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**BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

Democratic Republic of the Congo – Complex Emergency

Situation Report #2, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

October 15, 2008

Note: The last situation report was dated February 19, 2008.

BACKGROUND

According to a January 2008 report by the International Rescue Committee (IRC), regional armed conflict across the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has resulted in an estimated 5.4 million deaths since 1998. Most deaths occurred due to indirect consequences of fighting, such as disease, malnutrition, and neonatal- and pregnancy-related complications. Overall, the decade of fighting has displaced more than three million Congolese across eastern and southern Congo and hindered access to agricultural land and traditional markets. Poverty continues to be widespread, and the Congolese health care system has eroded due to a lack of resources and looting of medical assets.

The 1999 Lusaka Peace Accords laid the foundation for the formation of a transitional government in 2003, the adoption of a new constitution in 2005, and national and local elections in 2006. However, armed groups such as the Forces Démocratiques de Libération du Rwanda (FDLR), ex-Rwandan Armed Forces (FAR),¹ Mai-Mai factions,² the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA),³ and the National Congress of the Defense of the People (CNDP)⁴ continue to create areas of insecurity in eastern DRC. The national army, the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (FARDC), has been unable to stabilize the situation. In 2007, large numbers of internally displaced persons (IDPs) across DRC returned to areas of origin while other communities were facing new displacement. In January 2008, armed opposition groups and the government signed the Goma Engagement Act, committing to a ceasefire and the integration of armed opposition forces into the national army. Despite an initial calm in the following months, renewed violence in August, concentrated in North Kivu Province, resulted in the displacement of an additional 100,000 people and the deterioration of humanitarian conditions. The U.N. Mission in the DRC (MONUC) represents the largest U.N. peacekeeping operation in the world and continues to support peace efforts.

On October 9, 2007, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Samuel V. Brock redeclared a disaster due to the ongoing complex emergency in DRC. In FY 2008, the U.S. Government (USG) has provided more than \$123 million for agriculture and food security, health, IDP assistance, livelihoods, nutrition, protection, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programs, primarily targeting beneficiaries in North Kivu and South Kivu provinces.

| NUMBERS AT A GLANCE | SOURCE | |
|------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| IDPs from North Kivu Crisis | 800,000 | OCHA ⁵ – July 29, 2008 |
| IDPs since January 2008 | 1,300,000 | WHO ⁶ -September 29, 2008 |
| Congolese Refugees | 331,700 | UNHCR ⁷ – August, 2008 |
| Total Number of Deaths since 1998 | 5,400,000 | OCHA – September 30, 2008 |

FY 2008 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| USAID/OFDA Assistance to DRC..... | \$18,294,707 |
| USAID/FFP⁸ Assistance to DRC | \$71,028,800 |
| State/PRM⁹ Assistance to DRC | \$33,989,988 |
| Total USAID and State Humanitarian Assistance to DRC..... | \$123,313,495 |

CURRENT SITUATION

Ongoing violence between armed opposition groups continues to create insecurity and fuel displacement in

eastern DRC. In addition, poor water and sanitation conditions, disease, and limited access to vulnerable

¹ Rwandans implicated in the 1994 genocide who subsequently fled to eastern DRC

² Groups of local DRC citizens originally formed to resist Rwandan army occupation

³ Armed opposition group formed in 1987 to resist the Government of Uganda

⁴ Dissident troops led by General Nkunda, a former commander in the Rwandan-backed Rally for Congolese Democracy (RCD)

⁵ U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

⁶ U.N. World Health Organization (WHO)

⁷ Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

⁸ USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

⁹ U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

populations are exacerbating the deteriorating humanitarian situation.

According to OCHA, protracted violence has displaced nearly 1.3 million people in DRC. In North Kivu Province, humanitarian conditions have deteriorated rapidly since the onset of renewed fighting in late August. The violence resulted in the displacement of an estimated 100,000 IDPs, 50 percent of whom represent secondary displacement. Furthermore, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) has warned of potential food assistance pipeline breaks through December, and WHO has reported that conditions in IDP camps have facilitated outbreaks of water-borne and infectious diseases among conflict-affected populations.

Limited infrastructure and renewed fighting has restricted humanitarian access within eastern DRC. In addition, attacks on non-governmental organization (NGO) staff resulted in the evacuation of all but emergency personnel in many areas of North Kivu, significantly hindering response efforts.

