

# Africa: Humanitarian Issues

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## About humanitarian issues in Africa

### Key facts

- At the end of 2006, an estimated 9.7m people in Africa were displaced due to conflict, floods, and economic crises<sup>1</sup>.
- 21.8 million people in Africa were affected by natural disasters in 2006, mainly droughts<sup>2</sup>.
- 53% of all people in refugee camps are in Africa. In addition, 67% of displaced persons in rural areas and 40% of displaced persons in urban areas are also in Africa<sup>1</sup>.
- 60% of all people requiring food aid are in Africa (54 million people in 42 countries)<sup>3</sup>.

### Progress made

- In 2007, DFID provided some £205 million in humanitarian funding in Africa, contributing towards the delivery of emergency nutrition, health, shelter, protection and livelihoods recovery programmes reaching approximately 30 million people.
- Since 2002/3 we have spent £1,133 million on humanitarian assistance in Africa<sup>4</sup>.
- Evidence shows that social protection including cash transfers for chronically hungry people is more effective than emergency food aid. In Africa, DFID is providing £50 million per year for cash transfer programmes reaching some 10 million people and reducing the need for emergency food aid.
- DFID has committed to providing 10% of humanitarian response to disaster risk reduction programmes where relevant, which reduces the impact of future disasters.
- Recent reforms in the humanitarian system are leading towards more timely and predictable humanitarian funding and greater accountability for the delivery of assistance.

## Responding to humanitarian disasters in Africa

DFID's humanitarian policy is to:

- Save lives and relieve suffering;
- Hasten recovery, and protect and rebuild livelihoods and communities;
- Reduce risks and vulnerability to future crises.

Africa continues to face several protracted humanitarian crises, so, over the last three years, DFID has set aside 15-20% of our total bilateral spend in Africa for emergency response. The crises in Sudan and DRC are still the biggest recipients of DFID support. But we also provide funding in response to rapid onset natural disasters, such as floods. Increasingly, DFID's humanitarian programmes seek not only to meet the immediate needs of the affected population, but also to reduce risk and vulnerability to future shocks.

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<sup>1</sup> UNHCR Statistical yearbook 2006

<sup>2</sup> Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED) Annual Disaster Statistical Review 2006.

<sup>3</sup> WFP in Africa 2006 (2007)

<sup>4</sup> DFID Statistics on International Development (2007)

## Who are we working with?

DFID works closely with UN agencies, the Red Cross and non governmental organisations (NGOs) to ensure that assistance is based on a proper assessment of needs, and delivery is supervised to prevent the diversion of goods away from those who need them most.

DFID is the largest donor to the UN's Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), contributing £40 million in 2007. The CERF was established by the United Nations in 2005 to allow more timely and reliable humanitarian assistance to those affected by natural disasters and armed conflicts. In 2007, the CERF allocated over £100 million for humanitarian response in Africa.

## Country examples

- In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, there are 1.3 million internally displaced people, with over 550,000 displaced in North Kivu alone since December 2006. DFID provided £30 million to the UN's pooled fund in 2007. The pooled fund has funded over 200 projects reaching 4 million including the vaccination of 1.2 million children, treatment of 70,000 malnourished children and 23,000 victims of sexual violence. A further £5 million is provided directly through NGOs and the International Committee of the Red Cross.
- In Darfur in Sudan, UN agencies and NGOs are providing emergency shelter, food aid, health care and access to water to 3.6 million conflict-affected people. Over 200,000 people have been killed, and 2 million people have been displaced. Nearly 4 million people are highly dependent on relief but increased insecurity in Darfur is preventing humanitarian agencies from operating effectively, leaving hundreds of thousands without access to aid. DFID is the largest donor to the UN's common humanitarian fund in Sudan, contributing £40 million in 2007/2008.
- In Zimbabwe, food aid operations peaked between December 2007 and March 2008 when 4.1 million people required assistance to meet their basic food needs, DFID's humanitarian and relief commitments for Zimbabwe amount to £8 million in 2007/2008 plus over £79 million in longer term assistance through UNICEF, IOM and WFP over the next 3-5 years.
- In northern Uganda approximately 1.3 million people have been displaced in the 21 year conflict with the Lords Resistance Army. DFID has provided nearly £38 million in humanitarian assistance over the last two years, primarily through the UN. The support has contributed towards the delivery of food aid for displaced people, safe water for 750,000 people, 1.357 latrines for displaced people and polio vaccination for 500,000 children.
- Heavy rains in late 2007 caused flooding across West and East Africa. Ethiopia, Sudan, Ghana and Uganda were amongst the worst affected countries. The DFID contribution to the humanitarian response came to £8.3 million. As well as supporting the provision of shelter, food and other relief items, consideration was given to Disaster Risk Reduction. For example, in Ghana, DFID's funding of £250,000 through the International Federation Red Cross (IFRC) helped provide emergency shelter and clean water for 60,000 people. And in northern Ghana, DFID is supporting a livelihoods recovery programme through CARE that aims to build the resilience of communities to cope with future flooding and other shocks.

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