



# **PROFILE OF INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT : DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO**

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## PROFILE SUMMARY

### SUMMARY OF THE PROFILE

Despite the cease-fire between the primary armed groups in DR Congo (DRC), fighting is still ongoing in the east of the country where most of the two million internally displaced persons reside. The humanitarian situation remains desperate, and due to insecurity and lack of funding, the international response is far from sufficient to cover the needs of the displaced. It is estimated that over 2.5 million people have died in DRC since 1998 in the context the war, the majority due to disease and malnutrition.

The dramatic situation of internal displacement in DRC is a result of confrontations between various groups -both external and internal- to accede to power, accompanied by inter-ethnic rivalry in the central and eastern regions. The present conflict started in October 1996 when a rebel army, supported by Rwandan and Ugandan troops, launched an attack against the Mobutu regime. It resulted in the fall of Mobutu and in the coming to power of Laurent Kabila. By mid-1997, about 150,000 people were displaced in the country (USCR 1998, p.61). In 1998, a major rebellion against the new regime, supported by Kabila's former allies, Rwanda and Uganda, started in the East and developed into a new civil war. Continued hostilities between Kabila's forces, armed contingents from several African nations, and three rebel factions, as well as conflicts between rebel groups, resulted in large-scale massacres and massive displacement. Competition for control of DRC's rich natural resources, including diamonds, gold, precious metals, and coffee plantations, helped to sustain the war. By September 2001, the number of internally displaced reached over two million (UN OCHA 30 Sept 2001).

Under the auspices of the Government of Zambia, President Kabila's government, with its allies Zimbabwe, Angola and Namibia, signed a cease-fire agreement on 10 July 1999 in Lusaka with Rwanda and Uganda. The major rebel groups also became parties to the agreement. The Security Council then authorized in November 1999 the deployment of a UN Mission (MONUC) to support the Lusaka Accord. However, the cease-fire was not respected. In January 2001, the assassination of Laurent Kabila and the rise to power of his son, Joseph Kabila, led to a new momentum in the peace process. The cease-fire finally took hold, and the disengagement of forces from the front lines is now largely complete (U.S. DOS 20 August 2001). In June 2001, UN Security Council Resolution 1355 extended the mandate of MONUC for another year and strengthened it to include a civilian police force component (UN SC 30 August 2001). Thus far, MONUC has deployed hundreds of unarmed military observers, backed by around 2,000 troops, to monitor the ceasefire and withdrawal from front-line positions (IRIN-CEA 21 September 2001).

Today, the country remains de facto divided into three main parts: first, the government of Kinshasa in the western part, supported by Angola, Zimbabwe and Namibia; second, the Front for the Liberation of Congo (FLC) in the north, which emerged as a coalition between MLC and fragmented RCD-ML groups with support from Uganda; third, the Congolese Rally for Democracy-Goma (RCD-Goma) in the east and southeast, i.e. in North Kivu, South Kivu, Maniema, Orientale, and Katanga provinces, supported by Rwanda (HRW March 2001). Also, each party has to contend with opposition groups, such as the Mai Mai and the Rwandan and Burundian Hutu groups in the East. Rwandan and Burundian rebels have recently captured the town of Fizi, in south Kivu, allegedly assisted by the Congolese army, FAC (UN OCHA 26 September 2001). In the north, recent fighting has erupted among rebel groups backed by Uganda (IRIN-CEA 3 August 2001).

The majority of the two over million internally displaced are in the East, particularly in North Kivu (UN OCHA 30 September 2001):

| North Kivu | South Kivu | Orientale | Katanga | Equateur | Maniema | Eastern & Western Kasai | Kinshasa |
|------------|------------|-----------|---------|----------|---------|-------------------------|----------|
| 760,000    | 225,000    | 230,000   | 415,000 | 85,000   | 160,000 | 130,000                 | 40,000   |

These numbers probably underestimate the true extent of displacement since IDPs in DRC are difficult to count due to a high degree of dispersion (UN OCHA 7 June 2001). The total number of displaced has not really changed since end 2000 even though people have started trickling back home since the ceasefire (Reuters 5 July 2001). The unchanging global figure of IDPs can be explained by the fact that now that new areas are accessible, more displaced persons are discovered. Also, displacement movements continue in the east despite the cease-fire: clashes between rebel groups are causing further displacement and in the Kivus, RCD-Goma troops and Hutu armed groups are causing massive displacement in their exploitation of mineral resources (UN OCHA 26 September 2001 & AI 19 June 2001).

***Human rights and Humanitarian situation:***

Despite some optimism regarding the latest political developments, the human rights and humanitarian situations remain critical. There have been widespread reports of violations of humanitarian law by armed groups on both sides. The civilian population has suffered tremendously, especially in the central and eastern regions (AI 31 May 2000, HRW March 2001, UN GA 31 August 2001 & AI 19 June 2001). According to the International Rescue Committee (IRC), 2.5 million people have died in the context of the war since August 1998, the majority due to disease and malnutrition (IRC April 2001).

Several reports suggest that the displaced and the general war-affected population share the same needs. The health care system, already in a weak state when the present conflict started in August 1998, has degraded further due to looting, fleeing staff and lack of resources. Up to 70% of the population is now excluded from accessing basic health services (WHO 9 August 2001). The system has been unable to cope with the sharp increase of diseases, such as malaria, cholera, respiratory infections, diarrhea, anemia and amoebiasis (WHO 9 Aug 2001, ACT 13 July 2001 & AAH August 2000). IDPs suffer great exposure to HIV/AIDS infection as a result of the conflict, since they have no means to protect themselves from this infection and do not have access to information about its transmission (Oxfam August 2001). Most IDPs have not sought shelter in camps but have integrated into host communities. Coping mechanisms of communities hosting the displaced are seriously over-stretched (ACT 10 August 2001 & WV 30 July 2001).

Sixteen million people (33 % of population) have critical food needs as a result of prolonged displacement and other factors (UN SC 8 June 2001). Malnutrition rates among the displaced are alarmingly high in the Kivus (ACT 13 July 2001), Ituri (IRIN 24 March 2000), Kinshasa (UN OCHA Sept 2001), Maniema (ACT 13 July 2001) and Katanga (PANA 30 July 2001 & WV 27 Sept 2001). In August 2001, WFP estimated that more than 50% of the people displaced in Katanga Province were in urgent need of food aid (WFP 13 Aug 2001). Malnutrition rates among displaced and other children are very high (Oxfam 2001). NGOs have also reported very high malnutrition rates and widespread infrastructure deterioration in newly accessible areas, following the deployment of MONUC in the East (USAID 20 August 2001).

Displaced children are easy targets for forced recruitment into the armed forces. More than 10,000 children remain under arms in the DRC, recruited by all parties to the conflict (Oxfam August 2001, p.14). Girls are recruited as well, often falling victim to forced labor and sexual abuse (AI 19 June 2001). The commitment of both the DRC government and the RCD-Goma to cease recruitment and to demobilize child soldiers has so far failed to materialize (Oxfam August 2001). The conflict has also had a terrible impact on the education system. According to a report by Oxfam GB, SCF-UK and Christian Aid, displaced children have little or no chance to continue with their education (Oxfam August 2001). In Eastern Katanga Province, displaced parents are actually paying double school fees to enable their children to also attend school (WV 30 July 2001).

***Humanitarian response:***

Access to government-controlled regions has improved as a result of the simplification of procedures for international humanitarian agencies (UN OCHA 31 March 2001). In the East, security had worsened due to renewed fighting although some areas are now accessible due to the deployment of MONUC observers (UN OCHA 12 September 2001; WFP 31 August 2001 & WHO 9 August 2001). The UN Security Council reported in August 2001 that humanitarian agencies continued to face deteriorating conditions since the killing of International Committee of the Red Cross workers in April (UN SC 30 August 2001). Refugee International reported that RCD-Goma authorities, in search of new sources of revenues following the drop in the price of coltan, have started to tax humanitarian supplies, jeopardizing the humanitarian effort (RI 4 September 2001).

In the context of the renewed peace process, a donor information meeting in June 2001 expressed support for a US\$156 million program presented by the government of DRC (IRIN 4 July 2001). In July, the international humanitarian community participated in a conference in Geneva focusing on health and food security in the DRC. They agreed to improve coordination and information sharing and underlined the need to deploy a senior UN Humanitarian Coordinator to Kinshasa (USAID 20 August 2001). As of end September, the United Nations Appeal for DRC was only funded at 54.4% (UN OCHA). UN Agencies, such as WFP and UNICEF, are distributing food and non-food items to the displaced (WFP 31 Aug 2001 & UNICEF 9 July 2001). International NGO programs are crucial to provide assistance to IDPs in eastern DRC (UN November 1999, UNICEF 2 June 2000). NGOs, such as MSF-H and Merlin, as well as ICRC, recently expanded their activities for the displaced to formerly inaccessible areas of Province Orientale and eastern Kasai (WHO 9 August 2001).

(Updated October 2001)

# CAUSES AND BACKGROUND OF DISPLACEMENT

## Background of the conflict

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### The build-up to the 1996-1998 civil war

- Substantial displacements while Mobutu still in power during the early 1990s
- Civil war ignited in October 1996 in the South Kivu region as Mobutu's government attempted to expel some 400,000 local ethnic Tutsi
- By the end of 1996 rebel troops (ADFL) fighting Mobutu had captured territory along Zaire's border with Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi causing Rwandan refugees (Hutu) to flee from their camps in the conflict zone

"In 1965, Joseph-Désiré Mobutu intervened in a power struggle following elections, seizing power and proclaiming himself head of the republic of Congo [...]. He headed an authoritarian regime for 32 years up to 17 May 1997 [...]. In 1971, Congo was renamed the Republic of Zaïre. The organization of opposition demonstrations in the 1980s prompted changes towards a multi-party political system in April 1990 [...], which marked the beginning of the transition to democracy.

[...]

The first major development in the political reform process was the establishment in 1991 of a Sovereign National Conference. The objective of the Conference was to inter alia draft a new constitution. From the start, the Conference was in conflict with the President, whose supporters in the Conference were in the minority [...].

A succession of short-lived governments was appointed, with alternates being simultaneously appointed either by the Conference or by the President. This resulted on many occasions in organs of the state being at odds with each other, and a demonstrated lack of any coordinated policy [...].

[...]

After 1992, President Mobutu's powers started to be eroded and the stability of the country deteriorated, as opposition forces gained popular support in politics during the transition process [...]. The maintenance of a repressive system amid political liberalisation measures opened the door to an era of chaos and civil strife [...]." (UNHCR-CDR April 1998, sect.2.3)

**In 1995, USCR reported that:** "Zaire's unstable situation [had] produced a state of a state of anarchy in many regions. The country's economy was in ruins after years of neglect and official corruption. Unemployment was estimated to be as high as 80 percent. Zaire's historically undisciplined police and soldiers rioted and looted with impunity.

At the root of Zaire's crisis was President Mobutu Sese Seko's refusal to accede to democratic reforms. Mobutu's ability to stir division among his opponents and manipulate ethnic violence forced an estimated 700,000 persons from their homes in two regions of the country and left some 6,000 dead. The worst violence erupted in the southern region of Shaba and in the eastern regions of North Kivu.

In the Shaba region – formerly called Katanga – repeated violence occurred during 1992-93 between Katangans and persons of Kasai ancestry who had lived peacefully in Shaba for generations. Some 400,000 persons were forced to flee from Shaba to their ancestral homeland in the Kasai area in central Zaire.

Thousands fled to neighbouring countries. Tens of thousands more remained in Shaba but sought refuge in camps administered by relief workers.

In North Kivu, some 270,000 were internally displaced by violence during 1992-93. The violence flared to disputes over land and the denial of Zairean citizenship to ethnic Banyarwanda." (USCR 1995, p.82)

**Three years later the conflict had further deteriorated:** "[In the Masisi zone of North Kivu] violence escalated in 1996, driven by several factors: long-standing inter-ethnic rivalries over economic and political power; efforts by Rwandan Hutu refugee leaders to force local populations out of the Masisi zone in order to resettle themselves in the area; and efforts by Zairian government officials to inflame tensions in order to expel political opponents.

[...]

"The presence of some 600,000 Rwandan Hutu refugees in the [Masisi] region...has greatly exacerbated the situation," USCR stated in a mid-1996 report, Masisi, Down the Road from Goma: Ethnic Cleansing and Displacement in Eastern Zaire. USCR's site visit to the conflict area found 'strong indications' that militia and former Rwandan soldiers operating out of the nearby refugee camps 'have access to sophisticated new weapons, are participating directly in the fighting, and are facilitating the ethnic cleansing of the area.' Zairian troops also participated in the violence, USCR and other investigators concluded.

The upheaval affected members of six ethnic groups. The conflict virtually destroyed the region's network of health clinics and schools. More than 80 percent of the area's economically important cattle herds were lost. Farming in the Masisi area one of Zaire's most productive agricultural zones was decimated. One relief agency reported child malnutrition rates near 40 percent in the worst affected areas.

Attackers routinely burned homes, making return by the owners difficult even when tensions eased in August. Zairian troops reportedly extorted money before allowing families to reclaim their properties.

[...]

Full-scale civil war erupted in eastern Zaire in October [1996]. By year's end, rebel troops captured a 400-mile long swath of territory along Zaire's border with Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi.

The war originated in the South Kivu region of eastern Zaire when government authorities attempted to expel some 400,000 local ethnic Tutsi, known as Banyamulenge, who had been in Zaire for generations. Authorities formally nullified the Zairian citizenship of Banyamulenge in 1981. In 1996, officials intensified their claims that the Banyamulenge were not legitimate citizens. A local official warned that all Banyamulenge must leave the country within a week and threatened to confiscate their property. Violence gradually increased throughout September, as Zairian troops and civilian mobs attacked the homes and businesses of the Banyamulenge community.

The Banyamulenge armed themselves and counterattacked. By mid-October, Zairian troops were in retreat and large areas rapidly fell into rebel hands. The rebels stated that their movement, known as the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (ADFL), included Banyamulenge as well as members of other political and ethnic groups opposed to the decades of corrupt and abusive mismanagement by Zaire's government and army.

The quick advance of ADFL troops, initially estimated to number 3,000 to 10,000 combatants, caused Rwandan refugees to flee from their camps in the conflict zone. ADFL rebels regarded soldiers and militia of the former Rwandan government in the camps as enemies, and attacked the camps as military bases. "Combatants should stop attacking refugees," UNHCR stated. Virtually all refugee camps in the Uvira area reportedly emptied by October 21. Most camps in the Bukavu area were vacated two weeks later.

[...]

Numerous NGO workers on the ground and international diplomats charged that Rwandan and Ugandan government troops crossed into Zaire and participated in the rebels' military offensive, contributing mightily to its rapid success. Rwandan and Ugandan officials acknowledged sending troops into Zaire on a limited basis." (USCR 1997, pp. 105-106)

## **Mobutu defeated and Kabila emerges to power (May 1997)**

- Pockets of violence continued in eastern Congo/Zaire during the last half of 1997

"The civil war continued unabated in early 1997. UN efforts to mediate a peace agreement failed, despite a UN Security Council resolution urging "protection and security for all refugees and displaced persons, and facilitation of access to humanitarian assistance." Mobutu's military offered little or no resistance against the advancing ADFL troops. The major city of Kisangani, in north-central Congo/Zaire, fell to ADFL forces in March. The key southeastern city of Lubumbashi was captured in April. Rebel troops and their allies seized Kinshasa, the capital, in May.

A majority of citizens appeared to welcome the defeat of Mobutu and his troops, who had continued to terrorize the population even during their retreat across the country. The victorious ADFL immediately installed its leader, Laurent Kabila, as president.

[...]

Pockets of violence continued in eastern Congo/Zaire during the last half of 1997, provoked by long-simmering ethnic tensions and the continued presence of Rwandan soldiers and militia members linked to the extremist former government of Rwanda. Shadowy insurgent groups sprang up to challenge ADFL control in some eastern areas." (USCR 1998, p.60)

## **Recovery from the 1996-1997 civil war interrupted by rebellion against Kabila (August 1998)**

- Rebellion against President Kabila emerged as Rwandan soldiers were sent home
- New civil war became an impetus for a new wave of hostilities and flagrant violations of human rights affecting a wider area of the country than previous war

"In late July 1998, Congolese President Laurent Kabila sent home all Rwandan soldiers, thus officially breaking ties with the allies who, together with Ugandan forces, had helped sweep him into power fourteen months before. Rwanda and Uganda responded by invading Congo and joining forces with troops from the Congolese army (Forces Armées Congolaises, FAC) that had mutinied against the government in Goma and Bukavu. The RCD [Rassemblement Congolais pour la Démocratie], composed of former Tutsi members of Kabila's government, former Mobutists, a number of intellectuals, and others, soon emerged as the political leadership of this coalition." (Human Rights Watch February 1999, chapt. I)

"This time Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi sent in troops to support the RCD, a conglomerate of Congolese with various motives to topple the Kabila regime. Once again, the Banyamulenge gave active support and many RCD cadres were chosen from their ethnic group. The RCD later split in two factions and another rebel group, the MLC, challenged Kabila in the Northeast. Kabila is backed by mainly Angolan and Zimbabwean troops. His "unofficial" allies include directly and indirectly, the Mai Mai, and some of the rebels groups against the current Rwandan (Interahamwe, ex-FAR), Ugandan (ADF, NALU) and Burundian governments (FDD, Palipehutu). The Banyamulenge are currently in an isolated position. Although well represented in the ranks of the RCD, they have a separate militia for self-protection. Having immigrated to the DRC over the centuries, they want to integrate in Congolese society but their support to the consecutive Rwandan interventions makes them seen as "collaborators" with what is perceived as an occupation force. Aside from a tense relationship with Rwanda and the Congolese RCD, they are also being targeted by the Mai Mai, FDD, ex-FAR and Interahamwe." (AAH August 2000, sect. 2)

"Starting from August 1998 major changes in the humanitarian situation occurred in the DRC as a result of military confrontation simultaneously taking place in the eastern provinces of the country and in Bas Congo province, as well as in Kinshasa. The first three months of the military conflict put an end to one year-long

progress of the relief community in rehabilitating destroyed infrastructure and reintegrating returnees. The war equally undermined the positive trends towards national reconciliation that had started to emerge in the Congolese society. It also became an impetus for a new wave of hostilities and flagrant violations of human rights. The immediate impact of this war was undoubtedly devastating for the population. However, in the longer run, it is fraught with even more serious consequences, as it has affected the fragile social tissue of the Congolese society as a whole. For the first time since the complex humanitarian emergency of 1994/95, the struggle in the east of the country echoed in the traditionally peaceful west, South and Upper Northern parts of the country. In contrast to the civil war of 1996, the area of military clashes significantly expanded in August-September 1998 and directly affected the civilian population of Bas Congo, Orientale and Kinshasa provinces.

Hence, the fundamental change in the humanitarian situation of the DRC is a further deteriorating socio-economic and security situation of the Congolese people as a whole. In more specific terms, the following emergency situations can be singled out: recurrent devastating displacement of populations in North Kivu and South Kivu; unprecedented plight of the population and destruction of economic infrastructure in Bas Congo province; weakened food security for the overwhelming majority of the country's urban population; threat of wide-spread famine in Province Orientale and notably in Kisangani; suspension of return and reintegration processes of Congolese refugees; absence of effective protection mechanisms for certain groups of refugees in the atmosphere of military confrontation and lack of access; physical insecurity for Hutu, Hunde and Banyavyura communities in Kivu provinces and certain ethnic minorities in Kinshasa and Katanga provinces."(UN December 1998, pp. 1-2)

### **Overview of the various armed conflicts ongoing in DRC (2001)**

- De facto partition of the country despite cease-fire
- Conflict between the government in Kinshasa and the Congolese Rally for Democracy (RCD) and Rwanda
- Conflict between Government and FLC and Uganda
- Tribal conflict between the Balendu and the Bahema in Ituri

"Stalemate in the war and lack of progress in the peace process led to a de facto partition of the country under four regimes, each depending on foreign troops for its survival. The government is entrenched in the western half of the country, although its longstanding reliance on foreign allies became pronounced following the assassination in mid- January 2001 of President Laurent Kabila and his replacement by his son Joseph Kabila. One rebel group, the Movement for the Liberation of Congo (Mouvement pour la Libération du Congo, MLC), headed by Jean-Pierre Bemba, controls much of Equateur province in the north. By early 2001, it had established its sway over another, less well organized rebel group, the Congolese Rally for Democracy-Liberation Movement (Rassemblement Congolais pour la Démocratie-Mouvement de Libération (RCD-ML), which claimed to control parts of North Kivu, and Orientale provinces in eastern Congo. This merger brought together several of the RCD-ML leaders and created the Front for the Liberation of the Congo (Front pour la Libération du Congo (FLC). Wamba dia Wamba, however, one of the first leaders of the rebel movement and founder of the RCD-ML, continued to oppose this merger, but with little apparent success. A third rebel group, the main part of the RCD, now known as RCD-Goma, controls parts of North Kivu, South Kivu, Maniema, Orientale, and Katanga provinces in the east and southeast.

[...]

In addition to the virtual partition of the country, the war has produced further divisions within the zones dominated by Uganda and Rwanda. Local leaders, seeking gain for their political parties or for themselves personally, have manipulated ethnic loyalties and have exploited external support to carve out their own areas of influence. The interaction between local leaders and actors in the broader war has exacerbated local ethnic tensions and created a volatile mix of inter-ethnic conflict that continues to have devastating

consequences both in terms of violations of human rights and general suffering for the civilian population." (HRW March 2001, sect. I)

"The cease-fire along the confrontation lines continues to hold by and large since January, the disengagement of forces from the confrontation lines and their redeployment to new defensive positions is largely complete', Annabi [Assistant Secretary General for Peacekeeping Hedi Annabi] said. 'Namibia continues to withdraw its forces from the DRC according to the Namibian timetable, and Uganda has withdrawn significant numbers of troops from the DRC.'

In addition, the preparatory group for the Inter-Congolese dialogue agreed that the meeting will take place October 15 in Addis Ababa, the assistant secretary reported.

At the same time there are still a number of areas of concern, Annabi said. Fighting continues in the east, caused primarily by attacks from armed groups not signatories to the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement and the RCD (Congolese Rally for Democracy) has repeatedly declined to guarantee the security of unarmed MONUC military observers. In south Kivu, daily clashes between RCD forces and armed groups have resulted in killings, looting, and population displacements.

MONUC continues to insist on the need to demilitarize Kisangani, but no progress has been made on the issue, the U.N. official said. [...]

Annabi said that MONUC continues planning for the third – and most difficult – phase of deployment which will be involved in the disarmament, demobilization, repatriation and reintegration of armed groups.." (U.S. DOS 30 Aug 2001)

"Nine major armed conflicts are taking place in the Democratic Republic of Congo [...]. The main ones are:

#### **A. Conflict between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and RCD and Rwanda**

11. This is the most serious conflict, involving, on the Government side, the Congolese Armed Forces (FAC) and the armies of Angola, Namibia and Zimbabwe, with formal and informal support from the irregular group known as the Mai-Mai (see A/55/403) and, on the Rwanda and RCD side, the Rwandan Patriotic Army (APR), the RCD/Goma army, the Local Defence Unit (a paramilitary guerrilla group), former Interahamwe and former Hutu prisoners in the service of APR and troops of the Burundian army, especially in the Uvira area.

12. Other groups opposed to the Governments of neighbouring countries involved in the Congolese war are active in this conflict and commit crimes against Congolese civilians in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. They are responsible for considerable violence and, on the pretext of fighting the armies of Rwanda and Burundi, massacre innocent Congolese citizens. These groups are the Interahamwe, the former Rwandan Armed Forces (ex-FAR) and the Burundian *Forces pour la défense de la démocratie* (FDD), all of which have committed violations of international humanitarian law.

13. For the Congolese population, the term "rebels" does not exist: all Congolese in all three parts into which the country is divided speak only of "aggressors". The discourteous reception given by former President Laurent Kabila to MONUC was explained by the Security Council's references to Rwanda, Burundi and Uganda as "uninvited" countries, while the new relationship with MONUC since late 2000 is explained by the Security Council's reference to countries "which have violated the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Democratic Republic of the Congo" (see Security Council resolution 1304 (2000)).

14. Terror reigns in the area occupied by RCD and Rwanda. As in previous years, violence by members of the Mai-Mai, Interahamwe, ex-FAR and FDD, who attack RCD, APR and Burundian soldiers, triggers acts of revenge and massacres. Although on his visits to Goma in 2001 the Special Rapporteur found that there was less tension than in 2000 (see E/CN.4/2001/40/Add.1, paras. 27 and 28), the same is not true of other

cities such as Kisangani. The Special Rapporteur has not received any information on massacres of the Banyamulenge population referred to in paragraph 59 of the Secretary-General's sixth report on MONUC activities (S/2001/128).

## **B. Conflict between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and FLC and Uganda**

15. In the north-east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Government forces, along with the country's Angolan and Zimbabwean allies and the Mai-Mai militias, are fighting the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) and FLC. Ugandan troops act with complete contempt for the Congolese population and their presence is devastating.

16. The violence of the Ugandan rebels of the National Army for the Liberation of Uganda (NALU) and the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) is creating considerable insecurity because of bloody attacks on the civilian population; in pursuing these guerrilla fighters, UPDF simply attacks the defenceless population all over again.

17. The inability of the Ugandans and FLC to put a stop to the violence was reflected in the mass murder in late June at Aru, Ituri, of between 250 and 843 people accused of witchcraft. This case is unconnected to the Bahemu-Balendu conflict. Various sources blame the Ugandans, not just for their inability to control the region but for directly carrying out the murders.

## **C. Internal armed conflict between the Bahema and the Balendu in Ituri**

18. It was the seriousness of this conflict unfolding in territory controlled by Uganda and FLC, especially the 19 January massacres, that led to the Special Rapporteur's mission in March, undertaken at the request of members of the Security Council (see E/CN.4/2001/40/Add.1, paras. 39 to 54). Tensions eased after the Protocol of Agreement skilfully secured by the FLC Chairman, Jean-Pierre Bemba, on 17 February (para. 53), but the success of the Protocol depended both on the willingness of the parties and on Mr. Bemba's skill and interest in imposing his authority on the Ugandans, which did not happen. Although initially the violence abated, the Ugandans continued to favour the Bahema and there has been a resumption of terrible incidents, such as the cold-blooded, premeditated murder of six International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) humanitarian workers on 26 April. Only days before the murder, the Bahema had launched a smear campaign against humanitarian and human rights personnel: the MONUC human rights officer, the Special Rapporteur and ICRC, whose personnel had been threatened for the past year. The crime occurred in an area where there are large numbers of Ugandan soldiers who, together with the Bahema, constitute the real "State" in the region. The Secretary-General drew attention to this situation in June, in his eighth report on MONUC, when, referring to the incident, he noted that "during past months, many international workers in Bunia have received threatening letters from one of the ethnic groups in the area" (S/2001/572, para. 54). Clashes in Picho, Kalo, Drodro, Nizi and elsewhere have also resulted in some 100 deaths since March. The FLC Chairman's pledge to the Special Rapporteur that there would be an end to impunity has not been fulfilled." (UN GA 31 August 2001, para.11-18)

## **Warring parties involved in the post-August 1998 conflict: an overview**

*The table below presents briefly the major armed groups involved in the DRC conflict since August 1998. The information should be considered indicative only, and excludes numerous smaller armed groups and factions within and outside the main armed groups involved in the conflict. The table may not be updated with regard to recent changes in alliances. More detailed information is included below the table, but readers seeking further information may consider a review of the source documents.*

"The number of non-state actors, often referred to as armed opposition, uncontrolled military groups, insurgents, etc. is continuously on the rise. In addition to domestic non-state armed groups, the DRC hosts a significant number of foreign rebel or insurgent groups, which consider the DRC as a rear base for launching raids on their respective countries. With the exception of Tanzania, Zambia and CAR, all other

DRC neighbour countries attempt to neutralise their domestic armed opposition on the DRC soil. In simple terms, the internal struggles of Sudan, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Angola and to a much lesser extent (in the past) Republic of the Congo have been spilling over into the DRC. In eastern province of the Kivu, there is a noticeable amalgamation of foreign and local insurgent groups that are not believed to be entirely under the control of any state-parties to the conflict, although they regard Rwandan and Burundian armies as their main target. Security-related problems encountered by relief personnel because of widespread insurrection have been regular and frequent and are expected to increase." (UN November 2000, p.21)

| <b>PRO GOVERNMENT FORCES</b>                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Forces Armées Congolaises (FAC)                                                          | Remaining part of the national army loyal to President Kabila. Comprised of soldiers from Mobutu's Forces Armées Zairoises (FAZ), as well as Kabila's own core force of Banyamulenge and Katangan gendarmes                                                                    |
| Angola, Zimbabwe and Namibia                                                             | National armies                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Mai-Mai (also Mayi-Mayi)                                                                 | Indigenous militia involved in a number of uprisings in the Great Lakes Region since the colonial era, today encompassing many of the groups of indigenous militia of different ethnic origins in eastern Congo opposed to the RCD and its allies                              |
| Interahamwe militia & Ex-FAR                                                             | Interahamwe initially organized as a political party in Rwanda, major actor in genocide against the Tutsis, after fleeing to eastern Congo Interahamwe has become a term covering any ethnic Hutu combatant in Congo. Ex-FAR (i.e. members of the former Rwandan Armed Forces) |
| Forces pour la défense de la démocratie -FDD (Burundian rebel group)                     | The armed wing of a major Burundian opposition force (CNDD-FDD)                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Alliance of Democratic Forces - ADF (Ugandan rebel group)                                | Ugandan rebel group traditionally fighting the Government of Uganda                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>MAJOR ARMED GROUPS FIGHTING KABILA'S GOVERNMENT</b>                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| RCD-Goma (Congolese Rally for Democracy/Rassemblement Congolais pour la Démocratie, RCD) | Composed of former Tutsi members of Kabila's government, former Mobutists, a number of intellectuals, and others. RCD was initially one group, but split into two factions during second half of 1999, i.e. RCD-Goma and RCD-ML. Backed by Rwanda.                             |
| RCD-Liberation Movement (RCD-ML) – armed wing known as Armée Populaire Congolaise (APC)  | Headed by Wamba-dia-Wamba and based in Bunia, Orientale province. Backed by Uganda                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| The Mouvement national de libération congolais (MNLC also MLC)                           | Anti-Kabila group led by businessman Jean-Pierre Bemba, with support from Uganda                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Front for the Liberation of Congo (FLC)                                                  | Emerged in January 2001 as a unification in of the armies of MLC, RCD-ML, and RCD-National. Wamba's support and role uncertain.                                                                                                                                                |
| Defectors from the Forces Armées Congolaises (FAC)                                       | Among others, the 10th Battalion (25,000 soldiers) which launched the rebellion on 2 August 1998 from Goma                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Rwandan Patriotic Army (RPA/APR)                                                         | National Rwandan army                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

## **PRO-GOVERNMENT FORCES (information about selected groups):**

### **Forces Armées Congolaises (FAC)**

"When Kabila came to power, he decided to reform the army. This was to become an integrated force comprised of soldiers of Mobutu's Forces Armées Zairoises (FAZ), and Kabila's own core force of Banyamulenge and Katangan gendarmes. However, neither of the latter elements was sufficiently well equipped or adequately trained to take command of the new FAC army. This explains the emergence of officers from the ranks of ex-FAZ troops, such as Jean-Pierre Ondekane, who is now leading the rebel movement. It also partly explains why Joseph Kabila, the president's son, was appointed FAC chief of staff. His initial military training was under the Tanzanians during the 1996 war, and he was receiving further training in China when the rebellion broke out in August 1998. Kabila has never won the loyalty of the ex-FAZ. They have not forgotten their humiliating defeat by the AFDL in 1996 and soon defected to the rebel side soon after this latest conflict began.

Most of the better-trained FAC troops belonged to the elite unit of the 10th Battalion stationed in Goma. It was this unit, numbering 25,000 men, which launched the rebellion on 2 August 1998 from FAC headquarters in Kivu. An official announcement that the FAC had started a war to liberate their country was broadcast over Radio Goma by one of their officers, Sylvain Mbuki. Kabila denounced them as traitors and puppets of Rwanda and Uganda. Their defection led directly to the loss of Kivu. They immediately started marching north towards Oriental and Equateur provinces, south to Northern Katanga and also towards the centre of the country; the FAC troops stationed in those provinces all defected to the rebel movement.

In response, Kabila has embarked on a massive recruitment exercise to plug the gap in the FAC's ranks. However, the deserters included the more experienced FAC soldiers and the new and obviously inexperienced recruits have not proved up to the job. Kabila has therefore had to co-opt more seasoned fighters from among the ex-FAR and Interahamwe militias, soldiers who formerly fought for Idi Amin, and the Burundian FDD in order to beef up his war machine." (ICG 21 May 1999, "The Congolese parties to the Conflict")

### **Mai-Mai**

"The term "Mai-Mai" has been used to describe indigenous militia involved in a number of uprisings in the Great Lakes Region since the colonial era. Mai-Mai fighters often undergo traditional initiation rites which are intended to make them invulnerable to bullets and other weapons of their enemies. Today, the term "Mai-Mai" is used to refer to many of the groups of indigenous militia of different ethnic origins in eastern Congo opposed to the RCD and its allies. It appears that these groups are not well-organized and economic hardship may have encouraged many young men to join. Some of the Congolese Armed Forces (FAC) in the east who did not join RCD forces and former members of the Zairian Armed Forces (ex-FAZ) also reportedly joined forces with groups of Mai-Mai." (HRW February 1999, chapt I)

"The Government's support for the Mai-Mai makes it responsible for the offences committed by the latter. While they generally attack Rwandan and RCD soldiers, they have also committed violence against civilians suspected of collaborating with those they regard as "the enemy". The high degree of popularity they enjoy among the Congolese does not absolve them of responsibility. Incidents involving brutality include those that occurred at Lubero in April and at Nyabibwe, Numbi (50 dead) and Kihuha in July." (CHR 1 February 2001, para. 138)

"The main armed group operating in Beni and Lubero-as elsewhere in the Kivus-is the Mai-Mai. This generic name applies to any one of a multitude of irregular forces fighting against what they perceive to be foreign occupiers of their traditional domain and their national territory. Many of the groups follow certain rituals thought to protect them in battle. They typically enter into or repudiate alliances with outside actors according to the priorities of their local agenda. Mai-Mai are generally thought to cooperate with local

people, although they can also prey upon them if they fail to support the ends of the Mai-Mai." (HRW March 2001, sect.V)

**Rwandan Hutu armed forces (ex-FAR/Interahamwe)**

"Estimates vary and no authoritative, impartial numbers exist, but it is broadly understood that as many as 15,000 Rwandan Hutu armed forces remain in the Congo. These are divided roughly equally between those that are integrated in or fighting alongside the Congolese Armed Forces (FAC), and those operating as militia in the Kivus in eastern Congo (in Masisi, Shabunda, Kahuzi-biega, and Virunga areas). What is unknown is the percentage of these forces that organised or participated in Rwanda's 1994 genocide, and those that have been recruited since.

According to official Rwandan sources, up to 80 percent could be repatriated without fear of punishment for participation in the genocide. Either way, the doctrine remains focused on the overthrow of the government in Kigali, and some elements preach continuation of the genocide. There are increasing attempts by subgroups among the Hutu armed groups and the Hutu Diaspora leadership, though, to legitimise itself by focusing on creating a unified inclusive organisation with clear political objectives that obviously would distance itself from a genocidal ideology." (ICG 12 June 2001)

**Burundian Forces for the Defence of Democracy (FDD)**

"The Burundian Forces for the Defence of Democracy (FDD) forms the second largest of the armed groups, estimated at roughly 10,000 militia. They are also integrated in the FAC and are moving between the DRC, Burundi and Tanzania. They have shown consistent resistance in joining the Burundi peace process. Both the Rwandan and the Burundians Hutus fight alongside each other and with various Congolese resistance groups, collectively known as Mai Mai, composed of many different groups and a few thousands fighters." (ICG 12 June 2001)

***Above groups are more and more operating as an integrated army***

"Despite the multitude of groups and warlords and despite different national agendas, the ex-FAR/Interahamwe, the FDD and the Mai Mai groups are operating increasingly as an integrated army, largely as a result of Congolese and Zimbabwean support and training. They have shown greater sophistication and greater co-ordination in the last few months, and the ethnic Hutu-Tutsi agenda seems increasingly to influence the ideology of the Mai Mai, who see themselves as resisting Tutsi occupation in the DRC." (ICG 12 June 2001)

**ARMED GROUPS FIGHTING KABILA'S GOVERNMENT (information about selected groups):**

**Rassemblement Congolais pour la Démocratie/Congolese Rally for Democracy (RCD)**

"The RCD [Congolese Rally for Democracy/Rassemblement Congolais pour la Démocratie], composed of former Tutsi members of Kabila's government, former Mobutists, a number of intellectuals, and others, soon emerged as the political leadership of this coalition. The conflict in Congo grew during August and September [1998], eventually drawing in other states from the region, including Angola, Zimbabwe, Namibia, and Chad on the government side, and with Burundi apparently joining the Rwandans and Ugandans to support the RCD and the FAC defectors. Rwanda and Uganda claimed they had sent forces across the border to protect themselves against various armed groups which had been attacking them from bases in the eastern Congo, operating without hindrance from the Congolese government. Burundi continued to deny its involvement in the conflict despite regular sightings of their troops in South Kivu. The RCD proclaimed its goal to be the ouster of Kabila, while his backers stated they were protecting a legitimate government from foreign aggression. Outside observers suspected that the prospect of exploiting Congo's vast mineral wealth had attracted many of the warring parties. A number of other militia and rebel groups from the region joined the fray, while alliances between them and the warring parties were often unclear.

[...]

Victims and witnesses of abuses in eastern Congo frequently described perpetrators as "Rwandan," "Banyamulengue," or "Tutsi" military allied with the RCD, but were often unable to conclusively identify

them as belonging to a particular army. Establishing the national identity of perpetrators was complicated by the fact that some Tutsi military among the Rwandan and Ugandan forces were born in Congo but have lived in all three countries; Kinyarwanda and Swahili are spoken in all three countries; and the use of uniforms by RCD forces was often haphazard. Commanders fighting on behalf of the RCD frequently wore civilian clothes and, in an apparent attempt to further hide their identity, often used their first names or pseudonyms only. Many residents of the east claimed that the RCD military was dominated by Tutsi from the Rwandan, Ugandan, Burundian or Congolese armies, increasing resentment among other Congolese ethnic groups vis-à-vis Tutsi in general." (HRW February 1999, chaps. I, IV)

"The founder members of the RCD are a heterogeneous coalition whose opposition to Kabila is the only common denominator. They come from diverse political backgrounds and only joined together in August 1998 to launch the rebellion against Kabila. The first three months of the conflict were spent attempting to co-ordinate the different interests of the various political factions within the rebel movement.

[...]

Most RCD officials interviewed by an ICG field researcher conceded that the multiplicity of political interests, including those of their major political backers, Uganda and Rwanda, are leading to a lack of cohesion in the movement. But these political differences are officially played down. In an interview with Reuters in Goma, RCD Vice-President Moise Nyarugabo said: "This is normal and it can happen that any movement may contain some differences. But the differences we are facing we are facing as a team." (ICG 21 May 1999, "The Congolese parties to the Conflict")

#### **RCD split into RCD-Goma and RCD-ML during 1999**

"The rebel Rassemblement congolais pour la democratie (RCD) on Wednesday [19 May 1999] named medical doctor Emile Ilunga as its new leader after Ernest Wamba dia Wamba was ousted on Sunday [16 May 1999] in an internal power struggle. The movement retained military commander Jean-Pierre Ondekane and Moise Nyarugabo as first and second vice-presidents respectively. Wamba said he was a victim of a "coup", unilaterally ousted by his opponents within RCD." (IRIN-CEA 21 May 1999)

"The Ugandan army's sector commanders in fact exercised ultimate authority over all military and security matters in each district. Some RCD-ML units and cadres operated directly under their command." (HRW March 2001, sect.III)

#### **The Movement for the Liberation of Congo (MLC)**

"A handful of Congolese exiles led by Jean-Pierre Bemba told the Ugandan president in October 1998 that they wanted to change their government at home, but did not want to join the RCD. Ugandan authorities sent the group to a crash military and ideological training course and weeks later flew them to Equateur to launch what would become the MLC. Less than two years later, "Bemba commended Ugandan soldiers for training 20,000 soldiers" for the MLC. Reporting on the September 2000 press conference at Gebadolite during which Bemba acknowledged the UPDF's assistance, the *New Vision* quoted him as urging the UPDF to continue withdrawing troops from the DRC: "We are proud of the Ugandans. But why should they die for us when we (Congolese soldiers) are doing quite well at frontline positions?" Unlike the RCD-ML, the MLC was fighting an active war directly against the government alliance. With crucial battlefield support from the UPDF, the MLC was able to roll back a major government offensive in the second half of 2000. In contrast with the other two major rebel groups, the MLC was also reported to be financially self-sufficient, mainly from taxes levied on local produce" (HRW March 2001, sect.III)

#### **The Front for the Liberation of Congo (FLC) emerged in January 2001 as a coalition between MLC and fragmented RCD-ML groups**

- Constant leadership disputes within RCD-ML during 2000

- Agreement behind the creation of FLC in January 2001 provided for the unification of the armies of MLC, RCD-ML, and RCD-National, but the three partners will remain separate for the purposes of the inter-Congolese dialogue mandated by the Lusaka accord
- Since June 2001, fighting between the various rebel factions in North Kivu puts Beni residents in danger

"Constant leadership disputes produced political and administrative confusion in the year 2000 in areas of northeastern Congo, which the RCD-ML claims to control. The three top officials of the RCD-ML, Wamba dia Wamba, on one side, and his two deputies Mbusa Nyamwisi and Tibasima Ateenyi developed parallel political and administrative structures in Bunia, the RCD-ML's capital, and in the town of Beni. The military wings of the RCD-ML reflected the leadership splits: most recruitment for the RCD-ML armed forces was carried out on the basis of personal and/or ethnic loyalty. The political struggle exacerbated ethnic tensions in the region and, at times, spurred widespread ethnic killings.

