



SITUATION REPORT N° 7 – UGANDA FLOODS – 9 OCTOBER 2007 Focus on Teso

HIGHLIGHTS

- **DOWNED BRIDGES AND IMPASSABLE ROADS THREATEN TO CUT OFF TESO SUB-REGION**
- **NEW AIR ASSETS ARRIVE IN COUNTRY; BY END OF WEEK THREE HELICOPTERS AND ONE AIRPLANE ARE EXPECTED TO BE OPERATIONAL**

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 Red Cross movement.



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. The humanitarian response to the flooding and water-logging across eastern and northern Uganda continues, with the clusters deploying daily operations in the Teso sub-region from the regional coordination hub in Soroti.
2. Health risks continue to be a major concern, with unconfirmed reports of several fatal cases of pneumonia in parts of Katakwi district. Access to health care service, particularly in cut off areas, is of specific concern, as is the potential for epidemic disease outbreaks. Contingency planning for the latter event is ongoing in Soroti.
3. Overall, flooding, water-logging and mudslides have affected the following districts: 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 Nakapiripit in Karamoja region; Bududa, Bukwo, Kapchorwa, Mbale, Manafwa and Sironko in Bugisu (Elgon) sub-region; and Adjumani, Arua, Moyo, Nebbi and Yumbe in West Nile sub-region; as well as Kiboga and Kamuli districts in central Uganda.

4. President Yoweri Museveni declared the country's first-ever State of Emergency in flood-affected areas of eastern Uganda on 19 September, which was endorsed by Parliament on 25 September.

5. On 5 October, the President addressed participants in a charity walk organized by the Teso Flood Relief Task Force, pledging the Government's support for the survivors and prioritizing the reconstruction of roads and bridges in the affected region. On 7 October, the President addressed local residents at the Soroti Hotel and toured parts of the affected area.

6. The Government has established a regional presence of the Office of the Prime Minister in Soroti to assist in coordination of the floods response.

7. Current 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.

8. The Uganda Department of Meteorology's 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.

Access

9. Access constraints continue to pose the largest obstacle to operations. At present, the entire Teso sub-region risks being cut off from the rest of Uganda due to near impassable conditions on the Lira-Soroti road. The Ministry of Works is called up on to undertake immediate maintenance work to avert the risk that

increasing water levels and floating grass islands obstructing culverts along the road cut it off.

10. Meanwhile, Katakwi district has been cut off overland from the rest of Teso sub-region for more than two weeks, due to an approximately one-kilometre long expanse of water that has overtaken the road at the Komolo Bridge. Those travelling to Katakwi are being ferried across the water in small boats.

11. A similar situation continues at the Awoja Bridge, the main link between Soroti and Mbale in eastern Uganda.

12. Additionally, the humanitarian community has discontinued use of the remaining bridge linking Soroti to southern Uganda – Agu Bridge. Although the bridge remains standing, there are concerns over its structural stability and a several hundred metre stretch of road on approach from Mbale has also been overtaken by flood water.

13. In addition to independent boats operating at Komolo and Awoja, the World Food Programme (WFP) has purchased two boats, one of which is operating at each location.

14. Other access restrictions include cut roads in Dokolo and Usuku (in Amuria district). Most feeder roads are subject to travel only in 4x4 or 6x6 vehicles.

Priority Needs

15. The regional cluster leads based in Soroti, in consultation with OCHA, characterizing the situation as a combined food and non-food emergency, have identified two immediate overarching priorities for the response:

- To stabilize the food security situation as quickly as possible in areas that have been cut off and where the immediate lack of food is evident; and
- To prevent the outbreak of waterborne epidemic diseases by 1) enabling and equipping local health structures to respond; 2) distributing “household safe water kits” and other essential non-food items; and 3) supporting the resumption of safe water distributions.

Humanitarian Response

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

Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFIs) Working Group

16. Partners working in the area of shelter and NFIs have distributed 14,828 family NFI kits and 24,030 household safe water kits in Amuria, Bukedea, Katakwi, Kumi, Sironko and Soroti districts. Additional distributions have been planned in Bududa, Kumi,

Amuria and Katakwi. Needs assessments are ongoing in Bukwa, Manafwa and Kapchorwa districts.

