Since January 2014, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has supported the Government of DRC in stabilizing two post-conflict territories in North Kivu Province, Eastern DRC through its Recovery and Resilience Programme, financed by the Government of the Netherlands.

The Programme is being piloted through the Human Security in Rutshuru and Nyiragongo Territories project. The project is structured around community resilience via the return of state authority and support to civil society in five selected zones impacted by conflict and an unfolding return process.

In these five zones, known locally as groupements, local structures called the Comités Locaux de Paix et de Développement (CLPD) were established and/or reactivated by IOM DRC and the Government of DRC through the Cellule Provinciale d’Appui à la Pacification (CPAP). These local structures help create representation, coordination and planning within the community and with external actors, mainly international NGOs. In order to help facilitate CLPD’s roles, IOM DRC is engaged in the construction of local offices to be used by the CLPDs and Government of DRC. Along with local representatives, IOM DRC inaugurated the first office in Kibati on 18 June 2014 and broke ground on three other offices in Kibumba, Rugari and Jomba groupements.

To further enhance community resilience, IOM DRC is also distributing seeds and farm tools to 200 returned families in Nyiragongo Territory. An additional 1,500 livelihood packages are planned in mid-September 2014 in the groupements of Rugari, Gisigari and Jomba. The assistance also includes the distribution of steel sheet and sticks to support shelter for the most vulnerable households as identified by the community.

With the help of two local NGO Partners, BIFRED and CRAIES, IOM DRC is supporting the restoration of state authority, reinforcing civil society and providing general support to return and conflict-impacted communities throughout the transition process. Recreational and sport activities are currently being organized. Beneficiaries are also benefiting from a series of Sexual and Gender-based Violence and Community Policing trainings.

Also, IOM DRC started the implementation of community-selected projects in all intervention zones through nursery trees to fight deforestation in the return areas. With these interventions and activities, IOM DRC expects to enhance human security of returnees at large and accelerate the socio-economic reintegration and community resilience in return areas.
ESTABLISHMENT AND EQUIPMENT OF PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT LOCAL COMMITTEES IN RUTSHURU AND NYIRAGONGO

With IOM DRC and its Government partner CPAP, Comités Locaux de Paix et de Développement (CLPD) have been established and are now operational in five groupements. Workshops to validate the legal instruments governing the functioning of CLPD were organized in Rutshuru and Nyiragongo on 26 June 2014.

Community structuring efforts continue at the village level by the establishment of the Noyau de Paix et de Développement (NPD). Activities of awareness on SGBV are in progress including the reinforcement of specialized commissions of CLPD are carried out. Committees have been given offices equipped such as in Kibati which has already been handed over.

SUPPORTING TRANSITION AND RECOVERY PROCESS IN POST CONFLICT TERRITORIES

Door to door vulnerabilities’ survey for the final selection of beneficiaries

After finalizing the guidelines on the selection of beneficiaries, a screening was made by local committees for the pre-selection of 2,500 vulnerable households. Moreover, a specific questionnaire based on IOM tools and clusters standards was developed to carry on the beneficiary selection process.

After the finalization of the surveys and data entry process, the cross-vulnerability analysis was carried out to select the final 1,750 households who will benefit from the assistance. Lists of beneficiaries were shared with local committees and communities in the return areas to plan the upcoming distributions.

Provision of livelihoods packages and shelter to vulnerable families in Nyiragongo

The selection of beneficiaries was planned for the provision of livelihood packages in intervention zones.

Two hundred (200) kits of inputs and farm tools were distributed in order to promote agricultural recovery. Advice from the local committees and technical support of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) allowed for the procurement of 1,050 kits adapted to agronomic realities of the beneficiaries’ villages. The assistance will be completed by 300 kits of steel sheets for the renovation of houses.

Synergies obtained with IOM’s Site Management and Coordination team led to the support of returnees from Goma displacement sites in shelter. The assistance funded by ECHO will benefit to the 190 households identified previously by NFI and Shelter’s assessments in two groupements of Nyiragongo.

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Promotion of happiness, sensitization on SGBV for community resilience promotion

On 9 September, IOM with its implementing partner CRAIES launched the happiness day on the benefit of returnees at Kibumba. Recreational (folk dance) and sport activities were organized in the framework of IOM’s global “Migration means...” campaign which, when applied in the case of this project, means happiness. The inaugural ceremony ended with a match between PNC and Community to rebuild trust and promote Policy and Resilience Community.

Simultaneously, activities related the sensitization on SGBV are carried out. The objective of this component is to facilitate the restitution of trainings benefitted by PNC, monitor protection cases and make advocacy to the specialized services’ providers.

Implementing Community-Selected Projects

Together with local committees, the identification of priority needs of communities is underway in all five groupements of Rutshuru and Nyiragongo. Also, the recruitment process of a Bureau of studies is advanced in order to carry out, in the upcoming days, the evaluation of the socio-economic infrastructures in Rutshuru and Nyiragongo.

In this framework, the identification of farms for the community nursery trees is made in all intervention areas.

COMMUNITY-STATE DIALOGUE : REBUILDING TRUST IN STATE AUTHORITIES AND SERVICES

Under the restauration of state authorities component and strengthening community resilience in the Rutshuru and Nyiragongo territories, the organization of activities of participative democratic dialogue between community and the state (in this case the Congolese National Police, or PNC) is planned to restore the necessary confidence in the stabilization of relations between different segments of the society. This dialogue will also help to maintain collaborative relationships that would ensure harmony and cohesion needed to peace and stability in return areas.

The activities of democratic dialogue between the population and the State will be conducted in four phases / stages as described below:

Phase 1 / Step 0: Preliminary activities

This phase focuses on the organization of meetings / briefings / awareness sessions with the various authorities and other stakeholders in the dialogue process in both territories and the development of the Terms of Reference and other preparatory activities (educational meetings, production of necessary tools to conduct Fora and “open Days”). This first step has been finalized.

Phase 2 / Step 1: Organization of the democratic dialogue itself

In this stage, dialogues will be facilitated as Fora Heads in major centres and in big villages towns targeted by the project in both territories. Also, “Open Days” for state services such as Police stations / sub-stations, Peace Courts / Courts, offices of the Civil Registry, etc will be organized. During these “Open Days” activities, people will visit the structures of the PNC, the peace courts and other state structures’ offices to receive an explanation of modes and mechanisms of functioning of these services. Synergy will be made with the organization of festivity events / recreational and sports activities in order to generate familiarity between people and members of the PNC. For this step, activities are upcoming.

Phase 3 / Step 2: Monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of solutions / recommendations proposed as solutions to the problems / challenges identified

Monitoring activities will be implemented of commitments made by one and the other of stakeholders in democratic dialogue process and to evaluate their effectiveness.

Phase 4 / Step 3: Preparation of the Final Report of the process of democratic dialogue

For each Forum and Open Day organized, a report will be prepared. At the end of the democratic process Dialogue, a compiled report of all activities implemented will be established with an emphasis on lessons learned.

IOM’s ADVOCACY FOR JOINT LOCAL RECOVERY EFFORTS IN POST CONFLICT TERRITORIES

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