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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 #5, Fiscal Year (FY) 2009

September 29, 2009

Note: The last situation report was dated August 6, 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) 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 resulted in further displacement and insecurity in North Kivu and South Kivu provinces.

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, the U.S. Government (USG) provided nearly \$192 million in humanitarian assistance 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	1,083,518	OCHA ² – September 2009
IDPs in South Kivu Province	704,130	OCHA – September 2009
IDPs in LRA-Affected Areas of Orientale Province³	263,300	OCHA – September 2009
Congolese Refugees since August 2008	63,000	UNHCR ⁴ – March 2009
Total Congolese Refugees	317,187	UNHCR – August 2009

FY 2009 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

USAID/OFDA Assistance to the DRC	\$33,910,244
USAID/FFP⁵ Assistance to the DRC	\$112,206,600
State/PRM⁶ Assistance to the DRC	\$45,489,242
Total USAID and State Humanitarian Assistance to the DRC	\$191,606,086

CURRENT SITUATION

Despite ongoing population displacement in parts of North Kivu, South Kivu, and Orientale provinces due to ongoing fighting between government forces and armed groups, relief agencies report a near-complete emptying of IDP camps near Goma city, North Kivu Province, and

associated large-scale IDP returns to areas of origin in southern North Kivu. Although the motivation for the returns remains unclear, IDPs have cited the start of the school year and planting season as reasons for returning to areas of origin prior to the end of September.

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

² U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

³ The figure represents IDPs in the LRA-affected districts of Haut-Uélé and Bas-Uélé districts, as of September 18, 2009. OCHA estimates total internal displacement in Orientale Province at 448,363 people, including an additional 184,432 long-term and newly displaced IDPs in Ituri District.

⁴ Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

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)

Although small-scale, spontaneous returns have occurred since early 2009, relief agencies did not anticipate the departure of approximately 65,000 IDPs from Goma-area camps during August. While some areas have achieved greater stability during the last six months, relief agencies and the U.N. Mission in the DRC (MONUC) have expressed concerns regarding limited security improvements in areas of return. As of late August, many IDPs reported that returns remained impossible due to continuing insecurity in areas of origin. At present, U.N. agencies and Goma-based non-governmental organizations are conducting assessments to determine the location of IDPs and means to accelerate planned returnee assistance programs.

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

Humanitarian agencies continue to highlight concerns regarding sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) associated with persistent conflict and instability in eastern DRC. In North Kivu Province, OCHA reported 2,217 SGBV incidents from January to June 2009, representing an average of 370 SGBV cases per month. In South Kivu Province, OCHA recorded a 30 percent increase in SGBV incidents between January and mid-August compared to the same time period in 2008. During an August 11 visit to Goma, North Kivu Province, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton announced new USG funding of more than \$17 million to prevent and respond to widespread SGBV in eastern DRC, supplementing ongoing USG humanitarian assistance to conflict-affected populations.

USAID/OFDA staff based in DRC continue to assess humanitarian conditions and provide support for ongoing USAID/OFDA-funded emergency relief activities in eastern DRC. In response to evolving humanitarian needs, USAID/OFDA provided an additional \$13.5 million in assistance during the month of July and nearly \$3 million in August and September to assist IDPs and conflict-affected populations throughout eastern DRC, particularly populations in LRA-affected areas.

Insecurity and Humanitarian Access

North Kivu and South Kivu Provinces

In recent months, insecurity and attacks targeting aid workers continued to impede relief efforts in North Kivu and South Kivu provinces. In North Kivu Province, OCHA reported six attacks targeting relief agency staff during August, a decrease from 17 attacks reported

during the month of July. Despite the recent decrease, OCHA reported a 26 percent increase in security incidents targeting humanitarian staff in North Kivu Province since January 2009, compared to the same time period in 2008. According to OCHA, relief agencies also require military escorts to conduct activities in areas of North Kivu Province, where more than 900,000 IDPs currently reside.

On September 3, OCHA reported continuing limitations on humanitarian access due to FDLR attacks and FARDC and MONUC operations in several areas of North Kivu Province, including southern Lubero Territory, western Masisi Territory, and most of Walikale Territory. In addition, OCHA reported a recent resurgence in Mai-Mai faction activity.

Orientale Province

On September 18, OCHA reported that ongoing LRA attacks and kidnappings continued to result in inconsistent humanitarian access to affected populations in Haut-Uélé and Bas-Uélé districts. During August, OCHA reported 32 LRA attacks in Haut-Uélé and Bas-Uélé districts, resulting in 15 civilian deaths and 35 abductions. During July, OCHA reported 52 LRA attacks, 40 civilian deaths, and 147 abductions in Haut-Uélé and Bas-Uélé districts.

