



SITUATION REPORT N° 8– UGANDA FLOODS – 12 OCTOBER 2007

HIGHLIGHTS

- **US\$ 6 MILLION GRANT FOR FLOODS RELEASED BY CENTRAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND (CERF); FUNDING FOR UGANDA FLOODS FLASH APPEAL NOW AT 17%**
- **OVERLAND ACCESS TO KATAKWI DISTRICT RESUMES AS TEMPORARY ROAD WORKS AT KOMOLO BRIDGE ARE COMPLETED**

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. Grave concern about the possibility for an outbreak of epidemic disease in flood affected areas of eastern Uganda continues, as do preparedness and contingency planning activities. Given the chronic and severe understaffing of health personnel in the affected region, and continued inadequate supplies of drugs and other medical supplies to meet increased demand, disease prevention activities, as well as activities to ensure food security, remain the overarching goals of the humanitarian community's response.

2. To date, flooding has reportedly 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 Elgon

region; Adjumani, Arua, Moyo, Nebbi and Yumbe in West Nile region; and Kiboga and Kamuli districts in central Uganda.

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.

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'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.

Priority Needs

6. The priority areas for the response, as identified by the Humanitarian Coordinator following consultation with the clusters and the Government, remain:

- Stabilising the initial food security situation;
- Preventing disease outbreaks and ensuring capacity to respond to health emergencies;
- Re-opening schools and ensuring access to primary education;
- Responding to the urgent needs of the most vulnerable;
- Ensuring physical access to the most vulnerable, and continuing inter-cluster assessments;
- Understanding the early recovery needs of the affected population and prioritising recovery interventions.

Access

7. Access constraints continue to pose significant obstacles to operations. Substantial damage to roads and bridges in eastern and northern Uganda has greatly increased travel times.

8. At present, access to the Teso sub-region for the humanitarian community remains restricted to the Lira-Soroti road. However, continued rains and attendant rising water levels, coupled with the risk of floating grass islands obstructing the culverts along the road, mean that the sub-region remains at risk to be entirely cut off from the rest of Uganda. The Logistics Cluster, led by the World Food Programme (WFP), has offered support to the Ministry of Works for the maintenance of the access route to Soroti via Lira; a positive response is still being awaited.

9. Meanwhile, **access to Katakwi district** from Soroti and Amuria districts **reopened on 11 October** with the completion of temporary repairs at the Komolo bridge. At present, it remains unclear how continued rains will affect the repairs; additional road work will be needed to ensure the road's integrity.

10. The road from Mbale to Soroti remains cut at Awoja Bridge, the main link between Soroti and Mbale in eastern Uganda. Other access restrictions within the Teso sub-region continue to impede relief deliveries and assessments of particularly remote locations. Most feeder roads are subject to travel only in 4x4 or 6x6 vehicles.

Humanitarian Response

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

Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFIs) Working Group

11. The Working Group reports that some 17,000 households in the Teso and Bugisu sub-regions have received emergency NFIs, including blankets, tarpaulins, pots and pans.

Early Recovery

12. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), cluster lead for Early Recovery, is providing technological support (computers and other office equipment) to the Office of the Prime Minister's Coordination Office in Soroti.

13. The UNDP, in conjunction with UN-Habitat and the French Embassy, conducted a scoping mission in Teso sub-region.

14. UNDP is in the process of setting-up an office in Soroti to prepare for early recovery in the flood-affected districts. UNDP has conducted consultations with national and local officials on early recovery interventions and will provide assistance for early

recovery coordination, information management, support to local government administration and establishment and operationalization of a quick impact community response initiative (fund).

15. The Red Cross has begun focus group discussions with communities in Amuria and Katakwi in order to tailor appropriate seed packages for distributions to an estimated 20,000 households, scheduled to begin before the end of the month, in time for planting in early November.

