

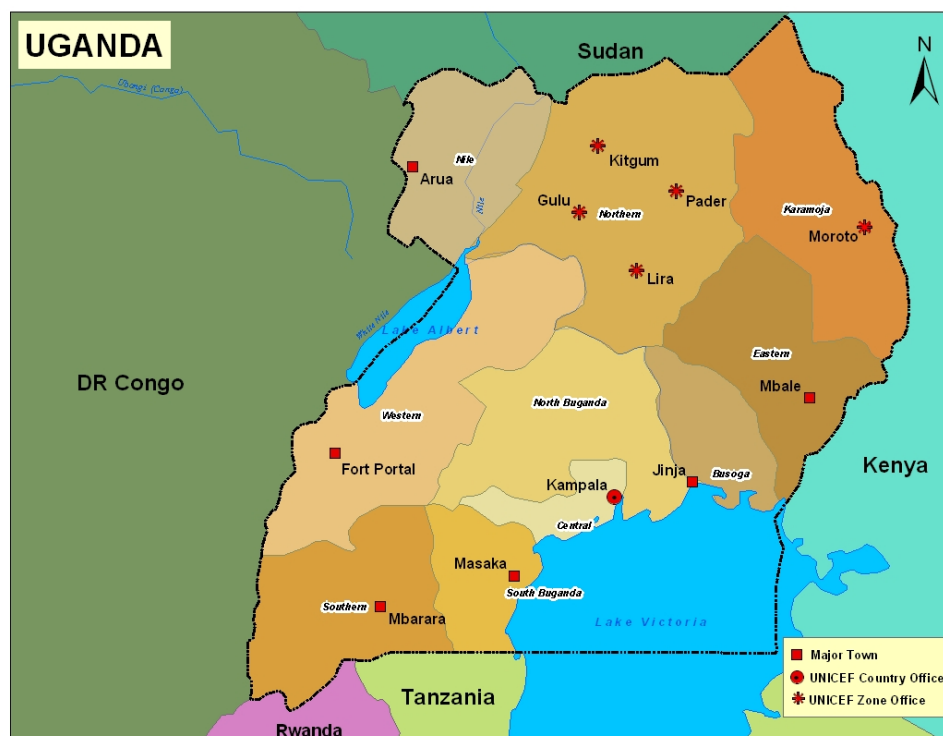
# UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION UPDATE

## UGANDA

25 APRIL 2008

UNICEF CONTINUES SUPPORTING THE GOVERNMENT OF UGANDA TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE MOST VULNERABLE CHILDREN AND WOMEN IN THE AREAS OF HEALTH, NUTRITION, WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

- 800,000 IDPs live in camps and 350,000 in temporary transit sites in north. 80% are children and women.
- In northeast, humanitarian indicators remain consistently below national averages.
- CAP funding, at 21% of requirements, is critically low.



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

Prospects for a comprehensive peace accord between the Government of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army/Movement (LRA/M), widely expected to have been signed in April 2008, remain unclear, amid reports that LRA leader Joseph Kony on 11 April refused to sign the final document and dismissed his negotiating team. After more than 20 years of armed conflict and attendant violence, poverty and widespread internal displacement, communities in northern Uganda continue to yearn for a meaningful transition to recovery and development.

Despite recent setbacks, progressive negotiations to date have contributed to marked improvements in security conditions and significant returns by camp-based communities to original homesteads in the north. By late-2007, more than half (54%) of the up to 1.8 million internally displaced persons (IDP) had entered the return process, including half a million people settling permanently in their villages of origin and approximately 400,000 having made the initial movement out of the camps into transitional settlements.

The majority of the IDP population of the Lango sub-region (Apac, Amolatar, Dokolo, Lira and Oyam Districts) is in home villages; but the process in the Acholi sub-region (Amuru, Gulu, Kitgum and Pader), more acutely affected by the conflict, is slower with only 35% of the remaining one million IDPs expected to complete the return in 2008. A key factor for the unsustainable returns is the stark lack of basic infrastructure and social services in areas of return, offering little incentive for communities to leave the comparative advantages of camp-based life. Funding against the CAP remains insufficient for rapid expansion and rehabilitation of structures, and the Development Partner pledges against the nascent *Peace, Recovery and Development Plan* (the Government's overarching strategy for investment), remain pending.

