

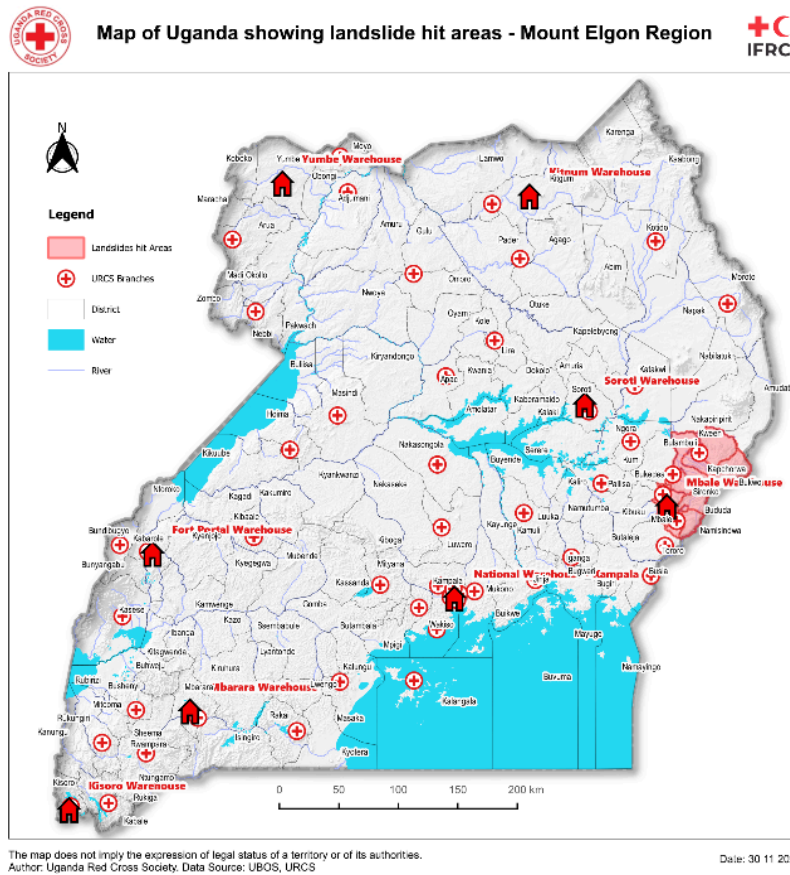


NFI distribution at the reception centre

Appeal: <b>MDRUG053</b>	Total DREF Allocation: <b>CHF 335,019</b>	Crisis Category: <b>Yellow</b>	Hazard: <b>Landslide</b>
Glide Number: -	People Affected: <b>30,000 people</b>	People Targeted: <b>12,138 people</b>	People Assisted: <b>12,138 people</b>
Event Onset: <b>Sudden</b>	Operation Start Date: <b>16-12-2024</b>	Operational End Date: <b>31-05-2025</b>	Total Operating Timeframe: <b>5 months</b>
Targeted Regions: <b>Eastern Region</b>			

The major donors and partners of the IFRC-DREF include the Red Cross Societies and governments of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Britain, China, Czech, Canada, Denmark, German, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Liechtenstein, Malta, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, and the Netherlands, as well as DG ECHO, Mondelez Foundation, and other corporate and private donors. The IFRC, on behalf of the National Society, would like to extend thanks to all for their generous contributions.

# Description of the Event



## Date of event

27-11-2024

## What happened, where and when?

Following heavy rains on 27th November 2024 across Bulambuli District and neighbouring areas, severe flooding was triggered by the overflow of River Simu. The river inundated nearby households, destroyed crops, and disrupted major roads, including Sironko-Kapchorwa and Muyembe-Nakapiripit. This led to the collapse of bridges and widespread transport disruptions. Later that evening, between 7:00 PM and 9:00 PM, the situation worsened as landslides struck eight villages in Buluganya Parish, as well as areas in Sooti, Sisiyi, and Bulago sub-counties.

While the flooding significantly affected riverine communities, the landslides caused the most severe impact, resulting in widespread destruction and the displacement of thousands of families.

On 11th December 2024, the Prime Minister convened a high-level humanitarian coordination meeting where updated official figures were presented. Supported by the National Society (NS) and local authorities involved in search, rescue, and excavation operations, it was reported that 30,000 people had been affected. Among them, 2,023 households (12,138 people) were hosted at a temporary holding camp. The disaster resulted in 20 deaths, 22 injuries, and over 121 people reported missing.

The coordination meeting was attended by the Minister of State for Disaster Preparedness, Relief and Refugees, religious and cultural leaders, local authorities, humanitarian actors, and the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), which led the response coordination. The meeting focused on aligning efforts to assist affected communities and fulfil the Government's priority to resettle over 5,000 households. The Prime Minister acknowledged delays in registration and assessment due to difficult access and the scattered nature of affected populations.

By 29th November 2024, the Prime Minister had directed all individuals affected by the landslides and those residing in high-risk zones to relocate to the Bunambutye Holding Centre, pending government procurement of land for permanent resettlement. Approximately 2,600 people had moved to the holding centre. The government, through OPM and the district authorities, continued to provide food to the



displaced population.

The Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) responded by supplying clean and safe water for domestic use, constructing emergency pit latrines and bathing shelters, offering emergency medical services via a static clinic at the camp, distributing non-food items (NFIs) and menstrual hygiene kits (MHM), and providing emergency shelter through four 200-capacity family tents. URCS also conducted risk communication and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) services.

On Friday, 20th December 2024, around 7:00 PM, the holding centre was hit by high-intensity rainfall and windstorms, which destroyed four URCS family tents, damaged rooftops of two UNHCR high-performance tents, ruined several non-food items, and caused minor injuries to seven individuals. As a result, the women's tent was relocated to nearby school staff quarters, pending clearance of a new holding site.

On 9th February 2025, all households that had been living in the school and staff quarters were successfully relocated to a new, more permanent holding centre, approximately 2 kilometers away from the school. URCS facilitated the relocation, reassembled 18 shelter tents, and constructed 20 stance pit latrines and two communal bathing shelters. Texans and Ugandans on Mission provided two 10,000-litre water storage tanks, while URCS continued to truck water to the new site. A T70 water tank was left at the school to serve households remaining nearby.

Risk communication and CEA services continue at the new holding centre. OPM, through the district, is still providing food and firewood, with meals being prepared communally by the households. Strong Minds Uganda is delivering psychosocial support and mental health services to the affected families at the new location. The relocation also enabled the school to reopen for the first term of the academic year.



URCS volunteers during Search and Rescue



Borehole Drilling works by the contractor with supervision from URCS WASH



Pictorial showing the distribution of MHM Kits.



The T70 Water tank established by the URCS that supplies water to the camp

## Scope and Scale

Bulambuli District and its neighbouring areas experienced persistent heavy rainfall from October 2024, culminating in severe flooding and landslides. On November 27th, continuous rains from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM caused widespread destruction across several sub-counties and town councils. The most significant impact resulted from landslide events in eight villages that were identified as severely affected.

