

UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION

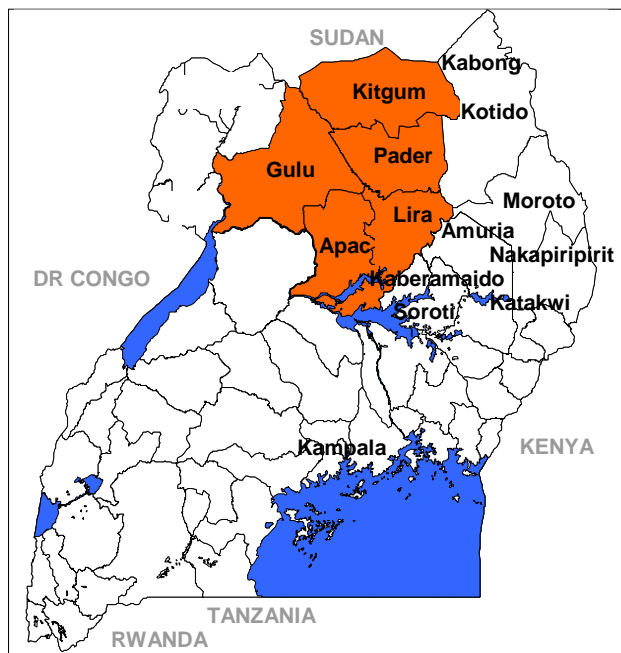
UGANDA

DONOR UPDATE

16 MAY 2006

UNICEF URGENTLY REQUIRES US\$ 36,604,705 TO EASE THE IMPACT OF CONFLICT ON CHILDREN

- 935,000 vulnerable children are living in 200 IDP camps
- Up to 58% of health facilities are non-functional
- Drought further limits already poor access to water
- Average primary school completion rate of 1.3%, compared to 22% national average



1. ISSUES FOR CHILDREN

Displacement, poverty and heightened violence due to the 20-year-old, child-centred armed conflict between the Uganda People's Defense Force (UPDF) and the rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) continue to spur a severe humanitarian crisis, with the rights of children and women to access basic healthcare, safe water, primary education, protection and shelter being largely unfulfilled. The conflict is primarily localised to Gulu, Kitgum, Pader, Lira and Apac Districts.

The conflict has displaced approximately 1.7 million people – including some 935,000 children – from their homes into more than 200 camp settlements.

The LRA uses boys and girls as fighters and porters, with children often subjected to extreme violence shortly after abduction and many girls allocated to officers in a form of institutional rape. Of an estimated 25,000 children (7,500 girls) abducted by the LRA since the start of the conflict, some 1,000 are "child mothers" who conceived children of their own while in captivity. In mid-March 2006, some 13,000 child "night commuters" in Gulu, Kitgum and Kalongo towns were abandoning their homes for the relative safety offered by urban areas and centres of the larger IDP camps each night, in a striking community response to insecurity, particularly to the threat of abduction, as well as other protection factors including lack of caregivers, abuse and dysfunction.

Humanitarian indicators in the eastern Karamoja sub-region, characterised by cultural factors and endemic conflict involving the agro-pastoralist Karamojong population, remain consistently lower than national averages. Instability and an intense dry season in the sub-region, comprising Moroto, Nakapiripirit, Kotido and Kabong Districts, continue to place a burden on the Karamojong, many of whom have moved to neighbouring districts in search of pasture and water.

2. UNICEF RESPONSE: ACTIVITIES, ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONSTRAINTS (JAN-MAR 2006)

Health & Nutrition

Since January 2006, UNICEF and its partners immunized 1,243 children and 458 women of childbearing age, dewormed 978 children with Albendazole and provided Vitamin A supplementation to 824 children in IDP camps. F100 and F75 therapeutic milk, and BP5 biscuits were provided to Therapeutic Feeding Centres in Lira and Kitgum to assist 763 severely malnourished children. 3,645 people in IDP camps benefited from Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) and Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) of HIV activities.



