



UGANDA RED CROSS SOCIETY



2015 ANNUAL REPORT



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Acronyms

BGB	Branch Governing Board
BYC	Branch Youth Council
CGB	Central Governing Board
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
HC	Health center
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross/Red Crescent
KCCA	Kampala Capital City Authority
PHAST	Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation
PHASE	Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Education
MFS	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Support Mechanism of Netherlands.
NFIs	Non Food Items
NTIHC	Naguru Teenage Information Health Center
NLRC	Netherlands Red Cross
RFL	Restoration of Family Links
RCAT	Red Cross Action Teams
UPDF	Uganda People's Defense Forces
URCS	Uganda Red Cross Society
YFS	Youth friendly Services
NFIs	Non Food Items



Message from the Chairman Central Governing Board

On behalf of the central governing board, I congratulate management, staff and volunteers of Uganda Red Cross upon successful completion of 2015. Looking back at the waves the National Society has gone through, it is indeed worth celebrating the great achievements attained.

In March 2015, Uganda Red Cross membership successfully appointed leaders to fill the positions of the Central governing board, where I was given the honor to lead as Chairman. This board is composed of people of substance and skill, ready to take Uganda Red Cross to another level. We hope to see a self-sustaining national society with people of high integrity and transparency.

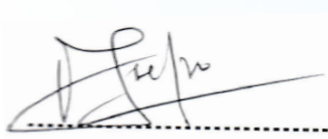
I want to welcome Robert Kwesiga, our new Secretary General who has joined Uganda Red Cross at this challenging time. His appointment is timely and with wealth of expertise, he will see this national society to greater heights. He is challenged to cause transformation amidst several challenges. However, we pledge our total support to him to see that we get Uganda Red Cross to the desired level.

We will also support the recruitment of members of senior management who will support the secretary general in ensuring Uganda Red Cross delivers as expected in meeting the needs of the vulnerable people. I therefore call upon everyone to play their part as we fulfill our mandate of saving lives. I want to encourage URCS Branch governing boards, membership, and volunteers to be focused and not be moved by the challenges at hand, but rather draw your attention to the future of Uganda Red Cross.

We have programs to implement and these should take most our time. December 2015 has seen URCS to the end of strategic plan 2010-2015. It has been a great journey with pitfalls and blessings. However, we have moved on and allowed the best out of the challenges. I and my team are dedicated to strategically leading Uganda Red Cross to another phase and are committed to supporting the process of developing a new strategic plan 2020.

We pray for your continued team work, commitment and rejuvenated passion as we continue serving Ugandans. Uganda Red Cross needs more members and volunteers, therefore I urge you join and become part of the world's life savers.

For God and my country.



Joseph Omilmot
CHAIRMAN CENTRAL GOVERNING BOARD





FOREWARD from the Secretary General



opportunities that await us as we embark on the great mandate of serving Humanity through saving lives of the most Vulnerable people in Uganda.

The great achievements are attributed to our large Volunteer base, supportive membership, Boards, the communities we serve, our donors, partners, and dedicated staff who work tirelessly to implement programs that have contributed to the great Impact realized in the lives of the vulnerable people in Uganda, across the 51 Branches.

2015 was the final year of implementing our 2011-2015 Strategy. The same period marked the beginning of URCS' path to recovery after the 2013 pitfalls that greatly contributed to the set-back in a number of activities that were being implemented.

However, we thank our partners, donors, staff, Volunteers and all stakeholders who have contributed to the implementation of the 2011-2015 strategy and realization of the goals and objectives of the National Society.

This was made possible by instituting a recovery plan (May – December 2015) that provided the platform for the national society to stabilize.

This Recovery Plan focused on managing tough risks such as the outstanding bank loans, meeting statutory obligations, trade creditors and staff outstanding dues. In

addition, the organizational conceptual framework was developed and focused on debt management, Resource Mobilization, Institutional review and Partnership strengthening. With such strategies in place, URCS was able to realize the objectives set in the 2011-2015 Strategy.

We celebrate great achievements in managing and responding to disasters and other emergencies, mobilizing blood donation drives, giving first Aid to victims of violence, casualties of road carnages, and ensuring that local communities access clean and safe water.

We have managed diseases like cholera, Malaria, and carried out sensitizations to empower communities with knowledge that aims at savings lives of all people.

Through our inclusive role, URCS has continued partnering with different key stakeholders to ensure service delivery to all people with impartiality. We have continued empowering our staff with Humanitarian expertise to enable them serve our communities better.

As a result, we were able to respond to several emergencies among which the El-Nino rains that heavily hit Eastern and Western Uganda stood out.

With our proved capacity, we were joined by partners like the International Committee of the Red Cross, German Red Cross and the Royal Norwegian Embassy and we supported over 26,525 people with NFIs, life skills, empowered them economically as well as ensured sustainability and resilience among local communities.

We have continued embracing modern Technology which makes emergency communications faster and enables us to respond to emergencies in a fast and efficient way. Our Volunteer base has also been strengthened to enable service delivery



possible to all communities.