17. Distributions have been carried out by partners including Population Service International (PSI), Concern, Lutheran World Foundation (LWF), Arbeiter Samaritar Bund (ASB) and Gruppo di Volontariato Civile (GVC), as well as the Red Cross.

18. For its part, the Red Cross informs that it has distributed essential NFIs to 4,981 households, against its target of 20,000 households. Red Cross kitchen sets have also been distributed to 2,816 households, where road access and supplies have permitted.

19. Red Cross distributions by helicopter are set to begin on 9 October in the area of Ngariam Corner, Katakwi district. It is anticipated that air operations could enable the Red Cross to reach an additional 1,500 households.

Camp Management/Camp Coordination

20. The Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), in conjunction with partners, continues to assess seven IDP camps in Katakwi district identified for inclusion in the camp management pilot project. Other camps will be identified as the response progresses.

Early Recovery

21. The shelter expert dispatched to Uganda by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) as part of its eight-person Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) has surveyed ten sites. Although the number of destroyed houses is low, most residences have been affected by the flooding to some extent. Most exhibit damp and unstable walls and damp floors, making them unsuitable for living/sleeping indoors. The dampness also poses health concerns including increased susceptibility to malaria, diarrhoeal diseases and acute respiratory infections.

22. The Red Cross has received a donation of 2,000 recovery tool kits for use in the flood operation.

Education

23. Five classroom tents have been installed in Amuria district – two in Asamuku (Amucu Mission primary school), one in Obalanga, and one in Abelilela, as well as 20 teacher’s accommodation tents. The NGO Premiere Urgence is working to establish temporary sanitation facilities at the schools. In total, 400 Primary Leaving Examination candidates are benefiting from the temporary classrooms.

24. The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) is assessing conditions in Katakwi district in order to continue installations of temporary classrooms. If conditions are not amenable to the installations, the UNICEF team will move to Bukedea district, where needs have already been identified.

Food Security

25. The World Food Programme, joint cluster lead for food security, has distributed more than 1,900 metric tonnes (MT) of food to more than 116,000 people in the Teso sub-region as of 6 October. A total of 229,623 people in Teso and Bugisu are targeted for food aid in the sub-region in total.

26. In some areas, WFP has concluded deliveries to all flood-affected persons reachable by land; remaining beneficiaries are accessible only through air operations. The WFP Soroti office is cooperating with the Ministry of Works to repair problem road sites blocking food deliveries.

Health, Nutrition and HIV/AIDS

27. The World Health Organization (WHO), on behalf of the cluster, has mapped existing health centres in five districts of Teso sub-region – Amuria, Bukedea, Katakwi, Kumi and Soroti. Of a total 124 health centres (92 governmental and 32 non-governmental), 116 are currently functional.

28. In terms of staffing levels, the mapping shows that, on average, only 39 per cent of health posts are filled in the sub-region: 21 per cent in Amuria; 43 per cent in Katakwi; 53 per cent in Kumi; 39 per cent in Bukedea; and 42 per cent in Soroti.

29. Sixty-six of the health centres have received medicines and other supplies from the National Medical Store (NMS). The WHO is assisting health centres to conduct inventories of available drugs and other supplies.

30. Cholera kits have been pre-positioned in all five districts and additional kits can be mobilized out of Gulu and Kampala if needs arise in other affected districts.

31. The Red Cross has been operating a mobile clinic in Amuria district since 30 September; as of 7 October, more than 1,000 people had been treated.

Protection

32. The cluster is conducting a mapping of actors and protection concerns and responses in the sub-region. The UNHCR, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and Uganda Human Rights Commission conducted assessments in IDP camps in Amuria district, including an Age Gender Diversity Mainstreaming assessment. Child protection concerns were identified, including an increased number of school drop outs as a result of the flooding. In one camp, both children and adults were seeking shelter in school classrooms at night, with no clearly delineated space for girls and boys.

