

Newsletter

07 – 14 June 2010

Highlights

- A protest march against the atrocities of the LRA on the population of Haut-Mbomou and Mbomou
- A regional conference in N'Djamena to end the recruitment of child soldiers in armed groups
- Premiere Urgence assists refugees from CAR in Cameroun
- Ambassador Jan Grauls, Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations and President of the configuration of the CAR of the Commission for the Consolidation of Peace in visit in CAR
- Brief overview of the health situation in Paoua

Background and security

A peaceful march against the LRA

On 14 June, thousands of Central Africans gathered in the collective actions against the rebel of the *Lord's Resistance Army* (LRA), had a protest march in the capital to denounce the abuses of this Ugandan rebellion against the civilians living in the prefectures of Mbomou and Haut-Mbomou in the south-east.

The coordinator of the collective action, Jean Yurmani, said that this protest march aims to show compassion to victims abused by the LRA and to educate the community about the fate of the compatriots who are suffering and die unjustly.

Mr. Yurman has also appealed to the attention of the international community and humanitarian partners to mobilize, to support and to strengthen more the actions of the government in its fight against the Ugandan rebels.

The first attacks of the RLA rebels in Central African territory date back to February 2008.

News

Regional Conference: more child soldiers

Following the regional conference "Ending the recruitment and the use of children by armed forces and armed groups" that took place from 7 to 9 June in N'Djamena, six African countries, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Niger, Nigeria, Sudan and Chad pledged that no child under 18 should take part,

directly or indirectly in hostilities. These countries will also prevent any form of recruitment of children.

These countries also pledged to ratify the Additional Protocol to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict. Chad and Sudan have already signed and ratified the text. Cameroon and Nigeria have signed but not ratified. The CAR and Niger have neither signed nor ratified.

In CAR, 1,230 children were demobilized in the past three years.

PU support the CAR refugees in Cameroon

Since April 2008, *Premiere Urgence* has concentrated its activities in Cameroon in supporting the integration and the improvement of living conditions of refugees from CAR in the East and in Adamawa.

Food security for Central African refugees is precarious due to the partial or total loss of cattle and related income, a dependency on assistance from the *World Food Programme* (WFP), and a lack of agricultural techniques and quality seeds. The Emergency First Response has been to strengthen the food security of refugees and host populations through support for market gardening and food production.

This project began in September 2008 in the eastern region and was duplicated on to the region of Adamawa in 2010, it consists:

- In the development of market gardens and food crop *protected* cassava, cultivated by groups of Central African refugees and vulnerable host villages
- Distribution of tools, seed and cassava cuttings;
- On-going training in basic skills in agriculture.

The harvest of cassava tubers planted in April 2009 on four hectares of community plots established by *Premiere Urgence* has started this month. Beneficiaries could harvest an average of 300 kg of cassava tubers, essential food in their culinary traditions. Revenues from the sale of self-produced surpluses have also diversified the food supply. With financial support of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), *Premiere Urgence* has been able to deploy programs to strengthen food security mechanisms.

This type of program addresses the problem of insufficient food or inadequate control of agricultural technologies faced by refugees from CAR.

Source: [Première Urgence \(PU\)](#)

HE Mr. Jan Grauls visits CAR

HE Mr. Jan Grauls, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations and President of the configuration of the CAR Building Commission of Peace, was in Bangui from 9 to 12 June for a working visit. He wanted to continue the dialogue begun in July 2008 with the Government from CAR and other partners in the process of consolidation of peace in CAR.

He also discussed the progress made in implementing key priorities for peace building, as defined in the strategic framework for peace-building, with special attention to the process of Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR). Sharing with national counterparts and international initiatives in Bangui Commission for the Consolidation of Peace (CCP) for certain elements of the process of peace building was also in the agenda.

The delegation headed by Mr. Grauls listened to the actors in the DDR process, to obtain a better understanding of the challenges associated with its implementation and to identify, how the CCP could be useful to solve problems that arise. The mission took a close interest in the elections.

Health

The side of Paoua

Doctors without Borders France (MSF-F) and health officials Paoua began educating the public about the extent of cost recovery at the hospital that should begin on 1 July 2010. MSFF will continue to provide free care for children less than five years and hospitalization for those under 15 years.

Regarding malaria, it is the period where there have been a lot of admissions with especially severe cases of anemia among children.

In the cases of anemia associated with malaria, there were 18 blood transfusions during the week. The situation of the blood bank should be more serious in the next two months because people are not motivated to donate blood. MSF and the NGO Mentor Initiative will use the network of agents spread malaria in certain municipalities for public awareness on this matter.

Contact ndayirukiye@un.org for more information.

For more information, please contact: **UN OCHA CAR | Gisele Willybiro-Maidou** | willybiro@un.org | +236 70 18 80 61