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CENTRAL AFRICA REPUBLIC NEWS LETTER

INTRODUCTION

Central Africa Republic (CAR) is one of the poorest countries in the world, landlocked and with neighboring countries in crises.

For administrative purposes, the country is divided into 16 prefectures (local governments) that are further divided into over 60 sub prefectures (sub local government); the commune of Bangui is administered separately. The president currently appoints heads of these administrative units, called "prefets" and "sous-prefets". There are 174 communes, each headed by a mayor and council appointed by the president. Suffrage is universal over the age of 18.

The Central African Republic has a very weak civil society with its various actors struggling for funding and sustainability in an impoverished for the country.



Access to vulnerable populations is a chronic challenge due to armed-conflict, banditry and poor infrastructure. Close to ten rebel groups operate in CAR. While 5 Rebels groups are committed to peace process, others, most notably the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) originating from Uganda, continue to perpetrate attacks in the Eastern Region of CAR. LRA activities include abductions, killings, burning of villages.

There are 190,528 internally displaced people (IDPs) in CAR and 16,832 refugees and Asylum Seekers from neighboring countries. Conciliation Resources programme in Central Africa Republic in partnership with JUPEDDEC, a national NGO working in the LRA affected areas, is to centre on the understanding and sharing analysis on LRA in the region to support peace building work and resolution of the security threats on affected communities themselves. Developing advocacy messages to Government of Central Africa Republic is an important part of our work.

The Human rights records remains flawed. There are continued reports of arbitrary detainment, torture and, to a lesser degree, extra judicial killings. Journalists have occasionally been threatened, and prison conditions remain harsh.

The Union of Democratic Forces for Unity (UFDR), former fighters that helped bring President Francois Bozize to power in 2003, have taken over towns like in the northeast in the country and want the head of the states to agree to power-sharing talks. Another rebel group, the Popular Army for the Restoration of the Republic and Democracy (APRD), thought to be supporters of former president Ange Felix Patasse, seeks to overthrow Bozize. In addition, there are bandits in the CAR's northwest who are kidnapping children and stealing cattle and they have "no organizing structure whatsoever.

The weak government controls the capital, Bangui, but the rest of the country is basically a failed states.

1. CPJP A FOREIGN REBELS GROUP ORIGINATED FROM TCHAD
(Convention of Patriots for Justice and Peace)

RECENT ATTACKS

The CPJP which has been behind a series of attacks in recent months announced a ceasefire Thursday 29 November 2011 so it can take part in peace talks with the government.

The CPJP said in a statement that they had "decided to observe a ceasefire to enable the opening of negotiations with the government to end the suffering of the civilian population in

The CPJP has high hopes that these negotiations can begin as soon as possible for the resolution of the conflict.

The CPJP, which draws most of its support from the northeast and south, had long refused to enter into a peace talks and has charged that its leader, Charles Massi, was murdered while in detention in January last year. President Francois Bozize's government has refused to confirm what happened to Massi, and the CPJP has made a detailed explanation of his death a key precondition of entering any talks.

It called "on all those working for peace in the Central African Republic to help lead in the process of dialogue and negotiation to settle this conflict that undermines the hopes of the courageous and hardworking people of Central Africa, who aspire to peace and wellbeing.

The rebels have been behind a number of spectacular anti-government attacks, including one on the city of Birao in November last year which left six people dead and in which dozens of soldiers'.

2. LRA A FOREIGN REBELS GROUPS ORIGINATED FROM UGANDA
(Lord Resistance Army)

This map presents the area occupied by the Lord Resistances Army of Joseph Konny, active in actions of killings, tortured, abductions, rapping, turning children into fighters and making human beings eat human flesh, which by the nature of GOD and cultural differences is forbidden to eat human flesh, contraries the LRA forces people in captivity to eat human flesh, also in many occasions LRA victims reported on the cases of initiations into occultisms that happen to be one of the active practices with the LRA rebels.

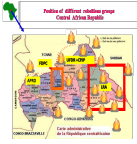
a. LRA VICTIMS TRAUMA

Most of the returnees suffered mental disorder problems because of what they Do, Eat See Hear Witnessed, while in captivity with the LRA, it became a very big problem because it is not their cultures, and it's very hard to forget the memories, some of them even thought people knew what they Do Eat and many other things in the forest with the LRA, reasons why the level of the trauma is very high and very difficult to heal.

b. SOLUTION

Avoid discriminations, pray with them, encourage them to hope in the future and forget the past By the way of approaches, keeping as secrets the returnee's testimonies more specially the sad stories,

and I think it will help the situations, it work for us here and it can work for others as well, but with lots of patient.



3. SOUTH-EAST

In the past, Haut-Mbomou was the home to Sudanese refugees (at least 14,000) who returned to Sudan in April 2007. The region saw the first wave of internal displacement between February and March 2008, after a series of attacks on villages between Bambouti and Obo, in Haut-Mbomou, by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). Between June and August 2009, in the wake a series of LRA attacks following Operation Lightning Thunder, CAR saw an influx of refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo to Mboki and Obo and a wave of internal displacement due to heightened LRA activity, followed by an influx of refugees from DRC to Zémio between September and October. Heightened LRA activity between April and June 2010 within CAR forced more to be displaced on the road between Bangassou, Rafaï and Mboki.