Food Security

16. The World Food Programme (WFP), co-cluster lead for Food Security, has reached 129,152 flood-affected people, 39 per cent of targeted beneficiaries, with 2,131 metric tonnes (MT) of food aid to date. Some 3,000 beneficiaries received food aid as air operations resumed out of Soroti on 10 October.

17. Flood-affected communities in Otuke sub-country of Lira district remain inaccessible for food aid distributions. The humanitarian community in Lira is preparing for a joint beneficiary verification exercise in preparation for the resumption of food aid deliveries.

18. More than half of the beneficiary lists required to begin food distributions in Karamoja have been collected; distributions to flood-affected persons in Moroto and Nakapiripirit districts are set to resume next week.

Health, Nutrition and HIV/AIDS

19. The Health cluster, led by the World Health Organization (WHO) reports no outbreaks of epidemic disease. The Integrated Diseases Surveillance and Response (IDSR) system has been strengthened and data to monitor malaria and diarrhoea diseases is being collected and processed on a daily basis.

20. A malaria epidemic risk assessment is ongoing in Teso sub-region, the outcome of which will help to further define the malaria response in the area. Surveillance for malaria is also being strengthened through the establishment of sentinel sites.

21. Some 66 health centres in five districts of the Teso sub-region, as well as health centres in the Lango sub-region, have been provided with drugs; however, current stocks remain inadequate. The drug stocks in Kumi, Bukedea, Amuria and Katakwi districts have been inventoried and gaps in available drugs and medical supplies have been quantified. Consultations are ongoing with the Ministry of Health to identify available stocks in the National Medical Stores (NMS) and Joint Medical Stores (JMS) for distribution.

22. Training of Village Health Teams (VHTs) on epidemic response preparedness (EPR) is ongoing.

23. Inadequate staffing remains a major challenge to the delivery of good quality health services; discussions are ongoing with the districts, training schools, the Ministry of Health and donors for the

temporary deployment of health staff from training schools.

24. An additional medical officer and a logistician have been deployed to strengthen WHO presence and capacity to provide technical support to district health teams in the Teso sub-region.

25. The Red Cross mobile clinic operating in seven communities in Amuria has treated some 1,800 people to date.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

26. The WASH cluster, led by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), reports that some 21,535 households in the Teso and Bugisu sub-regions have received safe water kits, including water purification tablets, jerry cans, mosquito nets and soap. Meanwhile, 238,000 aquatablets have been distributed in the Lango sub-region.

27. A full water testing laboratory has been established at the regional coordination hub in Soroti to carry out analysis on request for all organizations.

28. A Red Cross water purification unit has been installed in Amaseniko camp (Amuria district), producing 10,000 litres per day, while a second unit, provided by the German agency Technisches Hilfswerk (THW) producing 6,000 litres per day, has been installed in Oongora Camp (Katakwi district).

29. Katakwi, Amuria and Bukedea districts have received support to conduct water quality surveillance (water quality testing kits, consumables, training, fuel, allowances).

30. Twelve deep boreholes have been rehabilitated in Lango sub-region and plans are underway to rehabilitate another. Training for maintenance of a safe water chain and hygiene education has been conducted for all health workers in Lira district.

31. All three damaged boreholes in Ogom Akuyam Camp, Pader District, have been chlorinated and the camp population has received water purification for household use.

32. Hygiene education is ongoing throughout the flood-affected area via radio talk shows, film vans and dissemination of IEC material.

Logistics

33. As of 10 October, the WFP-led Logistics Cluster has airlifted a total of 32.1 MT of emergency relief, including 16.5 MT of food and 15.6 MT of non-food relief). 201 humanitarian personnel have been transported inaccessible locations.

34. Over the past week, one MI-8 helicopter has been moving for food for WFP and NFIs for UNICEF and the Red Cross. Users are reminded to submit cargo movement requests (CMRs) at least 24 hours in advance in order to guarantee loading. A blank CMR can be found on the website.

