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Volcano Eruption
Goma, DRC

Situation Report #5

Period covered: 2-6 June 2021

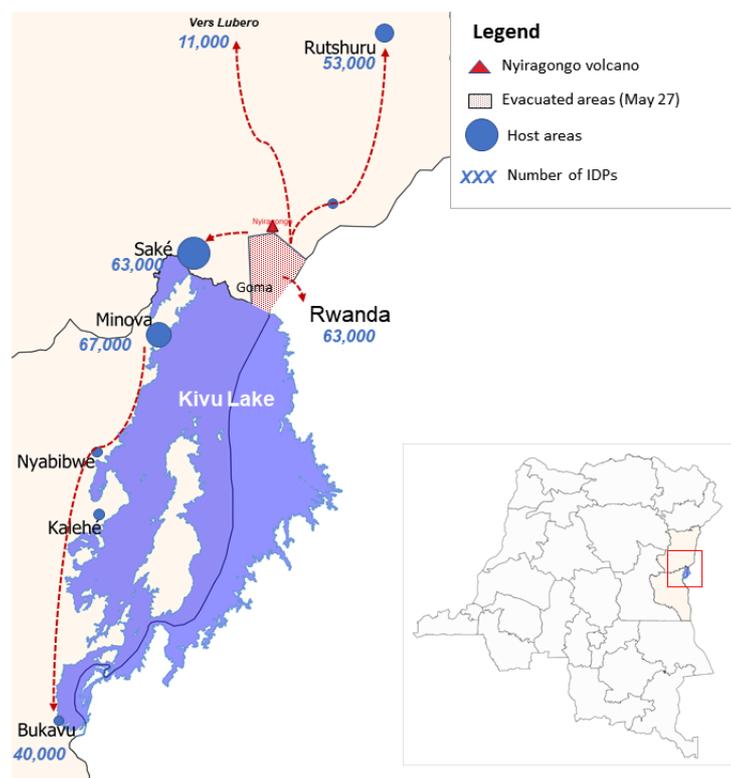
Situation Overview

The sudden eruption of Mount Nyiragongo on the evening of 22 May 2021, led to two lava flows towards Kibumba park as well as Buhene and Kibati in the North-East of Goma, DRC. 32 people died as a direct result of the eruption (either burned by the lava or asphyxiated by fumes), including three children, while 40 have been reported missing¹, and 3,629 houses were burned. Seven schools, including five primary schools² and two secondary schools) and 4 health centers³ have been destroyed by the volcanic eruption. While a renovation of the water supply has been undertaken, four neighborhoods out of twelve remain deprived of access to safe water, meaning that nearly 67,000 people still rely on water trucking in Goma.

The evacuation of ten eastern neighbourhoods of Goma city on 27 May led to the displacement of around 234,000 people in DRC.⁴ A partial return movement to Goma has been observed since 28 May with a particular high reduction in the number of people in displaced sites.⁵ On 7 June, the governor of North Kivu ordered the return of displaced population due to the volcanic eruption.

With the destruction of basic social services in the northeastern part of Goma city and the massive population movement in an already fragile context, humanitarian needs are still important and include:

- **WASH/Cholera:** In the displaced sites, the situation remains of concern in terms of access to clean water and risk of cholera transmission. Despite the on-going water trucking and set up of chlorination points, from May 24 till May 30, 34 suspected cases of cholera have been reported in Sake, all of them unconfirmed in the laboratory except for one, a 1 year-old child living in Mahyutsa locality, which turned out to be a real case of cholera. This result confirms the active circulation of the disease, while 15 suspected cases have been notified till May 31, waiting to be confirmed by



Map Evacuation & population movements

¹ Source: OCHA, Sitrep #2, 26 May 2021

² Four primary schools and equipment have been destroyed by the lava flows while one is occupied by IDPs (Internally Displaced Person).

³ Source: UNICEF, 5 June 2021

⁴ Source: OCHA, June 1st, 2021

⁵ Source: IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix, June 1st, 2021

laboratory tests. In overall, Sake is experiencing a rise in the number of diarrhea cases, with two confirmed cases of Salmonella, with a 31% proportion of cases among children under 5 years old.

- **Child Protection and GBV (Gender-Based Violence):** Despite the large number of children who became separated from their parents during the two displacement movements from Goma, the reunification process has been rapid, and as of June 4, 75% of Unaccompanied Children identified in North Kivu have been reunified. It is also important to note the great solidarity of the communities, spontaneous host families and community-based associations in the identification and reunification of children. The risk of GBV is increased by the extensive travel experienced by women and girls, as well as their presence in unfamiliar environments.
- **Health:** The situation in health facilities remains precarious, with an influx of patients and a lack of medicines, despite government and NGOs donations.
- **Education:** Since the Provincial Governor decided to keep all schools in Goma closed to mitigate the risks linked to a new volcanic eruption, all children in Goma still don't have access to education. In addition, 12 schools will require partial or total reconstruction in neighborhoods affected by the floods in Goma. In the town of Sake, the continuity of education is made impossible by the presence of displaced persons in 13 schools, including ten elementary school, affecting 7,739 students and 164 teachers. In Bukavu, 17 schools remain occupied by the displaced persons, while 59 schools are welcoming around 39,000 displaced children from Goma in South-Kivu.

