LRA
CRISIS
TRACKER

JANUARY – MARCH 2013 | *QUARTERLY SECURITY BRIEF*

Executive Summary

Early 2013 shows cyclical uptick in attacks
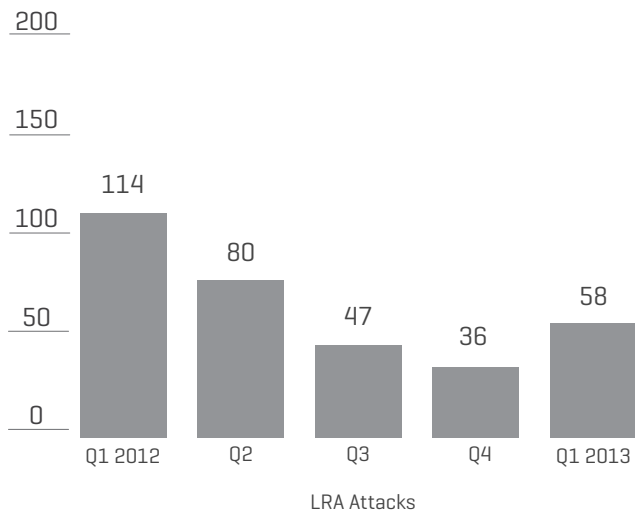

Cyclical Increase of LRA Attacks
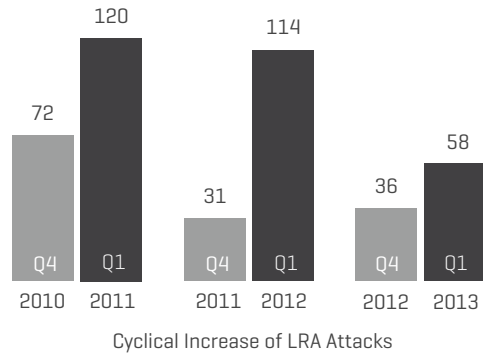
The LRA committed 58 attacks between January and March 2013 (Quarter 1 of 2013, or Q1 2013), compared to 36 attacks between October and December 2012 (Q4 2012).

The increase in LRA attacks in early 2013 continues a trend seen in early 2012 and early 2011, in which the number of LRA attacks rose compared to the last three months of the previous year. Despite the rise in attacks, the LRA committed fewer abductions in early 2013 (69) than in late 2012 (111).

## LRA attacks in CAR more violent

Congo · **CAR**

Attacks · Killings · Abductions
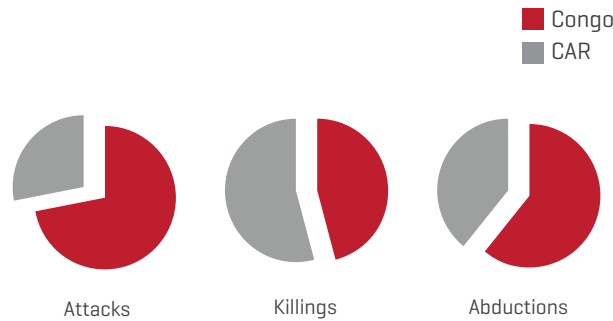
In Q1 2013, the LRA committed 72% of its attacks in the Democratic Republic of Congo (Congo), compared to 28% in Central African Republic (CAR). However, the LRA committed 54% of its killings and 39% of its abductions in Q1 2013 in CAR.

The trend of the LRA killing and abducting more people per attack in CAR than they do in Congo is consistent with LRA attack patterns in 2012. In 2012, the LRA committed just 19% of its attacks in CAR, but committed 75% of its killings and 44% of its abductions there.

LRA continues to lose long-term abductees

Long-term returnees in 2013
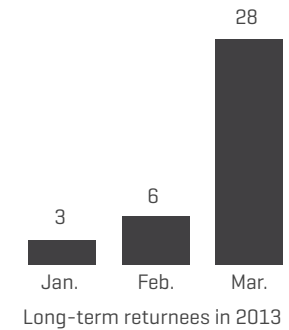
In Q1 2013, 37 people who had been with the LRA for 6 months or more returned from the rebel group. This number includes 28 women and children released by the LRA in Bas Uele district, Congo on March 21. 4 of these long-term returnees were Ugandans.

