

- **More than 83 000 people are displaced following the LRA attacks**
- **Progressive return of humanitarian workers after their evacuation due to security concerns.**
- **An airlift between Bunia à Dungu is now operational to facilitate transportation of assistance.**
- **Advocacy efforts for the release of several kidnapped persons, including schoolchildren, are necessary.**

1. Political and Security Context

Facts

Since mid-September 2008, the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), a Ugandan rebel group, regularly attacks the territory of Dungu, in the region of Haut-Uélé, in Orientale Province. Several lootings, killings, abductions of children and burning of houses occurred in several villages, causing the displacement of over a dozen of thousands persons.

The LRA has been present in and around the Garamba National Park since 2006. They remained relatively discreet until the beginning of this year. Their last wave of attacks, during which they have used their infamous terror tactics, is new in Dungu and evoke fears of a prolonged LRA presence on Congolese territory.

Current Situation

The relative calm in the Dungu area has allowed for a cautious return of populations to Dungu center. However, there is no indication of returns to other parts of Dungu territory. No figures are available on the number of returnees. Tensions in the area persist and the population anticipates further attacks. The humanitarian actors, who were evacuated at the beginning of November, are slowly returning.

Access

The reduction of humanitarian space does not allow humanitarian actors to carry out evaluations inside Dungu territory.

Dungu centre is currently isolated. Several access roads cannot be used due to their poor state or insecurity. The north Dungu–Bitima axis (132 km) is also unsafe, while the south axis towards Isiro can only be accessed by bikes, motorbikes or small vehicles. Furthermore, 180 km of the Dungu–Gao road which connects Dungu to Bunia is in a poor condition.

Populations Movements

Clashes and severe violence against the civilian population have created population displacements

- There are more than 83,000 IDPs in Dungu territory.
- The attack on the city of Dungu on 1 November caused the flight of 57,000 of its inhabitants. However, since 20 November, returns to the southern part of the city and pendular displacements in the northern part have been noticed.
- 6,082 persons found refuge in South Sudan.

Populations live in fear of renewed attacks

- The returned populations in Dungu have concentrated in the southern part of the city. The north is currently deserted. The population fears renewed attacks and abductions of their children.

2. Humanitarian Response

The Return of Humanitarians

Humanitarian actors are gradually returning to the city of Dungu.

- Some humanitarian actors resumed their activities and others return gradually to relaunch assistance to vulnerable people:
 - Caritas and MSF-CH distributed NFIs.
 - MSF-CH and MEDAIR supported health structures.

- MEDAIR, financed by RRM, ensured free healthcare in Dungu's health centers, while MSF-CH organized mobile clinics.
- The Pooled Fund is financing two projects (LWF and CESVI) to assure the supply of drinking water in Dungu.

An Airlift facilitates the transportation of assistance towards Dungu town

- The interagency service of the Logistics Cluster (ILS) established an airlift between Bunia and Dungu in order to deliver various inputs for assistance. An air liaison between Kampala and Dungu city will also be established later this week.
- A warehouse was established in Dungu city in order to stock supplies and NFI.

Gaps, Needs to be Met

Assistance needs remain unclear since humanitarian organizations were not able to access the northeastern parts of Dungu territory, due to insecurity.

- The approximately 200 children who were kidnapped by the LRA have not been freed yet. Others have been separated from their parents.
- The need for seeds was reported.
- The occurrence of waterborne diseases was reported.



Transportation of equipment and goods to Dungu city

For further information please consult: <http://www.rdc-humanitaire.net>

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