

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: REFUGEES FROM THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

5 November 2003

Appeal No. 06/2003; Launched on: 20 February 2003 for 3 months for CHF 353,000 (USD 259, 000 or EUR 240, 000) to assist 15,000 beneficiaries. Appeal coverage: 77.3%

Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) Allocation: CHF 50,000

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 180 countries. For more information: www.ifrc.org

Summary

Conflict and inter-ethnic clashes in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) led to an influx of Congolese Refugees to Uganda early this year. Following a request from **Uganda Red Cross Society**, the Federation assisted the national society in launching an emergency appeal to assist 15,000 beneficiaries for 3 months.

The operation was started in April 2003 and ended in July 2003. During this time the Uganda Red Cross successfully carried out the following activities; distributed non-food items to 15,000 refugees, protected and rehabilitated 40 springs and a gravity flow scheme as well as providing both the refugees and the host communities with basic water and sanitation skills and knowledge. Unfortunately, activities under the third objective of branch capacity building have not been implemented due to lack of funding.

Coordination

Uganda Red Cross has been a part of the overall humanitarian actors trying to help Congolese refugees in several parts of Uganda. However, the national society was the sole agency implementing the refugee operation with support from the Federation through technical advice and support in the management and reporting for the operation. At the district levels, Uganda Red Cross Nebbi branch held regular meetings with the administrators and heads of line departments of the government, especially health and water. At the national level, the national society attended the UN OCHA bi-weekly coordination meeting and also held regular meetings with Federation Representative in Uganda, the ICRC and other Movement actors.

Objectives, achievements, impact

Emergency relief (food and basic non-food items)

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

Through this operation, a total of 37 volunteers selected from all sub-counties of Nebbi have been trained in disaster assessments and in handling of non-food relief items. This enabled the volunteers to effectively undertake the distribution of relief items in the six sub-counties of the project area, namely Kango, Zeu, Jangokoro, Erusi, Nebbi, Paidha and Paidha town council.

The total distribution of non-food items:

Sub County	House holds	Population	Tarpaulins	Blankets	Jerry cans	Kitchen sets	Basins	Hoes
ERUSSI	512	2232	513	1194	703	478	NIL	NIL
PAIDHA	446	1756	440	942	580	352	NIL	NIL
NEBBI	246	722	244	371	351	246	NIL	NIL
JANG-OK	664	2910	667	1483	1040	NIL	NIL	NIL
ZEU	313	1232	313	720	526	NIL	NIL	NIL
ZEU IDPs	786	2112	785	1126	959	NIL	2420	1000
KANGO	340	1304	338	904	466	NIL	NIL	NIL
TOTAL	3307	12268	3300	6740	4625	1076	2420	1000

Impact

The efficient distribution by volunteers resulted in improved living conditions of the refugees and relieved the host community from the burden of congestion and pressure on social amenities and essential household commodities. Cases of disease infections resulting from over-exposure to the named elements were also minimized.

Constraints

Some difficulties were experienced in identifying the most vulnerable families due to the fluctuating nature of the refugee situation. Fears of a forceful repatriation possibly prevented some families from getting the needed assistance

Water and sanitation

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

A three day rapid assessment by Uganda Red Cross Watsan engineers revealed that the water sources available were under immense pressure from the overcrowding population of refugees; most of the boreholes were non functional and the few good ones were exceeded by the increase in population. Nebbi district has a good spring potential but in sub counties like Kango, few protected springs exist hence lack of safe water; the few protected ones had poor yields.

The assessment recommended for spring protection which was more cost effective compared to bore holes that would be very expensive for the communities to maintain. Home hygiene and sanitation was also found to be critical since many people were sharing facilities including latrines thus posing a threat to both the refugees and the host community.

