

Press Release May 10, 2013

Peggy Pollard, Santa Cruz Sister City Committee

Kasese, Uganda subcommittee

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<http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/index.aspx?page=712>

Facebook: Friends of Kasese, Uganda - Santa Cruz, California Sister Cities

<https://www.facebook.com/KaseseSantaCruz>

Floods displace 25,445 people Kasese, Uganda 10 lives lost so far in Santa Cruz's newest Sister City

Major flash floods from heavy rain and overflowing rivers is now displacing more than 25,445 people in Kasese , Uganda—Santa Cruz's newest Sister City (now in a 2-year trial "Friendship City" phase).

UCSC "Farm" alumni, Godfrey Kasozi is a Kasese education center leader. He did a UCSC CASFS internship in 1999 and teaches organic farming to 2,000 farmers a year in Kasese.

His home village of Karusandara is one of the worst hit places in the current floods. Kasozi now has many flood victims evacuated onto his CETRUD education center and is working to procure food and refuge for them.

Kasese mayor and other local Kasese leaders have emailed us this week (below) describing the disaster and their needs.

As international news reports are being published daily, rains continue

Santa Cruz Sister Cities is now collecting flood disaster relief donations to sent to Kasese for food, and basic flood relief supplies. Tax deductible donations for Kasese Flood relief can be made through Santa Cruz Sister Cities Support Account

Online donations <http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/index.aspx?page=712> and email GEidam31@aol.com and ISI.SantaCruz@gmail.com to designate to Kasese Flood relief and give receipt information

Checks should be payable to " SCSCS" With "Kasese flood relief " in memo line. Mail to Nancy Eidam.701 High Street, Santa Cruz Ca 95060.

EMAILS FROM KASESE LEADERS to Sister City Committee this week

Mon 5/6/2013 12:12 PM (from Godfrey Kazosi)

Am sorry that we have not been in touch with you, this has been that floods hit us very badly that many people in kasese have been displaced and many died, this was from last Wednesday so the mayor myself the town clerk and many others have been involved to see how best to help the people today i delivered the first relief to my village of karusandara, the fish ponds that i had set up was all washed away by floods, you can find more on the net when you put in floods in kasese.

the problem is increasing, i will attached some pictures for you to see, we are badly soliciting for help from all that can help, my mother has been cut off i can access our cetrud farm at all,

Mon 5/6/2013 10:29 PM

i will be in karusandara today to rescue some people, just got few taglines, and mosquito nets to give basins and few blankets like for 50 people only and yet , in my village of karusandara 1500 people are directly affected, people have any food all their crops have been destroyed, we are collecting people at Cetrud Centre so that they have a safe place to stay.

i will keep up dating you

Godfrey Kasozi

Wed 5/8/2013 6:03 AM

Dear Peggy,
hopefully u have known how your Sister City Kasese has been hit badly by floods!

Since May 1st we have been moving up and down trying to save lives
...I look forward to seeing you in Uganda. Be blessed.

[Honorable Winfred Kiiza, Member of Uganda Parliament representing Kasese district]

Wed 5/8/2013 7:42 AM Godfrey Baluku Kime [mayor.kasese@yahoo.com]

... we were hit by floods on 1st may. One whole division of the municipality was thoroughly divestated. we have therefore been so busy resettling people in safe places. ...

[Mayor of Kasese] Godfrey Kabayyanga Kime

(sent by Godfrey Kasozi now in Kasese, I'm unsure which news source it is copied from)

Kasese floods: Affected population now at 25,445

The population affected by the Kasese floods now stands at 25, 445 according to Uganda Red Cross Society latest report of 8th May 2013.

URCS continues to seek sh1.8bn to assist atleast 18, 000 people. Government through the Ministry of Disaster Preparedness is coordinating the response in Kasese.

The government is assisted by partners like Kasese District authorities and Uganda Red Cross Society. The affected communities are from Bulembia division, Kilembe Sub County, Nyamwamba division, Karusandara sub county, Kitswamba Sub County, Kyabarungira sub county, Bugoye Sub County, Maliba Sub County and Kyalumba Sub County.

The most affected people are from Karusandara Sub County.

Government and Kasese District set up two temporary camps at Kasese and Bugoye primary schools.

At Kasese P.S 3, 878 people have been registered while at Bugoye Primary School there are 1, 341 people are registered. The two camps are now accommodating 5, 219. Out of the 5, 219; 25 are pregnant women; 32 are breast feeding mothers; 2, 894 are children below 12 years.

Uganda Police is helping to track water from Hima and then purify it using installed filters at Kasese Primary School camp. The communities at the camp are using available sanitary facilities i.e 10 latrine stances at Kasese P.S and 4 stances at Bugoye P.S. URCS has constructed four bath shelters at the two camps.

Hygiene promotion sensitization sessions are being conducted by Red Cross volunteers in the two camps to reduce the risks of having outbreaks of diarrhoeal diseases.

The URCS latest report indicates that the people at the two camps cannot go back to their original homes as the houses were washed away or completely destroyed. Water supply infrastructure in many villages was damaged hence there is limited access to clean drinking water.

