

SFCG opens up Kungu Territory with the distribution of over 900 pocket radios

As noted in previous Updates, SFCG has been deeply and actively involved in conflict transformation and reconciliation in remote areas of Equateur province, where long-time grievances between two communities exploded into violence in 2009. SFCG, with support from UNHCR and MONUSCO, established a radio station to strengthen peace building and communication, with great response from the population. To reinforce the impact of the radio's establishment and ensure that it is reaching key targeted populations, SFCG recently distributed more than 900 radios to men, women, and youth. The radios combine solar and wind-up technology, to ensure that they are long-lasting and will not run out of charge any time soon. For the first time, the men and women of the region are able to hold and listen to a radio. *"We now feel like men, because thanks to this radio station we can listen to what is happening in our territory and elsewhere for the first time"* said Jean Robert Makutula, a young man from Dongo.



SFCG provides conflict sensitivity to peace building and stabilisation work in eastern DRC

PEAR+ (Programme of Expanded Assistance to Returnees Plus, financed by UNICEF) is a stabilisation project that provides basic services in eastern DRC. In order to support stabilisation efforts, UNICEF tasked SFCG with uncovering and addressing conflicts that disrupt social cohesion. In Ituri, 80% of people surveyed cited land conflicts as the most pressing matter in the region. Complicating matters, these conflicts usually have an ethnic undertone. This was the case of a conflict between the inhabitants of Layi, an Ndo Okembo village, and their local chief. The population were upset that their chief had sold one of the hills in the village to someone from the neighbouring Lendu village. *"Our chief sold our ancestor's land to a Lendu...He should be beaten for doing that!"* Such statements encouraged SFCG to conduct mediations between the concerned parties and local leaders from the Ndo Okembo and Lendu villages. Several separate meetings paved the way for all of the disputing parties to come together to find a solution to the problem. After two sets of mediations, one month later the tensions had calmed and the Lendu family was welcomed to the area by the Ndo Okembo. Afterwards, the newfound peace was celebrated with music, drinks, and a football match. It goes without saying that the chief was delighted by the progress, considering that he had previously been afraid to set foot in Layi!



Participatory theatre reinforces professionalism in the PNC

Building on our work with the FARDC, SFCG has started a project with the Congolese National Police (PNC) in four provinces. This project aims to improve cooperation between the PNC and the local population, in order to ensure greater protection for the latter. Working with PNC leadership, SFCG is using mobile cinema and radio programming, and has produced a training manual for the PNC ranks. All of these activities seek to reinforce the professionalism of the PNC. PNC officers were also particularly impressed by the participatory theatre. They spoke highly of its value in transmitting positive messages in a simple and effective way. The PNC now boasts 5 troupes of trained actors, with Colonel Jean Malosa saying that *"Participatory theatre is very lively...and we now plan to record the productions in order to incorporate them into PNC radio broadcasts."* A short documentary on the participatory theatre can be seen [here](#).

