

LRA : Regional Overview & Update: Jan - Dec 2010

OVERVIEW: Humanitarian situation due to LRA attacks

Attacks by the LRA militia remain a major threat in DRC, CAR and South Sudan. The groups' activities are largely concentrated in already insecure areas of the affected countries. In 2010, **306** LRA attacks were reported in the three countries, resulting in **355** deaths and **680** abductions, including of children. In total, more than **380,953** people remained displaced in the LRA affected areas in 2010. While South Sudan and CAR saw a decline in the number of attacks in 2010, DRC experienced sustained attacks throughout the year. **70%** (214 incidents) of the total attacks were recorded in DRC, which also had the highest number of deaths (251 people). According to UNICEF, 265 children were abducted in DRC in 2010. Compared to DRC which had a higher number of attacks (214 against 68 in CAR), the number of abductions in CAR remained high with only a difference of four cases between the two countries. This raises concerns as to whether CAR is the recruitment base for the LRA.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

The main LRA affected areas in DRC are: - **Bas-Uele, Haut-Uele** and **Ituri** districts in province **Orientale**. These districts are located in Eastern DRC, a region suffering from protracted internal conflicts and insecurity due to frequent rebel activity in the area. More than **293,429** people are internally displaced in Orientale Province due to LRA activities, while some fled to S. Sudan (**19,805**) and CAR (**3,500**) as refugees. LRA attacks in DRC are relatively consistent, averaging **18** attacks per month. However, the period between January and March witnessed 63 attacks, resulting in more than 149 deaths and 128 abductions. The massacre in Niangara territory in Feb 2010 resulting in 74 deaths. After a lull in May-June, the number of attacks increased between July and September, during which 68 attacks were recorded, resulting in 61 deaths and 100 abductions. The increase could be due to some LRA groups returning back from CAR and S-Sudan at the same period. Since the end of June, a resurgence of LRA attacks in Faradje territory has been observed.

Sources: OCHA DRC, 25 Jan 2011

Central African Republic

The LRA affected areas in CAR are:- **Haute-Kotto, Haute-Mbomou, Vakanga** and **Mbomou** Prefectures. An estimated **42,500** IDPs remain displaced in the LRA affected areas, of which **16,600** were displaced in 2010 mainly due to LRA activity. Unlike DRC, CAR experienced fewer attacks, with an average of **6** attacks per month. In the same period, CAR reported a high number of abductions (**312**) close to DRC (**316**), with the months of May and September recording 69 and 71 abductions, respectively. This could be as a result of the group's movement from DRC.

Sources: OCHA CAR, 28 Jan 2011

Southern Sudan

The LRA affected areas are located in **Western Equatoria** and **Western Bahr el Ghazal** States of South Sudan. Worst affected are: **Maridi, Yambio, Ezo, Nzara** and **Tambira** counties. More than **45,024** IDPs live in the affected regions. Reports of LRA activities in South Sudan increased in March 2010. An average of **2** attacks per month has been recorded in 2010, with the worst attacks (7) occurring in May, during which 9 deaths and 20 abductions, including 5 children were reported. This coincides with the lull in DRC during the same period. Equally high was the month of March, when 5 LRA attacks resulted in 19 abductions and 1 death, and in September, when 1 attack resulted in 8 deaths. South Sudan recorded 52 abductions in 2010. Overall the LRA activity in South Sudan declined towards the end of the year.

Sources: OCHA S-Sudan, 04 Feb 2011

DRC, CAR and Southern Sudan

