



HIGHLIGHTS

- **EBOLA OUTBREAK CONFIRMED IN BUNDIRUGYO DISTRICT (WESTERN UGANDA)**
- **HEPATITIS E CONFIRMED KITGUM DISTRICT; MEASLES IN KUMI AND BUKEDEA DISTRICTS**
- **PROTECTED KRAALS TO BE DISMANTLED IN KARAMOJA REGION**

I. SECURITY AND ACCESS

SECURITY

The general **security situation continued to be calm across northern Uganda** during the reporting period, with only two non-hostile suspected sightings of Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) remnants. According to the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS), UPDF tracking of LRA remnants has dislodged them from hiding places, leading to increased sightings and food raids, mainly in Pader and Kitgum Districts.

As in previous months, criminal activities continued to pose the gravest threat to individual security in northern Uganda. Several incidents involving armed robbers were recorded during the month. The most serious crime against the humanitarian community involved the 1 November armed ambush and robbery of a vehicle belonging to the non-governmental organization (NGO) Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED) in Amuru District in which two of the four staff in the vehicle were killed by armed robbers. One of the two surviving staff was seriously wounded in the attack. The attackers remain at large, although three individuals have been arrested by the authorities to help in the investigation. The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and ACTED suspended road rehabilitation projects in Amuru District pending the outcome of the police investigation.

In Oyam district, a piece of unexploded ordnance (UXO) exploded near a cooking place, injuring one woman and two children.

Some isolated incidents of Karimojong raids were reported in Adipala and Kamenu in Magoro sub-counties of Katakwi District, with the Anti Stock Theft Units (ASTUs) reported to have recovered the goats and cattle taken. Communities in the Teso sub-region have begun to express the fear that raids will increase with the onset of the dry season and as grass becomes scarce in the Karamoja region.

In **Karamoja**, general hostilities prevailed throughout the reporting period as the Uganda People's Defence Force (UPDF) continued its disarmament campaign at the same high intensity as in October. The UNDSS recorded twenty reported cattle raids during the month as well as 11 deaths, six injuries and two abductions. The UPDF carried out a record 17 cordon-and-search operations. Meanwhile, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) confirmed that the security situation remained grim during November, with raids reported in four of the region's five districts, as well as several incidents of murder and rape.

In a significant reversal, the UPDF and local leaders have agreed to dismantle all protected kraals and suspend UPDF protection of common grazing grounds, citing a number of factors including lack of adequate water and pasture for the animals, the burden on the UPDF of keeping the animals, which draws off resources from disarmament operations and security patrols, continued aggressive activities by Karimojong whose animals are in the protected kraals against neighbouring communities and a lack of community cooperation to implement the protected kraals and grazing ground policies.

ACCESS

All camps in northern Uganda remain accessible without military escort; only the World Food Programme (WFP) continues to use light military escorts for its food convoys. The civilian population is moving about freely.

Flood-damaged roads and bridges in parts of eastern and northern Uganda remain the only consistent limitation to humanitarian access. In Katakwi and Amuria, main roads are open, although even light rains can create bottlenecks on roads badly damaged by the flooding. Additionally, damage to secondary and tertiary roads has hampered the return process in parts of the Teso sub-region. Now that the dry season has arrived, there is an urgent need for assessment and road repairs, including on the Tomorma-Magoro road in Katakwi District and on the Mbale-Soroti road at Awoja bridge. Major rehabilitation of the Katakwi-Soroti road is ongoing, as are United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)-sponsored repairs to the road at Magoro Corner.

Pader district and the World Food Programme (WFP) have agreed to rehabilitate bad spots on major roads in the district. The project is expected to begin in December.

II. POPULATION MOVEMENT

The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Working Group has released its November 2007 population movement figures. Since the last report at the end of September, an **additional 4 per cent of IDPs** (approximately 42,500 people) have left camps in the **Acholi sub-region**, with approximately half of that number settling in transit sites and half in villages of origin.

