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Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) Uganda: Population movement

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRUG034 GLIDE n° [OT-2013-000079-UGA](#) Operation update n°1 6 November, 2013

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent emergency response. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of National Societies to respond to disasters.

Period covered by this update: 18 July to 31 October 2013.

Summary: CHF 220,502 was allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 18 July, 2013 to support the Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) in delivering immediate assistance to 6,144 families (66,139 beneficiaries) displaced by the fighting in DRC. Un-earmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

URCS, with support of IFRC, launched a DREF operation for an initial period of three months, in coordination with other actors, to support up to 1,000 of the most vulnerable families. After the launch of the operation, a decision was reached to relocate the refugees from the border areas and those who were sheltering in schools to the transit centre from where the Ugandan Government as well as international and national non-governmental organizations would provide basic humanitarian assistance to them while a settlement area was being identified. At time of reporting, the population in the transit centre has since stabilized to approximately 20,000.



Uganda RC volunteers in action during the response operation. Photo/URCS.

Through this operations update, the operation is being extended to 31 December 2013 to meet the remaining needs as the transit centre is being phased out and the affected populations are moved to a settlement as directed and identified by the government. The operation will therefore be completed by 31 December 2013 and a Final Report will be made available by 31 March 2014.

An operation support visit was carried out by IFRC to URCS at the end of October to assist the national society in identifying remaining gaps and revise the budget to reflect actual needs and response. A second operation update is expected to be issued by mid-November with further details, including the budget revision.

The Uganda Red Cross Society continues to be at the forefront of the response in coordination with the district local government, office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and other agencies. Initial response included the deployment of volunteers to provide the assistance as required and based on their competencies, clearing up the land allocated for the set-up of the transit centre, mobilizing the local population, provision of first aid, positioning of non-food items, preparation of meals, distribution of non-food relief items while at the same time conducting assessments to establish the immediate humanitarian needs of the new arrivals and monitor further population movements across the border as well as provide psychosocial support to the refugees in need. In addition, the URCS volunteers were at the forefront in responding to the population movement from Democratic Republic of Congo to Bundibugyo in western Uganda offering assistance across all sectors including relief, emergency health and care through first aid and referrals.

Although the situation continued to evolve rapidly, URCS was able to provide humanitarian support to more than 20,000 refugees in the transit and carried out limited activities at the border areas with support and collaboration of other stakeholders led by OPM and UNHCR. The support provided included provision of non-food item kits, preparation of meals in the transit for refugees, psychosocial support, construction of emergency latrines, construction of shelter and bathing shelters, provision first aid, and promoting proper sanitation and hygiene, tracing of separated families and having a focus on unaccompanied minors among others. However owing to the changing situation, gaps continue to emerge as more refugees arrive at the transit each new day.

The Belgian Red Cross/ Belgian government, Canadian Red Cross/ Canadian government, Netherlands Red Cross/Netherlands government, Spanish Red Cross/ Spanish government (AECID) and the European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (DG ECHO) have contributed towards replenishing the DREF allocation made for this operation. The major donors and partners of DREF include the Australian, American and Belgian governments, the Austrian Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross and government, Danish Red Cross and government, DG ECHO, the Irish and the Italian governments, the Japanese Red Cross Society, the Luxembourg government, the Monaco Red Cross and government, the Netherlands Red Cross and government, the Norwegian Red Cross and government, the Spanish Government, the Swedish Red Cross and government, the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), the Medtronic and Z Zurich Foundations, and other corporate and private donors.

IFRC, on behalf of the Ugandan Red Cross Society, would like to extend thanks to all for their generous contributions.

The situation

Bundibugyo District is one of the several districts that make up the western region of Uganda. The district shares common boundaries with the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to the west and north, and is neighbored by Ntoroko north-east and Kabarole to the south eastern part of the country.

