



URCS doing search and rescue

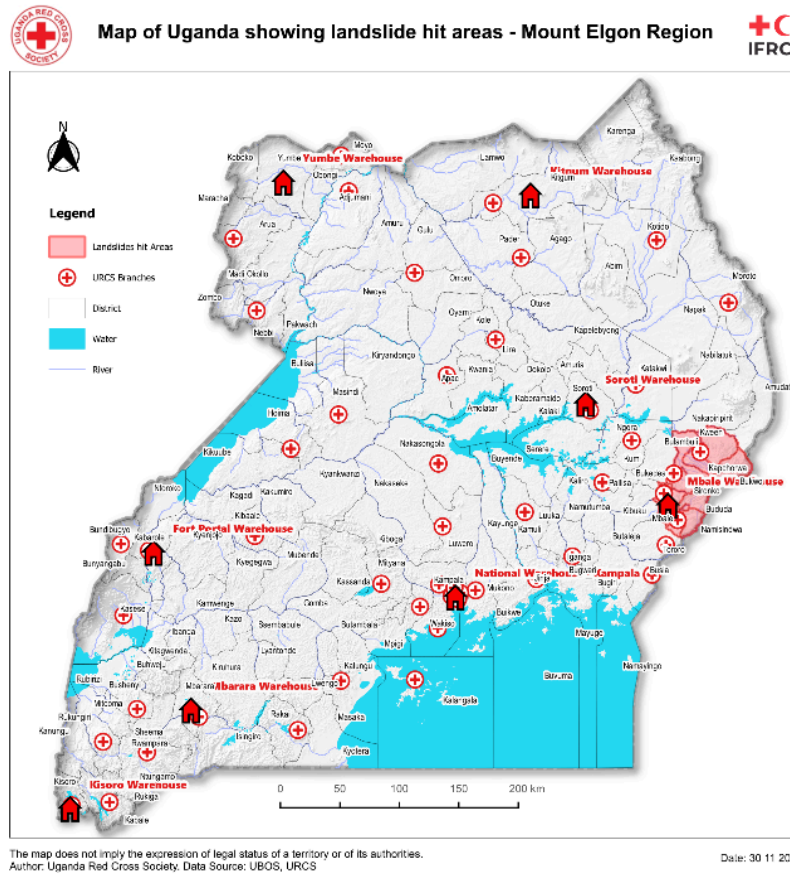
Appeal: <b>MDRUG053</b>	Country: <b>Uganda</b>	Hazard: <b>Landslide</b>	Type of DREF: <b>Response</b>
Crisis Category: <b>Yellow</b>	Event Onset: <b>Sudden</b>	DREF Allocation: <b>CHF 335,019</b>	
Glide Number: -	People Affected: <b>30,000 people</b>	People Targeted: <b>12,138 people</b>	
Operation Start Date: <b>16-12-2024</b>	Operation Timeframe: <b>3 months</b>	Operation End Date: <b>31-03-2025</b>	DREF Published: <b>18-12-2024</b>

Targeted Areas: **Eastern Region**

# Description of the Event

## Date of event

27-11-2024



## What happened, where and when?

Following heavy rains of 27th November 2024 across Bulambuli District and the neighboring districts, the flooding was triggered by the overflow of River Simu, which inundated nearby households, destroyed crops, and disrupted major roads, including Sironko-Kapchorwa and Muyembe-Nakapiripit. This led to the collapse of bridges and transport disruptions. Later that evening, from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM, the conditions also led to landslides events in eight villages in Buluganya parish and other areas in Sooti, Sisiyi, and Bulago sub-counties. While the floods have had impact in the riverine communities, the most significant impact and humanitarian need came from the landslides which caused extensive destruction, displacing thousands of families.

On 11.12.2024, the Prime Minister conveyed the humanitarian meeting where official figures of affected population were updated, supported by NS and local authorities search, rescue and excavation work. 30,000 people were affected. NS has identified 2,023 households (12,138 people) were hosted at holding temporary camp following the events, 20 death, 22 people were injured and more than 121 missing.

That coordination meeting was attended by the Minister of state for Disaster preparedness, Relief and Refugees, religious leaders, cultural leaders, local authorities and humanitarian actors on ground, the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) Team coordinating the response efforts. The meeting also served at coordinating the response efforts that need to be deployed to assist the communities and reach the target priority of Government which was indicated "to resettle over 5000 households". The Prime minister also acknowledge the slow registration of affected people and assessment was due to difficulty in accessing the affected area amidst the search and recovery effort as impacted people were scattered in different areas.





URCS volunteers during search and rescue



URCS volunteers setting up temporary shelters

## Scope and Scale

Since late October, Bulambuli District and its neighboring areas have been severely impacted by heavy rainfall. On November 27th, continuous heavy rains from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM resulted in severe flooding and landslides, significantly affecting infrastructure and communities across multiple sub-counties and town councils. The main impact is the result of the landslides events across the districts, in 8 villages that are identified so far as affected.

With limited access and safety considerations, NS initial rapid Needs Assessment conducted on 29th November was limited and not all areas were assessed. By that time, the total population affected stood at 4,000, however 1,546 people from 220 households have been displaced out of which 125 houses were fully destroyed and by the time of this application, 19 dead bodies had been retrieved comprising of (14 male, 5 females; 7 children (6 male and 1 female). As a result, 22 people were injured and taken to Buluganya Health Centre (H/C) III and Muyembe H/C IV for medication but one of them succumbed to the injuries bringing those dead to 20. By the time of this application, 121 people were still missing and unaccounted for. Out of the 1,546 people displaced, 750 people were living with their relatives and neighbors while the remaining 796 are hosted at Masugu Primary school. The search for the missing persons continues through combined efforts from the Uganda Peoples defense forces, URCS and community members.

