

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

UGANDA: Political Disturbances- Civil Unrest

DREF operation n° MDRUG020
GLIDE n° OT-2011-000044-UGA
4 May, 2011

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 99,880 has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) in delivering immediate assistance to 1,500 people affected by riots in Uganda. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary:

Riots have broken out in various parts of Uganda since April 11th following the opposition parties' calls for protests against the government in connection with increasing food and fuel prices. Opposition politicians have been arrested. As of the 29th of April, it has been reported that there have been 5 deaths and approximately 459 people injured as a result of confrontations.



Uganda Red Cross Ambulance transporting the injured to hospital /photo URCS

The Uganda Red Cross Society has provided life saving first aid to people affected by the riots, ambulance services for referral to hospital, as well as tracing and psychosocial support to affected people. Mobilization of blood donations will also be accelerated to address the likely increased need for transfusions. The operation targets approximately 1,500 people directly.

This operation is expected to be implemented over 2 months, and will therefore be completed by 30th June 2011; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 30th September 2011).

[<click here for the DREF budget, here for contact details, or here for a map of the affected area>](#)

The situation

Recent riots have resulted in a number of running battles between the police, army and opposition leaders, their supporters and youth, mainly occurring in the Capital of Kampala. Additionally, unrest has been noted in the urban centres of Gulu, Mbale, Jinja, Masaka and a number of other smaller towns. Since the beginning of the riots, more than 5 people have been killed.

On the 28th of April 2011, the leader of the main opposition party, The Forum for Democratic Change, Dr. Kizza Besigye was arrested by security forces. This has further fuelled the already volatile situation in the country. Further riots have broken out in the morning hours of the 29th and as of 13.00 hours, it has been reported that approximately 459 persons have been injured. It is anticipated that the situation may degenerate further in the coming days.

The capacity of the URCS to provide needed ambulance and First Aid services to the affected population has been overstretched, which has resulted in the need to apply for additional support in order to continue providing first responder assistance.

The table below shows the numbers of people that have been supported by the URCS over the last 2 weeks of the riots:

Date	Number of incidents reported	injuries	Number of deaths	Referrals by URCS
11.04.2011	1	28	-	1
14.04.2011	57	57	3	44
15.04.2011	67	10	0	4
18.04.2011	19	9	0	16
28.04.2011	18	18	0	6
29.04.2011	297	309	7	215
TOTAL	459	431	10	286

Risk Analysis

The riots started against the background of the general presidential and parliamentary elections that were held on the 18th February 2011, which resulted in victory for the ruling NRM party. The main opposition parties rejected the results and called for civil disobedience throughout the country.

The current situation has been further exacerbated by rising food and fuel prices. The opposition party has called on the population to participate in a "Walk to Work" campaign that would be implemented twice a week, primarily on Mondays and Tuesdays. A consequence of the demonstrations has been the arrest and detention of opposition leaders, which has agitated some members of the community, which have resulted in pelting the police with stones and other objects. The situation is rapidly deteriorating with both sides vowing to continue.

The arrest of the main opposition leader on 28th April has further contributed to the deterioration of the situation. The government has agreed to enter into dialogue with the opposition but the main opposition party (FDC) has indicated that they will only meet if certain terms are met that include an independent moderator and agreeing on the agenda. Religious leaders have also voiced their concern over the worsening situation and in a memorandum presented to the government, and also made recommendations for a dialogue with the opposition.

Coordination and partnerships

A number of humanitarian actors have been involved in the response to the humanitarian needs of the people affected by the riots. Some government agencies have been viewed as being partisan and therefore have had limited access to the people affected during the riots. In some cases, it has been reported that government hospital ambulances have been a target of the rioters.

Uganda Red Cross through their volunteer network has been, to date, the only humanitarian agency responding to evacuate affected people. In most cases, the Uganda Red Cross is seen as a neutral entity, allowing URCS ambulance to have access to the affected people and providing first aid as well as referral services. However, the URCS has encountered some resistance from the general population in terms of access to assist affected persons. Some members of the community have voiced their concern over the relationship between the government and URCS. To address this situation, URCS have planned to launch an information campaign via radio, leaflets, and posters specifically to share the message of the neutrality of the Red Cross movement as well as the services that are being provided by URCS, such as emergency psychosocial support for affected people.

