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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 #9, Fiscal Year (FY) 2009

January 23, 2009

Note: The last fact sheet was dated January 7, 2009.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On January 22, Rwandan forces arrested National Congress of the Defense of the People’s (CNDP) leader General Laurent Nkunda as part of a joint Congolese–Rwandan military operation launched on January 20, according to international media reports. An outstanding international arrest warrant for General Nkunda issued by the Government of DRC (GDRC) had been in place since September 2005.
- Since early January, conflicting reports regarding a potential split within CNDP leadership between General Nkunda and chief-of-staff General Bosco Ntaganda have undermined peace efforts between CNDP and GDRC officials, including U.N.-mediated talks in Nairobi, Kenya, and the January 16 signing of a peace agreement by General Ntaganda with the GDRC.
- On January 20 and 21, up to 4,000 Rwandan Patriotic Army (RPA) soldiers entered the Democratic Republic of the Congo’s (DRC) North Kivu Province as part of a joint Congolese–Rwandan military operation to disband the primarily Rwandan Hutu-comprised militia of the Democratic Liberation Forces of Rwanda (FDLR), according to the U.N. Mission in the DRC (MONUC). The joint operation follows the signing of a December 5 agreement between Rwandan and GDRC officials to disband the FDLR, which has been a significant destabilizing presence in eastern DRC.
- 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 IDPs¹ since August 2008	252,000	OCHA ² – November 2008
Total North Kivu IDPs	1,000,000	OCHA – November 2008
Oriental Province IDPs since September 2008	115,000	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.....	\$9,056,679
USAID/FFP⁴ Assistance to DRC	\$48,092,000
STATE/PRM⁵ Assistance to DRC	\$4,000,000
Total USAID and State Assistance to DRC	\$61,148,679

CURRENT SITUATION

- Sporadic violence and the pervasive presence of armed groups continue to cause insecurity and impede humanitarian access throughout North Kivu Province. USAID/DART staff report FDLR and Patriotes Resistants Congolais (PARECO) forces in surrounding areas of Masisi Town, Masisi Territory, as well as Armed Forces of the DRC (FARDC) and CNDP presence. However, clashes between PARECO factions represent the main source of the current insecurity in Masisi Territory, according to USAID/DART staff.
- According to the U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF), RPA and FARDC presence has restricted access to Rutshuru Territory and resulted in the relocation of humanitarian staff in Rutshuru and Masisi territories to regional centers. With the arrival of RPA forces, humanitarian agencies also note reduced access in Rwandan–DRC border regions, including roadblocks preventing MONUC access. In addition, UNICEF notes the potential for widespread population

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 further restrictions to humanitarian access with anticipated RPA-FARDC operations in the coming days.

- U.N. staff report an increase in CNDP vehicle attacks and looting in Mabenga and Kalengera, Rutshuru Territory. MONUC continues to advise humanitarian organizations to request MONUC escorts in CNDP-controlled areas, including the Rutshuru–Kiwanja–Nyamilima and Kiwanja–Kanyabayonga axes.

Displacement

- Since the week of November 30, fighting between CNDP and PARECO forces has resulted in the displacement of approximately 25,000 people from Masisi Territory to Masisi Town and surrounding areas, according to USAID/DART staff. Although the majority of IDPs reside with host families, humanitarian partners have registered more than 13,000 IDPs in five area camps.
- USAID/DART staff report that ongoing insecurity impeded the return of Congolese refugees from Rwanda to villages north of Bihambwe in Masisi Territory. As a result, returnees relocated to Bihambwe, inhibiting the return of Bihambwe residents to former houses and increasing tension in the town, according to USAID/DART staff.
- UNHCR reported that IDPs in North Kivu resided in 16 official camps and 80 spontaneous camps throughout the province as of January 7.

Access and Logistics

- Despite continuing efforts by the U.N. Office for the Project Services (UNOPS) to repair the Sake–Masisi road, USAID/DART staff reported that repeated mudslides have hindered UNOPS operations. Since November, poor road conditions have impeded the provision of emergency relief supplies to vulnerable populations in Masisi Territory.
- During a January 19 Masisi Territory assessment, USAID/DART staff confirmed recent humanitarian partner reports that FARDC and CNDP troops removed roadblocks on the Goma–Mushaki road, Masisi Territory, facilitating humanitarian access. In addition, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) recently reported that armed groups have removed roadblocks in close proximity to Kibati and Kalengera, Rutshuru Territory.
- On January 7, OCHA reported that CNDP officials have confirmed consent for targeted humanitarian distributions in CNDP-controlled territory. According to USAID/DART staff, CNDP has permitted relief commodity distribution to IDPs in the spontaneous IDP camp adjacent to the MONUC base in Kiwanja, Rutshuru Territory. In addition, an NGO reported that CNDP continues to allow humanitarian assistance in areas surrounding Nyanzale, Rutshuru Territory.

Oriente Province

- The pervasive presence of Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) forces and poor road infrastructure in Orientale Province continue to contribute to deteriorating humanitarian conditions and hinder the delivery of relief commodities to vulnerable populations, according to USAID/DART staff.
- As of January 16, UNHCR reported that LRA violence in Orientale Province had displaced approximately 115,000 people and resulted in an estimated 620 deaths and 408 abductions since September 2008.
- On January 14, a U.N. assessment team reported that an estimated 1,000 out of a total of 6,000 residents remained in Duru, Orientale Province, the site of December 24 and 25 LRA attacks.
- Humanitarian partners are coordinating with provincial authorities to augment the delivery and distribution of food and relief commodities to displaced populations in Orientale Province. In the coming weeks, UNHCR and implementing partners will attempt to distribute relief commodities targeting 100,000 IDP beneficiaries.

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 \$27 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, logistics and relief commodities, economy and market systems, protection, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), and shelter and settlements. USAID/OFDA maintains two permanent program officers in the DRC.
- 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, including 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 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			
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	\$750,000
UNICEF	Logistics and Relief Commodities	North Kivu Province, Orientale Province	\$3,867,651
	Administrative Support	Countrywide	\$251,785
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$9,056,679
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			\$57,148,679
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DRC IN FY 2009			\$61,148,679

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of January 23, 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/