As of 11th December 2024, with further research and assessment, 30,000 people are affected, include the direct impact to the families, the overall humanitarian consequences to livelihood and services in the entire communities. Those directly affected and hosted at the holding/ reception centre are 2,023 households (12,138 people). From the meeting an urgent meeting held on 11th December 2024 chaired by the Prime Minister of Uganda and attended by the Minister of state for Disaster preparedness, Relief and Refugees, religious leaders, cultural leaders, local authorities and humanitarian actors on ground including URCS, the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) Team coordinating the response efforts, said that 5,000 households (30,000 people) have been affected. The prime minister said that the slow registration was because of difficulty in accessing the affected area amidst the search and recovery effort as impacted people were scattered in different areas.

Search and rescue operations, led by the Uganda Peoples Defense Force (UPDF), Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS), and local communities, are ongoing. Preliminary assessments have identified priority needs, but detailed evaluations in some sub-counties are still pending. Immediate action is required to support displaced populations and restore infrastructure.

Bulambuli and other Mt. Elgon districts have steep slopes of loam soils with heavy cultivation. Continuous rains from September to December have led to landslides, causing significant damage to infrastructure. Two bridges along the main road to Buuganya were washed away, disrupting transportation, especially for moving excavators, search and rescue teams, and relief items to the affected area. Preliminary data shows that over 4,000 people have been directly affected. The government has requested additional support from the Red Cross and partners as the event has severely impacted accessibility, with people struggling to find alternative routes.

The Uganda Red Cross Society has 400 NFI kits available and prepositioned at the Mbale Regional Warehouse, with Rapid Response Action Teams providing emergency services, including search and rescue and recovery. There have been disruptions in the availability, quality, use, and awareness of goods and services in the area, as WASH and health facilities have been damaged or destroyed. The disaster has impacted the physical and mental well-being of the population. Some community members have refused to evacuate until the bodies of their family members are found. There is a high risk of water-related disease outbreaks, such as diarrhea and cholera, due to the loss of water sources and latrines.

The scale of the disaster in Buluganya sub-county and multiple events in neighboring sub-counties and districts has triggered a response

action by the URCS. Immediate and coordinated efforts are essential to address the needs of the affected populations and restore normalcy in the region.

## Previous Operations

Has a similar event affected the same area(s) in the last 3 years?	<b>Yes</b>
Did it affect the same population group?	<b>No</b>
Did the National Society respond?	-
Did the National Society request funding form DREF for that event(s)	-
If yes, please specify which operation	-

**If you have answered yes to all questions above, justify why the use of DREF for a recurrent event, or how this event should not be considered recurrent:**

-

### Lessons learned:

Below lessons highlight the importance of strategic planning, coordination, and capacity building in enhancing the effectiveness of disaster response operations.

#### Deployment of National Disaster Response Teams (NDRTs):

URCS has consistently deployed NDRTs to provide essential support in disaster-affected areas. The integration of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) NDRTs has significantly enhanced reporting quality through timely data collection using electronic tools. This data is then cleaned and analyzed to inform future response strategies.

#### Coordination with IFRC:

Close coordination with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) has streamlined both strategic and operational aspects of the response. This collaboration ensures that any operational changes, gaps, or needs are swiftly addressed, delivering effective and timely solutions. Robust logistical support has been crucial to the success of these responses.

#### Collaboration with Government Authorities:

Collaboration between URCS and government authorities at all levels has been crucial in obtaining timely, accurate updates from the field. This synergy has empowered URCS headquarters to make informed decisions regarding the type of support required.

#### Prepositioning of Relief Stocks:

Prepositioning relief stocks in strategic locations ahead of disasters has allowed URCS to respond swiftly and effectively, strengthening its reputation as a preferred partner for government and other stakeholders.

#### Capacity Building:

Over the years, URCS has built regional and branch capacities in critical areas such as risk communication, hazard monitoring, and the dissemination of early warning messages based on seasonal forecasts like the March-April-May (MAM) and September-December (SOND) rainy periods. This has significantly improved response times.

#### Strengthening Capacities through DREF Operations:

Past Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) operations have further strengthened URCS's capacity, particularly in areas such as Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI), Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA), and the Safer Access Framework (SAF), with valuable support from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). These capacities are fundamental for the effective implementation of disaster response operations.

#### Development of Multi-Hazard District Contingency Plans:



URCS has played a significant role in developing multi-hazard District Contingency Plans for high-risk districts. This has empowered local volunteers and actors to conduct rapid Emergency Needs Assessments (ENA) within 6–12 hours of a disaster. These reports are quickly relayed to URCS headquarters and shared with key stakeholders, including the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), UN bodies, and ECHO-Uganda.

**Logistical Coordination:**

Logistical coordination between URCS and IFRC has ensured smooth operational activities, avoided duplication, and ensured a well-coordinated response. The prepositioning of relief items in regional warehouses like Mbale, Fort Portal, Kisoro, and Soroti has highlighted the importance of proximity to high-risk areas, enabling a swift response.

**Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA):**

The use of Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) has proven effective in providing context-specific support, allowing affected households to use the assistance in a dignified, impactful, and flexible manner.

