

**Uganda**

Nairobi, 23 January 2018

SITUATION

In the evening of Monday the 18 December 2017, the district of Kanungu, Kisoro and Bundibugyo in Western Uganda, were highly congested with Congolese refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo fleeing violence. That week was characterised by two major developments: the unexpected surge of arrivals to Kyangwali Settlement through the Lake Albert route and the arrival of Congolese refugees to Kyaka II settlement. Rwamwanja settlement which used to receive Congolese refugees entering through South west Uganda has since reached its full capacity. 11,435 Congolese new arrivals have been received in Uganda since 1st December 2017. The largest majority entered through Nteko and Bunagana border points in Kisoro with smaller numbers crossing through Ishasha, Kyeshero and Butogta border points in Kanungu, Mpondwe in Kasese and Lake Albert in Bulisa district. The new arrivals through Kisoro, Kanungu and Kasese are taken to Kyakall while those entering through Lake Albert are taken to Kyangwli settlement.

The settlements face numerous challenges from poor access roads and lack of infrastructure to inadequate access to clean and safe water. At Malemo C in Kyangwali settlement, the new arrivals currently receive 13Litres per person per day which is below the recommended minimum SPHERE standards of 15L/P/D. Since children constitute the majority, temporary schools need to be urgently established for the provision of safe child spaces, early childhood development and primary education before school resumes in February. In Kyaka II and Kyangwali's extension site of Malemo settlements, refugees lacked adequate sanitation facilities such as communal latrines for the new arrivals. 232 persons with special needs (PSNs) including 114 un-accompanied minors and separated children (UASC) have been identified, and also people with disabilities (PWD), survivors of SGBV as experienced in Congo and on transit to the country of refuge, and other vulnerabilities, need to be identified and addressed. The new entry points lack adequate shelter for persons with special needs more vulnerabilities.

NEEDS

The conflict has put the region in a state of crisis. The conflict affected persons find themselves in a desperate situation, with many unmet vital humanitarian needs such as access to education in emergencies, psychosocial support and other needs as below:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	sufficient food
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	safe shelter and basic non-food items
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	basic health services and facilities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	safe drinking water, as well as sanitation and hygiene infrastructure
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	livelihood activities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	protection services
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	adequate nutrition

The dire situation is further compounded for the conflict affected people with vulnerabilities; more specifically for woman and girls constitute to the majority of the refugee new arrivals with children 65% children only.

There is a pressing necessity to provide immediate assistance to minimize loss of life and to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable are covered first.

STAKEHOLDERS

The following national and international entities are present and doing their best to respond to the crisis:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	National government	Office of the Prime Minister (OPM)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	UN Agencies	UNICEF, UNHCR, WFP
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	INGOs	LWF, Save the Children, Finn Church Aid (FCA)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Military presence	Uganda Police and the Uganda Peoples Defence Forces (UPDF)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	National NGOs	African Initiative for Relief and Development (AIRD), Action Africa Help (AAH), Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Host communities	Kanungu, Kisoro and Hoima, Bundibugyo districts (Nyakabande, Malembo C, Kagoma, Ishasha, Kyeshero, Butogta, Nteko, Bunagana, Kyaka II, Kyangwali)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Affected communities	DRC's North Kivu.

The emergency response is currently being coordinated by Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) together with UNHCR. To ensure that the humanitarian response is well coordinated and complementary, the ACT forum members (LWF and FCA) are taking part in meetings with all relevant sector stakeholders (Inter-agency Rapid emergency Planning meetings) and establish an open line of communication with crisis affected persons and communities to ensure a humanitarian response based on participation and feedback.

ACT Alliance

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACT Alliance has been working in Uganda since 2011, now helping/planning to help people affected by the conflict
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACT Alliance works in areas affected by the conflict, and is assessing the impact of the influx to better understand the needs and vulnerabilities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACT Alliance is currently monitoring the situation and is preparing a rapid needs assessment to have an in-depth context analysis and better understanding of existing vulnerabilities.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACT Alliance is monitoring the situation and emergency teams are ready/preparing to respond according to the results of a contextual analysis and rapid needs assessment.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	In collaboration with relevant stakeholders, the ACT forum has identified a gap in Water, Hygiene and Sanitation (WASH), Protection, Basic Non-food Items (NFI) and has resolved that if funded, it will have the capacity to properly bridge the identified gap.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The ACT forum is planning on submitting a funding proposal to provide water facilities, shelter kit and Non-food items to ensure that the conflict affected persons' basic needs are met with regards to ensuring the new arrivals' dignified lives and within the humanitarian standards.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ACT Alliance is ready to respond, providing inclusive WASH, Protection, shelter support, NFIs to 20,000 new Congolese refugee arrivals and affected persons in the coming days.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Furthermore, ACT Alliance will engage in advocacy on the national and international level to ensure that the voices of those affected by the conflict are amplified and heard.

Any funding indication or pledge should be communicated to the Head of Finance and Administration, Line Hempel (Line.Hempel@actalliance.org)

For further information please contact:

Forum Coordinator, Kaneth Barigye, Country Director, Lutheran World Relief (LWR, kbarigye@lwrearo.org)

ACT Regional Programme Officer, Arnold Ambundo (Arnold.Ambundo@actalliance.org)

ACT Web Site address: <http://www.actalliance.org>