

I. HIGHLIGHTS

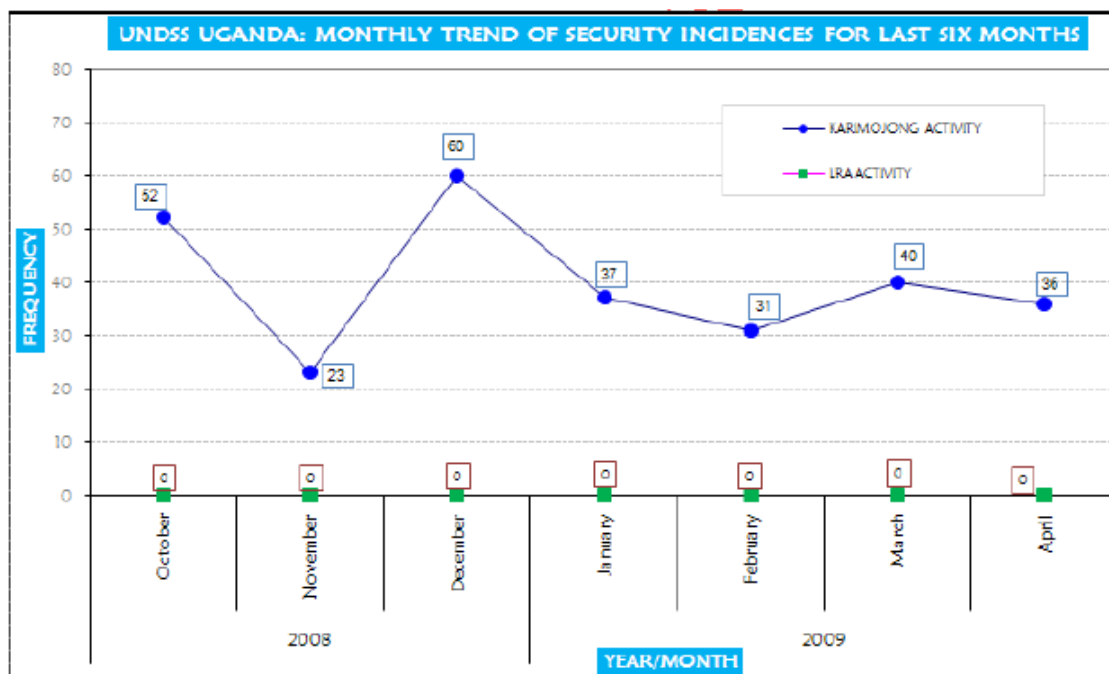
- **VIOLENT LAND DISPUTES PERSIST IN NORTHERN UGANDA; FORCED EVICTIONS OF IDPs REPORTED IN GULU**
- **FOOD AID RATIONS IN KARAMOJA FURTHER INCREASED IN RESPONSE TO ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY**
- **FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS TO OVER 80% OF PLANNED CASELOAD IN ACHOLI AFFECTED BY PIPELINE BREAK; ONLY EVIs TARGETED IN APRIL**
- **SECOND ROUND OF MASS POLIO VACCINATIONS COMPLETED IN ALL 29 HIGH RISK DISTRICTS**

II. SECURITY AND ACCESS

SECURITY

Northern Uganda remained generally calm during the month of April, but crime continued to be of concern. An attempted ambush reportedly took place along the Pader-Pajule road, while a number of other criminal activities including armed robberies, burglary and theft were also recorded. In Kitgum, joint operations by the Police and the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) against banditry and illegal weapons continued in return areas. Additionally, UPDF detachments in Agoro, Palabek Ogili and Mucwini sub-counties conducted daily night patrols to counter the threat of cross-border incursions by illegally armed elements from Karamoja or Southern Sudan. Violent land disputes persisted, the latest involving fighting between two clans in Amuru that led to seven people being critically injured, six houses set ablaze and property looted.

Karamoja witnessed an improvement in the security environment, according to the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS). Less aggressive Karimojong activities were reported compared to the previous month. Nevertheless, at least 20 cattle raids were registered, with Nadunget and Rupa sub-counties in Moroto District and Kaabong Rural and Kalapata sub-counties in Kaabong District experiencing the most number of incidents. Eleven deaths from 11 incidents were also recorded.



Source: UNDSS

Access

Continuing efforts to enable returning populations in northern Uganda access land for agricultural production resulted in the clearing of 60 km of roads and the opening of 2,596 acres of land for 2,596 households in Pader during the

reporting period. In Kitgum, land access has also improved significantly, although only an average of two acres per household is currently being utilized due to lack of labour-saving technologies.

