NYIRAGONGO
VOLCANIC
CRISIS

SITUATION
AND
NEEDS
OVERVIEW

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
SITUATION OVERVIEW

450,000 people were displaced and evacuated after the Nyiragongo volcano erupts.

The majority (over 80%) returned to their localities or neighborhoods of origin.

4,051 households are currently living in collective centers and temporary sites (IOM/DIVA).

An unknown number are living with host families in Nyiragongo.

IDPs in Saké: 335 households in a collective center.

IDPs in Minova: 464 households in host families.

IMPACT ON LIVELIHOOD

According to the preliminary results of FAO remote sensing study, 279 ha of agricultural land and crops were highly affected, 1,252 ha moderately affected and 727 ha slightly affected, for a total of 2,261 ha. This study also takes into account other damages caused by the heat of the lava, the ashes, and the gas of the volcano.

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- Agricultural land with significant areas of natural vegetation.
- Pasture.

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1,149,300 people were living in the Nyiragongo health zone, north of Goma city, before the crisis. 49.1% were men and 50.9% women. As per the 2017 census, 72.9% of the population were living on less than 1 USD per day and the human development index in the zone was 0.440.

The volcanic eruption is the latest crisis on top of years of conflict and suffering which remains the main driver of acute food insecurity in parts of Goma, combined with economic shocks. Furthermore, an as well compounding situation as the effect of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

In the Nyiragongo health zone, on April 2021, several episodes of intercommunal violence were recorded; they have their origins in the land issues as well as from a general increase in violence in North Kivu during the first half of the year.

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450,000 people have been displaced and evacuated following the eruption of the volcano Nyiragongo, in which some IDPs live on collective centres, informal sites, and others hosted in host families.

Over 2,400 residential buildings have been destroyed in Ngangi, Bushara, Bungere, Mujoga, Mugerwa, Kisheke, and Kibati.

Between 110 and 120 households may have lost their fields and crops and approximately 279 ha of the agricultural land was destroyed. Most of the crops and livestock are gone due to lava as well as ashes.

The volcanic ashes have also affected children with a reported increase in respiratory diseases.

Following the eruption of the volcano and the lava flow, the 4 main cisterns north of Goma, near the village of Bushara(Munigi Health Area), were destroyed or seriously damaged. These cisterns are the main, or even single, water points available to the communities of the Nyiragongo health zone.
**PRIORITIZED POPULATION GROUPS AND NEEDS**

- **IDPs in collective shelters and informal sites.**
- **IDPs living with host families.**
- **Returnees in their area of origin living in makeshift shelters.**

**KEY ISSUES**

**IDPs in collective shelters and informal sites.**
- Site overcrowding.
- Insufficient food.
- Limited access to water & sanitation.
- Lack of NFIs.
- Increasing exposure to protection risks.
- Lack of consultation to identify desired shelter solution.

**IDPs living in host families.**
- Shelter overcrowding.
- No space for expansion or emergency shelter on plot, risk of eviction.
- Insufficient food.
- Limited access to sanitation.
- Lack of NFIs.
- Family separation (men hosted elsewhere).
- Increasing reliance on negative coping mechanisms.

**Returnees in their area of origin living in makeshift shelters.**
- Lack of adequate shelter.
- Lack of NFIs.
- Lack of livelihood means.
- Lack of access to basic services due to spontaneous settlements.
- Risk of exclusion from response.

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"I have five children. My husband died because of the volcano. My relatives have supported me by paying the rent for the house, whose lease is coming to an end. However, I don't know where I will find the money for the rent after my term ends."

IDP Woman in collective shelters
RETURN INTENTIONS AND SHELTER SOLUTIONS

The majority of IDPs want to return and build their shelter in their places of origin, if possible on the same plots. Affected communities have a very strong link with their land and their community of origin, both as a personal heritage and as the territory of one's community; this is especially felt in men of all ages. There is also a misunderstanding about the relocation process, or even a sense of injustice because this "relocation" only targets households affected by this latest volcanic eruption and not all communities at risk. The example of 2002 is often cited because those IDPs are still currently living on the same "provisional land" twenty years after. Few IDPs are willing to "relocate", even temporarily. This is mainly the case of older women who have lost their houses and tenants who used to rent a house or land before the crisis.

Solutions identified by the affected population

- A long-term shelter solution on their plot in their locality of origin.
- Rental support through income-generating activities.
- Relocation to a permanent site in agreement with the targeted household.

"Once our houses have been built, it is at this time that this situation will end"

CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

CEA is a critical gap in the interagency response resulting in a lack of consultation with affected populations.

Opportunity for an important role of the DRC RC Integration of CEA to enable:
- Identifying response options and long-term solutions.
- Do no harm-approach.
- Mitigate conflict.

"The government wants to move us according to the rumours, what do you have to say about it, as the Red Cross?" IDP woman in collective shelter.

PROTECTION GENDER AND INCLUSION

IDPs in collective shelters and hosted families are as well facing the risk of:
- Overcrowding.
- Family separation.
- SGBV and domestic violence.
- Unaccompanied and Separated children.
- Elderly women lack access to distributions.
- Minorities who do not speak Swahili.
- Harassment of police and soldiers during distributions, risk of PSEA.
- Application of harmful coping mechanisms.
- Existing ethnic tensions.
- Conflict related to housing, land and property rights.