



Supplementary Appeal for Uganda

Protection and assistance to
internally displaced persons in northern Uganda

March 2007

Executive summary

The northern districts of Uganda have been severely affected by the twenty-year armed conflict between the Government of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). The conflict caused massive displacement. Over 1.5 million people have been forced to leave their homes and seek protection in government-run camps. The majority of the displaced populations come from the districts of Gulu, Kitgum and Pader. Long-term forced displacement and lack of access to land for cultivation have left the population destitute. The Government of Uganda has responded by creating camps in the same districts in Lira, Gulu, Pader and Kitgum as well as in Apac, Keberamaido, Katakwi, Amuria and Soroti. There are also over 100,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in refugee hosting areas in Masindi and Adjumani districts. Different humanitarian actors, including UN agencies and NGOs, provide basic relief items and assistance.

The International Criminal Court (ICC) issued arrest warrants in July and September 2005 for the top LRA commanders. Five LRA leaders were charged with crimes against humanity and war crimes, including murder, rape, sexual slavery, and enlisting of children as combatants. Since July 2006 a series of peace talks, mediated by the Government of South Sudan, have been held in Juba (South Sudan) between the Government of Uganda and the LRA. The peace talks, which led to signing of the Cessation of

Hostilities Agreement on 26 August 2006, have been described as the best chance for a negotiated peace settlement in Uganda. These paved the way for the return process of an estimated 300,000 IDPs in 2006.

As part of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) cluster approach, UNHCR will take the lead in protection and camp coordination and management clusters. UNHCR will concentrate its efforts in the two major operational areas: (a) return to areas of origin, and (b) transformation of camps into viable communities.

Expected results and challenges: The programme will enable IDPs opting to return home to make an informed decision prior to departure. Depending on the outcome of the peace talks currently underway between the Government of Uganda and the LRA, it is expected that some 300,000 IDPs will return to their places of origin in 2007. Community leaders will be actively involved in camp management and protection monitoring activities. Implementation of these activities will require collective efforts among stakeholders which will be promoted through the implementation of the protection cluster activities. However, the return process might be hampered if the peace talks currently underway fail. This would inevitably lead to a prolonged stay in the camps.

Programme at a glance

Title	Protection and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons in Northern Uganda
Beneficiaries	1,500,000 IDPs and Returnees
Time frame	January -- December 2007
Total requirements	USD 10,993,835

Cover: Parabongo IDP camp, Gulu district, northern Uganda / UNHCR/ H.Coussidis/2006.

Working environment

The context

The Sudan-sponsored peace talks between the Government of Uganda and the LRA provide the best opportunity to resolve the 20-year-old conflict in northern Uganda. Both parties seem to be optimistic that the war will come to an end and that IDPs will be able to return home. As peace talks are on-going the outcome cannot be known at this stage, however the cessation of hostilities seems to be holding since August 2006.

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The needs

The needs in Uganda are very diverse and cover a range of sectors. Inadequate water supply, as a result of drought, exposes women and girls to be at risk of sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) incidents. The lack of, and/or poor maintenance of latrines in the camps, leads to increased rates of contagious diseases. Reduced access to land affects IDPs' opportunities to become self-sustainable. Returning IDPs face immediate shelter needs. IDP children do not have the same access to quality education as host communities, and drop-out rate is higher, especially among girls. There is a little possibility for any sort of legal redress given that rule of law is dysfunctional.

Main objectives

The year 2006 saw the initial implementation of the 2005 IASC decision to designate UNHCR as the lead agency for the protection and camp coordination and management clusters. This also included planning for return to places of origin. As peace talks make further progress, it is expected that return movements in Northern Uganda will continue. More than 300,000 people are estimated to have left IDP camps and gone back to their communities since July 2006.

The main objectives of UNHCR's operation in Uganda 2007 are to:

- Monitor and provide protection to the camp-based IDP population and those returning home.
- Improve camp management and co-ordination.
- Establish an IDP return monitoring framework.



Koch Goma IDP camp, Gulu District, northern Uganda/ UNHCR/ H. Coussidis/ 2006



IDP returnee children, Guru Guru returnee area, Gulu district, northern Uganda/ UNHCR/ H. Coussidis/ 2006



After years in a camp, this formerly displaced woman resumed commercial activities in her home in Lamin Lato return area, Gulu, Northern Uganda/ UNHCR/ H.Coussidis/2006.

