

UNICEF Democratic Republic of the Congo – FLASH REPORT #2
1 March 2013

Note: In addition to a complete monthly situation report, UNICEF DRC will now provide Flash Reports every mid-month to highlight critical humanitarian situations.

POLITICAL, SECURITY & HUMANITARIAN DEVELOPMENTS



NORTH KIVU

- On 24 February African leaders in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia signed a U.N.-mediated deal allowing for the deployment of a new intervention brigade to take on rebel groups in the eastern DRC.
- The upcoming deployment of the brigade of several thousand soldiers has raised concerns among humanitarians regarding protection of civilians as well as humanitarian space and access.
- Armed clashes were reported on 24 February between M23 factions loyal to Jean-Marie Runiga, leader of the movement's political wing, and Sultani Makenga, their military commander, in Rutshuru. Ten people were killed and more wounded, according to media reports.
- Official communication from the M23 military command on 27 February indicate that Runiga has been removed from his role within the movement, and there are media reports of gunfire between pro-Runiga and pro-Makenga factions around Kibumba, just north of Goma, on 28 February. This split in the M23 raises fears of increased violence and the viability of the peace process envisaged by the Addis accords.
- According to education authorities, some 1,000 households displaced from Rutshuru during the fighting have settled in schools around Kanyaruchinya, some 10 kilometres from Goma.
- Combat broke out 27 February between FARDC forces and the APCLS armed group in the area of Kitchanga (Masisi territory), resulting in 19 civilian casualties according to UNDSS. Over 3000 civilians are reportedly currently sheltering at the MONUSCO base for protection.



MANIEMA

- Punia and Kasese are now back under the control of the Congolese military (FARDC), but the neighboring mineral-rich village of Kitamuna is controlled by Raïa Mutomboki, OCHA reported.
- Punia is accessible by plane, and delivery of construction material is possible. The provincial and local authorities have made commitments to secure humanitarian access.
- Preliminary analysis of the RRMP Multi-Sectorial Assessment report shows 9,914 displaced people on the axis Punia-Yumbi with 7,828 displaced people still in Punia city.
- In Punia, two military checkpoints have been put in place between the airfield and the city, with identity checks and "taxation" occurring for travellers.
- There is military presence at the Kalombenyama airfield, with reports that members of the Congolese army (FARDC) or Congolese police (PNC) have fired gunshots and are extorting money and telephones from the local population, which has provoked displacement.
- Children have not been in school since 16 February, but some timid attendance of classes began on 25 February, with parents still reluctant to send children due to security concerns.
- On 23 February, at least two men were reportedly ill-treated and one woman raped in Punia by FARDC and PNC.
- There are reports of banditry, looting, ill-treatment and harassment of local populations on the Kindu-Punia axis and the Punia-Kowe road.



EQUATEUR

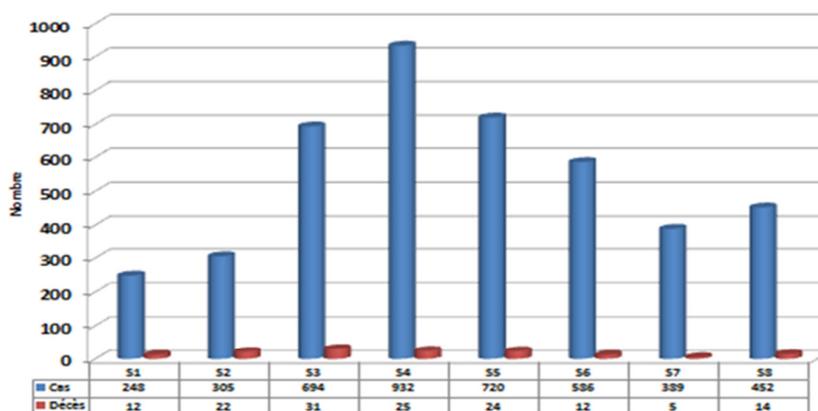
- Displacement of Central African refugees started in 2011 as a result of the Seleka rebels activity, with intensified movements since the month of December 2012. Arrival of refugees persists despite the Libreville Peace agreement signed between this movement and the CAR government.
- 21.352 Central African Republic refugees were registered during the last joint mission of 14-21 February, including 7.886 in Bosobolo territory and 13.466 in Mobayi Mbongo territory. The presence of refugees has also been reported in the territory of Yakoma. They have been already granted Prima Facie refugee status by the Congolese government.
- The assessment report shows that the host capacity of most of the local families is exceeded, and the refugees face difficulties accessing local basic health care, schools and food. There are malnourished children (estimated SAM: 7%, GAM: 12.8%), without a Nutritional Therapy Unit. The need for essential household items and shelter is also critical.
- Significant numbers of unaccompanied children have been reported (including 11 in Mobayi Mbongo and 57 in Kambo).
- 16 people living with HIV (including 13 women and 3 children under 5) have no access to ARV treatment.
- UNHCR has proposed moving the refugees into a single camp, to be established in the village of Inke (Area of Hotto-Marathe, Mobayi Mbongo territory, 38 Km southwest of Gbadolite), but possible negative consequences of regrouping the refugees together in one camp also needs to be studied. UNHCR is carrying out an in-depth evaluation of this option.
- Discussions are being held with UNHCR to identify specific areas for further collaboration with UNICEF.



