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Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) Uganda: Floods and Landslides

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRUG023

GLIDE n° FL-2011-000132-UGA

9 September 2011

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) 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 emergency response. 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 185,962 has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the National Society in delivering immediate assistance to some 59,090 beneficiaries (including 11,818 households receiving health and hygiene sensitization and 1,000 households who will receive relief items). Un-earmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: Heavy rains during the month of July in some parts of Uganda have resulted into serious flooding, landslides and water logging causing massive death and damage to property and crops. Bulambuli District has been the most affected area, with rains causing massive landslides that have resulted in the deaths of 27 people. Scores of others remain unaccounted for and are feared dead under the rubble. As the rains continue, there are fears of further damage to lives and property in many parts of the country. So far, URCS has established that over 12,615 households have been affected in 12 districts in Uganda. In many of these districts, the affected communities have been unable to cope with the impact of these disasters and therefore need assistance from government and other stakeholders to alleviate suffering. URCS is in a unique position to supplement the efforts that are now being coordinated by the Government's Ministry of Disaster Preparedness and Response through the Office of the Prime Minister. Thus, with support from DREF, Uganda Red Cross seeks to support 1,000 most-vulnerable households (approximately 5,000 people) affected by the floods and landslides. The National Society could provide non-food items, conduct hygiene promotion, search and rescue, information and data gathering (assessments) and food distribution in the affected areas.



URCS volunteers responding to the landslide disaster in Maboro parish Bulambuli district. URCS

This operation is expected to be implemented over approximately 2 months, and will therefore be completed by the end of October 2011; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 31 January 2012).

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

The situation



The destruction in Mabono. URCS

Following heavy rainfall that has been going on since late July 2011, the Government of Uganda declared a Red Alert early August through the Ministry of Disaster Preparedness and Response in response to flooding in parts of the country. On 28 August 2011, a landslide hit Bulambuli District severely affecting the sub counties of Sisiyi, Lusha and Buluganya in Mount Elgon Region. According to the media sources, over 40 people have been killed by the landslides in Bulambuli District¹. However, a rapid impact assessment that was conducted by a team of URCS staff and volunteers confirmed 27 people dead (16 in Sisiyi and 11 in Buluganya) and 33 injured. Search and rescue efforts have now been called off and all efforts are concentrated on continuing assessments and verification of the affected areas. The

exact magnitude of the damage will be quantified by a follow-up in-depth assessment that is an ongoing part of early recovery efforts..

The assessment has established that a total of 13 villages (6 in Sisiyi and 7 in Buluganya) were buried and the landslide cut off the road that connects Bulambuli District from the lower level to the hills, making it impossible to access the villages located in the hills. So far, the number of those still buried under the rubble or missing has not been determined, but assessments are ongoing in the affected villages. Other than causing death, the devastation caused by the landslides included damage to property, crops (maize, beans and bananas) and animals. A school, a church and offices including a pharmacy were also buried. Water sources have been destroyed, making it impossible to access safe drinking water. The rapid assessment team found that damage and contamination of water systems and wells have caused an acute shortage of safe drinking water in the affected areas.

In Bulambuli, the assessment has established that 8,465 households have been affected directly and require assistance because they have lost property (including houses and crops) and are no longer able to live in their original areas as a result of the destruction. Of these, approximately 500 people (100 households) have been clustered in Kibanda trading centre, which has become overcrowded. The lack of access to safe water and sanitation will increase the risk of water-borne diseases and acute respiratory infections. It is also likely that more people will be joining this centre as rains continue and therefore increase the pressure on the few resources in the centre from the expanding population. In such crowded conditions, the lack of sanitation facilities means that hazardous water can breed disease. The rest of the affected population are living in churches, schools as well as with host families.



A house completely buried by the land slide in Buluganya Bulambuli District. URCS

Food distribution is necessary to stave off hunger during the immediate aftermath of the landslide and floods. For now, it is not possible to start the rehabilitation of livelihoods to enable the affected people to resume their productive activities, thus it is of paramount importance to ensure food security and avoid destitution by providing food. The affected populations require further assistance, including household items, shelter and basic services in areas such as health, water, sanitation and hygiene education. The assessment further revealed that affected people are without sufficient support to maintain their already fragile health and nutrition condition.

The government further warned communities living in the slopes of Mount Elgon and lower areas to expect the worst and advised that the people should not go back to the areas that were affected and directed that all human settlements along or on the mountain slopes across the country must be evacuated immediately². As

¹ The *New Vision* newspaper reported 40 people killed, while *The Monitor* reported 43 killed.

