



UGANDA RED CROSS SOCIETY

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PRESS STATEMENT

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CONSTRUCTION OF FLOODS RESISTANT HUTS IN TESO

Kampala: The Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) wishes to clarify allegations made regarding the construction of floods resistant huts in Amuria and Katakwi districts.

Some sections of the media in Eastern Uganda reported 'that Uganda Red Cross Society received sh21b from the Japanese Government to construct huts in Teso but the huts were never constructed. The statements were purported by the LC 5 chairpersons of Katakwi and Amuria districts.

We wish to clarify on this matter in the details as below:

On 18th September 2007, Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) launched an emergency floods appeal worth sh4.2b (\$2.4m) to support 20, 000 households worst affected by the 2007 floods in Eastern and Northern Uganda.

As a follow up to the appeal, Uganda Red Cross Society accounted to the public, partners and donors by giving an account of funds received and how the funds were spent. This was made public through The New Vision November 19, 2007 and Daily Monitor November 21, 2007.

Uganda Red Cross Society wishes to inform you that the Japanese Government was not among the list of donors and has never donated sh21b for any activity related to the floods.

URCS further informs the general public that upon completion of the emergency phase, Uganda Red Cross Society embarked on a floods recovery programme which entailed provision of shelter, water & sanitation, seeds and tools to 10, 000 households in Amuria and Katakwi.

The objective of the shelter component of the Floods Recovery Programme was to strengthen communal assets and empowering communities to rebuild with more flood-

resistant and sustainable techniques through community participation and ownership for approximately 10,000 households (96 villages). The different activities are indicated below:

Floods resistant huts

With funding of 1.143m euros through the International Federation of Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) from European Commission Humanitarian Office (ECHO), Uganda Red Cross Society constructed 7, 023 floods resistant huts with additional 436 constructed out of the communities' willingness. The break down is detailed below:

District	Sub county	Targeted Households	Achieved in households.
Amuria	Obalanga	640	884
	Kapelebyong	850	870
	Acowa	1,002	1,120
Katakwi	Magoro	660	714
	Ngariam	679	679
	Ongongoja	1,981	1,981
	Usuk	1,211	1,211
Total		7,023	7,459

A total of 16 technical volunteers were trained to support 224 community based volunteers at the village/camp level on community mobilization, participation, sensitization and awareness in the 7 sub-counties of Obalanga, Kapelebyong, Acowa in Amuria and Magoro, Ngariam, Usuk and Ogongoja in Katakwi.

The beneficiaries of the shelter program-floods resistant huts were provided with tools that ranged from wheel barrows, hammers, hoes, spades, sickles, axes, pangas, rammers, sisal strings, and nails, pick axes, tarpaulins, dump proof membrane (DPM).

In addition, 20,000 tree seedlings were distributed to 20,000 households in Amuria and Katakwi. These seedlings were planted to replace the already cut trees during construction as a measure for environmental protection.

21,000 seeds and tools were distributed to 21,000 households in Usuk, Omodoi, Ogongoja, Kapujan, and Toromo in Katakwi and Kapelebyong, Murungatuny, and Acowa in Amuria district.

60 farmer groups were formed in Amuria and Katakwi and were provided with 120 Oxen and 60 Ox-ploughs together with planting materials through seed fair/voucher system in an effort to move from subsistence farming to intensive agricultural production.

In Water and Sanitation, 20 institutional latrines were constructed in 20 primary schools in Amuria and Katakwi benefiting 11,555 pupils in schools.

830 family latrines were constructed in Acowa, Asamuk and Kapelebyong parishes benefiting 4150 people in Amuria district. These latrines are being used by the beneficiaries in the affected communities.

145 bathing shelter were constructed benefiting 870 households in Usuk sub-county in Katakwi district. (6 households share 1 bathing shelter.)

20 boreholes were rehabilitated and functioning well in Amuria (10) and Katakwi (10), while 16 contaminated water sources were disinfected with chlorine in both Katakwi and Amuria.

We wish to inform the public that Uganda Red Cross Society is one of the respected and accountable institutions in Uganda. All the money we receive is always used for the activity to which they are tagged and proper accountabilities are always given to our partners.

Uganda Red Cross Society, which is an auxiliary body to government, pledges to continue focusing its interventions to those who are the most vulnerable and has enjoyed the good cooperation of the Local Governments in Katakwi and Amuria districts. We profoundly regret the media reports as they are baseless and unwarranted and only aimed at tarnishing the image of the URCS.

Issued by:

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) is the leading humanitarian organization in Uganda, established by Act of Parliament 1964.

URCS has 51 branches spanning the whole country. The Society works with a number of partners in execution of its mission. These include the Government of Uganda, United Nations Agencies, International funding agencies, corporate companies and sister national societies.

Fundamental principles of the Red Cross include **Humanity, Impartiality, Neutrality, Independence, Voluntary Service, Unity and Universality.**

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