

I. HIGHLIGHTS

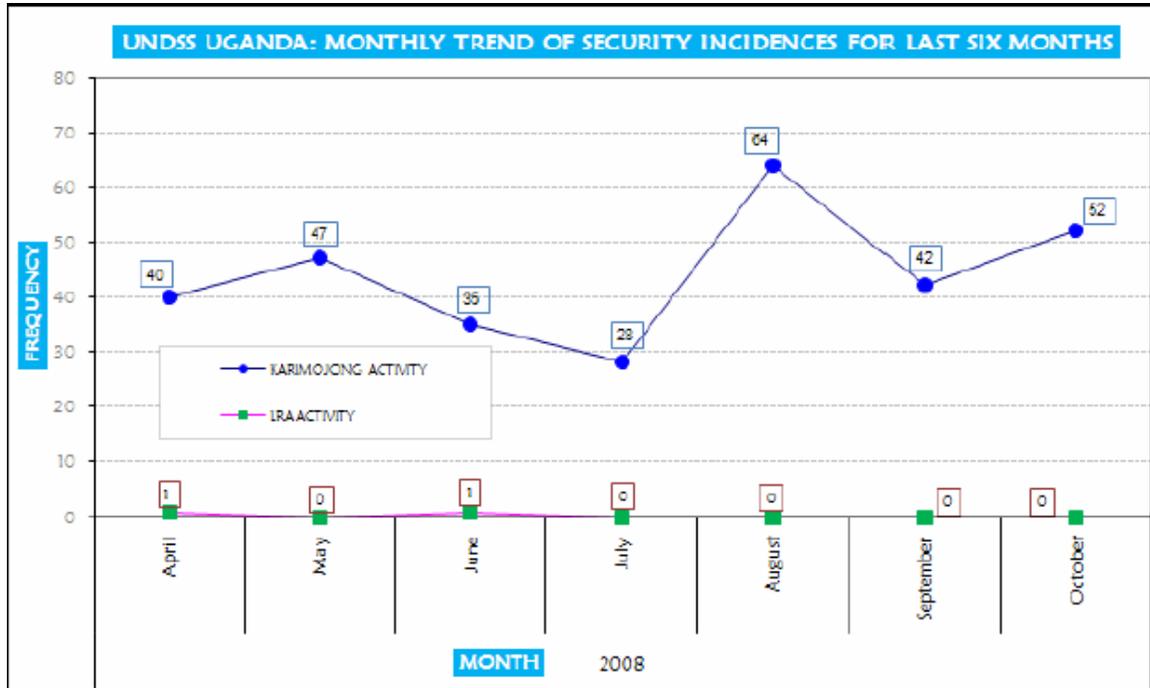
- **ROAD CONDITIONS DETERIORATE IN HEAVY RAINS, HAMPERING HUMANITARIAN ACCESS IN SOME AREAS OF NORTHERN AND NORTHEASTERN UGANDA; CROP DAMAGE REPORTED IN SOME PARTS OF ACHOLI AND TESO**
- **HEPATITIS E VIRUS CONTINUES TO TAKE TOLL ACROSS KITGUM, PADER; NEARLY 8,900 CASES REPORTED BY END OCTOBER**
- **RENEWED FIGHTING IN EASTERN DRC SPARKS NEW INFLUXES OF CONGOLESE REFUGEES IN WESTERN UGANDA**

II. SECURITY AND ACCESS

SECURITY

Calm prevailed in northern Uganda during the reporting period, with no reported LRA presence or activity within the region. Of continuing concern are isolated incidents of crime involving theft, break-ins and robberies. One incident was recorded of an ambush on a vehicle in Pader District in which one person was shot and injured, and passengers were robbed of money. An increase in the theft of motorcycles was also noted in Kitgum District, where four separate incidents in one week resulted in the loss of four motorcycles from the parking lots of hotels.

General hostility persisted in Karamoja, with a noted increase in aggressive Karimojong activities over the previous month (see graph below), including one ambush on a vehicle, a number of violent confrontations between the Karimojong and the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) and other criminal activities, including several murders. However, incursions of illegally armed Karimojong into neighbouring districts appear to have reduced during the month. In Kitgum, for instance, no Karimojong activity was reported in October. This is attributed to the deployment of Anti-Stock Theft Units (ASTUs) and the UPDF at traditional crossing points along the inter-district borders, as well as to the increased availability of pasture in Karamoja.