Many toilets were damaged and this has resulted in people not being able to use toilets. 817 latrines and one sewage treatment unit were completely destroyed.

The Red Cross report identifies the most urgent humanitarian needs as essential household items, food, hygiene and sanitation awareness, water purification tablets, tracing and psychosocial services.

SHELTER BOX is a worldwide disaster relief org. They are already mobilizing to aid Kasese

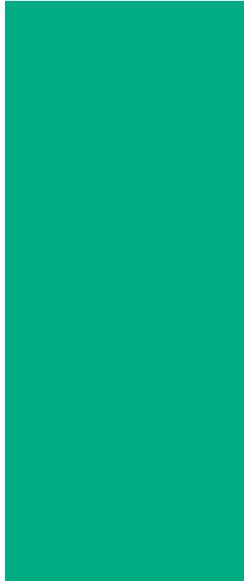
Santa Cruz ShelterBox contact Keith Henderson <khenderson@barryswensonbuilder.com>

From: **ShelterBox Operations** <gregm@shelterbox.org>

Date: Fri, May 10, 2013 at 8:15 AM

Subject: ShelterBox Response Team member update - May 2013

To: Keith Henderson <khenderson@barryswensonbuilder.com>



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Uganda – Floods

Floods in the Kasese district in southwestern Uganda have displaced thousands of people and destroyed acres of food and cash crops as well as infrastructure. SRT members Eric DeLuca (US) and Todd Finklestone (US) will be travelling there to meet with Rotary contacts and assess the situation.

Kasese Flood Update: 8 dead, Gov't to divert flood stream



[ntvuganda](#) · 8,339 videos

19,903

450 views

Published on May 6, 2013

<http://ntvuganda.co.ug/>

The death toll stands at 8 as residents of Kasese district continue to feel the impact of the heavy floods that have left many homeless

Heavy trucks blocked on Kasese-Fortportal route



[ntvuganda](#) · 60 views

Published on May 8, 2013

<http://ntvuganda.co.ug/>

Several traders are stranded in Kasese after floods decimated the Kasese-Fort Portal highway as well as a major highway to the DRC. Traders have resorted to using an alternative routes. This has however slowed down their businesses.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=iktXhcNDN0I

<http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/Shs1-8-billion-needed-for-Kasese-flood-victims--/688334/1845112/-/68x89v/-/index.html>

Shs1.8 billion needed for Kasese flood victims

By Dear Jeanne

Posted Tuesday, May 7 2013 at 16:14

In Summary

The displaced people camped at Kasese Primary School.

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Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) Tuesday launched an appeal to mobilise Shs1.8 billion that would be used to help more than 18,000 victims of the Kasese floods.

Last week, River Nyamwamba burst its banks and triggered floods killing six people and displacing about 3,000 residents.

The displaced people camped at Kasese Primary School.

According Mr Michael Richard Nataka, the URCS secretary general, the money would be used to cater for both material and psychosocial needs of the victims.

“The funds will cater for the provision tarpaulins and construction kits, essential household items and to revive victims’ livelihoods through provision of items like seeds,” Mr Nataka said.

He said URCS in touch with the Office of the Prime Minister and district leaders to ensure that the victims of are resettled.

djeanne@ug.nationmedia.com

<http://www.newvision.co.ug/news/642436-red-cross-seeks-sh1-8b-for-kasese-flood-victims.html>

National

Red Cross seeks sh1.8b for Kasese floods victims
Publish Date: May 07, 2013



Residents of Kilembe in Kasese carry their house hold items from ruins of their homes. Photo by Bernard Maseseka
newvision

By Vision Reporter

The Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS) is seeking for sh1.8b to provide emergency assistance to people affected by floods in Kasese district.

The appeal is targeting 18, 000 people (3, 000 households).

The funds will cater for provision of shelter like tarpaulins and construction kits, essential household items (cups, plates, jerrycans, mosquito nets, laundry soap, blankets, saucepans, and buckets), reviving livelihoods through provision of seeds and tool kits.

According to URCS Secretary General Michael Richard Nataka, the funds will also cater for water and sanitation campaign/awareness, provision of psychosocial support to the affected families.

In addition, URCS plans to further distribute water purification tablets to avert any risk of water borne diseases.

In Kasese, the Red Cross working with Office of Prime Minister and district authorities are managing the resettlement area at Kasese Primary School. By Monday evening, 3, 108 people from Bulembia and Nyamwamba divisions (Kilembe area) had been registered at the primary school.

The Red Cross Action teams have been carrying out assessments and from the current figures, 19, 161 people have been affected in the areas of Kilembe and Bulembya (4, 996), Karusandara sub county (10, 906), Kitswamba sub county (1, 139), Kabarugira sib county (561), Bugoye sub county (76), Maliba sub county (1, 341) and Kyalumba sub county (142). Actual figures from Nyambwamba are being finalized.

The teams are intensifying hygiene promotion in the camp as a measure to control disease outbreak.

Meanwhile, the coordinator of rescue and emergency relief services in Kasese Major General Julius Oketta has expressed disappointment over what he called the slow response from the government technical team to respond to the situation.

