

UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION UGANDA

DONOR UPDATE 22 DECEMBER 2004

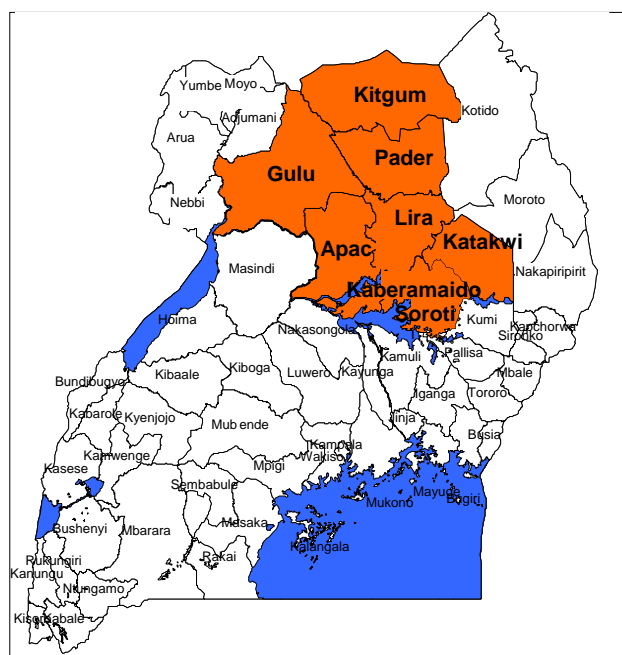
HEALTH, WATER AND SHELTER ITEMS URGENTLY NEEDED TO EASE IMPACT OF CONFLICT ON CHILDREN

- IDP population at 1.4 million (80% children and women)
- Water and sanitation sector remains inadequately funded; other shortfalls threaten delivery of life-saving interventions

1. EMERGENCY OVERVIEW AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Violence, displacement and poverty attendant to northern Uganda's child-centric armed conflict are exacerbating an already strained humanitarian situation, while the rights of children to health services, water, primary education and protection are not fully attained in the conflict-affected districts.¹ The continued extensions of the Government of Uganda's November 2004 offer to the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) for a limited ceasefire have contributed to the attenuation of hostilities; however, the long-term impact of this security-related development on the lives of the most vulnerable populations remains to be seen.

Approximately 1.4 million people, 80 per cent of them children and women, are displaced in the eight conflict-affected districts. Each night, principally in Gulu, Kitgum and Pader, the fear of LRA attacks and abductions drives some 35,000 "night commuter" children to seek shelter in town centres. During 2003 and 2004, a total of 15,000 persons – most of them children – were recorded abducted, with incidents being reported as recently as last week (3 children were abducted in Pader on the night of 14 December). The numbers of children killed in the conflict is unknown.



In the past four months, access in the Teso region – including access to Pader District – as well as in Lira District has improved; however, overall service delivery in the conflict-affected areas is affected by the LRA's lack of predictability, a limited assessment of emerging needs and inadequate response systems.

2. UNICEF'S RESPONSE: ACTIVITIES, ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONSTRAINTS

UNICEF's accelerated humanitarian response is conducted in close coordination with the local governments in the eight conflict-affected districts (Gulu, Kitgum, Pader, Lira, Apac, Soroti, Katakwi, Kaberamaido), WFP, OCHA and NGO implementing partners. The Government of Uganda has primary responsibility for emergency prevention, security, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.

¹ Gulu, Lira, Kitgum, Pader, Apac (north); Soroti, Katakwi, Kaberamaido (east)

Right to Health

UNICEF and its partners are providing emergency medicines to more than 300,000 children in the eight districts and supporting the activities of 1,400 community-based health volunteers (CORPS), based in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps, who treat an average 150 children each month. "Child Days," a national initiative to accelerate the provision of Vitamin A, de-worming programmes, and routine and catch-up immunizations were conducted throughout November in all IDP camps.

11 Therapeutic Feeding Centres (TFCs) are receiving support, with approximately 7,000 children treated between January and October 2004. UNICEF is assisting the Ministry of Health to strengthen both TFC and Supplementary Feeding Centre (SFC) reporting systems.

In coordination with Gulu District health services and MSF-France, UNICEF contributed to the interagency response to a cholera outbreak in the Pabbo and Atiak IDP camps in October, providing ORS, Ringer Lactate and tents for isolation treatments. UNICEF is also supporting the development of a national cholera-response strategy for all IDP camps in the eight districts.

Right to Education

UNICEF is supporting 36 Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres in the conflict-affected districts, through the provision of learning and recreational materials, and the training so far of 390 caregivers responsible for 20,000 children.

A total of 55 temporary learning centres have been constructed and equipped with UNICEF support, reaching more than 25,000 displaced pupils. UNICEF has further supported the distribution of scholastic materials for 30,000 primary school pupils and 175 teachers, and facilitated training in Girls Education Movement (GEM) principles for 600 children (400 girls) and 200 teachers in the districts.

Right to Water

UNICEF and its partners have supported the drilling of 55 boreholes and other water sources, and the repair of another 45, in IDP camps in the eight districts. Four motorised water systems were completed in Gulu District in November, with one installation conducted as part of ongoing efforts to decongest the Pabbo camp, the largest in the district (camp population: 60,000). It is estimated that the four systems will serve up to 140,000 people.

More than 2,500 latrines, serving an estimated 80,000 IDPs, have been installed with UNICEF support. Among the beneficiaries are child "night commuter" shelter sites in Gulu, Kitgum and Pader. 250 hand-washing facilities and 30 rain-water tanks have been installed in primary schools in Gulu to serve 10,000 children.