We have continued serving the vulnerable including the Refugees who are camping at our different refugee settlements, our tracing services have supported over 387,000 people, our WASH program reaching out to over 25000 communities hence contributing to the well-being of the Vulnerable people in Uganda.

Our leadership and Board was also strengthened. In 2015, URCS appointed new leadership in office and a new Board was instituted.

Most of the positions of the senior management team which were vacant were filled by December 2015.

I therefore take this opportunity to present to you this FY2015 Annual Report and invite you to read the details herein for you to be inspired and make informed decisions of joining Uganda Red Cross as a Volunteer, Donor, Member, Partner so that we together join hands to serve Humanity and make this world a better place for everyone.

“Our Principles in Action - HINIVUU”

AYLTC African Youth Leadership Training Center



Robert Kwesiga
SECRETARY GENERAL

UGANDA RED CROSS SOCIETY

ABOUT US

Uganda Red Cross Society is a Humanitarian Organisation, dedicated to serving people in Uganda with strong emphasis on Disaster Response and Emergency Health with an aim of saving lives.

OUR VISION

An empowered, healthy and self-sustaining community that responds to the needs of its most vulnerable

OUR MISSION

To be a leading humanitarian agency in Uganda in saving lives, supporting livelihoods and promoting human dignity.

CORE VALUES

- Open mindedness
- Responsive
- Integrity/Transparency/Stewardship
- Responsible
- Democracy (equal distribution of decision-making power)
- Value for people
- Equity/Equality
- Respect for gender and other forms of diversity
- Professionalism
- Identity

OUR PRINCIPLES

Being a member of the International the International Committee of Red Cross and Red Crescent (ICRC) and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC), Uganda Red Cross values the Seven Principles guiding the Humanitarian operations worldwide.

1. Humanity
2. Impartiality
3. Neutrality





OUR STRATEGIC GOAL

URCS's Strategic Plan 2011-2015 has two broad strands of strategic direction, namely;

1. Institutional and Organizational Development - that aims to "Enhance institutional and organizational development for efficient and effective service delivery, and self-sustenance" and includes: Resource mobilization and partnership expansion; Organizational development and PME&R; Institutional development for effective organization and administration; and Communication, ICT and Public relations.

1. Programmes and Projects for Service Delivery - that aims to "Scale up programs and projects for service delivery to most vulnerable and affected individuals, households and communities to prevent and alleviate human suffering" and includes: Health and Care; Disaster Management; Dissemination and IHL; Youth, membership development and volunteer management; and Community development.

year later in 1965, the Society was admitted as a member of the International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Uganda Red Cross Society has continued to grow over the years and it now has 51 branches and 30 sub-branches spanning the whole of Uganda. The National Society also works with a number of partners in the execution of its mission. These include the Government of Uganda, United Nation agencies, International funding agencies, corporate companies and practicing sister Red Cross National Societies. It has a large Volunteer base of over 35,000 members across the Country. These comprise of diverse people from several professions, skills and positions in society hence well positioned to serve Humanity as per URCS' mandate.

It has continued extending services to Ugandans, targeting the most vulnerable and responded to emergencies in the following technical areas: Water, Hygiene and Sanitation (WATSAN), Disaster Risk Reduction / Management, Health and Emergency Response through First Aid and Blood Donor Management.

Brief History and Transformational Development

Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) was founded in 1962. It started as a branch of the British Red Cross in 1941. In 1964 under an act of Parliament, the Uganda Red Cross Constitution was adopted bringing into existence the Uganda Red Cross Society. A

URCS ACHIVEMENETS IN 2015

HEALTH AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Through the year, the department undertook a number of initiatives / health programs to ensure the safety and good health of the vulnerable people in affected communities. The implemented programs aimed at improving the health and social wellbeing of people in local communities through health promotion, community mobilization, disease prevention and control. Under this department, the following programs were successfully implemented:

Water, hygiene and sanitation, blood donor recruitment, first aid, road safety and emergency health, social mobilisation for disease control and reproductive health. As much as a few challenges were encountered, most of the planned activities were successfully implemented and great achievements registered.

WATER HYGIENE AND SANITATION

Water, Hygiene and Sanitation program focuses on delivery of services to vulnerable people through access to clean water. Water and sanitation projects were implemented in the branches of Kapchorwa, Hoima and Kibaale with support from Belgium Red Cross and Land Rover, UK. As part of the technical support from the International Federation of Red Cross / Crescent to the Land Rover project, a Water and Sanitation Delegate was posted to URCS to support implementation of WASH related programs for the well-being of people in those rural communities. Under WASH, the following was achieved:

- 30 volunteers (26 males and 4 females) were trained as Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST)

group members in Hoima and Kibaale branches. The team was deployed in local communities and conducted awareness campaigns on hygiene and sanitation that resulted in improved household sanitation and hygiene practices among the local people in different catchment areas.