From August 1 to August 9, USAID/OFDA Director Ky Luu visited DRC and met with U.N., USG, and NGO representatives in Kinshasa and North Kivu, focusing on reduced WFP capacity and the need for enhanced protection programming.

Insecurity and Population Movement

Continued fighting has resulted in insecurity and population displacement in eastern DRC during FY 2008, while efforts to repatriate refugees remained ongoing in other regions. Although an initial calm followed the January 2008 ceasefire, sporadic violence continued between armed opposition groups which resulted in the displacement of more than 150,000 people between January and July 2008.

In late August, renewed clashes between CNDP and FDLR forces in North Kivu Province displaced an additional 100,000 people, according to U.N. agencies. Currently, there are approximately 800,000 IDPs in North Kivu, the highest level since the conclusion of the war in 2003. Of the newly displaced IDPs, OCHA has estimated that 50 percent were secondarily displaced. Although approximately 65 percent have returned to areas of origin in recent days, many remain reluctant to return, citing fears of ongoing violence by armed opposition groups.

In South Kivu, the situation has significantly stabilized in 2008, with an estimated 20,000 IDPs and refugees returning between April and June. However, in recent months, South Kivu has experienced an influx of IDPs from neighboring North Kivu, contributing to increased levels of insecurity.

The situation has also improved in Ituri and Orientale provinces in northern DRC compared with previous years, although confrontations with LRA forces have

caused further displacement. According to UNHCR, recent attacks by the LRA in northeastern DRC have resulted in an estimated 3,700 refugees fleeing to the Yambio region in South Sudan.

Repatriation efforts continued in 2008. UNHCR reported in August that nearly 163,700 Congolese refugees have returned since 2004, including an estimated 66,500 returnees to South Kivu Province and 42,400 to Katanga Province, primarily from Tanzania and Zambia. UNHCR plans to continue repatriation of approximately 331,700 remaining Congolese refugees.

In FY 2008, State/PRM has continued to support the return of Congolese refugees. State/PRM has provided nearly \$34 million to UNHCR, WFP, and NGO partners for repatriation and reintegration programs benefiting returning refugees, IDPs, and host communities. In addition, USAID provided nearly \$90 million in humanitarian assistance targeting conflict-affected populations in FY 2008. USAID/OFDA has funded \$18 million in emergency assistance programs, including more than \$10 million for projects in North Kivu Province. USAID/FFP has provided assistance to IDPs and returning refugees, including 42,960 metric tons (MT) of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance targeting vulnerable populations.

Protection

According to MONUC, renewed fighting has increased rates of forced child-recruitment and sexual violence. As of July 2008, MONUC reported that 3,000 children remained in armed opposition groups throughout DRC. According to the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), Mai Mai factions recruited approximately 70 children in July, and LRA forces abducted 90 children from schools and IDP camps in northern DRC during September.

To improve the capacity of community-based health organizations to care for victims of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), USAID/OFDA provided more than \$1 million to implementing partners in North Kivu in FY 2008. USAID/OFDA SGBV initiatives included more than \$500,000 to IRC for case management services for survivors of sexual violence in IRC-supported health facilities. In addition, USAID/OFDA funded International Medical Corps (IMC) and Merlin for programs to increase access to medical care by SGBV victims.

Agriculture and Food Security

Food security has remained a critical challenge throughout DRC. In August, WFP announced reduced food distributions from 13,000 MT of food assistance per month to 3,000 MT per month, citing increased food prices and limited funding. In addition, WFP reduced food ration beneficiaries by 70 percent.

In response, the U.N. Emergency Relief Fund (CERF) dispersed an additional \$3 million to support WFP's targeted food aid conflict-affected populations and other

vulnerable groups on September 24. WFP has cautioned that unless additional funding is secured pipeline breaks are expected to continue through December.

To improve food security USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$2 million to local NGOs to implement cash-for-work activities and increase the ability of people to purchase seeds and tools. USAID/FFP has provided 42,960 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance to meet the food needs of conflict-affected persons throughout eastern DRC in FY 2008, and supplied funding for administrative support. In total, USAID/FFP assistance is valued at more than \$71 million.

Health

In 2008, access to primary health care remained a challenge in areas of eastern DRC. The lack of local capacity and limited access to affected regions has hindered delivery of reliable health care services. Furthermore, conditions in IDP camps have exacerbated the spread of disease. WHO has reported outbreaks of measles in North Kivu and meningitis in Orientale, Kasai Occidental, and Katanga provinces.

