



# OCHA

United Nations Office  
for the Coordination of  
Humanitarian Affairs

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## Armed clashes break out on the outskirts of Goma (North Kivu)

Flash update No 1, 22 May 2013

### Background and key facts

New clashes between the Congolese Army (FARDC) and M23 militia group erupted on May 20 2013, in Mutaho village (Nyiragongo Territory) on the outskirts of Goma Town, the capital city of North Kivu province. These are the first clashes between the two belligerents since the events of November 2012 when Goma was temporarily taken over by M23 that led to the fall of Goma and the displacement of tens of thousands of people. According to preliminary estimates, about 4,000 people have arrived on various public sites in and around Goma and in Mugunga III, an IDP camp that already hosts around 16,000 people. On 21 May in the evening, mortar shells were fired into the Mugunga area, one of these shells fell a few meters from Mugunga III Camp, affecting homes and injuring two people, according to early reports. The vast majority of internally displaced people (IDPs) in the camp have fled to other sites, and some headed towards the town of Goma. On 22 May in the morning, fighting resumed in Mutaho area.



### Humanitarian consequences

On 21 May, humanitarian agencies estimate that close to 4,000 people have left their villages due to fighting or in anticipation of more fighting. This number is expected to increase drastically if the fighting continues. There are significant risks of population movements towards the town of Goma as well as toward Sake, as well as casualties and wounded civilians.

### Humanitarian Needs and Response

- Protection, shelter, access to health care, and water and sanitation are the main identified needs. Foods remain an issue of serious concern if the situation continues as fighting have paralyzed all activities on Goma-Ritshuru axis.
- International Organisation for Migration, OCHA and State's Civil protection department are organizing joint missions throughout Goma Town to identify potential gathering places with critical basic infrastructures (latrines, water, etc...) to accommodate IDPs converging to Goma Town. Other arrangements have been made with humanitarian partners to assist IDPs with foods and essential household items.
- Access, respect for humanitarian principles and the protection of civilians remain issues of serious concern and should be guaranteed by all parties to the conflict to ensure civilians are provided with assistance they really need.

#### For more information, please contact:

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