



**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 #4, Fiscal Year (FY) 2004

August 20, 2004

Note: The last situation report was dated May 5, 2004.

BACKGROUND

Since 1986, the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA), led by Joseph Kony, has waged an insurgency in northern Uganda, primarily using camps in southern Sudan as a base for attacks on government forces and civilians. According to the United Nation’s Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), LRA attacks have displaced nearly 95 percent of the ethnic Acholi population in Gulu, Kitgum, and Pader districts. LRA civilian brutalization tactics include murder, looting, burning houses, torture, mutilation, and abduction of children for the purposes of forced conscription, labor, and sexual servitude. Prior to April 2002, northern Uganda enjoyed 18 months of relative stability. However, continued LRA attacks and improved relations between the Governments of Uganda (GOU) and Sudan (GOS), led the GOU to launch ‘Operation Iron Fist.’ Beginning in March 2002, the GOU sent Uganda Peoples Defense Forces (UPDF) to disable LRA camps in southern Sudan. As a result, the humanitarian situation in northern Uganda deteriorated dramatically as LRA forces returned and expanded attacks from the northern sub-region of Acholi to the eastern Langi and Teso sub-regions, assaulting villages and camps for internally displaced people (IDPs). Escalating civil conflict and violence, combined with looting and cattle raids by Karamojong pastoralists in eastern Uganda, have resulted in Uganda’s worst humanitarian crisis in 18 years.

According to the U.N. World Food Program (WFP), more than 1.5 million Ugandans have been displaced and live in camps without adequate protection, sanitation facilities, and health care, vulnerable to further LRA attacks and disease. The conflict threatens food security, even in normally productive agricultural areas, and continued insecurity hinders the ability of relief workers to provide humanitarian assistance and deliver relief commodities. As the scale of the conflict has widened, LRA child abductions have also increased. The U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF) estimates that the LRA has abducted 12,000 Ugandan children since June 2002, in addition to the estimated 20,000 children abducted from 1986 to 2002. At least 52,000 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
Internally Displaced Persons	1,522,774
Night Commuters	52,000
Abducted Children	32,000
Refugees in Uganda	216,821 (mostly from Sudan, but also from the DRC and Rwanda)
Ugandan Refugees	31,000 (in the DRC and Sudan)

Total FY 2004 USAID/OFDA Assistance to Uganda\$8,960,762
Total FY 2004 USG Humanitarian Assistance to Uganda.....\$70,168,592

CURRENT SITUATION

UPDF pursuit of LRA forces. Since the launch of ‘Operation Iron Fist II’ in March 2004, the GOU has redoubled efforts to pursue LRA forces in southern Sudan. In late July, the GOS facilitated the GOU campaign by allowing UPDF forces to operate north of the Juba-Nisutu highway, known as the ‘red line.’ The GOU continues to assert progress in the conflict with the LRA, citing a surprise attack on LRA headquarters in Bileniang, southern Sudan, as well as the capture of Kenneth Banya, a senior advisor to Kony. In addition, the UPDF stresses that in the past two months approximately 360 LRA soldiers have taken advantage of the GOU amnesty law, which has been extended through November, according to international media reports. The UPDF is in the process of integrating an estimated 300 former LRA soldiers into the national army.

Security. Recent UPDF campaigns have forced the majority of LRA forces to return to northern Uganda. As LRA forces grow desperate for food supplies, they have begun attacking more frequently in small groups, even during daylight hours. In addition, OCHA reports that the LRA has increased the use of land mines on roads, further endangering local residents and humanitarian workers traveling on rural roads. Hospitals and humanitarian agencies in every conflict district receive almost daily reports of small numbers of civilians being killed as they venture out of IDP camps in search of food or to tend to their fields.

Gulu and Kitgum districts continue to receive the brunt of LRA attacks. According to OCHA, the LRA

operates in every sub-county in Gulu, ambushing and killing both IDPs and UPDF soldiers. In mid-May, LRA forces attacked Pagak and Lukodi IDP camps, killing nearly 100 IDPs, looting food and property, burning more than 700 huts, and forcing as many as 18,000 people to flee to nearby camps and Gulu town. Lukodi, an unofficial camp 15 km north of Gulu town, is now reportedly deserted.

LRA activity in Kitgum District has also increased since May. According to OCHA, LRA forces frequently attacked Kitgum town suburbs and infiltrated Kitgum town in late May. In May and June, LRA forces attacked Palabek and Kalabong camps, killing 27 IDPs, abducting 20 people, burning more than 250 huts, and looting more than 500 households. On June 15, a convoy was ambushed by LRA soldiers while carrying food for Catholic Relief Services (CRS) from Kitgum to the Acholi area in southern Sudan. Although the LRA attack was unsuccessful in looting the food, a driver and a UPDF soldier were killed.

