

# Democratic Republic of the Congo – Complex Emergency

DECEMBER 10, 2021

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE

<p><b>19.6</b> MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Population in Need of Assistance</p> <p><i>UN – September 2021</i></p>	<p><b>27</b> MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Acutely Food-Insecure Population</p> <p><i>IPC – September 2021</i></p>	<p><b>5.6</b> MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Number of IDPs in the DRC</p> <p><i>UNHCR – October 2021</i></p>	<p><b>998,511</b></p> <p>Estimated Number of Congolese Refugees in Neighboring Countries</p> <p><i>UNHCR – October 2021</i></p>	<p><b>531,353</b></p> <p>Estimated Number of Refugees Sheltering in the DRC</p> <p><i>UNHCR – October 2021</i></p>
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- Armed clashes continue to displace populations and inhibit humanitarian access in eastern DRC, particularly in Beni and Djugu.
- More than 27 million people in the DRC are likely experiencing Crisis or worse levels of acute food insecurity, according to a September IPC analysis.
- The GoDRC MoH is responding to a resurgence of EVD in North Kivu following the confirmation of eight cases in early October.
- With support from USAID/BHA and other donors, WFP reached more than 1.3 million people with critical food and nutrition assistance during October.



<b>TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING</b> For the DRC Response in FYs 2021–2022	USAID <sup>1</sup>	\$425,646,333
	State/PRM <sup>2</sup>	\$39,375,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$465,021,333</b>

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

<sup>1</sup> This total includes approximately \$424 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.  
<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

### Violence Surges in Djugu, Resulting in Mass Displacement of Civilians

The ongoing state of siege in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)'s Ituri Province and clashes between the Armed Forces of the DRC (FARDC) and armed actors has generated mass displacement, with an estimated 1.7 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) recorded in the province as of early November, including more than 560,000 IDPs sheltering in Ituri's Djugu Territory alone, the UN reports. Armed conflict continues to escalate in Djugu as armed group elements attack both civilian and military targets, displacing populations, generating humanitarian needs, and impacting humanitarian organizations, particularly by preventing the resumption of relief activities that have been suspended in recent weeks. On November 28, an attack by armed group members on an IDP site in Djugu's Drodoro Health Zone resulted in at least 23 deaths; the incident is the fourth recorded attack targeting IDPs in Ituri since November 19, according to the UN.

Amid escalating conflict in Djugu, humanitarian access has significantly decreased, with many humanitarian organizations having to temporarily reduce or suspend staff movements in the territory during November. The temporary, insecurity-related suspension of activities in Djugu by the Danish Refugee Council, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), and Save the Children Federation (SCF) could affect nearly 320,000 people who are in urgent need of assistance, the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) report. Additionally, Médecins Sans Frontières suspended its programs in two health zones following an attack on its staff on October 28, possibly resulting in more than 470,000 people, including 120,000 IDPs, losing access to humanitarian and medical assistance. On November 23, UN Humanitarian Coordinator for the DRC David McLachlan-Karr condemned the violence in Djugu, asserting the importance of humanitarian access to response efforts and urging the Government of the DRC (GoDRC) to ensure increased protection of civilians.

### 27 Million People in the DRC Experiencing Acute Food Insecurity

The DRC has the largest number of highly food-insecure people in the world, with approximately 27 million people across the country experiencing Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity through December, according to a September 2021 IPC analysis, which included broader coverage of the country than prior analyses.<sup>1</sup> Approximately 6.1 million of these individuals are projected to face Emergency—IPC 4—levels of acute food insecurity between September and December. Emergency conditions are particularly prevalent in five territories within Ituri, Kasai, and Kasai-Central provinces, according to the analysis. Furthermore, Crisis levels could persist in areas of Haut-Katanga, Ituri, Maniema, North Kivu, South Kivu, and Tanganyika provinces through May 2022, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). Persistent insecurity and forecasts of below-average precipitation likely to result in lower harvest yields compared to previous agricultural seasons are driving the projected deterioration of food security conditions, particularly in eastern DRC, FEWS NET reports. Armed group activity and conflict-induced displacement are projected to reduce crop production by preventing agricultural workers from accessing fields during the March-to-June harvest season. Furthermore, the socioeconomic effects of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) mitigation measures—including fewer informal, cross-border trade opportunities—have further limited poor households' access to income-generating activities.