- Twenty three (23) water user committee members were trained to ensure proper management of the constructed water and sanitation facilities in the different areas.
- With support from the trained PHASE teachers, the school health clubs in 12 schools in Hoima and Kibaale scaled up hygiene and sanitation promotion through installation and use of hand washing facilities. With such, more children are now able to attend school because they no longer have to suffer hygiene related diseases. The Teachers and children are also healthy because they have adopted good hygiene and sanitation practices while at school, and the same practices are taken on while at home.
- Twenty nine (29) PHAST groups were formed in Kibale and Hoima to support 725 households to improve on their hygiene and sanitation in different communities.
- 24 teachers, 4 project leaders, 1 inspector of schools and 2 project staff were trained in Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Education (PHASE) approaches and as a result, 12 schools in Kibaale and Hoima formed 36 PHASE clubs which are vibrant and are agents of change in their communities.
- With support from the IFRC WatSan Officer, 5 URCS staff, 30 volunteers and 2 Delegates CCC were trained on Ramp/Magpi survey and 15 smart phones were procured to support future survey.

South Sudan Refugees Operation (Adjumani)

Following the influx of refugees fleeing the armed conflict in South Sudan, URCS



with support from the German Red Cross, provided water and sanitation interventions in Mungula and Maanzi refugee camps in Adjumani.

- URCS Provided clean water, sanitation and hygiene facilities to 1,300 households in the refugee settlement hence enabling a safe environment for people to settle.
- 12 Water User Committees were convened, trained and equipped to ensure operation and maintenance of water sources hence ensuring sustainability of these water sources.
- 2,918 people reached with hygiene

training at the end of 2014, the hygiene promoters were given tool kits to be used for hygiene promotion within the community. During the reporting period, a total of 35 households from Kamuda and Lale parishes built sanitation facilities such as latrines, bathing shelters, drying racks and animal houses. This was attributed to the PHAST awareness campaigns conducted by the hygiene promoters.

- In Pupu Kamuya and Oreta parishes, the hygiene promoters conducted an assessment on the status of latrines. The latrine coverage was affected by the El Nino rains that destroyed

promotion messages as a way of curbing down diarrheal diseases which were rampant in the camp.

- 47 boreholes were rehabilitated, providing clean water to 16,450 people in vulnerable communities within Adjumani.
- Procured five sets of standard Hand Pump Mechanic (HPM) repair tool kits to support water supply during emergency operations.

PHAST promotion

- Following the completion of the PHAST



some latrines as indicated below;

Parish	Functional latrine	Under construction	Destroyed by the rains
Pupu kamuya	82	23	11
Oreta	64	34	17
TOTAL	146	57	28

A bore hole constructed with support from Uganda Red Cross

Beneficiary quote: *"It used to take us close to an hour to the nearest water source. The water was dirty and we used to share it with animals. We would spend the same period to get home. Sometimes we could spend a lot of time in the queue, struggling to at least return home with half a jerrican of that dirty water. Imagine how much time it took me to do my home chores. The story is now different. Uganda Red Cross constructed a bore hole close to my home. My life has changed. My children no longer miss school since the distance to the bore hole is very short. The water is clean and we no longer frequent hospitals with diarrheal diseases. Thanks to Uganda Red Cross." Says Ruth Kyohewe, 38 years and resident of mugarama sub-county, Kibaale district.*

training, youth corners for information and service provision, condom distribution and education on sexual reproductive health, STDs / HIV and prevention. The most vulnerable were targeted and at the end of the year, the following achievements were registered:

- URCS supported the referral of 156 expectant adolescent mothers from Rwamwanja Refugee camp to referral hospital in Kabarole for further case management. A URCS ambulance was deployed to support the provision of reproductive services in the camp. The mothers in the camps adopted system of visiting health facilities as opposed to giving birth from hom and traditional birth attendants. This also increased giving birth to healthy babies and increased chances of survival at birth.
- URCS established 256 condom distribution outlets in Karamoja, kotido, kabong, moroto, katakwi, oyam, Yumbe, Arua, Gulu, Mubende, Kanungu, and all the 5 Branches in Kampala.
- Through these outlets, 1,765,511 condoms (1,717,900 male condoms and 47,611 female condoms) were distributed. The youth service centers were established to enable access to information and continued education of youths on HIV/ AIDs.
- URCS partnered with Naguru Teenage Information Health Center (NTIHC) and conducted on-the-job mentorship in 9 (nine) facilities that included Katakwi HC IV, Moroto Referral Hospital, Kotido HC IV, Kaabong Hospital, Karenga HC

REPRODCUTIVE HEALTH

With support from UNFPA, the reproductive health program was implemented with an aim of improving access to adolescents / youths' reproductive health services among the vulnerable communities in Uganda. It focused on adolescent Sexual reproductive health and targeted 13 districts. These included the 5 branches in Kampala (Central, North, East, West & South) Moroto, Kotido, Kabong, Katakwi, Oyam, Yumbe, Arua, Gulu, Mubende, Kanungu, and Kalangala. The program implemented reached the beneficiaries with behavioral change messages, educating them on reproductive health, Family planning, life planning skills

IV and Anyeke HC IV. This helped in skills development for medical workers who support mothers while giving birth.

