

Democratic Republic of the Congo – Complex Emergency

MAY 19, 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>6.2 MILLION</p> <p>Number of IDPs in the DRC</p> <p><i>UNHCR – April 2023</i></p>	<p>1.3 MILLION</p> <p>Number of Congolese Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Nearby Countries</p> <p><i>UNHCR – April 2023</i></p>	<p>522,579</p> <p>Number of Refugees and Asylum Seekers Sheltering in the DRC</p> <p><i>UNHCR – April 2023</i></p>
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- Flooding and landslides in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)'s South Kivu Province from May 2 to 4 resulted in more than 400 deaths and the displacement of nearly 1,500 people. USAID/BHA partners are responding with health, protection, and WASH aid to flood-affected populations.
- Large-scale displacement resulting from M23-related conflict and limited access to basic services have caused a sharp increase in GBV cases in and around North Kivu Province displacement sites.
- Armed groups continue to attack civilians in Ituri and North Kivu provinces, which has resulted in civilian casualties and displacement.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING	USAID/BHA ¹	\$387,844,374
For the DRC Response in FY 2023		
<i>For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 6</i>		Total \$387,844,374

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

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Flooding Results in the Deaths of at Least 422 People in Kalehe Territory

Heavy rainfall and subsequent flooding and landslides between May 2 and 4 have affected approximately 50,000 people across several localities in South Kivu Province's Kalehe Territory, according to relief organizations. The flooding resulted in the deaths of at least 422 people—including more than 200 children—the displacement of nearly 1,500 people, and damaged or destroyed more than 3,000 houses. The flooding also destroyed health facilities and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure, restricting access to safe drinking water and increasing the risk of waterborne diseases. Notably, approximately 70 percent of WASH infrastructure was destroyed in Kalehe's Nyamukubi village. Additionally, the UN has warned of increasing psychosocial distress and protection violations—including sexual violence and exploitation—targeting orphaned or unaccompanied children in flood-affected areas. Priority needs of flood-affected communities include food, health, shelter, and WASH assistance, with approximately 50,000 people in need of emergency food assistance due to damaged farmland and loss of livestock as of early May, the UN reports. Meanwhile in neighboring North Kivu Province, seasonal flooding generated landslides on May 8 and 10 in Lubero and Masisi territories, resulting in at least 20 deaths, according to local and international media.

In response to needs resulting from the flooding in Kalehe, USAID/BHA partners are providing health, protection, and WASH support. USAID/BHA partner the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) is providing child protection services—including identification, family reunification, and the establishment of child-friendly spaces—in Kalehe. The UN organization has also delivered approximately 4,000 relief items and 4,000 WASH kits to flood-affected areas. Another USAID/BHA partner, Oxfam, extended an existing water system to support an estimated 5,000 people in Nyamukubi and is pumping, treating, and distributing safe drinking water from nearby Lake Kivu to meet the needs of approximately 5,000 people in Kalehe's Bushushu village. Oxfam also continues to provide safe drinking water through an emergency water distribution system, rehabilitate damaged water points, and conduct hygiene promotion sessions to prevent the spread of waterborne diseases in flood-affected areas. Additionally, USAID/BHA partner International Medical Corps has provided healthcare support to nearly 280 flood-affected people through its mobile health clinic.

IDPs Face Increased Protection Risks at IDP Camps in North Kivu

Ongoing insecurity across eastern DRC—particularly in Ituri and North Kivu—has exposed internally displaced persons (IDPs) to a growing number of protection violations, including abduction, extortion, forced labor, forced recruitment of children into armed groups, gender-based violence (GBV), and killings, relief organizations report. In particular, the combined effects of large-scale displacement resulting from conflict between March 23 Movement (M23) elements, other armed groups, and the Armed Forces of the DRC (FARDC) and lack of access to basic necessities such as food, latrines, shelter, and water have caused a sharp increase in GBV incidents in and around North Kivu displacement sites. Relief organizations have recorded more than 340 cases of GBV in Kanyaruchinya and Munigi sites in North Kivu's Nyiragongo Territory since January, as well as approximately 10 GBV cases per day in Bulengo site in North Kivu's capital city of Goma. Women leaving IDP sites in search of firewood, food, and safe drinking water are particularly at risk of GBV and other protection violations. The severe lack of food assistance in IDP sites continues to drive displaced women and girls' willingness to search for resources in precarious areas, relief organizations report. Médecins Sans Frontières also recorded nearly 700 cases of GBV in several IDP sites in and around Goma during the last two weeks of April, reflecting an increasing trend of protection violations compared to previous weeks. Relief organizations are currently advocating for the increased delivery of food and livelihood assistance, as

well as the strengthening of GBV prevention services, to help mitigate the risks of sexual violence and exploitation against IDPs.

