

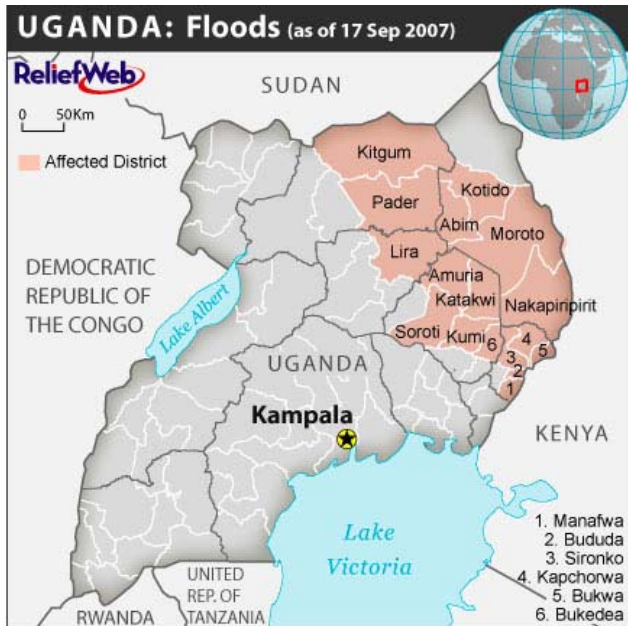


### SITUATION REPORT N° 5 – UGANDA FLOODS – 2 OCTOBER 2007

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- FLOODS SPREAD TO ADDITIONAL DISTRICTS IN CENTRAL UGANDA
- BLOODY DIARRHOEA IN KATAKWI DISTRICT INCREASES CONCERN OVER HEALTH AND WATER AND SANITATION SITUATION IN FLOOD-AFFECTED AREAS

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 had 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. Latest reports are that the **flooding has now spread to two additional districts**, namely Kiboga and Kamuli (central Uganda). The Rwizi River in Mbarara (southwestern Uganda) is also reported to have burst its banks.

4. On 19 September, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni declared a **state of emergency** in the areas flood-affected areas of Eastern Uganda, which was endorsed by Parliament on 25 September.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. The flooding has had a severe impact on water and sanitation in the affected areas, which damage increases the risk of outbreak of waterborne diseases such as cholera as the floodwaters recede. **Concerns have been elevated in recent days as reports of several cases of bloody diarrhoea have been received from Katakwi district.** Cholera response contingency planning is being conducted in regional coordination hub in Soroti.

8. 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.

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.

## Priority Needs

10. 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).

11. 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 (NFI) Working Group

12. According to the NFI working group, 8,500 households in Lira, 180 households in Pader and 4,411 households in Teso regions have received emergency NFIs, including blankets, jerry cans, soap and cooking sets, among other items. Additional supplies targeting 27,000 households have been procured and dispatched for distribution in the affected areas.

13. The non-governmental organization (NGO) German Agro Action (GAA) will distribute 3,000 family kits, each comprising a jerry can, two mosquito nets, a tarpaulin and a packet of water treatment Aqua tablets, using funding from the German government.

14. The NGO Light Force International (LFI) has distributed family kits to 8,380 households in Abako, Omoro and Apala sub-counties of Lira district. The kits

contain blankets, tarpaulins, laundry soap, jerry cans, wash basins, buckets and Aqua tablets. LFI is planning to assist an additional 3,500 households in Oilim, and 4,000 households in Okwang, in Otuke sub-county, Lira district.

15. The NGO Concern Worldwide has distributed 8,411 blankets, 6,075 mosquito nets and 927 tarpaulins benefiting some 7,000 households in Kapelebyong and Obalanga sub-counties of Amuria district.

16. The Norwegian NGO Lion Aid donated 50 million Uganda shillings (UGX) (approximately US\$ 28,000) for the procurement of NFIs in Soroti district.

### Early Recovery

17. A team from UNDP and UN-HABITAT arrived in Soroti on 1 October to activate the Early Recovery cluster and begin working on an Early Recovery needs assessment.

### Education

18. According to the Education Cluster, led by UNICEF, ten classroom tents have been set up in Lira. An additional 300 tents for some 15 primary schools have been procured. The registration of all Primary Leaving Examinations (PLE) candidates is underway and PLE supplies are being procured. "School in a Box" supplies have been procured and are available to re-opening schools in affected areas.