² Uganda parliament reacting to the recent disaster incidents on Monday 29 August 2011

the rains continue in the country, it is likely that the number of people in need will dramatically increase within a very short period of time. So far, 4 deaths have been recorded in other districts bring the total deaths to 31.



A child instructed by parents to remain seated while they attempt to save some property in the house in Bulambuli District. URCS

In summary, the heavy rains that caused landslides and floods have significantly impacted the lives of affected communities and compromised their main source of livelihoods. The agricultural sector, including crops, aquaculture, livestock and agro-forestry, has been impacted negatively. In addition, damages to health, nutrition, housing and sanitation have also been severe. If not addressed immediately, the impact of the landslides and floods may pose serious immediate and medium- to long-term threats to the health, food security, welfare and livelihoods of the affected population, especially among the vulnerable households with little or no resources. Health services that could barely ensure minimal care to the community's needs before the emergency now face having to deal with a range of disease outbreaks triggered by the landslides and floods, especially if food, shelter and essential household items and

clean water supplies are not made available as a matter of urgency. The damage to roads and other infrastructure has further marginalized and isolated the already poor communities especially those on the hillside.

According to FEWSNET and the Metrological Centre, the climate outlook for September 2011 indicates that the Mt Elgon Area is likely to experience near to above normal rainfall. Authorities fear that this area will continue to receive heavy rains, which will cause more landslides, further submerging the lower surrounding areas that include Sironko, Butalejja, Kween, Mbale and Bulambuli.

Under the coordination of the District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC) in affected districts, URCS and other partners, including UN agencies (UNICEF and WHO), are working closely with the Government of Uganda to respond swiftly and effectively to the developing crisis. To support these efforts, the URCS has requested CHF 185,962 to meet the immediate needs of the people throughout the affected areas.

Table 1: people affected by the landslides in the indicated districts.

District	Sub county /parish/village affected	Effects		Population at high risk i.e. those that still live in the areas affected/houses leaking or on verge of collapse	Remarks
		Death	Displaced		
Bulambuli	Sisiyi 6 villages in Mabono Parish.	16	17 HH. Houses completely destroyed (survivors)	272 HH. Water covered parts of their houses, living under the fear of cracks, some homes abandoned	Displaced are living with host communities. Most people at high risk are staying in Kibanda Trading Centre but in the evenings return to their homes.
Bulambuli	Buluganya 7 villages in Sooti Parish.	11	58 HH. Houses completely destroyed (survivors)	342 HH. Water oozing from the ground, houses partially destroyed, some homes abandoned.	Displaced staying with host communities.
Bulambuli	Lusha 6 villages in Bumugusha Parish.	-	11 HH	256 HH at high risk and crops destroyed	Displaced living with the host communities.
Bulambuli	Namisuni 5 villages in Namisuni	-	5 HH	393 HH (water is oozing from the ground and team found villages	Displaced living with the host communities.

	Parish.			have several cracks.	
Total for landslides		27	86 HH	1,263 HH (population - 6315)	

Table 2: people affected by the floods in the indicated districts.

District	Sub county/parish/village affected	House-holds Flooded	Remarks
Bulambuli	Bunambutye S/c	1,079	Rapid assessment conducted and detailed assessment and verification exercise ongoing.
Bulambuli	Bwikhonge S/c	868	
Bulambuli	Nabongo S/c	1,346	
Bulambuli	Muyembe S/c	721	
Bulambuli	Bulambuli S/c	375	
Bulambuli	Bukhalu S/c	3,141	
Bulambuli	Simu S/c	1,622	
Sub total		9,152	
Sironko	Bukise S/c	934	Rapid assessment conducted and detailed assessment and verification exercise on-going.
Sironko	Sironko S/c	1,126	
Sub total		2,060	
Kween	Ngenge S/c - Sikwo parish	330	Assessment conducted by Kapchorwa Branch and established a need to respond.
Sub total		330	
Mbale	Namabasa S/c	45	Assessment conducted by Mbale Branch need to urgently respond.
Sub total		45	
Butaleja	Mazimasa S/c and Himuntu	231	Assessment conducted and NFI distributed.
Total		11,818	
Other districts affected			
Masaka	Kabonera sub county (Hailstorm)	213	Conducted assessment and established a need to respond
Sub total		213	
Rwengo	Rwengo parish (hailstorm)	327	Conducted an assessment and shared with local government
Sub total		327	
Buhweju District	Buhweju s/county	83	Established a need to assist 45 vulnerable households
Sub Total		83	
Mitooma District	Kashenshero s/county (Bitereko and Kabaira villages)affected by Hail storm	75	URCS will respond to the35 verified households with NFIs
Sub Total		75	
Mpigi	Kamengo s/county Nabuzi village (hailstorm)	82	Conducted an assessment and shared with local government
Sub Total		82	
Kasese	Nyakiyumbu S/county (floods)	256	Assessment conducted and response made to 126 households
Sub Total		256	
Rukungiri	Rwenshama landing site(parish) Cholera	5	Conducted an assessment and shared with local government
Sub Total		20	
Kampala	Kawempe Division- kibe, sebina, kiggundu and	360	Conducted an assessment and shared with local government but no response yet from any stakeholder.

