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**BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

Democratic Republic of the Congo – Complex Emergency

Fact Sheet #14, Fiscal Year (FY) 2009

April 2, 2009

Note: The last fact sheet was dated March 18, 2009.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On March 23, international media and U.N. sources reported that Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and National Congress for the Defense of the People (CNDP) representatives signed a peace accord stipulating the transformation of the CNDP to a political party. The arrest of former CNDP leader General Laurant Nkunda on January 22 and subsequent shift in CNDP leadership has facilitated accelerated negotiations in recent months.
- Between October 31 and March 6, USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID/DART) staff based in Goma responded to increased humanitarian needs resulting from an escalation of violence in North Kivu Province in late August 2008. Humanitarian agencies note the conclusion of the acute phase of the emergency, relative security improvements, and indications of the potential for improved stability in North Kivu. Permanent in-country USAID/OFDA staff continue to closely monitor conditions in North Kivu and Orientale provinces.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	SOURCE	
North Kivu IDPs¹ since August 2008	300,000	OCHA ² – January 2009
Total North Kivu IDPs	841,648	UNHCR ³ – March 2009
Orientale IDPs since September 2008	188,000	UNHCR – March 2009
Congolese Refugees since August 2008	63,000	UNHCR – March 2009
Total Congolese Refugees	340,000	UNHCR – December 2008

FY 2009 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Assistance to DRC.....	\$13,554,623
USAID/FFP⁴ Assistance to DRC.....	\$51,455,600
State/PRM⁵ Assistance to DRC.....	\$18,148,622
Total USAID and State Assistance to DRC.....	\$83,158,845

CURRENT SITUATION

- Ongoing stabilization of security has facilitated increased returns in recent weeks, particularly to former CNDP-controlled areas, while sporadic violence has resulted in localized displacement in other areas. On March 25, OCHA reported the return of approximately 300,000 individuals displaced since the escalation of violence in late August 2008, as well as limited numbers of longer-term IDPs. However, OCHA also noted that Democratic Liberation Forces of Rwanda (FDLR)-associated violence displaced approximately 250,000 people since January 20.
- Despite an overall improved security environment, UNHCR has noted impeded humanitarian access and restricted civilian population movement in recent days as a result of armed group presence in areas of North Kivu Province, including Pinga village, Walikale Territory, and Kirumba, Kayna, and Kanyabonga villages, Lubero Territory.
- Insufficient Armed Forces of the DRC (FARDC) presence has impeded efforts to further improve security and civilian protection mechanisms in areas of North Kivu Province, according to OCHA. In response, the Government of the DRC has deployed approximately 300 military police to support FARDC troops in Rutshuru, Nyamilima, and Kinyandoni towns, Rutshuru Territory, and Masisi, Sake, Kibabi, and Matanda towns, Masisi Territory.
- Sporadic Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) violence continues to result in new population displacement in Orientale Province. As of March 24, an estimated 105,000 conflict-affected individuals in Haut-Uélé District required urgent humanitarian assistance, according to UNHCR.

¹ Internally displaced persons (IDPs)

² U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

³ Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

⁴ USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

⁵ U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

Displacement and Security in North Kivu Province

- In recent months, U.N. agencies have identified joint Congolese–Rwandan operations conducted between January 20 and February 25 to disband the FDLR and ongoing FDLR violence as the most significant destabilizing factors in North Kivu Province. Since the conclusion of joint operations, local authorities have noted an increase in FDLR violence against civilian populations.
- OCHA noted the displacement of approximately 30,000 individuals in Lubero Territory during the weeks of March 9 and 16, as well as small-scale displacement in Masisi, Walikale, and Rutshuru territories. However, the returns process continues to accelerate in some areas of Masisi and Rutshuru territories.
- In FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$2.9 million to International Medical Corps (IMC) for emergency humanitarian assistance to IDPs and host communities in North Kivu Province, including health, nutrition, protection, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) interventions.

Humanitarian Access in North Kivu Province

- Poor infrastructure, targeted attacks on humanitarian staff, and insecurity associated with the presence of armed groups continue to impede the delivery of emergency relief commodities to conflict-affected populations in North Kivu Province.
- According to OCHA, an increase in targeted attacks on humanitarian staff since the beginning of February has resulted in the periodic suspension of some non-governmental organization (NGO) activities. On March 25, OCHA reported restricted humanitarian access along the Nyamitaba–Muheto and Kitchanga–Mweso axes, as well as in Kitchanga zone, Masisi Territory, and Pinga zone, Walikale Territory.
- During February, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) provided emergency food and nutrition assistance to approximately 1 million beneficiaries in eastern DRC. However, insecurity and logistical constraints prevented WFP from reaching the entire planned monthly caseload of nearly 1.5 million people.
- In FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided \$2 million to the U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF) rapid response mechanism for logistical support and the provision of emergency relief commodities to conflict-affected persons, including beneficiaries in North Kivu Province.