33. The NGO Transcultural Psychosocial Organization (TPO) is carrying out a gender based violence and child protection assessment in Katakwi and Amuria districts and is working with the NGO Christian Children's Fund (CCF), in collaboration with UNICEF, to identify extremely vulnerable individuals (EVIs). This information has been used to help target NFI and food

distributions. TPO has deployed 15 social workers to carry out the assessments, especially in hard-to-reach areas.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

34. The cluster has been looking at sanitation needs in flood-affected schools. To date, 131 schools in the Teso and Bugisu regions have been identified as requiring WASH intervention, including 22 in Bukedea (to be covered by the Italian NGO CESVI); 22 in Kapchorwa; 39 in Sironko; 16 in Amuria (to be covered by the NGO Premiere Urgence); 21 in Katakwi (to be covered by the NGO ACTED); and 11 in Kaberamaido.

35. As of 9 October, a water purification plant has been installed at Oongora camp by the German agency Technisches Hilfswerk (THW). THW has an additional four plants on standby for deployment.

36. The Red Cross water treatment plant installed and operational at Amaseniko camp in Amuria district since 26 September has been producing up to 10,000 litres per day, providing safe drinking water for an average 1,600 persons daily. The plant's maximum capacity is 24,000 litres per day, but optimum production has been hampered by the need to truck in source water on an often impassable road.

37. A second Red Cross water treatment plant is on standby in Soroti in preparedness for an outbreak of epidemic disease.

38. The cluster, with the participation of the Red Cross, is discussing a plan for optimal use of available water purification plants.

39. Three Red Cross master trainers completed a four-day emergency Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) training of trainers for 25 volunteers in Amuria on 1 October. A similar course is taking place in Katakwi, with 20 volunteers. The PHAST training promotes outreach by trainees for community awareness and mobilization and monitoring of water and sanitation, hygiene and health.

Logistics

40. To date, the WFP-led Logistics Cluster has airlifted a total of 23.8 MT of emergency relief, including 13.4 MT of food and 10.4 MT of non-food relief). 196 humanitarian personnel have been transported inaccessible locations.

41. One MI-8 helicopter is operational out of Soroti. Two additional MI-8 helicopters are expected to arrive in country on 12 October. One AN-12 cargo plane is also due to arrive this week and will be used for food drop operations, to reduce the operational burden on the helicopters.

42. Logistics Cluster meetings continue to be held in both Kampala and Soroti, with the next Kampala meeting scheduled for 10 October. In Soroti, the cluster meets held every Thursday at the WFP office. Agencies participating in the WFP-led cluster meetings include: ACTED, ADRA, ACF, ARC, ASB, Concern,

COOPI, FHI, GOAL, IFRC/Ugandan Red Cross, IOM, ISP, Merlin, OCHA, Office of the Prime Minister, Oxfam GB, Samaritans Purse, Save the Children, THW Germany, TPO Uganda, UNDSS, UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO, Water Missions international, and World Vision.

43. The first User Group meeting was held on 5 October in Soroti and set the following priorities for cargo movements by air: health kits/medical supplies, water and sanitation supplies, food and shelter kits/other NFIs.

44. 850 square metres of warehouse space is now available in three storage tents in Soroti, with two tents dedicated to NFIs and one to food. Storage will be free of charge beyond the seven-day limit until such time as the cluster is fully operational. Six 6X6 trucks with 25 MT capacity contracted by WFP are available to move NFIs, when not employed by the contracting agency.

45. Detailed maps, road condition updates and other information are available at the Logistics cluster website: www.logcluster.org/uganda-floods.

Coordination

46. Operating from the regional coordination hub in Soroti, the clusters are responding to identified needs in coordination with district officials and representatives of the Office of the Prime Minister.

47. Most clusters are now holding coordination meetings at least once a week, with Heads of Cluster meeting organized thrice weekly.

48. The Heads of Cluster (Soroti) and Red Cross are discussing a possible rapid data collection across ten affected districts in the Teso and Bugisu sub-regions (excluding Katakwi and Amuria, where several well-documented assessments have already been conducted).

