



## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

### **Deteriorating Security Conditions Hinder Relief Efforts in First Half of 2021**

Armed attacks, sometimes directly targeting humanitarian workers and convoys, have prompted some relief organizations to temporarily relocate staff and suspend activities in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in recent months, limiting the provision of lifesaving assistance to crisis-affected populations including internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host communities, according to relief actors. Poor road and airport infrastructure have delayed or otherwise inhibited the provision of humanitarian assistance, while certain areas—particularly during the September-to-May rainy season—are largely inaccessible, according to relief actors.

Overall, the UN recorded nearly 170 security incidents impacting relief actors in DRC between January and June 2021, resulting in the death of five humanitarian workers and injuries to 14 other aid workers. Nearly 70 percent of all incidents occurred in eastern DRC, with more than 110 incidents recorded in Ituri, North Kivu, and South Kivu provinces. Criminality—including acts of armed robbery, the theft of humanitarian vehicles, and attacks on convoys—remains one of the main causes of security incidents impacting relief actors in 2021.

### **Increasing Insecurity Despite “State of Siege” in Ituri and North Kivu**

Despite the continuing “state of siege” in Ituri and North Kivu—declared by the Government of the DRC (GoDRC) in May to reestablish stability in the two provinces—and a corresponding increase of GoDRC military presence and operations, security conditions in the two provinces have continued to deteriorate, according to a July report by a humanitarian non-governmental organization (NGO). Relief actors recorded at least 117 civilian deaths in North Kivu alone due to armed conflict during July, as well as nearly 420 security incidents overall in July in Ituri and North Kivu, a significant increase from 100 security incidents recorded in June. In a recent incident illustrating the civilian impact of the intensifying violence, armed group elements attacked Kasanzi village in North Kivu’s Beni Territory on August 27, killing 19 people, abducting several others, and setting fire to houses, according to international media and the UN.

### **Continued Violence in Eastern DRC Exacerbates Humanitarian Needs**

Increased armed group activities and clashes with Armed Forces of the DRC (FARDC) elements have heightened humanitarian needs and protection risks across North Kivu, displacing more than 1.8 million as of August, the UN reports. Meanwhile, increased armed group activities and clashes with FARDC in Ituri—where more than 1.7 million people were displaced as of August—have also resulted in a sharp increase in displacement, civilian deaths, and levels of humanitarian need in recent months. An August mission to Ituri led by UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC) in the DRC David McLachlan-Karr found that many IDPs sheltering at the nearly 60 displacement sites across the province remained in urgent need of emergency food, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance, as well as health supplies and relief commodities.

Heightened displacement in Ituri has also increased health risks among vulnerable populations, to include the increased risk of bubonic plague transmission, according to the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF). To prevent the similar risk of the spread of poliomyelitis, the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM’s) partner, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), provided logistical support for a polio vaccination in Ituri’s Djugu and Mahagi territories in July, targeting more than 500,000 children, including refugees from South Sudan.

Relief actors have also warned of increased humanitarian needs in Tanganyika Province's Kongolo Territory following a spike in armed group activity that displaced 23,000 people in Kongolo between May and July and resulted in an increased number of incidents of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). According to UNHCR, the elevated number of SGBV incidents continued into the first half of August with reports of more than 240 attacks over a two-week period—17 incidents a day—in Tanganyika's Kongolo and Mbulula health zones. USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) partner IMA World Health continues to provide medical supplies as well as trainings on SGBV case management and survivor care to health workers in Kongolo and Mbulula health zones.

### **Conflict Drives Growing Food Insecurity in Eastern DRC**

Poor households in some parts of eastern DRC will likely continue to face Crisis—IPC 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity through the end of 2021, in part due to displacement and below-average food production resulting from continued conflict, flooding, and coronavirus disease (COVID-19)-related restrictions, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET).<sup>1</sup> In Beni, widespread displacement and increased staple food prices have reduced household purchasing power, according to relief actors. In addition, the UN World Food Program (WFP) reported that the number of people experiencing insufficient food consumption had more than doubled in Maniema Province between May and August, with more than 65 percent of households experiencing insufficient food consumption.