In FY 2008, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$3.5 million to increase availability of free or low-cost health

care to IDPs and host communities and support the treatment of malaria, acute respiratory infections, and water-borne diseases. USAID/OFDA funded four NGO health programs, including Handicap International's rehabilitation of the General Referral Hospital of Virunga in Goma, and programs with implementing partners IRC, IMC, and Merlin for the provision of primary healthcare to conflict-affected populations.

WASH

As a result of continued displacement, access to safe drinking water has remained limited in FY 2008. The destruction of water supply systems due to recent insecurity and escalated conflict has increased population vulnerability to water-borne diseases, according to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). In early October, OCHA reported an outbreak of cholera in a North Kivu IDP camp and nearby village of Ngungu. To date, the outbreak has resulted in the deaths of 20 people and infected more than 135 others.

USAID/OFDA-funded WASH programs focused in North Kivu during FY 2008. Working with IMC, Mercy Corps, and Merlin, USAID/OFDA has supported efforts to promote hygiene practices to reduce water-borne viruses and improve access to clean drinking water.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DRC IN FY 2008

| Implementing Partner | Activity | Location | Amount |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹ | | | |
| Air Service International (ASI) | Logistics and Relief Commodities | Countrywide | \$4,449,269 |
| Concern | Agriculture and Food Security, Economy and Market Systems, and Logistics and Relief Commodities | North Kivu Province | \$784,398 |
| German Agro Action (GAA) | Agriculture and Food Security, Economy and Market Systems | Ituri | \$1,646,047 |
| Handicap International | Health | Goma Territory, North Kivu Province | \$416,494 |
| IMC | Health, WASH, Nutrition, and Protection | Rutshuru, Masisi and Goma territories, North Kivu Province | \$2,820,203 |
| IRC | Health, Protection, and WASH | Rutshuru Territory, North Kivu Province | \$2,000,000 |
| Mercy Corps | WASH | North Kivu Province | \$772,872 |
| Merlin | Health, WASH, Nutrition, and Protection | Rutshuru Territory, North Kivu Province | \$842,953 |
| Première Urgence | Agriculture and Food Security, Economy and Market Systems, Protection | Rutshuru Territory, North Kivu Province | \$2,071,058 |
| UNICEF | Logistics and Relief Commodities | Countrywide | \$500,000 |

| | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| UNHCR | Shelter and Settlements | North Kivu Province | \$1,000,000 |
| | Administrative Support | Countrywide | \$991,413 |
| TOTAL USAID/OFDA | | | \$18,294,707 |
| USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE | | | |
| WFP | 42,960 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance | Katanga, North Kivu, South Kivu, Orientale, Maniema, and Equateur Provinces | \$68,987,400 |
| Food for the Hungry International (FHI) | Administrative Support for P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance | Katanga Province | \$2,041,400 |
| TOTAL USAID/FFP | | | \$71,028,800 |
| STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE | | | |
| ACTED | Refugee Assistance, Livelihoods | Katanga Province | \$1,000,000 |
| Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) | Shelter and Settlements | South Kivu Province | \$698,057 |
| Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA) | Health | South Kivu Province | \$20,000 |
| Catholic Relief Services (CRS) | Agriculture and Food Security | Katanga Province | \$900,000 |
| Center for Victims of Torture (CVT) | Psychosocial Services | Katanga Province | \$897,285 |
| FHI | Agriculture and Food Security, Health | Katanga Province | \$1,173,463 |
| ICRC | Emergency Relief for IDPs and Conflict Victims | Countrywide | \$8,500,000 |
| IMC | Health, WASH, Protection | South Kivu Province | \$1,500,000 |
| International Organization for Migration (IOM) | Refugee Repatriation from Zambia | Katanga Province | \$500,000 |
| Tearfund | Education | South Kivu Province | \$941,183 |
| UNHCR | Refugee Assistance and Repatriation, Protection | Countrywide | \$12,300,000 |
| UNHCR | IDP Assistance, Protection | Countrywide | \$5,160,000 |
| WFP | Agriculture and Food Security, Refugee Assistance | Katanga Province, South Kivu Province | \$400,000 |
| TOTAL STATE/PRM | | | \$33,989,988 |
| TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DRC IN FY 2008 | | | \$89,323,507 |
| TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DRC IN FY 2008 | | | \$123,313,495 |

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of October 15, 2008

² Estimated value of food assistance



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