The overall coordination of the humanitarian services remains with the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and URCS has been coordinating with the OPM and providing information on the situation to the OPM and other agencies. Coordination is also being made with the Police as the main government arm responding to the riots in order to ensure access to the victims and protect the safety of the volunteers. URCS has been participating in a number of forums with the police and a senior police commissioner has been assigned to coordinate with URCS, which includes the exchange of response information.

Coordination has also been established with the ICRC, which has supported the operation along with the in-country PNS to ensure coordinated information sharing to all RC/RC partners. URCS has also coordinated with hospital authorities, especially Mulago hospital, where there is an established URCS support base as well as with MSF. More detailed information on the support provided by other actors to URCS can be provided in subsequent operational updates.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Over the last three weeks, URCS volunteers and staff have been involved in providing first aid and ambulance services to the people affected and/or injured during the riots. A total of 327 people have been provided with first aid with injuries ranging from bullet wounds, fractures, bruises, and respiratory symptoms. Of this total, 186 were referred to hospitals for further medical attention. The National Society has mobilised Red Cross Action teams in all Branches who are on stand-by to respond to any emergencies that arise in their respective areas of jurisdiction.

Additionally, during this same time period, 120 volunteers in the 5 Branches of Kampala, Jinja, Mukono, Entebbe, Mbale, and Masaka have been responding to first aid and referral needs of the people caught up in the riots. URCS has also deployed 4 ambulances to evacuate the affected people to the hospitals. Emergency supplies have also been supplied to the main referral hospital in Mulago mainly consisting of blankets, gloves, cotton wool, and stretchers.

The needs

In view of the escalating riots in the capital city Kampala and the other main municipalities, there will be an increased need for the provision of first aid services to people injured during the riots and unrest. The main hospitals may also require additional support in terms of medical sundries to attend to the surge in the number of casualties that are being referred to them.

The ambulance services will need to be stepped up to ensure that all people who need to be referred to hospitals are transferred in good time. An estimated 200 volunteers will need to be put on stand-by with the necessary response materials especially for first aid and protection equipment for the volunteers such as facemasks, goggles, gloves etc. Additionally, URCS will work in partnership with the Uganda blood transfusion services to increase the collection of safe blood for transfusion. Volunteers will be mobilized to step up the social mobilization for blood donation and mechanisms have been worked out with UBTS to increase the collection teams especially in the most affected urban areas. The target is to collect 2,500 additional units of safe blood. The activities of URCS will be limited to social mobilization carried out by the volunteers.

As a result of the riots, there is the likelihood of some families becoming separated and that injured people may not be able to locate their next of kin. Therefore it is anticipated that emergency tracing services may be required. It is also anticipated that the people affected by the riots will need emergency psychosocial support which can be provided by URCS trained volunteers and staff. Additionally, by the end of day on the 29th, there were indications that the main hospital was running low on blood and as such there is a need for URCS to mobilize blood services.

In addition to the aforementioned situation regarding URCS access to the affected populations, there is also a need for URCS to step up efforts for the proper use of the emblem. There have been reported cases of Emblem abuse that need to be addressed in order not to confuse the activities of the illegal users with those of URCS. A number of incidents have occurred when officials from the police and a section of the public tried to impede the URCS staff and volunteers from accessing the affected people. In one incident, there were questions from the public as to why leaders of the opposition were carried in the RC ambulance for referral to hospital.

There is also a need to strengthen the gains made during this operations related to humanitarian space in order to have unlimited access to affected populations in the future. These efforts will be complemented with specialized print information (IEC materials) that has already been designed by the URCS Communications Department. The radio spots and talk show will complement and support these efforts.

The main categories of intended services of the operation are as follows:

- ❖ First Aid
- ❖ Ambulance services
- ❖ Blood
- ❖ Emergency tracing services
- ❖ Emergency psychosocial support for affected people.
- ❖ Increasing visibility and access of URCS.

The proposed operation

First Aid and Ambulance Services	
Outcome: To provide emergency fist aid treatment to members of the community who sustained injuries as a result of the riots/civil unrest.	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity to procure and utilize Fist Aid and Ambulance supplies. • Capacity to procure and utilize personal protective gear in order to safeguard staff and volunteers from contamination. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deploy and facilitate 20 first aid volunteers in 15 Branches. • Procure and Provide first aid supplies and sundries to first aid teams. • Provide referral/ambulance services to approx. 1000 people injured in the riots to hospitals for further medical care. • Procure and distribute volunteer protective materials.
Blood Services	
Outcome: Provide raw blood products to hospitals to restock supplies	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • URCS will work in partnership with the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The target is to collect 2,500 additional units of safe

Uganda blood transfusion services to increase the collection of safe blood for transfusion.	<p>blood.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The activities of URCS will be limited to social mobilization carried out by the volunteers.
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Emergency Tracing Services

Outcome: Provide emergency tracing services to people that maybe separated during the riots and/or families with injured people.

Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
To support members of the community who require assistance in re-establishing family links.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deploy and facilitate Emergency Tracing specialist volunteers to assist with re-establishment of family links for 100 persons.

Psychosocial Support Services

Outcome: Provide psychosocial support services to affected member of the community as a result of trauma induced by the riots and civil unrest.

Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
To support members of the community who require emergency psychosocial support services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide emergency psychosocial support services to 300 people over the next 30 days.

Communications

Outcome: To promote and increase the awareness of the RCRC Movement and the protection of the Emblem.

Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
Increased knowledge, understanding and respect of the Red Cross in the areas affected by riots and hence have unlimited access to the affected people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce and air 500 radio spots in local languages on the role and mandate of the Red Cross in situations of conflict Hold 10 talk shows on the Red Cross mandates/role/principles Produce 50,000 leaflets and 20,000 posters to promote access to the affected people Procure and distribute 200 reflective jackets for volunteers in action.

Logistics

Outcome: The timely and effective implementation of planned activities to provide assistance to the affected populations.

Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The timely and effective delivery of relief and support to 1,500 beneficiaries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain a minimum number of vehicles to support mover staff/volunteers and materials during operation Vehicles fuelled and serviced Procurement, storing and dispatching of materials and required for the operation Ensure logistics procedures followed/adhered to during movement of items and materials

Monitoring and Evaluation

Outcome: Timely and effective coordination and reporting of DREF operation activities.	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All URCS DREF operation activities are coordinated with all stakeholders and adequately monitored, evaluated and reported on in a timely and effective manner. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct movement coordination fora to ensure information sharing Monitor and support the volunteer activities in the response Coordinate with and attend inter-agency coordination meetings on the response to riots Compile information and provide updates on the operation to all stakeholders. Prepare updates and reports on the operation.

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 vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The International Federation's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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For Performance and Accountability (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting enquiries):

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[<DREF budget and map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