The high number of long-term returnees continues a trend begun in 2012, when at least 31 long-term Ugandan members of the LRA returned from the rebel group, many in the latter half of the year.
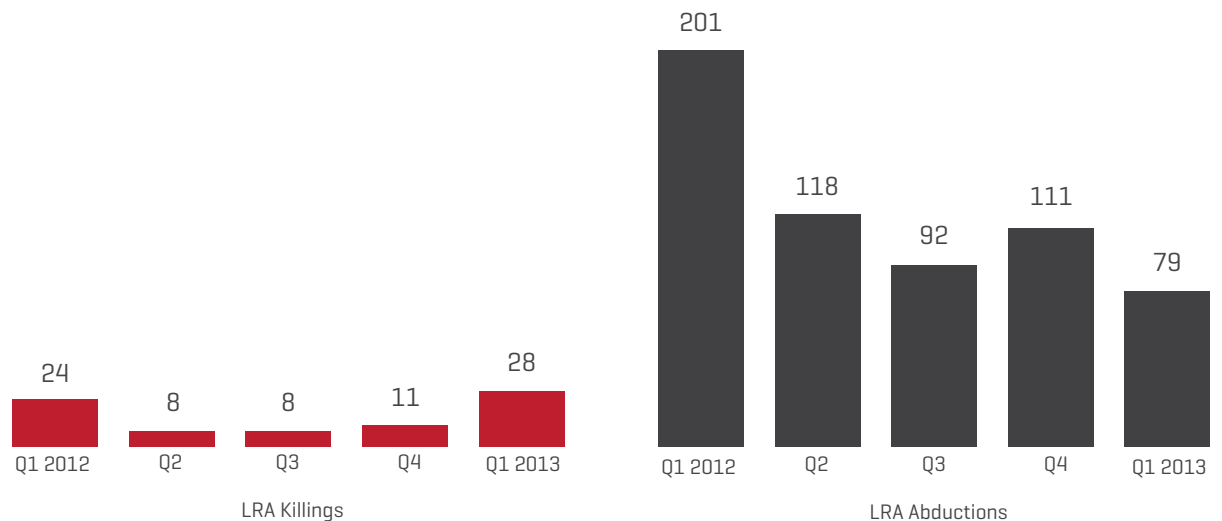
Trends in LRA Attacks, Killings, and Abductions

LRA Attacks

LRA Killings

LRA Abductions

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Note: All data and statistics included in this report are derived from the LRA Crisis Tracker database. Extensive efforts are made to verify the details of each incident and cross-check as many sources of information for each incident as possible. For more on the LRA Crisis Tracker data collection and verification process, see page 7.

Cover photo credit: *Invisible Children*

Notable Political Context

Seleka rebels overthrow CAR government
In January 2013, President François Bozizé signed agreements with Seleka rebels in Libreville, Gabon aimed at halting the advance of the rebel movement in CAR. However, in March, Seleka rebels resumed hostilities and captured Bangui, forcing Bozizé to flee the country. The new government, led by Michael Djotodia, has since struggled to control looting and human rights abuses by Seleka troops. Neither the African Union (AU) nor the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) initially recognized Djotodia's legitimacy, and ECCAS led efforts to secure the new government's agreement to an 18-month transitional process that will culminate in drafting a new constitution and national elections.