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH PROGRAM

This focused on improving antenatal care among pregnant mothers as well as safe delivery through provision of delivery kits. The program was implemented with funding from Japanese and Netherlands Red Cross Societies. Under this project, Uganda Red Cross implemented Safe motherhood and neo-natal programs in 5 districts. These included Amuru and Kitgum for safe mother hood and Neo-natal program was implemented in Ntungamo, Apac and Masaka. Through the year, the program managed to achieve the following:

- Identified and registered 6,328 new pregnant women for uptake of antenatal services. These were needy and vulnerable mothers and with the support through safe mother hood, they were able to give birth to healthy live babies.
- URCS conducted follow up visits to 1,013

existing pregnant mothers in the districts of Amuru and Kitgum. The follow ups ensured mothers were healthy and are taking the prescribed medication to ensure no cases of deaths among pregnant mothers as well as support the mid-wives to perform their responsibilities as they serve the mothers.

- URCS distributed mama bags to 5,153 mothers in Amuru and Kitgum districts. The mama bags encouraged mothers to deliver from hospitals. Initially, mothers feared visiting medical centers and would give birth from home, at traditional birth attendants. After URCS interventions, mothers were given mama bags / kits which was a motivation for them to give birth from hospitals. At the end of the year, 1,560 mothers delivered in health facilities in the 13 project health facilities.
- 8,644 Antenatal Care (ANC) attendances were registered during the course of the year. 6,278 pregnant women attended the first ANC and 2,336 attended the 4th ANC in Amuru and Kitgum



Sample motorcycle ambulance advanced to health facilities in rural communities to support pregnant mothers to access health facilities with ease.

- Many health centers were in a Dior state while implementing programs. Netherlands Red Cross Society donated medical items to the three districts where the neo-natal program was implemented. These were received by District Health Inspectors on behalf of the local councils and communities.
- URCS also rolled out motorcycle ambulance services to the rural communities to enable mothers easily access medical centers when the time for giving birth is due. This has enabled mothers to change behavior and attitude.
- Mothers in the local communities were given livelihood skills through which they can support their families to give children a decent life. Most of these groups are still alive and have enabled mothers improve their economic well-fare through borrowing and using the savings as evolvment funds.



Uganda Red Cross Secretary (R) handing over materials to support Kamulegu health



CASE 2:**Beneficiary Quote:**

"I was at home and we didn't have a job with my husband. I thank Red Cross for supporting our women's group. I am now able to work and buy food for my family. I save 5000sh every day and we can now educate our children with the same income." Says Janet Nakasujja, 28 years old.

Before Red Cross intervened in Janet's life, she was just like any other house wife, waiting for the husband to provide for the home. In Kyanamukaaka- Masaka district many mothers didn't have a source of income. They were just house wives doing home chores and looking after their children. Through the resilient babies project, an opportunity

availed for mothers to form groups and start income generating activities. Janet joined a group and now heads the team. She began by borrowing a small loan of 200,000sh. She started selling fish, onions and tomatoes. Later, her business picked up. She has upgraded and put up a stall. She also sells bananas and some vegetables when the season is good. She saves 5000sh a day.

Having had a sick husband for long, Janet, a mother of three is now able to sustain the family and also ensures that her husband gets medication. He is getting better each day and they are hopeful, when he recovers, they will work together to support their children. "What began as a small business has turned up to be our greatest source of income. My wife supports me and we are happy as a family. Thank you Uganda Red Cross." Janet smiles.



SOCIAL MOBILISATION FOR DISEASE CONTROL

With Support from UNICEF, Uganda Red Cross conducted a house to house typhoid prevention campaign in Kampala, Wakiso and Mukono Districts. This followed death of 13 people in those Districts. On top of the deaths, Uganda registered 1181 (552 males and 629 females) cases of typhoid reported in the same districts.

Through this intervention, 87 health promotion teams comprising of a village health teams, Uganda Red Cross volunteers and local council 1 (LC1) conducted house to house hygiene awareness sessions. In collaboration with the Ministry of Health, a total of 43,175 posters, 36,746 flyers and 21,452 leaflets were distributed to the public in high risk areas within the Districts.

Further, 87 tippy taps were constructed and placed at various strategic places such as public toilets, public water sources, markets and schools as demonstration sites for proper hygiene and sanitation promotion strategy.

At the same Districts' level, 585 hand washing sessions were conducted and this targeted 87,422 home visits, 280,411 households with 299,402 people (128,725 males, 170,677 females). All these were reached with messages for proper hygiene and sanitation for good health.

A total of 176,281 tablets of water purifiers were distributed benefiting 5,876 households (30 tablets per household). This activity was able to provide a total of 1,762,810 liters of safe potable water to the population for over 60 days hence greatly contributing to the control of typhoid transmission in the target communities.

"I want to thank Uganda Red Cross for coming out to support us. My children were affected by typhoid and we did not know until we were referred by Red Cross to the health center. I

thought my children had been be-witched. This happened because all the four children I have were sick and I am a single mother, not working and didn't know what to do. The Red Cross people came here, supported me and my children got medication.