	mayinja Zones (Floods)		
Sub Total		360	
Grand Total		12,615	

Coordination and partnerships

The URCS in Sironko and Bulambuli has been having meetings with the district authorities to analyze the situation, agree on strategic priorities and mechanisms for coordination with other stakeholders. Elsewhere in the affected districts, URCS branches have been active and are working closely with local governments, stakeholders and local communities on mobilization, logistics and relief assistance. The URCS headquarters in Kampala is also working closely with the Ministry of Disaster Preparedness and Response and the Meteorological Department as well as other stakeholders in monitoring the weather conditions in the country.

The URCS will continue to coordinate activities at field and national levels with the objective of complementing the other actors' actions. URCS is already providing and sharing information to the Office of the Prime Minister and other partners. The National Society will be attending various technical meetings called by government and DDMCs

The government has reminded the population to take precautions and measures required to prevent or mitigate effects of possible disasters at risk areas targeting communities living in Bulambuli District and other areas in Mt Elgon Region. The Uganda police, together with URCS, are carrying out search and rescue actions while URCS has started the distribution of non-food items to affected families. The government has dispatched food, which will be handed over to URCS for distribution to the affected people

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The URCS has released 1,000 NFIs kits, the last from Disaster Preparedness stocks to start initial response operations, particularly in Sisiyi. Bulambuli Sub Branch disaster response volunteer teams supported by the Sironko Branch are already active in the affected areas. Specifically, they were actively involved in search and rescue efforts as well as in conducting assessments, which are still ongoing. URCS has so far distributed food (donated by government) and 582 NFI kits to the affected households. The assistance provided by URCS and partners falls short of the immediate requirements, which are now established by the URCS assessment team at 12,615 households.

The URCS Emergency Task Force (ETF) at its national headquarters has been activated to mobilize resources and coordinate response activities. Several meetings are planned in the next few days and will bring on board other members of the ETF. The ETF consists of key NS staff and PNS representatives, as well as members of the ICRC Delegation. URCS has also deployed 3 staff with assessment and response expertise to the region to support the regional and branch structures.

The needs

The immediate needs among the affected communities are food, shelter, essential household items (i.e. blankets, cups, plates and laundry soap), water collection/storage utensils and water purification materials, clothing (particularly for young children), clean water and sanitation facilities, malaria and other drugs for affected populations in areas that cannot access health facilities such as the Bulambuli road leading to the hills that needs to be immediately fixed to maintain access. The damaged road has prevented the intended aid from reaching the affected people in time.

Priority needs for URCS include mobilizing, briefing and motivating volunteers. This is aimed at enhancing effective distribution of food³ and non-food items, replenishing of used stocks and resources as well as logistics to support the operations.

The proposed operation

The Uganda Red Cross Society is carrying out the operation in Bulambuli, Sisiyi and Bunambutye areas based on identified needs that have been established by the assessment teams. Specific to this DREF, the URCS plans to provide humanitarian assistance concentrating on the immediate needs targeting 1,000 vulnerable households who have not been assisted by other humanitarian actors and who do not have the

³ (The Office of the Prime Minister has requested through the commissioner disaster preparedness and response, that URCS takes the distribution of food that it has mobilized for the affected people)

capacity to recover independently. These have been identified as those that are without shelter and essential household items, having lost them during the disaster, those that are living with host families and cannot go back to their original homes because they are partially or completely destroyed as well as those that are displaced and are living in the trading centres, schools and churches. However, there are other areas that have been affected, including Masaka, Butalejja, Kween, Kampala and Mpigi, and many others that are reported to need assistance. In light of the scale of the disaster, the URCS is increasing the caseload of the target beneficiaries from 1,000 households to 2,000 households. The additional targeted households will be supported by an in-kind donation from ICRC comprising approximately 500 tarpaulins as well as possible funding from DfID. This new figure does not correspond to the established total of 12,615 households that need assistance across the entire country. However, contributions from other stakeholders are expected. Depending on gaps that will be identified after in-depth assessments, the number of those targeted may eventually need to be revised.