On 11 July 2013, there was a sudden influx of population movement from Democratic Republic of Congo following reported fighting within the areas of Buwisa, Butalinga and Bahumu. At the height of the influx within the three days up to 66,139 asylum seekers had entered the borders of Uganda through Busunga and camped at Busuga, Bubandi, Bundinamandi, Buhula, Nyakasohe, Busunga and Busula.

With numbers increasing each passing day and authorities unable to marshal humanitarian support to the different areas that the refugees were camped in, the government through the OPM, decided to create a transit centre from where humanitarian support would be made available by all humanitarian agencies/organizations to the refugees. At the first coordination meeting hosted by URCS, communication was made to relocate all refugees to Bubukwanga sub-county where a transit centre was opened. URCS was immediately commissioned to clear the ground previously covered by bushes and some crops in preparedness for the transfer of people. This is the area that presently constitutes the current transit camp. Currently, there are 7,015 households or 19,804 individuals in the centre, while the cumulative arrivals from the beginning of the operation are 27,546 refugees. At time of reporting, 8,644 refugees have been moved to the settlement in Kyangwali in Hoima district.

A number of experts are predicting steady flow owing to the volatile situation in eastern DRC and the fact that there no gains so far made in peace talks between the warring factions.

Coordination and partnerships

The operation is being coordinated by Office of the Prime Minister and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), while Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) is in charge of overall camp management but

has in addition, specific roles in: registration, monitoring population movements, assessing host community needs in line with the impacts of the operation.

A total of 16 agencies and governmental bodies are involved in supporting the operation. These include Bundibugyo District Local Government (the host), Office of the Prime Minister, UNHCR, URCS, Samaritan Purse, Lutheran World Federation (LWF), Association for Cooperative Operations Research and Development (ACORD), Save the Children, World Vision, Medicines Sans Frontiers (MSF France), Medical Teams International, UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO and World Harvest Mission. An elaborate coordination mechanism exists at the field level with regular, bi-weekly meetings held with all partners and chaired by the OPM and UNHCR.

Overall operations at the transit centre have been aligned to community services, health, food, logistics, security, coordination, child protection, and water, sanitation and hygiene sectors under which the different agencies fit according to their implementation plans. The UNHCR, OPM and URCS are a part of all the groups owing to the pivotal responsibilities in running the transit centre and the operations generally.

Besides the different sector meetings and bilateral meetings between agencies, there exists a rigorous coordination effort. Each day all agencies converge for coordination meeting chaired on rotation basis. This meeting, attended by the heads of the different agencies, serves as a communication forum, platform for sharing updates on implementation, dissemination of guidelines and decision-making, resulting in a much stronger response overall with little to no overlap and/or “competition” to reach the affected communities through similar actions.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Since 13 July, URCS, with support from IFRC, Belgian Red Cross and Danish Red Cross have responded through the following actions:

- Mobilized and deployed 120 volunteers for response action in Bubukwanga transit centre. The volunteers have also been trained in relief and camp management (60 volunteers), psychosocial support and first aid (40 volunteers), PHASTER (20 volunteers) and are now deployed for hygiene and satiation awareness in the camp and host communities and other activities.
- Managing the Bubukwanga Refugee Transit Centre on behalf of the government (OPM) and UNHCR.
- Regular monitoring and assessment of population movement at the border and in the host communities.
- Constructed 8 kitchens at which with support of WFP and UNHCR are supervising the preparation and provision of hot meals for the refugees at an average of three meals per day.
- Established bereavement response team to attend to deaths among the refugees with 13 burials so far conducted since 14 August, 2013.
- Identified unaccompanied minors and set up rapid tracing services (RFL phone services). Since inception, 122 unaccompanied minors were identified and 120 re-unifications made for the 122 children, with a total of 400 phone calls realized.
- Constructed 240 stances of pit latrines (30 blocks, with 8 latrines stances in each block) and 30 bathing shelters at the transit centre. While the bathing shelters involved sinking of soak pits and subsequent construction of superstructures using plastic sheeting, the latrines are constructed with tarpaulins forming the super structure.
- Mobilized volunteers to clear the site for the transit centre and erected 200 family tents, constructed 103 communal shelters, constructed 1 registration shelter and constructed 3 shelter units for office space in coordination with UNHCR who are providing the materials for construction.
- Mobilized, oriented and deployed 32 volunteers to assist in the preparation and delivery of hot meals to the affected households from food delivered by WFP.

