

# Democratic Republic of the Congo – Complex Emergency

MAY 13, 2022

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE



- Clashes between the FARDC and suspected ex-M23 elements in North Kivu Province’s Rutshuru Territory prompted an estimated 19,000 Congolese refugees to seek shelter in Uganda between January and May.
- Armed group attacks on IDP sites in Ituri Province’s Djugu Territory led to heightened population displacement and the deaths of at least 46 displaced individuals between March and May.
- A humanitarian NGO recorded nearly 1,500 security incidents across eastern DRC and the new displacement of nearly 30,000 people countrywide during February.



<b>TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING</b> For the DRC Response in FY 2022	USAID/BHA <sup>1</sup>	\$201,169,155
	State/PRM <sup>2</sup>	\$18,900,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$220,069,155</b>

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

<sup>1</sup> USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)  
<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

### Clashes Between FARDC and M23 Drive Displacement in North Kivu

From January 23 to 25, clashes between the Armed Forces of the DRC (FARDC) and suspected ex-members of the March 23 Movement (M23), a North Kivu-based armed group which occupied much of North Kivu's Rutshuru Territory during 2012 and 2013, displaced more than 8,800 people from Rutshuru, according to the International Organization for Migration. Following improved security conditions in Rutshuru between February and mid-March, more than 7,700 previously displaced persons returned to their villages of origin in the territory, while approximately 1,100 internally displaced persons (IDPs) continued to reside with host communities in surrounding areas. Between March 28 and 30, however, suspected ex-M23 armed elements launched a series of attacks against the FARDC and civilian population in Rutshuru, displacing an additional 46,000 people in the territory and prompting relief actors to suspend humanitarian activities in conflict-affected areas, the UN reports. UN agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) arrived in Rutshuru on April 5 to assess emergency needs and provide emergency food assistance and health care but were forced to suspend aid operations when renewed clashes erupted on April 6. As of early May, an estimated 19,000 Congolese refugees fleeing violence in Rutshuru were sheltering in neighboring Uganda, according to the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

### CODECO Attacks in Djugu Lead to Spike in Casualties and Displacement

Armed elements of the Cooperative for the Development of Congo (CODECO), a Lendu-affiliated group, continue to target civilian populations in Ituri's Djugu Territory, driving heightened fatalities, displacement, and disruption to aid operations. On February 14 and 15, CODECO elements set fire to buildings and looted stores in the territory's Kango and Muravamu localities and attacked Abelkoze village, resulting in the deaths of at least 37 civilians and the displacement of approximately 15,000 people, according to international media. During a separate incident on May 8, armed elements linked to CODECO carried out an attack on a mining camp near Djugu's Mongbwalu village that resulted in the deaths of at least 38 people, according to the UN.

CODECO elements have also increasingly attacked IDP sites in Djugu since November 2021. On March 8, CODECO elements attacked a church compound in Djugu's Banyali Kilo locality, leading to the deaths of 18 IDPs and the secondary displacement of an unknown number of displaced individuals sheltering at the site, according to international media. CODECO elements also carried out an attack on an IDP site in Djugu's Drakpa locality on March 19 that resulted in the deaths of 14 civilians—seven children and seven adults—and injuries to five others. A similar CODECO attack on Djugu's Lodha IDP site on May 9 led to the deaths of 14 civilians, including 12 children, the UN reports.

Following repeated incidents of CODECO violence in Ituri targeting humanitarian convoys and health structures—at least 48 of which were destroyed by CODECO attacks in 2021—a humanitarian NGO conducting health interventions indefinitely suspended operations in Djugu's Bambu and Nizi health zones in March. However, the organization will continue donating medical supplies to health centers within the zones and will continue to provide emergency and intensive health care in Djugu's Drodo and Angumu health zones. The NGO cited the Government of the DRC's (GoDRC's) lack of an investigation regarding an October 28, 2021, attack on humanitarian staff in Ituri—which resulted in the injuries to two NGO staff members—as a factor in its decision to suspend activities.

