

I. HIGHLIGHTS

- **HEPATITIS E CONFIRMED IN KARAMOJA; A CUMULATIVE 93 CASES AND 6 DEATHS REGISTERED IN KAABONG AND KOTIDO**
- **SIX CAMPS DECOMMISSIONED IN GULU**
- **CAP 2010 PREPARATIONS NEARLY COMPLETE**

II. SECURITY AND ACCESS

SECURITY

The general security situation in northern Uganda remained calm and stable during the reporting period, with the last non-hostile suspected sightings of Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) remnants occurring more than 20 months ago. However, concerns over increased crime in the sub-region have been heightened by a reported rise in cases of mob action; the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) has highlighted seven such incidents claiming two lives in Gulu alone during the month of October.

Security in Karamoja continued to be unpredictable, although a decline in reported raids suggested an improved overall situation. According to UNDSS, cattle raids declined from 18 in September to 11 in October, while just one clash was reported between the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) and armed Karamojong, down from eight in September. One of the major incidents during the reporting period was a road ambush by suspected Sudanese Toposa tribesmen on a vehicle belonging to a construction company, which occurred in September in Kaabong District and resulted in three road workers shot dead and three critically injured.

Nationally, longstanding tensions between the Buganda Kingdom and the Central Government boiled over, with violent riots taking place over successive days between 11 – 14 September in Kampala and several towns across central Uganda. The violence, which claimed 24 lives and led to the arrest of hundreds of Baganda youths, was ignited by the Government's barring of the Buganda king from visiting the flashpoint district of Kayunga – a part of the kingdom – supposedly on security grounds, and rumours of arrests of Buganda leaders.

Access

There are growing fears that flooding and waterlogging will lead to a significant deterioration in road conditions across northern and eastern Uganda and hamper humanitarian access, should El Nino occur during the last quarter of 2009 as forecast by the Meteorology Department.

During August, threats against UN vehicles or trucks passing through Abim were registered from communities in Abim Town Council and Abim sub-county aggrieved at being omitted from the general food distribution list in the district.

III. POPULATION MOVEMENT

Some 21 households from Gulu and 12 from Amuru formerly displaced to Masindi District returned and resettled in their villages of origin during the reporting period. The returnees destined for Amuru arrived close to midnight and were left to spend the night at the police station, raising some protection concerns. The Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), which is overseeing the returns, has indicated that over 1,000 people from Acholi, Lango, Teso and West Nile are yet to be resettled from the Kinyara Sugar Estate. The exercise has been temporarily halted in the wake of the protection concerns while consultations are ongoing over the best way to ensure a safe return with dignity for the IDPs remaining in the Estate.

In Karamoja, two Protected Kraals shifted to new locations during the reporting period; Kalapata Kraal in Kaabong District with over 45,000 heads of cattle relocated to Lokwakoromoi parish, southeast of the sub-county on 18 August 2009, while Lomusian Kraal consisting of more than 25,000 cattle moved from a location near the army brigade post to Kumed in Lolelia sub-county. Kathile sub-county Kraal was also expected to relocate.

Also in Kaabong, some 310 South Sudanese Didinga tribesmen and women (excluding school children) were registered as of the end of October. The group, which began crossing into Kapedo sub-county in August 2009, cite food insecurity and political pressure in Southern Sudan, as well as the hope of accessing education for their children as the main reasons for their migration. Some of the visitors have been able to integrate into households of relatives in Kaabong, while others have spread out further into parts of Karanga sub-county.

A total of 174 Karamojong (131 female and 43 male) forcibly removed from the streets of Kampala arrived in Moroto on 29 October and have been temporarily accommodated at the Nadunget Seed Secondary School site while tracing of their relatives and original homes is conducted. Preliminary registration records indicated that most of the returnees were from Matany, followed by Lokopo, Iriiri, Lopei and Ngoleriet sub-counties.

IV. HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

EDUCATION

Education activities at Awoo Nyim Primary School in Gulu District have been disrupted following a fire that razed a three-classroom block on 11 October. All learning materials for the 588 enrolled pupils as well as office supplies were destroyed in the fire, just three weeks to the start of Primary Leaving Examinations.

In a bid to address the problem of absenteeism in schools, 18 schools in Amuru will be supported by food security partners to produce food for school children in a project expected to start in November 2009. It is hoped that if successful at the pilot stage, the project will subsequently be rolled out to other schools.

Education sector members in Moroto participated in field visits to Lokokotakori Kraal in Nadunget sub-county, Iriiri Health Centre, Kapuat Primary School and an adjacent manyatta, a community in Matany and two ABEK centres in Rupa sub-county,

FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURAL LIVELIHOODS

Epizootics remain a significant threat to animal health and food security in Karamoja, the latest being an outbreak of East Coast Fever in Kotido, accounting for the loss on average of five adult cattle and ten calves per kraal daily, according to the District Veterinary Officer. Brucellosis has also been confirmed in the district. In northern Uganda, a reported outbreak of CBPP in Gulu's Patiko sub-county in September 2009 prompted the imposition of a quarantine on cattle, while the Ministry of Agriculture supported animal vaccinations in the sub-county.