Progress against outcomes

Food and nutrition	
Outcome: The risk of the deterioration of the nutritional status of the 6,744 households affected is reduced.	
Outputs (expected results)	Planned activities

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Affected families are provided with hot meals in coordination with WFP in the transit centre. High-energy biscuits are procured and distributed to the most vulnerable individuals such as unaccompanied minors, pregnant women and the elderly at the border. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobilize volunteers to assist in the preparation and delivery of hot meals to the affected households. Procure and distribute high-energy biscuits to the most vulnerable individuals identified according to criteria.
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Progress: A total of 30 volunteers used on rotational basis have been mobilized to assist the refugees in areas of cooking, cleaning kitchen and meal scheduling duties. This has enabled the households that are registered to receive meal coupons that they use to obtain food. Each household receives on average three meals each day comprising porridge, maize meal and pulses, with all cooking is communal.

Through the support of URCS volunteers, a total of 8 kitchens have been constructed in the 8 zones covering the whole Bubukwanga transit centre. In addition, a total of 10,000 packets of high-energy value biscuits were procured and delivered to Bundibugyo for distribution. The biscuits were subsequently distributed to new arrivals, with each person receiving a packet upon arrival at the transit centre.



New arrivals are provided with high energy biscuits upon arrival at the transit centre as they await registration. Photo/URCS.

Emergency shelter, settlement and non-food items

Outcome: The vulnerability of up to 1,000 affected families is reduced through the provision of basic non-food items.

Outputs (expected results)	Planned activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs of the affected population are assessed and most vulnerable families are identified. Volunteers are trained in camp management (relief distribution, first aid, registration, protection, tracing etc.) Beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance is developed Local procurement of 1,000 tarpaulins, 5,000 cups and plates, 2,000 jerry cans, 2,000 mosquito nets, 2,000 blankets and 2,000 cooking pots is conducted. Non-food item kits consisting of 1 tarpaulin, 5 cups, 5 plates, 2 jerry cans, 2 mosquito nets, 2 blankets and 2 cooking pots are distributed to 1,000 of the most vulnerable families 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments. Train volunteers in camp management to complement UNHCR and government efforts. Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance. Procure 1,000 tarpaulins, 5,000 cups and plates, 2,000 jerry cans, 2,000 mosquito nets, 2,000 blankets and 2,000 cooking pots. Identify 1,000 of the most vulnerable families and distribute relief supplies. Control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user. Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions. Develop an exit strategy.

Progress: On learning about the magnitude of the influx, the URCS emergency task force immediately

deployed the National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) who conducted a more detailed assessment after the initial rapid assessment conducted. This assessment was instrumental in making decisions that guided the next round of actions.

The criterion used for registration of refugees was focused on people who have been displaced from their original homes in DRC by the violence and have entered the country and settled in the designated reception centre. Registration is based on *prima facie* evidence of production of information showing one was from DRC. Upon this brief, interviews are done to corroborate information before registration is completed upon which the registered person is given a household card which includes information on persons per household for distribution and support provision purposes.

A total of 60 volunteers out of the overall 120 mobilized were trained in camp management which included components of relief, setting up tents, psychosocial support, first aid, PHASTER, and tracing, and were deployed to support the registration and reception of new arrivals and the ensuing activities.

Through stakeholder coordination, a criterion for distribution of the items was agreed and URCS identified as partner for all distribution in the transit. A standard emergency kit was agreed to be used for distributing all NFI in the settlement. One of the main points discussed and agreed upon related to the use of tarpaulins, of which an original 1,000 pieces were budgeted and procured under the DREF operation for distribution to the affected households. While the initial plan was to provide a tarpaulin per household as a part of the NFI distributions, discussions with all partners on the ground pointed to more urgent needs, and the tarpaulins were redirected to carpet the communal shelters that were constructed (as a base/floor), while others were used for the construction of the first six latrine blocks and washing shelters that were set up at the opening of the transit.