Planning figures

Planning figures for IDPs in Uganda					
Type of population	Origin	Jan 2007		Dec 2007 (projections/targets)	
		Total	To be Assisted and/or registered by UNHCR	Total	To be Assisted and/or registered by UNHCR
IDPs	Northern Uganda	1,200,000	1,200,000	900,000	900,000
Returnee (IDPs)	Northern Uganda	300,000	300,000	600,000	600,000
Total		1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000

Strategy and Activities

UNHCR's protection and camp coordination and management responsibilities are part of a wider IDP protection and assistance framework for Uganda. UNHCR will establish an international presence in Gulu, Lira, Kitgum and Pader to ensure closer monitoring and coordination of relief activities in the IDP camps. Findings from field monitoring will be shared with concerned agencies.

Below are the identified needs:

Community services: IDPs lose sense of community and traditional structures during displacement. The majority are women, yet they are well below 50% in different decision making bodies. Returning IDPs are not able to provide support to people with special needs in their community as priority is given to their own families for shelter and land cultivation.

Domestic needs: The majority of returning IDPs are in need of household assistance to enable them re-establish presence in area (s) of return. Extremely vulnerable individuals (EVIs) will receive domestic assistance such as soap, blankets, mosquito nets and jerry cans procured locally. Identification of needy families and individuals will be made prior to distribution.

Education: IDPs have increased class sizes and teacher to student ratios in host communities. Girls are less likely to continue education during displacement as priority is given to boys for upper primary education, especially where schools are located some distance away.

Health and nutrition: IDPs have little opportunity to access land for cultivation and other means of livelihood, thus increasing risk of malnutrition. They rely on host communities or refugee health services. Crude mortality rates for children under five in the two West Nile districts is above stable benchmarks of 3/1000 at 3.56 and 3.9. Infant mortality is 8.4% and 12.4% above 60/100. Overall, crude mortality of 1.5/1000 also exceeds at 1.7.

Legal assistance and protection: The national IDP policy launched in 2005 has established coordination mechanisms between the Government of Uganda and humanitarian actors in some IDP areas. However, the humanitarian situation remains critical. Rule of law is dysfunctional thus access to any form of legal redress is unattainable. There have been spontaneous returns in 2006 to parishes and communities near places of origin where safety and security have been perceived to improve. Sexual and gender based violence remains a major problem in the camps.

Key Targets

- IDP return movements continue in 2007 to places of origin which are assessed to be safe. By the end of 2007, at least 300,000 IDPs have initiated the return process.
- Full freedom of movement from camps is in place.
- Needs of IDPs in Masindi and Adjumani assessed by 2005/6 surveys are addressed: gaps in water, shelter, health care and primary education.
- In Masindi: 8 boreholes will be operational, 5 new water sources developed, safe water coverage increased from 34% to 50%; Latrines constructed in five schools, 13 (75%) water user committees trained on good hygiene practices.
- Civil law and order institutions supported and trained in return areas especially with the conduct of human rights and SGBV trainings.
- IDP camps transformed into viable communities through improvement of facilities, establishment of social networks and protection, monitoring and reporting mechanisms.

Water and sanitation: As a result of drought, water availability in IDP locations is below the established standards. Women and girls are at risk of SGBV especially when collecting water after daylight and due to walking through insecure bush land. Latrines cover 50% of the needs in refugee hosting areas. With the presence of IDPs, the situation has become worse. Displaced populations in trading centres and squatters rely on public latrines, which are insufficient and poorly maintained.

Agency operational support: The Government's presence in IDP hosting areas, IDP camps and return areas is not sufficient to provide the required support services to the IDP population. Government-led coordination mechanisms with humanitarian actors require further strengthening.



UNHCR and UNDP carrying out joint assessments in Aloi Sub county, Lira district, northern Uganda / UNHCR/ H.Coussidis/2006

Key Activities and Targets		
Sector	Activities	Targets
Community Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide community support services including income generating activities and communal assistance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9,000 EVI families facilitated in reintegration through distribution of essential NFIs.
Domestics needs and household support (non-food items)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribution of soap, blankets, mosquito nets and jerry cans to returnees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9,000 EVI families will receive non-foods items upon return.
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of primary education. Rehabilitation of schools. Provision of school materials. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Masindi enrolment in primary school increased to 75% of male and 65% female. In Masindi student classroom ratio reaches 1/85. Student per desk ratio in two targeted schools in Masindi increased to 1/3.