Due to safety concerns and limited accessibility, the initial rapid needs assessment conducted by the Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) on 29th November covered only a few accessible locations. At that time, the affected population was estimated at 4,000 individuals, with 1,546 people from 220 households displaced. Among these, 125 houses were completely destroyed. Nineteen bodies had been recovered at that point (14 males and 5 females), including seven children (6 boys and 1 girl). Twenty-two people sustained injuries and were taken



to Buluganya Health Centre III and Muyembe Health Centre IV for treatment, where one succumbed to injuries, bringing the confirmed death toll to 20. A total of 121 people remained missing at the time.

Out of the displaced, 750 individuals sought refuge with relatives and neighbours, while 796 people were hosted at Masugu Primary School. The search and rescue operation, led by the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF), URCS, and community volunteers, remained active. By February 2025, 49 bodies had been recovered, with approximately 38 people still unaccounted for.

As of 11th December 2024, continued assessments revealed that 30,000 people had been affected by the disaster, either directly or indirectly, through the loss of livelihoods, damage to infrastructure, and service disruptions. Approximately 2,200 households (13,200 people) were being hosted at the Bunambutye holding/reception centre. During a high-level emergency meeting held on 11th December, chaired by the Prime Minister of Uganda and attended by the Minister of State for Disaster Preparedness, cultural and religious leaders, humanitarian partners, and local authorities, the official figure of affected households was updated to 5,000 households (30,000 people). The Prime Minister cited the challenging terrain and the scattered nature of the affected population as reasons for the slow registration and assessment processes.

Immediate actions were undertaken to support displaced populations and restore essential services. These included the construction of 58 emergency pit latrines, 8 communal bathing shelters, and 15 handwashing stations. URCS facilitated water trucking and treatment, ensuring access to clean water at the holding centre, and provided 4 family shelter tents (200-capacity each) to accommodate displaced households.

Food provision is being managed by the government, with meals prepared communally by household clusters. URCS also drilled three boreholes at Plot 198, while Texans and Ugandans on Mission, in collaboration with the Ministry of Water and Environment, developed a motorized borehole system and piped water to the holding centre.

The region—especially Bulambuli and other Mt. Elgon districts is characterized by steep slopes with loam soils and intensive cultivation, making it prone to landslides. Prolonged rains from September through December caused substantial damage to infrastructure. Two major bridges along the road to Buluganya were washed away, impeding transportation of rescue equipment, personnel, and relief supplies.

Preliminary data showed that over 4,000 people had been directly affected at the initial stage. The URCS pre-positioned 400 non-food item (NFI) kits at the Mbale Regional Warehouse, of which 300 kits were distributed to the most vulnerable households at the holding centre. Emergency service teams, including those involved in search, rescue, and recovery, faced disruptions in health and WASH services, many of which were damaged or destroyed.

The disaster had a profound impact on the physical and mental well-being of the population. Strong Minds Uganda has been actively supporting displaced households with psychosocial support and mental health services at the holding centre. However, some community members have refused to evacuate until the bodies of their family members are recovered. The government continues to encourage voluntary relocation to the holding centre, with search efforts still ongoing. Given the scale of the disaster, particularly in Buluganya sub-county and surrounding areas, the Uganda Red Cross Society has activated a full-scale response. Immediate, coordinated action remains critical to addressing the urgent needs of the affected populations and restoring stability to the region.

## IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

<b>Secretariat</b>	IFRC funded the DREF landslide operation, offered technical support during monitoring, financial spot checks and lessons learned workshop.
<b>Participating National Societies</b>	<p>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.</p> <p>The ECHO OXFAM Consortium supported the affected people with MHM kits, multipurpose cash and as well offered technical guidance during the response.</p>



# ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

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

<b>Government has requested international assistance</b>	No
<b>National authorities</b>	<p>The Ministry of Disaster Preparedness and Relief within the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) is leading the coordination of all stakeholders involved in the response to the landslide-affected communities. This coordination brings together 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, including the Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS).</p> <p>On 29th November 2024, OPM allocated relief food to be distributed to the most affected individuals, with the DDMC overseeing the delivery and distribution process. During a national humanitarian emergency meeting held on the same day at the Office of the Prime Minister, partners were called upon to bolster support for the response efforts in Bulambuli District.</p> <p>In alignment with its mandate, OPM took charge of registering and validating individuals at the reception/holding center, with crucial support from URCS volunteers, CARITAS, CRS, and the DDMC. The Uganda People's Defense Forces (UPDF), complemented by URCS Red Cross Action Teams (RCATs) and community members, was instrumental in search, rescue, and recovery operations. These efforts were enhanced by the deployment of two excavators at the site on 8th December 2024, supplementing manual tools such as hand hoes.</p> <p>To address the urgent water needs, the Bulambuli District water bowser was deployed to support water trucking, ensuring consistent refilling of the T70 URCS water tank. Additionally, on 11th December 2024, the government called upon URCS to install six additional shelter tents to accommodate the growing population at the reception/holding center.</p>
<b>UN or other actors</b>	<p>UN bodies and other actors have actively been participating in the monthly Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Platform meetings and were part of the national humanitarian emergency meeting at the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) on 29th November 2024, where partners were urged to support the response in Bulambuli District. The Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) shared the rapid disaster emergency data from its disaster database with OPM, which in turn, shared this information with UN agencies and other partners that helped to inform their response planning.</p> <p>In support of the response, UNHCR provided two large tents for shelter, while the Malaria Consortium and the Ministry of Health (MoH) supplied eight bales of mosquito nets. MoH, with support from URCS EMT staff, conducted health screenings, and a joint partner Adolescent Health Orientation meeting was convened, involving URCS, ACODE, and UNFPA.</p> <p>ECHO-PPP contributed four shelter tents prepositioned at the URCS Soroti regional warehouse, which were installed within 72 hours of the Emergency Task Force meeting. Additionally, the URCS Mbale regional warehouse dispatched 300 Non-Food Items (NFI) kits to the most vulnerable landslide-affected individuals, prepositioned under the URCS-Government of Uganda partnership.</p> <p>The OXFAM-led ECHO DPR Consortium project (URCS, Caritas Uganda, and Oxfam in Uganda) activated a crisis modifier and distributed 128 Menstrual Hygiene Management</p>



(MHM) kits to 75 adolescent girls and 53 women. UNICEF supported the operation with medical supplies, 16 communal shelter tents, hand-washing facilities, chlorine for mass water treatment, aqua tabs for household water treatment, and 300 MHM kits for vulnerable women and girls. Furthermore, the government, through OPM, continues to provide hot meals to displaced landslide victims and residents of high-risk areas now living at the Bunambutye holding center. WHO contributed two communal shelter tents for accommodation.

UNDP provided clean cooking energy to 500 affected households by distributing 500 gas cylinders and pressure source pans. They also delivered 500 MHM kits to women and girls of reproductive age. Additionally, the Oxfam Consortium supported 125 households with multi-purpose cash transfers, complementing the NFI kits. Texans and Ugandans on Mission (TaUoM) conducted hydro geological surveys and are drilling a motorized borehole at the holding center. They are also providing food to residents at the site while they await government resettlement.

Strong Minds Uganda is offering psychosocial support and mental health services to the affected population at the holding center. The Rotary Club-Mbale provided bedding (mosquito nets, blankets, bedsheets, mattresses, and mats) to 150 landslide-affected households, further strengthening the collective response efforts.

### Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

The Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) actively participates in National Task Force meetings, as well as Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) monthly and weekly operational coordination meetings. These platforms provide an opportunity to review forecasts, assess previous response actions, and receive updates from the field, facilitating the planning of coordinated response interventions. At the field level, the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), through the District Disaster Management Committees (DDMCs) and District Emergency Coordination and Operations Centres (DECOCs), facilitates information gathering and disaster coordination efforts. The URCS Emergency Task Force (ETF), chaired by the Secretary-General and comprising members of the Senior Management Team and a multi-skilled operational team, oversees response efforts at both regional and field levels. URCS's regional operations are managed from its local Branch Offices, which maintain close collaboration with Regional DECOCs. Branch Managers in disaster-prone districts actively contribute to DDMC meetings, ensuring local-level coordination and preparedness. Throughout the ongoing flooding period, URCS has maintained strong coordination with active partners who have been instrumental in supporting the National Society's efforts from the onset of the disaster. This robust collaboration has ensured an effective and cohesive response, leveraging the resources and expertise of various stakeholders to address the urgent needs of affected communities and enhance disaster management at both national and local levels.

## Needs (Gaps) Identified



### Shelter Housing And Settlements

At both the application and extension stages, critical gaps were identified in the availability and adequacy of shelter for displaced households. The communal shelter facilities initially available at the Bunambutye Holding Centre were severely overcrowded and failed to meet the basic standards of dignity, privacy, and safety. There was a pressing need for household-level shelter tents to decongest communal spaces and facilitate family-level arrangements, including cooking. This gap became even more pronounced as the government commenced the phased evacuation of up to 12,000 households from high-risk landslide zones across the Mt. Elgon sub-region. The increasing number of new arrivals placed further strain on an already inadequate shelter system, and there remained an urgent requirement for both transitional and long-term shelter options in line with the government's broader resettlement strategy.



### Livelihoods And Basic Needs

Needs assessments conducted during both stages highlighted the complete absence of livelihood support for the displaced population. Households residing at the holding centre were entirely reliant on humanitarian assistance to meet their daily needs, with no access to income-generating activities or skills-based opportunities to support self-reliance. There was a critical need for interventions aimed at strengthening coping mechanisms, such as vocational training, start-up capital, and access to markets. Additionally, gaps existed in the availability of basic non-food items essential for dignified living, particularly for those relocated to resettlement plots. Without sustainable livelihoods, the affected population remained vulnerable to prolonged dependency and lacked the means to recover independently.





## Health

The health sector revealed multiple gaps at both the onset and continuation of the emergency response. Psychological trauma among survivors, bereaved families, and frontline responders was significant, yet mental health and psychosocial support services were limited or unavailable. Community members involved in ongoing search and rescue operations were repeatedly exposed to highly distressing conditions, intensifying their emotional burden. The need for specialized training in dead body management, emergency first aid, and disease prevention was evident. There were also concerns about potential disease outbreaks, especially cholera and other diarrheal diseases, given the region's history and the overcrowded conditions at the holding centre. A lack of health outreach and preparedness capacity further compounded the situation, emphasizing the need for comprehensive public health and mental health interventions.



## Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

WASH needs remained critical throughout both stages of the response. The available water infrastructure was insufficient to meet the needs of the growing population at the holding centre and the newly allocated resettlement areas. There was a need for sustainable and reliable water sources to reduce dependency on water trucking, particularly in remote resettlement sites. Sanitation infrastructure also remained inadequate, with a lack of durable pit latrines, bathing shelters, and waste management facilities. Relocated households faced significant barriers in constructing their own sanitation facilities due to limited access to materials and technical guidance. Furthermore, the need to strengthen local governance mechanisms such as Water User Committees was identified to ensure the long-term operation and maintenance of existing water systems.



## Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Protection-related needs were acute and persisted across all stages of the response. The emotional toll on affected individuals, particularly those separated from their families, highlighted the urgent need for family tracing and reunification services. Vulnerable groups including children, women, persons with disabilities, and the elderly faced increased protection risks in overcrowded and under-resourced environments. Reports of trauma among search and rescue volunteers further underscored the gap in structured psychosocial support. There was also a lack of clearly established referral pathways for gender-based violence, abuse, or exploitation. Protection concerns were compounded by the absence of targeted measures to ensure that inclusion and safety were mainstreamed across all sectors of the response.



## Community Engagement And Accountability

Community engagement and accountability needs were identified early and reaffirmed during the extension phase. Displaced individuals and host community members lacked timely and reliable access to information regarding services, resettlement plans, and aid entitlements. This gap hindered informed decision-making and contributed to confusion and occasional tensions between host and displaced populations. There was a clear need for strengthened two-way communication systems, including feedback and complaints mechanisms, to ensure community voices were heard and integrated into response planning. Additionally, the capacity of local disaster risk reduction structures required reinforcement to enhance preparedness and promote social cohesion in the face of ongoing population movement and resource pressure.

# Operational Strategy

## Overall objective of the operation

The operation was designed to directly support 12,138 persons affected by the landslide disaster in Bulambuli District during the emergency and immediate response phases. The intervention focused on providing shelter, multipurpose cash assistance, health services, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) support at the reception and holding centers, as well as in communities near the disaster site. The DREF was extended for two more months.



## Operation strategy rationale

The strategy for the operation was designed to address the immediate and urgent needs resulting from the landslides in Bulambuli District and the wider Mt. Elgon sub-region. The landslides caused widespread displacement, loss of life, destruction of property, and disruption of livelihoods, especially in Buluganya Subcounty. The Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS), in coordination with government and humanitarian partners, developed a targeted, multisectoral response strategy focusing on Shelter and Settlements, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Health, Livelihoods through Cash and Voucher Assistance, Protection, and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA).

The strategic approach prioritized life-saving interventions while promoting dignity, inclusion, and resilience among affected communities. The response was tailored to meet the basic needs of displaced populations, facilitate safe temporary resettlement, and strengthen local capacity for longer-term recovery.

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

The strategy under Multipurpose Cash and Voucher Assistance aimed to provide immediate, flexible support to the most vulnerable individuals affected by the landslides. The approach was to implement an unconditional cash transfer programme targeting 796 people, enabling them to address their own priority needs in a dignified manner. The cash transfer amount was set at UGX 55,000 (13 CHF) per person, aligned with the national Minimum Expenditure Basket for non-food needs.

URCS adopted a one-off transfer model to complement in-kind assistance, with mobile money identified as the preferred delivery mechanism based on its success in previous operations. The strategy emphasized collaboration with the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and district authorities for beneficiary registration and verification, following national Cash Working Group standards. Furthermore, the strategy integrated referral pathways for financial literacy support and linkages to social protection systems to enhance sustainability and reduce dependency. Post-distribution monitoring was built into the strategy to assess the effectiveness and inform future improvements.

### b) Water Sanitation and Hygiene

The WASH strategy focused on reducing the risk of disease outbreaks and restoring access to safe water and sanitation for displaced communities. Initially, the deployment of WASH Kit 5 was proposed to meet emergency needs; however, based on joint assessments with district authorities and partners, the strategy shifted toward providing sustainable water supply solutions. The revised approach prioritized the drilling of hand-pump boreholes in resettlement areas, with the aim of reducing dependency on emergency water trucking.

