



# OCHA

United Nations Office  
for the Coordination of  
Humanitarian Affairs

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## Humanitarian Action in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) Weekly Bulletin, 18 January 2013

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### HIGHLIGHTS

- US\$ 30.5 million urgently needed to assist 590,000 persons in North Kivu
- Maniema: Some 50,000 have fled insecurity in Punia Territory since December
- Katanga: Concern over food insecurity in Pweto Territory amid increasing population movements
- 35,000 children vaccinated against measles in South Kivu while 1.2 million targeted in North Kivu

### General Overview

#### North Kivu: \$30.5 million urgently needed to assist 590,000 persons in three priority zones



North Kivu: IDPs in spontaneous Lake Vert site around Goma/ Nov. 2012

Humanitarian organizations are appealing for USD 30.5 million to respond to the most basic immediate needs and restore the livelihoods of some 590,000 people over the next six months in three priority areas of the North Kivu province, affected by the latest fighting between the army and M-23 militia group. The “North Kivu Response Plan”, initiated in December 2012, is part of a \$892 million country-wide 2013 Humanitarian Action Plan that will be launched in a few weeks. The six-month plan addresses humanitarian needs in and around Goma and in the neighbouring zones of Masisi Centre and Kitchanga. However, the success of the plan hinges on an unimpeded access to vulnerable population. Since April 2012, 360,000 people have been displaced due to M23-related activities alone, 150,000 of whom were newly displaced or re-displaced since the heavy fighting that culminated in the seizure of Goma by the M-23 on 20 November.

While since then the situation in and around Goma remains volatile but relatively calm, fighting between other armed groups and the national army has continued unabated in the Masisi and Walikale Territories, bringing the total of displaced people across North Kivu to 914,000, up from 460,000 at the beginning of 2012.

For more information please go to <http://reliefweb.int/report/democratic-republic-congo/305-million-urgently-needed-support-humanitarian-response-north>

#### Maniema: More than 50,000 people have fled insecurity in Punia Territory since December

- More than 50,000 people – about 10,700 households – have been forced to flee their villages since December 2012 following a series of clashes between the DRC army forces (FARDC) and Raia Mutomboki militia group in Punia Territory. The displacements occurred mainly along the Punia – Kasese axis, with some IDPs having crossed into Shabunda Territory of the neighbouring South Kivu Province. Based on preliminary estimates, more than 40% of the displaced have arrived in the city of Punia where urgent water, sanitation and health care needs are reported. According to local sources, the clashes were triggered by alleged abuses, including forced labour by militaries in mining sites. The recent population movements in Maniema, generally considered a stabilized province with an IDP population of 85,000 IDPs – mainly from South Kivu, are worrisome as it might increase vulnerability in host communities already stricken by extreme poverty.

### Humanitarian Needs and Response

#### Katanga: Cholera epidemic breaks out in Kasenga and Lubumbashi Health Zones

- Since 2 January, Katanga’s capital Lubumbashi has been facing a cholera epidemic, the second outbreak since September 2012. From 7 to 13 January, 66 cholera cases were reported in Kapemba Health Zone alone. The United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) and *Medecins Sans Frontières* (MSF) are joining response by supporting health centres and scaling up sensitisation efforts. In the District of Haut-Katanga, the Kasenga Health Zone, affected by a cholera epidemic since 12 November 2012, reported 59 cases last week. Humanitarians are concerned that population movements due to insecurity around Kasenga could lead to the progression of the epidemic across the region. More than 30,000 cholera cases were reported in the DRC in 2012, of which some 6,890 cases in Katanga Province, the second most affected province in the country after North Kivu.

### **Distribution of household items in Ruzizi following the flooding of hundreds of homes and fields crops**

- The NGO AVSI Foundation and UNICEF distributed essential household items (NFIs) from 11 to 12 January to 347 families badly affected by heavy rains and floods in Kamanyola in late December. The December heavy tropical rains that hit the area for days damaged some 360 homes and flooded at least 300 farming fields in Ruzizi in Walungu Territory. In addition to NFIs, school kits were also provided to 700 children. The distribution is part of the Rapid Response to Population Movements program (RRMP), which is jointly managed by UNICEF and OCHA. The program acts as a first-line assistance mechanism providing critical NFI and emergency shelter, WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) and education aid in displacement-affected eastern DRC. In 2012, RRMP helped to provide multi-sector assistance to more than 1.2 million vulnerable people.

### **Concern over food insecurity in Pweto Territory amid increasing population movements**

- Humanitarian actors are concerned about the food security situation in Pweto Territory. Despite the distribution of 15 day food rations to 43,000 IDPs at the beginning of January, malnutrition in the province seems to be soaring while insecurity and the high number of IDPs in the territory – around 158,000 IDPs or 50% of all Katanga displaced population – negatively influences the production and distribution of food. The presence of Mayi Mayi elements on the road from Pweto to Lubumbashi, cutting the territory off from one of its main food markets and obliging traders and humanitarians to reach the zone via Zambia, further complicates the situation. Recent territorial nutrition surveys conducted in revealed a very high Acute Global Malnutrition (MAG) rate of 19,8 percent in Pweto Territory

### **35,000 children vaccinated against measles in South Kivu while 1.2 million targeted in North Kivu**

- Some 35,000 children aged between 6 months to 15 years have been vaccinated against measles in the Bunyakiri Health Zone in South Kivu. The vaccination campaign aims to reach 93,000 children in the villages of Bunyakiri, Muhona, Cinganda, Bitobolo and Minganzi, and is being implemented by “Medecins Sans Frontières” and the Office of the Bunyakiri Health Zone with UNICEF support. In North Kivu, a measles vaccination campaign targeting some 1.2 million children is due to start on 22 January in seven health zones including Beni, Masisi and Rutshuru. The campaign, funded by the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), will be implemented by UNICEF in partnership with Merlin and the Provincial Health Division.

### **Protection: 1,757 UXOs and 11,110 small arms ammunition collected in Goma and its surroundings**

- The United Nations Mine Action Coordination Centre (UNMACC) destroyed 1,757 unexploded/abandoned ordnance and 11,110 small arms ammunition collected during survey and clearance operations in Goma and its surroundings, in the aftermath of the November 2012 clashes between the FARDC and the M-23. UNMACC teams are undertaking additional survey and clearance operations in Goma and its surroundings. The clearance operations aim to secure and protect local and displaced populations from the risks caused by UXOs, and to facilitate the safe return home of IDPs. To reinforce the protection of civilians against UXOs, SYLAM – a national mine action NGO funded by UNICEF – sensitized 612 people in different zones in North Kivu on mine/UXO risk awareness.

#### **For more information, please contact:**

Yvon Edoumou, Advocacy and Public Information Officer, OCHA DRC, edoumou@un.org, tel. +243-97-0003750  
Niels stassyns, Humanitarian Affairs Officer, OCHA DRC stassyns@un.org, tel. +243-97-000-3772  
Medard Lobota, Associate Humanitarian Affairs Officer, OCHA DRC, lobota@un.org, tel. +243-99-2906633  
Sylvestre Ntumba Mudingayi, Assistant Public Information Officer, OCHA DRC, ntumbamudingayi@un.org, tel. +243-99-8845386

*All this information and more is also available on <http://rdc-humanitaire.net/>*