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Two "night commuting" children arrive at the YY Okot Girls School shelter site on the outskirts of Kitgum Town. UNICEF has supported the shelter site, established in late 2004 at a time of serious insecurity, with large tents, lighting, latrines, clean water and non-food items such as blankets, jerrycans and soap for the children.

In response to meningitis outbreak in Nakapiripirit, Moroto and Gulu Districts, technical and logistic support was provided for vaccination, disease surveillance, case management and social mobilisation activities, including the provision of 610,000 vaccine doses (current coverage of 85%). Investigations into suspected cases in Kotido, Soroti and other neighbouring districts continue.

Education

UNICEF and its partners provided 160 tarpaulins as roofing material for primary schools and temporary learning centres in the IDP camps to serve approximately 5,500 children. Notebooks, math sets, pencils and other learning materials were distributed to 1,500 displaced pupils in Gulu. 29 Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres were completed in

Gulu, Kitgum and Lira to serve 4,500 children (aged 3-5), as were 28 classrooms of temporary learning centres in Lira and Soroti IDP camps to benefit 1,700 pupils.

Water & Sanitation

UNICEF and its partners installed 194 latrine units in Gulu and Lira to serve 8,700 displaced people; 5 boreholes in Katakwi and Amuria IDP camps to assist 2,000 people; and completed repairs to 40 water-points in areas of IDP returns in Kaberamaido to benefit 300 people.

In response to an influx of approximately 7,000 Congolese refugees in Kisoro District, UNICEF supported the delivery of 6 water tanks (10,000 litres each) and 50 mobile latrine units.

Child Protection

UNICEF and its partners reunified 626 formerly abducted children with families and communities of origin in Pader and Lira, and provided follow-up psychosocial support (as well as emergency shelter and household items) to 536 formerly abducted children, already reunified. In Gulu, 20 UPDF and police personnel received training in issues of protecting children in armed conflict, with UNICEF support.

Shelter

UNICEF and its partners distributed non-food item Family Kits to 3,400 households affected by outbreaks of fire and storm damage in IDP camps in Lira, Gulu and Pader.¹ Emergency shelter and household items were also provided to 3,300 displaced people in Gulu and Pader living with HIV/AIDS.

Inter-agency Coordination

UNICEF is the IASC Cluster Lead in the WES, and Health and Nutrition Clusters of humanitarian agencies in Uganda; Sub-Cluster Lead for Child and Vulnerable Group Protection; and Convenor of the Emergency Education Working Group.

Key implementing partners include: Action Contre la Faim (ACF), 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 Medical Corps (IMC), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Kalongo Hospital, Kitgum Concerned Women's Association (KICWA), Lacor Hospital Gulu, the Malaria Consortium, Medair, Médecins sans Frontières (MSF), Mother's Union, Noah's Ark, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Rachele Centre, The AIDS Support Organisation (TASO), 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.

UNICEF collaborates with WFP on emergency protection and nutrition interventions, with WHO and UNFPA on a Joint Programme for emergency health, nutrition and HIV/AIDS, and shares common-premises with UN-OCHA in Gulu, Lira and Kitgum. UNICEF operates Zonal Offices in Gulu, Kitgum and Lira. The Pader Zonal Office is scheduled to open in 2006 (UNICEF staff are currently based in the district, using borrowed local government offices).

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% of the 200 IDP camps on a regular basis without armed military escorts. UNICEF has deployed one armour-plated vehicle each in Gulu, Kitgum and Pader for use by all humanitarian agencies staff.

¹ Each Family Kit contains jerrycans (2), basins (2), cooking pans (2), bars of soap (2), blankets (3), cups (5) and plates (5).