The WASH strategy also included the promotion of hygiene practices through community sensitization and risk communication. It emphasized inclusive sanitation solutions, particularly for vulnerable groups, and the use of hydrological surveys to inform the placement of long-term water infrastructure. Hygiene promotion activities were conducted in conjunction with public health messaging to prevent the spread of waterborne diseases.

### c) Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI)

The protection strategy focused on restoring family links, addressing psychosocial needs, and ensuring the safety and dignity of vulnerable groups. The strategy reactivated the Restoring Family Links (RFL) mechanism with technical support from the ICRC and partners to trace and reunify separated family members. Volunteers trained in RFL were redeployed to support this effort.

In addition, the strategy incorporated gender-sensitive and inclusive protection interventions, including community-based psychosocial support, GBV prevention and response messaging, and youth engagement. Technical guidance from the IFRC PGI desk and coordination with the Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development informed the integration of protection standards into all sectors of the response. The approach aimed to create safe spaces for women, children, and marginalized individuals while ensuring accessible referral pathways for those requiring additional support.

### d) Shelter and Settlements

The shelter strategy aimed to provide immediate temporary accommodation and support the transition to more durable housing for displaced households. In response to the overcrowding at the holding/reception centre, the strategy prioritized the deployment of communal shelter tents, including gender-sensitive arrangements for men, women, and children.

Additionally, the strategy included the distribution of shelter kits to households identified for relocation to resettlement plots, with a focus on the most vulnerable. URCS also planned to procure additional large-capacity tents to meet the growing shelter demand. The shelter response was aligned with the government's broader resettlement plan and aimed to ensure safety, privacy, and dignity for



displaced families while reducing pressure on communal facilities.

#### e) Health

The health strategy was centered on strengthening the capacity of emergency responders and preventing public health emergencies among the displaced population. This included training Red Cross Action Teams (RCATs) and Emergency Medical Teams to deliver first aid and emergency health services. The strategy also emphasized health education and risk communication to mitigate disease transmission in overcrowded and disaster-affected settings.

To further enhance preparedness, the strategy incorporated the procurement of search and rescue equipment including thermal detectors for future disasters. Training in Community-Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA) was also included to equip teams with the knowledge and tools needed to respond effectively at the community level. Overall, the strategy focused on early intervention, localized response capacity, and disease prevention.

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

The strategy for Community Engagement and Accountability aimed to ensure transparency, participation, and timely feedback throughout the response. The approach involved recruiting and training local volunteers from the affected areas to act as communication bridges between humanitarian actors and the communities. Information materials were translated into local languages, including Arabic, to reach diverse populations.

CEA kiosks and help desks were strategically placed at the reception and holding centers to gather feedback, complaints, and concerns. These were addressed by trained Red Cross Action Team members, with sensitive cases referred through established URCS mechanisms. The strategy also utilized community radios and public address systems to disseminate life-saving information on services such as health, psychosocial support, and protection. Training in CEA, PGI, and the Safe Access Framework (SAF) was provided to 20 volunteers to enhance community-level engagement and accountability.

## Targeting Strategy

### Who was targeted by this operation?

The response primarily targeted 12,138 people who were most affected and relocated to the reception and holding centres, remaining vulnerable due to inadequate services. Additionally, populations at risk within the disaster site and neighbouring areas were targeted with risk communication, WASH, and health promotion messages, delivered by URCS volunteers using IEC materials.

Upon receiving the validated beneficiary list from the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) at the reception and holding centres, URCS applied vulnerability criteria to prioritize assistance for the following groups:

- Households whose homes were completely destroyed.
- Households that have lost or have missing family members.
- Elderly individuals, child-headed households, orphans, persons living with disabilities, and individuals with chronic illnesses.
- Single-parent households.

The vulnerability criteria were further harmonized with partners across relevant sectors to avoid duplication of assistance and to ensure complementary support to the affected populations.

### Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The selection was 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 were undertaken by OPM and URCS will utilize the verified beneficiary lists to prevent duplication and exclusion.



# Total Assisted Population

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

## Risk and Security Considerations (including "management")

Does your National Society have anti-fraud and corruption policy?	Yes
Does your National Society have prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse policy?	Yes
Does your National Society have child protection/child safeguarding policy?	Yes
Does your National Society have whistleblower protection policy?	Yes
Does your National Society have anti-sexual harassment policy?	Yes

Please analyse and indicate potential risks for this operation, its root causes 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.	URCS conducted comprehensive needs assessments and maintained continuous monitoring to identify emerging gaps in assistance and basing on findings, this did not warrant DREF operation update or extension, and such no evolution into an emergency appeal was requested as the number of displaced remained normal.
Risk of increased SGBV Cases due to the shelter situations within the communities.	URCS complemented UNICEF as key partner in addressing shelter needs and ensured that appropriate referral mechanisms were in place to respond to SGBV cases.
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 distributed water treatment tablets and conducted intensive hygiene and health promotion sessions. Operational strategies were often reviewed and adjusted in coordination with health authorities, based on ongoing epidemiological monitoring. No disease outbreak was detected as envisaged.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation:



It was envisaged that there would be 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. This however was not experienced due to intensive health and hygiene promotion campaigns undertaken that helped to avert potential disease outbreaks. Besides, URCS distributed water treatment tables (aqua tables and water purification sachets) and deployed a T70 tank for provision of safe water at the relocation site.

There was fear of increased cases of vector diseases like malaria cases due to stagnated water which is breeding ground for mosquitoes that cause malaria. This was not an alarming situation due to intensive health promotion campaign and distribution of mosquito nets to affected population.

There was fear of an increased number of people at risk of relocated to the evacuation site which would have posed a risk when identifying the right beneficiaries. URCS and UNCEF deployed extra shelter kits to accommodate more affected people and used the beneficiary lists that were developed by OPM to identify the right beneficiaries, in close coordination with district and local leaders.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?	Yes
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## Implementation



### Shelter Housing And Settlements

**Budget:** CHF 147,822  
**Targeted Persons:** 1,500  
**Assisted Persons:** 1,500  
**Targeted Male:** -  
**Targeted Female:** -

### Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of households supported with Shelter Kits	100	113
Number of households supported with essential household items	300	300
Number of shelter tents deployed	2	4
Number of NDRTs deployed	3	2

### Narrative description of achievements

Procurement of Shelter and NFI Kits: A total of 113 shelter kits and 300 household kits were procured and distributed to the most vulnerable households. A total of 143 NFI kits were procured and prepositioned at the regional warehouse, this was replenishment of the stock that had been used earlier. This strategic positioning ensured that the relief items can be distributed promptly to affected communities, minimizing delays in response and addressing immediate humanitarian needs. The prepositioning of these items is a key component of the preparedness strategy, enabling the National Society to respond efficiently and effectively to landslide affected populations, providing them with the necessary shelter and essential household items to support their recovery and well-being. The NFI kits included essential household items such as kitchen sets (saucepans, plates, cups, serving spoons, forks, teaspoons), solar lamps, mats, buckets, washing soap, jerricans, blankets, and mosquito nets, addressing the immediate humanitarian needs of affected communities. This distribution played a vital role in ensuring that the most vulnerable families regained a sense of dignity and had the necessary support to begin rebuilding their lives in the aftermath of the disasters.

