

Democratic Republic of the Congo – Complex Emergency

APRIL 27, 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>27.3 MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Acutely Food Insecure Population</p> <p><i>IPC – March 2021</i></p>	<p>5.5 MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Number of IDPs in the DRC</p> <p><i>UN – December 2020</i></p>	<p>948,000</p> <p>Estimated Number of Congolese Refugees Sheltering Abroad</p> <p><i>UNHCR – March 2021</i></p>	<p>527,000</p> <p>Estimated Number of Refugees Sheltering in the DRC</p> <p><i>UNHCR – March 2021</i></p>
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- Health actors have not recorded a new EVD case in North Kivu since March 1.
- An estimated 27.3 million people will face Crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity from February to July, the most of any country in the world. USAID/BHA partners continue to support food-insecure households across the DRC.
- UNHCR released the 2021 DRC RRRP on April 1, which requests approximately \$586 million to support Congolese refugees and asylum-seekers sheltering in neighboring countries.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the DRC Response in FY 2021	USAID ¹	\$126,682,740
	State/PRM ²	\$4,700,000
	Total	\$131,382,740

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

¹This total includes more than \$125 million in funding through USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) for the complex emergency and Ebola virus disease (EVD) response, as well as \$1.5 million in funding through USAID’s Bureau for Global Health (USAID/GH) for EVD response activities.
²U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

EVD Cases Decline in North Kivu

As of April 27, health authorities had not recorded any new EVD cases in the Democratic Republic of the Congo's (DRC) North Kivu Province since March 1, according to relief actors. Since the start of the 12th EVD Outbreak in North Kivu on February 7, the Government of the DRC (GoDRC) Ministry of Health has recorded 12 EVD cases—11 confirmed and one probable—in the province's Biena, Butembo, Katwa, and Musienene health zones, including two health workers who were infected with the disease. USAID/BHA partners continue to construct communal handwashing stations, organize public dialogues to raise broader awareness of EVD risks, and support local EVD treatment and transit centers to reduce disease transmission and provide urgently needed support to symptomatic individuals.

North Kivu Protests Disrupt Humanitarian Operations

Since early April, local demonstrators have staged protests in Beni, Butembo, Goma, and other major cities in North Kivu demanding the UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO) depart the country, according to international media. Protesters contend that UN peacekeepers have failed to protect civilians from organized armed groups (OAGs) operating in the country's eastern provinces. Local groups have erected barricades to hinder vehicular traffic along multiple roads and called for a boycott to pressure GoDRC officials to assume greater responsibility for protecting the local populace. Protests have resulted in occasional physical confrontations between demonstrators and law enforcement officers, who have allegedly fired live rounds at crowds of protesters, resulting in one death in Butembo on April 9. In response to the ongoing insecurity, several humanitarian organizations have suspended relief operations and limited staff movement in North Kivu to protect field-based personnel.

Food Insecurity, Internal Displacement Compound Humanitarian Needs

Approximately 27.3 million people in the DRC, or nearly one-third of the country's analyzed population, will likely face Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity between February and July, making the DRC host to the largest food-insecure population in need in the world, according to a March IPC analysis.³ This marks a substantial increase from the IPC projection for July through December 2020, which estimated that more than 21.8 million people across the country would face Crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity. While this figure represents a dramatic increase in the number of people estimated to face acute food insecurity in the DRC, it is partly a reflection of an increased scale of analysis, which in February 2021 analyzed a population of approximately 96 million compared to 66 million in July 2020. The March assessment projects that food insecurity risks will be highest in central DRC's greater Kasai region, as well as the country's Haut-Lomami, Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu and Tanganyika provinces. Relief actors cite intensifying armed conflict, widespread population displacement, and limited income earning opportunities during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic as factors contributing to increased emergency food assistance needs.

Meanwhile, ongoing insecurity continued to trigger widespread population displacement across the DRC in February and March, according to the UN. Armed clashes between the Armed Forces of the DRC and OAGs displaced approximately 63,000 civilians formerly residing in North Kivu's Masisi Territory from March 9 to 15; many of these internally displaced persons (IDPs) lack access to food, shelter, and other basic commodities, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). In addition,

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.

more than 21,000 Congolese civilians—mainly women and children—have been displaced in the greater Kasai region since March 28 due to intensified intercommunal violence, according to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). In response, USAID/BHA non-governmental organization (NGO) and UN partners continue to provide emergency food assistance, shelter materials, and other essential relief commodities to food-insecure households and displaced populations across the country.

2021 DRC RRRP Requests \$586 Million to Support Congolese Refugees

UNHCR released the 2021 DRC Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRRP)—an interagency response strategy intended to ensure the coherence and complementarity of relief operations in refugee situations—on April 1, requesting \$586 million to assist Congolese refugees and asylum-seekers sheltering in Angola, Burundi, the Republic of the Congo (RoC), Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia. UNHCR cites ongoing conflict in eastern DRC and widespread intercommunal violence as factors contributing to heightened population displacement throughout the country, while noting that the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated civilian protection risks and humanitarian needs among displaced populations. In response, the 2021 DRC RRRP aims to expand refugee access to health, nutrition, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services; strengthen civilian protection mechanisms; support self-reliance and integration initiatives for host community members and refugees; and facilitate safe, dignified, and voluntary repatriations to refugees' country of origin.

KEY FIGURES



\$87.2 Million

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



\$13.4 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 implement emergency food and nutrition assistance activities reaching host community members, IDPs, refugees, and other vulnerable populations facing acute food insecurity in the DRC. With more than \$76.9 million in USAID/BHA support in FY 2021, 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 needs. USAID/BHA also provided approximately \$10.3 million in FY 2021 funding to assist malnourished individuals; UN agencies and NGO partners also 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 \$7.4 million in FY 2021 funding, USAID is working with three UN agencies and one NGO partner to support EVD preparedness and response activities in the DRC and RoC. USAID health interventions assist local isolation and treatment facilities to provide lifesaving support to EVD-positive and symptomatic individuals. In addition, USAID/BHA provided more than \$6 million in FY 2021 funding to expand access to primary health care services, increase the availability of essential medicines and immunizations, and support 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.



\$9.4 Million

In dedicated USG support for shelter and settlements programming in FY 2021

SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS

USAID/BHA provided nearly \$9.4 million to three NGO partners in FY 2021 to support emergency shelter assistance 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.



\$8.7 Million

In dedicated USG support for WASH programming in FY 2021

WASH

USAID/BHA has provided more than \$8.7 million in FY 2021 funding to support WASH activities in ten 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.

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 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 government’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 occurring in the country. Ambassador Hammer re-declared a disaster due to the humanitarian impact of the EVD outbreak in Équateur Province 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 THE DRC FOR THE COMPLEX EMERGENCY			
USAID/BHA²			
ACTED	Agriculture; Economic Recovery and Market Systems; Food Assistance–Cash Transfers; Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA); Shelter and Settlements; WASH	Bas-Uélé, Ituri, Maniema, Nord-Ubangi, North Kivu, South Kivu, Sud-Ubangi, Tanganyika	\$24,362,924
CARE	Health, Protection, WASH	North Kivu	\$3,390,414
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	Agriculture; Food Assistance–Cash Transfers, Local Procurement, Vouchers; Shelter and Settlements; WASH	Tanganyika	\$6,999,580
International NGO Safety Organization (INSO)	HCIMA	Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu	\$897,210
Medair	Health, Nutrition, WASH	Ituri	\$5,430,652
Samaritan's Purse	Agriculture, Food Assistance–Vouchers, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Eastern DRC, Haut-Uélé, Ituri, North Kivu, Tshopo	\$15,473,982
Tearfund	Agriculture, WASH	Ituri	\$4,974,389
UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)	HCIMA, Nutrition	Countrywide	\$673,056
UN World Food Program (WFP)	Food Assistance–U.S. In-Kind Food Aid, Nutrition	Countrywide	\$41,993,439
	Food Assistance–Cash Transfers, Local and Regional Procurement	Countrywide	\$15,017,449
	Program Support		\$5,729

TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$119,218,824
STATE/PRM³			
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$4,700,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$4,700,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE COMPLEX EMERGENCY IN DRC IN FY 2021			\$123,918,824

FUNDING IN THE DRC AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES FOR EVD OUTBREAK PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE			
USAID/BHA			
IOM	Health	Équateur	\$1,888,612
Internews	Health	Équateur	\$745,916
WFP	Logistics Support	Équateur	\$3,267,354
	Program Support		\$62,034
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$5,963,916
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 THE DRC IN FY 2021			\$7,463,916

TOTAL USAID FUNDING FOR THE DRC RESPONSE IN FY 2021			\$126,682,740
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING FOR THE DRC RESPONSE IN FY 2021			\$4,700,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE DRC RESPONSE IN FY 2021			\$131,382,740

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of April 27.

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

³ This total does not include \$12.4 million in FY 2021 State/PRM funding for Congolese refugees in neighboring countries, which increases the total USG emergency funding for the DRC complex emergency in FY 2021 to approximately \$143.8 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](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).