Today populations are confined to a 5km radius of major towns where security is provided by either or all the Ugandan People's Defense Force (UPDF), the national army (FACA) and supported by self-defense groups and the gendarmes. Most displaced are residing in camps where they are assisted by the United Nations organizations, International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (ICRC) and national and international Non-Governmental Organizations and are not yet able to return as the LRA is still a threat to the area. The influx of displaced has caused a stress to the local populations, and threat of food insecurity due to the lack of space for farming in the security vacuum and the increase in food prices is alarming. Road access by humanitarian actors is limited, even with armed escort for the U.N. and some NGOs, and aerial access already limited to the UN Humanitarian Air Service and International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Society (ICRC) flights is often disrupted by storms and damage to landing strips during the rainy season.

4. Haut-Mbomou

Bambouti

IDPs are found in Bambouti and Bassigbiri. This region is extremely difficult to access due to poor roads, lack of airstrip and insecurity. The last estimations for Bambouti were 800 IDPs in November 2010, and the population in Bassigbiri is unknown.

Djémah

There are an estimated 1,000 IDPs living with host families.

Obo

There are four IDP camps in the town of Obo and one refugee camp all found within the 5km perimeter of the town.

Gougberé IDP camp: 821 people (297 households) from 4 villages on the road to Djémah. 463 (141 hh) from Gougberé, 90 (41 hh) from Dakatimounga, 238 (96 hh) from Poupou and 30 (19 hh) from Bombe.

Axe Bambouti IDP camp: 1,215 people (519 households) from 6 villages on the road to Bambouti. 229 (100 hh) from Ngoume, 320 (128 hh) from Koubou, 382 (146 hh) from Ligoua, 164 (89 hh) from Gassimbara, 88 (34 hh) from Bazigbiri and 32 (22 hh) from Kourouko.

Nguili Nguili IDP camp: 478 people (157 households) from 3 villages on the road to Mboki 65 (29 hh) from Kadjema, 72 (20 hh) from Helle and 341 (108 hh) from Nguili-Nguili.

Obo centre IDP camp: 926 people (267 households) from 2 villages. 539 (168 hh) from Ngouli and 387 (99 hh) from Ngondi.

Refugee camp: 800 refugees from DRC

Mboki town

There are 3,296 IDPs living in Mboki in two camps; on in town next to the hospital and on the road going east towards, 88 (34 hh) from Bazigbiri and 32 (22 hh) from Kourouko.

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Zémio town

There are four IDP camps in the town of Zémio and one refugee camp, all found within the 5km perimeter of the town. In addition there are 299 Chadians who are living with host families in Zémio after fleeing the LRA attack on Kitessa in April 2010 (the same attack which displaced those to site D). This particular group is receiving humanitarian assistance as the IDPs as they do not have refugee status.

IDP Site A: 1,577 IDPs from 11 villages on the road to Obo (up to 85 km away)

IDP Site B: 1,710 IDPs from 7 villages on the road to Djémah

IDP Site C: 1,580 IDPs from 9 villages on the road to Rafäi

IDP Site D: 351 IDPs from Kitessa (town on the road between Zémio and Mboki) 14, Minority MBORORO site

Refugee camp: 3,347 refugees from DRC

Mbomou

Démbia

There are 820 IDPs (205 families) living in a camp in town from villages on the roads to Derbissako and Guérékindo.

Rafäi

There are 3,209 IDPs (802 families) living in a camp in town from villages on the road to Guérékindo and Démbia/Derbissako

Agoumar

There are 250 IDPs living in a camp in town from villages including Fodé and Banima.

Bangassou

There is one IDP camp in Bangassou with 1,299 IDPs from the road between Bangassou and Rafäi, the road between Rafäi and Fodé and from Zémio and Obo. These include 358 women, 248 men and 693 children. In addition, at least 16 families (80 IDPs) arrived in September 2011 following clashes between the UFDR and CPJP in Bria and Nzako.

5. NORTH-EAST AND EAST

The North-East is the least populated region of the CAR, and yet since 2008 the most volatile. The combination of internal conflicts between the Government of CAR and the Convention des Patriotes pour la Justice et la Paix (CPJP), and the CPJP and the Union des Forces Démocratique pour le Redressement (UFDR) and lawless criminality, overlying a weak State where little FACA are present and the proliferation of arms in the region is on the rise, makes the region extremely insecure and the situation complex. Fighting for access to local resources in such a context has led to the radicalization of community identities, resulting in inter-ethnic tensions with direct impact and expansion to the population. Firstly, IDPs within the region look for physical protection from the opposing armed group and secondly, local populations have become potential actors in the conflict themselves.

The UFDR rebellion is predominantly composed of the Goula ethnic group and the CPJP of the Rounga ethnic group.

