

Emergency appeal



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi: Population Movement

Emergency appeal n° MDR64004

6 December 2008

This Preliminary Emergency Appeal seeks CHF 1,850,856 (USD 1.5m or EUR 1.2m) in cash, kind, or services to support the Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi National Societies to assist 60,000 beneficiaries. This operation will be implemented over 6 months, and will therefore be completed by end May 2009; a Final Report will be made available by end August 2009 (three months after the end of the operation).

A total of CHF 330,924 was allocated from of the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support this operation (CHF 211,650 for Uganda, and CHF 119,274 for Rwanda). Unearmarked funds to replenish DREF are encouraged.



Ishasha, Uganda. 29 November 2008.

Continued fighting in the North Kivu Province of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has led to displacement of hundreds of thousands of people. Many of the displaced have remained in the DRC while tens of thousands have fled into neighbouring countries such as Rwanda and Uganda.

On 27 November 2008, 10,000 refugees crossed the Ishasha border into Uganda. Estimates from United Nations High Commissioner for refugees (UNHCR) indicated that over 30,000 have fled from DRC since August 2008. The Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) has registered nearly 12,000 refugees in Kanungu District since early November 2008.

Based on the current situation and the likelihood of further population movement if fighting continues, this Emergency Appeal responds to a request from the affected National Societies and focuses on providing support to take an appropriate and timely response in delivering assistance and relief in the following sectors; relief, shelter, health and WatSan.

[<click here to view the attached Preliminary Emergency Appeal Budget, here to view the map of the affected area and here to view contact details>](#)

The situation

Continued fighting in the North Kivu Province of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has led to displacement of hundreds of thousands of people. Many of the displaced have remained in the DRC while others have fled into neighbouring countries such as Rwanda and Uganda. The vast majority of those refugees have arrived in south-western Uganda.

Initially in the beginning of November 2008, a steady flow of refugees crossing into Kisoro District of Uganda and Rubavi District of Rwanda took place. The estimates at the time indicated that up to 4,000 refugees crossed the border in a week. However, many chose to remain at the border hoping to return to their homes in DRC as soon as possible and did just that. A small number of refugees in Uganda chose to be resettled at Nkivale Refugee Camp.

At that time the URCS and the Rwandan Red Cross (RRC), working in collaboration with UNHCR and other actors, initiated a response that included registration and hosting of refugees until they were transported to permanent refugee camps; in addition to distribution and pre-positioning of non-food items (NFIs), and hygiene promotion. Their humanitarian intervention was supported by a DREF from the Federation.

There has been confirmation by World Health Organization (WHO) on cholera outbreak in North Kivu where fighting is displacing families. Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) reports treating both war wounded and cholera patients at their clinics. Despite continuous population movement there does not appear to be a significant number of cases in Goma at present. There is an indication that cholera has spread to neighbouring Burundi¹ and the Burundi Red Cross (BRC) is monitoring and preparing to respond to a possible epidemic.

On 26 November 2008 a surge of 3,000² refugees crossed into Ishasha Uganda, located in Kanungu District. This most recent influx of refugees was due to renewed hostilities in the DRC and the capturing of Rutshuru town by rebel forces. On 27 November 2008 an additional 10,000³ refugees entered into Uganda at the same crossing point within a four hour period. The refugees camped in the town of Ishasha overwhelming local resources and creating a humanitarian crisis.

An initial assessment was carried out by the Eastern Africa Zone Office Disaster Management department together with URCS from 28 to 30 November 2008 which identified the need for additional resources to support the URCS, as well as other regional National Societies, not only with the immediate response, but also in preparation for a potential further escalation of population movement.

Before 4 December 2008 there were no reports of population movement into Burundi. However the BRC was called to a meeting with the Government of Burundi and other humanitarian actors to discuss response to the reported entry of refugees into Burundi.

Current contingency plans are in place by various humanitarian actors estimated between 50,000 to 100,000 refugees could flee from the DRC if fighting intensifies and spreads. The direction of population movement has an ethnic dimension and will depend on whether fighting is taking place in DRC and which group is carrying out the offensive. Hence it is important to consider all possible scenarios in contingency planning. It is these scenarios that are driving the urgency for this appeal in order to better shore up the resources and capabilities of all three National Societies to respond to the crisis in a timely and effective manner to alleviate suffering of those displaced by the fighting.

