

- Humanitarian staff were evacuated from Kishishe to Katwe, in Rutshuru territory, following confrontations between CNDP and PARECO.
- 30,000 Congolese fled to Uganda since August 2008.
- Pillaging in several locations was reported.

Political and Security Context

- **Children formerly associated with armed groups**, who were accommodated at the Transit and Orientation Centre of CERAO in Beni, erected on 3 December a barricade in the neighbourhood of Masiyani hindering populations from accessing water points. Local authorities fear that these children might be influenced by armed groups to spread insecurity in Beni town.
- **Confrontations** between two PARECO factions were reported in Kahira, Kise and Tambi, in the north-east of Masisi centre. Defections of elements from Saddam's faction to Janvier's faction caused these confrontations when the former reclaimed the weapons of the defectors. UNDSS reported fighting on 3 December in Kahunga, ca. 5 km north of Kiwanja, between CNDP and a coalition of PARECO/FDLR. Further confrontations between CNDP and PARECO were reported the same day in Kishishe, 9 km east of Nyanzale, in Rutshuru territory.
- **Pillaging in several localities**. Approximately twenty houses were pillaged on 3 December in Kiwanja by CNDP elements. In the night of 4 to 5 December, pillaging of houses by armed men occurred in Kanyabayonga. Mayi-Mayi from Vurondo pillaged shops in Itendi and Kalenguko towns, 80 Km west of Butembo, on the road towards Manguredjipa.
- A humanitarian organization on mission in Kasugho reported that PARECO imposed **forced labour** on populations on the axis Lubero –Kasugho. Recalcitrants are being forced to pay a fine of USD 15.
- Following confrontations between CNDP and PARECO on 3 December in Kishishe, in the zone of Kilima – Bambu, Première Urgence evacuated its staff out of that zone towards Katwe, in Rutshuru territory.

Population movements

Grand Nord

- The local cluster NFI/Population Movements reported 21,891 newly displaced households since August: 15,272 households in Lubero territory and 6,619 households in Beni territory.

Kibati

- Since 28 November, UNHCR transferred 879 vulnerable persons from the Kibati camps to other existing camps. A number of IDPs resist the transfer due to the presence of armed men around Mugunga IDP camp and due to increased distance from their zones of origin. The construction of Mugunga III IDP camp is almost finalized. According to UNHCR, the camp will be able to accommodate up to 60,000 persons. In the meantime, 9,000 persons have newly arrived in Kibati, according to Caritas estimates.
- Although humanitarian organizations have been preparing for the transfer of IDPs to Mugunga I IDP camp, return movements of IDPs from Kibati and Rugari towards their zones of origin is continuing since several days. In a coordination meeting on 5 December, NRC took the responsibility of monitoring these movements on the axis Kibumba-Rugari.

Rutshuru territory

- IDPs that were fleeing confrontations between CNDP and PARECO, arrived from Kishishe in Kibirizi. Their number could not be assessed yet.
- UNHCR visited former IDP camps in Kinyandoni and Ngwenda, which are currently empty. The same applies to the camps in Nyongera, Kasasa and Dumez, which were forcefully emptied and destroyed. The total number of displaced which cannot be accommodated in the region exceeds 50,000, according to UNHCR.
- The « synergie » in Rutshuru registered this week the arrival in Vitshumbi of 1,320 households from the zones of Kinyandoni, Nyamilima and Nyakakoma. These households are currently being accommodated in host families, schools and churches under precarious conditions. The Health Centre of Vitshumbi reported 21 cases of cholera among those IDPs.

Uganda

- 30,000 Congolese fled to Uganda since August 2008, 9,800 of which have been transferred to the camp in Nakivale and 10,073 to the transit camp in Mutanda. Since 28 November, no further refugees have crossed the border to Uganda.

Gaps

Health/Nutrition

- After the retreat of MSF-H from the health zone of Walikale last September, the majority of the population will no longer have access to free health care after 31 December. No partner has been found yet that could cover this gap. The consequences of this retreat remain to be seen within a population which was accustomed to the provision of free health care since a long time. In particular, the Therapeutic Nutrition Center (TNC) no longer has nutrition stocks to take charge of malnourished children. According to the manager of TNC, several women already removed their children from the centre due to this situation. The TNC had received its last stocks in September from MSF-H.

Access

- 200 metres of the Sake-Masisi centre road were destroyed due to erosion. Road traffic is paralyzed and has led to a lack of basic products and to price increases in Masisi centre and its neighbourhoods. The same situation applies to basic products in Goma.

Shelter

- **Minova (South Kivu).** UNHCR reports that the Mubimbi IDP site, which was foreseen for IDPs that are currently in schools, is already occupied by other IDPs. Another site will be identified to accommodate the remaining IDPs.

Assistance

Food

- World Vision distributed on 3 December food to 900 displaced households in Shasha IDP site, Rutshuru, and to 100 other households that are currently with host families.

NFI

- The Congolese Red Cross and the local NGO PEAC plan to distribute this weekend NFIs to 1,017 newly displaced households that are registered in Butembo.
- Caritas Butembo distributed NFI kits to 800 newly displaced households in Lubero on 3 December.
- UNHCR distributed emergency kits to more than 10,000 persons in the vicinity of Rutshuru. IDPs in the vicinity of Tongo, in the east of Rutshuru, received 3,000 kits for 15,000 persons. More than 7,600 kits were distributed in neighbouring localities for 40,000 persons.

Water and Sanitation

- On 3 December, World Vision started construction of latrines in a spontaneous IDP site in Beni.
- On 5 December, Oxfam-UK restarted its water distribution programme (water trucking) serving IDPs and returnees in Kanyabayonga. Before the evacuation of humanitarian personnel from south Lubero on 10 November, this programme was run in the zone jointly by Solidarités/RRM and Oxfam UK.

Food Security

- FAO announced that a strategic stock of agricultural inputs (tools and seeds) will be positioned in Beni to serve the Grand Nord from 25 February 2009. 9,000 households could benefit from these inputs.

Health

- Improvement of the cholera situation in the province. The Technical Cell for Epidemiologic Surveillance (TCES) reported 330 cases of cholera in week 48 (23-29 November) compared to 616 cases in the preceding week.
- MONUC's hospital reported on 4 December to WHO a suspected case of hemorrhagic fever. A sample was sent to Kampala, Uganda, for analysis.

Education

- According to the Education Cluster, 900 school aged displaced children in Kibati II do not receive education due to the long distance to schools. Four primary schools have each more than 4 km distance to the site. UNICEF plans for the extension of the primary school of Mutaho.

For further information, please refer to: <http://www.rdc-humanitaire.net>

- Gloria Fernandez, Head of Office, OCHA RDC, fernandez11@un.org, +243 813 330 146
- Christophe Illemassene, Information Manager, OCHA RDC, illemassene@un.org, +243 819 889 195
- Noel Tsekouras, Desk Officer, OCHA New York, tsekouras@un.org, + 1 917 367 93 67