

## PYGMY CONTINGENCY REPORT – April 2022

(Way Alege)

Since 24 April **Shalom** and his Pygmy family can smile again. The separation on Monday 11 April was brutal.

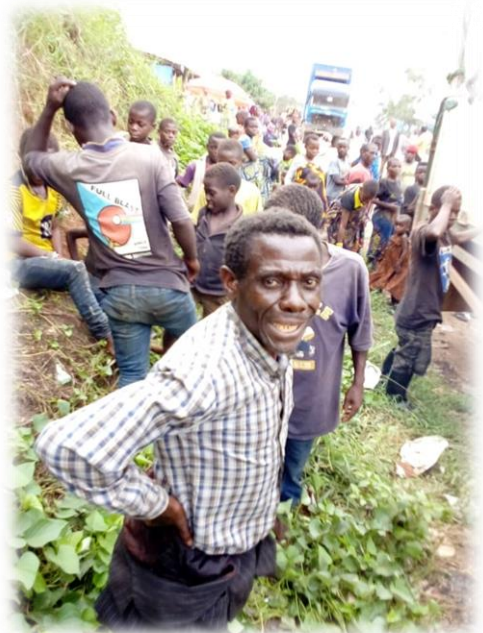


We did not know where the Pygmies took refuge under the fire exchange between the ADF rebels and the regular army.

After investigations, we were able to locate where the **Ataloholu Pygmies** had fled. Unfortunately, it was in the zone that is dangerous according to security officers.

The evacuation of teachers was successful.

However, concern about the Pygmies was depressing, mainly for Shalom. Following the above, we decided to undertake initiatives to evacuate the Pygmies from approximately 155km south of Bunia to Komanda, which is 75km from Bunia.



According to the firsthand information, below are the details of the evacuation from Ataloholu:

- Households: 22
- Total number of evacuated Pygmies: 129 (of whom more than 50% are children)
- Assassinated by the ADF rebels : 1
- Disappeared without notice : 3 (A mother and her 2 children)
- Death following sickness : 1 (child)
- Current state of the Pygmies :
  - Exhausted , hungry and thirsty
  - Coldness because of lack of firewood
  - Diarrhoea and generalized cough

Currently, the Pygmies are hosted in a school at **Komanda**. Our efforts to find a piece of land for purchase have not yet succeeded because the security agents have only allowed us to get land on the western side of Komanda centre, where it is secure. That is where land is expensive.

### We praise God for:

- His protection. The Pygmies crossed safely through villages that are taken by the ADF rebels
- The relief that both Pygmies and Shalom expressed when they met yesterday

### Keep praying for:

- Two Pygmy households who decided to remain behind
- The whereabouts of the Pygmy mother and her 2 children
- For land, water and food
- Pray for the health of both Pygmies and staff. The change of environment is affecting their health.
- Land acquisition. This will not only help for safety but for quickly growing vegetables to improve the health of children and breastfeeding mothers. The Pygmies cannot access the forest to collect wild vegetables which are very dangerous for their health.

**NB:** With the money we saved, we were able to pay the evacuation fee for both teachers and Pygmies, and to buy:

160kg of rice,  
75kg of beans,  
60 litres of palm oil,  
1 carton of soap,  
2 packets of salt, and  
25 tarps for shelter.

We also bought other food supplies for teachers:

120kg of rice,  
5Kg of beans,  
20 litres of palm oil,  
25kg of wheat flour.