KATANGA - Cholera

- 4.326 cases of cholera and 145 deaths (lethality: 3,35%) have been reported in the province from 01 January to 24 February, with 18 deaths reported every week since the beginning of the year. As a comparison, Katanga had about 3600 total cases in 2011 and almost 7000 in 2012. The 2013 pattern looks similar to the one in 2002 when a total of 28000 cases were registered in the province (largest outbreak in the province so far).
- 40 health zones are affected by the epidemic (3 out of 5 health zones areas affected) which represents 5,860,892 people exposed in these areas.
- Lethality is very high in the isolated health zones with difficult access in the Haut Lomani district.
- The key priority is to prevent the spread of the epidemic in the largest cities and agglomerations (Kolwezi, Likasi, Kasumbalesa) and in areas affected by displacement.
- The risk of an extension of the epidemic to neighboring provinces, particularly the Kasais, is a concern, as is spread to neighboring countries.

Cas et décès de choléra de la sem1 à la sem 8 en 2013 dans la Province du Katanga(Total 4326 cas et 145 décès)



Cholera: cases and deaths from 1 January to 24 February 2013

KATANGA – Displacements

- The security situation in the Province keeps deteriorating, with more than 7 clashes between the FARDC and the Mayi Mayi reported between 13 and 27 February (territories of Moba, Kasenga, Kalemie, Malemba Nkulu, Mitwaba and Pweto).
- According to the Committee of population movements the attack of the Kabwela village (Moba territory) by the Mayi Mayi Kata Katanga resulted in a population displacement of an estimated 6,258 persons to Moba and Kalemie. In the Malemba Nkulu territory, 42.285 persons had to flee in 23 villages after clashes between the FARDC and the Mayi Mayi.
- Along the Kalemie – Moba axis, fighting between the FARDC and the Mayi Mayi continues in 4 villages in Moba territory. 4 schools have closed after being occupied by different militias.
- 106 cases of sexual violence have been registered in Mitwaba territory between June and December 2012, and 26 cases in January and February in Pweto town.
- It appears that the Mayi Mayi are intensifying the recruitment of children, with civil society in Kiambi and Moba reporting that parents of the villages occupied by the Mayi Mayi are being forced to join the movement with their children.
- Recent nutritional surveys (in 2013) have confirmed the deterioration of the nutritional status of women and children and the existence of a nutritional crisis. The acute malnutrition rate is above the thresholds (GAM > 11% and / or SAM > 2%) defined in the HAP 2013 in seven territories (Malemba Nkulu: GAM 19.3% and SAM 6.5%; Mitwaba: GAM 13.9 and SAM 6.4%; Nyunzu: GAM 13.3% and SAM 5.9%; Kasenga GAM 12.9% and SAM 5.5%; Dilolo GAM 14.5% and SAM 4.7%; Kambove GAM 18.8% and SAM 5.5%; Bukama GAM 11.7% and SAM 7.1%). This means more than 40,000 children would be affected in the next 12 months, mostly in areas are also affected by displacement.

UNICEF PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

❖ **MANIEMA**



Non-Food Items (NFI) and Shelter

- The Multi-Sectoral Assessment indicated a high vulnerability in NFI, particularly among IDPs with a score of 4,1 (3 being the threshold for an emergency response).
- UNICEF partner Caritas Kindu has successfully used the cash-voucher approach to provide access to essential household and personal items elsewhere in the province. A rapid market and commercial

supply chain analysis in the Punia area by Caritas Kindu and RRMP partners show that a voucher approach is relevant and feasible, and planning for NFI fairs is now underway.



WASH

UNICEF WASH response has started in Punia and its surroundings, with:

- 22 chlorination points now provide safe water to local population;
- Health promotion has started at water collection sites and on a local radio to advice on health and hygiene; and
- Sites for emergency latrine construction and spring protection are being identified.

UNICEF's partner IEDA has delivered 4 tons of WASH emergency supplies such as soap, water containers, chlorine, water analysis equipment and key construction materials.



Education

- The RRMP multi-sectoral assessment highlighted that 70% of IDP children had not resumed their education host community school infrastructure is inadequate.
- Following advocacy by Unicef the provincial Ministry of Education released a note instructing school authorities to integrate IDP children in schools without condition of payment of school fees or production of documents.



Protection

- There are reports of separated children caused by the recent confrontations (the MSA identified 39 non-accompanied children), as well as reports of spontaneous reunification of families in the area. However, numbers are yet to be confirmed. Child Protection and Education sections will work together in setting up mobile child friendly spaces, which will act as family tracing points where parents/children will be able to report missing family members.



