

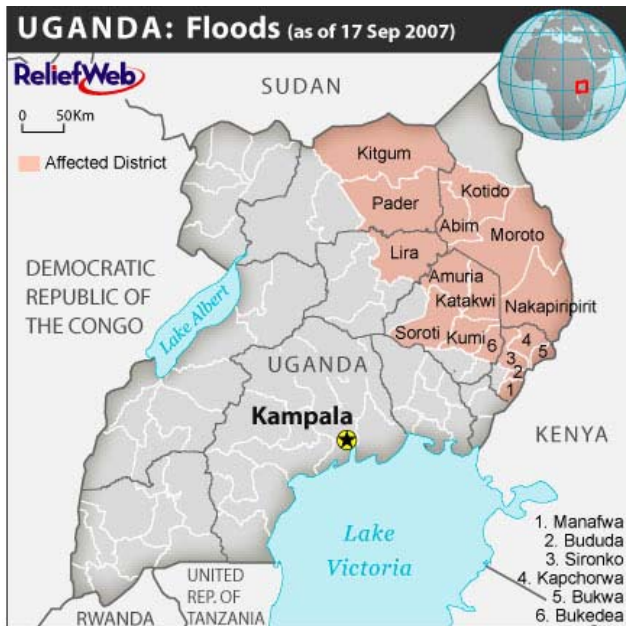


SITUATION REPORT N° 4 – UGANDA FLOODS – 28 SEPTEMBER 2007

HIGHLIGHTS

- **NEARLY 82,000 FLOOD-AFFECTED PEOPLE HAVE RECEIVED FOOD AID**
- **WATER PURIFICATION TABLETS DISTRIBUTED TO SOME 380,000 FLOOD-AFFECTED PEOPLE**
- **OCHA IS DISTRIBUTING MOBILE TELEPHONES TO DISTRICT AUTHORITIES TO FACILITATE COMMUNICATIONS**

The information contained in this report has been gathered by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) from sources including the Government of Uganda, UN agencies, non-governmental organizations and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Situation Overview

1. Unusually heavy rainfall since July 2007 has led to flooding and waterlogging across a number of districts in eastern and northern Uganda.
2. As of 28 September, the Government has identified 30 districts variously affected by the floods: Amuria, Bukedea, Kaberamaido, Katakwi, Kumi and Soroti in Teso sub-region; Amuru, Gulu, Kitgum and Pader in Acholi sub-region; Amolatar, Apac, Dokolo, Lira and Oyam in Lango sub-region; Abim, Kaabong, Kotido, Moroto and Nakapiripirit in Karamoja region; Bududa, Bukwo, Kapchorwa, Mbale, Manafwa and Sironko in Elgon region; and Adjumani, Arua, Moyo, Nebbi and Yumbe in West Nile region.
3. Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni declared a **state of emergency** in the areas of eastern Uganda affected by the flooding on 19 September, which was endorsed by Parliament on 25 September. AcOn the same day, the Government approved a **budget of 20**

billion Uganda shillings (UGX) (nearly US\$ 11.5 million) for response to the flooding. The funding is to be channelled through national line ministries, including Education, Health, Water and Environment, among others.

4. Planning for the humanitarian response to the disaster is based on some **50,000 households**, or approximately 300,000 people, being affected by the rainfall and associated flooding. This planning figure may be expected to change as additional assessments come in and/or depending on whether the intensified rainfall continues.
5. The Uganda Department of Meteorology, in its seasonal rainfall forecast for September to December, predicts high chances for normal to above normal rains to continue over most parts of the eastern region of Uganda.
6. Substantial damage has been incurred to first season crops in the affected areas; in the **most affected areas, 65% of families have lost 90% of their crops**. Planting of second season crops has been delayed. The next harvest cannot be expected before February 2008, meaning that most of those affected will face food insecurity in coming months.
7. The flooding has also impacted negatively on water and sanitation in the affected areas, as open water sources, and even some boreholes, have been contaminated. Sanitation facilities, particularly pit latrines, have been flooded and/or collapsed; most remaining latrines are not used for fear of collapse.
8. The damage to water and sanitation infrastructure also increases the risk of outbreak of waterborne diseases such as cholera as the floodwaters recede.
9. Many homes, which are primarily made with traditional mud bricks, have crumbled in the wet conditions. The displaced have sought shelter with friends and family, in IDP camps from which many were only newly returned, or in institutions such as schools and health centres.

