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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

Situation Report #3, Fiscal Year (FY) 2009

July 1, 2009

Note: The last situation report was dated June 4, 2009.

BACKGROUND

According to a January 2008 report by the International Rescue Committee (IRC), regional armed conflict across the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has resulted in an estimated 5.4 million deaths since 1998. Most deaths occurred due to indirect consequences of fighting, such as disease, malnutrition, and neonatal- and pregnancy-related complications. Overall, the decade of fighting displaced more than 3 million Congolese across eastern and southern DRC and hindered access to agricultural land and traditional markets. Poverty continues to be widespread, and the Congolese health care system has eroded due to a lack of resources and looting of medical assets.

The 1999 Lusaka Peace Accords laid the foundation for the formation of a transitional government in 2003, the adoption of a new constitution in 2005, and national and local elections in 2006. However, armed groups such as the Forces Démocratiques de Libération du Rwanda (FDLR), Mai-Mai factions,¹ and the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA)² continue to create areas of insecurity in eastern DRC. Renewed violence in August 2008 concentrated in North Kivu Province and an escalation in LRA attacks in Orientale Province beginning in September 2008 led to wide-scale displacement. Following the conclusion of joint Armed Forces of the DRC (FARDC) and Rwanda Defense Force (RDF) operations against the FDLR in February 2009, a resurgence of attacks against the civilian population has resulted in further displacement and insecurity in North Kivu and South Kivu provinces. Restricted humanitarian access, poor infrastructure, and ongoing violence have contributed to a deterioration of humanitarian conditions. The U.N. Mission in the DRC (MONUC) represents the largest U.N. peacekeeping operation in the world and continues to support ongoing peace efforts.

On October 15, 2008, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires Samuel V. Brock redeclared a disaster due to the ongoing complex emergency in the DRC. In FY 2009 to date, the U.S. Government (USG) has provided more than \$128 million for agriculture and food security, economy and market systems, food assistance, health, nutrition, protection, refugee assistance, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programs primarily targeting internally displaced persons (IDPs) and other conflict-affected populations in North Kivu and Orientale provinces.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	SOURCE	
IDPs in North Kivu Province	930,000	UNHCR ³ – May 2009
IDPs in South Kivu Province	445,900	OCHA ⁴ – June 2009
IDPs in Orientale Province	207,000	OCHA – April 2009
Congolese Refugees since August 2008	63,000	UNHCR – March 2009
Total Congolese Refugees	336,170	UNHCR – May 2009

FY 2009 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

USAID/OFDA Assistance to DRC.....\$17,869,373
USAID/FFP⁵ Assistance to DRC\$87,054,000
State/PRM⁶ Assistance to DRC\$23,548,622
Total USAID and State Humanitarian Assistance to DRC.....\$128,471,995

CURRENT SITUATION

General insecurity associated with the prevalence of armed groups and government forces and increased attacks on civilian populations, as well as targeted attacks against humanitarian staff continue to contribute to

population displacement and reduced humanitarian access in North Kivu, South Kivu, and Orientale provinces in eastern DRC.

¹ Groups of local DRC citizens originally formed to resist Rwandan army occupation

² Armed opposition group formed in 1987 to resist the Government of Uganda

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

⁴ U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

⁵ USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

⁶ U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

Following the conclusion of joint FARDC and RDF operations to disband the FDLR on February 25, FDLR violence targeting civilian populations and FARDC elements has increased in eastern DRC. The deployment of joint FARDC and MONUC forces to South Kivu Province as part of the expansion of operations against the FDLR has also led to significant displacement in South Kivu Province, particularly in Kalehe and Shabunda territories, as well as in areas of southern Walikale and Lubero territories, North Kivu Province, according to OCHA. In addition, sporadic LRA attacks in Orientale Province continue to impede humanitarian access, despite increased FARDC deployments to the area.

In response to increased needs resulting from renewed violence and increased displacement in recent months, the humanitarian community launched a \$38 million appeal on June 17. The appeal follows the November 2008 release of the \$831 million 2009 Humanitarian Action Plan and calls for an additional \$23 million and \$15 million in humanitarian funding for North Kivu and South Kivu provinces, respectively, to address the needs of conflict-affected individuals.

USAID/OFDA staff based in the DRC continue to coordinate information sharing among partners, provide support for emergency relief activities, and monitor evolving humanitarian needs.

