

FINAL REPORT



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

UGANDA: CONGOLESE REFUGEES **INTERIM FINAL REPORT**

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The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

In Brief

Minor Emergency history:

- **Information Bulletin no. 2/2005, dated 14 February 2005, explained the DREF allocation** http://www.ifrc.org/cgi/pdf_appeals.pl?rpts05/ug050214.pdf
- **Launched for 6 months to assist 5,000 beneficiaries.**
- **Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 55,250.**

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Background

The situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has been volatile since the genocide in Rwanda in 1994 and the subsequent regime changes in both DRC and Rwanda. Political and military alliances have been forged and armed factions built along ethnic lines. This has resulted in a number of spontaneous conflicts that have occasioned the influx of refugees across the border into neighbouring Uganda. One such influx of Congolese refugees into western Uganda happened in late 2004 and early 2005, precipitated by fighting among various armed factions around Kyoma and Kasenyi villages in DRC.

At least 16,000 refugees, mostly women and children, crossed into Uganda through Ishasa and Nkondo in Kanungu and Hoima districts respectively. The Uganda Red Cross Society reported that in Ishasa, nearly 3,000 refugees had no shelter and were in bad physical and psychological states due to the long distances they had covered by foot. Sanitary conditions in Ishasa and Nkondo were also very poor, with host communities fearing that epidemics could break out.

Using its emergency stocks, the Uganda Red Cross Society, was able to provide non-food items to approximately 5,000 refugees at Nkondo and Kyaka II refugee settlement. According to local reports, there remains a real possibility of another influx in the near future, judging by the tension across the border and the trends witnessed in the past. It is against this background that an application was made for a Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) allocation.

The funds provided were used to replenish the national society's non-food emergency stock and to pre-position non-food items to cater for a conservative estimate of 5,000 people- approximately 1,000 families.



Uganda Red Cross Society volunteers distribute non-food items to refugees

Coordination

The Uganda Red Cross Society¹ coordinated all activities, including continuously monitoring the situation at possible crossing points. This was done in close collaboration with the Federation East Africa regional delegation, the Federation East Africa Sub-regional office, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the government of Uganda (through the Office of the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Disaster Preparedness and Refugees), Kanungu local district authorities, and UN agencies- United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), World Food Programme (WFP) and Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

The Ugandan government, UNHCR, WFP and the Uganda Red Cross Society conducted rapid assessments and provided logistical support as well as relief assistance, leading to the relocation of about 2,500 refugees to Kyaka II refugee camp.

Implementation, achievements and impact

Activities

Pre-positioning of non-food relief items, as emergency/contingency stock, to cater for a conservative estimate of 5,000 people (approximately 1,000 families) has been completed.

With technical support from Federation, the Uganda Red Cross Society's national disaster response team (NDRT) developed a contingency plan based on refugee influx. In partnership with other stakeholders in disaster management, the contingency plan was rehearsed at Nkondo in August 2005.

Impact

The DREF allocation allowed the Uganda Red Cross Society to replenish its emergency stocks which were used to respond to the needs of the influx of refugees.

The replenishment of stocks will ensure that the national society is well prepared for potential future situation and will allow the national society to respond quickly and effectively to the needs of the most vulnerable.

¹ Uganda Red Cross Society- <http://www.ifrc.org/where/country/check.asp?countryid=176>

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The national society continues to monitor the situation closely, in cooperation with partners. Pending any developments on the ground, the assistance to be provided by the national society will be defined and communicated to partners in due course.

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| <p>Special note: This Interim Final Report is being issued without the financial report. The latter is expected in early November 2005. The Final Report, comprising of the final financial report and this narrative report, will be issued by December 2005.</p> |
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