They are now fine. They continued visiting us and teaching us about proper hygiene and sanitation practices, on top of that gave us water tablets to put in water as well as encouraging us to drink boiled water. This has kept us healthy and we have not complained again. Thank you Uganda Red Cross" says Josephine Kigozi, 32 years, resident of Ndeeba – a Kampala suburb.

BLOOD FOR EMERGENCY TRANSFUSION

Uganda Red Cross Society partners with the Uganda Blood Transfusion Services and Ministry of Health to mobilize and recruit blood donors. 2015 saw significant improvement in the blood donor recruitment compared to the previous years. This is partly because of the strategic intentional measures that the Organisation put in place to improve blood donor recruitment as well as raise more units of blood to meet the huge demand for blood in the country. During the year, the following achievements were registered:

- Over 4,227 blood donor sensitization sessions were conducted in institutions and communities countrywide, reaching 1,290,849 people with vital information on blood donation. As a result, a total of 145,264 people donated blood and a total of 145,264 units of blood were collected from suitable mobilized blood donors.
- The collected blood was screened for transfusion transmissible infections and transfused to save 49,069 adult lives and 147,290 children who were in dire need for blood transfusion;



- 131,112 blood donors received post test results and 4,595 were referred for further care management to other partner service organizations.

“At the most critical time, I got my blood group and a blood transfusion was done. Thanks to the people who donate blood. This

has also taught me to give blood, even when I can't, I should encourage another person to donate blood because blood saves lives”. Says Julie Luwandaga, 38 years old, resident of Nakwuka – Wakiso district.



A blood donor, donating blood at one of the blood donation drives in Kampala last year.

EMERGENCY FIRST AID

Under this Program, Uganda Red Cross Society aims at empowering communities with first aid skills (preparedness, management and response to disease outbreaks and fatal injuries). With support from Belgium Red Cross and Commercial First Aid services, Uganda Red Cross offered first aid services and training to communities where the program is implemented. This program is implemented in the following districts: Masaka, Mbarara, Kabale, Mukono, Jinja, Luwero, Gulu and the five branches of Kampala which include Kampala West, East, South and North. By end of 2015, the following was achieved:

- A total of 690 people were equipped with life-saving skills during 14 Basic First Aid training sessions conducted in 12 Branches in Gulu, Luwero, Kampala East, Kampala West, Jinja, Masaka, Mbarara, Mukono, Kabale, Kampala South, Kampala North and Kampala Central
- 95 public events were covered with First Aid services in 16 Branches, with a 4,238 casualties served.
- 71 road safety awareness sessions with key messages on avoiding road traffic accidents were held in 7 Branches, benefiting 11,059 school children and motor-cyclists.
- 2 zebra crossings were repainted in

Kampala West Branch to help provide safer access for pedestrians, who are the most vulnerable road users in Kampala.

- 3 injury-simulation exercises were performed in Kampala East, Kampala West and Masaka Branches during celebrations to mark International Red Cross Week in May 2015.
- URCS participated in the Psychosocial Support (PSS) Training of Trainers (ToT) course (IFRC) Psychosocial Reference Centre in Copenhagen, Denmark in June 2015; this training helped to rejuvenate and integrate PSS programming in both emergency interventions and volunteer capacity building activities.
- URCS participated in the Media launch of a Safe Kids Campaign, part of the Global initiative to commit to promoting road safety targeting children;
- 7 Health facilities (Mungula HC IV, Ciforo HC III, Ukusijoni HC III, Aliwara HC II, Zoka HC II, Ofua HC III and Ajeri HC II) in Adjumani District were supported with Mama Kits and were able to support beneficiaries with family planning and reproductive health needs;
- A blood storage fridge and assorted essential medicines were procured and handed over to Mungula HC IV, Ciforo HC III and Ukusijoni HC II in Adjumani District to support emergency care services requiring blood transfusion.

refugees. Some parts of Uganda too are prone to inter-tribal conflicts which affect human settlements and causes population movement hence the high number of refugees fleeing Conflict and Violence.

These are being hosted in camps and Uganda Red Cross is always the first responder on ground and the last to leave. URCS supports emergency operations through several interventions to ensure the well-being of the vulnerable people.

According to UNHCR 512,966 refugees were hosted in Uganda by December 2015. Uganda Red Cross responds to the Humanitarian needs of vulnerable people as part of her core activities.

URCS partners with other parties including Government of Uganda, Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Disaster Management, Refugee agencies, International NGOs, and other community structures to respond to emergencies as they occur in the Country.

In 2015, URCS implemented several humanitarian interventions among which the following were key:

WASH Interventions in Camps especially providing water, sanitation and hygiene to refugees and host communities in partnership with UNICEF, UNHCR, and OPM.

Tracing Services desk is always active, registering and repatriating refugees and connecting them with their loved ones.

