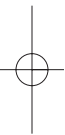




# *The Humanitarian*

*Special Report on Uganda Red Cross Society flood operations*

Nov-Dec 2007





## Editorial

### Special Report on Flood operations

In early September 2007, Uganda specifically the parts of Eastern, Northern and North Eastern Uganda experienced severe flooding. The floods destroyed settlements and houses, infrastructure, water sources, crops among other things.

Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS), as the leading humanitarian organisation took the lead to provide non food items, safe water through a water purification plant and water tablets, early recovery items like seeds and tool and promotion of hygiene and sanitation .

As a way of commemorating our involvement in the flood operations, we bring you a special newsletter highlighting URCS' operations in the formerly flood affected regions in Eastern, North Eastern and Nothern Uganda.

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**Picture credits: Anthony Mwangi (KRC), Catherine Ntabadde, Hasifa Kabejja & Irene Amuron**

#### *Vision*

*An empowered, healthy and self-sustaining community that responds to the needs of the most vulnerable*

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Organisations & companies that responded to URCS flood appeal.

## Fundamental Principles

*Humanity*

*Impartiality*

*Neutrality*

*Independence*

*Voluntary Service*

*Unity*

*Universality*

#### *Mission*

*To improve the quality of life of the most vulnerable people in Uganda as an effective and effecient humanitarian organisation*



# How URCS has lifted up lives in Teso

By Richard Otim & Hasifa Kabejja

WHEN misfortune strikes, nothing lifts a distressed spirit better than a neighbour's timely intervention. For Julius Okello, a resident of Amaseniko IDP camp in Amuria District, one of the areas that is still bearing the brunt of torrential rains, it is humanitarian assistance from the government and relief agencies that brought a smile on his face. "Had it not been for organizations like the Uganda Red Cross Society, it would have been hell for us coping with effects of the floods," Mr Okello said.

The URCS has been distributing non food relief items including tarpaulins, blankets, mosquito nets, buckets, soap and water purification chemicals to most of the affected communities in the Teso sub region.

The URCS Regional Programme Officer for Disaster Management in eastern Uganda, Mr Jimmy Okot, said the organization aims to aid 20,000 households and has so far reached 17,047.

He said by the end of last month, 464 households in Amaseniko camp had got relief items while the villages of Angica, Amorwongora, Palam and Magoro in Katakwi District had also been reached.

URCS has also provided medical assistance to 6,871 people in various camps in the flood-affected region and this has helped prevent disease outbreak.

Amaseniko camp has 1,658 residents who, in addition to the tough camp life away from their homes, have had to contend with the effects of the floods that ravaged Teso mostly in August and September.

Over 30,000 households in Teso



**A cross section of women who received NFIs in Teso**

have been displaced, gardens submerged and roads washed away.

Schools were also destroyed, leaving students, especially candidates afraid of performing poorly in this year's national exams. Most of them reported one month to the end of third term. The PLE candidates sat their exams that ended on November 6th under tents provided by Unicef and URCS.

Delivery of relief items to the victims also proved a nightmare since the roads were submerged and bridges washed away. "Our food rot in the gardens and we had almost lost hope. We thought we had been forgotten until when the URCS came to our rescue," Mr Okello says.

The floods messed up water sources and sanitary facilities, leaving residents exposed to cholera and dysentery. However, URCS and Kenya Red Cross Society set up a water treatment plant in Amaseniko camp in Amuria district

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### Continued from page 3

that has to date distributed 195,000 litres of treated water to 316 households.

Mr Joseph Oucul, the camp chairperson, said the authorities blamed the bad roads for delayed intervention. "There was a health center here (near the camp) but it was not functioning. The health workers also abandoned us and there was none to attend to our health problems. We tried to send our plea for help but authorities would tell us that the bad roads could not allow them deliver the help to us," he said.

Mr Oucul says shortly before the URCS sent a team of medical volunteers to attend to the victims, a couple had lost a one-week old baby to malaria.

During her visit to the camp, URCS Secretary General Alice Uwase Anukur was shocked at the pathetic conditions.

"The destruction of crops & farms is a big threat to food security in this area and so the biggest fear is how to help these people get back to their feet but most of all are the major health risks the people are exposed to," Ms Anukur said.

In an effort to keep the people going long after the aid agencies have left, URCS assessed the food needs and is currently distributing a seed kit the contains cow peas seeds, sorghum seeds, sim sim seeds, hand hoes and knives to the affected communities.

