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**BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

Uganda – Complex Emergency

Situation Report #2, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

October 30, 2008

Note: The last situation report was dated March 6, 2008.

BACKGROUND

Since 1986, protracted conflict between the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) and the Government of Uganda (GOU) has led to a complex emergency in northern Uganda marked by violent attacks against civilians, extensive displacement, and the abduction of children for forced conscription, labor, and sexual servitude. In early 2005, the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported that LRA attacks had displaced nearly 95 percent of the ethnic Acholi population in Gulu, Kitgum, Pader, and Lira districts. At the height of the conflict, approximately 1.8 million people were internally displaced by ongoing violence in Uganda. Since 2006, improved security, increased freedom of movement, and significant progress toward a negotiated settlement to the conflict have facilitated internally displaced persons (IDPs) to relocate closer or return to villages of origin. As of September 2008, OCHA reported that more than two thirds of IDPs residing in camps in northern Uganda had returned to areas of origin.

On October 18, 2007, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires Andrew G. Chritton redeclared a disaster in response to the ongoing humanitarian emergency in northern Uganda. Since 1997, USAID has provided more than \$400 million in humanitarian assistance to Uganda, including nearly \$55 million from USAID/OFDA to support emergency relief programs targeting vulnerable populations. In FY 2008, USAID/OFDA-funded programming focused on support for returnees, including agriculture and food security, nutrition, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) projects.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
IDPs Remaining in Original Camps	497,631	IASC Working Group in Uganda ¹ – August 2008
IDPs In New Site/In Transit	398,919	IASC Working Group in Uganda – August 2008
IDPs Returned to Villages of Origin	920,348	IASC Working Group in Uganda – August 2008
Refugees in Uganda	146,407	UNHCR ² – September 2008

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED IN FY 2008

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Uganda	\$6,862,840
USAID/FFP³ Emergency Assistance to Uganda	\$46,282,500
USAID/OTI⁴ Humanitarian Assistance to Uganda	\$72,574
State/PRM⁵ Assistance to Uganda	\$6,186,021
Total USAID and State Humanitarian Assistance to Uganda	\$59,403,935

CURRENT SITUATION

In FY 2008, the GOU assumed greater responsibility for camp phase-out and closure while humanitarian agencies continued the transition from emergency assistance to longer term development goals as a result of increased security in northern Uganda. As IDPs have increasingly returned to areas of origin, international organizations have focused on supporting vulnerable populations to facilitate a sustainable return process.

In cooperation with USAID/Uganda, USAID/OTI, the U.N., and other humanitarian partners, USAID/OFDA continued to assess humanitarian conditions and provide

assistance to returnees. USAID/OFDA and partner agencies supported WASH interventions in areas of return, seed distribution programs, information sharing to assist the voluntary return of remaining IDPs, and nutrition surveillance of vulnerable populations.

Population Movement and IDP Returns

While approximately 1.3 million people have returned to places of origin or are residing in transit sites, nearly 480,000 IDPs remain in camps in northern Uganda, according to OCHA. IDPs cited unexploded ordnance, food insecurity, and land ownership disputes as reasons

¹ The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) coordinates humanitarian response between U.N. and non-U.N. agencies.

² Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

³ USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

⁴ USAID’s Office of Transition Initiatives (USAID/OTI)

⁵ U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

for protracted displacement.

The GOU has appointed District Camp Phase Out Committees (DCPC) to oversee camp closures. In August 2008, approximately 196,000 individuals departed camps in Gulu District for return locations, and an estimated 74,000 IDPs in Amuru District relocated to transit sites or returned to areas of origin, according to USAID/OFDA staff. In Gulu, 20 out of a total 31 camps had met the criteria established by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) for closure while conditions in 10 of 34 camps in Amuru had fulfilled OPM guidelines.

According to UNHCR, none of the official IDP camps in Kitgum or Pader districts had met OPM criteria for phase-out. As of August, only 33 percent of the original camp populations in Kitgum and between 30 to 50 percent of original camp populations in Pader remained compared with November 2005 estimates. In September, UNHCR identified one camp in Kitgum District and four in Pader District for future DCPC-led closure.

In addition, USAID/OFDA staff reported that as of August, all of the approximately 450,000 IDPs from 61 camps in the Lango sub-region had returned to villages of origin or had permanently relocated.

USAID/OFDA concentrated response efforts for IDP returnees in the most affected districts of Pader and Kitgum. USAID/OTI strengthened the capacity of key radio stations to provide information to IDPs regarding conditions in areas of origin to allow affected populations to make informed decisions on voluntary return.

In FY 2008, refugee repatriation efforts have continued in Uganda, with more than 146,000 Sudanese refugees returning to areas of origin since January, according to UNHCR. However, approximately 146,500 refugees from Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Rwanda, remain in Uganda. In FY 2008, State/PRM provided nearly \$4 million to UNHCR, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP), and International Medical Corps (IMC) to protect and assist refugees in Uganda. State/PRM also provided \$2 million through UNHCR for IDP assistance and protection programs in Uganda.