Right to Protection

UNICEF is supporting the provision of resettlement kits, tents, income-generation training, health-care and, in some cases, sanitation facilities and fencing, for reception centres assisting formerly abducted children who pass through following their captivity. More than 3,500 children passed through the eight UNICEF-supported centres in 2004.

UNICEF has sponsored the air and ground transport of more than 800 formerly abducted children to and from the reception centres for rehabilitation, and subsequently for reunification with family and home communities.

Approximately 30,000 child "night commuters" are receiving UNICEF assistance in the form of emergency shelter items (tents, blankets, soap, basins, jerry cans), and through the installation of clean water and sanitation facilities in the shelter sites. Together with other partners, UNICEF has supported the drafting of inter-agency guidelines for the care and protection of vulnerable and separated children within the framework provided by district authorities.

UNICEF is supporting an interagency assessment on the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), and a project on SGBV prevention in the Pabbo IDP camp.

1,500 teachers have been trained, with UNICEF support, on psychosocial counseling and various interactive methodologies, to enhance their capacity to help children who develop negative behaviour as a result of the conflict.

In collaboration with two major corporate sponsors, UNICEF has supported the first official competitive games (football, netball and other activities) for vulnerable children in Gulu District, in a league replicating a successful, Kampala-based



A child at the St. Joseph's Hospital TFC, Kitgum District

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"My appeal is that you consider us, the girls of northern Uganda. I speak like this because I have never seen peace, I have never tasted peace."

Child "night commuter," age 13

model. The Kids' League (TKL), in its first season, attracted up to 500 children weekly from mid-September, and was expanded to four IDP camps in November with another 1,000 girls and boys participating.

Right to Shelter

UNICEF continues to support implementing partners in Gulu, Kitgum, Pader and Lira to provide emergency shelter and household items to displaced families affected by LRA attacks, fire outbreaks and, more recently, extensive storm damage in the Pabbo IDP camp. In 2004, approximately 40,000 households received such items.

In Gulu and Pader, non-food item Family Kits (containing tarpaulin, blankets, jerricans, basins, plates, cups, cooking pans and soap) were distributed to more than 10,000 displaced households. UNICEF has also provided the non-food items to TFCs, ECD centres and reception centres in the districts, and has pre-positioned non-food item stockpiles in Kampala, Gulu and Kitgum to enable timely response to emergency needs.



A child "night commuter" arrives in Kitgum Town
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Implementation Constraints

The challenge to emergency response and protection interventions is the restricted humanitarian access to IDP populations in areas affected by the conflict and insurgency. This limits, complicates and slows emergency interventions, and restricts staff movement. UNICEF is utilising all means to solve the access issue, with reasonable assurance of security for humanitarian interventions. One such measure is the deployment since October of two, armour-plated vehicles at the UNICEF Gulu Zonal Office, for use by UNICEF and partner UN and NGO staff. One of the vehicles will be deployed in Kitgum in 2005.

3. FUNDING STATUS FOR 2004

Sector	Target (US\$)	Funded (US\$)	% Funded	Unfunded (US\$)
Education	2,600,000	866,466	33	1,733,534
Health and Nutrition	4,316,000	788,139	18	3,527,861
Adolescents' Rights to Self-Protection against HIV/AIDS	1,693,650	438,778	26	1,254,872
Rights of Children in Armed Conflict	2,148,154	3,626,805	169	-1,478,651
Water and Sanitation	3,570,000	1,232,245	35	2,337,755
Total	14,327,804	6,952,433	49	7,375,371

The following table indicates the contributions received, by donor, for the Appeal. UNICEF is grateful for the generous contributions which continue to assist ongoing humanitarian interventions for the most vulnerable children and women in Uganda.

Donor	Contribution (US\$)	Purpose
Sweden	1,875,830	Un-earmarked
DfID-UK	1,865,670	Rights of Children in Armed Conflict
USAID-OFDA	659,000	Emergency WES
Italy	624,220	Rights of Children in Armed Conflict
Netherlands	500,000	Rights of Children in Armed Conflict
Australia	427,214	Un-earmarked
Norway	288,900	Rights of Children in Armed Conflict
USAID-OFDA	250,000	Emergency Nutrition
US Fund	454,000	Rights of Children in Armed Conflict
South Africa	7,599	Rights of Children in Armed Conflict
Total	6,952,433	

DfID remains the largest donor for UNICEF-Uganda with a combined contribution of US\$ 6 million against CAP 2003 and CAP 2004.

4. APPEAL REQUIREMENTS FOR 2005

In the past 12 months, UNICEF has expanded and accelerated its response in the areas of health, water and sanitation, education and HIV/AIDS prevention. The more than 1,400 CORPS, trained in managing fever, malaria, respiratory infections and diarrhoea at the community level, are equipped with basic medicines. However, any funding shortfalls will block the necessary replenishment of supplies at the IDP camp level, interrupt services and increase the risk of death due to easily treated diseases.

The Ministry of Health, with the assistance of UNICEF and WHO, will implement "Child Days" for all under-5 children in the IDP camps in May 2005 to provide catch-up immunization, Vitamin A provision and de-worming. Failure to implement these activities risks a re-occurrence of measles disease and increased malnutrition.

Access to water and sanitation remains a major issue. Families living in the camps for the internally displaced have access to 4-12 litres of water per day, well below Sphere standards. Similarly, latrine coverage is low, both in the camps and in the temporary learning centres.

The table below outlines the Appeal requirements for 2005:

Table 3. APPEAL REQUIREMENTS FOR 2005	
Sector	US\$
Health and nutrition	7,869,317
Water and environmental sanitation	5,352,273
Education	6,477,272
Child protection	3,715,909
Family shelter and non-food items	4,403,409
Mine action	1,022,727
Coordination and support services	675,000
Total	29,515,907

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