



**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) 2003

July 3, 2003

BACKGROUND

Armed conflict in northern Uganda combined with violent looting and cattle raids by Karamojong pastoralists in the east have resulted in significant levels of internal population displacement, and Uganda’s worst humanitarian crisis in 17 years. More than 840,000 people were displaced as of May 2003, according to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA). In June, fighting spread into parts of eastern Uganda raising the number of people temporarily displaced to approximately one million. Ongoing conflict has threatened food security, even in typically productive agricultural areas, and insecurity has frequently obstructed the continued delivery of humanitarian assistance.

Since 1986, the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA), led by Joseph Kony, has waged an insurgency in northern Uganda, primarily using southern Sudan as a base for attacks on government forces and civilians. LRA attacks have displaced approximately 75 percent of the ethnic Acholi population in Gulu, Kitgum, and Pader districts. During the conflict, the LRA has abducted more than 20,000 children for the purposes of forced conscription and sexual exploitation. Prior to April 2002, northern Uganda enjoyed 18 months of relative stability. Continued attacks and unsuccessful cease-fire negotiations led the Government of Uganda (GOU) to launch Operation Iron Fist in March 2002. Under an agreement with the Government of Sudan (GOS), the GOU sent 10,000 Uganda Peoples Defense Forces (UPDF) troops to disable the LRA’s rear camps in southern Sudan. As a result of this operation, LRA forces have entered northern Uganda, attacking villages and camps and creating a humanitarian emergency.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
IDPs	Total: 840,000	UN OCHA (May 2003)
Refugees in Uganda	Total: 176,900 150,000 from Sudan 14,300 from Rwanda 10,000-20,000 from the DRC 5,000 from other countries	U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and U.S. Committee for Refugees (UCSR)
Uganda Refugees	Total: 20,000 10,000 in the DRC 5,000 in Sudan 5,000 in Kenya	UNHCR and UCSR

Total FY 2003 USAID/OFDA Assistance to Uganda..... \$3,715,622
Total FY 2003 USG Humanitarian Assistance to Uganda\$59,405,511

CURRENT SITUATION

Insecurity Restricts Humanitarian Access in Northern Uganda. On April 11, a World Food Program (WFP) convoy was caught in a crossfire between UPDF forces and the LRA on its return to Gulu after making a food delivery to an internally displaced persons (IDP) camp. In late April, Karamojong warriors ambushed and fired on a World Vision International (WVI) coordinator’s vehicle in the Karamoja Region, killing the coordinator. The LRA has also attacked towns and trading centers including Adjumani and Gulu. These incidents highlight the continually volatile security situation in northern Uganda. Insecurity continues to prevent nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and other humanitarian relief agencies from providing assistance

to IDPs in the affected districts of Kitgum, Gulu, and Pader.

In response to security and access concerns, USAID/OFDA provided \$300,000 to UN OCHA during FY 2003 to enhance coordination efforts among the humanitarian community and for the establishment of an UN OCHA office in Kitgum.

Drought and Violence in Karamoja Region. After a severe drought of nearly two years, Karamoja Region in northeastern Uganda received rain in late May. However, the rain was sporadic and the entire region remains extremely dry and susceptible to duststorms,

hindering the pastoral livelihoods of the Karamojong. Due to the insecurity and harsh conditions, few relief organizations, with the exception of WFP, are operating in the Karamoja Region. To address the drought-related humanitarian crisis in Karamoja Region, WFP is increasing its monthly emergency food distribution in Karamoja Region from 1,000 metric tons (MT) to 3,600 MT per month to meet the emergency food needs of 535,000 beneficiaries through August. At that time, WFP will perform a food needs assessment to evaluate household food stocks and to assess reports of famine in the area.

As a result of the drought, incidents of cattle rustling, looting, raping, and killing among the Karamojong and with neighboring tribes have increased. According to a UPDF spokesman, an estimated 30 people died in northeastern Karamoja Region in mid-January following clashes between two rival clans of the Karamojong tribe, the Pian and the Bokora. The drought has also forced clans and livestock to move in search of pasture and water, prompting conflicts over limited natural resources.

