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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 #11, Fiscal Year (FY) 2009

February 18, 2009

*Note: The last fact sheet was dated February 4, 2009.*

### **KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

- On February 16, international media sources reported that the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) had extended the mandate for Ugandan military presence in DRC until the end of February. However, at this time any additional extension for Ugandan forces has been denied by the Government of DRC. On December 14, DRC, Uganda, and Sudan launched a joint military operation to disband the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) in Orientale Province in response to LRA leader Joseph Kony’s failure to sign the latest negotiated peace agreement.
- Following a two-day conference between DRC and Rwandan foreign ministers on February 5 and 6, the Government of Rwanda agreed to extradite former National Congress of the Defense of the People (CNDP) leader General Laurent Nkunda to DRC for trial, according to international media reports. However, government officials have yet to announce specific dates or details. Rwanda Defense Forces (RDF) troops had previously arrested Nkunda on January 22.
- On February 7, U.N. Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and U.N. Emergency Relief Coordinator John Holmes met with humanitarian representatives in Goma, North Kivu Province, during a three-day visit to eastern DRC. Holmes underscored the need for all parties in the conflict to take responsibility for civilian protection.
- USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID/DART) staff based in Goma continue to facilitate coordination and information sharing among U.N. and relief agencies, monitor population movements, assess humanitarian conditions, and work with implementing partners to address the needs of conflict-affected populations.

<b>NUMBERS AT A GLANCE</b>	<b>SOURCE</b>	
<b>North Kivu IDPs<sup>1</sup> since August 2008</b>	300,000	OCHA <sup>2</sup> – January 2009
<b>Total North Kivu IDPs</b>	809,559	OCHA – January 2008
<b>Orientale Province IDPs since September 2008</b>	150,000	UNHCR <sup>3</sup> – January 2009
<b>Congolese Refugees since August 2008</b>	30,000	UNHCR – December 2008
<b>Total Congolese Refugees</b>	340,000	UNHCR – December 2008

### **FY 2009 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE**

<b>USAID/OFDA Assistance to DRC.....</b>	<b>\$13,469,123</b>
<b>USAID/FFP<sup>4</sup> Assistance to DRC .....</b>	<b>\$50,372,200</b>
<b>State/PRM<sup>5</sup> Assistance to DRC .....</b>	<b>\$12,649,995</b>
<b>Total USAID and State Assistance to DRC .....</b>	<b>\$76,491,318</b>

### **CURRENT SITUATION**

- USAID/DART staff note significant IDP returns to areas of origin in formerly CNDP-controlled areas of southern Rutshuru Territory in North Kivu Province. However, fear of potential clashes between joint Armed Forces of the DRC (FARDC) and RDF troops and Democratic Liberation Forces of Rwanda (FDLR) combatants continues to cause new population displacement in areas of Masisi and Walikale territories.
- Between February 3 and 9, the U.N. Mission in the DRC (MONUC) deployed five U.N. Joint Protection Teams to North Kivu Province to reinforce the MONUC mandate and enhance civilian protection, including Nyabiondo, Masisi Territory; Pinga and Walikale, Walikale Territory; Kanyabayonga, Lubero Territory; and Nyamalina, Rutshuru Territory.
- In Orientale Province, sporadic LRA attacks and fear of additional violence continue to cause insecurity and restrict access to conflict-affected populations, according to USAID/DART staff.

<sup>1</sup> Internally displaced persons (IDPs)

<sup>2</sup> U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

<sup>3</sup> Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

<sup>4</sup> USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

### ***Displacement***

- On January 29, OCHA released IDP estimates for North Kivu Province indicating that nearly 810,000 individuals remained displaced, including 230,000 IDPs in Masisi Territory, 220,000 people in Lubero Territory, and 175,000 IDPs in Rutshuru Territory. Assessments by U.N. and USAID/DART staff indicate the return of some displaced persons to areas of origin in recent weeks, while others remain displaced due to the uncertain security environment.
- On February 12, USAID/DART staff visited Mugunga I IDP camp, located near Goma. According to the USAID/DART, IDP levels in the camp remained constant with an estimated population of 28,000 IDPs, predominantly from Masisi Territory. OCHA noted declining IDP populations in Goma public sites with approximately 12,300 individuals remaining as of February 8, representing less than half of the IDP population at the peak of displacement.
- On February 11, USAID/DART staff traveled to Rutshuru Territory and observed significant population returns throughout towns and villages along the main road in formerly CNDP-controlled areas from Goma to Rutshuru, including Kibumba, Rugari, Rubare, Kalengera, Rutshuru, and Kiwanja. At the spontaneous IDP site adjacent to the MONUC camp at Kiwanja, Rutshuru Territory, IDP representatives indicated to USAID/DART staff that only approximately 2,000 of more than 4,000 original IDP families displaced since October 2008 remained at the camp.
- Fear of potential clashes between RDF forces and FDLR troops has resulted in the displacement of approximately 4,200 individuals to Masisi Town, Masisi Territory, between late January and early February, according to OCHA.
- In FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$1.8 million to Merlin for emergency humanitarian assistance to conflict-affected IDPs and host communities in North Kivu Province.

