



### SITUATION REPORT N°5 – KENYAN REFUGEES IN UGANDA – 24 JANUARY 2008

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- **TRANSFER OF REFUGEES FROM RECEPTION CENTRES TO MULANDA TRANSIT SITE BEGAN 23 JANUARY – TO DATE 951 REFUGEES HAVE OPTED TO MOVE**
- **TOTAL NUMBER OF REGISTERED KENYAN REFUGEES IN UGANDA IS 6,219**

The information contained in this report has been gathered by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) from sources including the Government of Uganda, UN agencies, non-governmental organizations and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

#### Situation Overview

1. The situation in Kenya has remained tense in the past week, with continued violence and lawlessness reported. From 16 to 18 January, the opposition Orange Democratic Movement called for protests across Kenya, which gatherings were vigorously dispersed by Kenya National Police. Since 16 January, dozens of Kenyans have reportedly been killed in the continuing violence that has seized the country since the contested elections of 27 December 2007. The Government of Kenya currently puts the number of people displaced internally at 222,177.

2. The number of newly-arrived refugees registering at the reception sites in the border districts of Uganda has lessened in recent days, with only four new arrivals registered on 21 January, as opposed to 67 on 20 January. According to border officials, new arrivals into Uganda are increasingly requesting entry as visitors and/or students, rather than refugees. Few people are travelling into Kenya.

3. As of 21 January, the total number of **registered Kenyan refugees in Uganda was 6,219**, although Government of Uganda estimates put the figure at 6,590.

Source: URCS (21 January 2008)

District	Location/ reception center	Population
Tororo	St. Jude P/S - Malaba	1,996
Busia	Busia Integrated P/S	2,438
Manafwa	Bumbo P/S	319
	Lwakhakha	386
Bukwo		1080
Total		6,219

Note: Registration at the main reception centres has been suspended since 22 January in preparation for the transfer of the Kenyan refugees to the Mulanda

transit site. An unconfirmed number of refugees are reported to be in Nakapiripirit District, while the earlier reports of refugees in Bududa District were confirmed by the Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) as primarily consisting of Ugandans married to Kenyans returning to their homes during the tense times. Additionally, the total number of refugees in Bukwo and Manafwa Districts, where the majority are living within the host community, remain estimates, not confirmed figures.

4. Over the past week, the main focus of the humanitarian response to the Kenyan refugees in Uganda has been **preparing for and facilitating the transfer of the refugee population** from the various reception centres established at the main points of entry in Malaba (Tororo District), Busia (Busia District) and Lwakhakha and Bumbo (Manafwa District) to the **transit site at Mulanda** (Tororo District), some 35 kilometres from the Kenyan border.

5. Starting on 22 January, a three-day **information campaign** organized by the United Nations Refugee Agency, the UNHCR, targeted refugee populations in Tororo, Busia and Manafwa to present the case for transfer and address the refugees' questions and concerns. Officials in all the concerned districts participated in the campaign, which was also supported by the non-governmental organizations GOAL, Christian Children's Fund (CCF) and The Salvation Army, as well as the Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) and OCHA.

6. As part of the information campaign, refugee leaders were offered transport to Mulanda to inspect the facilities and provide feedback to the rest of the population. Five refugee leaders were so facilitated on 23 January.

7. The transfer of refugees to Mulanda transit site began on 23 January, targeting the refugee population at the Malaba and Busia reception sites. On Day 1 of the transfer, some 822 refugees (314 households) made the move to Mulanda: 314 from Malaba and 508 from Busia. An additional 129 persons were transported to Mulanda on Day 2 of the transfers.

8. Based on these reports, **roughly 80 per cent of refugees are opting out of the transfer to Mulanda**, preferring to remain in host communities or even returning to Kenya. Reports on 22 and 23 January indicated that some of refugees had crossed back in to Kenya, and were camping at the Kenya Police Station in Busia (Kenya).

9. Given the lower than expected response, the transfer of refugees was suspended at the end of 24 January, although buses will be available on Monday, 28 January to facilitate the transfer of any refugee that changes their mind about the move.