Increasing Numbers of Internally Displaced Persons.

Uganda currently faces its worst humanitarian crisis in the 17 years. According to UN OCHA the total number of IDPs in northern Uganda has increased from 522,000 in July 2002 to 840,000 in May 2003. Fighting has displaced an estimated 70 percent of the population of Gulu, Kitgum, and Pader districts. UN OCHA estimates that 395,000 IDPs reside in 33 camps in Gulu District and 241,000 people are living in 13 camps in Pader District. WFP estimates that 99,000 people are in six IDP camps in Kitgum District; however, other reports claim that the total is approximately 140,000 due to the Karamajong raids and the recent actions of the LRA. WFP continues to assist accessible groups of IDPs in the camps.

Approximately 10,000 and 7,000 “night-stayers” in Gulu and Kitgum, respectively, commute to town daily to sleep within the security of the city limits. The majority of these night-stayers are children who walk up to 10 kilometers to seek refuge from the threat of LRA abductions. However, shelters are limited and children stay wherever space allows, increasing the risk for abuse and sexual exploitation.

LRA and the Peace Process. In March 2003 the LRA declared a unilateral cease-fire, and the GOU reciprocated by ordering a cessation of military operations in one sub-county of Pader District in order to start negotiations to end the 17-year conflict. On March 5, 2003, the LRA violated the cease-fire by killing 10 people and abducting 50 residents. Since the March 2002 launch of the GOU’s Operation Iron Fist, the LRA has become more violent, and attacks have also occurred in the Lira, Apac, Kotido, and Moyo

districts, which are outside the usual zones of conflict. Moreover, the LRA has abducted between 5,000 and 6,000 children since the beginning of 2003, compared to 100 child abductions in 2001.

Violations of the cease-fire by both sides prevented talks from starting, and on April 18 the GOU formally ended the limited cease-fire. Peace negotiations are at a standstill following the March killing of a GOU peace envoy by the LRA. However, following agreement with President Museveni during his visit to Washington in June, the U.S. Government (USG) has launched a new initiative to bring peace to northern Uganda. Starting with limited agreements between the GOU and the LRA to provide access for humanitarian assistance to displaced persons, the plan is to build confidence through small steps leading to eventual negotiations and an end to hostilities.

Deteriorating Food Security in northern Uganda.

Until early 2002, many residents in the camps maintained access to farmlands, but the resurgence in LRA violence since April 2002 has limited the planting and harvesting of crops. The LRA has targeted IDP camps, ambushed road traffic, and looted or burnt many crops, thus curtailing access to the fields and creating an increased dependence among IDPs on humanitarian organizations for food and other non-food needs. Access to IDPs in Gulu, Kitgum, and Pader districts remains restricted due to LRA attacks, and humanitarian deliveries have frequently been ambushed and relief workers killed. GOU military escorts are used when transporting and distributing food assistance, but international relief organizations have limited activities due to the continuing insecurity. This lack of access may impact the current food security situation.

NGOs reported global malnutrition rates of 22.4 percent in Kotido, with malnutrition more prevalent among IDP children than the population at large. Congested IDP camps with inadequate water and sanitation facilities are responsible for poor health among the displaced populations.

In addition to the food insecurity in Kitgum, Gulu, and Pader districts, the GOU and relief organizations have warned that total crop failure may occur in Karamoja Region, resulting in further demands on international emergency food assistance. Although Karamoja Region received rains in May after a two year drought, household food stocks are low. The 2002 harvests were below average, and the next successful harvest is not expected until September 2003.

In FY 2003, USAID/OFDA provided over \$1.5 million for water and sanitation projects. This is in addition to over \$1.3 million in emergency health and nutrition assistance. USAID/OFDA also contributed \$100,000 to Ugandan Red Cross for emergency non-food items and

over \$445,000 to the American Red Cross for assistance to conflict-affected areas. Moreover, in FY 2003, USAID/FFP designated 81,660 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance valued at \$50,000,000 to Uganda.