### ***Humanitarian Assistance***

- OCHA representatives report contingency plan preparations for both North Kivu and South Kivu provinces to address humanitarian needs through June 2009. OCHA has revised previous North Kivu plans to address a potential resurgence in violence and an associated increase in the number of IDPs, as well as a possible increase in security in some areas and an escalation in the return process. In addition, the plan addresses the humanitarian impact of a potential escalation of FARDC and RDF operations against FDLR forces in South Kivu Province.
- Emergency food and relief commodity distributions resumed in Kibati IDP camp during the week of February 1. FARDC forces previously suspended distributions by humanitarian agencies on January 21 and 22 to facilitate the deployment of RDF troops.
- Early in FY 2009, USAID/OFDA provided \$2 million to the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) Rapid Response Mechanism to reinforce response capacity in DRC, including North Kivu Province.

### ***Humanitarian Conditions in Orientale Province***

- Small-scale LRA attacks continue to result in new population displacement and insecurity and impede the provision of relief commodities to vulnerable populations. According to revised UNHCR estimates, LRA violence displaced approximately 150,000 people in Haut-Uélé District between September 2008 and February 13, 2009.
- According to UNHCR, a February 7 LRA attack on Aba town resulted in six deaths and displaced approximately 90,000 of the total 100,000 residents. Approximately 5,000 displaced individuals from Aba have arrived in Southern Sudan in recent days, according to local authorities.
- On February 10, the DRC U.N. Pool Fund announced the approval of a \$20 million emergency operation package to address humanitarian needs in Haut-Uélé District, including \$16 million for logistics and \$4 million for food assistance.
- USAID/OFDA has approved \$800,000 for 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 (USG) 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 the DRC.
- In FY 2008 and to date in FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$31.7 million in humanitarian assistance to the DRC, primarily targeting beneficiaries in North Kivu and South Kivu provinces. At present, USAID/OFDA is supporting programs in nutrition, health, agriculture, food security, economy and market systems, protection, shelter and settlements, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), as well as the provision of relief supplies and logistical support.
- USAID/OFDA maintains two permanent program officers in DRC in addition to USAID/DART staff based in Goma.
- In FY 2008 and to date in FY 2009, USAID/FFP has provided more than \$121 million to meet the food needs of conflict-affected persons throughout eastern DRC. Assistance includes 76,760 metric tons (MT) of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance and funding for administrative support.

- State/PRM has provided more than \$46.6 million to UNHCR, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP), and non-governmental organization partners for protection assistance and repatriation and reintegration programs benefiting returning refugees, IDPs, and host communities in FY 2008 and to date in FY 2009.

### USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DRC IN FY 2009

<b>FY 2009</b>			
<b>Implementing Partner</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>			
GAA	Agriculture and Food Security, Economy and Market Systems, Logistics and Relief Commodities	North Kivu Province	\$1,700,242
Handicap International	Economy and Market Systems	South Kivu Province	\$192,404
International Medical Corps (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 (SP)	Logistics and Relief Commodities, WASH	North Kivu Province, Orientale Province	\$546,360
UNICEF	Logistics and Relief Commodities, Protection	North Kivu Province, Orientale Province	\$3,867,651
UNICEF	Protection	Orientale Province	\$800,000
	Program Support Costs	Countrywide	\$586,778
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA</b>			<b>\$13,469,123</b>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE<sup>2</sup></b>			
WFP	33,820 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Katanga, North Kivu, South Kivu, Orientale, Maniema, and Equateur Provinces	\$50,372,200
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP</b>			<b>\$50,372,200</b>
<b>STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE</b>			
Search For Common Ground	Refugee Assistance	South Kivu and Katanga Provinces	\$249,995
UNHCR	IDP Assistance, Refugee Assistance	Countrywide	\$12,400,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM</b>			<b>\$12,649,995</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DRC IN FY 2009</b>			<b>\$63,841,323</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DRC IN FY 2009</b>			<b>\$76,491,318</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of February 18, 2009.

<sup>2</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, 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](http://www.usaid.gov) – Keyword: Donations
  - The Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org) or (703) 276-1914
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)