In the Langi and Teso sub-regions, LRA attacks continue to threaten IDPs and local residents, albeit less frequently than in northern Acholiland. On June 8, LRA forces attacked Apac District's Abok IDP camp, killing 25 people and burning 600 huts. On July 10, LRA rebels clubbed 11 members of the same family to death and abducted others in Apungi village, one km from Abia IDP camp, Lira District. LRA forces are reportedly traveling through Apac into the eastern districts, which many fear will disrupt the gradual return of IDPs to the rural camps. Improved security in Lira District had enabled adult IDPs to leave the camps and tend to rural gardens, particularly in the calmer southern part of the district, but renewed security threats may halt this trend.

Further east in the sub-region of Teso, relative security was disrupted in June by confirmed incidents of LRA attacks in Soroti, Katakwi, and Kaberamaido districts. UPDF reports indicate that as many as 120 LRA forces have returned to the sub-region, according to OCHA. In response to renewed insecurity throughout the sub-region, an unknown number of IDPs have left camps, particularly in the Orungo sub-county, to resettle outside of parishes where GOU-backed local Arrow militia is deployed.

IDP camps. WFP currently estimates that more than 1.5 million northern Ugandans remain internally displaced. In the northern sub-region of Acholi, nearly 95 percent of the population has been displaced: 438,765 IDPs in Gulu, 267,078 IDPs in Kitgum, and 279,589 IDPs in Pader. In addition, 148,795 IDPs reside in Katakwi, 71,462 IDPs live in Soroti, 97,561 IDPs remain in Kaberamaido, and 219,524 IDPs live in Lira. Most IDPs remain unable to access agricultural land, and few humanitarian agencies are able to implement programs in distant camps. The inability of the UPDF to provide escorts for more than two humanitarian convoys per day

is a significant restraint, as the majority of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) rely on military escort to access IDP camps. Road ambushes and attacks on convoys underscore the continuing threat to access throughout northern Uganda.

Although many IDPs live in official camps, others live in unofficial camps, which tend to be more rural, smaller, and less-protected. According to June 2004 OCHA reports, unofficial camps are increasingly the target of LRA attacks. In response, the UPDF has begun the process of moving IDPs from smaller rural settlements into larger urban camps in order to provide improved security. In June, the UPDF moved an unknown number of IDPs to the Bobi settlement, an official camp south of Gulu town that is home to an estimated 12,000 IDPs. The UPDF also aims to decongest Erute IDP camp in Lira District by moving IDPs to Bala. Consolidating rural camps into urban camps also facilitates humanitarian assistance, often unavailable in unofficial camps.

The UPDF also seeks to decongest densely populated urban camps. On July 2, according to local media reports, 20,000 IDPs were relocated from Pabbo, north of Gulu town, to two newly established camps. The new camps will decongest Pabbo camp, where fire outbreaks in recent months have left thousands of the nearly 60,000 residents homeless. Despite initial progress, relocation and decongestion of camps has stalled, as land identified for new camps is currently being used by IDPs for cultivation. Once crops are harvested, local authorities anticipate space will increase. In the interim, authorities are encouraging IDPs to leave unofficial camps for sub-county camps.

Night commuters. Heightened insecurity continues to result in high numbers of night commuters in Gulu, Kitgum, and Pader districts. According to USAID/Uganda, the transient population has risen to an estimated 52,000 people, primarily children, in Gulu (21,000), Kitgum (20,000), and Pader (11,000) districts. In Gulu in particular, there has been an increase of children traveling from within a 2 km range, likely due to increased LRA sightings on the outskirts of Gulu town. Girls who commute are especially vulnerable to rape, and the U.N. reports an increase in prostitution as insecurity forces some girls to trade sex for money or food.

Food security in northern and eastern Uganda. The majority of Uganda has experienced below normal rainfall since May, hindering the growth of first season crops, such as banana, beans, maize, millet, and sorghum, that normally account for the larger part of crop production in central, eastern, and northern Uganda. Although WFP reported widespread rainfall the week of August 1 to 7, these rains are not expected to have improved general food security. The USAID Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) estimates that maize production, 60 percent of which is usually produced during the first season, will not exceed 70

percent of normal seasonal production. In addition, reduced maize production and increased competition from Kenyan buyers will reduce available supplies, thus increasing prices for WFP local procurement.