Coordination and partnerships

Many humanitarian organizations are currently responding to the needs of vulnerable people in the Great Lakes region. Coordination continues to take place at the national and regional levels⁴. The Federation is

¹ Information from Burundi Red Cross Society, 26/11/08

² UNHCR

³ UNHCR

⁴ UN Coordination for the Great Lakes Region is done from Nairobi whereas DRC is covered by the Federation's West and Central Africa Zone and Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi is covered by the East Africa Zone.

supporting ongoing responses in Rwanda and Uganda, and has issued DREFs to assist the National Societies. The Federation is also supporting capacity building of the NS in DRC as well as monitoring and preparing to respond to potential flood and epidemic outbreaks.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has led the coordination in south-western Uganda and began relocating refugees from the border area to refugee and transit camps within the country. The UNHCR, as well as UNICEF and Save the Children, are coordinating non food items (NFI) distribution in Kanungu and Kisoro districts with the URCS. Many humanitarian agencies have requested URCS to use their volunteer network to distribute relief items (including food) on their behalf.

The Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) in the Government of Uganda has a special envoy for refugees who is located in Kanungu and is providing overall coordination of humanitarian assistance to the refugee population. The URCS is attending regular high-level meetings with OPM, UNHCR and other entities both locally and in the capital of Kampala.

The Federation's Eastern Africa Zone office is maintaining regular communication with the Western Africa Zone office to ensure effective coordination and planning between the two Zones (the DRC is in the jurisdiction of the Western Africa Zone) as well as developing a regional strategy to address any significant developments in the DRC. There is also coordination between the Federation's Zone Office and other Red Cross Partner National Societies (PNS) present in the Region to share information and optimize use of resources to support the Operating National Societies.

Disaster Management staff from the Eastern Africa Zone are continuously dialoguing with International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) regional and country office staff sharing assessments and operational activities. ICRC has provided material resource support to the URCS and RRC and is conducting humanitarian operations inside the DRC.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The URCS and RRC continue to remain principle actors in the humanitarian intervention taking place within their respective borders. The RRC has mobilized both NFIs and volunteers to Gisenyi and surrounding communities to meet with refugees and initiate delivery of humanitarian assistance. Significant pre-positioning of NFIs, and WatSan resources is also taking place in order to better prepare for possible increase in refugee arrivals due renewed fighting.

The URCS has responded in multiple areas where refugees have arrived. NFIs pre-positioned by the URCS near Kisoro were the first to be distributed and had to be shared with other actors to meet the needs in different areas. URCS is the lead organization in registration of refugees coming from the DRC as well as hosting refugees while they wait to be relocated to refugee camps. URCS has distributed NFIs including tarpaulins, blankets, jerry cans, cooking utensils and bar soap to over a thousand households. Volunteers from URCS continue to be mobilized throughout south-western Uganda to provide additional human resources to other agencies operating in the area. The National Society is also engaged in the pre-positioning of NFIs and hygiene promotion items to shore up stocks in anticipation of additional refugees entering the country.

The Federation continues to monitor the situation and support the National Societies. In addition to the release of DREF funding, the Federation deployed a DM delegate to Kunungu District in Uganda to assess the most affected areas in the region. The Federation has deployed a Field Assessment and Coordination Team (FACT) to assist with coordination and response in Uganda and the rest of the region if needed.

The needs

Beneficiary selection: All refugees arriving from the DRC as a result of continued fighting will be targeted for humanitarian assistance. A planning figure of 60,000 beneficiaries (20,000 in each country) is being used. However, special emphasis will be given to the most vulnerable: children, lactating and pregnant women; the elderly and the disabled.

Immediate needs: Most arriving refugees have fled with just basic livelihood items and are in need of emergency food assistance and shelter. Access to clean water and sanitary conditions are required to prevent outbreak of diseases. Also, hygiene promotion is needed to supplement the prevention and spread of diseases. Family reunification services for those who have lost loved ones will help restore household structures.

