

**SAVE THE CHILDREN (UK)
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO**

**MDRP Special Project Grant (TF052337)
*Support to the demobilisation and community reintegration of child soldiers***

Quarterly report for the period from: January - March 2004

1. MAIN DEVELOPMENTS IN THE EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT

We had hoped that the approval of the “Cadre Opérationnel Intérimaire” for children in February would constitute a positive turning point in the process of securing their release from armed groups and forces in the DRC. However, in our areas of operation, military at provincial levels did not receive instructions in line with the government’s responsibilities under this new framework. The “attestation de sortie d’une groupe armée” – that was meant to replace the “ordre de démobilisation individuel” – is still not provided to children leaving the army. In addition, the new policy of paying incentives to military - including children – is undermining our attempts to secure the release of children. It has resulted in a relatively low number of children leaving armed groups and forces, and the evasion from transit care and re-enrollment of children who had previously left.

2. SUMMARY OF SC (UK)’S ACTIVITIES OVER THE PREVIOUS QUARTER

In Kinshasa, Save the Children organized the first “training of trainers” from 15 to 20 March. Some 12 trainers drawn from different national, international and governmental organizations participated. Many of them will form the core group of trainers who will train the rapid response team and 5 provincial training teams. This was accompanied by our participation in the UNICEF led effort to develop training modules based upon themes identified in the “Cadre Opérationnel”

The transit centres of Bunia, Goma, Bukavu and Uvira provided accommodation to a total of 259 children, out of which 169 (65%) left the centres, though 41 of these children evaded care. The increase number of children who evaded care can be attributed to the government current policy of paying soldiers including children which now attracts children to remain in the armed groups or to re-enter and delay in the issuing of the “d’attestation de sortie d’un groupe armé”, which up to now is not been issued by the government.

As an approach to reduce stigmatisation of EAFGA, transit accommodation was also provided to a small number of separated children, some of whom were Rwandese. The Rwandese separated children are repatriated for reunification through the collaborative efforts of ICRC, but this process is likely to go very slow now because of lack of transit capacity in Rwanda.

In grand nord, SC UK provided punctual support to the three CTOs to effect the reintegration of up to 63 EAFGA into their communities. In addition to the support for the reintegration of children, SC UK also played a pivotal role in the coordination of the sub committee on child protection in Beni.

The programme during this period also had strategy discussion on grand nord which resulted into the identification of four key programming areas of intervention for SC UK in the DDR process. Concrete actions will be taken during the next reporting to argument the presence and capacity of the programme in grand nord.

In Goma, lobbying efforts with the military resulted into the pre-identification of 50 children whose status will be verified during the next reporting period. A liaison officer has also been appointed by the military region to liaise on the DDR process with the child protection actors in north Kivu.

The programme continues its financial and technical inputs during this reporting period to three local partners and also supported these partners in the elaboration of their six month work plan which starts as of April 04.

The education pilot project started with the recruitment of an education officer and a visit by the SC UK's Regional Education Adviser to support the start of the pilot project. The objective of the pilot is to improve access to appropriate basic education amongst EAFGA, as well as other vulnerable children.

In South Kivu, the programme working in collaboration with the Military focal person and other local organisations carried out several advocacy visits to communities to secure the release of children. In addition to the visits, 24 military officers from the Mai Mai & RCD forces benefited from a joint training organised by SC UK & MONUC's CP. The training workshop had thus far resulted into the pre-identification of 146 EAFGA, which is a follow up from the military on the action plan developed at the end of the training.

An evaluation was carried out in Shabunda and the presence of the programme established with the posting of a permanent staff in Shabunda. The presence of the team in Shabunda had resulted into the provision of support to CARE in the tracing of the parents of the children in Maniema and the pre-identification of 29 EAFGA who should be reintegrated in other areas, over 50% of whom are not from the Kivus.

In Bunia, the programme supported the RECOPE (Réseau communautaire pour la protection de l'enfant) in the development work plan and the designing of training theme for members of the RECOPE. In addition to the work with the RECOPE, the programme also carried out the pre-selection of local partners for the Ituri.

Other key programming achievements include the signing of partnership agreements, the assessment of Shabunda, Walikale, Walungu, Fizi-Baraka, and Minembwe, and a risk assessment of child protection in CTOs and training on the SC UK's Child Protection policy.

