



**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO – Volcano

Fact Sheet #4, Fiscal Year (FY) 2002

January 22, 2002

Numbers Affected

Total Affected: Approximately 350,000 (U.N.)
Deaths: Approximately 147 (U.N. and USAID/OFDA field reports)
Displaced People: Approximately 250,000 (USAID/OFDA field reports)

Current Situation

- There are no new lava flows and the threat of further volcanic activity is low, according to volcanologists in Goma. Though the severity of earth tremors has increased, with at least 25 buildings destroyed in Gisenyi, these tremors are associated with seismic activity, not volcanic activity.
- The current estimate of the number of people displaced by the volcano is 248,000, according to USAID/OFDA field reports. Concentrations of displaced people have been found in the following locations: Sake, DRC (5,000-6,000); Rutshuru, DRC (5,000-6,000); displacement camps near Gisenyi, Rwanda (15,000 and steadily decreasing); Bukavu, DRC (11,000) and surrounding areas (30,000); in towns on the southeastern shore of Lake Kivu (up to 60,000); and in 6 sites near the northwestern shore of Lake Kivu, near Sake (up to 60,000). In addition, approximately 12,000 families in Goma are without shelter.
- Nine assistance points have been established to distribute food, non-food items, and water. Eight are in Goma and one is in Sake, DRC. The USAID/OFDA-donated water bladders are located at these points. Relief agencies are planning to distribute a standard “displacement pack,” to include blankets and a 5-gallon water jug.
- A general food distribution will take place on January 23 and another is scheduled to take place on January 24.
- USAID/OFDA field staff report that no outbreaks of disease have been reported in Goma or in the displacement sites. Local health authorities have announced that they will provide free primary and preventive health care for the next month.
- An earth bridge has been built over the lava flow to allow safe passage between the eastern and western parts of Goma. This will link the city hospital that is located in the west with the other relief activities that are located in the east.
- The water system in Goma has resumed limited operations. The distribution network currently services 50 percent of the city, mostly in western parts of Goma. Tests have determined that the quality of the water is suitable for drinking. No water is available in the two areas of western Goma where displaced people are now settling, Kishere and Ndosho.
- Electricity is available in some western parts of Goma.

U.S. Government Response

- USAID/OFDA has made \$3 million available for relief assistance in response to the Goma volcano. Funds may be applied toward monetary grants to relief agencies, additional commodities shipments, or local purchase of relief items as needs require.
- USAID/OFDA is dispatching a second flight of relief commodities to Kigali, Rwanda to support assistance activities around Goma. This flight will include 20,000 wool blankets, 15,200 five-gallon water jugs, and 300 rolls of plastic sheeting from the USAID/OFDA warehouse in Pisa, Italy. Three hundred rolls of plastic sheeting will provide shelter for approximately 3,000 families. The shipment will arrive at Kigali, Rwanda on January 23 and will be consigned to the U.S. Embassy for onward distribution to relief agencies operating in Goma.
- A USAID/OFDA humanitarian relief flight carrying 20,000 blankets, 20,000 5-gallon water containers, 20 10,000-liter water bladders, and 5,000 dust masks from USAID’s stockpile in Maryland arrived in Kigali, Rwanda on January 21. The materials were consigned to Catholic Relief Services (CRS), World Vision, and International Rescue Committee (IRC) for distribution in and around Goma.
- The USAID assistance team consists of six people in Kigali, Goma and Bukavu, DRC, including a health specialist, a water/sanitation engineer, a food security specialist, and three field operations officers.
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has authorized a reallocation of 2,589 metric tons (MT) of 416(b) emergency food commodities from existing programs in the region to assist relief efforts in Goma.
- USAID/FFP has authorized the World Food Program (WFP) to reallocate 4,080 metric tons (MT) of emergency food from ongoing programs in the region for response to the Goma volcano.
- USAID/OFDA has provided \$25,000 to the U.S. Embassy in Kinshasa for relief assistance in the DRC.

- USAID/OFDA has provided \$25,000 to the U.S. Embassy in Rwanda for relief assistance in Rwanda.
- USAID/OFDA has authorized Catholic Relief Services to reallocate non-food items stockpiled in the region for the rapid relief of populations affected by the volcano.
- USAID/OFDA responded to the ongoing complex emergency in DRC with over \$21 million of assistance in fiscal year 2001.

Relief Efforts

- On January 21, UNOCHA released a financial appeal for the Goma disaster response that totaled \$15 million.
- *Donor Response (not necessarily associated with the U.N. Appeal)*
 - Government of Australia: \$500,000 for food aid.
 - Government of Belgium: \$1.8 million (2 million Euros), including an airlift of relief commodities
 - Government of the DRC: Approximately \$1.3 million (450 million Congolese Francs)
 - Government of France: Approximately \$270,000 (300,000 Euros)
 - Government of Germany: Approximately \$1,170,000 (1.3 million Euros).
 - Government of Holland: Approximately \$225,000 (255,000 Euros)
 - Government of Iceland: Approximately \$720,000 (800,000 Euros)
 - Government of Rwanda: Establishing displacement camps, coordination, and other activities
 - Government of Sweden: \$476,000
 - United Kingdom: Approximately \$2.87 million
 - European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO):
Approximately \$4.4 million (6 million Euros)

Background

- Mt. Nyiragongo erupted at approximately 9:30 AM local time (2:30 AM EST) on January 17. The volcano produced three paths of lava, one of which headed toward the city of Goma, 18 kilometers to the south. A fourth fissure opened at 4:00 PM on January 17. The area had been experiencing tremors intermittently since March 2001. The most recent eruption of Mt. Nyiragongo was in 1977, when the lava flow covered 20 square kilometers, killed 2,000 people, and destroyed 400 houses and a 10-kilometre section of road.
- On January 18, U.S. Ambassador to Rwanda Margaret K. McMillion and U.S. Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Aubrey Hooks declared disasters for the eruption of Mt. Nyiragongo near Goma in the DRC.

U.S. Government Assistance Funding Summary

USAID/OFDA

- USAID/OFDA has provided \$50,000 for relief activities in response to the volcano eruption in DRC. The funds will be disbursed to implementing partners providing assistance to volcano-affected populations.
- On January 21, a USAID/OFDA airlift of relief commodities including blankets, water jugs, water bladders and dust masks arrived in Kigali, Rwanda. The cost of the commodities and transportation costs total \$494,000.
- On January 22, a second USAID/OFDA airlift departed the USAID/OFDA warehouse in Italy. The second airlift contains blankets, water jugs, and plastic sheeting. The total cost of the airlift, including transportation, is \$339,337.

USAID/FFP

- USAID/FFP is reallocating 4,080 MT of Title II emergency food aid from ongoing programs in the region.

USDA

- USDA is reallocating 2,589 MT of 416(b) emergency food commodities from ongoing programs in the region.

Total USG Assistance\$883,337

USAID/OFDA fact sheets can be obtained from the USAID web site at http://www.usaid.gov/hum_response/ofda/situation.html