By the time it was de facto absorbed into a newly established rebel front in mid-January 2001, the RCD-ML had yet to adopt a basic platform as a political movement, to define its internal structures and their respective attributions, or to choose a leader acceptable to the various factions. Apart from a broad non-militaristic philosophy voiced by Wamba and a rhetorical commitment to the peaceful resolution of the war in Congo, the goals of the movement in the national war and its position on the war's complex regional dimensions were far from clear. The wrangling among the movement's top leaders often focused on mutual accusations of political ineptitude, misuse of funds, and the manipulation of ethnicity for narrow political ends.

Wamba's two deputies attempted at least three times to overthrow him in 2000, although he was nominally president of the movement. Uganda, which backs the rebel faction, ultimately intervened. At each upheaval, the three contenders and their top aides were summoned to Kampala for "consultations." The "foreign allies," that is, the Ugandans, in the meantime acknowledged no clear victor on the ground. This created the perception locally that they were in fact siding with both parties to the dispute at the same time. [...]

The RCD faction based in Goma and known henceforth as RCD-Goma continued [after the 1999 split] to control the Congolese military contingent of the rebellion and the Wamba-led faction, known then as RCD-Kisangani, initially had no significant military arm. Attempts by the Ugandan army, the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF), to train some Congolese recruits for RCD-Kisangani angered the Rwandan commanders in Kisangani. They sought to dismantle the training camp, actually arresting dozens of recruits under the pretext that they belonged to the extremist Hutu militia that perpetrated the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. Furthermore, RCD-Goma and its Rwandan backers prevented Wamba from holding public meetings to rally the support of the population. Rivalry over the enormous mineral resources commanded by Kisangani, the third largest Congolese city, as well as the political and military frictions over RCD-Kisangani contributed to the unraveling of the remaining trust between Rwanda and Uganda. This helped precipitate the first military confrontation between Rwandan and Ugandan forces for the control of Kisangani in August 1999. During the battle, which was a defeat for the Ugandans, some 200 civilians were killed in the crossfire.

The battle for Kisangani was also sparked by disputes over which RCD faction would sign the Lusaka ceasefire accord, an agreement meant to end the war in the Congo and negotiated under tremendous international pressure. During the battle, Wamba and other leaders of the RCD-Kisangani miraculously escaped death during a Rwandan assault on a hotel they used as a residence and headquarters. Because neither faction could be eliminated and because neither would acknowledge the legitimacy of the other, all fifty founding members of the RCD flew to Lusaka to sign on behalf of the "RCD." The founders affixed their names to the treaty in alphabetical order to avoid further squabbles on who should sign first. No one questioned how a movement, which could not even agree on its representatives, could carry out its obligations under the accord.

### **The Congolese Rally for Democracy-Liberation Movement (RCD-ML)**

After the Rwandan Patriotic Army (RPA) defeated Ugandan forces in August in Kisangani, Wamba felt insecure there and relocated his office to a presidential guesthouse in Kampala. There in September 1999 he established the Congolese Rally for Democracy-Liberation Movement (RCD-ML), a reincarnation of RCD-Kisangani. He announced that Bunia, a small and until then quiet town in Orientale province near the border with Uganda, would be the headquarters of the movement.

Wamba appointed officials of his new government reportedly without much consultation with his aides, leading to the defection of several founding members of RCD-Kisangani in protest. While his stay in Kampala stretched into months, his two deputies took effective control on the ground. Appointed general commissar, or prime minister, of the RCD-ML, Mbusa Nyamwisi set up an RCD administration in his hometown of Beni, in the part of North Kivu province controlled by Uganda. Himself a businessman turned politician, Mbusa was a member of the economically powerful Nande business community. Tibasima Ateenyi, a former member of parliament from Bunia area and former chief executive of the Kilomoto gold mines, ran a parallel administration out of Bunia.

[...]

Neither Mbusa as general commissar nor Tibasima as minister of finance had the mandate to recruit soldiers, but both did so in early 2000, engaging in parallel and concurrent recruitment processes for the Armée Populaire Congolaise (APC), the military wing of the RCD-ML. They raised the army largely along ethnic lines, with Mbusa initially recruiting heavily among the Nande people and Tibasima enlisting mostly youngsters of his own Hema group. The two processes had one thing in common, though: the Ugandan army provided the instructors who trained and armed successive classes of hundreds of recruits at Nyaleke training camp in Beni and at Rwampara training camp in Bunia.

[...]

The APC had no chief of staff and battalion commanders were supposed to report directly to Wamba, who named himself defense commissar as well as president of the movement. Wamba reportedly suspected the loyalty of commanders identified with his deputies and so in early 2000 recruited his own Presidential Protection Unit (PPU). Elements were handpicked for the small PPU corps from experienced soldiers from the demobilized army of former President Mobutu or from deserters of President Kabila's Forces Armées Congolaises (FAC).

[...]

The Ugandan army's sector commanders in fact exercised ultimate authority over all military and security matters in each district. Some RCD-ML units and cadres operated directly under their command. Even in Beni, Bunia, and Butembo, towns where RCD-ML administrative power was concentrated, UPDF sector commanders overshadowed the Congolese political and military leaders.

[...]

The disorganization within the RCD-ML spawned even smaller splinter groups with limited personal or local agendas. Roger Lumbala, the founder of RCD-National and its only prominent member, originally belonged to the mainstream RCD-Goma and defected in February 2000 to Kampala. There he reportedly joined the RCD-ML and was deployed as mobilization officer to Bafwasende, northeast of Kisangani. Lumbala later told Human Rights Watch that the RCD-ML military unit that Wamba had placed in Bafwasende felt that it had been neglected for too long. [...]

[...]

The disorganization within the RCD-ML spawned even smaller splinter groups with limited personal or local agendas. Roger Lumbala, the founder of RCD-National and its only prominent member, originally belonged to the mainstream RCD-Goma and defected in February 2000 to Kampala.

[...]

### **The Movement for the Liberation of Congo (MLC)**

As the RCD-ML stood on the verge of collapse at the end of 2000, the Movement for the Liberation of Congo (MLC) appeared to offer all that its Ugandan backers had hoped for and failed to get in their alliance with the RCD-ML. Under the firm grip of its leader Jean-Pierre Bemba, the MLC had a unified political and military command with none of the internal dissensions and spectacular defections that regularly rocked both the RCD-Goma and RCD-ML. According to reports by journalists and other visitors to its home area,

the MLC enjoyed a measure of popularity in the northwestern province of Equateur that none of the other rebel movements could claim in the territories they controlled.  
[...]

### **The Front for the Liberation of Congo (FLC): A Merger or Takeover? Kampala Negotiations**

As a way out of the RCD-ML crisis, Uganda in late November [2000] proposed a merger of all the Congolese rebel groups under its patronage: the MLC, RCD-ML, and RCD-N. Col. Kahinda Otafiire, UPDF chief of staff and advisor on the DRC to President Museveni, justified the proposed merger by arguing that "[i]t makes it easier for us and easier for the rebellion and that way the Congolese people can take care of their own matters," and adding "[w]e are tired of running the show for them. Let them assume their own responsibility entirely."

[...]

The Ugandans were determined to create the unified front, to be named the Front for the Liberation of Congo (FLC), because a hotly contested presidential election campaign was propelling all aspects of Uganda's involvement in the Congo war to center stage. In addition, the conduct of Ugandan troops in the Congo had drawn closer and more critical international scrutiny following the third battle for the control of Kisangani in June 2000.

[...]

The merger agreement in late 2000 appeared to vindicate Bemba. In fact it hardly masked a move to what could have been an MLC take-over of the RCD-ML, which was sorely weakened by political divisions, a splintered military, and disorganized finances. It provided for the establishment of a joint executive committee for the three movements, with an annually rotating presidency that Bemba assumed for the first year. The agreement provided for the unification of the armies of the three movements, but guaranteed that each of the MLC, RCD-ML, and RCD-National parties would preserve its autonomy for the purposes of the inter-Congolese dialogue mandated by the Lusaka accord. The MLC is said to be readying to launch itself as a national political party in the post-war era." (HRW March 2001, sect.III)

### **Fighting between opposing factions of the FLC**

"Mbusa Nyamwisi, an influential figure in the Congolese rebel movement in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, has had leadership wrangles with the heads of both the Rassemblement congolais pour la democratie-Mouvement de liberation (RCD-ML) and of the Front pour la libération du Congo (FLC), and yet remains a key ally of Uganda, which backs both rebel groups. On 4 June, a section of former RCD-ML/Kisangani forces, who were guarding his residence in Beni, fought running battles with FLC forces - though the RCD-ML is supposedly a constituent element of the FLC since the January 2001 merger of the RCD-ML/Kisangani and Jean-Pierre Bemba's Mouvement de liberation du Congo (MLC). [...]

In essence, Nyamwisi no longer recognises the existence of the FLC, according to Ugandan sources. At the same time, Wamba dia Wamba (now based in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania) still claims he is president of the RCD-ML/Kisangani, and is unwilling to work with either Bemba or Nyamwisi unless certain of his demands are met in the RCD-ML/MLC merger. This has left Uganda with a dilemma in regard to its relations with the rebel forces it backs in the Congo." (IRIN-CEA 3 August 2001)

"The factional fighting broke out on 4 June between forces loyal to rival rebel leaders Mbusa Nyamwisi and Jean-Pierre Bemba. Bemba was installed there under a merger deal between the Rassemblement congolais pour la democratie-Mouvement de liberation (RCD-ML) and his Mouvement pour la liberation du Congo (MLC) to form the Front de liberation du Congo (FLC). But this deal is failing and may cause more factional fighting as rebel leaders compete for territorial control and autonomy." (IRIN-CEA 11 September 2001)

In June 2001, "Residents of the eastern Congolese town of Beni are caught in the crossfire of week-long violent clashes between two competing rebel factions, with many civilians killed and injured [...]. (HRW 12 June 2001)

## **Continued fighting despite the Lusaka cease-fire agreement (1999-2001)**

- President Kabila, Rwanda, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Angola and Namibia signing cease-fire agreement on 10 July 1999 in Lusaka
- Major rebel forces signing agreement on 31 August 1999
- Reported in September 2000 that the parties continued to conduct significant military operations and undertake intensive military preparations
- Continued stalemate means absence of solutions to the problem of massive displacement
- Behind rebel lines in the Kivu Provinces there is a mosaic of different sub-conflicts - many not covered by the Lusaka agreement

"The seven month long peace talks under auspices of Zambia between the parties to the DRC conflict concluded a first significant step- signature of a cease-fire agreement by the Heads of DRC, Rwanda, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Angola and Namibia on 10 July [1999] in Lusaka. Unable to overcome persisting internal divergences, the two factions of the RCD and the MLC abstained from signing the Lusaka agreement" UN OCHA 15 July 1999, "Context")

"Following intense diplomatic activity, especially by President Chiluba of Zambia and his Government and the Government of South Africa and others, representatives of the remaining rebel movement, RCD, signed the Ceasefire Agreement in Lusaka on 31 August [1999]. " (UN SC 1 November 1999)

"The signing of a cease-fire agreement in the summer of 1999, constituted a real prospect for bringing an end to the violent conflict in Congo DR. The agreement included the establishment of a joint military commission made up of African countries to monitor the implementation of the agreement and disarmament of the Interahamwe militia, another major goal included in the accord. The agreement also included the deployment of a UN peacekeeping force in the DRC and opening a national debate among all domestic factions and civil society on the future of the DRC [the "Inter-Congolese dialogue]." (EPCPT October 2000, "prospects")

### ***By November 2000 the implementation of the Lusaka agreement remained uncertain:***

"As a witness signatory to the Lusaka Agreement (Accord), the United Nations have been mandated by the parties to help implement the cease-fire provision of the agreement. The presence of MONUC [the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo] in the DRC has contributed to diplomatic exchanges between the warring parties, preservation of the status quo, reaffirmation of the territorial integrity of the DRC, and partial implementation of the Lusaka Accord, despite continued fighting and obstacles placed in the deployment of peacekeeping troops.

Although regularly violates, the Lusaka Agreement coincided with the end of the prospect of full scale war.

Varying in its intensity [by November 2000], the military activity along the conventional frontline, could be best characterised as a sporadic stalemate. At times, skirmishes along the demarcation lines burst into major military confrontations spreading into new villages and urban areas. Paradoxically, the real threat in most instances is not emanating from the fighting but rather from the protracted status quo in areas on both sides of the frontline that are no longer considered combat zones. In absolute terms, the continued stalemate means absence of solutions to the problem of massive displacement, chronic under-nourishment, and isolation of millions of people from their traditional means of subsistence and, as a result, a high mortality rate." (UN November 2000, p. 5)

## **Assassination of President Kabila on 16 January 2001 moved the peace process in a new direction (2001)**

- In May 2001, UN report on exploitation resources accused foreign armed forces and Congolese fighters of using DRC's natural resources to fuel the conflict
- In Aug 2001, first round of Congolese peace talks in Botswana between representatives of the government of DRC, Congolese armed rebel movements, civilian political parties and organized civil society
- In Sept 2001, DRC official announced that Mai Mai militias would be included in the peace process; Mai Mai militia forces said that they held most of eastern DRC outside big towns in the hands of rebels backed by Rwanda and Uganda
- In Sept 2001, 3000 Hutu Rwandan rebels were handed over by Kinshasa to UN peacekeepers and 6,000 more should follow
- Increased rebel and presence and activity in Eastern DRC following cease-fire

"Eighteen months of deadlock in efforts to end the war in the Congo came to a sudden end with the assassination of President Laurent Désiré Kabila on 16 January 2001. [...] His replacement by his 29-year old son Joseph consequently gave new hope to the peace process.

The international community seized the opportunity afforded by the late president's murder and re-engaged in the DRC. Leaders in the U.S., Europe, and the United Nations immediately recognised the new president in order to give him the confidence to break from the policies of his father and implement the terms of the Lusaka cease-fire. In return, Joseph Kabila agreed to join an Inter-Congolese Dialogue facilitated by the former President of Botswana, Sir Ketumile Masire, and welcomed a quick deployment of MONUC, the UN military observer mission for the Congo. The UN Security Council responded to these gestures with the passage of Resolution 1341 on 22 February 2001.

[...]

The achievements of the 15 February 2001 regional summit on DRC in Lusaka and the 21/22 February Security Council meeting have revived hopes for a rebirth of the long-stalled peace process. The summit parties committed themselves to implement the Kampala and Harare plans for disengagement of forces, signed in April and December 2000. <sup>2</sup> In addition, Joseph Kabila accepted the former president of Botswana, Sir Ketumile Masire as the facilitator for the Inter-Congolese dialogue. [...]

Then on 22 February 2001 the United Nation's Security Council returned its attention to the Congo by passing Resolution 1341, which again demanded the withdrawal of foreign forces and urged the parties to the Lusaka Cease-fire Agreement to adopt a 'precise plan and schedule' by 15 May 2001. The Council demanded that the parties abide in the interim by their promises and start carrying out the Kampala and Harare disengagement plans on 15 March 2001. It also adopted a new Concept of Operations for MONUC, and confirmed its commitment to disarming the 'negative forces'." (ICG 16 March 2001, sect. I & II)

"A May 2001 UN report on the exploitation of natural resources in the DRC accuses foreign armed forces, as well as Congolese fighters, of using the minerals (such as coltan, gold and diamond) and forest resources of the DRC as a means of fueling the conflict." (USAID 20 August 2001)

*To see the Report of the Panel of Experts on the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources and Other Forms of Wealth of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/2001/357), [[External Link](#)]*

*In May 2001, "Kabila reversed the political party ban imposed by his late father Laurent-Désiré Kabila. [...] He also announced an amnesty for prisoners apart from those accused of "blood crimes" or treason." (IRIN-CEA 18 May 2001)*

### ***Congolese peace talks in Gaborone, Botswana (August 2001)***

"The first round of Congolese peace talks took place in Botswana [...] Long-awaited talks have been under way in Gaborone, Botswana, all week between representatives of the government of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Congolese armed rebel movements, civilian political parties and organized civil society.

The talks have been facilitated by former president Sir Ketumile Masire and are intended to prepare the way for more substantive future discussions between the parties on how to restore democracy in Congo.

They are a vital component of Congo's 1999 Lusaka peace agreement and a significant achievement for Masire, who has worked doggedly to arrange them since his appointment as facilitator in 1999 [...] (Mail and Guardian 24 August 2001)

"Almost all groups at the Gaborone talks, with the notable exception of the RCD rebels, have signed a declaration demanding that the foreign troops leave the country immediately, even though the issue had not been on the agenda." (AFP 24 August 2001)

For the website of the office of the facilitator (former Botswanan President Ketumile Masire), please see [\[External link\]](#)

#### ***Issue of disarming and demobilization of the militia***

"The Lusaka peace process is back on track but it has left Kivu provinces at the mercy of all the key players in the region. It is generally agreed that peace in DRC poses a considerable threat to both Burundi and Rwanda as Hutu rebels, threatened with the loss of their Congolese safe haven, look for a place to run. The Arusha and Lusaka processes have put pressure on the Burundian rebels, pushing them back into Burundi and causing increased insecurity in the country. Meanwhile the withdrawal of troops and the threat of disarmament has put pressure on the Interhamwe, a force that Rwanda will do anything to keep out of its borders.

On of the most problematic elements of the Lusaka Accord is the disarming and demobilization of the militia including the Interahamwe. The UN has committed to observing this process but it is the warring countries themselves who will carry the disarmament out." (SCF 10 July 2001)

"Under the [Lusaka] accord, Kinshasa should disarm and demobilize Hutu extremists, who are held responsible for the massacre in 1994 of up to 800,000 Tutsi and politically moderate Hutus before the Tutsi-led Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) led by Paul Kagame seized power in Kigali." (AFP 16 September 2001)

In September 2001, "[...] DRC Security Minister Mwenze Kongolo said 3,000 Rwandan Hutu fighters had been disarmed and turned in to MONUC [...]" (AFP 16 September 2001)

"The Democratic Republic of the Congo (RDC) is ready to hand over 6,000 EX-FAR and Interahamwe militia who have for the last six years been fighting Rwandan government forces, the Rwandan News Agency (RNA) reported [...]" (Xinhua 18 September 2001)

In September 2001, "Mai-Mai ethnic militias allied to government troops in the war in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) are to be included in the peace process currently under way in the vast central African country, an official [DRC Foreign Minister Leonard She Okitundu] said [...]" (AFP 18 September 2001)

"Mai-Mai militia forces allied to the Kinshasa government said [...] they held most of the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, outside big towns in the hands of rebels backed by Rwanda and Uganda." (AFP 20 September 2001)

*In September 2001, "[...] military activity has continued in eastern DRC. RCD-Goma has reported the capture of Fizi by Rwandan and Burundian rebels, allegedly assisted by FAC [Congolese Army], following the withdrawal of the Burundian army. The reported capture of Fizi substantiate reports of increased rebel presence and activity in southern Kivu. There is speculation of the current role of the Mai Mai, who are strong in this area."* (UN OCHA 26 September 2001)

"The president of the Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie (RCD-Goma), Adolphe Onusumba, said the 7 September capture of Fizi occurred as Burundian government forces were pulling out of eastern DRC to fight rebels outside their country's capital, Bujumbura. "The capture of Fizi is significant because Burundian and Rwandan rebels now have an opening to mount incursions into their countries across the lake," he told the Associated Press. He said the capture was "particularly significant" because the government in Kinshasa had supplied these groups with speed boats that can insert fighters into Burundi. "Officers of the [DRC] government forces are the ones masterminding logistics and other key operations of the Rwandan and Burundian rebels in the east," he added. The RCD-Goma vowed on Tuesday to recapture Fizi." (IRIN-CEA 26 September 2001)

## **Main causes for displacement**

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### **Major displacements during 1997 civil war and during armed rebellion in the East against Kabila (1997-2001)**

- During the 1997 civil war which led to the ousting of Mobutu, many fled to escape generalized warfare and the violence of retreating soldiers of various armed groups
- Beginning of second wave of major displacement during armed rebellion against Kabila (August 1998)
- Reports in early 1999 of major internal displacement in North Kivu, South Kivu, and Katanga as civilians were directly targeted by a growing number of armed groups in the east
- Exposure to tribal clashes causing considerable numbers of displacement (August 1999)
- Major displacement continued in eastern DRC as violent conflict escalated during 2000
- Reported in February 2001 that nine armed internal, international and internationalized internal conflicts were ongoing in DRC

#### ***First wave of internal displacement caused by the October 1996 -May 1997 war against Mobutu***

"USCR site visits to eastern Congo/Zaire during 1997 concluded that up to half the population in some areas of the east were at least temporarily displaced during the war [that started in October 1996 against Mobutu]. Many were able to return home after several weeks, but thousands of families endured long-term displacement caused by lingering insecurity in their home areas. USCR estimated that up to 150,000 people remained internally displaced at mid-year, but a majority were "invisible to outsiders" because they are dispersed," USCR's report noted.

[...]

In interviews with USCR and other agencies, displaced persons indicated [in 1997] that they fled during the civil war for various reasons: to escape generalized warfare, fear of Mobutu's retreating soldiers or the ADFL [Kabila's Alliance des forces démocratiques pour la libération du Congo-Zaire], fear of armed Rwandan exiles, and fear of Rwandan government soldiers. Some displaced persons said they were compelled to flee their homes by extremist Rwandan leaders who took them as virtual hostages." (USCR 1998, p.61)

***During the rebellion led by RCD [Rassemblement Congolais pour la Démocratie] against Kabila, which started in August 1998, a dynamic of displacement similar to the 1996-97 civil war continued:***

"While the current level of human rights abuses against civilians in eastern Congo is already [by February 1999] cause for serious concern, the situation risks further deterioration and even more egregious abuses. The growing number of armed groups in the east—both militia and national armies, often with tensions among alleged allies—constitute a real threat to the civilian population. A primary concern is the large number of abuses committed against civilians in areas of combat between Interahamwe and Mai-Mai militia and their adversaries from the RCD [Rassemblement Congolais pour la Démocratie] and its allies [...]. The militia groups use guerrilla warfare tactics against the RCD forces, which is often followed by heavy-handed reprisals against civilians by the RCD military. This has led to the displacement of tens of thousands of civilians in North Kivu, South Kivu, and Katanga. Militia in North Kivu attack civilian vehicles, strangling local economies and making travel dangerous outside of urban centers. All sides act in an atmosphere of effective impunity with little or no regard for the protection of civilians, which fuels the cycles of attacks and counter-attacks." (HRW February 1999, chapt. IV)

"The tactics of guerrilla attacks and retreats displayed by so-called Mayi-Mayi groups, longing for warlord-type of supremacy and considering themselves not bound by traditional rules, have ruthless effects on the local population currently fleeing the now virtually indiscriminate violence of both the Rwandan troops and these warlords. As a result, areas between Uvira and Fizi or close to mining concessions (Kamituga) are highly exposed to sporadic insecurity and massive displacements."(UN OCHA 15 July 1999, "Access to War-Affected Populations")

#### ***Major displacement continued in eastern DRC as violent conflict escalated during 2000***

"In the complex conflict in eastern Congo, all the many combatant forces have attacked civilians, killing, injuring and raping thousands of persons and causing more than half a million others to flee their homes. During investigations carried out in March 2000 in areas controlled by the Goma-based Congolese Rally for Democracy (Rassemblement Congolais pour la Démocratie, RCD) and its allies, Human Rights Watch researchers documented cases of murder, rape, and pillage carried out by all of the armed groups now fighting in the region.

[...]

The repeated attacks on the civilian population of eastern Congo have caused more than half a million persons to flee their homes and created a growing humanitarian crisis in the region. According to the director of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in Eastern Congo, Charles Petrie, the crisis has grown substantially in recent months with about half the more than 500,000 persons displaced having taken flight since the first of the year. After Hutu combatants increased attacks on Kalonge in January, for example, some 10,000 took flight in the first week of February." (HRW May 2000, chapt. I, III)

#### ***In 2001, further displacement of populations***

"In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, nine armed internal, international and internationalized internal conflicts are going on with the participation of 6 national armies and 21 irregular groups. The most serious conflict is the one which pits Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi, together with the Congolese Rally for Democracy (RCD), against the Kinshasa Government. RCD has split many times and the pro-Uganda and pro-Rwanda factions have fought on Congolese soil, causing death and destruction in a foreign country. In another conflict, the Movement for the Liberation of the Congo (MLC) is fighting the Government of President Kabila. Another conflict, started by Ugandan soldiers, opposes the Hema and Lendu ethnic groups. The victims of all these conflicts are always Congolese." (UN CHR 1 February 2001, "Summary")

"Conflict in the eastern part of DRC has been concentrated consistently around the larger towns within the two Kivu and Maniema provinces, in particular Uvira, Bukavu, Goma, Kisangani, Kindu, Punia, Kampene, and Kalima. The populations in these areas of DRC have been the most affected by both of these wars." (MERLIN 20 August 2001)

"While the general security situation has remained stable in Goma (North Kivu province), movements of the Interahamwe forces continued in Bwito (Rutshuru territory) resulting in new displacements of

populations and restricted access for humanitarian agencies. Confrontation between armed groups in South Kivu province forcing populations to flee their homes and sporadic attacks in Northern Katanga have reportedly hampered humanitarian activities." (WFP 27 July 2001)

### **Fighting between various armed groups causes desperate displacement situation in the Kivus ( 2000-2001)**

- Villagers seek refuge in the forests at night
- Situation particularly bad in areas close to Goma
- Reports in early 2000 of Rwandan troops moving civilians within North Kivu in order to create a security zone to control infiltration into Rwanda
- Evacuation of civilians undertaken without civilian authorities' consent or involvement
- Causes of displacement are reported to be fighting and poverty/lack of basic necessities
- In July 2001, movements of Interahamwe forces in North Kivu and fighting in South Kivu caused further internal displacement

"The North and South Kivu provinces are the epicenter of this disaster. Base of the biggest rebel faction (RCD Goma), disputed home of the Banyamulenge and other Tutsi in Congo, the provinces are the point of convergence of armed groups (Maï Maï, Interahamwe, Burundian rebels, Banyamulenge militias, RCD soldiers, Rwandan, Ugandan and Burundian soldiers). In South-Kivu, the Maï Maï, Interahamwe and FDD [Burundian rebel group] form a variety of alliances de facto supporting Kabila, fighting the Tutsi ethnic group, furthering their own cause against the regional regimes or committing acts of banditism. The lives of the Banyamulenge are being threatened or they risk to be expelled from the Congolese community. The RCD rebels have not been able to gain the acceptance of the population. The sheer number of actors and complex motivations, the barbarism and multitude of human rights violations and the constant exaction on the civilians by all sides have made this area a true mosaic of misery. (AAH August 2000, sects. 1, 3.3)

"While the situation in the eastern Congolese town of Goma appears calm and relatively stable, the story in the surrounding forests and remote villages is completely different with people literally running for their lives.

According to humanitarian workers who recently visited these areas and spoke to local residents, the Rwandan Interahamwe militia is carrying out a "massive campaign of intimidation". Villagers said they were so afraid that they went to sleep in the forests at night when most of the attacks usually take place. [...] Villagers, victims of both sides in the DRC conflict, also spoke of reprisal attacks carried out by soldiers of the governing Rassemblement congolais pour la democratie (RCD-Goma)." (IRIN 16 November 2000)

"Displacement is a new phenomenon in northernmost areas of North Kivu, a region that remained relatively stable since the beginning of the war and local observers attribute it to Mayi-Mayi/Interahamwe clashes.

There have been concerted efforts by Rwandan troops to move large groups of civilians out of Rutshuru territory deep into the interior of North Kivu. Available reports indicate that the entire commune of Bwito (300,000 persons) has been already "evacuated" in order that a security zone be created to control infiltrations into Rwanda. Arbitrary displacements in North Kivu/Rwanda bordering areas have been known since 1997, however the ongoing one is being implemented by Rwandan military without civilian authorities' consent or involvement." (OCHA 15 February 2000)

"Bernadette Mwongo, president of the Women's Forum for Development in North Kivu told IRIN there were two main reasons people were being uprooted. "One is the fighting and violence between various

militia groups and the Rwandan-backed rebels," she said. "The other reason is poverty and the lack of basic necessities of life in the villages. In the trading centres here like Sake, they can barely survive." (IRIN 27 July 2000)

"All sides continue to accuse one another of violating the Lusaka cease-fire agreement signed in July-August 1999, and the situation in the eastern provinces remains precarious [...]. The U.N. World Food Program (WFP) reported at the end of July that movements of Interhamwe forces in North Kivu (Rushuru territory) and fighting in South Kivu province have prompted internal displacement and restricted humanitarian access." (USAID 20 August 2001)

"The Kivus remain extremely insecure and areas of intense humanitarian need. Their position on the border with Burundi and Rwanda make them important bases for rebel groups from the two countries. One of the chief concerns is that the rebel groups have never entered into any peace negotiations or signed any cease-fire." (ACC/SCN 31 July 2001, p.30)

### **In the Kivus RCD-Goma troops and Hutu armed groups cause massive displacement to exploit resources more easily (2001)**

- Extraction of mineral wealth made easier when local population has been killed or has fled

"Amnesty International is [...] concerned at reports of human rights abuses such as killings, torture, use of forced labour, including by children and prisoners, and displacement of population that have taken place in the context of the exploitation of the resources. For example, Amnesty International has received reports of unarmed civilians being killed during fighting between the RCD-Goma troops and Hutu armed groups over mining areas; of villages being burned down; or people attacked and forced to flee the area. An independent observer told Amnesty International delegates that 'when a new RCD-Goma or RPA commander is nominated in the mining area of Walikale, Masisi, or Shabunda, the insecurity in the region decreases. However, once a commander is in a region for a while, he understands that insecurity has an advantage. His troops start shooting, killing and provoking massive displacement of the population, in order to make access to the extraction of the mineral wealth easier because the population is dead or has fled.'" (AI 19 June 2001)

### **In Maniema people flee violent clashes between Mayi Mayi and RCD forces (September 2001)**

- Violent clashes between Mayi Mayi and RCD forces and their allied forced the 13,000 inhabitants of Lokandu to flee towards Kindu in August 2001
- Mayi Mayi – RCD clashes in Punia also, which exposes the pygmy population to atrocities
- Other inter-ethnic clashes in the south-east of the province erupted over the exploitation of natural resources (fish, game and minerals), causing many displacements

"De violents affrontements entre Maï- Maï et les forces du RCD et leurs alliés ont eu lieu depuis le 25 août à Lokandu, 50 Km au nord de Kindu, obligeant les quelques 13.000 habitants de la ville à fuir en direction de Kindu ou vers l'ouest. Jusqu'au 31 août, la situation demeurait confuse sur l'issue des combats.

- Insécurité persistante à Punia où des affrontements entre maï- maï et les forces du RCD ont été signalés à 12 km de la cité de Punia, près de l'aérodrome de Kalombenyama. Selon les autorités locales, les maï- maï viendraient de la grande forêt de Kitamona qui se prolonge jusqu'à Ikela. Il y a crainte d'une jonction avec les forces basées dans cette localité. Ces opérations qui se déroulent en pleine forêt exposent les pygmées à des atrocités.

- D'autres affrontements inter-ethniques sont signalés dans le sud-est de la province entre les Babembe appuyés par les maï- maï et les Babuyu appuyés par les forces du RCD et leurs alliés. Le conflit aurait fait plus de 26.000 déplacés dans la région de Kabambare. [...]

Les enjeux de ce conflit sont multiples mais les plus cités sont entre autres l'exploitation des ressources naturelles (poissons, gibier et minerais) par les deux communautés et leurs alliés qui se battent dans cette partie de la province. " (UN OCHA 12 September 2001)

### **Escalated conflict between Congolese Tutsis (Banyamulenge) and Mayi Mayi militias behind increased displacements in South Kivu (2000)**

- Large increase in displacement during first half of 2000
- Concerns that 150,000 Banyamulenge risk violent attack by Mayi Mayi militias (March 2000)

"Hate speech and communal violence have increased alarmingly in the provinces of North and South Kivu, located in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The violence is directed at Congolese Tutsis (known as the Banyamulenge). An estimated 150,000 Banyamulenge are now at imminent risk of violent attack by Mayi Mayi militias. Despite having made Congo their home for two hundred years, Congolese authorities have questioned the Banyamulenge's right to citizenship. The Banyamulenge citizenship question was a key issue in the 1996 war which brought Laurent Kabila to power. Now, Kabila's promotion of ethnic tension threatens to bring down the Lusaka Accords and to plunge Congo back into full-scale war. [...]

Feelings are running at fever pitch since rebel authorities, the Rassemblement Congolaise pour la Democratie (RCD), refused to permit the Archbishop of Bukavu, Monsignor Kataliko, to return to his diocese. Public reaction to the RCD action has been immediate. Strikes and public demonstrations shut down Bukavu for several days. Public sentiment against the Banyamulenge has turned ugly. Recently, a dog was killed and dragged through Bukavu behind a car with crowds shouting, "This is how you treat Tutsis!" There are rumors that the local Mayi Mayi militias, who enjoy broad public support, are reportedly planning pogroms against the Banyamulenge. The Banyamulenge have reportedly armed themselves, determined not to suffer the same fate as Rwandan Tutsis in 1994[...]." (RI 30 March 2000)

"Several observers have been warning that the Banyamulenge population may be the future victim of a continuation of the 1994 genocide. In recent incidents, Banyamulenge have been targeted during ambushes and shot dead because they were Tutsi. Aside from the fact that no humanitarian aid has been going to the Hauts Plateaux which are accessible only by plane or by foot and where the security is of concern, the absence of any international and independent witness is quite worrisome in this context." (AAH August 2000, sects. 1, 3.3)

### **Violent conflict between the Hema and Lendu people in the Orientale province has caused major displacements since June 1999 (1999-2001)**

- Conflict between the Hema and Lendu has previously occurred in 1972, 1985 and 1996
- Escalated conflict since mid-December 1999
- Reports of major destruction of villages and attacks on civilians having caused an estimated 150,000 displaced by end of January 2000
- Several interethnic clashes occurred in the region of Bunia during mid-August 2000
- Lendu launched a major attack on Hema villages in the region of Bunia in mid-December 2000
- Reprisal attacks on Lendu residents by Hema militiamen and soldiers of the APC (RCD-ML)

- FLC (new rebel coalition since Jan 01) managed to broker a peace agreement between representatives of the Hema and the Lendu peoples in mid-February 2001
- Renewed fighting and killing of 6 ICRC workers

" The clashes between the pastoralist Hema and agriculturalist Lendu ethnic groups in the Djugu area of Ituri began in mid-June [1999], essentially over long-standing local land disputes. But the presence of various Congolese and foreign armed groups, the easy availability of weapons, the war-ravaged economy, and a rise in "ethnic ideology" in the area have provided dangerous fodder for the conflict's rapid extension and ferocity, analysts told IRIN.

[...]

Conflict between the Hema and Lendu has occurred several times in recent decades, including in 1972, 1985 and 1996. A local NGO involved in human rights and reconciliation issues told IRIN that the country's 1973 land law was an important source of the problem because, under the law, people can purchase already-inhabited property and then present title to the land two years later when it becomes incontestable in court. This practice has resulted in families being driven off their fields and out of their homes, the NGO said.

The latest violence started after members of the Hema group reportedly tried to extend their land holdings onto Lendu property, allegedly with land title documents falsified in collaboration with local authorities, sources told IRIN.

Djugu, with an estimated population of one million, is part of the "province" of Kibali-Ituri, created earlier this year by the Ugandan-backed Rassemblement congolais pour la democratie-Mouvement de liberation (RCD-ML), led by Ernest Wamba dia Wamba. Reports indicate that Ugandan soldiers had fought in the conflict on the side of the Hema, in exchange for cash payments.

[...]

Wamba said the conflict was linked to long-term disparities in wealth and access to education, which had favoured the Hema. "Those inequalities, which are a colonial legacy, are now being exploited," he told IRIN." (IRIN 15 November 1999)

"[In December 1999 it was reported that] Ethnic clashes between the Lendu and Hema people in Ituri district of eastern DRC have broken out again in the past fortnight, displacing tens of thousands of civilians and greatly increasing humanitarian needs in an already difficult situation, the regional head of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Philip Spoerri told IRIN on Tuesday.

[...]

The current clashes were at their most intense around Djugu, and had sent 20,000 to 30,000 displaced people towards nearby towns, particularly Bunia, for shelter, he said. In light of the renewed clashes, the ICRC hoped to reach 85,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) in 10-15 sites in and around Bunia and Djugu by the end of January, Spoerri told IRIN." (IRIN 21 December 1999)

"The conflict in the district has cost the lives of thousands and caused over 150,000 people to be displaced within the region. Many villages have been razed to the ground; the fields that were used for crop cultivation are totally deserted. The conflict has led to the collapse of the already fragile healthcare system. In the past six months, the area has been ravaged by various epidemics including measles, the plague, and cholera." (MSF 2 February 2000)

"Lendu and associated militia of Ngiti people together with less organized bands of villagers, most of them armed with traditional weapons, launched a major attack on Hema villages in the region of Bunia in mid-December [2000]. According to some survivors, some Lendu also had automatic rifles. The fighters brought the violence into Bunia on January 19 when they attacked UPDF headquarters at the airport. They apparently wanted to disable a helicopter gunship that the UPDF had used against them in earlier attacks. They also wanted to occupy the airport to prevent the triumphal return of local Hema leaders, who were increasingly appearing as the winners in the negotiations going on in Kampala.

Some eighty attackers were slain by UPDF fire, including gunfire from the armed helicopter. Retreating Lendu militia ruthlessly massacred some sixty Hema residents in outlying residential areas and the villages of Soleniema and Mwanga north of Bunia. In the hours after the attack was repulsed, Bunia residents reported seeing UPDF officers encouraging Hema youth in several quarters of the town to arm themselves and to identify and kill Lendu infiltrators. This call apparently set the stage for reprisal attacks on Lendu residents by Hema militiamen and soldiers of the APC loyal to Mbusa. According to some witnesses, at least 150 to 250 Lendu were slaughtered, many of them Lendu intellectuals and community leaders.  
[...]

Some 20,000 people fled in all directions inside Ituri as an estimated 10,000 others, mostly Hema, sought refuge in Uganda in the first week of January. This latest fighting made Ituri the scene of one of the bloodiest conflicts fought in the shadow of the Congo's broader war. The resulting displacement and movement of refugees to Uganda is one of the largest humanitarian emergencies in Congo today.

### **Mediation Efforts and Reconciliation**

By mid-February, the Front for the Liberation of Congo appeared to be reestablishing control in the area. Violence diminished and hopes for peace increased. Following a three-day conference attended by some 160 traditional chiefs and notables of Ituri province, the FLC managed to broker a peace agreement between representatives of the Hema and the Lendu peoples. Signed on February 17, the agreement called among other things for an immediate cessation of hostilities and the disarmament of all militia groups. Olivier Kamitatu, national secretary of the FLC, told Human Rights Watch that the new front, "as public authority," undertook to implement these and other provisions of the agreement, including to dismantle training centers for militia, control movements of soldiers, secure border crossings, and guarantee the free movement of goods and people along roads." (HRW March 2001, sect. IV)

"The killings of the six ICRC personnel in the vicinity of Bunia in April comes against a backdrop of ethnic massacres between the Lendu and Hema [...]. Following these killings, fresh fighting broke out between the Hema-Bagerere and the Lendu, around the Fataki and Djugu areas." (UN SC 8 June 2001, para.66)

"Inter-community fighting, between Bira and Ngety tribes, has been reported in Ituri, with 44 dead and 48 wounded in the Nyakunde area (near Bunia). The situation has been calmed by the Ituri governor through negotiation with the communities." (UN OCHA 26 September 2001)

*It is recommended to read the comprehensive report issued by Human Rights Watch in March 2001 for further details about the linkages between rebel forces, the Uganda army and the Lendu-Hema conflict as well as information about the Front for the Liberation of Congo (created in January 2001). Regarding the February 2001 peace treaty, see also AFP 18 February 2001.*

*For other background information about this conflict and the dynamics of the violence and displacements it created in early 2000, see IRIN 3 March 2000 "Special Report on the Ituri clashes" [Part One](#) and [Part Two](#).*

### **Fighting between Ugandan and Rwandan troops in Kisangani caused substantial displacement (June 2000)**

- Violent clashes emerged in August 1999
- Clashes in June 2000 lasted for six days, killing and wounding numbers of civilians in the indiscriminate bombing by both sides
- Some 65,000 residents sought refuge in the nearby forests
- Reported in February 2001 that Rwanda and Uganda had withdrawn their forces at a distance of some 100 kilometres from Kisangani

"The city of Kisangani, located in the north-east of the country and at the geographical centre of the African continent, has been the scene of five conflicts in the last four years. The third largest city of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and a commercial centre on the Congo River, Kisangani has effectively been cut off from the rest of the country.

[...]

Kisangani has been the theatre of several clashes between rebel and government troops and between erstwhile allies according to some observers. The most recent of these occurred from 5 to 11 June 2000, when the city was the scene of fighting between Ugandan and Rwandan troops which included widespread indiscriminate shelling by both sides.