10. Recent assessments conducted in Lira and Dokolo districts indicated that more than tens of thousands of people have been affected by flooding and thousands displaced into 16 centres. More than 650 latrines have been flooded and 29 schools affected.

Priority Needs

11. After consultation with the Government and with the clusters, the Humanitarian Coordinator has identified the following urgent priorities for the initial phase of the emergency response:

- Stabilising the initial food security situation (Food Security cluster);
- Preventing disease outbreaks and ensuring capacity to respond to health emergencies (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene [WASH] and Health, Nutrition and HIV/AIDS clusters);
- Re-opening schools and ensuring access to primary education (Education cluster);
- Responding to the urgent needs of the most vulnerable (Camp Coordination/Camp Management cluster, Non Food Items working group, Protection cluster);
- Ensuring physical access to the most vulnerable, and continuing inter-cluster assessments (Logistics cluster);
- Understanding the early recovery needs of the affected population and prioritising recovery interventions (Early Recovery cluster).

12. Access to the flood-affected population, both for assessments and the delivery of emergency assistance, remains a major challenge for the response actors. Key roads remain impassable due to collapses/damaged bridges and flooding.

Humanitarian Response

Since the issuance of the last Situation Report, the following updates have been received:

Shelter and Non-Food Items Working Group

13. The NGO Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), Uganda began distributions of tarpaulins, water purification tablets, jerry cans and soap to 420 households in Magoro sub-county of Katakwi district on 26 September. The kits were purchased with funds made available by ADRA Germany and Aktion Deutschland Hilft.

14. The United Nations Children's (UNICEF) has provided 12,900 family kits to date. Distributions have been carried out in cooperation with the following non-governmental organizations (NGOs):

- The German NGO Arbeiter Samariter Bund (ASB) and Italian NGO Gruppo di Volontariato Civile (GVC) in Katakwi;
- The Italian NGO Associazione Volontari per il Servizio Internazionale (AVSI) in Kitgum district;
- The NGO Concern Worldwide in Amuria district, for 7,000 affected households;
- The International Organization for Migration in Soroti, for 1,611 households;
- The Italian NGO Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI) in Lira; and
- The Lutheran World Federation (LWF), also in Teso sub-region.

15. UNICEF has an additional 20,000 family kits in the pipeline.

16. Oxfam, Great Britain, based in Mbale, is planning an NFI response in Mt. Elgon and Kaabong, targeting 500 households.

17. The NGO Transcultural Psychosocial Organization (TPO), Uganda is planning a distribution of NFIs, including tarpaulins, mosquito nets, blankets and assorted household utensils in Katakwi district.

18. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is working with ASB to distribute shelter materials in Soroti district, with plans for 500 tents and 2,000 blankets, following their distributions in Katakwi. ASB has formed two distribution teams to work with UNHCR.

19. The Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS), supported by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), plans to establish operational bases in Soroti and Lira for an emergency response supporting 10,000 households with NFIs. The distribution will be done in cooperation with UNICEF.

Education

20. UNICEF has distributed 32 classroom tents (72m²) and 27 schools-in-a-box and has an additional 300 tents and 200 schools-in-a-box in the pipeline.

21. TPO Uganda intends to distribute scholastic materials to 600 candidate students in Katakwi, Kumi and Soroti districts in order to facilitate them in taking the Primary Leaving Exams, scheduled for October 2007.

Food Security

22. As of 27 September, WFP and its partners have reached nearly 82,000 people in the Teso, Elgon, and Lango sub-regions with 1,349 metric tonnes of food.

- In Teso and Elgon, WFP distributed 704 metric tonnes to 43,494 flood-affected persons using trucks and helicopters. The NGO WorldVision and

WFP are looking into a partnership agreement in these areas.

- In Lango, Samaritan's Purse and WFP have delivered 645 metric tonnes of food to 38,460 people.

23. In the coming days, WFP is also planning to begin operations in Karamoja, where some 25,000 people requiring food aid have been identified.