Procurement and deployment of shelter tents: The National Society deployed four (4) 200-capacity shelter tents to support communities who were displaced by landslides. One tent was designated for women and children, while the remaining three were allocated for men. Additionally, six classrooms at the holding centre were repurposed to provide women and children with a safer and more comfortable environment. These tents were equipped with full-sized netted windows to ensure adequate ventilation; while sandbagging and



trenching were implemented to prevent flooding, thereby improving security, human dignity, and privacy for the displaced individuals.

The National Society as well procured and replenished 3 emergency shelter tents of 90 capacity, to prepare for timely future disaster responses.

**Deployment of NDRTs:** To enhance the effectiveness of the response operations, two National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) members, both male, were deployed to support the operation, one focused on Communications and the other focused on Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting (PMER). Their role was critical in ensuring effective documentation and enhancing the visibility of response efforts. This team worked closely with volunteers and technical experts, including the Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) Manager, PMER Officer, WASH Engineers, and Operations Manager, ensuring a highly coordinated and efficient response to the crisis. The deployment was further supported by the administrative leadership, which included the Director of Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Branch Managers, who oversaw the operations and ensured strict accountability throughout the process. This collaborative approach contributed significantly to the timely and impactful delivery of assistance to affected communities.

**Post Distribution Monitoring and Evaluation of NFI Support:** An assessment was conducted to establish the impact of NFI support provided to the landslides affected communities. This focused on the Selection and Inclusion Process, Satisfaction with the Selection Process, Quality and Utilization of Items, Safety and Satisfaction, aiming to ensure that future interventions align with community needs. The findings revealed that (97.08%) of the beneficiaries reported that the selection criteria were clearly communicated. (72.92%) of the beneficiaries felt completely safe during the distribution process.

98.33% of respondents were satisfied with the quality of the NFIs, indicating that the items met their expectations. All respondents acknowledged the usefulness of the items, and 98.75% confirmed having used them. These insights highlight the overall positive impact of the intervention while underscoring the need to address gaps in meeting the needs of all beneficiaries.

**Procurement of the Search and rescue equipment and Thermal Detector:** Furthermore, the search and rescue equipment, including essential tools such as thermal detectors, were procured and replenished at the warehouse as a preparedness strategy for future emergency responses. This initiative aimed to enhance the capacity for effective response during future emergencies.

## Lessons Learnt

- Pre-positioning shelter and NFI kits in central and regional warehouses enabled a faster response. This minimized delays and helped the Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) mobilize resources quickly. Future operations should continue prioritizing strategic stockpiling for efficient emergency responses.
- Conducting multi-sectoral assessments across affected villages provided a clear understanding of diverse community needs. This guided the allocation of resources to where they were most needed.
- Effective coordination with the government and other implementing partners is essential to prevent duplication and ensure equitable distribution of relief items and services.

## Challenges

- While multi-sectoral assessments provided valuable insights, challenges in coordinating with the government bodies and other humanitarian partners sometimes delayed activity implementation.
- Due to the complexity of the disaster, the poor road infrastructure, the affected households were supported at the holding Centre (about 20 kms away from the disaster scene) since the disaster scene was prone to further danger of landslides. These delays led to frustration among communities and could have hampered the immediate impact of the intervention.
- URCS faced a challenge of devastating storms at both the old and new holding centres the fact that the area is to bear with limited trees, the shelter tents were destroyed and damaged by the storms. The NS fabricated the tents to have them well anchored on the ground to withstand the storms.



## Multi Purpose Cash

**Budget:** CHF 12,827

**Targeted Persons:** 796

**Assisted Persons:** 367

**Targeted Male:** -

**Targeted Female:** -



## Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of people reached with cash assistance	796	368
Number of PDMs conducted	1	1
Number of markets assessments conducted	1	1

## Narrative description of achievements

### Multipurpose cash Transfer:

In response to the severe landslides that affected communities of Bulambuli, 367 (196 females and 171 males) received Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCT) under the DREF Landslide Response, using the new URCS cash transfer system. This shot below the target of 796 households being supported due to limited funding.

The cash feasibility assessment was conducted to ensure the effectiveness of the intervention. Before the cash disbursement, a structured approach was implemented to ensure effectiveness and transparency. A Cash Feasibility Assessment was conducted, engaging community heads, market actors, and government officials to evaluate the feasibility and potential impact of the intervention. This was followed by stakeholder sensitization, where key findings were shared with local leaders to promote transparency and build community support. In collaboration with local leadership, a selection criterion was developed to identify and prioritize the most vulnerable households. Those meeting the eligibility criteria were registered and subsequently received cash support. This approach ensured that assistance effectively reached the most vulnerable landslides-affected individuals, reinforcing both accountability and impact.

Post-Distribution Monitoring: The cash assistance had a significant impact on beneficiaries (97.5%), with funds primarily used to meet essential needs such as food, health services and education. Additionally, the findings indicated that the majority of recipients used the cash assistance for debt repayment, with 68.29% allocating funds to this purpose. Education expenses were also a major priority, as 65.85% of beneficiaries used the money to pay for education services. Clothing purchases accounted for 63.41%, while over half of the respondents (51.21%) spent the cash on food. Health-related expenses were covered by 41.46% of recipients, and 34.14% used the funds to buy water. House reinforcement and business capital were each prioritized by 29.26% of beneficiaries. A smaller percentage of recipients used the cash to pay rent or for transport to safer locations, both at 9.75%. These findings highlight that the cash assistance was primarily directed towards meeting essential needs and improving household stability.

## Lessons Learnt

- The use of a structured approach to identify and prioritize the most vulnerable households through community engagement and collaboration with local leaders ensured that cash assistance reached those who needed it the most.
- The active involvement of community heads, local leaders, and beneficiaries in the sensitization process was critical in ensuring transparency and promoting trust in the intervention.
- The feedback and complaint mechanisms proved to be effective in maintaining accountability and ensuring beneficiaries felt heard.

## Challenges

- Small budget allocation towards Multi-Purpose Cash Transfer resulted in only a fraction of the targeted households being supported. While the target was 796 households, only 367 households received the cash assistance, significantly reducing the overall reach of the intervention.



