

# UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION

## UGANDA

### DONOR UPDATE 28 FEBRUARY 2005

## US\$ 4.9 MILLION IMMEDIATELY NEEDED TO EASE IMPACT OF CONFLICT ON CHILDREN

- To provide 400,000 Ugandan children in IDP camps with basic education
- To provide 250,000 displaced with emergency shelter and household items
- To provide 1.4 million IDPs with clean water, sanitation and hygiene
- To ensure reintegration of formerly abducted children in safety and dignity

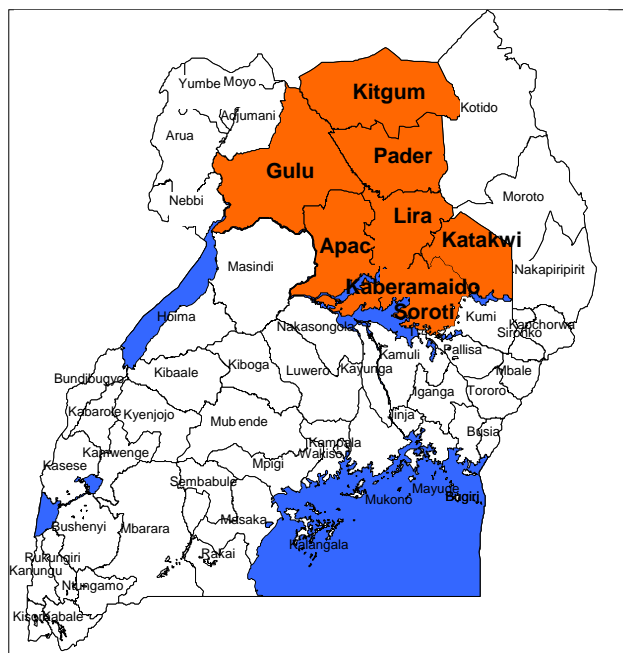
### 1. CRITICAL ISSUES FOR CHILDREN

The violence, displacement and poverty attendant to the 19-year conflict between the Government of Uganda (GoU) and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) have exacerbated an already strained humanitarian situation of children and women in northern Uganda. The rights of children to access basic healthcare, clean water, primary education, protection and shelter remain largely unfulfilled.

The eight worst affected districts of Gulu, Kitgum, Lira, Pader, Apac, Soroti, Katakwi and Kaberamaido are currently home to a total of 1.4 million internally displaced people (IDPs), 80 per cent of whom are children and women. Each evening, the threat of LRA attacks and abductions drives an estimated 30,000 child "night commuters" to leave their homes to sleep in the relative safety of urban centres (primarily in Gulu, Kitgum and Pader). An estimated 12,000 children have been abducted by the LRA in the conflict-affected districts since June 2002, forcibly recruited as child combatants and sex slaves.

Recent political and security developments, including a string of defections by senior LRA commanders and ongoing mediation efforts toward a more permanent cessation in hostilities (GoU's limited ceasefire offer expires 22 Feb), have created a precarious but critical opportunity for constructive progress. How the present scenario will unfold – and affect the situation of IDPs in the longer term – remains, however, uncertain at best.

The major challenge to emergency response and protection interventions is the restricted humanitarian access due to insecurity. It is estimated that social service providers and staff of humanitarian agencies can access only 20 per cent of the 210 IDP camps in the conflict-affected districts on a regular basis without heavily armed military escorts. UNICEF is utilizing all means to solve the issue of access, with reasonable assurance of security for humanitarian interventions, given the link between access and the gathering of more comprehensive data for designing specific interventions to improve the situation of children and women. One such measure has been the recent deployment of two armour-plated vehicles to the UNICEF Zonal Offices in Gulu and Kitgum for use by UNICEF and partner UN/NGOs.



