/AIDS	3,439,900
Family shelter and non-food items	5,298,426
Total*	58,051,994

* The total includes a maximum recovery rate of 7 per cent. The actual recovery rate on contributions will be calculated in accordance with UNICEF Executive Board Decision 2006/7 dated 9 June 2006.

1. CRITICAL ISSUES FOR CHILDREN

Two decades of armed conflict between the Uganda People's Defense Forces and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) have perpetuated a complex humanitarian situation in northern Uganda's Acholi and Lango subregions, marked by violence, poverty and the internal displacement of more than 1.3 million people. Children and women represent 80 per cent of internally displaced persons (IDPs). Ongoing negotiations between the Government and LRA hold the promise of an increasingly secure environment to enable return, rehabilitation and recovery. At the time of this report, however, neither large-scale returns of IDPs nor the official release of children and women associated with the LRA – estimated to number as high as 1,500 – have occurred. While IDP population movements from camps to new settlement sites and areas of origin continue, assessments by humanitarian organizations in almost all rural areas of return indicate a stark lack of infrastructure.

Humanitarian indicators in the north-eastern Karamoja subregion remain persistently lower than national averages due to an endemic conflict involving the agro-pastoralist Karamajong population, as well as Turkana populations (from Kenya and neighbouring districts) on occasion. The subregion in 2007 faced severe food insecurity crises due to a poor harvest and late onset of rains, leading to more than half the population (500,000 out of 900,000) reliant on external humanitarian assistance. Following the Government's resumption in May 2006 of a forced disarmament programme to address insecurity created by the illegal possession of firearms by some Karamajong members, security conditions have deteriorated, with the pronounced impact of civilian casualties, internal displacement and a pattern of out-migration to neighbouring districts and urban centres.

2. KEY ACTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2007

In close collaboration with local, national and international partners, UNICEF continues to respond to the humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable populations in the most disadvantaged districts of northern and north-eastern Uganda. The focus has been on the priority areas of emergency health and nutrition, basic education, clean water, HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment, child protection and shelter.

In the area of health and nutrition, UNICEF immunized more than 318,000 children against measles and 218,000 against diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus; administered vitamin A to 430,000 children and deworming tablets to an additional 1.3 million children; treated 150,000 children for fever and diarrhoea within 24 hours of disease onset; treated 3,400 severely malnourished children; and distributed insecticide-treated mosquito nets to 145,000 pregnant women with under-five children to prevent and control malaria;

UNICEF constructed 200 water points to provide 175,000 IDPs with access to clean water, in addition to the ongoing rehabilitation of water points for 850,000 IDPs in 57 camp settlements. The installation of 8,998 latrine stances benefited 360,000 IDPs. A major 'Back to School' campaign returned 727,000 children and 12,000 teachers to the classroom. The distribution of learning and recreational materials, as well as newly constructed classrooms and school water and sanitation facilities served 537,000 children. UNICEF and partners reunited over 1,000 formerly abducted children with their families; assisted 28,000 vulnerable children/youth – including the formerly abducted – through basic skills training, income-generating activities, structured play and peer support groups; and facilitated access to basic services for 1,200 sexual and domestic violence survivors. In the area of HIV/AIDS, voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) services were provided to 21,000 young persons living in IDP camps and to over 31,000 pregnant women as part of antenatal care.

3. PLANNED HUMANITARIAN ACTION FOR 2008

Coordination and partnership

Activities are implemented with District Local Governments, sister UN agencies and more than 40 NGO partners. In Uganda, UNICEF is the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) cluster leader in water and sanitation; sub-cluster leader in child protection; and chair of the Working Group on Education in Emergencies.

Regular programme

UNICEF supports interventions in all conflict-affected and post-conflict districts of northern and north-eastern Uganda, with emergency response and Country Programme interventions interchanged based on security and assessed needs. UNICEF prepares an annual plan for capacity development activities in the north and north-east, funded by the regular budget with humanitarian response activities integrated into the overall plan as resources become available.

Health and nutrition (US\$ 8,191,920)

Some 1.5 million children, 200,000 women of childbearing age (15-45) and 50,000 acutely malnourished children will benefit from the following key activities:

- Provide regular static and outreach services, pulse immunization activities;
- Rehabilitate health centres in conflict-affected and IDP returnee areas;
- Procure and distribute insecticide-treated mosquito nets;
- In support of the integrated management of childhood illnesses initiative equip health facilities and train health workers in newborn care and management of diarrhoea;
- Undertake integrated, community-based maternal, newborn and child health interventions;
- Promote infant and young child feeding and nutrition; support interventions to combat vitamin and mineral deficiency.

Water, sanitation and hygiene (US\$ 17,549,583)

Some 1 million people, including 220,000 under-five children and 250,000 women of childbearing age, will benefit from the following key activities:

- Construct safe water points and rehabilitate existing facilities in transitional settlement sites and return areas, with particular focus on schools and health centres;
- Construct sanitation facilities in schools and health centres;
- Train and provide equipment for community-owned maintenance;
- Promote sanitation and hygiene.

Education (US\$ 13,717,400)

Some 300,000 primary school-aged children (6-12 years) and 2,000 teachers will benefit from the following key activities:

- Expand the 'Go to School, Back to School, Stay in School' campaign in all districts of Karamoja;
- Rehabilitate primary schools in conflict-affected districts and IDP return areas;
- Run in-service teacher training programmes in thematic curriculum instruction, psychosocial education and gender-responsive pedagogy;
- Expand the Girls' Education Movement (GEM) to support child and young people's participation.

Child protection (US\$ 9,784,755)

Some 8,000 children and women associated with the LRA, 300,000 children in conflict-affected and insecure areas, and 400,000 women and children at risk of gender-based violence will benefit from the following key activities:

- Support the government to ensure the application of standards and child-friendly procedures;
- Support child protection agencies to conduct cross-border family tracing and reunification, and provide interim care/transit facilities and alternative care arrangements for vulnerable children and children associated with armed groups;
- Expand monitoring and reporting mechanisms on child rights violations, and prevent and respond to underage recruitment in armed forces/groups;
- Support multisectoral prevention and response to gender-based violence through improved access to quality health, psychosocial, protection and legal services;
- Accelerate birth/death registration systems.

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HIV/AIDS (US\$ 3,439,900)

Some 1.2 million women of childbearing age and 35,000 persons with advanced HIV status will benefit from the following key activities:

- Procure and distribute HIV and syphilis test kits to health facilities;
- Train clinical teams in northern Uganda and Karamoja in comprehensive HIV care, antiretroviral treatment and prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT);
- Support HIV/AIDS commodities procurement and supply-chain management.

Family shelter and non-food items (US\$ 5,298,426)

Some 590,000 persons, living in conflict-affected districts and/or made vulnerable by natural disaster, will benefit from the following key activities:

- Provide and distribute non-food items/emergency family kits. Each kit contains one 4x5 piece plastic sheeting; three blankets; two 20-litre non collapsible jerrycans; one cooking set for five persons (five plates, five cups, five forks, five spoons, one knife, two pots) and 1 kg of soap.