URCS registration officer completes orientation of volunteers. Photo/URCS

Distribution of non-food items like blankets, cups, and plates, sleeping mats, jerry cans and soap was done upon arrival. Details are entered onto the card and also into the distribution list that is signed off by the persons receiving the items. Apart from this kind of support, there are beneficiaries that are specifically targeted and reached owing to their vulnerability. These include persons with special needs (the disabled, the elderly, pregnant women) who are always identified and registered, mobilized and sensitized before being targeted with distribution. As part of coordinated service delivery, Uganda Red Cross Society volunteers handle all activities related to distribution.

Meanwhile, the logistics directorate is employing the stock control systems right from procurement, warehousing and transportation of the supplies to the end user. A logistician from URCS headquarters was deployed to identify and orient 6 stores assistants to manage three stores identified for the operations. Warehouse system setup to ensure all items from warehouse were duly received, verified and stored as required. Stock movement books (stores requisition, BIN cards, Way Bills, Good Delivered Note, and Good Returned Note) all installed to ensure control in the delivery and supply of relief items from dispatch point to end users. In addition, relief distributions are being monitored through daily logistics reports, weekly stores stock taking and reconciliation and on spot visits to distribution sites. Additionally distribution reports prepared by a distribution focal point and shared at coordination meeting on daily basis

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The team on the ground is involved in a number of discussions with the stakeholders and district officials on the issues regarding the exit strategy. At the moment URCS signed a MoU with UNHCR as an implementing partner with OPM and UNHCR for six months to manage the camp. URCS is continually assessing the needs of the host communities in relation to the impact of the influx. Some of the initial findings have led to request by the district and communities in some of the areas for tree seedlings as a way to put back those that are being harvested as poles and fire wood for the operation. A modest tree planting element has been agreed and funding from the Danish Red Cross, outside of this DREF allocation, has been planned.

Emergency health and care

<p>Outcome: Access to emergency health services and support to reduce the risk of diseases for up to 6,744 households in Bubukwanga sub-county over a period of 3 months.</p>
<p>Activities Planned</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobilize and conduct training in first aid and psychosocial support for 20 volunteers. • Deploy volunteers to provide appropriate and necessary support and referrals in the transit centre to health and MSF-supported facilities • Provide health promotion and disease surveillance support to health and MSF-supported facilities if required • Monitor and evaluate the first aid and psychosocial support activities and report on progress. • Develop an exit strategy.

Progress: The training need for psychosocial was confirmed by the NDRT deployed from Kampala as it emerged among the top three of training needs along first aid and camp management. Based on the fluctuating number of refugees moving in and out of the transit centre, it was decided to train all 40 volunteers in both emergency health and care as well as water, sanitation and hygiene promotion instead of allocating 20 volunteers per sector as originally planned. As such, a total of 40 volunteers were identified, mobilized and oriented on psychosocial support in emergency settings for four days and deployed thereafter. The same 40 volunteers were concurrently given basic orientation on first aid to enable them support provision of first aid and basic evacuation within the transit centre if conditions dictated. The team was further supported by donation of 10 fully stocked first aid kits and five stretchers from ICRC.

To provide psychosocial support, a psychosocial support tent set up from which individual counseling sessions could be conducted by the trained volunteers in addition to community based interventions (door to door or shelter to shelter) through the family heads and opinion leaders. At time of reporting, up to 6,400 persons had received one form or another of psychosocial support from the Red Cross volunteers.

The team also targets adolescent females for guidance sessions. In such sessions group and individual guidance is offered to the adolescents on reproductive health and hygiene, with dignity kits supported by partners outside of this DREF, given to the girls thereafter.