## Current National Society Actions

### Start date of National Society actions

27-11-2024

<p><b>Shelter, Housing And Settlements</b></p>	<p>The Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) has deployed two shelter tents, each with the capacity to accommodate 200 people, to support affected communities at the reception centre. Additionally, the most vulnerable individuals will be provided with Non-Food Items (NFI) from pre-positioned stocks at the Mbale Regional Warehouse. However, there is need for more tents as the population at the reception centre is growing owing to the Government directive for people to evacuate the high-risk area. More NFI kits are also needed.</p>
<p><b>Health</b></p>	<p>URCS deployed its Red Cross Action Teams (RCATs) to support Search and Rescue efforts, deployed an Ambulance and Emergency Medical Technicians/ health staff to support evacuation and referral of injured persons allowing them to receive timely medical care. The ambulance oscillates between the disaster area and the reception centre. However, there is need to support the ambulance team and increase the number since the target population especially at the reception centre, is growing.</p>
<p><b>Water, Sanitation And Hygiene</b></p>	<p>The landslides destroyed safe water supply infrastructure leaving the displaced population vulnerable to waterborne diseases. Immediate supply of water-treatment tablets is necessary to avert the danger in areas near the disaster site and at the reception centre where the evacuated people are going. There is need for setting up additional water tanks to increase water supply at the reception centre. Water trucking to the reception centre is proposed to address this issue in the immediate phase. The Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) is supporting water supply efforts with the current T70 tank that needs repair, having been damaged by a windstorm. URCS proposes other WASH related interventions such as Menstrual Hygiene Management, improved sanitation facilities and hygiene promotion coupled with risk communication. In the interim, displaced families will utilize the sanitation facilities at the reception centres, where basic sanitation services and essential household items will be provided. More emergency latrines will be set up to support during the emergency phase.</p>
<p><b>Coordination</b></p>	<p>The Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS), through its Sironko Branch, remains actively involved in District Task Force and District Disaster Management Committee meetings to ensure a coordinated response to the landslides in affected communities. The Branch Manager with technical support from the EPR Assistant provide critical input and timely updates during these meetings, which are documented and shared with the Emergency Operations Managers and Director Disaster Risk Management committee. This continuous communication strengthens the alignment between local and National</p>



	response efforts, ensuring that the needs of affected communities are addressed promptly and efficiently.
<b>National Society Readiness</b>	The Uganda Red Cross Society has a regional capacity to respond to landslides emergencies, gained through extensive experience over the years from responding to similar events. There is a regional warehouse in Mbale and Soroti districts each. Start-up response kits are available however, they cannot meet the current need noting that the 12,138 people including those at risk of likely landslides in the nearby areas of the disaster site, have been guided by the Government to evacuate to the reception centre in Bunambutye on the lower part of the district. At the onset of the disaster, URCS activated its Branch Disaster Response Teams (Red Cross Action Teams/RCATs) under local administrative - Sironko Branch. These teams are promptly supporting search and rescue efforts, and a regional ambulance has been deployed to transport the dead bodies and injured individuals to health facilities. It is stationed at Bulambuli District Headquartes along the highway so that it can be activated for either uphill or down in the reception centre. To ensure responding teams are fully equipped, URCS provided them with First Aid kits, body bags and dispatched prepositioned Non-food Household Items (NFIs) and Shelter tents from its regional warehouses in Soroti and Mbale, and other assets to provide initial life-saving response actions and meet the basic needs of affected families. As there are still evolving needs, URCS has deployed software and hardware WASH personnel backed up by its effective National Disaster Response Teams (NDRTs).
<b>Assessment</b>	In collaboration with Bulambuli and Sironko District Local Governments, Uganda Police Force (UPF) and Uganda People's Defense Forces (UPDF), the Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) conducted initial assessments to determine the extent of landslides damage, assess the needs of affected populations, and plan targeted response interventions to support affected communities. These assessment findings have been instrumental in shaping this response plan, ensuring the interventions address the specific needs of those affected. Detailed multisectoral multistakeholder assessments continue in Bulambuli, Sironko, Mbale, Bukedea and other neighboring areas that are experiencing continuous heavy rainfall and disaster events in September/ December (SOND) period.
<b>Resource Mobilization</b>	The National Society is applying for a Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support critical response activities to the most affected communities at the Bunambutye reception centre and the disaster site. The fund will enable the timely delivery of life-saving humanitarian aid, including emergency shelter, Non-Food Items (NFI), WASH items and essential support and logistical services. This application underscores the National Society's commitment to addressing the urgent needs of disaster-affected populations and strengthening community resilience during emergencies as per her mandate, working auxiliary to the Government of Uganda.
<b>Activation Of Contingency Plans</b>	The URCS prepositioned stock and trained Operations Team members have been activated as part of the URCS contingency plan for SOND 2024 following the seasonal forecasts. Heavy rains were forecasted to recede in mid-November 2024; however, they instead increased and have caused devastating effects on the populations and their livelihoods in the high-risk areas.
<b>National Society EOC</b>	URCS is in the process of procuring and setting up an Early Warning and Emergency Operations Centre (EWEOC) that will run in both normal and peak disaster times to provide timely Early Warning Information and coordinate response actions during disasters. The current functions of the EWEOC are visible through the EWEA and EPR workflows guided by the URCS Emergency Response Protocols and SOPs. The Secretary General chairs periodic Emergency Task Force (ETF) meetings that include members of the Senior Management Team (SMT) and Operations staff in the response action

## IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

<b>Secretariat</b>	The International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is present in the country currently supporting Uganda Red Cross Society to implement the DREF
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Population Movement, Emergency APPEAL for Monkey Pox and DREF floods that's ending on the 30th of November 2024. The IFRC is also supporting the URCS in delivering Disaster Preparedness and Response (DPR) through the ECHO-PPP Project, Community Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness (CP3) project, Floods Early Action Protocol and Strengthening Pastoralist livelihoods in the African Greater horn through Effective anticipatory action (PASSAGE) project.

The IFRC Juba cluster delegation team provides technical guidance on health, logistics, Disaster Risk management, PMER, and finance. For this response, the Disaster management delegate is working with URCS to provide operational technical support and will continue to ensure proper monitoring of this operation and support to URCS through monitoring visits throughout the operation. Through the IFRC GO platform and using the various channels, URCS ensures that all Movement partners are informed about all disaster/ emergency events and emergency operations being implemented in Uganda.