## 2. PLANNED HUMANITARIAN ACTION FOR 2005

### Health and nutrition (US\$ 7,869,317)

More than 800,000 displaced children and women; 12,000 severely malnourished and 25,000 malnourished children will benefit from the following key activities:

- Fully immunize 90 per cent of infants and pregnant women in IDP camps with appropriate antigens.
- Treat 80 per cent of under-five children in IDP camps for malaria, pneumonia and diarrhoea within 24 hours.
- Provide adequate care resulting in cure rates of more than 75 per cent for severely malnourished children admitted in TFCs; screen 80 per cent of severely/moderately malnourished children in IDP camps for referral to therapeutic or supplementary feeding programmes.
- Provide Vitamin A supplements to at least 90 per cent of children (6-59 months) and deworming treatment to at least 90 per cent of children (1-14 years) in conflict-affected districts twice a year through "Child Days".
- Enable 80 per cent of pregnant women in IDP camps to schedule at least three antenatal care visits at health facilities and outreaches.
- Provide HIV/AIDS and gender-based violence counselling to 80 per cent of young people (girls and boys).

### Water and environmental sanitation (US\$ 5,352,273)

The IDP population of approximately 1.4 million in Kitgum, Pader, Lira and Katakwi Districts will be reached through the following key activities:

- Construct 25 powered reticulated water supply systems.
- Rehabilitate 120 existing boreholes; drill 20 new boreholes.
- Construct 200, five-stance sanitation blocks at schools and health facilities.
- Distribute 500 plastic prefabricated mobilets, sanitation kits and information materials to support weekly sanitation days in IDP camps (for solid/liquid waste disposal, storm water/silage disposal).

### Education (US\$ 6,477,272)

Approximately 400,000 primary school age (6-12 years) children (including 209,000 girls), 96,000 children aged 1-5 years (including 49,600 girls) in Lira and Kitgum Districts, and 800 teachers in IDP camp temporary schools will benefit from the following key activities:

- Support community establishment of age-appropriate, block-based ECD centres in 10 IDP camps in Lira, 15 camps in Kitgum District.
- Develop catch-up education programmes for out-of-school children; facilitate the establishment of 18 child-friendly learning spaces for catch-up education in Kitgum District (one per camp).
- Construct and/or equip 40 temporary schools in IDP camps in Lira, Gulu, Kitgum, Pader and Apac Districts.
- Develop and distribute 3,687 copies of the "Teacher's Resource Book" on psychosocial life-skills education; train 43 Centre Coordinating Tutors on the standardized materials for psychosocial life-skills education.
- Provide mobilization, advocacy and leadership skills to 1,500 young girls and boys from temporary schools in IDP camps, through training based on the Girls' Education Movement (GEM) operational framework.

### Child protection (US\$ 3,000,000)<sup>1</sup>

Approximately 150,000 children and women (in 13 IDP camps in Gulu, Kitgum, Pader and Lira Districts), 60,000 child "night commuters", and formerly abducted, orphaned and other vulnerable children are targeted through the following key activities:

- Strengthen district capacity to register, oversee, monitor and report on "night commuter" shelter standards (including physical standards and managerial practices) and support shelters with resources and supplies to meet guidelines and standards (including shelter materials, sanitation, fencing, lighting etc).
- Review existing practices for the care, family-tracing, reunification and reintegration of formerly abducted children; and train reception centre staff; support NGOs and district social welfare officials to follow up a sample of reunified children to assess and address reintegration.
- Conduct consultation and dialogue with communities on mechanisms to support orphans and other vulnerable children (OVCs) within the community.

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<sup>1</sup> UNICEF and OCHA are also issuing a joint appeal in Protection/Human Rights/Rule of Law (US\$ 715,909)

- Provide training for duty-bearers (including aid staff, camp leaders, local district government leadership, community development and health workers, UPDF and police) on effects of violence, responsibilities, practical intervention, response and coordination; and provide training for humanitarian aid workers on relief and development within a protection framework (e.g., planning, service delivery and camp management minimizing the risk of sexual and gender-based violence).
- Provide technical expertise for the UNCT and IASC in Uganda to collect, verify and analyse protection-related information at district and national levels; and provide three international protection officers deployed at district level.

