

OPERATIONS UPDATE



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

9 September 2003

Appeal No. 06/2003; Interim Final Report

Appeal launched on 20 February 2003 for CHF 353,000 (USD 259,000 or EUR 240,000) for 3 months for 15,000 beneficiaries.

Disaster Relief Emergency Funds (DREF) allocated: CHF 50,000 (reimbursed)

Period covered: June to August 2003

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

In Brief

Appeal coverage: 77.3%

Outstanding needs: CHF 80,317 (USD 56,800 or EUR 52,240)

Related Emergency or Annual Appeals: Uganda 2003 Annual Appeal no. 01.12/2003

Operational Summary: The Uganda Red Cross Society, with Federation support, continues to provide assistance to refugees and host communities in Nebbi District; it is the only organization responding to the emergency situation in the district. The Uganda Red Cross has completed the first phase of the operation in which it distributed non-food items to 15,000 refugees (refer to Operations Update no. 1 dated 15 May 2003)

The second objective of the operation is on-going, and focuses on improving water supply and sanitation through the repair of bore holes, protection of water wells, construction of temporary latrines and hygiene/sanitation education. Due to delay in the initial assessment coupled with the late response by donors, the activities are not yet completed. In water sanitation, the construction of 40 water springs and gravity scheme is ongoing; 28 springs have been fully completed and are in, while the remaining 12 are scheduled for completion by end of September 2003. The final report will be issued by mid-November 2003.

The third objective of the branch disaster preparedness capacity building has not been implemented; it was dependent on the availability of additional donor contributions.

Operational developments

Relief distribution

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

Thirty-seven volunteers selected from all sub-counties of Nebbi trained in conducting assessments and distribution of non-food relief items; these same volunteers carried out distribution of non-food items in the six sub-counties of the project area: Kango, Zeu, Jang-Okoro, Erussi, Nebbi, Paidha and Paidha town council. The distribution aimed at improving the living conditions of the refugees and at the same time reduce the stress on the host.

Impact

The distribution of non-food items to affected families has led to an improved standard of living of refugees. Cases of disease infections resulting from colds have been minimised.

Constraints

It was difficult to identify the most vulnerable families as the situation kept fluctuating. Fears of a forceful repatriation prevented some refugees 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

The results of a three-day rapid assessment indicated that the increased refugee population was causing additional pressure on the water sources; home hygiene was also very poor. The assessment recommended spring protection which was more cost-effective and easier for communities to maintain compared to boreholes. As a result, 40 springs are to be protected and one gravity flow scheme rehabilitated respectively. To date, 28 springs have been completed and are in use in different locations. The remaining 12 springs are due for completion by end of September. House-to-house hygiene education aided by posters for both community members and refugees is running parallel with spring protection to prevent water-borne diseases.

Water sanitation (watsan) activities started with training 95 people drawn from the water source committees, village hygiene promoters, refugee leaders, village women councilors, youth and opinion leaders in seven sub-counties of Zeu, Erussi, Kango, Ikongooro, Nebbi, Paidha and Paidha town council. Latrine construction at Paidha health centre is in its final stages and is awaiting painting and flooring.

Work on the Adidha gravity scheme is ongoing and the intake tank is completed while the installation of pipes and casting of the sedimentation tank is ongoing. This will be followed by the extension of a new pipe to the village that was not part of the old distribution system. The Uganda Red Cross management is monitoring this activity to ensure it is completed on time (October 2003).

Impact

The target beneficiaries and the local population have access to safe water. The sanitary facilities are providing the beneficiaries with the maximum hygiene standards. Hygiene education has led to reduced outbreaks of water-borne and other infectious diseases.

Constraints

Late donor response to the appeal delayed implementation of water and sanitation components. The rainy season at Nebbi affected the setting period of cement, delaying completion.

The hygiene promotion campaigns were also delayed by the rainy season; most refugees and host communities were planting. The constant cross-border movement of refugees and language barriers also slowed the process.

Disaster Preparedness

Objective 3: Observation and early warning

Communication with Nebbi branch has been extremely difficult as no functional communication links exist. Given its strategic importance in relation to the volatile nature of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), plans to support Nebbi branch with radios, fax, a generator and a computer are included in the appeal as part of the branch disaster preparedness capacity building.

Weekly reports from the branch to the Disaster Preparedness department of the Uganda Red Cross headquarters have been introduced; this has allowed the department to track the impact of its interventions in terms of shelter, health, watsan, the food situation, and the changing security situation.

Impact

Disaster preparedness measures/capacities are limited at branch level.

Constraints

Some activities linked to this objective are pending implementation due to insufficient donor response to the appeal. There is need to provide training in reporting to improve the quality of the weekly reports.

Coordination

The Uganda Red Cross is the implementing agency for the operation while the Federation's Regional delegation in Nairobi provides technical support and facilitates the management and reporting for the operation. The Uganda Red Cross is part of the overall humanitarian actors trying to help Congolese refugees in several parts of Uganda. At the district levels, the Uganda Red Cross team in Nebbi holds regular meetings with the administrators and heads of line departments especially health and water. At the national level, the Uganda Red Cross attends the UN OCHA bi-weekly coordination meeting. The Uganda Red Cross also holds regular meetings with Federation Representative in Uganda, the ICRC and other movement actors.

National Society Capacity Building

Training has been provided to volunteers in disaster and relief management. Four mega phones and tool kit used in the operation will be left to the branch. Increased networking between the branch and the district administration has strengthened relations.

Outstanding needs

A shortfall in contributions of CHF 82,000 has negatively impacted planned activities, primarily under disaster preparedness. The branch office is not yet adequately equipped or trained to effectively fulfil its role as a strategic branch in relation to population movement resulting from the fragile political situation in DRC. An urgent appeal is therefore being made to partners to assist the Uganda Red Cross in completing the last part of the operation by releasing the outstanding funding. This will allow activities to be fully completed prior to the issuance of a final report, planned for mid-November 2003.

For further information please contact:

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct and is committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERER Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

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

Project Summary Financial Statement by Appeal

All Donors.

Period: January through October of 2003

Appeal: 06/03 - UGANDA: REFUGEES FROM DR CONGO (20/02/2003 - 20/05/2003)

Project	Opening	INCOME					EXPENDITURE								Closing	
		Voluntary Contributions.		Transfers	Other Income	Total Income	Supplies	Capital Transport	PS Personnel	General Expenditure	Transfers Provisions	Total Expenditure				
		Selected Donors	Others													
PUG502 - Uganda - Refugee from DRC	0	184,498	0	50,000	0	234,498	0	0	0	18,364	0	0	189,466	0	207,830	26,668
06/03	0	184,498	0	50,000	0	234,498	0	0	0	18,364	0	0	189,466	0	207,830	26,668
Grand Totals	0	184,498	0	50,000	0	234,498	0	0	0	18,364	0	0	189,466	0	207,830	26,668

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