Most of the regions of **Vakaga** and **Haute-Kotto** were inaccessible, with the exception of some towns by aircraft, to humanitarian actors during the former part of 2011 due to insecurity, and those there were forced to evacuate on multiple occasions.

Despite the commitments by the UFDR to the Libreville peace process (June 2008), the cease-fire between the Government of CAR and CPJP (12 June 2011) and the cease-fire between the CPJP and the UFDR (8 October 2011), the region remains volatile and fragile. As with the central north and north-western regions, violence and displacement are heightened during the dry months when there is more nomadic movement and roads are navigable.

While some displaced continue to flee to the bush, more and more are residing with host families in villages close to their own ethnic group. Some families continue to live in their village with host families after their homes were burnt. For the purposes of this analysis they are considered as IDPs as their needs are identified by the humanitarian actors on the ground as similar. There are also the cases where families are sleeping in the bush, however returning to their villages during the day to access their daily lives. These populations were not counted as displaced as humanitarian actors did not find their needs to be the same as those displaced. It will be recommended that further analysis be done on the definition of these two types of groups. It should also be noted that as a result of the lack of access, the IDP figures for this region were particularly difficult to obtain and may be lack.

6.

GOOD NEWS
(African Union) ACTION:

The presence of almost 100.00 US intelligent army in CAR residing at OBO really appease the populations, that at last their voices has been heard in an International level, somebody is concerns about their problems, though the USA soldiers are just at the process, but the community is very happy, to see for the first time an action on the LRA phenomena's. This positive result also came out after having workshops in peace building capacity , the particular workshop involving communities leaders of the LRA affected Area , vulnerable victims, IDPs, Refugees, and based community , recommendations of participants in Community Consultations on the 22/26 March 2011 with the technical and financial assistance of Conciliation Resources and European Union at Obo.

SUCCESS MISSION STORIES OF THE AMERICAN INTELLIGENT FORCES IN CAR

Inside stories about UPDH and the American Intelligent army

Working closely to the LRA escapee's returnees is very delicate because of their level of trauma victims are going through, it's with lots of unbelief sometimes to believe in their testimonies, thinking they are traumatized, but they are right. Proved the American forces based in OBO.

USA FORCES FIRED UPDF.

The American soldiers usually patrolled in the LRA rebels suspected area in the bush, as they keep on doing the activities, before they could be discovered, a suspicious group of people working in the forest

Who are these people? And what are they doing in the forest?

Five months ago in a particular village close to OBO, the LRA affected area, UPDF asked the villagers to be moved out from the village because the LRA rebels are suspected to be in that village, then out of fear the population of that village vacated the place, and just two days after the LRA rebels attacked the village, burned houses, kidnapped the remaining people that resisted to move out, killed the stubborn ones also with terrible torture.

UPDF of Uganda suppose to chase the LRA in CAR LRA affected area, after they were attacked in that village UPDF decided to fix their base in the village in question, but the complicity of the UPDF conniving with the LRA rebels is making their mission objective different. UPDF were caught in the Golding mines digging gold in the silent forest in that same village with modern machines and well equipped.

USA ARMY ACTION

They fired guns on them and chased them out of the bush till the village, the based communities rejoiced over the incidences and we can now confirm what LRA returnees always confess by saying UPDF is exploiting CAR natural resources in the bush. Everybody thanks the American Army because sources of Joseph Kony LRA and the complicity of UPDF have begun to be exposed.

JOSEPH KONY IS AFRAID OF THE PRESENT SITUATION AND FREE SOME OF THE VICTIMS

MINAGERE Françoise is a Congolese from Dungun she was abducted in Dungun in 2008; she came out last week, close to Mboki! She is 18 years old now.

In Maridi (between Juba and Yambio), 14 victims succeeded to escape, they walked for more than five months in the bush. One of them was with her elder sister who got a baby of one month old (from LRA SGBV).

While running, her sister (who has a baby got problem with her feet), she couldn't run faster like others, she decided to abandon the child in the bush but, MINAGERE carried the baby from her, unfortunately the baby died after few days. Two days after, sometimes in March 2011, they crossed the river Mbomou, and reached the village Kanango close to Mboki going to OBO. Mr. Clement LOUTEMBOLI, JUPEDEC Antenna who carried a Nurse from OBO, arrived in that village as they saw her, they decided to bring her to Mboki, they first of all presented the girl to the Gendarmerie, then given to the Italian Intern NGO COOPI for psychological care, she is there up till now.

A boy abducted in Barroua (between Dembia and Derbissaka in Rafai) who was close to Joseph Kony, whom he confirms Kony is located in the north of Rafai right now, ran away and came out in Obo. The Intern Red Cross (CICR) brought him few days ago back home. The American Intelligent and AU strategy now makes Kony to be afraid. He promises to release some of

abductees to see if they would be accepted by the community then he would once or two times, before he disappears, said the boy.

Real life stories and events in CAR by

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Any comment, appreciations are welcome by the team

Thanks for reading.