Region	Original camp population (end 2005)	Estimated camp population May 2007	% of original camp population	Population in transit sites	% of original camp population	Population in villages of origin	% of original camp population
Acholi Source WFP	1,111,987	659,459	59%	407,155	37%	44,749	4%
Lango Source IOM	466,103	2,159	0.4%	-	-	463,944	99.6%
Teso* Source OCHA	142,951	110,000	77%	22,000	15%	5,300	4%
Total	1,721,041	771,618	48%	429,155	24%	513,993	28%

In **Lira and Oyam**, the de-gazetting of eight remaining camps was recommended by the District Disaster Management Committees (DDMCs) following return assessments. Only one recognised camp now remains in Lira District, hosting a **displaced population of 2,159 persons**. However, some IDPs, particularly the extremely vulnerable, remain at the sites of de-gazetted camps. The protection cluster and the EVI committee are addressing their cases.

In **Kitgum**, district authorities have indicated an increasing number of people are moving out from camps to transit sites or villages of origin due to the availability of thatching material afforded by the onset of the dry season.

The UPDF and five communities in northern **Pader** district – Amoko, Adoo, Barayom, Ogom and Acutomer – have agreed to restrict movements due to insecurity, with Local Defence Units (LDUs) deployed to increase security.

In **Katakwi and Amuria**, the return process was both impeded and hastened by the floods between August and October. In low-lying villages, recent returnees moved back to IDP camps temporarily as a means of relocating to higher ground, while those whose villages were at higher elevations returned due to flooding in the camps.

III. SPECIAL FOCUS – EPIDEMIC DISEASE OUTBREAKS

EBOLA HEMORRHAGIC FEVER

On 29 November, the Ministry of Health confirmed as the outbreak of Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever in the western district of Bundibugyo. Responding to the outbreak, the Ministry of Health and partners including the World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), WFP, Médecins sans Frontières (MSF), Centres for Disease Control (CDC) and other have: established national and district task forces; set up isolation/treatment units in the Bundibugyo Hospital and Kikyo Health Centre IV; supported case management, infection control and contact tracing; provided protective equipment and Information and Education Communications (IEC) materials, including daily film vans, radio spots and local newspaper announcements. The Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI) in Entebbe has opened an Ebola Laboratory, making it possible to test samples in country.

At the time of publication (18 December), 121 cases and 35 fatalities have been recorded, leading to a case fatality rate (CFR) of 28 per cent, much lower than the average for Ebola (50 to 89 per cent depending on sub-type of virus). Some 398 of 415 contacts have been followed up and evaluated. All samples taken from suspected cases in other districts have tested negative for Ebola.

HEPATITIS E

Meanwhile, the Health, Nutrition and HIV/AIDS cluster has confirmed the outbreak of Hepatitis E in Kitgum District, with several reports of a similar outbreak in neighbouring South Sudan as well. As of 30 November, 28 cases with two fatalities had been recorded. To respond to the disease, the District Health Team and partners have established an Epidemic Preparedness and Response coordination unit and are conducting active case surveillance in the communities. A rapid response team remains on standby to investigate suspected cases. Water quality testing has been conducted and bucket chlorination and distribution of soap, as well as an aggressive public health campaign through the Village Health Teams (VHTs) is being conducted.

MEASLES

An outbreak of measles was confirmed in the flood-affected districts of Kumi and Bukedea. As of 4 December, 36 cases, with one fatality, had been recorded. On 26 November, the health cluster began an intensified eight-day immunization campaign in the affected districts, which saw some 67,000 children aged 6 to 59 months vaccinated. A reported case of measles in Oyam District proved negative.