More than 1.2 Million Displaced by Conflict in North Kivu Since March 2022

Conflict in North Kivu has displaced approximately 1.2 million people—nearly 60 percent of whom are children—since March 2022, the UN reports. Of that total, approximately 564,000 IDPs are predominately sheltering in IDP sites in and around Goma, while a smaller number of displaced individuals reside in host communities or collective centers in both Goma and Nyiragongo. Others have fled to nearby Kalehe, where relief organizations reported more than 78,000 IDPs as of mid-April. Many displaced persons sheltering at IDP sites face overcrowded living conditions and limited access to resources, including a critical lack of food assistance. While the mid-March withdrawal of some M23 elements in areas across North Kivu’s Masisi and Rutshuru territories prompted a relative reduction in conflict, civilians face increased attacks by other armed groups in North Kivu. Notably, suspected members of the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) launched a series of attacks against civilians in Beni’s Kalunguta and Oicha health zones between April 1 and 15, resulting in at least 40 deaths. Clashes between the Collective of Movements for Change-Nyatura and another armed group near Rutshuru’s Kitsimba IDP camp resulted in at least 13 civilian deaths and injury to five others—including three children—on May 2, the UN and local media report. The violence also led to the displacement of at least 485 individuals, many of whom had been previously displaced by conflict.

Attacks by Armed Groups in Ituri Threaten Civilians, Exacerbate Needs

Suspected Cooperative for the Development of the Congo (CODECO) elements and other armed groups have increasingly attacked civilians in Ituri’s Djugu Territory in recent months, with attacks on April 14 resulting in at least 40 deaths and injury to several others, relief organizations report. Suspected CODECO elements also burned critical infrastructure and looted houses during the attacks. Additionally, a series of attacks by unknown armed groups in Djugu’s Damas, Drodro, and Fataki health zones resulted in 12 civilian deaths between April 6 and 8. Meanwhile, on the border between Ituri’s Irumu and Mambasa territories, suspected ADF elements carried out several attacks between April 2 and 4, which resulted in the deaths of at least 30 civilians. As of April 19, attacks by armed groups in Ituri’s Djugu, Irumu, and Mambasa territories had resulted in approximately 150 civilian deaths since early April, according to the UN. The increased armed group attacks in Ituri—partly driven by the security vacuum created by North Kivu’s M23 crisis—have heightened protection risks for civilians in recent months and left conflict-affected populations in urgent need of multi-sector assistance.

9.9 Million People Likely to Face Acute Food Insecurity Through December

Violence continues to drive acute food insecurity across eastern DRC, with armed conflict disrupting agricultural activities and limiting populations’ access to food and functional markets, the UN World Food Program (WFP) reports. Approximately 9.9 million people—a majority of whom reside in conflict-affected areas of Ituri and North Kivu—are likely to face Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity through December, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET).² In North Kivu, increasing food prices—generated by the compounding effects of armed clashes, inflation, and supply chain disruptions—are severely limiting household purchasing power and exacerbating food insecurity. For example, food prices in Goma have increased by 77 percent in 2023 compared to prices in 2022, FEWS NET reports. As a result, food-insecure populations have reportedly resorted to utilizing negative coping strategies to meet basic needs.

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



**\$224.3
Million**

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



12

Number of USAID/BHA partners implementing nutrition programs in the DRC



\$11.3 Million

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



15

Number of USAID/BHA partners implementing protection programs in the DRC

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

USAID/BHA partners like 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 nearly \$224.3 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 households meet their basic food needs.

USAID/BHA has provided nearly \$16.6 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 also 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 aims 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 \$11.3 million to date in FY 2023 to support NGO partners to expand community access to free primary health care services in areas of high displacement. Such support includes increasing the availability of essential medicines and supplies, providing health worker training, supporting disease surveillance, and response efforts. Notably, USAID/BHA supports the procurement, distribution, and training in the use of post-exposure prophylaxis kits, bolstering the clinical management of rape in health facilities across five provinces. USAID/BHA 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.