## **Insecurity in Eastern DRC Exacerbates Protection, Food Needs**

Nearly 1,500 security incidents occurred in eastern DRC in February, including approximately 440 in Ituri, 400 in North Kivu, 200 in South Kivu Province, 300 in Tanganyika Province, and 100 in Maniema Province, according to a humanitarian NGO. The organization also recorded approximately 73,000 people on the move across the DRC during the month, including nearly 30,000 IDPs and more than 43,000 returnees. While displacements were primarily linked to armed group incursions, return movements were largely the result of the FARDC territorial gains.

The presence of armed groups in parts of Ituri's Djugu and Irumu territories, North Kivu's Beni and Rutshuru territories, and South Kivu's Fizi Territory, were preventing many civilians from accessing fields for crop production as of February, driving increased levels of food insecurity in affected areas, according to relief actors. Moreover, an influx of IDPs into Djugu's Bule during the month caused prices for food and non-food items at local markets to rise, while agricultural and livestock products were looted or damaged by flooding in Rutshuru's Rugari locality. Since March, humanitarian actors have reported increased food prices in provinces in eastern DRC, Kasai Central Province, and the DRC's capital city of Kinshasa in part due to high prices for fuel and market disruption linked to the Government of the Russian Federation's invasion of Ukraine. Food prices were more than 30 percent above average levels in these markets, with beans, corn flour, imported rice, and refined vegetable oil being the commodities most affected by increased market rates, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET).

## **CAR Refugees in Northern DRC Require Multi-Sector Assistance**

Approximately 213,000 refugees from the Central African Republic (CAR) were residing in the DRC as of February, according to UNHCR. While many of the refugees arrived in the DRC in 2013, political upheaval and violence following CAR's December 2020 presidential elections have resulted in continuous new arrivals in recent years. The highest number of refugees reside in DRC provinces bordering CAR: North Ubangi hosts approximately 118,000 refugees and asylum-seekers; Bas-Uélé hosts nearly 50,000; and South Ubangi hosts more than 45,000. More than 20 percent of all CAR refugees in the DRC live in four camps, with the remainder residing in remote border villages where humanitarian access is constrained due to the presence of armed groups and a lack of transportation infrastructure. UNHCR notes that a large portion of CAR refugees in the country are sheltering with poor host families in makeshift or overcrowded shelters and that many lack sufficient access to quality health care and safe drinking water, increasing exposure to waterborne diseases. In 2021, relief actors identified nearly 1,700 cases of acute malnutrition among refugee children residing in three northern DRC provinces and, as of February 28, had identified nearly 600 cases of gender-based violence (GBV) since January. State/PRM continues to support UNHCR to provide essential medicines and nutrition supplies to refugees from CAR in North Ubangi and South Ubangi. UNHCR also facilitated the voluntary return of 5,500 refugees to CAR between October and December 2021.

## **2022 HRP Requests \$1.88 Billion to Assist 8.8 Million People in Need**

On February 17, the UN—in coordination with the GoDRC—released the 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), requesting nearly \$1.9 billion to address the emergency needs of an estimated 8.8 million people, approximately 30 percent of the 27 million people in need of humanitarian assistance countrywide. While the number of people in need in 2022 increased by nearly 40 percent compared to 2021, the funds requested for and beneficiaries targeted by the 2022 plan decreased by 5 and 8 percent, respectively, compared to the previous year. The reduction is largely due to the UN's desire to prioritize assistance for the most vulnerable communities amid waning donor resources for the

humanitarian response in the DRC, the HRP notes.

Humanitarian needs remain most acute in eastern areas of the country—including in Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu, and Tanganyika—as well as in Kasai province. The UN reports that children ages five years and younger; gender-based violence (GBV) survivors and people at risk of GBV; IDPs; people with disabilities; and pregnant and lactating women remain the most vulnerable populations in the country. The 2022 plan prioritizes support to enable displaced people to meet basic food and nutrition needs, as well as efforts to provide vulnerable populations with health care, education, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance. Due to deteriorating security conditions in eastern DRC, the 2022 HRP also proposes a scale-up of protection services for vulnerable groups, including approximately 110,600 GBV survivors, 15,700 unaccompanied children, and 8,100 children associated with armed forces and groups. USAID/BHA partners continue to provide life-saving food, health, nutrition, protection, and WASH assistance to conflict-affected and food-insecure populations in DRC in 2022.

