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**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) 2008

March 6, 2008

Note: The last situation report was dated September 7, 2007.

BACKGROUND

Since 1986, protracted conflict between the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) and the Government of Uganda (GOU) has created a complex emergency in northern Uganda, marked by violent attacks against civilians, extensive displacement, and the abduction of children for forced conscription, labor, and sexual servitude. In 2006 and 2007, improved security, greater freedom of movement, and significant progress toward a negotiated settlement to the conflict encouraged an estimated 920,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) to relocate closer or return to original lands. However, the situation remains tenuous, and an additional 843,000 IDPs continue to reside in overcrowded camps. Many IDPs and returnees continue to lack sufficient access to essential services in conflict-affected areas, particularly in Gulu, Amuru, Kitgum, and Pader districts. In addition, looting and cattle raids by pastoralists from Karamoja in eastern Uganda continue to contribute to the ongoing humanitarian crisis.

On October 18, 2007, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires Andrew G. Chritton redeclared a disaster in response to the ongoing humanitarian emergency in northern Uganda. Since 1994, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$58 million to support continued humanitarian assistance to vulnerable populations in Uganda. Activities have included the provision of emergency relief supplies, health care, nutrition programs, and water and sanitation services, as well as food security, protection, and income generation programs.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	SOURCE	
IDPs Remaining in Original Camps	843,538	IASC ¹ Working Group in Uganda – November 2007
IDPs In New Site/In Transit	429,155	IASC Working Group in Uganda – November 2007
IDPs Returned to Villages of Origin	556,643	IASC Working Group in Uganda – November 2007
Refugees in Uganda²	260,760	UNHCR ³ – January 2008

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE (FY 2007 AND FY 2008)

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Uganda.....	\$13,315,180
USAID/FFP ⁴ Emergency Assistance to Uganda	\$71,819,400
State/PRM ⁵ Assistance to Uganda.....	\$7,829,937
Total USAID and State Humanitarian Assistance to Uganda	\$92,964,517

CURRENT SITUATION

Humanitarian conditions continue to improve in northern Uganda as negotiations regarding an anticipated comprehensive peace agreement progress between the GOU and the LRA. The relatively stable security environment in 2007 and early 2008 has facilitated movements of displaced families to transition sites or to their original lands. On December 10, the U.N. launched the 2008 Consolidated Appeals Process (CAP) for Uganda, requesting \$347 million to address emergency needs and support recovery activities for vulnerable populations affected by the protracted humanitarian emergency.

USAID/DCHA and USAID/Uganda staff cite the need for strong coordination between humanitarian and development actors to support the recovery of conflict-affected communities in northern Uganda.

USAID/OFDA is actively engaged in the transition from emergency relief programs to longer-term development programming and is working closely with USAID offices devoted to conflict mitigation, transition initiatives, and long-term development to create an integrated USAID early recovery strategy for Uganda. In September 2007, a USAID/OFDA delegation met with USAID, U.N., and local officials in Gulu and Kampala to assess the intersection of planned relief, recovery, and development efforts. In February and

¹ Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)

² Refugees in Uganda comprise 205,220 Sudanese, 28,770 Congolese, 21,870 Rwandans, and 4,900 others.

³ Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

⁴ USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

⁵ U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

March 2008, USAID/OFDA's technical advisors in protection, agriculture and food security, and water, sanitation, and hygiene traveled around northern Uganda to further develop sectoral transition plans.

In FY 2007, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$12.7 million in emergency assistance to Uganda, prioritizing projects that encourage sustainable returns. USAID/OFDA-supported initiatives include increasing the amount of arable land to improve food security, rehabilitating water points in areas of return, repairing roads to provide access to markets, and funding radio programs that provide returnees with information regarding local conditions and services.

Flooding

Heavy rains from May through September 2007 caused flooding in Uganda's Teso Region, particularly affecting Katakwi and Amuria districts, where subsistence farmers suffered crop losses and damage to huts. A joint USAID/OFDA, USAID/Uganda, and USAID/FFP team traveled to affected areas in early September and estimated that 45,000 people remained at risk from structurally-damaged homes, contaminated wells, and inundated latrines. The USAID team also reported significant crop loss, minimal food reserves, and a lack of planting material for the upcoming agricultural season. On September 8, the GOU Office of the Prime Minister requested international assistance to mitigate the effects of the flooding.

