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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 #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2009

November 6, 2008

BACKGROUND AND KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Since August 2008, renewed clashes between armed opposition groups and government forces concentrated in North Kivu Province in eastern DRC have resulted in significant displacement, widespread looting, and a deterioration of humanitarian conditions. According to the U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF), recent conflict has displaced an estimated 250,000 people since August, including approximately 100,000 people since fighting intensified in Rutshuru Territory on October 26.
- In response to the crisis, USAID/OFDA activated a USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID/DART) on October 31 to monitor and assess humanitarian conditions, identify priority needs for additional programming, and facilitate humanitarian coordination and information sharing. Additional staff from USAID and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are scheduled to deploy to the DRC in the coming days as part of the six-person USAID/DART comprised of a team leader, deputy team leader, program officer, water, sanitation, and hygiene advisor, safety and security officer, and information officer.
- On November 9, the first of five USAID/OFDA relief flights transporting a total 10,000 blankets, 5,400 water containers, 500 rolls of plastic sheeting, and 5,000 kitchen sets valued at \$801,500 is scheduled to arrive in Goma, North Kivu Province. Relief commodities will be consigned to UNICEF for distribution to 25,000 internally displaced person (IDP) beneficiaries.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	SOURCE	
North Kivu IDPs since August 2008	250,000	OCHA ¹ – November 2008
Total North Kivu IDPs	1,000,000	OCHA – November 2008
Congolese Refugees since August 2008	11,700	UNHCR ² – November 2008
Total Congolese Refugees	331,700	UNHCR – August 2008
Total Number of Deaths since 1998	5,400,000	OCHA – September 2008

FY 2009 AND FY 2008 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Assistance to DRC.....	\$21,125,022
USAID/FFP³ Assistance to DRC	\$71,014,400
STATE/PRM⁴ Assistance to DRC	\$33,989,988
Total USAID and State Assistance to DRC.....	\$126,129,110

CURRENT SITUATION

- Despite an October 29 ceasefire agreement, the presence of armed groups continues to destabilize the region and hinder assessments and the provision of humanitarian assistance to populations in need. On November 5, fighting in Kiwandja adjacent to Rutshuru town between an armed opposition group and local militias disrupted the final of a three-day interagency assessment and resulted in the evacuation of humanitarian staff operating in the area.
- UNHCR estimates that the total IDP population of North Kivu is currently 1 million people, representing 20 percent of the total population. The 1 million includes an estimated 750,000 to 800,000 previously displaced persons, as well as approximately 250,000 newly displaced since August 2008. Many of the newly displaced represent existing IDPs displaced for a second time. In addition, approximately 10,500 and 1,200 DRC refugees have fled to Uganda and Rwanda, respectively, in recent weeks, according to UNHCR. Most refugees have opted to stay with host families in border areas rather than moving to formal refugee-hosting sites.
- International humanitarian staff temporarily relocated within the DRC or neighboring countries have largely returned to Goma and North Kivu to resume operations and assess damages. USAID/DART staff report significant damage and looting of health centers, humanitarian organization facilities, and IDP camps in affected areas.

¹ U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

² Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

³ USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

⁴ U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

Displacement

- Approximately half of the newly displaced are located in established IDP camps or spontaneous IDP sites within North Kivu, including a high concentration of camps in proximity to the regional capital, Goma, according to OCHA. As of November 4, UNHCR had initiated the registration of approximately 60,000 IDPs in and surrounding Kibati town located 15 kilometers north of Goma, including an influx of 50,000 newly displaced persons from conflict-affected areas.
- Host communities are all also accommodating large numbers of IDPs, primarily in Rutshuru, Masisi, and Lubero territories. In addition, OCHA reports ongoing IDP movement.

Humanitarian Needs

- Preliminary assessments identify water, sanitation, and hygiene, nutrition, health, shelter, and protection interventions as priority needs, according to UNICEF. The looting of medical supplies and damage to health centers and IDP site water infrastructure have increased health concerns and the risk of waterborne disease. To date, UNICEF has reported suspected cholera cases in Kitchanga, Rutshuru, Sake, and Minova towns within North Kivu Province.
- In addition, UNICEF reported that approximately 93,000 households require emergency relief commodities, such as blankets, water containers, and hygiene kits.
- Findings from a November 3 to 5 interagency U.N. and non-governmental organization assessment of the most affected area of Rutshuru Territory are expected to further inform appropriate humanitarian interventions and confirm IDP movements resulting from recent insecurity.
- On October 31, USAID/OFDA committed \$2 million to UNICEF's rapid response mechanism to support relief efforts targeting conflict-affected populations in North Kivu.

