Uganda

Update of humanitarian situation

Uganda is situated in a fluid and fragile neighbourhood. By mid-2013, the country was responding to new refugee inflows of over 120,000 from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), as well as ongoing movements from South Sudan; extensive flooding in the western DRC/Uganda border regions; peacebuilding and recovery needs in the Acholi sub-region; and significant nutrition, health, water and sanitation concerns in Karamoja, the most underdeveloped and vulnerable part of the country.

With 66,000 new DRC refugees registered 11-14 July in the Bundibugyo district, the number of Congolese seeking asylum in Uganda quickly doubled. Elsewhere in the southwest of the country, another 65,000 Congolese who fled earlier in the year have been transferred to settlements, leaving a small number in the two transit centres of Nyakabande and Matanda. In addition, approximately 15,000 Congolese are being hosted by Ugandan communities in Kisoro district along the remote DRC/Uganda border.

With recurring violence and continued uncertainty over peace negotiations between the DRC Government and the Congolese militia group M23, refugees from Congo’s Kivu regions are likely to continue to cross into Uganda through the multiple border entry points. The majority are fleeing as a precaution to lingering uncertainty as well as general insecurity marked by lootings, physical and sexual assault, alleged abductions, and inter-militia clashes.

Simultaneously, heavy rainfall in April and May 2013 led to widespread flooding in parts of western Uganda. Approximately 25,000 people were affected when two rivers overflowed their banks in Kasese district. The district endured extensive damage to the basic social service infrastructure including health centres and schools.

Adjusted planned results for 2013

In 2013, UNICEF Uganda is taking a decentralized approach to support the Government of Uganda in coping with a range of humanitarian and post-conflict challenges. In the Southwest, UNICEF is providing emergency support to refugees and IDPs affected by natural disaster, including contingency planning and preparedness. In the Acholi sub-region, UNICEF is promoting peacebuilding and reintegration through a post-conflict recovery approach, and in West Nile, UNICEF is maintaining a focus on building human security in one of the most transient parts of the country. In Karamoja, UNICEF is working with partners to address ongoing vulnerabilities and humanitarian needs through targeted protection, water, sanitation and hygiene, and basic nutrition interventions with local health authorities and NGOs. UNICEF will improve WASH access for underserved populations.

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2013 Adjusted Programme Targets

Health and Nutrition

Refugee and affected communities
- 3,882 under five refugee and host community children treated for malnutrition through the expanded Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) program (2,900 host community and 982 refugee children).
- 84,000 mothers (12,000 refugee and 72,000 host community members) supported for prevention of malnutrition.
- Provision of essential equipment and supplies, particularly clean delivery and new-born kits, and equipment for obstetric care and new-born resuscitation to 12,000 mothers.

Karamoja
- 17,900 children under five treated for malnutrition
- 288,000 children under the age of five provided messages on proper preventive nutrition.
- 61,000 breast-feeding mothers targeted for prevention (this program is implemented in partnership with WFP through the Maternal, New-born and Child health (MCNH) programme)

WASH

Refugee and affected communities
- 60,000 people benefitting from access to safe water, including household water purification and tanking as well as hygiene messaging and repair of water gravity flow schemes
- 15,000 school children will have access to water and good sanitation and hygiene facilities.
- 20,000 newly arriving refugee families receive basic hygiene kits

Karamoja
- 20,000 people have access to safe water through solar powered water systems.
- 5,000 school children will benefit from water systems and bio gas innovations in school.
- 100,000 school children will benefit from odourless, clean, fly free and hygienic latrines with the application of Use of Effective microorganism (EMO).

Northern Areas
- 20,000 people will have access to safe water and adequate sanitation in 2013 and more than 4,000 households will practice good hygiene behaviour.
- More than 5,000 school children will get direct benefit from WASH in school program

Child Protection

Refugee and affected communities
- All affected young refugee children in (approximately 15,000) with access to Child-Friendly Spaces
- Affected populations provided with psychosocial support
- Protection services for children including all unaccompanied minors and separated children in (identification, registration and referral) for family integration.

