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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 #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2006

October 14, 2005

Note: The last situation report was dated August 24, 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 Government of Uganda (GOU) counter-insurgency measures have resulted in the displacement of 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. GOU 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 Government of Uganda (GOU) and the 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. The humanitarian situation in northern Uganda deteriorated as LRA forces expanded hostilities from the northern Acholi sub-region to the eastern Lango and Teso sub-regions, attacking 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. World Food Program (WFP), approximately 1.45 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. The U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF) estimates that the LRA has abducted 25,000 children since the conflict began, with nearly 12,000 children abducted since 2002. Up to 35,000 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	1.45 million	WFP, October 2005
Night Commuters	35,000	UNICEF, October 2005
Abducted Children	25,000 ¹	UNICEF, October 2005
Refugees in Uganda	215,000	State/PRM ² , October 2005
Ugandan Refugees	26,800 ³	UNHCR, December 2004

Total FY 2005 USAID/OFDA Assistance to Uganda\$11,841,219
Total FY 2005 USG Humanitarian Assistance to Uganda.....\$67,367,954

CURRENT SITUATION

Intermittent violence continues. During the week of September 12, 40 individuals believed to be members of the LRA attacked villages in Lanya and Lika in southern Sudan, setting homes on fire and abducting several people. According to a Ugandan army spokesman, during the week of September 19, approximately 60 members of the LRA, led by the LRA Deputy Commander, reportedly left their areas of operation in northern Uganda and southern Sudan and crossed into northeastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Violence continued during the week of September 26, when LRA forces launched attacks on an IDP camp in

Amuria District in northern Uganda, leading to four deaths.

Deployment of troops to prevent LRA attacks. In late September, the Ugandan military issued an ultimatum to LRA forces in the DRC to surrender by September 30 or face repercussions. The GOU also requested that the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (GDRC) arrest and turn over all LRA rebels who have allegedly sought refuge in the DRC. On September 29, the Ugandan President stated that the GDRC and the U.N. Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo

¹The 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.

²U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration

³The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) calculates statistics regarding the number of refugees once a year.

(MONUC) must disarm LRA rebels in the DRC in two months or face action by the Ugandan military.

By September 29, the UPDF had deployed troops along the border with the DRC as a precautionary measure to prevent any attacks by LRA forces. According to international media reports, on October 4, the U.N. airlifted 300 Congolese soldiers to Aba, on DRC's northeast border with Uganda, and 200 troops were transported by road. On October 7, a Congolese army spokesman informed the international media that the GDRC had deployed 3,000 troops to Aba to disarm the LRA forces in the area; however, a MONUC official could only confirm the arrival of 500 troops. Unofficial reports during the week of October 11 indicated that the LRA splinter group had successfully crossed the border and were no longer present in eastern DRC.

ICC arrest warrants. On October 14, the International Criminal Court (ICC) publicly confirmed that the court had issued arrest warrants for five LRA leaders, including Joseph Kony, on July 8. Joseph Kony was indicted on 12 counts of crimes against humanity and 21 counts of war crimes.

IDPs in Adjumani District. According to a survey conducted by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Danish Assistance to the Self Reliance Strategy (DASS), fighting in northern Uganda displaced more than 41,000 persons in Adjumani District in the past year. Most of the 41,000 people, more than half of them children, have been living on the border with Gulu District in northern Uganda.

Food security outlook. According to the September pipeline projection for WFP's Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO), WFP has sufficient contributions to meet food needs for vulnerable populations in Uganda through November 2005. The pipeline faces a shortfall, however, of nearly 41,000 metric tons (MT) for the period of December to February 2006. An expected normal crop harvest in the Karamoja Region will enable households to replenish food stocks and improve food security. Market reports indicate that rising livestock prices are improving livestock-to-grain terms of trade, and fewer people are selling livestock due to the expectation of a good harvest. Improved stocks and food security in the Karamoja Region will decrease the number of vulnerable people dependent on food aid for most of their needs to approximately 2.1 million; a decrease of 500,000 individuals.