With only a total two and a half kilometres of paved road in Karamoja, humanitarian access in the sub-region is dependent on a feeder network of murrum, dirt and stone roads with bridges and culverts in poor condition, often resulting in muddiness, flooding and clogging during wet weather. In April, such conditions disrupted the transportation and distribution of relief food to some areas of Abim, Kotido, Moroto and Nakapiripirit districts.

III. POPULATION MOVEMENT

Region	District	Original camp population (end 2005)	Estimated camp population	% of original camp population	Population in transit sites	% of original camp population	Population in villages of origin	% of original camp population
Acholi	Amuru	204,000	88,000	43%	70,000	34%	46,000	23%
	Gulu	257,000	61,000	24%	20,000	8%	176,000	68%
	Kitgum	310,000	102,000	33%	62,000	20%	154,000	50%
	Pader	339,000	78,000	23%	128,000	38%	162,000	48%
	Acholi Total	1,110,000	329,000	30%	280,000	25%	538,000	48%
Teso	Amuria	72,000	9,000	13%	3,000	4%	60,000	83%
	Katakwi	71,000	7,000	10%	-	-	55,000	77%
	Teso Total	143,000	16,000	11%	3,000	2%	115,000	80%
Grand Total¹	1,253,000	345,000	28%	283,000	23%	653,000	52%	

Source: UNHCR, February 2009

Following a data collection review conducted in March, Gulu district provided 289 bicycles to facilitate the process of population movement data collection by Local Councillors (LCs). The first complete set of data to be collected under district's leadership is expected in June. In Pader, return monitoring agencies in conjunction with the district carried out refresher training for the LCs aimed at streamlining and strengthening the process of collecting population movement statistics.

Karimojong women and children reportedly continued to migrate to Soroti District in search of food and work, settling mainly in the southern counties of Serere and Kasilo.

Within Karamoja itself, an estimated 350 households from Rengen, Kacheri and Kotido sub-counties in Kotido District moved to Kapeta - a new settlement area in Kacheri sub-county – to access land for agricultural production, while the Lolelia settlement site in the same sub-county and bordering Kaabong District has been indefinitely suspended due to insecurity, disputes over the boundary and a failed dialogue between the Dodoth and the Jie. Meanwhile, the influx of Congolese women and children into Kotido from parts of northern and western Uganda seeking repatriation support continued during the reporting period. At present, 31 women and 46 children have been repatriated to the Democratic Republic of the Congo while another 130 have been registered and 14 screened, awaiting transfer to Kampala and onward home.

IV. HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

EDUCATION

As part of the response to the infrastructure and resource constraints in the Education sector in Gulu and Amuru, 24 schools have been earmarked for rehabilitation by cluster partners, while a total of 208 Grade III teachers have been recruited in Gulu with an emphasis on female teachers.

However, five primary schools in Amuru District are still displaced due to lack of basic infrastructure, including classrooms, latrines, teachers' accommodation and clean water, at their original sites. The schools – Abbot, Pogoo gwera and Marawobi in Pabbo sub-county, Abalokodi in Atiak sub-county, and Kochlipakia in Koch Goma sub-county – await assistance from the district and partners to effect return. In Pader District, 18 of the 46 schools where classes were conducted under trees due to lack of classrooms now have some basic infrastructure.

FOOD SECURITY AND AGRICULTURAL LIVELIHOODS

Irregular rainfall in the last month has raised concerns at the possibility of increased hunger in Amuru. Additionally, and particularly in Atiak sub-county, the destruction to some 100 acres of crops by the recent hailstorms has

¹ In addition to the population figures included in the table, the grand total of population in villages of origin includes the 466,100 returnees in villages of origin in Lango sub-region, where the return process was deemed to have concluded by April 2008

reportedly left a sizeable number of families vulnerable to hunger. Considering that the annual May to June hunger gap period is imminent, the authorities in Amuru have requested a suspension of the food phase out process and requested that areas no longer deemed food insecure be reconsidered for general food distribution (GFD). In Teso, increasing hunger as a result of limited stocks and rising food prices has been reported. In part at least, the food availability gap is apparently the consequence of growing external demand for the region's cassava and maize. In response, OPM has secured 150 bags of maize flour and 60 bags of beans to be dispatched to Soroti District, specifically to three villages in Kamuda, Kyere and Tubur sub-counties. In Katakwi, OPM provided 290 bags of maize flour and 120 bags of beans, which were distributed to all sub-counties based on population and vulnerability.

Meanwhile, a pipeline break has affected the distribution of 2,600MT of food to 303,939 targeted beneficiaries in Gulu and Amuru. Food assistance will now be directed towards a total of 48,065 extremely vulnerable individuals (EVIs) in both districts. In Pader, the pipeline break meant that only 34,656 EVIs from the 223,582 individuals originally targeted for GFD in April received food aid. For the same reason, 211,934 non-EVIs in the areas in Kitgum classified as food insecure did not benefit from GFD. In Karamoja, a gap in the pipeline as well as logistical constraints affected distributions in Kaabong Rural sub-county of Kaabong District.