Karamoja
- Child survivors of violence provided with critical services

Education

Refugee and affected communities
- 20,000 School-aged children supported with access to emergency education
communities in areas of lowest coverage through improved functionality and provision of new facilities and promotion of good hygiene practices, cooperating with FAO and WFP to build community-level resilience to climate shocks and disease outbreaks in Uganda.

In western Uganda, initial contingency plans which were developed for a potential influx of 30,000 have been rapidly outstripped by the movements of more than 65,000 Congolese over 11-14 July 2013 alone. As new transit centres are established, UNICEF will continue to work with partners including the Government and UNHCR. Emergency support has been provided for water trucking, non-food items (NFI) family kits, measles vaccinations, and child protection; integrated WASH, education, health, nutrition, early childhood development and protection support will continue to be provided to these families and neighbouring host communities as settlements and transit centres are established. Building on early successes with Rapid FTR (Family Tracing and Reunification), child protection partners are being trained to register unaccompanied and separated children with particular attention to gender-based violence and special needs screening. Children under five in the camps will be supported upon arrival with access to basic provisions – including food and essential NFIs such as mosquito-nets – and access to child-friendly spaces (CFS). School-aged children will be supported through access to primary education and psychosocial support. Community dialogue for child protection issues will take place, including preparation and support of foster families and caretakers. UNICEF will respond to refugees’ WASH needs through the construction of long lasting latrines with hand-washing facilities, separate bathing shelters and innovative solar-powered water distribution systems provided for dual use by both refugees and host Ugandan communities. Contingency plans are being revised with partners for an additional influx of up to 70,000 new arrivals, and stocks will be replenished to maintain a high level of readiness in this extremely fluid environment.

Results from 2012
Since early 2012, UNICEF has been assisting Congolese refugees through a series of programmes aimed at addressing acute needs while facilitating smooth integration into Ugandan communities and social services. In close partnership with UNHCR, UNICEF has been providing child protection (including CFS), nutrition, immunizations, basic education and water/sanitation support to refugees in the transit camps and settlements. In 2012, UNICEF Uganda:

- Improved the lives of 14,568 refugee children, through the provision of high impact life-saving interventions in nutrition, WASH and child protection.
- Registered 507 separated and unaccompanied minors through Rapid FTR, established community child protection committees throughout Rwamwanja and Bundibugyo settlements, and facilitated community dialogues to address child protection issues.
- Provided nutrition and health support to manage severe acute malnutrition (screening, referral, treatment and follow-up care), trained and mentored 40 health workers, and provided a range of therapeutic and medical supplies.
- Provided emergency education/scholastic materials as well as school in a box items for use at schools and child friendly spaces.

UNICEF funding requirements for 2013
In line with Uganda’s refugee appeal (Emergency response appeal to the refugee influx from the Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo), the UNICEF/WFP/FAO resilience strategy in Karamoja (A Joint Strategy for Building Community Resilience in Karamoja) and the UNICEF Country Programme’s commitment to emergency response country-wide, UNICEF is requesting US$16,272,320 to meet the humanitarian needs of children and women in Uganda in 2013. Without additional funding UNICEF will be unable to support the national response to the country’s continuing nutrition crisis in Karamoja, provision of critical services to refugees and affected Uganda communities and WASH and health services to those adversely affected and/or displaced by flooding. Basic supplies for primary education are also urgently needed to uphold children’s right to education.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>Total 2013 requirements</th>
<th>Income through 30 June</th>
<th>Funding gap</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health and Nutrition</td>
<td>8,508,398</td>
<td>5,293,735</td>
<td>3,214,663</td>
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<td>Water, sanitation and hygine</td>
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<td>1,335,977</td>
<td>3,167,521</td>
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<td>Child protection</td>
<td>1,428,229</td>
<td>1,343,864</td>
<td>84,365</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>1,832,196</td>
<td>826,231</td>
<td>1,005,965</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>16,272,320*</td>
<td>8,799,807</td>
<td>7,472,513</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All figures in US$.
* Reflects an increase from the original requirements of US$8,159,000 in January 2013 to respond to the refugee crisis. Total does not add up to US$16,272,320 due to rounding.

Photo caption: A mother with her baby just arrived in Rwamwanja refugee camp from the Nyakabande transit centre (Congo Ugandan border).