Overall, approximately 42 million people across the DRC had insufficient food consumption in early August, marking an increase of 7.1 million people compared to the first quarter of 2021, according to WFP. WFP and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) also project that more than 5.6 million people in the DRC will likely face Emergency—IPC 4—levels of acute food insecurity between August and December. With USAID/BHA and other donor support, WFP reached nearly 338,000 people countrywide with emergency food and nutrition assistance between August 1 and August 16, including providing 149,000 people—mostly children and pregnant and lactating women—with treatment for moderate wasting, a serious form of malnutrition.

### **IDPs Remain in Need of Assistance Three Months After Nyiragongo Eruption**

As of late August, nearly 40,000 of the more than 500,000 people displaced by the May 22 eruption of the Mount Nyiragongo volcano in North Kivu remained displaced in the province's Masisi, Nyiragongo, and Rutshuru territories, according to the UN. Many among the affected population lack the economic means to return to their places of origin or do not plan to return due to the loss of possessions and livelihoods. Overall, lava flows or the earthquakes that followed the eruption destroyed or heavily damaged the homes or land of more than 23,000 people.

In Goma, people displaced by the eruption continue to shelter in spontaneous sites—such as schools and churches—while awaiting the construction of a formal transit site in North Kivu's Kanyaruchinya village, to be managed by the GoDRC. In all three territories, IDPs face heightened protection risks such as extortion, physical attacks, and theft; in particular, women and girls with limited financial resources are at heightened risk of sexual exploitation and abuse, while children are experiencing increased risks related to economic exploitation. Additionally, communities displaced to Rutshuru are vulnerable to abductions and attacks due to armed group activities in the area, according to UNHCR. Crowded living conditions and insufficient access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities have also increased the risk of exposure to communicable diseases, including cholera and COVID-19. USAID/BHA provided \$500,000 to UNICEF to

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<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.

respond to urgent WASH needs following the eruption.

## KEY FIGURES



**\$281.7 Million**

In dedicated USG support for food assistance and nutrition programming in FY 2021



**\$30.1 Million**

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



**\$22.7 Million**

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



**\$27.1 Million**

In dedicated USG support for WASH programming in FY 2021

## U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

### FOOD ASSISTANCE AND NUTRITION

USAID/BHA partners continue to implement emergency food and nutrition assistance activities reaching host community members, IDPs, refugees, and other vulnerable populations facing acute food insecurity in the DRC. With approximately \$223 million in USAID/BHA support in Fiscal Year (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 needs. USAID/BHA also provided more than \$58 million in FY 2021 funding to assist malnourished individuals; UN agencies and NGO partners also conduct activities that complement food and nutrition assistance efforts, such as bolstering agricultural production and livelihoods through the distribution of tools and seeds, as well as strengthening coordination of humanitarian food security and nutrition activities.

### HEALTH

USAID/BHA provided more than \$22.5 million in FY 2021 funding to expand access to primary health care services, increase the availability of essential medicines and supplies, and support disease surveillance and response efforts, among other activities. USAID 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. In addition, with nearly \$8 million in FY 2021 funding, USAID worked with three UN agencies and one NGO partner to support Ebola virus disease (EVD) preparedness and response activities in the DRC in FY 2021.

### SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS

USAID/BHA provided approximately \$23 million to seven NGO partners and one UN agency in FY 2021 to support emergency shelter assistance for IDPs and other vulnerable populations 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. USG partners also provide relief commodities and household items, including blankets, mats, tools, and water containers to assist vulnerable households to meet their basic needs.

### WASH

USAID/BHA has provided approximately \$27 million in FY 2021 funding to support WASH activities in ten 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, measles, and EVD. USAID/BHA-supported activities include constructing and rehabilitating WASH infrastructure, including handwashing stations, latrines, showers, and water

points; transporting emergency water reserves to IDP sites; and distributing hygiene kits and other essential WASH commodities. USAID/BHA also supports the dissemination of key messaging on hygiene best practices through radio broadcasts, supporting community and school groups, and facilitating community events. In addition, with USAID/BHA support, Mercy Corps, Oxfam, and UNICEF are providing critical WASH assistance to populations in Goma displaced or otherwise affected by the eruption of Mount Nyiragongo.