"I am disappointed that the technical people in Kampala are taking the situation here lightly, we don't need the presence of people here but we need supplies and equipment to help re-direct the water," Gen. Oketta said on Sunday.

This follows the resurgence of floods that ravaged Nyambwamba valley areas in Bulembia division in Kasese Municipality Sunday morning. He said the rains in the Rwenzori Mountains were still unpredictable and set to cause more havoc in Kasese district.

Oketta who doubles as UPDF representative in Parliament made the remarks while briefing local leaders at Kasese Primary School where an emergency camp has been established.

He advised people living in mountainous areas where landslides are eminent to be evacuated immediately. He appreciated the efforts of the local rescue team saying it was working hard to avert the situation.

A senior volunteer with Red Cross Joshua Kaija said that the emergency camp established at Kasese primary school has so far registered 415 people including 315 children.

He said that the people evacuated are mainly from Katiri and Congo quarters in Kasese Municipality.

The Mayor Kasese Municipality noted that whereas some agencies and organizations have donated items for relief aid to flood victims there was shortage of medicine.

"We're appealing for medicine, we have not received medicine ever since we started getting aid both from government and charity organizations," Kabyanga noted.

The Member of parliament Kasese Municipality James Mbahimba lashed out at the government for taking more than usual to respond to the Kasese floods.

"How can central government take five days without responding to proposed solutions to avert the problem, what we need is the equipment that can help to redirect the water and not ministers coming here to assess the situation," Mbahimba told the press at Kasese Primary school.

http://www.observer.ug/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=25161:kasese-recovers-after-the-flood-&catid=34:news&Itemid=114

The Observer

Kasese recovers after the flood

[News](#)

Tuesday, 07 May 2013 22:51

Written by MOSES TALEMWA & JEFF KIIZA

[1 Comments](#)



Almost a week after the river Nyamwamba burst its banks and flooded most of Kasese, the recovery process is now underway, with the police and army trying to evacuate those who are still stranded.

According to Kasese's fire officer, Amos Tukamuhabwa, the death toll yesterday stood at 10. Four people drowned in Kilembe, while other bodies were found downstream in Bulembya.

“We suspect that some other bodies may be buried in the rubble; so, we are looking out for them, but for now we are concentrating on recovery,” Tukamuhabwa said.

He explained that he had also heard of other deaths of victims in hospitals after they sustained injuries in the floods, although he could not divulge how many. Tukamuhabwa added that the police and army were also involved in a massive cleanup of Kilembe hospital.

“We are cleaning the hospital of silt, rocks and mud that had settled there [after the flood] and we hope that we can reopen the outpatients ward before the end of the week,” he said.

Tukamuhabwa indicated that authorities there had feared that with over 1,800 people displaced, they would have to set up camps for the internally displaced. Remarkably, Kasese residents have taken in most of the victims.

However, over the weekend, Kasese Mayor Godfrey Kabyanga toured flood-prone areas and urged those still staying there to leave immediately. He urged all those vacating their homes to gather in two key areas, Spire-1 Boma and Kasese primary school, where the Red Cross and other volunteers were distributing assistance.

Rwenzururu King Charles Wesley Mumbere Iremangoma visited Kilembe and Kasese on Friday, commiserating with those who had been affected by the floods. Iremangoma toured Kilembe mines premises and Kanyaruboga accompanied by Queen Agnes Ithungu. They were guided through the water-logged Kyanjuki road by Kasese Mayor Godfrey Kabyanga and a number of kingdom ministers.

Recovery process

Addressing the public at Bulembia primary school, the Iremangoma regretted the disaster and appealed to the central government to support the victims. He equated this disaster to an earlier one in 1965 although the death toll was over 100 then. He warned against corruption and mischief during the recovery process. On Monday, the Uganda National Roads Authority deployed a team to repair all the broken bridges and reinforce those that were still standing.

Indeed, several bulldozers and earth-moving equipment are in the area, engaged in road works. According to Works Minister John Byabagambi, this work would last two months. The road connecting Kasese to Fort Portal has also been reopened after the waters receded at Nyakasanga. However, with more rains on Monday, River Mubuku also burst its banks, increasing the tension in the area.

Access to safe water is a big problem. With some of the flood water going through the mine, the Nyamwamba river water is reportedly unsafe for drinking; so the police have deployed their fire hydrant trucks to supply water to Kasese residents.

“It is a tough task, as we have to keep collecting this water from Hima Cement, some 25km away and bring it to Kasese for the residents to use,” Tukamuhabwa said.

The minister of state for Disaster Preparedness, Musa Ecweru, also visited Kasese on Friday and warned of a possible cholera outbreak in some parts of district due to the floods. The minister, who was shocked at the damage in Bulembia division and Karusandara sub-county, assured the locals that the government would ensure everybody got relief and also called on humanitarian non government organizations to support the relief effort.

Later in the day the District Disaster Management committee explained that most of the victims had lost substantial property. District Vice Chairperson Tadeo Muhindo told a press conference at Kasese municipal hall that over thirty households had been displaced in Karusandara, and most of these had lost their properties, crops and domestic animals like cows and goats, among others.

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