Health & Nutrition

- UNICEF's partner Merlin has been provided with 450 cartons of ready to use therapeutic food (RUTF) to care for 396 severely malnourished children in Punia. Severe cases with complications will be transferred to the Punia hospital Intensive Care Unit (ICU), already provided with necessary inputs (therapeutic milk and essential drugs).
- Vaccines and consumables required for the vaccination campaign were sent to Punia. The measles vaccination drive will start on 4 March, and targets 44,630 displaced and host community children aged between 6 months to 15 years against measles.
- UNICEF and Merlin signed a \$50,000 Fast Track partnership and the amount transferred to the partner.
- Drugs worth \$75,797 have been made available, and activities of the mobile health clinic are due to start immediately after the vaccination campaign in early March.

❖ EQUATEUR – Displacements



NFI/Shelter

- UNICEF has provided NFI Kits to UNHCR from pre-positioned contingency stocks in the province in order to support 1.200 refugee households including 1.000 in Worongo/Zongo site (November 2012) and 200 in the Gbadolite Site (January 2013). Discussions are underway with HCR on further collaboration with UNICEF and other actors in this sector.



Nutrition

- UNICEF partner APEE distributed 6 cartons of RUTF to health authorities. 50 cartons of RUTF and 50 boxes of F75 therapeutic milk are being sent to Equateur from the Kinshasa warehouse to meet initial needs as more detailed screenings are carried out.



Education

- UNICEF Kinshasa is in discussion with colleagues in Bangui to send additional school kits, manuals, and Early Childhood Development (ECD) supplies.
- The CAR school curriculum and teacher training modules have already been obtained from Bangui and shared with UNHCR and UNICEF colleagues in Equateur to support instruction by Central African teachers who are already among the refugees.
- Negotiations are underway via UNICEF CAR to include children currently displaced in DRC within the plan of the Ministry of Education in Bangui in plans to conduct catch-up classes and delay end of year exams for conflict-affected areas.

❖ KATANGA – Cholera



Health

- Since 1 January UNICEF has provided 21 cholera kits, 13,800 litres of Ringer and 33,000 ORS bags, contributing to treatment of 4826 cases of cholera.
- UNICEF's Lubumbashi Office has 6 kits for cholera response that will be sent in the affected areas next week.
- An epidemiologist will be dedicated to the health emergency in Lubumbashi for 3 months from 10 March.



WASH

- 7 partnership agreements have been signed with different partners (\$406,991) for activities such as water chlorination, awareness campaigns, home disinfection, well disinfection, training and distribution of supplies. Partners include MDA and the Congolese Red Cross (Lubumbashi HZ), EHB (Bukama and Butumba HZ), ACP (Kabondo Dianda, Kikondja and Malemba Nkulu HZ), Solidarités and CRS (Pweto HZ), Red Cross (Kasenga HZ) and Solidarités, the Red Cross, EUB, Maman Uzima (Kalemie and Nyemba HZ).
- 287 toques of chlorine, Aquatabs and PUR have been prepositioned for UNICEF's partners.
- 65,000 liters of water have been chlorinated through 281 chlorination points in the most affected health areas.
- 396 wells have been disinfected.
- 40 community mobilizers and 80 community leaders have been trained on awareness-raising techniques.
- 35,998 people benefited from awareness campaigns including 4,333 home visits. In total, more than 170,000 people were reached with awareness messages broadcasted through 6 radio channels.
- A joint advocacy note (Watsan, health and the WHO) has been sent to Kinshasa. For UNICEF WASH and communication needs, an amount of \$1,270,000 is required to cover remaining gaps in cholera response throughout throughout the province.



Communication and advocacy

- A programme is being put into place with more than 20 local radio stations, religious organizations, the provincial health division (section social mobilization) to implement the cholera prevention

communication plan in the city of Lubumbashi, in the health area of Haut Lomami and in the Tanganyika district.

❖ KATANGA – Displacements



Education

- UNICEF sent 100 students' kits, 10 teachers' kits and 300 tarpaulins to create more space in the overcrowded schools and provide education to 1,552 displaced students from 6 to 12 years who have arrived in the 15 schools of Pweto's city center.
- 14 schools have stopped their activities due to insecurity and 5 reopened in the Nyunzu territory.



Protection:

- 5 girls have been separated from a Mayi Mayi group in Mitwaba territory.
- 34 children from the Kamina Transit and Orientation Center have been reunited with their families.
- 2 cartons de PEP kit en provenance de Goma seront positionnées à Pweto et 2 cartons à Mitwaba. Pour ce qui concerne la formation des prestataires, les contacts ont été pris avec UNFPA qui peut fournir un appui sur ce volet.
- 2 Centers for Transit and Orientation (CTO) for care of children formerly associated with armed forces and groups are operational in Kamina and Lubumbashi.
- Activities to raise awareness of the risk of family separation and other protection risks are ongoing via 4 child-friendly spaces and 4 community protection networks operational in Mitwaba, Piana, Kasongo Mwana and Kasungesi, plus 1 additional in Kalemie. 4 additional community protection networks will be put in place in Mulange Rail, Shamwana and Manono.



NFI/Shelter:

- 18,711 persons (4,000 families) received assistance in Non-Food Items via voucher fairs from 17 to 28 February as part of the Rapid Response to Populations Movements (RRMP) program run by Catholic Relief Services (CRS) in Katanga. CRS also distributed plastic tarpaulins and 20 liter jerry cans to these 4,000 families at the fairs.

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