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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 #8, Fiscal Year (FY) 2009

January 7, 2009

Note: The last fact sheet was dated December 23, 2008.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Between December 25 and 27, Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) attacks in Haut-Uélé District, Orientale Province, resulted in more than 300 deaths and significant displacement, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). LRA attacks have increased since September and continue, despite a joint military operation launched on December 14 by the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Uganda, and Sudan against LRA forces in northeastern DRC.
- As of January 7, international media reports cite conflicting reports regarding a potential split within National Congress of the Defense of the People (CNDP) leadership and the replacement of General Laurent Nkunda. However, media reports indicate that CNDP has sent representatives to Nairobi to participate in U.N.-mediated talks, scheduled to resume on January 7.
- USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID/DART) staff based in Goma continue to monitor population movements and assess humanitarian conditions, facilitate coordination and information sharing among U.N. and relief agencies, 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 – November 2008
Total North Kivu IDPs	1,000,000	OCHA – November 2008
Congolese Refugees since August 2008	30,000	UNHCR ² – December 2008
Total Congolese Refugees	156,000	UNHCR – December 2008

FY 2009 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Assistance to DRC..... **\$9,329,276**
 USAID/FFP³ Assistance to DRC **\$29,958,900**
Total USAID Assistance to DRC..... \$39,288,176

CURRENT SITUATION

- Targeted attacks on humanitarian staff, roadblocks, and an increased presence of armed forces continue to impede access to vulnerable populations in North Kivu Province. Between November 12 and December 15, OCHA reported 18 security incidents involving humanitarian staff and resources, including one death, increasing the total number of humanitarian attacks in North Kivu Province to more than 100 since January 1, 2008.
- On December 23, unidentified individuals attacked a non-governmental organization (NGO) vehicle on the Rutshuru-Bunangana road in Rutshuru Territory and confiscated personal property. As a result, the NGO temporarily suspended operations in eastern Rutshuru Territory.
- On January 5, OCHA reported ongoing insecurity in Masisi Territory, citing attacks by Patriotes Résistants Congolais (PARECO) forces on Kanyatsi IDP camp. On January 2, OCHA also reported increased insecurity in Rutshuru Territory, including along the Kiwandja-Rwindi, Kiwandja-Vitumbi, Kiwandja-Ishasha, and Burayi-Rubare axes. In addition, OCHA reported armed force roadblocks on the Goma-Rutshuru road, hindering the delivery of relief commodities to Rutshuru Territory.

Displacement

- In recent weeks, improved security in areas of Lubero and Masisi territories has facilitated the return of IDPs to areas of origin, although sporadic clashes continue to result in new displacement.

¹ Internally displaced persons (IDPs)

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

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

- According to OCHA, an estimated 75,000 people, including 10,000 previously displaced IDPs, had returned to Kanyabayonga, Lubero Territory, as of December 23. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) also reported that nearly 54,000 displaced persons from Kirumba, Lubero Territory, had returned as of December 15.
- Humanitarian partners estimate that more than 60,000 IDPs remained in areas surrounding Kitchanga, Masisi Territory, as of January 5. As a result of poor road maintenance and ongoing insecurity, humanitarian organizations note concerns regarding the provision of relief commodities to IDP populations in Masisi Territory.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

- The U.N. World Health Organization reported 137 new cholera cases during the week of December 28, an increase from 125 reported cases during the previous week. However, the overall number of reported cholera cases has declined in recent weeks as a result of augmented water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions.
- USAID/OFDA implementing partner U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) continues to support water, sanitation, and hygiene programs, including the provision of clean water for 12,000 displaced people and 28,000 local residents in Goma, and the construction of additional sanitation facilities in displacement sites.
- On December 23, USAID/OFDA committed more than \$1.5 million to Mercy Corps for water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions benefitting IDPs in North Kivu Province to reduce the spread of waterborne diseases.

Food Security

- On December 31, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) reported that 755,000 displaced people in eastern DRC had received monthly food rations in December, including 540,000 people in North Kivu. However, sporadic violence between armed groups throughout North Kivu and poor road conditions continue to impede food distribution to affected populations, according to WFP.
- WFP cautions that a projected shortfall of 22,000 metric tons (MT) in food stocks could disrupt the planned distribution of 104,000 MT of food commodities in eastern DRC in the next six months.

LRA Activity in Haut-Uélé District, Orientale Province

- Since September 17, an escalation of LRA violence, widespread looting, and forced recruitment of child soldiers has resulted in a deteriorating security situation in Haut-Uélé District, Orientale Province. The widespread presence of LRA forces has also impeded assessment activities, as well as access to vulnerable populations in affected areas.
- Between December 25 and 27, LRA attacks on Faradje and Doruma, Haut-Uélé District, Orientale Province, resulted in an estimated 314 deaths, according to OCHA. On January 7, UNHCR reported that attacks displaced approximately 37,000 people from Faradje and surrounding areas. LRA activities in the region have displaced more than 73,000 people since September, according to OCHA.
- In response, the Armed Forces of the DRC (FARDC) deployed 240 troops to Faradje and 240 soldiers to Doruma to improve security and encourage the return of displaced populations. MONUC continues to support FARDC by facilitating troop augmentation, providing logistical support, and coordinating protection activities.
- Humanitarian organizations note growing protection concerns as a result of increased forced child soldier recruitment by LRA forces in recent weeks. On December 31, UNICEF reported that the LRA has abducted 203 children since September, including between 11 and 20 children from Faradje during recent attacks.
- On December 30 and 31, USAID/DART staff and NGO partners visited Faradje and Dungu, Orientale Province, to assess humanitarian conditions and identify priority needs. USAID/DART staff note limited returns to Faradje. However, subsequent OCHA reports indicated increasing numbers of returns to Faradje. USAID/DART staff cite the need for food assistance and plastic sheeting as a result of the destruction of food stocks, looting, and damaged homes.
- As of December 23, WFP had facilitated the air transport of 12 MT of non-food items to Dungu District, Orientale Province. In addition, WFP had provided 83 MT of food assistance benefiting more than 25,600 people as of January 5. USAID/DART staff are working with humanitarian partners to determine effective relief commodity delivery methods and to develop an overall response strategy to recent LRA violence.

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 \$27.5 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 the DRC.
- In FY 2008 and to date in FY 2009, USAID/FFP has provided nearly \$101 million to meet the food needs of conflict-affected persons throughout eastern DRC, including 63,810 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 \$34 million to UNHCR, the U.N. World Food Program, and NGO partners for protection and assistance and repatriation and reintegration programs benefiting returning refugees, IDPs, and host communities in FY 2008.

USAID 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	\$1,507,834
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	\$128,820
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$9,329,276
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
WFP	20,870 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Katanga, North Kivu, South Kivu, Orientale, Maniema, and Equateur Provinces	\$29,958,900
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$29,958,900
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DRC IN FY 2009			\$39,288,176

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of January 7, 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/