Several catastrophes hit the Country and saw Uganda Red Cross respond to emergencies with immediate distribution of Food and Non-food items to victims of floods, landslides,

HUMANITARIAN AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE / OPERATION

Uganda is prone to a number of natural and man-made disasters, the major ones being un-predictable heavy rains, floods, landslides and drought. The proximity of Uganda to conflict zone Countries like South Sudan, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Rwanda makes Uganda vulnerable to the influx of





URCS Secretary General (M) handing relief items to the flood affected victims in Bundibugyo.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

This program focusses on the readiness of Uganda Red Cross to respond to emergencies as they occur in the country. The program ensures that response action teams are readily prepared, equipped and positioned to handle emergencies. The same program focuses on restoring of family links in emergencies. These services are commonly known as "Tracing".

Through 2015, the program was able to achieve the following:

- The RACTs (response action teams) supported emergencies in Kyambogo and Makerere Universities when students struck. Over 55 people were rescued and referred to hospitals for further medical examination with the support of URCS ambulances.
- About 378 received first aid services after being involved in road accidents.
- 80 road signs were distributed to *boda boda* stages in Kisoro as part of road safety awareness campaigns. These had over time been marked as hot spot *boda-*

boda points and needed support.

- Simulation exercises on first aid conducted in the ICRC hot spot branches of Jinja, Mbale, Gulu, Kasese, Kampala and Kanungu reaching 17,000 people.
- 25 RCATs trained on mass causality incident management and 28 community based disaster responders from different hot spots in Jinja & 26 in Kabarole trained on first aid
- Lightening Awareness campaigns through Radio talk shows were conducted in Kisoro reaching 3000 people.
- 36 dissemination sessions on RFL and psychosocial support were provided to new arrivals of refugees from Burundi
- 8,839 people within the refugee settlement camps reached with reproductive health messages.
- 347 households in Manafwa, Bukedea and Bundibugyo were supported with Non-Food Items as response to flood survivors.

With support from the ICRC, URCS was able to implement the following activities over 15 refugee settlements and branches'

- URCS received 50 tracing cases for adults and children, out of which 38 cases were concluded.
- 715 unaccompanied Minors (UAMs) identified and screened out of which 131 unaccompanied Minors registered and 456 Family re-unifications for UAMs (cross border, inter-camp and on-spot)
- 4,096 Red Cross Messages exchanged for

both children and adults (between Uganda and other countries)

- 9,148 refugees came for the phone service.
- 7,013 refugees restored family links through the phone (successful calls).
- 375 cases referred to URCS by other Agencies and 606 cases referred to other Agencies by URCS

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

In 2015, URCS implemented 3 Disaster Risk Reduction programs in the Eastern Uganda, geared towards building resilience in high risk communities. Below is a summary of the projects implemented;

Project	Area of implementation	Funding Partner
Community Resilience	Manafwa	Red Cross Society of China
Partners for Resilience (PfR)	Katakwi and Apac	Netherlands Red Cross
Mt. Elgon DRR	Mbale, Bududa, Sironko, Bukedea, Bukwo and Kapchorwa	Royal Norwegian Embassy
Integrated Community Capacity Building	Kabale, Kisoro, Kasese, Bundibugyo, Jinja and Nebbi)	Swedish Red Cross

DRM programs undertook a number of initiatives aimed at achieving the following:

Enhancing community resilience to Landslides and Floods in the Mt. Elgon Zone - Mt. Elgon DRR

Towards the last quarter of the year, the project supported awareness campaigns on El Nino rains alongside the regular project activities. The inclusion of the El Nino related activities was based on the El Nino alerts issued in the previous quarters and the fact that communities in high risk areas in Teso and Mt Elgon region were experiencing heavy rains that caused waterlogging, flash floods and hailstorms.

The support to communities was inform of sensitizing communities with early warning, early actions as well as response in form of supporting affected communities with Non-

food items (relief)

Hygiene and Sanitation awareness campaigns

Having experienced flooding and hygiene related diseases before, the community was prone to disease outbreaks. URCS fore planned to curb this in 2015. Through the year, over 71 disease awareness campaign sessions were conducted.

These sessions focused on promotion of proper hygiene and sanitation practices and as a result, 6,881 people (4,148 female, 2,733 male) were reached.

The purpose of these sessions was to equip the community based disaster risk reduction group members and the wider communities with knowledge and skills on hygiene and sanitation.

URCS partnered with the various

District Health Inspectors to support the implementation of the hygiene and sanitation campaigns.

Following these awareness sessions, a total of 912 people (415 females and 497 males) from Bubyangu and Chepterech were involved in clearing water and sanitation facilities.

Community initiatives

A total of 28 sessions on need for community initiatives were conducted with the purpose of engaging the communities to identify community initiatives they can implement to reduce the identified risks.

The Community Managed DRR (CBDRR) members have and continue to routinely carry out these services to promote hygiene in different areas in the communities such as markets, water sources, schools, homes of the extremely vulnerable individuals including the elderly and orphans and vulnerable children.