Agriculture and Food Security

In FY 2008, international humanitarian organizations encouraged sustainable agricultural production, leading to decreased dependency on food rations. As a result, increased food production among returning populations has contributed to improved food security and encouraged further returns of displaced populations to areas of origin. In August, WFP reported a 50 percent reduction in food insecurity among vulnerable households compared with 2007.

However, an estimated 1.2 million IDPs in northern Uganda remain highly food insecure, according to an August USAID-supported Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) report. Food security has also continued to deteriorate in the sub-region

Karamoja, where FEWS NET estimated in August that 750,000 people were highly food insecure and will require assistance through 2009.

Recent outbreaks of animal diseases have further exacerbated food insecurity in northern Uganda. According to OCHA, an outbreak of *peste des petits ruminants* in Karamoja resulted in the death of nearly 25 percent of the region's small ruminant population since early 2007. The GOU, with support from local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), is conducting a livestock vaccination campaign to contain the spread of disease.

To increase food security for vulnerable populations in areas of return, USAID/OFDA-funded NGO partners implemented programs to increase agricultural productivity. In FY 2008, Mercy Corps supported a seed-distribution program to promote food production and income generation, and WASH interventions to prevent disease outbreaks in the agricultural labor force. In addition, USAID/FFP provided approximately \$46.2 million in emergency food assistance through WFP to IDPs and vulnerable households.

Nutrition

In August, Action Contre la Faim (ACF) reported global acute malnutrition rates (GAM) in Gulu and Amuru districts in northern Uganda of 10.8 percent, an 8.7 percent increase from the previous year. However, GAM rates have remained below the emergency threshold of 15 percent. ACF cited greater reliance on variable food production in areas of origin as compared to dependable rations provided at IDP camps as a contributing factor to continuing food insecurity. In FY 2008, USAID/OFDA provided approximately \$400,000 to the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) for nutrition surveillance activities in Karamoja sub-region of northeastern Uganda.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

Poor sanitation and limited access to clean water have contributed to the spread of waterborne diseases in areas of return. OCHA reported in August that fecal matter had contaminated 40 percent of tested water sources in Gulu and Amuru districts, and in September, only 26 percent of returnees had latrine access in Karamoja.

In November 2007, the Uganda Red Cross reported an outbreak of Hepatitis E (HEV) in northern Uganda. To date, the outbreak has infected more than 8,000 people, caused 126 deaths in Kitgum district, and spread to nearby Pader, Gulu, Adjumani, and Amuru districts. According to OCHA, nearly 70 percent of HEV cases have emanated from return areas. In September, OCHA assessed the six most affected sub-counties in Kitgum and identified safe water coverage in 15 parishes, reaching 79 percent of target rates. However, OCHA noted only 38 percent coverage in 16 other assessed sites.

Response efforts by GOU and humanitarian partners have resulted in a steady decline in the number of reported cases in recent weeks. In FY 2008, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$1 million to UNICEF to contain and reduce the spread of HEV. In addition, USAID/OTI supported education programs for disease prevention.

In FY 2008, USAID/OFDA supported the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and MEDAIR for WASH activities to increase access to clean water, and support sustainable returns to areas of origin. In total, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$4.5 million for WASH promotion activities in FY 2008.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO UGANDA IN FY 2008

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
Associazione Volontari per il Servizio Internazionale (AVSI)	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Kitgum and Pader Districts	\$1,086,359
Cooperazione e Sviluppo Onlus (CESVI)	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Countrywide	\$5,870
IRC	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Kitgum District	\$1,000,000
MEDAIR	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Pader District	\$1,239,668
Mercy Corps	Agriculture and Food Security; Economy and Market Systems; Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	Kitgum and Pader Districts	\$1,200,000
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination; Information Management	Countrywide	\$500,000
UNICEF	Nutrition; Protection; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Kitgum District	\$1,500,000
	Program Support Costs	Countrywide	\$330,943
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$6,862,840
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
WFP	47,580 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Northern and Eastern Uganda	\$46,282,500
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$46,282,500
USAID/OTI ASSISTANCE			
Casals and Associates	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene; IDP Assistance; Media	Guli, Kitgum, Pader, and Amuru Districts	\$72,574
TOTAL USAID/OTI			\$72,574
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
IMC	HIV/AIDS prevention and response (PEPFAR)	Western Uganda	\$326,390
IOM	Anti-Trafficking Program for Congolese women	Western Uganda	\$159,631

UNHCR	Assistance and Protection to Refugees (mainly Sudanese and Congolese)	Northern and Western Uganda	\$2,500,000
UNHCR	Assistance and Protection to Uganda IDPs	Northern Uganda	\$2,050,000
WFP	Food Aid for Sudanese and Congolese Refugees	Northern and Western Uganda	\$1,150,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$6,186,021
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO UGANDA IN FY 2008			\$53,217,914
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO UGANDA IN FY 2008			\$59,403,935

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of October 30, 2008.

² Estimated value of food assistance.



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