## KEY FIGURES



**\$124.8 Million**

In dedicated USG support for food assistance in FY 2022



**\$900,000**

In dedicated USG support for nutrition assistance in FY 2022



**\$2.4 Million**

In dedicated USG support for life-saving health care in FY 2022

## U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

### FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

USAID/BHA partners, including the UN World Food Program (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 \$124.8 million in USAID/BHA support in FY 2022, 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 has provided nearly \$900,000 in FY 2022 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.

### HEALTH

USAID/BHA has provided nearly \$2.4 million in FY 2022 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 GBV 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 CAR refugees in North Ubangi and South Ubangi. State/PRM also supports UNHCR in providing essential medicines and nutrition supplies to health centers to camps sheltering refugees from CAR 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.



**\$6.3 Million**

In dedicated USG support for protection programming in FY 2022

## PROTECTION

USG humanitarian partners conduct critical protection activities in response to needs in conflict-affected areas of the DRC. USAID/BHA has provided approximately \$6.3 million in FY 2022 support to partners implementing protection programs in the country. Meanwhile, State/PRM partner UNHCR provides displaced households and host community members with core relief item kits and distributed dignity kits to women and girls.



**\$8.4 Million**

In dedicated USG support for shelter and settlements programming in FY 2022

## SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS

With approximately \$8.4 million in FY 2022 funding, USAID/BHA partners are 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.



**\$20.6 Million**

In dedicated USAID/BHA support for WASH programming in FY 2022

## WASH

USAID/BHA has provided approximately \$20.6 million in FY 2022 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, Ebola virus disease (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 its implementing partners constructed more than 360 blocks of community latrines and bathing rooms and provided other forms assistance to refugees from CAR in North Ubangi's Modale Development Hub.

## 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, 2021, 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 DRC 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. In late April, DRC health authorities declared a new outbreak after the confirmation of a case in Équateur Province.
- 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	Kasai, Kasai Central	\$8,000,000
ACTED	Agriculture, Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Food Assistance, Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA), WASH	Bas-Uélé, Ituri, Maniema, North Kivu, North Ubangi, South Kivu, South Ubangi, Tanganyika	\$24,006,427
CONCERN	Agriculture, ERMS, Food Assistance, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	North Kivu, Tanganyika	\$12,403,969
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	Agriculture, Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and Programs (DRRPP), ERMS, Food Assistance, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Kasai Central, Tanganyika	\$14,697,398
Interchurch Medical Assistance	Health	Ituri, Maniema, North Kivu, South Kivu, Tanganyika	\$2,390,348
Mercy Corps	Agriculture, ERMS, Food Assistance, HCIMA, Multipurpose Cash Assistance, Protection, WASH	Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu, Tanganyika	\$22,816,327
OCHA	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$1,000,000

Samaritan's Purse	Agriculture, Food Assistance, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Haut-Uélé, Ituri, North Kivu, Tshopo	\$14,373,839
UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)	Protection, WASH	Ituri, Maniema, North Kivu, South Kivu, Tanganyika	\$14,500,000
	HCIMA, Nutrition	Countrywide	\$988,229
UN Population Fund (UNFPA)	HCIMA, Protection	Countrywide	\$1,994,263
	Food Assistance—Cash Transfers for Food, Local, Regional, and International Procurement	Countrywide	\$22,000,000
WFP	Food Assistance—24,330 MT of U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Countrywide	\$56,984,687
	Logistics	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
	Program Support		\$1,300
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR THE DRC RESPONSE IN FY 2022</b>			<b>\$201,169,155</b>
STATE/PRM <sup>2</sup>			
International Committee of the Red Cross	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$6,200,000
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$12,700,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING FOR THE DRC RESPONSE IN FY 2022</b>			<b>\$18,900,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE DRC RESPONSE IN FY 2022</b>			<b>\$220,069,155</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 May 11, 2022.

<sup>2</sup> This total does not include the \$5.1 million in FY 2022 State/PRM funding for Congolese refugees in neighboring countries, which increases the total USG emergency funding for the DRC complex emergency in FY 2022 to approximately \$153.8 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).

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)