

# DREF operation



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Uganda: DRC Population Movement

DREF operation n° MDRUG012

7 November 2008

The International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent response to emergencies. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of national societies to respond to disasters.

**CHF 211,650 (USD 201,571 or EUR 129,450) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 5,000 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.**

**Summary:** The refugee population in Uganda is growing as a result of renewed fighting in eastern province of Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). A prolonged conflict will result in a worsening situation that leads to increased population movement into Uganda. Over 2,500 Congolese have crossed the border into Uganda (Kisoro) over the last three days alone, bringing the total number of Congolese refugees who fled into Uganda since the beginning of August 2008, to 8,500 people. Many of these refugees are living with host families; who are over-stretching their resources. A further corridor has been opened in Kanungu district and by 31 October 2008, the number of those that had crossed into Uganda was reported to be over 500 refugees.

Recognizing that there is a need for an intervention to address the imminent crisis, Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) has requested this DREF to support polio immunization, distribution of non-food items, Emergency Health and hygiene promotion activities. The National Society is working in collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) who are supporting URCS in identifying potential restoring family links (RFL) and tracing needs as well as providing essential household items (EHI) for 500 families to URCS enabling them to assist the first influx of refugees; the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) has supported the URCS Kisoro Branch with non food items (NFIs) for the initial wave of refugees and has plans to support the National Society is constructing a refugee transit centre. UNHCR will relocate refugees that arrive and register at the Kisoro Branch Office to the Nakivale Refugee Camp; the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) which has agreed to provide polio vaccines to immunize the children, and will also provide water and sanitation support when needed; and the World Food Programme (WFP) which has contingency plans for increasing food supply to the Nakivale camp if population increases. This appeal is targeting 5,000 people.

This operation is expected to be implemented over 3 months, and will therefore be completed by 30 January 2009; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 30 April 2009).

[<click here for contact details or here to view the map of the affected area>](#)

## The situation

There is an influx of refugees from Democratic Republic of Congo into Uganda as a result of renewed fighting in the strife-ridden eastern province of the DRC between the Congolese army and rebels.

Over 2,500 Congolese have crossed the border into Uganda (Kisoro) over the last three days alone, bringing the total number of Congolese refugees who fled into Uganda since the beginning of August 2008, to 8,500 people. Out of this, 1,974 have been resettled in Nakivale resettlement camp while the rest are settled in 12 villages along the DRC border; they are hosted by the local communities in private houses<sup>1</sup>.

There continues to be conflicting figures on the actual numbers of the refugees that have entered the country and informal interviews conducted by the branch with the refugee population at the border suggest that a number of the refugees wish to remain at the boarder at present due to hope that violence would scale down so that they return immediately to the DRC. Many of these are living with host families; who are overstretching their resources.

A further corridor has been opened in Kanungu district and by 31 October 2008, the number of those that had crossed into Uganda was reported to be over 500 refugees. UNHCR is in the process of transferring them to Nakivale refugee camp in Mbarara where other processes including registration will take place. This appeal is targeting 5,000 people.

While key humanitarian actors have met over the unfolding situation, the outcomes clearly suggest that there is insufficient capacity and resources to meet the requirements for the incoming refugees, those at the border and host families. Some of the vital needs that have been identified will be addressed through this DREF Operations Bulletin.

## Coordination and partnerships

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is supporting URCS in identifying potential restoring family links (RFL) and tracing needs. In addition, ICRC immediately provided essential household items (EHI) for 500 families to URCS enabling them to assist the first influx of refugees.

UNHCR has supported the URCS Kisoro Branch with non food items (NFIs) for the initial wave of refugees and has plans to support the National Society is constructing a refugee transit centre. UNHCR will relocate refugees that arrive and register at the Kisoro Branch Office to the Nakivale Refugee Camp.

The United Nations Childrens' Fund (UNICEF) has agreed to provide polio vaccines to immunize the children, and will provide water and sanitation support when needed.