3. MAIN PRIORITIES FOR THE UPCOMING QUARTER

- Support the elaboration of training materials and the formation of the rapid response team.
- Conduct the second training of trainers for an additional 12 trainers.
- Strengthen the programme in Shabunda and grand nord through the reinforcement of the sub offices and establish a presence in Walikalee.
- Continue to support the existing programme activities in the provision of interim care, reintegration of EAFGA and follow up.
- Intensify the sensitisation of the different military commanders to secure the release of EAFGA from their units and battalions.
- Finalise partnership agreements and protocols with the 15 identified local partners for six months (April – September 04) and complete the process of partner selection in grand nord.
- Support the implementation of two studies: Reintegration & Girl studies.
- Work with local organisations and the RECOPE to identify and support Micro projects.
- Carry out training with staffs of the local organisations and staffs of the CTOs on the SC UK's Child protection Policy and prevention of children from abuse.
- Develop logistics support plan for partners and ensure that they are implemented to strengthen the response of the partners in their programme axes.
- Review activities at the CTOs and strengthen the local partners and the RECOPE through training and the setting of realistic programme priorities/activities through joint evaluation of the situation of children.
- Continue the "Education Pilot" project in Masisi in north Kivu.
- Carry out community assessments to identify schools in both north and Kivu which should be rehabilitate during the first phase of the school rehabilitation activities under this project.
- Establish new RECOPE in grand nord & Shabunda to support the reintegration of children.
- Continue the tracing, reintegration and follow up of EAFGA, including the provision of transit care.

4. PROGRESS TOWARDS ACHEIVEMENT OF INTENDED RESULTS

<p>SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 1: To contribute to an improved understanding of the needs of children associated with the fighting forces – including girls – and to promote their rights during the transition from military to civilian life (North and South Kivu)</p>	
1.1	<p>In coordination with the NGO partners operating in other provinces (CARE, IFESH, IRC), the situation of child soldiers in the provinces of North and South Kivu analysed and documented</p> <p>Summary of progress:</p> <p>Continue to participate in the coordination meetings in both north and south Kivus which had thus far resulted into the identification of several EAFGA and response carried out in a coordinated manner. In grand nord, SC UK heads the Commission on Children and also supported in collaboration with the two local organisations providing transit care to EAFGA the reintegration of 63 EAFGA through support to local organisations to trace their parents and the logistical support to effect their reintegration.</p> <p>A meeting on how to coordinate the tracing of EAFGA in north and South Kivus was held between UNICEF, SC UK and the ICRC. The meeting resulted into a tentative decision to allow ICRC to carry out the tracing of EAFGA inter-province and the reunification carry out in collaboration with SC UK who will then use its local child protection structures (RECOPE) & its local implementing partners to follow up these children and support their reintegration process. A meeting planned in April 04 to further concretise this, which is expected to bring the NGO group (IRC, CARE & IFESH) on board.</p>
1.2	<p>Through the household economy assessment, identification of strategies capable of preventing child recruitment and supporting their lasting reintegration within their communities</p> <p>Summary of progress:</p> <p>A study that aimed to identify factors that constrain or promote reintegration through a review of our caseload of reintegrated children had to be postponed due to the unexpected unavailability of the researcher who had agreed to do this work.</p>
1.3	<p>Identification of strategies enabling girls associated with the fighting forces to benefit from the demobilisation process and thus promote their rights</p> <p>Summary of progress:</p> <p>Planned for the month of May & June 04, jointly with the NGO group. However, the protocol for study had been received and preparatory work to facilitate the study is on course.</p>
1.4	<p>Better understanding within the armed forces of the role and obligations of soldiers in child protection</p>

Summary of progress:

In Uvira, SC UK in collaboration with MONUC, Child protection, conducted a workshop with commanders of the 4th & 9th, Brigades on the role of the military as detailed in the “Cadre Operationelle Interimaire” including a session on the instruction from the regional commander on the release of children from the different units. A total of 24 soldiers participated in this training, out of which 06 were from the Mai Mai and 18 from the RCD forces. An action plan at the end of this workshop was a commitment made by military commanders to furnish the list of children in their units & battalion. This commitment had thus far resulted into the pre-identification of 146 EAFGA by the military commanders of the two brigades, which will be verified during the next reporting period.

In Bukavu, the team working in collaboration with other child protection actors, including the MONUC's CP, UNICEF & the Military focal person on DDR carried out several advocacy visits to communities & military camps to secure the release of children. These visits were also used to create awareness amongst the military on their roles & responsibilities in the DDR process.

