

Democratic Republic of the Congo – Complex Emergency

SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

<p>106.7 MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Population of the DRC</p> <p><i>OCHA – December 2021</i></p>	<p>27 MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Population in Need of Assistance in 2022</p> <p><i>OCHA – February 2022</i></p>	<p>5.5 MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Number of IDPs in the DRC</p> <p><i>UNHCR – July 2022</i></p>	<p>1 MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Number of Congolese Refugees in Neighboring Countries</p> <p><i>UNHCR – August 2022</i></p>	<p>518,899</p> <p>Estimated Number of Refugees Sheltering in the DRC</p> <p><i>UNHCR – August 2022</i></p>
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- Between 7.5 and 10 million people across the DRC will face severe levels of acute food insecurity through March 2023, according to FEWS NET.
- The M23 crisis has displaced 233,000 people in North Kivu Province’s Nyiragongo and Rutshuru territories since March 2022.
- Escalating armed group attacks against civilians continue to drive worsening humanitarian conditions in Ituri Province.
- Conflict over land in western DRC’s Mai-Ndombe Province has internally displaced more than 35,000 people in a region with limited existing humanitarian presence.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the DRC Response in FY 2022	USAID/BHA ¹	\$467,579,779
	State/PRM ²	\$88,500,000
Total		\$556,079,779

For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 6

¹ USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)
² U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Conflict, High Prices Drive Food Insecurity, Particularly in Eastern DRC

Between 7.5 million and 10 million people in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) will face Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity through March 2023 and will require emergency food assistance to meet basic needs, the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) reports.³ Vulnerable households will continue to experience limited access to food in the coming months due to the cumulative impact of successive seasons of low crop production and rising food prices, which prompted an early start to the lean season in August across eastern DRC. Conflict-affected and other vulnerable populations in parts of Haut-Katanga, Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu, and Tanganyika provinces will likely continue to face Crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity between October and January 2023, with an expansion of Crisis conditions into additional areas of Ituri and Tanganyika expected during the same period, according to FEWS NET. Due to ongoing population movements, conflict-affected areas in northeastern DRC will experience low crop yields and additional households may abandon agricultural livelihoods if violence disrupts their access to fields, thereby increasing food consumption deficits.

Food and non-food commodity prices continue to rise across the country, with prices of imported staple foods—such as rice and vegetable oil—between 45 and 105 percent above the country’s two-year average as of late August. Commodity prices have also increased between 10 and 20 percent compared to the beginning of 2022 due primarily to global market disruptions related to the Government of the Russian Federation’s invasion of Ukraine. For vulnerable populations in the DRC, commodity price increases have limited household purchasing power and further exacerbated acute food insecurity.

M23 Crisis Displaces More Than 233,000 People in North Kivu Since March

More than 233,000 people in North Kivu’s Nyiragongo and Rutshuru territories were displaced between March and September by clashes between the Armed Forces of the DRC (FARDC) and members of the March 23 Movement (M23), the UN reports. The majority of those displaced are currently residing in collective centers, such as churches and schools, with nearly 82 percent of internally displaced persons (IDPs) located in sites across North Kivu’s Rutshuru Health Zone and the remainder sheltering in Nyiragongo as of September 30. Living conditions remain substandard for many IDPs, with drinking water, essential household items, food, and shelter assistance reported as the most urgent needs for people sheltering in displacement sites.

The arrival of more than 14,000 Congolese from Uganda’s neighboring Kisoro locality since early September has further strained relief capacity, exacerbating already dire conditions at displacement sites. The individuals—who fled to Uganda following the onset of the M23 crisis in March—were forcibly returned from Uganda to the DRC and have settled in IDP camps in Rutshuru Health Zone following a Government of Uganda decree that mandated Congolese refugees either relocate to camps in the country or return to the DRC.

In response to rising needs, USAID/BHA partners are working to scale up assistance for IDPs in Rutshuru Health Zone. Through the USAID/BHA-funded Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM), the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) is coordinating with local partners to distribute emergency water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) kits and provide three water tanks to improve access to safe drinking water and

³ The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a multi-partner initiative that developed a standardized scale to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries and time, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5—for acute food insecurity.

improve hygiene conditions at the Rwasa II site, where the majority of refouled Congolese are arriving. The UN agency is also working to expand child protection services in the camp, while State/PRM partner the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is working to scale up the provision of gender-based violence (GBV) case management and other protection support. Additionally, approximately 1,000 households had received critical non-food items through the UNICEF-managed RRM as of late September.

Armed Group Attacks in Ituri Result in Civilian Deaths, Displacement

In response to increased M23 activity in North Kivu since early 2022, the FARDC began redeploying security forces from Ituri, contributing to an increase in violent attacks in parts of Ituri by the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) and other non-state armed actors since late July, according to the UN. Armed group elements carried out approximately 12 armed attacks in Irumu Territory between July 7 and 29, resulting in at least 37 civilian deaths. The armed actors also kidnapped more than 80 other civilians—including an estimated 40 children—and burned more than 700 houses during this period, the UN reports.