Humanitarian Conditions in Orientale Province

- Insecurity resulting from ongoing LRA attacks, as well as poor infrastructure and logistical constraints continue to impede emergency relief commodity delivery to conflict-affected populations in Orientale Province, particularly to IDPs in Doruma, Niangara, Ngilima, and Faradje towns, Haut-Uélé District.
- On March 26, UNHCR cancelled a scheduled convoy transporting 22 tons of emergency relief commodities to Faradje town following reports of LRA attacks on Tadu, Munia, and Sururu villages, approximately 80 km south of Faradje.
- On March 18, UNICEF reported that approximately 30,000 displaced individuals residing in Niangara and 22,000 IDPs residing in Ngilima remained in urgent need of emergency relief commodities. In addition, a March 14 and 15 LRA attack on Banda village, Bas-Uélé District, resulted in 11,000 newly displaced individuals in need of assistance, according to UNHCR.
- Despite access constraints, UNICEF reported the distribution of 25 tons of emergency relief commodities to 3,000 displaced families in Doruma on March 16.
- In FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided \$800,000 to UNICEF for child protection activities in Dungu Territory, Orientale Province, including the establishment of community protection mechanisms, services for victims of sexual and gender-based violence, and registration and reunification of separated families.

U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- On October 15, 2008, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires Samuel V. Brock redeclared a disaster in response to the ongoing humanitarian emergency in DRC.
- To date in FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$13.5 million in humanitarian assistance to DRC, primarily targeting beneficiaries in North Kivu and South Kivu provinces, as well as Orientale Province. USAID/OFDA is supporting programs in nutrition, health, agriculture and food security, economy and market systems, protection, and WASH, as well as the provision of relief supplies and logistical support. In addition to the USAID/DART mobilized from October 31 to March 6, USAID/OFDA maintains two permanent program officers in DRC.
- To date in FY 2009, USAID/FFP has provided more than \$51.4 million to meet the emergency food needs of conflict-affected persons throughout eastern DRC. USAID/FFP assistance includes 33,820 metric tons (MT) of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance and funding for administrative support.
- State/PRM has provided more than \$18.1 million to UNHCR and NGO partners for repatriation and reintegration programs benefiting returning refugees, IDPs, and host communities to date in FY 2009.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DRC IN FY 2009

FY 2009			
Implementing Partner	Activity	Location	Amount
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
German Agro Action (GAA)	Agriculture and Food Security, Economy and Market Systems, and Logistics and Relief Commodities	North Kivu Province	\$1,700,242
Handicap International	Economy and Market Systems	South Kivu Province	\$192,404
IMC	Health, Nutrition, Protection, and WASH	North Kivu Province	\$2,882,567
Mercy Corps	WASH	North Kivu Province	\$1,112,272
Merlin	Health, Nutrition, Protection, and WASH	North Kivu Province	\$1,780,849
Samaritan's Purse	Logistics and Relief Commodities and WASH	North Kivu and Orientale Provinces	\$546,360
UNICEF	Logistics and Relief Commodities	North Kivu and Orientale Provinces	\$3,867,651
UNICEF	Protection	Orientale Province	\$800,000
	Program Support Costs	Countrywide	\$672,278
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$13,554,623
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
WFP	33,820 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Katanga, North Kivu, South Kivu, Orientale, Maniema, and Equateur Provinces	\$51,455,600
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$51,455,600
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$4,500,000
Search For Common Ground	Refugee Reintegration, Humanitarian Coordination, and Information Management	South Kivu and Katanga Provinces	\$249,995
Tearfund	Refugee Reintegration and Education	South Kivu Province	\$998,627
UNHCR	IDP Assistance and Refugee Assistance	Countrywide	\$12,400,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$18,148,622
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DRC IN FY 2009			\$65,010,223
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DRC IN FY 2009			\$83,158,845

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of April 2, 2009.

² 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.
- 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, warehouse space, etc.); 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:
 - USAID: www.usaid.gov – Keyword: Donations
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or (703) 276-1914
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID web site at http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/