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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 #3, Fiscal Year (FY) 2005

August 24, 2005

Note: The last situation report was dated April 13, 2005

BACKGROUND

Since 1986, the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA), led by Joseph Kony, has waged an insurgency in northern Uganda, using camps in southern Sudan as a base for attacks on civilians and government forces. According to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), LRA attacks and counter-insurgency measures by the Government of Uganda (GOU) have displaced nearly 95 percent of the ethnic Acholi population in Gulu, Kitgum, Pader, and Lira districts. LRA tactics against civilians include murder, looting, burning houses, torture, mutilation, and abduction of children for the purposes of forced conscription, labor, and sexual servitude. Ugandan government counter-insurgency tactics have included forcible relocation of rural communities into designated sites and restrictions on the northern population’s freedom of movement. In March 2002, improved relations between the GOU and Government of Sudan (GOS) led the GOU to launch ‘Operation Iron Fist,’ sending Uganda Peoples Defense Forces (UPDF) to disable LRA camps in southern Sudan. However, the humanitarian situation in northern Uganda deteriorated as LRA forces expanded attacks from the northern Acholi sub-region to the eastern Langi and Teso sub-regions, assaulting villages and camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs). Escalating civil conflict and violence, combined with looting and cattle raids by Karamojong pastoralists in eastern Uganda, have resulted in a humanitarian crisis spanning 19 years.

According to the U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF), more than 1.4 million Ugandans, 80 percent of whom are women and children, have been displaced and live in camps without adequate food, protection, water, sanitation facilities, and health care. The conflict threatens food security, even in normally productive agricultural areas. Continued insecurity also hinders the ability of relief workers to provide humanitarian assistance and deliver relief supplies. As the scale of the conflict has widened, LRA child abductions have increased. UNICEF estimates that the LRA has abducted 25,000 children since the conflict began, with nearly 12,000 children abducted since 2002. Up to 40,000 northern Ugandans, primarily children, have become night commuters, traveling each evening from vulnerable rural communities to spend the night in the perceived safety of urban centers.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
IDPs	1.4 million ¹	WFP, August 2005
Night Commuters	40,000	UNICEF, July 2005
Abducted Children	25,000 ²	UNICEF, August 2005
Refugees in Uganda	215,000	State/PRM ³ , August 2005
Ugandan Refugees	26,800 ⁴	UNHCR, December 2004

¹The figure reflects the number of U.N. World Food Program (WFP) beneficiaries, and not necessarily the total number of IDPs.

²The figure represents the estimated number of children abducted between 1986 and 2005. An unknown number of abducted children have escaped or have been captured by UPDF forces during the conflict.

³U.S. Department of State/Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration

⁴The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) calculates statistics regarding the number of refugees once a year.

Total FY 2005 USAID/OFDA Assistance to Uganda \$8,912,105
Total FY 2005 USG Humanitarian Assistance to Uganda.....\$63,388,840

CURRENT SITUATION

Renewed violence as peace process stalls. Promising signs in late 2004 that the northern Ugandan conflict was moving toward resolution were dashed in early 2005 as expiration of the GOU’s limited ceasefire on February 22 led to a resumption of hostilities. With the peace process stalled, security in the Acholi sub-region and northern parts of Lira and Apac districts in Lango sub-region has deteriorated in recent months. According to international media reports, the LRA has continued to carry out road ambushes, murders, and abduction of civilians, and targeted attacks on UPDF detachments in the suburbs of

Gulu, Kitgum, and Pader towns. The June 29 U.N. Mid-Year Review of the Ugandan Humanitarian Appeal reports that the UPDF has responded by restricting the daily movements of IDPs from the camps in early morning and late evening because of an increased fear of LRA attacks.

In the Teso sub-region and southern Lira District, relative peace has prevailed following the combined efforts of the UPDF and local militias. In the Teso sub-region, an estimated 350,000 IDPs have been able to return to their

areas of origin, with the exception of 80,000 in Usuk County, Katakwi District, who fear both Karamojong and LRA raids. Similarly, in Lira, an estimated 60,000 IDPs from Lira municipality have returned to rural camps closer to their villages of origin.

Impact of the death of Dr. John Garang. The death of Sudanese First Vice President Dr. John Garang in a helicopter crash on July 30 sparked violent outbreaks in Khartoum and raised concerns about stability in the region and the peace process in northern Uganda in particular. The crash occurred as Dr. Garang was flying to southern Sudan following a meeting with President Museveni, during which the two leaders reportedly discussed joint efforts to address the LRA insurgency. According to UNHCR, Dr. Garang's death is also likely to have an impact on the return of Sudanese refugees currently in Uganda. UNHCR reports that plans were underway to begin voluntary repatriation of refugees by October, with at least 6,000 expected to register. Aid agencies report that Dr. Garang's death and the riots that followed have dampened enthusiasm for repatriation.

