

NOTE ON THE ROLL-OUT OF THE CLUSTER APPROACH IN UGANDA

Status of the Roll-Out Cluster Approach

- A protection strategy has been developed by UNHCR in consultation with partners. The strategy has a two prong approach of focusing on freedom of movement, which would enable Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) to voluntarily return if conditions are conducive, while simultaneously working to improve the conditions in the camps.
- Consultations have started with partners to develop a Camp Coordination and Management Strategy. A first draft of a CCCM strategy has been completed. The IASC agreed that Camp Coordination and Management Cluster is a sub-cluster of the Protection Cluster in Uganda.
- Preparations are on-going for local integration and voluntary return to Adjumani and Masindi. Assessments of conditions in these two regions have been carried out. To obtain baseline data for planning return and reintegration activities, a registration exercise of IDPs was conducted in Masindi in partnership with IOM.
- UNHCR has established a presence in Lira through the deployment of a Pro-Cap Senior Protection Officer and hiring of one protection field clerk. The office is currently located in the OHCHR office pending the opening of a joint UNDP/UNHCR shared Office in Lira.
- UNCT/IASC is regularly meeting with regards to the implementation of the cluster approach in Uganda. The Protection (return) and Early Recovery Clusters have also begun to be formed.
- Discussions are being held with the Office of the Prime Minister and district authorities to determine how to strengthen the existing government chaired District Disaster Management Commissions' activities responsible for IDP interventions in the districts.

Challenges

- Improvement of security conditions is absolutely critical and has negatively impacted the following:
 - Humanitarian access which is limited due to arbitrary use of escorts and lack of information by the UPDF,
 - Safety in the camps; women subject to exploitation and abuse by security forces and local male population
 - Limited IDPs access to land do to restrictions on freedom of movement through curfews and perimeters, without which self-reliance agriculture projects cannot be implemented.
- Strengthening of communication means to increase IDPs' information on security and assistance.
- Return of teachers and health workers (and/or housing) to ensure that adequate resources are available to address education and health needs.

Future Activities

- Expand presence in Lira and establish a presence in the North in Gulu and Pader. This entails creation and filling of posts and opening of offices.
- In support of the Protection Cluster goal of freedom of movement and return, establish Return Assessment Teams in districts of return and areas of displacement to assess conditions for return, improve camp conditions and advocate for land access and freedom of movement with the local security authorities.
- Establish monitoring and reporting mechanisms.

- Support WFP in developing a sensitization campaign for the phasing down of general food distribution planned for May.
- Review a camp baseline data tool and complete the mapping of priority needs, agencies' presence and activities to develop an action plan for phasing in UNHCR, Government and NGO involvement in camp coordination and management.

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