



## UGANDA:FLOODS

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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 185 countries.*

### In Brief

This DREF Bulletin is being issued based on the situation described below reflecting the information available at this time. CHF 41,393 (USD 33,570 or EUR 26,314) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 18 August 2006 to enable the Uganda Red Cross Society<sup>1</sup> to respond to the needs in this operation. This operation is expected to be implemented over 3 months, and will be completed by 30 November 2006; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

This operation is aligned with the International Federation's Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

#### Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

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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>

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

## **Background and current situation**

Since the beginning of August 2006, heavy rains in the Eastern part of Uganda have caused Rivers Ngenge and Atari to burst their banks resulting in destruction of houses, household property and death of livestock. As a result, more than 140 households in Sironko District and 100 others in Kapchorwa District have been displaced; three deaths were reported. Some of the 1,680 displaced people are being accommodated in churches and schools while others have been accommodated by friends and relatives.

According to the Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS), the most affected villages are Busangai, Bukhayaki, Bumbocha and Bumuyonga, all in Bumufuni parish of Bunambutye sub-county which is approximately 45 km from Sironko District headquarters in the north east bordering (Kapchorwa District). The area is accessible via the main Sironko – Moroto road.

Eight camps initially meant for people internally displaced due to insecurity brought about by the Karamojong cattle rustlers are now under immense pressure as a result of an influx of those displaced by the floods. The only sources of water in the camps are boreholes in the safer sections of the community and rainwater harvested in small family-based tanks. Most of these have been contaminated with dirt being carried around and human waste that has overflowed from pit latrines. Some boreholes were functional but the water looked dirty and contaminated, according to an assessment carried out by URCS.

Most farm fields are still covered by stagnant water. It is feared that this could destroy the crops if these conditions persist for long. According to the URCS, cholera, malaria, typhoid fever and food insecurity could set in unless urgent measures are taken to support the affected communities. The nearest health centre is about eight kilometres away.

## **Red Cross and Red Crescent action**

The URCS local branch's action teams were immediately mobilized and conducted a preliminary assessment of the situation on 6 August 2006. An additional assessment was carried out by the national society (NS) staff from the headquarters; it is on these that the DREF request was submitted. The local leaders councils are also carrying out an assessment of the situation but no response has been yet made. Action Aid International also conducted an assessment of the situation and was due to meet government official later to propose some assistance to the displaced. The Ugandan government and Action Aid are expected to provide food aid to the affected population, while the NS has proposed to provide non-food items to 240 of the displaced families. In addition, it will to conduct awareness creation on health and sanitation within the community.

## **The needs**

Both food and non-food items are urgently needed as most of the affected households had lost their belongings to the raging floods. These include:

- These include maize, rice and beans;
- Insecticide-treated mosquito nets (ITNs);
- Shelter;
- Household items such as saucepans, cups, plates, basins and jerry cans;
- Beddings such as blankets and mattresses;
- Medical services.

## **Response strategy**

**Goal: To provide relief aid to the displaced households in Sironko and Kapchorwa districts in Eastern Uganda.**

**Objective: To protect the health of the 240 households in Sironko and Kapchorwa districts.**

### **Expected results:**

- The displaced households are protected from the harsh environmental conditions occasioned by the floods;
- The affected households are protected from health threats that could result due to poor sanitation occasioned by the floods.

**Planned activities:**

- Procure plastic sheeting, blankets, laundry and washing soap as well as ITNs;
- Distribute the plastic sheeting, blankets, laundry and washing soap as well as ITNs to at least 240 households in the affected districts;
- Create awareness on best health and sanitation practices among the affected communities.

**Budget outline**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Total (CHF)</b>
Tarpaulins	3,516
Blankets	2,040
Laundry and washing soap	3,024
ITNs	2,880
Local transport	2,695
Volunteer mobilization costs	2,250
PUR sachets	19,656
Monitoring and evaluation	800
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>36,861</b>
NS administrative costs	1,843
<b>Total (without PSR)</b>	<b>38,704</b>
PSR (6.5%)	2,690
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>41,393</b>

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