As a result, 4 water sources serving about 1,200 people in Bubyangu and 5 water sources in Chesoyen, Kaplalaba, Chetabasha, Chesangam and Chepterech villages serving 1240 3 markets of Kapswayik, Webewo & Machese were cleaned,

Tree planting and monitoring

12 woodlots comprising of species such as Eucalyptus Grandis and Regnanis are thriving in 12 schools including: Bumadada P.S; Bubyangu P.S; Buchikosa P.S in Bubyangu Sub County, Gamogo P.S, St Mary's P.S and Rwandet Village in Chepterech Sub County and Kabei P.S, Kabei S.S and Mutushet Front view in Kabei Sub County The survivability of these trees is attributed to the fact these the trees are managed by pupils.

Awareness on DRR approaches and URCS and project awareness

A total of 35 awareness sessions on DRR approaches and climate change were conducted across the 21 parishes, reaching 11,422 people (3,873 males and 7,549 females).

The awareness sessions were conducted by CBDRR members through house to house visits and were supplemented by the distribution of 22,500 posters in Kolir and Kocus parishes in Bukedea.

The project contributes to supporting the visibility of URCS and project activities through dissemination and as such, 76 dissemination sessions across the 21 parishes were conducted during the reporting period, reaching out to 6,135 people (2,690 male and 3,445 female).

Validation of the District Contingency plans

URCS facilitated the training of 108 district officials (83 males, 25 females) from District Disaster and sub county Management Committee members on contingency planning, and as a result, 5 district contingency plans for the districts of Mbale, Bukwo, Kapchorwa, Sironko and Bududa were developed and updated.

Furthermore, 5 meetings were held with members of the District Disaster Management Committees of Mbale, Bukwo, Kapchorwa, Sironko and Bududa to validate the plans that were developed.

By the end of the meetings, the Chief Administration Officers and the LC 5 Chairpersons signed off the Contingency Plans. A total of 225 people (167 male and 58 females) participated in the validation meetings.



maize.

PHAST (Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation) awareness

Forty one (41) people including Village Health Teams, volunteers and Project Focal Persons from the districts of Mbale, Sironko, Bukwo, Kapchorwa and Bududa were trained on PHAST in order to support awareness sessions on hygiene and sanitation within the project areas.

18 PHAST groups were formed and conducted awareness sessions on sanitation and hygiene during the fourth quarter. As a result, 318 homes across the project areas have model homes that include bath shelters, plate rack, a latrine with a tippy tap, animal shelter and kitchen.

Partners for Resilience

Following the phase out of the Netherlands Red Cross, all activities implemented focused on the phase out of the PfR projects and below is the summary of activities implemented in Apac and Katakwi districts.

Food security and livelihoods

- In Apac, two groups consisting of 35 – 40 members were supported with fishing equipment.(boats and fishing nets) as part of eco system management and income generating activities.
- 150 bee hives were procured and distributed to 3 groups in Apoi, Akokoro and Awaila parishes and each received 50 hives. These interventions were identified as income generating activities to support livelihoods.
- 50 vulnerable people benefitted from 50 goats that URCS purchased. The selection was based on widows living with HIV/AIDS, elderly with a care taker, child headed homes.
- In addition to the goats, another 40 vulnerable households were supported with cassava cuttings and improved maize seeds, commonly known as Longe 5. Each household received 1 bag of cassava cuttings and 4 kilo grams of

Energy saving technologies

- In 2015, through the CBDRR Trainer of Trainers that URCS supported, a total of 95 cooking baskets were built in Katakwi. URCS supported these groups with materials such as reed baskets, mattresses dump proof course and sacks. The same program is done in Bundibugyo, western Uganda and supports vulnerable families with energy saving technology for livelihood.

“AMANI WAGHE NABHIKIREWO”

This is a Rukonzo statement meaning “I have saved my energy”. Janet Biira, 25 year old mother of three stays in Busamba 111 village – Bundibugyo District in western Uganda.

She uses the statement to refer to the energy saving stove, which she got to know about from the Uganda Red Cross Society under the synergy-climate change adaptation project.

Under this project, the URCS is training people to make energy saving stoves. People in rural areas use firewood as a source of fuel to cook their food, and yet cutting down trees is dangerous to the environment. This stove is environmentally friendly as it uses less firewood.

These stoves have been piloted in 30 homes so far, and more families are expected to be reached with the same. In a bid to establish self-sustaining families, URCS has trained more people to make such stoves.

Over 48 trainers of trainees have been trained to equip others with the same skills and it is believed that more communities will adopt this method and save the environment.

Janet stays with other 9 people in her home. She is a primary four drop out and

separated with her husband in May, 2015. She uses an energy saving stove to cook food for the ten people who stay in this home.

Previously, Janet was using the three traditional stones to cook food but when the Uganda Red Cross synergy project started in Busamba parish, she was able to construct an energy saving stove which she uses now to cook food for her people.

"Before I got the energy saving stove, I would use a lot of fire wood which I collect from the mountain.

Every month, I would use 8 bundles, but these days I use not more than three bundles per month.

I collect fire wood from Mbatya valley which is about 4 kilometers away from my home. I use less energy, less force and I have time to do a lot more than before" she adds.

