



**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

Uganda – Complex Emergency

Situation Report #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2003

November 18, 2002

BACKGROUND

Separate armed conflicts in northern and western Uganda, combined with violent looting and cattle raids by Karamojong pastoralists in the East, have resulted in high levels of internal displacement. More than 600,000 people were displaced as of July 2002, according to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA). Food security, even in typically productive agricultural areas, has been threatened by the ongoing conflicts, and insecurity has frequently obstructed the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

Since 1987, the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), led by Joseph Kony, has waged an insurgency in northern Uganda, primarily using southern Sudan as a base for attacks on government forces and civilians. LRA attacks have displaced approximately three quarters of the ethnic Acholi population in the Gulu, Kitgum, and Pader Districts. During the course of the conflict, the LRA has abducted approximately 14,000 children for the purposes of forced conscription and sexual exploitation. Prior to April 2002, northern Uganda had enjoyed 18 months of relative stability. Although more than 400,000 Ugandans were temporarily displaced, most returned to their farms during the day. Continued attacks and unsuccessful cease-fire negotiations led the Government of Uganda (GOU) to launch Operation Iron Fist in March 2002. Under an agreement with the Government of Sudan (GOS), the GOU sent 10,000 Uganda Peoples Defense Forces (UPDF) troops into southern Sudan to disable the LRA's rear camps located in southern Sudan. As a result of this operation, LRA fighters have infiltrated into northern Uganda, attacking villages and camps and creating a complex humanitarian emergency.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
IDPs	Total: 660,373	UN OCHA (July 31, 2002)*
Refugees in Uganda	Total: 188,032 161,702 from Sudan 17,211 from Rwanda 7,837 from the DRC 766 from Somalia 177 from Burundi 125 from Kenya 41 from Ethiopia 173 other urban refugees (mixed)	UN OCHA (July 31, 2002)

Total FY 2002-FY 2003 USAID/OFDA Assistance to Uganda\$1,478,862
Total FY 2002-FY 2003 USG Humanitarian Assistance to Uganda\$24,206,433

CURRENT SITUATION

Northern Uganda – Continuing Insecurity

Northern Uganda has experienced a resurgence of insecurity resulting from recent LRA incursions. As a result of the GOU's practice during the past six years of relocating the population into protected camps, a majority of the population in the affected districts remain housed in camps. Beginning in June 2002, up to 2,000 LRA soldiers entered Uganda from southern Sudan, and have been systematically attacking military detachments and IDP and refugee camps in Gulu, Kitgum, and Pader districts since then. LRA attacks have also recently occurred outside of the usual zones of conflict, in the Lira, Apac, and Adjumani districts.

On August 5, 2002, the LRA attacked the Acholpii Refugee Camp in Pader District (360 km north of Kampala), displacing more than 24,000 refugees who had fled the fighting in Sudan. The LRA instructed residents to leave the camps, against instructions issued by the UPDF to remain. Following the attacks, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) helped evacuate the refugees to Kiryandongo Camp and Kyangwali Camp in central and southern Uganda. Recent estimates place the number of newly displaced in the region at 100,000. Many people relocate into Gulu and Kitgum towns at night for safety, while returning to their villages during the daylight hours to tend their fields.

* As of November 18. These are the most recent figures released by UN OCHA.

In early October, the GOU directed the remaining civilians in northern Uganda, who were not residing in IDP camps, to report to a camp. This order was not implemented uniformly, and compliance has been mixed. If adhered to, this forced displacement could mean that an additional 400,000 IDPs would join the current 600,000 already residing in camps. This order was invoked to allow the UPDF to carry out a major offensive against the LRA. The GOU action followed an LRA attack on the Maaji refugee settlement in northern Adjumani District on October 3, during which 65 huts were burned and five government soldiers were killed, according to international media reports.

On October 15, media reports indicated that the LRA had killed approximately 17 civilians in the Apac and Lira districts. There were also reports that the LRA killed 56 unarmed civilians in the Agago sub-county of Pader District. On October 17, UN OCHA reported that the humanitarian crisis in northern Uganda had worsened due to numerous attacks by the LRA on civilians, despite the arrival of government military reinforcements in the region. Local inhabitants do not have much confidence in a military solution, and many support an effort by religious leaders to mediate a cease-fire.

Food Insecurity

The ongoing skirmishes in northern Uganda have resulted in increased levels of food insecurity. Lack of access to local populations has restricted the efforts of humanitarian organizations to deliver emergency assistance. The lack of security in affected areas has also prevented any comprehensive assessments of food stocks from being conducted. Food insecurity is likely to increase over the coming months due to the combined effects of people being unable to access their land and lack of rainfall in parts of Kitgum and Pader districts. The present planting and growing season is virtually lost, and the next realistic date for a significant harvest in northern Uganda is August 2003.

Deteriorating Health Situation

The dense population concentrations in the camps and the few urban and rural areas that are considered safe have strained local capacities and left thousands of people without shelter or access to basic services. Malnutrition, malaria, respiratory infections, pneumonia, intestinal worms, and diarrhea are common among IDPs. Inadequate sanitation and water supplies and long distances to health centers exacerbate the overall health situation. In addition, the LRA is attacking health centers and looting medicine and medical supplies in northern Uganda, and as a result many health center staff have fled.