IV. FLOODS REPORT

The initial phase of the humanitarian response to the floods – characterized by the distribution of emergency relief supplies – has been concluded as of the end of November. The humanitarian community has agreed four priorities for the second phase of the response: stabilizing the vulnerable population and facilitating community recovery:

- ensuring sustainable food security through support for food production and targeted food distributions;
- promoting sustainable access to safe water and sanitation through decontamination and rehabilitation of water sources;
- supporting community health initiatives as a way of ensuring continuing capacity to monitor and respond to emergencies in the health sector; and
- supporting the reconditioning of schools that reopened without adequate facilities, particularly sanitation facilities.

Impact assessments conducted in Amuria and Katakwi revealed that over 70 per cent of the target population had received all humanitarian assistance, namely food aid, non-food household items, safe water kits and insect-treated mosquito nets and seeds and tools. Additional distributions are ongoing in some areas.

Critical gaps have been identified in water and sanitation, access to health services and food security. Regular assessments and water quality testing in Teso and Bugisu regions have indicated that overall water contamination levels in the affected area have been exacerbated by as much as three times pre-flood levels. Out of 345 water sources tested, 197 were highly contaminated and 35 moderately contaminated – in other words, 57 per cent of water sources currently present dangerous levels of contamination.

Meanwhile, preliminary findings from the Katakwi assessment indicate an urgent need for expansion of community-based health interventions, as many villages are located beyond the recommended five kilometre radius from a functioning health centre. Major needs also remain in terms of sanitation facilities to which the majority of communities assessed had no access. Suspected cases of cholera in Lira and Amuru proved negative; however, this highlights the danger that waterborne epidemic disease continues to present as water levels recede. Cholera kits have been pre-positioned in all twelve flood-affected districts of the Teso, Bugisu and Sebei regions.

Additionally, Crop and Food Supply (CFSA) and Emergency Food Security (EFSA) Assessments undertaken in November 2007 show that more than 380,000 people will require assistance through July 2008 due to the extended “hunger gap” resulting from the damage to first- and second-season harvests in flood-affected areas. Populations in Teso, Lango and Acholi will require assistance for the entire period, while those in Karamoja will need assistance from April to July. Meanwhile, the results of the Rapid Nutrition Assessment show that malnourishment affects 3.1 per cent of children in the Teso region, while 7.6 per cent risk malnutrition. The situation is considered likely to worsen in a short period of time.

V. HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE BY CLUSTER

CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM)

With the degazetting of eight camps in **Lira**, camp phase out activities have now been completed in 21 camps in Lango. The current challenge is to clean up areas formerly occupied by the UPDF and the Amuka militia: for security reasons, the Phase-Out Committee wants de-mining teams to survey the areas prior to community clean up.

From **Kitgum**, OCHA reports that question of compensation for those on whose land IDP camps and military detachments were established has re-arisen. At the district CCCM meeting, it was reported that nine huts were destroyed in Amida camp by a landlord demanding compensation for his land. District authorities have met with landowners to discuss ways of avoiding future such incidents. The CCCM cluster agreed to request district authorities to clarify the official position on land compensation and to develop an information package to reach out to IDPs and landowners.

In **Pader**, the need to clarify the respective roles and responsibilities of camp administrators and the traditional Local Counsel (LC) system, as well as to revitalize local government structures, was highlighted.

Forty per cent of targeted camps in **Amuria** and **Katakwi** have been profiled, based on which mobile Camp Management Teams have been located in five camp areas in the two districts. The teams will undertake a continuous process of camp profiling, including population profiling and in-depth needs assessment, in support of camp coordination and camp management. The five teams are expected to cover about 50 per cent of camps in the two districts by the end of December, although logistics continue to pose a constraint to their work.

A number of return assessments carried out in Katakwi indicate that the main factors hampering return are lack of access to safe water and security. The CCCM cluster will work with other clusters to identify ways to meet returning families’ needs, including by working jointly with other clusters to rehabilitate access roads and provide safe water.