Grabbing of food at general food distribution (GFD) sites persisted in Nakapiripirit during the reporting period. The latest incident occurred in October at Kakomongole where six security personnel accompanying the distribution team were overpowered, leading to food losses. In Moroto, owing to pipeline breaks, only about 1,014MT of food was distributed to 103,025 people in Lotome, Lokopo and Lopei sub-counties under the sixth GFD cycle in October. The beneficiaries were served a 70 percent ration, the agreed standard for the region, for all commodities except pulses which were reduced to 46 percent due to extreme shortage. Meanwhile, following the conclusion of a verification exercise, some 1,700 urban-based extremely vulnerable individuals (EVIs) in Moroto were served with 19.41MT of food.

In northern Uganda, IDP caseloads received food assistance as part of the one-off one month GFD activated in August 2009 in response to increased food insecurity resulting from the effects of the dry spell in the Acholi sub-region. Additionally, funding was secured to provide emergency seeds to 20,000 households in Gulu and Amuru, and 30,000 households in Pader and Kitgum in the wake of the partial crop failures during the dry spell. For Amuru, Pader and Kitgum, the seeds will be distributed right away in order to take advantage of the current rains, while Gulu District has decided to wait until the next planting season.

With the onset of the rains in September, associated hazards like hailstorms are likely to increase, negatively impacting attempts in northern Uganda to recover from the food security shock of the first half of the year. During September, hailstorms in Kiceke village of Paicho sub-county in Gulu District destroyed simsim (sesame), cassava, rice and beans, and killed six goats and several chicken, with preliminary reports indicating 91 households affected. In Amuru, an estimated 829 acres of crops comprising simsim, cassava, maize, and rice were destroyed in a hailstorm on 23 October, jeopardizing the livelihood of some 362 households (approximately 1,950 individuals), according to the draft report of a rapid response assessment.

HEALTH, NUTRITION AND HIV/AIDS

A major health development during the reporting period was the outbreak of Hepatitis E in Karamoja, specifically in Kaabong District. Originally suspected to be Hepatitis B following the first reported cases at Karenga Health Centre IV in August 2009, Hepatitis E was subsequently confirmed after four of five samples submitted to the Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI) tested positive. To date, all nine sub-counties in the district have reported at least one suspected case, with the highest incidence of the disease occurring in Kaabong sub-county (26), followed by Sidok (20). Cumulatively, some 84 cases and 5 deaths (7% CFR) have so far been registered in the district. Most of the contamination is believed to originate in Kaabong Town Council where *kwete*, a local liquor, is widely brewed with water highly suspected to be unsafe for consumption. Hepatitis E has since been reported in Kotido, too, with nine suspected cases and one death, while index suspected cases were reported in Abim District in August and in Moroto District in October. The districts have expressed concern at the delay by UVRI in providing feedback on samples taken for testing since September. Additionally, effective response to the outbreak is hampered by inadequate surveillance capacity of the districts' health departments; in Kaabong, for instance, only four sub-counties have motorcycles to facilitate community based monitoring of cases.

New cases continued to be registered in northern Uganda two years after the initial outbreak in Kitgum District. During the month of October 2009, 27 new Hepatitis E cases were reported in Kitgum, where a cumulative 10,618 cases and 16 deaths have been recorded. In Pader, a total of 243 people have been infected and eight have died from the disease since May 2008. No new cases were registered in Gulu and Amuru, where 11 out of 43 suspected cases have been confirmed since last year.

Meanwhile, preparations have been ongoing for a mass polio campaign in the region, as part of the 4th or 5th round of vaccinations for the year, following reports of a case detected in the Turkana District of neighbouring Kenya. There have been no new Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) cases in the Acholi districts over and above the nine cases reported in July 2009.

Cases of clinically diagnosed malaria remained high in northern Uganda but the first line Artemisinin combination treatment (ACT) drugs were reported to be nearly out of stock at most health facilities. In Pader, response to the prevalence of the disease will involve Indoor Residual Spraying against mosquitoes beginning in November 2009.

In September 2009, a high incidence of riboflavin deficiency was reported in Nakapiripirit; mass screenings identified cases in ten health centres across the district, with the highest number of affected children (136) recorded in Lorengedwat sub-county. Since the beginning of October 2009, over 240 people have been treated for the deficiency. The Kotido DHO has also reported two suspected micronutrient deficiency cases from children at an unidentified kraal. Nakapiripirit continues to screen cases to establish hotspots, while District Health Teams (DHTs) and nutrition partners will use the Child Health Days and the polio campaign to screen for angular stomatitis in the other Karamoja districts.

PROTECTION

During the reporting period, six camps – Awoo, Lalogi, Opit, Awach, St. Thomas and Okwir – were decommissioned in Gulu District, and the District Camp Phase Out Committee (DCPC) has now recommended an additional ten camps for the exercise. In Pader, an agreement was reached to schedule official decommissioning of Omot, Puranga, Kalongo Town Council and Pader Town Council camps in the first week of November 2009, while Kitgum District expects to decommission the four camps of Amida, Labuje, Akwang and Mucwini in December 2009.