## 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.

On November 3, U.S. Ambassador to the DRC Michael A. Hammer re-declared a disaster for FY 2021 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.

EVD is endemic to some animal species in the DRC, with periodic human disease outbreaks occurring in the country. Ambassador Hammer re-declared a disaster due to the humanitarian impact of the EVD outbreak in Équateur Province on October 16, 2020. Since the start of the 2018 EVD outbreak in Ituri and North Kivu, USAID has contributed more than \$373 million to support EVD preparedness and response activities across the DRC and neighboring countries.

On May 25, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires in the DRC Marion Ekpuk declared a disaster due to the effects of the May 22 Mount Nyiragongo volcanic eruption in North Kivu.

## 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>			
<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 and 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 for Food, LRIP, and Vouchers; Shelter and Settlements; WASH	Tanganyika	\$6,999,580
Concern	Agriculture; ERMS; Food Assistance—Cash Transfers for Food and 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, Kasai, Kasai 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 Organization for Migration (IOM)	HCIMA; Shelter and Settlements; WASH	Ituri, North Kivu, Tanganyika	\$12,500,000
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Health; Protection	Ituri, North Kivu	\$3,895,804
Internews	Health	Countrywide	\$500,000
Medair	Health; Nutrition; WASH	Ituri, North Kivu	\$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—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 and Vouchers; Shelter and Settlements; WASH	Haut-Uélé, Ituri, North Kivu, Tshopo	\$15,473,982
Save the Children Federation	Health; Nutrition; Protection; WASH	Ituri, Kasai-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	\$11,453,530
	WASH	North Kivu	\$500,000
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIMA	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 for Food, LRIP, U.S. In-Kind Food Aid <sup>2</sup>	Countrywide	\$176,906,243

	HCIMA; Nutrition <sup>2</sup>	Countrywide	\$39,274,812
World Relief International (WRI)	Agriculture	Tanganyika	\$3,999,989
World Vision	WASH	North Kivu	\$1,744,206
	Program Support		\$8,061
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$396,641,837</b>
<b>STATE/PRM<sup>3,4</sup></b>			
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance for Refugees; Protection; Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$4,700,000
	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$1,900,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>			<b>\$6,600,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR COMPLEX EMERGENCY IN DRC IN FY 2021</b>			<b>\$403,241,837</b>

<b>FUNDING IN THE DRC AND NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES FOR EVD OUTBREAK RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS<sup>2</sup></b>			
<b>USAID/BHA</b>			
Internews	Health	Équateur	\$745,916
IOM	Health	Équateur	\$1,888,612
UNHAS	Logistics Support	Équateur	\$3,267,354
	Program Support		\$62,034
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$5,963,916</b>
<b>USAID/GH</b>			
UNICEF	Health	Équateur, Mai-Ndombe, Mongala, Tshuapa	\$1,150,000
UNICEF	Health	Republic of Congo	\$350,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/GH FUNDING</b>			<b>\$1,500,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR EVD OUTBREAK PREPAREDNESS &amp; RESPONSE IN DRC IN FY 2021</b>			<b>\$7,463,916</b>

<b>TOTAL USAID FUNDING FOR THE DRC RESPONSE IN FY 2021</b>			<b>\$ 404,105,753</b>
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING FOR THE DRC RESPONSE IN FY 2021</b>			<b>\$6,600,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE DRC RESPONSE IN FY 2021</b>			<b>\$410,705,753</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 September 10, 2021.

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

<sup>3</sup> Funding for State/PRM does not include an additional \$4.7 million in funding for refugees and host community populations in the DRC.

<sup>4</sup> This total does not include more than \$21 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 FY 2021 to approximately \$423.1 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://cidi.org)
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [reliefweb.int](https://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)