Overall, relief actors reported more than 8,700 protection incidents in Ituri during July, with nearly 60 percent occurring in Djugu Territory, according to the Protection Cluster, the coordinating body for humanitarian protection activities, comprising UN agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other stakeholders. This total represented an estimated 340 percent increase since June, which the Protection Cluster attributed to renewed clashes between armed actors in the province. Moreover, relief actors reported more than 240 cases of GBV in Ituri during July alone, reflecting the deteriorating protection situation caused by the recent uptick in violence.

In Ituri's Mambasa Territory, renewed clashes between the FARDC and ADF elements displaced at least 19,000 people between September 2 and 5, bringing the total number of individuals displaced in the territory by ADF incursions and related military reprisals since mid-August to approximately 80,000 people, the UN reports. Escalating violence in Mambasa has also resulted in at least 99 deaths and numerous kidnappings during ADF incursions since August 10. The conflict and related displacement of essential health care workers prompted the ongoing suspension of medical services in Mambasa's Lolwa General Hospital, as well as five other local health centers, restricting access to health care for more than 120,000 people since late August, according to the UN.

Conflict in Maï-Ndombe Internally Displaces More Than 35,000 People, UN Calls for Rapid Provision of Additional Assistance

Violence between the Teke and Yaka communities in western DRC's Maï-Ndombe Province's Kwamouth Territory had resulted in more than 150 deaths and internally displaced 35,000 people, while an additional 1,400 people had sought asylum in neighboring Republic of the Congo as of mid-August, the UN reports. The violence, sparked by disagreements over how land is traditionally taxed, spread to Kwilu Province's Bagata Territory in mid-September and has resulted in the widespread destruction of homes in affected areas, exacerbating humanitarian needs in an area where there is limited existing infrastructure in place to launch a large-scale humanitarian response.

The majority of newly displaced individuals—including hundreds of unaccompanied children—are sheltering in northern areas of Maï-Ndombe and adjoining areas of Kwango Province, while some have fled to the DRC's capital city of Kinshasa as well, according to relief actors. Although some IDPs are residing with host communities, others are dwelling in makeshift shelters, public buildings, or in the open air, indicating the urgent need for shelter assistance, particularly as the rainy season is now underway.

Emergency food assistance, health care services, and safe drinking water are additional priority needs in conflict-affected areas, according to relief actors.

Although the delivery of some limited assistance—including health services, the provision of clean water and dignity kits, and other WASH assistance—remains ongoing in the area through Médecins Sans Frontières since late August, the UN continues to advocate for the rapid mobilization of additional resources. On September 30, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in the DRC Bruno Lemarquis released a public statement calling for urgent measures to stem the escalation of violence and provide an emergency humanitarian response in Maï-Ndombe and Kwilu, noting the risk of conflict spreading to new areas unless mediation efforts are increased. Relief actors continue to express concern about the possibility of conflict spreading to new areas as IDPs continue to move. USAID/BHA staff in Kinshasa continue to monitor the situation in Maï-Ndombe and surrounding areas in coordination with UN and NGO partners.

KEY FIGURES



1.3 Million

People provided with food and nutrition assistance in August by WFP



\$58.9 Million

In dedicated USAID/BHA support for nutrition assistance in FY 2022



\$44.3 Million

In dedicated USAID/BHA support for life-saving health programming in FY 2022

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

USAID/BHA partners, including the UN World Food Program (WFP), continue to provide emergency food assistance to host community members, IDPs, refugees, and other vulnerable populations facing acute food insecurity in the DRC. With more than \$189.7 million in USAID/BHA support in FY 2022, NGO and UN partners are providing cash transfers for food, food vouchers, and in-kind food assistance—including U.S.-sourced commodities—to help vulnerable households meet their basic food needs.

USAID/BHA has provided more than \$58.9 million in FY 2022 funding to help partners identify and treat individuals facing acute malnutrition. UN agency and NGO partners also conduct activities to support improved food security and nutrition outcomes, such as distributing tools and seeds to bolster household agricultural production and conducting awareness campaigns on dietary needs. Additionally, USAID/BHA provides funding to strengthen the coordination of nutrition and food security interventions and ensure critical assistance is reaching the most vulnerable populations.