Source: UNDSS

Access

Poor road conditions resulting from heavy downpours hampered humanitarian access to parts northern Uganda and Karamoja. The condition of the section of road between Corner Kilak and Puranga on the Lira – Kitgum road, as well as along the Pader – Puranga road have drastically deteriorated, rendering the roads nearly impassable. In Gulu and Amuru, food aid trucks got stuck at several locations along some roads. The road between Gulu and Aswa Bridge is in a very bad state, hindering transport to Kitgum and Pader districts. In Karamoja, two bridges in Abim District – Lions

Bridge (linking Abim to Matany in Moroto) and the bridge at the border with Pader – were impassable. In Lotukei sub-county, 4,500 people in Awach and Gatapwou parishes could not be reached for immunisation owing to the over-flooding of a swamp. In Moroto, water logging and flooding have led to deterioration in the state of rural feeder roads in the northern parts of Ngoleriet sub-county, prompting a suspension of a planned immunisation programme in the area.

III. POPULATION MOVEMENT

Region	District	Original camp population (end 2005)	Estimated camp population	% of original camp population	Population in transit sites	% of original camp population	Population in villages of origin	% of original camp population
Acholi	Amuru	204,000	154,000	75%	73,000	36%	18,000	9%
	Gulu	257,000	108,000	42%	93,000	36%	118,000	46%
	Kitgum	310,000	119,000	38%	71,000	23%	120,000	39%
	Pader	339,000	78,000	23%	118,000	35%	143,000	42%
	Acholi Total	1,110,000	459,000	45%	355,000	33%	399,000	34%
Teso	Amuria	72,000	13,000	18%	4,000	6%	55,000	76%
	Katakwi	71,000	8,000	11%	-	-	57,000	80%
	Teso Total	143,000	21,000	15%	4,000	3%	112,000	78%
Grand Total		1,253,000	480,000	30%	359,000	18%	511,000¹	56%

Source: UNHCR, September 2008

During the reporting period, a total of 27 families returned to Amuru, Kitgum, Lira and Pader Districts from Nyanzi Island in Mukono District, where they had migrated at the height of the insurgency in 1998.

In Pader District, excessive rains caused water-logging in Aringa Parish of Puranga sub-county, forcing an estimated 47 households that had moved to the villages of Entebbe, Lubat, Ajangi, Omonglee, Tetworo and Rawio Oromo to return to Puranga IDP camp and Lakoga transit site.

In Karamoja, poor harvests and food insecurity has led an increasing number of Karimojong to leave their villages for urban centres within the sub-region. Substantial numbers of Karimojong have also headed to neighbouring districts, where some 429 have been registered in Amuria, 325 in Katakwi, 586 in Soroti, 328 in Mbale and 350 in Pader. An even larger number are believed to be constantly on the move between villages.

IV. HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

CAMP MANAGEMENT AND CAMP COORDINATION (CCCM)

To accelerate the completion of durable solutions assessments in the remaining seven sub-counties of Gulu, the District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC) has agreed to hand over the process to the District Camp Phase Out Committee (DCPC), recommending the end of December 2008 as the completion deadline.

Camp phase out was officially launched in Pader District in the first week of the month, starting with Puranga IDP camp and expecting to be subsequently rolled out in three other camps– Kalongo Town Council, Pader Town Council, and Omot. In Kitgum, phase out activities were expected to start in Amida camp on 4 November 2008. Assessments have been concluded in Labuje and Mucwini camps, which are now awaiting endorsement from the DDMC before beginning the exercise.

In Teso, cluster members are hopeful that the camp closure process will resume following a sensitisation workshop involving district officials from Katakwi and Amuria. The process had been temporarily halted due to disagreements from a section of community and sub-county leaders, with the result that only a total of 18 camps have so far been successfully closed in the two districts.

EDUCATION

Continuing efforts to address the infrastructure challenges affecting the education sector in Pader District included the provision of tents to serve as temporary classrooms in some of the 45 schools that lack structures. In total, 38 schools will be provided with tents. In Amuru, education partners have pledged to construct one school and rehabilitate 15 others, but infrastructure needs – particularly of returned schools – continue to be critical: nearly half of the 62 schools that have returned lack classroom structures and latrines.

¹ It total, some 997,000 people who remained displaced throughout the Acholi, Lango and Teso sub-regions at the start of 2006 have returned to their villages of origin, including all 466,100 in the Lango sub-region.