[...]

Persisting tension between Ugandan and Rwandan troops degenerated into open and violent clashes for the first time in August 1999, the fighting spreading from garrisons and military camps into residential areas of the city. Another round of clashes was prevented from becoming outright war in mid-May 2000 when members of the Security Council's mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and MONUC brokered a ceasefire agreement, including a disengagement plan. However, despite acceptance of the agreement by both the Rwandan Patriotic Army and the Uganda People's Defence Forces and the deployment of additional United Nations military observers, the situation remained highly volatile throughout May, and continued to disrupt economic trade and traditional food supply lines. By the end of the month the humanitarian community negotiated a resumption of air traffic with the belligerents to allow supplies to be flown in, as the city is not accessible by inland transport, thus preventing further deterioration of the population's health and nutritional status.

Hostilities once again broke out on 5 June and lasted for six days, killing and wounding numbers of civilians in the indiscriminate bombing by both sides. Losses among the civilian population were high and damage to the city's infrastructure and housing was widespread. Over 760 civilians were killed and an estimated 1,700 wounded. Over 4,000 dwellings were damaged, destroyed or made uninhabitable [...]. Sixty-nine schools were partially destroyed or damaged [...], and other public buildings were badly affected. Power stations and the water-supply systems were severely disrupted. The fighting forced some 65,000 residents to flee Kisangani and seek refuge in the nearby forests. Around 3,000 internally displaced people were housed in a camp at Katele." (UN SC 4 December 2000, paras. 46, 54, 56, 57)

"Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1304 (2000), Rwanda and Uganda have continued to keep their forces at a distance of some 100 kilometres from Kisangani. However, RCD military elements have remained in the city, with its leaders maintaining that security concerns do not allow them to withdraw their forces before the arrival of United Nations troops. The area around Kisangani has been de facto divided into quadrants: RCD occupies the south and west; MLC and UPDF the north-west and the north; and UPDF solely the east. This dispersal is generally respected, except for isolated skirmishes usually between RCD and MLC/RCD-N in the diamond mining area to the north of the city." (UN SC 12 February 2001, para. 29)

*See also "Swift response to major new displacements from Kisangani (June 2000)" [Internal link]*

### **People flee fighting at the frontline in the Equateur Province (2000)**

- Fighting in May 2000 between MLC and DRC/Zimbabwean troops on the Mobenzene axis
- Civilians fleeing indiscriminate bombings and pillaging by soldiers towards Congo-Brazzaville

"[By July 2000] Equateur remained the most active part of the frontline. In early May, combats pitted MLC and DRC/Zimbabwean troops on the Mobenzene axis and within a few days, MLC progressed more than 100 km in the direction of Mbandaka and captured Mobenzene, Maita, Buburu and WENZE settlements. Civilians have reportedly fled the areas of intensive combats and a few of them have arrived to Mbandaka, bringing the total number of IDPs to 14,000. Local sources in Kinshasa reported that at the end of May, the

Government troops repulsed MLC positions in the course of fierce fighting at Buburu and Moboza, 250 km north of Mbandaka. End June-early July was the hottest period since January 1999, as an ultimatum sent by Kinshasa to MLC troops has been followed by fighting in the Basankusu area and increasing pressure on Mbandaka, from the other side of the river." (OCHA 11 July 2000)

"In this region, the conflict intensifies in Libenge, Basankusu, and Bolomba between government forces (FAC) and the troops of the MLC rebel movement, supported by the Ugandan army (UPDF). The civilian population, subject to indiscriminate bombings and pillaging by soldiers, flee toward the CAR or Congo-Brazzaville. According to some sources, the distances walked by this population has been up to 300 km. Such movements of population, notably toward lands that are as inhospitable as the marshes of Congo-Brazzaville, make plausible the testimonies of humanitarian sources, according to which there have soldiers have pillaged and harmed civilians in villages situated along the stream as well as in Dongo." (OCHA September 2000, p.9)

"In mid-December, MLC began a military offensive across a broad front in northern Equateur, capturing Imese and Befale. Government and allied forces reinforced their positions around Mbandaka. In mid-January, MLC forces attacking Bolomba were repulsed after heavy fighting. Since 18 January, the military situation has become static, with no reports of significant fighting." (UN SC 12 February 2001, para.24)

### **People flee fighting at the frontline in the Katanga Province (1998-2001)**

- Majority of IDPs fled during the August-November 1998 fighting in northern Katanga
- Reported in 1999 that the IDPs are reluctant to return in fear of being considered rebel collaborators if Government regain control of return areas
- Major fighting around Pweto in December 2000 forcing civilians to flee towards Zambia
- In Sept 2001, further attacks in N. Katanga have led to additional displacement

"Along with the first-wave displaced of the Kivus, the IDP caseload in Katanga is the oldest as it was mainly generated during the August-November 1998 fighting in northern Katanga. All major IDP categories (according to their mode of settlement) known in the DRC are represented in this province: there are IDP camps in Lubumbashi, IDP resettlement sites south of the provincial capital, IDPs hosted in local communities and finally those dispersed in an area as large as 50,000 km<sup>2</sup>. In total, there are some 250,000 displaced persons scattered in Katanga on both sides of the frontline." (OCHA 11 July 2000)

"An OCHA led inter-agency mission in Northern Katanga (4-8 October [1999]) completed the initial assessment of displacement in this province, which was started in August 99. The mission visited Kalemie, Moba as well as a number of villages 12 Km. south of Moba. According to findings of the mission, only a part of Kalemie (80 percent) and Moba (30 percent) residents have returned after having fled their communities in November-December 98. Assessment mission witnessed a large-scale devastation of areas affected by combats. The situation of returnees and those who are still living in the bush (over 120,000 persons) was described as pre-catastrophic with wide-spread starvation. In spite of serious hardships, the displaced are reluctant to return partially as a result of radio messages emanating from Lubumashi warning the population that in case of their return to rebel-occupied towns they will be considered collaborators when DRC Government regains the control of Northern Katanga." (UN OCHA 15 November 1999, "Humanitarian Action")

"In late November [2000], following attacks by government forces (FAC) in Katanga, RCD and the Rwandan People's Army (RPA) launched a counter-attack which culminated in their capture of Pweto on 6 December. Thousands of combatants and refugees fled into Zambia to escape the fighting.

[...]

Owing to the continuing fighting in the Equateur region, North and South Kivu, Katanga and Province Orientale, the latest estimate concerning the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is 2 million, and this figure is expected to rise further.

[...]

As a result of recent fighting in the Pweto region (Katanga), a considerable number of people have sought refuge in neighbouring Zambia; about 9,000 of them are hosted in a refugee camp near Kala in Zambia's northern province, and a further 15,000 have settled in villages in the same area." (UN SC 12 February 2001, paras. 20, 45, 47)

"Further attacks in N. Katanga have led to additional displacement. The Pepa-Pweto axis is not secure. Fighting also reported between Babuyo and Babembe, the former allegedly supported by the RPA [Rwandese Army]. Babembe have previously been in conflict with the Banyamulenge, also supported by the RPA. Competition for natural resources in the area also exacerbates tension." (UN OCHA 26 September 2001)

# POPULATION PROFILE AND FIGURES

## Total national figures

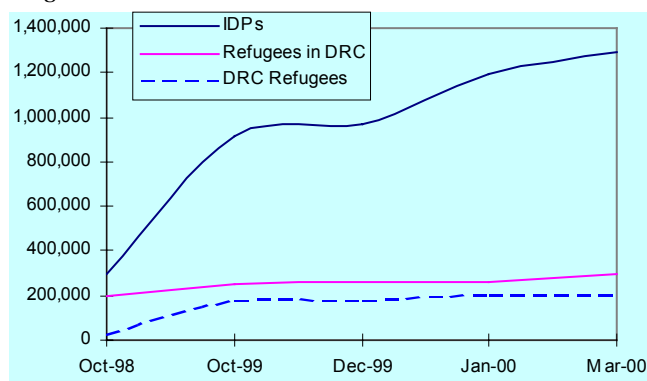
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### Over 2 million IDPs in DRC by end of September 2001

*According to UN estimates, there were about 2,045,000 IDPs in DRC as of the end of September 2001 (UN OCHA 30 September 2001).*

*There were about 2,002,500 IDPs in DRC by the end of December 2000. (OCHA 31 December 2000, p.3) This represents a significant increase during the last part of 2000, since there were 1,4 million IDPs by June 2000 and 1,8 million by September 2000. (UN November 2000, p.15). This is despite the fact that an estimated 810,000 former IDPs have returned to their habitual place of residence. (OCHA 31 December 2000, p.6).*

#### IDP growth since 1998



(OCHA 17 April 2000)

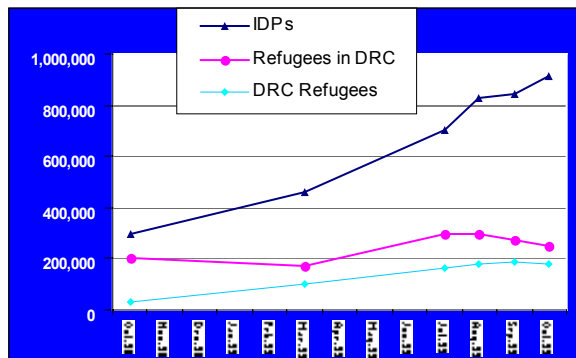
According to the United Nations, "The vast majority of the 2 million people displaced by war are children and women." (United Nations 7 June 2001)

### 960,000 IDPs in DRC by end of 1999

"[By January 2000 there were] some 960,000 internally displaced persons in eight of the 11 provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and over 300,000 refugees from six of its nine neighbouring countries. Recent humanitarian Assessments reveal that over 2.1 million people (internally displaced persons, refugees, urban vulnerable) or 4.3 per cent of the population of the Democratic Republic of the Congo face critical food insecurity. Another 8.4 million (mostly urban populations and farmers in the proximity of the front line), or 17 Per cent of the population, face moderate but rapidly growing food insecurity." (UN SC 17 January 2000, para. 24)

"The reporting period [1 October - 15 November 1999] saw new population displacements (Kibali-Ituri, Orientale; Walikale, North Kivu, and Mongala, Equateur) but also return of entire communities in South Kivu. Nevertheless, the overall number of IDPs grew from 830,000 to 916,000 (increase by 75,000), as

illustrated on the accompanying graph. This considerable increment is attributable to continued hostilities between Hema and Lemu ethnicities and volatile security in Haut Uele districts of Orientale province." (UN OCHA 15 November 1999, "Humanitarian Action")



### 500,000 IDPs in DRC by end of 1998

"The number of IDPs is believed to have almost tripled since the outbreak of hostilities in the DRC and is estimated to have reached the level of 500,000 persons scattered in North and South Kivu, Orientale, Maniema, Kasai, Equateur and Katanga provinces. In rebel-held areas, the current conflict is marked by patterns some of which are similar to those that affected humanitarian action during the 1996-1997 war in former Zaire, i.e. all communities of Northern and Southern Kivu are considered - and consider themselves as - collective targets for military attacks. Massive, durable displacements are expected to have been amplified during the last three months. The situation is usually different in other parts of the DRC, where the populations are only afraid of looting and side-effects of military confrontations. Thus, they only leave their houses for as long as fighting, looting or take-over of a town will last at local level." (UN December 1998, p.14)

*It should be noted that USCR apparently subscribed to a more careful estimate of IDPs by the end of 1998:*

"The outbreak of renewed war in Congo-Kinshasa in August uprooted hundreds of thousands of people, some for a few days, others for the rest of the year. At year's end, displacement persisted primarily in the eastern one-third of the country.

Although an estimated 300,000 persons were internally displaced at year's end and some 130,000 were refugees in neighboring countries, some aid workers estimated that 80 percent of the population in some eastern regions<a million or more people<might have fled their homes temporarily for several days at different times during the year. Such estimates were impossible to confirm because much of the country remained inaccessible to local and international aid workers." (USCR 1999, p.59)

### 100,000 believed to be displaced by the end of 1997

- After the main civil war ended (May 1997), eruptions of violence in eastern Congo/Zaire pushed additional tens of thousands from their homes
- About 40,000 Congolese fled early in 1997 hundreds of kilometres westward with Rwandan refugees to the city of Kisangani

"The number of residents who became internally displaced during the civil war remains uncertain. More than 100,000 were already uprooted in eastern Zaire prior to the civil war due to ethnic conflicts. Poor roads, impenetrable forests, and pockets of insecurity impeded full assessments of humanitarian needs in the country's vast isolated areas throughout 1997.

A UN funding appeal in March estimated that nearly a half-million Congolese/Zairians were displaced. U.S. aid officials estimated in August that some 230,000 probably were uprooted within the country. A UN human rights official reported in mid-year that 250,000 to 400,000 were displaced. An international NGO put the number at 190,000. All sources agreed that the most pervasive displacement was in the chronically unstable Masisi zone of eastern Congo/Zaire, near the town of Goma.

USCR site visits to eastern Congo/Zaire during 1997 concluded that up to half the population in some areas of the east were at least temporarily displaced during the war. Many were able to return home after several weeks, but thousands of families endured long-term displacement caused by lingering insecurity in their home areas. USCR estimated that up to 150,000 people remained internally displaced at mid-year, but a majority were "invisible to outsiders because they are dispersed," USCR's report noted.

About 40,000 Congolese fled hundreds of kilometers westward with Rwandan refugees to the city of Kisangani early in the year. More than 70,000 fled to Tanzania. Smaller numbers entered Uganda, Burundi, Sudan, Zambia, and other countries as refugees. As many as 10,000 former Zairian soldiers and their families reportedly fled to Central African Republic.

[...]

In the second half of 1997, after the main civil war ended, eruptions of violence in eastern Congo/Zaire pushed additional tens of thousands from their homes. Some 8,000 people converged on the town of Goma in late April. At least 15,000 fled to Rwanda. Entire areas of Masisi zone, in the east, lay deserted, with 15,000 homes burned and 1,000 people dead." (USCR 1998, pp. 60-61)

### **400,000 believed to be displaced by the end of 1996**

"Uprooted Zairians were the virtually forgotten victims of their country's widening civil war [after October 1996].

An estimated three million Zairians lived in the conflict zones. An estimated 400,000 became internally displaced, and approximately 50,000 others became new refugees in Tanzania, Rwanda, and Uganda. An additional 1,000 or more Zairian or Rwandan Tutsi fled to neighboring Congo to escape anti-Tutsi violence in the Zairian capital, Kinshasa.

In addition to the new Zairian refugees created during 1996, tens of thousands of Zairians remained refugees from previous years." (USCR 1997, p.107)

### **UN OCHA's renewed efforts to gather precise data on the number of IDPs despite difficulties (2001)**

- IDPs in DRC are difficult to count due to a high degree of dispersion
- OCHA looks at the number of displaced per health zones
- It established an information network to compare data from different sources

- Its offices collect data in a continuous way and inter-agency mission also assess IDP numbers
- Dissemination of standardized evaluation forms

"La collecte d'information en matière de personnes déplacées est un exercice extrêmement ardu en République Démocratique du Congo, ne serait-ce que par un degré de dispersion spatiale probablement le plus élevé au monde. Depuis plus de deux ans, OCHA s'efforce de regrouper les informations et de dénombrer les déplacés selon une combinaison cohérente de démarches :

- Approche par zones de santé et, le cas échéant (Masisi, Rutshuru) par territoires;
- Utilisation contradictoire de données démographiques mises à jour avant le second conflit (études Ministère de la Santé/OMS, ISA, Sisan);
- Prise en compte des mouvements de réfugiés congolais en dehors des frontières;
- Constitution d'un réseau d'information maillé de nature à permettre recoupements et études contradictoires;
- Travail continu de collecte des bureaux OCHA;
- Missions inter-agences ; missions spécifiques par les assistants humanitaires;
- Etudes spécifiques de villes ou de territoires (Kabinda, Masisi, Mwenga) par différents organismes;
- Dissémination de formulaires d'évaluation standardisés et élaborés en concertation avec les toutes les agences et ONG à Kinshasa;
- Report cartographique des données.

OCHA souhaite procéder à une actualisation détaillée des chiffres de personnes déplacées à travers le territoire national. Pour cela, les outils précités existent déjà ainsi que les résultats de missions spécifiques.

L'exercice est devenu tellement fastidieux (du fait de l'absence prolongée de la pratique de collecte systématique) qu'OCHA envisage de se donner la fin juin comme date butoir pour la publication d'un chiffre qui constituera le produit de nos efforts communs. A compter du mercredi 6 juin, tous les bureaux OCHA à travers le pays solliciteront de chacun des organismes partenaires des informations à la fois simples et précises (la fiche de données sur les personnes déplacées est disponible dans tous les bureaux).

Les bureaux OCHA à Goma et Kinshasa procéderont à la consolidation de ces chiffres, et si les données le permettent, à une tentative de catégorisation des populations déplacées selon des critères similaires à ceux présentés dans l'Appel Consolidé 2001. Bien entendu, les mouvements de retour et de réintégration feront également l'objet d'une attention particulière." (UN OCHA 7 June 2001)

## Disaggregated figures

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### Distribution of IDPs by province (July 99, July 00, Dec 00 and Sept 01)

- The majority of displaced persons were found in the eastern provinces of North Kivu, Katanga, Orientale and South Kivu, (Sept. 2001)
- Almost 1 million IDPs in the Kivus as of end September 2001
- The number of IDPs in Equateur decreased greatly from Dec 2000 to Sept 2001
- The number of IDPs in Orientale increased greatly from Dec 2000 to Sept 2001
- The number of IDPs in Katanga increased by 100,000 IDPs between Dec 00 and Sept 01

| Area | July 1999 | June 2000 | Dec2000 | End Sept 2001 |
|------|-----------|-----------|---------|---------------|
|------|-----------|-----------|---------|---------------|

|                      |         |           |           |                               |
|----------------------|---------|-----------|-----------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Equateur</b>      | 100,000 | 250,000   | 300,000   | 85,000                        |
| <b>Orientale</b>     | 70,000  | 215,000   | 160,000   | 230,000                       |
| <b>North Kivu</b>    | 160,000 | 287,000   | 640,000   | 760,000                       |
| <b>South Kivu</b>    | 195,000 | 220,000   | 350,500   | 225,000                       |
| <b>Katanga</b>       | 150,000 | 250,000   | 305,000   | 415,000                       |
| <b>Maniema</b>       | 20,000  | 110,000   | 137,000   | 160,000                       |
| <b>Eastern Kasai</b> | 60,000  | 30,000    | 30,000    | 130,000 (incl. Western Kasai) |
| <b>Western Kasai</b> | N/A     | 140,000   | 80,000    | See Eastern Kasai             |
| <b>Kinshasa</b>      | N/A     | N/A       | N/A       | 40,000                        |
| <b>Total</b>         | 775,000 | 1,502,000 | 2,002,500 | 2,045,000                     |

Source: UN OCHA 15 July 1999, 11 July 2000, 31 December 2000 (p.11), 30 September 2001

### **Displacement in the Maniema province (2001)**

- The 1998 war created in Maniema a climate of permanent insecurity, destroyed infrastructure and caused massive displacements of population to the forest
- Report in March 2001 that the majority of the displaced in Maniema Province, about 100,000 persons, were in Nyembo
- Report in February 2001 that 68% of population in Maniema has been displaced

"Le Maniema, jeune province issue de l'éclatement en trois de la grande province du Kivu en 1988, a dès le début connu des événements qui ont inexorablement conduit cette province dans une situation préoccupante. [...]"

La première guerre de 1996 a eu un impact modéré comparativement à la seconde guerre en cours depuis 1998 qui a achevé définitivement la dégradation générale de la province. Le front de cette guerre a créé un climat d'insécurité permanente, des déplacements massifs de la population vers les forêts, des destructions et pillages de toutes les infrastructures [...].

Le déplacement de plus de 100,000 personnes a paralysé matériellement et financièrement le maintien des infrastructures menant le Maniema à l'enclavement total et au chaos sur le plan socio-économique.

Le nombre de déplacés est estimé à 132.000 [...]

| Zones de Santé | Nombre         |
|----------------|----------------|
| Kalima         | 27.000         |
| Nyembo         | 100.000        |
| Lubutu         | 5.000          |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>132.000</b> |

Source: OCHA, Situation des personnes déplacées Mars 2001" (UN OCHA September 2001)

#### ***UN (CHR) reported in February 2001 that:***

"In Maniema, over 68 per cent of the population has been displaced. Humanitarian relief is able to reach only 50 per cent of the displaced persons." (CHR 1 February 2001, para.42)

## Displacement in the Katanga province (2000-2001)

- Katanga province is divided between the northern part under RCD-Goma control, and the south, under the control of the government of Kinshasa
- Over 40,000 displaced in Malemba Nkulu and in Ankoro

"La province du Katanga est aujourd'hui divisée en deux parties par la ligne de front: la partie Nord tombée sous le contrôle du RCD Goma et la partie Sud, sous celui du gouvernement de Kinshasa.

La situation humanitaire y est très préoccupante. Elle est caractérisée par des extorsions quotidiennes de la population et l'insécurité liée aux intenses activités militaires dans la partie agro- pastorale et piscicole du Nord- Katanga, l'enclavement et la rupture d'approvisionnement dû à la réduction du trafic commercial; les déplacements des populations et de la recrudescence de différentes épidémies, la spirale de la malnutrition." (UN OCHA September 2001)

### *UN (OCHA) reported in July 2000 that:*

"Along with the first-wave displaced of the Kivus, the IDP caseload in Katanga is the oldest as it was mainly generated during the August-November 1998 fighting in northern Katanga. All major IDP categories (according to their mode of settlement) known in the DRC are represented in this province: there are IDP camps in Lubumbashi, IDP resettlement sites south of the provincial capital, IDPs hosted in local communities and finally those dispersed in an area as large as 50,000 km<sup>2</sup>. In total, there are some 250,000 displaced persons scattered in Katanga on both sides of the frontline." (OCHA 11 July 2000)

### Répartition des déplacés par sites

| Zones de Santé      | Personnes déplacées |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Ville de Lubumbashi | 26.606              |
| Likasi              | 4.935               |
| Kolwezi             | 1.976               |
| Kasenga             | 3.490               |
| Kilwa               | 24.812              |
| Pweto               | 16.326              |
| Mufunga Sampwe      | 5.459               |
| Bukama              | 5.459               |
| Malemba Nkulu       | 47.228              |
| Ankoro              | 44.400              |
| Kamina              | 13.000              |
| Kabongo             | 33.890              |
| Kitenge             | 7.560               |
| Kabalo              | 35.272              |
| Total               | <b>270.413</b>      |

Source: OCHA/Kinshasa: Situation des personnes déplacées au Katanga – Juin 2001" (UN OCHA September 2001)

## Displacement in the Orientale province (2001)

- Kisangani has been one of the stakes of both latest wars

- Orientale province is under rebel occupation, split between factions supported by Rwanda and Uganda
- The ethnic conflict between Hema and Lendu has plagued Ituri and caused 10,000 dead and 170,000 IDPs
- The highest number of displaced in the province as of June 01 are in Bunia (40,000 IDPs)

"La Province Orientale a été souvent qualifiée de «province martyre», se distingue sur le plan humanitaire par la singularité des événements vécus. Les points névralgiques ont été la Ville de Kisangani et le district de l'Ituri.

Pendant les deux guerres de 1996-1997 et 1998- 2001 Kisangani a été la ville de tous les enjeux pour les belligérants représentant ipso facto l'une des concentrations militaires les plus importantes du pays. Le dérapage a été consacré par les affrontements de mai et juin 2000 entre les armées rwandaises et ougandaises causant environ 1000 morts, 2000 blessés, la destruction des infrastructures socio-économiques, le traumatisme et la frustration au sein de la population.

La province Orientale, totalement sous occupation des rebelles est partagée entre les différentes factions soutenues par le Rwanda et l'Ouganda.

Quant à la situation en Ituri, elle a été marquée par le conflit ethnique entre les Hema et les Lendu. Cette guerre intercommunautaire la plus meurtrière connue ces dernières a causé environ 10.000 morts et 170.000 déplacés sans oublier ses retombées négatives sur le secteur de la santé, de la sécurité alimentaire, de l'éducation...Le degré de haine communautaire et d'atrocité a été tel que beaucoup de survivants surtout des femmes et des enfants resteront longtemps traumatisés par des scènes d'horreur vécue. [...]

#### **Répartition de déplacés par Zones de Santé.**

| <b>Zones de Santé</b> | <b>Nombre</b>  |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Bunia                 | 40.000         |
| Nyakunde              | 29.000         |
| Boga                  | 5000           |
| Tchomia               | 15.000         |
| Fataki                | 35.000         |
| Drodro                | 27.000         |
| Rethy                 | 32.000         |
| Bambu                 | 14.000         |
| Mungwalu              | 12.000         |
| Rimba                 | 35.000         |
| Mahagi                | 20.000         |
| Doruma- Aba- Dungu    | 10.000         |
| Kisangani -Banalia    | 10.000         |
| Opala                 | 20.000         |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>304.000</b> |

**Source:** OCHA, situation des personnes déplacées dans la province Orientale Juin 2001"

(UN OCHA September 2001)

## Displacement in the North Kivu province (2001)

- North Kivu is the province with the highest number of displaced in DRC
- Lubero – Kanyabayonga has the highest number of displaced within the province, with over 190,000 in March 2001

"La province du Nord- Kivu a été confrontée au cours de la décennie 1990- 2000 à une série de crises humanitaires aiguës dont les plus importantes sont la guerre intercommunautaire dans le Masisi (1993 et 1996); la présence massive et prolongée des réfugiés rwandais (1994- 1996); la guerre de 1996- 1997 et la guerre en cours depuis août 1998.

La province du Nord Kivu est totalement sous occupation des rebelles du RCD Goma. Les retombées négatives de ces crises ont affecté tous les secteurs de la vie, notamment le déplacement massif des populations et l'abandon des villages; les extorsions quotidiennes et l'insécurité généralisée consécutive à la multiplicité de bandes armées et à la prolifération des armes de guerre; la dégradation écologique; la destruction des infrastructures de base, l'enclavement des localités agricoles; le ralentissement des activités économiques et l'interruption du processus de développement. [...]

Le Nord-Kivu est la province de la RDC, qui connaît le nombre le plus élevé de personnes déplacées soit 620.342, réparties comme suit:

### Répartition des déplacés par Zones de Santé.

| <b>Zones de santé</b>       | <b>Nombre de déplacés</b> |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Goma                        | 43.000                    |
| Rutshuru – Tongo            | 29.475                    |
| Rugari- Jomba               | 35.000                    |
| Sake                        | 21.500                    |
| Kitshanga                   | 54.435                    |
| Pinga                       | 25.000                    |
| Kirotshe                    | 33.635                    |
| Masisi centre               | 15.000                    |
| Kibabi – Bihambwe – Matanda | 49.915                    |
| Lubero – Kanyabayonga       | 191.713                   |
| Nyakariba                   | 30.000                    |
| Nyiragongo – Kibumba        | 18254                     |
| Mushaki                     | 2.800                     |
| Kirolirwe                   | 3.700                     |
| Walikale                    | 25.000                    |
| <b>Total</b>                | <b>620.342</b>            |

Source: OCHA, Situation des personnes déplacées en RDC Mars 2001"

(UN OCHA September 2001)

"Recent confrontations in Nzulo and Mugunga entailed the displacement of more than 2000 IDPs families to Sake and Bugulube. It was noted at the 31st August 2001 meeting of the Commission for Population movements headed by SCF that the number of IDPs in the area was estimated at 796,000 in August 2001 compared with 640,000 IDPs in December 2000. This increase in the number of IDPs is due to continuous attacks registered in the rural areas of North Kivu." (WFP 13 September 2001)

## **Displacement in the South Kivu province (2001)**

- South Kivu is controlled by RCD-Goma
- The western part is characterized by intense military activity and massive displacement
- The health zones with the highest number of displaced as of March 2001 are Walungu (almost 62,000) and Bukavu (54,000)

"La situation humanitaire du Sud- Kivu est presque identique à celle du Nord- Kivu. Elle est marquée par la présence massive et prolongée des réfugiés rwandais et burundais (1994- 1996) ainsi que les conflits communautaires à l'origine de la guerre de 1996, et la guerre en cours depuis août 1998. La province du Sud Kivu est totalement sous occupation des rebelles du RCD Goma.

Le Sud- Kivu connaît une forte densité de la population dans la partie Est l'exposant, de ce fait, à la carence de terre pour les activités agro- pastorales.

En revanche, la partie Ouest plutôt moins peuplée et à haute productivité agricole sert actuellement de zone opérationnelle avec d'intenses activités militaires entraînant les extorsions quotidiennes de la population ; l'insécurité ; l'enrôlement de la main d'œuvre masculine dans l'armée et les milices ; la déperdition scolaire ; l'abandon des champs et les déplacements massifs des populations. Les femmes et les enfants du Sud- Kivu sont les plus affectés par les effets de la guerre. [...]

Avec 353944 déplacés, le Sud- Kivu vient en deuxième position après le Nord- Kivu en nombre de personnes déplacées. Les deux provinces constituent ainsi la moitié des déplacés de la RDC.

### **Répartition des personnes déplacées par Zones de Santé.**

| <b>Zones de santé</b> | <b>Nombre des personnes</b> |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Katana                | 17.842                      |
| Kabare                | 29.000                      |
| Bukavu                | 54.141                      |
| Walungu               | 61.961                      |
| Lemera                | 35.648                      |
| Uvira                 | 16.152                      |
| Mwenga                | 43.200                      |
| Shabunda              | 11.000                      |
| Numdu                 | 15.000                      |
| Fizi                  | 70.000                      |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>353.944</b>              |

Source: OCHA, situation des personnes déplacées en RDC- Mars 2001"  
(UN OCHA September 2001)

## **Displacement in the Equateur province (2001)**

- Massive displacement of population, as the province is divided in two, the North and the East, under FLC rebel occupation, and the South under the control of the government of Kinshasa
- Over a third of the displaced of the province, about 60,000 people, were in the health zone of Libenge as of March 2001

"L'Equateur est l'une des provinces les plus durement touchées par la guerre en cours depuis 1998. Elle est coupée en deux, le Nord et l'Est sous occupation des rebelles du FLC, l'Ouest et le Sud sous le contrôle du Gouvernement de Kinshasa. Les activités militaires intenses dans cette province ont pour conséquences les extorsions quotidiennes de la population, l'insécurité généralisée, la destruction des récoltes, le vol de bétail et les déplacements massifs de la population

La situation humanitaire est particulièrement précaire, notamment dans les territoires de Bomongo, Bokungu, Bongandanganda, Makanza, Basankusu, Ikela, Boende, Mbandaka. [...]

#### **Répartition des déplacés par Zones de Santé.**

| <b>Zones de santé</b> | <b>Personnes déplacées</b> |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Mbandaka              | 16586                      |
| Boende                | 15000                      |
| Befale                | 5000                       |
| Mondombe              | 12053                      |
| Yalusaka              | 12000                      |
| Ikela                 | 8000                       |
| Bokungu               | 9000                       |
| Djolu                 | 1087                       |
| Bikoro                | 9333                       |
| Ingende               | 2115                       |
| Lukolela              | 350                        |
| Libenge               | 60000                      |
| Imese                 | 20000                      |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>170524</b>              |

Source: OCHA, situation des personnes déplacées en RDC Mars 2001" (UN-OCHA September 2001)

#### **Displacement in the Eastern Kasai province (2000-2001)**

- Many displaced who found refuge in Eastern Kasai come from Katanga Province
- Kasai is a strategic place for military and economic reasons and is split between RCD-Goma and the government of Kinshasa
- Majority of the displaced are in the health zone of Sankuru
- Bulk of the displaced said to be hiding in the forest not far from their homes

"Le contexte humanitaire au Kasai Oriental a été marqué au cours de la décennie 1990-2000 par l'arrivée massive des populations refoulées du Katanga en 1992 (environ 800.000 personnes), la guerre de 1996-1997 et celle en cours depuis 1998. A l'instar de la Province Orientale, le Kasai présente des enjeux militaro- économiques importants pour les parties impliquées dans la guerre. Il est ainsi scindé en deux, une partie sous occupation des rebelles du RCD Goma appuyés par le Rwanda, l'autre sous le contrôle du Gouvernement de Kinshasa.

Actuellement, la situation humanitaire se caractérise par l'afflux de nombreuses familles restées dans les territoires occupés, dans la forêt et dont l'état est alarmant. Le Kabinda a vécu un drame particulier, à savoir l'encerclement par les belligérants pendant plus d'une année. [...]

Répartition des déplacés par Zones de santé

| <b>Zones de santé</b> | <b>Nombre de personnes</b> |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Sankuru               | 80.000                     |
| Kabinda               | 20.000                     |
| Mbuji Mayi            | 14.000                     |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>114.000</b>             |

Source : OCHA, Situation des personnes déplacées en RDC Mars 2001" (UN OCHA September 2001)

***UN (OCHA) reported in July 2000 that:***

"Newly established contacts with religious sources in Lomela and Kole health zones of Sankuru district suggest that since March-April 2000, the local communities regularly receive IDPs coming from Ikela (Equateur) and Dekese (Western Kasai) in addition to long-date local displaced. The bulk of the displaced are said to be hiding in the forest, although not far from their homes. Although the need for relief supplies (mostly medicines) is great, local church sources prioritise the protection of displaced and give an appalling account of violence (systematic rape of school age girls) civilians are subjected to by Rwandan troops. At this stage it is impossible to accurately estimate the number of all IDPs in the province, especially given the relatively new influxes from Equateur. The conservative figure of 140,000 IDPs is maintained for planning purposes, until a more comprehensive assessment on both sides of the frontline can be undertaken." (OCHA 11 July 2000)

**Displacement in the Western Kasai province (2001)**

- Part of the Western Kasai province is under rebel occupation since May 1999 and this provoked displacement
- As of March 2001, the highest number of displaced (13,000) was in the health zone of Kananga

"La situation de conflit qui affecte la RDC est durement ressentie dans la province du Kasai Occidental dont une partie est sous occupation rebelle depuis le mois de mai 1999.

Cette situation a entraîné un déplacement massif des populations, des problèmes aigus de sécurité alimentaire, de malnutrition, d'accessibilité aux soins de santé et de précarité des conditions de vie. [...]

Répartition des personnes déplacées par zone de santé

| <b>Zones de Santé</b> | <b>Nombre de personnes</b> |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Dekese                | 5.000                      |
| Ilebo                 | 8.000                      |
| Bulape                | 3.000                      |
| Kananga               | 13.000                     |
| <b>Total</b>          | <b>29.000</b>              |

Source: OCHA, Situation des personnes déplacées en RDC Mars 2001" (UN OCHA September 2001)

**Displacement in Kinshasa Province (2001)**

- Kinshasa province has a population of over 6 million, among whom 40,000 are IDPs

"Sa population est estimée à 6.037.997 habitants. Kinshasa compte 24 communes urbaines et 34 de zones de santé. [...]

Le contexte humanitaire global de la province de Kinshasa a été marqué au cours de la décennie 1990-2000 par la succession à la fois des catastrophes naturelles et celles dues à l'homme. Les événements les plus spectaculaires sont les pillages de 1991 et 1993, la série des accidents survenus entre 1996 et 2000, les inondations de 1999-2000, les érosions sur environ 400 sites et les deux guerres de 1996-1997 et de 1998-2001.

La crise économique qui frappe le pays n'a fait qu'aggraver face aux aléas la vulnérabilité d'une population Kinois déjà très pauvre et sans pouvoir d'achat. C'est dans ce contexte que le ménage kinois doit faire face aux dépenses de la nourriture, de la santé, de l'éducation et autres." (UN OCHA September 2001)

*As of the end of September 2001, there were 40,000 IDPs in Kinshasa (UN-OCHA 30 September 2001)*

### **The civil war has caused a large number of displaced and unaccompanied children (1999-2000)**

- 210,000 IDP children affected by the hardships accompanying internal displacement
- 10,000 children in need in protection in the urban areas of the Kivu region

"[An] increased numbers of abandoned or street children in all major urban areas of the DRC prompted UNICEF to support a census of minors in Kinshasa, Goma, Lubumbashi, Mbuji-Mayi and Kisangani. The number of street children is estimated between 12-15,000 in Kinshasa alone. According to SCF/UK, the number of children in need in protection in the urban areas of the Kivu - 10,000." (UN OCHA 15 July 1999, "Children in Need of Protection")

"Approximately 1,500 unaccompanied children remained displaced early in the year at a camp in the city of Kisangani, in north central Congo-Kinshasa. Some 360 children in the camp died of cholera and dysentery before government authorities agreed to close the camp and transfer the children to different locations in February. Government officials claimed the children were Mai-Mai combatants."(USCR 1999, "Renewed War")

"Children in the DRC are worst hit by the adversities of the political and military turmoil and the accompanied economic collapse. Negative developments in child protection in the DRC can be seen in the following appalling statistics:

- \* An estimated 10-20,000 children under 15 were recruited as soldiers by all parties to the conflict;
- \* A unprecedented increase is being observed in the numbers of abandoned and street children (estimated 50,000) in all major urban centres as well as an increase of minors (estimated 25,000) attending nutritional rehabilitation centres and child-prostitutes.
- \* 210,000 IDP children are most affected by the hardships accompanying internal displacement (i.e., epidemic diseases such as measles and food shortages)." (UN November 1999, p.15)

"Abandoned children make up a substantial proportion of the displaced. In September, in the city of Kabina alone, there were 3,000 malnourished children out of a total population of 150,000, of which 15,000 were displaced persons (Hopital Catholique Sainte-Camille). In Lubumbashi too, the number of street children is growing fast. Estimates for this relatively new phenomenon are as high as 3,000 children. Perhaps this is an indication that essential family ties are no longer able to withstand the pressure of the circumstances." (MSF 25 January 2000, "Abandoned children")

*See also: "[Displaced children need protection from recruitment by armed groups \(2000\)](#)"*

# PATTERNS OF DISPLACEMENT

## General

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### **In North Kivu, large-scale displacement from areas rich in mineral wealth (2001)**

"Large-scale population displacement is particularly prevalent in areas rich in mineral wealth. In the Masisi territory of North-Kivu, on 29 June 2000, the RCD-Goma and RPA reportedly fired continuously into the air for an hour-and-a-half, terrorizing the local population and forcing thousands of people to flee, leaving the area empty and easy accessible to troops. In another case, 34,000 were displaced during the months of July and August 2000, and a further 27,000 in September and October 2000, due to fighting around the town of Shabunda, a rich coltan mining area. [...] Most of these Internally Displaced People are receiving no humanitarian assistance." (AI 19 June 2001)

### **Changed frontline and strategy by armed groups in South Kivu make the displaced flee greater distances (2000-2001)**

- Previously IDPs used to make efforts to stay near their villages and fields
- Anticipation of an all-out war, affected communities flee on far greater distances
- New strategy of uncontrolled armed groups to destroy villages forces IDPs constantly on the move from village to village in search for protection from attacks by the numerous armed factions
- In some instances, people in South Kivu are displaced five or more times, in various directions, as fighting breaks out in their places of refuge

"For much of 1999 humanitarian agencies were able to trace and reach most of IDP communities, since their movement was generally stable once away from insecure areas, i.e. IDPs were on the move for some time and making efforts to stay near their villages and fields. The displacement patterns of South Kivu noticeably changed starting from November-December 99, but especially in January 2000 when the frontline stretched from western parts of Maniema province down to Shabunda and even Kalonge. The dramatic shift of the frontline that has also led to significant changes - the Mayi-Mayi activity is now perceived by the civilian population, especially in towns, as a resistance movement, with which it overwhelmingly sympathises. Thus a qualitative change in the patterns of displacement- in search of security and in anticipation of an all-out war, affected communities flee on far greater distances. If the current levels of tension were to be sustained for another month, the majority of rural areas of South Kivu might be deserted and a significant rise in refugee numbers in Tanzania might occur." (OCHA 15 February 2000)

" The fact that uncontrolled armed groups in the Kivus are much better armed and co-ordinated than previously results in focused fighting of longer duration. On a number of occasions during the reporting period the uncontrolled-armed groups (UAGs) have gained the upper hand over RCD forces. A distinct change in the modus operandi of these groups has been observed: it would appear they no longer fight, loot and withdraw. In many instances they fight for control of villages or territories and remain there as an occupying force. This was notably reported by recent IDPs from Masisi in North Kivu.  
[...]

