

UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION

UGANDA

IN 2007



CORE COUNTRY DATA

| | |
|--|--------|
| Population under 18 (thousands) | 16,539 |
| U5 mortality rate | 136 |
| Infant mortality rate | 79 |
| Maternal mortality ratio (2000, adjusted) | 880 |
| Primary school enrolment ratio* | 87 |
| Primary school enrolment ratio for girls* | 87 |
| % U1 fully immunized (DPT3) | 84 |
| % population using improved drinking water sources | 60 |
| Estimated no. of people (all ages) living with HIV, 2005 (thousands) | 1000 |
| % U5 suffering from moderate and severe underweight | 23 |

Sources: *The State of the World's Children 2007*

* *Report on the Situation of Children and Women in Uganda, October 2005.*

Summary of UNICEF financial needs for 2007

| Sector | US\$ |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Health and nutrition | 15,106,795 |
| Water and environmental sanitation | 7,220,360 |
| Education | 9,179,530 |
| Child protection | 10,189,860 |
| Family shelter and non-food items | 6,314,000 |
| Total* | 48,010,545 |

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

1. CRITICAL ISSUES FOR CHILDREN

Two decades of armed conflict between the Uganda People's Defence Force (UPDF) and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) have perpetuated a severe humanitarian crisis, marked by varying degrees of insecurity; the massive internal displacement of approximately 1.7 million people into more than 200 camps in the Acholi (Amuru, Gulu, Kitgum and Pader districts) and Lango (Apac, Amolatar, Dokolo, Lira and Oyam) sub-regions; and violence affecting the lives of the most vulnerable populations including children and women.

Children and women comprise 80 per cent of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and have been direct targets of attacks, sexual violence and abductions perpetrated by the LRA and others. Of the nearly 25,000 children abducted since the late-1980s, 7,500 are girls of whom 1,000 returned from LRA captivity having conceived and borne children of their own. With their rights to health, education, safe water, shelter, protection and other essential services remaining largely unfulfilled, a generation of children is growing up physically, psychologically and economically blighted.

Humanitarian indicators in the north-eastern Karamoja sub-region (Kaabong, Kotido, Moroto and Nakapiripirit) remain consistently lower than national averages as the region continues to experience an endemic conflict involving the agro-pastoralist Karamojong population. In the Teso sub-region (Kaberamaido, Katakwi and Soroti), an additional 165,000 people remain internally displaced in relation to ongoing Karamojong-induced insecurity.

2. KEY ACTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2006

In close collaboration with local, national and international partners, UNICEF has continued to respond to the humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable populations in the most disadvantaged districts of northern and north-eastern Uganda. The focus has been on the priority areas of emergency health and nutrition, basic education, clean water, HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment, child protection and shelter.

In the area of health and nutrition, UNICEF and its partners trained and equipped 2,500 community-based health volunteers to provide first-line treatment to 300,000 children; provided therapeutic milk and other materials to benefit more than 6,000 severely malnourished children receiving assistance in therapeutic feeding centres, conducted a mass vaccination campaign to contain an outbreak of measles; implemented a rapid response to a cholera outbreak in three districts; and distributed more than 70,000 insecticide-treated nets for use by children and pregnant women as part of malaria prevention and control.

In education, UNICEF and its partners provided some 300 early childhood development (ECD) sites with learning materials and training for caregivers; constructed 350 new classrooms in temporary learning centres based in the camps; and provided in-service training to 400 primary schoolteachers in psychosocial care, the special needs of girl pupils and the promotion of hygiene and sanitation.

In water and environmental sanitation, UNICEF and its partners constructed more than 30 new motorized and reticulated water systems to increase access to safe water in the IDP camps; fitted 214 boreholes and 15 shallow wells with handpumps; repaired 317 existing boreholes; installed 40 rainwater harvesting systems in temporary learning centres and ECD sites; and constructed more than 12,800 latrine stances.

In HIV/AIDS, UNICEF and its partners provided voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) and prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) services to approximately 13,200 people; and

strengthened services by supporting the procurement and distribution of antiretroviral drugs to benefit more than 80,000 people.

In child protection, UNICEF and its partners reunified and provided follow-up psychosocial counselling to approximately 1,700 formerly abducted and other unaccompanied children; supported 'night commuter' shelter sites to provide basic services benefiting up to 16,000 children; and established a mechanism to assist up to 2,000 children and women returning from the LRA, as part of contingency arrangements following the announcement of an agreed ceasefire between the Government and LRA in August.

In shelter, UNICEF and its partners provided emergency household and other non-food items to approximately 69,000 households including those affected by fire outbreaks in the camps, those returning to their communities of origin and those whose members include persons living with or affected by HIV/AIDS.

3. PLANNED HUMANITARIAN ACTION FOR 2007

Coordination and partnership

Activities are implemented with District Local Governments and more than 40 NGO partners. UNICEF collaborates with WFP in protection and nutrition; and with UNAIDS, UNFPA and WHO in emergency health, nutrition and HIV/AIDS. UNICEF in Uganda is the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) cluster leader in health and nutrition and water and sanitation; and leads the sub-cluster in child protection and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and the working group for education in emergencies. At national level, clusters have developed their specific sectoral strategies and have engaged specific technical ministries in these activities. At field level, through existing coordination mechanisms, UNICEF has maximized on the IASC approach to humanitarian response development and delivery by leading coordination groups for health/nutrition; HIV/AIDS; water and sanitation; child protection and SGBV; as well as education in Kitgum, Pader, Gulu, and Lira districts. In addition, UNICEF has been a key leader in the UN and humanitarian community in developing and supporting the Population Movement Sub-Committee in Kitgum and Pader districts. The focus in 2007 will be to strengthen existing mechanisms by developing and implementing common district- and sector-specific strategies that address the complex and fluid context of each of the conflict-affected districts.