On September 18, OCHA noted a recent increase in the frequency of LRA attacks on IDPs returning to areas of origin in Orientale Province. According to OCHA, the recent installation of a temporary MONUC base in Dingila Region, Bas-Uélé District, has facilitated humanitarian access and the provision of assistance to approximately 2,000 displaced households, including the distribution of emergency food assistance and other relief supplies. However, relief agencies remain unable to access an estimated 55 percent of IDPs in Haut-Uélé and Bas-Uélé districts, according to OCHA.

In southern Irumu Territory, Ituri District, OCHA reported decreased humanitarian access during the month of August. According to OCHA, decreased access results from 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). On August 27, relief agencies operating in Gety town, Irumu Territory, evacuated personnel for the fourth time in two months.

Population Movements

North Kivu and South Kivu Provinces

On September 18, UNHCR reported an increase in IDP returns from Goma IDP camps to areas of origin in Masisi and Rutshuru territories, North Kivu Province. As a result of increased returns, UNHCR reports that the population of the six Goma IDP camps decreased from approximately 140,000 people in November 2008 to 65,000 individuals in mid-August. According to USAID/OFDA staff in DRC, several Goma-area camps no longer contain IDPs. U.N. agencies and partners have

initiated a plan to provide returnees with a return package that includes a three-month food ration and an emergency relief supply kit containing plastic sheeting, water containers, soap, kitchen supplies, blankets, and mats.

Conflict between the FDLR and FARDC, attacks on civilians, and concerns regarding potentially escalated military activities continue to result in displacement in parts of North Kivu and South Kivu provinces. As of September 3, OCHA reported an estimated 1.1 million IDPs in North Kivu Province, an increase of approximately 20,000 IDPs since July 7. In South Kivu Province, OCHA reported a total of more than 704,000 IDPs as of September 16, representing an increase of more than 167,000 people since July 27.

As of September 3, estimated displacement figures in North Kivu Province included 430,000 IDPs in Lubero Territory, 250,000 IDPs in Masisi Territory, 170,000 IDPs in Walikale Territory, and 126,000 in Rutshuru Territory, according to OCHA. Nyiragongo Territory recorded a decrease from approximately 150,000 IDPs to an estimated 64,000 IDPs between July 7 and September 3. However, OCHA noted that decreased numbers of IDPs in several territories in North Kivu Province most likely results from more precise reporting, rather than improved security conditions. In addition to newly displaced individuals, the current total of nearly 1.1 million IDPs in North Kivu Province includes longer-term IDPs, many of whom have experienced secondary or tertiary displacement during the conflict.

As of September 16, approximate displacement figures in South Kivu Province included 338,000 IDPs in Kalehe Territory, 77,000 IDPs in Kabare Territory, and 73,000 IDPs in each of Shabunda and Walungu territories, according to OCHA. Of the total, approximately 47,000 IDPs currently reside in Uvira Territory, the site of increased displacement since the escalation of FARDC and MONUC operations against the FDLR began on July 14. OCHA noted particular concern regarding recent increased displacement resulting from FARDC and MONUC operations against the FDLR in Fizi Territory, South Kivu Province.

In FY 2009, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$24 million to support IDPs and other conflict-affected populations in North Kivu and South Kivu provinces. USAID/OFDA assistance includes support for 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

LRA activities in Orientale Province continue to contribute to insecurity, resulting in further displacement. As of September 18, OCHA reported more than 263,300 IDPs in LRA-affected Haut-Uélé and Bas-Uélé districts, an increase of more than 45,000 IDPs since mid-July. Displacement figures include more than 232,000 IDPs in

Haut-Uélé District and nearly 31,300 IDPs in Bas-Uélé District.

In Ituri District, OCHA reported more than 184,400 IDPs as of September 18, an increase of several thousand IDPs since August 1. Following a July 22 to 28 joint FARDC and MONUC operation targeting FPJC militia, OCHA reported that FPJC and FPRI attacks intensified during the month of August. According to OCHA, at least five relief agencies operating in Gety town, Irumu Territory, have reduced humanitarian activities due to the recent increase in insecurity.

In FY 2009, USAID/OFDA 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 relief supplies, through implementing partners Mercy Corps, Première Urgence, Samaritan's Purse, Solidarités, the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), and Welthungerhilfe (WHH).

Agriculture and Food Security

Food insecurity resulting from displacement remains a significant concern in eastern DRC due to limited access to agricultural land, as well as insufficient humanitarian access. Compounding the situation, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization reported a 52 percent average increase in food prices countrywide between May 2008 and June 2009, further limiting access to sufficient food supplies.

In response to ongoing food security concerns, USAID/FFP partner the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) supports a food assistance relief program targeting more than 3 million conflict-affected individuals in eastern DRC. In addition, the WFP Emergency Operation (EMOP) will benefit an estimated 162,000 individuals displaced by LRA attacks in Haut-Uélé District, Orientale Province.