Ongoing camp phase out activities in the sub-region involved the demolition of 2,572 huts, filling of 1,665 latrines, distribution of seedlings to land owners and ploughing of former camp locations. Support to persons with special needs (PSNs) and EVIs in camps continued, following a re-assessment and identification of residual caseloads; a total of 145 PSNs/EVIs were supported with shelter in areas of return during October.

Between 19 – 23 October, Uganda hosted the African Union (AU) Special Summit on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, during which a landmark convention to improve regional and national protection and assistance systems of internally displaced persons was adopted.

Human Rights and Rule of Law: Sector partners in Karamoja followed up and reported on a Cordon and Search operation conducted by the UPDF on 18 October in Katap village in Kotido District, during which a woman was shot on the leg and sustained multiple fractures. In the process of the operation, an estimated 24 men and boys were also arrested and subsequently forced to contribute approximately \$1 each toward the treatment of the injured woman.

Land disputes continued to be reported in northern Uganda, some involving violent acts such as the torching of huts. Legal services relevant to such cases remain largely inaccessible for most IDPs and returning populations due to lack of capacity constraints at the local council courts, as well as the backlogging of cases in the regular courts.

Mine Action: The Uganda Mine Action Team successfully removed suspected unexploded ordinances (UXOs) in Awach, Paicho and Odek sub-counties in Gulu District. However, UXOs continue to be reported in areas of Lelapwot and Dibolyec parishes in Lokung sub-county, Kitgum District, and in Anaka and Bibia in Amuru District.

Child Protection: The annual migration of teenage girls from Kotido to Abim District in search of iron powder mined from rocks in Alerek sub-county and used for beautification and hair styling in preparation for courtship continues to raise protection concerns in Karamoja. The girls, some as many as 150 in a group, are usually unaccompanied during the trip, camping along the way when night falls. While there have so far been no reports of attacks or sexual abuse, the girls' uncoordinated movement and lack of protection poses a risk to their safety and health.

Gender Based Violence (GBV): The report of an assessment conducted in August 2009 in Gulu indicates that while 37 percent of health centres would be able to treat a GBV survivor who arrived for treatment and 62 percent would make referrals to another facility, survivors are most often left to find their own means of transportation. Such a constraint might mean, for example, that survivors of rape are unable to access services that are required within the critical 72 hour window. In addition, none of the four police posts in the sub-counties visited had either a counselling room or a desk specific to handling or attending to GBV cases.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

In Gulu, a total of 70 boreholes in former camps have been approved for closure by the District Executive Committee (DEC). The facilities are redundant, while some have been vandalized, and are believed to pose a contamination threat to underground water.

V. FUNDING

As of the end of October 2009, the revised \$247 million Appeal for Uganda (2009) was 66 percent funded, with \$2.4 million in uncommitted pledges. Food (85%) remained the highest funded sector, followed by Refugees (70%), Agriculture (67%), Coordination (77%), Water and Sanitation (27%), Protection (30%), and Health (12%). Education has received no funding to date.

Preparations for the Uganda CAP 2010 were expected to conclude in early November ahead of the Appeal's formal launch on 4 December 2009. Some 34 organizations are requesting \$197,284,395 for projects targeting vulnerable communities in Acholi, Teso and Karamoja regions, and refugee hosting districts. Like its predecessor, the CAP 2010 maintains the sharpened focus on the distinct remaining humanitarian needs within an evolving recovery context, guided by the three common strategic objectives of: (1) supplementing government efforts to provide basic services that save lives and alleviate suffering, as the basis for: (a) creating the conditions for achievement of the three Durable Solutions in Acholi and Teso, and, (b) promoting human rights and the appropriate development strategies in Karamoja; (2) enhancing food and nutritional security to save lives and alleviate suffering and kick-start livelihoods; and (3) contributing to the strengthening of district capacity for emergency preparedness and response.

VII. THE MONTH AHEAD

MONTHLY CLUSTER MEETING SCHEDULE

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1	Health, Nutrition and HIV/AIDS cluster 14.30 at WHO	GBV sub-cluster 10.00 at UNFPA	Child Protection sub-cluster 10.30 at UNICEF	Education cluster* 9.00 at UNICEF	
		Food Security and Agricultural Livelihoods 14.30 at FAO		Water, Sanitation and Hygiene cluster 14.00 at UNICEF	
Week 2	Heads of Cluster 11.15 at OCHA		IASC in Uganda 10.00 at OCHA		
Week 3	Protection Cluster 14.30 at UNHCR				
Week 4			Contact Group** 14.30 at OCHA		

* Education Cluster will meet on a bi-monthly basis in 2009: in January, March, May, July, September and November

** Contact Group will meet on a monthly basis in 2009, on the penultimate Wednesday of each month.

VIII. CONTACTS

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