**Budget:** CHF 23,963

**Targeted Persons:** 12,138

**Assisted Persons:** 12,879

**Targeted Male:** -

**Targeted Female:** -



## Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of people reached with risk communication	12,138	12,879
Number of volunteers trained on community based health and first Aid CBHFA	10	21
Number of first aid kits procured	20	18

## Narrative description of achievements

**Volunteer Deployment:** During the DREF operation, 30 volunteers (14 males, 16 female) were deployed for 30 days for 5 months to conduct health promotion and community-based surveillance in Bunambutye camp and Buluganya in Bulambuli district. The deployment commenced with an orientation aimed at equipping the volunteers with the necessary skills to effectively engage with affected communities. The training focused on key areas such as hygiene promotion, which is vital for preventing disease and maintaining community health. Volunteers were also trained in Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA), enabling them to involve community members in decision-making and ensure their concerns were addressed. The orientation further emphasized the principles of Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) to promote equality and safeguard the most vulnerable groups. Risk communication was a critical component of the training, ensuring volunteers were prepared to convey essential information during emergencies. Additionally, techniques for collecting and reporting feedback were introduced to enhance the responsiveness and adaptability of the Uganda Red Cross Society's (URCS) interventions. Once deployed, the volunteers made significant contributions. Over 12,138 people were reached with hygiene promotion, health risk awareness and epidemic risk communication messages across the camp and the landslide through door-to-door visits, community meetings and dialogues. The numbers of the people reached went beyond the target due to the additional 741 individuals from high-risk areas of the seven districts of Bugisu region, who were evacuated by the Office of the Prime Minister in April given the risks of landslides presented by the MAM rains. These efforts not only addressed immediate needs but also empowered communities with the knowledge to build resilience and better prepare for future landslide events. The collection and use of feedback from community members further strengthened URCS's emergency response strategies. By listening to the affected populations, the organization was able to refine its approach, ensuring interventions were more effective and aligned with the unique needs of each community.

**Community-Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA):** 21 volunteers and 4 staff including 1 branch manager, 1 driver (19 males:8 female) were trained for 3 days on Community Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA). This training equipped participants with essential skills to respond to health emergencies, promote first aid practices, and enhance community resilience. The training covered several critical areas to maximize the effectiveness of the participants in the field. It began with sessions on community mobilization and needs assessment, enabling trainees to engage communities and identify urgent needs effectively. Modules on addressing health challenges and conducting community surveillance prepared volunteers to monitor and respond to public health concerns. An introduction to psychosocial first aid was provided to equip participants with the ability to offer emotional support to individuals affected by crises. First aid training emphasized basic life support techniques, including assessments and practical sessions on CPR and recovery positions. Participants also practiced essential procedures such as DRCAB (Danger, Response, Circulation, Airway, Breathing) and DRABCC (Danger, Response, Airway, Breathing, Circulation, Compression). Additionally, practical sessions focused on managing bleeding wounds, handling broken bones, applying bandages, and safely transporting injured individuals. The training concluded with encouragement for the volunteers to cascade their knowledge and skills to other volunteers and URCS members, fostering wider resilience and preparedness within their localities.

Relatedly, due to the nature and intensity of the disaster, a total of 30 (11 female and 19 male) participants comprising of 3 staff (1 EMT, 1 branch manager, Ops manager), 27 volunteers were trained for 3 days on search, rescue and dead body management to equip them with skills and knowledge on how to conduct search and rescue during emergency responses, identification of the recovered bodies of body parts, a component of protection and restoration of family links, and dead body management. This enhanced volunteer and staff skills with the search and rescue that was conducted during the emergency response.

**First Aid Kits:** A total of 18 first aid kits were procured, falling short of the intended 20 due to budget limitations. These kits were distributed to priority areas, ensuring essential first aid services remained available during emergencies. 10 first Aid kits supported in first aid services during the emergency response while the balance of 8 were prepositioned at the Branch level for future responses. To ensure access to outpatient healthcare for affected individuals, the Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS), in collaboration with the District Health Office, established a clinic at the reception center. The clinic operated from November 29, 2024, to February 2, 2025, providing essential primary healthcare services. These services included interventions for non-communicable diseases and general outpatient treatment. The operation provided medical support to over 7,193 individuals, comprising, who were treated for conditions such as malaria, respiratory tract infections (RTIs), and diarrheal diseases.



A standby ambulance was stationed at the reception center to enable real-time referrals for critical cases, ensuring timely medical intervention and improved coordination with higher-level healthcare facilities. This arrangement facilitated 48 referrals to health facilities within Bulambuli and Mbale districts. However, with the Ebola outbreak in Mbale, the ambulance team was reassigned to support the Ebola Response Team, adapting to emerging health priorities in the region.

## Lessons Learnt

- The three-day volunteer training was essential in equipping volunteers with key skills, including hygiene promotion, community engagement, and risk communication. This training ensured they were prepared to effectively address the urgent needs of the affected communities. By focusing on essential areas, the orientation helped volunteers provide timely and impactful support.
- A key lesson learned was the importance of collecting and acting on feedback from community members. Engaging affected populations in decision-making allowed URCS to refine interventions to better meet local needs. This collaborative approach empowered communities and ensured responsive, context-specific actions.
- Equipping volunteers with skills to conduct search, rescue and dead body management is essential for a holistic disaster response, addressing all aspects of community search and rescue.

## Challenges

- Budget constraints hindered the procurement of some essential relief items for instance only 18 out of the planned 20 first aid kits were procured.



## Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

**Budget:** CHF 64,193

**Targeted Persons:** 12,138

**Assisted Persons:** 15,879

**Targeted Male:** -

**Targeted Female:** -

## Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of Procured and distributed Menstrual Hygiene Management kits	300	255
Number of boxes of soap procured and distributed	200	214
Number of WASH NDRTs deployed	3	2
Number of emergency latrines and bathing shelters constructed	40	58
Number of people supplied with clean and safe water	12,138	15,879

## Narrative description of achievements

Supply of clean and safe water: The operation trucked 40,000 liters of water daily from a solar-powered water supply system located 800 meters from the Bunambutye resettlement center. Using a 10,000-liter water bowser, the water was transported and distributed to individuals at the holding center. To ensure safety and prevent waterborne diseases, the WASH technical team chlorinated the trucked water on a daily basis. As a result, more than 13,138 individuals had access to clean and safe water. The numbers of the people reached with safe and clean water went beyond the target due to the additional 741 individuals from high-risk areas of the seven districts of Bugisu region, who were evacuated by the Office of the Prime Minister in April given the risks of landslides presented by the MAM rains. Besides, due to limited water supply, the old case load (arrivals) of over 1800 individuals who had earlier been settled at the camp equally had access to the same water.

The Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) drilled 3 hand pump boreholes at the holding center at plot 198 instead of deploying the WASH Kit 5. This decision aligned with the government's establishment of a permanent holding center for landslide-affected households and those living in high-risk areas, where they will stay pending land procurement for resettlement. In August 2024, the government relocated 224 households from Bududa District and 24 households from Namisuni October landslide affected households to the Bunambutye resettlement holding center. These 248 households are the ones utilizing the 3 hand-pump boreholes at plot 198 where they have relocated to. Water User committees were created, trained and by-laws established to ensure operation and maintenance of the boreholes.

The Texans and Ugandans on Mission as well expedited the development of one of the borehole that was drilled by Ministry of Water and Environment, they piped it to provide water for the people living at the holding centre and to Bunambutye health Centre III located at the holding centre. The Bulambuli District Water Officer fully supported technically and with essential information like the underground water maps to guide the borehole drilling by URCS.

Procurement of the MHM kits: In response to hygiene and sanitation needs, 255 Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) kits were procured and pre-positioned at the regional warehouse for future responses. The Limited budget could not allow the 300 MHM kits but rather 255 MHM kits. 100 MHM kits were distributed to the most vulnerable women of reproductive age. Other partners like UNDP, ACORD-Uganda, UNICEF also distributed over 500 MHM kits to the most vulnerable women and girls within the reproductive age; and over 300 boxes of laundry soap. Additionally,

Procurement of boxes of Soap: 214 boxes of soap were procured and replenished at the regional warehouse, with 30 boxes were distributed for bathing, washing and to communal hand-washing stations at the reception center. Due to low prices, URCS procured 214 boxes of soap which was beyond the target boxes of soap.