Child and crude mortality rates at emergency levels. A July health and mortality survey for internally displaced persons in Gulu, Kitgum, and Pader districts of northern Uganda show child (under five years of age) mortality and crude mortality rates above the emergency thresholds of two deaths per 10,000 per day and one death per 10,000 per day, respectively. The study was conducted by the Uganda Ministry of Health and the World Health

Organization (WHO), with collaboration from UNICEF, WFP, the U.N. Population Fund (UNFPA), and the International Rescue Committee (IRC). According to the survey, disease and conflict killed nearly 30,000 people in the three districts in northern Uganda between January and July 2005. Malaria, HIV/AIDS, and violence were the leading causes of mortality. From January to July 2005, the total excess mortality, when compared to non-crisis areas of Uganda, was 25,694 persons—over 1,000 excess deaths per week—of which over 39 percent were children under five years of age. Approximately 1.13 million IDPs live in these three districts that have been most affected by the conflict.

Continued violence in Karamoja. According to international media reports, in mid-September, inter-clan fighting in the northeastern region of Karamoja led to the deaths of 15 women and children. On September 19, members of the Pian clan attacked the Bokora clan in retaliation for a cattle raid the previous day. Pastoralist clans often clash over control of cattle and access to water and pasture. The attacks became increasingly violent in recent years with the increased availability of firearms in the country. Through a demobilization initiative launched in the region in 2001, the GOU has removed 10,000 of an estimated 40,000 guns from circulation.

Status of Sudanese refugees. According to UNHCR, more than 6,000 Sudanese refugees in Uganda will be repatriated to Sudan by the end of 2005. UNHCR reported that many Sudanese refugees in Uganda have expressed interest in returning home but still have fears due to the lack of infrastructure and medical facilities in southern Sudan.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

U.S. Ambassador Jimmy J. Kolker redeclared a disaster in response to the ongoing complex humanitarian emergency in northern Uganda on November 3, 2004. In FY 2005, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$11.8 million to support activities in sectors such as emergency water and sanitation, health, nutrition, income generation, food security, coordination, and emergency relief supplies. USAID/OFDA allocated nearly \$2.8 million to Action Against Hunger (AAH/USA), GOAL, and International Medical Corps (IMC) for health and nutrition programs; more than \$7.9 million to Associazione Volontari per il Servizio Internazionale (AVSI), CARE, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI), Cooperazione e Sviluppo (CESVI), 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 and also funded UNICEF to coordinate health and nutrition activities.

In FY 2005, USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) 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 of cereals, corn soya blend (CSB), vegetable oil, and pulses. USAID/FFP contributions primarily target IDPs in northern and eastern districts, drought-affected families in the Karamoja sub-region, and refugees countrywide.

In FY 2005, State/PRM continued to support the humanitarian needs of refugees and victims of conflict in Uganda by providing more than \$7.9 million in assistance. State/PRM provided \$4 million to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for conflict-affected populations in northern Uganda; \$2.3 million to UNHCR and WFP to support refugee assistance and feeding, and more than \$1.6 million to IRC and IMC to support gender-based violence prevention and response activities, HIV/AIDS prevention activities, as well as health and water and sanitation services to refugees. This assistance is in addition to approximately \$53.5 million in unearmarked funds to UNHCR and \$34.7 million in unearmarked funds to the ICRC in FY 2005, portions of which support 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	Gulu, Lira, Pader	\$722,073
AVSI	Water and sanitation	Kitgum, Pader	\$1,361,705
CARE	Water and sanitation	Gulu	\$987,279
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	\$831,828
GOAL	Health	Pader	\$1,271,377
IMC	Health, Nutrition	Kitgum, Pader	\$799,396
IRC	Water and sanitation	Kitgum, Lira, Pader	\$1,232,941
LWR	Relief supplies, water and sanitation	Adjumani, Katai, Karamoja	\$850,000
MEDAIR	Water and sanitation	Pader	\$925,412
UN FAO	Food security and agriculture	Countrywide	\$250,000
UNICEF	Nutrition, health, water and sanitation	Countrywide	\$250,000
OCHA	Coordination	Countrywide	\$500,000
USAID Kampala	Food security and agriculture	Pader, Kitgum, Gulu	\$163,243
Various	Administrative		\$14,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO UGANDA			\$11,841,219
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			
U.N. World Food Program (WFP)	79,630 MT in PL 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$47,589,100 ²
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO UGANDA			\$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
IRC	Refugee gender-based violence prevention and response, refugee assistance	Kiryandongo, Ikafe	\$1,050,000
UNHCR	Refugee assistance	Countrywide	\$2,000,000
WFP	Refugee food assistance	Countrywide	\$300,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$7,937,635
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO UGANDA IN FY 2005			\$59,430,319
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO UGANDA IN FY 2005			\$67,367,954

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of October 14, 2005.

² Estimated value of food assistance.



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