EARLY RECOVERY

Given the near completion of the return process in **Lango** sub-region, the Early Recovery cluster is planning a quick response to prioritize needs in the areas of governance, infrastructure and livelihoods (GIL). Projects to be supported include livestock production, market place rehabilitation, construction or rehabilitation of post-harvest storage and milling areas, small community infrastructure such as meeting places and local administrative offices, reforestation and commercial tree planting and other environmental awareness projects, use of solar and hydropower and peace-building and conflict management and prevention activities, among other community organization activities. Further consultation will be pursued with entities including UNHCR, Northern Uganda Rehabilitation Programme (NUREP) and target communities.

The Early Recovery cluster has also been initiated in Gulu, operating within four thematic areas: livelihood, governance, peace-building and reconciliation and infrastructure rehabilitation.

Similarly, in the **Teso** sub-region, the Early Recovery cluster is working with partners to design and plan activities within the three areas of governance, infrastructure and livelihoods. On governance, the cluster is working to support the (re)establishment or Sub County Disaster Management Committees (SCDMCs), while on infrastructure, the cluster is supporting Katakwi District to reconstruct the flood-damaged Magoro-Ngariam road.

In **Pader**, mine risk awareness activities included training of trainers, five advocacy drama groups and more than 450 teachers. The Uganda Mine Action Centre(UMAC) in Gulu has proposed that a de-mining team be deployed to cover Pader and Kitgum districts, tentatively planned for January 2008. The Office of the Prime Minister and members of the humanitarian community to update the list of suspected and reported landmine and UXO contaminated sites in the district, including with a map of GPS coordinates for such sites.

EDUCATION

The Education cluster reports that mobilisation and advocacy activities in support of the Go Back to School (GBS) programme continued in conflict-affected districts. Increasingly, FM radios, sports and community involvement methodologies are being used to engage partners and raise awareness among stakeholders on issues relating to school enrolment and completion.

During the month, the Education cluster engaged in rehabilitation and construction of classrooms, dormitories and teachers' houses, as well as water and sanitation facilities, in a number of primary and secondary schools. Additionally, desks were provided to some schools, while others – new re-opened in return areas – received tarpaulins to establish temporary classroom shelters.

Training for teachers also continued, including on positive disciplining and use of child friendly teaching methodologies, as well as refresher courses on the Teachers' Code of Conduct. Head teachers from 99 primary schools were trained on Education Management Information Systems (EMIS) with the aim of improving data quality, management and utilization.

Promotion of child participation continued, including training on the Girls Education Movement (GEM) concept and establishment and/or support for GEM clubs. Journalistic training was given to pupils covering the Children's Parliament, in which 33 children (16 girls) engaged district Lango district leaders on issues concerning children.

OCHA notes that, in **Gulu**, the average pupil to classroom ratio now stands at 82:1, compared to the national standard of 52:1. The pupil to latrine stance ratio is 75:1, compared to the national standard of 40:1. Some learning centres continue to experience lack of instructional materials and high teacher absenteeism. Despite the presence of many partners in the education cluster, the level of non-formal education and accelerated learning is low. An increasing rate of return is likely to put further pressure on education facilities in return areas.

FOOD SECURITY

The Food Security cluster reports that 940,000 people received food assistance in Gulu, Kitgum, Pader and Lira Districts in November, with current food rations set at 100 per cent for extremely vulnerable individuals (EVIs) and 60 per cent for non-EVIs. Additionally, food distributions had reached 310,000 flood-affected persons across eastern and northern Uganda by the end of November.

More than 83,500 households – or 70 per cent of the of the IDP population – in Gulu and Amuru benefited from general seeds distribution and seed fairs and vouchers, while nearly 7,600 households received tools. In Kitgum and Pader Districts, trainings on agronomy, animal husbandry and farming as a business were given to some 46,000 people.

Meanwhile, in the **Teso** region, an estimated 25,000 head of cattle (50 per cent) have been vaccinated against Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP), Brucellosis and lumpy skin disease in Katakwi District. Some 35,000 poultry (23 per cent) have been vaccinated against Newcastle disease and 3,000 dogs (60 per cent) against rabies.