ECHO-PPP provided 04 shelter tents that were prepositioned at the URCS Soroti regional warehouse in Eastern Uganda. They were installed within 72 hours of the Emergency Task Force meeting after the disaster hit. The URCS Mbale regional warehouse also in Eastern Uganda provided 100 NFI kits for the first response in Bulambuli district. These were prepositioned under the URCS – Government of Uganda partnership. As of 11/12/2024, the Government has called upon URCS to install more six shelter tents to cater for the rapidly growing population at the reception/ holding centre. This DREF come in as a response to that request and complement the actions engaged under ECHO.

Oxfam Consortium (includes URCS) activated crisis modifier and distributed first set of MHM kits. 128 Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) kits to 75 adolescent girls and 53 women. This was under the coordination of consortium partners, including Oxfam in Uganda, Caritas Uganda, and CSR, with support from @EUinUG. <https://x.com/UgandaRedCross/status/1866123833217777954>

The DREF action will complement the above actions and cover the gaps on which the authorities have called for support. Any further resources mobilized will be aligned with NS response plan and coordination mechanism among NS and other members will mitigate any risk of overlapping while aligning the targeting priorities for all the available resources.

#### Participating National Societies

There are currently four (4) Partner National Societies (PNS) present in the country including the Netherlands Red Cross, Belgium Red Cross-Flanders, Austrian Red Cross, and the German Red Cross who are directly providing technical and financial assistance to URCS' humanitarian and development projects targeting beneficiaries in the various parts of the country.

The ECHO OXFAM project Consortium have previously supported response in Bulambuli and other districts in Eastern Uganda during the MAM 2024 disaster period. The Consortium contractual arrangements for a new phase of the OXFAM project are being finalized. The OXFAM Consortium will implement the project-based activities in its implementation areas while the DREF will provide rapid response to the immediate needs of the target group of the disaster-hit population.

## ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is physically present in the country working with the URCS to facilitate effective Emergency Preparedness & Response (EPR) services, Safer Access Frameworks (SAF), providing Restoration of Family Links (RFL) needs of the refugee population settled in Uganda as well as promoting International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and Communications as well as direct delivery of detention visits for Political detainees through its Kampala and sub-delegations. For this DREF operation, the URCS will engage the ICRC for technical support in the areas of Tracing in Emergency services, SAF training for RCATs and promotion of EPR capacity of Uganda Red Cross Society.



The ICRC through the EPR function supported the URCS response Team with PPEs at the Bunambutye reception centre during the recent resettlement of the population that was moved from the high-risk areas in the uphill Bududa district.

## Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

<p><b>Government has requested international assistance</b></p>	<p>No</p>
<p><b>National authorities</b></p>	<p>The Ministry of Disaster Preparedness and Relief within the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) is spearheading the coordination of all actors involved in the response to the landslide in the affected communities. This includes representatives from the Ministry of Health, the Uganda Police Force (UPF), the Uganda People's Defense Forces (UPDF), District Disaster Management Committees (DDMCs), and development partners such as the Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS). On 29th of November 2024, OPM allocated relief food that will be delivered and the distribution to the most affected persons coordinated by the DDMC. In a national humanitarian emergency meeting at the Office of the Prime Minister on Friday 29th November 2024, partners were requested to support Bulambuli response.</p> <p>Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) coordinating the response effort as per her mandate, also registering and validating numbers at the reception/ holding centre supported by URCS volunteers. OPM has continues with registration with the support from URCS volunteers, CARITAS, CRS and the DDMC. Uganda Peoples Defence Forces (UPDF) supports Search Rescue and Recovery complemented by URCS RCATs and community members – using hand hoes and now 02 excavators that reached the site on 08/12/2024. Bulambuli District water bowser supports water trucking to complement and fill the T70 URCS water tank.</p> <p>On the 11/12/2024, the Government has called upon URCS to install more six shelter tents to cater for the rapidly growing population at the reception/ holding centre.</p>
<p><b>UN or other actors</b></p>	<p>UN bodies and other actors participate in the monthly DRR Platform meetings. They participate in the national humanitarian emergency meeting at the Office of the Prime Minister on Friday 29th November 2024 in which partners were requested to support Bulambuli response. URCS has shared the rapid disaster emergency data from URCS disaster database to OPM which will share with UN and other partners as requested, to inform their response planning.</p> <p>UNHCR provided additional two big tents for shelter. Malaria Consortium and Ministry of Health provided 8 bales of mosquito nets. MoH doing health screening supported by URCS EMT staff. Joint partner adolescent Health orientation meeting involving Red cross, ACODE, UNFPA, URCS.</p> <p>ECHO-PPP provided 04 shelter tents that were prepositioned at the URCS Soroti regional warehouse in Eastern Uganda. They were installed within 72 hours of the Emergency Task Force meeting after the disaster hit. The URCS Mbale regional warehouse also in Eastern Uganda provided 100 NFI kits for the first response in Bulambuli district. These were prepositioned under the URCS – Government of Uganda partnership.</p> <p>Oxfam Consortium (includes URCS) activated crisis modifier and distributed first set of MHM kits. 128 Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) kits to 75 adolescent girls and 53 women. This was under the coordination of consortium partners, including Oxfam in Uganda, Caritas Uganda, and CSR, with support from @EUinUG</p>

### Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

The Uganda Red Cross Society participates in National Task Force, DRR monthly and weekly operational coordination meetings, where forecasts, previous response actions, and updates from the field are received, and coordinated response actions are planned.



At the field level, the Office of the Prime Minister through the District Disaster Management Committees (DDMCs) and District Emergency Coordination and Operations Centres (DECOCs), facilitates information gathering and coordination related to disasters. The Uganda Red Cross Society has an Emergency Task Force (ETF), chaired by the Secretary-General, with Senior Management Team Members and a multi-skilled operational team at both regional and field operational levels. URCS's regional operational base is managed from local Branch Offices, which maintain close connections with the Regional DECOC. The Branch Managers covering the districts prone to disasters continue to actively participate in their respective District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC) meetings.