Inadequate staffing of schools remains a critical challenge to education in Katakwi District. For instance, only 720 of the 1,000 teachers required at the primary school level are currently available. The District Education department attributes part of the shortfall to the poor or failing health of teachers, including due to HIV/AIDS.

In Moroto, schools in the resettlement site of Nabwal only offer classes up to the Primary Two (P2) level, while pupils in Apeitolim can only study till P4.

FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURAL LIVELIHOODS

Heavy rains across northern and eastern Uganda led to the destruction of crops in some districts during the reporting period. In Amuru, water-logging in areas of Purongo and Alero sub-counties caused damage to beans, cassava and simsim (sesame) crops, while hailstorms in parts of Ngariam sub-county in Katakwi District destroyed over 2,000 fields of various crops, including cassava, simsim, sorghum, green grams and potatoes. Families affected by the hailstorms are expected to benefit from the 240 bags of maize meal and 60 bags of beans to be distributed by the Office of the Prime Minister. Meanwhile, an outbreak of cassava brown streak disease has been reported in Katakwi District, specifically in Omodoi, Katakwi and Usuk sub-counties. Consequently, food security partners have been urged to distribute more disease-resistant varieties in the district.

Response measures against the recent outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in eastern and northern Uganda have included quarantines on animal movements in the affected districts of Katakwi, Amuria, Abim, Pader and Kitgum, while vaccinations are ongoing. In Kitgum, vaccination has been carried out in 14 of 19 sub-counties, while seven sub-counties in Pader (Adilang, Paimol, Patongo, Parabongo, Kalongo, Lukole and Omot) have been covered. In Amuria, some 22,000 animals in Acowa, Asamuk and Obalanga sub-counties have been vaccinated. All three districts have however reported a depletion of the vaccine stocks, and are awaiting further procurement of the doses by the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) to extend the exercise to the remaining sub-counties. In Kotido, an estimated 20 to 30 per cent of cattle are suspected to be infected; the district has now received 10,000 doses of the vaccine. Abim District, where the outbreak was first reported in September 2008, has received 4,900 doses.

Vaccinations against other livestock diseases have been ongoing in Karamoja, with about eight per cent of the approximately 700,000 cattle in Kotido inoculated against Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP), and 12 per cent of the district's estimated 1.2 million goats and sheep vaccinated against *Peste des Petits Ruminants* (PPR). In Kaabong, PPR vaccinations have covered some 46,000 of the District's estimated 280,000 goats and sheep. Meanwhile, a Comprehensive Food Security Assessment (CFSAM) is ongoing in Nakapiripirit District and the results of a Food Situation Rapid Assessment (FSRA) were scheduled to be released in the first week of November.

In Kitgum District, meanwhile, general food distribution is expected to be phased out in at least four sub-counties of (Amida, Kitgum Matidi, Layamo and Lokung) beginning in January 2009. These sub-counties have met the food phase-out classification criteria, including a food insecurity level of less than 30 per cent and a Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate lower than 5 per cent. The final decision on phase-out will rest on the outcome of the ongoing Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA) and the Land Use and Crop Yield Assessment (LUCYA), in addition to nutrition survey reports.

GOVERNANCE, INFRASTRUCTURE AND LIVELIHOODS (GIL)

In Amuru, a Voucher for Work scheme attracted 500 people, who participated in the rehabilitation of roads and water points, and the construction of teachers' houses. Each participant received vouchers worth approximately US\$ 40 for the purchase of livestock. Additionally, 50 kilometres of roads in Amuru and Gulu were rehabilitated through a similar scheme in which 1,500 people received vouchers to access agricultural inputs including seeds, tools and livestock.

Meanwhile, the implementation phase of the Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) in Gulu is expected to begin shortly following the selection of a Grant Administrator. The programme is projected ultimately to benefit some 160 projects from 16 sub-counties. In Teso, community projects to be implemented under the QIPs have been identified, and include income generating activities, water and sanitation, infrastructure rehabilitation, and environmental and capacity-building projects falling within the US\$ 5,000 limit.

Mine Action: During the reporting period, 121 pieces of unexploded ordnance were destroyed in Gulu District by the Uganda Mine Action Centre (UMAC). UMAC, which now boasts a fully-fledged demining team in each Acholi district following the opening of its operational office in Gulu, has also taken over the coordination of demining activities.

