



Uganda

Background

Two decades of civil conflict between the Government of the Republic of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army displaced some 1.8 million people and left northern Uganda severely underdeveloped. Poverty and malnutrition are widespread among displaced and host communities alike, compounded by continuing insecurity and the cumulative impacts of drought and floods. While the Final Peace Agreement remains unsigned, ongoing negotiations have brought relative calm to northern Uganda and enabled three-quarters of the displaced population to return to their villages of origin or resettle in transit camps closer to home. Meanwhile, as tensions ease in neighbouring Kenya and the Sudan, Uganda's refugee population continues to decrease, relieving pressure on the country's limited resources.

Despite this progress, some 430 000 people remain in IDP camps in Acholi and Teso sub-regions, their return hindered by the lack of access to basic services and building materials in their home villages. Increasing numbers of land disputes and forced evictions, poor sanitary conditions and gender-based violence are further causes for concern in return areas. IDP communities will need assistance at every stage of the resettlement process, while returnees require timely support in accessing and cultivating land, rebuilding their livelihoods and ensuring their long-term food security. Over 1.6 million IDPs, refugees, returnees and host-community members are still in urgent need of assistance.

KEY FACTS

- Population: 28.3 million
- GNI per capita (USD): 340
- Population below poverty line: 31%
- Life expectancy: 46.2 years
- Total arable land: 21.57%
- Population in agriculture: 74.8%
- Population undernourished: 19%
- Total land area: 199 710 sq km
- Human Development Index: 154/177

(Source: UN; World Bank; World Factbook)

Challenges facing food security and livelihoods

Underlying poverty and malnutrition in Uganda have long been exacerbated by conflict-induced displacement, lack of land access and frequent climatic shocks, while household coping mechanisms are now being further strained by soaring food and input prices. With almost 75 percent of the population dependent on crop cultivation and livestock for their livelihoods, region-specific agricultural support is essential to the overall recovery process.

More than 50 percent of Acholi's IDP population have resettled in their home villages or in transit camps, increasing access to land by over 30 percent. However, with limited access to inputs and markets continuing to undermine crop and livestock production, the rehabilitation of agricultural infrastructure will be paramount to improving household food security in the area.

While high rates of IDP return and an improved security situation bring prospects for recovery in Teso, the region continues to struggle with the cumulative impacts of natural hazards. Some 300 000 people affected by flooding in 2007 still need assistance, while dry spells in 2008 have led to widespread crop failure. Meanwhile, pastoralist communities require urgent support to restock in the face of animal disease outbreaks spreading from the neighbouring Karamoja region.

Karamoja remains the most vulnerable and marginalized region of Uganda. Acute malnutrition and widespread dependence on food aid have been exacerbated by continuing insecurity and three consecutive years of drought and crop failure. Furthermore, tens of thousands of animals have been lost to disease outbreaks in 2007 and 2008, devastating the livestock sector. To be effective, efforts to rebuild pastoral and farming livelihoods will need to be accompanied by improvements in security and incorporate disaster risk management.

FAO response

In 2009, FAO aims to provide inputs and training to enable IDPs, returnees and host communities to resume crop and livestock production, boost food availability and strengthen self-reliance.

FAO's approach endeavours to restore assets lost to conflict, natural hazards and livestock disease, while rehabilitating agricultural infrastructure and promoting basic food production.



Building on the success of FAO's ongoing interventions in northern Uganda, the proposed activities aim to establish 550 Farmer Field Schools (FFS) and use these as a platform for cassava and sweet potato production, seed multiplication and seed and livestock fairs. By linking FFS with seed suppliers and local traders, FAO endeavours to improve market infrastructure and accessibility. Proposed activities also aim to boost household capacity to open up land using animal traction and inject cash into local markets through voucher schemes for the distribution of inputs. Livestock vaccination campaigns and the provision of veterinary services will give immediate assistance to vulnerable pastoralists, while training and support of CAHWs will reap longer-term benefits. Training on early warning systems and natural resource management will further help vulnerable communities to engage in sustainable livelihoods and prepare for future shocks.

Joint FAO-World Health Organization, FAO-United Nations Population Fund and FAO-United Nations Development Fund for Women projects aim to support victims of gender-based violence through a holistic approach encompassing agricultural skills development, medical services, legal assistance and awareness raising. Furthermore, as joint lead for the Food Security and Agricultural Livelihoods cluster, FAO will continue its efforts to ensure that emergency and rehabilitation projects in this sector are implemented in a coordinated, cost-effective and sustainable manner. This will enable humanitarian actors to assist those most in need and, ultimately, enhance the impact of food security interventions throughout Uganda.