Access: On 5 June, the Ministry of Transport, communication, and access ordered the reopening of Goma International airport to commercial air traffic. The Goma-Rutshuru road is re-established while traffic is back to normal on the Goma-Sake-Minova-Bukavu axis. The boat traffic resumed on Lake Kivu between Goma and Bukavu,

UNICEF's Response

UNICEF has been one of the first responders for this crisis with its partners. UNICEF's response focuses on the lifesaving humanitarian response for the first 3 months. This emergency response aims to alleviate the immediate needs and will consist of interventions in WASH, Cholera rapid response, child protection, health, nutrition, education and GBV.

During this first phase, humanitarian assistance will be provided in the areas where people have been displaced and Goma. The preferred response model remains based on in-situ humanitarian support to people directly affected. As such, assistance will be provided in support to the government to meet immediate humanitarian needs while strengthening already functioning resilience mechanisms so as not to contribute to an extended stay of those temporarily relocated.

UNICEF's response is two-fold:

1. Emergency life-saving assistance in areas of displacement (Sake, Minova, Rutshuru), with priority given to assistance at the community level in particular WASH/cholera, nutrition/health and child protection, considering that 70% of the displaced are accommodated by host families
2. Preparation for the restoration of basic social services in Goma as IDPs (Internally Displaced Populations) will eventually return to Goma

A total of 30 essential staff members are operational in Goma to support the immediate UNICEF emergency response, while 11 staff from other provinces have arrived since 31 May in Goma to support the scale-up of UNICEF's response.



Psychosocial Support, Child Protection, GBV and PSEA

UNICEF, in partnership with the North Kivu Division of Social Affairs (DIVAS), the Red Cross and Change the Word have so far identified 1,340 unaccompanied children of whom 1,038 have been reunified, 119 are in temporary foster care and 27 in spontaneous foster care while 156 are placed in transit centers. A system for verifying separation alerts and data has been put in place by key child welfare actors to ensure effective monitoring of the situation of children. UNICEF has also distributed 36 feminine hygiene kits and 240 NFI (Non-Food Item) sets (blankets, mats, mosquito nets, soaps) to the unaccompanied children residing in transit centers in Goma, through DIVAS.

UNICEF is working closely with partners and humanitarian coordination members to ensure that the response incorporates GBV risk mitigation measures. UNICEF provided training to humanitarian partners deployed in Sake on the prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation (PSAE) and GBV risk mitigation as part of the humanitarian response, representing about 50 humanitarian workers. All participants signed the Code of Conduct developed by the PSEA network, while more than 1,000 communication materials were distributed.



Water, Hygiene and Sanitation (WASH) and Cholera response (CATI)

UNICEF has launched a major effort to restore a safe water supply in Goma:

- Since May 30, 2021, the government (REGIDESO) installed, with the financial support of UNICEF, a bypass system allowing more than 130,000 people to regain access to a regular and quality water supply
- In partnership with the ICRC, UNICEF is setting up a water trucking system for two months to provide access to water for 200,000 people
- 15 chlorination points have been set up near the lake
- During the second week of June, REGIDESO, with the technical and financial support of UNICEF, will rehabilitate the water network with additional bypasses in 2 districts
- Replacement of the 1,200-meter pipeline destroyed by the lava under the coordination of REGIDESO by Virunga with support of ICRC and UNICEF

UNICEF is also responding to water needs in displacement sites particularly in Sake and Minova, and will start soon in Rutshuru. This response aims to meet water needs while reducing the risk of cholera transmission, through the following actions:

- Water trucking for 65,000 displaced persons
- Installation of a pumping station in Sake to make water trucking more efficient
- Distribution of 1,800 WASH kits through UNICEF's rapid response mechanism (UniRR) as of 3 June for a target of 3,000 households
- Rehabilitation of showers and latrines, and construction of emergency latrines in three sites
- Hygiene promotion activities

In the longer term, UNICEF is undertaking a study to rehabilitate the 25 km Sake gravity flow spring catchments system.

