

Democratic Republic of the Congo – Complex Emergency

September 30, 2020

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

25.6 MILLION	21.8 MILLION	5.5 MILLION	922,000	529,000
Estimated Population in Need of Assistance	Estimated Acutely Food Insecure Population	Estimated Number of IDPs in the DRC	Estimated Number of Congoese Refugees Sheltering Abroad	Estimated Number of Refugees Sheltering in the DRC
<i>OCHA – June 2020</i>	<i>IPC – September 2020</i>	<i>OCHA – December 2019</i>	<i>UNHCR – July 2020</i>	<i>UNHCR – July 2020</i>

- Approximately 21.8 million people in the DRC will likely require emergency food assistance through December due to conflict, the impact of COVID-19 mitigation measures on livelihoods, worsening macroeconomic conditions, and flooding, according to a September IPC analysis.
- Conflict and insecurity continue to drive widespread population displacement and increase humanitarian needs in some areas of the DRC, particularly in Ituri and North Kivu provinces.
- Non-state armed groups carried out two separate attacks against aid workers in eastern DRC in September, resulting in one aid worker death, one injury, and five abductions.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the DRC Response in FY 2020	USAID/BHA ^{1,2}	\$350,009,015
	State/PRM ³	\$68,150,000
	Total⁴	\$418,159,015

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

¹USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)

²Total USAID/BHA funding includes non-food humanitarian assistance from the former Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance and emergency food assistance from the former Office of Food for Peace.

³U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

⁴This total includes approximately \$23,833,699 in supplemental funding through USAID/BHA and State/PRM for COVID-19 preparedness and response activities.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

21.8 Million People Need Food Assistance Through December, IPC Reports

Approximately 21.8 million people, representing about a third of the analyzed population, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) will likely face Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity and require emergency food assistance from July to December, a period that encompasses the peak of the lean season in much of eastern DRC, according to preliminary results from a September IPC analysis.⁵ Meanwhile, the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) reports that households in several conflict-affected areas of central and eastern DRC will likely experience Crisis levels of acute food insecurity through early 2021, with some households in Ituri Province’s Djugu Territory experiencing Emergency—IPC 4—levels of acute food insecurity during the same period. Armed conflict continues to drive elevated food assistance needs by reducing food production, disrupting markets and trade, and negatively impacting livelihoods, particularly in Djugu, Tanganyika’s Moba and Nyunzu territories, and North Kivu’s Masisi Territory, where clashes in recent months have driven significant displacement, FEWS NET reports. In addition, many households countrywide continue to face reduced access to food due to the effects of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and associated containment measures, including food price increases and livelihoods disruption, despite the easing of some measures—such as gradually removing movement restrictions and the reopening of schools and businesses—since July, according to the IPC analysis. Moreover, the IPC analysis indicates that worsening macroeconomic conditions and natural disasters, particularly flooding, have also contributed to deteriorating food security in the DRC in 2020.

Conflict Displaces 1.4 Million People Countrywide From January to June

Persistent insecurity linked to armed group activities and intercommunal tensions continues to drive widespread displacement in several areas of the DRC. According to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), conflict displaced approximately 1.4 million people in the DRC during the first six months of 2020, representing an increase of nearly 95 percent compared to the same period in 2019. IDMC reports that eastern DRC’s Ituri, Maniema, North Kivu, South Kivu, and Tanganyika provinces remain the areas most affected by recent conflict and displacement, particularly Ituri, where violent conflict displaced approximately 627,000 people between January and June, representing nearly half of all new conflict-related displacements countrywide during the period. In subsequent months, violence has continued in parts of Ituri’s Djugu, Irumu, and Mahagi territories, driving further displacement. Approximately 1.6 million internally displaced people (IDPs) were sheltering across Ituri—representing nearly 30 percent of the province’s population—as of June, the UN reports.

Insecurity Drives Elevated Humanitarian Needs in North Kivu

Clashes between the Armed Forces of the DRC (FARDC) and non-state armed groups, as well as between rival non-state armed groups, have increased in parts of North Kivu’s Masisi and Walikale territories in recent months, resulting in mass displacement, looting, and significant protection violations, according to the UN. Between July and September, insecurity displaced more than 66,000 people in Walikale alone, with subsequent clashes in late September driving additional displacement and prompting some humanitarian organizations to temporarily suspend operations in the area, the UN reports. Meanwhile, mid-September clashes between armed groups in Masisi displaced approximately 13,000 people in the vicinity of Kamuhobe and Katuunda villages, which already hosted IDPs displaced by earlier clashes in May. Relief actors have identified food assistance, health care, nutrition support, protection

⁵ 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.

services, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) support as priority needs for recently displaced IDP populations. In addition, cases of gender-based violence (GBV) linked to ongoing conflict have increased significantly in recent months, and armed group recruitment of children in the area remains an ongoing concern, relief actors report.

