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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) 2010

October 30, 2009

Note: The last situation report was dated September 29, 2009.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Between October 10 and 23, USAID/OFDA staff traveled to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) to conduct a rapid assessment in North Kivu Province due to the recent departure of approximately 61,500 people from seven internally displaced person (IDP) camps located near Goma. The U.N. Camp Management and Camp Coordination Cluster (CCCM) closed six of the camps in September, while one camp continues to host approximately 3,500 IDPs.
- On October 13 to 17, Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) Eric Schwartz traveled to DRC and met with government officials, implementing partners, and U.N. representatives, including U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres. Assistant Secretary Schwartz also visited IDP camps and areas of return near Goma, North Kivu Province.
- On October 22, the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported that representatives from the Government of Angola (GoA) and the Government of the DRC (GoDRC) met in Kinshasa on October 13. Following the meeting, both representatives publically announced regret regarding the continued expulsions of DRC nationals by the GoA and expulsions of Angolan nationals by the GoDRC.
- In addition, the representatives issued a joint statement calling for an immediate cessation of expulsions between the two countries. However, OCHA noted that expulsions continued as of October 22.
- USAID/OFDA staff based in DRC continue to assess humanitarian conditions and provide support for ongoing USAID/OFDA-funded emergency relief activities in eastern DRC.
- In FY 2009, the U.S. Government (USG) provided nearly \$192 million in humanitarian assistance for agriculture and food security, economic recovery and market systems, emergency food assistance, health, nutrition, protection, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programs, primarily targeting IDPs and other conflict-affected populations in North Kivu, South Kivu, and Orientale provinces.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	SOURCE	
IDPs in North Kivu Province	980,000	OCHA – October 2009
IDPs in South Kivu Province	704,130	OCHA – September 2009
IDPs in LRA¹-Affected Areas of Orientale Province²	280,892	OCHA – October 2009
Congolese Refugees since August 2008	63,000	UNHCR ³ – March 2009
Total Congolese Refugees	317,187	UNHCR – August 2009

CURRENT SITUATION

- On October 23, OCHA reported that humanitarian agencies continue to express concern regarding insecurity and targeted attacks on relief workers in North Kivu Province. OCHA reported nine security incidents involving relief workers between October 7 and October 17 in Rutshuru, Masisi, Lubero, and Walikale territories, North Kivu Province. Between January 1 and October 22, OCHA recorded 111 such incidents, compared to 105 incidents during 2008. As a result of continuing insecurity, OCHA estimates that humanitarian organizations in North Kivu Province have access to approximately 70 percent of the population in need of assistance.
- Between August and October 20, increased expulsions of DRC nationals from Angola and expulsions of Angolan nationals from DRC displaced approximately 50,000 people, according to UNHCR.

USAID/OFDA Assessment

- Between October 10 and 23, a USAID/OFDA team visited areas of return, transit sites, and spontaneous settlements along the Goma—Masisi, Goma—Kirokirwe, and Goma—Kiwanga axes to assess the circumstances surrounding the recent exodus of people from seven CCCM-supported IDP camps.

¹ Lord's Resistance Army (LRA)

² The figure represents IDPs in the LRA-affected districts of Haut-Uélé and Bas-Uélé districts, as of October 29, 2009.

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

- The USAID/OFDA team met with returnees to discuss the current humanitarian conditions in camps and transit areas and assess ongoing needs among the affected population.
- Spontaneous returns in North Kivu Province began in January 2009. As of October 17, OCHA reported that approximately 432,804 IDPs returned to areas of origin between January and September, including 61,500 individuals that departed IDP camps during September. The total number of IDP returns includes individuals that resided with host families, CCCM-supported camps, or spontaneous camps.
- Insecurity, lack of infrastructure, and spread of cholera continues to affect populations that remain in transit areas or have returned to areas of origin. In addition, insecurity has inhibited some individuals from reaching villages of origin, particularly in Masisi Territory.

