

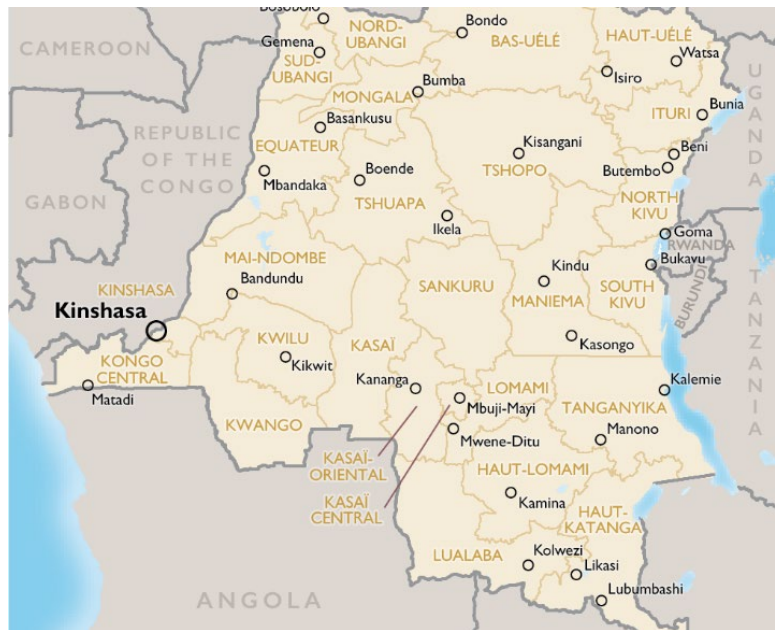
Democratic Republic of the Congo – Complex Emergency

MARCH 10, 2023

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

<p>95.2 MILLION</p> <p>Population of the DRC</p> <p><i>UN – December 2022</i></p>	<p>26.4 MILLION</p> <p>Population in Need of Assistance in 2023</p> <p><i>UN – February 2023</i></p>	<p>5.8 MILLION</p> <p>Number of IDPs in the DRC</p> <p><i>UNHCR – December 2022</i></p>	<p>1.2 MILLION</p> <p>Number of Congolese Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Nearby Countries</p> <p><i>UNHCR – February 2023</i></p>	<p>523,174</p> <p>Number of Refugees and Asylum Seekers Sheltering in the DRC</p> <p><i>UNHCR – January 2023</i></p>
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- M23 gained control of Masisi Territory’s Mushaki locality on February 24, prompting displacement and cutting off a critical transport route connecting North Kivu Province’s capital city of Goma to northern areas of the province.
- USAID/BHA partners continue to provide vital assistance, including protection services, to conflict-affected people in areas of North Kivu where access allows.
- Armed groups launched attacks across several health zones in Ituri’s Djugu Territory, leading to at least 29 civilian deaths, injuring more than 40 others, and displacing approximately 28,000 people in early February, according to the UN.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

USAID/BHA¹

\$139,207,409

For the DRC Response in FY 2023

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

Total \$139,207,409

¹ USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA).

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

M23 Expands Into New Territories, Assuming Control of Another Key Transport Route Out of Goma

The March 23 Movement (M23) gained control of Mushaki on February 24 following more than two days of clashes with the Armed Forces of the DRC (FARDC), prompting mass displacement and further restricting humanitarian access to conflict-affected areas of North Kivu, according to international media. M23's control of the strategic area means the armed group currently controls all roads from Goma—the main staging point for humanitarian operations in the province—to northern and western North Kivu, including Lubero, Masisi, and Walikale territories. The armed group subsequently took control of Masisi's Mweso town on February 27 while also continuing its advance toward nearby Sake town, which was one of the last remaining towns with road access to Goma in the province, as of early March.

Armed clashes between FARDC forces, M23, and other armed groups have continued to generate protection risks in North Kivu's Masisi, Nyiragongo, and Rutshuru territories in recent weeks, with USAID/BHA partners reporting increases in gender-based violence (GBV) and other violations among internally displaced persons (IDPs). Tens of thousands of people have fled to areas in and around Goma, as well as other areas in North Kivu and South Kivu provinces, bringing the total number of individuals displaced by the M23 crisis to at least 600,000 people since March 2022. Despite limited resources at many IDPs sites in these areas, displaced populations have increased dramatically in several sites in recent weeks, with the number of IDPs increasing from 35,000 to nearly 64,000 at one such site near Goma from mid- to late February, the UN reports. The influx of IDPs to sites in and around Goma and Sake has exacerbated already significant food, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) needs and raised protection concerns, particularly among women and girls. USAID/BHA partners continue to deliver food, health, and protection assistance to conflict-affected populations in North Kivu—including in Bulengo, Kanyaruchinya, and Rusayo IDP camps located on the outskirts of Goma—when security conditions allow. Additionally, USAID/BHA is coordinating with partners to scale up the delivery of food, health, nutrition, protection, shelter, and WASH assistance in the Goma-Sake area.