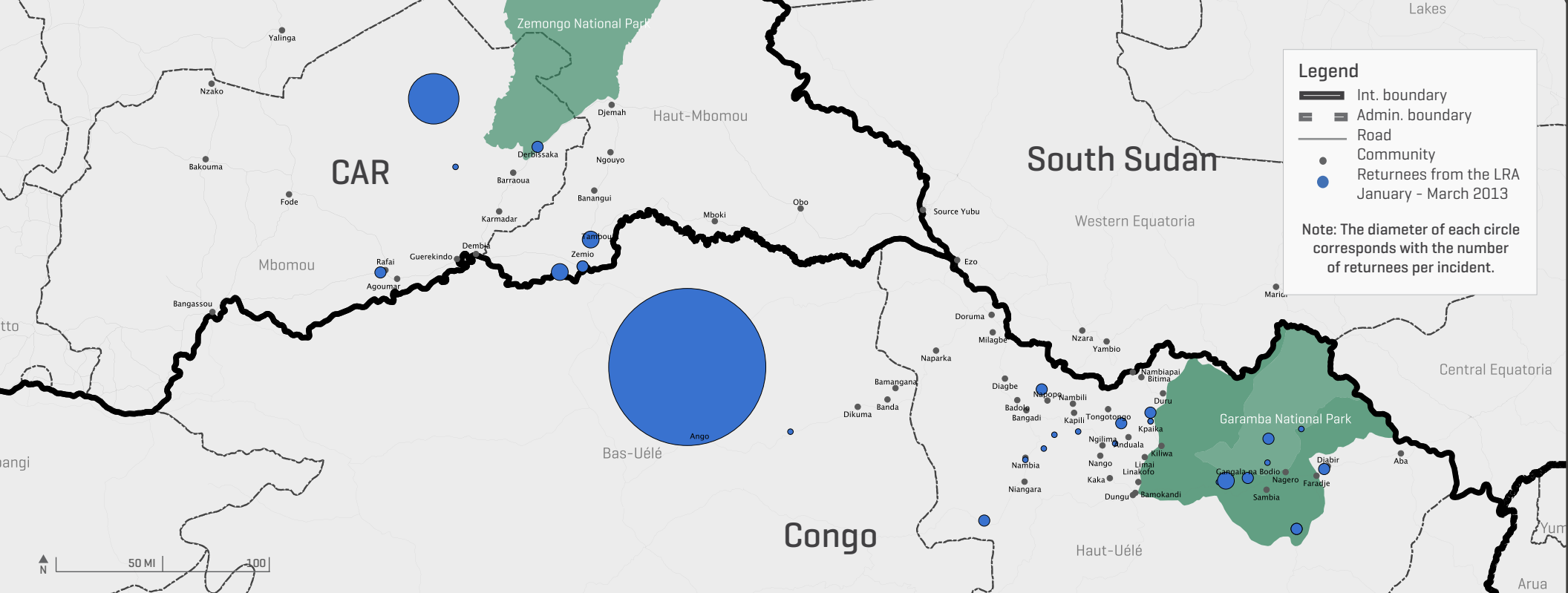### Ugandan and US troops suspend operations in CAR
Following Seleka's takeover of Bangui in March, Ugandan and US troops officially suspended counter-LRA operations in CAR. Ugandan troops, in CAR as part of the AU Regional Task Force (RTF), have withdrawn to bases in Obo, Djemah, and Dembia in CAR, while US troops have consolidated in their Obo base. Both the AU Peace and Security Council and United Nations (UN) Security Council have expressed support for continued counter-LRA operations by Ugandan troops, and Seleka representatives have indicated that the Ugandan military can resume counter-LRA operations in Haut Mbomou prefecture. Ugandan officials, citing security concerns, have not indicated when the Ugandan military will resume deployments of tracking teams and other patrols.

Congo military dedicates troops to AU RTF
In February 2013, the Congolese military officially handed over 500 troops to the AU RTF in a ceremony in Dungu, Congo. Though hailed by the international community as a hopeful sign that Kinshasa will improve cooperation with regional counter-LRA efforts, Congolese civil society leaders expressed concern that the move will exacerbate civilian protection concerns in the short term. The Congolese military reportedly redeployed some troops from outlying towns at higher risk of LRA attack to the AU RTF sector headquarters in Dungu, leaving civilians in remote areas more vulnerable to LRA attacks.

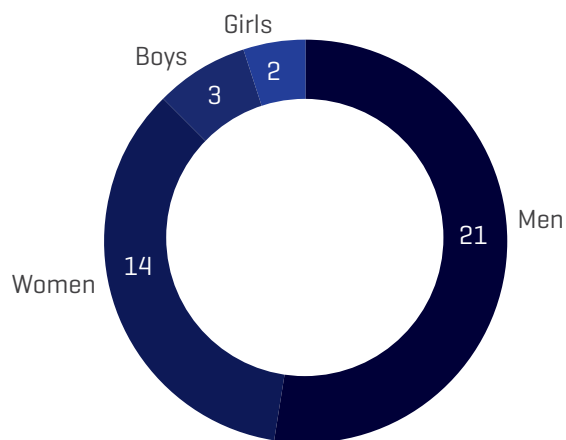### US announces $5 million award for indicted LRA leaders
In April 2013, the US State Department announced a $5 million award for information leading to the arrest, transfer, or conviction of LRA leaders indicted by the International Criminal Court (ICC). Of the five LRA commanders indicted by the LRA in 2005, Joseph Kony, Okot Odhiambo, and Dominic Ongwen remain at large with the rebel group.

Zemongo National Park

Yalinga

Nzako

Djemah

Haut-Mbomou

Derbissaka

Ngouyo

South Sudan

Bakouma

CAR

Barraoua

Banangui

Obo

Source Yubu

Western Equatoria

Fode

Karmadar

Mboki

Mbomou

Dembia

Tambou

Ezo

Guerekindo

Zemio

Rafai

Doruma

Marie

Agoumar

Milagbe

Nzara

Yambio

Bangassou

Naparka

Nambiapai Bitima

Bamangana

Diagbe

Napopa Nambili

Duru

angi

Bas-Uélé

Dikuma

Banda

Badole
Bangadi

Kapili

Tongotongo

Kpaika

Garamba National Park

Ango

Ngilima Anduala

Kiliwa

Nambia

Nango
Limai
Linakofo

Gangala-na Bodio
Nagero

Diabir

Aba

Niangara

Kaka
Dungu Bamokandi

Faradje

Congo

Sambia

Haut-Uélé

Arua

Central Equatoria

Yum

Legend

▬	Int. boundary
▭ ▭	Admin. boundary
—	Road
•	Community
●	Returnees from the LRA January - March 2013

Note: The diameter of each circle corresponds with the number of returnees per incident.