Effects of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) Conflict on Uganda. Since the May withdrawal of Ugandan troops from Bunia, in the northeastern Ituri District of DRC, fierce clashes erupted between the ethnic Lendu majority and the Hema minority leading to an influx of Congolese refugees into Uganda. Since April, approximately 20,000 Congolese have fled fighting in Bunia to Nebbi and Bundibugyo districts, inside the border with Uganda. UNHCR reported that the Ugandan Red Cross was assisting the refugees; however, many are still in need of food, water, and medical assistance, and local authorities fear that dwindling resources may raise tensions within the community.

State/PRM continues to support the humanitarian needs of refugees in the region through funding to UNHCR, WFP, International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC), and NGOs. To date in FY 2003, State/PRM has provided \$2.6 million to UNHCR for refugee assistance, support for environmental programs and refugee children's programs. State/PRM also contributed \$170,000 to the IFRC to provide assistance to Rwandan and Congolese refugees in Uganda. Other State/PRM funding includes \$2.4 million to WFP and more than \$519,000 to Lutheran World Relief (LWR). This is in addition to unearmarked funding for UNHCR

for Africa (\$55.1 million) and ICRC for Africa (\$29.2 million)

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

On December 23, 2002, U.S. Ambassador Jimmy Kolker redeclared a disaster in response to the ongoing complex humanitarian emergency in northern Uganda.

In response to the humanitarian crisis in FY 2003 to date, USAID/OFDA has provided over \$3.7 million in emergency humanitarian assistance to Uganda. USAID/OFDA is providing assistance in the sectoral areas of emergency health and nutrition and water and sanitation to conflict-affected areas of Uganda.

In addition, USAID/Uganda's strategic interventions in the northern and western districts of Uganda aim to mitigate the impact of conflict and increase community resilience through humanitarian and relief-to-development assistance. USAID's \$15 million Community Resilience and Dialogue (CRD) activity, which began in September 2002 and will continue through 2007, assists the victims of conflict including communities living under threat of attack, families that have moved to IDP camps, current and former abductees, and ex-combatants taking advantage of amnesty.

U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO UGANDA

<i>Agency</i>	<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Sector</i>	<i>Regions</i>	<i>Amount</i>
FY 2003				
USAID				\$53,715,622
USAID/OFDA				\$3,715,622
	AmRC	Assistance to conflict areas	Northern Uganda	\$445,866
	AVSI	Health, water, and sanitation	Gulu, Kitgum, and Pader Districts	\$400,000
	CARE	Emergency health	Gulu District	\$589,143
	GIRD	Emergency health	Pader District	\$131,599
	IMC	Emergency health and nutrition	Kitgum, Gulu, and Pader Districts	\$600,000
	IRC	Emergency water and sanitation	Kitgum and Lira Districts	\$366,000
	IRC	Water and sanitation	Kitgum, Pader, and Lira Districts	\$349,883
	MEDAIR	Water and sanitation	Pader District	\$200,000
	UN OCHA	Coordination of humanitarian activities	Country-wide	\$100,000
	UN OCHA	Establishment of OCHA office	Kitgum	\$200,000
	Uganda Red Cross	Emergency non-food items through USAID/Kampala	Northern Uganda	\$100,000
	WVI	Sanitation	Northern Uganda	\$233,131
USAID/FFP.....				\$50,000,000
	WFP	81,660 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Country-wide	\$50,000,000
STATE/PRM¹				5,689,889
	IFRC	Assistance to Congolese refugees	Nebbi and Bundibugyo	\$50,000
	IFRC	Assistance to Rwandan refugees	Southern Uganda	\$120,000
	LWR	Assistance to refugees	Adjumani	\$519,889
	UNHCR	Assistance to refugees	Country-wide	\$2,200,000
	UNHCR	Support for environmental programs	Country-wide	\$100,000
	UNHCR	Support for refugee children's programs	Country-wide	\$300,000
	WFP	Assistance to refugees	Country-wide	\$2,400,000
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to Uganda in FY 2003				\$59,405,511



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*USAID/OFDA bulletins can be obtained from the USAID web site at http://www.usaid.gov/hum_response/ofda/situation.html

¹ State/PRM figures for FY 2003 do not include unearmarked funding for UNHCR and ICRC Africa-wide programs.