The World Food Programme (WFP) has contingency plans for increasing food supply to the Nakivale camp if population increases.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The URCS is registering refugees, distributing NFIs and providing temporary shelter for them as they wait for UNHCR to transfer them to the Nakivale camp. The URCS Branch in Kisoro has mobilized 60 volunteers who are already involved in the initial stages of the operation. URCS has been involved in the joint assessments with other agencies including UNICEF, UNHCR, Office of the Prime Minister and District officials. The National Society has also been participating in humanitarian coordination meetings in Kisoro organized by UNHCR.

## The needs

**Beneficiary selection:** Current preliminary assessments indicated up to 5,000 possible beneficiaries. A detailed beneficiary targeting plan will be identified after detailed assessment are completed.

The following are areas which need support in order to adequately respond to the needs of the beneficiaries:

- **Polio Immunization.** Due to polio outbreak in DRC, as a result of lack of immunization, there is need to immunize the children of the refugees and the local community. UNICEF will be implementing a polio vaccination programme.

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) 31 October 2008 update

- **Distribution of non-food items.** Most refugees arrived without essential household items. NFIs such as tarpaulins, cooking sets, blankets, soap and jerry cans are required. URCS with support from UNHCR will facilitate distribution.
- **Emergency Health.** Health Centers in Kisoro have reportedly run out of medicine. Some of the refugees are in need of medical attention as a result of injuries received while fleeing the conflict. URCS is in communication with Ugandan Health Ministry and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to address this need.
- **Hygiene Promotion.** There has been an outbreak of dysentery as a result of poor sanitation. Community hygiene promotion, hand washing campaigns and distribution of soap are required. Educational materials such as posters and leaflets will also be required.

## The proposed operation

The Uganda Red Cross Society, with support from the Federation, proposes to make the following interventions based on the needs identified above.

### Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

**Objective: To distribute the specific quantity and quality goods to the beneficiaries according to assessment selection criteria.**

#### Activities planned

- Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance.
- Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user.
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.
- Develop an exit strategy.

### Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion

**Objective: To reduce the risk of waterborne and water-related diseases through the provision of safe water, adequate sanitation as well as hygiene promotion.**

#### Activities planned

- Distribution of jerry cans for collection and movement of potable water.
- Conduct training and/or information programmes for Red Cross volunteers and beneficiaries, in particular regional hygiene promotion and the safe use of water treatment products such as chlorination tablets.

### Emergency shelter

**Objective: To provide adequate Beneficiaries receive adequate and dignified emergency sheltering to the target population.**

#### Activities planned

- To provide initial supply of tarpaulins. This will be done by the Federations' East Africa Zone.
- Continued coordination with UNHCR, ensuring that refugees are registered and transported to camps.
- Monitor camp capacity and develop surge contingency plan.