In north Kivu, after several advocacy meetings between the 8th Region Military Commanders and the key child protection actors (MONUC, UNICEF & SC UK) in nord Kivu, the 8th Military Commander submitted the names of 50 children who should be verified and demobilised from the Camp Mushaki in north Kivu. The first meeting had taken place between UNICEF, MONUC's CP & SC UK to discuss ways of proceeding with the list of children submitted. It has been agreed that a visit for the verification of the children will take place during the first week of April 04. The Military region also appointed a liaison officer for the DDR who should work with MONUC and the Child Protection agencies on the DDR, particularly EAFGA.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 2: Through a training of trainers programme, to prepare and strengthen the institutional capacity of government and NGO partners to ensure the protection of child soldiers within the PNDR context (National

2.1 | The participatory formulation of training modules reflecting an approved programme of interim care and reintegration of former child soldiers and internationally-recognised standards and principles

Summary of progress:

In light of the « Cadre Opérationnel Intérimaire » for children, a training plan was developed for the establishment of a national training programme on children's demobilization. It included the identification of different training themes. These themes are guiding the ongoing elaboration of training modules. This work is undertaken jointly with the UNICEF and the training technical working group.

At national level, a national training team of 12 persons was constituted. These people are from various international and national, and governmental organizations involved in work with children in armed conflict, who have strong backgrounds in training. The training team took part in a “training of trainers” programme in Kinshasa from 15 to 20 march, 2004. This was conducted by two SC UK international training experts. Its objective was to ensure participants had a shared understanding of the methodology and themes of training, and to test the contents of the modules.

The facilitation of the training was supported by UNICEF and a team of 4 mentors from SC UK, War Child NL, and CAFES. The role of the SC UK experts was to train the team in training competencies on theoretical and practical levels. The mentors supported and fed back to the participants during the practical work. At all stages of the training, UNICEF played an important role in the elaboration of the modules and the development of the action plan at the end of the workshop. This included the involvement of participants in the development of the training themes, and the planning and facilitation of training for the rapid response team and the provincial training teams,

The next step will be the training of the rapid response team, and a second “training of trainers” in early May. The rapid response team will respond to urgent training needs in certain locations such as Ituri, Lubaho, Lodja and Shabunda. It will be formed by 12 people from local and international organizations coming from provinces.

	Existence of a group of staff linked to each Provincial Office capable of training their partners and colleagues on standards, principles and good practice.
<p>Summary of progress:</p> <p>The selection of the six members of the Provincial level training team on DDR for South Kivu was finalised which comprised of two government representatives, two international NGOs & two local organisation, while the process in nord Kivu will be finalised during the month of April 04. A final report for the process in both North & South Kivus should be available in April 04.</p> <p>The selection of other provincial team members is ongoing, under the coordination of UNICEF and other partners.</p>	
2.3	All partners in the DRC involved in the programme share a common understanding of the approved programme
<p>Summary of progress:</p> <p>Technical working groups on interim care, reintegration, documentation and training all continued work on policies, principles and standards for the National DDR programme for children. These were incorporated by UNICEF into the “cadre opérationel intérimaire” that was presented and approved by the CTPC in February. Certain appendices to this document remain to be completed.</p>	
<p>SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE 3 : To ensure the lasting socio-economic reintegration of former child soldiers within their communities through support for their interim care, family reunification and a strengthening of community capacity. (North and South Kivu, Bunia)</p>	
3.1	A capacity is created within local partners (Division of Social Affairs and local NGOs) to run the CTOs and thus provide interim care to demobilised children prior to their community reintegration (Goma, Bukavu, and three new transit centres, more particularly at Uvira, Walungu and Bunia).
<p>Summary of progress:</p> <p>The four transit care centres, two of which are managed by Division Of Social Affairs and two by local organizations provided transit care to 259 EAFGA, of which 169 were returned to the communities, though 41 children evaded care as detailed in the table annexed.</p> <p>No new transit site established, however a total of 29 EAFGA, over 50% of whom are from areas outside the Kivus were pre-identified in Shabunda. Efforts close to the end of this period was geared towards their documentation and also investigating the possibility of opening a transit facility for the.</p> <p>An evaluation was carried out at the SC UK and UNICEF’s supported CTOs in Bukavu by the SC UK’s Regional Child protection adviser as a way of improving care for children at the CTO. This was followed by a two day training on “SC UK’s Child protection policy” and child abuse with 17 participants, 10 of whom were staffs of both the SC UK & UNICEF’s supported CTOs in the east DRC.</p> <p>Partnership agreements for the management of the four CTOs were reviewed and signed for the CTOs in Goma, Bukavu, Bunia and Uvira with improved terms and conditions which will ensure an improvement in the care and protection of children in the CTOs. Working sessions have taken place with staffs of the CTOs in Bukavu, Goma & Uvira to discuss these terms and conditions in order to ensure that workers at the CTOs understands and take them into account in their daily work.</p>	
3.2	The family reunification of children in the CTOs