3. APPEAL REQUIREMENTS AND RECEIPTS

TABLE 1: 2006 APPEAL REQUIREMENTS AND FUNDING BY SECTOR (as at 30 April 2006)				
Sector	Target (US\$)	Funded (US\$)	% Funded	Unfunded (US\$)
Health and Nutrition	13,128,892	5,250,700	40%	7,878,192
Education	12,806,800	1,783,040	13.9%	11,023,760
HIV/AIDS	7,000,000	2,010,176	28.71%	4,989,824
Water and Environmental Sanitation	5,264,000	1,745,798	33.16%	3,518,202
Child Protection	8,258,200	3,556,409	43.06%	4,701,791
Family Shelter and Non-Food Items	4,680,000	2,307,853	49.31%	2,372,147
Coordination and Cluster Leadership	1,780,650	70,015	3.93%	1,710,635
Security and Safety	410,154	0	0	410,154
Total	53,328,696	16,723,991	31.36%	36,604,705

The following table indicates the contributions thus far received, by donor, for the 2006 Interagency Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP). UNICEF is grateful for the generous contributions which continue to assist ongoing humanitarian interventions for the most vulnerable children and women in northern and eastern Uganda.

Table 2: FUNDS RECEIVED FOR 2006 APPEAL BY DONOR (as at 30 April 2006)		
Donor	Contribution (US\$)	Purpose
DFID	5,654,473	Support from DFID for establishment of a Joint Programme for an Inter-Agency Emergency Health, Nutrition & HIV/AIDS response in IDP camps in Northern Uganda.
DFID	4,888,123	Support from DFID for Priority Humanitarian Response in Uganda during Jan 06 and Dec 07.
France	241,838	Support to Child Protection activities for the Displaced in the camps.
Ireland	592,415	Contribution to 2006 Consolidated Appeal Process in Uganda.
Spain	241,838	Emergency Assistance project in Northern Uganda for Health & Nutrition.
Canada – CIDA	1,052,628	Basic Education in Northern Uganda Pader and Kitgum Districts. (CAP Project # UGA-06/E06)
Sweden	3,764,100	Humanitarian support to UN Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeals 2006 for 11 countries.
Canada NatCom	162,913	Emergency Relief in Uganda.
South Africa	8,016	Support to UNICEF's Humanitarian programme in Uganda.
German NatCom	117,647	Child Protection Projects in Gulu, Kitgum & Lira
Total	16,723,991	

DFID remains the largest donor to UNICEF-Uganda, and the largest donor to joint programming with UN agencies in Uganda against the CAP 2006.

4. CURRENT PRIORITIES

Access to basic health care, water and sanitation and education services by IDPs remains limited. An estimated 58% of health facilities in Lira, 43% in Gulu and 25% in Kitgum are non-functional. The onset of rains raises the risk of cholera, with reports of outbreaks in south Sudan and the west Nile region of Uganda. Amid concerns about the arrival of Avian Influenza in the country, the northern region is expected to be particularly threatened due to current living conditions.

Drought spells in the past six months have further limited already poor access to water in northern Uganda and Karamoja sub-region, including in parts of Kitgum and Lira where groundwater levels are low, and areas of IDP returns and resettlement in Lango and Teso sub-regions.

The sustained closure of schools has led to the exclusion of at least 23% of school-age children from primary schooling, with an average completion rate of 1.3% in Gulu, Kitgum, Pader, Apac, Lira, Moroto, Kotido and Nakapiripirit, compared to the national average of 22%. Overall, participation of girls is lower than that of boys, girls often removed from school due to socioeconomic, cultural or security reasons.

The table below outlines the most urgent resource requirements to assist 1.1 million displaced children and women through the provision of humanitarian assistance:

Table 3: PRIORITY REQUIREMENTS (as at 15 May 2006)		
Project	Focus Population/Coverage	Amount required (US\$)
Health-Nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1.4 million IDPs and 700,000 returnees in Acholi, Teso and Lango sub-regions, and Karamoja sub-region 	2,314,400
Water-Environmental Sanitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1.4 million IDPs and returnees (including 657,000 women and children under-5) in IDP camps and areas of return/resettlement 	5,264,000
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 600,000 children (including 306,000 girls) in conflict-affected districts of northern Uganda and areas of insecurity in Karamoja sub-region 	4,356,800
Total		11,935,200

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