

# UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION UGANDA

## DONOR UPDATE 28 SEPTEMBER 2005

### URGENT NEEDS IN WATER AND SANITATION, HEALTH AND NUTRITION SECTORS TO EASE IMPACT OF CONFLICT ON CHILDREN

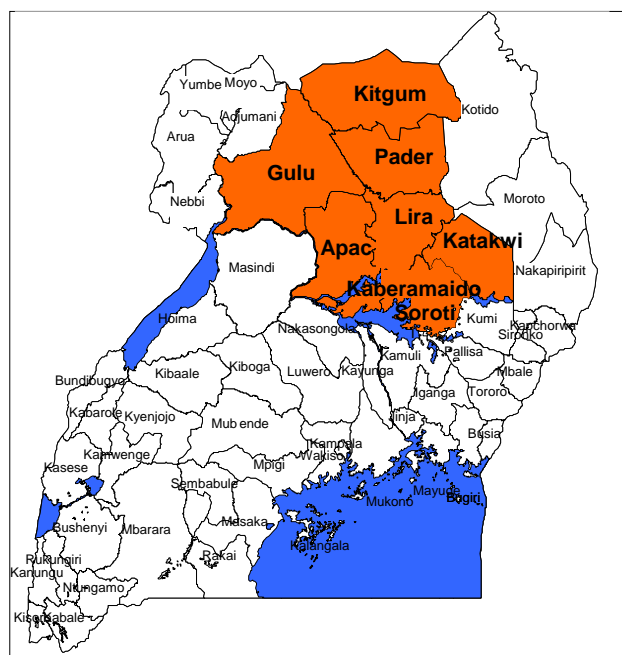
- **80% of 1.4 million internally displaced people are children and women**
- **UNICEF-WHO survey finds alarming mortality rates among children under five in three conflict-affected districts**
- **UNICEF assistance equips 2,300 health volunteers to treat children; provides 21,000 children with early learning opportunities; provides 300,000 people with access to clean water; and reunites 300 formerly abducted children, including “child mothers,” with their families**

#### 1. EMERGENCY OVERVIEW AND ISSUES FOR CHILDREN

Armed conflict between the Uganda People's Defense Force (UPDF) and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), now in its 19<sup>th</sup> year, has created a severe humanitarian crisis in which the rights of children and women to basic health, education, water and physical security remain largely unfulfilled.

80 percent of Uganda's 1.4 million internally displaced people (IDPs) are children and women, who live in more than 200 camps scattered across the districts of Gulu, Kitgum, Pader, Lira, Apac, Soroti, Katakwi and Kaberamaido.

A recent UNICEF-WHO survey of mortality among IDP populations in Gulu, Kitgum and Pader Districts found that during the January-July 2005 period, both the estimated Crude Mortality Rate and Under-5 Mortality Rate were above the respective emergency thresholds of 1 death per thousand per day, and 2 deaths per thousand per day. Among children under 5, the top causes of mortality were malaria/fever and *two lango* (local term for an illness which health workers describe as malnutrition associated with oral thrush).



Of an estimated 25,000 children (7,500 girls) abducted by the LRA since the conflict began, approximately 1,000 are “child mothers” who conceived children of their own during captivity. The LRA uses boys and girls as fighters and porters, with children often subjected to extreme violence shortly after abduction. Many girls are allocated to officers as “wives” in a form of institutionalized rape.

Each night, an estimated 35,000 children (and some adults) in Gulu, Kitgum and Kalongo towns abandon their homes for the relative safety of urban areas and larger IDP camps, in a striking community response to insecurity and particularly to the threat of abduction. The average journey for these “night commuters” is about 3 km, but some children are walking up to 8 km each way.

## 2. UNICEF RESPONSE: ACTIVITIES, ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONSTRAINTS

### Right to Health

In 2005, UNICEF and its partners trained approximately 2,300 community-based health volunteers and provided them with enough first-line treatment drugs to treat 300,000 children under five for malaria, pneumonia, diarrhoea and other diseases in 70 percent of the IDP camps. Approximately 48,000 children and women in Gulu District's largest camp have benefited from Oral Rehydration Salts, water purification tablets and other supplies for the prevention and treatment of cholera. UNICEF has supported the distribution of 5,000 clean-delivery kits and insecticide-treated mosquito nets to pregnant women receiving antenatal care, and has provided therapeutic milk and biscuits to 11 Therapeutic Feeding Centres (TFCs) to assist more than 8,000 severely malnourished children.