The most important pattern of displacement in South Kivu during the reporting period has been the change in strategies of attacks on populations and thus the change in displacement practices. Those dwelling in forests habitually displaced from settlements to camps further into the forest in order to be out of the way of whatever insecurity arising. This would be sufficient to keep them protected until their villages were safe and they could return. This method of self-preservation is no longer adequate. It would appear that there are previously unknown UAGs operating who are clearing entire areas with the express purpose that people do not return to their villages. As a result, waves of people who had been living rough in forests are now being swept before UAGs, constantly on the move." (OCHA 17 April 2000)

"The continued fighting in North and South Kivu provinces in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has displaced nearly half a million people in recent months. Congolese have fled from village to village in an illusory search for protection from attacks by the numerous armed factions in the region. Host communities up to this point have welcomed internally displaced people (IDPs). Individual households have swollen to twenty or more people in some areas. However, African hospitality and limited international resources are reaching their limits." (RI 5 May 2000)

"This province [of South Kivu] has seen the development of a pattern of displacement in which civilians, whose villages are raided for food and livestock, have to flee either to neighbouring villages, or to large towns such as Bukavu. In some instances, people are displaced five or more times, in various directions, as fighting breaks out in their places of refuge. In other cases, people have returned to their home villages once security returned, only to be displaced by fresh fighting. For the most part, they flee without belongings and many of those who return discover that their villages and farms are burned or otherwise destroyed by armed belligerents." (ACT 13 July 2001)

### **IDPs remain close to their places of origin (1999-2000)**

- Most IDPs are not housed in camps but have merged into host communities
- Some communities already enduring the stress of the conflict has to shelter other displaced persons fleeing other more insecure areas
- People living along river and roads used by the armed forces settle in the nearby forests and hills
- Civilians flee to temporary sanctuaries in response to rumors of approaching troops
- When the relative calm during the day gives way to terror at night people seek refuge outside their villages

"In rebel-held areas, the current conflict is marked by patterns some of which are similar to those that affected humanitarian action during the 1996-1997 war in former Zaire, i.e. all communities of Northern and Southern Kivu are considered - and consider themselves as - collective targets for military attacks. Massive, durable displacements are expected to have been amplified during the last three months. The situation is usually different in other parts of the DRC, where the populations are only afraid of looting and side-effects of military confrontations. Thus, they only leave their houses for as long as fighting, looting or take-over of a town will last at local level." (UN December 1998, p.14)

"A characteristic feature of displacement in eastern DRC is the fact that IDPs are not housed in camps but have merged into host communities. Their conditions remain precarious due to lack of farming land, vital services and general insecurity. Remaining in proximity to their places of origin, the displaced are prone to be subjected to the same hazards and abuses that caused them to flee in the first place. On a number of occasions during 1998-99, the displaced and local communities were stranded in combat areas and were removed by military authorities in a bid to create security zones.

[...]

Having fled hostility, displaced communities (IDPs) live in forests in overcrowded, inadequate shelters, with insufficient food, contaminated water supplies and no sanitation. Adverse forces at times accentuated

by persecutory practices and abuses perpetrate the vulnerability of this group. In most cases they have to endure the side effects of the war - looted property, destroyed infrastructure, including health facilities and often damaged housing, when they finally return to their hometown or village. In addition, a significant number of such communities has to shelter other displaced persons fleeing other often more insecure areas." (UN July 1999, pp.8-9)

"Since the beginning of the war the roads and navigable rivers in DRC have become a source of danger for most civilians. These axes are used for movement of troops that are typically accompanied by looting and extortion. Hence, the strategy adopted by riverside and roadside populations, to settle in the nearby forests and hills where they could eventually cultivate. In case if the short-distance displacement took place within the harvest season, the prospects of losing the entire output are greater. On the other hand, in instances when the population has sufficient flexibility to prepare its displacement, certain belongings and food reserves are being spared. Because of widespread fears of the military, civilians often flee to their temporary sanctuaries in response to rumours of approaching troops. In high insecurity areas however, the population flees longer distances and for a longer time and eventually become "people in the forest" (see above). This phenomenon of proximity flight is especially noticeable on most significant axes. However, it is also the case with secondary axes overburdened with sustained presence of regular armies, passage or retreat of smaller groups of deserters or uncontrolled-armed groups." (UN November 2000, p.15)

"The number of displaced people around the Kahuzi Biega national park, near Bukavu, is increasing, independent humanitarian sources in the region told IRIN.

During the daytime, some of them work or go looking for food. At night, they seek refuge in banana plantations along the road towards Miti, Murhesa and Kafulumaye. The sources said they were fleeing attacks by Interahamwe militia, Mayi-Mayi and other armed groups hiding out in the forests. Relative calm during the day gives way to terror at night, when these militia groups carry out looting sprees, raping women and killing people who get in their way.

The forest-dwelling pygmies are not immune from attack. Aid organisations have requested them to integrate into society so that they can benefit from food distributions, as it is impossible to care for them in the forests." (IRIN 1 August 2000)

# PHYSICAL SECURITY & FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

## General

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### Women are in special need of protection (2000-2001)

- According to Amnesty International, Rape of girls and women of all ages has been extensively used by all forces
- Church sources in Eastern Kasai reported systematic rape of school age girls by Rwandan troops
- Worsened security situation for women in Kabinda (Kasai Oriental) reported in September 2000
- In September 2001, women fled to Bukavu to escape being raped

According to Amnesty International, "Rape of girls and women of all ages has been extensively used by all forces. 'Many women have been subjected to rape and other forms of sexual violence by members of the security forces,' the Amnesty report said. However, rape is seriously under-reported because of the social stigma that victims must endure." (IRIN-CEA 27 June 2001)

*In Eastern Kasai* "Although the need for relief supplies (mostly medicines) is great, local church sources prioritise the protection of displaced and give an appalling account of violence (systematic rape of school age girls) civilians are subjected to by Rwandan troops." (UN OCHA 11 July 2000)

"In Kabinda, the security situation for women has greatly deteriorated. Many cases of rape, occurring when women go to work in fields, have been reported. This situation has created a food shortage since women do not dare walk to the fields as well as an exodus of women toward Mbuji Mayi, the only accessible town from Kabinda." (OCHA September 2000, p.10)

*In South Kivu:* "There have been reports of displacement of women and girls from Mugogo to Bukavu since last week, due to the increased cases of rape. (WFP 7 September 2001)

### Attacks on organised IDP camps in North Kivu (2000)

- Interahamwe and Mayi Mayi fighters reportedly attacked a camp for displaced persons at Sake, near Goma in July 2000
- RCD-Goma soldiers reportedly did not protect the displaced, even though they were posted near the camp
- Attack raised the issue of exposing the beneficiaries to predatory armed elements by providing them with humanitarian assistance

"The military and security situation in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, especially in the Kivus, remained highly volatile. RCD has complained that pro-government armed groups continue to launch numerous attacks in North and South Kivu. One such attack occurred near Uvira on 9 July and resulted in the death of an international relief worker. Another serious incident took place on 10 July, when the Interahamwe and Mayi Mayi fighters reportedly attacked a camp for displaced persons at Sake, near Goma. On 26 August a grenade attack in Bukavu killed 8 and injured some 40 people. Although the armed

groups responsible for these attacks are not signatories to the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement, there are persistent reports that they receive arms and training from one of the parties." (UN SC 21 September 2000, para. 27)

"Security considerations affect humanitarian interventions in areas where there is military activity, or a strained military or political situation. While the security of relief personnel deployed in volatile areas is an ongoing concern, the safety of beneficiaries is increasingly a matter of a preoccupation. The decision not to intervene in a given emergency is therefore, a self-imposed policy on the part of CAP participants, whereby no risks or a minimum amount of risks to the security of the personnel and beneficiaries are taken. Recent attacks on organised IDP camps in North Kivu raised the issue of exposing the beneficiaries to predatory armed elements by providing them with humanitarian assistance." (UN November 2000, p.20)

"[...] on 9 July 2000, Rwandese Hutu insurgents fighters attacked a camp for Internally Displaced Persons in Sake, killing 42 civilians, including women, children and the elderly. Although the attack on Sake IDP camp was committed by the Rwandese Hutu insurgents, a number of witnesses informed Amnesty International delegates that RCD-Goma Soldiers, who maintained positions very close to the camp, failed to protect the camp." (AI 19 June 2001)

### **Several IDP groups subjected to forced labour (2000)**

- IDPs forced by armed groups to undertake agricultural activities, services and transportation

"Various field observations conclude that several IDP groups are being systematically subjected to non-remunerated activities, or basically forced labour. The most unfortunate ones find themselves in the hands of military, various militia groups and warlords, held as prisoners or hostage and employed for agricultural activities, services and transportation. Most strikingly, this category is not a rare sociological phenomenon, but a common arrangement practised in many parts of the country along the roads of exile. There are other categories of displaced that are being regularly exploited, however this kind of subservient labour arrangement is of economic origin and is not coercive: extremely impoverished urban displaced, for instance, migrate into the country side in search of food for labour arrangements. Typically, displaced in this category remain in villages and are used as subservient labour force." (UN November 2000, p.15)

### **Displaced children need protection from recruitment by armed groups (2001)**

- More than 10,000 children under arms in the DRC, recruited by all parties to the conflict
- Girls are recruited as well and are mostly used for domestic work and as sex slaves
- Process of demobilization of child soldiers reportedly failed to materialize despite first encouraging signs

"War and poverty have also led to the displacement of many children. Some are orphaned or unaccompanied and forced to live on the streets. Such children are at particular risk of recruitment into the armed forces. An independent observer told Amnesty International that all over the Kivus 'children have become cannon fodder and slaves: they are recruited to become soldiers. Girls and sometimes boys are forced to become domestic servants or wives of combatants, and sometimes they are also used for child labour and exploited without payment to work in the mines. [...]"

The break-down of the political, social and economic infrastructures (schools, communities, household, health facilities), as well as displacement, weaken or destroy children's immediate source of care and protection, making them an easy target for recruitment. Unable to adequately provide for their children's needs, some parents in the region believe that recruitment into the armed forces will offer their children the

food, education and security they need, and encourage separated from their families, displaced or have limited access to education." (AI 19 June 2001)

"The UN estimates that 15-30% of all newly recruited combatants in the DRC are children under age eighteen, and a substantial number are under the age of twelve. Both the Congolese Armed Forces and various opposition groups forcibly recruit children." (Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers 12 June 2001)

"It is estimated that more than 10,000 children are under arms in the DRC, although the precise number is impossible to verify. All parties to the conflict are alleged to be making extensive use of child soldiers. Despite declarations by both the DRC government and the RCD-Goma to cease recruitment and commit to the demobilisation of child soldiers, their use and recruitment continue. The April 2001 report of the UN Secretary-General to the Security Council on the MONUC operations stated that MONUC confirms regular sightings of child soldiers across the country.[1] [...]

The recruitment and use of girls by the different armed groups is difficult to assess. The presence of girls has been noted in RCD and FAC forces. Although some receive military training, it appears that few, if any, see combat. Girls are typically used for domestic work and sex, primarily by commanders, which implies that their number is relatively low compared with boy recruits. Many girls remain 'wives' of military commanders, even returning to the countries of origin of foreign forces. Many others resort to prostitution to support themselves and their children after being abandoned or widowed by their military partners.

Despite initial encouraging signs that the demobilisation of child soldiers would proceed, the process has failed to materialise, and the authorities have not been forthcoming with the numbers or locations of the child soldiers in their forces.[2] However, influence and persuasion exerted locally on some military commanders, coupled with community-level awareness-raising, has shown some successes, particularly among the higher-ranking career officers who may be more sensitive to public opinion, and more interested in maintaining professional standards of conduct. Enforcing compliance with demobilisation orders from Chiefs of Staff among lower ranks, and influencing the irregular forces (Mayi-Mayi, FDD, Interahamwe) which fall outside the framework of the Lusaka Accord, remain important constraints.

While a small number of children have been formally released by the military, unknown (but certainly much larger) numbers have chosen to leave and returned home on their own. The government of the DRC views these children as *deserters*, placing additional protection concerns on their reintegration to community life. They have been the focus for some child-focused local organisations, and have benefited from small-scale socio-economic reintegration programmes, which assist their families in developing self-reliance, and which offer opportunities to access basic services."

[Notes: [1]: 7th Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/2001/373) dated 17 April 2001

[2] President Joseph Kabila has ratified both the Optional Protocol to the CRC and Convention 182, relating to children in armed conflict, and issued orders to respect "conservative measures" as the first steps in the demobilisation process, mandated by *Decret-Loi N° 066 (June 2000)*. A parallel process has been developed by the RCD-Goma.] (Oxfam August 2001, p.14)

"For children who find themselves alone, joining one of the military groupings is one of the few remaining alternatives if they are to survive. There is no time to lose in setting up large-scale programmes to offer these vulnerable children an alternative option, so that they are not drawn into a violent environment and forced to contribute themselves towards the spiral of violence." (MSF 25 January 2000, "Abandoned children)

**See also:** *"The civil war has caused a large number of displaced and unaccompanied children (1999-2000)"*

## **IDPs in Orientale in dire need of protection (February 2000)**

"The displaced populations are said to be in dire need of protection but also shelter, food, medical assistance and safe water. The malnutrition observed among accessible IDP communities is alarming: 11.6% global and 9.1% severe malnutrition. Widespread insecurity impedes adequate humanitarian response that would cover the displaced and affected communities in their entirety. In addition to diminishing accessibility, relief agencies operating from Bunia often encounter a hostile attitude of beneficiary communities suspecting humanitarian agencies of one-sidedness. After the withdrawal of MSF teams from the district [...], there are only two NGOs (OXFAM-UK and MedAir) and ICRC remaining in the area." (OCHA 15 February 2000)

## **Rebel authorities in eastern DRC do not protect the civilian population (2000-2001)**

- RCD claims to be legitimate authorities in the region
- Lack of response from RCD troops when protection is requested
- In 2001, worsening human rights situation in eastern DRC

*According to the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in DRC, Mr. Roberto Garretón, "The situation of terror, suspicion and insecurity prevailing in the territory occupied by RCD and its ally Rwanda is in itself "a situation of ongoing violation of human rights" which, quite apart from specific acts and individual violations, affects everyone. The situation in the eastern part of the country must be analysed in this context." (UN GA 31 August 2001)*

"The areas of eastern DRC controlled by the RCD-Goma and Rwanda, are administrated like a state, with civil servants, tax collection, mineral concessions, and military recruitment. The RCD-Goma has its own civilian service and military wing. However, the RCD-Goma has never been able to garner popular support and legitimacy in the areas it governs, and has failed to look after the basic needs of the population, such as ensuring protection, salaries and health, while imposing high taxation." (AI 19 June 2001)

"The RCD claim to be legitimate authorities in the region. They and their RPA allies have said they are seeking to protect the local population from Mai-Mai and bands of Hutu combatants. Yet in a number of cases, local people have appealed in vain for this protection. Numerous people displaced from Bunyakiri told Human Rights Watch researchers that their repeated calls for help had gone unanswered by RCD troops. As one witness reported, "We go to tell the RCD where the Interahamwe are camped, and they tell us, 'It is your affair. They are your family.'" (HRW May 2000, chapt. III)

"In the east, security had worsened, while in the north-west the human rights situation had deteriorated. Humanitarian agencies continued to face deteriorating conditions since the killing of International Committee of the Red Cross workers in April." (UN SC 30 August 2001)

"Since Rwanda's second intervention in the DRC in 1998, Amnesty International has received consistent reports about atrocities committed against unarmed civilians from the Kivu region of eastern DRC. Tens of thousands of unarmed Congolese civilians have been unlawfully killed, subjected to torture, including rape, and other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. Children have also been recruited in large numbers by the various forces who claim to be fighting either for the sovereignty of the region, or the security of the Congolese or Rwandese population. Others have 'disappeared' in custody or have been unlawfully detained for being suspected or known supporters of opposing forces. Human rights defenders have been constantly harassed." (AI 19 June 2001)

### **The Banyamulenge (Tutsi) community in the Kivus is threatened but receives little protection from RCD-Goma (2001)**

- The Banyamulenge community, about 150,000 in the Kivus, has been frequently attacked by Rwandese Hutu, Mayi Mayi and Burundian armed opposition groups
- Far from protecting them, the deployment of Rwandese troops and the presence of the RCD administration have increased the ethnic tensions between the Banyamulenge (Tutsi) and the rest of the population

"The Tutsi community of the Banyamulenge, (Batutsi of Rwandan origin, not recognized as having Congolese nationality) a small minority of around 150,000, is located mainly in South-Kivu, in the *Haut Plateau* and in smaller communities in Uvira, Bukavu and around Goma in North-Kivu. That the Banyamulenge community is threatened is not in doubt. In the *Haut Plateau*, they are effectively surrounded by Rwandese Hutu, mayi-mayi and CNDD-FDD armed opposition groups. Attacks on the community by the Hutu combatants fighting the Rwandese and Burundian governments are frequent, and killings of Banyamulenge civilians take place on a regular basis, and many villages have been pillaged and burned down. The roads in the area are very insecure, depriving the Banyamulenge in the *Haut Plateau* of access to the market in Uvira on which they are economically dependent. Many Banyamulenge are too afraid to travel, and can no longer cultivate their fields, or attend to their cattle without risking to be attacked. Because of the growing insecurity, since June 2000 Congolese Tutsi have increasingly been fleeing to Burundi.

The continuing attacks by Hutu and *mayi-mayi* armed groups on the Banyamulenge and Rwandese inaction demonstrate that the Rwandese occupation is failing to protect them. [...]

In addition, while tensions linked to land issues or citizenship rights for the Congolese Tutsis have long existed between the different ethnic groups in the Kivus, the deployment of RPA troops and the RCD-Goma administration since 1998 has drastically increased the ethnic tensions between the Banyamulenge and the rest of the Congolese population. A local human rights defender told Amnesty International delegates that anti-Tutsi feelings were increasing, and that in his view 'the Banyamulenge community was in danger of extermination.' The Banyamulenge are often held responsible by other Congolese ethnic groups for RCD-Goma attacks on them and are blamed for Rwanda's invasion of the DRC." (AI 19 June 2001)

### **Security of host communities and IDPs undermined by all armed groups (1999-2000)**

- Bombing of RCD-held areas by Kabila's forces and allies caused civilians casualties and damage on humanitarian infrastructure
- RCD has committed atrocities against villagers in retaliation for their supposed support of local militia groups
- Reports of disregard for humanitarian law standards by forces allied with Kabila
- Looting by Angolan forces reported throughout Bas-Congo
- Looting of food belonging to IDPs by MLC soldiers in Equateur (reported in March 2001)
- Civilians in the Kivu provinces especially exposed to violence

"As the conflict continued, the situation in eastern Congo became particularly explosive. Forces backing the RCD committed numerous killings of civilians from almost all different ethnic groups in the east, creating a resentment of the RCD, its military backers, and ethnic Tutsi in general. Killings of villagers were often in retaliation for their supposed support of local militia known as "Mai-Mai," or former Rwandan soldiers or

militia, known as "Interahamwe." Soldiers acting for the RCD movement arbitrarily detained many of its supposed opponents, often holding them in irregular facilities to which their families and humanitarian agencies had no access. Once arrested, some individuals were not seen again." (HRW February 1999, chapt. I)

"Accounts from witnesses in areas of combat of the behavior of the Congo-allied forces[...] from August through mid-January 1999 suggest that these [Humanitarian Law] standards were often disregarded. While information from areas of fighting or bombing was at times difficult to verify, reports of violations of humanitarian law were regularly received. NGOs, journalists, and missionaries on the ground gave eyewitness accounts to Human Rights Watch of the damage to civilians and humanitarian infrastructure following the bombing of RCD-held areas by the FAC and their allies, Angola, Zimbabwe, Namibia, and Chad. Most reports of violations came from areas of combat during or shortly after fighting.

[...]

As they began their assault in the Boma area in mid-August and progressively recaptured towns in Bas-Congo, Angolan forces and FAC reportedly committed killings of civilians and rape during house-to-house searches for RCD soldiers in Boma and Moanda[...] Human Rights Watch also received several credible accounts of extensive looting by Angolan forces throughout Bas-Congo, including hospitals at Kangu and Kuimba, where even office furniture of the hospitals was taken[...] Following the recapture of the city of Boma by the Angolans on August 26, Angolan troops took part in widespread looting including theft from private residences, farm animals, and vehicles, many of which were transported to Angola[...]

[...]

Human Rights Watch received reports of civilian casualties and the destruction of medical and other civilian infrastructure due to aerial bombardments by FAC allies from August 1998 through mid-January 1999, raising the concern that bombings may have deliberately targeted civilian objects, or at best failed to take into account the obligation to protect civilians and civilian property. Witnesses in Shabunda stated that in mid-September, bombs from planes assumed to be allied with the FAC hit civilian targets including the Shabunda hospital [...] Reports from journalists and others in Kalemie and other cities under RCD control in Katanga and Maniema stated that dozens of civilians had been killed or wounded as a result of bombings by the Zimbabwean air force[...] Local sources confirmed that on the night of January 10 and 11, FAC-allied forces carried out bombing raids in Kisangani that killed at least sixteen civilians[...] These attacks appeared to be indiscriminate in that they did not distinguish military objectives from civilians and civilian objects." (HRW February 1999, chapt. III)

"The military situation from 31 August [1999] and onwards has been stable. Only two alleged cases of violation by the DRC forces of the cease-fire agreement were reported in Kote (Eastern Kasai) and Bokungu (Equateur). In spite of a relative stalemate, the civilian population of the areas situated in proximity of the frontline is continuously subjected to violence, extortion, and allegedly, mass killings. " (UN OCHA 15 September 1999, "Humanitarian Action")

### ***Equateur***

"The unconfirmed cease-fire violation by the DRC armed forces in Equateur province starting from 2 November 1999 has, according to MLC, resulted in numerous civilian casualties. Caught in the middle of an unexpected "general offensive" of allied forces, the civilian populations of **Nkembe**, **Bekili**, and **Zongo** settlements of northern Equateur suffered losses in human lives, estimated by MLC at over 100 persons. These allegations have not been confirmed by independent sources. An inter-agency humanitarian mission to Gemena (4 November) failed to find any evidence of bombings of civilian towns earlier reported by MLC. " (UN OCHA 15 November 1999, "Protection of Civilians")

*In March 2001, OCHA reported that "les combats ont repris en Equateur. Les escarmouches ont lieu aux environs de la localité de Bolombo, entre le Mouvement de Libération du Congo (MLC) et les FAC [Forces Armées Congolaises]. [...] Les soldats du MLC auraient [...] pillé de la nourriture appartenant à des déplacés du camp de Bolomba." (OCHA 15 March 2001, "Equateur")*

### ***Kivu Provinces***

"Two third of the displaced (in particular those in the Kivu Provinces) can be considered as victims of targeted violence or collective fears of persecution or reprisals." (UN November 1999, p.9)

"Entire communities in the Kivus remained exposed to atrocities committed by militia and foreign troops. As was the case since the beginning of the DRC conflict, the civilian population suspected of sympathies with either cause is the victim of the "insurgent attack- reprisal by rebel and/or Rwandan army" scheme in the Kivu provinces especially in its southernmost regions." (UN OCHA 15 November 1999, "Protection of Civilians")

"During investigations carried out in March 2000 in areas controlled by the Goma-based Congolese Rally for Democracy (Rassemblement Congolais pour la Démocratie, RCD) and its allies, Human Rights Watch researchers documented cases of murder, rape, and pillage carried out by all of the armed groups now fighting in the region." (HRW May 2000, chapt. I)

*See also AI 31 May 2000 about human rights violations by the various armed forces.*

## SUBSISTENCE NEEDS (HEALTH NUTRITION AND SHELTER)

### General

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#### Indicators show more pressing subsistence needs in 2001 than in 2000

- According to the International Rescue Committee, 2.5 million died in the context of the war since August 1998, the majority due to disease and malnutrition
- With improved access to certain areas in the East, NGOs discovered high malnutrition rates and deterioration of infrastructure
- Indicators for malnutrition, maternal mortality, and others deteriorated in 2001 compared to 2000

"A mortality study released by the International Rescue Committee on 8 May estimates that, since the outbreak of fighting in August 1998, some 2.5 million deaths have occurred in the civilian population of the area in excess of the number that could have been expected without the war. The latest survey updated and expanded a study conducted in 2000, which estimated that 1,700,000 "excess" civilian deaths had occurred in the first 22 months of conflict. Like the 2000 study, the current report indicates that the overwhelming majority of deaths were related to disease and malnutrition - by-products of a war that has ravaged the country's health-care system and economy. Persistent fighting and insecurity have driven hundreds of thousands of people into forests and jungles where they have had no access to food, medicine or shelter. War-affected areas, in turn, have been inaccessible to aid organizations because of insecurity.

Both studies found a proportionately smaller number of deaths - 350,000 in 33 months - directly attributable to violence. Even so, according to the study director, one in eight households surveyed have experienced the violent death of a family member during this period. Among the most disturbing findings is the disproportionate effect of the war on young children. The proportion of children below the age of two was shockingly lower than would have normally been expected. In two of the districts surveyed, Moba and Kalemie, an estimated 75 per cent of children born during the conflict have died or are expected to die before their second birthday. " (UN SC 8 June 2001, paras. 60-61)

"While the accuracy of data extrapolated from such a small sample is open to debate, the magnitude of the suffering caused by the conflict is clear." (Oxfam 6 August 2001, p.18)

*To view the IRC study, see [\[External Link\]](#)*

"The deployment of military observers from the UN Observer Mission in the DRC (MONUC) has opened some previously isolated areas throughout eastern DRC to humanitarian aid. Non-governmental organizations have reported alarmingly high malnutrition rates and widespread infrastructure deterioration in some newly accessible areas, such as in northern Katanga province." (USAID 20 August 2001)

| Indicator                                             | 2000 | 2001 | Sources               |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------|------|-----------------------|
| Infant mortality (under five- per 1000) - eastern DRC | 146  | 200  | UNICEF                |
| Mortality related to war (daily)                      | 1000 | 2600 | IRC                   |
| Maternal mortality per 100,000 births (Kivu)          | 1830 | 2250 | UNFPA and UNICEF Goma |

|                                       |                 |            |                                              |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Malnutrition (in selected areas)      |                 |            | UNICEF, SCF,<br>ACF, MSF, Nuova<br>Frontiera |
| Global                                | 7 - 16%         | 7 - 30 %   |                                              |
| Severe                                | 3 - 8.5%        | 3 - 9.4%   |                                              |
| Morbidity patterns (absolute figures) |                 |            | WHO DRC                                      |
| Cholera                               |                 | 4,760      |                                              |
| Measles                               |                 | 5,776      |                                              |
| Inflation (western DRC)               | 540%            | 320% (YTD) | OCHA                                         |
| Food deficit (western DRC)            | 10 - 40%        | 10 - 55%   | OCHA                                         |
| School enrolment (Kivu)               | 67% (base year) | 36%        | UNICEF Kivu                                  |
| School drop-out rate                  | 49%             | 75%        | UNICEF DRC                                   |

(UN OCHA 21 May 2001)

### **Lack of resources for IDPs in Equateur province (June 2001)**

"A recent UN-NGO assessment mission [Oxfam-GB, FAO, CARITAS, WFP, Ministry of health and OCHA] to areas of northwestern Equateur province found a dramatic lack of resources for displaced people, OCHA said. The visit took in the towns of Mbandaka, Boende and Ikela all of which are located near the frontline and which had poor access to humanitarian assistance. Most of the displaced people were living with host families. In Boende, medical facilities had been destroyed or looted, no medicines were available and the water supply had been disrupted, the report stated. It also noted that Ikela had 15,000 inhabitants before the war broke out in 1998. "Today only 1,200 persons are remaining," the report said. "The rest of them hid in the forest to escape the war. Thanks to the security resuming in the area, people are returning in their villages but they need assistance to rebuild their homes." (IRIN-CEA 1 June 2001)

### **Civil war inflicts unbearable hardship on women (2000)**

- Violence perpetrated against women a feature of the war
- Absence of functional maternity wards

"Continued war in the DRC is a double-edged dilemma from a woman's perspective: an ever-present appalling violence and a blow to the most basic rights, pitted against an unprecedented opportunity to play a fairer role in the common response to the crisis. [...]"

The amazing endurance of the Congolese woman has been forged throughout the country's 30 years of social and economic decline, deadly natural and industrial disasters, and sporadic warfare since October 1996. The most striking effect of Congo's recent crises on women –small and major, natural and man-made – is reflected through the following:

The Ebola outbreak in Kikwit, Bandundu (peak in May-June 1995) showed images of Congolese and foreign nurses putting their own health at risk for their early commitment towards incurable patients with no protective equipment. The plane crash at Ndolo airport (January 1996), one of the worst aircraft accidents in history (more than 300 deaths) killed mostly female traders and buyers who were encouraged by "informal state structures" to push survival trade onto airport runways. Ever since the winds of war have swept through Congo, a country that strikes every visitor with its perpetual use of the word *maman*, violence perpetrated against women has become a morbid reflection of an increased resignation to the horrors of war. Massacres of Hutu Rwandan refugee women in Biaro or Mbandaka, massacres of mostly

female and infant villagers in the Kivus (Kasika, Makobola), soldiers burying women alive in Mwenga, rumours of rape by HIV-infected soldiers in eastern DRC, forced labour of thousands of displaced communities at soldiers' disposal - these are but most visible features of woman's suffering.

A less visible mark, yet deadlier in the longer term, are problems associated with motherhood: the chances of a pregnant women finding a functional maternity ward and being able to afford to benefit from its services in today's DRC are the slimmest in four decades. Statistics of maternal mortality mentioned in the 2000 Appeal – 1,837 deaths per 100,000 births, one of the highest in the world – have been echoed by IRC findings in eastern DRC areas (3,000/100,000). Lack of hygiene and sanitary facilities coupled with massive displacements, poor nutrition and expanding spots of health deserts have produced a risky environment that is and will inevitably alter the country's demographic profile. Mothers carrying both their babies and a 20 kg load of wood in one subtly tied piece of cloth along the roads of South Kivu are more than an embodiment of women's fate in today's DRC: behind their solid gait, they remind us of how frail the whole society has become." (UN November 2000, p.15)

### **IDPs seeking shelter in the forest constitute be the most vulnerable IDP group (2000)**

- Forest dwellers lack access to health care and subside on wild foods
- This IDP category estimated at 200,000

"Tragically, it is estimated that less than half the displaced communities and families are receiving humanitarian assistance. Those vulnerable and displaced populations left without assistance are hiding in the forests, inaccessible as a result of insecurity and some who emerged for their hiding places in August [2000] were disturbingly described as 'living in animal-like-conditions.'" (OCHA 31 December 2000)

"This group of displaced is legitimately believed to be the most vulnerable among all IDP communities. Most commonly, these people have been displaced several times, having left their home communities seeking security in remote and barely accessible areas. Communities then cleanse a portion of forest and start cultivating. This category of displaced has practically no access to health care and is reduced to consuming wild berries and "non-human" and raw food. Ashamed of their physical appearance and nudity, precarious health conditions (infections, dermatosis, parasitosis, etc.), "forest dwellers" avoid any contacts with the outside world and seek to further distance and alienate themselves from the neighbouring communities. The previous (1996-1998) experience with similar groups of displaced suggested that practically every family loses on average one child under five. Because of its survival tactics, this group is the hardest to access and assist. The largest concentrations of people in the forest were observed in Shabunda (South Kivu) and Bokungu-Ikela (Equateur). The number of people in this category is estimated at 200,000." (UN November 2000, p.15)

## **Health**

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### **IDPs are more exposed to HIV/AIDS infection as a result of the conflict (2001)**

- IDPs have no means to protect themselves from HIV/AIDS infection nor access to information about its transmission
- 800,000-1 million children are orphaned because of AIDS
- Eastern provinces have the highest rates of HIV/AIDS infection

"Multiple troop movements and population displacements in the DRC, and to and from neighbouring countries with high HIV prevalence rates, have left the DRC well set for "an explosion of HIV/AIDS", according to WHO focal point Dr Tshioko Kweteminga, cited in an agency situation report late last week. [...]

National statistics collected through the health information system suggested that there were just under 10,000 new HIV cases last year but public health authorities have estimated – based on information from five regional sites – that there were in the region of 173,000 new HIV cases each year in the DRC, and almost 1.3 million adults and children living with HIV." (IRIN-CEA 15 August 2001)

"In both government- and rebel-controlled areas, the population has suffered greater exposure to infection as a result of the conflict. People who are internally displaced, or who have lost all means of earning a livelihood, do not have the resources to protect themselves from infection, nor access to information about HIV/AIDS transmission. Health structures have limited capacity to test patients for HIV or to screen blood used in transfusions. Women living close to military camps, with no source of income, have turned to prostitution, despite the risks involved, in order to support themselves and their families.

Human rights organisations have also registered many cases of soldiers raping women. In addition to mental and physical injury and the risk of pregnancy, rape victims are particularly vulnerable to contracting HIV because body tissues are more likely to be torn. There are six foreign armies fighting on Congolese soil, and on average, soldiers' rates of infection can be up to four times higher than those of civilians.[1] [...]

Unlike most other diseases, AIDS affects adults of child-bearing age particularly, leaving the very young with no one to care for them.

[Note: [1] "No Excuses", Christian Aid, 2001" (Oxfam 6 August 2001, p.28)

"The eastern provinces have the highest rates, with the number of people infected having increased fivefold (from 4 to 22 per cent) over the past two years in towns such as Goma, Bukavu and Beni." (UN SC 8 June 2001)

### **WHO says clear shift to public health approach needed to focus on the main killer conditions (end 2000-2001)**

- Malaria is the no one cause of the population of 20 million in the east
- Up to 70% of the population is now excluded from accessing basic health services
- As a result of difficult living conditions and lack of access to health care, diseases which had almost been eradicated are now recorded

"Malaria is the number one cause of mortality for the population of nearly 20 million in the east. There are big problems of security, logistics and infrastructure, low access to health services, no preventative activities and a real lack of standardization of approach to surveillance and treatment. [...]

Health care in DRC must be redirected from the current facility-based curative care to a public health approach focused on the main killer conditions if humanitarian interventions are to address the unacceptable mortality and morbidity evident in the country. This was the key message of a joint WHO-UNICEF mission which spent late July in DRC.

The mission found that, despite good intentions, up to 70% of the population is now excluded from accessing basic health services, while all forms of preventative public activities are severely curtailed, not least because salaries of health service workers are linked to curative care. This observation led to the

mission's second key recommendation: that "health worker remuneration must be separated from payment by patients... and linked to performance of a package which directly targets the main killers, both in the health centre and at household level." (WHO 9 August 2001)

"As a result of difficult living conditions and lack of access to health care, diseases which had almost been eradicated, such as bubonic plague and whooping cough, are now being recorded. There have also been numerous epidemics of measles and cholera, and reported cases of haemorrhagic fever, monkey pox, and meningitis." (Oxfam 6 August 2001, p.19)

### **Conflict causes degradation of the health care system (1999-2001)**

- Scores of health institutions were looted or severely damaged in Orientale, North and South Kivu, Maniema, Katanga and Equateur provinces in the wake of the August 1998 rebellion
- Continued looting by soldiers, rebels or armed individuals affect many centres along the frontline and in unstable regions
- Health care systems paralysed in many provinces as qualified staff have fled war-affected regions
- At least 37 per cent of the population don't have access to any formal health care
- Situation in rebel-held areas is even worse due to war damage
- Health personnel run the risk of being taken hostage or prisoner
- Vaccination statistics difficult to obtain because of the massive migrations of IDPs

"Degradation of the health care system in the DRC continued at an accelerated rate throughout 1999. In addition to the already dilapidated health infrastructure, chronic absence of investments and qualified specialists, scores of health institutions, including those rehabilitated by relief agencies in 1997/98, were looted or severely damaged in Orientale, North and South Kivu, Maniema, Katanga and Equateur provinces. The health care management system is paralysed in many provinces as a number of qualified specialists (e.g. Chief Provincial Doctors) fled war-affected regions. A sharp increase in epidemic diseases such as cholera, measles, polio, meningitis, trypanosomiasis, and onchocercosis is being observed in all provinces. These reflect poor access to potable water (average 42 percent), feeble vaccination coverage (measles- 33 percent, BCG 46 percent), and limited access to primary health services (26 percent of the population). An estimated 34 percent of the country's population suffers from moderate to severe malnutrition. This percentage is believed to be especially high amongst the displaced children and women. Maternal mortality rate has increased from 870 per 100,000 in 1995 to approximately double this year according to WHO. Finally, forced displacements have increased exposure and vulnerability to sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and Human Immuno-Deficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS)." (UN July 1999, p.10)

"The health situation in DRC is marked by the continued destruction of the medical infrastructure, a rupture in essential medicines stocks due to difficulties in a lack of supply, as well as a lack of resources. The maternal and infant mortality rates are excessively high. In 1999, maternal mortality ratio was estimated by the Ministry of Health and WHO to be 1,837 per 100,000 life births, with the infant mortality reported to be 127/1,000 life births. The average rate of HIV/AIDS infection was 4.1%: This broke down to 6.3% for Kinshasa; 8.6% for Lubumbashi; 10% for Matadi; and 16% for Goma. The epidemiological profile was dominated by infectious diseases, exacerbated by increasing malnutrition rates, growing morbidity and precarious living standards. The dramatic resurgence of previously controlled diseases such as plague, TB, trypanosomiasis and onchocerciasis has negatively impacted on the socio-economic indicators. Additionally, there have been new emerging diseases, such as Marburg haemorrhagic fever, monkey pox, spastic paralysis 'Konzo', as well as the spread of cholera epidemics, dysentery, malaria and cerebrospinal meningitis." (UN November 2000, p. 24)

"A dearth of recent statistical data from across the country makes a full assessment of the population's access to health services difficult.[1] However, conservative estimates of the coverage of health facilities show that at least 37 per cent of the population, or approximately 18.5 million people, have no access to any form of formal health care.[2]

In government-held areas, the share of central government expenditure allocated to the health sector is less than one per cent – and has been barely more than this since Independence in 1960. As a result, the health system has always been run as a 'private' service, with patients required to pay. In areas under RCD control, there is no budget for health services. Additional support to the 307 Health Zones into which the country is divided comes mainly from churches and other organisations. However, in 2000, 100 Health Zones received no external assistance, either from the government or from outside agencies. In addition, there is a severe lack of human resources. In 1998 there were only 2056 doctors for a population of 50 million people, and of these, 930 were in Kinshasa.[3] [...]

In rebel-held areas the situation is even worse, because a large number of the medical facilities in areas which were already under-resourced have also suffered war damage. In Masisi (North Kivu), 40 per cent of all health infrastructure has been destroyed, including the hospital in Mweso which was gutted and used by soldiers. In the Djugu territory in Ituri, many health centres were completely destroyed as the inter-ethnic war raged through its towns. All that now remains is rubble, medical staff having fled or been killed. In rebel-held parts of Kabinda Health Zone (Kasai Oriental), the disengagement of warring parties in March has allowed medical staff from health outposts to reach the town for the first time in more than a year. They reported that in 12 areas only one of the health centres has any medicine, and the rest are not functioning at all. Many have been looted, and have little or no essential equipment."

[Notes:

[1] Access is defined as both geographical and economic, ie being within a reasonable walking distance of a functioning health service and being able to afford to pay for the consultation and treatment.

[2] Figure published in the 8th Report of the Secretary General on the UN Organisation Mission in DRC (S/2001/572), 8th June 2001. However, OCHA estimates that the percentage could be as high as 75%, meaning that over 37 million people would be denied access to health care.

[3] Etat des Lieux du Secteur de la Santé, Avril-Juin 1998, Ministère de la Santé Publique] (Oxfam August 2001, pp.15-17)

'La santé pour tous dans l'année 2000 - Health for all in the year 2000', the slogan adopted by the World Health Organisation in order to stimulate primary health care, is just an illusion: 79 health districts are more than 100 km from their referral hospital, and only 9% of health districts have a refrigerator for storing medicines. In the provinces of Maniema and South Kivu, there are no longer any lab technicians employed. The number of working health centres fluctuated in 1996 between 30% in Eastern Kasai and 86% in Bandundu.

[...].Looting and a "first come, first served" attitude by soldiers, rebels or armed individuals affect many centres along the frontline and in unstable regions. Health personnel run the risk of being taken hostage or prisoner. Imports of medicines via the rivers have come to a standstill for logistic or military reasons. Due to the disappearance and deterioration of equipment, the drying-up of spare parts supplies and the failure to maintain buildings, the quality of medical care provision is declining rapidly.

The life expectancy at birth of the average Congolese is decreasing. In 1996 the life expectancy for men was still 51 years and 54 for women. In 1999 it was estimated to be 47 years, partly as a result of AIDS. The number of people not living beyond the age of 40 amounted to 30% of the total population in 1995. According to WHO, the number of women dying in childbirth rose from 870/100,000 in 1995 to almost twice as much in 1999 (**OCHA 1999**). The poor quality of mother-and-child care also has consequences for infant mortality, which rose from 131/1,000 live-born children in 1972 to 111/1,000 in 1980 and to 141/1,000 in 1995 (**UNICEF**). Between 65% and 84% of deliveries take place outside health care institutions or without the help of qualified midwives.

Preventive work such as vaccination campaigns can no longer be carried out in a structured way. Overall vaccination statistics are difficult to obtain because of the inaccessibility of many areas and the massive migrations of internally displaced persons. The efficiency of one-shot actions such as national vaccination days still has to be analysed. Although these one-shot initiatives receive a massive response, the disastrous everyday reality of primary health care is pushed into the background. Epidemics are no longer detected in time, and are left to spread unchecked. In 1999 alone, a polio epidemic broke out in Equator province claiming over 200 victims." (MSF 25 January 2000, "primary health care")

"Although average figures for routine vaccination rose slightly in 1999-2000 according to figures from WHO's Expanded Programme on Immunization unit, overall the picture is grim.