Under the ongoing Emergency Operation (EmOp), food aid rations have been increased from 53 per cent to 70 per cent following a reassessment of the extent of the hunger gap in the sub-region; beneficiaries will now receive 12 kg of food instead of the originally recommended 9 kg per person. Other interventions aimed at improving Karamoja's food security prospects are ongoing, among which are seed distributions to some 120,000 households across the region, and distribution of seeds, tools, cassava cuttings and sweet potato vines to 2,100 households in Nakapiripirit District. Additionally, the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, in partnership with the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), began supplying seed and planting materials worth nearly US\$700,000 to the north Karamoja districts of Abim, Kotido and Kaabong. A separate programme plans to provide seeds to approximately 60,000 households in Moroto and Nakapiripirit districts beginning in May. However, the confirmation of Cassava Brown Streak Disease (CBSD) at multiplication fields in Lotukei, Abim and Morulem sub-counties in Abim District has brought into focus the need to verify seed and crop health before undertaking distribution programmes.

The ban on animal movement in Agago County of Pader District, imposed in October 2008 following the outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease in neighbouring Abim district, remains in force despite no single case of the disease having been confirmed in the area to date. The district awaits the response of the Commissioner for Livestock Health and Entomology to its request to lift the restriction, which continues to negatively impact the animal restocking exercise. A similar quarantine was imposed in the Teso districts of Amuria, Kaberamaido and Katakwi, with concomitant adverse effects on livestock projects. Meanwhile, the vaccination campaign against Contagious Bovine Pleuro-Pneumonia (CBPP) and goat plague in Karamoja is nearing completion, having had to be delayed several times in the past months due to changes in the weather situation. Also in Karamoja, a rapid spread of Tsetse flies from their natural habitat in the Kidepo Valley has been reported.

GOVERNANCE, INFRASTRUCTURE AND LIVELIHOODS (GIL)

Forty-two of 69 assessed sub-projects, worth approximately US\$360,000, were recommended for funding under the Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) in Gulu and Amuru in April. The QIPs will procure and deliver 201 cows and 252 goats for the approved projects in Gulu, and 124 cows and 504 goats to the projects in Amuru by the first week of May. Another project to support income-generating activities in both districts has identified a total of 25 community groups, including EVIs, in the sub-counties of Awach, Bungatira, Koro, Paicho, Palaro and Patiko in Gulu, and Alero, Anaka, Koch Goma and Purongo in Amuru. The activities targeted by the US\$250,000 project range from animal husbandry to small scale manufacturing.

HEALTH, NUTRITION AND HIV/AIDS

To date, seven cases of the wild polio virus have been confirmed in Amuru District, while stool samples from a suspected case of acute flaccid paralysis in Pader District is undergoing testing at the Uganda Virus Research Institute. Response to the outbreak continued throughout northern Uganda and 29 other high risk districts countrywide, with the second round of mass vaccinations successfully completed. In Gulu, a total of 92,397 children were immunised during the latest campaign, exceeding the target by 26 per cent, while Pader recorded an overall coverage of 119 per cent, although Atanga, Awere and Parabongo sub-counties fell just short of their targets. A third round of vaccinations is scheduled for June.

Contrary to fears that the onset of the rains would exacerbate the Hepatitis E epidemic in northern Uganda, the rate of infection remained largely constant during the reporting period. In fact, a 37 per cent decline in the epidemic trend was registered during the last week of the month in the worst-affected district of Kitgum, where a cumulative 9,979 cases and 160 deaths have been recorded. District authorities plan to employ a new intervention strategy involving the prosecution of heads of households without latrines. In Pader, the weekly epidemic trend has stagnated at an average six new cases; as of the end of the reporting period, 177 cases and eight deaths had been notified since the initial outbreak nearly a year ago.

In Teso, 34 health centres – 22 in Soroti and 14 in Katakwi - were supported to provide static and outreach Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMCT) and ante-natal care services. During the month of March, 448 mothers in Katakwi were screened for HIV, roughly six per cent of whom tested positive and were subsequently enrolled in the PMCT programme, while approximately three per cent of the 987 mothers tested for the virus in Soroti were found to be infected. Health partners in Karamoja were also able to support the provision of PMCT services at five health centres in Kotido, ten in Moroto and eight in Nakapiripirit district (where health authorities recently revealed that 17 out of 20 people randomly tested at the Okudud resettlement site were HIV positive).