## 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.

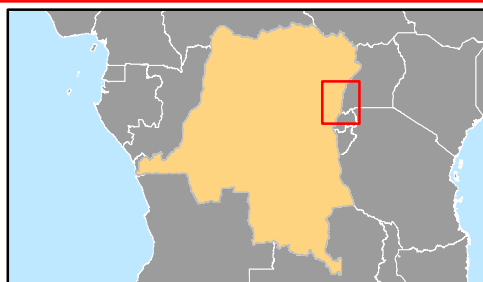
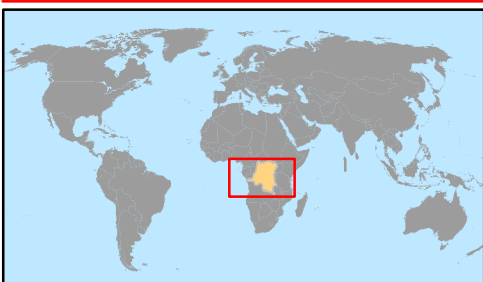
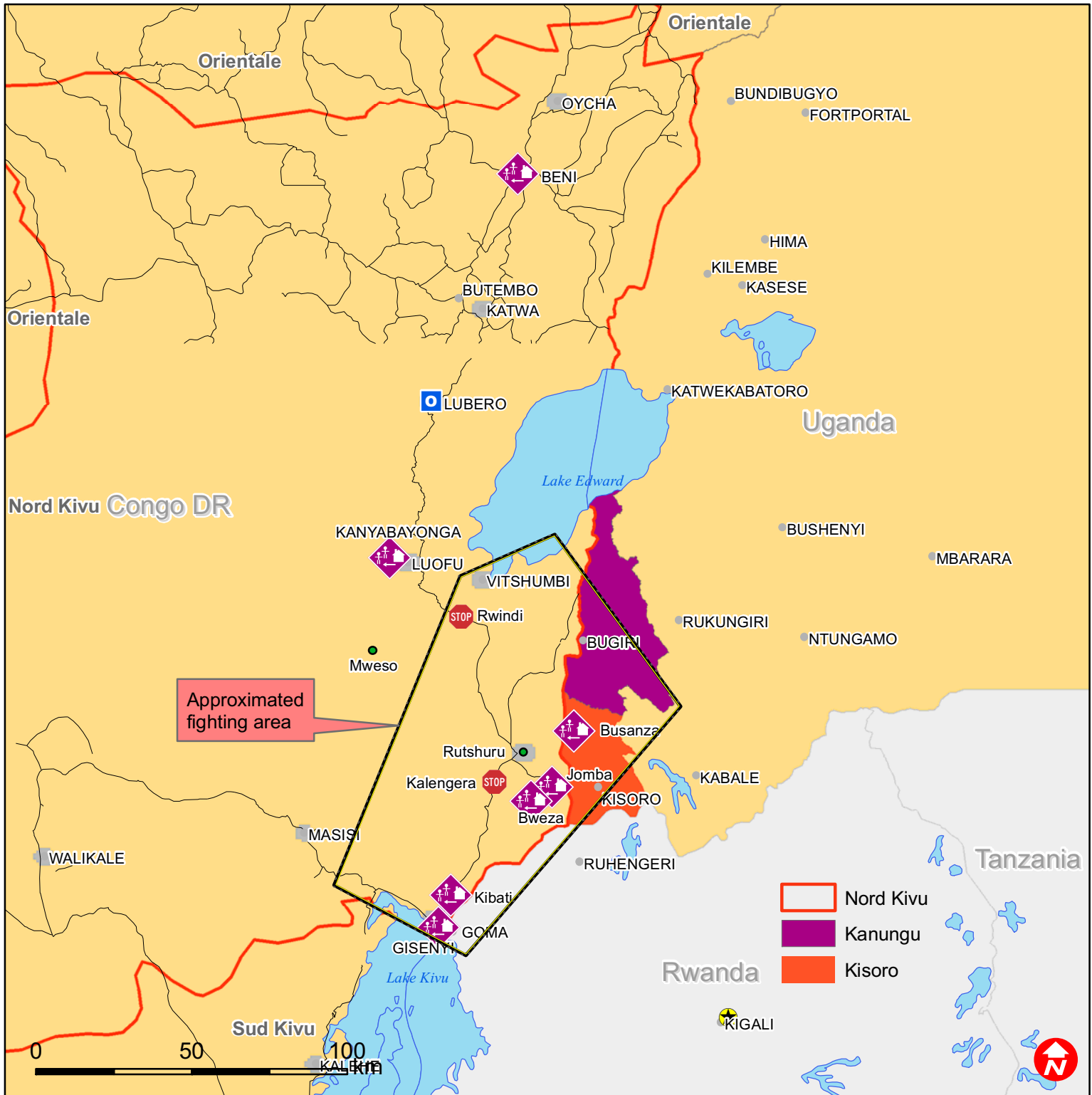
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[<Click here to return to the title page>](#)



# Congo, DRC and Uganda: Population movements



- Other places
- ◆ Population movement
- STOP Limited movement or closed
- ◻ OCHA try to access south Lubero
- Main roads

The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.

Map data sources: ESRI, DEVINFO, ISCGN, OCHA SitRep (01 nov 08), International Federation - popmov2008.mxd