

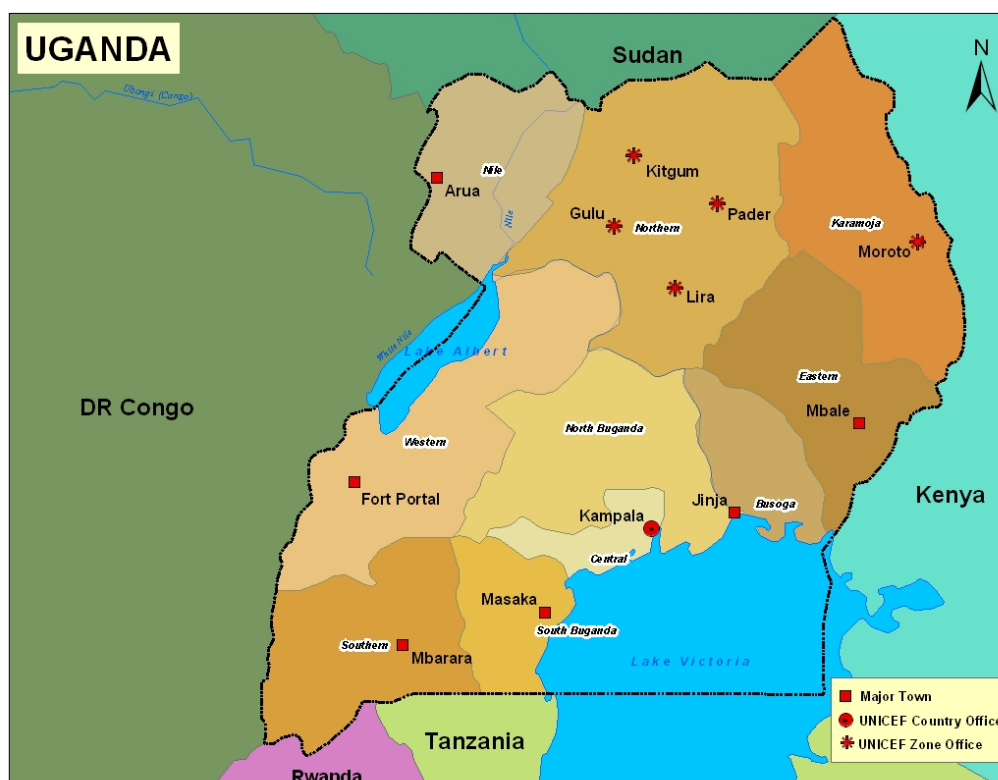
# UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION UPDATE

## UGANDA

24 SEPTEMBER 2007

### UNICEF RESPONDS TO THE NEEDS OF 300,000 CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES UPROOTED BY FLOODS

- Children and women comprise 80% of affected populations
- 200,000 need immediate emergency shelter
- UNICEF engaged in frontline response to stem disease outbreak and reduce disruption to schooling



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations

## 1. ISSUES FOR CHILDREN

Heavy and persistent rainfall since July 2007 has caused dangerous levels of flooding and water-logging, the worst in decades, across large swathes of eastern and northern Uganda. Most acutely affected are the eastern Teso sub-region (Amuria, Bukedea, Katakwi, Kumi, Soroti Districts); the north-eastern Karamoja sub-region (Abim, Kotido, Moroto, Nakapiripirit); the central Elgon sub-region (Manafwa, Bududa, Sironko, Bukwo, Kapchorwa); and lowlands of the northern Lango (Lira District) and Acholi (Pader, Kitgum Districts) sub-regions. Children and women comprise up to 80 percent of the approximately 300,000 people affected by the situation, including approximately 200,000 who require immediate, emergency shelter and household items after being displaced from their homes, as well as the 110,000 already displaced as a result of the northern Uganda conflict.

The heaviest impact has been in those areas of the country where basic services had already been overstretched, and assessments to date by humanitarian organisations show flood damage further disrupting those services and exacerbating the situation. The contamination of water sources, following the collapse of flooded latrines, poses a direct threat to the health of children and their caregivers (even once flood waters recede). The incidence of water-borne diseases, malaria and acute respiratory infections has reportedly increased by as much as 30 percent. Varying degrees of structural damage to classrooms and teachers' quarters in 289 primary schools have prevented more than 100,000 children from beginning their third-term of the academic year on time.