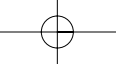
Amuria District LC5 Chairperson Julius Ochen said URCS had reached most of the affected villages in the district.



**A flood victim gets treatment from a mobile clinic that was run by URCS and Kenya Red Cross Society in Amuria district.**



**Vehicles of KRC and URCS crossing a flooded road on their way for distribution in Katakwi district.**



# Kenya Red Cross Society aids URCS in flood response

By Catherine Ntabadde & Hasifa Kabejja



**A health worker providing treatment to a mother & child at a mobile clinic.**

On September 23, 2007, Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) sent a team to support URCS during its floods operation in Teso Region. The team comprised experts and volunteers. In addition, KRCS supported the operation with a mobile clinic, water treatment plant, trucks and land cruisers.

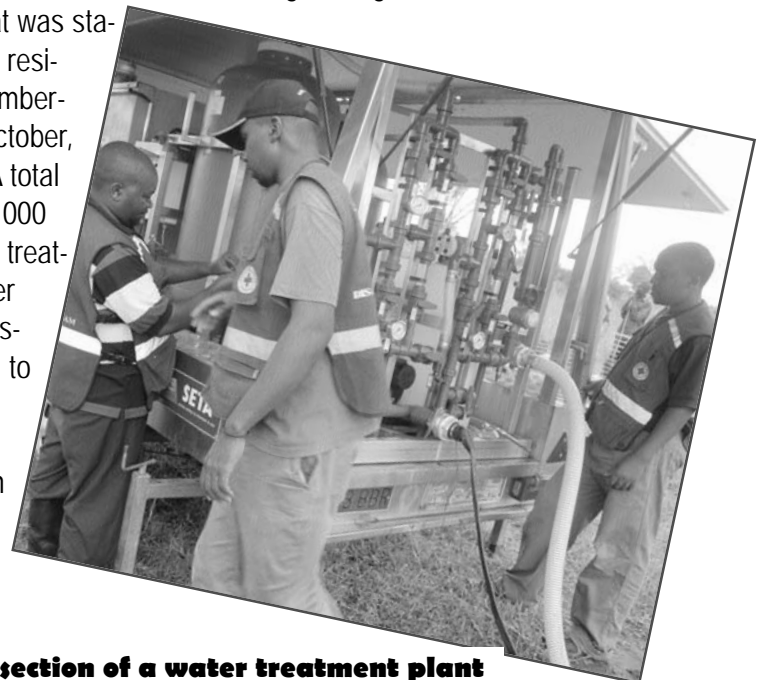
Because the floods had cut off most of the infrastructure including health centers, the flood victims could not have access to health facilities. A mobile clinic run by doctors, nurses and clinical officers of URCS, KRCS and Ministry of Health was set up at Ajeleik camp in Amuria district.

The mobile clinic provided treatment to 6,871 people with malaria cases being the highest at 44%. KRCS did also provide the operations with a water treatment plant that was stationed at Amaseniko camp in Amuria district to provide residents with clean water during the period of 26th September-

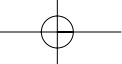


**Children at Amaseniko camp in Amuria district collecting water from taps connected to a water treatment plant.**

23rd October, 2007. A total of 195,000 litres of treated water were distributed to 316 households in the camp.



**A section of a water treatment plant that was brought in by KRCS.**



# Uganda Red Cross Society in flood operations in the east



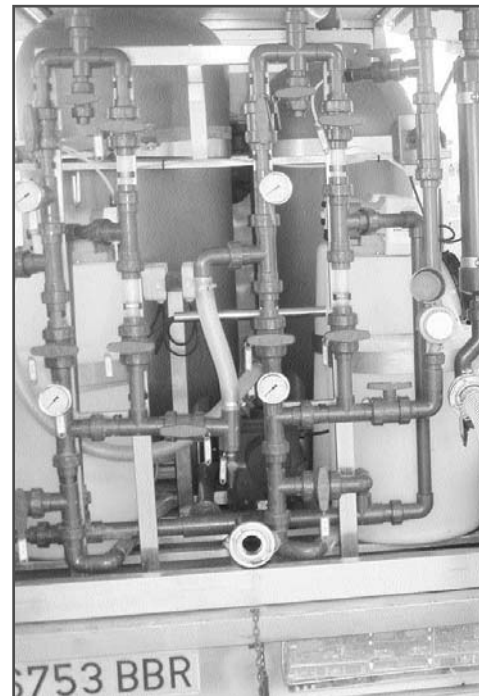
**Moses Aduko of KRC§ deworming a pupil as other school children await to receive deworming tablets at the mobile clinic.**



