



# DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO – COMPLEX EMERGENCY

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) continues to face a multitude of humanitarian challenges resulting from armed militia group activity and associated displacement, lack of basic services, and endemic disease. The U.S. Government remains the second largest contributor to humanitarian programs in the DRC, focusing efforts on conflict-affected North Kivu, South Kivu, and Orientale provinces.
- The security situation continues to deteriorate in the eastern provinces of North Kivu and South Kivu due to fighting within the Armed Forces of the DRC (FARDC) and among various armed militia groups, resulting in new population displacement and decreased humanitarian access. DRC President Joseph Kabila deployed additional troops to North Kivu and South Kivu in early April after soldiers linked to former opposition force commander Bosco Ntaganda—a FARDC general—started defecting from their posts, according to international media. However, on April 12, Kabila suspended military operations in North Kivu and South Kivu due to the high number of army defectors. The International Criminal Court has issued an arrest warrant for Ntaganda for war crimes charges. As of April 11, between 3,000 and 5,000 Congolese refugees remained in the Kisoro area of western Uganda due to recent clashes between FARDC factions.
- The Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA)—a group of armed combatants moving between the Central African Republic (CAR), the DRC, and South Sudan—continues to affect populations in Orientale Province. Between February 24 and March 16, approximately 1,700 newly displaced people arrived in Dungu town after fleeing insecurity attributed to LRA combatants in the Faradje area of Haut-Uélé District in Orientale.
- USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) continues to assess and respond to humanitarian needs in the DRC. In FY 2012 to date, USAID/OFDA has committed more than \$9.2 million to support humanitarian coordination and information management, the provision of relief items, and life-saving health and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) interventions. FY 2012 funding complements the approximately \$19.8 million provided in FY 2011 for programs that remain ongoing. In addition, USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) has provided \$17.5 million to address emergency food needs among vulnerable populations in the DRC, including internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees, while the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) has provided more than \$19.9 million for protection, refugee return and reintegration, and IDP and refugee support activities.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		Source
Total IDPs in the DRC	~1.5 million	OCHA <sup>1</sup> – September 2011
In North Kivu Province	499,121	OCHA – January 2012
In South Kivu Province	444,404	OCHA – September 2011
In Orientale Province	471,058	OCHA – November 2011
In Katanga Province	55,247	OCHA – September 2011
In Equateur Province	25,776	OCHA – September 2011
Total DRC Refugees in Africa	419,618	UNHCR <sup>2</sup> – September 2011

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO THE DRC IN FY 2012 <sup>3</sup>	
USAID/OFDA Assistance to the DRC	\$9,257,501
USAID/FFP Assistance to the DRC	\$17,500,000
State/PRM Assistance to the DRC	\$19,902,115
<b>Total USAID and State Assistance to the DRC</b>	<b>\$46,659,616</b>

<sup>1</sup> U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

<sup>2</sup> Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

<sup>3</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

## **Context**

- Since the implementation of a peace agreement in 2003, and nationwide elections in 2006, ongoing fighting between forces loyal to the Kinshasa government and various armed groups—including the Allied Democratic Forces-National Army for the Liberation of Uganda, Mai Mai combatants, and the Rwandan rebels of the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR)—has contributed to high levels of insecurity and continued population displacement in North Kivu and South Kivu provinces. The LRA—having increased activity significantly in the DRC since 2008—continues to impact populations in Orientale Province.
- Disputed results of the November 28, 2011, presidential election led to scattered protests in several parts of the DRC in December 2011 and early January 2012. Clashes between demonstrators and security forces—primarily in Kinshasa and eastern provinces—resulted in at least 18 deaths and more than 100 injuries, according to international media.
- Restricted humanitarian access, poor infrastructure, forced child recruitment into armed groups, violence, and reduced access to agricultural land and traditional markets have contributed to the deterioration of humanitarian conditions in the DRC.
- In response to ongoing humanitarian needs, on October 12, 2011, U.S. Ambassador James F. Entwistle reissued a disaster declaration for the complex emergency in the DRC for FY 2012.

