

# Democratic Republic of the Congo – Complex Emergency

FEBRUARY 8, 2022

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE

<b>106.7</b> MILLION	<b>27</b> MILLION	<b>5.6</b> MILLION	<b>961,617</b>	<b>517,109</b>
Estimated Population of the DRC	Estimated Population in Need of Assistance in 2022	Estimated Number of IDPs in the DRC	Estimated Number of Congolese Refugees in Neighboring Countries	Estimated Number of Refugees Sheltering in the DRC
<i>OCHA – December 2021</i>	<i>UN – December 2021</i>	<i>UNHCR – December 2021</i>	<i>UNHCR – December 2021</i>	<i>UNHCR – December 2021</i>

- The 2022 DRC Humanitarian Needs Overview estimates approximately 27 million people across the country will require humanitarian assistance, an increase of nearly 7.4 million people compared to 2021.
- USAID/BHA partners continued to provide critical assistance in Ituri Province’s Rhoé Camp, which received an influx of an additional 50,000 IDPs in November and December.
- ADF elements have fled from FARDC-UPDF military offensives into the interior of the DRC, increasing insecurity in areas of Ituri and North Kivu provinces not previously affected by ADF activity.



<b>TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING</b> For the DRC Response in FYs 2021–2022	USAID <sup>1</sup>	\$504,631,020
	State/PRM <sup>2</sup>	\$39,375,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$554,006,020</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

### 2022 HNO Identifies 27 Million People in Need in the DRC

The UN released the 2022 Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) in late December, identifying an estimated 27 million people in need of humanitarian assistance countrywide. This figure marks an increase of more than 7 million people—or approximately 38 percent—compared to the 2021 HNO. While this increase in need is due in part to the expanded geographic scope of humanitarian reporting coverage, it is also indicative of deteriorating humanitarian conditions in the country. Nearly half of the population estimated to require aid are children ages 17 years and younger, with emergency food assistance remaining the greatest need. Continued conflict and resultant displacement are among the primary drivers of deteriorating humanitarian conditions in the country, alongside natural disasters such as flooding and disease outbreaks. The UN also highlighted growing protection needs, noting that instances of gender-based violence (GBV) recorded between January and September 2021 represented a 70 percent increase compared to those reported during the same period one year earlier.

Significant humanitarian access constraints will likely continue to challenge the delivery of critical assistance in 2022, as ongoing insecurity and limited road infrastructure limit operations in remote areas where large-scale humanitarian needs persist, particularly during the rainy season. Overall, the UN recorded 260 security incidents directly affecting humanitarian personnel or commodities between January and October 2021, which resulted in seven humanitarian worker deaths, 26 reported injuries, and 23 abductions.

### Surging Violence in Djugu Affects IDPs, Limits Aid to Displacement Sites

Armed group attacks targeting internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ituri Province's Djugu Territory have increased since mid-November, resulting in civilian deaths, injuries, abductions, displacement, and instances of sexual violence, according to the UN. On February 1, Cooperative for the Development of Congo (CODECO) elements carried out an attack on Djugu's Plaine Savo IDP site, resulting in the deaths of at least 50 civilians and injuries to more than 40 others, the UN reports. Relief actors operating in the area were coordinating emergency assistance for affected populations as of February 3. Plaine Savo hosts more than 20,000 IDPs, many of whom had fled recent violence in Djugu's Bule town. The incident follows a series of armed attacks on four IDP sites in Djugu between November 19 and 28 that resulted in the deaths of at least 58 civilians, injuries to 13 others, and dozens of abductions.

Recent armed group violence has also endangered the growing number of IDPs sheltering at Djugu's Rhoe IDP site. In early December, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) reported that attacks in previous weeks had led to the deaths of or injuries to dozens of IDP children searching for food and water outside of Rhoe, increasing the need for psychosocial support. More than 50,000 people sought refuge at Rhoe in November and December largely due to a spike in violence in Djugu's Drodro Health Zone, tripling the number of IDPs sheltering at the camp and straining available humanitarian resources. Recent armed attacks targeting humanitarian actors on roads leading to Rhoe have also forced relief workers to rely on a weekly UN Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) helicopter flight to deliver commodities to residents. Despite these challenges, USAID/BHA partner UNICEF distributed relief commodity kits as well as tarpaulins and tents to IDPs at Rhoe in December, while partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) reached residents with food commodities. In addition, USAID/BHA partner Danish Refugee Council continues to provide protection and shelter assistance at Rhoe and in other parts of Djugu as security conditions permit.

