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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 #10, Fiscal Year (FY) 2009

February 4, 2009

Note: The last fact sheet was dated January 23, 2009.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Between January 20 and 24, approximately 5,000 Rwanda Defense Forces (RDF) troops entered the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) as part of a joint Congolese–Rwandan military operation to disband the Democratic Liberation Forces of Rwanda (FDLR), according to the U.N. Mission in the DRC (MONUC).
- Between February 1 and 3, U.N. mediators consulted with government officials during the African Union Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to determine the future of U.N.-mediated talks between Government of DRC and National Congress of the Defense of the People (CNDP) representatives. Significant developments, including the arrest of General Laurent Nkunda and the signing of a peace agreement with General Bosco Ntaganda, have postponed negotiations that were scheduled to resume on January 25. However, the U.N. has reaffirmed the appointment of former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo as the U.N. Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region, including the DRC.
- 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.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	SOURCE	
North Kivu IDPs ¹ since August 2008	300,000	OCHA ² – January 2009
Total North Kivu IDPs	1,000,000	OCHA – November 2008
Oriental Province IDPs since September 2008	130,000	UNHCR ³ – January 2009
Congolese Refugees since August 2008	30,000	UNHCR – December 2008
Total Congolese Refugees	340,000	UNHCR – December 2008

FY 2009 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Assistance to DRC.....	\$13,301,123
USAID/FFP ⁴ Assistance to DRC	\$48,092,000
State/PRM ⁵ Assistance to DRC	\$4,000,000
Total USAID and State Assistance to DRC	\$65,393,123

CURRENT SITUATION

- The launch of joint RDF and Armed Forces of the DRC (FARDC) operations against FDLR forces in North Kivu and South Kivu provinces on January 20 has contributed to ongoing insecurity and small-scale displacement, according to USAID/DART staff.
- MONUC continues to advocate for participation in the planning and coordination of the joint Congolese–Rwandan military operation. In the coming days, MONUC is planning to deploy troops to 11 locations in North Kivu to provide civilian protection and monitor humanitarian conditions.
- The pervasive presence of Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) forces in Orientale Province continues to create insecurity and hinder the provision of relief commodities, according to USAID/DART staff. On January 21, OCHA reported that LRA violence had displaced more than 130,000 people since September 17.

Displacement

- The joint Congolese–Rwandan military operation against FDLR forces has resulted in new displacement in North Kivu and South Kivu provinces. According to UNHCR, approximately 5,000 people fled Makobola, South Kivu

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)

Province, following the establishment of a roadblock on January 29 by Mai-Mai soldiers opposing the joint offensive.

- Fear of potential clashes between joint Congolese–Rwandan forces and the FDLR resulted in an estimated 1,300 Congolese refugees crossing the border to Uganda between January 26 and 30, according to UNHCR. In addition, UNHCR reported that approximately 40,000 Congolese refugees have entered Uganda since the escalation of violence in August 2008, including approximately 4,500 people during the month of January.
- Humanitarian partners have expressed concern regarding increasingly restricted access to vulnerable populations due to U.N. security advisories against travel to areas potentially affected by military operations and the possibility of further displacement as Congolese–Rwandan military operations continue.
- In FY 2008 and to date in FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$5.7 million to International Medical Corps (IMC) for emergency humanitarian assistance to IDPs and host communities in North Kivu Province.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

- According to the U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF), 358 confirmed cholera cases resulted in four deaths between January 4 and 24 in North Kivu Province. However, as a result of enhanced WASH interventions in recent months, reported cholera cases continue to decline.
- USAID/OFDA implementing partner Mercy Corps continues to support the construction of sanitation facilities and provision of safe drinking water to displaced persons residing in 10 IDP camps in Goma, North Kivu Province. In FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$1.1 million to Mercy Corps for emergency WASH interventions.
- On February 3, USAID/OFDA committed more than \$1 million to implementing partner Merlin for WASH programs targeting more than 83,000 conflict-affected beneficiaries in Lubero Territory, North Kivu Province.

Humanitarian Conditions in Orientale Province

- Sporadic LRA attacks in Orientale Province continue to contribute to insecurity and protection concerns, result in widespread displacement, and impede the provision of emergency relief commodities to vulnerable populations.
- According to OCHA, LRA violence has displaced more than 130,000 people in Haut-Uélé District, including more than 104,000 in Dungu Territory, since the escalation of violence in September 2008. OCHA reported that LRA attacks in Haut-Uélé District between January 1 and 20 resulted in approximately 269 deaths, including an estimated 100 deaths in Tora Village, Watsa Territory, on January 16.
- During a January 26 Dungu Territory assessment, USAID/DART staff reported that potential LRA attacks and FARDC presence in Dungu Town have contributed to ongoing insecurity.
- On January 27, USAID/DART staff reported that approximately 17,000 IDPs resided in Doruma, Dungu Territory. USAID/DART staff identified food and non-food items as priority humanitarian needs but noted that insecurity and poor infrastructure continue to impede delivery of relief commodities. In addition, USAID/DART staff reported that LRA presence has prevented Doruma residents and IDPs from accessing agricultural fields, further exacerbating food insecurity.
- USAID/DART staff indicate that food security will likely deteriorate in the coming weeks in Dungu and Doruma towns as residents and armed groups deplete food stores. USAID/DART staff plan to work with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and U.N. agencies to develop a strategy to improve access and facilitate the distribution of relief commodities to affected populations.
- On February 2, USAID/OFDA committed more than \$500,000 to Samaritan’s Purse for WASH interventions and the provision of relief commodities in Dungu Territory.

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 nearly \$31.6 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 WASH interventions, as well as the provision of relief supplies and logistical support.
- USAID/OFDA maintains two permanent program officers in the 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 \$119 million to meet the food needs of conflict-affected persons throughout eastern DRC. Assistance includes 83,060 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance and funding for administrative support. In addition, USAID/FFP maintains a permanent USAID/FFP officer in the DRC responsible for monitoring food security-related activities.
- State/PRM has provided nearly \$38 million to UNHCR, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP), and NGO partners for protection and 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

FY 2009			
<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
German Agro Action (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
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
SP	Logistics and Relief Commodities, WASH	North Kivu Province, Orientale Province	\$546,360
UNICEF	Logistics and Relief Commodities, Protection	North Kivu Province, Orientale Province	\$4,667,651
	Administrative Support	Countrywide	\$418,778
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$13,301,123
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	\$48,092,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$48,092,000
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
UNHCR	IDP Assistance, Refugee Assistance	Countrywide	\$4,000,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$4,000,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DRC IN FY 2009			\$61,393,123
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DRC IN FY 2009			\$65,393,123

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of February 4, 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/