The main focus of the operation will be:

1. The distribution of NFI kits to 1,000 households. Each kit will include 3 blankets, 2 saucepans, 3 bars of soap, 5 cups, 5 plates and 2 jerry cans.
2. Regular assessments (information and data) in all the affected areas.
3. The distribution of shelter materials to 1,000 households (2 tarpaulins, 4 meters of plastic sheeting for each household) and a bank of construction tools that will be shared by the affected households to construct their shelters.
4. Distribution of food (URCS has been assigned the role for distributing all the food and non-food items). This will target all the affected people that government has planned to receive the food.
5. Health care will involve health education and hygiene awareness assessments and gathering of health information including disease surveillance and will target all the affected households (11,818 households).
6. Distribution of soap: 2.4 kgs soap will be distributed to each household twice a month and will target 1,000 households.
7. Provide psychosocial services to the affected people.

The following critical assumptions have been made based on the evolving situation within the affected areas, drawing on institutional experience and humanitarian needs:

- That there is need for continued and strengthened coordination of humanitarian actors enabling effective addressing of critical gaps and maximizing the impact of this action.
- That other agencies and the government will have significant support for the affected households and URCS will complement these efforts.
- That URCS continues to attract funding for the response plans.

Emergency Shelter	
Outcome: The immediate shelter and settlement needs of 1,000 vulnerable households affected by landslides and floods in Uganda are met	
Outputs (expected results) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affected households are enabled to repair or construct adequate shelter to provide protection from harsh climate as well as to return to normalcy 	Activities planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procure and distribute 2,000 tarpaulins. Each household will receive 2 tarpaulins and 4 meters of plastic sheeting • Procure and distribute construction kit consisting of 500 hoes, axes and pangas
Relief distributions	
Outcome: Immediate needs of at least 1,000 vulnerable households affected by landslides and floods in Uganda are met through provision of household items	
Outputs (expected results) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency relief items and support is delivered to affected communities in a timely manner • In-depth and comprehensive needs assessment that can guide recovery plans is developed and 	Activities planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobilize and brief volunteers in at least 3 districts for basic response actions • Conduct assessments, report, share information and monitor the evolving situation • Procure and distribute 1,000 NFI kits for the most vulnerable communities that have lost household items.

conducted	Each kit will include, 3 blankets, 2 saucepans, 3 bars of soap, 5 cups, 5 plates and 2 jerry cans
Health	
Outcome: Improved health status, health awareness, and reduced incidence of water-borne and vector transmitted diseases among 11,818 households	
Outputs (expected results)	Activities planned:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential for diarrheal diseases reduced among 11,818 affected households. • Increased access to safe water for the affected communities • Essential supplies and key information on hygiene and sanitation to increase community knowledge and awareness in emergencies have reached 11,818 affected households. • Enhanced skills of target communities to manage WatSan facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mobilize volunteers in at least 3 districts and involve them in various hygiene promotion activities • Procure and distribute aqua tablets for safe household water treatment for 11,818⁴ households. This will involve the monitoring the use of the aqua tablets. • Procure and distribute 2,000 mosquito nets • Produce and distribute 60,000 information, education, communication (IEC) materials, including posters and brochures. • Conduct community sensitization/awareness sessions • Procure and distribute laundry soap to 1,000 households (each household receiving 2.4 kg twice a month: over a 1 month period) • Provide psychosocial services to the affected people • Follow up on disease incidence and surveillance in conjunction with the Ministry of Health

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)

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1. Click [here](#) to return to the title page

⁴ The landslide and floods affected people will all be targeted for this intervention

How we work

All IFRC 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 the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC'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.

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The IFRC'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.
-