## **Displacement, Insecurity, and Humanitarian Access – North Kivu Province**

- As of January 25, approximately 499,000 people remained displaced in North Kivu Province, according to OCHA. While the figure marks a 15 percent decrease from the more than 570,000 people who remained displaced in September 2011, the reduction is partly due to more recent and accurate data collection on population movements. OCHA also reported that between August 2010 and January 2012, more than 182,000 people returned to areas of origin in North Kivu.
- On April 4, two staff of non-governmental organization (NGO) Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) were kidnapped in the Nyanzale area of Masisi District in North Kivu, causing MSF to temporarily suspend operations in the area pending reassessment of the operational environment. The staff were released the same day.
- In Masisi District, which hosts nearly 37 percent of IDPs in North Kivu, people continue to flee clashes among the FARDC, the FDLR, and local armed combatants, according to OCHA. In addition, fighting between pastoralists and farmers continues in the Kaniro and Lokupfo areas of Masisi. As of the end of February, pastoralists—with support from the FARDC—had chased farmers from their land in Lokupfo, and fighting continued in southern parts of the territory. However, in Kaniro, local reconciliation committees had resolved some land disputes.
- Fighting between the FDLR and local armed combatants displaced 967 families—approximately 4,800 people—within Walikale District between March 10 and 14, according to OCHA. As of April 3, IDP figures remained unconfirmed. OCHA reports that localized conflict displaced more than 1,200 households in Walikale in February.
- Beni District has experienced a surge in attacks by combatants affiliated with Mai Mai opposition groups, with the Ecumenical Front for the Liberation of the Congo launching offensives on FARDC installations in the vicinity of Beni town in mid-February. The attacks caused populations in certain areas of Beni to seek refuge in surrounding neighborhoods.
- In April 2012, USAID/OFDA awarded new funding to Handicap International-US (HI-US) to manage a logistics platform that enables relief agencies working in North Kivu to quickly access and distribute relief items to IDPs and other populations facing emergency needs. In total, USAID/OFDA supports 12 grantees to implement agriculture and food security, economic recovery and market systems, health, logistics and relief commodities, nutrition, protection, and WASH programs in the province.

## **Displacement, Insecurity, and Humanitarian Access – South Kivu Province**

- As of April 4, fighting between Mai Mai opposition forces and the FARDC had displaced an estimated 45,000 people in southeastern Shabunda Territory in South Kivu Province, with the majority of IDPs hiding in nearby forests, according to OCHA. A humanitarian mission planned to travel to the affected area to assess the extent of damage and identify emergency needs. Approximately 50,000 people returned to Shabunda following the redeployment of the FARDC to the area in November 2011. UNHCR continues to work with FARDC leadership to improve the protection of civilians.
- On March 25, suspected members of the FDLR launched a nighttime attack on three communities in Kabare Territory, Shabunda Province, looting approximately 80 homes and abducting 23 people, according to humanitarian sources on the ground. As of March 27, the number of people injured in the attacks remained unknown. Earlier in

March, relief agencies distributed food rations to more than 3,800 families who fled to Kabare in late 2011 and early 2012, as well to more than 2,200 host families in the area, according to OCHA.

- USAID/OFDA currently supports three grantees to implement multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance programs in South Kivu. For example, in Shabunda Territory, USAID/OFDA supports IMA World Health to train 240 local health workers in 108 health facilities on sexual- and gender-based violence (SGBV) treatment protocols, and to provide technical assistance for an improved health information management system. In Shabunda, USAID/OFDA is working closely with USAID/DRC, which is concurrently supporting IMA World Health to rehabilitate the health facilities.

### **Displacement, Insecurity, and Humanitarian Access – Orientale Province**

- The humanitarian community remains concerned about the deteriorating security situation in Irumu Territory, Ituri District, Orientale Province, according to OCHA. Armed insurgents gained control of much of the territory in February following the departure of the FARDC, significantly decreasing humanitarian space and increasing protection risks for populations receiving aid.
- LRA attacks, which include the abduction of women and children, continue to displace populations in Orientale. The LRA staged 229 recorded attacks in the DRC in 2011, resulting in 96 deaths and 204 abductions, according to the U.N. The majority of attacks occurred in Dungu Territory.
- In January 2012, the U.N. reported that approximately 347,000 people remained displaced in the DRC due to LRA-related insecurity—an increase of approximately 55,000 IDPs compared to 2010. In addition, the DRC hosted an estimated 5,800 refugees from CAR and South Sudan who fled LRA-related violence in 2011.
- USAID/OFDA recently extended support to Medair to provide life-saving health care services to conflict-affected populations in Irumu Territory, including IDPs. In addition to expanding treatment of communicable and infectious disease, Medair is increasing access to reproductive health care, including by providing clean delivery kits. Medair is also bolstering the disease surveillance capacity of local health facilities.

### **Health, WASH, and Protection**

- Cholera remains a major humanitarian concern in the DRC, with the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) registering more than 8,100 new cases between January 1 and March 27. The figure represents 40 percent of all cases recorded in 2011. The majority of cholera cases continues to surface in eastern DRC, where cholera is endemic. Lack of access to safe drinking water and poor hygiene practices are the main causes of disease spread. As of March 27, South Kivu remained the most affected province, with approximately 2,000 recorded cases and 14 deaths, according to WHO.
- WHO and health-focused relief agencies—including USAID/OFDA partners in their areas of operation—continue to support the Government of the DRC (GoDRC) Ministry of Health to respond to cholera through a multi-sectoral approach that treats cholera cases while working to decrease the risk of disease spread by increasing access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities and teaching communities how to prevent, recognize, and seek treatment for cholera.
- USAID/OFDA continues to support local health facilities, particularly in areas of high displacement, to provide basic health services and treat communicable and infectious disease, such as cholera, malaria, and tuberculosis. USAID/OFDA also integrates SGBV prevention and response in its programs, particularly in the health sector. For example, Merlin treats the medical and psychosocial effects of SGBV in its USAID/OFDA-supported health clinics in North Kivu Province. Merlin also sensitizes the community about the deleterious effects of SGBV and provides training on the GoDRC's sexual violence law. In FY 2011 and FY 2012 combined, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$13.6 million for health programs and approximately \$2.2 million for protection programs in the DRC.
- In the WASH sector, USAID/OFDA reduces disease spread by supporting the construction and rehabilitation of water points and sanitation facilities, particularly for IDPs. USAID/OFDA grantees also relay hygiene messages, such as the importance of hand-washing, and organize community cleaning days to improve environmental health. In FY 2011 and FY 2012 combined, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$1.9 million for WASH activities countrywide.