At the same time, humanitarian needs have not abated. The longer that comprehensive investment is withheld, the greater the gap between crisis and recovery.

In the Karamoja sub-region (Abim, Kaabong, Kotido, Moroto and Nakapiripirit Districts), an ongoing expansion of life-saving humanitarian interventions and renewed interest amongst development partners have yet to be met by substantive progress to address some of the worst humanitarian and development indicators in the country – and indeed, on the continent. Persistent insecurity and a dearth of both social and economic investment have hampered progressive efforts, including those undertaken by local communities themselves.

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

UNICEF continues to support the Government of Uganda to serve the most vulnerable children and women in camps, return areas and underdeveloped regions through programmes in Primary Health Care, Nutrition, Immunization, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion. Key interventions to date in 2008 have included the following:

- Child Health: Approximately 5,500 children in Gulu and Amuru immunized against measles, tuberculosis and other vaccine-preventable diseases and 2,450 children benefited from provision of Vitamin A supplementation. Some 63 health facilities conducted Oral Rehydration Treatment for children under-5 with diarrhea, following provision of 470 cartons of Oral Rehydration Salts.
- Nutrition: 678 severely and moderately malnourished children in Gulu and Amuru assisted through therapeutic and supplementary feeding programmes.
- Consolidating Malaria Control: 8,455 children under-5 in Amuru assisted through provision of insecticide-treated nets and 7,357 pregnant women provided with intermittent presumptive treatment (IPT), using Fansidar, to prevent malaria during pregnancy.
- Health Systems Strengthening: Approximately 114,100 people in Amuru, including 26,400 children under-5 and women, being served following completion of renovation of Kaladima Health Center III, Purongo HC II, Todora HC II and Atiak HC IV.
- Water and Sanitation: Over 770 pupils of primary school in 3 IDP return areas of Amuru (and community members in environs) served by the construction of 4 boreholes and installation of 160 latrine units in primary schools. Extension and maintenance of other schemes ongoing.

UNICEF is also working to uphold the right of all children to education, by supporting programmes in early childhood development and education. Activities in the first quarter of 2008 included:

- Restoration of education as 114 primary schools in Gulu and Amuru, previously relocated due to insecurity, were assisted to return to original sites for start of 2008 academic year in February. Support to these schools and others in Lango districts included provision of tents as temporary learning spaces, construction of 16 classrooms, rehabilitation of 18 classroom blocks, provision of 900 desks and benches and construction/rehabilitation of teachers' dormitories was also supported in 236 primary schools.
- Approximately 308,600 pupils, Primary 1 and 2, served through distribution of scholastic materials, including UNICEF School-in-a-Box and replenishment kits, and sports equipment for the new academic year.

Children in northern and northeastern Uganda remain vulnerable to HIV. Activities conducted in the first quarter of 2008 in Gulu and Amuru include:

- 1,281 children, aged 0-17 years were tested and 67 were found HIV-positive. Of this number, 40 were started on Septrin prophylaxis.
- 5,319 pregnant women in Gulu and Amuru, accessing antenatal care services were assisted by provision of voluntary testing and counseling. 438 tested HIV-positive; 91 delivered at health facilities and 87 babies were provided with antiretroviral drugs.

Systems to protect children from violence, abuse and exploitation remain fragile and underdeveloped in north and northeastern Uganda. Activities to expand the protective environment and provide preventative and remedial services, in the first quarter of 2008, include:

- 5 children in Gulu, formerly with the LRA, accessed family-tracing, reunification and reintegration assistance. The capacity of 'reception centres' to assist children returning from the LRA was also strengthened by pre-positioning NFIs, sports equipment and other materials. In addition, capacity of Gulu GUSCO reception centre strengthened to assist up to 400 children with access to safe water and sanitation.
- 23 street-children in Lira assisted with family-tracing and reunification, after accessing basic food, shelter, medical and psychosocial counseling services. 81 households, with children already reunified, provided with livelihood support.
- Approximately 300 vulnerable girls and women, including 80 formerly with the LRA, were assisted by provision of 400 blankets and other NFIs. Some 8,080 extremely vulnerable children in Lira, including heads-of-households, were served by provision of Family Kits as they settle in areas of IDP returns.
- Some 3,651 vulnerable children in Lira and Dokolo, were served by provision of psychosocial counseling and recreational activities. Some 565 vulnerable children (247 in Gulu, 318 in Lira), identified by community Child Protection Committees (CPC), assisted by follow-up psychosocial counseling and referrals to medical and educational services.
- 39 children, in contact with the law, assisted by provision of community-based interim care and family-reunification.
- 537 cases of gender-based violence (GBV) were reported in Lira, 46% of them through established 'hotline' services. Survivors referred to appropriate services including police, medical and counseling. Some 77 survivors of sexual violence and exploitation, abandonment and neglect, referred to appropriate services including police, medical, counseling and interim care in Gulu.
- 31,648 children in Gulu and Amuru were registered and issued with birth certificates.
- 903 households affected by fire outbreaks in 48 locations of Gulu and Amuru (including IDP camps, resettlement sites and within town centres), assisted by provision of emergency shelter and household items and Family Kits.

### **3. FUNDING REQUIREMENTS AND RECEIPTS**

Against the interagency consolidated appeal, launched on 10 December 2007, UNICEF currently requires approximately US\$ 43,000,000 to meet urgent humanitarian needs of children and women in northern and north-eastern Uganda. The UNICEF Uganda appeal has been revised from the original US\$ 58 million to US\$ 54 million, as part of the interagency process of finalizing the Consolidated Appeal, led by the HC.

Donor community response to the appeal so far represents only 21% of requirements received and/or pledged. In light of this limited funding, UNICEF has identified several activities which are crucial for immediate scale-up in the first half of 2008.

These tables do not include emergency contributions given by DFID (US\$ 140,000 passed through WHO) and SIDA, (\$150,000 passed through the Joint UN Programme) towards the interagency, Joint UN Programme for Rapid Response to the Ebola Epidemic Outbreak in Western Uganda. These contributions are excluded since they do not contribute to the geographic region or objectives of the Consolidated Appeal.

**Table 1: Funds Received against Appeal**

<b>SECTOR</b>	<b>2008 APPEAL</b>	<b>FUNDS RECEIVED</b>	<b>SHORTFALL</b>	<b>% FUNDED</b>
Health and Nutrition	13,385,700	5,828,157	7,557,543	44%
Water and Sanitation	14,883,700	-	14,883,700	0%
Education	11,053,100	4,122,506	6,930,594	37%
Child Protection	7,792,487	1,651,202	6,141,285	21%
HIV/AIDS	2,332,600	-	2,332,600	0%
Emergency NFI	4,643,800	-	4,643,800	0%
<b>Total*</b>	<b>54,091,387</b>	<b>11,601,864</b>	<b>42,489,523</b>	<b>21%</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.

**Table 2: Funding Priorities as of April 2008**

<b>A selection of Urgent, Under-funded Activities, Critical for Scale-up in the First Half of 2008.</b>	<b>Beneficiaries/coverage</b>	<b>Amount Required (Unfunded Balance in US\$)</b>
Restoration of Education for Safe, Healthy and Effective Schools	855,000 primary school children (51% girls)	5,000,000
Nutrition Response in Emergencies	10,000 TFC/CTC severely malnourished, 40,000 moderately malnourished children.	2,996,000
General Health Systems Strengthening	Children: 850,516 Women: 2,327,728	578,606
Child Health	902,000 children under five and 220,000 pregnant women	3,798,500
Scale-up Comprehensive PMTCT Services in 16 Districts	Women of reproductive age: 1,026,659, Pregnant Women: 232,114 (subset), Children born to HIV+ mother: 15,087	2,047,980
Preventing and Responding to Gender-based violence (GBV)	Children: 240,000 Women: 160,000	1,061,778
Child Protection (Systems Strengthening)	200,000 children	3,000,000
Return and Reintegration of Children and Women Associated with the LRA	8,000 (3,000 children and women still associated with the LRA and 5,000 children reunified with their families)	964,254
Emergency Non-Food Items	130,000 vulnerable persons	1,000,000
Improving Safe Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Access	550,000 IDPs and returnees	5,000,000
<b>Total for Critical Priority Activities for the first half of 2008</b>		<b>25,447,118</b>

**Details of Uganda's emergency programme can be obtained from:**

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