

HIGHLIGHTS

- Conflict between CPJP and UFDR rebels
- Emergency education in the Haute-Kotto prefecture
- Logistics cluster

Background and security

Partial parliamentary elections in CAR

On 4 September, Central Africans went to the polls to vote for parliamentary candidates in the 14 electoral districts, initially annulled by the Constitutional Court due to irregularities. No major incidents were reported. This partial parliamentary election was held without the participation of the opposition party; Front pour l'Annulation et la Reprises des Elections (FARE-2011). The party withdrew all its candidates after the first round of elections. According to this opposition party, a massive fraud was orchestrated by the Kwa Na Kwa (KNK) (CAR ruling party), which won a majority of the 105 parliamentary seats.

Before the proclamation of results on 7 September, the Minister of Territorial Administration, Mr. Joshua Binoua, urged voters to remain calm and stated that candidates may appeal to the Constitutional Court in case the results are contested.

The provisional results are as follows: 8 KNK members; 3 Independent candidates; 1 member of the Mouvement de Libération du Peuple Centrafricain (MLPC); 1 member of the Parti pour la Démocratie en Centrafrique (PAD) and 1 member of the Parti Social Démocrate (PSD). The participation rate is estimated at 45%.

Conflict between CPJP and UFDR rebels

On 09 September, Convention des Patriotes pour la Justice et la Paix (CPJP) rebels (mostly of the Rounga ethnic group) in the Vakaga prefecture (North East) attacked Boromata (North West), stronghold of the Forces Démocratiques pour le Rassemblement (UFDR) rebel group.

It is reported that, the attack aimed at invading the territory of UFDR rebels, predominantly consisting of the Goula ethnic group. Initial casualty information reveals that 29 people including 1 UFDR rebel got killed during the attack. However, this figure has not yet been officially confirmed.

Following this conflict, the Goula population attacked Roungas in the towns of Sam-Ouandja and Ouadda (NorthEast) on 10 September. It is reported that several casualties and 20 civilian deaths were incurred as a result of the conflict.

On 11 September, CPJP rebels arrived in Bria (East) and destroyed a few houses belonging to mostly inhabitants of the Goula ethnic group; causing 23 deaths.

The Humanitarian Air Service United Nations (UNHAS), has temporarily suspended its flights to the region due to insecurity.



Les frontières et les noms indiqués et les désignations employées sur cette carte n'impliquent pas reconnaissance ou acceptation officielle par l'Organisation des Nations Unies. Source de la carte de base : HDPT CAR, SIGCAF, UNCS. Carte créée le 21 sept. 2011.

Humanitarian / Development activities

Emergency education in the Haute-Kotto prefecture

The Haute-Kotto prefecture (North West) has 67 schools with an elementary entry level; and is among the prefectures with a deteriorated education sector. The net enrollment rate is only 35% (30% girls 41% boys) and most schools are built out of straw or of perishable materials. According to standard education norms; only two pupils are recommended to sit on each bench. However, in most schools of the prefecture, it is common to find at least 4 or 5 pupils occupying a bench. Some pupils are even obliged to sit on classroom floors.



Pupils sitting on the floor due to insufficient classroom space. Photo: JRS

An atmosphere of insecurity perpetrated by CPJP, UFDR and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in the region has significantly disrupted the 2010-2011 academic year. In Bria, eleven schools were closed down following the displacement of villagers who fled violence. Less than a third of teachers are qualified in the Haute-Kotto prefecture of which 7% are female teachers.

Pupils in the Haute-Kotto prefecture have not received books over the past 20 years. Nonetheless, with the support of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Mathematical and French text books will soon be distributed to pupils in targeted schools.

Most significantly, the prevailing poor education standard and performance in the prefecture is also reflected by the overall high illiteracy rate of 63% (76% women, 49% men).

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The United Nations in CAR obtains a new aircraft

Based in Bangui since 2 September, the new LET 410 aircraft will greatly facilitate field missions for the United Nations Integrated Office in CAR (BINUCA) and other UN agencies in CAR. The plane has a capacity of 15 seats, a cruising speed of 300 km / hr and a flying range of about 4 hours and 30 minutes.

It will rotate between the different towns in CAR as part of BINUCA's mandate.

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Update of UNHCR's activities in CAR

Registration of refugee returnees in Ouham Pende (North West): Since early August 2011, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has been registering refugees who were voluntarily repatriated from Chad and Cameroon. The exercise consists of a physical verification and the control of documentation presented by these returnees. On 31 August, 556 families had already been registered. The exercise is ongoing.

New displacement in Ouham (North West): Over 2,500 Central Africans in the Markoundia sub-prefecture (North West) fled their villages in early August as a result of insecurity and sought refuge in the villages of Tira1 and 2 in the Ouham prefecture. A joint mission of UNHCR, World Food Programme (WFP) and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) met these displaced people to assess their needs in order to ensure an effective response process.

Capacity building for on-site teachers: Congolese refugee teachers on the Batalimo (South West) and Zemio (South East) sites were trained for two weeks. The training was provided by an Education Inspector who arrived from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The training aims to mainstream the new textbooks presently being used in the Congolese education curricula.

Training urban refugees on computing and Internet usage: In early August, 23 urban refugees started receiving training on computing and internet usage in a training center, built and equipped by UNHCR on the premises of the National Refugee Commission. This training which will last for three months, aims to provide tools to urban refugees which will facilitate their social and professional integration into society.

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Coordination

Logistics cluster

The Logistics cluster aims to improve humanitarian access to beneficiaries and to facilitate transportation of humanitarian aid to the most vulnerable groups in society. The cluster also strengthens the logistical capabilities of the humanitarian community in CAR.

Logistics Cluster achievements 2010-2011:

- A fleet of 22 trucks with a capacity of 10MT each and prepositioned as follows: 14 in Bangui, 2 in Kaga-Bandoro (North West), 2 in Paoua (North West) and 4 in Bambari (South East) ;
- A garage in Bangui. The main garage users consist of: the World Food Programme (WFP), UNHAS, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Betou (Congo Brazzaville) UNHCR office.

Challenges:

- Insecurity in conflict zones affects logistical operations with regards to the timely delivery of aid to beneficiaries;
- The transportation market in the country remains limited and trucks are often in poor condition;
- The deterioration of roads and bridges renders access difficult particularly during the rainy season;
- Lack of carriers in the sub-offices to ensure the distribution of food and non-food items to beneficiaries.

Prospects:

- Funding amount of US \$ 200,000 obtained through the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) for the purchase of tools and spare parts;
- Training for UN and NGO drivers on the techniques of periodic mechanical maintenance;
- Training for cluster members on the management of warehouses for food and non-food items.

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