URCS is also maintaining a strong coordination with the active partners that have been supporting the NS from the onset of these flooding period

## Needs (Gaps) Identified



### Shelter Housing And Settlements

The landslides in Bulambuli, Uganda, have caused significant devastation. Survivors are facing dire conditions and urgently need basic necessities such as food, mattresses, nets, clothes, and saucepans. Rescue operations are ongoing, but the situation remains challenging due to blocked roads and continuous rainfall. Many survivors have been relocated to temporary shelters, but resources are limited including essential household items.

The temporary shelter at Masugu Primary School is inadequate, as the classrooms are already full.

Immediate action is required to address the shelter and basic household needs of the displaced population. The provision of additional latrines, sanitation facilities, and adequate shelter is critical to ensure the well-being of the affected community. Coordinated efforts are essential to support the displaced individuals and restore normalcy in the region.



### Livelihoods And Basic Needs

At the evacuation site is overcrowded and emerging foods needs are eminent. The Office of the Prime Minister is currently providing meals for the affected persons at the school. The meals provided by OPM are inadequate for the population that is increasing at the school. With 1,546 affected people, the food being provided by OPM was initially intended for the population that was undergoing relocation from Bulambuli and the meals were being prepared by individual households. Additional food stocks have yet to be provided, hence many affected people have limited resource to obtain food and resource to prepare food is lacking.

As per the current population out of the 2,023 people at the reception centre, 796 of them will be targeted for a one-off Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance for them to complement the basic NFI relief support planned.



### Health

Approximately 121 persons are still considered missing and efforts are under. Search and rescue teams comprise of community members majorly and supported by URCS volunteers and Uganda People's Defence Forces. Due to the inaccessibility of the affected areas, the team conduction search and rescue currently is using rudimental methods for recovering bodies such as use of pick axes, hoes and shovels. The land scape is so unstable due to the continued rains and as such heavy tracks like an excavator are not able to access the place to assist in the endeavors by all stakeholders. The process of recovering bodies is very precarious as all efforts are by the fact that the soils keep collapsing and covering up areas where the communities are digging to recover bodies even before the bodies have been recovered.

The URCS volunteers and community members assisting in the search and rescue have limited PPEs. This coupled with the limited knowledge on how to handle dead bodies, community members stand a great risk of being exposed not only to the elements but possible disease outbreak.

This particular area, in the past responses has always experienced disease outbreak of cholera. Currently affected persons both participating in search and rescue and the evacuated population are not practicing safe and dignified burials and have access to unsafe



drinking water from the streams downhill where they have been relocated.

The health needs among the displaced continue to grow in the affected area and the reception/ holding centre.



## Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

796 people currently hosted at a primary school and the number is expected to increase as UPDF and URCS continues with the evacuation efforts. The evacuation site, which is also the hosting centre, has limited access to clean water as the few streams around have been contaminated. The temporary shelter at Masugu Primary School is inadequate, with only two operational latrines and two decommissioned latrines. The evacuated community has limited access to proper sanitation and hygiene facilities. URCS WASH team has identified a piped water line and found leaks on the line which would not be adequate for the affected community. As such the lines had been shut down and not operational. An addition fault lines on the earth surface have been identified in sub-counties of Sooti, Siye sub-counties and Sironko districts. Operation response teams, through daily meetings have proposed the evacuation of people at risk to the primary school. In a few days the numbers are projected to increase which will in turn increase the demand for safe water.



## Protection, Gender And Inclusion

While there is continued efforts through search and rescue, a total of 121 persons are still considered missing. Families are still struggling to locate their loved ones as the numbers of the dead continues to raise. A number of separated children and family members are increases coupled with needs to phone calls and tracing needs remain unattended which causes serious psychological risks.

This risk more evident among community members who are conducting the search and rescue efforts. The atmosphere in this location is one of dread, filled with the smells of rotting bodies as witnessed by the operations teams and volunteers on ground who continue to recount their experiences in everyday update meetings.



## Community Engagement And Accountability

There are existing District Local Government (DLG) structures that support flow of risk information and URCS has built capacity of community-based disaster risk reduction groups that give information to communities on time. However, since the occurrence of the disaster, both these structures have been stretched to the limit and as such there are gaps in delivering information which have been shadowed by the over whelming needs of the community members. This is greatly affecting community engagement and accountability which is exasperated by the psychological issues that the communities with missing family members.

Furthermore, being part of community has meant that many of these members are involved in search and rescue efforts, evacuations among other things. Evacuation sites have limited points for feedback and areas to get information about their loved ones, efforts of the Government and URCS and any other information they would require.

## Any identified gaps/limitations in the assessment

URCS has in the last 2 years supported efforts of preparedness and response specifically in this area. However, the magnitude of the landslide has exceeded the resources of the communities and districts. There are a number of emerging needs among the top priorities:

- There is increased need for food as the numbers increase at evacuation points and reception. Holding centre in Bunambutye.
- There is need for increased provision of safe water to the displaced persons

# Operational Strategy

## Overall objective of the operation

This operation aims at directly supporting 12,138 persons affected by the landslide disaster in Bulambuli District during the emergency/ immediate phase by providing shelter, Multipurpose Cash, health, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) at the reception/ holding centre and in the areas near the disaster site.

This is expected to be done in 3 months. In the implementation of this operation, continuous assessments will be done with PMER monitoring to ensure that the response action is in line with current and emerging needs of the vulnerable communities. If needs evolve



significantly, an Operational update will be made to request adjustment of the Plan of Action to serve any increased or changing needs. It is believed that the operation will have a ripple effect beyond the primary target group. This is anticipated through actions such as risk communication and community engagement, health, hygiene promotion and sanitation awareness among others.

