EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

Uganda

Uganda is in the midst of an extensive recovery from a deep humanitarian crisis that affected the entire northern region. At the same time, recovery may also be affected by the Ugandan presidential elections and the referendum in the Sudan in early 2011, which draft estimates indicate may cause an additional 100,000 new refugees to seek shelter in Uganda. There are currently still more than 112,000[1] displaced persons in northern Uganda, including 28,000 children. Additionally, climate change is expected to produce increasingly erratic rainfall, resulting in floods and landslides, and exacerbating the effects of cyclic drought. Although severe acute malnutrition and global acute malnutrition are below emergency levels, undernutrition is persistent in the north and north-eastern regions and sanitation coverage in some districts is significantly below the national average.

Natural hazards, including the effects of the La Niña phenomenon and a significant increase of landslides in mountainous areas and flooding in the plains, threaten approximately 120,000 people. Half a million inhabitants – including 125,000 children – of the north-eastern region of Karamoja will be vulnerable to an increased nutritional crisis in 2011 given the expected significant rain failure and drought.

Uganda's transition from a country requiring substantial humanitarian aid to one needing recovery assistance and able to focus on coherent development of its national preparedness capacities depends on how these factors – many of which are beyond the control of the Government or any humanitarian actor – play out during the coming year.

UNICEF estimates that at least 732,000 people, including approximately 183,000 children, will require humanitarian support to ensure survival during the expected turbulence of 2011. The organization expects to increase resilience and strengthen positive coping mechanisms for these individuals.

In the context of increased recovery programming, UNICEF is requesting US$10 million for its 2011 humanitarian work in Uganda, less than half of what was requested for 2010. Full funding will enable the organization to maximize its positive impact on the lives of children and their families at a crucial moment in Uganda's history. In 2011, UNICEF will focus on building the resilience of communities to both natural and conflict-related disasters. To date, this has been undertaken by increasing the capacities of the Government and partners, such as by training district governments to prepare for and respond to disaster. Support will focus on early recovery and transition-related interventions designed to strengthen the delivery of basic services related to health, nutrition, WASH, education and child protection. UNICEF will also ensure its Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action are advocated at all levels of emergency preparedness. Planning for rapid life-saving interventions will ensure that contingency plans and domestic standards for emergency response have a child focus.

UNICEF will also continue the transition from the Inter-Agency Standing Committee clusters to a government-led sector humanitarian coordination mechanism for the country. Towards this end, as a result of a UNICEF-organized inter-agency emergency preparedness and response workshop with the Office of the Prime Minister, UNICEF will contribute to the follow-up actions of an inter-agency task force that will drive the outcomes of this process.

CRITICAL ISSUES FOR CHILDREN AND WOMEN

As the Government of Uganda strives to reach the status of a middle-income country and regional leader, the country's unequal distribution of wealth, poverty, along with corruption, affects the resilience of children and women. Some of the main problems affecting children include poor nutrition interventions in health and agricultural policies and strategies. In addition, minimal access to improved water sources plagues women and children, and ranges from 12 to 85 per cent coverage, with marked differences between districts and regions. In most villages in northern Uganda, water coverage is as low as 30 per cent and sanitation is less than 10 per cent.[2]

CORE COUNTRY DATA	
Population (thousands 2009)	**32,710**
Child population (thousands 2009)	**18,276**
U5 mortality rate (per 1,000 live births, 2009)	**128**
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births, 2009)	**79**
Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births 2008)	**430**
Primary school enrolment ratio (net male/female, 2005–2009*)	**96/98**
% U1 fully immunized (DPT3, 2009)	**64**
% population using improved drinking-water sources (2008)	**67**
HIV/AIDS prevalence (% aged 15–49, 2009)	**6.5**
% U5 suffering from moderate and severe wasting (2003–2009*)	**6**

Source: UNICEF, *The State of the World's Children 2011.*
*Data refer to most recent year available during the period specified.

In terms of child protection, only 21 per cent of children under age 5 are registered in Uganda,[3] resulting in the denial of essential children's rights and in inaccurate governmental planning and budgeting, which puts children at a further disadvantage. Child protection issues also are evidenced in cases of sexual violence, which is experienced by 21 per cent of girls and 7 per cent of boys 15–19 years old, and by the high percentage of unaccompanied children.[4] In education, teacher absenteeism, now above 30 per cent, has undermined the quality of teaching and learning and has also resulted in low educational achievement and learning outcomes. In many districts, less than 6 per cent of children 3–5 years old participate in early childhood education.[5]

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2010

In 2010, UNICEF estimated that US$27,096,711 was required to fund its humanitarian work in Uganda. As of end-October, only US$4,919,350 – or 18 per cent – had been received. This limited the scope of UNICEF's emergency activities, but significant results were achieved nonetheless.

UNICEF improved access to education in 2010, with approximately 820,000 schoolchildren enrolled in primary schools located in emergency-affected areas, compared to a countrywide enrolment of 8.3 million. Forty-eight per cent of these children are girls. UNICEF has also taken strides in building both protection and emergency response capacities and, through the child protection committee working groups at the district level, in improving community-level resilience. In March, UNICEF successfully responded to a major landslide in the east of the country, where at least 300 people lost their lives, by providing improved access to WASH services, and learning and safe spaces for children. Some of the tents were also used as accommodations during the first wave of displacement. UNICEF contributed antiretroviral drugs to more than 53 per cent of the 1.4 million pregnant women living with HIV in order to prevent transmission of the virus to their infants, up from 45 per cent coverage in 2008. UNICEF also promptly supported the ongoing hepatitis E and cholera response in Karamoja to reach about 7,000 households through intensive community mobilization and WASH interventions. In addition, UNICEF reached 8,700 children with severe acute malnutrition between January and June with appropriate treatment. Based on the current increasing caseload trend, the treatment target of 12,000 vulnerable children was exceeded in 2010.