### **Family shelter and non-food items (US\$ 4,403,409)**

Approximately 250,000 IDPs; 5,000 formerly abducted children; 2,000 children in Therapeutic Feeding Centres (TFCs) and Supplementary Feeding Centres (SFCs); and 10,000 children in Early Childhood Development (ECD) centers in IDP camps will be reached through the following key activities:

- Respond to urgent needs for shelter and household items of IDPs by providing a household kit (3 blankets, 5 plates, 5 cups, 2 cooking pans, 2 basins, 2 jerry-cans, 2 bars of soap and assorted used clothes) per household; urgent needs may arise from incidents of insecurity, fires or other related emergency incidences which create new, repeated or deteriorating displacement.
- Provide non-food items to 50,000 households.
- Provide non-food items to 20,000 “night commuters”.
- Provide resettlement kits for 5,000 formerly abducted children.
- Provide various other shelter/household items (tents, fencing, mattresses etc.) to TFCs and SFCs, ECD centres.

### **3. IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES**

Critical funding gaps in health and nutrition relate to disease management at the community level and therapeutic feeding programmes for severely malnourished children. More than 1,400 community-based health volunteers are responsible for managing fever, malaria, respiratory infections and diarrhoea in the IDP camps, and are equipped with basic medicines for 300,000 children. This volunteer network was instrumental in the containment of the cholera outbreak in Gulu District in late-2004 and is at present used in the polio immunization campaign. UNICEF supplies therapeutic milk to 11 Therapeutic Feeding Centres in the conflict-affected districts, and supports the twice-yearly “Child Days” to provide Vitamin A, de-worming and catch-up immunization for all under-5 children in IDP camps. Funding shortfalls will block the replenishment of supplies, interrupt services, and increase the risk of communicable diseases, malnutrition and death.

Access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene services remains a critical area. Families living in IDP camps have access to 4-12 litres of water per day, below Sphere standards. Latrine coverage is low, both in the camps and the temporary learning centres. Additional funds are required for the prevention of cholera and other water-borne diseases in the IDP camps, expected with the advent of heavy seasonal rains in March.

UNICEF-supported interventions in education in the conflict-affected districts aim to increase access to quality education for children, in accordance with international humanitarian principles and the national IDP policy. A funding shortfall remains in the area of scaling up the Girls’ Education Movement (GEM), seeking to provide mobilisation, advocacy and leadership skills to young girls and boys from the temporary learning centres based on the GEM operational framework, in order to empower young people to support universal education.

A key child protection intervention is the technical and material support for the reunification and reintegration of formerly abducted, as well as other vulnerable or unaccompanied children. A gap exists currently in implementing a more comprehensive and stronger response at the community level to ensure the reunification of the children in safety and dignity. Such a response must also reflect the unique challenges in the reintegration of formerly abducted girls and strive to prevent children, once reunified with home communities, from adapting negative coping strategies (including transactional sex and underage service in the military or local militia) due to a shortage of livelihood opportunities.

In the sector of shelter and non-food items, in addition to support required for responding to frequent fire outbreaks in the IDP camps (due to overcrowding and current dry season), the level of demand is anticipated to rise in relation to voluntary relocations by IDP families to areas closer to their communities of origin. IDP returns are already occurring in some areas – notably the eastern districts of Soroti, Katakwi and Kaberamaido – and are likely to continue as a gradual and progressive process, depending on the political and security scenarios that unfold, and according to the

families' own assessments on security issues.

**Table 1: Critical Gap in Funding**

Sector	US\$
Health and Nutrition	400,000
Water and Sanitation	1,020,000
Education	1,400,000
Child Protection	1,000,000
Family Shelter and Non-food Items	1,175,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,995,000</b>

#### 4. APPEAL REQUIREMENTS FOR 2005 AND CURRENT FUNDING SITUATION

**Table 2: Summary of UNICEF Financial Needs for Uganda in 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
Coordination and Support Services	675,000
<b>TOTAL<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>28,493,180</b>

**Table 3: Funds Received for 2005 Appeal as of 22 February 2005**

Donor	Purpose	Contribution (US\$)
Belgium	Education, water & sanitation	712,346
Finland	Un-earmarked	331,565
France	Un-earmarked	135,685
Netherlands	Child Protection	1,316,000
Norway	Un-earmarked	986,843
CIDA/IHA	Child Protection	393,442
DFID	Un-earmarked	1,355,532
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>5,231,413</b>

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<sup>2</sup> The total includes a maximum recovery rate of 12%. The actual recovery rate on individual contributions will be calculated in accordance with the Executive Board Decision 2003/9 of 5 June 2003.