Regular programme

UNICEF supports interventions in all conflict-affected and post-conflict districts of northern and north-eastern Uganda, with emergency response and Country Programme interventions interchanged based on security and assessed needs. UNICEF prepares an annual plan for capacity-development activities in the north and north-east, funded by the regular budget with humanitarian response activities integrated into the overall plan as resources become available.

UNICEF's humanitarian response in 2007 is planned within the context of a constantly changing scenario with regards to the prospects for a peaceful resolution of conflict and increased security in northern Uganda, with an attendant voluntary population movement and efforts by communities to resettle before the next planting season. A major challenge for humanitarian agencies is to sustain existing services, and rehabilitate and expand services where population movements are occurring. UNICEF has agreed with sister UN agencies and NGO partners to enhance the protection and living conditions in IDP camps and to support voluntary population movements as strategic priorities.

Health and nutrition (US\$ 15,106,795)

Some 720,000 under-five children, including up to 10,000 severely malnourished children and 800,000 women, will benefit from the following key activities to scale up interventions in IDP camps and areas of return and resettlement, and the Karamoja sub-region:

- Immunize children and pregnant women against polio, measles and maternal and neonatal tetanus through 'Child Health Days' and routine immunization activities;
- Equip and train community-based health volunteers to treat, or refer where necessary, children under age five for malaria, pneumonia, diarrhoea and other childhood illnesses;
- Provide therapeutic milk, anthropometrical and other supplies to therapeutic feeding centres and supplementary feeding centres;
- Support distribution and regular re-treatment of insecticide-treated nets for malaria prevention;
- Support menstrual management for 20,000 girls and women of childbearing age.

Some 800,000 children and 200,000 persons living with HIV/AIDS in IDP camps and areas of return in Acholi, Lango and Teso sub-regions, and in Karamoja sub-region, will benefit from the following key activities to strengthen prevention and treatment including PMTCT and paediatric AIDS in IDP camps and areas of return and resettlement:

- Assist implementing partners to increase capacity to provide testing and counselling services according to national standards and guidelines, and expand comprehensive PMTCT services to Health Centre III (sub-county) level;
- Provide comprehensive care including antiretroviral treatment, palliative care and paediatric management;
- Assist procurement and distribution of drugs and supplies, including paediatric formulations and diagnostic facilities;
- Strengthen the participation of children, community groups, village health teams and related networks to provide quality essential services for orphans due to AIDS.

Water and environmental sanitation (US\$ 7,220,360)

Some 657,000 children and women in IDP camps and areas of return in Acholi, Lango and Teso sub-regions will benefit from the following key activities to increase access to safe water in IDP camps and areas of return and resettlement within Sphere standards:

- Construct new motorized and hand-pumped water facilities, and repair existing facilities;
- Construct sanitation facilities in schools and urban/trading centres, and construct demonstration sanitation facilities in remote areas (rocky, collapsing and waterlogged);
- Provide latrine construction kits and related materials to returning communities;
- Equip districts with water testing kits, sanitation kits and other materials to facilitate monitoring activities.

Education (US\$ 9,179,530)

Some 950,000 primary school-aged children aged 6-12 years; 77,000 children below age six; 4,175 primary schoolteachers, non-formal education instructors and administrators; and 5,325 ECD caregivers in Acholi, Lango, Teso and Karamoja sub-regions will benefit from the following key activities to re-open schools and learning environments, and prioritize the return of children back to school in IDP camps and areas of return and resettlement:

- Strengthen infrastructure of 60 schools, including through repairs to classrooms and playground areas, and installation of water and sanitation facilities;
- Scale up accelerated learning strategies to 20 schools per district, expand non-formal education programmes and implement back-to-school/go-to-school campaigns;
- Provide start-up facilities and equipment, and training in early learning and stimulation interventions for volunteer caregivers and other stakeholders to establish and sustain community-based ECD and day-care centres;
- Train teachers and pupils in life skills for HIV/AIDS prevention and psychosocial support;
- Establish 50 ECD and 50 day care-centres; supply school-in-a-box education and recreation materials to all primary schools; expand Girls Education Movement activities and breakthrough-to-literacy teaching-learning methodology in primary schools and non-formal education sites.

Child protection (US\$ 10,189,860)

Some 450,000 children and women in Acholi, Lango, Teso and Karamoja sub-regions will benefit from the following key activities to provide a safe and supportive environment, with special focus on children in IDP camps and areas of return and resettlement:

- Assist interim care and transit facilities (reception centres for formerly abducted children, women and youth) to provide early return support, and medical care, family-tracing, family preparation and reinsertion support;
- Provide reintegration assistance, including child social and livelihood networks, gender-specific reintegration, micro-projects and non-formal education for formerly abducted children, women and youth;
- Assist Government and NGOs to strengthen integrated protection mechanisms and case management systems to benefit children in 75 IDP camps and areas of return;
- Strengthen multisectoral prevention and response to gender-based violence by improving access to quality health, psychosocial protection and legal services for girls and women.

Family shelter and non-food items (US\$ 6,314,000)

Up to 630,000 vulnerable persons in IDP camps and areas of return in Acholi, Lango and Teso sub-regions will benefit from the following key activities:

- Provide 85,000 non-food items, essential/emergency family kits – each kit contains plastic sheeting (1); blankets (3); jerrycans (2); cooking set for five persons (plates, cups, forks, spoons, knife and pots); and soap (1kg);
- Provide 30,000 non-food items, complementary population movement kits – each kit contains farming tools (1 pick axe, 1 shovel, 1 hoe); antiseptic solution (150ml); safety matches and candles (20) and related materials.