As of the end of November, about 23,000 flood-affected people in the Teso sub-region had received food production support such as seeds and vines for replanting. This is only half the target population of 50,000. The key challenges to greater assistance were the low quantity of inputs, particularly of cassava cutting and sweet potato vines, and late distributions.

In addition to other activities, the cluster also supported 2,750 households with start-up grants, savings schemes and agricultural grants to help finance agricultural activities.

A baseline survey in five sub-counties of **Lira** and **Oyam** Districts indicated that crop production, petty trade and livestock rearing are the major economic activities, with the majority of the population surveyed engaged in only one type of economic activity. This indicates a need to diversify income generating activities for returning populations.

In **Gulu** and **Amuru**, the cluster is planning to revise and adapt the seed fair and vouchers approach to ensure high seed quality and timely access for the community, as well as to deal more with farmer groups to ease service delivery.

In **Karamoja**, the legacy of the floods has been a very high incidence of disease, including tick-borne diseases, common bacterial infections such as contagious bovine/caprine (goat) pleuropneumonia and viral infections such as lumpy skin disease. The outbreak of Peste des Petits Ruminants (goat/sheep plague) has received little response from donors as it is not perceived to be a life-threatening matter. To date, no vaccination has been done to control the outbreak. The food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has committed nearly US\$ 400,000 for three countries (Kenya, Ethiopia and Uganda), but additional support is needed. The emergency response to livestock diseases requires urgent attention as livestock rearing is the major livelihood in the region, with a direct bearing on food and nutritional security.

The presence of the Food Security cluster in Karamoja was formalized during November.

HEALTH, NUTRITION AND HIV/AIDS

The **Karamoja** districts are on alert for any possible outbreak of meningitis as the dry season advances. A Meningitis epidemic preparedness plan has been developed, with funding already secured for Kotido District. Funding for other districts is currently being sought at the national level. Funding has been secured to support the eradication of Guinea worm in Karamoja and will be used to train village volunteers and sub-county supervisors.

Frequent stock-outs of essential drugs, including antiretrovirals (ARVs), continue to be reported across northern Uganda, with OCHA in Lira citing the failure to harmonize reporting schedules between the districts and National Medical Stores as resulting in supply chain issues.

Pader District hosted the quarterly NACAES meeting from 19 to 21 November attended by participants from seven districts, as well as United Nations and NGO partners. Key recommendations included expansion of HCT and Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) services, scaling up of antiretroviral therapy (ART), strengthening laboratory capacity and procurement of a CD4 machine. In Karamoja, needs assessments were conducted at current and proposed antiretroviral therapy (ART) sites in Nakapiripirit and Moroto Districts. A similar assessment is planned for the remaining districts of Abim, Kotido and Kaabong by the third week of December.

In **Kitgum**, rehabilitation of health centres at eleven sites, with an additional three in planning, as well as at Kitgum government hospital. A new substance abuse and livelihood programme aims to conduct community sensitization with respect to substance abuse, particularly alcohol abuse, and provide livelihood support to rehabilitated abusers.

PROTECTION

More than 300 **Karimojong** were transported under duress from Kampala to Matany Hospital in Moroto on 8 November by the Ministry of Gender as part of the pre-Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) "sanitizing" of Kampala, according to OCHA. A joint assessment conducted a few days later established that a good number of the people had returned to Kampala on 9 November, while others were scattered in their home parishes in Matany, Lopeei and Lokopa sub-counties. Many of the younger people interviewed had been living in Katwe, a Kampala slum, earning a living as casual labourers in city markets. Many expressed a desire to return to Kampala as soon as possible, as they felt there were no livelihood possibilities in Karamoja. The Lomoroit resettlement site used by the Government during such removals has inadequate services.