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

### Child Survival and Development

UNICEF and its partners have to date provided 1 million measles and 1.2 million polio vaccines for emergency immunization activities in the affected areas; emergency and basic drug kits for use by medical staff and community-based health volunteers to treat up to 20,000 people for three months; and 17,400 insecticide-treated nets for use especially by pregnant women and children to prevent malaria.

### Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Priority activities supported by UNICEF in this sector have included the distribution of 177,000 water purification tablets to, and intensive education campaigns on hygiene and sanitation (including for cholera prevention and treatment) for, more than 7,300 families. Treatment of water sources for 15,000 households is ongoing.

### Education

UNICEF is providing 300 tents to affected schools for use as temporary classrooms to assist more than 150,000 pupils and teachers, and supporting the rehabilitation of damaged sanitation equipment in 49 most affected primary schools. In addition, UNICEF is providing technical assistance to the Government on a redistribution plan for approximately 1,000 children, in their final year of primary education, to minimise delays in taking their Primary Leaving Examination.

### Emergency Shelter (Non-Food Items)

A total of 9,200 Family Kits, each containing blankets, kitchen utensils, a tarpaulin, collapsible jerry can, soap and other household items, have been distributed to the neediest populations in the districts. Another 3,000 Kits are being prepared for distribution in the next few days.

### Inter-agency Coordination

UNICEF in Uganda is the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Cluster Leader in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene; Leader of the Sub-Cluster in Child Protection; and Chair of the Working Group on Education in Emergencies. The Office of the Prime Minister has requested UNICEF assistance in particular in the water, sanitation and hygiene; education and shelter and non-food item sectors.

Current humanitarian response activities are being conducted in collaboration with the Government of Uganda, District Local Governments, and both national and international NGOs including ACTED, ASB, AVSI, CCF, CONCERN, COOPI, LFI, LWF, NRC, Première Urgence, PSI and the Uganda Red Cross Society.

UNICEF operates Zonal Offices in Gulu, Kitgum, Pader and Moroto Districts.

### Implementation Constraints

A major constraint continues to be the severe limitations in access to affected areas due to roads and bridges that have been damaged, submerged, and in some cases washed away, by flood waters. Both air and boat transport is being used in the delivery of aid and in assessments. At this moment, all roads to Kitgum and Pader, from Gulu and Lira Districts, remain impassable. In Lira and Pader Districts, the rains have damaged 35 roads and 22 bridges.

### 3. APPEAL REQUIREMENTS AND CURRENT PRIORITIES

<b>Sector</b>	<b>Target (US\$)</b>	<b>Funded (US\$)</b>
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	4,189,500	0
Non-Food Items	1,861,800	0
Education	1,144,900	0
<b>Total*</b>	<b>7,196,200</b>	<b>0</b>

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

As strategic priorities in the current humanitarian response, UNICEF and its partners are working to prevent an outbreak of communicable diseases associated with inadequate or unsafe water supplies, lack of sanitation facilities and poor hygiene practices amongst the affected populations. In addition, as the waters recede, sanitation facilities will require rehabilitation. The need for basic shelter and household items also remains significant, as the majority of families were forced to leave behind flooded homes and evade rising waters with little or no essential items. In the education sector, absent sustained humanitarian interventions, children will continue to experience a major disruption to their regular learning schedule, and attend school with inadequate preparation and in unsafe surroundings.

Most immediately, UNICEF seeks to meet the needs in access to safe drinking water through water treatment at the household, primary school and primary health centre levels and construction of new water sources in areas of recent displacement. Emergency latrines will be provided in 100 schools to serve both pupils and local populations using the schools as shelter. The emergency response is also intended to decrease the vulnerability of families through the provision of essential shelter and household items. Furthermore, the establishment of temporary learning centres for primary and pre-primary children, teachers' accommodations and provision of learning and teaching materials, among other interventions, are to ensure that basic requirements for the next six months.

Details of the UNICEF Uganda Emergency Programme can be obtained from:

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