Effects of the DRC Conflict on Uganda

On August 15, the governments of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Uganda signed an agreement outlining the withdrawal of Ugandan troops

from the DRC and the normalization of relations between the two countries. In accordance with the agreement, Uganda withdrew nearly 2,200 troops by the beginning of October. Only two Ugandan battalions remain in the Bunia region of the DRC to ensure civilian security until the arrival of U.N. peacekeeping troops. Refugees fleeing conflict in the DRC continue to enter western Uganda.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

On August 9, 2002, U.S. Charge d'Affaires Donald Teitelbaum declared a disaster in response to the escalating insecurity and deteriorating humanitarian situation in northern Uganda. USAID/OFDA provided \$50,000 through the U.S. Embassy to the Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) to support the distribution of non-food commodities, including blankets, jerry cans, kitchen sets, and tarpaulins for temporary shelter.

USAID/OFDA assessment teams traveled to the Gulu District in northern Uganda on August 7 and September 30 to evaluate the humanitarian situation in the region. In response to the humanitarian crisis, USAID/OFDA provided approximately \$1.5 million to support programs in health, water and sanitation, and coordination, as well as to supply emergency non-food items, through UN OCHA, CARE, the International Rescue Committee (IRC), the UCRS, Action Contre le Faim (ACF), and the Associazione Volontaria per il Servizio Internazionale (AVSI).

In FY 2002, USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) provided 28,660 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance to WFP, valued at approximately \$15.5 million. USAID/FFP funding supported WFP's Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO), which assisted approximately 500,000 IDPs and refugees affected by food insecurity in Uganda.

In FY 2002, USAID/Uganda supplied \$90,000 in humanitarian assistance through UCRS, AVSI, Save the Children/Denmark, and Catholic Relief Services in response to the declared disaster. Northern Uganda, and other conflict areas in Uganda, are a primary focus of USAID's relief and development programming.

In FY 2002, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) provided 1,489 MT of 416(b) surplus food commodities to Uganda to assist in emergency food needs. The more than \$800,000 worth of surplus food commodities includes 1,279 MT of cornmeal, 150 MT of vegetable oil, and 60 MT of corn-soy blend for WFP's PRRO. In addition, USDA provided 250 MT of vegetable oil for school feeding programs, valued at \$165,000.

In FY 2002, the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

provided more than \$6.2 million in support of humanitarian assistance programs for refugees and host communities in Uganda. State/PRM funding supported programs in health, education, environment, and sexual and gender-based violence, through UNHCR, WFP, the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, IRC, Lutheran World Federation, and to the Ambassador's Fund in Uganda.

U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO UGANDA IN FY 2002-FY 2003

<i>Agency</i>	<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Sector</i>	<i>Regions</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID¹				\$16,978,862
USAID/OFDA				\$1,478,862
	UN OCHA	Coordination	Nationwide	\$100,000
	ACF	Nutrition	Gulu, Kitgum, and Pader Districts	\$356,959
	AVSI	Emergency non-food items, water and sanitation	Kitgum and Pader Districts	\$231,560
	CARE	Emergency health assistance and support for IDPs	Gulu District	\$359,890
	IRC	Water and sanitation	Kitgum and Lira Districts	\$380,453
	Uganda Red Cross	Emergency non-food items	Gulu	\$50,000
USAID/FFP				\$15,500,000
	World Food Program (WFP)	P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance – 28,660 MT	Country-wide	\$15,500,000
USDA				\$1,014,347
	WFP	Section 416(b) Surplus Food Commodities – 1,489 MT to the PRRO; 250 MT for school feeding	Country-wide	\$1,014,347
STATE/PRM²				\$6,213,224
	Ambassador's Fund	School reconstruction for Congolese refugees	Kyangwali Camp, Central Uganda	\$19,999
	IFRC	Camp management, health, water and sanitation	Southwestern Uganda	\$40,000
	IRC	Health and sanitation assistance for Sudanese refugees	Northern Uganda	\$677,226
	LWF	Support to Sudanese refugees	Northern Uganda	\$632,999
	UNHCR	Refugee support programs	Country-wide	\$3,130,000
	UNHCR	Support for environmental programs	Country-wide	\$300,000
	UNHCR	Support for children's programs	Country-wide	\$400,000
	WFP	Refugee Support	Country-wide	\$950,000
	WFP	Full Cost Recovery	Country-wide	\$63,000
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Uganda in FY 2002-FY 2003				\$24,206,433



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*USAID/OFDA bulletins can be obtained from the USAID web site at http://www.usaid.gov/hum_response/ofda/situation.html

¹ USAID funding figure includes International Disaster Assistance funding provided by USAID/OFDA and USAID/FFP and does not reflect \$90,000 provided through USAID/Uganda for relief and development programming.

² State/PRM figures include only Uganda-specific funding, and do not include unarmarked funding for UNHCR and IFRC Africa-wide programs.