Insecurity and Population Movement

Insecurity resulting from FDLR and FARDC violence against civilian populations, as well as sporadic clashes between the two groups and populations' fears regarding the potential for an escalation in fighting resulting from the deployment of joint MONUC and FARDC forces in the region has led to new population displacement in North Kivu and South Kivu provinces. However, IDP figures continue to fluctuate in response to fluid security conditions, prompting new displacement in some areas and permitting returns in other locations. Between January 1 and May 31, OCHA reported new displacement of an estimated 425,000 and 445,900 people in North Kivu and South Kivu Provinces, respectively. During the same time period, as estimated 300,000 IDPs returned to areas of origin in North Kivu Province.

As of June 3, OCHA reported a total of nearly 1 million IDPs in North Kivu Province, including more than 450,000 IDPs in Lubero Territory, 224,000 IDPs in Masisi Territory, nearly 110,000 IDPs in Rutshuru Territory, and approximately 94,000 displaced persons in Walikale Territory. The total includes newly displaced as well as long-term displaced populations, many of whom have been displaced multiple times during the course of the protracted conflict in the region.

In South Kivu Province, OCHA reported an estimated 445,900 IDPs as of May 31, including 124,000 IDPs displaced between March and May 2009. According to

OCHA, the most affected areas include Kalehe, Shabunda, Kabare, and Walungu territories. Kalehe Territory has the highest number of IDPs totaling an estimated 225,000 displaced persons. FDLR attacks against the civilian population represent the primary source of insecurity in South Kivu Province, according to OCHA reports. However, looting and theft perpetrated by various armed groups contribute to overall insecurity. Between June 20 and 21, FDLR forces attacked four villages in Kabare Territory and Mianda village in Kalehe Territory. The Mianda village attack resulted in the destruction of 118 houses and looting of personal property, as well as medical supplies from the area health center.

Ongoing insecurity resulting from LRA presence in Orientale Province continues to impede humanitarian access and hinder the returns process, according to OCHA. During the month of May, the U.N. reported 24 LRA attacks in Orientale Province, including the abduction of 47 individuals. In addition, LRA forces abducted 135 civilians during a June 2 attack on the village of Dakwa, Haut-Uélé District. Despite the return of more than 9,200 IDPs to areas of origin within Ituri District during the month of May, more than 176,000 IDPs remain displaced in Ituri and LRA attacks in Bas-Uélé and Haut-Uélé districts continue to prompt additional displacement.

General insecurity and targeted attacks against humanitarian staff are also hindering response efforts in North Kivu and South Kivu Provinces. From January to April 2009, the U.N. reported 44 attacks against humanitarian workers in North Kivu Province, representing a 22 percent increase compared to the number of incidents reported during the first four months of 2008. As of June 17, the total number of attacks against humanitarian staff had increased to 61 in North Kivu Province. In addition, the expansion of joint MONUC and FARDC operations in Rutshuru Territory, North Kivu Province, has led to the suspension of several U.N. and NGO activities, including mobile health clinic services, according to a June 26 OCHA report.

To date in FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$18 million to support programs targeting conflict-affected populations in eastern DRC, including agriculture and food security, economy and market systems, nutrition, protection, and WASH activities. In addition, State/PRM has provided nearly \$24 million in FY 2009 to support repatriation and reintegration programs benefiting returning refugees, IDPs, and host communities.

Protection

Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and child recruitment remain critical protection issues associated with the continued conflict and instability in eastern DRC. In a June 22 report, the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) reported that UNICEF implementing partners

provided assistance to more than 20,000 SGBV survivors in 2008, including more than 5,000 individuals in North Kivu Province. UNICEF notes that the figure is not comprehensive and does not include SGBV beneficiaries of services from other humanitarian organizations. In addition, due to cultural stigmas associated with rape, the number of unreported cases of SGBV is likely significantly higher than the number of treated cases recorded. During the first three months of 2009, OCHA reported more than 1,000 SGBV cases in Shabunda Territory, South Kivu Province, alone.

According to UNICEF, the rapid integration of Congress of the Defense of the People (CNDP) forces into the FARDC has facilitated the release of approximately 1,200 children since January 1. However, humanitarian agencies highlight concern regarding ongoing forced-child recruitment by armed groups, particularly by LRA forces in Orientale Province.

USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$1.2 million for protection programming in North Kivu and Orientale provinces through implementing partners International Medical Corps (IMC), IRC, Merlin, and UNICEF. USAID/OFDA funding supports UNICEF child protection and SGBV activities in Dungu Territory, Orientale Province, including the establishment of community protection mechanisms, services for victims of sexual and gender-based violence, and registration and reunification of separated families.

Agriculture and Food Security

General insecurity and restricted humanitarian access continue to contribute to the increased food insecurity in eastern DRC, according to the U.N. World Food Program (WFP). In addition, OCHA notes that the presence of armed groups has impeded civilian access to agricultural fields, prevented local crop production, and resulted in the regular looting of food stocks.

In response to ongoing food security concerns, WFP food assistance programs target more than 1 million conflict-affected individuals in eastern DRC. Since mid-May, WFP has provided 500 metric tons (MT) of food

assistance to 130,000 IDPs and host families in Dungu, Orientale Province. In addition, in early June, WFP completed food assistance distributions to more than 300,000 IDPs in southern Lubero Territory, North Kivu Province. On June 22, WFP initiated a needs assessment of conflict-affected areas of South Kivu Province to inform appropriate assistance programming in response to increased insecurity and displacement in recent months.

To date in FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$900,000 to support agriculture and food security programs targeting conflict-affected populations in the DRC. In addition, USAID/FFP has provided more than 55,380 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance to date in FY 2009. USAID/FFP assistance includes nearly 5,000 MT of food assistance provided to WFP for an emergency operation targeting 154,000 beneficiaries affected by increased insecurity due to LRA attacks in the Haut-Uélé District, Orientale Province. In total, FY 2009 USAID/FFP emergency assistance to the DRC is valued at more than \$87 million.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

Recent conflict continues to reduce access to safe drinking water and increase vulnerability to waterborne diseases among affected populations. Between May 24 and 30, the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) reported 102 new cases of cholera in South Kivu Province, increasing the total number of reported cases since January 1 to 3,071, including 26 deaths. In North Kivu Province, WHO reported 38 new cases of cholera during the week of May 24, increasing the total number of reported cases since January 1 to 1,819, including 21 deaths.

USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$1.5 million in FY 2009 to support WASH interventions in conflict-affected areas. Through implementing partners IMC, Merlin, and Samaritan's Purse, USAID/OFDA programs target improved IDP and host community access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities and the adoption of safe hygiene behaviors.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE DRC IN FY 2009

FY 2009			
<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
German Agro Action (GAA)	Agriculture and Food Security, Economy and Market Systems, Logistics and Relief Commodities	North Kivu Province	\$1,700,242
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

International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Health and Protection	North Kivu Province	\$1,308,286
Mercy Corps	WASH	North Kivu Province	\$1,112,272
Merlin	Health, Nutrition, Protection, and WASH	North Kivu Province	\$1,780,849
Première Urgence	Agriculture and Food Security, Economy and Market Systems	Orientale Province	\$1,000,000
Samaritan's Purse	Logistics and Relief Commodities and WASH	North Kivu and Orientale Provinces	\$1,019,750
U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF)	Logistics and Relief Commodities	North Kivu and Orientale Provinces	\$3,867,651
UNICEF	Protection	Orientale Province	\$800,000
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$1,072,596
	Program Support Costs	Countrywide	\$1,132,756
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$17,869,373
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
U.N. World Food Program (WFP)	51,290 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance for the Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO)	Katanga, North Kivu, South Kivu, Orientale, Maniema, and Equateur Provinces	\$77,009,900
WFP	4,090 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance for Haut-Uélé District Emergency Operation (EMOP)	Orientale Province	\$10,044,100
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$87,054,000
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$9,900,000
Search For Common Ground	Refugee Reintegration, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	South Kivu and Katanga Provinces	\$249,995
Tearfund	Refugee Reintegration, Education	South Kivu Province	\$998,627
UNHCR	IDP Assistance, Refugee Assistance	Countrywide	\$12,400,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$23,548,622
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DRC IN FY 2009			\$104,923,373
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DRC IN FY 2009			\$128,471,995

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of July 1, 2009

² Estimated value of food assistance

³ State/PRM funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of July 1, 2009.