Multiple Attacks Target Aid Workers in Eastern DRC

Armed actors carried out two separate attacks against aid workers in Ituri and North Kivu in September, highlighting the continued security challenges and access constraints that humanitarian organizations face when delivering assistance to conflict-affected populations in eastern DRC. On September 16, unidentified gunmen attacked an international non-governmental organization (NGO) convoy returning from a humanitarian assistance distribution site in North Kivu's Lubero Territory, killing one staff member, seriously injuring another, and taking two national staff members hostage, according to the NGO. As of September 23, the NGO reported that both of its abducted staff had been released. Separately, armed actors abducted three local staff employed by another NGO near Ituri's Bunia town on September 18, while the staff were repairing WASH infrastructure, according to the UN. In response, acting UN Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) in the DRC Diego Zorrilla issued a statement condemning the attacks, expressing hope that remaining staff held in captivity would be recovered safely, and calling for Congolese authorities to hold perpetrators of the attacks accountable. HC Zorrilla also urged all conflict actors to grant unhindered access to humanitarian workers assisting populations in need.

North Kivu Emerges as a COVID-19 Hotspot

The number of COVID-19 cases reported in North Kivu continued to increase in recent months, with the Government of the DRC Ministry of Health reporting nearly 840 confirmed COVID-19 cases, including 103 associated deaths, in the province as of September 11. As of early September, more than 50 percent of North Kivu's 34 health zones had confirmed COVID-19 cases. While North Kivu's COVID-19 case fatality rate has decreased since early August, the province continued to report the highest case fatality rate in the DRC in September—more than 12 percent, in contrast to the national rate of 2.5 percent. Limited adherence to physical distancing guidelines and mask-wearing ordinances continue to facilitate the spread of the disease, while personal protective equipment (PPE) shortages have complicated response efforts. PPE shortages may also be endangering health workers, as more than 73 health care professionals in North Kivu had tested positive for COVID-19 since the beginning of the outbreak as of early September, according to the UN World Health Organization (WHO). As of September 23, health actors had reported approximately 10,500 COVID-19 cases across the DRC.

Needs Remain High in Nyunzu, Despite Security Improvements

The security situation in Tanganyika's Nyunzu Territory has improved since June due to the increased presence of FARDC forces in some conflict-affected areas and a relative decline in militia and armed group activities, which had displaced more than 120,000 people in Nyunzu during the first five months of 2020, according to the UN. The improved security conditions have allowed some displaced individuals to return to their places of origin and contributed to increased humanitarian access in some parts of the territory; however, emergency needs remain high, particularly among IDP and returnee populations, relief actors report. More than 70 percent of households in Nyunzu were experiencing acute food insecurity as of June, the UN World Food Program (WFP) reports.

In response to elevated humanitarian needs in Nyunzu, the UN and other relief actors are scaling up activities in the territory and plan to reach more than 70,000 people with assistance through the end of

2020. In August, USAID/BHA partner Catholic Relief Services (CRS) provided agricultural inputs, emergency food assistance, relief commodities, and WASH support to more than 5,000 IDP and returnee households in Nyunzu. Additionally, USAID/BHA partner Concern Worldwide continues to implement emergency WASH and food assistance activities for conflict-affected populations in Nyunzu.

KEY FIGURES



**\$249.7
Million**

In dedicated USG support for emergency food and nutrition assistance in FY 2020



13

Number of USG implementing partners supporting health programming



19

Number of USG implementing partners supporting WASH programming

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

USAID/BHA works with WFP, the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF), and 11 NGOs to provide life-saving food and nutrition assistance to vulnerable IDPs, refugees, host community members, and other vulnerable populations facing acute food insecurity in the DRC. With more than \$249.7 million in USAID/BHA support in FY 2020, UN and NGO partners are providing cash transfers for food, food vouchers, and in-kind food assistance—including U.S.-sourced commodities, as well as locally, regionally, and internationally procured commodities—to help vulnerable households meet their basic food needs. Additionally, USAID/BHA is supporting partners to conduct activities that complement food assistance efforts, such as bolstering agricultural production and livelihoods through the distribution of tools and vouchers.