Critical water shortages and poor sanitation. From June 16 to 25, a USAID team comprised of technical and regional staff traveled to Gulu, Kitgum, Lira, and Pader districts to assess water and sanitation, as well as overall humanitarian conditions in IDP camps to determine USAID/OFDA's future response priorities. Approximately one third of USAID/OFDA's assistance in northern Uganda targets water and sanitation needs. Although conditions in some camps were notably better than in others, the overall water and sanitation situation was seriously deficient in most camps visited. UNICEF estimates that water availability in camps in Gulu, Kitgum, and Pader districts is 4-8 liters per person per day—far short of the recommended 15 liters per person per day, according to SPHERE guidelines. Further, the USAID team noted long lines of jerry cans and waits of up to six hours for water at hand pump collection sites, forcing families to use water from unsafe surface sources, increasing the risk of disease.

The USAID team also observed problematic sanitation conditions in the areas assessed, with ratios far exceeding the SPHERE recommendation of 25 persons per latrine. Although some camps achieved ratios of 50 persons per latrine, 200 persons per latrine, or even higher, was the norm. The USAID team recommended that partner agencies focus interventions in fewer camps in order to make a significant impact in targeted areas, rather than spreading resources throughout the estimated 200 IDP camps in the districts.

Poor conditions hamper cholera response. In Gulu District, an ongoing cholera outbreak remains a significant humanitarian concern in densely populated Pabbo Camp, which hosts more than 50,000 IDPs. Although the Médecins sans Frontières (MSF)/UNICEF-operated cholera treatment center in Pabbo has been effective in treating the current number of cholera cases, severe water shortages, poor

sanitation, and overcrowded conditions are diminishing the impact of response efforts. The USAID team indicates that soap distribution and intensification of sanitation and hygiene promotion are immediately needed in Pabbo, as well as in other camps. The U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) reports that cholera has claimed the lives of 56 people and infected 2,200 others in Uganda since April 2005.

Food security outlook. USAID's Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS NET) reports that despite well-distributed rainfall in May in Gulu, Kitgum, Lira, and Pader districts, poorly distributed rainfall since early June has dampened the prospects of improved agricultural production in the area. Earlier harvest projections were based on observations of improved access to land, prompting aid agencies to provide seeds and tools to increase IDPs' productive capacity. Low production forecasts, however, indicate that IDPs will continue to depend heavily on food assistance until the next harvest in November. According to the August WFP Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) pipeline report, WFP faces a shortfall of nearly 29,000 metric tons (MT) over the next six months, with critical shortages of corn soya blend (CSB) for malnourished individuals and other vulnerable individuals.

In contrast to the Acholi sub-region, Lira District has fared somewhat better, according to the U.N. Mid-Year Review. With the improved security situation, IDPs have had more freedom of movement to access gardens and expand coping mechanisms. This has led to better nutrition, as evidenced by the declining number of children in therapeutic feeding centers (TFCs) and supplementary feeding programs. In June 2005, the TFC in Lira District had 120 children enrolled, compared to more than 300 children in the TFC in May 2004.

Insecurity impedes food distributions. WFP continues to provide distributions to more than 570,000 drought-affected people in Karamoja, despite several obstacles, including pipeline shortages, logistical constraints, and poor road conditions. In June, WFP temporarily suspended food delivery and distribution in Nakapiripirit District, following the looting of food stores, reportedly by armed Karamojong youths.

National IDP policy. In March, the GOU launched the National IDP Policy to promote a system-wide response regarding the protection needs of IDPs. To support the initiative, the U.N. has finalized a protection strategy, and deployed a Senior Technical Advisor to the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and seven District Disaster Preparedness Coordinators (DDPCs) to conflict-affected districts to help with the implementation of the policy and support return and re-integration programs. Some issues, however, remain to be addressed. Presently, GOU funding does not allow conflict-affected districts to redirect resources from

development to relief operations because the GOU has not declared northern Uganda an emergency. As a result, some districts have had to return funding earmarked for development to the central authorities that could otherwise have been spent on humanitarian assistance for IDPs. In addition, District Disaster Management Committees (DDMC) have limited resources and capacity to address the large issue of IDPs.

