

- Running Time
- Narrator Name

3.25

Guy Hubbard

Script

As joint military operations between Congolese and Rwandan troops drew to a close in the volatile Eastern DRC, UNICEF deputy executive director, Ms Hilde Johnson visited the area.

Ms Johnson travelled North from the regional capital Goma to the town of Rutshuru, which, until recently, was under rebel control. The rebels have now disbanded, some integrating into the regular army, but still those displaced by the fighting remain in camps, huddled up against a UN peacekeeping base.

Here UNICEF, Solidarites and other partners provide plastic sheeting for shelter, food, latrines and clean water, vital to staving off the ever-present threat of cholera. But it's not enough as this woman explains to Ms Johnson. Life in a camp is tough and although the fragile peace is holding, it's still too soon to leave, there have been too many failed ceasefires here, too many failed promises of peace.

SOUNDBITE: Hilde Johnson, Deputy Executive Director, UNICEF:
“She was saying I might as well die, I've been through these horrors and I can't stand it anymore, she was really depressed, and she had the sole responsibility for 4 children. This camp is completely packed, I have been to many IDP camps, I mean many camps for displaced, many refugee camps in my life, but I have hardly seen anything like this.”

Ms Johnson also visited a UNICEF supported school near the camp. All the children here have been displaced, missing out on months of schooling, they are now trying desperately to catch

Shotlist

- 1) WS soldiers
- 2) MCU soldier
- 3) WS soldier and kids
- 4) WS IDP camp
- 5) MCU ms Johnson
- 6) Pull out landing helicopter
- 7) MWS group walking
- 8) WS community
- 9) WS mother and baby
- 10) CU mother
- 11) CU baby
- 12) Pull out mother and child
- 13) CU child collecting water
- 14) WS child collecting water
- 15) WS mother and child
- 16) CU child
- 17) CU woman talking
- 18) MS woman and Ms Johnson talking
- 19) MS kids behind fence
- 20) CU kid behind fence
- 21) PAN camp
- 22) SOUNDBITE: Hilde Johnson, Deputy Executive Director, UNICEF:
“She was saying I might as well die, I've been through these horrors and I can't stand it anymore, she was really depressed, and she had the sole responsibility for 4 children. This camp is completely packed, I have been to many IDP camps, I mean many camps for displaced, many refugee camps in my life, but I have hardly seen anything like this.”
- 23) WS walking to school
- 24) CU child
- 25) MS kids in class
- 26) MS kid answering question
- 27) MS Ms Johnson talking
- 28) OS Ms Johnson talking
- 29) CU Gaboua
- 30) SOUNDBITE: Gaboua, 14 years old:
“The fighting was so close to our homes, people were dieing and we had

up. Speaking in Swahili, the local language, Ms Johnson asked the kids about their experiences. This young girl fled with little more than the clothes on her back.

SOUNDBITE: Gaboua, 14 years old
“The fighting was so close to our homes, people were dieing and we had no food so we ran away from the rebels.”

But these are the lucky ones; these are the ones who got away. Since 2004, Unicef has assisted in demobilizing and reintegrating around 30 000 children across the country, but an estimated 3500 are still with armed groups. Ms Johnson called for their unconditional release.

SOUNDBITE: Hilde Johnson, Deputy Executive Director, UNICEF:
“The major issue for us now is to make sure that the children that are still with the combatants CNDP and other rebel groups in the area, they have to immediately release the children, we have to make sure the children are demobilized, get back to their community and are reintegrated.”

Back in Goma, Ms Johnson, who is co-chairing UN Action against sexual violence and rape in conflict, visited the Heal Africa clinic, where victims of rape and sexual abuse are treated and counselled. She spoke to victims and to the doctors and nurses that heal them.

Ms Johnson commended the government’s efforts to end hostilities in the war torn region but called for an end to impunity for perpetrators of sexual violence. She left the East optimistic, but, like all those who fled their homes, like all those living in camps, admits it’s too soon to tell whether peace will hold.

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- 31) Pan class
- 32) WS UNICEF car
- 33) WS boys playing football
- 34) Pan boys playing football
- 35) OS playing cards
- 36) CU cards
- 37) WS playing cards
- 38) OS feeding rabbits
- 39) CU rabbits
- 40) SOUNDBITE: Hilde Johnson, Deputy Executive Director, UNICEF:
“The major issue for us now is to make sure that the children that are still with the combatants CNDP and other rebel groups in the area, they have to immediately release the children, we have to make sure the children are demobilized, get back to their community and are reintegrated.”
- 41) CU covered feet
- 42) CU woman in bed
- 43) Pan woman to group
- 44) Pan ms Johnson to doctors
- 45) CU doctor scrubbing hands
- 46) CU doctor
- 47) CU child holding Ms Johnsons finger
- 48) WS Ms Johnson and kids
- 49) WS Heal Africa flag
- 50) Pull out helicopter
- 51) WS people in camp
- 52) WS child in camp
- 53) WS camp