Health, Nutrition and HIV/AIDS

24. In Kitgum district, district officials have begun a public information campaign to sensitize people about the hazardous effects of the floods, with support from AVSI, the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF.

25. Drug distributions from the National Medical Store (NMS) to Amuria, Bukedea, Katakwi and Kumi districts in Teso sub-region have been completed. WHO is following up on the issue of transporting medicines from the NMS to Pader district.

26. The cluster conducted HMIS/IDSR on-the-job training for district surveillance focal points in Kumi and Bukedea districts.

27. WHO conducted a drug inventory check in 11 health units in Bukedea district from 26 to 28 September; a similar check was conducted in Amuria district on 28 September.

28. The NGO Pilgrim conducted a mobile clinic in Kapelebyong sub-county on 27 September. Another mobile clinic is planned for Amaseniko, in Amuria district.

29. UNICEF has distributed 24 emergency health kits to treat 11,000 people for three months, as well as 920 CORPs kits, providing health care for 48,000 children for one month and one million measles and 1.2 million polio vaccines, along with cold chain supplies. UNICEF has also prepositioned cholera supplies for 10,000 cases in Lango and Teso sub-regions,

Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

30. UNICEF and partners including Population Service International (PSI) and LightForce International (LFI) have distributed some 49,398 insecticide-treated nets (ITNs), 15,000 jerry cans, and 15 metric tonnes of soap, as well as water purification tablets for more than 380,000 people for one month. Additional supplies in the pipeline include five million water purification tablets (for 300,000 people for six months) and 100,000 ITNs.

31. The NGO Action Contre la Faim (ACF)/Action Against Hunger (AAF) is preparing a cholera response plan for the Lango sub-region, including positioning of water quality testing equipment and borehole rehabilitation equipment.

32. Oxfam GB is planning an additional project on cholera preparation in Elgon and Kabon areas.

Logistics

33. As of 26 September, the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) helicopter based out of Soroti had transported 16.5 metric tonnes of relief goods, including 9.7 metric tonnes of food and 6.8 metric tonnes of non-food relief.

34. OCHA is providing mobile telephones, including pre-paid airtime and chargers to facilitate communication in affected areas. The phones, which will be distributed to district authorities, were purchased through an emergency cash grant of US\$ 10,000 from funding pre-positioned with OCHA by Norway.

Coordination

35. The clusters are responding to needs identified, in coordination with the Government of Uganda, through the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM). The OPM is organizing regular coordination meetings between Government, national and international actors.

36. All clusters have identified resident cluster leads and continue to increase their presence in Soroti. The list of these designated cluster leads for the floods response has been circulated to the humanitarian community and can be accessed by members through the Uganda Floods Google Group.

37. Following the 21 September launch of the Uganda Floods Flash Appeal for some US\$ 41 million, donor pledges are being identified, although gaps in funding for the response remain. A grant application to the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) for priority life-saving needs across the clusters was submitted today. Financial tracking information is available on OCHA's Financial Tracking System (FTS).

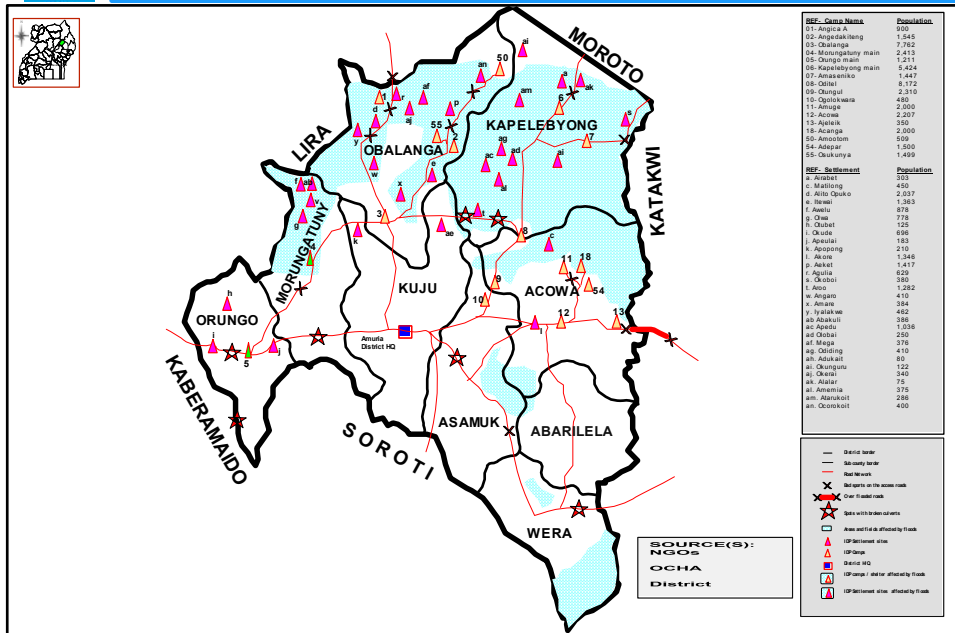
38. OCHA remains in regular contact with the Office of the Prime Minister, counterparts in line ministries and district authorities in the affected areas, as well as the Office of the Humanitarian/Resident Coordinator for Uganda.