Violence in Djugu and Irumu Leads to 80 Civilian Deaths and Displacement of Nearly 40,000 Others

A series of attacks by armed actors across several health zones in Djugu resulted in at least 29 civilian deaths, more than 40 injuries, and displaced more than 28,000 people between February 6 and 12, the UN reports. The latest attacks in Djugu—which raised the number of people displaced in the territory between January and mid-February to 156,000—continue to severely restrict humanitarian access to the area. In particular, insecurity has restricted access to Rhoe IDP camp, the largest IDP site in Ituri, which contained more than 70,000 people as of late February, a USAID/BHA partner reports. In Komanda Health Zone in Ituri's Irumu Territory, attacks by armed actors between February 1 and 11 led to the deaths of at least 51 civilians, which is indicative of the deterioration of security conditions in the area since January that has prevented the return of many previously displaced people, according to the UN. Moreover, on February 5, clashes between the FARDC and armed groups in Komanda displaced an estimated 10,900 people who had returned to their areas of origin between October and December 2022. In response to urgent humanitarian needs generated by violence in Ituri and resultant displacement, USAID/BHA partner Samaritan's Purse assisted more than 110,000 people affected by conflict with food and seed distributions, among other types of assistance, in Irumu, Mahagi, and Mambasa territories between late January and mid-February.

Up to 10 Million People Likely to Face Acute Food Insecurity in 2023

Up to 10 million people are likely to experience Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity across the DRC during 2023, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET).² Persistent conflict continues to disrupt crop cultivation, displace communities, and weaken local markets. Escalating conflict and resultant displacement in Ituri and North Kivu—particularly in Djugu and M23-affected areas—since January has severely limited households’ ability to engage in agricultural activities, likely leading to a reduction of food availability in eastern DRC. Heavy rainfall and subsequent landslides have also adversely affected crop yields and limited access to nutritious food in South Kivu in recent months. FEWS NET projects the most severe levels of food insecurity in the conflict-affected provinces of Ituri, Kasai, Maniema, North Kivu, South Kivu, and Tanganyika, with some households in Ituri and North Kivu projected to face Emergency—IPC 4—levels of acute food insecurity in September at the onset of the lean season, the period when food is most scarce.

During February, persistent armed group activity led to significantly higher prices of staple foods across eastern DRC compared to the same period in 2022, with the cost of beans, corn flour, and rice rising by 107, 95, and 89 percent, respectively, in Goma. Conflict-related displacement fueled a surge in food prices as violence between FARDC, M23, and other armed groups prompted thousands of people to flee their lands in key agricultural areas of Rutshuru, FEWS NET reports. Moreover, in South Kivu’s Bukavu market, the cost of corn flour has increased 63 percent compared to February 2022, while in Ituri’s Bunia city, beans have seen a 57 percent increase and cassava flour a 60 percent increase.

2023 DRC HRP Requests \$2.25 Billion to Reach 10 Million People in Need

The UN, in coordination with humanitarian partners and the government of the DRC (GoDRC), released the 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for the DRC on February 22, requesting \$2.25 billion to respond to the needs of 10 million at-risk people in the country, an increase from the 8.8 million people that the HRP aimed to assist in 2022. Overall, the UN estimates that approximately 26.4 million people—more than 25 percent of the population—will likely require emergency assistance in 2023, with the same number likely needing food aid to meet basic needs. Other priority needs among crisis-affected populations in the DRC include health, protection, and WASH assistance, with the HRP designating more than \$1 billion for food assistance and nearly \$266 million in funding to meet health and WASH needs. Additionally, the HRP calls for more than \$146 million to provide protection services to approximately 3.4 million people. The planned HRP and majority of needs across these sectors are primarily concentrated in eastern DRC due to persistent conflict, particularly in Ituri, North Kivu, and South Kivu.

² 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.