Training was provided to 98 participants drawn from the water source committees, village hygiene promoters, refugee leaders, village women councillors, and youth and opinion leaders in seven sub counties of Zeu, Erussi, Kango, Ikongooro, Nebbi, Paidha Trading Centre and Paidha. This training aimed at creating a firm ground and sensitizing the community on its role in spring protection and more so in mobilizing local materials. Home management in relation to health hazards was taught during the trainings as well as community based trainings in home hygiene and sanitation. A house-to-house hygiene education using volunteers to sensitize both communities and refugees was also conducted.

To avoid any further delays, six local construction companies based in Nebbi were contracted by the Management Board of the Uganda Red Cross to carry out the protection of springs, gravity flow scheme and 1 pit latrine in Paidha health centre under the overall supervision by a Uganda Red Cross Watsan Field Officer. A total of 40 springs have been protected and rehabilitated and all in use although still awaiting official hand over to the district authorities. The Paidha gravity scheme is complete and a new 500 meter pipe to the village left out by the old distribution system has been installed. A ventilated and improved pit latrine has also been installed at the health center and is already in use

In bid to avoid water borne related diseases, hygiene education aided by hygiene posters was conducted simultaneously with spring protection.

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Impact

The target beneficiaries and local population now have access to safe water while outbreaks of water-borne and other infectious diseases have been contained. The sanitary facilities are providing the beneficiaries with minimum hygiene standards while hygiene education has had a significant impact on health behaviour.

Constraints

Late donor response to the appeal forced the postponement of the water and sanitation components. The rainy season in Nebbi further slowed down progress when the water volumes at the construction sites slowed the setting of cement.

The rainy season also signalled the planting season in Nebbi and both the refugees and the host communities spent most of their time attending to their gardens; this had a negative effect for the hygiene education sessions planned in sub-counties of the project areas. Constant movements across the border by the refugees further delayed the completion of the hygiene education as did language barriers since most participants understood neither English nor Swahili and required translation into Lingala or French.

Disaster Preparedness

Objective 3: Observation and early warning

Due to poor links, communication with Nebbi branch was extremely difficult. In recognition of its strategic importance given the volatile nature of the DRC, plans to support the branch office with radios, fax, a generator and a computer to improve communication were included in the appeal as part of branch disaster preparedness capacity building. However, this could not be achieved due to insufficient funding.

The officer in charge of the refugee operation introduced weekly reports from the branch to the Disaster Preparedness Programme to enable it track the impact of the food situation, interventions in shelter, health, watsan, and to monitor the changing security situation. However, further training is still needed to improve the quality of the reports.

Constraints

Due to insufficient coverage of the appeal budget, the operation was forced to decrease the level of planned activities and as a result no activities under this objective could be implemented.

The activities under this objective could have greatly enhanced the capacity of the branch in disaster prevention as well as preparedness in handling potential population movement resulting from the fragile political situation in DRC. The Uganda Red Cross and the Federation are committed and will approach partners to get assistance outside the emergency appeal to implement these activities.

National Society Capacity Building

The branch has retained the 35 volunteers trained in disaster/relief management through the operation; equipment used in the operation will also be left to the branch (these include four mega phones, 4 wheelbarrows, 14 hoes, 20 spades and salves, 5 pick axes, 10 slashers, 5 pangas, 1 hammer, 2 tape measures, 3 cold chisels, 1 hand saw, 1 spirit level, 10 pairs of gumboots and 15 buckets).

Uganda Red Cross has shown a clear capacity to manage and implement activities in an emergency operation of this size. There has also been increased networking between the branch and the district; the national society has participated in coordination activities with OCHA, the government and other partners. The strength of this operation has resulted in:

- Timely response in the distribution of non-food items to refugees
- Good support in the provision of water supply and sanitation for the refugees and the host community which contributed to ease the burden of the host population.
- Good support to the disaster preparedness component which would have enabled the branch to build an early warning system to monitor developments in relation to the fragile political situation in the DRC.