Summary of progress:

The partnership review process for the north, south Kivus and the Ituri ended during this reporting period with the identification of 15 local partners, 12 of whom signed an MOU with SC UK for periods up to March 04. The signing of these agreement facilitated the work of these local organisations in their advocacy efforts for the non recruitment of children especially in South & north Kivus and the reintegration of 125 EAFGA from the four CTOs & the admission of 75 new cases. However, comparing this to the previous reporting period, this figure is lower partly because of:

- The government current policy of paying soldiers including children which now attracts children to remain in the armed groups or to re-enter.
- Delay in the issuing of the “d’attestation de sortie d’un groupe armé”, which up to now is not been issued by the government, causing few children to evade care and return on their own.

In collaboration with the RECOPE in South Kivu and the SC UK’s local NGOs partners, notably IPPBU, CARECO & SAC, the team carried out several visits outside on Bukavu to advocate for the release of children, which resulted into commitments to liberate children. Additionally, with the improved security situation in Bunyankiri, through collaboration with SC UK’s local partner IPPBU, a meeting to reactive and put the RECOPE into action was held and will be pursued during the next reporting period.

In Bunia, as part of the preparatory process for the work of the RECOPE during this year, 6 working sessions were held with the RECOPE in Bankoko, Dele and Mudzi-Pela with a total of 120 members participating in the first three session which discussed general issues of the RECOPE and broader ideas on the action plans for 2004, which was followed by the second three sessions which brought together 90 members of the RECOPE in general to look at further:

- Elaborating the action plan and to define the needs & priorities in line with the work plan.
- Definition of training themes for members of the RECOPE and the priority for the next three months.
- The meeting further focused on the need to advocate with FAO to provide seeds to members of the RECOPE an other community members.

3.3	Community child protection networks in place and capable of providing follow-up to the reintegrated former child soldiers, thus providing greater protection to vulnerable children, including former child soldiers.
-----	---

	<p>Summary of progress:</p> <p>An assessment was carried out in Shabunda and the presence of the programme established with the posting of a permanent staff in Shabunda. The presence of the team in Shabunda had resulted into the provision of support to CARE in the tracing of the parents of the children in Maniema and the pre-identification of 29 EAFGA (Lubao: 17, Walungu: 03, Goma: 02, Maniema: 05 & Uvira: 02) who should be reintegrated in other areas, over 50% of whom are from the Kasai.</p> <p>The assessment was followed by a strategy discussion on Shabunda which resulted into the taking of immediate actions such as Place a team in Shabunda, including the identification of local collaborating partners (A.J. KI & KIBASHA), both of whom are currently supporting the programme to effect tracing of children from Maniema and to also understand the social political context & the context of the fighting groups in Shabunda especially within the Mai Mai.</p> <p>During the next month, April 04, the strength of the team will be beefed up in order evaluate the transit care needs of the initial 29 children pre-identified and support the documentation efforts of the children in collaboration with staff of the ICRC.</p> <p>During the month of January 04, an assessment team visited Walikalee. The outcomes of this visit revealed the presence of huge number of children amongst the armed groups, over 70% of whom are from amongst the Mai Mai. The assessment further revealed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The community encountered during the evaluation favoured educational support as a reintegration support for children. ▪ There was very limited awareness on the national DDR process, especially amongst the members of the Mai Mai. ▪ Though several children previously auto-demobilised especially from the Mai Mai and returned to their villages, children and their commanders were beginning to resist demobilisation because of the incentive payment introduced by the government. <p>However, with the low team capacity at the moment in proportion to the volume of existing work and work in new areas such as Shabunda, Walikalee & Beni, the team did not progress above the evaluation. The reinforcement of the teams work in Walikalee will form part of the priorities for the next quarter.</p>
3.4	A strategy is developed and tested for the community care of Maï Maï former child soldiers.
	<p>Summary of progress:</p> <p>Work is currently limited to increasing the programme understanding about the context of the Mai Mai forces especially in Shabunda. Similar efforts will be started in the grand nord area where over 70% of the children in the different armed groups are from the Mai Mai.</p> <p>In grand nord, an evaluation was carried on the situation of EAFGA, which was followed by a strategy meeting resulting into the identification of four key on interventions in the situation of EAFGA, which will complement the efforts of the current actors. The key areas include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support agencies providing reception and interim care to demobilised children through the provision of emergency assistance and interventions. ▪ Family Tracing & reunification of children associated with the fighting forces. ▪ Support the reintegration of demobilised & other vulnerable children into their communities. ▪ Training of Child protection actors on the DDR process and general child protection issues. <p>During the next reporting period, concrete steps will be taken to increase the size of the team, hold discussion with other members of the NGO Community in Beni to inform them about SC UK's areas of intervention and open a small office in Beni. Efforts will also be made to support the "Division des Affaires Sociales" to take on more coordination role.</p>
3.5	Community capacities are strengthened in order to ensure the lasting socio-economic reintegration of children, and to prevent the recruitment of vulnerable children.

