



# USAID | UGANDA

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

## FACT SHEET

### Summary of the Northern Uganda Action Plan

#### **Purpose:**

The action plan seeks to enhance regional stability, assist with the alleviation one of the world's worst humanitarian crises, and promote self-reliance and economic development in northern Uganda and Southern Sudan. The overall strategic goals are:

- Promote regional stability by averting and resolving local and regional conflict,
- Enable internally displaced persons and conflict-affected populations to become fully productive contributors to economic, political and social progress

#### **Justification:**

The situation in northern Uganda has been described as the world's most neglected humanitarian crisis. The 19-year conflict with the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and its preceding rebel groups has displaced approximately 1.4 million people; there are 200 IDP camps in northern and eastern Uganda, most of which are grossly overcrowded; more than 20,000 children have been abducted and initiated as fighters, porters, and sex slaves for the LRA; tens of thousands of children seek protection in camps and town centers each night out of fear of abduction; and vulnerable populations lack protection from sexual and gender-based violence. There have been significant setbacks in schooling, health care, HIV/AIDS services, food production, water and sanitation systems, infrastructure, local governance, democratic participation, and other sectors fundamental to economic, political and social development. Addressing these factors during the next three years is central to advancing Uganda's development and promoting regional stability.

#### **United States Government Commitment:**

At the request of the U.S. National Security Council, the USAID Mission in Uganda--in consultation with the U.S. Embassy, the Government of Uganda (GOU), and international and local partners--prepared the three-year post-conflict reconciliation and recovery plan for northern Uganda (2006-2008).

In August 2004, the U.S. Congress passed the Northern Uganda Crisis Response Act, which calls upon the United States Government (USG) to support efforts to seek a just and lasting peaceful resolution of the conflict and to work with the GOU, the international community, and civil society to: protect civilians, provide for the relief and development needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs), provide assistance for formerly abducted and other children affected by the conflict, and support the demobilization and reintegration of former combatants and abductees.

The action plan is part of a three-pronged USG strategy to: provide non-lethal assistance to the Ugandan army to protect civilians and put pressure on the LRA, support peace talks as part of a Core Group of international, and provide humanitarian assistance transitioning to reconciliation, recovery and development.



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## Objectives:

USAID is committed to enhancing its immediate emergency response and maintaining a long-term strategy that promotes durable peace and eventually self-reliance for displaced persons and affected communities. With peace and access to long-abandoned areas, the action plan proposes an expanded set of recovery and development activities including health, protection, reconciliation, democracy and governance, food security and livelihoods, economic revitalization, and education, as part of a GOU-led, multi-donor effort. Other donors would take the lead in areas like disarmament, demobilization and resettlement of ex-combatants, establishment of civil justice, law and order, and removal of land mines.

Therefore, the action plan represents a comprehensive and integrated response to the needs of IDPs and other affected populations by initiating a long-term development program that progressively replaces the need for immediate care and maintenance, and transitional reintegration programs, in order to achieve the following by the end of 2008:

- Seventy percent of displaced persons voluntarily returned home or voluntarily resettled
- Progress made in advancing local, national, and trans-border reconciliation
- Market activity increased in affected districts, including trans-border markets
- Access increased to basic education and health services in previously inaccessible areas

## Guiding Principles:

- (a) A comprehensive approach through coordination of multiple partners is necessary since neither the GOU nor any single donor possess sufficient resources to address the substantial emergency and transition needs.
- (b) National and local leadership are essential.
- (c) IDPs and other vulnerable populations require protection from violence, abuse, exploitation, and harassment.
- (d) The concept of 'Do no harm' will be carefully followed. 'Do no harm' means that in no way should assistance create new or reinforce current inequalities, vulnerabilities or dependencies.
- (e) By focusing on the differential impacts of the situation on children, women, men, the elderly, and persons with disabilities, the most vulnerable can be targeted.
- (f) Local, national and trans-border reconciliation are crucial for sustaining long-term peace.
- (g) Trans-border coordination and linkages will also be critical to long-term peace and development for both Uganda and Sudan.

## Current USAID Assistance:

The USG provided \$56 million in food and \$9 million in non-food emergency assistance for northern Uganda in FY2004. Expected funding for FY2005 includes \$56 million in food and \$6 million in non-food emergency assistance. The USG also provided \$12 million in FY2004 for development expenditure in accessible parts of the conflict zone and \$18 million is planned for FY2005.

The three-year action plan complements USAID/Uganda's Northern Uganda Peace Initiative (NUPI), which supports dialogue between the GOU and the LRA and reconciliation between the GOU and the Acholi people. It also complements USAID's Coordinated Humanitarian Assistance and Stabilization Program for the Acholi Zone of Southern Sudan. The plan supports the strategic goal of regional stability and the performance goal of resolution of local and regional conflict as outlined in the "Joint Performance Plan of the U.S. Department of State and U.S. Agency for International Development."