50 MI   100
N

LRA Returnees

Gender and age analysis of abductees
January - March 2013

Girls 2
Boys 3
Men 21
Women 14

*These numbers do not represent all abductees, but only those for whom age and gender information was available.

Release of 28 women and children

On March 21, 4 LRA combatants released 28 captive women and children near Digba in Congo's Bas Uele district. The 28 included 7 boys, 13 girls, and 8 women. One woman subsequently drowned while the group was being escorted to nearby Ango. The returnees included Central Africans, Congolese, South Sudanese, and Ugandans.

At least one returnee reported that Kony ordered their release via several other LRA commanders. Though it is difficult to determine with certainty what prompted the decision, returnees indicated it may have been part of a broader push by Kony to restructure and instill discipline within the LRA.
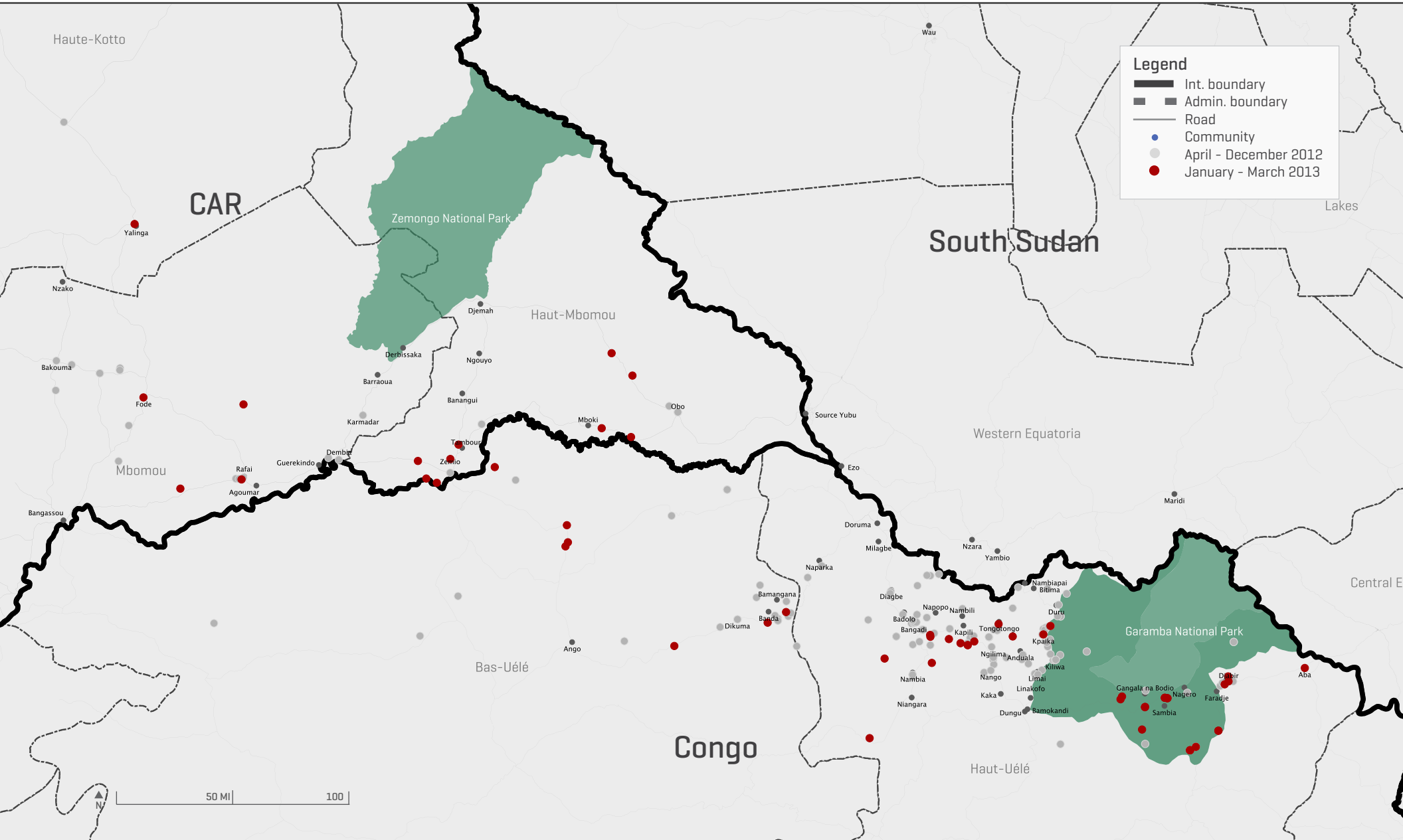
Kony reportedly left his camp in the Sudanese-controlled Kafia Kingi enclave, a disputed area on the border of South Sudan and Sudan, to return to north-eastern CAR in early 2013.

