

Democratic Republic of the Congo – Complex Emergency

FEBRUARY 26, 2021

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

<p>19.6 MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Population in Need of Assistance</p> <p><i>UN – January 2021</i></p>	<p>19.6 MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Acutely Food Insecure Population</p> <p><i>IPC – September 2020</i></p>	<p>5.5 MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Number of IDPs in the DRC</p> <p><i>UN – December 2020</i></p>	<p>942,000</p> <p>Estimated Number of Congolese Refugees Sheltering Abroad</p> <p><i>UNHCR – January 2021</i></p>	<p>490,000</p> <p>Estimated Number of Refugees Sheltering in the DRC</p> <p><i>UNHCR – January 2021</i></p>
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- The DRC MoH confirmed a resurgence of EVD on February 6 after health actors confirmed a new EVD case in North Kivu.
- Unknown armed actors attacked a convoy in North Kivu on February 22, resulting in the death of the Italian Ambassador to the DRC, a member of the Ambassador’s security detail, and a WFP driver.
- OCHA released the 2021 DRC HRP on January 29, requesting approximately \$1.98 billion to assist 9.6 million people in need.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the DRC Response in FY 2021	USAID/BHA ¹	\$87,986,961
	USAID/GH ²	\$1,500,000
Total		\$89,486,961

For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 5

¹USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)
²USAID’s Bureau for Global Health (USAID/GH)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

MoH Confirms New EVD Cases in North Kivu

The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (GoDRC) Ministry of Health (MoH) has confirmed eight new Ebola virus disease (EVD) cases across three health zones in eastern DRC's North Kivu Province, near Butembo city, since early February. According to the MoH, health officials confirmed the first new EVD case in North Kivu's Biena Health Zone on February 6, and have since confirmed an additional seven cases in Biena, Katwa, and Musienene health zones as of February 26. According to health actors, the first confirmed case was the wife of an EVD survivor from the region's previous EVD outbreak, which lasted from August 2018 to June 2020; EVD can remain in bodily fluids of survivors and transmit to other individuals for several months. The new confirmed cases also follow the recently declared end of the country's eleventh outbreak, which occurred in northwestern DRC's Équateur Province from June to November 2020. In response to the new EVD cases, USAID/BHA is supporting non-governmental organization (NGO) and UN partners with existing FY 2020 funding to establish EVD treatment and transit centers, as well as provide care to EVD-positive and EVD-symptomatic individuals in North Kivu.

Attack on Convoy Results in Deaths of Italian Ambassador, WFP Staff

Unknown armed actors attacked a convoy—comprising diplomatic and UN World Food Program (WFP) vehicles—traveling near North Kivu's Kanyamahoro town on February 22, resulting in the deaths of the Italian Ambassador to the DRC Luca Attanasio, a member of the Ambassador's security detail, and a WFP driver, according to the UN agency. International media report that the armed actors had diverted the motorcade—which had departed North Kivu's capital city of Goma earlier in the day to visit a WFP school feeding program in North Kivu's Rutshuru town—into nearby woodlands as part of an alleged kidnapping attempt; local security forces intervened, resulting in an exchange of gunfire. UN Secretary-General António Guterres released a statement on February 22 condemning the attack and calling on the GoDRC to investigate the incident.

New Measles Outbreak Reported in Northwestern DRC

Health actors reported approximately 4,500 suspected measles cases—primarily affecting children younger than five years of age—in the DRC's Nord-Ubangi and Sud-Ubangi provinces between mid-December and late January, the UN reports. The measles outbreak has exacerbated health risks to young children in under-served communities—between early 2019 and August 2020, more than 7,000 children in the DRC died as a result of the disease—and places further pressure on local health systems already strained due to coronavirus disease (COVID-19). In response, relief actors continue to administer measles vaccinations to vulnerable children and expand local access to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services to reduce disease transmission.

Increasing NSAG Activity Heightens Protection Risks in Eastern DRC

Attacks by non-state armed groups (NSAGs) continue to threaten civilians, drive mass population displacement, constrain humanitarian access, and exacerbate humanitarian conditions in eastern DRC's Ituri and North Kivu provinces. NSAG activity has been particularly concentrated in North Kivu's Beni Territory, where presumed Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) attacks resulted in more than 150 civilian deaths and displaced approximately 120,000 people between October 2020 and mid-January, according to the UN. Relief actors have reported a similar surge of violence in neighboring Ituri, where intensified NSAG attacks in Djugu, Irumu, and Mahagi territories resulted in more than 647 deaths, approximately 270 injuries, 60 incidents of gender-based violence, and 370 kidnappings between May and December 2020, according to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). This represents a significant increase in reported protection incidents compared to the previous reporting period, when OHCHR reported 296 civilian deaths across the three territories between October 2019 and April 2020. The UN Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO) continues to coordinate with

the Armed Forces of the DRC to disrupt armed group activities while relief actors have provided psychosocial support and protection services to residents of conflict-affected communities.

2021 DRC HRP Targets 9.6 Million People in Need

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) released the 2021 DRC Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) on January 29, which identified approximately 19.6 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, a decrease of nearly six million people compared to the amended 2020 DRC HRP, which was released in June to provide additional support to vulnerable populations adversely affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. The 2021 DRC HRP requests approximately \$1.98 billion to prioritize emergency assistance for approximately 9.6 million people in need across the country. The HRP cites a decline in livelihood opportunities, rising food insecurity, widespread population displacement due to protracted armed conflict, and the adverse impact of COVID-19 as continued challenges to relief operations in the DRC.