## **ADF Attacks in Ituri and North Kivu Province Endanger Civilians**

Recent Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) activity in Ituri's Irumu and Mambasa territories and North Kivu Province's Beni Territory—including clashes with the Armed Forces of the DRC (FARDC) and the Uganda People's Defense Force (UPDF)—continues to endanger civilian populations, the UN reports. A joint FARDC-UPDF military offensive launched in late November has prompted ADF elements to retreat from Beni and Irumu into interior portions of Ituri and North Kivu, including Mambasa and surrounding areas, in recent weeks. Between November 30 and December 31, ADF elements carried out at least 31 attacks against civilian populations, resulting in at least 161 deaths and the abduction of nearly 70 people. In addition, ADF attacks in Mambasa displaced more than 19,500 people to portions of Beni near Mabalako town between December 10 and December 24. Relief actors note that newly displaced households in Beni had limited access to basic services and humanitarian assistance as of January 5. Deteriorating security conditions in areas affected by ADF violence have also resulted in intermittent disruption to humanitarian activities, relief actors report.

## **Ongoing Conflict Drives Displacement in Fizi Territory**

Worsening insecurity in South Kivu Province's Fizi Territory in late December and early January exacerbated humanitarian conditions in the area, the UN reports. During this period, clashes between the FARDC and armed group elements in Fizi's Kamombo village led to the displacement of nearly 8,000 people, many of whom sought shelter in nearby forested areas or into neighboring localities in Fizi's Kipupu, Mikalati, Mikenge, Point Zéro, and Tuwetuwe health zones. Most IDPs remain reluctant to return to their areas of origin due to fear of reprisals or continued conflict and had not received any humanitarian assistance as of January 12 due to access constraints linked to violence and poor roads. Although a formal needs assessment had not been conducted as of early January, relief actors anticipated that IDPs urgently require essential household items, as well as emergency food, protection, shelter, and WASH assistance.

## **Violence Displaces 11,400 People to Tanganyika, Straining Local Resources**

Armed clashes displaced an estimated 11,400 IDPs from Maniema Province's Kabambare Territory to Tanganyika Province's Kongolo Territory during December, the UN reports. The arrival of IDPs, in conjunction with the onset of the lean season, has resulted in a decrease in the availability of essential food items in local markets. As such, relief actors are concerned that diminished food access may lead to deteriorating relations between IDPs and their host communities, as well as increased needs for emergency food assistance.

## **WHO Declares End of DRC's Thirteenth EVD Outbreak**

On December 16, the Government of DRC (GoDRC) Ministry of Health declared the end of DRC's 13th Ebola virus disease (EVD) outbreak which began in Beni on October 8. The GoDRC issued the declaration in accordance with World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines that recommend authorities wait 42 days following the second negative test of the last confirmed case before announcing the end of an outbreak. Over the course of the EVD outbreak, health actors in Beni recorded a total of 11 confirmed or probable cases, including nine deaths.

## KEY FIGURES



**5.9 Million**

People assisted overall 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



**\$6.1 Million**

In dedicated USG support for protection 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, 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 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 food security and nutrition outcomes, such as distributing tools and seeds to bolster household agricultural production and conducting awareness campaigns on dietary needs. Additionally, USAID/BHA 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

U.S. Government (USG) humanitarian partners are conducting critical protection activities in response to needs in conflict-affected areas of the DRC. USAID/BHA provided nearly \$6.1 million in FY 2021 support to partners implementing protection programs in the country. Meanwhile, State/PRM partner the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) provided displaced households and host community members with core relief item kits and distributed dignity kits to women and girls.

### SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS

With approximately \$23 million in FY 2021 funding, USAID/BHA partners are



## \$22.8 Million

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

providing shelter assistance to IDPs and returnees in crisis-affected areas of the DRC. 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 UNHCR has established hubs providing assistance, such as cash transfers to refugees and host community members, in three provinces hosting CAR refugees. 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 WASH activities countrywide, 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. UNHCR and an implementing partner, with State/PRM funding, built two boreholes and ten blocks of latrines at a refugee site to help improve sanitary conditions and prevent the spread of disease.

### 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 on February 1. The GoDRC edict vastly expands the powers of the FARDC in the two provinces, allowing military officials to temporarily assume control of the provincial governments.
- The GoDRC MoH experienced a resurgence of EVD in North Kivu beginning on October 8 and ending on December 16. 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 2022<sup>1</sup>**

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>FUNDING IN THE DRC FOR THE COMPLEX EMERGENCY RESPONSE</b>			
USAID/BHA			
Action contre la Faim (ACF)	Agriculture, Food Assistance, Nutrition	Kasaï, Kasaï Central	\$8,000,000
UNICEF	Protection, WASH	Ituri, Maniema, North Kivu, South Kivu, Tanganyika	\$14,500,000
WFP	Food Assistance-24,330 Metric Tons (MT) of U.S. In-Kind Food Aid, Cash Transfers, Local Regional, and International Procurement (LRIP)	Countrywide	\$78,984,687
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR THE DRC RESPONSE IN FY 2022</b>			<b>\$101,484,687</b>

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

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>FUNDING IN THE DRC FOR THE COMPLEX EMERGENCY RESPONSE</b>			
USAID/BHA			
ACF	Agriculture, Food Assistance, Nutrition	Ituri, Kasaï, Kasaï Central	\$9,800,000
Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)	Agriculture, ERMS, Food Assistance, WASH	Kasaï	\$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
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
IOM	HCIM, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Ituri, North Kivu, Tanganyika	\$12,500,000
Internews	Health	Countrywide	\$500,000
Medair	Health, Nutrition, WASH	Ituri	\$5,430,652
Norwegian Refugee Council (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, Nutrition	South Kivu	\$1,650,000
Première Urgence Internationale (PUI)	Health, Nutrition, WASH	North Kivu	\$2,000,000
Samaritan's Purse	Agriculture, Food Assistance, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	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	\$11,636,237
	WASH	North Kivu	\$500,000
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIM	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
WFP	Food Assistance—62,276 MT of U.S. In-Kind Food Aid, Cash Transfers, LRIP	Countrywide	\$175,797,502
	HCIMA; Nutrition <sup>2</sup>	Countrywide	\$39,254,638
USAID Global Health Bureau	Nutrition	Countrywide	\$500,000
Welthungerhilfe (WHH)	Agriculture, WASH	North Kivu	\$1,471,000
World Relief International (WRI)	Agriculture	Tanganyika	\$3,999,989
World Vision	WASH	North Kivu	\$1,744,206
	Program Support		\$9,461

**TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING** **\$395,697,029**

STATE/PRM<sup>3,4</sup>

International Committee of the Red Cross	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$18,475,000
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$20,900,000

**TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING** **\$39,375,000**

**TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR COMPLEX EMERGENCY IN DRC IN FY 2021** **\$435,072,029**

**FUNDING IN THE DRC AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES FOR EVD OUTBREAK RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS<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

**TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING** **\$5,949,304**

USAID/GH

UNICEF	Health	Équateur, Mai-Ndombe, Mongala, Tshuapa	\$1,150,000
UNICEF	Health	Republic of the Congo (RoC)	\$350,000

**TOTAL USAID/GH FUNDING** **\$1,500,000**

**TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR EVD OUTBREAK PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE IN DRC IN FY 2021** **\$7,449,304**

**TOTAL USAID FUNDING FOR THE DRC RESPONSE IN FY 2021** **\$403,146,333**

**TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING FOR THE DRC RESPONSE IN FY 2021** **\$39,375,000**

**TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE DRC RESPONSE IN FY 2021** **\$442,521,333**

**TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR THE DRC RESPONSE IN FY 2021-FY 2022** **\$497,181,716**

**TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE DRC RESPONSE IN FY 2021-FY 2022** **\$544,006,020**

<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.

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## 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)