I. General Situation
   a. Political, Social and Security
      - The security situation in Acholi and Lango sub-region remains stable.
      - Renewed hostility between the DRC government forces and the rebels loyal to General Laurent Nkunda in eastern DRC

   a. Main Events of Interest/Concern for Health
      - Continuing influx of refugees from DRC into western Uganda
      - Met with MoH officials to discuss possibility of conducting a mini Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) in Acholi and Karamoja region of Uganda
      - Started implementation a comprehensive multi-sectoral HAT control activity in Dokolo district Lango sub-region

II. Analysis and Health Consequences (Health Problems and Needs of Affected Population)

Malaria: Over the last five weeks the number of cases of malaria in Lira district increased from 5305 cases in epi-week 40 to 7917 cases in epi-week 45, representing a 49% increase. In Amolatar district the number of cases of malaria increase from 1032 cases in epi week 40 to 1371 cases in epi-week 4 representing a 32% increase. Apac and Oyam district which hitherto were registering few cases of malaria following IRS is now reporting increasing number of cases of malaria. Increase in the number of functional health facilities, poor coverage of malaria prevention activities (ITNs, IRS) and frequent stock out of anti-malarial drugs may partially explain the increase however, malaria epidemic is likely in Lira district. See figure I for details. In Amuru district over the last 7 week the number of cases of malaria recorded in 2008 has been on average 15% higher than that of 2007 for the same epi-week.

Figure I

Highlights
- Influx of refugees from DRC into Uganda results into over stretching of the health facilities in the west
- WHO provides support to HAT control activities in Dokolo district of Lango sub-region
- Threats of flooding in North Eastern and North Western Uganda as excessive
A team from MoH/WHO visited Gulu district to assess use of RDT in diagnosis of malaria. Findings from the team indicates that most of the health facilities visited were not using RDTs for diagnosing malaria, most health worker who were previously trained on RDT have been transferred to other health facilities and there was inadequate support supervision to the health facilities.

**Dysentery:** The number of cases of dysentery reported in all sub-regions of Acholi, Lango and Karamoja continues to be low in 2008 as compared to that of 2007 for the same epi-weeks

**Cholera:** No new case of cholera was reported in Kampala and Kayunga district in epi-week 45. The cumulative number of cases of cholera is 96 and 10 for Kampala and Kayunga district respectively. The cumulative deaths is 8 (CFR 8.3%) and 2 (CFR 20%) for Kampala and Kayunga district respectively.

**Polio:** Threat of wild polio virus importation in districts bordering Sudan still persists

**Measles:** No case of measles was reported in epi-week 45

**Sleeping sickness:** One case of sleeping sickness was reported from Dokolo district in epi-week 45. The cumulative number of cases of sleeping sickness reported in Dokolo district over the last 2 years is 119 with 12% case fatality rate (CFR). 70% of the patients reported with late stage of the disease leading to high CFR.

**Meningitis:** no case was reported in the week

**Hepatitis E:** The cumulative number of cases of Hepatitis E registered in all districts of Acholi and Lango is 8,994 with 141 deaths (CFR 1.56%). See table I for details. Kitgum district which is the epi-centre of the epidemic registered 48 cases in epi-week 45 down from 64 cases registered in epi-week 44. Sub-counties that registered cases in epi-week 45 were Mucwini (14), Padibe E/W (7), Potika (5), Layamo (5) and Lokung (2)

**Table I: New Hepatitis E Cases by District in Week 45**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>New cases</th>
<th>New deaths</th>
<th>Cumulative Cases</th>
<th>Cumulative deaths (Case Fatality Rate CFR)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kitgum</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8,912</td>
<td>132 (1.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gulu &amp; Amuru</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>15 (8 confirmed)</td>
<td>2 (13.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pader</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>55 (8 confirmed)</td>
<td>7 (11%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lango</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8,994</td>
<td>141 (1.56%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Influx of refugees from DRC; A joint Health, Nutrition and HIV/AIDS cluster team comprising of WHO, UNHCR, Merlin, CESVI and MSF-F conducted a rapid health nutrition and HIV/AIDS assessment in DRC refugee hosting districts of Kisoro, Kanungu and Isingiro major findings are;

- There is currently an estimated 14,000 new refugees in the 3 districts
- The current influx of refugees has lead to increased pressure on the existing health facilities. This pressure is further compounded by inadequate staffing at the health facilities and frequent stock out of essential drugs
- Inefficient disease surveillance system
- Poor access to safe water and sanitation facilities.
- There is risk of epidemic outbreak of disease especially Polio as some of the refugees originated from areas where outbreak of Polio was confirmed.

