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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 #4, Fiscal Year (FY) 2009

August 6, 2009

Note: The last situation report was dated July 1, 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 factions¹, 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 deteriorating 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 nearly \$153 million for agriculture and food security, economic recovery and market systems, emergency 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, South Kivu, and Orientale provinces.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	SOURCE	
IDPs in North Kivu Province	1,065,791	OCHA ³ – July 2009
IDPs in South Kivu Province	538,880	OCHA – July 2009
IDPs in LRA-Affected Areas of Orientale Province⁴	238,097	OCHA – July 2009
Congolese Refugees since August 2008	63,000	UNHCR ⁵ – March 2009
Total Congolese Refugees	336,170	UNHCR – May 2009

FY 2009 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

USAID/OFDA Assistance to the DRC\$31,562,784
USAID/FFP⁶ Assistance to the DRC\$87,054,000
State/PRM⁷ Assistance to the DRC\$34,248,622
Total USAID and State Humanitarian Assistance to the DRC\$152,865,406

CURRENT SITUATION

Conflict between government forces and armed groups continues to exacerbate humanitarian conditions in North Kivu, South Kivu, and Orientale provinces in eastern

DRC. Ongoing insecurity and attacks on civilians have resulted in widespread population displacement, and targeted attacks against humanitarian staff have hindered

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

⁴ The figure represents IDPs in the LRA-affected districts of Haut-Uélé and Bas-Uélé districts, as of July 13, 2009. The total internal displacement figure for Orientale Province represents 417,876 people, which includes an additional 176,133 long-term and newly displaced IDPs in Ituri District.

⁵ Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

⁶ USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

⁷ U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

the provision of emergency assistance to affected populations.

Since the conclusion of joint FARDC and RDF operations against the FDLR in February 2009, FDLR attacks on civilians have increased in North Kivu and South Kivu provinces, particularly in Walikale and Lubero territories, North Kivu Province, and Kalehe and Shabunda territories, South Kivu Province. In addition, joint FARDC and MONUC operations against the FDLR continue to contribute to regional insecurity, including in Uvira Territory, South Kivu Province, where expanded operations since mid-July have resulted in significant displacement. In Orientale Province, ongoing LRA attacks continue to result in widespread insecurity and limited humanitarian access.

DRC-based USAID/OFDA staff continue to assess humanitarian needs in eastern DRC, liaise with U.N. and non-governmental organization (NGO) partners, and provide support for ongoing USAID/OFDA emergency relief activities. In response to evolving conditions, USAID/OFDA has provided an additional \$13.5 million in humanitarian assistance programming during the month of July to assist IDPs and conflict-affected populations throughout eastern DRC. Recent funding supports augmented agriculture and food security, economic recovery and market systems, nutrition, protection, and WASH activities, as well as the provision of emergency relief supplies.

Insecurity and Humanitarian Access

North Kivu and South Kivu Provinces

Targeted attacks against relief agency staff—including a July 21 attack that resulted in the death of a Caritas staff member in Musezero town, North Kivu Province—and general insecurity continue to hinder response efforts in North Kivu and South Kivu provinces. Between January 1 and July 21, 2009, OCHA reported 16 attacks against humanitarian staff in South Kivu Province.

In North Kivu Province, OCHA reported 16 attacks against humanitarian workers in the month of June, twice the number reported in May. OCHA also noted reports of attacks against U.N. and NGO staff members' residences in Goma city, North Kivu Province. According to OCHA, the number of attacks on humanitarian staff in North Kivu Province between January and June 2009 nearly doubled from the same time period in 2008 from 37 to 66 incidents. In addition, OCHA reported decreased humanitarian access due to security constraints associated with FDLR attacks and joint FARDC and MONUC operations in parts of Lubero, Rutshuru, and Walikale territories, North Kivu Province.

Orientale Province

From June 1 to June 30, OCHA reported increased LRA activity in Orientale Province, including 34 attacks in Haut-Uélé and Bas-Uélé districts, resulting in 56 civilian deaths, and the abduction of 193 individuals. In addition, between July 1 and July 20, OCHA reported 55 LRA

attacks, resulting in 49 civilian deaths, and the abduction of 147 individuals.