Deployment of WASH NDRTs: Two WASH National Disaster Response Team (NDRT) members, one specialized in software and the other in hardware, were deployed to provide technical support. Thirty volunteers were as well engaged to deliver risk communication on hygiene and sanitation, reaching over 15,138 individuals. Additionally, hygiene promotion IEC posters were put in strategic locations of the camp as one way of risk communication. The limited budget was able to deploy only 2 WASH NDRTs instead of 3.

Procurement of Chlorine Powder: The NS as well provided 2 buckets of Chlorine powder of 45kgs each (9HTH 65%) for the mass water treatment at the camp. Meanwhile, procurement and delivery of communal hands-free hand-washing facilities, sanitation toolkits, chlorine powder (HTH 65%), water testing tools and consumables, and garbage bins was done they were delivered for use at the camp, some buckets of Chlorine powder and the water testing tools and consumables were pre-positioned at the warehouse for future responses.

Construction of emergency latrines and bathing shelters: To further improve sanitation, 58 latrine stances were constructed at the new holding center and the school previously serving as the reception center. These facilities ensured adequate and separate provisions for males and females. With the increasing number of people demanding more sanitation facilities, the community members themselves supported URCS efforts and contributed construction of more stances of emergency pit latrines beyond the target of 40 stances.

## Lessons Learnt

- Pre-positioning of water storage tanks, and other WASH supplies at central and regional warehouses ensured swift response and minimized delays in distribution.
- The training of water committees of Plot 198 showcased the importance of local capacity building in ensuring long-term sustainability of water resources.
- The collaboration between URCS, local government, Office of the Prime Minister and implementing partners proved crucial in achieving effective WASH outcomes, with local technical teams playing a key role in strengthening the capacity of response efforts. This partnership ensured that the response was well coordinated and that local expertise was effectively leveraged to address the needs of the affected communities.

## Challenges

- A significant challenge during the DREF landslides operation was the difficult access to affected villages, particularly in Buluganya, where poor road infrastructure and extensive landslide damage blocked routes. This hindered timely relief delivery and response efforts.
- The challenge of the weak soils accelerated with the MAM rains caused most emergency pit latrines to sink and collapse within a very short time leading to construction of new ones that could as well collapse over a short period of time. This led to modification of the emergency pit latrines by lining the pits with constructing the temporary super-structure.
- The increased number of the people caused by the evacuation of the 12,000 households from the high-risk areas of the 7 districts of Mt. Elgon in April, accelerated the demand for more sanitary facilities amidst the limited resources.
- The storms caused by the bare nature of the camp led to the destruction of the latrines and bathing shelters more often.





## Protection, Gender And Inclusion

**Budget:** CHF 11,422

**Targeted Persons:** 12,138

**Assisted Persons:** 11,776

**Targeted Male:** 7,066

**Targeted Female:** 4,710

### Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of people reached with RFL messages	12,138	11,776
Number of RFL kits procured	10	1
Number of ARFL NDRTs deployed	1	1

### Narrative description of achievements

The Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) incorporated gender-sensitive approaches into its response strategy to address the diverse needs of affected individuals, including children, adults of all genders, and people with disabilities. A total of 30 volunteers, comprising 16 females and 14 males, were oriented on Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) principles. A comprehensive training session was as well conducted to further equip both volunteers and staff.

The efforts of these volunteers significantly raised awareness on gender-based issues through various methods, including household visits, focus group discussions (SGBV sessions), community meetings, and one-on-one interactions, all supported by local cluster leaders. Information on different forms of SGBV, sexual consent, and reporting procedures were disseminated, reaching over 11,776 individuals comprising 7,066 males and 4,710 females, against a target of 12,138.

Dissemination of RFL services: Additionally, a number of RFL services were offered by the volunteers with the technical guidance of the Operations lead who has vast experience and skills on RFL.

Twenty (20) volunteers were taken through an orientation on RFL with emphasis on the protection of un accompanied minors, vulnerable adults, separated children to build their capacity on RFL/PFL. Together with trained volunteers, the team comprehensively supported especially the children who lost contact with their relatives due to the disaster and during the evacuation of the households at high risk areas by OPM, reaching over 12,000 people with RFL messages. The numbers of the people reached with the RFL messages went beyond the target due to the additional 741 individuals from high risk areas of the seven districts of Bugisu region, who were evacuated by the Office of the Prime Minister in April given the risks of landslides presented by the MAM rains.

Restoring Family Links (RFL) Kits: Relatedly, one Restoring Family Links (RFL) kit was procured. The items in the RFL kit included; a portable tent, projector, four pull-up banners, 40 reflector jackets, 39 RFL-branded T-shirts, and 20 RFL-branded backpacks. The projector and tent were procured and replenished at the warehouse for future responses and the projector plays a critical role in showcasing messages related to Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI), as well as Restoring Family Links (RFL), ensuring they reached a wide audience effectively. The use of the projector is particularly valuable in large gatherings, allowing for clear and impactful communication on sensitive issues such as gender equality, protection of vulnerable groups, and reconnecting families separated by the disaster. Through this initiative, the Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) was able to foster a deeper understanding of PGI and RFL principles among community members, empowering them with the knowledge and resources necessary to navigate the challenges posed by the crisis. Due to the limited budget, only one RFL kit was procured against the target of 10 RFL kits.

### Lessons Learnt

- Prioritizing PGI assessments at the onset of a response ensures well-targeted, sensitive interventions for vulnerable groups.

### Challenges

- The inaccessible roads damaged by the landslides hindered the dissemination of the RFL messages and search for the relatives of the unaccompanied minors, at the landslide scene.





# Community Engagement And Accountability

**Budget:** CHF 8,120  
**Targeted Persons:** 12,138  
**Assisted Persons:** 12,880  
**Targeted Male:** 6,413  
**Targeted Female:** 6,568

## Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of CEA meetings held	3	32
Number of CEA kiosks established	8	2
Number of people provided with clear CEA mechanisms	12,138	12,880

## Narrative description of achievements

• Conduct CEA meetings: A total of 20 volunteers, 4 OPM staff, 4 Bulambuli District disaster management committee members were trained on CEA essential themes and the volunteers deployed to support protection activities, including Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA), Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE), and Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI). A total of 32 CEA sessions were conducted, improving community participation and awareness. At the holding center, three volunteers (two females and one male) manage complaint desks to collect and address feedback, while 18 volunteers conduct monitoring activities and household visits to provide RCCE and share information on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV).

To strengthen Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) processes, URCS PMER enhanced data collection mechanisms, including training volunteers in regular data collection at the community level. Volunteers were equipped with tools to gather and analyze feedback, ensuring that beneficiaries' concerns are effectively addressed. These integrated efforts enhanced operational responsiveness, promote community engagement, and upheld accountability throughout the intervention.

The number of CEA meetings conducted went beyond the target due to the complexity of the emergency response that was combined with OPM evacuation exercise of all the people living in landslide prone areas in Bugisu region. Having so many partners like UNDP, UNICEF, Strong minds, Texans and Ugandans on Mission, Rotary Club, etc, warranted more CEA meetings to guide the community on what each partner was supporting them with, collecting feedback of the various support they received and this improved service delivery at the camp.