Using the skills obtained in the orientation, the volunteers have set up a first aid post to attend to minor injuries that occur among them during day to day activities in the transit centre. Additional to this, the trained volunteers conduct door to door visits and follow up with the affected population who require regular medical attention, and identify the sick who are consequently stretchered off to the Bubukwanga Health Centre for management. Such referrals are made to MSF France and MTI who are managing health services at the health centre III as well.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

<p>Outcome: Improved access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene promotion to reduce the risk of water and sanitation related diseases for up to 6,744 households in Bubukwanga sub-county over a period of 3 months.</p>	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate access to safe drinking water is provided to targeted displaced people in the transit centre. • Appropriate sanitation facilities are provided to targeted displaced people in the transit centre. • Increased knowledge on good hygiene practice and maintaining a clean and healthy environment in the transit centre. • Assistance and equipment are provided to maintain the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rapid assessment and KAP (knowledge, attitudes and practices) survey of water, sanitation and hygiene knowledge and practices, as a baseline indicator and to guide the focus of hygiene promotion activities. • Train 20 volunteers in the PHAST-ER (Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation in Emergency Response) approach. • Conduct PHAST-ER sessions in the transit camp for hygiene and sanitation promotion, including operation and maintenance of latrines as well as sensitization on household water purification. • Construction of 200 temporary latrines as an initial provision for excreta disposal in the emergency phase.

emergency latrines.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution of 100,000 water purification sachets/PUR, including training component on use of sachets through PHAST-ER volunteers. • Procure and distribute 15,000 brochures and 15,000 posters in local languages with information on hygiene/sanitation and disease prevention. (This will be supported by Belgium RC). • Procure and distribute 30 sets of sanitation kits (which include a hoe, pick axe, hammer, nylon rope and other equipment) to support the construction and maintenance of the latrines. • Conduct end-line rapid KAP survey, 3 months after the intervention.
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Progress: A rapid assessment on hygiene and sanitation was conducted to identify the existing and emerging water, sanitation and hygiene needs that needed to be addressed and the resultant report shared with HQ. However the KAP (knowledge, attitudes and practices) survey was not conducted owing to the need for urgent intervention and the increase in numbers at the transit centre.

Based on the rapid assessment and the urgency of measures needed to avert possible disease outbreak, a total of 25 URCS volunteers identified and trained in PHASTER and equipped with information on hygiene and sanitation. This was intended to enable them commence with dissemination of basic information on water, sanitation and hygiene, monitor hygiene conditions in the communal shelters, washing shelters and latrines in the transit centre and promote and popularize hygiene and sanitation through community drives.

The PHASTER training was conducted by URCS's water, sanitation and hygiene manager, and was reinforced with two other orientations by UNICEF and OXFAM to ensure uniformity among the 44 hygiene and sanitation volunteers deployed by all the agencies undertaking water, sanitation and hygiene promotion activities within Bubukwanga Transit Centre.

By the end of September, 481 sessions were conducted by the PHASTER team volunteers in the transit camp. In addition, the volunteers are also supervising the usage of the bathing shelters and latrines. They conduct visits to the 110 communal shelters and the 300 smaller tents to help monitor hygiene and sanitation including rubbish collection for each of the eight zones in the transit centre that have been set up.

As the need for hygiene and sanitation facilities was identified as an immediate need, the URCS and other agencies supported the construction of emergency pit latrines and washing shelters for the new arrivals in the centre. In total the URCS team supported the construction of 242 stances (30 blocks of 8 stances each) of pit latrines, 42 more than originally targeted, and 154 bathing shelters (19 blocks) within the eight zones of Bubukwanga transit centre. While 1,000 tarpaulins were originally planned to be distributed to vulnerable families for emergency shelter and were procured accordingly, as a result of the set-up of communal shelters, the tarpaulins were subsequently diverted towards construction of the latrines and bathing shelters, as well as the temporary lagoon constructed to limit the burden on the host community's waste management systems.

In addition to the latrines for the refugee community, the URCS identified sites, excavated and installed four mobile latrines for the staff of the different agencies to use within the transit centre as well.