As a result, OCHA noted that relief agencies are able to access only an estimated 45 percent of IDPs in Haut-Uélé and Bas-Uélé districts. However, improved security in some areas has permitted increased humanitarian assistance, including nearly \$3 million in USAID/OFDA assistance recently programmed in July 2009 for agriculture and food security activities and economic recovery and market systems programs, including road rehabilitation in Haut-Uélé District to improve humanitarian access and augment food security.

Population Movements

North Kivu and South Kivu Provinces

Fighting between the FDLR and FARDC, attacks on the civilian population, and concerns regarding potential escalation of military operations continue to result in displacement in North Kivu and South Kivu provinces. Between January 1 and June 30, OCHA reported the displacement of an estimated 400,000 people in North Kivu Province and an estimated 536,000 people in South Kivu Province. However, humanitarian agencies note that the security situation has permitted IDPs to return to areas of origin in some locations, particularly in Rutshuru Territory, North Kivu Province.

As of July 7, OCHA reported a total of nearly 1.1 million IDPs in North Kivu Province, representing an increase of more than 135,000 people since May 31. Approximate displacement figures include 437,000 IDPs in Lubero Territory, 226,000 IDPs in Masisi Territory, 151,000 IDPs in Nyiragongo Territory, 140,000 IDPs in Walikale Territory, and 70,000 others in Rutshuru Territory. In addition to newly displaced individuals, the total includes long-term displaced populations, many of whom have been displaced multiple times during the course of the conflict. OCHA noted particular concern regarding deteriorating humanitarian conditions in Walikale Territory, where conflict has displaced 140,000 people since January 1, 2009.

As of July 27, OCHA reported a total of nearly 539,000 IDPs in South Kivu Province, representing an increase of nearly 93,000 people since May 31. According to OCHA, Uvira Territory accounted for more than 56,300 new IDPs, displaced since the escalation of FARDC and MONUC operations against the FDLR began on July 14. UNHCR noted concern regarding lack of access to displaced populations, particularly in the mountainous Moyens Plateaux Region, Uvira Territory.

To date in FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$23.7 million to support IDPs and other conflict-affected populations in North Kivu and South Kivu provinces. USAID/OFDA assistance includes agriculture and food security, economic recovery and market systems, health, nutrition, protection, and WASH activities, as well as the provision of emergency relief commodities.

Orientale Province

Increased insecurity resulting from the LRA presence in Orientale Province continues to result in additional displacement. As of July 13, OCHA reported more than 238,000 IDPs in LRA-affected areas of Orientale Province, including more than 201,000 IDPs in Haut-Uélé District.

In Ituri District, Orientale Province, insecurity and civilian attacks associated with armed elements of the Front de Résistance Patriotique d'Ituri (FPRI) and the Front Pour la Justice au Congo (FPJC) have resulted in nearly 180,000 long-term and newly displaced IDPs as of July 13, according to OCHA. On July 22, FARDC and MONUC forces launched a joint operation targeting the FPJC militia in southern Irumi Territory of Ituri District, prompting the displacement of an additional 13,000 IDPs and the suspension of five NGO operations in the area, according to OCHA.

To date in FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$6.6 million in response to increased humanitarian needs in Orientale Province. USAID/OFDA assistance includes support for agriculture and food security, economic recovery and market systems, protection, and WASH programs, as well as provision of emergency relief supplies, through implementing partners Mercy Corps, Première Urgence, Samaritan's Purse, Solidarités, the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), and Welthungerhilfe⁸.

Agriculture and Food Security

According to relief agencies, displacement-induced food insecurity remains a significant concern in eastern DRC due to limited access to agricultural land and insufficient humanitarian access. In addition, on July 23, WFP reported an average 42 percent increase in food prices countrywide between May 2008 and May 2009, further impeding vulnerable populations' access to sufficient food supplies.

