

Democratic Republic of the Congo – Complex Emergency

JULY 8, 2021

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

19.6 MILLION Estimated Population in Need of Assistance <i>UN – January 2021</i>	27.3 MILLION Estimated Acutely Food Insecure Population <i>IPC – March 2021</i>	5 MILLION Estimated Number of IDPs in the DRC <i>UN – April 2021</i>	942,000 Estimated Number of Congolese Refugees Sheltering Abroad <i>UNHCR – May 2021</i>	536,000 Estimated Number of Refugees Sheltering in the DRC <i>UNHCR – May 2021</i>
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- On May 22, Mount Nyiragongo volcano erupted in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)'s North Kivu Province, resulting in the temporary displacement of more than 415,000 people and the destruction of homes and infrastructure. In response to resulting humanitarian needs, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires in the DRC Marion Ekpuk declared a disaster and the USG provided relief to affected populations.
- Attacks by armed groups in Ituri Province in late May and early June resulted in dozens of civilian deaths, population displacement, and the destruction of infrastructure. Due to ongoing insecurity, many humanitarian actors have temporarily suspended operations in the conflict-affected areas.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the DRC Response in FY 2021	USAID ¹	\$394,073,126
	State/PRM ²	\$6,600,000
Total		\$400,673,126

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

USG Responds to Volcano-Related Humanitarian Needs in Goma

On May 22, Mount Nyiragongo—located approximately 10 miles north of North Kivu’s Goma city—erupted, resulting in the deaths of more than 30 people, the destruction of houses, and the disruption of water infrastructure serving half a million people in and around Goma, according to the UN. As of June 1, the eruption had displaced more than 415,000 people, including approximately 232,000 people evacuated from 10 of Goma’s 18 neighborhoods by the Government of the DRC (GoDRC) due to the risk of additional eruptions and safety hazards posed by the emission of toxic volcanic gases, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) reports.

In response to needs resulting from the volcanic eruption, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires in the DRC Marion Ekpuk issued a disaster declaration on May 25, enabling USAID/BHA to provide \$500,000 to the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) to conduct cholera prevention activities and deliver water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance to evacuees and households in Goma who had lost access to water. In addition, State/PRM partner the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) continues to provide psychosocial support to populations impacted by the eruption, reaching more than 7,600 vulnerable people with relief commodities, as of late June.

While the majority of evacuees had returned to Goma since local government officials authorized returns on June 7, as of late June, more than 21,000 people remain displaced across 13 sites in Goma and North Kivu’s Nyiragongo Territory and required continued humanitarian assistance. On June 23, USAID/BHA staff conducted a monitoring visit to two collective sites in Goma, finding that current levels of assistance were inadequate to meet the needs of the increasing number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) at the sites, underscoring the need for a scale-up in humanitarian assistance, particularly shelter and WASH support. Relief actors anticipate the number of people sheltering at the sites to increase in the coming weeks as displaced populations continue to return to Goma from elsewhere in the DRC and neighboring areas of Rwanda.

Heightened Food Insecurity Affects Populations in Beni and Goma

The Mount Nyiragongo volcano eruption, growing insecurity, and poor economic conditions have driven heightened levels of acute food insecurity in Goma and portions of North Kivu’s Beni Territory in recent weeks, the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) reports. In late May, the evacuations in Goma reduced the ability of poor households engaged in informal sector labor to earn income and purchase food and other essential commodities. In addition, as of late April, needs for emergency food assistance were heightened in Beni, as an increase in organized armed group (OAG) attacks targeting civilians and weeks of protests against the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) had reduced the availability of staple foods at local markets. Overall, FEWS NET anticipates that some households in Beni and Goma will likely continue to face Crisis—IPC 3—levels of acute food insecurity through September.

Armed Group Attacks in Ituri Exacerbate Humanitarian Needs

Escalating armed group attacks—including those perpetrated by suspected Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) elements—continue to target civilian populations in Ituri’s Irumu Territory, undermining security and exacerbating humanitarian needs among already vulnerable populations. On May 30, suspected ADF actors attacked Irumu’s Boga and Tchabi cities, resulting in nearly 60 civilian deaths, the destruction of dwellings and public infrastructure, numerous protection violations, and the displacement of thousands

of people across Ituri and North Kivu. The violence also prompted relief actors to temporarily suspend operations in the two cities, adversely affecting 40,000 IDPs and host community members reliant on humanitarian assistance to meet basic needs. Armed actors carried out additional attacks in Boga on June 7 and 8 which led to at least 10 civilian deaths and culminated in the looting and destruction of a hospital providing health services to approximately 80,000 people in and around the city. In response to the attack, UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator David McLachlan-Karr urged GoDRC officials to improve security conditions in the two cities and facilitate the resumption of life-saving relief operations.

In addition, armed clashes in and around Fataki town, located in Irumu's Djugu Territory, had displaced approximately 16,000 people as of late June, according to the UN. An estimated 10,000 IDPs were sheltering at a spontaneous site located adjacent to a MONUSCO base near Djugu's Djaiba town, while the remainder were sheltering among the host community in nearby towns and villages. Security conditions in Fataki had improved following operations by the Armed Forces of the DRC (FARDC) against the armed group CODECO from June 12 to 15, though armed actors looted a health center and a hospital during the clashes. Affected populations remain in urgent need of humanitarian assistance amid disrupted livelihoods and elevated food, protection, and shelter needs.

Increasing Insecurity in Eastern DRC Elevates Protection Risks

Escalating insecurity in recent months across eastern DRC—particularly in Ituri and North Kivu—has exposed civilian populations to a growing number of protection risks and violations, according to relief actors. In April and May alone, the Protection Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian protection activities, comprising UN agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other stakeholders—received reports of nearly 5,000 protection violations—including killings, abductions, looting—across Ituri's Djugu, Irumu, Mahagi, and Mambasa territories. Similarly, ADF attacks in Ituri and North Kivu between January and May resulted in nearly 180 murders; nearly 100 cases of rape and sexual assault; nearly 80 abductions; nearly 40 incidents of looting; nearly 30 injuries; nearly 30 incidents of arson; and nearly 20 cases of forced labor. In addition, UNHCR recorded more than 100 protection incidents impacting refugees in Haute-Uélé Province's Faradje Territory and Ituri's Aru Territory during May, a 65 percent increase compared to the previous month. Relief actors also note that heightened insecurity in late 2020 and the first quarter of 2021 led to an increase in the number of displaced children, many of whom are either orphaned or separated from their families and highly vulnerable to sexual exploitation and abuse. On May 3, in response to ongoing insecurity in eastern DRC, the GoDRC imposed a "state of siege" in North Kivu and Ituri, replacing civilian administration with military authorities and establishing martial law. The GoDRC extended the "state of siege," originally due to conclude in early June, according to international media. Relief actors have called for assurances that the "state of siege" would not undermine human rights in eastern DRC.

Returnees in Kasai Face Elevated Humanitarian Needs

Elevated levels of humanitarian need persist among tens of thousands of people who have returned to their communities of origin in Kasai Province in recent months following their displacement by intercommunal conflict in 2020 and early 2021, the UN reports. As of early June, approximately 23,700 people displaced by intercommunal conflict in 2020 had returned to Kasai's Kakenge health zone in Mweka Territory in part due to difficult living conditions with host communities and limited assistance in areas of displacement. Many returnees continue to face limited access to assistance following their return to Kakenge. In addition, relief actors had been unable to deliver assistance to approximately 21,000 returnees and IDPs in Mweka's Batua Kadimba health zone since November 2020 due to insufficient financial resources. The Protection Cluster warns that failure to provide adequate levels of assistance in Mweka could increase the risk of additional conflict around scarce resources such as food.

KEY FIGURES



\$180 Million

In dedicated USG support for food security and nutrition programming in FY 2021



\$22.3 Million

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



\$12.9 Million

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



\$19.3 Million

In dedicated USG support for WASH 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 \$155 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 more than \$25 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 more than \$7 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 the Republic of the Congo (RoC). In addition, USAID/BHA provided nearly \$18 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 coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS

USAID/BHA provided nearly \$13 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.

WASH

USAID/BHA has provided more than \$19 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. In addition, with USAID/BHA support, UNICEF is providing critical WASH assistance to populations in Goma affected by the eruption of Mount Nyiragongo.

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.
- On May 25, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires in the DRC Marion Ekpuk declared a disaster due to the effects of the May 22 Mount Nyiragongo volcanic eruption in North Kivu.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE DRC RESPONSE IN FY 2021¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
FUNDING IN THE DRC FOR THE COMPLEX EMERGENCY RESPONSE			
USAID/BHA			
Action contre la Faim (ACF)	Agriculture, Food Assistance, Nutrition	Ituri, Kasai, Kasai Central	\$17,800,000
Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)	Agriculture, ERMS, Food Assistance, WASH	Kasai	\$7,000,000
African Initiatives for Relief and Development (AIRD)	WASH	Ituri	\$1,649,995
Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED)	Agriculture; Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS); 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–Vouchers, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Tanganyika	\$6,999,580
Concern	Agriculture, ERMS, Food Assistance	Tanganyika	\$10,000,000
DanChurchAid	ERMS, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	North Kivu	\$3,500,000
Doctors of the World	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	South Kivu	\$2,945,000
FHI 360	Health, Nutrition, WASH	Ituri, North Kivu	\$6,495,873
International Medical Corps (IMC)	Health, Nutrition, Protection	South Kivu	\$6,495,000
International NGO Safety Organization (INSO)	HCIMA	Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu	\$897,210
Interchurch	Health	Bas-Uélé, Haut-Katanga, Ituri, Kasai, Kasai Central, Maniema, North Kivu, South Kivu, Tanganyika, Tshopo	\$1,860,757
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Health, Protection	Ituri, North Kivu	\$3,895,804
IOM	HCIM, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Ituri, North Kivu, Tanganyika	\$12,500,000
Medair	Health, Nutrition, WASH	Ituri	\$5,430,652
Oxfam	WASH	Ituri, Maniema, North Kivu, South Kivu, Tanganyika	\$4,707,452
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	Agriculture, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Ituri, Tanganyika	\$5,150,000
People in Need	Agriculture, Food Assistance, Nutrition	South Kivu	\$1,650,000
Samaritan's Purse	Agriculture, Food Assistance–Vouchers, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Eastern DRC, Haut-Uélé, Ituri, North Kivu, Tshopo	\$15,473,982
Save the Children Federation	Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Ituri, Kasai Central	\$7,850,000
Swiss Interchurch Aid (HEKS)	ERMS, Multipurpose Cash Assistance, WASH	South Kivu	\$1,155,000
Tearfund	Agriculture, WASH	Ituri	\$4,974,389
UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)	Logistics Support	Countrywide	\$4,850,000
UNICEF	HCIMA, Nutrition	Countrywide	\$673,056
	WASH	North Kivu	\$500,000
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIM	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
	Food Assistance–U.S. In-Kind Food Aid ²	Countrywide	\$123,689,169
	Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$15,017,074
	Food Assistance, HCIM	Countrywide	\$39,000,000
Welthungerhilfe (WHH)	Nutrition	Countrywide	\$38,474,812
	Agriculture, WASH	North Kivu	\$1,471,000
World Vision	WASH	North Kivu	\$1,744,206
World Relief International (WRI)	Agriculture	Tanganyika	\$3,999,989
	Program Support		\$5,872
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$386,609,210
STATE/PRM^{3,4}			
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance for Refugees, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$4,700,000
	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$1,900,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$6,600,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR COMPLEX EMERGENCY IN DRC IN FY 2021			\$393,209,210

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

USAID/BHA			
Internews	Health	Équateur	\$745,916
IOM	Health	Équateur	\$1,888,612
UNHAS	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 DRC IN FY 2021			\$7,463,916
TOTAL USAID FUNDING FOR THE DRC RESPONSE IN FY 2021			\$394,073,126
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING FOR THE DRC RESPONSE IN FY 2021			\$6,600,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE DRC RESPONSE IN FY 2021			\$400,673,126

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of July 6.

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

³ Funding for State/PRM does not include an additional \$4.7 million in funding for refugees and host community populations in DRC.

⁴ This total does not include more than \$21 million in FY 2021 State/PRM funding for Congolese refugees in neighboring countries, of which \$8.6 million is directed towards responding to COVID-19, which increases the total USG emergency funding for the DRC complex emergency in FY 2021 to approximately \$377.9 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).

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)