Deteriorating security conditions continue to prevent IDPs in northern Acholiland from accessing fields, and the ability of IDPs to complement food aid from their own production has been largely curtailed. Improved security in Langi and Teso sub-regions has enabled limited access but has not resulted in large-scale food production due to insufficient rains. It is expected that IDP populations in the north will depend on food aid rations for survival at least through December 2004.

WFP continues to encounter both logistical and financial difficulties in responding to increasing food needs. Increased ration sizes, due to the decreasing ability of IDPs to supplement food aid with agricultural production, has increased the tonnage per distribution, leading to longer distribution times, larger convoys, and consequently more delays in delivery. Moreover, if additional resources are not made available, WFP projects there will be no cereals for distribution in November, or pulses in December. WFP reports a projected shortfall of more than 50,377 metric tons (MT), valued at more than \$27 million, through March 2005. WFP currently distributes food to more than 2.1 million beneficiaries, including 1.6 million IDPs, 150,000 refugees, and other vulnerable persons. If the security situation remains the same through the second planting season, which begins at the end of August, IDPs may require food assistance through mid-2005.

Drought in the sub-region of Karamoja. FEWSNET reports that drought conditions are most critical for households in the sub-region of Karamoja, which has a single rainy season and where household food stocks are quickly declining. Unless rains begin soon, FEWSNET anticipates armed pastoralists will move livestock to better grazing areas, displacing local populations. The potential for violence jeopardizes the return of nearly 140,000 IDPs, displaced from Karamoja to neighboring Katakwi District by armed pastoralists two years ago. WFP estimates that up to one million people in the Karamoja Region may require emergency assistance from September 2004 through September 2005. During last year's drought intervention, WFP provided assistance to more than 650,000 in Karamoja.

The WFP pipeline is further aggravated by the potential of drought in Karamoja. WFP pipeline projections currently estimate that approximately half a million people will require drought relief starting in 2005. A Joint Assessment Mission, comprised of representatives from the GOU, U.N. agencies, USAID, and FEWS NET, will assess conditions in Karamoja from August 23 to 27 and determine if additional assistance is warranted.

Water and sanitation. Despite ongoing interventions by NGOs and local authorities, water and sanitation conditions remain inadequate in most camps. A recent CRS survey of Kitgum IDP camps revealed substandard water and sanitation conditions. Although wide variances exist between camps, on average there were 2,410 persons per water point and 6 liters of water per person per day, compared to Sphere standards of 500 and 15 respectively.* Only half of the survey respondents used pit latrines while the remainder stated they did not have access. Meanwhile, 97 percent reported recent illnesses due to water born diseases, such as diarrhea, parasites, and typhoid. In Kitgum, water and sanitation problems are exacerbated by fees required by water source management committees. IDPs, who for the most part have no source of income, are unable to pay water fees of \$0.28 per month and have consequently resorted to using water from unprotected sources. District authorities have now intervened by setting a standard fee of \$0.11 per household per month.

Health and nutrition. Health centers in IDP camps throughout northern Uganda are currently overwhelmed by rising incidents of malaria and malnutrition, mainly among women and children. The high malaria prevalence is attributed to the exposure of night commuters who sleep in the open. Lacor Hospital in Gulu reported seven confirmed cases of cholera in June, prompting district leaders to set up a cholera task force to monitor the situation. USAID/OFDA continues to support ongoing nutrition programs, but many have registered high default rates due to IDP movements.

Refugee flows. Uganda currently hosts more than 216,000 refugees. LRA raids on U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) settlements from February to May 2004 displaced an estimated 32,000 Sudanese refugees living in the southern Zoka Forest belt in northwestern Adjumani District. The refugees resettled in the Nile River belt, an estimated 30 to 40 km north, doubling the local population and placing a strain on food and water supplies. Although assistance from WFP and other U.N. agencies have lessened the strain, UNHCR and the UPDF are currently formulating a strategy to send the refugees back to the Zoka Forest camps.

Congolese refugees continue to reside in Nebbi District as a result of ongoing insecurity in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Despite reports of increased refugee numbers, the majority of refugees are staying with host families and thus have not registered with UNHCR.

* The Sphere Project was launched in 1997 by the ICRC, the U.N., NGOs, and donors to develop a set of universal minimum standards for humanitarian assistance and thereby improve the quality of assistance provided to disaster-affected persons and to enhance the accountability of humanitarian agencies.