39. A Google Group for Uganda Floods has been opened for sharing assessments, maps, breaking information and other reports on the emergency humanitarian response to the flood disaster:
<http://groups.google.com/group/ugandafloods>

40. OCHA will continue to issue regular Situation Reports on Tuesdays and Fridays. Inputs to the Situation Reports should be sent to the following address by 1200 on Tuesdays and 1800 on Thursdays for inclusion. Inputs may be sent to:
ocha-uganda@un.org or knutson@un.org.



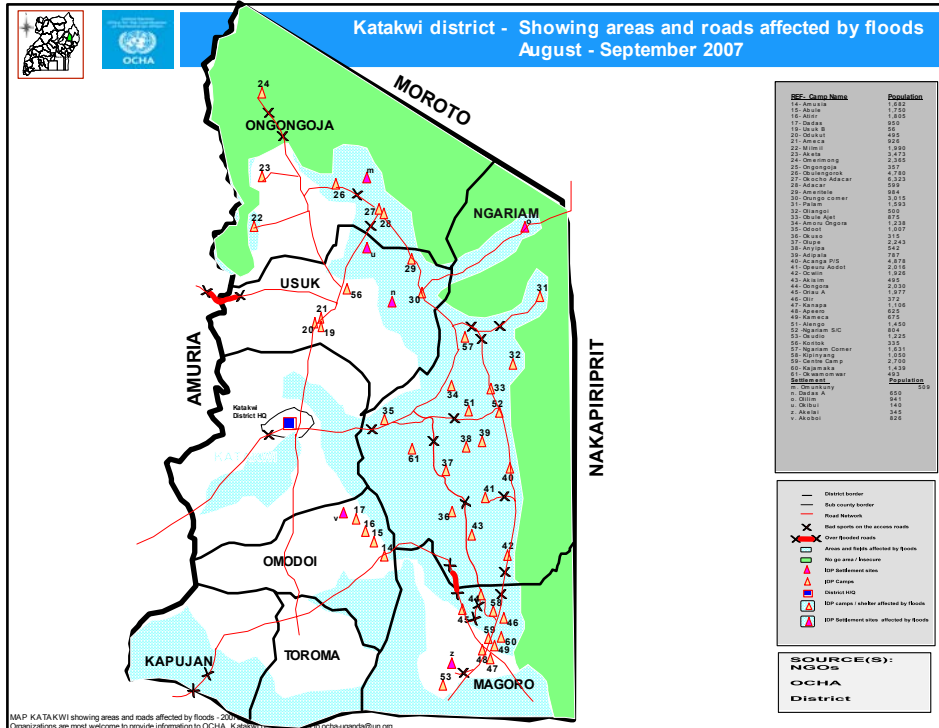
Amuria district - showing areas and roads affected by floods August - September 2007



MAP Amuria showing areas and roads affected by floods - 2007/03
Organizations are most welcome to provide information to OCHA. Katakwi office or emails to ocha-uganda@un.org



Katakwi district - Showing areas and roads affected by floods August - September 2007



MAP KATAKWI showing areas and roads affected by floods - 2007/03
Organizations are most welcome to provide information to OCHA. Katakwi office or emails to ocha-uganda@un.org

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