Procurement of CEA Kiosks: Although the initial plan included eight kiosks, only two kiosks were established. These efforts were aimed at ensuring the operation meets the needs of the affected population while maintaining inclusion and accountability.

Due to budget constraints reduced this one kiosk was procured and prepositioned at the regional warehouse for future responses. The kiosk had items that included 1 tent, 1 public address system, 7 plastic tables and 7 plastic chairs. Over, 5,124 individuals were reached with RCCE messages, enhancing community awareness and engagement.

## Lessons Learnt

- Involving local communities in planning and coordinating response efforts, such as the establishment of CEA kiosks in collaboration with local leadership, ensured that interventions were community-centric and addressed specific needs. This approach fostered ownership, trust, and long-term resilience, ultimately enhancing the overall effectiveness of the response.
- Ensuring that volunteers were well-trained, equipped with appropriate tools, and understood the principles of community engagement and accountability helped to ensure the quality and impact of their work in the field.

## Challenges

- There was time Pressure due to the complexity and the speed of the response. The response required rapid action, which sometimes limited time for meaningful community consultations or feedback loops. Another challenges was the limited CEA Kiosks that were



overwhelmed by the big number of the landslide affected persons.



## Secretariat Services

**Budget:** CHF 9,585

**Targeted Persons:** 38

**Assisted Persons:** 38

**Targeted Male:** -

**Targeted Female:** -

### Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of monitoring missions conducted	2	30
Number of financial spot checks conducted	1	2

### Narrative description of achievements

**Conduct Financial spot checks:** Two Financial spot checks were conducted to ensure accountability and compliance with established financial procedures, reinforcing transparency and adherence to best practices in resource management.

**Conduct monitoring missions:** A field monitoring mission by the IFRC Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting (PMER) team was conducted to assess the progress and impact of interventions, ensuring alignment with operational objectives. This was followed by a lesson learned workshop to share the lessons learned, challenges and recommendations to the challenges and gaps to improve the future responses.

In addition the national Society conducted a number of activities in this focus area which include: Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) exercise for Non-Food Items (NFIs) and Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) kits, shelter kits, the multipurpose cash to evaluate their distribution and utilization. This process ensured that the items effectively meet beneficiaries' needs and provides valuable insights to enhance future interventions.

Over 30 internal monitoring visits were conducted by the DRM Director, Senior Management, WASH Engineer, Operations Leads, Branch Manager, PMER NDRT, and WASH NDRTs to assess the progress and effectiveness of the response. Additionally, one IFRC monitoring mission was conducted in April 2025 to further evaluate the operation. The Operations manager based at the region conducted several monitoring visits to ensure coordination, and guidance to the response team. In addition, weekly and monthly progress reports being prepared to document key activities, challenges, and achievements, enabling data-driven decision-making and improving response efforts.

### Lessons Learnt

Continuous monitoring of operational activities by the Operations Manager, URCS Senior Management, and the IFRC team played a critical role in strengthening the response. This ongoing oversight enabled the implementing team to adapt and refine the operations strategy in real time, ensuring responsiveness to evolving circumstances such as the urgent need to construct lined emergency pit latrines at the holding centre where the affected households were living.

### Challenges

**Access and Terrain Constraints:**

The hilly and landslide-affected terrain in Bulambuli, particularly in the Buluganya sub-county, made many roads impassable during the emergency response. These difficult conditions delayed monitoring activities, including critical efforts such as search and rescue operations, and the delivery of essential services to affected communities.



**Budget:** CHF 57,087

**Targeted Persons:** 38

**Assisted Persons:** 38

**Targeted Male:** -

**Targeted Female:** -

## Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of monitoring visits	10	30
# of lesson learnt workshop conducted and reported	1	1

## Narrative description of achievements

30 internal monitoring visits were conducted by the DRM Director, Senior Management, WASH Engineer, Operations Leads, Branch Manager, PMER NDRT, and WASH NDRTs to assess the progress and effectiveness of the response. Additionally, one IFRC monitoring mission was conducted in April 2025 to further evaluate the operation.

Meanwhile, 30 volunteers were trained and deployed to carry out search, rescue and dead body management, RFL/PFL, WASH and health awareness, and first aid interventions, ensuring comprehensive support to the affected communities.

At the conclusion of the DREF operation, a lessons-learned workshop was conducted to review key insights, challenges, and best practices, fostering continual improvement for future interventions. Meanwhile, 30 were trained and deployed to support critical activities, including search and rescue, tracing, WASH and health awareness, and first aid interventions. These efforts aim to ensure comprehensive and timely support to the affected communities.

## Lessons Learnt

Joint monitoring missions involving local government (e.g., the Bulambuli DDMC), OPM, URCS senior staff, and IFRC teams enhanced transparency and fostered trust with both communities and authorities. Actively engaging community members and local leaders during these missions helped validate beneficiary targeting, identify service delivery gaps, and ensured that interventions were culturally appropriate and responsive to local needs.

## Challenges

The field monitoring and oversight exercise coincided with the OPM-led evacuation operation, which engaged the majority of key stakeholders. As a result, many were unable to directly participate in the monitoring activities. However, their perspectives and input were still represented through those stakeholders who were able to attend and contribute on their behalf.

# Financial Report

## DREF Operation

### FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

#### MDRUG053 - Uganda - Landslides

Operating Timeframe: 16 Dec 2024 to 31 May 2025

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2024/12-2025/9	Operation	MDRUG053
Budget Timeframe	2024/12-2025/9	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 27/Oct/2025

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

### I. Summary

<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Funds &amp; Other Income</b>	<b>335,019</b>
DREF Response Pillar	335,019
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>-333,569</b>
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>1,450</b>

### II. Expenditure by planned operations / enabling approaches

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
PO01 - Shelter and Basic Household Items	149,944	272,265	-122,321
PO02 - Livelihoods			0
PO03 - Multi-purpose Cash	4,650	-9,934	14,584
PO04 - Health	26,750		26,750
PO05 - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	55,875	59,670	-3,795
PO06 - Protection, Gender and Inclusion	9,125		9,125
PO07 - Education			0
PO08 - Migration			0
PO09 - Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	20,447		20,447
PO10 - Community Engagement and Accountability	5,625		5,625
PO11 - Environmental Sustainability			0
<b>Planned Operations Total</b>	<b>272,416</b>	<b>322,001</b>	<b>-49,585</b>
EA01 - Coordination and Partnerships			0
EA02 - Secretariat Services	9,000	11,568	-2,568
EA03 - National Society Strengthening	53,602		53,602
<b>Enabling Approaches Total</b>	<b>62,602</b>	<b>11,568</b>	<b>51,034</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>335,019</b>	<b>333,569</b>	<b>1,449</b>

[Click here for the complete financial report](#)

## Please explain variances (if any)

The variances arise from transfers made to the National Society, which are reflected in the National Society financial report. However, the NS financial report does not have these variances. The remaining balance of CHF 1,449 shall be reimbursed back to the DREF pot.



# Contact Information

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

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[Click here for reference](#)