## Priority Needs

10. Among the priority needs reported by partners are:

- **Water** and **sanitation** at the Mulanda transit site;
- **Health**: drugs and medical supplies for the refugee population;
- **Food**: supplementary feeding for refugee children, as well as an assessment of the overall food security situation in the affected districts;
- **Monitoring** the situation of refugees opting not to transfer to Mulanda, as well as an initial assessment and refugee verification in Bukwo District;
- **Rehabilitation** of reception centre facilities ahead of the new school year.

## Humanitarian Response

### Camp Management

11. At present, the issue of which organization is to take responsibility for management of the Mulanda transit remains under discussion. URCS has been managing the reception sites at Malaba and Busia.

### Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFIs)

12. UNHCR has provided 500 tents at the Mulanda transit site, while The Salvation Army provided 250,000 Ugandan shillings for construction of the tents.

13. Save the Children has secured 2,000 mattresses and 2,000 blankets for distribution at the Mulanda transit site. Previously, Save provided 400 baby blankets for children under age five, 487 insecticide-treated mosquito nets, eight bales of second-hand clothing, and 30 lanterns, with 80 litres of kerosene.

14. URCS has distributed kits of non-food items, including insecticide-treated mosquito nets, jerrycans, blankets, soap, tarpaulins, cups and plates to 3,111 Kenyan refugees.

### Water and Sanitation

15. The **water** situation at the Mulanda transit site remains critical. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has installed four 10,000 litres tanks at the site and made arrangements to truck water to fill them. Alternate sources of water at the site are limited to

three functioning boreholes, all of which are used by the host community.

16. According to the URCS, a total 400 latrine stances are required to cater to the refugee population at Mulanda. URCS has covered requirements for 200 of the stances, leaving a gap of 200 stances to be filled.

### Food Security

17. A better overview of the **food security situation**, particularly among the refugee population remaining near the border and among host communities, is needed.

18. Some organizations have raised concerns over the potential for malnutrition among children, as there are no agencies currently providing supplementary feeding programmes. Action Aid International, The Salvation Army and PLAN said they would look into their capacity to establish supplementary feeding programmes at Mulanda.

19. To date, PLAN Uganda, WorldVision, and the Baptist Union of Uganda have provided food aid at the Malaba reception centre, while the Methodist Church of Uganda provided food to the reception centre at Busia. The Office of the Prime Minister has provided 200 bags of posho and 50 bags of beans to both the Busia and Malaba reception centres.

### Health

20. A drug stock out was reported at the first aid unit at the Malaba reception centre on 21 January, as well as limited access to medications for patients with special needs, such as diabetics. The health team at the site also reported low response to Coartem, indicated by the re-occurrence of malaria among patients seen.

21. URCS and Médecins sans Frontières (MSF) have provided support for the health clinic at Malaba. The Kenyan High Commissioner, who visited the refugee sites on 19 January, also pledged to provide drugs to the health centres.

22. Treatment at health centres in and around refugee sites is mainly reliant on clinical diagnosis; there is a need to more adequately implemented integrated disease surveillance.

23. The shortage of health staff at Mulanda needs to be redressed; agencies were asked to look into their capacity to provide first aid services and training at Mulanda.

### Education

24. Refugee school-going children are accustomed to being taught in Kiswahili, raising concerns about integration into Ugandan schools. However, a high number of trained school teachers are reportedly among the refugee population.

### Protection

25. URCS has been helping to verify the refugees to be re-located to Mulanda as they boarded the buses

and is working with UNHCR to carry out a fresh registration at the transit site.

26. URCS also has tracing officers identifying, documenting, tracing and restoring family links for refugees, especially unaccompanied minors.

27. Save the Children has been providing information on the prevention of family separation during the transfer process and has begun tracing and reunification activities for seven children separated from their families.

28. Save the Children has also established and staffed child safe spaces at the Mulanda transit site. Twelve refugee volunteers have been trained as safe space facilitators.