Gender and age analysis of returnees
January - March 2013
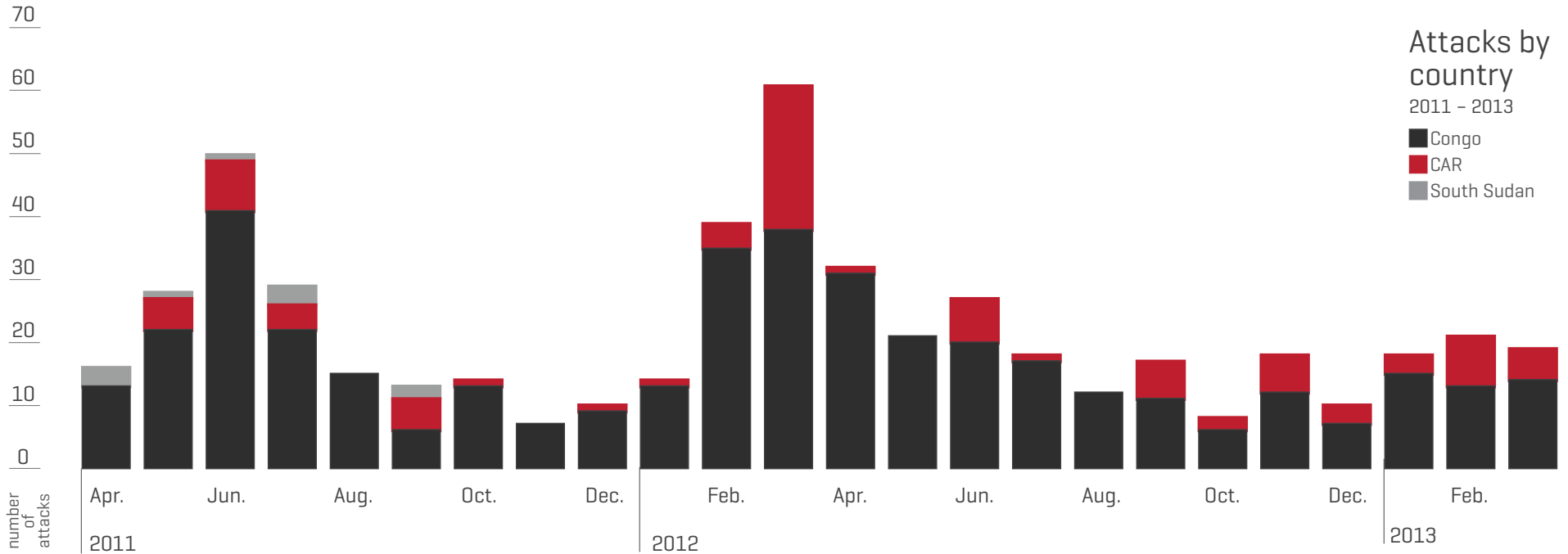

Girls 16
Boys 10
Men 34
Women 16
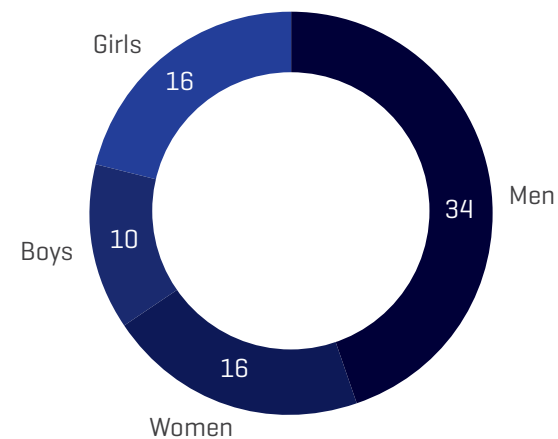
*These numbers do not represent all returnees, but only those for whom age and gender information was available.