Health and Nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide basic health care to IDPs. • Provide drugs to health centres. • Refer complex case to district facilities. • Conduct HIV/AIDS awareness meetings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All IDPs in Masindi enjoy access to primary health care services. • 50% of pregnant women attend ante natal care. • Global acute malnutrition rate of under 5 remains at <5%. • IDPs receive Information and awareness training on HIV/AIDS.
Legal Assistance & Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of protection needs and gaps. • Complete needs assessment of IDPs with special needs. • Establish return and protection monitoring framework and reporting mechanism. • Information campaign and support to the police and rule of law activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 80% EVIs assisted with return packages and hut construction. • SGBV and security cases reported and addressed. • 90% reduction of security incidents encountered by returning IDPs. • Protection needs identified and prioritized in IDP camps. • At least four training sessions on protection issues held per district. • Regular radio talks shows held in four districts. • Deployment of civil police in areas of return facilitated and police.
Water and Sanitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehabilitation and maintenance of existing water sources. • Training of village water and sanitation committees. • Construction, rehabilitation and maintenance of latrines and garbage pits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in Masindi 50% of IDPs receive adequate quantity of clean water for drinking and hygienic purposes. • five latrines in primary schools constructed bringing ratio to one per 50 students. • 13 (75%) of water committees trained.

Operational Support to Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide support to the agencies • Coordinate programme and activities with humanitarian actors and government institutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% of implementing partners' staff requirements met. • Project implemented according to workplan. • Eight UNVs deployed in a timely manner. • Vehicles procured in a timely manner.
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Women and children waiting to fill their jerry cans at one of the water pumps in Koch Goma IDP camp, Gulu district, northern Uganda / UNHCR/ H.Coussidis/2006

Impact

- Increased freedom of movement and greater self-reliance leading to improved welfare.
- Greater awareness of IDP protection with IDP community leaders, local civil authorities and security officials.
- Decrease in duplication of humanitarian assistance and as a result of newly established coordination mechanism among agencies.
- Improved living conditions in camps as a result of better camp management and coordination
- Improved access to returnee areas
- Better response to humanitarian needs in IDP return areas.

Challenges

Most of northern Uganda is still in the UN security phase III*, thus limiting movements of humanitarian agencies. Additional security arrangements are being made for humanitarian staff to travel outside designated areas. The major obstacle for IDPs to return home is the presence of unexploded ordnance left during conflict. Community sensitization on mine risk will be undertaken prior and during movements to areas of origin. This will also enable returning IDPs to make informed decisions whether to return or not.

*Phase III – Relocation: Indicates a substantial deterioration in the security situation, which may result in the relocation of non-essential staff members or their eligible dependants. The determination of essential staff members for security purposes will be made by the Designated Official, and the Security Management Team

Organization and implementation

UNHCR Presence IDP Programme only

Number of offices	11
Total staff	131
International	24
National	84
UNVs	19
JPOs	2
Deployees	2



Parabongo IDP camp, Gulu district, northern Uganda / UNHCR/ H.Coussidis/2006

Coordination

UNHCR will closely coordinate with UNICEF its activities relating to child protection and SGBV programmes, and with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to coordinate its activities relating to human rights and the rule of law.

As the lead agency for the protection cluster, UNHCR will coordinate with WFP, UNDP, and other UN agencies the implementation of return and early recovery programmes, with a focus on freedom of movement and returnee monitoring.

Partners

United Nations Country Team (UNCT) – National policy and Coordination

WFP – Food assistance and Logistics

UNICEF – Water and Sanitation, Protection (child protection, SGBV), Education, and Nutrition

UNDP – Early Recovery

OHCHR – Human rights and rule of law

WHO – Health

UN Habitat – Shelter

OCHA - Coordination

IOM – Data collection

Total requirements

Uganda - Budget Requirement – 2007	
Sector	(USD)
Protection, Monitoring, and Coordination	3,645,830
Community Services	40,000
Domestic needs	2,300,000
Education	40,000
Health/Nutrition	80,000
Legal Assistance/Protection	3,710,000
Operational Support (to Agencies)	298,782
Water and sanitation (non-agricultural)	160,000
Total Operations	10,274,612
Programme Support	0
Support Costs (7%)*	719,223
Grand Total	10,993,835

*A 7% support cost will be recovered from each contribution to meet the direct support costs in UNHCR.

Funding Overview for 2006

Donor	Amount in USD
Canada	223,214
France	90,689
Netherlands	2,410,000
Norway	2,212,389
Sweden	1,358,696
United States of America	2,500,000
Total Fresh Contributions	8,794,988
Carry-over from 2005	0
Grand Total	8,794,988

Contributions/other funds available in 2007 (as of 15th March 2007)

Donor	Amount in USD
European Commission	1,973,684
Carry-over from 2006	3,381,335
Grand Total	5,355,019