PROTECTION

U.S. Government (USG) humanitarian partners support the provision of critical protection services in conflict-affected areas of the DRC. USAID/BHA has provided nearly \$10.6 million in FY 2023 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. State/PRM partner the Office of the UN High

Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), with support from traditional leaders, provides GBV prevention and response activities, including sensitizing refugees and host communities on sexual violence, exploitation, and abuse. UNHCR also registered nearly 550 new asylum seekers from CAR in Nord-Ubangi in February.



\$20.1 Million

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

SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS

USG partners play a leading role in constructing emergency shelters for displaced individuals and managing IDP and refugee camps in the DRC. With nearly \$20.1 million in FY 2023 funding to date, USAID/BHA partners are providing shelter assistance to IDPs and returnees in crisis-affected areas of 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. Additionally, State/PRM partner UNHCR supported the construction of more than 420 shelters for refugees, including 112 transitional shelters, in Nord-Ubangi and Sud-Ubangi during February.



\$50.1 Million

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

WASH

USAID/BHA has provided approximately \$50.1 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 like cholera and measles. USG-supported activities include constructing and rehabilitating WASH infrastructure, including hand washing stations, latrines, showers, and water points; distributing hygiene kits and other essential WASH commodities; and transporting emergency water reserves to IDP and refugee sites. In February, State/PRM partner UNHCR and its partners repaired 15 boreholes in Nord-Ubangi's Inke camp, bringing the total number of functioning boreholes to 25 and increasing the quantity of water provided per person per day from 10 to 21 litres.

CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Despite the implementation of a peace agreement in 2003, fighting between forces loyal to the Government of the DRC 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 organizations 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 Government of the DRC 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			
ACTED	Agriculture; Food Assistance—Cash Transfers for Food; Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA); Shelter and Settlements; WASH	Bas-Uele, Ituri, Maniema, Nord-Ubangi, North Kivu, South Kivu, Sud-Ubangi, Tanganyika	\$22,511,884
Association Locale Pour Le Developpement Integral (ALDI)	Food Assistance	Ituri	\$493,140
Caritas Development Goma	Shelter and Settlements, WASH	North Kivu	\$500,000
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	Agriculture, Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and Practice, ERMS, Food Assistance, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Kasai-Central, Tanganyika	\$14,492,214
Concern	Agriculture, Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Food Assistance, WASH	North Kivu, Tanganyika	\$13,596,031
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)	Food Assistance—U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	North Kivu, Tanganyika	\$14,500,000
iMMAP	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$940,978
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	HCIMA, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu, Tanganyika	\$20,000,000
IRC	Health, Nutrition, Protection	Ituri, North Kivu, Tanganyika	\$7,284,369
Mercy Corps	Agriculture, ERMS, Food Assistance, 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
Première Urgence Internationale (PUI)	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	North Kivu	\$7,000,000
Oxfam	WASH	Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu, Tanganyika	\$5,000,000
Samaritan’s Purse	Agriculture, Food Assistance—Cash Transfers for Food, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Ituri, Haut-Uele, North Kivu, Tshopo	\$17,813,222
Save the Children’s Federation (SCF)	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Ituri, North Kivu	\$5,000,000

Tearfund	Agriculture, WASH	North Kivu	\$5,916,931
UNICEF	HCIMA, MCPA, Protection, WASH	Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu, Tanganyika	\$24,366,357
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$1,250,000
WFP	Food Assistance—U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Countrywide	\$69,784,274
	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers for Food, Local, Regional, and International Procurement; HCIMA, Nutrition	Bas-Uele, Ituri, Haut-Katanga, Haut-Uele, Kasai, Kasai-Oriental, North Kivu, Nord-Ubangi, South Kivu, Sud-Ubangi, Tanganyika	\$99,000,000
	Logistics	Countrywide	\$7,000,000
Welthungerhilfe (WHH)	Agriculture, Multipurpose Cash, Food Assistance—Cash Transfers for Food, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	North Kivu	\$3,748,193
World Relief International (WRI)	Food Assistance—U.S. In-Kind Food Aid, Local Procurement; Shelter and Settlements; WASH	North Kivu	\$4,000,000
World Vision	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers for Food, Local Procurement; WASH	North Kivu	\$20,000,000
Program Support			\$963,107
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$387,844,374
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE DRC RESPONSE IN FY 2023			\$387,844,374

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of May 19, 2023.

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

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)