



**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 #7, Fiscal Year (FY) 2002

January 25, 2002

The last Fact Sheet was dated January 24. New information is underlined.

Numbers Affected

Total Affected: Approximately 350,000 (U.N.)
Deaths: Approximately 147 (U.N. and USAID/OFDA field reports)
Displaced People: Up to 74,000 (USAID/OFDA field reports)

Current Situation

- A survey by relief agencies determined that there were approximately 229,000 people in Goma on January 23. The city population is increasing as displaced people return to Goma.
- Most aid agencies agree that approximately 12,500 households, between 60,000 and 80,000 people, lost their homes as a result of the volcano.
- Current reports from the U.N. and several NGOs report that there are up to 74,000 displaced people in the following areas: in Sake, DRC (6,000 to 30,000); in Rutshuru, DRC (5,000); in displacement camps near Gisenyi and Ruhengeri, Rwanda (10,000 to 14,000); in Bukavu, DRC (15,000); in Minova, DRC (7,000); in Masisi, DRC (3,000).
- Distribution of food and non-food items for the approximately 3,000 displaced people in Bukavu who do not relatives in the area is taking place at 3 distribution points.
- The World Food Programs has distributed 260 metric tons (MT) of food to approximately 77,000 people to date. This general distribution is expected to provide food to 385,000 people by January 30. WFP plans to feed 400,000 people over the next three months.
- UNICEF has been coordinating the distribution of non-food items in Goma and Sake, DRC. There is currently a general distribution of goods to all residents, comprised of blankets, soap, water jugs and plastic sheets for shelter. Subsequent distributions will target households whose homes were destroyed in the volcano.
- An aid convoy headed to Rutshuru, DRC, was delayed at the Ugandan border for two days, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA). No other incident of transit delay has been reported.

U.S. Government Response

- USAID/OFDA is providing seismographic equipment to the Goma Volcanic Observatory that will allow seismologists in the area to better understand the continuing low-level earthquakes being experienced in the affected area. The quakes are not associated with volcanic activity, however experts in Goma do not yet understand what is causing them, or whether they indicate increasing seismic activity. The equipment includes three seismometers and three seismographs, obtained by USAID/OFDA through an agreement with the U.S. Geological Survey. The equipment will arrive at Kigali, Rwanda on January 30.
- 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.
- A flight of USAID/OFDA relief commodities arrived at Kigali, Rwanda on January 23. This flight included 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.
- 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.
- USAID Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) has approved the loan of 1,714 metric tons (MT) of Title II emergency food aid, valued at \$1.1 million, from existing programs in the region.
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has approved the loan of 3,450 MT of 416(b) emergency food commodities, valued at \$2.3 million, from existing programs in the region.
- 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.
- 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.

Relief Efforts

- UNOCHA intends to establish a Humanitarian Information Center for Goma. Local authorities have requested that the UNOCHA Center coordinate information on relief flights entering the area.
- On January 21, UNOCHA released a financial appeal for \$15 million to cover costs of the first ten days of response to the Goma disaster. An additional appeal will address relief requirements beyond the first ten days.
- Fourteen donors, not including the U.S. Government, have pledged over \$22.5 million of assistance for the Goma volcano disaster (not necessarily associated with the U.N. appeal).
- Both the Government of DRC and the Government of Rwanda have been providing material assistance and coordination support for the relief effort.

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

- Monetary support to implementation partners providing assistance to volcano-affected populations in DRC and Rwanda..... \$50,000
- A January 21 airlift of USAID/OFDA relief commodities, including blankets, water jugs, water bladders, and dust masks. The cost includes the value of the commodities and the cost of transportation \$494,000
- A January 23 airlift of USAID/OFDA airlift departed the USAID/OFDA warehouse in Italy. The second airlift contains blankets, water jugs, and plastic sheeting. The cost includes the value of the commodities and the cost of transportation. \$339,337
- Seismographic equipment for the Goma Volcano Observatory, to arrive in Kigali on January 30. The cost includes the value of the commodities and the cost of transportation. \$39,750

USAID/FFP

- USAID/FFP has approved the loan of 1,714 MT of Title II emergency food aid from ongoing programs in the region. The cost includes the value of transportation and other associated expenses..... \$1,100,000

USDA

- USDA has approved the loan of 3,450 MT of 416(b) emergency food commodities from ongoing programs in the region. The cost includes the value of transportation and other associated expenses..... \$2,255,000

USAID/OFDA	\$923,087
USAID/FFP	\$1,100,000
USDA	\$2,255,000
Total USG Assistance	\$4,278,087

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