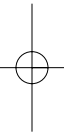
**URC§ Secretary General Mrs. Alice A to net; from Nile Breweries; Mr. Ona**



**URC§ Deputy Secretary Mr. Michael Nataka pointing at the flooded districts on a map of Uganda during an**



**Jimmy Okot, Team Leader of the Tejo fl plant.**





# action with its partners during



**Mr. Buruku receives a donation of mosquito nets for Ekomolit at URC's Soroti office**



**IFRC FACT team member Bigambo Nandiga (L) and Colin Chaperon of IFRC FACT team during a field assessment in Teso Region.**



**IFRC operations at the treatment center**



**URC's Chairman Mr. Tom Buruku (l) receiving a donation from Centenary Bank's MD Mr. John Giles. Centary Bank donated mosquito nets worth 16m.**



# URCS leads in non food item distribution

**By Hasifa Kabejja & Catherine Ntabadde**

The Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) took the lead in distributing non-food items (NFIs) in the flooded regions of Teso and Lango. URCS has been distributing to the most affected households a kit containing tarpulins, jerrycans, kitchen set, soap, blankets, mosquito nets and buckets. Below is the breakdown of the distribution per district as of November 13, 2007.

District	HHS reached	Jerrycans	Kitchen Sets	Family Kit	Tarpulin	Soap	Blankets	M/Nets	Buckets
Katakwi	5,910	5,252	493	596	7,667	20,501	15,180	12,163	5,753
Bukedea	1,001	20	0	1,001	980	0	0	1,001	
Amuria	12,888	15,805	1,958	1,338	16,225	44,412	28,920	24,453	9,987
Soroti	1,633	3,234	1,709	0	2,421	3,133	4,130	3,418	
Sironko	1,416	604	8,776		595	1,874	2,203		
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,848</b>	<b>24,915</b>	<b>12,936</b>	<b>2,935</b>	<b>27,888</b>	<b>69,920</b>	<b>50,433</b>	<b>41,035</b>	<b>15,740</b>



**Volunteers offloading URCS relief items from a UN helicopter.**



**A URCS volunteer puts relief items on a beneficiary's head.**



**A URCS volunteer handing over NFIs to a flood victim**

# Early recovery programme started in the flood affected areas



**A URCS volunteer arranges hoes to be distributed in Amuria district.**

Magoro, Ngarium and Ongongoja sub counties. Distribution of seeds and tools is being done to enable the beneficiaries plant during the planting season for November.

The distribution was as follows.

District	Households reached	Seeds	Hoes	Knives
Amuria	9,337	9,337	18,674	9,337
Katakwi	10, 663	10, 663	21, 326	10, 663
<b>Total</b>	<b>20, 000</b>	<b>20, 000</b>	<b>40,000</b>	<b>20, 000</b>

With about 80% of the crops destroyed by floods, food security remains precarious. As a result, URCS and the International Federation of the Red Cross embarked on an early recovery programme. The team members conducted assessments in the worst affected districts of Katakwi and Amuria to find out which crops could grow faster to prevent famine outbreak.

The URCS identified six worst affected sub counties, three in each district. In Amuria it was Kapelebyong, Acowa and Obalanga and in Katakwi district,



**Some of the flood victims in Amuria district receive seeds from URCS volunteers**

# Response to URCS and IFRC flood appeal

On September 18th, 2007, Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) launched a local appeal of

\$ 4.2m for assistance of flood victims in Northern, Eastern and North Eastern Uganda. The local appeal was upgraded to become an international appeal of \$ 7.2m with support of the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC)

URCS FLOODS APPEAL COMMITMENTS AS OF NOVEMBER 21, 2007.