HEALTH

State/PRM and USAID/BHA support the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the UN Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and 10 NGO partners to respond to the emergency health needs of IDPs, refugees, host community members, and other vulnerable populations across the DRC. Working through UN and NGO partners, U.S. Government (USG) health interventions prioritize providing access to primary health care services at health facilities and mobile clinics, increasing the availability of essential medicines and immunizations, and supporting disease surveillance and response efforts. The USG 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. Moreover, the USG continues to build the response capacity of local health care workers by organizing health-focused trainings and capacity building workshops.

WASH

USAID/BHA supports WASH programming in 10 of the DRC’s 26 provinces to improve access to safe drinking water and sanitation, and to reduce the spread of infectious disease. USAID/BHA-supported activities include 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.



10

Number of USG implementing partners supporting protection programming

PROTECTION

Through support to ICRC, UNHCR, UNICEF, and 7 NGO partners, State/PRM and USAID/BHA provide critical multi-sector protection interventions for populations in crisis-affected areas of the DRC. To assist vulnerable people—including survivors of GBV and children associated with armed forces or armed groups—USAID/BHA partners provide case management support, psychosocial support services, dignity kits comprising hygiene and sanitary items, and community information sessions on protection-related topics. Moreover, State/PRM partner UNHCR addresses the protection needs of IDP, refugee, and host community populations across the DRC by providing legal support, improving access to essential social services, managing regional protection incident referral systems, and promoting durable solutions for refugees—including voluntary repatriation, local integration, and third-country resettlement.



439,000

People reached with shelter assistance from the USG-supported Shelter Cluster between January and August

SHELTER AND RELIEF COMMODITIES

The USG supports IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF, and five NGOs to provide emergency shelter assistance and relief commodities to IDPs, refugees, and other vulnerable populations in crisis-affected areas of the DRC. USG partners IOM and UNHCR 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, including blankets, mats, tools, and water containers to help vulnerable households meet their essential daily needs. With support from the USG and other donors, the UNHCR-managed Shelter Cluster—the coordinating body for humanitarian shelter activities, comprising US agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders—reached more than 439,000 displaced individuals in the DRC with shelter assistance and 411,000 individuals with emergency relief items from January to August.

CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Despite the implementation of a peace agreement in 2003, fighting between forces loyal to the Government of the DRC and various armed entities, including the Allied Democratic Forces, 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 7, 2019, U.S. Ambassador Michael A. Hammer redeclared a disaster for the complex emergency in the DRC for FY 2020 due to ongoing humanitarian needs in the country.
- Heavy seasonal rainfall can cause localized flooding in parts of the DRC, resulting in damage to public infrastructure and increased humanitarian needs in affected areas. Ambassador Hammer issued separate disaster declarations due to the humanitarian impact of flooding in northern DRC and South Kivu on November 27, 2019, and April 23, 2020, respectively.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE DRC RESPONSE IN FY 2020^{1,2}

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
FUNDING IN THE DRC FOR THE COMPLEX EMERGENCY			
USAID/BHA			
Non-Food Assistance			
African Initiatives for Relief and Development (AIRD)	Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Ituri	\$699,409
CARE	Health, Protection, WASH	North Kivu	\$3,609,586
Concern Worldwide	Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Multipurpose Cash Assistance, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Haut-Katanga, North Kivu, Tanganyika	\$7,000,000
DanChurchAid (DCA)	ERMS, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	North Kivu	\$2,100,000
Danish Refugee Council (DRC)	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Ituri	\$3,190,969
Doctors of the World	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	South Kivu	\$2,500,000
IMA World Health	Health	Bas-Uele, Haut-Katanga, Haut-Lomami, Ituri, Lomami, Lualaba, Maniema, Kasai, Kasai-Oriental, North Kivu, South Kivu, Tanganyika, Tshopo	\$2,030,000
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)	WASH	Nord-Ubangi, Sud-Ubangi	\$250,000
International Medical Corps (IMC)	Health, Protection	South Kivu, Tanganyika	\$3,000,000
International NGO Safety Organization (INSO)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management (HCIM)	Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu, Tanganyika	\$935,000