Humanitarian Conditions in North Kivu and South Kivu Provinces

- Despite the recent return of approximately 61,500 individuals from seven IDP camps in North Kivu Province, conflict and targeted attacks against relief workers in the province continue to hinder humanitarian access to affected populations.
- According to OCHA, conflict in North Kivu Province displaced an estimated 690,758 individuals between January and September 2009. Humanitarian agencies expect ongoing insecurity in Walikale Territory, southern areas of Lubero Territory, and western areas of Masisi Territory to result in additional population displacement during the coming months.
- According to OCHA, the Armed Forces of the DRC (FARDC) recommenced operations against the Forces Démocratiques de Libération du Rwanda (FDLR) in Lubero Territory, North Kivu Province, on October 12.
- Confrontations between FARDC and FDLR forces have also resulted in new waves of displacement in South Kivu Province. According to OCHA, conflict displaced approximately 4,400 households from Shabunda Territory and approximately 4,000 households from Walungu Territory during October.
- The spread of waterborne diseases continues to affect populations in South Kivu Province. The U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) reported 439 new cases of cholera and three related deaths in South Kivu Province between October 12 and 19. In response to the increasing incidence of cholera in South Kivu Province, the provincial government declared a cholera epidemic on September 14.
- Waterborne diseases, including cholera, also affect populations in North Kivu Province, though at lower levels. Between October 12 and 19, WHO reported 136 new cases and ten related deaths in the province.
- In FY 2009, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$3.9 million to support WASH interventions in conflict-affected areas in DRC, including programs designed to improve access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation infrastructure for IDPs and host communities, as well as promote hygiene awareness.

Population Expulsions from Angola and DRC

- On October 22, OCHA reported that the GoDRC had expelled approximately 39,000 Angolan nationals as of October 17, according to the Angolan Ministry of Social Affairs and Reintegration (MINARS). OCHA notes that the estimated figure includes an unverified, but potentially significant number of refugees.
- According to OCHA, approximately 73 percent of the expelled Angolan nationals have arrived in the Zaire Province of Angola, while 17 percent arrived in Uigue Province and the remaining 10 percent arrived in Bie, Bengo, Cabinda, Huambo, Kwanza Sul, and Luanda provinces.
- Between October 15 and 21, MINARS and U.N. representatives traveled to M'banza Congo, Zaire Province, to conduct a humanitarian needs assessment and distribute relief supplies to affected populations. International and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are also conducting assessments in the affected areas.
- On October 17 and 18, MINARS, the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), UNHCR, the Angolan Red Cross, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) provided relief items to expelled Angolan nationals residing in Zaire Province. OCHA reports that GoA officials continue to establish temporary camps to accommodate the Angolan nationals, but plans to reintegrate the individuals remain unclear.
- On October 22, OCHA reported that the GoA has expelled 160,000 DRC nationals since December 2008.
- According to OCHA, the number of GoA expulsions peaked in September. However, the daily rate of expulsions from Angola decreased from 500 to 150 individuals between September and October, according to IOM.
- On October 22, OCHA reported that the number of expelled DRC nationals arriving in Kasai and Bandundu provinces of DRC had decreased, while a significant number of individuals continue to arrive in Bas-Congo Province, including 18,000 individuals that arrived during September.
- From October 8 to 12, a joint U.N., NGO, and International Committee of the Red Cross assessment team deployed to Bas-Congo Province to assess the humanitarian situation. The team identified education and WASH assistance as the priority needs among the expelled populations. The assessment team also noted that large-scale expulsions have disrupted livelihoods in the border areas by displacing the workforce of local businesses.

Population Displacement and Insecurity in Orientale Province

- Sporadic LRA violence continues to result in new population displacement in Orientale Province. As of October 23, OCHA estimated that more than 280,000 people remained displaced in Haut-Uélé and Bas-Uélé districts, Orientale Province, with approximately 83 percent residing in Haut-Uélé District.
- OCHA reported that an armed militia group attacked and looted supplies from the NGO Solidarités' office in Aba town, Haut-Uélé District, on October 6. As a result of the attack, Solidarités suspended programs in Aba and Kurukwata towns and evacuated staff to Dungeni city, Orientale Province.
- According to OCHA, humanitarian organizations continue to request that the U.N. Mission in the DRC establish a mobile base near Geti town in Ituri District to improve security and humanitarian access to approximately 11,000 IDPs residing in the area, including 7,000 people displaced since July.
- In FY 2009, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$6.6 million in response to increased humanitarian needs in Orientale Province through six implementing partners.

U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- On October 7, 2009, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires, a.i., Samuel V. Brock redeclared a disaster in response to the ongoing humanitarian emergency in DRC.
- In FY 2009 assistance included nearly \$34 million in USAID/OFDA funding for agriculture and food security, economic recovery and market systems, humanitarian coordination and information management, health, logistics and relief commodities, nutrition, protection, shelter and settlements, and WASH programs.
- In FY 2009, USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) provided more than 72,000 metric tons (MT) of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at more than \$112 million, to the DRC. USAID/FFP assistance included nearly 5,000 MT of food assistance provided to the U.N. World Food Program Emergency Operation in Haut-Uélé District, Orientale Province.
- In FY 2009, State/PRM provided more than \$45 million for humanitarian programs in DRC, including funding for agriculture and food security, education, emergency food assistance, health, IDP and refugee protection, livelihoods, psychosocial services, refugee integration, sexual and gender-based violence protection and response, shelter, and WASH programs.