PROTECTION

Evictions of IDPs from Bobi, Alokolum, Ongako, Unyama and Awoo camps constituted a major protection concern in Gulu District during the month. The evictions followed public pronouncements by some politicians to the effect that all camps were closed as of the end of March 2009. In response to the advocacy efforts of the Humanitarian Coordinator, the District Chairman convened a meeting of humanitarian and recovery actors to reaffirm the district's full adherence to the provisions of the National IDP Policy, particularly to the validity of all three durable solutions – return, resettlement in another part of the country, and settlement in the former camp as it is transformed into a viable community.

Save for Kitgum District, camp phase out activities continued in northern Uganda, resulting in the demolition of 7,922 huts and 306 latrines in Gulu, and 8,654 huts, 741 latrines, 5 rubbish pits and 523 bath shelters in Amuru. However, progress has been slower in the camp decommissioning process; in Gulu the District Executive Committee is yet to discuss the assessment report on the six pilot camps recommended by the DDMC in March 2009, while Amuru District has not yet agreed a date for a joint assessment of the four camps selected to initiate the exercise. In Kitgum, the camp phase out process has stalled owing to the failure of the Camp Phase Out Technical Committee to meet this year. As a result, only four out of the district's 25 camps have been approved for phase out, despite the high return rate in Kitgum. Moreover, the district has been unable, thus far, to endorse the guidelines for hut demolition, which constitutes an integral component of the camp phase out process.

Human Rights and Rule of Law: In response to the continuing population movement out of camps, the Police in Kitgum have expanded their presence further afield; a total of 211 police officers are currently deployed in police posts situated at the sub-county headquarters of Agoro, Labuje, Mucwini, Padibe East, Padibe West, Palabek Gem, Palabek Kal, Palabek Ogili and Paloga.

Mine Action: A total of 35 assorted unexploded ordnances (UXOs) including grenades, mortars, rockets and projectiles, were destroyed by the Uganda Mine Action Centre (UMAC) in Gulu and Amuru during April. In Pader, the Mine Clearance Team collected some 24 UXOs and 33 small arms ammunition. Mine action activities are expected to pick up steam in the prioritized sub-counties of Wol and Parabongo following the arrival of a second de-mining team. However, limited victim assistance and Mine Risk Education (MRE) programmes across the region remain of concern.

Child Protection: A high number of child protection cases were recorded in northern Uganda during the first quarter of the year (January to March). Some 1,877 cases, the majority related to corporal punishment, truancy, and parental/caregiver neglect, were reported in Pader during those three months. In Kitgum, 595 cases of mostly neglect, domestic violence and children in conflict with the law, were registered. Community based Child Protection Committees (CPCs) in both districts were able to handle and close the majority of the cases.

During the reporting period, protection actors assisted in transporting and reuniting with parents a total of 114 Karimojong children involved in child labour in Katakwi District. In Soroti, some 119 child labourers were identified and their needs, including resettlement, counselling and health care, assessed and provided by CPCs in partnership with the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and other actors.

In Karamoja, the absence of juvenile detention facilities means young offenders either have to share cells with adults, or be transferred to other districts. Currently, eight juveniles are being held in police custody in Kotido Town Council as they wait for the district to facilitate their transfer to Kampiringisa Remand Home in Mpigi District.

Gender Based Violence (GBV): During the reporting period, 21 men's networks and 25 community safety action groups were trained on prevention of domestic violence and other issues related to GBV in all parishes of Anaka, Purongo, Lamogi and Pabbo sub-counties in Amuru District. In Pader, the sub-cluster has developed a draft GBV ordinance informed by the Pader GBV Declaration made during last year's Sixteen Days of Activism Against GBV Campaign. The draft will be vetted by the District Community/Education Executive Committee, before it is forwarded to the District Chairman and ultimately to the Attorney General for approval.

GBV actors in south Karamoja have developed a draft work plan to eliminate female genital mutilation (FGM) in the counties of Tepeth in Moroto District and Pokot in Nakapiripirit. The work plan captures activities to be undertaken between June and December 2009. There remain no services or coordination mechanisms addressing GBV in all of Abim, Kaabong or Kotido districts.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

An assessment of settlement areas in Abim District in March 2009 revealed that all of the 9,935 newly settled households in Abim, Aleretek, Lotukei and Nyakwae sub-counties lacked latrines, and required support in the form of excavation tools, sanitation and hygiene promotion training, and water containers. Meanwhile, the water supply to Kotido Town Council has been cut off since the beginning of the month due to a technical glitch in the water pump affecting an estimated 10,000 people. As a result, there is increased pressure on the few remaining water sources, principally boreholes owned by private organisations.

VI. FUNDING

As at the end of April, the CAP 2009 has realised 31% funding, with an additional US\$ 8.2 million in uncommitted pledges. The highest funded sectors are Food (52%) and Refugees (32%), followed by Coordination (18%), Water and Sanitation (16%), Protection (11%), Agriculture (10%) and Health (7%). Education has realized no funding to date.

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 second-to-last Wednesday of each month.

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