19. The Education Cluster also reports that the construction of emergency water and sanitation structures is underway in 49 priority primary schools in Katakwi, Soroti, Amuria and Bukedea districts. Assessment of other primary schools is ongoing.

### Food Security

20. The Food Security cluster reports that nearly 82,000 flood-affected people in Teso, Elgon and Lango sub regions have received at least a one-month food ration.

### Health, Nutrition, HIV/AIDS

21. The Health cluster reports that follow-up on the drug inventory in Kumi district has been completed, while in Bukedea district, the district health team (DHT) was supported to conduct an inventory.

22. Lira district has received supplies of Coartem (anti-malarial) from the National Medical Store (NMS) and is distributing the stocks to health centres. Dokolo district has also received some drug stocks from the NMS and is in process of distributing. Verification of the distributions will occur next week.

23. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has provided one Basic New Emergency Health Kit to Oromo sub-county to cover 10,000 people for 30 days.

24. The NGO Christian Children's Fund (CCF) has supplied HBC kits to the CORPS. Homapack kits for distribution to village health teams (VHTs) are in the pipeline.

25. The World Health Organization (WHO) sent a team to investigate rumours of suspected dysentery in Katakwi district.

26. The NGO Pilgrim provided medical services to 203 patients in Oditel in Amuria district.

27. The AIDS Support Organization (TASO) provided services to 236 People Living with HIV/AIDS (PHAs) in Katakwi. The clients received medicines for opportunistic infections.

28. WHO has continued to provide technical assistance to the cluster in preparation for the Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) sensitization for local leaders and EPR training for health workers and VHTs.

### Protection

29. According to the Protection Cluster, senior protection staff have been deployed in affected areas. The protection cluster has also started assessments and set-up of protection coordination mechanisms for emergency response to protection issues.

30. Under the coordination of UNICEF, existing gender based violence (GBV) prevention and response mechanisms as well as child protection mechanisms previously set up in Soroti, Katakwi and Amuria have been refocused to provide a response to the emergency situation.

### Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

31. As previously reported, the WASH cluster notes that 15,000 households in Teso have received water treatment chemicals to ensure household water security and an additional 20,000 families are being targeted for distributions.

32. The German government has donated a water treatment plant with a capacity of 60,000 litres, which is to be sent to Katakwi district.

33. Technisches Hilfswerk (TWH) is currently carrying out water quality tests in the districts of Katakwi and Amuria.

34. The NGO Water Aid has deployed a technical officer to be based in Soroti. Water Aid will also take up the printing of emergency Information and materials for sanitation and hygiene education.

### Logistics

35. As of 28 September, the Logistics cluster had moved 18.6 metric tonnes – including 10.7 MT of food and 7.9 MT of non-food relief – via the UNHAS helicopter based out of Soroti. As of 3 October, however, the UNHAS helicopter will be returning to Sudan, from where it has been on loan, and will not be replaced until 6 September.

36. The Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) is helping police marines to be deployed in water logged areas. UGX 93 million (approximately US\$ 53,400) has been

earmarked to buy canoes, tents, life jackets to be used by the marines.

## Coordination

37. 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.

38. OCHA has compiled existing assessments and made the compilation available to all cluster partners. Inter-agency assessments with DDMC participation are continuing with a focus on consolidating figures of affected population by cluster. Targeting of response priorities is done on a daily basis in humanitarian coordination meetings held in Soroti.

39. 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.

40. 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. **An initial grant package totalling US\$ 6 million has been made available from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)** for priority life-saving needs across the clusters. Financial tracking information is available on OCHA's Financial Tracking System (FTS).

