

Displaced Persons

Uganda

Date
1988

Location
Soroti, Kumi, Apac,
Lira, Gulu, Kitgum,
Kotido, and Moroto
districts in northern
and northeastern
Uganda

No. Dead
Unknown

No. Affected
2,700,000

The Disaster

Uganda has endured continuous upheaval and human rights abuses stemming from civil strife which began with the rule of Idi Amin in 1971. Fighting in recent years has occurred primarily in the north and northeast between government troops and various armed rebels, including a religious group called the Holy Spirit Movement. U.S. and other donors provided assistance to victims displaced by fighting in northern and northeastern Uganda.

Although President Yoweri Museveni signed a peace agreement with the last of his significant armed opponents in June 1988, the problems of rebuilding a shattered regional economy, of restoring agricultural productivity, and of dealing with the suffering and dislocation of local inhabitants remained. Many of those who had fled returned lacking the most basic means of survival. Almost 3 million displaced persons were estimated to need emergency help, specifically in the northern districts of Soroti, Kuni, Apac, Lira, Gulu, Kitgum, Kotido, and Moroto in 1988.

Action Taken by the Government of Uganda (GOU) and Non-Governmental Organizations

In response to this most recent displaced persons' emergency, the GOU shipped grain into the area and donated 14 trucks for commodity transport. The Ugandan Red Cross conducted a nutrition survey and dispatched a medical team to the area.

Assistance Provided by the U.S. Government

U.S. Ambassador Robert G. Houdek declared a disaster due to the urgent needs of Ugandan displaced persons on July 5, 1988. The USG gave \$320,000 in emergency assistance to the PVO Agricultural Cooperatives Development International (ACDI) for the purchase and delivery of pangas, hoes, and crop seeds in the north. OFDA furnished \$220,000 of this amount in response to a Mission request, and USAID/Kampala reprogrammed \$100,000 from an existing

Rural Economy Recovery grant to the GOU for which ACDI was the implementing agent. Local currency funds were used to support a small farmers' credit scheme in the affected area by the Uganda Commercial Bank. OFDA also provided \$75,000 from its funds targeting orphans, a Congressionally directed earmark, to UNESCO for an emergency relief project.

Total OFDA	\$295,000
Total Other USG	\$100,000

TOTAL	\$395,000
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Assistance Provided by the U.S. Voluntary Agencies

ACDI - arranged for the local purchase and delivery of pangas, hoes, and crop seeds for the north.

WVRD - operated 3 feeding centers in Gulu, conducted a nutritional survey, and provided blankets and eating utensils.

Assistance Provided by the International Community

EC - donated \$280,000 from local funds.

Germany, Fed. Rep. - contributed \$2,100,000.

Italian Medical Volunteers - provided health services in Kitgum.

Italy - gave \$750,000.

Korea, Rep. - contributed \$320,000.

MSF/Holland - supported a feeding center and health services in Soroti.

Oxfam/UK - conducted a needs assessment and a feeding program in Kitgum.

United Kingdom - furnished \$2,100,000.

TOTAL	\$5,550,000
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Date

1987

LocationKaramoja Province
in northeastern
Uganda**No. Dead**

None reported

No. Affected

331,000

Damage

The drought destroyed the bean and pea crops and reduced sorghum and corn output in the northern district by about 75% of the norm. About 70,000 cattle perished. Only about 40% of the boreholes in North Karamoja Province were functioning by fall 1987.

The Disaster

Sufficient rains failed to materialize for the second straight spring in the Ugandan province of Karamoja, jeopardizing food availability for 331,000 people. Especially affected was the district of North Karamoja, an area that suffers agricultural shortfalls in the best of times. In 1987, sorghum yields there dropped to 28% of the norm, corn output registered only 22% of the average, and bean and pea production was a near total loss. Local officials in the district capital of Kotido reported that commodity prices had risen six to seven times over the previous year and that 70,000 cattle had perished between January and November. As of the late fall of 1987, only 80 out of 192 boreholes in North Karamoja were functioning. Corn and sorghum yields were down in South Karamoja as well, with food prices three to four times higher than in 1987.

The lack of water and cattle raiding had forced herdsmen to move their livestock to winter pastures near the Iteso District border, leaving elderly people, women, and children in the settled areas without an important source of nourishment. However, UNICEF-sponsored surveys of affected children under five, performed in November 1987 and February 1988 in both districts, found that the emergency had not increased malnutrition levels and that there was no immediate need for feeding centers. Unusually heavy off-seasonal and seasonal rains in December 1987 and during the following spring helped ease the drought's severity.

Action Taken by the Government of Uganda (GOU)

Immediately following crop failures in Karamoja Province between May and June 1987, an interministerial committee was set up under the prime minister's aegis to monitor the situation. In November, a delegation of top government officials toured the region to assess emergency food requirements. The prime minister's office bought 10,000 MT of corn for shipment as far north as Kotido and the Ministry of Rehabilitation furnished 16 trucks to move corn, beans, and other commodities from food-surplus ports of Uganda to

Karamoja Province.

Assistance Provided by the U.S.**Government**

At the invitation of the UNDP, U.S. Ambassador Robert G. Houdek and USAID/Kampala Director Richard Podol made a one-day trip on Nov. 4 to the towns of Kotido in North Karamoja and Moroto in South Karamoja. Following this visit, Ambassador Houdek made an emergency declaration due to drought on Dec. 17, 1987. He granted \$25,000 in disaster funds to WFP for the purchase of fuel needed in emergency food transport.

TOTAL	\$25,000
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Assistance Provided by U.S. Voluntary Agencies

None reported

Assistance Provided by the International Community

AICF - conducted a nutritional survey and feeding programs.

EC - gave \$126,000 for fuel and maintenance costs and \$650,000 for pulses.

Oxfam/UK - operated a feeding center.

UNDP - donated \$50,000 for administrative costs.

UNICEF - contributed \$132,000 for 8 vehicles and sponsored nutritional surveys.

WFP - furnished 10,640 MT of grain and 240 MT of CSM.

TOTAL	\$958,000
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