“Over 1.6 million people are still in urgent need of assistance”

PROPOSALS: FAO EMERGENCY AND REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE

Total funding required: USD 10 422 300

Kick-start of food production and enhancement of emerging rural markets in return areas (Acholi sub-region)	
Objectives:	To ensure household food production by facilitating access to basic agricultural inputs through voucher schemes linked to agricultural and productive infrastructure rehabilitation works.
Activities:	Promote consistent approaches in agricultural infrastructure rehabilitation and local fairs through voucher or cash-for-work schemes to improve access to agricultural inputs, focusing on: livestock (oxen for animal traction and small ruminants); agriculture (improved or local seed, hand tools, cassava and sweet potato materials); and agricultural rehabilitation (community/feeder roads, new marketplaces, woodlot establishment, water point protection and cattle crushes).
Beneficiaries:	50 000 vulnerable households.
Implementing partners:	OPM, MAAIF, UN agencies, NGOs, district/local authorities and NARO.
Duration:	January – December 2009.
Funds requested:	USD 2 500 000.

Agricultural livelihoods and safety nets for returnees in Acholi	
Objectives:	To stimulate agricultural livelihoods and household income by promoting the FFS approach.
Activities:	Establish 350 FFS to focus on: agricultural production (through farmer seed systems, production and dissemination of improved cassava and sweet potato cuttings and seed fairs); livestock production (through animal traction to increase land use/access, livestock fairs, animal restocking and community-level animal health activities); boost the local economy (by linking FFS with seed suppliers and commodity buyers, improving infrastructure/accessibility of input and output markets and, if possible, linking with activities such as village savings and loan associations); environmental protection (through CA, energy-saving stoves, woodlots, agroforestry and water management); training in agricultural and livestock production techniques; and disaster risk reduction through early warning systems and AI awareness.
Beneficiaries:	10 500 resettled households in 350 FFS groups.
Implementing partners:	FSAL cluster stakeholders (20 NGOs and the Government).
Duration:	January – December 2009.
Funds requested:	USD 1 250 000.

Agricultural livelihoods and safety nets for returnees in Teso

Objectives:	To stimulate agricultural livelihoods and household economy by promoting FFS approach involving 6 000 resettled families.
Activities:	Establish 200 FFS to focus on: agricultural production (through farmer seed systems, production and dissemination of improved cassava and sweet potato cuttings and seed fairs); livestock production (through animal traction to increase land use/access, livestock fairs, animal restocking and community-level animal health activities); boost the local economy (by linking FFS with trader programmes such as micro-credit); environmental protection (through CA, energy-saving stoves, woodlots and water management); and disaster risk reduction through early warning systems and AI awareness.
Beneficiaries:	6 000 resettled households in 200 FFS groups.
Implementing partners:	FSAL cluster stakeholders (NGOs and the Government).
Duration:	January – December 2009.
Funds requested:	USD 750 000.

Emergency control of livestock diseases in Amuria and Katakwi

Objectives:	To support surveillance, diagnosis and control of PPR, FMD, CBPP and CCPP.
Activities:	Mobilize and sensitize communities about and vaccinate goats, sheep and cattle against PPR, FMD, CBPP and CCPP; and support local authorities in terms of vaccination, diagnosis and laboratory equipment.
Beneficiaries:	40 000 vulnerable households.
Implementing partners:	FSAL stakeholders, including NGOs, the Government and district veterinary services.
Duration:	January – December 2009.
Funds requested:	USD 450 000.

Improvement of livestock capital and animal health in Karamoja

Objectives:	To strengthen the CAHW system and support surveillance, diagnosis and control of PPR, FMD, CBPP and CCPP.
Activities:	Mobilize and sensitize communities about PPR, FMD, CBPP and CCPP; undertake prophylactic measures against the spread of FMD; vaccinate goats, sheep and cattle against PPR, CCPP and CBPP respectively; collect data on participatory epidemiology and surveillance of disease outbreaks; support local authorities in terms of vaccination, diagnosis and laboratory equipment; and strengthen the CAHW system through training.
Beneficiaries:	FSAL cluster stakeholders (NGOs, UN and the Government).
Implementing partners:	CNLS and NGOs.
Duration:	January – December 2009.
Funds requested:	USD 2 000 000.