Human rights monitoring and protection in Nakapiripirit, Moroto, Kotido and Kaabong districts was conducted in order to evaluate the general human rights environment and ascertain trends and patterns of human rights violations. During the exercise, the UPDF was engaged about reported and/or documented cases of human rights abuse, including actions taken regarding cases brought to their attention.

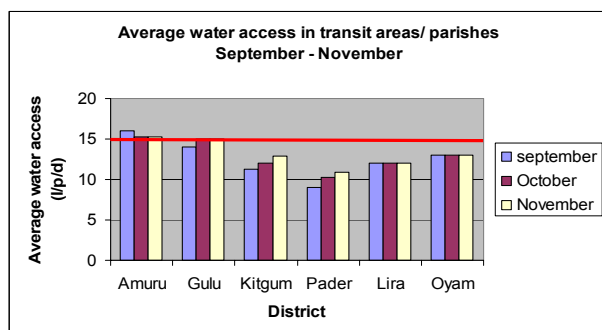
In **Gulu** and **Amuru**, the frequent absence of police constables has been raised as a concern. Much of the population turns to the UPDF for assistance in cases of violence and crime-related activities. Those Special Police Constables (SPCs) that have been deployed have received only very basic training on the rule of law.

Concerns continue to be raised related to access to services for **gender based violence** (GBV) survivors, including lack of (available) drivers for ambulances in Gulu and Amuru, allegations of corruption in Pader and lack of inadequate health staff to complete timely medical examinations for GBV survivors (within 72 hours). A district-wide GBV hotline has been introduced in Pader. Some 457 survivors of sexual and domestic violence – the majority under age 18 – were provided with post-incident medical care, psychological support and legal

assistance in Lira and Oyam Districts, while nearly 12,700 adults and 2,200 children were sensitized about **child protection** and gender based violence through debates, public talks, spot visits, and discussions.

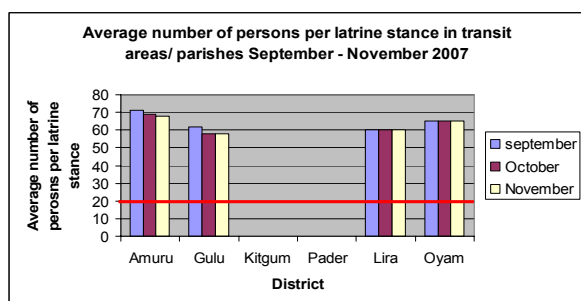
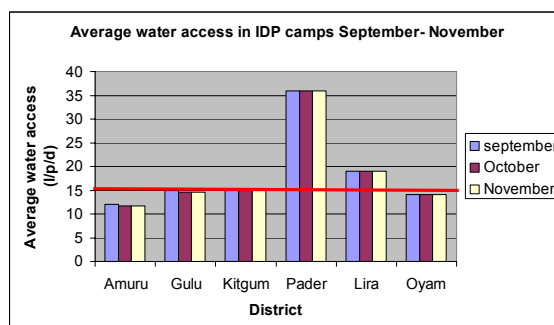
Meanwhile, OCHA in **Pader** continues to raise the issue of child neglect as a source of concern with family separations contributing to increased risk of defilement and absenteeism from schools. Sensitization messages are being developed and will be broadcast on the radio.

WATER SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)



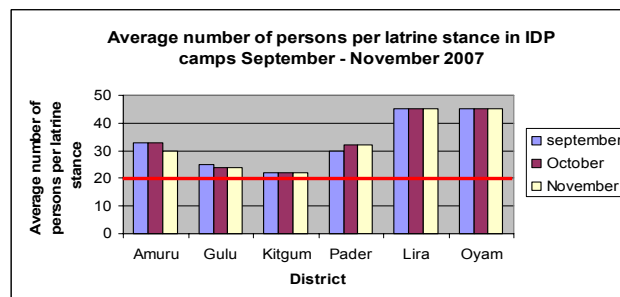
The cluster reports that ongoing work in the transit areas is beginning to yield greater dividends. Between September and November, Pader realized an 18 per cent increase in water access (from 9 to 12.9 l/p/d), while Kitgum recorded a 14 per cent increase (from 11.3 to 12.9 l/p/d) and Gulu showed a 7 per cent increase (from 14 to 15 l/p/d). The water situation in remained stable in Lango region, at 12 l/p/d in Lira and 13 l/p/d in Oyam, while a 5 per cent decrease was reported in Amuru district (from 16 to 15.2 l/p/d) due to increased population movement out of IDP camps.