A mobile clinic worker weighs a child in Bobi IDP camp, Gulu, while the mother observes.

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UNICEF has supported NGOs and district and local governments to procure approximately 40,000 HIV testing kits for use in 17 IDP camps, with an emphasis on young people aged 12-24. UNICEF has also supported the training of 400 peer-educators to mobilise young people to take advantage of reproductive health services (including Voluntary Testing and Counseling), and 400 psychosocial counselors to assist young people who have been tested.

### Right to Education

UNICEF has supported the establishment of 86 new Early Childhood Development (ECD) sites in IDP camps in Gulu, Kitgum and Lira, which has enabled an additional 21,000 children to access early learning opportunities. 400 community-based ECD caregivers and district officials have been trained in ECD facilitation and supervision.

Approximately 200,000 displaced children are learning in over 200 temporary classrooms constructed with UNICEF assistance in IDP camps, with another 160 classrooms (23 learning centres) currently under construction. 125 teachers and district officials have received training in Child-Friendly School principles and psychosocial counseling issues, which will benefit 6,000 children. In Gulu, Soroti and Kaberamaido, UNICEF has provided blackboards, stationery and other scholastic materials to 6,000 displaced pupils and 1,500 teachers. Sustained advocacy resulted in the Government deploying 634 new teachers to Gulu and Pader Districts.

### Right to Water

In addition to drilling and rehabilitating conventional water points and boreholes, UNICEF and its partners are also scaling up the installation of motorised water supply systems in IDP camps. The completion this year of an additional five motorised systems has provided clean water to more than 50,000 people, and the drilling of 44 new boreholes in 21 camps has served approximately 250,000 people. Another three motorised systems are currently being installed.

In the sanitation and hygiene sectors, UNICEF supported the installation of mobile latrines in 240 temporary learning centres and primary schools; construction of 330 pit latrines in schools in Lira (increasing capacity by 425 percent); and formation of sanitation committees to promote good practices.

### Right to Protection

UNICEF assistance in 2005 has enabled approximately 300 formerly abducted children (including 150 "child mothers") to receive psychosocial and other assistance upon returning from LRA captivity, and to be reunified with their families. Currently, 230 teenage mothers (formerly abducted as well as unmarried girls) are receiving peer counseling and child-care training directly from 40 "child mothers" in IDP camps in Pader District. 250 formerly abducted children (including 45 "child



A formerly abducted girl and her child, conceived and borne in LRA captivity.

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mothers”) are receiving UNICEF support to operate a cooperative bakery in Gulu.

14 child “night commuter” shelter sites in Gulu and Kitgum, which serve approximately 30,000 children a month, continue to receive building and shelter materials, latrines, first aid and emergency shelter and household items provided by UNICEF. At the same time, UNICEF is supporting its NGO partners to identify and respond to other “push-factors” (beyond fear of the LRA) that motivate children to become night commuters – such as vulnerabilities inside IDP camps, or family dysfunction – as well as to address physical security issues *during* the “commute” itself.

Also in 2005, UNICEF has supported community-based protection committees in IDP camps to build capacity to respond to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and facilitated remedial response to more than 270 SGBV cases; established community-based skills-training programmes in IDP camps for 3,500 children; and continued the training in child protection issues for over 300 UPDF officers.

## Right to Shelter

Activities supported by UNICEF and its partners include the distribution of emergency shelter and household items (non-food items) to 20,000 households affected by fire outbreaks, as well as households relocated from larger IDP camps to smaller ones as part of the ongoing ‘decongestion’ process; and provision of appropriate non-food items to various child “night commuter” shelter sites to assist 40,000 children, 8 reception centres for formerly abducted children to assist more than 2,500 children and to TFCs to assist 4,000 children.