Funding Update

49. Since the launch of the Uganda Floods Flash Appeal for US\$ 41 million on 21 September, donors have been indicating support for the response, while a grant of US\$ 6 million has been made available from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) for priority life saving needs across the clusters. Donors are encouraged to turn their pledges into contributions to sustain the operation in this critical period. Financial tracking information is available on OCHA's Financial Tracking System (FTS).

50. Intensified demand for food is expected in coming weeks, which will increase needs for air transport capacity. The WFP, as Logistics cluster lead, will revised requirements for air assets to cover the resulting gap through mid-December, by when it is expected that rains will have ceased and roads become operational. At present, the Logistics cluster has appealed for US\$ 4.9 million, of which US\$ 1.7 million has been committed from the Central

Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DfID).

51. OCHA (Soroti) remains in regular contact with OCHA offices in Kampala and other affected districts/sub-regions, as well as the Office of the Prime Minister, counterparts in line ministries and district authorities, as well as the Office of the Humanitarian/Resident Coordinator for Uganda.

52. 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>

53. **OCHA will continue to issue regular Situation Reports on Tuesdays and Thursdays. 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: knutson@un.org.**

WHO-WHAT-WHERE (3W) MATRIX FOR UGANDA FLOODS RESPONSE – TESO AND BUGISU REGIONS**

District	Food Security	Camp Coordination & Camp Management	Education	Health	Protection	NFI & Shelter	WASH
Soroti	-WFP -FAO -WVI -PILGRIM -Humanity First Uganda		-UNICEF -WorldVision	-WHO -AMREF -Malaria Consortium -PILGRIM -UNICEF	-OHCHR -UNHCR -TPO -CCF -UNICEF -UHRC	-UNICEF -WorldVision -IOM -URCS	-UNICEF -THW -WorldVision
Katakwi	-WFP -PILGRIM -OPM -FAO	-UNHCR	-CEREDO	-PSI -OXFAM	-OHCHR -UNHCR -CCF -TPO -UHRC -ASB -KCV	-ASB -URCS -LWF -CCF -TEDDO -ACTION AID -OXFAM -ADRA	-ACTED -ASB – GVC -CCF -LWF -PSI -THW -URCS -Water Aid
Amuria	-WFP -PILGRIM -OPM -CWW -SOCADIDO -FAO			-OXFAM -URCS -PILGRIM	-OHCHR -TPO -CCF -UHRC -UNHCR	-LWF -URCS -CWW -TEDDO -OXFAM	-CCF -CHIPS -CWW -LWF -Premiere Urgence -PSI -THW -URCS -Water Aid
Bukedea	-WFP			-PSI		-URCS	-GOAL -PSI -CESVI
Kumi					-UHRC*	-URCS	-UNICEF -PSI -WorldVision
Manafwa	-WFP					-URCS	
Kapchorwa						-OXFAM	
Kaberamaido	-FAO				-UHRC* -TPO	-URCS	-WorldVision
Bukwo							
Mbale							
Bududa	-WFP						
Sironko				-OXFAM		-OXFAM -URCS	

*Supported by OHCHR.

**All Flood-Affected Areas: Logistics – WFP (with support from the United Nations Joint Logistics Cell); Coordination – OCHA

For more information, please contact:

Kristen Knutson, Public Information and Donor Liaison Officer, OCHA-Uganda: +256 312 244 888, +256 772 759 996 (mobile), knutson@un.org; Lydia Mirembe Ssenyonjo, National Information Officer, OCHA-Uganda: +256 312 244 890, mirembessenyonjo@un.org; Chris Hyslop, Desk Officer, OCHA-New York: +1 917 367 9457, hyslopc@un.org; Stephanie Bunker, Public Information Officer, OCHA-New York: +1 917 367 5126, +1 917 892 1679 (mobile), bunker@un.org; Elisabeth Byrs, Public Information Officer, OCHA-Geneva: +41 22 917 2653, byrs@un.org.