The rise stems largely from intensive efforts in NGO-supported health zones and improvements in cold chain due to the expansion of the polio programme. But still fewer than one third of children routinely receive childhood vaccination and averages for some antigens fall as low as 18% while in Orientale Province, rates run at 0 to 10%." (WHO 9 August 2001)

### **Appalling health conditions among IDPs in South Kivu (2000-2001)**

- Most common diseases are malaria, respiratory infections, diarrhea, malnutrition, anemia and amoebiasis
- Reported that cholera is endemic
- In South Kivu, average crude mortality rate amongst IDPs is estimated at 6.0/1000/month, which is very high

"Most IDPs are in Kivu province on the Rwandan border and they live in extremely poor conditions. They are able to plant crops on an irregular basis. Malnutrition rates have risen and now stand at 10% of the population. Health services and education, which operate broadly on a pay-as-you-go system, have become increasingly inaccessible to the impoverished population. There have recently been epidemics, notably haemorrhagic fever, measles and most importantly, cholera, in the region." (SCF 31 December 2000)

*In South Kivu*, "The average crude mortality rate amongst displaced populations is estimated to be 6.0/1000/month; this is very high when considered against the baseline rate of 1.2 reported by UNICEF before the war. A number of endemic diseases, and a particularly worrying epidemic of cholera, are reported in some areas in the province." (ACT 13 July 2001)

**"In the Sud Kivu :** the FAO has described the situation in Shabunda and Mwenga as « frightening », because of the flight of the population into the forests as a means of fleeing RCD Goma rebels, the Rwandan army and the militias. The author of the FAO report who met some of these people notes "... they don't have anything human except the shape of a body. The feet are inflated, with several wounds, an empty look... they mention a lot of cases of mortality in the forest for lack of healthcare. Their nutritional state is very disturbing." The number of these displaced in forests is estimated at more than 100,000 for the territory of Shabunda alone, out of a total population estimated at 475,000 people. " (OCHA September 2000)

"The situation in Shabunda, South Kivu, is reported as desperate. A UN mission, visiting the town in July, described the town as an "islet" controlled by RCD-Goma and surrounded by forces opposed to the RCD. About 34,000 displaced people have converged on the town itself, dislodged from their homes by fighting between the RCD and opposing forces such as the Mayi-Mayi and Interahamwe militias. These IDPs have little to eat, and no access to medical services and shelter." (UNICEF 10 October 2000)

"The most common diseases are malaria, respiratory infections, diarrhea, malnutrition, anemia and amoebiasis. Cholera is endemic. In May 2000 124 cases were reported in Uvira health zone. ACF-USA conducted 2 mortality surveys in the context of nutritional surveys in Lemera in January 2000 covering October-December 1999 and in Uvira in April, 2000, covering January March. They only include the accessible part of the health zones. Specifically the Hauts and Moyens Plateaux and the areas very close to the Burundian border are not included.

| Zone de santé | Mortality rate under-fives (<5years) |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| Lemera        | 2.46 / 10,000 / day                  |
| Uvira         | 2.68 / 10,000 / day                  |

For WHO, 2 deaths/10,000/day trigger a state of alert, while 4/10,000/day indicates an acute emergency (WHO under 5 mortality thresholds).

These figures are alarming but do not indicate massive mortality either. However, the studies only cover the areas that are most accessible and thus where relief has been provided. When compared with the dramatic figures of the recent IRC mortality survey in, for instance, an area such as Moba, south of Baraka, along the Lake Tanganyika in Northern Katanga, where no assistance was given in the past two years, it is clear that these alarming rates are only the top of the iceberg. Moreover, the ACF-USA surveys only cover three months. It is very likely that many deaths occurred before that period but are not included in the study. This is especially likely, given the near absence of health care, the lack of food security and the prevalence of severe malnutrition." (AAH August 2000, sect. 4.3)

### **IDPs often lived in particularly insanitary conditions (2001)**

"Among groups of people who are living in particularly unsanitary conditions, such as the displaced, the lack of access to sufficient water, in addition to their inability to buy soap, has lead to severe outbreaks of scabies. Cholera epidemics have been notified in many parts of the country. However, Oxfam GB's activities in Kitshanga (North Kivu), an area in which 79 per cent of the population is internally displaced, show that the disease can be managed if the resources are available. Prior to the implementation of water, sanitation, and hygiene activities in June 1999, the health authorities had registered two cholera epidemics per year. Since June 1999, none has been reported [see Rappports du Centre de Santé de Kitshanga (1999-2001) et Rapport de la Mission d'Evaluation des Besoins, Oxfam, December 2000] (Oxfam 6 August 2001, p.23)

## **Nutrition and food**

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### **Malnutrition on the increase among IDPs (2000-2001)**

- 16 million people (33 % of population) have critical food needs as a result of prolonged displacement and other factors (June 2001)
- Malnutrition amongst displaced populations in Ituri being up to 40% worse than the resident population (Feb 2000)
- Major malnutrition among displaced children arriving in Lubumbashi (Feb 2000)
- Survey of IDP children in North Kivu reveals 14,7 percent acute malnutrition (September 2000)
- Extremely high rates of malnutrition of displaced people in South Kivu who fled insecurity in Nindja and Kalonge: 34% (July 2001)

"Some 16 million people in the Democratic Republic of the Congo are estimated to have critical food needs as a result of prolonged displacement, the rupture of traditional sources of supply due to war and the alarming increase in prices." (UN SC 8 June 2001, para.57)

"Most evidence suggests that malnutrition is on the increase, particularly amongst displaced populations in Eastern DRC. Evidence from Ituri 'province' is particularly worrying: up to 11.6% global malnutrition and 9.1% severe malnutrition with the status amongst displaced populations being up to 40% worse than the resident population. As an indicator of the severity, of the estimated population of 326,672 there are 7,578 malnourished children in Bunia Health Zone under the age of five, of whom 5,900 are candidates for therapeutic feeding." (OCHA 15 February 2000)

"In the Eastern city of Lubumbashi (population 1 million people), the situation is worsening day by day with the massive arrival of rural populations displaced by insecurity in the war-affected zones of the republic. Approximately 20,000 displaced people live in camps or are hosted in families. A recent survey carried out by Action Against Hunger shows that over 5,000 children could be malnourished. The organization has recently opened 4 feeding centers." (AAH-USA 14 February 2000)

"A study of 971 displaced children [in north Kivu] less than 5 years of age led by the NGO Solidarité revealed that 14,7 percent suffer from acute malnutrition (with oedema) and 19,9 percent global severe malnutrition in the three localities of Kanyabayonga, Kirumbas and Kaynas. The death rate is at 2,7%/1000/day. The malnutrition rate already affecting the region, has been aggravated by the arrival of displaced individuals because the local population shares the stocks of supplies with them. The prenatal death rate is of 32/1000 (OMS norm: 20/1000) and 17,8 percent of the children are born with a weight less than 2,5 kg (WHO norm: 15 percent)." (OCHA September 2000, p.6)

"Rates of malnutrition are extremely high amongst the displaced populations of South Kivu: a recent survey carried out by an aid agency set the level as high as 34 percent, in a community of displaced people who have fled current insecurity in Nindja and Kalonge." (ACT 13 July 2001)

### **In Katanga Province, widespread malnutrition reported among IDPs and the population in general (2001)**

- 50 % of displaced in government-held areas of Katanga province are in urgent need of food aid (Aug 2001)
- Displaced population has no access to their fields and only have manioc to eat, which lacks protein
- 32% of malnutrition rate in Kiambi and global malnutrition rate of 20% in northern Katanga (July 2001)
- 3,000 IDPs in Kasomeno, southern Katanga, face daily hunger and are in desperate need of food and agricultural tools, seeds and fertilizer (September 2001)

"Le nord de la province du Katanga, dans le sud-est de la République du Congo (RDC), qui faisait partie des régions les plus fertiles du pays, est en proie à une crise alimentaire sévère en raison de la guerre.

Sous contrôle des rebelles du Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie (RCD) et de leurs alliés rwandais, les principales agglomérations du Nord-Katanga, Kabalo, Manono, Nyunzu, Kiambi et Kongolo, sont obligées de vivre en quasi-autarcie.

Les campagnes sont devenues le repaire de milices tribales Maï-Maï et les lieux de passage des rebelles extrémistes hutu rwandais et burundais. [...]

*Selon le coordinateur du Programme alimentaire mondial (PAM) pour l'Est de la RDC, M. Claude Jijibar, "les habitants des villes n'ont plus accès aux champs en brousse, et les populations rurales, sous la menace de groupes armés incontrôlés, doivent se déplacer en permanence et ne se nourrissent plus que de manioc sauvage, très pauvre en protéines.*

Le taux de malnutrition globale a atteint une moyenne de 20% dans le nord du Katanga, selon une enquête récente d'une organisation humanitaire italienne 'Alisei-Nuova Frontiera.'

'La situation est particulièrement grave à Kiambi où la malnutrition est de l'ordre de 32%', souligne le coordinateur des activités d'Alisei, le Dr Achille Garavelli." (PANA 30 July 2001)

"Some 3,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) in the little town of Kasomeno, in the DRC's southern Katanga province, face daily hunger and are in desperate need of food and agricultural tools, seeds and fertiliser. Short of food and facing the onset of the rainy season, administrators of the Kasomena IDP camp have appealed for help. " (WV 27 Sept 2001)

"In Katanga, massive displacement due to clashes between rebels and FACs for the control of Pweto, resulted in the displacement of more than 27,000 persons on the Kilwa-Pweto axis. According to MSF-Belgium, the health conditions are very precarious in towns located on that axis due to earlier looting of health centers. The mortality rate, particularly amongst infants, has reportedly increased among both the local population and IDPs. Around Malemba-Nkulu, the looting of harvests and seeds by FACs and Maï Maï is raising concerns of potential famine in the area." (WFP 23 Feb 2001)

"De nombreux cas de décès par anémie ont été détectés dans le camp de Kasomeno près de Kasenga. Cette situation s'explique par la fréquence de la malnutrition due à l'irrégularité de l'approvisionnement en nourriture et du paludisme." (OCHA 14 February 2001, "Katanga")

"A joint mission at the weekend by the DRC Ministry of Health, local and international NGOs, and the provincial administration of Katanga, has complemented and reinforced the prior impression of widespread malnutrition, prolonged displacement of civilians and severe economic depression, a report on Tuesday by UNOCHA, which coordinated the visit, stated. The residents of this frontline area, both host population and internally-displaced people (IDPs), were living in fear of confrontation and convinced of being unfairly forgotten by the world, it added.

Some 7,000 displaced had found refuge in Ankoro town, while 70,000 others were dispersed in an area of 20,000 square kilometres between Manono and Kabalo, the report said. The displaced emphasised their need for food and medicines, but also seeds and tools - indicating their wish to become self-reliant, it said." (IRIN 30 May 2000)

In Katanga, "The number of men, women and children living hand to mouth, and without life's basic necessities, is overwhelming. We estimate that more than 300,000 people are displaced in government-held

areas of Katanga province and more than 50 percent of them are in urgent need of food aid,' said Jose Pita-Gros, WFP Acting Country Director, DRC." (WFP 13 Aug 2001)

### **Critical food situation in Kinshasa due to the war and influx of IDPs (September 2001)**

- Because of destruction of infrastructures and lower food imports, only 60% of food needs in Kinshasa can be met
- Food has little nutritional value, and the calory consumption per person is 1000 kcal instead of 2200 as recommended for Sub Sahara Africa;
- Half of the income per person in Kinshasa is used to buy food
- Children are the hardest hit by malnutrition: chronic malnutrition rate of 18% in the capital and 30% in its periphery

"Avant la guerre de 1998, le taux de croissance de la population de Kinshasa était estimé à 4,7 % . L'afflux des personnes déplacée est venu exacerber l'explosion démographique dans un contexte marqué par la dégradation continue de l'environnement socio- économique. Aujourd'hui, la population est estimée à plus de 6 millions d'habitants.

La sécurité alimentaire des ménages à Kinshasa est très critique. D'après l'enquête nutritionnelle réalisée en avril 1999 par le CEPLANUT, seulement 10,6 % de ménages avaient accès à trois repas par jour, 17,4 % possédaient un stock en aliment de base. Ces paramètres se sont détériorés davantage depuis 1999.

L'offre intérieure des produits alimentaires est largement insuffisante pour couvrir les besoins alimentaires de la Ville, soit 500.000 tonnes de disponibilités alimentaires contre 1.450.000 tonnes de besoins alimentaires pour l'an 2000. Cette situation s'explique par:

- L' interruption des approvisionnements à partir des provinces de: Equateur, Orientale, Nord-Kivu, Kasai...
- La baisse des importations alimentaires.
- Le piteux état des infrastructures routières. 15 % seulement de la production vivrière des localités isolées atteindraient Kinshasa.

La disponibilité d'aliments ne couvre que 60 % des besoins du point de vue quantitatif. Du point de vue qualitatif, la population est obligée de consommer une nourriture de faible valeur nutritive constituée d'un régime essentiellement végétarien. L'apport calorifique par personne à Kinshasa a été estimé selon le PNUD à 1000 kcal contre 2200 kcal recommandé pour l'Afrique subsaharienne.

Entre- temps, on assiste à la réduction drastique de revenus par tête et à la perte continue du pouvoir d'achat qui a diminué en moyenne de 45 % à cause de l'inflation galopante . 85 à 89 % des habitants dépensent plus de la moitié de leurs revenus pour la nourriture. La majorité de la population vit en dessous du seuil de pauvreté et consacre une partie importante des revenus à l'alimentation. Le déficit vivrier de Kinshasa est estimé à 1 million de tonnes en 2000.

La grande majorité de la population souffrent de graves pénuries alimentaires entraînant la malnutrition généralisée. Le taux de malnutrition est très alarmant surtout chez le couple «mère- enfant». et en particulier dans les zones périphériques. Une assez large portion d'enfants est affectée par la malnutrition chronique: 35.058 enfants (soit 33,3%) à Kimbaseke, 12.868 enfants à Selembao (soit 34,6%), 5.403 enfants à Kingabwa (soit 25,9 %) et 3.381 enfants dans la commune de Kinshasa (soit 19,9 %).

A Kimbaseke et Selembao, 13,5 % des enfants souffrent de malnutrition chronique sévère. La malnutrition chronique frappe 18% des enfants de la ville et 30% des enfants de la périphérie. Le nombre d'enfants à

réhabiliter était estimé à 126.000 en avril 1999 à Kinshasa. A Kimbaseke, commune la plus peuplée de Kinshasa, 95 % des enfants mal nourris ne sont pas pris en charge." (UN OCHA September 2001)

"Children were hardest hit by malnutrition, especially in the capital, Kinshasa, and the other major urban centres." (UN SC 8 June 2001, para.57)

### **In Maniema Province, IDPs hiding in the forest are dying of disease and malnutrition (July 2001)**

- 30% of the population in Maniema is displaced and more people have recently arrived from Katanga and Kasai
- Mai Mai and RCD troops destroyed much of the farming capacity of the province and food needs are increasing

"Some 30 percent of the population of the eastern Maniema province is still hiding out in the forests after fleeing fighting and insecurity, according to Christian Aid. The NGO, which is a member of the Action by Churches Together (ACT) umbrella group, says most of the people are concentrated in the southern part of the province. 'A significant number of deaths has been reported, due mostly to disease and malnutrition amongst the more vulnerable groups.' Christian Aid said, in a report produced by ACT. 'Land is in plentiful supply in Maniema, but the displaced lack the tools to cultivate it, and the more vulnerable amongst the displaced face a shortage of labour power for cutting down trees and cultivating land.'" (IRIN-CEA 17 July 2001)

"There are displaced people throughout this vast (132,000 sq. kms) province, and in the southernmost part in particular, the needs are increasing. This part of Maniema is closer to the war front and thus receives many new arrivals from Katanga and Kasai. In addition, the inhabitants of these areas were seriously affected by combat between Mai Mai and the RCD, who in repeated reprisal raids destroyed much of the farming capacity of the province, including houses, tools, granaries and animal stocks. On a visit to Kitimba, on the road between Kindu and Kasongo, the CA Project assistant witnessed the pathetic sight of men, women and children dressed in rags, and most barefooted. The displaced are totally lacking in financial resources." (ACT 13 July 2001)

### **Evident signs of malnutrition among IDPs in Ituri (March 2000)**

- Claims that people have died because of suspension of humanitarian aid
- Desperate humanitarian situation also expected among IDPs in hiding in the forests

"The situation of people in parts of the northeast Ituri district, which is subject to sporadic but serious clashes between the Hema and Lendu ethnic groups, is "close to catastrophic", according to relief workers operating in the northeast of the country.

Aid agencies, who have been denied access to many parts of Ituri in recent months due to the Hema-Lendu conflict, found during an assessment mission from 15-19 March that "a very significant number of people" had already died, and more would die in the coming days, due to the forced suspension of humanitarian aid. The clashes themselves resulted in the deaths of some 4,000-7,000 and have displaced an estimated 150,000 people.

The situation was particularly bad in Fataki and Rethy, where the vulnerable people identified were "possibly the most at-risk group currently accessible" in eastern DRC, aid sources told IRIN. More than 3,000 displaced were located in three different sites in Fataki and signs of malnutrition were evident in

almost every person, with one small pot of leaves all a family of six could hope to eat for two to three days, they said.

Malnutrition was also evident in Rethy, alongside dramatic problems of hygiene and skin disease, and a lack of drinking water. Throughout the area, there was a rising incidence of malaria, measles, respiratory infections and the plague. Yet, it was "highly likely that other areas of equal need exist in Ituri district", particularly among those displaced people who remain in hiding in the forests. The humanitarian community is currently mobilising resources - with essential drugs, therapeutic milk, food and plastic sheeting among the priorities - and negotiating enhanced access to areas in need." (IRIN 24 March 2000)

### **Alarming high malnutrition rates among displaced and other children (2001)**

- In rebel-held areas, global malnutrition rates among children under five have reached 41 % and severe malnutrition rates up to 25.79% (SCF-UK & Nueva Frontiera surveys)
- In certain parts of government-held areas, global malnutrition rates among children have reached 42% (SCF-UK survey)
- In certain areas of Katanga, there are reports of alarmingly high malnutrition rates at 28 % among young children (August 2001)

"In rebel-held areas, the rates of global malnutrition among children under five reported in the past year have reached 41 per cent,[1] with severe malnutrition rates of up to 25.79 per cent.[2] These figures were recorded at the point at which the humanitarian community gained access to previously isolated communities. Consequently, it is reasonable to expect that in areas of the east which continue to be too insecure to allow any form of assistance to be delivered, the situation is at least as bad, and possibly worse. Displaced populations inaccessible in the forests are in a particularly bad nutritional state, as illustrated by WFP's figures for South Kivu, which show that 75 per cent of malnourished children currently registered in feeding centres belong to families which have just emerged from the forests. When Manono and Kiambi (northern Katanga) became accessible in January 2001, Nuova Frontiera conducted a nutritional survey which found a global malnutrition rate among under fives of 32.07 per cent and a severe malnutrition rate of 25.79 per cent. [...]

Nor have parts of the government-held territories been spared. [...] A survey conducted by Save the Children UK in the poorest parts of the Commune of Kimbanseke in April 2001 found that 42 per cent of children are chronically malnourished, and that global malnutrition rates had reached 18.3 per cent. [3] The severe malnutrition rate in these areas was also found to have tripled between September 1999 and January 2001.[4]

[Notes:

[1] Global malnutrition rate registered by SC UK during a vaccination campaign in Bunyakiri, South Kivu. The methodology used was a first screening using MUAC and oedema detection. No anthropometric measurements were taken.

[2] Rapport de l'enquête nutritionnelle dans la ville de Kiambi, Nuova Frontiera, March 2001

[3] Nutrition Survey in Tshimungu, Mapela, Kimbanseke and Lobiko Aires de Santé, Save the Children UK, 28 April 2001

[4] Kinshasa, Enquetes Nutritionnelles, Communes de Kimbanseke, Selembao, Bumbu et Kisenso ACF-USA/Ceplanut, 31 January – 23 February 2001]" (Oxfam August 2001, p. 26)

In Katanga, "A recent nutritional survey conducted in the area of Kabongo and Kitenge reports alarmingly high malnutrition rates at 28 percent among young children. Some 1,500 under five years of age are suffering from global acute malnutrition, with a high prevalence of Kwashiorkor, a life-threatening disease

caused by an extreme lack of protein that turns a child's hair blonde and leaves faces and limbs swollen with fluids." (WFP 13 August 2001)

*In the Kivus*, "Children, as usual, are being disproportionately impacted by the displacement. Therapeutic and supplementary feeding centers remain full. However, a shortage of therapeutic dry milk is being felt, and many local centers which care for hundreds of children are scrambling to supply this life-giving commodity." (RI 14 September 2000)

## **Shelter**

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### **IDPs in eastern DRC seek shelter in towns (2000)**

- Lack of camps for IDPs from the Kivus make people move in with family and friends or squat wherever they can in the towns
- IDPs in Ituri seek shelter at trading centres, churches and schools

"The largest groups of displaced are in Goma and Bukavu. One church worker told Human Rights Watch that at least a quarter of the population of Goma is now comprised of people displaced from the interior. But even in the small community of Kavumu in South Kivu there are more than 4,000 displaced persons, some 1,200 from Bunyakiri and Walikale and nearly 3,000 from Kalonge. These are the numbers of those officially registered and the actual number may be far higher. There are no camps for the displaced so they move in with family and friends, themselves already impoverished, or they squat wherever they can in the towns. As one church worker commented, "They have no work, no home, they're not accustomed to the city. They become beggars, are exposed to illnesses. They are the most affected by cholera, AIDS, and other diseases." Recently displaced persons told Human Rights Watch researchers that many of those who remained in their communities are too afraid of attack to spend their nights at home and sleep outside the house where they are exposed to inclement weather and to illnesses such as malaria." (HRW May 2000, chapt. III)

#### ***IDPs in the Ituri district also seek shelter in towns:***

"The displaced are concentrated in isolated bush areas, major trading centres, around hospitals and in Bunia town. Bunia's population has significantly increased with villagers seeking refuge with relatives and friends. Every Friday, about 400 people are given two kg of food rations donated by MedAir, through a local women's organisation, Association des Mamans Antibwaki, in Bunia hospital grounds.

Numbers increased in February, with over 100 new cases. The organisation estimates some 75 percent come from displaced villages to collect the rations, and about 25 percent live in Bunia with relatives. Workers say resources are "very limited" and many people have to be sent away. One recipient said she moved near Bunia at the beginning of January when "Lendu fighters" attacked Ngongo village. After reuniting her scattered family, she came to stay with a relative in a one-roomed house that now tries to support 21 adults and children.

In Djugu, the displaced have congregated around the trading centre from different affected communities - Lendu, Hema and Ndo Okebo. Many of the women interviewed said they had to resort to "stealing" from the fields, and were brewing alcohol for soldiers to earn a small amount of cash.

[...]

In Drodro, a large group of displaced people occupies two church buildings and a secondary school. Some have been there since the early months of the conflict, and are in pitiful condition - infected skin diseases, marasmic and malnourished children, chronic diarrhoeal diseases, vitamin deficiencies, as well as hepatitis

and cholera cases. The displaced say there are deaths "every day". A seven month-old baby was found dead, - tinged yellow and suffering from chronic diarrhoea - the morning IRIN visited the group.

[...]

To date, many displaced Lendu and Hema co-exist successfully together in towns and trading centres. But there are rural areas where the conflict has caused extreme polarisation, especially around the Rethy area, and in previously mixed villages. Polarisation and hostilities are likely to increase if attacks continue and no settlement is reached, - escalating an already acute humanitarian crisis and further complicating humanitarian access." (IRIN 3 March 2000, "Part Two")

### **Majority of IDPs are not housed in camps but have merged into host communities (1999-2000)**

- In rural communities IDPs are often absorbed by host villages, accommodated and fed for the initial stages
- In urban areas it is not uncommon that continued stay of IDPs creates discontent

"A characteristic feature of displacement in eastern DRC is the fact that IDPs are not housed in camps but have merged into host communities. Their conditions remain precarious due to lack of farming land, vital services and general insecurity. Remaining in proximity to their places of origin, the displaced are prone to be subjected to the same hazards and abuses that caused them to flee in the first place. On a number of occasions during 1998-99, the displaced and local communities were stranded in combat areas and were removed by military authorities in a bid to create security zones." (UN July 1999, p.8)

"The number of IDPs countrywide is currently estimated at 1.8 million and this number is on the rise. The great majority of displaced persons are relatively well received by foster communities thanks to the family or tribal ties. In urban areas, IDPs are sheltered and fed by their foster families thus becoming an additional burden on the already poverty-stricken urban households. It is not uncommon that the continued stay of IDPs creates discontent that eventually bursts into a conflict with the subsequent expulsion of the displaced. In rural communities on the other hand, IDPs are often absorbed by host villages, accommodated and fed for the initial stages. With the approval of traditional chiefs, the displaced subsequently receive land plots and in due course overcome their dependence on the local community. Eventually, the relations between the displaced and their hosts improve, as the former start contributing to the general well-being of the community." (UN November 2000, p.18)

## ACCESS TO EDUCATION

### General

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#### **400,000 displaced children of primary school age have no access to basic education (2001)**

- UNICEF estimated for 2000/2001, 3-3.5 million children between 6-11 in DRC do not receive any formal education; 2 million are estimated to be girls
- Situation is worse in eastern part of DRC
- The fact that displaced children have almost no access to education make them more vulnerable to enlistment into armed forces
- In northern Katanga, local church provide classes for displaced children in the afternoon but drop out rates are high
- In eastern Katanga, parents pay double school fee to enable displaced children to also attend school

"The conflict in the DRC has had a terrible impact on an education system that was already failing. In 1998, the Ministry of Education reported that 40 per cent of children of primary school age were not attending school. The situation for girls was even worse. Nationally, half of all girls were not in school; in North Kivu, the figure was 69 per cent [1]. The investment that was made in the Congolese education system in the 1970s and 1980s has been squandered. School enrolment rates plummeted from 94 per cent in 1978 to an estimated 60 per cent in 2001. Adult literacy rates fell from 74 per cent in 1992 to 58.9 per cent in 1998. There are no reliable figures for 2000/2001, although UNICEF estimates that there are currently between 3 and 3.5 million children aged between 6 and 11 who are not receiving any formal education. This figure exceeds the total population of the neighbouring Republic of Congo. Of these children, approximately two million are girls [2].

In eastern DRC, insecurity, poverty and the frequent closure or destruction of schools will have reduced attendance to a fraction of the 1998 figures. Many parents can no longer afford to send their children to school. [...]

Displaced children in particular have little or no chance to continue with their education. Of the two million displaced people, approximately 400,000 are thought to be children of primary school age. These children have no access to any form of basic education, prejudicing their opportunities later in life, and increasing their risk of enlistment into armed forces in search of a better situation. [...]

In Kalima, the local church has set up a rotating system through which regular schools end early each day, and short classes are provided for displaced children for a few hours in the afternoon.

[Notes:

[1] Education pour tous, Bilan à l'an 2000, Ministère de l'Education Nationale, November 1999. Figures also supported by UNICEF – State of the World's Children 2001

[2] Personal reference" (Oxfam August 2001, p.29-30)

"In Eastern Katanga province, parents are actually paying double school fee to enable displaced children to also attend school, and health clinics are desperately trying to cater for the IDPs." (WV 30 July 2001)

"The educational process has been brought to a standstill in the great majority of conflict-affected areas. The absolute majority of IDP children have been deprived of proper or any schooling since 1998. In urban areas, there is a marked increase in the number of dropouts with primary school attendance declining, as many families are unable to afford exorbitant education fees. For the first time since the beginning of the war, the CHAP 2001 will attempt to revive the importance and value of the education sector, through launching a series of primary education campaigns in areas of population displacement." (UN November 2000, p. 28)

# ISSUES OF SELF-RELIANCE AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

## General

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### Deteriorating socio-economic situation due to the war (2001)

- Rise in poverty level has dramatic impact on humanitarian situation
- Little health and education and road infrastructures existing before the two wars of 1996 and 1998 are in a state of collapse
- Devaluation of currency and cost of imported goods (kerosene, salt) has eroded people's purchasing power
- Agricultural production has dropped and in mineral-rich areas, farmers have abandoned agriculture to dig for coltan, gold or diamond
- Deprived of state support, with little access to income, and without meaningful external aid, the resources and resilience of Congolese households have simply run out

The war has had a devastating impact on the country's 50 million people.[1] The DRC is currently ranked 152nd on the UNDP Human Development index of 174 countries: a fall of 12 places since 1992. This is particularly shocking in a country with considerable natural resources, such as diamonds, hydro-electric power, wood, and minerals. Since the period of colonisation by King Leopold, very few Congolese citizens have ever benefited from the country's wealth. UNDP reported that the DRC's per capita gross domestic product (GDP) in 1998 was US\$110, compared with US\$160 in Burundi and US\$680 in the neighbouring Republic of Congo. More than half of the five million people living in the capital city of Kinshasa are thought to live below the World Bank's poverty threshold of US\$1 per day.[2] A recent socio-economic survey in North Kivu indicated average expenditure per person per day of US\$0.41; in other places like Kayna, this figure was as low as US\$0.18.[3] The rise in poverty levels has had a dramatic impact on the humanitarian situation in the country.

The little infrastructure that existed prior to the two wars of 1996 and 1998 has crumbled. Health and education systems are in a state of collapse, continuing to rely on support from the churches, local organisations, and international agencies to provide limited services to the population. The poor state of the roads all over the country, compounded by insecurity in the east, impedes trade and makes the delivery of humanitarian assistance difficult and costly. Of the 145,000km of roads, no more than 2,500km are asphalt. Many of the remaining roads are often impassable during the rainy season. The threat of armed attack leads many business people to abandon road traffic completely. River-transport connections along the Congo River and its tributaries, once the crucial highway of the DRC, have also been severed. In many places, access is only possible by air, putting many basic necessities, including medicines, beyond people's reach. The movement of food and other supplies from rural to urban centres has completely ceased, resulting in large food deficits in towns and reduced production in the rural hinterlands.

"In eastern DRC, the war has reduced the poorest sections of the population, both displaced and host/local communities, to an extremely marginal existence. Conflict continues between the various armed groups and insecurity has worsened, particularly in rural areas. The devaluation of the currency and rise in the cost of imported goods such as kerosene and salt has eroded people's purchasing power. In isolated areas of rebel-

held territories, such as Shabunda, Kindu, and East Kasai, which can only be reached by air, the cost of items such as salt, oil, soap, and even clothes has become even more prohibitive.

Agricultural production has dropped across the east of the country, meaning that some formerly surplus producing areas no longer grow enough to feed their populations. Insecurity, limited access to markets, cassava blight [4], and difficulties in making enough money from the sale of crops, all discourage people from cultivating. [...]

In mineral-rich areas such as Walikale, Punia, and Kalima, the short-term benefits of mining have also encouraged some farmers to abandon agriculture. Instead of working in their fields, they prefer to dig for coltan, gold, or diamond. This will have long-term implications for communities' access to food."

[Notes:

[1] The population at the time of the last census (1985) was 34.7 million. Current estimates range from 49 million to 59 million.

[2] Estimates of the population of Kinshasa range from 5-10 million people.

[3] Enquête Socio-Economique, Nord Kivu, Decembre 2000, ASRAMES

[4] Cassava is the staple for 70% of the Congolese population. Over the past 7 years, cassava crops across the country have suffered from viral and bacterial diseases that have totally wiped out production in some areas such as Bandundu. The war has hindered the application of measures to control the diseases and provide healthy disease-resistant varieties to farmers] (Oxfam August 2001, pp.9,24)

"International attention has focused on those areas and populations directly affected by the war but the reality is that the vast majority of Congo's 50 million people live on around 20 cents per person per day and eat less than two thirds of the calories a day needed to maintain health. Long deprived of state support, with dramatically reduced access to income, without meaningful external aid, the resources and resilience of Congolese households have simply run out." (WHO 29 June 2001)

@<StartEnvTitle>@

Many displaced women have become the head of the household (2001)

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In Maniema, at Kalonge, at Bunyakiri, at Shabunda, in northern Shaba, more than 60% of displaced families are headed by women

Women, who often hold the household together, are paying an extraordinary price

"The heavy displacement of populations mostly lead to dislocation of various families. Separated, women become responsible for their children future and have the obligation to guarantee the survival of the family in such a chaotic situation. According to various sources, in Maniema, at Kalonge, at Buyakiri, at Shabunda, in northern Shaba, more than 60% of displaced populations are from families of which husbands have ran away or have been enrolled in the army or in armed militia. In Maniema, they are estimated to be 80%. The monoparental system as imposed on women is a source of permanent tension. Moreover, it is to be feared that this extended conflict will have side effects in establishing a culture of violence considered as normal lifestyle of which women are actually victims. [...]

[However] Far from being uniquely silent victims of the present conflict, women have progressively granted themselves a leadership role trying to ward off the consequences of the conflict on their families and attempting by all means to reduce the side effects of the war on their communities." (OCHA 6 March 2001)

"Women, who often hold the household together, are paying an extraordinary price. This year over 42,000 will die in childbirth alone. Under-nourishment, forced and economic prostitution, overwork for pathetic

recompense, untreated ill health and the psychological strain of maintaining large families are exacting a terrible toll." (WHO 29 June 2001)

### **Orphaned and separated children, especially young girls, are exposed to neglect and abuse (December 2000)**

- Poverty, war, HIV/AIDS, displacement, family separations and the breakdown of traditional coping mechanisms have forced growing numbers of children on to the streets

"There are large number of orphaned children in the DRC due to the high incidence of HIV/AIDS. Besides the trauma of being left without parental care, these children may be exposed to neglect, exploitation and abuse. They also lack access to education and vocational skills training and suffer immense psychological stress. [...]

Children on and of the street are criminalized and have become a soft target for round ups, recruitment and abuse by society at large; the high military presence in east and west of the country makes the situation even more acute. Issues that need to be addressed are the resettlement, care and protection of separated children, street children, child soldiers and children inappropriately placed in institutions.

Poverty, war, enlistment in the various armed forces, displacement, family separations and the breakdown of traditional coping mechanisms have forced growing numbers of children on to the streets or away from their original home environment in many foster families where they are often suffering from neglect and exploitation.

In North and South Kivu provinces, problems are concentrated in the cities and towns where a large group of vulnerable families have arrived as a result of general insecurity in the rural areas. [...] A much overlooked problem is the discrimination and abuse of women and young girls. Sexual violence against girls, adolescent pregnancies, abandoned child-mother, school drop-outs and girl sex workers are growing phenomena linked to the deterioration in work opportunities and a lack of family and community protection. " (SCF 31 December 2000)

## **Disruption of food production and coping mechanisms**

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### **Kisangani population, including IDPs, is still coping with trauma of June 2000 War (2001)**

- Despite improvement of security, people still lack of food, seeds, farm tools, medical services and shelter

"The fighting in June 2000 in and around the city affected everyone. It caused about 800 civilian deaths, much injury (physical and psychological) and a large amount of displacement. There was severe destruction and looting of property, including crops. Most infrastructure have been reduced to an even worse state than before.

Since June 2000 the security situation has been improving slowly, at least within Kisangani City, and increasingly in surrounding areas. The Lusaka agreement and its implementation is now being coordinated by UN troops positioned in Kisangani and there is an increasing presence on the ground of UN and humanitarian agencies. [...]

Kisangani continues to be isolated from its main supply routes – road from Goma (400 Km) and Buvira (600 Km) and the river from Kinshasa. [...] The population continues to cope with the trauma of the June war and the ongoing insecurity. Their most pressing problems are severe lack of food, seeds, farm tools, medical services (including medicines) and shelter. Farming families are anxious to normalize their lives as quickly as possible and replant. Yet seeds are scarce due to looting by soldiers and feeding of the displaced which depleted nearly all-agricultural seeds." (ACT 19 January 2001, "Kisangani")

### **Displacement adds additional pressure on mechanisms for self-reliance of host families (1997-2001)**

- Most of population in eastern DRC already destitute after decades of exploitation by the Mobutu government and isolation from the outside world (1998)
- Many IDPs, host communities and urban residents are affected by chronic food shortages and too high prices due to civil war
- When host community's resources are exhausted both the hosts and IDP further displace in search of food and shelter
- In Katanga, similar rate of malnutrition observed among the host communities than among the displaced and host families continue to care for IDPs despite meager resources (2001)
- In North & South Kivu, influx of displaced, who are bereft of any means to provide for themselves and constitute a heavy burden on the families that host them (mid-2001)
- High level of malnutrition in Shabunda (South Kivu) due to drought and presence of displaced in host families
- 200,000 displaced in South Kivu do not have access to their field, which increases the burden of host families
- In North Kivu, the number of displaced in host families is often larger than the one of the members of the host family and malnutrition is high

"Two USCR site visits to remote areas of eastern Congo/Zaire [in 1997] found that the needs of many uprooted Congolese/Zairians were the same as the needs of families who never left their homes. Decades of exploitation by the Mobutu government and isolation from the outside world had left much of the population destitute, whether at home or displaced." (USCR 1998, p.61)

"Two consecutive wars in 1996-1997 and in 1998 prompted a large number of people to flee their home communities. In most cases, the displaced have lost their belongings and survival means, such as agricultural tools and seeds. They are being hosted by other rural communities whose capacity for agricultural production is already extremely weak due to a continued economic crisis, severe shortages of agricultural inputs and ongoing hostilities. The whole agricultural production system is, therefore, on the verge of collapse as the output dramatically diminishes and the demand for basic produce is almost doubling in the host communities. The most critical issue is the availability of agricultural inputs." (UN July 1999, p.32)

"No significant positive changes in the household food security were observed during 2000. Domestic agricultural production continued to be curtailed and levels of food imports were insufficient to cover the supply-demand gap. The size of this gap varies from region to region reaching at times levels of 35-40 %. In spite of wide spread shortages and the food market's lopsidedness, the agricultural production in many parts of the country remains considerable. The available produce, however, does not reach its traditional markets because of the prevailing military and security situation. Larger groups of IDPs and their host communities and numerous urban residents are affected by chronic food shortages and unaffordable prices." (UN November 2000, p. 26)

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"A remarkable feature of the Congolese crisis is the degree to which it spreads from region to region in the span of a few weeks. Population movement and massive presence of troops (both foreign and Congolese) serve as a vector for the spread of various deprivations into areas otherwise untouched by the conflict. A recent study conducted by FAO in northern Katanga suggested that each newly arrived displaced person creates a perceptible pressure on the host community's limited reserves (food, medicines) and reduces food consumption of an average four hosts. The size of impact would certainly vary from one host community to another depending on IDP/host ratio. When this ratio is high enough to dry up the host community's resources, both the hosts and IDP further displace in search of food and shelter, provoking a chain reaction. Although the behaviour of IDP and host communities varies from region to region depending on the availability of resources, the multiplier effect can be legitimately applied in every IDP hosting community." (UN November 2000, pp. 13-14)

"Congolese people are known for their hospitality. In the African tradition, room must always be made for a guest or those in need. Hundreds of thousands of Congolese who have been displaced by the fighting in eastern DRC have benefited from this tradition. Room has been made at the table in the homes of countless thousands of host communities throughout this war-torn region. Thanks to the generosity of the Congolese and their tradition of helping each other, large camps - so often the mark of similar crises - are not seen.

But this generosity comes at great cost. A household of six can host at most one extra person before the family's food security is seriously impacted. In the Kivus, this number is frequently far exceeded. On a recent mission to South Kivu, Refugees International interviewed displaced and host families where. The situation has reached a point in many communities where host families have exhausted their meager reserves of food and money, placing their own children at risk. When this point is reached, those displaced by fighting must move on in search of other shelter, thus repeating the process with a new host family." (RI 14 September 2000)

#### *Katanga*

"Although displaced people are the most vulnerable, many host communities have suffered from the additional strain imposed by providing for the displaced. In Kioko (northern Katanga), Nuova Frontiera did not find that the global malnutrition rate among under fives was significantly higher in the displaced population (24.6 per cent of the sample) than in local communities." (Oxfam August 2001, p.26)

"The influx of displaced people since May 1999 has impoverished the host communities [...].

Although suffering greatly from raids by government troops and by fighting between government troops and Mai Mai rebels, these host communities have continued to use much of their meagre resources to care for the displaced people." (WV 30 July 2001)

#### *Kivus*

"La sécheresse précoce et la présence des déplacés dans des familles d'accueil renforcent le taux élevé de malnutrition. Il varie entre 4,9% et 11,3%. 15% des enfants de 5 ans meurent de malnutrition dans le territoire de Shabunda.

200.000 déplacés n'ont pas accès à leurs champs, exposant ainsi la communauté d'accueil à de lourdes charges. [...]

*In North Kivu*, "A continual influx of thousands of internally displaced persons (IDPs) fleeing the conflict areas continue to deplete the resources of the local population. Both urban and rural areas are hosting a vast number of displaced persons who are in dire need of life sustaining assistance. These people are bereft of any means to provide for themselves and they constitute a heavy burden on the families that host them – families already impoverished due to the political, economic and ecological degradation endemic in the DRC." (ACT 10 August 2001)

"Dans les familles, le nombre des déplacés dépasse souvent celui des membres de la famille d'accueil. En conséquence, l'état nutritionnel de la population est préoccupant surtout chez les enfants de moins de 5 ans, les femmes enceintes ou allaitantes. Le taux de malnutrition protéino-énergétique se situe entre 5 et 13 % selon la FAO." (UN OCHA September 2001)

*In South Kivu*, "The displaced rely on the hospitality of rural communities which are themselves weakened by the war, while the effects of the underlying socio-economic crisis are all pervasive." (ACT 13 July 2001)

### **Coping and survival mechanisms of IDPs in South Kivu (2000)**

- IDPs have lost both their land, their tools and other farming inputs
- Breakdown in cash crop production cause decreased expenditure on any non-food items, such as healthcare and education
- Host families do not necessarily have a prior relationship with the IDPs
- Proximity to the village of origin of great importance for continued food production
- Income is mostly generated by selling labor

"ACF-USA undertook a nutritional survey of children aged 6-59 months and mothers in Lemera health zone, South Kivu in January 2000 [...]. Lemera is part of the Moyens Plateaux food economy zone, its altitude (which determines the vegetation and cultivation type) varies from 1,200-2,000m. Prior to the wars in 1996 and 1998, cassava, beans, rice, bananas, sweet potatoes, maize and coffee were all grown. Much of the produce was sold. The war caused displacement and a breakdown of irrigation and infrastructure systems. Much of the population have moved off their land and have lost their tools and other farming inputs. The insecurity continues together with regular displacements and systematic looting. As reported above, this has resulted in very decreased expenditure on any non-food items, such as healthcare and education. ACF-USA provided seeds and tools to 10,000 households in September 1999 and plans to do so again later this year" (ACC/SCN 31 March 2000, p.15; original source ACF-USA January 2000).