## Interagency Collaboration

UNICEF currently implements project agreements with more than 30 NGOs and CBOs (community-based organizations), and is grateful for the collaboration of District Local Governments, UN sister agencies and partner organisations including the following: African Medical Research Foundation (AMREF), Associazione Volontari per il Servizio Internazionale (AVSI), Caritas, Charity for Peace, Christian Children’s Fund (CCF), Concerned Parents Association (CPA), Cooperazione e Sviluppo Onlus (CESVI), Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI), German Emergency Doctors (GED), Gulu Support the Children Organisation (GUSCO), Human Rights Focus (HURIFO), Institute of Teacher Education Kyambogo (ITEK), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Kalongo Hospital, Kitgum Concerned Women’s Association (KICWA), Lacor Hospital Gulu, Medair, Médecins sans Frontières (MSF), Mother’s Union, Noah’s Ark, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Rachele Centre, The Salvation Army, Save the Children in Uganda, St. Joseph’s Hospital Kitgum, Transcultural Psychosocial Organisation (TPO), The Kids League (TKL), Warchild Holland and World Vision.

## Implementation Constraints

A major challenge to the emergency response is restricted humanitarian access due to insecurity which complicates and slows emergency interventions, and restricts staff movement outside the main towns. It is estimated that social service providers and humanitarian workers have access to only 30 percent of the 200 IDP camps on a regular basis without armed military escorts. UNICEF has deployed one armour-plated vehicle each in the Gulu and Kitgum Districts for use by all humanitarian agencies to access displaced populations.

## 3. APPEAL REQUIREMENTS AND RECEIPTS

In May 2005, UNICEF reviewed its requirements within the CAP, Interagency Consolidated Appeals Process, based on contributions received and latest developments in the humanitarian situation.

<b>TABLE 1: 2005 APPEAL REQUIREMENTS AND FUNDING BY SECTOR (as at 27 September 2005)</b>				
<b>Sector</b>	<b>Target (US\$)</b>	<b>Funded (US\$)</b>	<b>% Funded</b>	<b>Unfunded (US\$)</b>
Health and Nutrition	13,658,453	4,224,622	31%	9,433,831
Education	8,279,375	3,815,872	46%	4,463,503
Water and Environmental Sanitation	9,352,273	4,370,048	47%	4,982,225
Child Protection	2,857,471	2,601,346	91%	256,125
Family Shelter and Non-food items	4,933,209	5,456,778	110%	-523,569
Coordination and Support Services	1,328,000	1,368,928	103%	-409,280
<b>Total</b>	<b>40,408,781</b>	<b>21,837,594</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>18,202,835</b>

The following table indicates the contributions received, by donor, for the 2005 CAP. UNICEF is grateful for the generous contributions which continue to assist ongoing humanitarian interventions for the most vulnerable children

and women in Uganda's conflict-affected districts.

<b>Table 2: FUNDS RECEIVED FOR 2005 APPEAL BY DONOR (as at 27 September 2005)</b>		
<b>Donor</b>	<b>Contribution (US\$)</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
Japan	9,276,968	WES, Multi-sectoral
Netherlands	3,123,000	Protection, Multi-sectoral
DfID	2,677,153	Protection, Multi-sectoral
Norway	2,084,190	Multi-sectoral
Sweden	1,422,500	Multi-sectoral
Belgium	712,346	WES
ECHO	603,135	Protection
Finland	590,969	Multi-sectoral
Canada	393,442	Protection
French Committee for UNICEF	312,357	Health
USAID/OFDA	250,000	Health
German Committee for UNICEF	246,024	Protection
France	135,685	Multi-sectoral
South Africa	9,825	Protection
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,837,594</b>	

Japan remains the largest donor for UNICEF-Uganda, with a contribution of US\$9.2 million against the CAP 2005.

#### 4. CURRENT PRIORITIES

The table below outlines the most urgent priority requirements:

<b>Table 3: PRIORITY REQUIREMENTS (as at 27 September 2005)</b>		
<b>Project</b>	<b>Focused Population/Coverage</b>	<b>Amount required (US\$)</b>
Health and Nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 800,000 children and women in IDP camps</li> <li>▪ 10,000-12,000 severely malnourished children and 25,000 malnourished children</li> <li>▪ 450,000 displaced children, youth and women in northern/eastern Uganda</li> </ul>	8,910,262
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 400,000 primary school age (6-12 years) children in northern/eastern Uganda</li> <li>▪ 95,390 children (1-5 years) in Lira and Kitgum Districts</li> <li>▪ 800 teachers in temporary learning centres</li> </ul>	4,054,223
Water and Environmental Sanitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 1.4 million IDP population in Kitgum, Pader, Lira, and Katakwi Districts</li> </ul>	5,238,350
<b>Total</b>		<b>18,202,835</b>

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