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The final financial report is attached as an annex to this Final Report. It includes the consolidated response to appeal, the balance of funds, and the budget analysis / breakdown of expenditures. Please note that a remaining balance of CHF 42,800 is reflected; this will be applied as a reimbursement for the DREF allocation of CHF 50,000.

For further information please contact:

- *Robert Kwesiga, Secretary General Uganda Red Cross Society, Kampala; Email sgurcs@redcrossug.org; Phone 256 41 259 179 Fax 256 41 258 184*
- *Anitta Underlin, Federation Head of East Africa Sub-Regional Office, Kampala; Email ifrcke42@ifrc.org; Phone 256 31 263248/9, Fax 256 41 258 184*
- *Josse Gillijns, Federation Regional Officer, Geneva; Email josse.gillijns@ifrc.org; Phone 41 22 730 42 14; Fax 41 22 733 03 95*

All International Federation 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. The procurement for this operation was carried out in full compliance and conformity with the Federation's standard for international and local procurement.

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> .

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

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INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES

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Appeal No & title: 06/2003, Uganda - refugees from DR Congo
Period: year 2003 up to 31 October
Project(s): PUG502
Currency: CHF

I - CONSOLIDATED RESPONSE TO APPEAL

FUNDING	CASH		KIND & SERVICES		TOTAL INCOME
	Contributions	Comments	Goods/Services	Personnel	
Appeal budget less Cash brought forward	352,793				
TOTAL ASSISTANCE SOUGHT	352,793				
<u>Contributions from Donors</u>					
American Government PRM (DGUSPRM)	64,375				64,375
Danish Govt.via Danish Red Cross (DGNDK)	5,192				5,192
Donor - Disaster Relief Emergency Fu (DREF)	50,000				50,000
Japanese Red Cross (DNJP)	11,560				11,560
Norwegian Red Cross (DNNO)	28,313				28,313
Swedish Govt.via Swedish Red Cross (DGNSE)	80,250				80,250
Danish Govt			79,893		79,893
TOTAL	239,690		79,893		319,583

II - Balance of funds

OPENING	
CASH INCOME Rcv'd	239,690
CASH EXPENDITURE	-196,890

CASH BALANCE	42,800

Appeal No & title: 06/2003, Uganda - refugees from DR Congo

Period: year 2003 up to 31 October

Project(s): PUG502

Currency: CHF

III - Budget analysis / Breakdown of expenditures

Description	APPEAL Budget	CASH Expenditures	KIND & SERVICES		TOTAL Expenditures	Variance
			Goods/services	Personnel		
<u>SUPPLIES</u>						
Shelter & Construction	52,179		79,893		79,893	-27,714
Clothing & Textiles	28,461					28,461
Food & Seeds						
Water & sanitation	91,000					91,000
Medical & First Aid						
Teaching materials						
Utensils & Tools	47,080					47,080
Other relief supplies						
Sub-Total	218,720		79,893		79,893	138,827
<u>CAPITAL EXPENSES</u>						
Land & Buildings						
Vehicles						
Computers & Telecom equip.	2,372					2,372
Medical equipment						
Other capital expenditures						
Sub-Total	2,372					2,372
<u>TRANSPORT & STORAGE</u>						
Warehouse & distribution	2,846					2,846
Transport & vehicles	35,782					35,782
Sub-Total	38,628					38,628
<u>PERSONNEL</u>						
Personnel (delegates)						
Personnel (regional, national staff)	32,115					32,115
Consultants						
Workshops & training						
Sub-Total	32,115					32,115
<u>GENERAL & ADMINISTRATION</u>						
Travel & related expenses						
Information expenses	4,427					4,427
Admin./general expenses	33,600					33,600
Sub-Total	38,027					38,027
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>	22,931	17,653			17,653	5,278
Operational provisions						
Transfers & contributions		179,236			179,236	-179,236
TOTAL BUDGET	352,793	196,890	79,893		276,783	76,010