DONOR/PARTNER	CURRENCY	AMOUNT			
Barclays Bank	USD	100, 000	Uganda Telecom	Ug. shs	25m in sms
Standard Chartered Bank	Ug. shs	100, 000, 000	SNV	EUR	50, 000
US Embassy (USAID)	USD	100, 000	Association of Kenyans		
(East African Breweries Ltd)	Ug. shs	50, 000, 000	in Uganda	Ug. Shs	2, 000, 000
MTN	Ug. shs	20, 000, 000	Afrofreight C & F Co. Ltd	Ug. shs	1, 000, 000
Hima Cement	Ug. shs	15, 000, 000	Business & Corporate Travels	Ug. shs	200, 000
Eskom	Ug. shs	2, 500, 000	Business Synergies	Ug. shs	200, 000
DFID	GBP	391, 757	Alex Munai (ICRC)	Ug. shs	50, 000
British Red Cross	GBP	50, 000	Auto Tech	Ug. shs	65, 000
CMF	Ug. Shs	2, 050, 000	Indian Government	Indian Ru	10, 000, 000
NSSF	Ug.shs	10, 000, 000	and Prime Minister's Office		
Danish Embassy	Ug. shs	60, 000, 000	Indian High Commission	USD	250, 000
<b>ITEMS CONTRIBUTED IN KIND</b>					
Unilever Uganda	Ug. shs	18, 000, 000			3.1 tonnes of lifebuoy
Centenary Bank	Ug. shs	16, 000, 000			Mosquito nets
International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC)					1, 800 household kits
Chevron (Caltex)	Ug. shs	16, 500, 000			Mosquito nets
Danish Red Cross	Ug. Shs	60, 000, 000			Mosquito nets
UNICEF	Ug. shs				5, 000 household kits
Kenya Red Cross	Ug. shs				Water treatment plant, mobile clinic, staff & volunteers, trucks and land cruiser vehicles
Hima Cement	Ug. shs	60, 000, 000			Cement
Rotary Club of Bugolobi					1 bale of blankets, cups & 2 bales of clothes
Nile Breweries	Ug. shs	15, 000, 000			Mosquito nets
Tuf Foam	Ug. shs	2, 000, 000			50 mattresses
Rotary Club Muyenga					100 shelter boxes
Korean Church in Uganda	Ug.shs	2, 500, 000			Soap and mosquito nets
Kobil	Ug. shs	19, 500, 000			fuel
Crane Bank	Ug. shs	30, 000, 000			Jerrycans, blankets, maize flour, beans, cups
Microcare	Ug. shs				Jerrycans
DFCU/NTV/Uchumi/East African Breweries					SAVE A LIFE FUND (Clothes, shoes and other relief items) (sh6m from DFCU)

## FUNDS RAISED/PLEDGED THROUGH IFRC APPEAL

Monaco Red Cross	UER	15, 000	Irish Red Cross	EUR	25, 000
Canadian Red Cross	CAD	346, 500	Norwegian Red Cross	NOK	4, 290
Irish Embassy (Govt)	EUR	300, 000	United Arab Emirates	USD	5, 000
Iceland Red Cross	ISK	4, 000, 000	ECHO	EUR	1, 125, 000
United Arab Emirates	USD	5, 000	IFRC	DREF	133, 384
New Zealand Red Cross	NZD	500, 000	IFRC	USD	850, 000
Finish Red Cross	EUR	1, 300	IFRC	USD	857, 000
Japanese Red Cross	USD	237, 000	WHO	USD	24, 000
New Zealand Govt	NZD	500, 000	Swedish Red Cross	SK	3, 500, 000



# Flood victims get access to safe and clean water

To supplement the water that was purified by a water treatment plant, the Red Cross embarked on the distribution of purification water tablets and sachets. The distribution was mainly targeting households that could not have access to water purified by water treatment plant. Most of the water sources in the flooded regions were contaminated, according to district officials.

As part of the water and sanitation programme, URCS and KRCS trained volunteers to carry health promotion messages in the affected districts as a way of preventing disease outbreaks that could have resulted from poor hygiene.

Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) water and sanitation officials together with International Federation of Red Cross delegates did also train communities on how to treat water at household level.

The Red Cross has been distributing water purification tablets/sachets to various affected communities. About 4808 households were reached. Each household received about 60 tablets and 30 sachets to last for about a month.

District	Households reached	Purification sachets	Aqua Tabs
Katakwi	5, 910	128,340	18,720
Amuria	12, 888	156,900	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>18, 798</b>	<b>285,240</b>	<b>18,720</b>



**A mud & wattle house surrounded by flooded water in Soroti district.**



**A lady showing off her distribution card while other await to receive NFI from URCS.**

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