

**DRC Domestic Broadcasting, 11 April, 2011 (1 April– 9 April, 2011)**

**by Marie Lamensch, MIGS Reporter for the DRC**

**Government-owned media**

**(Radio-Television Nationale Congolaise TV, government-owned, Kinshasa, 1230 gmt, 6 April, 2011, in French)**

- President Joseph Kabila on 3 March made an inspection visit on the section road linking Kinshasa to Kikwit. The goal of his visit is to report on the security and infrastructural situation in the province, including newly rehabilitated roads. He was also checking up on the electoral process, particularly the voters' registration exercise
- After a mistrust motion submitted at the provincial assembly plenary, the People's Party for Reconstruction and Development [PPRD] provincial MPs in Kisangani, Orientale Province, are trying to govern differently by going against the attitude adopted by other MPs who are trying to destabilize local institutions.

**Privately-owned media**

**(Radio Okapi website, MONUC/UN-sponsored radio, Kinshasa, 1 April, 2011, in French)**

**“RDC/Rutshuru : la population observe une ville morte pour dénoncer le regain d'insécurité”**

- On Friday 1 April, the residents of Rutshuru centre conducted a “dead city day” in to denounce the increased insecurity in the Rutshuru territory. The day before, the population led several protest marches
- According to a provincial deputy, armed men in military uniform have killed 15 people in the last 2 weeks.
- In a memorandum addressed the provincial authorities and MONUSCO, residents demanded the withdrawal of troops from the sector. They accuse them of being responsible for the violence. A provincial committee has been sent to Rutshuru and a government spokesperson promised that provincial authorities would do everything it could to protect civilians and ensure security. On Wednesday, the population had staged a protest after the murder of one resident by a military man identified by local as a member of the FARDC

**(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 3 April, 2011, in French)**

- A Catholic priest was seriously injured after being shot by a group of armed bandits near Maboyo village, North Kivu. There has been an increase of insecurity in the province following the proliferation of small arms and ammunitions
- Father Benoit Kinalegu, the coordinator of the Peace and Justice Commission of Dungu Catholic Diocese, expressed concern about the situation of 1,000 former LRA child

soldiers. He urged the central government and the international community to develop and assist programs that would help their reintegration into society. The children also need psych-social therapy.

**(IRIN news, service of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, article dated 4 April, 2011, in English)**

**“DRC: Moved on to a minefield. Dangerous ground: The area around Kisangani's airport is thought to be the most heavily mined in DRC”**

- In the eastern DRC, more than 1,000 people have been moved into a suspected minefield. Authorities say they want build restaurants and shops on the site of the old homes.
- Their new residence site was demined by Handicap International Belgium but the move still goes against the advice of the UN Mine Action Centre. Employees of Handicap International said only trial clearance operations had been conducted and only a small area only. A new potentially dangerous site has also been added to the list after a farmer found 10 mines since the end of last year. Mine clearance is therefore incomplete and the new residents are at risk, especially children.

**(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 5 April, 2011, in French)**

- Military sources in Ituri said fighting between the FARDC and the ADF/NALU fighters has increased over the week, particularly around Makoyovu and Najui village, south of Bunia. Reportedly, 10 soldiers of the national army, and 45 rebel fighters have died.

**(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 6 April, 2011, in French)**

- According to administrative sources in Irumu, Ituri, a group of militia fighters of the Popular Front for Justice in Congo attacked Fichama village just 40km away from Bunia. A FARDC soldier was killed and goods were looted.

**(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 6 April, 2011, in French)**

**“Coups de feu à Beni : sept militaires des FARDC aux arrêts”**

- Seven FARDC soldiers were arrested last Sunday in Beni-Mbau and have been charged with disruption and non-respect of military orders. The soldiers shot in the air, leading to a wave of panic among the civilian population. Considering the current security situation in the area, residents thought they were under attack from the AFD-NALU.

**(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 7 April, 2011, in French)**

**“Rapport Mapping : l'ONU exige justice pour les victims” by Pitshou Mulumba**

- The High Commissioner for Human Rights said every country targeted in the human rights Mapping Report must conduct investigation and render justice to both Congolese and foreign victims of grave human rights violations. According to the report published 6 months ago, thousands of people were killed and others raped, injured and tortured between 1993 and 2003. The report points the finger at various state and non-state actors from the DRC, Rwanda and Angola.
- The UN said it had received confirmation by the government of the DRC that it would establish special Chambers in order to try those responsible for crimes committed on Congolese soil. A law should now be passed in order to establish this institution.
- The HCHR said the report should lead to a clear end to the culture of impunity and should mark the beginning of a process that will render justice to people from the Congo and neighboring regions. Perpetrators must be identified and prosecuted. Retribution should also follow.

**(Radio Candip, community radio broadcasting funded by Belgian NGO, Bunia, 1530 gmt, 8 April, 2011, in French)**

- Following local riots, Ituri District commissioner announced that relative calm has returned to Mahagi after more troops of the FARDC and the police force were sent in.

**(L'Observateur, privately-owned, daily article dated 8 April, 2011, in French)**

**“Lubero/Nord-Kivu : Cinq combattants Mai-Mai tués dans une attaque des FARDC**

- An attack by the FARDC on a Mai Mai Pareco base in Mahero, North Kivu, led to the death of five combatants. The operation allowed the FARDC to regain control over heavy and light weapons.
- The operation followed the combatants' refusal to take part in the DDR program.
- The goal was also to secure the area in the face of the upcoming elections.
- According to the PNC, the Mai Mai Pareco, headed by Muhamba Lyaki, has recruited children under the age of 18 and continues to terrorize local residents.
- Despite all the efforts deployed by the government to bring peace to the area, several armed groups refuse to join DDR programs. The LRA, FDLR and other rebel groups continue to attack civilians.