	<p>Summary of progress:</p> <p>The partnership review process was one of the steps in the strengthening of the community's capacities to ensure lasting socio-economic reintegration of children. This process had resulted into the identification of 15 local partners who will cover 18 axes (South Kivu: 11 & North Kivu: 07) and accessible areas in the Ituri district including Bunia town.</p> <p>As a follow up to the contract signed with these local organisations as indicated above, the programme during the month of March 04 also provided technical support to these local organisations to develop proposals and work plan in line with the MDRP. These proposals will be reviewed during the first week of April 04 and partnership agreements, which amongst other things will include a commitment from SC UK to provide, financial, material & technical (training & supervision) input to the partners.</p> <p>In line with the "Implementation manual/procedure" of this project, the identification of Micro project need to be carried out in a participatory manner. During this reporting period, a Term of Reference (TOR) was written and the services of the SC UK's regional management adviser, who also worked in the Kivus before was contracted to support the programme in the identification of Micro projects. A plan for community visits and meeting had already be finalised and the community discussions should taken place during the month of April 04.</p> <p>Prior to the MDRP project, SC UK through support from other donors such as the EU rehabilitated several schools. As part of the input into the MDRP project, SC UK started an "Education Pilot"¹ to increase the programme understanding on reintegration efforts for EAFGA and will further identify ways to protect former child soldiers through improving access to appropriate basic education. The outcomes of this pilot and lessons to be learned will inform our Education rehabilitation projects defined under the MDRP Project. During this reporting period, the following activities were carried out::</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Completed the recruitment of local education programme officer. ▪ Had the visit of the Regional Education Adviser, which resulted into a field visit to assess the perception of the community and the development of a draft work plan for the project. <p>During the month of April 04, another education adviser will visit the programme to further support the development of this pilot project. This visit will build on the outcomes of the previous visit which was completed during this period by the Regional Education adviser.</p>
--	---

5. UNINTENDED IMPACTS, POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE, OR NOTABLE SUCCESS STORIES (Optional)

- The policy of providing payments to soldiers, including children, has slowed the rate of release of children, and led to a high number of "defaulters" from reintegration programmes
- Reintegration of children is also hindered by our inability to obtain "attestation de sortie d'une groupe armée from the regional military command.
- Excellent collaborative relationships continue to develop amongst organisations involved in the demobilisation of children. This was highlighted in the successful "training of trainers" programme in Kinshasa in March.
- However, there are now a large numbers of actors coming on the scene with diverse sources of funding, who are taking on demobilised children. We estimate these to be between 40 and 50 local organisations. The capacity and expertise of some of these actors may be questionable, as well as there willingness to participate within the coordinated structure and within the framework of the "Cadre Intérimaire". The need for government involvement in regulating and monitoring standards has become urgent.

6. STATISTICAL SUMMARY (SEE ATTACHED EXCEL SPREADSHEET)

¹ The pilot project is funded from other sources, not the MDRP.

**SAVE THE CHILDREN UK
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO**

MDRP Special Project Grant (TF052337) Support to the demobilisation and community reintegration of child soldiers

Quarterly statistical digest for the months of: **January 1, 2004** TO **March 31, 2004**

	BUKAVU		GOMA		UVIRA		BUNIA	
	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys
Number of children at the beginning of period	0	62	0	29	1	37	1	47
Children taken into care over period	0	16	0	18	0	23	0	16
Children reunified over the period	0	38	0	16	1	43	0	27
Children leaving centre without being reunified	0	20	0	8	0	8	1	7
Number of children remaining at the end of the period	0	20	0	23	0	9	0	29

	TOTAL FOR PERIOD	
	Girls	Boys
Number of children at the beginning of period	2	175
Children taken into care over period	0	73
Children reunified over the period	1	124
Children leaving centre without being reunified	1	43
Number of children remaining at the end of the period	0	81

NOTES Though in the previous report, the number of 27 children remaining in Kalemie, was mentioned, this number of children were turned over to IFESH during the month of January 2004