

# Democratic Republic of the Congo – Complex Emergency

JULY 15, 2022

## SITUATION AT A GLANCE

<p><b>106.7</b> MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Population of the DRC</p> <p><i>OCHA – December 2021</i></p>	<p><b>27</b> MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Population in Need of Assistance in 2022</p> <p><i>OCHA – February 2022</i></p>	<p><b>5.9</b> MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Number of IDPs in the DRC</p> <p><i>OCHA – June 2022</i></p>	<p><b>1</b> MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Number of Congolese Refugees in Neighboring Countries</p> <p><i>UNHCR – May 2022</i></p>	<p><b>521,303</b></p> <p>Estimated Number of Refugees Sheltering in the DRC</p> <p><i>UNHCR – May 2022</i></p>
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- Armed group activities in North Kivu Province continue to prompt displacement, endanger relief workers, and limit humanitarian access during 2022.
- M23 and FARDC clashed at least five times in late May in North Kivu’s Rutshuru Territory, displacing approximately 65,000 individuals to Uganda and other areas of Rutshuru.
- FEWS NET projects that households in conflict-affected provinces of eastern DRC will experience Crisis—IPC 3—levels of acute food insecurity through September, as well as increasing and volatile staple food prices.



<b>TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING</b> For the DRC Response in FY 2022	USAID/BHA <sup>1</sup>	\$419,198,789
	State/PRM <sup>2</sup>	\$52,700,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$471,898,789</b>

*For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 6*

<sup>1</sup> USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)  
<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

### **Armed Group Activities in North Kivu Endanger Relief Workers, Limit Humanitarian Access**

The escalation of armed conflict in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) continues to impede humanitarian operations. Armed actors abducted two International Rescue Committee (IRC) staff during an armed attack in North Kivu's Kimoka Village in May, prompting the organization to suspend its operations in the area; the kidnapped IRC staff were released later that month. Additionally, clashes between the Armed Forces of the DRC (FARDC) and members of the March 23 Movement (M23) in Rutshuru prompted humanitarian organizations to pause relief activities in several localities across the territory as of mid-June, the UN reports. Insecurity also continued to impede humanitarian access to the road connecting Rutshuru's Burayi and Bunagana towns between June 8 and 14. More than 25,000 displaced and returnee populations in the two towns have been without humanitarian assistance since the outbreak of armed conflict in March. Moreover, in neighboring Masisi Territory, armed attacks on Rujagati internally displaced person (IDP) camp on June 8 resulted in the deaths of seven civilians, according to international media. A total of 116 security incidents directly affecting humanitarian personnel or assets have occurred since the beginning of 2022, according to the UN.

### **Clashes Between M23 and FARDC in North Kivu Prompt Further Displacement**

Armed elements of M23 fought with FARDC forces between May 19 and 22 in Rutshuru's Jomba locality, resulting in the displacement of an estimated 65,000 people into Uganda and other areas of Rutshuru, the UN reports. This movement follows similar clashes between suspected members of M23 and FARDC, which forced more than 53,000 people from their homes in Rutshuru between late March and early April. Within Rutshuru, displaced persons are residing within host communities in churches, improvised shelters, and schools. The humanitarian needs of conflict-affected communities in the territory are likely to increase as violence persists and may exceed available assistance in the region, according to the UN. Separately, suspected fighters from the Allied Democratic Forces killed at least 10 civilians and abducted several others during attacks in North Kivu's Beni Territory on June 1, displacing more than 16,000 people, according to the UN.

Overall, armed conflict in eastern DRC resulted in the deaths of more than 150 people and the displacement of approximately 700,000 others between May 28 and June 17, according to the UN. More than 160,000 people were displaced in North Kivu's Rutshuru and Nyiragongo territories between March and early July due to armed clashes, and nearly 5.9 million people—representing more than 5 percent of the country's total population—were displaced across the DRC as of June 18, the UN reports.

### **Cholera and EVD Outbreaks in Equateur and North Kivu Threaten Vulnerable Populations**

Government of the DRC (GoDRC) health officials declared an Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak in late April after the detection of two cases in Equateur Province's Mbandaka city during a one-week period, which marked the third EVD outbreak in Equateur since 2018. As of July 4, GoDRC health officials had reported four confirmed cases of EVD and one probable case in and around Mbandaka; all five cases resulted in fatalities. In response to the EVD outbreak, health actors scaled up infection prevention and control measures at 70 priority health centers near Mbandaka and had provided infection prevention and control kits to 55 facilities as of late May. The UN noted that less than 40

percent of those confirmed to have been in contact with the EVD-infected individuals were previously vaccinated. A security-focused non-governmental organization (NGO) reports that many Congolese civilians remain suspicious of state health workers and are promoting claims that the renewed presence of EVD is false or a deliberate ploy to secure funding. These sentiments suggest that EVD responders must continue to build trust with communities in order to contain the spread of the virus among vulnerable populations, according to the NGO. On July 4, the Ministry of Health of the DRC declared the end of the EVD outbreak and the start of a standard 90-day heightened surveillance period.

Separately, health officials in North Kivu have documented nearly 800 cases of cholera in Masisi since January, compared to approximately 200 confirmed cholera cases recorded in the territory from January to June last year, OCHA reports. The increase in cases is the result of inadequate access to safe drinking water, insufficient waste management systems, and overcrowding, particularly in host communities and IDP sites, according to health authorities. Poor road conditions have also reduced humanitarian access to Masisi's Kikoma and Maya areas, limiting the ability of relief workers to respond to the cholera outbreak, according to OCHA.

## Severe Food Insecurity Remains Prevalent in Eastern DRC

Populations in areas of eastern DRC, including Ituri, North Kivu, and South Kivu, are experiencing Crisis—IPC 3—levels of acute food insecurity, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET).<sup>3</sup> Food consumption deficits and acute malnutrition remain high in these conflict-affected provinces, as well as in certain areas of Kasai and Kasai Central provinces. Overall, between 7.5 million and 10 million people in the DRC are projected to experience Crisis levels of food insecurity by December, FEWS NET reports. Additionally, prices for staple foods in the DRC—including rice, maize flour, mixed beans, and refined vegetable oil—remain atypically high, particularly for imported food products. Increased prices for imported food and commodities, as well as fuel costs, are due, in part, to the Government of the Russian Federation invasion of Ukraine, according to FEWS NET.

### KEY FIGURES



**1.7 Million**

People provided with food and nutrition assistance in May by USAID/BHA partner WFP



**\$47.7 Million**

In dedicated USG support for nutrition assistance in FY 2022

### U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

#### FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

USAID/BHA partners, including the UN World Food Program (WFP), continue to provide emergency food assistance to host community members, IDPs, refugees, and other vulnerable populations facing acute food insecurity in the DRC. With over \$154 million in USAID/BHA support in FY 2022, NGO and UN partners are providing cash transfers for food, food vouchers, and in-kind food assistance—including U.S.-sourced commodities—to help vulnerable households meet their basic food needs.

USAID/BHA has provided more than \$47.7 million in FY 2022 funding to assist acutely malnourished individuals in the DRC. UN agencies and NGO partners also conduct activities to support improved food security and nutrition outcomes, such as distributing tools and seeds to bolster household agricultural production and conducting awareness campaigns on dietary needs. Additionally, USAID/BHA provides funding to strengthen the

<sup>3</sup> The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a multi-partner initiative that developed a standardized scale to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries and time, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5—for acute food insecurity.

coordination of nutrition interventions and ensure critical assistance is reaching the most vulnerable populations.



## **\$44.3 Million**

In dedicated USG support for life-saving health care and EVD response and preparedness programming in FY 2022

### **HEALTH**

USAID/BHA has provided approximately \$44.3 million in FY 2022 funding to expand community access to primary health care services in the DRC, increase the availability of essential medicines and supplies, and support disease surveillance and response efforts, among other activities. Notably, USAID/BHA supports the procurement and distribution of post-exposure prophylaxis kits, as well as related health worker training, bolstering the clinical management of gender-based violence cases in health facilities across 10 provinces. USAID also supports health messaging efforts, encouraging the adoption of recommended health and hygiene best practices to prevent the spread of communicable diseases, including COVID-19. State/PRM partners support primary health care, including maternal and child health care and procurement of essential medicines and equipment, for refugees from CAR in North Ubangi and South Ubangi. State/PRM also supports the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in providing essential medicines and nutrition supplies to health centers to camps sheltering refugees from CAR in North Ubangi and South Ubangi.