HUMANITARIAN ACTION: BUILDING RESILIENCE

'Preparing together for joint response' was the motto of the emergency preparedness and response planning workshop organized by UNICEF and convened by the Office of the Prime Minister in August. Hailed as a groundbreaking first step in looking at resilience from a national perspective, the workshop produced a report outlining key recommendations for humanitarian partners to implement, with the aim of improving the coordination of disaster response. As one of the leaders of the resulting task force, UNICEF was assigned to design and develop these new national systems and to ensure that the links among household, community, district and national structures are bridged. A key achievement will be household coping mechanisms for early warning systems, meeting minimum standards, and end-user reporting in the hands of women and children. UNICEF's team experts in technology for development will lead the way in adapting technology to empower and engage communities. For example, redesigning communication systems will permit more efficient and timely birth registration and protection reporting by directly linking the source with the response system. Mothers and children will soon be able to use rapid short message service technology as another platform for reporting cases of child abuse.

PLANNED HUMANITARIAN ACTION FOR 2011

Following the handover of cluster coordination responsibilities in 2010, UNICEF's work in Uganda in 2011 will include ensuring continued coordination of cluster activities through the delegated agencies responsible for managing humanitarian response. UNICEF expects to partner closely with the Government of Uganda, other UN agencies and a host of NGOs to meet the humanitarian needs of about 732,000 people, including approximately 183,000 children. Additionally, UNICEF will support emergency capacity enhancement actions with the Government of Uganda so that national disaster preparedness and response systems are improved and able to protect women and children during disasters.

NUTRITION (US$3,000,000)

UNICEF will support a scale-up of community-based nutrition interventions and the strengthening nutrition services.

- 115 health facilities will be equipped for case identification and management for 12,928 children with severe acute malnutrition or other nutrition-related illnesses.
- To ensure timely response and action, UNICEF will strengthen nutrition surveillance systems for emergency preparedness and response.

HEALTH (US$2,000,000)

UNICEF will provide preventive and curative health care for children under age 5 and pregnant women in displaced camps, areas of return and emergency-affected regions.

- To improve individual resilience to disasters, UNICEF will support the scale-up and operationalization of community case management and commodity security for essential drugs for 732,000 women and children who were treated in 2010.
- UNICEF will initiate social mobilization and vaccination efforts to assist an estimated 3,961,500 people at risk for meningitis.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH) (US$2,000,000)

- In 2011, the key goal will be to ensure access to adequate safe water supply and sanitation in affected and host communities, in line with Sphere standards.
- UNICEF will ensure access to safe water and sanitation for up to 232,000 people in areas affected by drought or flooding, in areas experiencing waterborne disease outbreaks, or in former camps for internally displaced persons that have remaining vulnerable people.
- UNICEF will assist with the construction and rehabilitation of 100 water sources (for communities, schools and health centres), including household water treatment, and with sanitation facilities, including in 30 schools and/or health centres.
- Hygiene practices will be promoted in all affected areas, with a focus on household water safety and hand washing with soap at critical times.
- As part of emergency response planning, all districts in the northern and north-eastern regions, and some in the western regions, will be provided with training and supported to update their preparedness plans. UNICEF will also improve capacity for emergency coordination in these districts.

CHILD PROTECTION (US$1,500,000)

UNICEF will provide protective and reintegration services (interim care, counseling, family tracing, reunification and psychosocial support) and will respond against violence for an estimated 252,000 children in northern and north-eastern Uganda.

EDUCATION (US$1,500,000)

For 2011, the overall goal will be to expand and enhance safety and health in schools and to mobilize communities for timely school enrolment and retention.

- UNICEF will improve access to a safe learning environment for up to 780,000 schoolchildren (50 per cent boys and 50 per cent girls) in the north and north-eastern regions and among refugee communities.
- To improve quality education and learning outcomes, UNICEF will support the existing 155 children's clubs and establish 97 new ones. UNICEF will also support systems that prevent, identify and address protection, emergencies and risk reduction. Three thousand children in primary grades 1 to 3 and in early childhood development centres will receive learning and teaching materials, and 270 teachers and early childhood development caregivers will be trained and mentored.

1. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 'UNHCR Operation in Uganda: Fact Sheet', UNHCR, Kampala, 19 November 2010, p. 2.
2. "Water and Environment Sector Performance Report 2010", Ministry of Water and Environment, Kampala, 2010.
3. "Uganda Demographic and Health Survey", Uganda Bureau of Standards, Kampala, 2010, pg 20.
4. Ibid.
5. "Education and Sports Sector Performance Report 2010", Uganda Ministry of Education and Sports, Kampala, 2010.
6. Total number of beneficiaries may not equal the sum of beneficiaries per sector, due to overlap in services provided to individuals.

UNICEF EMERGENCY FUNDING REQUIREMENTS FOR 2011		ESTIMATED BENEFICIARY NUMBERS[6]		
By sector	**US$**	**Total per sector (all beneficiaries)**	**Boys**	**Girls**
Nutrition	3,000,000	15,655	7,827	7,828
Health	2,000,000	732,000	91,500	91,500
WASH	2,000,000	232,000	60,320	60,320
Child protection	1,500,000	252,000	78,000	75,000
Education	1,500,000	732,000	91,500	91,500
Total	**10,000,000**	**732,000**	**91,500**	**91,500**