

**United States Agency for International Development (USAID)**  
**Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA)**  
**Funding Guidance for Northern Uganda**  
**May 2008**

All agencies intending to submit a proposal for funding must follow USAID/OFDA's Guidelines for Unsolicited Proposals and Reporting issued on December 15, 2006, and found at [http://www.usaid.gov/our\\_work/humanitarian\\_assistance/disaster\\_assistance](http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance).

USAID/OFDA will accept and consider proposals on a rolling basis. However, **applicants should submit proposals to USAID/OFDA no later than July 1, 2008, for consideration in FY 2008, which ends on September 30, 2008.** Proposals should be submitted by agency headquarters to Mary Beth Brennan ([mbrennan@usaid.gov](mailto:mbrennan@usaid.gov)) and Michelle Shirley ([mshirley@usaid.gov](mailto:mshirley@usaid.gov)). Approval of proposals is subject to availability of funds.

**Current Situation**

As the security situation in northern Uganda improves, many of the displaced population have begun accessing agricultural land closer to their places of origin. The trend differs by camp and county but generally involves partial or complete movement from main camps to transit sites and to places of origin. Thus far, patterns of return suggest that a portion of the population will prefer to live in trading centers that have emerged from camps. Many IDPs prefer to remain in this environment where they have grown up and perceive greater opportunities. Others will prefer to keep dual residences with one in the camp to benefit from schools, clinics, markets, and as a coping mechanism should there be a resumption of violence and another in their area of origin to access to land. These trends in settlement patterns and preferences signal an end of the humanitarian phase of the response and a need to transition to longer term, developmental-oriented interventions that address the underlying poverty of the region.

**OFDA's FY 2008 Strategic Focus**

OFDA's primary objective in FY 2008 will be to continue supporting USAID's Transition Strategy for Northern Uganda, which emphasizes a shift from a relief to development based interventions. OFDA will be supporting interventions with a pronounced emphasis on sustainability, including increased ownership and responsibility among beneficiaries and reduced direct distributions.

OFDA will work closely with USAID/Uganda to identify gaps in services that may hinder returns and to prioritize interventions that reflect both its mandate and USAID/Uganda's transition programming. For example, in FY 2007, OFDA expanded its program to include:

- Support for radio programming to increase the information about return conditions and available assistance for returns;
- Land tillage to increase area for cultivation;

- Road rehabilitation to increase access to areas of return for returnees and police and to provide greater access to markets; and,
- Income generating activities for returnees and other programming to support livelihoods.

## **SECTOR INFORMATION**

Within the strategic focus outlined above, OFDA interventions will apply holistic, multi-sectoral approaches to activities to enhance the value and impact of the remaining relief interventions. Examples of multisectoral approaches might include hygiene education interventions that address both human and livestock concerns or agricultural programs that include nutrition education and vegetable consumption promotion.

### **Agriculture and Food Security**

OFDA's priorities will include interventions that support:

- Farmer-based seed selection and storage for future seasons;
- Strengthening local seed systems over direct distributions;
- Strengthened animal health care capacity.

OFDA will not support interventions in this sector that are based on direct distributions and will require a seed need assessment for any seed-related activities.

### **Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)**

OFDA's priorities will include interventions that focus on:

- Improving the quality of water where it was accessed prior to displacement;
- Limiting drilling of new water sources to areas where the water table is greater than 30 meters deep and where other options are not available;
- Encouraging innovative management (e.g., privatization) of all water schemes (including motorized systems in camps and small-scale rural water pumps);
- Supporting low cost/cost recovery models of household latrine efforts (i.e., use local materials and require beneficiaries to purchase subsidized slabs);
- Prioritizing rehabilitation over new construction for institutional latrines in schools and clinics;
- Providing household rainwater harvesting; and,
- Rehabilitating existing water systems at schools and installing interior taps to avoid theft and improve maintenance.