On September 14, U.S. Ambassador Steven A. Browning declared a disaster due to the impact of flooding in Uganda's Teso Region. In response, USAID/OFDA provided \$100,000 through USAID/Uganda for shelter and emergency water and sanitation activities, and an additional \$400,000 through the U.N. Flash Appeal for agricultural inputs.

Agriculture and Food Security

The USAID-supported Famine Early Warning Systems Network estimates that 1.2 million IDPs in northern Uganda remain food insecure and require emergency food relief as a result of the cumulative effects of insecurity. In addition, approximately 30,000 households, or 200,000 people, in Teso, Lango, and Karamoja regions are expected to require food assistance through July 2008 due to flood-related crop losses in late 2007. Relief agencies provided a one-month food ration to 312,118 people in flood-affected areas between September and November 2007, according to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization and U.N. World Food Program (WFP). To date in FY 2008, USAID/FFP has provided approximately \$26.5 million in emergency food assistance through WFP to IDPs and vulnerable households in addition to its ongoing development programs.

Health and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

An outbreak of Ebola hemorrhagic fever in western Uganda killed 37 people out of 149 confirmed cases

between November 2007 and February 2008, according to the GOU Ministry of Health (MOH). Following joint efforts by the MOH, U.N. World Health Organization, U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), WFP, Médecins sans Frontières, and U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to isolate and treat suspected cases and contain the further spread of the virus through an active surveillance program, GOU health officials declared the end of the outbreak on February 20. USAID/OFDA contributed \$50,000 through USAID/Uganda to support Ebola response activities.

As of March 3, the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies reported 314 confirmed cases of Hepatitis E in Madi Opei sub-county of Kitgum District since November, with 11 related deaths to date. U.N. agencies and relief organizations are coordinating with the MOH to improve coordination regarding response efforts, provide additional sanitation and hygiene facilities to prevent water contamination, and enhance hygiene promotion activities.

Ongoing FY 2007 projects supported by USAID/OFDA continue in water, sanitation, and hygiene activities in Kitgum, Pader, and Gulu districts, including public health and hygiene education, the installation of water tanks and taps, the construction of latrines and hand washing facilities, the distribution of hygiene kits, and the rehabilitation of springs, hand-dug wells, and boreholes.

Population Movement and IDP Returns

IDPs in northern Uganda continue to move out of long-term IDP camps towards transitional centers or areas of origin, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. In the Acholi sub-region, movement of IDPs out of camps has been slower due to concerns over landmines, unexploded ordnance, and low-level crime in home areas. However, fewer than 1,300 IDPs remain in camps in the Lango sub-region, and the local disaster management committee is working to address vulnerabilities among the remaining IDPs. According to the U.N. 2008 CAP, fewer than half of the 110,000 IDPs in Amuria and Katakwi districts in Teso Region are expected to return in 2008, due to inadequate security and sporadic attacks in home areas.

Approximately 260,000 refugees, primarily from Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Rwanda, remain in Uganda according to the UNHCR Global Appeal for 2008 and 2009. In addition, approximately 12,000 Kenyans crossed the border into Uganda beginning in late December following violence related to disputed presidential election results. UNHCR, the Uganda Red Cross, and several other relief agencies are working in coordination with the GOU to register and provide assistance to the Kenyan refugees. State/PRM provided more than \$7.8 million for refugee assistance programs in FY 2007, including support for return and reintegration, gender-based violence prevention and protection activities, and HIV/AIDS response efforts.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO UGANDA

FY 2008			
Implementing Partner	Activity	Location	Amount
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
UNICEF	Protection	Countrywide	\$200,000
USAID/Uganda	Ebola Response	Bundibugyo District	\$50,000
	Program Support Costs	Countrywide	\$295,500
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$545,500
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
WFP	31,550 Metric Tons of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Northern and Eastern Uganda	\$26,460,700
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$26,460,700
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO UGANDA IN FY 2008			\$27,006,200

FY 2007	
TOTAL USAID/OFDA	\$12,769,680
TOTAL USAID/FFP	\$45,358,700
TOTAL STATE/PRM	\$7,829,937
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO UGANDA IN FY 2007	\$65,958,317

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of March 6, 2008.

² Estimated value of food assistance.



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