Longer-term needs: If fighting should continue for a significant period of time or lead to a regional war; long term needs such as extended food assistance and shelter will be needed. Additional capacity of refugee camps will need to be established to host the large estimated population and will require added camp management.

The gaps: There are considerable numbers of other humanitarian actors operating in the border areas in Uganda. WatSan and emergency health sectors are well covered but NS are being asked to assist in distribution of hygiene items and hygiene promotion amongst the refugees. There are fewer humanitarian actors in Rwanda and Burundi so NS have requested support to be able to respond in all sectors as necessary. Hence target numbers for WatSan activities are lower than other sectors due to needs being met by other actors in Uganda.

The proposed operation

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: Ensure refugees have access to shelter and basic relief items (NFIs) for up to 4,000 families in each country (12,000 families, 60,000 beneficiaries in total).	
Expected results	Activities planned
Adequate stocks of NFIs are in place to distribute to the current refugee population as well as potential new arrivals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase, transport and store shelter kits, blankets, mosquito nets, and kitchen sets. • Provide training for volunteers on refugee registration, relief distribution and use of shelter kits. • Distribution of the above items, in addition to distribution of other NFIs on behalf of other humanitarian actors. • Monitor and evaluate relief activities.
Accurate planning figures are in place to coordinate the delivery of humanitarian assistance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration of arriving refugees as well as assisting with relocating refugees to camps. • Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.

Emergency shelter

Ensure that up to 12,000 families (60,000 refugees) in transit between the DRC and permanent refugee camps are protected and relocated in areas with access to basic services.	
Expected results	Activities planned
Up to 12,000 families have access to emergency shelter and adequate supporting facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide assistance with camp management and coordination. • Register camp residents and establish relief committees. • Develop an exit strategy.

Emergency health and care

Objective: Reduce transmission of diarrhoeal disease and ensure rapid treatment of this and other communicable diseases.	
Expected Results	Activities planned
Health services are provided on the primary and possibly secondary levels to meet the needs of the affected population and fill the service gaps resulting from the emergency.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the gaps in health service provision in terms of availability of facilities, staff, medicines and equipment as well as population access. • Distribute ORS, Mosquito nets to 5,000 families as required. • Procure and pre-position cholera kits for 60,000 beneficiaries in order to support government health departments and emergency health units as required.

Early detection and referral of diarrhoeal cases.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train 150 volunteers on communicable disease surveillance in coordination with Ministry of Health (MoH) and District Health Offices. • Establish health surveillance teams working closely with MoH. • Social mobilisation for early detection and reporting of suspected cases. • Follow up and reporting on old and/or new cases.
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Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion

Objective: Ensure refugees have access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene promotion services (in collaboration with other humanitarian actors) to prevent the spread of diarrhoeal disease.	
Expected results	Activities planned
Up to 10,000 households have access to hygiene promotion services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase and stock hygiene kits for 10,000 households. • Distribute the hygiene kits to the current refugee population. • Conduct hygiene promotion campaigns to at least 5,000 households, including training on safe use of household water treatment.
Safe water is provided to up to 5,000 families.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treatment and supply of surface water. • Storage, distribution and possibly trucking of safe water. • Distribution of 5,000 household level water storage jerry cans to 5,000 families. • Distribution of water purification tablets (WPT) in relation to hygiene promotion activities to 5,000 families.
Appropriate sanitation, including excreta disposal, solid waste disposal and drainage, is provided to up to 10,000 families.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construct 300 emergency sanitation facilities in transit camps and other areas where sufficient facilities do not exist. • Conduct vector control and prevention measures. • Provide solid waste disposal facilities. • Ensure appropriate camp layout for stagnant water drainage. • Purchasing materials and equipment.
The health status of the population is improved through behaviour change and hygiene promotion activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train 200 of community-based volunteers on Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) and/or Federation WatSan software. • Initiate a hygiene promotion campaign within the affected population focusing on behaviour change.
The scope and quality of the three Red Cross National Societies' water, sanitation and hygiene promotion services are improved.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct trainings on PHAST, water supply, sanitation, for volunteers in the affected branches within the next 3 months. • Identify entry points for branch development.