### **Food Security and Livelihoods**

- Harvesting of cereal crops is underway in central and southern regions of the DRC following the October–March rainy season, according to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization's Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS). In northern DRC, planting commenced in February with the onset of the long February–September rainy season; however, as of mid-March, rainfall levels remained below-normal.

- Insecurity continues to restrict access to land, limiting households' productive capacity. Moreover, populations displaced by conflict are unable to plant, having left agricultural inputs such as seeds and tools in their areas of origin. In mid-March, GIEWS reported that high food prices, particularly in central and northeastern regions of the DRC, had exacerbated the food security situation for poorer households. In Orientale Province, for example, approximately 3 million people were assessed to be food insecure, including an estimated 720,000 severely food insecure individuals.
- USAID/OFDA continues to promote sustainable agricultural production throughout conflict-affected areas of eastern DRC where possible, including through the distribution of tools and improved seeds, resulting in an increased and more varied food supply. Complementary livelihoods projects aim to increase access to markets, such as cash-for-work initiatives that temporarily employ people to build and improve rural roads. In addition, programs promoting activities such as fishing are diversifying income-generating activities for households that typically rely exclusively on farming, while more specialized training is teaching farmers to safeguard crops against harmful pests and diseases, such as banana wilt disease. In FY 2011, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$11.7 million for agriculture and food security and livelihoods programs countrywide.
- In FY 2012, USAID/FFP has provided more than 7,100 metric tons (MT) of Title II, in-kind emergency food assistance benefiting more than 3.3 million conflict-affected individuals countrywide, including approximately 212,000 LRA-affected people in Orientale. USAID/FFP also supports the local and regional purchase of food and food voucher programs, which aim to improve the functioning of local markets while ensuring that vulnerable households maintain adequate access to food.

#### **Other Humanitarian Assistance**

- The European Commission's Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO), Japan, Spain, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, and the U.N. Central Emergency Response Fund—in addition to USAID/OFDA—continue to support the Rapid Response to Population Movements (RRMP) mechanism. Co-led by OCHA and the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), the RRMP enables humanitarian organizations to quickly assess needs following population movements related to conflict and natural disasters and respond using relief items that are pre-positioned throughout the country.

**USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE DRC PROVIDED IN FY 2012<sup>1</sup>**

<b>Implementing Partner</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>			
HI-US	Logistics and Relief Commodities	North Kivu	\$1,400,000
International Medical Corps (IMC)	Health	North Kivu	\$2,296,692
Medair	Health	Orientale	\$1,371,231
UNICEF	Health, Logistics and Relief Commodities, WASH	Eastern DRC	\$2,000,000
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
U.N. World Food Program (WFP)	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Eastern DRC	\$1,000,000
	Program Support		\$189,578
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA</b>			<b>\$9,257,501</b>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE</b>			
WFP	1,220 MT of Title II commodities to support 212,000 vulnerable individuals in Orientale Province	Orientale	\$2,500,000
WFP	2,437 MT of locally and regionally procured emergency food assistance, as well as food vouchers for emergency operations	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
WFP	5,960 MT of Title II commodities to help reduce hunger and poverty among 3.1 million conflict-affected people	Countrywide	\$10,000,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP</b>			<b>\$17,500,000</b>
<b>STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE</b>			
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	Protection	Equateur, Katanga, North Kivu, Orientale, and South Kivu	\$10,200,000
Search for Common Ground (SFCG)	Protection, SGBV, Refugee Return and Reintegration	South Kivu	\$300,000
Women for Women International	Protection, SGBV, Refugee Return and Reintegration	South Kivu	\$402,115
UNHCR	Protection, Refugee Return and Reintegration, IDP and Refugee Support	Equateur, Katanga, North Kivu, Orientale, and South Kivu	\$9,000,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM</b>			<b>\$19,902,115</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE DRC IN FY 2012</b>			<b>\$46,659,616</b>

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

<sup>2</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of April 13, 2012.

<sup>3</sup> Estimated value of food assistance.

**PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION**

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. Information on organizations responding to the humanitarian situation in the DRC may be available at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int).
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:  
The Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org) or +1.202.821.1999.  
Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int).