LRA Attacks Against Civilians: April 2012-March 2013

Legend
- Int. boundary
- Admin. boundary
- Road
- Community
- April - December 2012
- January - March 2013

Haute-Kotto

CAR

Zemongo National Park

South Sudan

Lakes

Yalinga

Nzako

Bakouma

Djemah

Haut-Mbomou

Fode

Ngouyo

Obo

Western Equatoria

Karmadar

Banangui

Mboki

Source Yubu

Barraoua

Derbissaka

Rafai

Tambour

Ezo

Mbomou

Guerekindo

Dembia

Zemio

Maridi

Agoumar

Bangassou

Doruma

Nzara

Yambio

Milagbe

Central E

Naparka

Diagbe

Nambiapai

Bitima

Napopo

Nambili

Duru

Bamangana

Badolo

Bangadi

Tongotongo

Garamba National Park

Dikuma

Banda

Kapili

Kpaika

Ango

Ngilima

Anduala

Kiliwa

Nambia

Nango

Limai

Gangala na Bodio

Dbir

Aba

Bas-Uélé

Kaka

Linakofo

Nagero

Faradje

Niangara

Dungu

Bamokandi

Sambia

Congo

Haut-Uélé

50 MI   100

N

Country Specific Trends & Attack Comparisons

Attacks by country
2011 – 2013

- Congo
- CAR
- South Sudan

number of attacks

2011 · 2012 · 2013

Attack type breakdown
January – March 2013

Killing and abduction of civilians
7: 12%

Killing of civilians
5: 9%

Neither*
26: 45%

Abduction of civilians
20: 34%

The LRA abducted civilians in 46% of their attacks in Q1 2013, compared to 60% of their attacks in 2012.

(*Attack leading to civilian injury, looting, sexual- or gender-based violence, or displacement)
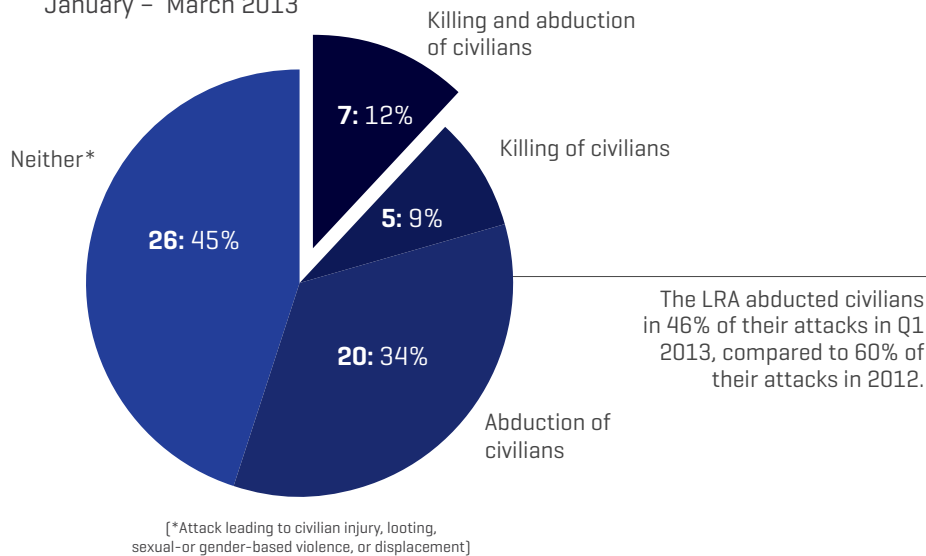
Attacks perpetrated by LRA vs. unknown armed group
January – March 2013

- LRA
- Unknown armed group

58

17

Within LRA-affected areas of CAR and Congo, the LRA continues to perpetrate the majority of armed-group violence against civilians.

This category includes attacks where the perpetrator is unknown. LRA forces, bandits, rogue military personnel, or other armed groups may have committed these attacks.
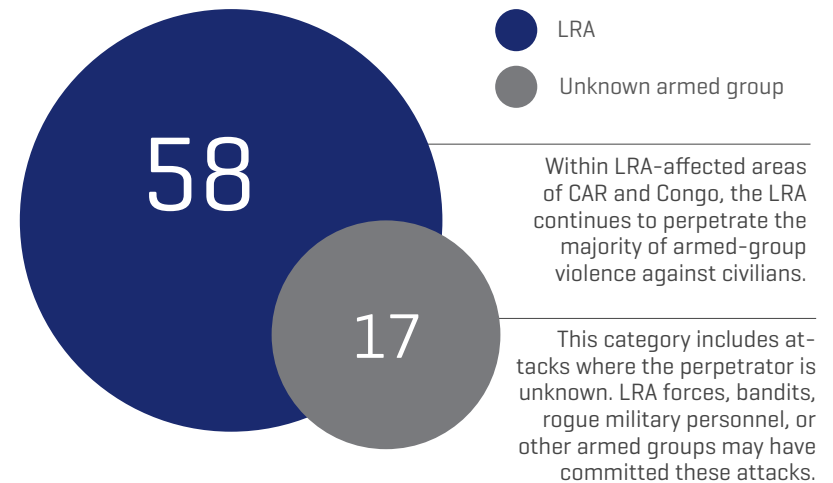
LRA Crisis Tracker Methodology