In addition to the latrines and bathing shelters supported and by URCS/ IFRC, other organizations including UNICEF, Oxfam, Samaritan Purse, ADRA, World Vision and Save the Children supported additional latrines totalling up to 230 stances.

A procurement of 100,000 water purification sachets/PUR was made and delivered to the stores. There were delays in the distribution to the refugees because the transit centre's water sources was undergoing rigorous treatment and quality tests intended to avert possible contamination of domestic water. However, with a need for the same existing in the host communities, and with other organizations supporting safe water trucking to the transit centre, URCS diverted the distribution of water purification sachets and related sensitization to the host community, many of whom still consume raw untreated water, as a part of their support to the host community as well.

Meanwhile, complementary to actions supported by DREF, a procurement of 32,000 posters and 44,000 brochures was made comprising of:

- 16,000 posters and 22,000 brochures supported by Belgian Red Cross
- 16,000 posters and 20,000 brochures supported by Danish Red Cross

At time of reporting, 28,153 posters and 36,723 brochures were distributed in the transit in the communal shelters and in some areas in the boarder and host community centers. The same information, education and communication materials are used to during hygiene and sanitation promotion community sessions.

A total of 20,000 bars of soap were procured and distributed to the affected population upon arrival at the transit centre. In addition, up to 100 hand washing facilities were procured and strategically placed in the camp close to latrines and are meant to complement the proper hygiene awareness strategy. There is evidence that these are being used based observation by hygiene promoters who report frequent water replenishment in the facilities.

URCS also procured and distributed 30 sets of sanitation kits (which included a hoe, pick axe, hammer, nylon rope and other equipment). These have been utilized for the cleaning of the site and subsequent construction of shelters, latrines and refuse pits.

Logistics	
Outcome: Efficient and effective logistical support of non-food relief and stock relief items in warehouses in the field	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinated delivery of food and NFIs to the operational areas, ensuring proper transport and storage of relief items; Effective fleet management is maintained during the operation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dispatch food and non-food items to the final distribution point. Provide transportation for staff and volunteers during the operation.

Progress:URCS deployed a truck to the transit centre area which has been utilized for transporting relief items from the warehouses to points of distribution, including food (supported from WFP) from the rub hall to the final consumption point (transit centre). This has helped to meet the needs of the affected communities in a timely manner and also reinforced relationships between actors on the ground.

URCS maintains two land cruisers for monitoring and implementation activities, including transporting staff and volunteers during the operation. The same vehicles support activities such as emergency referrals whenever the MSF and MTI are constrained. The vehicles have both ensured that timely response is made whenever the need and demand arises and reinforced the presence of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in the transit centre.

Communication	
Outcome: A steady flow of timely and accurate information between the field and other major stakeholders that enhances fundraising, advocacy and maintaining profile of the DREF operation.	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timely and accurate information between relevant stakeholders on the population movement situation as well as URCS and other partners' response is shared 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce press releases, news stories and beneficiary case studies Proactively engage with media to highlight the needs of the DREF and to profile the response of the URCS Use established URCS and IFRC social media tools to enhance profile of activities Develop media packages, including facts and figures, questions and answers, key messages and audiovisual products for distribution to partner national societies and media Support field visits by communications colleagues, media, PNS's and donor agencies Support programme teams to ensure consistent and two-way engagement with beneficiaries as part of the Uganda RCS's and IFRC's commitment to greater accountability to affected communities.

Progress: Up to 2 press releases and a number of news stories were issued by URCS to date, with plans for looking for a specific case study to be prepared before the operation ends. To ensure constant and factual information is provided, the team has constantly received and support field visits by communications

personnel, media personnel, partner national societies and donor agencies. This has involved both national and international media houses seeking to document URCS and other humanitarian actors' activities in Bubukwanga Transit Centre.

Monitoring: The operation is regularly being monitored by technical and management staff from both headquarters and branch levels, as well as local branch governing board members.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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How we work

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

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.



The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace