



Quick Impact Projects:

MONUC approves 41 projects for more than a half million dollars

The United Nations Organisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC) will fund 41 quick impact projects worth 548,213 U.S. dollars and distributed across 8 of the country's 11 provinces, MONUC's spokesman told a weekly press conference on Wednesday 10 February 2010. The projects, which MONUC approved between 1 December 2009 and January 2010, concern the sectors of health, education, community development, support to civil society, and local governance, Mr Madnodje Mounoubai said.



In Kindu, Maniema province, women and children drawing water from a MONUC-funded water source (Archives Photo)

MONUC will fund 14 projects in North Kivu province at the cost of 167,813 U.S. dollars, to build classrooms at Otobora as well as provide the Bethesda Hospital in Goma with medical devices.

Six projects valued at 101,728 U.S. dollars will be carried out in Bas-Congo province to help improve the living conditions of prisoners and the working conditions of Clerk's

Office personnel at the Central Prison of Matadi, and to develop drinking water sources in Lukula and Tshela territories. .

Four projects worth 92,104 US dollars will be carried out in Western Kasai province involving, among other things, construction of a footbridge over the Kelekele River which separates the Bianky and Katoka sections of Kananga town, and construction of detention

cells for the district police and the provincial prosecutor's office in Kananga.

Geographic distribution of other projects is as follows: 7 in South Kivu province (US\$78,347), 5 in Equateur province (US \$52,360), 2 in Ituri district (US\$ 21,735), 2 in Katanga province (US\$ 19,126), and 1 in Kinshasa city-province (US\$15,000).

The health sector gets the biggest slice of the pie with projects totalling



US\$ 184,430 which will finance rehabilitation of infrastructure and equipment.

The second biggest chunk of funds goes to the community development sector where the total cost of projects will be US\$ 142,332. This is followed by the education sector with US\$100,833, and those of support to civil society and local governance.

On a different subject, speaking of Oriental Province, the MONUC spokesman reported that Provincial Government members, accompanied by a MONUC delegation, had visited Dungu on 3 February 2010 to look at the security and humanitarian situation in the territory.

A few weeks before this visit, there were public demonstrations in Dungu by local populations who vented their anger on MONUC's personnel and installations as they demanded more protection from attacks by rebels of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).

At the end of the visit, the Governor of Oriental Province told Radio Okapi: *"MONUC is playing its role in accordance with the various resolutions of the UN Security Council. MONUC is not here to defend the territorial integrity of the DRC but to provide logistics support. Therefore the population should not demonstrate violently against MONUC which is playing its role"*.

Still on Dungu, the spokesman reported that the MONUC Civil Affairs Section and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) on 5 February held discussions focusing on improving protection for civilians in the villages of Ngilima, Bangadi, and Dorumu, located 45 km, 125 km and 210 km, respectively, northwest of Dungu. The meeting agreed on an IOM project for the road linking Dungu, Ngilima, and Bangadi in order to facilitate humanitarian access.

Speaking of the situation in Equateur province, MONUC's

spokesman reported that MONUC had provided an escort for a World Food Programme (WFP) convoy travelling from Gemena to deliver food supplies to 23, 000 displaced persons (IDPs) at Bokonzi 220 km from Gemena. These IDPs fled their homes during the Dongo conflict in late 2009.

Also present at the press conference, the head of OCHA's Advocacy and Public Information Office, Maurizio Giuliano, said distribution of food (maize, legumes, cooking oil, and salt) to IDPs began on 8 February.

On military activities, MONUC's military spokesman, Lieutenant-Colonel Jean-Paul Dietrich, reported that MONUC has been conducting patrols on key roads and providing escorts for humanitarian teams working in Equateur. He said preparations were under way to establish at least two MONUC Mobile Operating Bases south of Dongo.