To mitigate the risk of a cholera outbreak in Sake, UNICEF and its partners (Congolese Red Cross, Ami Labo and MDA):

- Strengthened its active surveillance and rapid response program, sentinel staff have been put in place in the CTCs (Cholera Treatment Centers)
- Deployed 7 CATI (Case Area Targeted Interventions) teams to respond to all suspected cases within 24 hours. Since 23 May, 100% of suspected cases were referred within 48 hours and 65% within 24 hours. In addition, cholera kits have been distributed to 15 to 20 households around each suspected case reaching nearly 4,000 people.
- Installed 30 chlorination points in Sake, 16 points on the Sake-Minova axis, and 25 chlorination points in Minova which represents an average of 3,000 m³ of chlorinated water available per day.
- Implemented hygiene promotion activities particularly in the Katuki market, located in Sake.



Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

UNICEF U-Report continues to provide concrete support to the volcano victims through engagement activities:

- Continued mobilization of Centers for Community Action (CACs) and youth from the U-Report community in the door-to-door identification of IDPs, awareness raising on EFPs, hygiene measures and barrier measures against Covid-19
- Awareness-raising through the media (Minova, Kalehe and Bukavu)

In addition, the VOLCAN Information Center, available by SMS, was consulted by more than 13,200 people during the past week, and 91% of these people shared information with friends or family.



Health and Nutrition

Three main activities were implemented to answer the nutrition needs of the displaced persons and the host communities:

- In Kirotshé health zone and in Nyiragongo health zone, deployment of nutritional supplies for the management of severe acute malnutrition for 1,380 beneficiaries (children under 5 and pregnant and lactating women), in partnership with the Government (Pronanut)
- Implementation of screening for malnutrition in health facilities in the Kirotshé health zone, to potentially reach around 55,000 displaced persons
- Integration of messages on the promotion of good feeding practices for infants and young children in emergency situations in the awareness-raising sessions carried out in the health zones of Kirotshé, Nyiragongo and Goma

Given the high cost of care and the difficulty of accessing care for IDPs, UNICEF has decided to eventually release more than \$11,000 to allow a cash transfer to directly pay vulnerable IDPs' health care to 3 health centers in Kirotshé health zone (Bweremana, Nzulo and Kirotshé General Hospital), in coordination with the DPS.



Education

UNICEF has been advocating with the provincial authorities for the resumption of classes as soon as possible to avoid a prolonged interruption and therefore a profound impact on the children. In Goma, UNICEF has completed the identification of seven schools that will serve as host schools for students whose schools were destroyed by the eruption, through the implementation of temporary classes in tents. In addition, UNICEF is coordinating with the provincial government and its humanitarian partners to enable the restoration of the destroyed school infrastructure.

In South-Kivu, UNICEF is preparing a major effort to provide access to school supplies to bring back to school more than 26,000 displaced children or children whose school is occupied by IDPs, and is undertaking WASH activities dedicated to the 59 schools hosting displaced children.



Funding Requirements

On 28 May, UNICEF published a flash appeal focusing on the lifesaving humanitarian response for the first 3 months. This emergency response aims to alleviate the immediate needs and will consist of interventions in WASH, Cholera rapid response, child protection, health, nutrition, education and GBV.

Sector Appeal	Requirements (US \$)
WASH	2,000,000
Cholera	600,000
Health	345,000
Nutrition	330,000
Child Protection	650,000
Education	350,000
RCCE	250,000
Support to Operations	475,000
Total	5,000,000



External Media

1) English-speaking media coverage

- France24 [DR Congo: After devastating volcano eruption, families still looking for missing children](#)
- Uknews [DR Congo: After devastating volcano eruption, families still looking for missing children](#)
- Reuters [Tremors shake Congo city, close schools, shops after volcanic eruption](#)
- Forbes [Volcano And Earthquake Hit Eastern Democratic Republic Of The Congo](#)
- Africanews [World Food Programme \(WFP\) provides food to thousands displaced from Goma after Volcano eruption](#)
- Xinhuanet [UN expands relief focus after new volcano evacuation order in DRC](#)
- Algulf [families are still looking for missing children after a devastating volcanic eruption](#)

2) French-speaking media coverage:

- TV5 Monde [A la recherche des enfants perdus du volcan Nyiragongo](#)
- RFI Afrique [Éruption du Nyiragongo en RDC: Goma manque d'eau et d'électricité](#)
- Politicod [Éruption volcanique de Nyiragongo : Augmentation rapide des cas de choléra à Sake \(UNICEF\)](#)
- Nouvelobs / AFP [A la recherche des enfants perdus du volcan Nyiragongo](#)
- Digitalcongo [Eruption volcanique : plus de 700 enfants retrouvent leurs familles au Nord-Kivu](#)
- Leparisien [Eruption du Nyiragongo : Goma épargné par la lave, les habitants inquiets des secousses](#)

3) Digital communication

UNICEF focused its digital communication on the [situation of the 63,000 displaced people in Sake](#). Several publications on social media highlighted the [emergency item distributions](#) and [UNICEF's support to limit the spread of cholera](#). New multimedia material was also [uploaded on WeShare](#).

UNICEF's Contacts in DRC

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