## Operation strategy rationale

To address the displacement, loss of lives, and destruction of livelihoods caused by the landslide in Bulambuli. This will be done by delivering targeted support in shelter, WASH, health, and livelihoods to the most affected communities. The operation will ensure inclusivity, prioritize the protection of vulnerable groups, and mitigate health. The strategy is developed for emergency assistance to address the immediate basic needs of the displaced people from Buluganya subcounty and neighbouring areas hit by landslides in Bulambuli district and greater Mt. Elgon sub-region. Below are prioritized areas of support

### a) Multipurpose Cash and Voucher Assistance 796 people

URCS will implement an unconditional Multipurpose Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) approach using contracted financial service Providers (FSPs) to address non- food basic needs of most vulnerable landslide hit people targeting 796 individuals of approximately 160 households as a one-off complementary response to NFI support. The transfer value is 55,000UGX (13CHF) per person as per the National Cash Working Group current existing Minimum Expenditure Basket of basic non- food sectoral needs. The CVA support will be unconditional for families to cater for items not provided for under the support in kind. The delivery mechanism will be determined, however mobile money is highly preferred as has been used before for other operations of URCS in the country including the just completed flood DREF.

This approach will empower beneficiaries address their most basic needs as per their priorities. Beneficiaries will be selected based on a vulnerability selection exercise together with key stakeholders including Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), district local government and with reference to the Uganda Cash Working Group best practices, ensuring accuracy and fairness. Beneficiaries and partners will be oriented in CVA fostering ownership and coordination. Continuity will be ensured through use of referral pathways for provision of cash plus services such as financial literacy as well as recommendations to the district for linkages to social protection schemes.

Post Distribution Monitoring will be conducted two weeks after encashment to gauge impact of assistance and informing decision-making for future program improvement.

### b) Water Sanitation and Hygiene:

Current, there is a high demand of water supply, which is associated with increasing number of people at the Bunambutye holding/ reception centre. This is putting pressure on the available water supply system comprising of the URCS T70 tank that is complemented by water-trucking by the Bulambuli district local government. Since this water supply system is overstretched, the operation will deploy a WASH Kit 5 and water bouser in the emergency phase based on continuous assessment and monitoring of water supply to the target population.

URCS is working alongside the district authorities to ensure complementarity of operations and maintenance of the water supply system with plans to extend the national Water supply network to the Bunambutye holding/ reception centre in order to provide more reliable and sustainable water supply to the area and the people in need.

To facilitate improvements in the low sanitation coverage, the operation will construct new emergency latrines and bathing shelters using a participatory approach whereby community members will take part in learning and construction process at the Holding/ reception centre. The URCS volunteers will provide support to the relocated persons upon resettlement in the nearby area, in construction of household latrines. Garbage bins and handwashing equipment will be installed in the holding/ reception centre to manage the sanitation needs in the area.

Aquatabs and other water treatment chemical will be distributed and used in water treatment to curb risks of outbreak of water-related diseases.

MHM kits will be distributed to the most in need 300 Women and Girls in Menstrual Age bracket at the holding/ reception centre.

### c) Protection

The operation will reactivate the Restoring Family Links (RFL) services in the county and deploy technical staff and volunteers to support the increasing tracing needs. This re-established system will continue to solicit the technical guidance and support of the ICRC and other child protection partners. The already trained volunteers will be re-deployed to continue providing the RFL services.

Other protection needs including GBV awareness, community based psychosocial support (PSS) and youth empowerment services shall



be provided through technical guidance of the IFRC PGI desk in Nairobi as well as Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development that will be delivered through the involvement of the respective line department in the district.

#### d) Shelter and settlement:

Two 200-seater tents targeting the most displaced people at the holding/ reception centre. One will house men and the other, women and children. 100 shelter kits will be procured and distributed to 100 most vulnerable households among those that will be resettled from the holding/ reception centre to the nearby resettlement area during the action period of this operation, as the population at the reception centre grows.

#### e) Health:

Training for 10 RCATS and 5 Emergency Medical Teams will be conducted. These will provide emergency health services to the target group at the reception centre and those moving from the disaster hit area. Procurement of first aid kits will be done which will facilitate the response Teams to provide the emergency health services to the 12,138 persons displaced by the landslides.

Deployment of 30 volunteers to conduct risk communication for 30 days for 3 months will be done at the reception centre and in the disaster hit area in Buluganya subcounty and neighbouring area. Training for 10 RCATs in Community Based Health and First Aid CBHFA will be conducted. The capacity strengthening will help in effectively addressing the emergency health needs of the displaced population.

#### f) Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)

CEA activities are integral parts of the URCS essential themes strategy. CEA will be seamlessly integrated throughout the intervention to ensure active participation of the target population. The operation will recruit, orient and deploy volunteers who are part of the affected community who will help in facilitating effective communication because they have a better understanding of the context of the target beneficiary population. All Information Education and Communication (IEC) materials shall be translated into Arabic to effectively reach the target beneficiaries.

The CEA kiosks and help desks will facilitate timely collection of feedback, complaints, and concerns from the POCs, allowing them to express their issues freely. The Red Cross Action team members will promptly address these concerns, with sensitive feedback handled through approved URCS referral channels. Clear roles and responsibilities will be delineated in collaboration with the local community representatives and leaders, ensuring transparent communication about the beneficiary selection process. Community radios and public address systems will disseminate life-saving information, including psycho-social support, First Aid, and protection services.

## Targeting Strategy

### Who will be targeted through this operation?

The response will primarily target a total 12,138 people who are most affected and have moved to the reception/ holding centre, and continue to be vulnerable due to the inadequate services. The population at risk in the disaster site and neighboring areas will be targeted with risk communication, WASH and Health Promotion messages which are planned to be delivered by the URCS volunteers through the use of IEC material. Once the validated beneficiary list from OPM is shared at the reception/ holding centre, URCS will apply the vulnerability criteria to identify the following:

- Primary target is households whose houses were completely destroyed.
- Households who have lost family members or have missing family members.
- The elderly, child-headed households, orphans, persons living with disabilities, individuals living with chronic illness
- Single parent households.