35. Two additional MI-8 helicopters are scheduled to arrive in-country over the weekend. Once the additional helicopters are operational, sling nets will be deployed to facilitate faster loading/unloading of cargo. This will considerably shorten the turn around time between missions and increase the amount of relief supplies delivered through the helicopter operation.

36. NFI storage capacity in Soroti is currently 50 per cent full, with 250 square metres of space remaining available for additional NFI items. Agencies are reminded to submit their Temporary Storage Request (TSR) forms to the WFP led Logistics Cluster 24 hours prior to dispatching any cargo.

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

Coordination and Funding

Funding Update

38. Including the recently completed allocation of US\$6 million from the UN Central Emergency Respond Fund (CERF)'s grant facility, funding for the US\$ 41 million Uganda Floods Flash Appeal launched on 21 September stands **at nearly US\$7.2 million, or 17 per cent of total requirements**. Additional, unconfirmed pledges have been made by several donors; all donors are encouraged to confirm their pledges and convert them into contributions. Financial tracking information is available on OCHA's Financial Tracking System (FTS).

39. Coordination of the humanitarian response to the floods continues to be led nationally by the Humanitarian/Resident Coordinator, with the support of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and in coordination with the Office of the Prime Minister. Within the Acholi, Lango and Karamoja sub-regions, previously-established district coordination structures are facilitating the floods response, while a regional coordination hub has been established in Soroti for the Teso and Bugisu sub-regions.

40. 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.

41. Assessments, maps, breaking information and other reports on the humanitarian response to the floods can be found at:

<http://groups.google.com/group/ugandafloods>

42. Inputs for the OCHA Situation Reports, which are issued on Tuesdays and Fridays, may be sent to: knutson@un.org

WHO DOES WHAT WHERE (3W) Matrix for Teso and Bugisu Sub-Regions – as of 12 October 2007**

District	Food Security	CCCM	Education	Health, Nutrition & HIV/AIDS	Protection	NFI & Shelter	WASH
Soroti	-WFP -FAO -WorldVision -PILGRIM -Humanity First Uganda		-UNICEF -WorldVision	-WHO -AMREF -Malaria Consortium -PILGRIM -UNICEF	-OHCHR -UNHCR -TPO -CCF -UNICEF -UHRC	-UNICEF -WorldVision -IOM -Red Cross	-UNICEF -THW -WorldVision
Katakwi	-WFP -PILGRIM -OPM -FAO	-UNHCR	-CEREDO	-WHO -PSI -Oxfam -Red Cross	-OHCHR -UNHCR -CCF -TPO -UHRC -ASB -Katakwi Children's Voice (KCV)	-ASB -Red Cross -LWF -CCF -TEDDO -Action Aid -Oxfam -ADRA -TPO	-ACTED -ASB – GVC -CCF -LWF -PSI -THW -Red Cross -Water Aid -Water Mission International
Amuria	-WFP -PILGRIM -OPM -Concern Worldwide -SOCADIDO -FAO			-WHO -Oxfam -Red Cross -PILGRIM	-OHCHR -TPO -CCF -UHRC -UNHCR	-LWF -Red Cross -CWW -TEDDO -Oxfam	-CCF -CHIPS -CWW -LWF -Premiere Urgence -PSI -THW -Red Cross -Water Aid -Water Mission International
Bukedea	-WFP			-WHO -PSI -Oxfam		-Red Cross -Oxfam	-GOAL -PSI -CESVI -Oxfam
Kumi				-WHO -Oxfam	-UHRC*	-Red Cross Oxfam	-UNICEF -PSI -WorldVision -Oxfam
Manafwa	-WFP					-Red Cross	
Kapchorwa						-Oxfam	
Kaberaido	-FAO				-UHRC* -TPO	-Red Cross	-WorldVision
Bukwo							
Mbale							
Bududa	-WFP						
Sironko				-Oxfam		-Oxfam -Red Cross	-Oxfam

*Supported by OHCHR.

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

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