#### **Support for Refugees outside Mulanda Transit Site**

29. There is an urgent need to establish strategies for monitoring the situation of those refugees who opt not to move to the Mulanda transit site.

30. To date, there has been **no humanitarian response in Bukwo District**. The situation should urgently be assessed, including verification of the number of refugees present, and initial assistance ahead of preparations to transfer willing refugees to Mulanda should be provided.

#### **Support for the Host Communities**

31. Support for the **rehabilitation of facilities at the main reception sites** in Busia and Malaba, both of which are primary schools, is urgently required ahead of the beginning of the new school year on 1 February 2008. Of particular concern are the sanitation facilities at Malaba, which were completely overtaxed by the strain of hosting the refugee population. Alternate sanitation facilities for the schoolchildren are urgently needed. Fumigation of the sites should also be concluded prior to the re-entry.

## Coordination

32. The humanitarian community in Uganda has agreed jointly to support the Government's response to the situation of the Kenyan refugees, with inter-agency operational coordination to be led by the United Nations Refugee Agency, UNHCR, subsequent to the granting of prima facie status to the Kenyans in Uganda.

33. On Monday, 21 January, the UNHCR convened simultaneous meetings of humanitarian partners and Government/district authorities in Kampala and Tororo in order to discuss preparations for the transfer of the refugees to the Mulanda transit site and the way forward in responding to the crisis in Kenya and its effect in the border area of eastern Uganda. The next such inter-agency coordination meeting is expected to be held on xx January in Tororo.

34. The UNHCR has developed a contingency plan for the influx of up to 50,000 Kenyans into Uganda, in conjunction with humanitarian partners. The contingency plan is currently being circulated to the Government and district authorities for comment.

35. **OCHA will continue to issue Situation Reports on the Kenyan refugees in Uganda as required. Inputs may be sent to: [knutson@un.org](mailto:knutson@un.org).**

#### **For more information, please contact:**

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**WHO-WHAT-WHERE: KENYAN REFUGEES IN UGANDA**

District	Site Management	Security	Education	Protection	Food Security	Water & Sanitation	Health & Nutrition	Family Shelter & NFI
<b>Malaba (Tororo)</b>	URCS District Local Government UNHCR	District Security Committee	Save the Children	UNHCR URCS PLAN Uganda Save the Children	OPM WFP Caritas Uganda – Tororo Archdiocese Kenyan High Commission Baptist Mission Rotary International District Local Government PLAN Uganda	UNICEF URCS District Local Government	PLAN Uganda District Local Government MSF Caritas Uganda – Tororo Archdiocese	URCS Save the Children World Vision Caritas Uganda – Tororo Archdiocese District Local Government Rotary International
<b>Manafwa</b>	URCS	District Security Committee	District Local Government	District Local Government	OPM District Local Government Ebenezer	District Local Government	District Local Government	District Local Government URCS
<b>Busia</b>	URCS District Local Government	District Security Committee	Save the Children CCF	FOCREV URCS UNHCR Save the Children	OPM Caritas WFP District Local Government Methodist Church	GOAL FOCREV	GOAL FOCREV District Local Government CCF Caritas Uganda – Tororo Archdiocese	URCS GOAL World Vision CCF Save the Children FOCREV
<b>Bukwo</b>	District Local Government	District Security Committee	District Local Government	District Local Government	District Local Government	District Local Government	District Local Government	District Local Government
<b>Mulanda (Tororo)</b>	URCS District Local Government UNHCR	District Security Committee	UNICEF Save the Children PLAN Uganda	UNHCR URCS Save the Children CCF PLAN Uganda	WFP OPM ActionAid International* The Salvation Army* PLAN Uganda*	UNICEF URCS District Local Government The Salvation Army	District Local Government WHO PLAN Uganda Kenyan High Commission GOAL	URCS UNHCR FOCREV World Vision Smile Africa Kenyan High Commission District Local Government Save the Children

\* Denotes an agency investigating capacity to intervene in this area.