DREF OPERATION

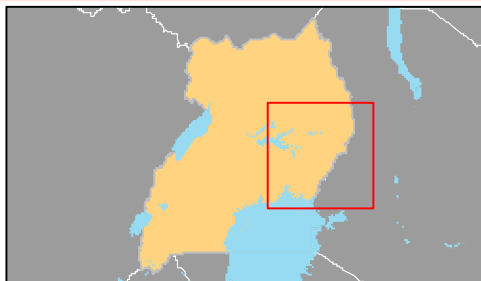
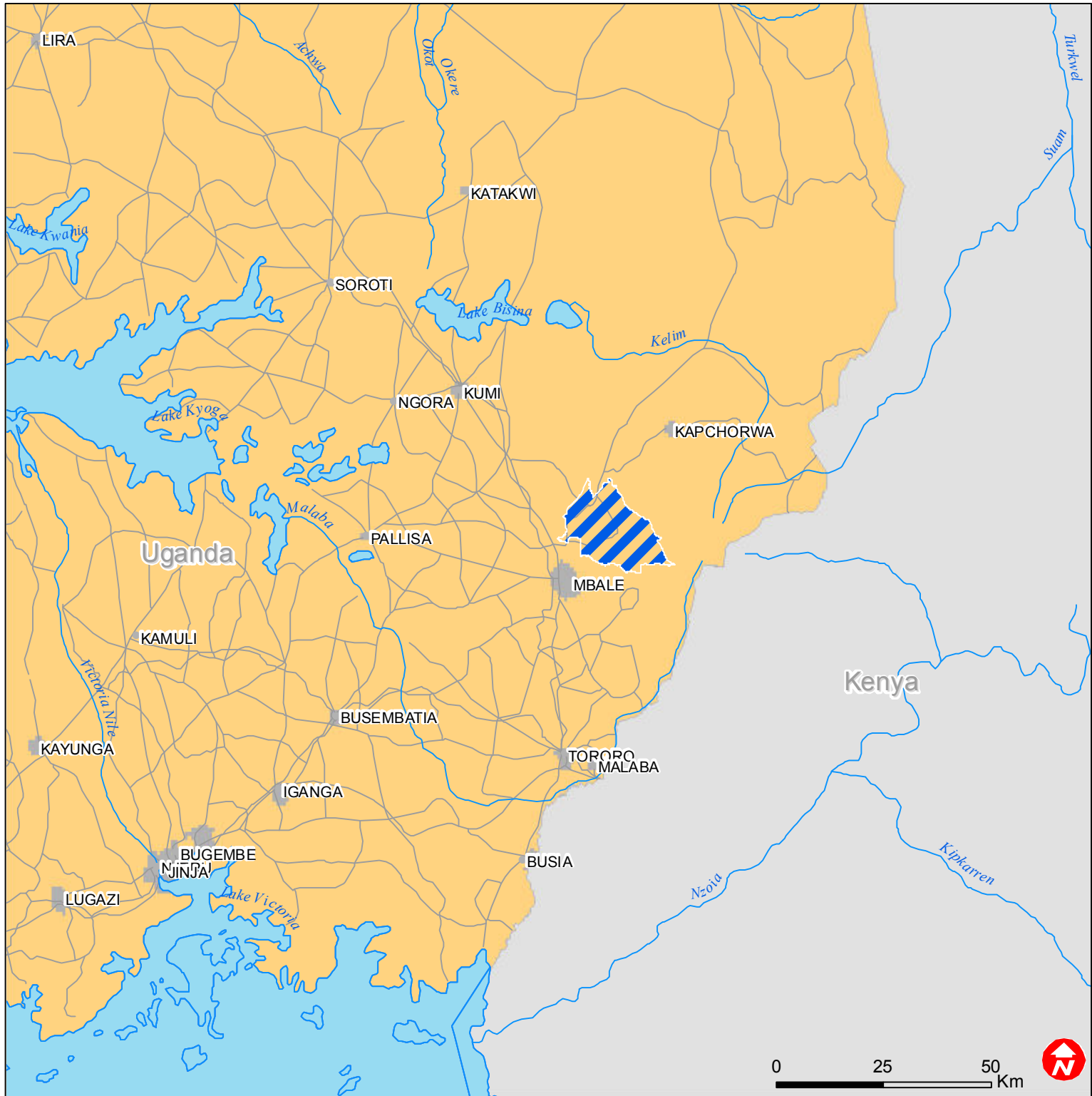
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Uganda Floods & Landslides (MDRUG023)

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	25,235
Shelter - Transitional	
Construction - Housing	
Construction - Facilities	
Construction - Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	34,441
Food	
Seeds & Plants	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	1,941
Medical & First Aid	971
Teaching Materials	
Utensils & Tools	14,265
Other Supplies & Services	19,000
Emergency Response Units	
Cash Disbursements	
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	95,853
Land & Buildings	
Vehicles Purchase	
Computer & Telecom Equipment	
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	
Medical Equipment	
Other Machinery & Equipment	
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	0
Storage, Warehousing	1,176
Distribution & Monitoring	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	28,759
Logistics Services	
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	29,935
International Staff	2,941
National Staff	
National Society Staff	26,735
Volunteers	
Total PERSONNEL	29,676
Consultants	
Professional Fees	
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0
Workshops & Training	
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	0
Travel	
Information & Public Relations	16,176
Office Costs	676
Communications	2,294
Financial Charges	
Other General Expenses	
Shared Support Services	
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	19,147
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	11,350
Total INDIRECT COSTS	11,350
TOTAL BUDGET	185,962



Uganda: Floods



-  Affected area
-  Main roads
-  Cities