KEY FIGURES



\$75.3 Million

In dedicated USG support for emergency food and nutrition assistance in FY 2021



\$7.5 Million

In dedicated USG support for life-saving health care programming in FY 2021

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

USAID/BHA partners conduct emergency food and nutrition assistance activities reaching internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees, host community members, and other vulnerable populations facing acute food insecurity in the DRC. With more than \$75.3 million in USAID/BHA support in FY 2021, UN and NGO partners are providing cash transfers for food and in-kind food assistance—including U.S.-sourced commodities—to help vulnerable households meet their basic food needs. Additionally, USAID/BHA is supporting partners to conduct activities that complement food and nutrition assistance efforts, such as bolstering agricultural production and livelihoods through the distribution of tools and seeds, as well as strengthening the coordination of humanitarian nutrition activities.

HEALTH

With approximately \$7.5 million in FY 2021 funding, USAID is working with three UN agencies and one NGO partner to support EVD response and preparedness activities in the DRC and the Republic of the Congo (RoC). Working through UN and NGO partners, USAID health interventions assist local isolation and treatment facilities providing lifesaving support to EVD-positive and symptomatic individuals. In addition, USAID/BHA partners continue to prioritize supporting access to primary health care services at health facilities and mobile clinics, increasing the availability of essential medicines and immunizations, and supporting disease surveillance and response efforts, among other activities. USAID also supports community sensitization and health messaging efforts encouraging the adoption of recommended health and hygiene practices to prevent the spread of communicable diseases, including COVID-19.



\$1.2 million

In dedicated USG support for WASH programming in FY 2021.

WASH

USAID/BHA has provided more than \$1.2 million in FY 2021 funding to support WASH activities in five provinces across the DRC, helping to improve access to safe drinking water and sanitation, and reduce the spread of infectious diseases, such as cholera, COVID-19, measles, and EVD.

USAID/BHA-supported activities include constructing and rehabilitating WASH infrastructure, including handwashing stations, latrines, showers, and water points; transporting emergency water reserves to IDP sites; and distributing hygiene kits and other WASH commodities. USAID/BHA also supports the dissemination of WASH messaging and best practices through radio broadcasts, supporting community and school groups, and facilitating WASH-focused community events.



\$2.8 million

In dedicated USG support for shelter and relief commodities in FY 2021.

SHELTER AND RELIEF COMMODITIES

USAID/BHA provided nearly \$2.8 million to ACTED in FY 2021 to support emergency shelter assistance and relief commodities for IDPs and other vulnerable populations in crisis-affected areas of the DRC. U.S.

Government (USG) partners play a leading role in constructing emergency shelters for displaced individuals and managing IDP and refugee camps in the DRC. USG partners also provide relief commodities and household items, including blankets, mats, tools, and water containers to help vulnerable households meet their essential needs.

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 ADF, 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.
- On November 3, U.S. Ambassador to the DRC Michael A. Hammer re-declared a disaster for FY 2021 due to ongoing complex emergency conditions in the DRC, citing the significant level of unmet humanitarian needs in the DRC exceeding the GoDRC's capacity to respond and the willingness of the GoDRC to accept humanitarian assistance.
- EVD is endemic to some animal species in the DRC, with periodic human disease outbreaks. Ambassador Hammer re-declared a disaster due to the humanitarian impact of the EVD outbreak in Équateur on October 16, 2020. Since the start of the 2018 EVD outbreak in Ituri and North Kivu, USAID has contributed more than \$373 million to support EVD preparedness and response activities across the DRC and neighboring countries.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE DRC RESPONSE IN FY 2021¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
FUNDING IN DRC FOR COMPLEX EMERGENCY			
USAID/BHA			
	Agriculture	Countrywide	\$366,183
	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers	Bas-Uélé, Maniema, Nord-Ubangi, South Kivu, Sud-Ubangi	\$18,266,359
ACTED	Agriculture; Economic Recovery and Market Systems; Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management and Assessments (HCIMA); Shelter and Settlements; WASH	Bas-Uélé, Ituri, Maniema, Nord-Ubangi, North Kivu, South Kivu, Sud-Ubangi, Tanganyika	\$5,730,382
UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$673,056
	Food Assistance—U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Countrywide	\$31,999,241
WFP	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers, LRIP	Countrywide	\$15,000,000
	Nutrition	Countrywide	\$9,994,198
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$82,029,419
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR COMPLEX EMERGENCY IN DRC IN FY 2021			\$82,029,419

FUNDING IN THE DRC AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES FOR EVD OUTBREAK RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS²

USAID/BHA			
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	Health	Équateur	\$1,888,612
Internews	Health	Équateur	\$745,916
WFP	Logistics Support	Équateur	\$3,267,354
	Program Support		\$55,660
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$5,957,542
USAID/GH			
UNICEF	Health	Équateur, Mai Ndombe, Mongala, Tshuapa	\$1,150,000
UNICEF	Health	RoC	\$350,000
TOTAL USAID/GH FUNDING			\$1,500,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR EVD OUTBREAK PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE IN DRC IN FY 2021			\$7,457,542
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR THE DRC RESPONSE IN FY 2021			\$87,986,961
TOTAL USAID/GH FUNDING FOR THE DRC RESPONSE IN FY 2021			\$1,500,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE DRC RESPONSE IN FY 2021			\$89,486,961

⁴Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of February 26, 2021.

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](https://www.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](https://www.cidi.org)
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [reliefweb.int](https://www.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)