1 Data Collection

Report sourcing:
- HF radio operators in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Central African Republic
  - Civilians report activity to HF radio tower operators
  - Over 30 HF radio operators call the Dungu hub twice daily to report armed group activity
  - Activity is entered into a spreadsheet and then sent to data coders.
- UN and NGO reports
- News and media outlets
- Civil society contacts in local communities
- Government sources
- Field research conducted by Resolve and Invisible Children staff

Sourcing coverage: LRA Crisis Tracker Database team members make every effort to obtain data from all LRA-affected regions. Due to the remote nature of LRA-affected areas, the sourcing infrastructure available to project administrators is uneven across the geographic area of concern, and data included in the Database is often of better quality in areas with higher NGO and news agency traffic. The LRA Crisis Tracker Database does not claim to be a comprehensive record of all LRA or related incidents in the region, but team members make every effort to fill in areas where the data may not be easily accessible.

Note: The majority of the information gathering systems are located in DR Congo, leading to a disproportional amount of LRA reports from DRC. In upcoming months both Invisible Children and CRS, funded by USAID, will expand information gathering systems in CAR, hoping to improve access to information in the region.

2 Data Entry

Database entry: Reports are divided between a team of coders from both Invisible Children and Resolve. Coders determine if the source is reliable or unreliable (See section 4.2.B of the Codebook, Determining the Reliability of a Source). Before an incident is reported, the coder reads through other incidents in the same time range and checks for duplicates.

Verification rating: After an incident is categorized, each incident is given a Verification Rating, which rates the team's confidence in the details of the reported data. Each incident is given a rating of "1" through "5," with "1" being the most unreliable and "5" being very reliable. The rating is based on the trustworthiness of the source, confidence in the identity of the actors involved in the incident, and the degree of detail given in the source report. A verification rating of "2" through "5" is considered adequately verified to be reported publicly, and therefore is included in statistics and analysis (Codebook section 4.2A).

LRA Actor Verification rating: To distinguish between LRA and other armed group attacks, the Crisis Tracker Codebook has a list of LRA Indicators and Non-LRA Indicators. If after reviewing the indicators and other available evidence the data coder determines that the perpetrator of an attack was likely the LRA, the incident is given an LRA Actor Verification rating, 'Low,' 'Medium,' or 'High,' to measure the likelihood of the perpetrator being LRA. (Codebook section 4.2C.) If after reviewing an incident the coder determines that the LRA was not the perpetrator and the perpetrator is unknown, Actor 1 is marked as 'Armed Group' and the incident is not mapped.

3 Data Review

Initial review: Each report is reviewed by a second data coder to catch human errors and duplicate reports. Coders look for incidents that are alike in detail, and have a relatively close time frame and location. These incidents are then investigated to ensure that they are not duplicate reports.

Expert review: IC and Resolve staff with field experience review sensitive incidents immediately and review all incidents every three months. Should this staff member feel an incident was misreported, the incident is corrected and potentially unmapped. External LRA and regional experts are consulted as necessary.

4 Data Mapping & Sharing

Data mapping: After an incident is entered and approved to be mapped, it appears on the LRA Crisis Tracker website. Only incidents involving the LRA or persons formerly abducted by the LRA and given a Verification rating of '2' or higher are mapped.

Data sensitivity: Sensitive information such as specific sources, names, information on security forces, and personal information about minors is not shared publicly.

Data sharing: Data is regularly sent to UN agencies and humanitarian practitioners for comparison and collaboration.

5 Data Revamp

As the database grows and policies are updated to reflect best practices, data coders revisit and "revamp" the data when needed.

With the establishment of the HF Radio Network and expanded reporting mechanisms in the region, incident reporting has become more detailed and the database has been adapted to reflect this. Fields including information

LRA Crisis Tracker Methodology

on age and gender of victims, and goods looted have been added since the beginning of the database. Coders periodically revisit all incidents and reports to include the new details and fields.

