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UGANDA RED CROSS SOCIETY

P.O.BOX 494 KAMPALA, UGANDA

TEL: 0312-260615/6/7, 0414-
258701/2

EMAIL: sgurcs@redcrossug.org

PRESS STATEMENT

UGANDA RED CROSS HANDS OVER SH3B FOOD SECURITY PROJECT TO OYAM LOCAL GOVERNMENT

OYAM: The Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) has handed over a sh3b food security, water and sanitation project to Oyam Local Government and its communities.

The 20-month project which was implemented in the sub counties of Ngai, Iceme, Otwal and Minakulu in Oyam district benefited 141, 000 people.

Under food security, 42, 000 people were given seeds of cabbages, simsim, maize, sorghum, tomatoes, cow peas and dodo; tools like hoes, pix axes, spades, pangas and sickles to enable them improve their livelihoods through better farming practices.

In addition, the Red Cross trained 700 lead farmers in agricultural best practices who in turn trained farmer groups. The aim of the food security interventions was to enable families that were affected by the 20 year Lord Resistance Army (LRA) war plant crops for eating, income generating through selling and store some for future consumption especially during food insecurity.

URCS Secretary General Michael Nataka handed over the Food security, water and sanitation project to Oyam acting LC 5 chairperson Francis Okello on Friday (1st April, 2011) at the URCS Oyam sub branch. The project was funded by the German Government through German Red Cross.

Under water and sanitation, URCS interventions contributed to increase to safe water coverage from 52%-58% in Oyam district, according to Nataka.

50 new household latrines have been built, 46 village health teams were trained in hygiene promotion to fight poor sanitation habits among the communities, 25 boreholes were rehabilitated, 11 new boreholes constructed, 21 springs protected, 621 water user committees trained to oversee the functioning of the water wells,

boreholes and springs. In addition, 20 pump mechanics were trained to provide technical assistance in case a water source broke down. The Red Cross did also construct 4 ECOSAN toilets at schools.

Nataka said the four benefiting sub counties in Oyam district benefited from the project because of the high levels of vulnerabilities. He said the sub counties were hard hit during the LRA war and all the infrastructure was destroyed.

“Through this project, we have saved lives, supported livelihoods and protected human dignity,” he said.

The representative of the LC 5 Chairman Okello hailed URCS for its interventions not only in food security, water and sanitation but for various developmental and emergency interventions.

Oyam district offered Red Cross land where its Oyam sub branch is located. Okello pledged more land from the district to enable Red Cross set up developmental projects.

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For details, please contact

Catherine Ntabadde

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, COMMUNICATION

0776-312015

Email: cntabadde@redcrossug.org; [www. redcrossug.org](http://www.redcrossug.org)