Key recommendations of the assessment include;

- Intensification of immunization services,
- Strengthening of community health education activities,
- Establishment of health posts in refugee reception centres,
- Deployment of more health workers,
- Provision of emergency drug supplies,
- Strengthening of IDSR and EPR

Threats of floods in north eastern and north western Uganda; According to records from metrological department, the north eastern and north western part of Uganda has recorded above average rainfall with may easily result into floods in the region.

III. Actions
   a. WHO Response

   Epidemic Response (Sida)
   - Malaria;
     - Lira district, WHO is working with the office of the DHO and MoH vector control programme to further investigate the increase in
malaria cases and to advocate for IRS in Lango sub-region.

- Amuru district: WHO sub-office in Gulu has supported the office of the DHO to investigate the apparent increase in number of cases of malaria, WHO is also planning to conduct training of more health workers on use of RDT and to support the office of the DHO to conduct frequent support supervision.
- Pader district; support provided to the DHO to distribute co-artem to lower health units

- **Sleeping sickness;** WHO provided technical and financial assistance (to the tune of 45,000 USD) to the MoH sleeping sickness control program and Dokolo district to implement a multi-sectoral HAT control programme in the district in particular and Lango region in general. Key components of this project include strengthening of early case detection and follow up of cases training of health workers and treatment of cattle reservoirs.

- **Cholera;** WHO is continues to provide technical and financial support to MoH and Kampala City Council to respond to epidemic outbreak of cholera through hosting of the weekly NTF meeting, provision of treatment guidelines, surveillance and provision of cholera kits.

- **Hepatitis E;** WHO is continuing to provide technical and financial support MoH and Kitgum district to respond to epidemic outbreak of Hepatitis E through hosting of the weekly NTF meeting on Hepatitis E and Cholera, support to cases management, community mobilization, community sensitization and disease surveillance.

- **Measles;** WHO is supporting the DHOs in the districts bordering Sudan in strengthening disease surveillance

### Emergency Health and Nutrition Response in Karamoja (CERF)

- Sensitized all sub-county leaders in Kaabong and Kotido district on VHT concept
- Conducted VHT selection in Kaabong and Kotido districts.
- Completed orientation of health workers on VHT concept in all 15 health units of Kotido district
- Started sensitization of sub county leaders on VHT concept and selection of VHTs in Moroto district
- Delivered supplies and medical consumables to Matany Hospital in preparation for the outreaches in the coming weeks
- Finalized preparation for VHT training in 4 sub counties; Lolachat in Nakapiripirit and 3 sub counties of Kaabong

### Others

- Held discussions with MoH officials on the possibility of conducting a mini Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) in Acholi and Karamoja region of Uganda
- In anticipation of floods in Teso and Mount Elgon regions, trained health workers in the region on drug supply management, use of RDTs to diagnose malaria, established 4 sentinel sites for malaria surveillance, established EPR teams, provided IDSR booklets and trained community health workers
(VHTs). The above activities were conducted during the month of September and October 2008
- Participated in the weekly coordination meeting on DRC refugee in Uganda

b. Cluster Partner’s Response
- MSF is providing health services and outreach program in some selected sub counties in Lamwo HSD of Kitgum district
- Medical Teams International and Medair, continue to provide mobile clinics in the District especially the areas that have no access to health services.
- MSFH and partners of WASH cluster continue to carry out activities that aim at controlling the Hepatitis E outbreak in the Kitgum district
- ASB has trained health assistants from five sub counties as TOT for PHAST and CHAST
- NUMAT carried out an on job training of health workers in most health facilities of Pader on Infant HIV/AIDS treatment and care.
- IRC, AMREF and ICRC etc are providing health services in their respective sub counties.
- UNHCR, UNICEF, MSF (F), CESVI and GTZ are responding to influx of refugees in western Uganda

IV. Comments and Conclusions
- The epidemic outbreak of Hepatitis E in Kitgum district still persists though at a reduced extent. There is still need for all stakeholders to continue interventions.
- The apparent increase in the number of cases of malaria needs further investigation to rule out the possibility of an epidemic

V. Plan for Coming Week
- Continue supporting hepatitis E and cholera epidemic response
- Continue to support response to the influx of refugees from DRC
- Continue providing technical and financial support to the office of the DHOs in strengthening HMIS/IDSR
- Investigate increase in number of cases of Malaria in Lira district with officials from MoH and DHO of Lira.
- Monitor the rains and flood situation in NE and NW Uganda

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