Communications – Advocacy and Public information

The URCS has already produced a Federation web site-published article on the situation of the Congolese refugees. A second article is under production. Close contacts are maintained at all times with the Zone Communication Manager who facilitated the access to the field of a Rwanda-borne Reuters TV crew. Back up and technical support will continue to be provided for future field trips and media tours as appropriate. Depending on resources available, the production of professional video and photo material will be encouraged to support the advocacy effort and maintain the profile of this regional emergency operation. If appropriate the participation of Partner National Society communicators will be requested to team up with National counterparts in order to boost their skills. Technical equipment such as laptop, camera and satellite telephones will be upgraded to strengthen communications capacities for this and future operations.

Capacity of the National Societies

The URCS has reasonable branch capacity in Kisoro and sub branch in Kanungu. These have been reinforced by Disaster Management programme officers from the Headquarter. URCS is coordinating closely with UNHCR, ICRC and other humanitarian actors and many of the agencies are likely to rely on URCS field

strength and volunteer network to carry out refugee registration and relief operations. The Federation's Zone office is in daily contact with URCS and surge capacity can be provided from the Zone office if necessary.

The Rwandan Red Cross has branches in Rubavu, Nyabihu and Musanze Districts that have worked closely with UN agencies on previous refugee operations in the area. RRC is also a key member of the government led Disaster Management Task Force.

The Burundi Red Cross is currently engaged in relief and resettlement activities for returnees from Tanzanian Refugee Camps and has been involved in relief operations for internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees for many years. They therefore have some capacity for response to population movement.

All three National Societies will require reinforced capacity for facilitation and coordination of operations in case of a large scale population movement from the DRC, supported by the FACT.

Capacity of the Federation

The Federation's Zone Office for Eastern Africa, based in Nairobi, will provide support to the affected National Societies, and will assist in coordinating and supporting these operations. Working closely with the National Societies, the regional delegation's disaster management department will lead and facilitate coordination, with technical support from relevant units. The Federation will, upon request from the National Societies, make available additional human resources to assist with the operation, including inter-agency assessments, operational planning and implementation.

Budget summary

See attached budget (**Annex 1**) for details.

Thomas Gurtner
Director
Coordination and Programmes Division

Bekele Geleta
Secretary General

How we work

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.

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its 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.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **In Uganda:** Michael Nataka, Ag. Sectary General, Uganda Red Cross, Kampala. Phone: +256 312-260615/6/7; email: natakam@redcrossug.org
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[<Preliminary Emergency Appeal budget and map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

Annex 1 : APPEAL BUDGET SUMMARY

Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi Population Movement – MDR64004.

	Budget
<u>RELIEF NEEDS</u>	
500 Shelter	540,000
505 Construction Materials	
510 Clothing and Textiles	
520 Food	0
523 Seeds and Plants	0
530 Water and Sanitation	488,700
540 Medical and First Aid	15,000
550 Teaching Materials	0
560 Utensils and Tools	240,000
570 Other Supplies and Services	0
Total Relief Needs	1,283,700
<u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u>	
580 Land and Buildings	
581 Vehicles Purchase	
582 Computers and Telecom Equipment	0
584 Office/Household Furniture and Equipment.	
587 Medical Equipment	
589 Other Machinery and Equipment	0
<u>TRANSPORT, STORAGE and VEHICLES</u>	
590 Storage - Warehouse	56,000
592 Distribution and Monitoring	27,000
593 Transport and Vehicles Costs	55,000
<u>PERSONNEL</u>	
600 International Staff	0
640 Regionally Deployed Staff	30,000
661 National Staff	24,000
662 National Society Staff	91,500
670 Consultants	
<u>WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING</u>	
680 Workshops and training	30,000
<u>GENERAL EXPENSES</u>	
700 Travel	0
710 Information and Public Relations	30,000
730 Office running costs	7,200
740 Communication Costs	37,200
750 Professional Fees	0

760	Financial Charges	900
790	Other General Expenses	60,000
	<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>	
599	Programme Support - PSR	118,356

	Total Operational Needs	567,156
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	Total Appeal Budget (Cash and Kind)	1,850,856
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	Available Resources	
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	Net Request	1,850,856
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Uganda, Rwanda & Burundi: Population Movement