"ACF-USA held a survey in April 2000 to gauge the survival strategies of the population. Two thirds of the IDPs in the survey say they have fled their homes without taking anything. The others could take some objects (manioc, kitchen utensils, clothes), a little money (max. \$5), goats (max. 2pc) and some medicines (some paracetamol tablets). They are very dependent on the host family for cooking ware, roofing, sleeping mats, etc.

Host families do not necessarily have a prior relationship with the IDPs. Mutual help is common. Only few charge rental money (in Uvira: Kasenga) at least during the first months. In exchange, the IDPs help with the farming (and sometimes household).

The income of IDP families varies according to:

- Their proximity to the village of origin. If the fields are not too far, the women and sometimes the men take the risk of harvesting their manioc.
- Their starting capital. If they were able to take some money, they invest in a few food items they can sell with a profit. Palm oil, salt, manioc and fish, for instance, can be bought in bulk and sold in detail. Or they can be processed before sale: manioc becomes manioc flour, fish is dried, etc. The added value can be increased by selling in Burundi and make a profit on the exchange rate if the border is nearby and the road is open.

Income is mostly generated by selling labor. One day on the field earns \$0.3 or a few manioc roots. This is limited to 2-3 days per week (at the time of survey, the season was off). Harvesting and selling wood, selling some of family belongings they were able to bring (e.g. piece of cloth or pagne) add to these resources. To compare, a medical visit costs \$0.3 for a child and \$0.6 for an adult, if the reduced rates are applied. The full rate is \$0.5 for a child and \$1 for an adult.

Most of the work is done by the women, especially when their husband was not a farmer before being displaced. Men only become involved if the wife is sick or near a full term pregnancy.

Expenses are therefore very limited. Food is the main expense, followed by health care and necessities such as soap. School attendance is rare. The health of IDPs is quite bad. They are weakened by their escape and families from the Plateaux are very sensitive to the change in climate, and more vulnerable to malaria. The very low quality and quantity of their food intake makes them even more vulnerable. They eat one meal per day, often 60-70% composed of fou-fou (preparation of manioc flour). Animal proteins stay below 10% of the intake." (AAH August 2000, sect. 6.3)

### **Military operations cause general deteriorating food security (1999-2000)**

- Estimated that 10 million Congolese on both sides of the frontline face food shortages of varying degree (February 2000)
- Major food producing areas devastated by the ongoing war (i.e. the Kivus, Northern Katanga, parts of Maniema, western and eastern Orientale, central Equateur)
- Farming has virtually ground to a stop in North Kivu although majority of IDPs have access to humanitarian assistance (July 2000)
- Increase in the number of parents abandoning children they had no means to feed in Kasai Orientale (July 2000)

"Starting from the end of 1999, a series of attempts were made by specialised organisations to quantify food needs in the DRC and envisage humanitarian interventions in a diversified manner to meet both war-inflicted needs and consequences of an economic collapse. It is now believed that some 10 million Congolese on both sides of the frontline face food shortages of varying degree. Furthermore, the current food crisis will inevitably lead of a sustained deficit for a relatively long period since: a) the majority of food producing and processing regions of the DRC (the Kivus, Northern Katanga, parts of Maniema, western and eastern Orientale, central Equateur) are seriously affected or devastated by the ongoing war; over 800,000 farmers have been displaced and lost their production capacity in eastern DRC alone; b) food importers are disengaging from western DRC; and c) road, fluvial and railway infrastructure is crippled by insecurity and appalling dilapidation.

An EU sponsored study- "Food Economy Zones in Eastern DRC" conducted by the Food Economy Group in conjunction with SCF indicated that already now there is an obvious decline in the quality and quantity of foodstuff consumed by farmers in traditionally wealthy agricultural regions of the Kivu." (OCHA 15 February 2000)

"In North Kivu where the United Nations has estimated the number of IDPs at 450,000 - the highest of any province in DRC - normal life seems to have come to a stop. Although it is one of the only provinces in the country where the majority do have access to humanitarian assistance, according to humanitarian officials, farming has virtually ground to a stop." (IRIN 27 July 2000)

"The civilian population of Kabinda in Kasai Orientale is reported to be facing an acute shortage of food and essential commodities, with access to agricultural land denied by the RPA and rebel Rassemblement congolais pour la democratie (RCD) that control the area, according to humanitarian sources in the DRC. A disturbing result of this situation was an increase in the past year in the number of parents abandoning children they had no means to feed, they said. The local administration was doing its best to help hundreds of deserted, homeless and orphaned children under 10 years of age, many of whom were in poor shape. Neither was there much promise of relief unless an NGO came through with assistance for the children, the sources added." (IRIN 24 July 2000)

## PROPERTY ISSUES

### General

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#### **IDPs from Bunia area (Orientale Province) may lose their land if do not return home within a month (2001)**

"Officials of the Hema and Lendu ethnic groups in northeastern DRC have appealed to people who fled fighting in the Bunia area to return to their homes and resume their daily activities, as calm had now returned, rebel-controlled Radio Candip reported on Saturday. Officials warned that if people displaced from the Malili region did not return within one month, their land would be given away.

In February, the rival Hema and Lendu communities signed a pact aimed at resolving land disputes in the region that had left thousands of people dead during the preceding 18 months. Under the agreement, both ethnic groups were to send representatives into the rural areas to sensitise residents on peaceful co-existence and mutual tolerance, and a follow-up commission was to monitor and move the process forward." (IRIN-CEA 9 July 2001)

# PATTERNS OF RETURN AND RESETTLEMENT

## General

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### **With the ceasefire holding, IDPs are starting to go home (2001)**

- In Maniema, returnees from the forest are without any resources
- In Equateur, people are slowly returning to areas where MONUC observers are deployed
- In Katanga, people leave the forest to return to destroyed villages

"Villagers who fled during three years of civil war in the Democratic Republic of Congo have begun trickling home since a ceasefire took hold earlier this year, bringing tales of months spent living on wild plants and fowl in the bush." (Reuters 5 July 2001)

#### **Maniema**

"Les familles qui ont put quitter les forêts pour rentrer aux villages se retrouvent complètement démunis et ne peuvent réintégrer le circuit agro-économique de base.

Aucun service d'encadrement rural n'étant opérationnel, on assiste à une dégénérescence des semences." (UN OCHA September 2001)

"Dans la région de Kalima, il a été dénombré, par le consortium regroupant des églises et des ONGs locales, 21.598 déplacés et 2.811 retournés qui se réinstallent petit à petit dans leurs villages sur l'axe de Lubile." (UN OCHA 12 September 2001)

#### **Equateur**

"Thousands of people who had fled from Equateur Province are reported to be slowly returning to areas where the Observers of the United Nations Mission in DRC (MONUC) have been deployed." (WFP 10 August 2001)

#### **Katanga**

"Tens of thousands of people displaced by war are starting to leave the forest where they were hiding and are now heading home to villages which are completely destroyed," WFP spokeswoman Christiane Berthiaume said in Geneva.

'These people have nothing left, are in a deplorable state and suffering from serious malnutrition, with children in particular suffering from severe health problems,' Berthiaume said. [...]

A ceasefire is now holding in the province and across the entire country, allowing UN peacekeepers to move in and relief agencies to get access to the sick and hungry." (AFP 19 July 2001)

### **In North Kivu insecurity maintained by troops and militia discourage the displaced to return home**

"Troops and militia maintain a continuous state of insecurity in different corners of the province namely the North West of Masisi, the South West of Lubero and the North East of Beni (in and around the Ruwenzori massif). Violence and armed clashes are a daily occurrence depending on the tendency of the political or economic interests of the armed groups. Their activities discourage the displaced persons to return to their homelands where they have their means of livelihood." (ACT 10 August 2001)

### **With improvement of security many displaced return to their homes in South Kivu (2001)**

- In South Kivu, people displaced in the forest for three years return to the city of Kasika (March 2001)
- 35,000-60,000 IDPs have spontaneously returned to Shabunda and live in makeshift shelters (July 2001)

"Les mouvements de population dans la cité de Kasika, dans le territoire de Mwenga ont retenu l'attention de la communauté humanitaire du Sud Kivu. En effet, ce mouvement de populations a principalement consisté au retour des populations déplacées dans la forêt depuis plus de trois ans.

Par ailleurs, si les retournés de Kasika nécessitent une attention particulière aujourd'hui, il faut également mentionner que plusieurs déplacés ont entrepris de retourner dans leurs villages depuis la mi-octobre 2000: Kalonge, Bunyakiri, Lemara." (OCHA 8 March 2001)

"Between 35,000 to 60,000 IDPs have been spontaneously returning in Shabunda (South Kivu) and are currently living in makeshift shelters." (WFP 13 July 2001)

### **Landmines prevent the return of displaced persons to Kisangani (Dec 2000)**

"Landmines and unexploded ordnance are still a major impediment to the return of displaced people to their homes and to the resumption of daily life in the city. Mines were laid in strategic military locations to prevent the advance of troops and protect retreating forces. Around 18 mines were placed on the Tshopo bridge, the major link in the city. Reports indicate that some mines were laid after the ceasefire." (UN SC 5 December 2000)

## HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

### Limitation of access caused by the conflict

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#### **Improved access to government controlled-areas but decreased access in rebel-held areas (August 2001)**

- Improved access to certain isolated areas in eastern DRC thank to deployment of UN Mission (2001)
- There are hopes that the implementation of the Lusaka Peace Accords will have a positive impact on humanitarian access
- NGOs are now able to access zones close to the 'old' frontline following the agreement of belligerents to withdraw in July 2001
- In the east, many roads remain inaccessible due to the presence of armed groups (August 2001)

"In western DRC, humanitarian space was limited by the previous government's unwillingness to grant permission to foreigners to travel outside Kinshasa and Lubumbashi. Permission was regulated by the Ministry of the Interior, and was bogged down by bureaucracy and suspicion. International NGOs were almost never granted travel authorisations or the mining permits required for travel to designated mining areas, such as most of the two Kasai provinces. Unable to start programmes, given these constraints on access, agencies could provide only limited assistance to government-held areas. Between August 1998 and March 2001, very little humanitarian aid reached populations affected by the war in Katanga, Equateur, and the two Kasai provinces, despite a growing body of information about the level of need.

In March 2001, the new government changed this policy, approving freedom of movement for international personnel. Access to many areas has now improved, although expatriate staff still find travel to designated mining areas cumbersome. Humanitarian missions are being dispatched to government-held areas cut off for almost three years, and some of these have found very serious situations. [...]

There are hopes that the implementation of the Lusaka Peace Accords will have a positive impact on humanitarian access. As armies retreat and military observers spread out to strategic areas, access to vulnerable populations should become easier. This has been the case in towns like Kabinda and Ikela, to which humanitarian missions have recently had access for the first time in years. However, experience has so far indicated that the increase in access to government-held areas has been at the cost of a decrease of access to rebel-held areas. In recent months, parts of North Kivu, such as Beni and Rutshuru, and much of Ituri have become inaccessible due to violence and fighting. The implementation of the next stage of MONUC's mandate (Stage III) involves the withdrawal of foreign armies. This may leave areas devoid of a military presence which MONUC itself does not have the capacity or the mandate to protect. There is a risk that the vacuum may be filled by non-state armed groups, possibly connected to the exploitation of natural resources, which will make access just as difficult as in the past." (Oxfam August 2001, pp.13-14)

"Improving security conditions have enabled humanitarian agencies to access returnees in Kalonge and Kasika (South Kivu province). However, insecurity still prevails along the front-line in Lubumbashi province and near the Virunga National Park (North Kivu province). Kalemie town (Northern Katanga province) remains accessible only by air due to the presence of armed groups on the roads." (WFP 31 August 2001)

"The security situation remained unstable in Equateur and south Kivu provinces, during the last week of July, WFP said [...]. Roads to Kalemie in northern Katanga province remained inaccessible due to the presence of armed groups, WFP said." (WFP 6 August 2001)

In Maniema, "L'insécurité qui a réduit très sensiblement l'espace humanitaire dans la zone de santé de Punia, a conduit Merlin à diminuer son intervention dans cette région." (UN OCHA 12 September 2001)

"The deployment of military observers from the UN Observer Mission in the DRC (MONUC) has opened some previously isolated areas throughout eastern DRC to humanitarian aid." (USAID 20 August 2001)

"With the agreement of the belligerents to withdraw last July, previously inaccessible areas close to the 'old' frontline have begun to open up to those health NGOs with enough logistical flexibility to get there." (WHO 9 August 2001)

### **Reaching the displaced to assist them is often a logistical nightmare (2001)**

- New air operation by WFP to facilitate the access of aid workers to remote and sensitive areas

"Reaching hungry children in DRC is often rife with the challenges of insecurity and transportation. The huge Katanga province, roughly the size of France, remains a logistical nightmare, where distances are enormous and roads and rail are in extremely poor shape, if they exist at all. WFP uses all available means of transportation, including trucks, boats and trains, to deliver food to beneficiaries located as far as 1,000 kilometers from the agency's warehouse, which is based in the province's capital of Lubumbashi." (WFP 13 August 2001)

"The Humanitarian Passenger Air Service operated by WFP started on 4 August, with a flight from Kinshasa to Goma. This air operation will facilitate the access of aid workers to remote and sensitive areas." (WFP 10 August 2001)

### **Humanitarian access reduced during 2000**

- · In the east, insecurity has often prevented humanitarian access
- · In government-held territory, access depended on Kinshasa's centralised decision making procedures
- · Poor access to South Kivu due to fighting among rebel groups, reprisal on civilian population and looting of relief supplies (August 2000)
- · Major donors are based in Kinshasa and not in Eastern DRC due to travel restrictions
- · Attacks on relief workers sharply increased in 2000, particularly in the Kivus where attacks by the Mai Mai, FDD and Interahamwe on relief workers multiplied

" In rebel-held areas, the main impediment to humanitarian access has been insecurity. This has been a consistent problem since the start of the war in 1998, with threats being posed by occupying armies as well as by non-state armed groups in conflict with Rwandan troops, Ugandan troops, the RCD, and the FLC. Fighting around resource-rich areas has been most frequent, leading to a reduction in humanitarian access. It is often difficult to know who is the controlling authority for a particular area, and whether that authority can provide any guarantees of security. The situation is unpredictable and dangerous. Attacks against humanitarian workers are frequent and sometimes fatal. Even though the war along the conventional

frontline has more or less ceased, eastern DRC has suffered an increase in violence. Humanitarian access is therefore often sporadic, depending on the security of particular areas." (Oxfam August 2001, p.13)

"Although the number of insecure areas where there is military activity, inter-ethnic tensions, and banditry, is much greater in eastern DRC, most security related interdictions have been imposed by the DRC authorities on agencies operating in western provinces of the country. Legitimate concerns of authorities as far as the accredited humanitarian personnel are concerned, do often go beyond the absolute necessity to maintain minimum security standards.

[...]

Vast areas of the country are considered unsafe because of the presence of unpaid soldiers, retreating deserters, etc. Military checkpoints established on major axes (roads, river, railway) are impeding free circulation of persons and goods even within entities controlled by the same forces. Because of an inefficient chain of command, the military field officers do not often obey written authorisations and permissions issued by central authorities to travelling relief personnel." (UN November 2000)

"Whereas several international relief agencies are operational in the Kivus, working out of the relative safety of Goma and Bukavu, only very few have been deployed in the southern part of South Kivu, the "Territoires" of Uvira and Fizi. Yet more than a third of its population is displaced either internally or in refugee camps in Tanzania. Both Territories are currently suffering the third consecutive drought, destroying a large part of the crops, while an epidemic disease (foot and mouth disease) has affected the cattle. The health care system has collapsed. Thousands of severely malnourished were being assisted by Action Against Hunger in feeding centers until most of those were looted or closed because it became too dangerous for the population to get there and for the relief workers to run them." (AAH August 2000)

"Regrettably, many of the problems in delivering desperately needed aid to eastern Congo are due to the fact that all major donors as well as United Nations agencies are headquartered in Kinshasa. Most international staff have never visited the east due to travel restrictions imposed by donor governments reluctant to offend Kinshasa or give the appearance of lending support to the rebels. The lack of field experience results in a myopic view of the Congo. As a result, UN and donor government decisions about what is possible in eastern Congo are often based on conjecture and unfounded perceptions. This faulty analysis imposes undue hardship on the Congolese people." (RI 5 May 2000)

### **Frequent attacks on relief workers hinders the delivering of assistance to the displaced (2000-2001)**

- Increase of attacks on relief workers in 2000
- In April 2001, 6 ICRC workers were killed in Ituri province

"Over the past months, attacks on relief workers have sharply increased. Most organizations have given up these Territories or stopped their movements and the population is abandoned. Apart regular field visits from donors (USAID, ECHO), FAO and OCHA and a recent trip by UNHCR, no UN agency has been physically present in Uvira there since August 1998. Recently, only IMC, ICRC and Action against Hunger-USA had regular international staff presence. In June, a large part of their activities were suspended due to an ambush on an IMC vehicle. ACF-USA has just initiated a major dissemination campaign to help all the armed groups understand the principles and life-saving importance of humanitarian aid. At the same time, it demands unobstructed access to all those in need. ACF-USA intends to deploy again soon.

[...]

The situation [in South Kivu] is particularly unsafe with Maï Maï, FDD and Interahamwe organizing ambushes on the road and fighting regularly against RCD soldiers. These fights are often followed by reprisals against the civilian population. As a consequence they flee from village to village and return home

a few days later or not at all. Initially, the main obstacle of humanitarian work was the harassment by the RCD military. Being underpaid and underfed, relief supplies and rides in relief vehicles became attractive commodities. More recently, the attacks by the Mai Mai, FDD and Interahamwe on relief workers have multiplied. This has not only diminished humanitarian access to a population in urgent need of assistance, but also gradually eliminated the only remaining witnesses to its plight. " (AAH August 2000, sects.1, 2)

"Until a few months ago, most incidents were of the nature of harassment at checkpoints, confiscation of vehicles or looting of supplies. At times, Mai Mai/FDD/Interahamwe took over areas or made them inaccessible by cutting off the road. A few agencies could work in the Territories of Uvira and Fizi, accepting regular interruptions, some loss of relief goods and a certain risk of being caught in one of many small attacks. But in the last six months, the presence of the underground armed groups such as the Mai Mai, Interahamwe or FDD has become widespread in the area. The increased hostilities directed against the Banyamulenge have added another explosive element. Whatever may be the reason, violent incidents, more and more involving relief workers, are clearly on the rise. (AAH August 2000, sects. 5.1, 7.2)

*On April 26, 6 ICRC workers were killed.* "The humanitarian community in Ituri province in northeastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is gradually resuming activities that had been suspended since 27 April following the murder of six staff members of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), a humanitarian source based in Bunia confirmed to IRIN on Wednesday." (IRIN-CEA 27 June 2001)

# NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RESPONSES

## National Response

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### **Joseph Kabila asks UNHCR to assist the internally displaced (March 2001)**

"Congolese President Jospheh Kabila on Thursday met UN High Commissioner for Refugees Ruud Lubbers in Geneva [...]. Kabila sought help for the return home of Congolese refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs). He told the High Commissioner that he was "anxious" to see the return of Congolese refugees from the Great Lakes region.

He noted that his country was now in the process of reconstruction, which would enable refugees and IDPs to return to their homes. [...] He asked UNHCR to assist IDPs in his country, estimated to number around 1.8 million, which was more than the number of refugees. The IDPs were in accessible areas but lacked basic assistance, he said." (IRIN 30 March 2001)

### **Government's decision to allow freedom of movement in the entire country aims to facilitate the return of the displaced (March 2001)**

- Following the UN's request, the government of DRC decided on March 24 to authorize freedom of movement for persons and for goods in the entire country, in compliance with the Lusaka agreement
- This measure should help to reunite families, the return of internally displaced to their homes and to improve a dire food situation

"Le gouvernement de la République démocratique du Congo a décidé ce samedi 24 mars d'autoriser la libre circulation des personnes et des biens sur l'ensemble du territoire national, conformément à l'accord de Lusaka.

Dans une communication de presse, le ministre congolais des Affaires étrangères et de la coopération internationale, Léonard She Okitundu, a rappelé que cette décision fait suite à une requête de la Mission d'observation de l'ONU au Congo (MONUC) selon laquelle 'le cessez-le-feu est effectivement observé par toutes les parties de même que la mise en œuvre du plan de désengagement des forces.'

La libre circulation concerne les voies de communication terrestre, fluviale, lacustre, aérienne et maritime. Cette mesure se justifie par le souci de réunifier les familles séparées par la guerre et de faciliter le retour des déplacés de guerre dans leur lieux de résidence. Cette décision va aider également au rétablissement des échanges commerciaux à travers toute l'étendue du territoire national afin d'enrayer la crise alimentaire qui sévit actuellement en RDC.

Toutefois, les modalités d'application pratique de cette décision ne semblent pas encore mises en œuvre. Le ministère de l'intérieur continue à délivrer des autorisations qui sont exigées à l'aéroport. Cependant, cette décision traduit une volonté du gouvernement de faciliter les interventions de la communauté humanitaire sur toute l'étendue du territoire." (OCHA 31 March 2001)

### **DRC ready to access to Protocol II additional to the Geneva Conventions which applies to non-international armed conflict (2001)**

- Protocol aims to protect the civilian population and prohibits the use of forced displacement as a means of warfare

" The President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mr Joseph Kabila, paid an official visit on 30 March to the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), where he was welcomed by ICRC President Jakob Kellenberger and other senior officials. During his visit, Mr Kabila announced his country's forthcoming accession to Protocol II additional to the Geneva Conventions.

The ICRC welcomes the Democratic Republic of the Congo's participation in Additional Protocol II, which brings to 151 the number of States party to the treaty and marks another step towards universality for this important instrument. The Protocol applies to non-international armed conflict, setting out basic guarantees for all individuals who are not, or are no longer, taking part in hostilities, defining the rights of persons deprived of their freedom, laying down judicial guarantees, protecting the civilian population and civilian property and prohibiting the use of famine and forced displacement as a means of warfare." (ICRC 30 March 2001)

### **RCD-Goma authorities start taxing humanitarian donations from international community (September 2001)**

- In search of new sources of revenues following the drop in the price of coltan, rebel authorities in the east have started to tax humanitarian supplies, jeopardizing humanitarian effort

"The most positive development in the war-torn Congo today is the drop in the price of coltan, a mineral ore with super conductivity at high temperatures, much desired on the world market today for use in computer chips. Coltan is mined extensively in the eastern Congo and profits from the trade are a major source of income for the Rassemblement Congolais pour la Démocratie (RCD-Goma), the rebel movement that governs much of the region with military and political support from the Rwandan government. Human rights advocates have called for an international embargo on coltan imports from the Congo on the grounds that the trade in this mineral fuels the civil war. While an embargo has not been implemented, the slump in the technology sector, which coincided with the opening of a huge new coltan mine in Australia, has led to a collapse in the price of coltan, jeopardizing the financial viability of the RCD.

While the plunge in the international price of coltan leaves the RCD-Goma with fewer resources to pursue further conflict, it forces their leadership to identify other sources of income. One obvious target is the international humanitarian community based in the eastern Congo. Humanitarian donations from the international community are generally tax-exempt. The RCD-Goma authorities recently informed one international NGO that shipments of donated medicines would henceforth be taxed at the rate of 5% of their commercial worth. Until this new tax is paid, they are holding all other cargo imported by this NGO. Another international NGO in Bukavu was just presented with a letter from the RCD-Goma demanding \$100,000 for back taxes on salaries paid to expatriates. Further harassment of this type will jeopardize the humanitarian aid effort in the eastern Congo, an effort that is already completely inadequate to meet the needs of the Congolese population cut off from basic services and unable to meet their own food needs due to the continuing conflict." (RI 4 September 2001)

### **Response by the UN system to the ongoing conflict**

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## **Deployment of UN mission, MONUC, to help implementing Lusaka agreement and monitor security conditions (1999-2001)**

- On June 15, 2001, UN SC adopted Resolution 1355, which extended the mandate of MONUC for another year and strengthened its mandate to include a civilian police force component

"Efforts by the Secretary-General, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and Southern African Development Community (SADC) led in July 1999 to the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement. Signed by the Democratic Republic of the Congo, along with Angola, Namibia, Rwanda, Uganda and Zimbabwe, it provided for an end of hostilities and for the holding of an inter-Congolese dialogue. The "Lusaka Agreement" included provisions for the normalization of the situation along the border; the control of illicit arms trafficking and infiltration of armed groups; the holding of a national dialogue; and the establishment of a mechanism for disarming militias and armed groups. It also provided for a Joint Military Commission (JMC) composed of two representatives from each party under a neutral Chairman appointed by the OAU. The two rebel factions signed the agreement in August. To help implement the agreement, the Council authorized the deployment of 90 United Nations military liaison officers to strategic areas in the country and to the capitals of the signatory States.

To maintain liaison with the parties, assist in implementing the agreement and monitor security conditions, the Security Council in November established the United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), incorporating the personnel it had authorized earlier on. In February 2000, the Council expanded the size and mandate of the mission, which was to monitor implementation of the ceasefire, support disarmament and demobilization, and provide support to the facilitator of the National Dialogue. The Council authorized the use of force by MONUC to protect United Nations personnel and civilians under imminent threat of violence, and made the deployment of the Mission to its authorized strength of 5,500 contingent on adequate access, security and cooperation. Continued fighting prevented full deployment.

In January 2001, President Laurent Kabila was killed. The Security Council met formally four times in February to discuss the changing situation in the country. Laurent Kabila's son, Joseph, assumed the Presidency and in February, at separate meetings, both he and Rwandan President Paul Kagame addressed the Council. It seemed the impasse might be broken. The Secretary-General proposed an updated concept of MONUC operations to monitor and verify ceasefire and disengagement plans, and, on 22 February, the Council adopted a resolution endorsing this new concept and calling for rapid implementation of disengagement plans. Reports in late February and early March were received of withdrawals of Ugandan and Rwandan troops from the territory of the Democratic Republic.

In June this year, the Council extended the mandate of MONUC until 15 June 2002, by adopting resolution 1355. That extension was, however, subject to a review of progress every four months. By that resolution, the Council also approved an updated concept of operations put forward by the Secretary-General in his eighth report on the Mission, which included the creation of a civilian police component and an integrated civilian/military planning section to coordinate disarmament, demobilization, repatriation and reintegration (DDRR) operations. It also includes a strengthening of MONUC's presence in Kisangani, and a strengthening of the Mission's logistic support capability to facilitate current and foreseen future deployment.

The Council also authorized MONUC to deploy military observers in locations where early withdrawal was implemented, to monitor the process and to expand the civilian component of MONUC in accordance with the recommendations in his report, in order to establish a human rights monitoring capacity, as well as civilian political affairs and humanitarian affairs offices within the Mission.

Acting under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, the Council demanded that Ugandan and Rwandan forces and all other foreign forces withdraw from the territory of the Democratic Republic of the

Congo in compliance with the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement. It demanded that the Front de Liberation du Congo (FLC) disengage and withdraw its forces, in accordance with the commitment it made to the Council mission in their meeting of 25 May 2001, and expressed its intention to monitor that process. It also demanded that RCD demilitarize Kisangani.

On 6 July 2001, in a Presidential statement, the Security Council expressed its concern about the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The statement noted that the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo still maintained positions beyond the disengagement line, the FLC had not fulfilled its commitment to withdraw its forces to agreed-on positions by 1 June 2001, and that the Ralliement pour la Démocratie au Congo-Goma (RDC-Goma) had failed to disengage Kisangani and has obstructed MONUC operations. Council members called on all forces to withdraw to the agreed-upon positions as a matter of urgency.

Council members also expressed concern about the impact on the peace process by the activities of groups such as the ex-FAR/Interahamwe, the Forces pour la Défense de la Démocratie (FDD) and the Force Nationale de Libération (FNL), and reminded all parties, including the Government that -- under Security Council resolution 1355 and other resolutions -- they should cease immediately all support to such groups." (UN SC 30 August 2001)

In September 2001, "The main warring parties in the DRC have asked the UN to accelerate the deployment of peacekeeping troops to help disarm militia groups in the country [...].

MONUC has already deployed hundreds of unarmed military observers, backed by around 2,000 troops, to monitor a ceasefire and withdrawal from front-line positions of the conventional armies involved in the war. Now that the withdrawal is almost complete, the UN is drawing up plans to send more troops to help in the disarmament of the militia groups involved in the war. However, the UN asserts that primary responsibility for the disarmament process lies with the countries involved in the war." (IRIN-CEA 21 September 2001)

"The UN Mission in DRC (MONUC) has been allocated US \$1 million to implement small, quick impact projects throughout the country, a MONUC statement said on Wednesday. The amount, released by the Security Council, is intended to cover areas essential to the Congolese population such as sanitation, health, basic medical supplies, water and electricity supply and the rehabilitation of schools. [...]

[...] in Kalemie MONUC funds will be used to rehabilitate a reception centre for war displaced people." (IRIN-CEA 11 July 2001)

To view UN SC Resolution 1355 extending the MONUC mandate until 15 June 2001, please see [[External Link](#)]

*The [home page of MONUC](#) contains links to recent UN documents on DRC*

### **UN Security Council defines new approach to be taken by MONUC (February 2001)**

- New operations plan focused on verifying and monitoring the disengagement of conventional forces
- Disarmament of armed groups and the reconstruction of the Congolese Army a secondary task
- The revised plan foresees deployment of approximately 2,500 personnel and decreases armed troops from 3,400 to 1,900

"The long stalled MONUC has started deploying following passage of Resolution 1341 [on 22 February 2001]. This hopeful development results in part from the political thaw that accompanied Joseph Kabila's rise to power. At the same time, it is the consequence of serious rethinking within the UN's Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) on how to accomplish its mission more effectively.

The Lusaka Cease-fire Agreement originally called upon the UN to deploy an appropriate peacekeeping force under a Chapter VII mandate. The force's expected role was to supervise the disengagement and withdrawal of foreign forces, to collect and account for weapons held by civilians, and to provide humanitarian assistance to those affected by the conflict. The mission also included peace enforcement. UN troops were to track down and disarm non-signatory forces, screen them for mass killers and other war criminals, and hand over suspected 'génocidaires' to the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda.

The enormity of the task of deploying a peacekeeping force to the DRC whatever its mandate was clear from the outset. Security Council officials in New York were loath to accept responsibility for what they expected to be a disaster. The U.S. Congress, which contributes one-third of any peacekeeping operation's budget, was equally wary of what appeared to be a dangerous Congolese quagmire.

Compelled to placate these conflicting concerns, the UN Secretary General decreed that the force deployed to the Congo must be both militarily credible and cheap. Armed with this guidance DPKO planners designed a Concept of Operations for MONUC, which was adopted on 24 February 2000 by the Security Council (Resolution 1291). In addition to 500 observers and support units, the UN would deploy four mechanised infantry battalions. This force was to establish four strong points in the DRC to which, in the event of trouble, the observers could retreat. The total mission would number 5,537 soldiers.

Over the next year the shortcomings of this plan became clear. The immediate task of the observers was to verify and monitor the disengagement of belligerents. The concept of operations implied, however, that this would have to wait for the deployment of the infantry battalions, which was expected to take at least six months. Moreover, planners could expect additional delays due to the uncertain availability and preparedness of units the member states had pledged. Finally, it was never clear what purpose these armed forces would serve once deployed. From the outset, pundits ridiculed the notion that a four-battalion strong MONUC was militarily credible or even capable of defending itself. UN officials agreed that only a massive force could realistically bring a semblance of security to the country. Anything less, they worried, would encourage false expectations among the Congolese that would probably lead to another humiliating peacekeeping failure.

While the revised Concept of Operations is a substantial improvement, it leaves some questions unanswered. Planners have once again side stepped how to disarm groups such as the Interahamwe in the hope that the belligerents reach a political consensus. UN officials now think 'the only solution to disarmament is co-operation between the government of Rwanda and the government of DRC'.

Prior to Laurent Kabila's death, DPKO began to revise its concept of operations for the Congo. Its motivation was above all the logistical difficulties involved in equipping and deploying the four infantry battalions. Planners were also afraid that the UN would be unprepared to seize the moment if the belligerents suddenly agreed to begin disengagement.<sup>15</sup> In fact, this had occurred after the signing of the 8 April Kampala Disengagement Plan, when a lack of funds for leasing aircraft prevented the immediate deployment of observers.

Under the new operations plan, the re-tooled force is tailored to accomplish the limited mission of verifying and monitoring the disengagement of conventional forces. This is an achievable objective if the belligerents co-operate. The document identifies other likely missions such as the disarmament of armed groups and the reconstruction of the Congolese Army, but delays these tasks until a later stage.

The revised plan foresees deployment of approximately 2,500 personnel and decreases armed troops from 3,400 to 1,900. Based on the understanding that the primary threat facing the UN forces is theft or sabotage

rather than armed attack, planners have decided to deploy 'guard and security companies' to protect MONUC equipment and installations, instead of the logistically burdensome mechanised battalions. These armed troops will not be capable of rescuing at risk observers however, as was foreseen in the original concept of operations. Commanders must therefore remain vigilant to threats faced by the observers and be ready to withdraw them from regions where they might be at risk. The force is also to be augmented by additional command and control, aviation, logistical, and medical capabilities." (ICG 16 March 2001, sect.IIB)

## **International coordination mechanisms**

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### **UN mechanisms for coordination (1999-2001)**

- Strategic coordination of humanitarian interventions and development of humanitarian strategies are the responsibilities of the UN country management team in Kinshasa
- Joint UN Humanitarian Offices headed by the lead Agency (UNICEF in North Kivu, WFP in South Kivu) established in March and June 1999
- Cooperation between the UN, Red Cross and NGOs handled by a Technical Committee on Humanitarian Assistance (TCHA)
- Weekly UN Country Management Team Disaster Management Team meetings
- During 2000, OCHA established three new sub-offices, in Mbandaka, Bunia and Gbadolite in addition to the existing ones in Kinshasa, Kisangani, Goma and Bukavu
- 3 sub-offices in Lubumbashi, Kalemie and Kindu planned for 2001
- In July 2001, international humanitarian community focused on health and food security in DRC, at a Conference in Geneva

"The countrywide coordination of humanitarian programmes falls under the responsibility of the UN Humanitarian Coordinator in the DRC working closely with the UN country management team based in Kinshasa. Close links are being maintained with authorities, the Nairobi-based Regional Humanitarian Adviser, as well as with Humanitarian Coordinators in the neighbouring countries. The field coordination arrangements for the eastern part of the country will be delegated to the UN Humanitarian Offices (UNHO) in Goma and Bukavu and Kisangani who report to the Humanitarian Coordinator. The UN-Red Cross - NGO coordination matters are handled by a Technical Committee on Humanitarian Assistance (TCHA) which was established within the framework of UN Disaster Management Programme." (UN July 1999, p.15)

"Currently [July 1999], the Office of the UN Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator is equipped with a Senior Humanitarian Adviser, representing the UN system in the eastern provinces of DRC, a Humanitarian Affairs Officer in Kinshasa, and an Information Officer in Goma. A UNDP humanitarian adviser, who also runs programmes for UNDP-UNOPS, manages the Support Unit in Kinshasa. Since early May 1999, OCHA deployed an Assets Recovery Officer in Goma, to identify and recuperate assets belonging to the UN and other relief agencies that were looted or requisitioned at the onset of the current conflict in eastern provinces. The Office of the UN Humanitarian Coordinator in the DRC intends to deploy an internationally recruited Information Manager in the East to provide regular analysis on the humanitarian situation and facilitate the coordination amongst humanitarian partners."(UN July 1999, p.44)

"UN humanitarian activities are conducted by Kinshasa-based agencies being WFP, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNFPA, WHO, FAO, supported by UNDP, UNESCO, ILO and OHCHR. Joint coordination is ensured by the Humanitarian Coordinator. Joint UN Humanitarian Offices headed by the lead Agency (UNICEF in

North Kivu, WFP in South Kivu), were established in March and June 1999. A Senior Humanitarian Adviser for eastern DRC- who reports to the Humanitarian Coordinator in Kinshasa - is responsible for monitoring and assessment of the humanitarian situation in areas not under Government control and liaises with authorities on matters of concern to humanitarian operations.

Operationally, coordination with all of the above listed actors is being ensured through weekly UN Country Management Team Disaster Management Team meetings (participation of all humanitarian partners), monthly donor briefings, human rights national and health sub-commissions' sessions, task force for minorities and regular consultations to which the DRC line Ministries and their provincial branches are closely associated." (UN November 1999, pp. 13-14)

"[During 2000] OCHA supported and contributed to large humanitarian initiatives by focusing on negotiating for humanitarian access, organising UN-NGO joint assessment missions to previously inaccessible areas and promoting international humanitarian law. The expansion of its structure through the establishment of 3 sub-offices, in Mbandaka, Bunia and Gbadolite in addition to the existing ones in Kinshasa, Kisangani, Goma and Bukavu, strengthened OCHA's information collection network, analysis and response capacities as well as sound and customised methodologies for collection and treatment of statistics on internally displaced persons (IDPs).

The overall management of the Emergency Humanitarian Intervention (EHI) Programme, key element for rapid response, enabled OCHA to help the humanitarian community break new grounds in identifying and reaching the most affected groups, through efficient, all-inclusive decision making mechanisms. Flexibility and rapid response capacity-building remain the most effective tool to respond to continued and diversifying emergencies.

In 2001, OCHA will also implement new strategies to support commercial exchanges inside the country and across the frontline, open humanitarian corridors to access most vulnerable population, negotiate with and promote awareness among all belligerents on rules of engagement and principles of humanitarian interventions.

Comprehensive support will be provided to the UN Humanitarian Coordinator and through him/her to the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General in the DRC. This includes policy recommendations, analyses of social, economic and humanitarian situation, liaison with international and local humanitarian partners and the DRC Government.

To achieve these tasks, OCHA DRC will continue to expand its presence in the field through the deployment of additional Humanitarian Affairs Officers, and opening of 3 sub-offices in Lubumbashi, Kalemie and Kindu in addition to the existing 7 in Bunia, Kisangani, Goma, Bukavu, Gbadolite, Mbandaka and Kinshasa. Given these extensive objectives, the level of funds required by OCHA will considerably increase in 2001." (UN November 2000, p.83)

"On July 9 and 10, 2001, the international humanitarian community participated in a conference in Geneva, Switzerland focusing on health and food security in the DRC. The conference participants approved of the public health approach in humanitarian assistance that supports local structures and encourages community participation. Regarding food security, UN agencies, donors, and NGO partners agreed to continue support for traditional food security interventions (seeds and tools distributions, assistance to nutrition centers) and bolster small-scale infrastructure projects (maintain feeder roads and small bridges, and introduce micro credit activities where appropriate). In addition, they reached a consensus on the need for improved coordination and information sharing, and the need to deploy a senior UN Humanitarian Coordinator to Kinshasa." (USAID 20 August 2001)

## **Donors pledged to provide more funding to DRC with renewal of peace negotiations (2001)**

- A donor information meeting in Paris in June 2001 expressed support for a US\$156 million program presented by the government of DRC
- USAID supports emergency infrastructure programs and agricultural programs for IDPs
- The EU announced the disbursement of 120 million euros for programs in DRC

"With peace negotiations now showing progress, following the appointment of Joseph Kabila as President after the assassination of his father Laurent, more funding for relief and rehabilitation efforts is becoming available." (WV 31 July 2001)

"A donor information meeting held in Paris on Tuesday [early June 2001] expressed support for a US \$156 million reform and rehabilitation programme presented by the government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the World Bank announced on Wednesday. Representatives from governments of Africa, Europe, North America and numerous UN agencies agreed that current developments in the DRC presented a window of opportunity for contributing, through economic assistance, to the return of peace in the DRC." (IRIN-CEA 4 July 2001)

"During his recent visit to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Kenzo Oshima, called for the international donor community to increase its assistance in the coming months so that relief agencies could expand their capacity on the ground and increase the resources available to tackle the country's "massive humanitarian deficit". Mr. Oshima said that with the disengagement of combatant forces and the deployment of MONUC observers in frontline areas, access to vulnerable populations was improving and some civilians, such as those in Kabinda, a former frontline town, were already feeling the effects of the peace process. Mr. Oshima identified the need for special programmes to address the specific problems of child soldiers, violence against women, issues related to displaced women and children and psychosocial problems among war-affected populations. The Under-Secretary-General also said that, whenever conditions allowed, there would be a need to develop resettlement programmes for internally displaced persons and refugees to support the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process." (UN SC 8 June 2001, para.62)

USAID (2001)"USAID/OFDA's funding for the DRC (approximately \$20 million) focuses primarily on health services and food security programs. USAID/OFDA also supports emergency infrastructure programs and agricultural programs for war-affected, vulnerable, and internally displaced persons." (USAID 20 August 2001)

### *European Union*

In a move marking the resumption of development assistance from the European Union, on 4 May the European Commissioner for Development announced the disbursement of 120 million euros to finance poverty alleviation and the promotion of human rights." (UN SC 8 June 2001, Para.79)

### *ECHO:*

In North Kivu "[...] ECHO is supporting – to the tune of \$100,000 a month – a central drug supply system run by local NGO ASRAMES which supplies 19 health zones via international NGOs.