HEALTH, NUTRITION AND HIV/AIDS

Cluster activities in the Acholi sub-region continued to be dominated by the response to the Hepatitis E epidemic. A cumulative 8,873 cases with 132 deaths have been registered in Kitgum District since the initial outbreak in October 2007, while 62 cases and seven deaths have been recorded in Pader District since May 2008. All 19 sub-counties of Kitgum, and 14 of the 17 sub-counties and 2 town councils in Pader have been affected. In the wake of the heavy rains in the region and coupled with a reported decline in the level of implementation of control measures, a rise in the epidemic trend has been observed in the last couple epidemiological (EPI) weeks. A workshop to review

achievements, challenges, and lessons learned from the response against the disease in Kitgum was scheduled for first week of November.

In Gulu, access to health services is expected to improve following the commissioning of 10 health centres, and the recruitment of 150 new staff. A further 14 health centres are undergoing rehabilitation.

Health partners in eastern Uganda continue to be engaged in malaria eradication campaigns. During the reporting period, Indoor Residual Spraying commenced in Katakwi, targeting 150,000 homes in all nine sub-counties of the district. In Abim District, a total of 18,043 households received Insecticide Treated Nets (ITNs) as part of a campaign that aims to raise the number of nets distributed in the Karamoja and Lango regions to the equivalent of an estimated 90 per cent of households that have two nets as part of the accelerated child survival campaign.

Findings from a multi-agency nutrition assessment carried out between August and September 2008 indicate improvements in nutritional security in all districts of Karamoja except Kotido, in comparison with the results of a similar assessment conducted in February 2008. For instance, the Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate was found to have decreased from 15.6 per cent to 12.7 per cent in Moroto, and improved to 8.4 per cent from 15.1 per cent in Nakapiripirit. Both districts recorded a Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) rate of 1.9 per cent, while the average across the sub-region was 1.2 per cent.

Meanwhile, plans are underway to re-launch the Nomadic Kraal Health Clinics project in Kotido District. The programme had been suspended following a disarmament operation on Apalopus kraal in July that led to the kraal's animals being held in Lokitelaebu protected kraal in Kotido sub-county. Under the project, two mobile nomadic health units, modelled after a Health Centre II, were piloted in Kotido and Moroto Districts. The units would travel with kraal communities of between 5,000 – 10,000 people.

PROTECTION

The growing phenomenon of Karimojong out-migration continues to pose challenges to protection actors as it is increasingly difficult to monitor their situation. A growing number of Karimojong are leaving their villages and heading to towns or to neighbouring districts, while an even larger number is believed to be constantly on the move between villages in search of food and work. As part of the efforts to address the problem, a workshop was held in Moroto, bringing together protection actors from Karamoja and neighbouring districts, and resulting in district Plans of Action to respond to the problems of street children, child labour and out-migration.

In Kitgum, protection agencies are planning a meeting with the Local Council I of the village hosting Mucwini IDP camp following the eviction of four displaced persons from the camp. The evictions were carried out under the auspice of an illegal by-law and the District has condemned the act. Shelter assistance is being provided to the persons affected persons. The authorities in Mucwini have been sensitized on the situation and have promised added vigilance on potential evictions carried out without the proper procedures.

Also in Kitgum, a protection referral directory with contact details for each of the sub-counties has been developed, with the objective of improving the response to protection-related incidents.

Human Rights and Rule of Law: In Pader, access to justice for inmates of Patongo Prison will be hampered as a result of the decision by the Grade One Magistrate to suspend open court sessions in the prison due to logistical constraints. While hearings will continue to be conducted in Pader town, the prison lacks vehicles for transporting inmates to the sessions. Presently, Patongo Prison holds 202 inmates, nearly three times the original capacity of the facility.

In contrast, access to justice in Karamoja is likely to improve following the posting of a Magistrate to be permanently based in Moroto District. Furthermore, a Grade One Magistrate has been assigned to Abim District (although the official remains resident in Soroti), while a Grade Two Magistrate shuttles between Abim, Kotido and Kaabong.

Child Protection: Over 3,000 children are estimated to be working under exploitative conditions in the Teso sub-region, according to a new report. The children, many of whom are migrants from Karamoja, are losing the opportunity to attend school and are exposed to stigma, sexual abuse, and diseases in the domestic or commercial settings in which they are employed. While agencies are helping to strengthen community systems to support such vulnerable children, they have to contend with the highly mobile nature of the affected group, as well as historical animosity toward the Karimojong within the host communities.