**(Radio Okapi website, MONUC/UN-sponsored radio, Kinshasa, 8 April, 2011, in French)**

**“DRC/Katanga : des hommes en uniforme sèment l'insécurité à Kanyama”**

- The NGOs Acat 7Action against torture has criticized the security situation in Kanyama since the end of last week. Five armed men in military uniform attacked a farm on Monday, committing human rights abuses against its residents before looting the farm.
- The men also attacked and looted the villages of Mulumba. In Kazimba, they threatened the local population.
- The territorial security council has decided to deploy more police and military authorities to the area.

**(Le Potentiel, privately-owned daily, article dated 9 April, 2011, in French)**

**“Sud-Kivu : les déplacés remplacent les champs par la route”**

- Fearing attacks by the FDLR and the Mai Mai, residents from Bunyakiri, South Kivu, left their village to get closer to the main, more secure roads. People are now forced to sell their goods along the road and not at the market. Residents say they feel more secure along the main route zones since vehicles come by all day long. In case of an attack, the army is able to intervene quickly and humanitarian assistance can be delivered rapidly.
- However, this has affected regional agriculture since a lot of the fields have been abandoned. In order to get to the fields, residents have to cross the forest, something they no longer dare to do. The situation has led to a food crisis since people rely on NGOs for food distribution. According to an Italian agency, 60% of the children suffer from malnutrition.

**SPECIAL REPORTS**

**Special Report: new UNEP report on water access and water sanitation in the DRC**

According to a new UN report entitled "Water Issues in the Democratic Republic of Congo - Challenges and Opportunities," 51 million people (74% of the population) in the DRC have no access to drinking water, despite the country's large water reserves. The United Nations Environment Programme says the conflict in the DRC has affected the availability to drinking water, despite recent progress thanks to the 2003 peace agreement. Administrative weakness and continued insecurity in certain areas means that the country will not be able to meet the national or the MDGs' water target by 2015.

With one of the fastest urbanization growth rates in the world (40 percent of Africa's one billion people live in urban areas - 60 percent in slums), the country is not able to match this with adequate water service. According to the UNEP, the infrastructure needs improvement: the networks, water sources and watersheds are poor, especially in Lukunga and N'Djili, the areas which provide water to Kinshasa. In rural and peri-urban areas, low technical expertise has compromised the maintenance of water systems.

This leads to major public health problems. Indeed, poor sanitation and lack of water can lead to an increase in disease, especially among children who are forced to drink water from rivers and lakes. Diarrhoea has been a major problem among children under 5, and a few areas have recently experience cholera out-breaks. Pierrette Vu Thi, the UNICEF representative in DRC says "the fact we are unable to provide each family clean drinking water is an affront,"

UN-HABITAT, which participated to the report, believes that "as cities expand, we must improve our urban planning and management in order to provide universal access to water and basic services." The report therefore recommends both general infrastructure development and autonomous community-managed water supply systems and low-cost solutions. National water authorities have been urged to ensure compliance with minimum standards and coordinate activities, while humanitarian actors should monitor their own interventions. Considering the DRC financial and human resource capacity gap, there is a need to be realistic about the water reforms. In terms of governance and development, decentralized water institutions rely on enhancing local capacities and avert potential regional inequities in services.

The report is available here: <http://allafrica.com/view/resource/main/main/id/00020704.html>

### **Special Report: Health Update**

Since late February, the eastern DRC has experienced a rise in cholera cases, particularly in the city of Kisangani. At 51 have died while 913 have been hospitalized. While the outbreak is now slowing down, the situation could worsen as a result of the bad weather. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO) if the rains do lead to new cases the spread could be controlled.

One of the major problems is the consumption of contaminated water, which leads to steeper transmission rates. The authorities have now chlorinated the city's main sources of water and distributed purification tablets.

Another concern is people's tendency to go to church to get healed rather than a health centers, even though treatment is free. Many people do not recognize the signs of cholera and patients die at home, leaving their community at further risk.

The cholera outbreak also risks exacerbating the measles epidemic that has been growing in Katanga province. Children are particularly affected by the measles and WHO is working towards better coordinating the response. The total number of cases since the beginning of the year has now reached 6,524 cases, with 33 deaths.

The large number of cases is due to the fact that a lot of children have not been vaccinated as a result of continued insecurity and displacement. The epidemic started in rural areas and is now reaching urban centers and moving north-east beyond Kasai Oriental and Maniema provinces.

WHO, UNICEF and MSF have been trying to manage the epidemic, but are facing logistical constraints, especially in terms of human and financial resources, which hamper proper delivery. According to Gaël Hankenne, MSF head of mission, the disease is "spreading like wildfire" and should be a national priority. MSF has also called for a rapid international response.

### **Special Report: LRA Regional Update Report – OCHA**

OCHA has published a short report on LRA operations in the DRC, Central Africa and South Sudan since January 2011. The report states that the Ugandan rebel movement has increased its activities in the region with a total of 107 attacks in the three countries. This represent over one third of all attacks. The DRC continues to be the group's most active area, where the majority of attacks (31) took place in January.

LRA attacks have led the deaths of 68 people. This is a reduction from 2010. Abduction has also reduced but they are increasing month by month. This increase in violent activities in the DRC since the end of last year could be due Joseph Kony's return in the country. Insecurity has resulted the displacement of approximately 33,300 people; most of whom lived in Haut Uele.

The one-page report can be found here: <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900sid/VVOS-8FQJZL?OpenDocument&rc=1&cc=cod>