In FY 2009, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$5.2 million to support agriculture and food security programs targeting conflict-affected populations in DRC. In FY 2009, USAID/FFP also provided more than 72,000 metric tons (MT) of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at more than \$112 million, to the DRC. USAID/FFP assistance included nearly 5,000 MT of food assistance provided to WFP for the EMOP in Haut-Uélé District, Orientale Province.

Health and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

Ongoing conflict continues to result in increased risk of waterborne disease transmission in North Kivu and South Kivu provinces due to insufficient access to safe drinking water, as well as limited health facilities and inadequate infrastructure. On September 14, the government of South Kivu Province declared a cholera epidemic in 10 affected territories in the province.

As of September 22, the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) had reported 5,750 cholera cases since January in South Kivu Province, resulting in 73 deaths. Of the total, WHO recorded 562 new cholera cases and four deaths in South Kivu Province between September 15 and 22. Relief agencies have expressed concern regarding the current cholera case fatality rate (CFR) of 1.2 percent in South Kivu Province, above the emergency threshold of 1 percent. In North Kivu Province, WHO also reported 4,609 cholera cases between January and the end of September, resulting in 48 deaths and an approximate CFR of 1 percent.

In FY 2009, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$3.9 million to support WASH interventions in conflict-affected areas in DRC. Through implementing partners Catholic Relief Services (CRS), International Medical Corps (IMC), Merlin, Mercy Corps, Samaritan's Purse, and UNICEF, USAID/OFDA-supported programs work to improve access to safe water and adequate sanitation infrastructure for IDPs and host communities, as well as promote hygiene awareness. In addition, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$6.6 million in FY 2009 to support emergency health interventions in conflict-affected areas through implementing partners IRC, IMC, and Merlin.

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, Economic Recovery and Market Systems	North Kivu and South Kivu Provinces	\$1,000,000
Concern	Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Logistics and Relief Commodities	North Kivu Province	\$901,129
CRS	Logistics and Relief Commodities, WASH	North Kivu Province	\$649,921
Handicap International	Economic Recovery and Market Systems	South Kivu Province	\$192,404
IMC	Health, Logistics and Relief Commodities, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	North Kivu and South Kivu Provinces	\$3,606,297
IRC	Health, Protection	North Kivu Province	\$1,308,286
Mercy Corps	WASH	North Kivu Province	\$2,111,678
Mercy Corps	Economic Recovery and Market Systems	Orientale Province	\$980,920
Merlin	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	North Kivu Province	\$4,574,270
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$1,072,596
Première Urgence	Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems	North Kivu and Orientale Provinces	\$2,383,128
Samaritan's Purse	Logistics and Relief Commodities, 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
UNHCR	Shelter and Settlements	North Kivu and South Kivu Provinces	\$500,000
UNICEF	Logistics and Relief Commodities	North Kivu and Orientale Provinces	\$3,867,651
UNICEF	Protection	Orientale Province	\$800,000
UNICEF	Logistics and Relief Commodities, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	North Kivu, Orientale, and South Kivu Provinces	\$1,200,000
WHH	Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems, Logistics and Relief Commodities	North Kivu Province	\$1,700,242
WHH	Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems	Orientale Province	\$1,998,755

U.N. Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)	Humanitarian Air Service	Countrywide	\$784,083
World Relief International	Agriculture and Food Security	North Kivu Province	\$600,000
	Program Support Costs	Countrywide	\$1,145,435
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$33,910,244
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
WFP	67,490 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	\$101,147,800
WFP	4,590 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance for the Haut-Uélé District EMOP	Orientale Province	\$11,058,800
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$112,206,600
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED)	Livelihoods	Katanga Province	\$800,000
CRS	Agriculture and Food Security, Livelihoods	Katanga Province	\$994,470
Center for Victims of Torture (CVT)	Mental Health and SGBV Response	Katanga Province	\$1,099,744
Food for the Hungry	WASH and Livelihoods	Katanga Province	\$1,200,000
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	Human Rights Monitoring and Support to Conflict Victims	Countrywide	\$12,400,000
IMC	Health and SGBV Prevention and Response	South Kivu Province	\$1,268,490
Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS)	Primary Education	Katanga Province	\$490,975
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	Shelter and Primary Education	South Kivu Province	\$775,391
Search for Common Ground (SFCG)	Community Awareness Raising and Gender-Based Violence Prevention	South Kivu and Katanga Provinces	\$470,563
Tearfund	Education, Refugee Reintegration	South Kivu Province	\$1,997,845
WFP	Emergency Food Assistance for Refugee Repatriation Programs	Countrywide	\$500,000
Women for Women International (WFW)	Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Response	South Kivu Province	\$391,764
UNHCR	IDP Protection, Refugee and Returnee Protection	Countrywide	\$23,100,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$45,489,242
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE DRC IN FY 2009			\$146,116,844
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE DRC IN FY 2009			\$191,606,086

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of September 29, 2009.

² Estimated value of food assistance.

³ State/PRM funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of September 29, 2009.