

EMERGENCY APPEAL



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

Appeal no:06/2003
20 February 2003

UGANDA: ***Refugees from Democratic Republic of Congo***

***THIS APPEAL SEEKS
CHF 353,000 (USD 259,000/ EUR 240,000)
IN CASH, KIND AND SERVICES
TO ASSIST 15,000 BENEFICIARIES FOR 3 MONTHS
Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) Allocation: CHF 50,000***

The Situation

Conflict and inter-ethnic clashes have escalated in neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) since December 2002 despite peace plan initiatives. The two groups, Hema and Lendu, represented by the Union Patriotic Congolese (UPC) and Front des Nationalités et des Intergratinalities (FNI) respectively, were represented at peace talks in Arua late December 2002. However, the UPC refused to sign a ceasefire. Tensions in Eastern Congo remain high and scores of asylum seekers continue to flee into Uganda. As a result of renewed fighting there has been loss of life, looting, houses being burnt and cattle stolen. Both survivors and the press have made claims of cannibalism. This has fuelled fear among locals, who have fled in large numbers across the border into Nebbi District in the North-eastern part of Uganda.

UNHCR and the Government of Uganda are monitoring the situation. UNHCR maintains that only asylum seekers agreeing to move to designated refugee settlement in neighbouring Arua District will qualify for assistance. However, only 202 of the asylum seekers agreed to move there after meetings at the end of 2002 with the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and UNHCR.

In February 2003, Uganda Red Cross Society, the UNHCR field office and the local authorities representing OPM assessed the humanitarian needs of asylum seekers who had settled in Nebbi District. There are both urban and rural asylum seekers in Nebbi District, comprising Alur, Kebu, Lendu, Hema, Bagegere and Anya ethnic groups. Local councils and radio broadcasts mobilised the refugees.

The table below some of the results from the assessment:

Sub-county	No. Households	No. of People
Nebbi	149	689
Paidha	233	1,099
Erussi	559	3,548
Kango	131	666
Zeu	476	2,679
Jang-Okoro	716	2,876
Grand Total	2,264	11,557

The grand total is likely to be more because of the following: -

- ✓ A number of refugees were absent and may not have received information because of the short notice given.
- ✓ Many did not want to be counted for fear of being taken to the designated refugee camps.
- ✓ Not all areas where refugees lived could be reached during the assessment.
- ✓ The large area prevented full assessment coverage.

Drawing on the assessment, this appeal is based on assisting 15,000 beneficiaries.

The majority of refugees did not want to go to refugee camps because of the following:

- The camps were too far from the border with DRC and the refugees wanted to be nearer to monitor the situation and occasionally reach their homes and collect food and other items.
- Some refugees have been able to get land from the host community and have planted some crops, which were not yet ready for harvest (harvest due late February).
- Others thought they could lose access to their livelihoods and lifestyle if moved to camps (work opportunities to be self sufficient, social life, monitoring situation back home etc)
- They preferred to be given assistance where they live as was the case with Ugandan refugees in Congo. It has been agreed with the local Ugandan authorities that if the Red Cross can provide services to refugees in the community setting, that this will be acceptable to the government.

The asylum seekers are now hosted by relatives in local communities or in schools and other public buildings. Despite this acceptance by the host community, there has been extra strain on public facilities, such as water and sanitation and health facilities. As a result, some, especially bore holes and protected springs, have broken down. Long queues of women and children have resulted at the few water points still operational. There are also sanitation problems in some locations because of a lack of latrines. Although existing health centers or/and health units are providing services, there is a shortage of drugs. The asylum seekers have no cash to buy medicine and making it even more difficult for health centers to replenish supplies.

Food has until now been provided by the host local community, supplemented by the asylum seeker whenever s/he is able to reach their gardens back at home. WFP is aware of the situation and is expected to assist if needed.

The overall objective of the operation is to provide emergency assistance to the affected population. Non-food items will be distributed to an estimated 15.000 beneficiaries and appropriate repair will be carried out to water and sanitation installations. As MSF Swiss has planned a medical intervention, assistance in the area of health is not included in the appeal.

The Needs

Immediate Needs

A needs assessment conducted jointly by Uganda Red Cross, UNHCR and local authorities identified the distribution of non-food items to 15,000 beneficiaries over 3 months. The items to be distributed are: tarpaulins, blankets, kitchen sets, Jerry cans and hoes.

Water and sanitation activities in the form of repair of bore holes, protection of water sources and construction of latrines are also needed. Hygiene and sanitation educational services and delivery of health messages is also included in the short-term assistance.

The Proposed Operation

The Federation East Africa Regional Office (EARO) and the Regional Delegation in Nairobi supported Uganda Red Cross in the needs assessment and in producing a three month plan of action. The national society has the internal capacity to manage the operation with limited support from the EARO and the Regional Delegation due to its long-term experience in assisting refugees and internally displaced populations. The logistical support and staff and volunteers of Uganda Red Cross will be able to undertake the program implementation, which will be closely co-ordinated with UNHCR, relevant authorities and Movement partners.

Support from DREF is requested to start the operation immediately since no assistance has reached the affected population to date. A second assessment will be conducted jointly with the Government and UNHCR to review the situation and changing needs. This preliminary appeal will be updated if necessary, otherwise it will form the basis of a final operation report

Red Cross Objectives and related Activities

Objective 1. To provide basic non food items to 3,000 families.

This objective will be achieved through the distribution of non food items (tarpaulins, blankets, kitchen sets, Jerry cans, hoes) to 3,000 families (with a total population of 15,000 people).