<sup>1</sup> 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.

## **Increased Insecurity in Beni Displaces Populations, Exacerbates Needs**

Conflict between the FARDC and armed groups in North Kivu has intensified following the GoDRC's declaration of a state of siege in Ituri and North Kivu in May, with increased FARDC military operations against armed groups impacting civilian populations and limiting humanitarian access, according to the UN. In particular, armed group attacks and clashes with the FARDC continue to displace populations and generate humanitarian needs in Beni, with nearly 800,000 people internally displaced in the territory since the beginning of 2021. On November 11, an attack in Beni's Kisunga village resulted in at least 35 deaths and displaced approximately 4,000 people, the UN reports. During the attack, armed actors looted and destroyed the local health center and kidnapped health care workers. International media report that Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) elements perpetrated the attack, following a recent pattern of ADF targeting medical facilities. In addition, on November 30, Uganda People's Defense Force began carrying out military operations against ADF elements and deploying troops in eastern DRC in coordination with the FARDC, international media report. Relief actors are tracking the impact of the heightened military operations on humanitarian access and conditions in the region.

## **Tensions Prompt Return of IDPs Amid Ongoing Violence in South Kivu**

Armed group activity continues to generate displacement in South Kivu Province's Fizi and Uvira territories, including highland areas referred to locally as the Hauts-Plateaux and lower-lying areas referred to as the Moyens-Plateaux. In mid-November, two armed group attacks in Hauts-Plateaux's Mikenge town resulted in six civilian deaths and prompted three NGOs operating in the area to relocate staff. In addition, from October 12 to 14, clashes between rival armed groups in Moyens-Plateaux's Bibokoboko town displaced more than 15,000 people to areas in and around Fizi's Baraka town, according to the UN. However, tensions between IDPs and host community members—including attacks targeting IDPs based on their ethnicity—and an increased FARDC presence in Bibokoboko had prompted most IDPs to return to their areas of origin by early November. The returns were facilitated by the UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO), which installed a temporary operational base in Bibokoboko to facilitate the safe and secure return of people displaced to Baraka, while FARDC forces escorted resettlement convoys.

## **USAID/BHA Partner WFP Assists More Than 1.3 Million People in October**

With support from USAID/BHA and other donors, the UN World Food Program (WFP) reached more than 1.3 million people nationwide with assistance during October, including nearly 662,000 people who received in-kind food assistance, more than 359,000 who received nutrition assistance, and more than 326,000 who received cash-based food assistance. In addition, from November 1 to 23, the UN agency provided assistance to nearly 560,000 people, including in-kind food assistance for nearly 214,000 people, nutrition assistance for more than 199,000 people, and cash-based assistance for approximately 147,000 people.

## **MoH Responds to EVD Resurgence in Beni**

On October 8, the GoDRC Ministry of Public Health, Hygiene, and Prevention (MoH) declared a resurgence of Ebola virus disease (EVD), recording eight total cases of EVD in Butsili and Mabolio health areas, located in North Kivu's Beni Territory, by November 4; however, as of December 9, health authorities had not identified a new EVD case in more than 30 days. Health authorities are conducting contact tracing, providing EVD awareness and prevention messaging, and vaccinating first responders and known contacts of confirmed cases. However, gaps in contact tracing, screening, surveillance, and infection, prevention, and control measures persist, and access to some areas of Beni is limited due to insecurity.

## KEY FIGURES



**4.6 Million**

People assisted in 2021  
by USAID/BHA partner  
WFP



**\$58 Million**

In dedicated USG  
support for nutrition  
assistance in FY 2021



**\$26.8 Million**

In dedicated  
USG support for  
life-saving health care and  
EVD response and  
preparedness  
programming in FY 2021

## U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

### FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

USAID/BHA partners, including 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 approximately \$222 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 food needs.

USAID/BHA provided more than \$58 million in FY 2021 funding to assist acutely malnourished individuals in the DRC; UN agencies and NGO partners also conduct activities to support improved nutrition outcomes, such as distributing tools and seeds to bolster household agricultural production and conducting awareness campaigns on dietary needs. USAID/BHA also provides funding to strengthen the coordination of food and nutrition interventions and ensure critical assistance is reaching the most vulnerable populations.