Food Assistance

- On November 5, USAID implementing partner the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) began food distributions to more than 135,000 displaced people in six Goma-area IDP camps, including the delivery of high-energy biscuits to address malnutrition concerns among displaced children.
- WFP reports sufficient food commodity stockpiles to address immediate needs through November. However, WFP notes a projected shortfall for WFP DRC operations from November 2008 through April 2009 of more than 27,000 MT, valued at \$44 million. Shortfalls do not reflect increased caseloads since fighting resumed in August 2008.

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 \$21 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, and shelter and settlements. USAID/OFDA maintains two permanent program officers in DRC.
- In FY 2008, USAID/FFP provided more than \$71 million in meet the food needs of conflict-affected persons throughout eastern DRC, including 42,940 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance and funding for administrative support. In addition, USAID/FFP maintains a permanent FFP officer in DRC responsible for monitoring food security-related activities.
- State/PRM has provided nearly \$34 million to UNHCR, WFP, and NGO partners for repatriation and reintegration programs benefiting returning refugees, IDPs, and host communities in FY 2008.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DRC IN FY 2009

FY 2009			
Implementing Partner	Activity	Location	Amount
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
UNICEF	Logistics and Relief Commodities	North Kivu Province, Orientale Province	\$2,801,500
	Administrative Support	Countrywide	\$28,815
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$2,830,315
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DRC IN FY 2009			\$2,830,315

FY 2008			
Implementing Partner	Activity	Location	Amount
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE			
Air Service International (ASI)	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$4,449,269
Concern	Agriculture and Food Security, Economy and Market Systems, and Logistics and Relief Commodities	North Kivu Province	\$784,398
German Agro Action (GAA)	Agriculture and Food Security, Economy and Market Systems	Ituri Province	\$1,646,047
Handicap International	Health	Goma Territory, North Kivu Province	\$416,494
IMC	Health, WASH, Nutrition, and Protection	Rutshuru, Masisi and Goma territories, North Kivu Province	\$2,820,203
IRC	Health, Protection, and WASH	Rutshuru Territory, North Kivu Province	\$2,000,000
Mercy Corps	WASH	North Kivu Province	\$772,872
Merlin	Health, WASH, Nutrition, and Protection	Rutshuru Territory, North Kivu Province	\$842,953
Première Urgence	Agriculture and Food Security, Economy and Market Systems, Protection	Rutshuru Territory, North Kivu Province	\$2,071,058
UNICEF	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$500,000
UNHCR	Shelter and Settlements	North Kivu Province	\$1,000,000
	Administrative Support	Countrywide	\$991,413
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$18,294,707
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
WFP	42,940 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Katanga, North Kivu, South Kivu, Orientale, Maniema, and Equateur Provinces	\$68,972,700
Food for the Hungry International (FHI)	Administrative Support for P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Katanga Province	\$2,041,400
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$71,014,100
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
ACTED	Refugee Assistance, Livelihoods	Katanga Province	\$1,000,000
Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)	Shelter and Settlements	South Kivu Province	\$698,057

Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA)	Health	South Kivu Province	\$20,000
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	Agriculture and Food Security	Katanga Province	\$900,000
Center for Victims of Torture (CVT)	Psychosocial Services	Katanga Province	\$897,285
FHI	Agriculture and Food Security, Health	Katanga Province	\$1,173,463
ICRC	Emergency Relief for IDPs and Conflict Victims	Countrywide	\$8,500,000
IMC	Health, WASH, Protection	South Kivu Province	\$1,500,000
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	Refugee Repatriation from Zambia	Katanga Province	\$500,000
Tearfund	Education	South Kivu Province	\$941,183
UNHCR	Refugee Assistance and Repatriation, Protection	Countrywide	\$12,300,000
UNHCR	IDP Assistance, Protection	Countrywide	\$5,160,000
WFP	Agriculture and Food Security, Refugee Assistance	Katanga Province, South Kivu Province	\$400,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$33,989,988
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DRC IN FY 2008			\$89,308,807
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DRC IN FY 2008			\$123,298,795
FY 2008 AND FY 2009			
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FY 2008 AND FY 2009			\$21,125,022
TOTAL USAID/FFP FY 2008 AND FY 2009			\$71,014,100
TOTAL STATE/PRM FY 2008 AND FY 2009			\$33,989,988
TOTAL USG FY 2008 AND FY 2009 HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DRC			\$126,129,110

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of November 6, 2008.

² Estimate 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 Pakistan 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