The required non-food items are:

- 3,000 Tarpaulins
- 6,000 Blankets
- 6,000 kitchen sets (spoons, plates, cups, knife, cooking pan, mugs)
- 6,000 Jerry Cans
- 3,000 Hoes

The distribution will be undertaken by staff from the Disaster Preparedness/Response (DP/R) department of Uganda Red Cross with assistance from branch staff and volunteers. Private trucks will be leased for the operation while Uganda Red Cross will provide four wheel drive vehicles from its motor pool for logistical purposes. Casual labour will be hired for the loading/offloading and temporary office and warehouse facilities rented in Nebbi district.

Objective 2: To improve water supply and sanitation through repair of bore holes, protection of water wells, construction of temporary latrines and hygiene/sanitation education.

This objective will be achieved with the following activities related to water and sanitation.

- Uganda Red Cross water engineer assigned to the South West Refugee Operation will carry out a rapid assessment and produce a plan of action to protect 12 water sources and repair 10 bore holes.
- Installation of 300 communal latrines and other sanitary facilities required for the 15.000 asylum seekers at the site to complement the existing latrine installations in the local communities.
- Volunteers will provide health messages, posters and relevant health and sanitation training to the affected population.

Objective 3: Observation and early warning

- Given the changing nature of the conflict situation in DR Congo, The DP/R department of Uganda Red Cross will monitor and observe the inflow of new case loads into the region, and with support from the Federation, will conduct a second assessment after two months from commencement of the operation, and produce a revised appeal if the situation warrants.

National Society Capacity

Uganda Red Cross has a well functioning DP/R department with long experiences from the South West Refugee Operation being implemented by the society since the hand over from the Federation in 2000. Uganda Red Cross is currently implementing and fund-raising for a national appeal for internally displaced people (IDP) in Northern Uganda that it launched in 2002. It is because of this that the national society has requested the Federation to launch this appeal on its behalf.

The role of Uganda Red Cross in disaster response is mainly realised through its volunteers in regional and local branches. The society has 45 branches and the society has an active branch in Nebbi district.

The branch has the following attributes and capacities: -

- 20 volunteers fully trained and 77 partially trained in disaster management and many more who may be called on short notice for training
- A Red Cross Center with 1 office, 1 hall, 6 lodge rooms and a warehouse. Though presently rented out, another warehouse can be rented from Nebbi Town.
- VHF Radio communication system.
- Nebbi Town has MTN telephone connection.
- There is reliable electricity supply in the town for 4 hours daily from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.
- Nebbi Town is a crossroads to Arua, Paidha and Pakwach towns and also has an airdrome.
- Other towns in Nebbi District which can serve as alternative sites for provision of services are Goli, Paidha, Zeu, Alangi and Erussi. All are well connected by an all weather road network and storage facilities can be found in some of them.

The Uganda Red Cross will be the implementing body for the emergency response and will follow the normal reporting, monitoring and control procedures laid down in the regulations for Federation emergency response.

Uganda Red Cross will use this opportunity to further train volunteers in Nebbi branch and the area community in Community First Aid, assessment, monitoring, Disaster Management, etc. This will strengthen its capacity to carry out community health activities since the operation will allow better access to the community. Nebbi is a strategic branch which

borders DRC, and considering the uncertain security situation in Eastern Congo, any effort to strengthen branch capacity will contribute to the Movement's emergency preparedness.

Co-ordination

Uganda Red Cross will take the lead implementation role. The national society will co-ordinate its relief assistance with the Government of Uganda, and with the Federation attend regular co-ordination meeting by the government with UNHCR and other inter-agencies. Plans have been shared and discussed with the ICRC office in Kampala and they are supportive of the Uganda Red Cross intervention in the region.

Capacity of the Federation Secretariat in East Africa

The Federation has currently a Head of East Africa Regional office (EARO) based in Kampala. The East Africa office together with the Regional Delegation in Nairobi has been assisting the national society in producing an Information Bulletin and the Appeal. The Head of the East Africa Regional office will assist the national society to co-ordinate the emergency response.

Budget summary

See Annex 1 for details.

For further details please contact: Martin Fisher, Federation Desk Officer, Phone: 41 22 730 4; Fax: 41 22 733 0395; email: .

All International Federation Assistance Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

In line with the Minimum Reporting Standards, the first operations update on this appeal will be issued within 30-days of the launch and the second will be issued over the course of the operation; a final narrative and financial report will be issued no later than 90 days after the end of the operation.

This operation seeks to administer to the immediate requirements of the victims of this disaster. Subsequent operations to promote sustainable development or longer-term capacity building will require additional support and these programmes are outlined on the Federation website.

For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Abbas Gullet
Director
Disaster Management and Coordination

Didier J. Cherpitel
Secretary General

BUDGET SUMMARY

APPEAL No. 06/2003

Uganda: Refugee from DRC

CODE	TYPE	VALUE
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BUDGET SUMMARY

APPEAL No. 06/2003

Uganda: Refugee from DRC

CODE	TYPE	VALUE
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RELIEF NEEDS

IN CHF

50	Shelter	52,179
51	Clothing & textiles	28,461
53	Water and sanitation	91,000
56	Utensils & tools	47,080

TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS

218,720

CAPITAL EQUIPMENT

583	Telecom. equipment	2,372
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PROGRAMME SUPPORT

	Programme support (6.5% of total)	22,931
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59 TRANSPORT STORAGE & VEHICLE COSTS

	Transport and storage	2,846
	Vehicle costs	35,782

60 PERSONNEL

60	National staff	32,115
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ADMINISTRATIVE & GENERAL SERVICES

CASH	PR activities	4,427
CASH	Administrative & general expenses	33,600

TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS

134,073

TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES

352,793

BUDGET SUMMARY

APPEAL No. 06/2003

Uganda: Refugee from DRC

CODE	TYPE	VALUE
CFCASH	LESS AVAILABLE RESOURCES (-)	0
<u>NET REQUEST</u>		<u>352,793</u>