In response to ongoing food security concerns, USAID/FFP partner the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) supports food assistance programs targeting more than 1 million conflict-affected individuals in eastern DRC. Since the end of May, WFP and partners have distributed nearly 900 metric tons (MT) of food assistance to beneficiaries in Haut-Uélé District, Orientale Province, according to OCHA. In addition, WFP and partners are providing food assistance to nearly 35,000 displaced individuals in Walikale Territory, North Kivu Province, and approximately 100,000 IDPs in Kalehe Territory, South Kivu Province.

To date in FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$5.1 million 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.

Health and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

Ongoing conflict continues to limit community access to safe drinking water, increasing the risk of waterborne diseases among affected populations. Between June 30 and July 20, the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) reported 228 new cholera cases in South Kivu Province, increasing the total number of reported cases since January 1 to 4,326, including 63 cholera deaths. On July 20, WHO reported a 1.4 percent cholera case fatality rate (CFR) in South Kivu Province since January, exceeding the emergency threshold of 1 percent. In North Kivu Province, WHO reported 58 new cholera cases between July 13 and 20, bringing the total number of reported cases since January to 2,342 cases, including 27 cholera deaths. On July 20, WHO reported an approximate cholera CFR of 1 percent in North Kivu Province since January.

To date in FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$3.3 million to support WASH interventions in conflict-affected areas. Through implementing partners Catholic Relief Services (CRS), International Medical Corps (IMC), Merlin, Mercy Corps, and Samaritan's Purse, USAID/OFDA programs support improved access to safe water and adequate sanitation infrastructure for both IDPs and host communities, as well as the promotion of hygiene awareness. In addition, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$6.6 million in FY 2009 to date to support emergency health interventions in conflict-affected areas through implementing partners IMC and Merlin.

⁸ Previously known as German Agro Action (GAA).

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			
Action Against Hunger USA (AAH/USA)	Agriculture and Food Security, and Economy and Market Systems	North Kivu and South Kivu Provinces	\$1,000,000
Concern	Agriculture and Food Security, Economy and Market Systems, and Logistics and Relief Commodities	North Kivu Province	\$901,129
CRS	Logistics and Relief Commodities, and WASH	North Kivu Province	\$649,921
Handicap International	Economy and Market Systems	South Kivu Province	\$192,404
IMC	Health, Logistics and Relief Commodities, Nutrition, Protection, and WASH	North Kivu and South Kivu Provinces	\$3,606,297
IRC	Health and Protection	North Kivu Province	\$1,308,286
Mercy Corps	WASH	North Kivu Province	\$2,111,678
Mercy Corps	Economy and Market Systems	Orientale Province	\$980,920
Merlin	Health, Nutrition, Protection, and WASH	North Kivu Province	\$4,574,270
Première Urgence	Agriculture and Food Security, and Economy and Market Systems	North Kivu and Orientale Provinces	\$2,383,128
Samaritan's Purse	Logistics and Relief Commodities, Logistics and Relief Commodities, and WASH	North Kivu and Orientale Provinces	\$1,019,750
Solidarités	Agriculture and Food Security	Orientale Province	\$813,729
Tearfund	Agriculture and Food Security	South Kivu Province	\$699,970
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
Welthungerhilfe (WHH)	Agriculture and Food Security, Economy and Market Systems, and Logistics and Relief Commodities	North Kivu Province	\$1,700,242
WHH	Agriculture and Food Security and Economy and Market Systems	Orientale Province	\$1,998,755
World Relief International	Agriculture and Food Security	North Kivu Province	\$600,000
	Program Support Costs	Countrywide	\$1,282,058
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$31,562,784

USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
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, and Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	South Kivu and Katanga Provinces	\$249,995
Tearfund	Refugee Reintegration, and Education	South Kivu Province	\$998,627
UNHCR	IDP Assistance, and Refugee Assistance	Countrywide	\$23,100,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$34,248,622
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE DRC IN FY 2009			\$118,616,784
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE DRC IN FY 2009			\$152,865,406

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of August 6, 2009.

² Estimated value of food assistance.

³ State/PRM funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of August 6, 2009.