Janet's children used to go to school very late since she had to warm their food in the



morning. Today, life is good. She leaves the food on the stove in the night and finds it warm in the morning.

This has also helped her to attend to other home chores other than warming the food in the morning.

Before, Janet would spend 50,000= on fire wood per month but these days if she doesn't go to the mountains to collect fire wood, she uses about 20,000= per month, meaning she saves more than a half of what she was spending before she constructed the energy saving stove.

Janet does not have to worry about accidents in the kitchen anymore, because the energy saving stove is safe enough.

"Whenever I would leave children cooking in the kitchen, I would be worried all the time because I would think that may be my child would be burnt because the fire in between the three stones is so much exposed and can easily lead to accidents in the kitchen. With the energy saving stove, they feel safer.

She also adds that food cooked on the energy saving stove has a good flavor because smoke does not enter into it directly.

Janet wishes that all people in her village would have energy saving stoves so that many trees can survive in her parish and in that way, landslides can be reduced since the vegetation/ tree cover would not decrease so much.

She calls upon all her village mates to construct the energy saving stove for its associated benefits.



Voluntary Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA)

- URCS supported 3 groups in Apoi parish with savers' boxes, pass books, counter books and 4,500,000 (four million, five hundred thousand shs) in which each group received one million, five hundred thousand.
- These funds will be used as a revolving fund where members borrow and are charged a small interest fee agreed upon by the members.

Agro forestry

- As part of follow up on the agro forestry initiatives, 60 community members (45 male and 15 female) from Awila parish participated in a refresher training on tree planting and management and 60 tree seedlings were planted at Awila Primary School as a demonstration site.



Some of the trees planted at one of the community sites.

- At community level, 625 households each received 10 wood trees (Neem 5 and Gravellier 5) and 2 fruit trees (1 mango and 1 citrus). 301 people from Okuda parish benefited from tree seedling distributions to promote eco system management and restoration as well as meet some livelihood needs. A total of 340 oranges, 303 grafted mangoes and 396 gravellier trees were distributed in which each house hold received 3 different tree species.

Integrated Community Capacity Building

Following the phase out of the Swedish Red Cross support towards URCS, limited activities were implemented in 2015 as summarized below;

- Rapid assessment to guide project phase-out was conducted
- 24 Orphans and Vulnerable Children groups in Kabale & Jinja received financial support for micro projects
- 30 Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction groups were provided with financial, T-shirts and gumboots support to ensure sustainability of community initiatives
- 2 springs were protected in Kasese & Bundibugyo
- The project supported Kasese branch to secure its office premises from land encroachers

FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

With support from the German Red Cross Society, URCS implemented the Food Security and Livelihoods program targeting people who had settled in the internally displaced camps.

The project implemented the following activities in Kaabong, Kotido and Abim;

- Trained 30 people (16 males, 14 females) in Income Generation Activities.
- Trained 10 people (7 males, 3 females) as pump mechanics.
- Trained 18 people (12 males, 6 females) as members of Water User Committees.
- Trained 49 people (29 males, 20 females) in hygiene promotion and 110 people (62 males, 38 females) trained in sanitation
- Trained 120 people (74 males, 46 females) trained on livelihoods.
- Constructed 7 community centers and renovated 8 community stores.
- The project also trained communities on alternative sources of energy, with a focus on lorena and briquette making. As a result, a total of 25 households in Lokadeli parish in Kotido district and 190 households in Kamuda and Lale parishes in Soroti districts constructed lorenas and briquettes for cooking. This is an energy saving approach as well as supporting communities with alternative ways of survival.

VCA (Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment) training

- 38 volunteers (11 female, 27 male) from the districts of Amuria, Abim, Katakwi, Kotido and Soroti were trained on VCA methodology and oriented on the tools to be used for collecting data. The trained volunteers were equipped with skills and knowledge on how to conduct the VCA. The assessment was conducted in the newly phased in sub counties of Kotido and Panyangara in Kotido, Magoro in Katakwi and Kapelebyong in Amuria.



Trainings in progress

- The project has a component of Disaster Preparedness (DP) Fund to support actions triggered by a flood forecast.
- This innovative approach is technically supported by the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Center (RCCC) and the weather forecast is based on the global flood model by GloFASS. Through the DP Fund, URCS procured non-food items for 900 households.
- The Red Cross / Crescent Climate Centre issued a trigger for Kapelebyong Sub County, one of the project areas in Teso region.
- This trigger was shared and verified with the Uganda National Meteorology Authority. As a result and based on its

Standard Operating Procedures, URCS mobilized its volunteers, verified the beneficiaries and distributed non-food items to 369 households (1,815 people) from 2 parishes of Amemia and Okoboi. Each household received 2 jerry cans, 2 bars of soap, 5 sacks for food storage, 1 hoe and 30 water purification tablets (to last one month).

Prior to the distribution, a meeting was held with the Local Government Officials of Amuria district and the beneficiary communities to explain this unique course of action.

It is noteworthy that URCS is the first National Society in Africa to pilot this innovation and plans are underway to evaluate the effectiveness of this approach.