Vulnerability criteria will be harmonized further with partners in the respective sectors and considering the ongoing assistance to avoid overlapping and ensure complementation

### Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The selection is in line with the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) core values of prioritizing assistance to the most vulnerable. Vulnerability criteria is one generally used by UNHCR, OPM and other humanitarian partners to identify persons with special needs (PNS) and targeting criteria for the food rationing currently used by World Food Program (WFP).



To ensure fairness and transparency in beneficiary selection, rigorous verification processes will be undertaken by OPM and URCS will utilize the verified beneficiary lists to prevent duplication and exclusion

## Total Targeted Population

Women	7,213	Rural	100%
Girls (under 18)	800	Urban	0%
Men	3,936	People with disabilities (estimated)	3%
Boys (under 18)	189		
Total targeted population	12,138		

## Risk and Security Considerations

Please indicate about potential operation risk for this operations and mitigation actions

Risk	Mitigation action
Risk of intensification of the crisis, extensive landslides and flooding persists, there is a likelihood of further landslides and the expansion of flooding to additional area. With rains continuing to pour, the risk of landslides and flooding spreading all vulnerable sub-counties in the targeted districts is high.	In response to this ongoing risk, the Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) will need to conduct comprehensive needs assessments and maintain continuous monitoring of the evolving situation. This approach will help identify emerging gaps in assistance, allowing for timely updates and potential extension of the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) operation. Such an extension may involve transforming the operation into an emergency appeal to encompass newly affected districts and sub counties within the target areas.
Risk of increased SGBV Cases due to the shelter situations within the communities	URCS in this response will complement other partners in addressing shelter needs while offering adequate referrals
Possible outbreak of water-borne diseases, including Cholera, Typhoid fever as well as upsurge of malaria cases due to increased vector. Given the context, there is a very high risk of the spread of water-borne diseases consisting of faecal-oral diseases, water-related diseases and aquatic diseases. Destroyed or flooded water points and latrines increase the lack of access drinking water in the targeted departments. This exposes the affected population to epidemics and oral-faecal disease including cholera.	URCS will distribute water treatment tablets as well as conduct hygiene and health promotion sessions. URCS will review the operational strategy based on epidemiological monitoring in coordination with the authorities.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

Possible outbreak of water borne- disease including cholera, typhoid fever given the high risk of the spread of water born disease consisting of fecal-oral disease.

increased cases of vector dieses like malaria cases. URCS due to stagnated water which is breeding ground for mosquitoes that cause malaria. URCS will distributed water treatment tables (aqua tables and water purification sachets) and has deployed a t70 tank for provision of safe water at the relocation site.

There is going to be an increased number of people at risk relocated to the evacuation site which will pose a risk when identifying the right beneficiaries. URCS intends to deploy extra shelter kits to accommodate more affected people and will use the beneficiary lists that were developed by OPM to identify the right beneficiaries



Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

Yes

## Planned Intervention



### Shelter Housing And Settlements

**Budget:** CHF 147,822

**Targeted Persons:** 1,500

#### Indicators

Title	Target
Number of households supported with Shelter Kits	100
Number of households supported with essential household items	300
Number of shelter tents deployed	2
Number of NDRTs deployed	3

#### Priority Actions

- Procurement and distribution of 100 shelter kits to the displaced population (100 HH)
- Deploy Relief National Response Teams (NRTs) to support field operations and PMER NDRT (3 NRT for 30 days per month for 3 months)
- Procurement and distribution of 300 essential household items to the displaced population for 300HHs
- Procurement and deployment of two emergency shelter tents with capacity of 200 persons
- Monitoring the use of distributed Shelter kits and household items (PMER team conduct monitoring and evaluation once a month for 3 months including PDMs)
- Search and Rescue (SAR) equipment - Thermal detector



### Multi Purpose Cash

**Budget:** CHF 12,827

**Targeted Persons:** 796

#### Indicators

Title	Target
Number of people reached with cash assistance	796
Number of PDMs conducted	1
Number of markets assessments conducted	1

#### Priority Actions

- Distribution of multipurpose CASH to 796 individuals whose houses were completely and partially destroyed
- Post Distribution monitoring
- Market and cash feasibility assessment

**Budget:** CHF 23,963

**Targeted Persons:** 12,138

### Indicators

Title	Target
Number of people reached with risk communication	12,138
Number of volunteers trained on community based health and first Aid CBHFA	10
Number of first aid kits procured	20

### Priority Actions

- Training for 10 RCATS and 5 Emergency Medical Teams
- Training for 10 RCATS in Community Based Health and First Aid CBHFA
- Deployment of 30 volunteers to conduct risk communication for 30 days for 3 months
- Procurement of first aid kits



## Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

**Budget:** CHF 64,193

**Targeted Persons:** 12,138

### Indicators

Title	Target
Number of Procured and distributed Menstrual Hygiene Management kits	300
Number of boxes of soap procured and distributed	200
Number of WASH NDRTs deployed	3
Number of emergency latrines and bathing shelters constructed	40
Number of people supplied with clean and safe water	12,138