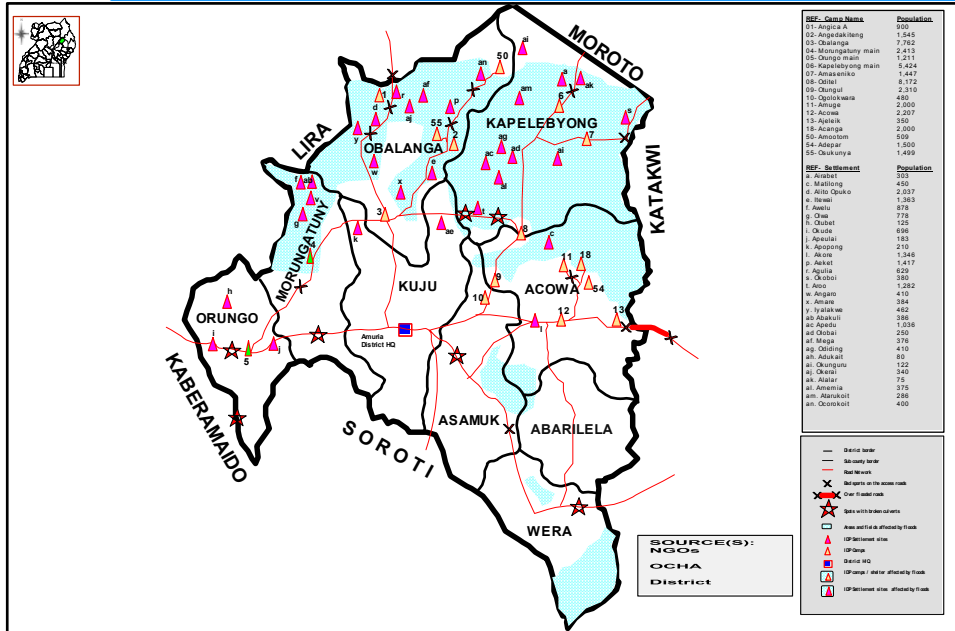
41. OCHA remains in regular contact with the Office of the Prime Minister, counterparts in line ministries and district authorities in the affected areas, as well as the Office of the Humanitarian/Resident Coordinator for Uganda.

42. 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>

43. **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](mailto:ocha-uganda@un.org) or [knutson@un.org](mailto:knutson@un.org).**



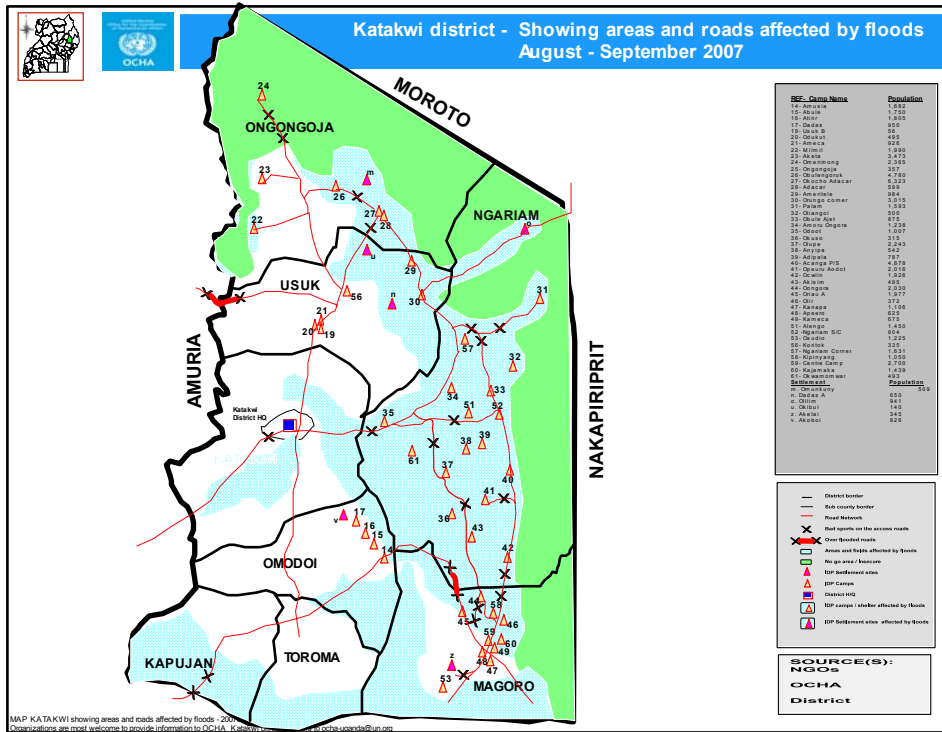
### Amuria district - showing areas and roads affected by floods August - September 2007



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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