Diversification of agropastoral livelihoods in Karamoja

Objectives:	To stimulate and diversify livelihoods through the Agropastoralist Farmer Field School (AP-FFS) approach promoting the disaster risk management concept.
Activities:	Establish 350 AP-FFS to focus on: agricultural production (through farmer seed systems, production and dissemination of improved cassava and sweet potato cuttings, seed fairs, farm fish ponds and post-harvest handling); livestock production (through animal traction to increase land use/access, livestock fairs, animal restocking and community-level animal health activities, water infrastructure rehabilitation); boost the local economy (by linking AP-FFS with seed suppliers and commodity buyers, improving infrastructure/accessibility of input and output markets and, if possible, linking with activities such as village savings and loan associations); environmental protection (through CA, energy-saving stoves, woodlots, agroforestry and water management); training in agriculture and livestock production techniques; and disaster risk reduction through early warning systems and AI awareness.
Beneficiaries:	10 500 households (350 AP-FFS groups).
Implementing partners:	All food security cluster members (NGOs, UN agencies and the Government).
Duration:	January – December 2009.
Funds requested:	USD 1 250 000.

Food security and agriculture livelihood (FSAL) cluster coordination

Objectives:	To strengthen the coordination of FSAL cluster stakeholders for emergency interventions and develop a responsible phasing-out strategy for recovery programmes.
Activities:	Organize monthly FSAL cluster meetings at Kampala and district levels; enhance the monitoring and evaluation system to capitalize on lessons learned/best practices; produce regular consultative updates of the FSAL cluster Plan of Action and adapt to phase out interventions; carry out seasonal mapping and dissemination of geographical coverage of FSAL cluster interventions; develop more innovative and appropriate phase-out oriented programmes; encourage concrete interactions between FSAL cluster members and Government programmes; promote the food security IPC; and develop technical notes and a video documentary to illustrate and disseminate best practices.
Beneficiaries:	All FSAL cluster stakeholders (30 NGOs, 3 UN agencies and the Government).
Implementing partners:	FAO coordinates the FSAL cluster in collaboration with WFP.
Duration:	January – December 2009.
Funds requested:	USD 500 000.

Preventing and responding to gender-based violence (GBV) in Teso region (joint project with UNFPA)

Objectives:	To provide and support GBV prevention and response interventions and coordination mechanisms.
Activities:	Expand medical and mental health services to survivors and supply post-exposure prophylaxis (HIV prevention)/rape kits; support psychosocial, protection and legal services for those affected by GBV; reduce community social tolerance of GBV through community awareness campaigns; support Government and civil society organizations in strengthening GBV coordination as well as expanding and improving referral and monitoring mechanisms at all levels; improve knowledge base on magnitude and nature of GBV in Teso; and implement skills development tailored to specific production and life skills and activities to restore incomes and asset bases through adapted Junior and FFS.
Beneficiaries:	5 500 direct beneficiaries (46 600 indirect beneficiaries).
Implementing partners:	COU, TPO, Action Aid, Self Help and ASB.
Duration:	January – December 2009.
Funds requested:	USD 577 600.

Preventing and responding to GBV in Karamoja region (joint project with WHO and UNFPA)

Objectives:	To provide and support GBV prevention and response interventions and coordination mechanisms.
Activities:	Expand medical and mental health services to survivors and supply post-exposure prophylaxis (HIV prevention)/rape kits; reduce social tolerance of GBV through community awareness campaigns linked to livelihoods; support Government and civil society organizations in strengthening GBV coordination as well as expanding and improving referral and monitoring mechanisms at all levels; implement skills development tailored to specific production and life skills, with appropriate income-generating activities to restore asset bases through adapted Junior and FFS; and improve the knowledge base on the magnitude, nature and scope of GBV in Karamoja.
Beneficiaries:	199 000 people in Morulem in Abim and Kotido sub-county in Kotido (190 000 indirect beneficiaries, 9 000 direct beneficiaries).
Implementing partners:	IRC, SciUg, COU and Caritas.
Duration:	January – December 2009.
Funds requested:	USD 599 200.

Preventing and responding to gender-based violence (GBV) in Acholi region (joint project with WHO, UNFPA and UNIFEM)

Objectives:	To provide and support GBV prevention and response interventions and coordination mechanisms.
Activities:	Support medical services for survivors and supply post-exposure prophylaxis kits (HIV prevention); support expansion of legal aid and legal literacy for women and men; support lower councils in developing and implementing context-specific bylaws for protection from GBV; build capacity of local government and civil society to provide GBV services and coordination systems; and carry out skills development for vulnerable individuals: production/life skills and appropriate activities to restore incomes and asset bases through adapted Junior and Farmer Field and Life Schools.
Beneficiaries:	355 000 people (25 000 direct beneficiaries and 330 000 indirect beneficiaries).
Implementing partners:	IRC, CARE, CCF, COOPI, World Vision Uganda, LWF, Caritas and FIDA.
Duration:	January – December 2009.
Funds requested:	USD 545 500.