In IDP camps, water availability was equal to or above SPHERE standards in Oyam, Kitgum, Lira and Pader Districts, which averaged 14, 15, 19 and 36 litres/person/day (l/p/d) respectively. A slight decrease in water availability was observed in Amuru and Gulu Districts, due to several non-functional systems. Implementation of water supply activities in camps focused primarily on maintenance of existing facilities, as frequent breakdowns and other problems associated with operating diesel-powered pumps were reported.



The sanitation situation in transit areas remains of grave concern with a ratio of more than 50 persons per latrine stance reported in Gulu, Amuru, Lira and Oyam Districts. Corresponding to modest increases in water availability in the transit areas, sanitation coverage in the districts of Amuru and Gulu increased, while in Lango region, sanitation coverage in the transit areas remained at the same level. Collection of sanitation information in transit areas in Kitgum and Pader remains a priority to be urgently addressed.

The sanitation situation in IDP camps is much better than in the transit areas. The sanitation situation improved slightly in Amuru and Gulu, stabilized in Kitgum and Pader and deteriorated slightly in Lira and Oyam.



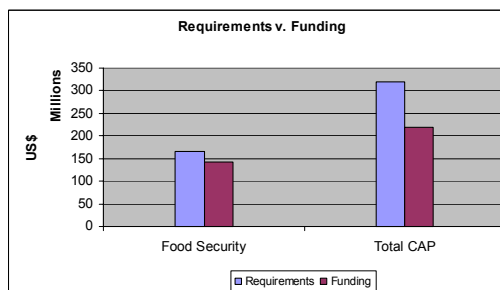
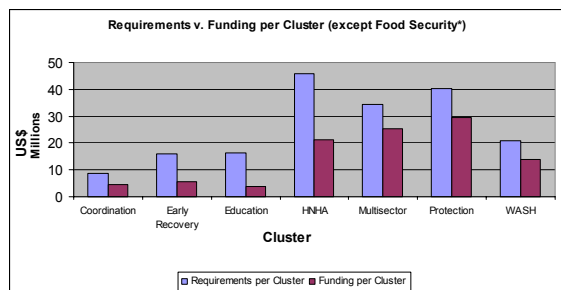
The WASH cluster organized participatory workshops on water quality monitoring and hygiene promotion in Gulu. The water quality monitoring workshop identified individual districts' problems and offered a way forward for 2008. The hygiene promotion workshop focused on learning and sharing best practices to facilitate behavioural change.

VI. DISASTER RESPONSE PREPAREDNESS/EARLY WARNING

A two-day meeting on drought preparedness was held in the Pokot region of Kenya at the end of November, bringing together Government officials, United Nations agencies, NGOs and pastoralist representatives from Kenya and Uganda to examine best practices in livestock health, water provision and drought management. The programme will emphasize greater cross-border linkages on drought preparedness.

VII. FUNDING

As at 15 November (the reporting deadline for the publication of the 2008 appeal), the 2007 Consolidated Appeal for Uganda had received US\$ 246 million in commitments, or 71 per cent of the US\$ 346 million requested.



The revised Flash Appeal for the Uganda Floods, the requirements for which have been reduced to US\$ 39.7 million as of the Second Progress Update (30 November 2007), was funded to 35 per cent by the end of November, having received US\$ 14 million in commitments.

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