HEALTH

USAID/BHA has provided approximately \$44.3 million in FY 2022 funding to expand community access to primary health care services in conflict-affected areas of the DRC, including increasing the availability of essential medicines and supplies and supporting disease surveillance and response efforts, among other activities. Notably, USAID/BHA supports the procurement and distribution of post-exposure prophylaxis kits, as well as related health worker training, bolstering the clinical management of GBV cases in health facilities across five provinces. USAID also supports health messaging efforts, encouraging the adoption of recommended health and hygiene best practices to prevent the spread of communicable diseases, including coronavirus disease (COVID-19). State/PRM partners support primary

health care, including maternal and child health care and procurement of essential medicines and equipment, for refugees from neighboring Central African Republic (CAR) in the DRC's Nord-Ubangi and Sud-Ubangi provinces. State/PRM also supports UNHCR to provide essential medicines and nutrition supplies to health centers to camps sheltering refugees from CAR in Nord-Ubangi and Sud-Ubangi.



\$21.3 Million

In dedicated USAID/BHA support for protection programming in FY 2022

PROTECTION

U.S. Government (USG) humanitarian partners conduct critical protection services in response to needs in conflict-affected areas of the DRC. USAID/BHA has provided approximately \$21.3 million in FY 2022 support to partners implementing protection activities in the country, including the establishment of safe spaces for children and survivors of GBV and the provision of child protection and psychosocial support services, among other activities. Meanwhile, State/PRM partner UNHCR provides displaced households and host community members with core relief item kits and distributes dignity kits to women and girls.



\$22.8 Million

In dedicated USAID/BHA support for shelter and settlements programming in FY 2022

SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS

With more than \$22 million in FY 2022 funding, USAID/BHA partners are providing shelter assistance to IDPs and returnees in crisis-affected areas of the DRC. USG partners play a leading role in constructing emergency shelters for displaced individuals and managing IDP and refugee camps in the DRC. USAID/BHA partners also provide longer-term shelter solutions for returnees in areas where the situation has stabilized, paired with legal assistance to help families secure land for farming and habitation in areas where IDPs are resettled. State/PRM partner UNHCR has established hubs providing assistance, such as cash transfers to refugees and host community members, in three provinces hosting CAR refugees. In response to violence in Rutshuru, the UN agency had constructed more than 1,000 new emergency shelters in eastern DRC, including temporary shelters for people with disabilities, as of mid-September. USG partners also provide relief commodities and household items, including blankets, mats, tools, and water containers, to meet IDP, returnee, and refugee households' basic needs.



\$59.7 Million

In dedicated USAID/BHA support for WASH programming in FY 2022

WASH

USAID/BHA has provided approximately \$59.7 million in FY 2022 funding to support WASH activities countrywide, helping to improve access to safe drinking water and sanitation infrastructure and reduce the spread of infectious diseases, such as cholera and measles. USG-supported activities include constructing and rehabilitating WASH infrastructure, including handwashing stations, latrines, showers, and water points; transporting emergency water reserves to IDP and refugee sites; and distributing hygiene kits and other essential WASH commodities. State/PRM partner UNHCR and its partners have constructed community latrines and bathing rooms and provided other forms of assistance to refugees from CAR in North Ubangi's Modale Development Hub. In response to humanitarian needs in

Rutshuru, UNHCR also had built nearly 50 collective kitchens, latrines, and shower blocks in eastern DRC to improve WASH conditions and prevent the spread of disease, as of mid-September.

CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Despite the implementation of a peace agreement in 2003, fighting between forces loyal to the Government of the DRC (GoDRC) and various armed entities, including the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda and Mai Mai elements, continues to contribute to high levels of insecurity and population displacement in eastern DRC.
- Violence, restricted humanitarian access, poor infrastructure, forced recruitment into armed groups, and reduced access to agricultural land and traditional markets have contributed to the deterioration of humanitarian conditions in several parts of the DRC, triggering widespread internal displacement and refugee outflows.
- Citing a rising number of armed group attacks against civilians, President of the DRC Félix Tshisekedi declared a 30-day state of siege in eastern DRC's Ituri and North Kivu on May 6, 2021, which remains in effect as of September 2022. The GoDRC edict vastly expands the powers of the FARDC in the two provinces, allowing military officials to temporarily assume control of the provincial governments.
- On November 1, 2021, U.S. Ambassador to the DRC Michael A. Hammer re-declared a disaster for FY 2022 due to ongoing complex emergency conditions in the DRC, citing the significant level of unmet humanitarian needs in the DRC exceeding the government's capacity to respond and the willingness of the GoDRC to accept humanitarian assistance.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE DRC RESPONSE IN FY 2022^{1, 2}