USG pledges assistance for malaria. On June 30, U.S. President George W. Bush challenged the world to reduce the burden of malaria as a major killer of children in sub-Saharan Africa and pledged to increase funding of malaria prevention and treatment by more than \$1.2 billion over five years. To launch this initiative, the USG will significantly expand resources for malaria in Angola, Tanzania, and Uganda, beginning in 2006, with plans to increase funding to additional countries in the following years. By 2010, the USG will provide an additional \$500 million per year for malaria prevention and treatment. This effort will eventually cover more than 175 million people in 15 or more of the most affected countries in Africa.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

On November 3, 2004, U.S. Ambassador Jimmy J. Kolker redeclared a disaster in response to the ongoing complex humanitarian emergency in northern Uganda. In FY 2005 to date, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$8.9 million for relief assistance in emergency water and sanitation, health, nutrition, coordination, and the distribution of emergency relief items. USAID/OFDA allocated nearly \$2.1 million to Action Against Hunger (AAH/USA), GOAL, and International Medical Corps (IMC) for health and nutrition programs; more than \$5.5 million to Associazione Volontari per il Servizio Internazionale (AVSI), Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI), Cooperazione e Sviluppo

(CESVI), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Lutheran World Relief (LWR), Medair, and UNICEF to improve sanitation conditions and access to potable water; nearly \$200,000 to Christian Children's Fund (CCF) to support income generation activities; and \$250,000 to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for food security and agriculture interventions. In addition, USAID/OFDA provided \$500,000 to OCHA to enhance coordination efforts among the humanitarian community, as well as funded UNICEF to coordinate health and nutrition activities. USAID/OFDA expects funding to emergency programs in northern Uganda to increase during the coming months.

In FY 2005, USAID's Office of Food for Peace (FFP) has provided 79,630 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance valued at more than \$47.5 million. Distributed through WFP, USAID/FFP assistance consists primarily of cereals, CSB, vegetable oil, and pulses. USAID/FFP contributions target IDPs in northern and eastern districts, drought-affected families in the Karamoja sub-region, and refugees countrywide.

In FY 2005, the Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) continued to support the humanitarian needs of refugees in Uganda. State/PRM has provided \$20,000 through the Ambassador's Fund for Refugees to support health infrastructure improvement at the Ikafe settlement; \$4 million to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for conflict-affected populations in northern Uganda; more than \$300,000 to IMC for sexual violence prevention and response; \$250,000 to IRC to support HIV/AIDS programs; \$2 million to UNHCR for refugee assistance; and \$300,000 to WFP for refugee feeding programs. This is in addition to approximately \$48.5 million provided to UNHCR in FY 2005, a portion of which supports programs in Uganda.

U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO UGANDA IN FY 2005

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
AAH/USA	Nutrition	Pader, Gulu, Lira	\$722,073
AVSI	Water and Sanitation	Kitgum, Pader	\$1,361,705
CCF	Income Generation	Lira	\$199,291
CESVI	Water and Sanitation	Pader	\$468,844
COOPI	Water and Sanitation	Kitgum, Gulu, Pader	\$1,013,830
CRS	Water and Sanitation	Gulu	\$890,998
GOAL	Health	Pader	\$566,985
IMC	Health, Nutrition	Kitgum, Pader	\$799,396
IRC	Water and Sanitation	Kitgum, Lira, Pader	\$599,983
LWR	Relief Supplies, Water and Sanitation	Adjumani and Katawki, Karamoja	\$850,000
MEDAIR	Water and Sanitation	Pader	\$425,000
UN FAO	Food Security/Agriculture	Countrywide	\$250,000
UNICEF	Nutrition, Health, Water and Sanitation	Countrywide	\$250,000
OCHA	Coordination	Countrywide	\$500,000
Various	Administrative	Countrywide	\$14,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$8,912,105
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			
WFP	79,630 MT in PL 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$47,589,100 ²
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$47,589,100
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
Ambassador's Fund for Refugees	Health Infrastructure Improvement	Ikafe Settlement, Arua	\$20,000
ICRC	Conflict Victim Assistance	Northern Uganda	\$4,000,000
IMC	Refugee Gender-based Violence Prevention and Response	Countrywide	\$317,635
IRC	Refugee HIV/AIDS	Countrywide	\$250,000
UNHCR	Refugee Assistance	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
WFP	Refugee Feeding	Countrywide	\$300,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM.....			\$6,887,635
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO UGANDA IN FY 2005			\$56,501,205
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO UGANDA IN FY 2005			\$63,388,840

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of August 24, 2005.² Estimated value of food assistance.


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