International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Health	North Kivu, Tanganyika	\$3,861,896
IOM	HCIM, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Ituri, North Kivu, Tanganyika	\$7,930,000
Medair	Health, Nutrition, WASH	Ituri, North Kivu	\$6,156,276
Mercy Corps	WASH	Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu, Tanganyika	\$3,000,000
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	Agriculture and Food Security, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Ituri, Tanganyika	\$5,075,000
Oxfam	HCIM, WASH	Ituri, Maniema, North Kivu, South Kivu, Tanganyika	\$6,492,548
Save the Children Federation (SCF)	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Ituri	\$3,750,000
Tearfund	Agriculture and Food Security, WASH	Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu	\$5,025,611
UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)	Logistics Support	Countrywide	\$4,000,000
UNICEF	Shelter and Settlements, Protection, WASH	Nord-Ubangi, South Kivu, Sud-Ubangi	\$13,350,000
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIM	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
Welthungerhilfe (WHH)	Agriculture and Food Security, WASH	North Kivu	\$1,140,000
World Relief International	Agriculture and Food Security	Tanganyika	\$4,499,419
	Program Support		\$27,994
TOTAL NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING			\$90,623,708
Food Assistance			
ACTED	Cash Transfers for Food, LRIP, Complementary Services	Bas-Uele, North-Ubangi	\$1,810,415
Action Contre la Faim (ACF)	Cash Transfers for Food, Food Vouchers, Local, Regional, and International Food Procurement (LRIP), Complementary Services	Ituri, Kasai, Kasai-Central	\$16,648,259
Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)	LRIP, Complementary Services	Kasai	\$13,000,000
Concern Worldwide	Cash Transfers for Food, Food Vouchers, LRIP, Complementary Services	Haut-Katanga, Tanganyika	\$8,000,000
CRS	Cash Transfers for Food, Food Vouchers, LRIP, Complementary Services	Kasai-Central, Kasai-Oriental	\$16,578,652
Mercy Corps	Cash Transfers for Food, Food Vouchers, Complementary Services	Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu	\$10,000,000
Samaritan's Purse	LRIP	Bas-Uele	\$1,264,690
SCF	LRIP, Complementary Services	Kasai-Oriental	\$4,399,387
Solidarités International	Food Vouchers	Ituri, North Kivu	\$1,525,000
UNICEF	1,000 metric tons (MT) U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Kasai, Kasai Central, Kasai-Oriental, Lomami, South Kivu, Tanganyika	\$9,693,182
WFP	49,560 MT U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Équateur, Haut-Katanga, Haut Uele, Ituri, Kasai, Kasai-Central, Kasai-Oriental, Maniema, Kwango, North Kivu, Nord-Ubangi, South Kivu, Sud-Ubangi, Tanganyika	\$105,258,427
	Cash Transfers for Food, LRIP, Complementary Services		\$57,523,596
TOTAL FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING			\$245,701,608
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$336,325,316
STATE/PRM			
ICRC	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$14,900,000
UNHAS	Logistics Support and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$1,100,000
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$42,000,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$58,000,000

TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR COMEPLEX EMERGENCY IN THE DRC IN FY 2020
\$394,325,316
FUNDING IN THE FOR COVID-19 OUTBREAK PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE²
USAID/BHA

Non-Food Assistance

FHI 360	Health, WASH	North Kivu, South Kivu, Tanganyika	\$2,099,054
IMC	Health	North Kivu, South Kivu, Tanganyika	\$3,402,313
Internews	Health	Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu, Tanganyika	\$292,000
IOM	Health, WASH	Ituri, North Kivu, Tanganyika	\$1,930,000
SCF	Health, WASH	Ituri	\$750,000
Tearfund	WASH	Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu	\$650,000
World Vision	Health	South Kivu, Tanganyika	\$560,332

TOTAL NON-FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING
\$9,683,699

Food Assistance

WFP	Cash Transfers for Food	Kinshasa	\$4,000,000
-----	-------------------------	----------	-------------

TOTAL FOOD ASSISTANCE FUNDING
\$4,000,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING
\$13,683,699
STATE/PRM

ICRC	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$5,950,000
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$4,200,000

TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING
\$10,150,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR COVID-19 OUTBREAK PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE IN THE DRC IN FY 2020
\$23,833,699
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR THE DRC RESPONSE IN FY 2020
\$350,009,015
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING FOR THE DRC RESPONSE IN FY 2020
\$68,150,000³
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE DRC RESPONSE IN FY 2020
\$418,159,015

¹ This USG fact sheet focuses on the complex emergency in the DRC; the ongoing Ebola virus disease (EVD) response, including USG funding and support, is covered in a separate fact sheet.

² Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of September 30, 2020.

³ Figures represent supplemental International Disaster Assistance (IDA) and Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA) funding committed for COVID-19 preparedness and response activities as of September 30, 2020.

⁴ This total includes humanitarian funding provided in response to heavy flooding in November 2019 and April 2020. It does not include \$38.5 million in FY 2020 State/PRM funding for Congolese refugees in neighboring countries, of which \$2.4 million is towards responding to COVID-19, which increases total USG emergency funding for the DRC complex emergency in FY 2020 to \$456,659,015.

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
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at reliefweb.int.

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at [usaaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)