KEY FIGURES



\$60.8 Million

In dedicated USAID/BHA support for emergency food assistance programming in FY 2023



\$9 Million

In dedicated USAID/BHA support for nutrition assistance programming in FY 2023



12

Number of USAID/BHA partners implementing critical health programs in the DRC

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 \$60.8 million to date in FY 2023, non-governmental organization (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 provided more than \$9 million to date in FY 2023 to help partners identify and treat acute malnutrition. To support improved food security and nutrition outcomes in the longer term, UN agencies and NGO partners are distributing tools and seeds to bolster household agricultural production and conducting awareness campaigns on dietary needs and infant and young child feeding best practices. USAID/BHA funding also aims to strengthen the coordination of nutrition and food security interventions and ensure critical assistance is reaching the most vulnerable populations.

HEALTH

USAID/BHA continues to support 12 NGO partners to expand community access to free primary health care services in the DRC in areas of high displacement, including increasing the availability of essential medicines and supplies and supporting disease surveillance and response efforts. 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 rape 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, such as cholera. U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (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 the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to provide essential medicines and nutrition supplies to health centers in camps sheltering refugees from CAR in Nord-Ubangi and Sud-Ubangi.



\$6.6 Million

In dedicated USAID/BHA support for protection programming in FY 2023

PROTECTION

U.S. Government (USG) humanitarian partners support the provision of critical protection services in conflict-affected areas of the DRC.

USAID/BHA provided approximately \$6.6 million in funding to help partners implement protection activities in the country, including the establishment of safe spaces for children and survivors of GBV, as well as the provision of child protection and psychosocial support services, among other activities, in FY 2023.



\$765,000

In dedicated USAID/BHA support for shelter and settlements programming in FY 2023

SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS

With nearly \$765,000 in FY 2023 funding to date, 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 built nearly 3,800 shelters for vulnerable individuals, including those with disabilities, in North Kivu, Nord-Ubangi, and Sud-Ubangi, and supported the voluntary return of more than 440 refugees from the DRC previously living in Zambia with food distributions, legal support, and medical services, among other types of assistance, during January.



\$28.7 Million

In dedicated USAID/BHA support for WASH programming in FY 2023

WASH

USAID/BHA provided approximately \$28.7 million in FY 2023 funding to date 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 hand washing 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 Nord-Ubangi's Modale Development Hub. In response to humanitarian needs in Rutshuru, USAID/BHA partner the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) constructed 30 hand-washing stations, delivered drinking water to more than 29,000 people, and distributed WASH kits to 2,000 households in Nyiragongo between October and December 2022.

CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Despite the implementation of a peace agreement in 2003, fighting between forces loyal to the GoDRC and various armed entities, including the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda, M23, Mai Mai elements, and militias affiliated with the Hema and Lendu ethnic groups, 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.
- Since March 2022, renewed clashes between the FARDC and M23 in Rutshuru have displaced hundreds of thousands of people within North Kivu and to South Kivu, straining humanitarian capacity in areas receiving IDPs. IDPs are facing significant disease and protection risks due to inadequate access to shelter and other emergency assistance, particularly in the outskirts of Goma, where many people have fled following the escalation of conflict in October 2022. Relief actors also report severely restricted access to M23-controlled areas of North Kivu, where access to basic services and food is likely limited.
- On October 4, 2022, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires (CdA) Stephanie Miley renewed a declaration of humanitarian need (DHN) for FY 2023 due to ongoing complex emergency conditions in the DRC. CdA Miley cited 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 as factors justifying the DHN’s renewal.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE DRC RESPONSE IN FY 2023¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
Association Locale Pour Le Developpement Integral (ALDI)	Food Assistance	Ituri	\$493,140
CONCERN	Agriculture, Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Food Assistance, WASH	Tanganyika	\$13,596,031
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	Agriculture, Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and Practice, ERMS, Food Assistance, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Kasaï-Central, Tanganyika	\$14,492,214
Mercy Corps	Agriculture, ERMS, Food Assistance, Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA), Multipurpose Case Assistance (MCPA), Protection, WASH	Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu, Tanganyika	\$22,183,673
Programme de Promotion de Soins de Sante Primaire (PPSSP)	WASH	North Kivu	\$500,000
Tearfund	Agriculture, WASH	North Kivu	\$5,916,931

UNICEF	HCIMA, MCPA, Protection, WASH	Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu, Tanganyika	\$24,366,357
	Food Assistance—U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Countrywide	\$39,996,837
WFP	Food Assistance— Cash Transfers for Food	Bas-Uele, Ituri, Haut-Uele, Nord-Ubangi, South Kivu, Sud-Ubangi	\$10,000,000
	Logistics	Countrywide	\$7,000,000
Program Support			\$662,226
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$139,207,409
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE DRC RESPONSE IN FY 2023			\$139,207,409

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of March 10, 2023.

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)