### Priority Actions

- Procurement and distribution of 300 Menstrual Hygiene Management kits
- Procurement of communal hands-free Hand washing facilities (65 litre cap tanks, metallic stands
- Procurement of IEC materials (posters, Stickers, T-shirts, Phaster tool kits)
- Procurement of sanitation tool kits (hoes, spades, pick axes, wheelbarrows, digging bars, nylon ropes, metallic buckets.
- Procurement of Chlorine powder HTH 65% for water treatment
- Procurement of water quality testing tools and consumables (Pool tester, Turbidity tubes, DPD 1 & 3, Phenol red)
- Procurement of garbage bins
- Procure and distribute water treatment chemicals such as Aqua tabs and PUR to 220 displaced households.
- Deployment of WASH Kit 5 and water bowser to supply safe and clean water to 216 households at the camp.
- Construction of 20 emergency latrines and 20 bathing shelters at the planned relocation camp, to complement the limited number of latrines and bathing shelters already present at camp site.
- Deployment of 2 WASH NDRTs (Software and hardware)

- Procure and distribute 200 boxes of soap
- Deployment of volunteers for 30 days



## Protection, Gender And Inclusion

**Budget:** CHF 11,422

**Targeted Persons:** 12,138

### Indicators

Title	Target
Number of people reached with RFL messages	12,138
Number of RFL kits procured	10
Number of ARFL NDRTs deployed	1

### Priority Actions

- Deployment of RFL NDRT
- Dissemination of RFL messages
- Procurement of RFL kits



## Community Engagement And Accountability

**Budget:** CHF 8,120

**Targeted Persons:** 12,138

### Indicators

Title	Target
Number of CEA meetings held	3
Number of CEA kiosks established	8
Number of people provided with clear CEA mechanisms	12,138

### Priority Actions

- Community Engagement and other Essential Themes (PGI, SAF) sessions/ meetings
- Establish CEA kiosks



## Secretariat Services

**Budget:** CHF 9,585

**Targeted Persons:** 38



## Indicators

Title	Target
Number of monitoring missions conducted	2
Number of financial spot checks conducted	1

## Priority Actions

- Conduct monitoring missions
- Conduct financial spot checks



## National Society Strengthening

**Budget:** CHF 57,087

**Targeted Persons:** 38

## Indicators

Title	Target
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## Priority Actions

- Lessons learned workshop
- Facilitation for 30 volunteers for 3 months
- Core charges
- Vehicle mileage costs
- Field monitoring and oversight
- staff and volunteer communication costs
- Drivers to support operations (2 field vehicles + 1 Truck)
- Volunteer insurance

# About Support Services

## How many staff and volunteers will be involved in this operation. Briefly describe their role.

This operation will deploy 30 volunteers backed up by 6 NDRTs and 5 staff members from both the affected branch and the headquarters. Volunteers will be tasked to undertake search and rescue, tracing, wash and health awareness and first aid while NDRTs will be deployed on the following thematic areas; Three for Wash, one for communications, one for PMER and one for RFL Staff members will provide coordination and technical support

## If there is procurement, will it be done by National Society or IFRC?

URCS will use the logistical capacity in the region. This includes the personnel (Operations Manager, NDRTs, RCATs, land cruiser vehicle). More capacity will be deployed from the Headquarters in Kampala. The response action will mainly utilise local procurement and where need be for international procurement, IFRC will be engaged for support. The operational and maintenance costs will be covered through this response action funding.



## How will this operation be monitored?

Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) has robust PMER (Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting) capacity, which will be utilized during the landslide response operation. The URCS has dedicated staff responsible for ensuring that monitoring, reporting, and evaluation activities are carried out in a systematic manner. And PMER NDRT shall be deployed to augment the data collection at field level. The cluster PMER officer and Disaster Management Delegate will undertake three monitoring missions while emergency finance delegate will conduct one financial spot check. The cluster logistics and procurement senior officer will through the operation work with URCE supply chain in procurements.

The PMER Shall support the overall reporting framework of the operation, data collection (Where applicable online data collection shall be prioritized using KOBO), designing and deployment of assessment tools as well as participating in such assessments, post distribution monitoring for NFI distributed and Cash or Voucher assistance provided, field support supervision, support in conducting coordination and conducting lessons learnt workshop for the operation.

The lessons learnt workshop shall review the quality of the operations, self-assessment of the teams involved in the operation including partners and stakeholders, challenges and key lessons to inform the next operation.

## Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation

URCS has a well-established communications capacity to support its emergency response operations. URCS has an active communications team responsible for managing both internal and external communications, ensuring timely and accurate information sharing during disasters. The team is skilled in managing media relations, producing reports, and using various communication channels, including social media, radio, and press releases, to update stakeholders on the status of operations and needs.

For the landslide response, URCS will manage communications through its designated team, which will work in close collaboration with the IFRC Communications team. The National Society's communications capacity includes the use of digital platforms to share updates with the public and stakeholders, providing real-time information on relief activities, challenges faced, and the needs of affected communities



# Budget Overview



## DREF OPERATION

### MDRUG053 - UGANDA RED CROSS SOCIETY LANDSLIDES

#### Operating Budget

<b>Planned Operations</b>	<b>268,347</b>
Shelter and Basic Household Items	147,822
Livelihoods	0
Multi-purpose Cash	12,827
Health	23,963
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	64,193
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	11,422
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	0
Community Engagement and Accountability	8,121
Environmental Sustainability	0
<b>Enabling Approaches</b>	<b>66,672</b>
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	9,585
National Society Strengthening	57,087
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>335,019</b>

*all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)*



# Contact Information

For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact:

**National Society contact:** Robert KWESIGA,, Secretary General, rkwesiga@redcrossug.org

**IFRC Appeal Manager:** Mohamed Babiker, Head of delegation, mohamed.babiker@ifrc.org

**IFRC Project Manager:** Daniel Kyalo Mutinda, Delegate, disaster management, daniel.mutinda@ifrc.org, 254725599105

**IFRC focal point for the emergency:** Daniel Kyalo Mutinda, Delegate, Disaster Management, daniel.mutinda@ifrc.org, 254725599105

**Media Contact:** Irene Nakasiita, Communications Director, inakasiita@redcrossug.org, 0774382583

[Click here for the reference](#)