Visit by DCHA Assistant Administrator

From June 27 to 29, USAID/DCHA Assistant Administrator (AA) Roger Winter visited Uganda to assess the cross-border implications of the Sudan peace process, to follow-up on the Northern Uganda Peace Initiative (NUPI), and to observe the humanitarian situation on the ground. The DCHA/AA met with President Museveni, members of the Ugandan Parliament, U.N. agencies, and representatives of humanitarian NGOs and civil society organizations, and visited IDP camps in Kitgum and Lira districts.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

On October 1, 2003, U.S. Ambassador Jimmy Kolker redeclared a disaster in response to the ongoing complex humanitarian emergency in northern Uganda.

USAID/OFDA released an Annual Program Statement (APS) and one APS amendment during FY 2004 inviting NGOs to propose humanitarian interventions to support the needs of internally displaced and conflict affected populations in northern and eastern Uganda, and much of USAID/OFDA's FY 2004 funding was awarded in response to APS proposals. In FY 2004, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$8.9 million through 15 implementing partners for health and nutrition, water and sanitation, and food security programs.

USAID/OFDA allocated nearly \$1 million to the U.N. Development Program to support an additional U.N. Security Coordinator focusing on northern Uganda and to OCHA to enhance coordination efforts among the humanitarian community. USAID/OFDA is also providing more than \$1.7 million to Action Against Hunger USA (AAH/USA), GOAL, and the

International Medical Corps (IMC) for health and nutrition programs; more than \$1 million to the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and Medair to improve sanitation conditions and access to potable water; \$500,000 to World Vision International (WVI) for shelter, water, and sanitation programs; \$250,000 to FAO for coordination and food security activities; and \$659,000 to UNICEF for water and sanitation programs as well as health and nutrition coordination activities.

To date in FY 2004, USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) has provided 94,650 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance valued at more than \$56 million. Commodities provided include maize, corn soya blend (CSB), vegetable oil, and pulses.

The Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) continues to support the humanitarian needs of refugees in Uganda. To date in FY 2004, State/PRM has provided \$2.4 million to UNHCR to support refugee assistance and protection in Uganda. State/PRM has also contributed \$1.5 million in funding to WFP for refugee feeding programs, \$821,000 to IRC for assistance to Sudanese refugees in Uganda, and \$50,000 to the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) for assistance to Congolese and Rwandan refugees in Uganda. This is in addition to more than \$54 million to UNHCR and \$34.3 million to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in unearmarked funding, a portion of which supports programs in Uganda.

U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO UGANDA

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
AAH/USA	Nutrition	Gulu	\$500,000
AVSI	Emergency Relief Commodities, Shelter, Water and Sanitation	Pader, Gulu, Kitgum	\$560,400
CRS	Water and Sanitation	Kitgum	\$428,084
Christian Children's Fund	Protection, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence	Lira	\$369,916
GOAL	Nutrition, Health, Shelter, Emergency Relief Commodities	Pader	\$820,171
IMC	Health	Pader, Kitgum	\$695,000
IRC	Health, Water and Sanitation	Pader, Kitgum, Lira	\$749,985
LWR	Water and Sanitation, Emergency Relief Commodities	Katakwi, Adjumani	\$571,203
MEDAIR	Water and Sanitation, Emergency Relief Commodities	Pader	\$273,650
Northwest Medical Teams International	Health	Lira	\$530,574
Ugandan Red Cross	Health, Water and Sanitation, Shelter	Northern Uganda	\$498,582
UNFAO	Coordination, Food Security, Agriculture	Countrywide	\$250,000
UNICEF	Health Coordination, Water and Sanitation, Nutrition Coordination	Countrywide	\$909,000
OCHA	Coordination	Countrywide	\$500,000
UNDP	Security	Northern Uganda	\$292,700
WVI	Water and Sanitation, Shelter, Emergency Relief Commodities	Gulu, Kitgum	\$999,997
Administrative Costs			\$11,500
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$8,960,762
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			
WFP	94,650 MT in P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$56,436,830 ²
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$56,436,830
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
IFRC	Refugee assistance	Countrywide	\$50,000
IRC	Refugee assistance	Countrywide	\$821,000
UNHCR	Refugee assistance	Countrywide	\$2,400,000
WFP	Refugee feeding	Countrywide	\$1,500,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$4,771,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO UGANDA IN FY 2004			\$65,397,592
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO UGANDA IN FY 2004.....			\$70,168,592

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents committed and/or obligated amounts as of August 20, 2004.

² Estimated value of food assistance.



Jeff Borns
Acting Director
Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance

USAID/OFDA bulletins can be obtained from the USAID web site at
http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/.