Gender Based Violence: A draft report from an assessment of the clinical management of rape in six health centres in Pader highlights, among other concerns, understaffing, stockouts of PEP, and poor adherence to protocols for handling survivors of GBV. An assessment on the clinical management of rape was also carried out in Kitgum.

A GBV Situation Analysis has been completed in all five districts of the Karamoja region, the draft report of which will be discussed at a validation meeting scheduled for December in Moroto. In Nakapiripirit, two consultative meetings on

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) held in Amudat and Loroo sub-counties and involving local community, cultural and political leaders recommended the abolition of the practice.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

In response to the threat of Hepatitis E, cluster partners in Gulu continue to carry out hygiene promotion, community mobilisation and sensitisation. Over 50 hygiene promotion sessions were conducted during the month, complemented by the distribution of 500 bars of soap and 500 tippy-taps in risk-prone areas.

To improve water access in Teso and Karamoja, agencies plan to accelerate programmes to protect and rehabilitate existing sources and, most importantly, to increase the number of facilities. To that end, in Amuria District, where safe water coverage currently stands at about 51 per cent against a national average of 67 per cent, at least 17 new boreholes are being drilled, and over 30 existing ones identified for rehabilitation. In Karamoja, where safe water coverage is only 43 per cent, drilling of new boreholes has been planned for Moroto (20), Kaabong (17), Kotido (16) and Abim (8), while at least 60 boreholes are expected to be rehabilitated. Some 164 latrine blocks are also expected to be constructed in the sub-region, as health partners work to improve access to sanitation units the current low level of only 9 per cent of the population.

V. SPECIAL FOCUS ISSUES

CONGOLESE REFUGEES

Renewed conflict in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo between Government forces and troops loyal to the rebel Laurent Nkunda led to renewed influxes of Congolese refugees crossing the border into Uganda at the end of October. Approximately 400 new arrivals were recorded each day between 26 October and the end of the month, bringing the total number of Congolese having arrived in the country since the beginning of August to approximately 8,500 by 31 October 2008. Some 2,000 requested transfer to the Nakivale refugee settlement in Isingiro District, while 6,500 preferred to remain in host communities along the border, from which they could cross back into their country of origin to monitor the situation and access food and other materials at their homes. Although the condition of most new arrivals was good, agencies remained concerned about the strain on existing water and sanitation, health facilities and the food supply in the host communities. Plans were being developed to undertake a mass information campaign on the assistance available at the refugee settlement, with an additional component on good hygiene, given the threat of cholera and other waterborne diseases, particularly during the current rainy season. The Government has also expressed concern for the additional pressure on overstretched health centres and the food supply in the region. Updating of a contingency plan for a mass influx of up to 100,000 new refugees is ongoing.

VI. FUNDING

As at the end of October, the total requests for the revised 2008 Uganda CAP stood at about US\$ 382 million, with US\$ 235 million in contributions (about 65 per cent of requests) and an additional US\$ 3.9 million in pledges, according to the Financial Tracking Service (FTS).

Coordination (82 per cent), Food Security and Agricultural Livelihoods (69 per cent), Protection (64 per cent), Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (62 per cent), Health, Nutrition and HIV/AIDS (61 per cent), and Education (60 per cent) are the highest funded clusters / sectors, followed by Camp Coordination and Camp Management (53 per cent), and Multi-sector (Refugees) at 53 per cent. Governance Infrastructure and Livelihoods has attracted only 17 per cent funding, while the Emergency Non-Food Items sector has not been activated to date.

VII. THE MONTH AHEAD

MONTHLY CLUSTER MEETING SCHEDULE

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
First Week	HNHA Cluster (14:30 at WHO)	GBV Sub-Cluster (10:00 at UNFPA) FSAL Cluster (14:30 at FAO)	CP Sub-Cluster (10:30 at UNICEF) GIL Cluster (14:30 at UNDP)	Education Cluster (09:00 at UNICEF) WASH Cluster (14:00 at UNICEF)	
Second Week	Heads of Cluster (11:15 at OCHA)		IASC Country Team (10:00 at OCHA) Contact Group* (14:30 at OCHA)		
Third Week	Protection Cluster (14:30 at UNHCR)				
Fourth Week			Contact Group* (14:30 at OCHA)		

* Contact Group meets every second Wednesday, which usually falls during the 2nd and 4th week of the month.

25 November – 10 December – Sixteen Days of Activism Against GBV

VIII. CONTACTS

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