Drugs are supplied free, and organizations and/or health centers decide whether or not to levy a user fee." (WHO 9 August 2001)

## **UN strategy for Emergency Humanitarian Interventions (EHI) during 2000**

- EHI is a UN inter-agency rapid response structure
- EHI concept is meant to operate as first aid mechanism aiming at saving lives and restoring family and communal livelihood
- Around 30 EHI interventions, totalling US\$ 730,000 implemented throughout the DRC by early October 2000

"While designed to enhance the UN's emergency preparedness capacity, the EHI concept is meant to operate as first aid mechanism aiming at saving lives and restoring family and communal livelihood . The scope of interventions under EHI will be limited to emergency food, distribution of seeds, tools, medical assistance, emergency water projects and control of epidemics.

[...]

Emergency Humanitarian Interventions (EHI) is a UN inter-agency rapid response structure which will enable the system to respond to war-inflicted and other suddenly arising emergencies on both sides of the frontline. EHI is designed to assist 300,000 war-affected persons in remote and hardly accessible areas of the DRC with no permanent presence of relief agencies. The scope of interventions under EHI will be limited to emergency food assistance and distribution of essential non-food items (WFP, UNHCR), distribution of seeds and tools for affected communities with access to land (FAO), medical assistance, emergency water projects (UNICEF and UNFPA) and control of epidemics (WFP and UNICEF). Although WFP does not appeal for funds under this sector, resources solicited for its IDP feeding projects will be made available to EHI operations, should the need arise. UNDP will contribute to EHI by strengthening the local capacities to manage and monitor the provided assistance.

EHI will be managed by the Office of the UN Humanitarian Co-ordinator in conjunction with the UN Country Management Team. All donor contributions for EHI are proposed to be channelled through OCHA and earmarked for a specific activity [...]" (UN November 1999, pp. 19, 57)

"Emergency Humanitarian Interventions (EHI) were initiated at the end of 1999, to answer the need for a rapid humanitarian response capacity to meet war-inflicted sufferings on civilian populations. EHI received considerable donor support to implement a series of activities ranging from assessment missions to facilitation of inter-agency actions. Unfortunately, the emergency response capacity of other institutions participating in the EHI initiative remained limited throughout 1999 and 2000, thus prompting modifications in the initial concept.

Modifications primarily affected operational synergies and methods of implementation while the main philosophy of EHI – immediate intervention to alleviate human suffering - remained unchanged. EHI was meant to be a “package deal” whereby each financial contribution would be distributed proportionally among various sectors and agencies. The package approach, however, was not implemented and by early 2000 the logistics, information collection and management components (OCHA/EHI) were almost fully funded while the requirements of emergency humanitarian supplies remained unmet. With the consent of donors and consultation with participating agencies, financial contributions are now channelled into an emergency fund accessible to all major humanitarian actors in response to crises. The definition of crises is relatively flexible and refers to all life-threatening situations encountered by civilians irrespective of the causes: war, natural disaster, human rights abuses, etc.

The May-June 2000 humanitarian crisis in Kisangani was a major test for EHI as an assistance concept, and as a coordination mechanism. Within days that followed the establishment of a cease-fire regime in this war-torn city, EHI consolidated resources of a large number of humanitarian actors, bilateral cooperation institutions and civil society, bringing badly needed relief to hundreds of thousands of Kisangani residents. EHI became the backbone of the international humanitarian response to the Kisangani crisis.

EHI survived chronic problems of insecurity, delayed access and prohibitions to travel often imposed by belligerents. The concept, however, needs substantial modification to address the changes in the nature of the crisis and offer a more diverse solution to emergencies that are otherwise covered by mandates of

humanitarian actors currently present in the DRC. EHI and its successor are instrumental to the 2001 CAP and play a central role in linking activities at macro and micro levels to support this appeal's strategy: bolster the coping mechanisms of war-affected populations and enhance their self-sufficiency.

[...]

Equally, EHI initiatives helped the humanitarian community to better grasp the economic dimensions of the humanitarian crisis on all sides of the frontline. Surveys have been used in humanitarian co-ordination for strong advocacy on monetary policy matters in Government-held areas, and on tax income and redistribution in rebel-held areas. Inter-agency surveys on displaced and host families (notably in Kisangani), and on mortality-related statistics (in Kinshasa to obtain a countrywide methodology) have added useful tools for decision-making." (UN November 2000, pp. 81-82, 95)

### **UN strategy for 2001 focused on restoration of an environment that enables community survival**

- Appeal based on the assumption that ingenious coping mechanisms have been eroded

"The [...] constraints and capacities' analysis lead to a conclusion that a simple and incremental growth in the volume of humanitarian assistance would basically produce a negligible impact on the overall humanitarian situation in DRC, although it may bring short-term solutions to communities at a very local level. The CHAP in 2000 was very symptomatic in this respect: while co-ordinated and efficient in many respects, it remained highly dependent on the volatility of military, economic, security situation and often at the mercy of politicians on both sides of the frontline. Logistical miracles and emergency operations in practically all parts of the country in 2000 have failed to save lives of vulnerable peoples affected by conflict. This failure is shared by all humanitarian actions in the country. This failure will be inevitable in the future as well, unless there is a common understanding that survival is only possible if living conditions stabilise. Decades-long absence of any governance has taught the Congolese how to survive using ingenious coping mechanisms. This CHAP argues that the war has already eroded the bulk of this ingenuity: facing enormous hardships people are no longer able to operate within community or even a family framework; farmers are no longer able to feed various armies and militia, the agricultural barter economy is at a standstill in the absence of intra-regional exchanges, and heavy-handed economic policies prevent households from exercising their regular activities. The recognition of this erosion is at the heart of this CHAP.

CHAP 2001 is conceived as an integrated strategy tool, where individual activities are placed hierarchically as components within other initiatives and eventually within the global assistance concept. The ongoing humanitarian disaster in the DRC can only be contained and mitigated if humanitarian initiatives are taken in parallel with the restoration of an environment that enables community survival.

[...]

The [...] framework provides for a combination of several strategy inputs that will jointly serve a global objective – enhancing survival mechanisms of war-affected populations. The framework has sector (health, food security) specific, cross-cutting (inter-sector e.g. EHI) and global components (nation-wide activities)." (UN November 2000, pp.23, 24)

### **Principles of Engagement for Emergency Humanitarian Assistance in the DRC (November 1998)**

- Principles elaborated at a meeting of the humanitarian community in Nairobi on 23 November 1998
- Principles based on the ICRC's Code of Conduct
- Principles endorsed by the Government and main rebel group

"Late last year [1997] the worsening humanitarian situation in the DRC together with increased security risks to humanitarian agencies made it necessary to seek consensus on a common approach to the delivery of humanitarian assistance, based on the application of agreed principles. This set of principles – the Principles of Engagement for Emergency Humanitarian Assistance in the Democratic Republic of Congo – aims at increasing the efficiency and pertinence of aid and maximising the humanitarian space for the relief community. They are based on the ICRC's Code of Conduct and were first set out at a meeting in Nairobi on 23 November 1998.

The principles are addressed to the international humanitarian community as well as to the political and military authorities in the DRC. General overarching principles are defined as impartiality; neutrality; independence (aid based solely on need); human rights; participation with local partners; coordination between agencies; transparency of humanitarian actors; and accountability. In addition, some general protocols are mentioned with regard to accessibility, security and types of intervention, and monitoring and evaluation. The principles also set out some practical means for improving coordination mechanisms and monitoring compliance to the principles." (RRN November 1998)

"Shortly after the advent of the Congolese crisis, the humanitarian community developed 'Principles of Engagement for Emergency Humanitarian Assistance in the DRC' [...] as a basis for humanitarian interventions in the DRC. The document reflects basic international norms and practices governing humanitarian action, and was endorsed by UN agencies, various NGOs and donors, notably ECHO and the US.

During a mission of the Deputy to the UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs to the DRC in January 1999, the 'Principles of Engagement' were accepted by the DRC government and the RCD in Goma.

The document laid the groundwork for the resumption of UN humanitarian activities in the eastern provinces and emphasised the non-political character of humanitarian action. As a result and through active engagement with authorities at national, provincial and local level, the relief community increased its access to beneficiaries. Direct positive results achieved in 1999 include:

- Legal and humanitarian assistance to endangered ethnic minorities;
- Access to war prisoners on both sides of the frontline;
- Safe havens for Sudanese refugees, where possible;
- Nation-wide polio immunisation campaigns on both sides of the frontline;
- Commitment from authorities to stop child recruitment and demobilise child-soldiers;
- Establishment of joint UN humanitarian offices in Goma and Bukavu"

(UN November 1999, p.65)

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### **Text of the principles:**

#### **"Introduction**

The worsening humanitarian situation in the democratic Republic of Congo, in particular in the Eastern part of the country, together with increased security risks both to personnel and assets of humanitarian agencies, made it necessary to seek consensus on a common approach to the delivery of humanitarian assistance, based on the application of a set of agreed principles. This set of principles aims at increasing the efficiency and the pertinence of the delivered aid and maximising the humanitarian space for the relief community.

The set of principles is addressed to the international Humanitarian community as well as to the political and military authorities. General overarching principles are defined under 1) while some general protocols, mainly on accessibility, security and types of interventions, monitoring and evaluation are mentioned under 2)

## **1) Overarching Principles**

The present document, together with the 'Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief', which most assistance in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Its guiding principle is... 'The right to receive humanitarian assistance and to offer it is a fundamental humanitarian principle, which should be enjoyed by all citizens of all countries. As members of the international community, we recognise our obligation to provide humanitarian assistance wherever it is needed. Hence the need for unimpeded access to affected populations, is of fundamental importance in exercising that responsibility. The prime motivation of our response to disaster is to alleviate human suffering amongst those least able to withstand the stress caused by disaster. When we give humanitarian aid, it is no a partisan or political act and should not be viewed as such'... (Reference: Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in disaster relief, 7/9/98, p.2)

### **Impartiality:**

Aid will be delivered without discrimination as to ethnicity, religious beliefs or political opinion. Humanitarian assistance should be provided solely on the basis of needs.

### **Neutrality-Apolitical nature of humanitarian aid:**

Aid agencies will be neutral in providing humanitarian assistance and must stress the apolitical nature of humanitarian assistance. The action of aid agencies will not imply recognition of or confer legitimacy of the authority in control of the area in which humanitarian assistance is provided.

### **Independence:**

The assistance provided will be depended solely on needs, giving priority to the most urgent and stressing situations, and will not be influenced by political, economic or military considerations.

### **Human Rights:**

The promotion of human rights is an essential part of humanitarian assistance and may range from passive monitoring of respect for human rights to pro-active human rights advocacy. These activities will be guided by International Human Law and by the mandates given by International Instruments to various humanitarian organisations such as UNHCHR, UNHCR, and ICRC.

### **Participation:**

Beneficiaries, local partners and local structures should be involved, wherever possible, in the need assessment, provision and monitoring of humanitarian emergency assistance, so as to provide sustainability in the long term.

### **Coordination:**

Participating agencies commit themselves to enhanced co-ordination and mutual support using the existing co-ordination mechanisms.

### **Transparency:**

Humanitarian programmes and aid agencies operating in the country must be totally transparent in all their workings and dealings with relevant authorities. Transparency should be achieved through the regular flow of information to the relevant authorities and vice versa. This principle should be applied without prejudice to the security of the beneficiaries.

### **Accountability:**

Implementing partners hold themselves accountable to both those they seek to assist and those from whom they accept resources.

## **2) Protocol**

### **Freedom of access:**

Parties to the conflict should ensure unimpeded access for assessment, delivery and monitoring of humanitarian aid to potential beneficiaries. The assistance to affected areas should be provided in the most efficient manner and by the most accessible routes.

**Security:**

The relevant authorities are responsible for creating conditions conducive to the implementing of humanitarian activities. This must cover the security of local and international staff as well as all assets. The restitution of requisitioned assets is an essential indication of the goodwill of the authorities. Agencies look to the local authorities to take responsibilities for ensuring the return of assets wherever possible. The security of the civil population in conflict zones is the responsibility of the relevant authorities.

**Escorts:**

Armed escorts should only be used as a last resort for the delivery of humanitarian assistance in areas of serious insecurity. The co-ordinating body should evaluate the need for an armed escort on a case by case basis.

**Joint assessments and types of intervention:**

Where possible basic humanitarian needs and beneficiaries will be identified through joint assessment missions, which would also define the necessary package of assistance to mitigate and prevent life threatening situations. Interventions will involve local communities, wherever possible, and be designed to strengthen existing local capacities.


**Monitoring and Evaluation:**

Monitoring and evaluation of humanitarian assistance will be jointly undertaken by aid agencies and local partners, in cooperation with donors. Mechanisms will be put in place to monitor compliance with the principles of engagement." (OCHA 25 January 1999)

## UN Response

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### UN 2001 Appeal for DRC funded at 54.4% as of early October 2001

|                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | <p>Table I : UN Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for<br/>Democratic Republic of the Congo 2001<br/>Summary of Requirements and Contributions - By Appealing Organization<br/>as of 10/4/01</p> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Compiled by OCHA on the basis of information provided by the respective appealing organization.

| Appealing Org.     | Original Requirements | Revised Requirements | Contributions   | Pledges          | Carry over | Total resources available | Unmet Requirements | % Covered     |
|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------|---------------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| FAO                | 1065000               | 1065000              | 0               | 1,234,284        | 0          | 1,234,284                 | 8930716            | 16.18%        |
| IOM                | 3955000               | 3955000              | 0               | 0                | 0          | 0                         | 3955000            | 0.00%         |
| OCHA               | 67111726              | 67111726             | 4,175,467       | 0                | 0          | 4,175,467                 | 26132299           | 81.51%        |
| OHCHR              | 1344941               | 1344941              | 1,224,740       | 0                | 0          | 1,224,740                 | 120201             | 91.05%        |
| UNDP               | 1750000               | 1750000              | 0               | 0                | 0          | 0                         | 1750000            | 0.00%         |
| UNFPA              | 1161828               | 1161828              | 0               | 0                | 0          | 0                         | 1161828            | 0.00%         |
| UNHCR              | 25303286              | 25303286             | 14,047,035      | 0                | 0          | 14,047,035                | 11256245           | 55.51%        |
| UNICEF             | 15000000              | 15000000             | 6,560,025       | 438,464          | 0          | 7,000,432                 | 7993568            | 46.71%        |
| UNSECOORD          | 2942886               | 2942886              | 769,740         | 467,757          | 0          | 1,227,497                 | 1715389            | 41.71%        |
| WFP                | 87607610              | 49694001             | 37,217,645      | 0                | 0          | 37,217,645                | 12476353           | 74.89%        |
| WHO                | 2107674               | 4260327              | 210,000         | 0                | 0          | 210,000                   | 4050327            | 4.9%          |
| <b>GRAND TOTAL</b> | <b>139464891</b>      | <b>122556090</b>     | <b>64202651</b> | <b>2,630,445</b> | <b>0</b>   | <b>66,823,036</b>         | <b>56922934</b>    | <b>54.40%</b> |

(UN OCHA 2001 "Financial Tracking")

## **Overview of food & health assistance to the displaced population per province (2000-2001)**

*The following overview of IDP related humanitarian response for 2000 has been compiled from the "Monthly Humanitarian Bulletin" prepared by OCHA DRC and information from OCHA-Kinshasa for 2001:*

### **Orientale:**

"Emergency medical assistance (UNICEF, WHO and MSF/Belgium) is being provided to urban IDPs through health centres along the displacement roads and to 12,500 IDPs sheltered in several sites in Kisangani.

[...]

The humanitarian situation of IDPs in Ituri is reportedly improving as a result of a multi-sector health, nutrition, sanitation, and food security humanitarian response implemented by German Agro-Action, ICRC, UNICEF, Medair, OXFAM/UK, COOPI, FAO, and MSF/Holland. In Bunia Oxfam GB has thus far provided an appropriate water and sanitation response to 45,000 people in communities made vulnerable by displacements. By the end of June the first phase of the intervention was ended and 60,000 were getting access to safe water. The second phase of the programme envisages more durable, water and sanitation solutions to 90,000 people."(OCHA 11 July 2000)

"Most of the assistance between July and December [2000] has focused on Kisangani City because of difficulty in accessing the rural areas. With improving security ECC [Eglise du Christ au Congo] and its member churches now feel that assistance should try to target the rural population around Kisangani. There is much concern about the situation in those areas which have until now been inaccessible, as the health centers continue to see increasing cases of malnutrition among individuals arriving from rural areas. [...] The consensus among international agencies on the ground is that, with the present level of security, there is an opportunity to address the humanitarian needs of the population in and around Kisangani in an effective manner, thus allowing these communities to recover from the June war and regain their basic self-sufficiency." (ACT 19 January 2001, "Kisangani")

### ***Health sector:***

Certaines agences des Nations Unies et ONGs internationales interviennent dans la Province Orientale, notamment pour la prise en charge des enfants malnutris, les soins primaires, l'approvisionnement en médicaments... Il s'agit entre autres de : OMS, FNUAP, OCHA, UNICEF,MSF/Hollande, ICRC, Caritas, MEMISA, MALTEZER, IRC, Fondation Damien , MEDAIR, COOPI, Oxfam...[...]

### ***Food security sector:***

Les partenaires opérationnels dans le secteur de la sécurité alimentaire sont : FAO, PAM, UNICEF, HCR ,AAA...Leurs actions portent sur la distribution de nourriture, semences..." (UN OCHA September 2001)

### **North Kivu**

"Humanitarian interventions targeted at displaced populations in North Kivu are consistently improving in terms of coverage and quantity of assistance delivered. WFP for instance, recently completed the largest food distribution campaign since the beginning of the war. Some 7,250 IDP families or roughly 36,000 persons have received supplementary food rations. Non-food supplies are being provided by OXFAM/UNICEF. German Agro-Action, will be addressing some of the needs associated with this population in the coming months with USAID funding. "" (OCHA 11 July 2000)

### ***Health sector:***

"Au Nord- Kivu, les interventions de différents partenaires se focalisent principalement sur l'appui à certaines zones de santé (OMS,UNICEF, SANRU); l'approvisionnement en médicaments (ASRAMES);

l'aménagement de 7 sites pour les IDPs (PAM avec le concours du CICR et des ONGs telles que AAA); la construction d'adduction d'eau dans le territoire de Walikale (GEA et GTZ);...[...]

***Food security sector:***

Les partenaires opérationnels dans le domaine de la sécurité alimentaire sont la FAO, le PAM, le CICR, Oxfam, Caritas, MSF, AAA, C.AID, SCF (UK). Leurs activités comprennent l'assistance à la population en vivres, semences, outils aratoires, produits phytosanitaires et zoo- sanitaires, petit bétail, outils de transformation des produits agricoles." (UN OCHA September 2001)

**South Kivu**

***Health sector:***

"Les principaux partenaires opérationnels au Sud- Kivu dans le secteur de la santé sont : OMS, UNICEF, CICR, MSF, SC, IRC, ODPI, CEMUBAC, BDOM, PSI, Die Johanniter, MEMISA,...L'APAMESK. [...]"

***Food security sector:***

la FAO, le PAM, l'UNICEF, le CICR, Caritas, Christian Aid, FHI,SC, ODPI, CEMUBAC. Ils interviennent dans la distribution des vivres, semences et matériels aratoires dans les zones accessibles." (UN OCHA September 2001)

**Maniema**

***Health sector***

"La présence des agences des Nations Unies est encore très limitée au Maniema. Toutefois, les partenaires ci-après sont opérationnels:

- OMS: appui technique pour l'inspection provinciale de santé.
- OCHA: ouverture d'un bureau depuis peu.
- FOMETRO: approvisionnement en médicament dans les zones du sud de la province (Kasongo, Kibombo et Lusangi).
- MERLIN : ravitaillement en médicament dans les zones de santé de Kalima, Punia et Kindu.
- Oxfam- GB: eau et assainissement.
- CAEM, S.D.M., BDOM, FAO, CELPA: nutrition. [...]"

***Food security sector:***

Les partenaires opérationnels dans le Maniema sont:

- FAO: distribution des semences maraichères.
- PAM: distribution des vivres.
- Christian Aid: distribution des semences vivrières et outils aratoires." (OCHA September 2001)

**Katanga.**

***Health sector***

"Les partenaires ci- après interviennent au Katanga dans le secteur de la santé:

- OMS,UNICEF
- WV, MSF/Belgique, ICRC, Fondation Damien, Nuova Frontiera, SC (UK), AAH-USA, Fondation MISEREOR, CARITAS, Sœurs franciscaines des missionnaires de Marie, PAM, FAO, Vision Mondiale, CICR, OMS [...]"

***Food Security sector:***

- FAO: Distribution des semences et outils agricoles aux agriculteurs.
- PAM: distribution des vivres aux- déplacés.
- HCR: distribution des vivres aux réfugiés
- AAH-USA, FHI, SCR, Nuova Frontiera, CICR." (UN OCHA September 2001)

**Eastern Kasai**

**Health sector:**

Les partenaires ci- après sont opérationnels au Kasai Oriental:

- OMS, CRS, Fondation Damien
- MDM, CRS, MEMISA. [...]

**Food security sector:**

Quelques actions sont menées dans le secteur de la sécurité alimentaire par:

- FAO: distribution des semences de maïs, de niébé, d'arachide ainsi que des outils aratoires (houes, machettes) aux ménages.
- CRS: appui aux centres nutritionnels de Kabinda." (UN OCHA September 2001)

**Western Kasai**

**Health sector:**

"Le Kasai occidental bénéficie de l'appui de l'OMS, UNICEF, CSI avec le concours du Bureau médico-social de l'Archidiocèse de Kananga. Ils interviennent dans le domaine d'appui au dépôt pharmaceutique et à 23 centres de santé et 3 hôpitaux de référence, notamment par la livraison en 2001 de 22 tonnes de matériel médical de base. [...]

**Food Security Sector**

Les partenaires ci-après interviennent au Kasai occidental dans le secteur de sécurité alimentaire :

- FAO: distribution des semences vivrières
- PAM: distribution des vivres
- CSI: démarrage d'un programme de type «sécurité alimentaire» et «petite réhabilitation»." (UN OCHA September 2001)

**Equateur:**

**Health sector:**

"Quelques agences des Nations Unies et ONGs interviennent à l'Equateur dans les domaines ci-après :

- UNICEF, CSI-B: programme d'aide d'urgence.
- MSF/B: appui aux centres de santé à Mbandaka.
- Fondation Damien: lutte contre la lèpre.
- OMS/PEV: couverture vaccinale et dépistage pour la ville et ses périphéries.
- AAA-USA, COOPI, ACF-USA, Memisa, CRS, MDM [...]

**Food security sector**

- PAM: distribution de vivres à 3009 personnes en avril 2001 et fourniture de l'alimentation supplémentaire des groupes vulnérables avec le concours de BDOM et Caritas.
- FAO: fourniture de semences." (UN OCHA September 2001)

**Kinshasa**

**Health Sector**

Les partenaires opérationnels à Kinshasa dans le secteur de la santé sont OMS, FNUAP, CICR, CRS, IFRC, SC, MSF, WV, IRC, Fond Damien. [...]

**Food security sector**

Le secteur de la sécurité alimentaire bénéficie de l'appui des agences des Nations Unies et OGNs ci- après: PAM, FAO, AAA- USA, SC (UK), ICRC, Caritas, BDOM, SC/UK, MSF." (UN OCHA September 2001)

## **IDP related activities in the 2001 United Nations Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal**

*The table below only includes planned activities in the 2001 Appeal that may have a direct impact on IDP. Several activities in the Appeal that are not included below are likely to benefit IDPs indirectly, and it is recommended to consult the [2001 Appeal document](#) if more detailed information is needed.*

| <b>Appealing Agency/Activity</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>Requirements in USD</b> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <p><b>UNICEF: Revitalisation of primary health services and vaccination (DRC-01-1/N01)</b></p> <p>Main IDP related assistance: UNICEF will provide kits of essential drugs to health centres to enhance their capacity to deliver health care at an affordable price to the most vulnerable.</p>                                                                                                                         | 3,000,000                  |
| <p><b>UNICEF: Nutritional rehabilitation of malnourished children (DRC-01-1/N02)</b></p> <p>Main IDP related assistance: UNICEF will continue to support therapeutic feeding centres for the severely malnourished children (weight/height under 70%) by providing therapeutic milk, high protein biscuits, feeding kits and cooking sets and extend it's support to other therapeutic feeding centres if necessary.</p> | 1,500,000                  |
| <p><b>WHO: Emergency and humanitarian health coordination (DRC-01-1/N03)</b></p> <p>Main IDP related assistance: Provide Technical assistance and support to MoH and NGOs</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 150,944                    |
| <p><b>WHO: Management of major communicable diseases (DRC-01-1/N04)</b></p> <p>Main IDP related assistance: 1-To strengthen preparedness against epidemics<br/>2- To ensure drugs availability and easy accessibility of drugs and vaccines needed to combat outbreaks of diseases.</p>                                                                                                                                  | 75,790                     |
| <p><b>WHO: Strengthening disease control programmes in Eastern DRC- five provinces (Maniema, Kasai Oriental, Kasai Occidental and Equateur) (DRC-01-1/N06)</b></p> <p>Main IDP related assistance: Provide assistance to functioning health centres and existing hospitals to ensure the availability of health services in provinces under occupation by the opposition army in DRC</p>                                 | 769,560                    |
| <p><b>WHO: Strengthening epidemiological surveillance system, early alert and monitoring of epidemics (DRC-01-1/N07)</b></p> <p>Main IDP related assistance: To strengthen the functioning warning system and to assist in building an integrated surveillance, preparedness and response system.</p>                                                                                                                    | 1,107,700                  |
| <p><b>UNFPA: Reduction of maternal and neo-natal mortality (DRC-01-1/N08)</b></p> <p>Main IDP related assistance: To contribute to the reduction of maternal, neo-natal, child and unsafe abortion mortality in the war-affected cities of Bukavu, Goma, Kindu, Mbuji-Mayi and Kalemie.</p>                                                                                                                              | 1,161,828                  |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <p><b>FAO: Support the integration of refugees or IDP families within their host community through agricultural activities (DRC-01-1/N09)</b></p> <p>Main IDP related assistance: Strengthen food security of target populations (IDPs, refugees, and host families) during the farming seasons of February and September 2001.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 5,650,000  |
| <p><b>FAO: Emergency support to the rehabilitation of fisheries and aquaculture (DRC-01-1/N11)</b></p> <p>Main IDP related assistance: Support fishery and aquaculture activities to improve food security of affected populations [IDPs].</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 400,000    |
| <p><b>WFP: Emergency food assistance to IDPs, other war-affected populations of the DRC; Creation of assets and income generating activities to increase food security of households. (DRC-01-1/N13)</b></p> <p>Main IDP related assistance: focus on groups that have lost their coping mechanisms but which are logistically accessible. WFP will aim at supplying emergency assistance amounting to 46,710 MTs. of food to 844,000 persons in 2001 and 31,047 MTs to 555,000 persons in 2002. These beneficiaries consist of IDPs, malnourished children, vulnerable groups and refugees.</p> | 61,573,336 |
| <p><b>UNICEF: Assistance to the most vulnerable displaced and refugee children and women (DRC-01-1/N14)</b></p> <p>Main IDP related assistance: Meet urgent needs in essential non-food items of displaced and war affected populations</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 4,500,000  |
| <p><b>UNICEF: Protection of children affected by armed conflict (DRC-01-1/N15)</b></p> <p>Main IDP related assistance: Protect the most vulnerable groups of children in affected areas; meet the physical and psycho-social needs of affected children; trace families of unaccompanied minors and demobilised children and assist with reunification efforts.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 2,500,000  |
| <p><b>IOM: Emergency enhancement of regional socio-economic conditions in Katanga through the provision of Transport, Logistics, Road and Rail Repair &amp; Maintenance and targeted community development activities (DRC-01-1/N17)</b></p> <p>Main IDP related assistance: Relocate vulnerable IDPs from their present location to temporary settlement grounds</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 3,955,000  |
| <p><b>UNDP: Income generating activities in favour of fragmented households (DRC-01-1/N20)</b></p> <p>Main IDP related assistance: Develop craft activities to secure a revenue for households managed by women who lost their husbands during the war or displaced without their husbands, and for widows and orphans from victims of AIDS.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 550,000    |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |           |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <p><b>UNICEF: Rapid educational initiative for internally displaced children in DRC (DRC-01-1/N21)</b></p> <p>Main IDP related assistance: To provide over 100,000 displaced children with basic literacy, numeracy and life-skills education, pending restoration of normal schooling.</p>                                                                               | 3,500,000 |
| <p><b>OCHA: Emergency Humanitarian Interventions (DRC-01-1/N24)</b></p> <p>Main IDP related assistance: To enhance UN rapid response capacity in humanitarian emergencies; ensure effective coordination and management of humanitarian actions, ensure national coverage of State Exams, promote social, commercial and humanitarian exchanges across the frontline.</p> | 3,925,279 |
| <p><b>OCHA: Coordination of humanitarian assistance; peace and confidence-building initiatives (DRC-01-1/N25)</b></p> <p>Main IDP related assistance: Enhance the effective coordination and management of UN relief activities; Promote humanitarian principles and implement new humanitarian strategies for the DRC.</p>                                               | 2,863,477 |

### **WFP distributes food to IDPs in Eastern DRC (2001)**

- WFP formalizes agreement with DRC Government to supply food to IDPs and other vulnerable groups (2001)

"On 6 February [2001], WFP formalized its agreement with the Government for the implementation of the first PRRO [Protracted Relief Recovery Operation] in the country. Under the agreement, WFP is hoping to provide a total of 134,565 tons of food to the most needy Congolese, over two years, at the overall operational and support cost of USD 112.3 million. However, only 13,100 tons of food have been resourced to date. [...]"

Through the PRRO, which follows several emergency operations in the region and country, WFP aims to supply food aid to 1.4 million beneficiaries this year and 1.16 million during 2002. The beneficiaries are mainly IDPs, malnourished children, vulnerable groups and refugees." (WFP 16 February 2001)

#### **South Kivu**

"WFP has distributed 378 tons of food to mostly IDPs and family members of malnourished children, from 1 to 25 August. With the improvement of the security situation, massive movements of returnees have been reported in the province of South Kivu. WFP is planning to assist them to prepare the next farming season. This will entail the distribution of seeds protection package to some 230,088 persons in Kabare, Walungu and Kalonge." (WFP 31 August 2001)

WFP "[...] assisted some 33,974 internally displaced persons (IDPs), malnourished children and accompanying families in Bukavu, south Kivu during the last week of July" (IRIN-CEA 6 August 2001)

#### **North Kivu**

"WFP in collaboration with German Agro Actin has started assisting over 150,000 IDPs in Grand Nord (North Kivu province). 50,000 IDPs have already received seeds and over 351 tons of food." (WFP 31 August 2001).

### **Northern Katanga**

"WFP expanded food assistance in the north-western part of the Katanga province, under Government control and is considering assisting people in Ankoro and Gwena areas, along the front-line. WFP completed food distribution to 14,000 IDPs in Kitenge." (WFP 31 August 2001)

"WFP is currently distributing food to IDPs in Mitwaba, Kabongo and Lubumbashi town (Katanga Province) (WFP 7 September 2001)

"WFP is also currently assisting 1000 persons, mainly IDPs involved in the drainage and clearing of Kalemie town [Northern Katanga]" (WFP 6 August 2001)

### **Equateur**

"Despite the recent withdrawal of armed forces to some 200 km north of Mbandaka, in Equateur Province, and the deployment of military observers by the UN Mission in the DRC (MONUC), the security remained precarious outside Mbandaka, WFP reported on Friday. Attempts to provide food relief for vulnerable local populations and internationally displaced people (IDPs) around Mbandaka had been constrained by a volatile security situation (putting at risk WFP, partner staff and food stock), as well as by sketchy beneficiary figures, IDPs scattered over large areas, lack of partners, impassable bridges and roads, and the risk of land mines, it stated." (IRIN 18 June 2001)

"Following a recent assessment, WFP reported that the local population in the Mbandaka area of Equateur province in northwestern DRC "is facing serious difficulties, with a limited number of partners operating in the province" remaining a major constraint. Meanwhile, WFP intends to airlift 29 mt of food from Mbandaka to Bansukusu with the support of MONUC helicopters." (IRIN 10 September 2001)

### **Eastern Kasai**

"A massive influx of IDPs was reported in Kabinda (Kasai Oriental Province). IDPs were reported to be in a precarious nutritional status and medical infrastructure insufficient. For the past two years, WFP has supplied 43 tons of food on a monthly basis to around 4,000 children attending the nutritional centre run by Catholic Relief Services (CRS)" (WFP 25 May 2001)

### **Suspension of food distribution to IDPs in Kinshasa in Sept 2001**

"Due to persistent reports of mal-practices at distribution sites which came to a climax in August, government in consultation with WFP decided to suspend general food distribution in Kinshasa during the month of September. While monitoring the last food distribution, a total of 5 Mt was discovered in a private house. The matter received the attention of the special service of the government – Détection Militaire des Activités Anti-Patriotiques (DMIAP) which is suspecting a network involving some implementing partners and traders. Pending the outcome of the investigations, Government still maintains the suspension of food distribution to IDPs." (WFP 20 September 2001)

*To view the document for the Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation 6274.00, please see [\[External Link\]](#)*

### **UNICEF distributes non-food assistance through international NGOs and provide basic education supplies to IDPs (2001)**

- UNICEF projects in favor of the displaced are severely under-funded

"Between January and May 2001, UNICEF distributed non-food items to 18,000 displaced families. Within this distribution phases, the activities included:

- In Kiribizi (North Kivu), Caritas distributed UNICEF relief kits to 1,400 families. The NGO Solidarités, with its feeding programme, is supporting 1,200 displaced families, and World Vision is currently assisting 4,000 families with non-food supplies in Bashali and Kahembe.
- In South Kivu, the Xaveriens Brothers assisted additional 512 families in Kitutu and another 4,000 families in Shabunda. Also, a new partnership agreement was signed with the "Sisters of the Divine Masters in Lulingu" to assist 766 displaced families.
- In Katanga, World Vision assisted 3,438 displaced families in Kamina and Malemba-Nkulu areas with emergency relief kits, blankets and plastic sheeting. MSF Belgium also distributed 1,700 emergency relief kits to ex-refugee families, returning voluntarily from the refugee camps in Kasenga and Kilwa.
- In Western Kasai province, Caritas distributed family kits to 1,000 vulnerable displaced families and provided health assistance as well." (UNICEF 9 July 2001)

*Education initiative for IDPs:*

"With the funds currently available from Sweden and Norway, UNICEF, through provision of basic education supplies, will reinforce the capacities of school, providing schooling to 15,000 displaced primary school children in the coming September. Meanwhile, training of facilitators for these learning sites in the Kivu provinces continues. [...]

As the majority of IDP children are not attending school, the new UNICEF Emergency Education initiative is a comprehensive project, whose components – ranging from provision of supplies to training – will expand access to basic education to these children."

*As of July 2001, the Emergency relief to IDPs was only funded at 23% and the Education initiative for IDPs was funded at 15%.*

(UNICEF 9 July 2001)

### **UNDP to create a security network (2001)**

- 7 Field security sub-offices planned

"The continued escalation of the conflict in the DRC curtailed UN Agencies and other humanitarian actors' activities in the field and particularly in Provinces along the front line. The proliferation of militias and armed groups and the incessant violations of the cease-fire agreement have made the security situation extremely difficult to manage.

The present project is aimed at creating a security network, which will cover the entire country through the establishment of 7 Field security sub-offices to ensure the safety of UN, NGOs' staff and infrastructures and promote a continued delivery of assistance to affected populations.

The establishment of such a security network requires considerable funds, mainly destined to the restoration of security infrastructure (most of them where looted in 1998 during the first days of the conflict).

Security-related matters will be under the overall responsibility of the UN Designated Official and the Field Security Officer based in Kinshasa and the operational coordination (in rebel held and government areas) will be handled by 7 Field Security Officers (Goma, Bukavu, Mbandaka, Kisangani, Mbuji-Mayi, Matadi and Lubumbashi) with the support of national staff.

The constraints linked to the non-existence of such network and the recent incidents occurred to the relief staff in the DRC and in the region have underlined the critical need for enhancing security measures. This project is indispensable for the fulfilment and the coordination of humanitarian assistance in the country." (UN November 2000, p.87)

### **WHO strengthens the surveillance of diseases in the provinces (2001)**

"In the past nine months, WHO has set up 11 provincial 'antennae' staffed with medical epidemiologists, logisticians and radio communications and recruited 42 epidemiologists to work at district level Both levels are funded by the Global Polio Campaign but are charged in their terms of reference with addressing the much broader brief of strengthening surveillance of all epidemic-prone diseases as well as polio." (WHO 9 August 2001)

### **UN Agencies assess food needs in city of North Kivu (2001)**

- A joint mission of WFP, UN HCR, Caritas and the governorate assessed the needs of the people from Kibirizi, who fled attacks by Mai Mai and Interhamwe militias
- The displaced live far from their fields and suffer from malnutrition

"Une mission conjointe du PAM, du HCR, de Caritas et du gouvernorat s'est rendue à Kibirizi (ville située au sud ouest du Parc National des Virunga, dans la collectivité de Bwito, territoire de Rutshuru). Comme les autres villages lointains de la province, cette cité fut aussi le théâtre d'attaques menées par les milices Mai Mai et Interhamwe. Ces attaques récurrentes ont entraîné des déplacements massifs de population.

La majorité avait pris la direction de Kanyabayonga, Kayna, Kirumba où plus de 100,000 personnes déplacées étaient enregistrées. La minorité s'était dirigée vers Rutshuru, Kiwanja, Nyamilima. Le reste de la population de Kibirizi s'était cachée dans les collines surplombant la cité.

Le manque des vivres au site d'accueil (zone de santé de Kayna) et l'amélioration récente des conditions de sécurité à Kibirizi ont poussé les personnes déplacées à retourner chez elles. C'est dans ce cadre que le PAM et la FAO ont conçu ce projet de réinstallation des personnes déplacées. Le PAM va octroyer deux mois de ration à ces retournés et la FAO leur distribuera des semences. Caritas s'est joint à ce projet de réinstallation pour rendre disponible les non vivres (casseroles, couvertures, jerricans, assiettes et gobelets).

La malnutrition s'est développé à Kibirizi à cause du déplacement des populations vers les sites d'hébergement très éloignés de leurs champs. Pour pouvoir se réintégrer dans la vie socio-économique dans leurs milieux d'origine, les retournés ont besoin d'intrants agricoles, des vivres et de non vivres pendant les deux premiers mois.

A Kibirizi il y a un centre de santé sans médicaments essentiels et sans aucun programme de nutrition fonctionnel. Caritas Diocésaine va y ouvrir un centre nutritionnel qui prendra en charge les enfants malnourris et organisera périodiquement les enquêtes nutritionnelles." (OCHA 28 February 2001, "Nord Kivu")

### **Oxfam presses donors to improve humanitarian funding situation (December 2000)**

"The UN consolidated inter-agency appeal for 2000 received only 61% of requested funding. In addition, over 82% of financial and in-kind donations was for food security and food assistance. The office of human rights received nothing. Programmes in primary health, epidemic control, child protection, and confidence building received little or no funding at all.

This is clearly not an integrated donor strategy in a country with more than 2 million displaced, a collapsed health and education system, and a population exhausted by years of war and decline. Importantly, the lack

of funding makes it impossible to monitor human rights abuses, let alone carry out an effective programme of protecting civilians. Even just the presence of international monitors has been known to lower the incidence of abuse, and could initiate a more pro-active international engagement in the human rights situation in the DRC. MONUC, too, needs to be strengthened in numbers of personnel and should have better access to much more of the countryside.

Although the World Food Programme (WFP) did receive the majority of its required food in 2000, the agency experienced constraints on the food pipeline. This was mainly due to the delayed pledging and late arrival of donor contributions. The bulk of the food was received after the end of May, delaying emergency operations. WFP reports that this forced the suspension of general distribution programmes in the east.

For the whole of the country, however, the UN inter-agency appeal is only part of the picture. The European Community's Humanitarian Organisation (ECHO) donated 20 million Euros from June to December of 2000 and has allocated 35 million Euros for the year 2001.[10] The British Government's Department for International Development (DFID) donated £1,322,000 in 1999/2000.[11] The US government donated \$33 million in the fiscal year 2000, of which \$13 million is allocated to its Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA).[12] Other government bodies have been supporting NGO programmes as well, particularly in the eastern part of the country. [...]

Donors must work with longer-term strategies when considering assistance for people who have been displaced for over a year. A different kind of approach would incorporate education, health and shelter by working through local structures. UNOCHA's plan for consultative committees in affected communities is a good start in supporting and working through local civil society, including representatives of the displaced.

Some donors have objected to increasing their funding because of uncertain security and the consequent difficulties of getting access to those in need. There are very real concerns about security, relating both to the war and to lawlessness. [...]

However, there are accessible populations in urgent need of aid that could be reached if more humanitarian assistance was available. Due to the level of financial shortfalls, Oxfam GB and other NGOs have been unable to provide assistance to all those in need who are within reach. In addition, we are unable to provide assistance to the level of internationally-recognised standards for humanitarian aid. These standards, such as Sphere, were agreed upon, along with a humanitarian charter, as the minimum assistance to meet essential needs with impartiality and respect for life with dignity.

In the places where we have been able to assist, the improvements are impressive. In Djugu territory, for example, there were 599 cases of cholera in 1999. In 2000, after the start of a comprehensive water and sanitation programme, there were only 13 cases. Other water-borne diseases have declined rapidly as well.

Much more could and should be done. Under-funding humanitarian programmes is not an effective solution to the crisis. What is needed is significantly more humanitarian aid, and sustained international attention. Diplomatic pressure on the involved governments and warring parties to improve security, protect the civilian and displaced populations, and reduce the obstacles to delivery are crucial parts of a more effective approach to humanitarian aid and ending the war.

To ensure effective humanitarian assistance and to begin to find a long-term solution to DRC's war, Oxfam GB recommends:

Donor governments should quickly respond to the war in the DRC, recognising that it is one of the worst humanitarian situations in the world. Donors should immediately support the 2001 UN-OCHA Consolidated Appeal for the DRC, requiring US\$139.5 million (about £97 million). To avoid the pipeline problems experienced this year, pledges should come in the early months of the year. Donors should work with international agencies to reach international standards in relief - such as the Sphere standards." (OXFAM 30 December 2000)

## Food aid reached 840,000 displaced persons during 2000

- 17,000 children attended UNICEF sponsored nutritional centres
- All provinces of the country with high IDP concentration have benefited from assistance to grow their own food
- In 2000 WFP distributed two and a half times the amount of food it had distributed in 1999, the majority of which went to IDPs
- WFP reaching an average of 290,000 persons in North Kivu province of a total of 403,000 registered IDPs (October 2000)

"The impact of food and nutritional assistance is seen both on macro and micro levels: Clearly, the great majority of 17,000 children that attended UNICEF sponsored nutritional centres were saved from greater suffering and, in many cases, from death. This impact, however, is short-lived since after the recovery children return to their impoverished families where their daily meal is not always ensured. The impact of large-scale feeding project in favour of over 700,000 vulnerable, refugees, displaced, is more complex to depict: with the exception of refugees, and other non-mobile beneficiary groups (120,000 persons), the rest of beneficiaries has been attained sporadically, often just once. On the other hand, food aid and supplementary feeding saved lives in the aftermath of the Kisangani crisis or during massive influxes of displaced into Bukavu. Food injections of a total of 30,000 MTs of commodities, into various parts of the country had practically no impact on the supply side of the market, with a shortfall estimated at 1.2 million MTs in western DRC alone.

[...]

More than 17,000 children have been treated in 63 UNICEF sponsored therapeutic feeding centres: 8,750 children in North Kivu: partners- SCF-UK, World Vision and Caritas; 6,400 children in South Kivu; partners SCF-UK, Caritas, ACF-USA and Xaveriens mission. 2,000 children in Kinshasa, partner BDOM, AICF-USA; 562 children in Katanga – AICF-USA and Nova Frontiera's; 700 children in Eastern Kasai: partner CRS

[...]

An innovative logistical approach put in place by WFP is currently ensuring a simultaneous shipment of food commodities through four corridors: Goma, Lubumbashi and Matadi. Security and logistics constraints and a two-fold increase in the number of IDPs prompted WFP to review modalities of its projects: beneficiaries are currently receiving reduced monthly rations as opposed to daily supplementary feeding, to increase the number of beneficiaries and ensure the continuity of the programme.

[...]

Undoubtedly, the 2000 CAP food security initiatives made a significant impact. It can be seen in the 25% increase in market gardening produce in western DRC and in the number of uprooted farmers who resumed agricultural production in their new communities. The concept of this assistance, which is, basically, a skilful combination of economic recovery initiatives applied in an emergency, is greatly appreciated throughout the country.

[...]

130,000 refugees, displaced and host families have received agricultural inputs and resumed agricultural production. All provinces of the country with high IDP concentration have benefited from this assistance." (UN November 2000, pp.10, 11)

"In spite of the constraints, linked to insecurity, fighting an inaccessibility, WFP distributed 26,395 tons of food in DR Congo during last year [2000], which is two and a half times the amount distributed in 1999. WFP reached some 928,000 people of whom 840,000 IDPs and vulnerable groups and 88,000 refugees." (WFP 16 February 2001)

"WFP generally assists an average of 290,000 persons in North Kivu province, from the total of 403,000 registered IDPs. Current shortage of cereals has prompted WFP to significantly reduce its activities and focus on vulnerable groups in nutritional centres. There were no deliveries since mid-September and the

next distribution will take place following the arrival of 448 tons of cereals in late October." (WFP 27 October 2000)

### **Relative increase in assistance during 2000 but level still modest compared to needs (November 2000)**

- Improved delivery of aid and the establishment of a wider humanitarian network throughout the DRC since March 2000
- Humanitarian response to the internally displaced persons consolidated and more systematic as opposed to sporadic interventions in 1998 and 1999
- Channelling of resources changed in favour of UN Agencies
- Refugees International regrets that there is no UN lead agency to respond to the needs of the displaced and urges UN agencies to develop a joint strategy

"The Year 2000 coincided with the emergence of a second front in the Kivus, intensified fighting in all parts of the conventional frontline and a drastically curtailed accessibility to beneficiaries. Within weeks, the humanitarian situation degenerated at an unprecedented pace, while the relief community was denied access in western DRC and faced increasing insecurity in eastern DRC. Starting in March 2000, humanitarian assessment missions and active engagement initiatives with authorities at all levels opened the way for the actual delivery of aid and the establishment of a wider humanitarian network throughout the DRC. Relief operations were launched and reinforced in Orientale, North and South Kivu, Katanga, Kasai and Equateur provinces that had remained inaccessible for humanitarian aid in months. Although intermittently, due to security and access granting tardiness, the institutions participating in the CHAP, partner NGOs and the Red Cross movement delivered assistance to the largest number of beneficiaries since the beginning of the DRC conflict in 1998.

[...]

Humanitarian response to the internally displaced persons, one of the most numerous category of affected populations, has been consolidated and became more systematic as opposed to sporadic interventions in 1998 and 1999. The geographical coverage of IDP assistance projects remained patchy, and primarily included the Kivus and to a lesser extent Orientale and Katanga provinces, while displaced communities of Equateur, Maniema, and the Kasai did not receive any substantial aid." (UN July 2000, pp.3-4)

"Funding of humanitarian interventions in the DRC crisis remained relatively modest in 2000 compared with the actual size of one of the most acute humanitarian emergencies in the world. The absolute volume of humanitarian funding, however, has undergone an upsurge as have funding sources. The distribution or channelling of resources has changed too, and most notably in favour of UN Agencies whose cumulative income reached its highest level since the beginning of the war in August 1998. The total funding for humanitarian interventions amounts (as of beginning of October 2000) to roughly US\$ 77 million. At first glance, this amount, divided among the UN Agencies, international NGOs, and bilateral programmes, is small relative to the extent of the emergency and the rapidly growing needs.

[...]

Non-humanitarian public aid from UNDP, FAO, WHO, Belgium, France, European Union, and Canada roughly amounts to US\$ 4 million. This is used in ongoing support for the civil service, structural improvements to health and commercial infrastructure, and small-scale road rehabilitation. These are activities that are primarily targeting central infrastructure, which mainly benefits Kinshasa, Bas Congo and Kasai provinces.

[...]

As stated above, the 2000 CA has already raised more funds than the total raised in the three similar fund-raising initiatives from 1998 to 1999. This increase in funding levels should be attributed to several "outside" factors, such as enhanced political and military settlement process and increased media interest in the DRC affairs, but also to the considerably expanded and flexible UN involvement in all aspects of the

Congolese crisis. However, this relative progress should by no means lead to a conclusion that the outcomes of the 2000 CA were generally satisfactory: of 30 multi-sector projects presented in the Appeal only ten projects received partial funding; and 20 projects received no funding at all.

[...]

[T]he increased resources logically resulted in a larger programme delivery in 2000. In 1999 the UN Agencies received around 18% of the required funding and remained “stranded” in and around the three major operational bases: Kinshasa, Goma and to a lesser extent Lubumbashi. The expansion of UN humanitarian interventions should be seen in the context of a situation of dwindling accessibility. Put simply, with more funds but less access, in 2000 the UN delivered twice as much as in 1999." (UN November 2000, pp.7-8)

"The international community's response to the humanitarian crisis in the eastern Congo has been completely inadequate. Despite the magnitude of the crisis of displacement in the Congo, there is no UN lead agency to respond to the needs of the displaced. As for the US government, while Refugees International has been repeatedly assured by senior officials that response to the Congo crisis is an urgent moral imperative, the fact is that precious few new resources have been allocated to relief programs in the country. NGOs with operational programs in the eastern region have become frustrated with this failure and the lack of follow-through on promises to outline a coherent strategy and begin funding new proposals. [...]

The various agencies with the mandate to respond to humanitarian needs - including UNICEF, World Food Program, and UNHCR - need to develop a joint strategy for responding to the needs of the displaced and implement this strategy without delay. UN agencies must coordinate the shared responsibilities for meeting the needs of the internally displaced." (RI 15 December 2000)

### **Swift response to major new displacements from Kisangani (June 2000)**

- First emergency operation in DRC reaching IDPs while fleeing
- Pre-positioned supplies airlifted from emergency stockpiles in Kinshasa and Goma,
- UNICEF has assisted 43 health centres providing of medical services to 212,000 people in Kisangani and surrounding areas
- UN Secretary General sends inter-agency assessment mission to Kisangani in August 2000

"Coordination mechanisms were set up in Kinshasa and Kisangani at the beginning of the crisis. In collaboration with the humanitarian agencies based in Kisangani, the UN agencies immediately responded to the most urgent needs with a few stocks already pre-positioned in town. In particular, UNICEF provided medical kits and chlorine to the Medical University of Kisangani. With fighting over, humanitarian agencies reinforced their presence in Kisangani and airlifted additional supplies from Goma. At the same time, the agencies in Kinshasa requested government authorisation to airlift emergency assistance directly from Kinshasa to Kisangani, initially with MONUC aircraft. The first flight, carried food aid to Kisangani on June 12. The heads of the humanitarian agencies, including the UNICEF representative and humanitarian co-ordinator a.i., accompanied this flight. They stayed in Kisangani for 2 days, conducting initial assessments of the damage and some interventions. Seven flights, carrying a total of 111 MTs of emergency assistance, were dispatched to Kisangani from Kinshasa on 12 - 23 June.

[...]

UNICEF sent 15.6 MTs of pre-positioned supplies from its emergency stockpile in Kinshasa, including emergency health kits (70), ORS (Oral Rehydration Salt – 7 carton of 1000), jerry-cans, plastic sheeting (626), BP5 (95) and a boat and engine. Additional supplies were also airlifted from Goma, where ICRC, some NGOs and UN agencies maintain pre-positioned emergency stocks. UNICEF sent 22.5 MTs of supplies from Goma including plastic sheeting (2,300), blankets (1,740), mosquito nets (5,000), ORS (50 cartons of 1000) and chlorine. To date, a total of 38 MTs of medical supplies and non-food items valued at

US\$ 231,000 have been sent by UNICEF to Kisangani to assist health centres treating the wounded and displaced/affected population." (UNICEF 7 July 2000)

"Humanitarian response in the early aftermath of the Kisangani crisis was in many ways exemplary. This implies the quantity and quality of the assistance and most importantly its timing and co-ordination. The rescue operations carried out by MSF/Holland, MSF/Belgium and ICRC and the UN system (WHO, UNICEF, WFP, OCHA) are still underway, but the preliminary results can be identified already. This is especially important for the UN system which had insignificant capacity in Kisangani before and during hostilities but succeed in mobilising internal (EHI) and external resources (Belgian, US, and Italian Governments, MEMISA, CRS, etc.) and in providing an efficient humanitarian response.

The vital importance of humanitarian assessments was felt immediately after the cessation of hostilities. For instance, medical needs covered by ICRC and MSF in the early days of crisis were commonly considered adequate, yet the first assessments revealed that there were a number of unmet medical needs such as coverage, type of medicine, need for additional surgeons and so on. The same was applicable to other sectors of intervention.

The Kisangani operation has also valuable methodological importance for the relief community. For the first time since the beginning of the war, the phenomenon of massive population displacement was assessed while happening. In the course of relief operations targeted at Kisangani residents along their exile roads, aid workers discovered numerous groups of rural IDPs who had fled their homes during and well before the June 2000 clashes. This invisible layer of displacement – a very important factor affecting the food security, is a reaction of farmers attributable to the protracted and massive presence of military (two armies and two rebel groups).

The successful implementation of the Kisangani demilitarisation plan is likely to create a large humanitarian space in the town and its vicinity (90 km in diameter). Throughout the two-year war in the DRC, this region remained virtually isolated from the rest of the country and was weakened to a greater extent than other urban areas in eastern DRC (e.g. very high malnutrition rates and an explosive epidemiological situation). The two-year long isolation has developed the region's internal resources and its population's coping mechanisms. Although these coping mechanisms practically collapsed in the course of the May-June fighting, their restoration is believed to be attainable through well-targeted humanitarian interventions already in the short-term.

### **Beyond the Rescue Phase**

The rescue operations in Kisangani and on all major axes hosting displaced will continue as long as life saving activities are required (population movement has not entirely stabilised, there is still a number of wounded and severely malnourished, and the danger of epidemics remains serious). It may take another month before the transition to the post-conflict phase of the assistance is agreed to by all humanitarian actors." (UN July 2000, p.14)

"As part of the overall efforts of the international community to assist the population of Kisangani, badly affected by the war between the Rwandan and Ugandan troops in June 2000, UNICEF airlifted more than 38 tons of medical and essential non-food items at the onset of the crisis. With these UNICEF has assisted 43 health centres providing of medical services to 212,000 people in Kisangani and surrounding areas, emergency health and surgical kits, essential drugs, ringer lactate and Oral Re-Hydration Salt (ORS). UNICEF distributed 2 plastic sheeting and 2 mosquito nets to each of 1,258 families whose houses were seriously damaged. Relief items including plastic sheeting, blankets, mosquito nets and jerrycans were distributed to 582 families who lost most of their belongings during the battle. An additional 2,000 mosquito nets were provided to ICRC for distribution to 1,000 families." (UNICEF 10 October 2000)

[In Resolution 1304 of 16 June 2000], "the Security Council expressed the view that the Government of Uganda and Rwanda should make reparations for the loss of life and the property damage they had inflicted

on the civilian population in Kisangani, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and requested me to submit an assessment of the damage. Accordingly, [...] I send a mission to the Democratic Republic of Congo from 13 to 23 August to assess the loss of life and property damage inflicted on Kisangani as a result of the fighting between Uganda and Rwanda in June 2000." (UN SC 4 December 2000)

## **Response by Non Governmental Organisations**

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### **Oxfam GB, SCF-UK and Christian Aid advocate for better IDP protection (August 2001)**

*In an August 2001 report entitled "No End in Sight: The human tragedy of the conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo", Oxfam GB, SCF-UK and Christian Aid make several recommendations including the following:*

"The DRC government and the warring parties should guarantee safe access to all civilians in need and allow the free movement of humanitarian personnel and emergency relief supplies throughout the DRC. [...]

The protection of displaced people and civilians – from attack, separation from their families, malnutrition, or death from curable diseases – needs to be prioritized. All belligerents must be pressed to respect humanitarian principles and human rights, and to ensure that all humanitarian personnel have access to vulnerable groups. [...]

Donor governments should substantially increase their funding of humanitarian assistance and protection [...]" (Oxfam 6 August 2001)

### **International NGOs expand their activities to areas formerly inaccessible (August 2001)**

- ICRC began shipping drugs and supplies to Ikela, Province Orientale
- MSF-Holland want to open new emergency site in Yahuma health zone, north-west of Kisangani
- Merlin is extending program to Lodja, Kasai Oriental

"With the agreement of the belligerents to withdraw last July, previously inaccessible areas close to the 'old' frontline have begun to open up to those health NGOs with enough logistical flexibility to get there.

In the far west of Province Orientale, for example, the International Committee of the Red Cross recently began shipping drugs and supplies to Ikela, a health zone where the majority of the town's 50,000 population continues to be displaced into the forest onto the eastern side of the old frontline. Access to the area, 260 km as the crow flies from Kisangani, is only by boat, motorbike and bicycle. Though the initial exploration team found no major epidemics and no visible deprivation of food, they reported "zero" availability of medication and no routine immunisation for three years.

For their part MSF Holland are hoping to open up a new emergency site 300km north west of Kisangani, in Yahuma health zone where, says MSF-H Kisangani head of mission Joseph Leberer, "intervention is more or less justified across the whole area, even on emergency criteria."

'It's not that people are so sick, but that there is no recourse for any even small medical problem,' he adds.

Further south, British emergency health NGO Merlin is extending its programme from the jungle province of Maniema into frontline Lodja in Kasai Oriental. and MSF Spain has reopened a health centre and three health posts in the battle-scarred health zone of Pweto in North Katanga and is exploring the possibility of expanding into other areas of opposition- controlled North Katanga. In the west, MSF Belgium are moving to re-establish activities in Equateur." (WHO 9 August 2001)

### **SCF: Improving health care and food security of displaced women and children (2000-2001)**

- SCF-UK has offices in Kishasa, as well as in Goma and Bukavu (North and South Kivus)

"Save the Children (UK) began working in what was then Zaire in August 1994, running a family tracing program for Rwandan refugees in camps around Bukavu. Having completed this work, SC UK ran down its operations in July 1996. Later that year, when civil war broke out in Zaire. SC UK was invited back as the lead NGO in the repatriation of Rwandan refugee children. In addition to family tracing in South Kivu SC UK also ran a therapeutic feeding programme for severely malnourished children, mostly IDPs and refugees.

[In addition to a country office opened in Kinshasa in January 1998] Save the Children (UK) continues to maintain field offices in Goma and Bukavu cities, Kivu province, on the Rwandan border. These areas are in rebel-held territory and work has been extremely difficult in terms of security and logistics. [...]

The overall goal of SC UK's health programme is to improve the health status of the population in conflict affected areas of East DRC, with a special focus on children and also women and other vulnerable groups.

Rehabilitation of health facilities in some areas of North and South Kivu and their provision with basic equipment have allowed the re-opening of many health centers and improved the quality of care. [...] SC UK aims to reinforce the medicine supply system in south Kivu and North Katanga to ensure better vaccination coverage and offer more prevention services to fight the spread of epidemics such as cholera." (SCF 31 December 2000)

"The fight against malnutrition, particularly amongst IDPs in North and South Kivu, has been reinforced by supporting families of malnourished children by rehabilitating feeder roads and by distributing agricultural items (hoes and seeds) in collaboration with the World Food Program (WFP) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation. SC UK has targeted all vulnerable people, including widows, heads of households, and the displaced.

SC UK aims to assist IDPs who have returned home and to restore livelihoods in the communities they come from to allow easier re-integration." (SCF 10 July 2001)

### **IDP related activities by the International Committee of the Red Cross (2000-2001)**

- In 2001, The US government gave that \$1.5 million to the International Committee of the Red Cross for emergency assistance programs to internally displaced persons.
- In 2000, The ICRC extended its assistance to cover almost 200,000 displaced people in the eastern provinces
- In agreement with the authorities, it reduced its food distribution in camps for the displaced in Kinshasa and Lubumbashi, where other sources of supply had been found.

"The ICRC delegation is located in Kinshasa with a sub-delegation in Lubumbashi, a mission in Goma and offices in Bukavu, Bunia, Kalemie, and Kisangani." (ICRC 26 January 2000)

## **2001**

"The United States will provide \$10 million for emergency refugee assistance in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) [...], U.S. State Department Spokesman Richard Boucher announced February. [...] Boucher specified that \$1.5 million of the money will be going to the International Committee of the Red Cross for emergency assistance programs to internally displaced persons." (U.S. DOS 1 February 2001)

"ICRC unites 137 unaccompanied children with their families. [...] The separation of family members is one of the most tragic consequences of the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. With the help of hundreds of volunteers from the National Red Cross Society, the ICRC is still trying to trace the relatives of 1,198 unaccompanied minors in both government-controlled and opposition-held areas of the country. (ICRC 23 March 2001)

## **2000 Activities**

"The ICRC increased its efforts in 2000 to bring protection and assistance activities closer to the 3,000-kilometre front line. This change in strategy had three main goals: to locate internally displaced people earlier; to track down and assist the war-wounded more effectively; and to respond to the protection needs of civilians and detainees near the front line.

[...]

The ICRC extended its assistance to cover almost 200,000 displaced people in the eastern provinces during the year, and made a significant breakthrough in northern Katanga, aiding 20,000 people close to the front line in an area where no humanitarian organization had worked before. In northern Kivu, assistance was given to more than 26,000 displaced people staying with host families in Goma or in the Sake camp just outside the city. In southern Kivu 65,000 people from unsafe areas around Bukavu were given food and the ICRC resumed its agricultural programme, interrupted by the fighting, for a further 38,000 people. Further south, over 30,000 displaced people received food and other assistance in and around Uvira.

The ICRC, in agreement with the authorities, reduced its food distribution in camps for the displaced in Kinshasa and Lubumbashi, where other sources of supply had been found. Medical and infrastructure support was still given to hospitals and health centers serving displaced and other vulnerable groups, and the ICRC continued to provide agricultural equipment and seed to displaced and needy resident communities which had access to land." (ICRC 6 July 2001)

## **World Vision runs several programs benefiting the displaced in the East (2001)**

- WV distributed in August 2001 non-food items to IDPs in North Katanga (adults and non accompanied children) and will provide emergency kits to 20,000 IDPs in the region in the second part of 2001
- It works with local emergency committees established by IDPs
- It runs a nutrition and health program for malnourished IDP children and others around Beni town
- It provided emergency kits to IDP families in North Kivu

"World Vision a distribué des articles non alimentaires aux déplacés de guerre du Nord Katanga classés en deux catégories à savoir; 372 adultes avec enfants qui logent dans les locaux d'un ancien magasin et 622 enfants non accompagnés qui se retrouvent dans les installations de l'Eglise Methodiste. Ont également bénéficié de cette assistance, un autre groupe de 30 familles (soit 120 personnes), des déplacés pêcheurs de Kinkondja. Le groupe initialement planifié pour l'assistance était constitué des déplacés de guerre vivant tout aux alentours de Kamina, de Songwe et dans les villages environnants. WV continue encore à analyser la situation dans cette partie du pays, dans la mesure où l'actuelle situation de guerre n'a fait qu'empirer la

misère et la souffrance déjà existantes tant chez les déplacés que les autochtones auxquels une attention particulière doit aussi être accordée. La prochaine opération prévue sera celle de faire la distribution de 2,500 kits de famille primordialement aux déplacés des villages de Malemba Nkulu et de Songwe d'ici la mi-Septembre." (UN OCHA 22 August 2001)

"World Vision emergency kits containing essential supplies such as blankets, soap, collapsible jerry cans, cooking utensils and plastic sheeting will be distributed over the next six months to 20,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) around Kamina and Malemba-N'kuluin in government-controlled areas of Katanga province in southeastern DRC, World Vision announced Tuesday.

Of the estimated 180,000 IDPs (62 percent of them children) in government-held regions of Katanga province, those in Kamina are thus far not supported by international NGOs. According to World Vision, the IDPs who have fled from rebel-held areas say they are seeking food and protection and fear reprisals from retreating Rwandan and allied Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie (RCD-Goma) rebel troops. Following the distribution of essential supplies, World Vision plans to assist the IDPs to establish greater food security through fishing and agriculture, and to provide income for labor to repair schools, roads and health offices in the IDPs' host communities." (IRIN-CEA 1 August 2001)

"World Vision will continue to support and work alongside the proactive local emergency committees established by the IDPs and their hosts using representatives of local NGOs, women's groups, local authorities, and churches." (WV 30 July 2001)

"World Vision will this week begin a new nutrition and health program for malnourished children around Beni town [...]. The on-going fighting around Beni means there are at least 30,000 displaced people in the area, living in now impoverished host communities. World Vision will be assessing the opportunities for non-food distribution, and more long-term development work to improve food security and access to water." (WV 31 July 2001)

"WVI distributed 1,500 reinstallation kits (including blankets, kitchen sets and plastic sheetings) to IDPs families targeted through nutritional centers in Kirotshe health zones [North Kivu]. This distribution also encouraged the population to attend nutritional centers." (WFP 13 September 2001)

### **Churches Together (ACT) aims to answer urgent food, medicines, shelter and clothing needs (2001)**

- Several projects are carried out with churches and local NGOs in favor of the North Kivu displaced persons

#### **"GOAL & OBJECTIVES**

##### **South Kivu & Maniema**

The main goal is to cater for the most immediate food and non-food needs of the displaced and their host families.

##### **Objectives – South Kivu**

- To distribute a three-month food ration to each accessible and needy displaced and host family in the areas of South Kivu covered by ACT members and implementing partners.
- To distribute non-food items where appropriate to a proportion of those displaced and host families, in cases of particular need.
- To evaluate the evolving needs of the displaced with a view to:
  - continue to meet their most urgent needs; and
  - assist their re-installation into their homes when necessary and appropriate.

- To distribute seeds and tools to returning displaced and host families, in time for the planting season in September/October 2000;
- To develop the capacity of partner local NGOs and churches to respond in emergency situations, [...].

#### Objectives – Maniema

- To distribute seeds and tools to vulnerable displaced and host families in order to meet short-term food security [...]
- To develop the capacity of partner local NGOs and churches to respond in emergency situations [...]." (ACT 13 July 2001)

"Bureau Oecuménique d'Appui au Développement – The Ecumenical Office for Support to Development (BOAD) is an NGO that was formed in North Kivu province at the request of local organizations and churches. It gives a framework for dialogue with external partners interested in subsistence efforts and improvement of living conditions among the population in North Kivu. [...]

BOAD has already facilitated the implementation of several humanitarian aid projects with ACT funds received through DIA (ACT/Netherlands). These projects [are] carried out with churches and local NGOs in favour of the North Kivu displaced persons [...]."

BOAD has selected partners to provide emergency assistance to displaced persons, returnees and malnourished displaced children; to support the construction of drinking water springs in areas hosting displaced persons; to rehabilitate medical formations in the areas hosting displaced persons and returnees." (ACT 10 August 2001)

### **MERLIN and CARITAS also assist the displaced (2001)**

#### *MERLIN: (August 2001)*

Since October 1999, Merlin has supported the provision of basic and emergency health care to the most vulnerable and accessible populations in Maniema through a network of:

- 25 health centres and one hospital in Kalima health zone,
- 12 health centres in Kindu health zone, and
- 4 health centres and one hospital in Punia health zone [...]

*One of its objectives is:*

"To maintain an emergency response capacity for epidemic outbreaks or influxes of internally displaced persons." (MERLIN 20 August 2001)

#### *CARITAS (August 2001)*

"Rehabilitation par CARITAS des sites de déplacés à Demba, Katende, Bena-Dibele, dans le Kasai Occidental. Travaux similaires à Mbandaka sur financement QUIPS par OCHA." (UN OCHA 8 August 2001)

### **MSF support to health structures on both side of the front line (2000)**

"MSF provides medical relief in several provinces, working in government-held areas as well as territory controlled by rebels. [...]

In order to respond quickly to disease outbreaks, MSF has helped set up a national emergency response team, made up of Congolese doctors, in Kinshasa. There are similar teams in Lubumbashi, Mbandaka, Kisangani, Goma and Bukavu.

MSF runs a program combating sleeping sickness in several health zones in Equateur province. [...]

In Orientale province, in early summer 2000, fighting erupted between Ugandan and Rwandan forces near the Congolese city of Kisangani. MSF teams, which run primary care, nutrition and mental health programs in the city, were forced to take cover, emerging only six days after the peak of the fighting. After responding to the immediate needs of the stricken population, the organization resumed its regular programs. MSF currently has 16 feeding centers in the area, feeding over 2,500 malnourished children. MSF also supplies medicine to 13 health zones in the province.

In Katanga province, MSF works in 38 health centers and five hospitals spread over five health zones, covering a population of about 700,000. In Equateur province, the organization works in eight health zones that reach over one million people. In Bas Congo, MSF works in two health zones. In all of these provinces, MSF teams supervise health workers, provide drugs, training and logistical help, and often help pay staff salaries. MSF is also present at several health centers in Kinshasa.

In June 1999, insecurity forced the halt of work at hospitals in Zongo and Libengue, in Equateur province. In early 2000, work in the Shabunda area of South Kivu province and in Bunia, in Orientale province was suspended, also because of insecurity. Primary care and water and sanitation projects continue in other parts of South Kivu and in North Kivu.

In many of its programs in the provinces, MSF cares for internally displaced people as well as local residents." (MSF 2000)

### **Local NGOs and church networks may be the best channels to reach displaced populations (December 2000)**

"After four mission to the region [Eastern Congo] this year, Refugees International has concluded that it is possible to mount an effective response to mitigate the suffering of the neglected displaced populations of the Congo. The foundation of this response should be flexible funding provided to local non-governmental organizations and church networks that have the proven capability to reach communities affected by the conflict. These local NGOs have extensive networks in place, thereby allowing them to reach more people in distant communities and identify vulnerable populations. The following are examples of the types of programs that would benefit from greater support:

National Immunization Days in highly insecure areas have shown that communities can be mobilized around humanitarian initiatives.

Food security programs in Katanga province provide seeds and tools to some of the most isolated, air-only access areas where recent assessments have shown a 21% malnutrition rate.

A child soldier demobilization program in Bukavu incorporates mediation and dialogue with the local community awaiting the reintegration of the child

An AIDS education program is targeting street children living in and around Bukavu

Medical programs are exploring creative cost-recovery schemes for health care services." (RI 15 December 2000)

### **NGO activity by sector/area (2000)**

#### **"Overview of Humanitarian Interventions Outside CHAP**

##### **Health**

Kinshasa (ICRC, SC(UK), MSF/F, MSF/B, IFRC, IRC, CRS and WV)

Bas-Congo (MSF/B, IRC, CRS, WV and MSF/F)

Bandundu (MSF/F)

Equateur (MSF/B, ACF-USA, COOPI, CARITAS and MEMISA/B)  
Eastern Kasai (MDM, CRS and MEMISA/H)  
Western Kasai ( CRS)  
Katanga (WV, MSF/B and ICRC)  
Orientale (MSF/B, MSF/H, ICRC, MEDAIR, CARITAS and MEMISA/H)  
North Kivu (ICRC, MSF/H, ASRAMES, CEMUBAC, CARITAS, SC(UK), MALTESER and  
FONDATION DAMIEN)  
South Kivu (ICRC, MSF/H, APAMESK, SC(UK), MALTESER, IRC and JOHANITER)

#### **Food Security**

Kinshasa (ACF-USA, SC(UK))  
Maniema (C.AID)  
Eastern and Western Kasai (CRS)  
Katanga (ACF-USA, FHI,)  
North Kivu ( ICRC, AAA, SC(UK), OXFAM/GB, OXFAM/QC, CARITAS and BOAD)  
South Kivu ( ICRC, CARITAS, C.AID, FHI, and SC(UK))

#### **Food Distribution and Nutrition**

Kinshasa ( ICRC, CARITAS, BDOM, SC(UK) and MSF/F)  
Bas-Congo (MSF/F)  
Bandundu (MSF/F and ATLAS LOGISTIQUE)  
Equateur (CARITAS and ACF-USA)  
Eastern Kasai (CRS)  
Katanga (ICRC, and ACF-USA)  
Orientale (ICRC, MSF/H, CARITAS and COOPI)  
North Kivu, WV, SC(UK), CARITAS and MSF/H)  
South Kivu ( ICRC, CARITAS, SC(UK), FHI, ACF-USA, CARITAS and JOHANITER)

#### **Water and Sanitation**

Kinshasa (IRC, ICRC, OXFAM/GB, MSF/B, MSF/F, ACF-USA, CRS and WV)  
Bas-Congo (IRC and MSF/F)  
Maniema (OXFAM)  
Eastern Kasai (OXFAM)  
Western Kasai (IRC)  
Katanga (ACF-USA and WV)  
Orientale ( ICRC, MSF/H, OXFAM/GB and OXFAM/QC)  
North Kivu (OXFAM/GB, ICRC and CARITAS)  
South Kivu (MSF/H, ICRC, OXFAM/GB, IRC and CARITAS)

#### **Rehabilitation and Environment**

Kinshasa (UNDP, IRC and CRS)  
Bas-Congo and Bandundu (MSF/F)  
Orientale (MEDAIR)  
North Kivu (CONCERN, CARITAS, SC(UK), BOAD, OXFAM/GB and AAA)  
South Kivu (UNDP, MSF, CARITAS, SC(UK) and IRC)

#### **Education, Child protection and Demobilisation**

Kinshasa ( IRC, WV, MDM, SC(UK) and OXFAM/GB)  
Bas-Congo (WV)  
Equateur (MEMISA/B)  
Western Kasai (IRC)  
Katanga (ACF, and WV)  
North Kivu (SC(UK))  
South Kivu ( CARITAS, SC(UK))" (UN November 2000, pp. 92-93)

*For more information about activities by American NGOs, see also [InterAction \( 24 September 2001\)](#), [\[External Link\]](#)*

### **NGO nutrition centres in Eastern DRC supported by UNICEF (June 2000)**

"UNICEF assists 55 nutrition centres run by ACF USA (4 centres in South Kivu), SCF-UK (17 centres in South Kivu and 28 centres in North Kivu), Caritas (1 centre), and World Vision (5 centres) with therapeutic milk and nutrition equipment, for roughly 4,300 malnourished children, funded by the governments of Canada and Sweden. A new stock of 50 Mts. of therapeutic milk and OXFAM feeding kits arrived in Goma and was provided to the UNICEF partners in March/April 2000. In Ituri, as the nutritional situation significantly deteriorated in the past months in the region of Rethy and Fataki, UNICEF provided an emergency allocation of 5 Mts. of therapeutic milk to Coopi, an Italian NGO recently arrived in Bunia to start emergency nutritional activities. Three feeding centres have already been set up by this NGO, assisting around 250 children. In Lubumbashi, assistance is provided to the feeding programmes established by ACF-USA (1 therapeutic feeding centre and 3 supplementary feeding centres), benefiting 288 children. " (UNICEF 2 June 2000)

### **Action Against Hunger: Assistance to displaced families (March 2000)**

- 12,500 IDP families assisted in Eastern DRC
- Initiative launched in August 2000 to sensitise the local community, authorities and possibly armed groups on humanitarian principles and assistance in the Uvira area of eastern DRC

"Action Against Hunger has distributed a package of corn, maize, bean, ground-nut and sorghum seeds to 12,500 families displaced by the War in the East of DR Congo.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, hundred thousands of families have fled the on-going civil war. In South-Kivu the fighting is intensifying between the RDC rebel troops, backed by Rwanda and the local Mai-Mai militias, backed by the Kinshasa Government. As a result, most of the villagers have fled to the neighboring hillsides, setting up temporary shelter in the remote fields. Almost all commercial activity has stopped and markets are only sporadically supplied.

The first planting season is right about to start. Most of the villagers have no access to seeds and the destruction which has been in effect for the last 20 months has left them with very few agricultural implements. But the only existing road south of Uvira has been cut off by militia troops. Trucks and cars have been restricted from passage, forcing the displaced population into complete isolation from the rest of the country.

Last week, Action Against Hunger decided to distribute the seeds anyway, and bypass the closed roads, by transporting the agro-packages via Lake Tanganika. They crossed over from Burundi. Local fishing boats were used, and the farm supplies dropped off of the various pickup points along the lake shoreline. The team considered this approach to be risky, but was left without choice, other than abandoning their commitment to the expectant families. The distribution to 5,200 families was completed successfully. They join the 7,300 families who had already received seeds by road in the northern part of Uvira District, in the Rusisi plain, bordering Burundi.

This coming planting season is the first of two seasons. It is called "the small season" and most of its output is used to produce seeds for the next "main season", whose crops provide the food basket for the year to come.

Action Against Hunger is today the only international organization providing assistance to these populations in the districts of Uvira and Fizi. A Nutrition Assistance project is caring for the most severely malnourished children and the program also aims at allowing the populations to secure their self-sufficiency.

This program, funded by USAID/OFDA, is a good example of the integration of long term sustainability in an emergency situation.

Action Against Hunger is also implementing food security and nutritional programs in the government controlled areas of Kinshasa and Lubumbashi. (AAH-USA 27 March 2000)

"The international NGO, Action Contre la Faim (ACF) has embarked on an initiative aimed at sensitising the local community, authorities and possibly armed groups on humanitarian principles and assistance in the Uvira area of eastern DRC. An ACF official told IRIN on Tuesday that a meeting between ACF and the authorities, traditional chiefs and elders was held last week in Uvira." (IRIN 29 August 2000)

## ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

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|           |                                                                                                                                       |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ACF       | Action Against Hunger (Action contre la faim)                                                                                         |
| ACT       | Action by Churches Together (ACT)                                                                                                     |
| ADFL      | Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (Alliance des forces démocratiques pour la libération du Congo-Zaire) |
| ADF,      | Alliance of Democratic Forces                                                                                                         |
| ADL       | Local Defense Unit                                                                                                                    |
| ANR       | National Information Agency                                                                                                           |
| APC       | Popular Congolese Army (Armée Populaire Congolaise)                                                                                   |
| BOAD      | Ecumenical Office for Support to Development                                                                                          |
| Coltan    | Colombium Tantalum                                                                                                                    |
| CRS       | Catholic Relief Services                                                                                                              |
| DDRR      | disarmament, demobilization, repatriation and reintegration operations                                                                |
| DPKO      | UN's Department of Peacekeeping Operations                                                                                            |
| DMIAP     | Détection Militaire des Activités Anti-Patriotiques                                                                                   |
| DRC (RDC) | Democratic Republic of the Congo (République Démocratique du Congo)                                                                   |
| ECC       | Congolese Church of the Christ (Eglise Congolaise du Christ)                                                                          |
| ECHO      | European Union Humanitarian Office                                                                                                    |
| EHI       | Emergency Humanitarian Intervention                                                                                                   |
| ex-FAR    | Former Rwandan Armed Forces (Ex- Forces Armées Rwandaises)                                                                            |
| FAC       | Congolese Armed Forces (Forces Armées Congolaises)                                                                                    |
| FAO       | Food and Agriculture Organization                                                                                                     |
| FAZ       | Zairian Armed Forces (Forces Armées Zaïroises)                                                                                        |
| FDD       | Forces for the Defense of Democracy (Forces pour la Défense de la Démocratie)                                                         |
| FLC       | Front for the Liberation of Congo (Front pour la libération du Congo)                                                                 |
| ICG       | International Crisis Group                                                                                                            |
| ICRC      | International Committee of the Red Cross                                                                                              |
| IDP       | Internally Displaced Person                                                                                                           |
| ILO       | International Labor Organization                                                                                                      |
| IMC       | International Medical Corps                                                                                                           |
| IRC       | International Rescue Committee                                                                                                        |
| IRIN      | Integrated Regional Information Network                                                                                               |
| JMC       | Joint Military Commission                                                                                                             |
| MLC       | Movement for the Liberation of the Congo                                                                                              |
| MONUC     | United Nations Observer Mission in the DRC (Mission d'Observation des Nations Unies au Congo)                                         |
| MSF-H     | Médecins Sans Frontières- Holland                                                                                                     |
| NGO (ONG) | Non Governmental Organization (Organisation non gouvernementale)                                                                      |
| OAU       | Organization of African Unity                                                                                                         |
| OCHA      | United Nations Office for the Coordination of                                                                                         |

|             |                                                                                                                                             |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|             | Humanitarian Affairs                                                                                                                        |
| OFDA        | U.S. Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance                                                                                                  |
| OHCHR       | Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights                                                                                            |
| PALIPEHUTU  | Party for the Liberation of the Hutu People (Parti pour la Liberation du Peuple Hutu)                                                       |
| PPU         | Presidential Protection Unit                                                                                                                |
| PRRO        | Protracted Relief Recovery Operation                                                                                                        |
| RCD-Goma    | Congolese Rally for Democracy – Goma (Rassemblement Congolais pour la Démocratie)                                                           |
| RCD-ML      | Congolese Rally for Democracy-Movement of Liberation (Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie-Mouvement de libération)                   |
| RCD-N       | Congolese Rally for Democracy-Movement of Liberation-National (Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie-Mouvement de libération-National) |
| RPA         | Rwandan Patriotic Army                                                                                                                      |
| SADC        | Southern African Development Community                                                                                                      |
| SCF-UK      | Save the Children Fund- United Kingdom                                                                                                      |
| TCHA        | Technical Committee on Humanitarian Assistance                                                                                              |
| UAGs        | Uncontrolled-armed groups                                                                                                                   |
| UN          | United Nations                                                                                                                              |
| UNDP (PNUD) | United Nations Development Program (Programme des Nations Unies de Développement)                                                           |
| UNFPA       | United Nations Fund for Population Activities                                                                                               |
| UNHCHR      | United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights                                                                                           |
| UNHCR       | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees                                                                                               |
| UNHO        | United Nations Humanitarian Office                                                                                                          |
| UNICEF      | United Nations Children's Fund                                                                                                              |
| UNESCO      | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization                                                                            |
| UNITA       | National Union for the Total Independence of Angola                                                                                         |
| UNOPS       | United Nations Office for Project Services                                                                                                  |
| UNSC        | United Nations Security Council                                                                                                             |
| UPDF        | Uganda People's Defense Forces                                                                                                              |
| USCR        | U.S. Committee for Refugees                                                                                                                 |
| WFP (PAM)   | World Food Program (Programme Alimentaire Mondial)                                                                                          |
| WHO (OMS)   | World Health Organization (Organisation Mondiale de la Santé)                                                                               |
| WV (WVI)    | World Vision (World Vision International)                                                                                                   |

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