### HEALTH

USAID/BHA provided more than \$22.6 million in FY 2021 funding to expand community access to primary health care services in the DRC, increase the availability of essential medicines and supplies, and support disease surveillance and response efforts, among other activities. 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 gender-based violence cases in health facilities across 10 provinces. State/PRM partners support primary health care, including maternal and child health care and procurement of essential medicines and equipment, for Central African Republic (CAR) refugees in North Ubangi and South Ubangi. USAID also supports health messaging efforts, encouraging the adoption of recommended health and hygiene best practices to prevent the spread of communicable diseases, including COVID-19.

### PROTECTION

USG humanitarian partners are conducting critical protection activities in response to needs across the DRC. USAID/BHA provided nearly \$6.1 million in FY 2021 support partners in implementing protection programs in the country. Meanwhile, State/PRM partners the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) are providing protection services, among other forms of assistance, to displaced populations and refugees sheltering in the DRC.



**\$22.8 Million**

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

## SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS

USAID/BHA provided approximately \$23 million in FY 2021 to support the provision of shelter assistance to IDPs and returnees 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. USAID/BHA partners 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 the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has established hubs in three provinces hosting CAR refugees allowing assistance provision for refugees and host community members. USG partners also provide relief commodities and household items, including blankets, mats, tools, and water containers, to meet IDP, returnee, and refugee households' basic needs.



**\$27 Million**

In dedicated USAID/BHA support for WASH programming in FY 2021

## WASH

USAID/BHA has provided approximately \$27 million in FY 2021 funding to support water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) activities in 10 provinces across the DRC, helping to improve access to safe drinking water and sanitation infrastructure and reduce the spread of infectious diseases, such as cholera, COVID-19, EVD, and measles. USG-supported activities include constructing and rehabilitating WASH infrastructure, including handwashing stations, latrines, showers, and water points; transporting emergency water reserves to IDP and refugee sites; and distributing hygiene kits and other essential WASH commodities.

## 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.
- Citing a rising number of armed group attacks against civilians, President of the DRC Félix Tshisekedi declared a 30-day state of siege in eastern DRC's Ituri and North Kivu provinces on May 6, which authorities extended for the seventh time on September 1. The GoDRC edict vastly expands the powers of the FARDC in the two provinces, allowing FARDC officials to temporarily assume control of the provincial governments.
- The GoDRC MoH declared a resurgence of EVD in North Kivu on October 8. EVD is endemic to some animal species in the DRC, with periodic human disease outbreaks occurring in the country.
- On November 1, 2021, U.S. Ambassador to the DRC Michael A. Hammer re-declared a disaster for FY 2022 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.

**USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE DRC RESPONSE IN FY 2021<sup>1</sup>**

<b>IMPLEMENTING PARTNER</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
<b>FUNDING IN THE DRC FOR THE COMPLEX EMERGENCY RESPONSE</b>			
<b>USAID/BHA</b>			
Action contre la Faim (ACF)	Agriculture, Food Assistance–Vouchers, Nutrition	Ituri	\$9,800,000
Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)	Agriculture, Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Food Assistance–Local, Regional, and International Procurement (LRIP), WASH	Kasaï	\$7,000,000
African Initiatives for Relief and Development (AIRD)	Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Ituri	\$1,649,995
Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED)	Agriculture; ERMS; Food Assistance–Cash Transfers for Food, LRIP; 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, LRIP, Vouchers; Shelter and Settlements; WASH	Tanganyika	\$6,999,580
Concern Worldwide	Agriculture; ERMS; Food Assistance–Cash Transfers, Vouchers	Tanganyika	\$10,000,000
DanChurchAid	ERMS, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	North Kivu	\$3,500,000
Danish Refugee Council	Agriculture, ERMS, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Ituri, North Kivu	\$4,249,964
Doctors of the World	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	South Kivu	\$2,945,000
FHI 360	Health, Nutrition, WASH	Ituri, North Kivu	\$6,495,873
Interchurch Medical Assistance	Health	Bas-Uélé, Haut-Katanga, Ituri, Kasaï, Kasaï Central, Maniema, North Kivu, South Kivu, Tanganyika, Tshopo	\$1,860,757
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
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Health, Protection	Ituri, North Kivu	\$3,895,804
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	HCIM, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Ituri, North Kivu, Tanganyika	\$12,500,000
Internews	Health	Countrywide	\$500,000
Medair	Health, Nutrition, WASH	Ituri, North Kivu	\$5,430,652
NRC	Agriculture, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Ituri, Tanganyika	\$5,150,000
Oxfam	WASH	Ituri, Maniema, North Kivu, South Kivu, Tanganyika	\$4,707,452
People in Need	Agriculture; Food Assistance–Vouchers; Nutrition	South Kivu	\$1,650,000
Première Urgence Internationale (PUI)	Health, Nutrition, WASH	North Kivu	\$2,000,000
Samaritan's Purse	Agriculture; Food Assistance–LRIP, Vouchers; Shelter and Settlements; WASH	Haut-Uélé, Ituri, North Kivu, Tshopo	\$15,473,982
SCF	Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Ituri, Kasaï-Oriental	\$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	\$11,636,237
	WASH	North Kivu	\$500,000
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIM	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
USAID Global Health Bureau (USAID/GH)	Nutrition	Countrywide	\$500,000
Welthungerhilfe (WHH)	Agriculture, WASH	North Kivu	\$1,471,000
WFP	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers, LRIP, U.S. In-Kind Food Aid <sup>2</sup>	Countrywide	\$175,797,502
	HCIMA; Nutrition <sup>2</sup>	Countrywide	\$39,254,638
World Relief International (WRI)	Agriculture	Tanganyika	\$3,999,989
World Vision	WASH	North Kivu	\$1,744,206
	Program Support		\$9,461
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$395,697,029</b>
<b>STATE/PRM<sup>3,4</sup></b>			
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$18,475,000
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$20,900,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>			<b>\$39,375,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR COMPLEX EMERGENCY RESPONSE IN DRC IN FY 2021</b>			<b>\$435,072,029</b>

### FUNDING IN THE DRC AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES FOR EVD OUTBREAK PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE<sup>2</sup>

USAID/BHA			
Internews	Health	Équateur	\$745,916
IOM	Health	Équateur	\$1,888,612
UNHAS	Logistics Support	Équateur	\$3,267,354
	Program Support		\$47,422
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$5,949,304</b>
USAID/GH			
UNICEF	Health	Équateur, Mai-Ndombe, Mongala, Tshuapa	\$1,150,000
UNICEF	Health	Republic of the Congo (RoC)	\$350,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/GH FUNDING</b>			<b>\$1,500,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR EVD OUTBREAK PREPAREDNESS &amp; RESPONSE FOR THE DRC IN FY 2021</b>			<b>\$7,449,304</b>

### USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE DRC COMPLEX EMERGENCY RESPONSE IN FY 2022<sup>1</sup>

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
ACF	Agriculture, Food Assistance, Nutrition	Kasaï, Kasaï Central	\$8,000,000
UNICEF	Protection, WASH	Ituri, Maniema, North Kivu, South Kivu, Tanganyika	\$14,500,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$22,500,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR COMPLEX EMERGENCY RESPONSE IN DRC IN FY 2022</b>			<b>\$22,500,000</b>

<b>TOTAL USAID FUNDING FOR THE DRC RESPONSE IN FYs 2021–2022</b>	<b>\$425,646,333</b>
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING FOR THE DRC RESPONSE IN FYs 2021–2022</b>	<b>\$39,375,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE DRC RESPONSE IN FYs 2021–2022</b>	<b>\$465,021,333</b>

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of December 10, 2021.

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

<sup>3</sup> State/PRM funding does not include an additional \$29 million in FY 2021 funding for refugees and host community populations in the DRC.

<sup>4</sup> This total does not include more than \$73 million in FY 2021 State/PRM funding for Congolese refugees in neighboring countries, of which \$9.1 million is directed towards responding to COVID-19, which increases the total USG emergency funding for the DRC complex emergency in FYs 2021–2022 to approximately \$538 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)