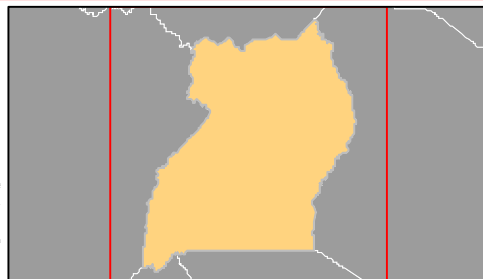
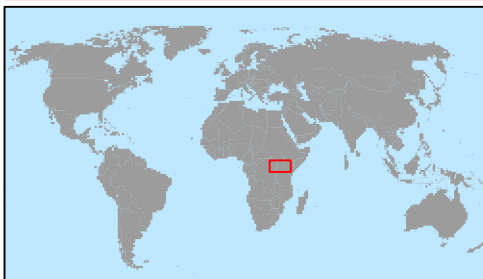
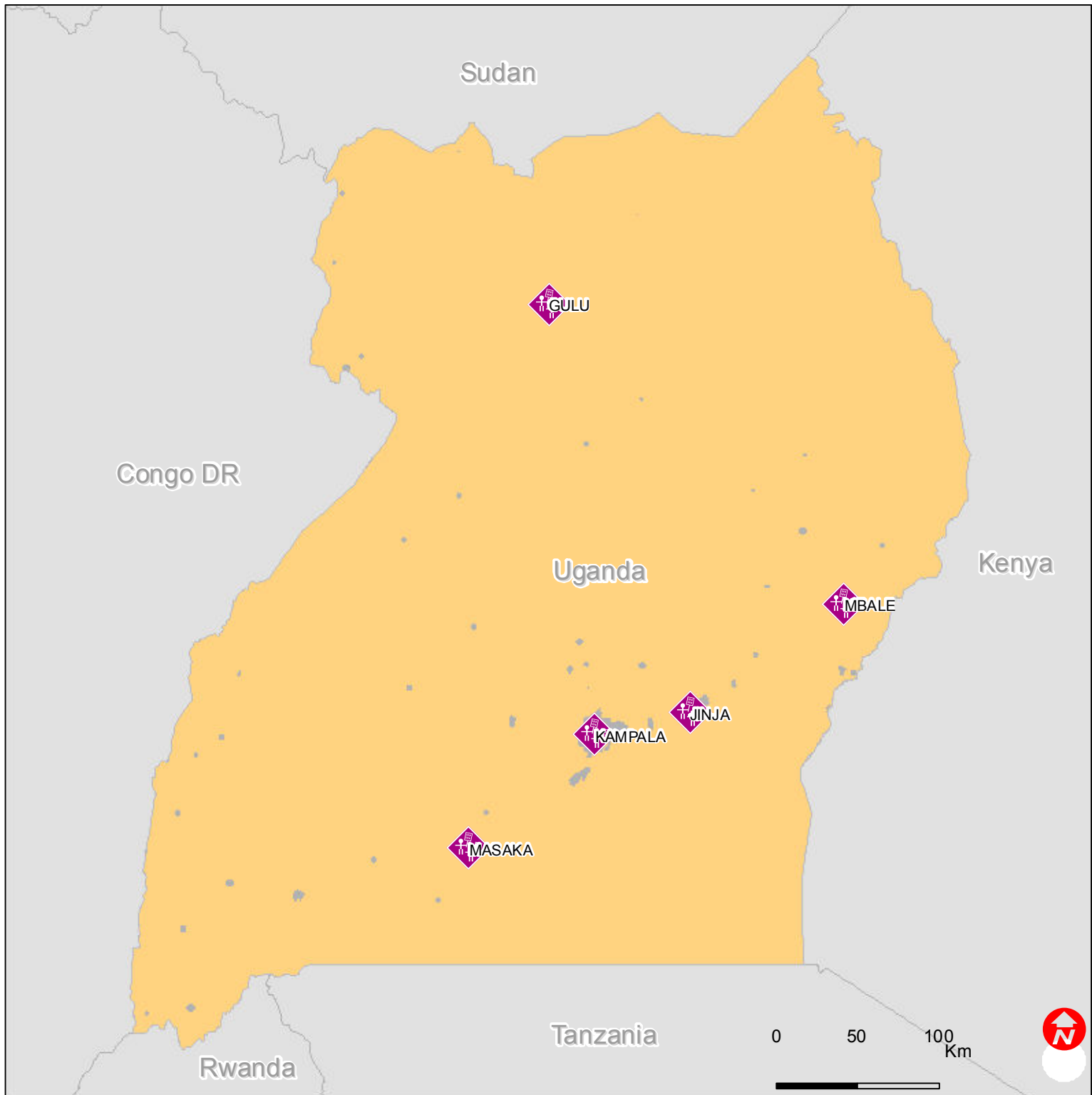
UGANDA: Political Disturbances- Civil Unrest (MDRUG020)

BUDGET SUMMARY

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget	TOTAL BUDGET CHF
Shelter - Relief	0	0
Shelter - Transitional	0	0
Construction - Housing	0	0
Construction - Facilities / Infrastructure	0	0
Construction - Materials	0	0
Clothing & Textiles	3,147	3,147
Food	0	0
Seeds & Plants	0	0
Water & Sanitation	0	0
Medical & First Aid	27,113	27,113
Teaching Materials	0	0
Utensils & Tools	0	0
Other Supplies & Services & Cash Disbursements	0	0
Total Supplies	30,260	30,260
Land & Buildings	0	0
Vehicles	0	0
Computer & Telecom	0	0
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	0	0
Medical Equipment	0	0
Other Machinery & Equipment	0	0
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	0	0
Storage	0	0
Distribution & Monitoring	0	0
Transport & Vehicle Costs	13,327	13,327
Total Transport & Storage	13,327	13,327
International Staff	3,147	3,147
Regionally Deployed Staff	0	0
National Staff	0	0
National Society Staff	25,806	25,806
Other Staff benefits	0	0
Consultants	0	0
Total Personnel	28,954	28,954
Workshops & Training	787	787
Total Workshops & Training	787	787
Travel	0	0
Information & Public Relation	17,388	17,388
Office Costs	1,180	1,180
Communications	1,888	1,888
Professional Fees	0	0
Financial Charges	0	0
Other General Expenses	0	0
Total General Expenditure	20,456	20,456
Cash Transfers to National Societies		
Cash Transfers to 3rd parties	0	0
Total Contributions & Transfers	0	0
Program Support	6,096	6,096
Total Programme Support	6,096	6,096
Services & Recoveries	0	0
Shared Services		
Total Services	0	0
TOTAL BUDGET	99,880	99,880



Uganda: Civil unrest



Main cities with unrest