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
Action pour le Bien-etre Communautaire (ABCom)	Agriculture, Food Assistance	North Kivu	\$499,987
Action contre la Faim (ACF)	Agriculture, Food Assistance, Nutrition, WASH	Ituri, Kasai, Kasai-Central, Kasai-Oriental, Maniema, North Kivu, South Kivu	\$62,523,500
ACTED	Agriculture, Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Food Assistance, Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA), Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Bas-Uele, Ituri, Maniema, Nord-Ubangi, North Kivu, South Kivu, Sud-Ubangi, Tanganyika	\$24,006,427
Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)	Agriculture, ERMS, Food Assistance, WASH	Kasai	\$10,270,000
African Initiatives for Relief and Development (AIRD)	Shelter and Settlements, WASH	North Kivu	\$2,834,705
Alliance for International Medical Action (ALIMA)	Health, Nutrition, Protection	Ituri, North Kivu	\$2,500,000

CARE	Health, Protection, WASH	North Kivu, South Kivu	\$7,500,000
CONCERN	Agriculture, ERMS, Food Assistance, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	North Kivu, Tanganyika	\$12,403,969
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	Agriculture, Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and Practice (DRRPP), ERMS, Food Assistance, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Kasai-Central, Tanganyika	\$14,697,398
DanChurchAid	ERMS, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	North Kivu	\$4,775,000
Danish Refugee Council (DRC)	Agriculture, ERMS, Food Assistance, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Ituri, North Kivu	\$9,000,000
Doctors of the World	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	South Kivu	\$4,500,000
International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)	Food Assistance	North Kivu, Tanganyika	\$10,000,000
International Medical Corps (IMC)	Health, Nutrition, Protection	South Kivu, Tanganyika	\$17,345,847
International NGO Safety Organization (INSO)	HCIMA	Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu	\$872,790
Interchurch Medical Assistance	Health	Ituri, Maniema, North Kivu, South Kivu, Tanganyika	\$4,125,018
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	HCIMA, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$11,500,000
IRC	Health, Protection	Ituri, North Kivu	\$4,104,196
Medair	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	North Kivu	\$13,198,707
Mercy Corps	Agriculture, ERMS, Food Assistance, HCIMA, Multipurpose Cash Assistance, Protection, WASH	Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu, Tanganyika	\$22,816,327
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Tanganyika	\$2,750,000
Oxfam	WASH	Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu, Tanganyika	\$3,500,000
Première Urgence Internationale (PUI)	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	North Kivu	\$3,500,000
People in Need	Health, Multipurpose Cash Assistance, Nutrition, WASH	South Kivu	\$3,000,000
Rebuild Hope for Africa	Shelter and Settlements	South Kivu	\$499,880
Samaritan's Purse	Agriculture, Food Assistance, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Haut-Uele, Ituri, North Kivu, Tshopo	\$14,373,839
Save the Children Federation (SCF)	Health, Nutrition, Protection Wash	Ituri	\$11,500,000
Swiss Interchurch Aid (HEKS)	Agriculture, ERMS, WASH	South Kivu	\$2,000,000
Tearfund	Agriculture, WASH	Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu	\$6,083,069
Transcultural Psychosocial Organization (TPO)	WASH	South Kivu	\$500,000
UN Population Fund (UNFPA)	Protection, HCIMA	Countrywide	\$1,994,263
UNICEF	Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Ituri, Kasai, Maniema, North Kivu, South Kivu, Tanganyika	\$14,500,000
	Food Assistance - 1,000 MT of U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Ituri, Kasai, Kasai-Central, Kasai-Oriental, South Kivu, Tanganyika	\$11,012,609
	HCIMA, Nutrition	Countrywide	\$988,229

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
	Food Assistance - Cash Transfers for Food, Local, Regional, and International Procurement; HCIMA	Countrywide	\$62,000,000
WFP	Food Assistance - 24,300 MT of U.S. In-Kind Food Aid; Nutrition	Countrywide	\$68,447,062
	Logistics	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
Welthungerhilfe (WHH)	Agriculture, Multipurpose Cash Assistance, WASH	North Kivu	\$1,444,000
World Relief International (WRI)	Agriculture, Food Assistance	Tanganyika	\$9,677,401
World Vision	Agriculture, Food Assistance, WASH	North Kivu	\$3,500,000
	Program Support		\$835,556
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR THE DRC RESPONSE IN FY 2022			\$467,579,779
STATE/PRM³			
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	Agriculture, Food Assistance, Health, Protection, WASH	Countrywide	\$25,300,000
UNHCR	Protection, Shelter and Settlements, and Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$60,100,000
UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)	Logistics	Countrywide	\$600,000
World Vision	Health, Protection, WASH	Nord-Ubangi, Sud-Ubangi	\$2,500,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$88,500,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE DRC RESPONSE IN FY 2022			\$556,079,779

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of September 30, 2022.

² Estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement, subject to change.

³ This total does not include the \$86.6 million in FY 2022 State/PRM funding for Congolese refugees in neighboring countries, which increases the total USG emergency funding for the DRC complex emergency in FY 2022 to approximately \$643 million.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at interaction.org.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: cidi.org
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at reliefweb.int.

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at [usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)