6 Data Analysis & Reporting

Crisis Tracker staff analyze data for trends and patterns in LRA activity. For instance, coders look for trends in the age and gender of abducted persons, net recruitment (total abductions- total returnees), and increases in a certain type of attack. Coders also look for new traits and patterns in LRA activity.

Specific areas and provinces are also analyzed for increases or decreases in number and type of attack.

After analysis has been completed and reviewed, it is reported in various Crisis Tracker reports.

Definitions

Attack:
An incident is considered an "attack" in the Brief if LRA activity results in one of the following human rights violations: violence resulting in death or injury, sexual or gender based violence, abduction, looting, or displacement. For detailed definitions of these human rights abuses, please refer to section 4.5 of the LRA Crisis Tracker Map Methodology and Database Codebook v1.6.

Killing:
An incident is regarded as a "killing" if there is a violent act that results in the death of an individual who is not known to be associated with an armed group or security force. Civilian deaths resulting from injuries sustained from an attack are considered a "killing." Also, if a civilian is killed while in LRA captivity, it is considered a "killing" if it occurs within one week of the initial abduction. For a detailed explanation of incidents that are categorized as a "killing," please refer to section 4.5.1 of the LRA Crisis Tracker Map Methodology and Database Codebook v1.6.

Abduction:
An incident is regarded as an "abduction" if it involves one or more persons taken hostage against their will by the LRA for any period of time, including civilians who are abducted and released or escape in the same day. A short-term abduction is considered any abduction that is 72 hours or less in duration. This does not necessarily mean that abductions that are not short-term are long-term as there may not be a report of the abducted person's return. For a detailed explanation of incidents categorized as "abductions" or "short-term abductions," please refer to section 4.5.2 of the LRA Crisis Tracker Map Methodology and Database Codebook v1.6.

Returnees:
A "returnee" is considered anyone who escapes, is released, is rescued, or defects from LRA captivity. It also includes all LRA members who are captured. For a detailed explanation of data relating to returnees, please refer to section 4.5.2 of the LRA Crisis Tracker Map Methodology and Database Codebook v1.6.

About The LRA Crisis Tracker

The Resolve LRA Crisis Initiative

The Resolve LRA Crisis Initiative, formerly Resolve, is a Washington D.C.-based advocacy organization seeking to move US and international political leaders to take the actions needed to see a permanent end to the violence of the Lord's Resistance Army in central Africa and justice to LRA-affected communities. Learn more at theResolve.org.

Attn: The Resolve LRA Crisis Initiative
419 7th St. NW
Second Floor
Washington, DC 20002
USA
Phone: +1 (202) 596-2517
LRACrisisTracker@theResolve.org

Invisible Children

Invisible Children is an international NGO working to assist communities in LRA-affected areas of Central Africa by expanding community-based early warning systems, reaching out to potential LRA defectors and affected communities through FM radio, and rehabilitating formerly-abducted children. Learn more at invisiblechildren.com.

1600 National Ave
San Diego, CA 92113
USA
Phone: +1 (619) 562-2799
LRACrisisTracker@invisiblechildren.com

Further Resources

For a real-time, geospatial look at LRA activity, or to download the data found within the Security Brief please visit the LRA Crisis Tracker Map at: LRACrisisTracker.com.

About the LRA Crisis Tracker

Data reflected in this brief was collected as part of the Invisible Children + The Resolve LRA Crisis Initiative LRA Crisis Tracker, a geospatial database and reporting project which aims to track incidents of violent conflict in areas of Central Africa affected by the Lord's Resistance Army. Through publication of regular reports and open-source sharing of collected data, the LRA Crisis Tracker aims to help overcome the current deficit of relevant and timely information related to the LRA crisis and to support improved policy and humanitarian responses.

In the interest of continually strengthening the LRA Crisis Tracker dataset, The Resolve and Invisible Children welcome new sources of current or historical reports of LRA activity. To contribute information to the LRA Crisis Tracker project, please contact The Resolve at LRACrisisTracker@theResolve.org.

LRA Crisis Tracker Team

The Resolve LRA Crisis Initiative

Paul Ronan
Director of Policy

Michael Poffenberger
Executive Director

Kenneth Transier
Project Manager

Chelsea Geyer
Project Manager

Invisible Children

Adam Finck
International Programs Director

Sean Poole
Counter-LRA Programs Manager

Guillaume Cailleaux
Project Coordinator, CAR

Kimmy Vandivort
International Operations Manager

Melanie Zawadi
Operations Manager, Congo

Margaux Fitoussi
Project Officer, CAR

John Beaton
Crisis Tracker Project Developer

Maggie Leahy
Central Africa Programs Assistant

Saskia Rotshuizen
International Programs Intern