## **\$21.3 Million**

In dedicated USG support for protection programming in FY 2022

### **PROTECTION**

USG humanitarian partners conduct critical protection activities in response to needs in conflict-affected areas of the DRC. USAID/BHA has provided approximately \$21.3 million in FY 2022 support to partners implementing protection programs in the country. Meanwhile, State/PRM partner UNHCR provides displaced households and host community members with core relief item kits and distributes dignity kits to women and girls.



## **\$22.3 Million**

In dedicated USG support for shelter and settlements programming in FY 2022

### **SHELTER AND SETTLEMENTS**

With more than \$22 million in FY 2022 funding, USAID/BHA partners are providing shelter assistance to IDPs and returnees in crisis-affected areas of the DRC. USG partners play a leading role in constructing emergency shelters for displaced individuals and managing IDP and refugee camps in the DRC. USAID/BHA partners provide longer-term shelter solutions for returnees in areas where the situation has stabilized, paired with legal assistance to help families secure land for farming and habitation in areas where IDPs are resettled. State/PRM partner UNHCR has established hubs providing assistance, such as cash transfers to refugees and host community members, in three provinces hosting CAR refugees. USG partners also provide relief commodities and household items, including blankets, mats, tools, and water containers, to meet IDP, returnee, and refugee households' basic needs.



## **\$59.7 Million**

In dedicated USAID/BHA support for WASH programming in FY 2022

### **WASH**

USAID/BHA has provided approximately \$59.7 million in FY 2022 funding to support water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) activities countrywide, helping to improve access to safe drinking water and sanitation infrastructure and reduce the spread of infectious diseases, such as cholera, COVID-19, EVD, and measles. USG-supported activities include constructing and rehabilitating WASH infrastructure, including handwashing stations, latrines, showers, and water points; transporting emergency water reserves to IDP and refugee sites; and distributing hygiene kits and other essential WASH commodities. State/PRM partner UNHCR and its partners constructed more than 360 blocks of community latrines and bathing rooms and provided other forms of assistance to refugees from CAR in North Ubangi's Modale Development Hub.

### **CONTEXT IN BRIEF**

- Despite the implementation of a peace agreement in 2003, fighting between forces loyal to the GoDRC and various armed entities, including the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda and Mai Mai elements, continues to contribute to high levels of insecurity and population displacement in eastern DRC.
- Violence, restricted humanitarian access, poor infrastructure, forced recruitment into armed groups, and reduced access to agricultural land and traditional markets have contributed to the deterioration of humanitarian conditions in several parts of the DRC, triggering widespread internal displacement and refugee outflows.
- Citing a rising number of armed group attacks against civilians, President of the DRC Félix Tshisekedi declared a 30-day state of siege in eastern DRC's Ituri and North Kivu provinces on May 6, 2021, which remains in effect as of July 2022. The GoDRC edict vastly expands the powers of the FARDC in the two provinces, allowing military officials to temporarily assume control of the provincial governments.
- The DRC experienced a resurgence of EVD in Équateur Province beginning on April 23 and ending on July 4. DRC has recorded six EVD outbreaks since 2018, three of which have occurred in Équateur. EVD is endemic to some animal species in the DRC, with periodic human disease outbreaks occurring in the country.
- On November 1, 2021, U.S. Ambassador to the DRC Michael A. Hammer re-declared a disaster for FY 2022 due to ongoing complex emergency conditions in the DRC, citing the significant level of unmet humanitarian needs in the DRC exceeding the government's capacity to respond and the willingness of the GoDRC to accept humanitarian assistance.

**USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE DRC RESPONSE IN FY 2022<sup>1,2</sup>**

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
<b>FUNDING IN THE DRC FOR THE COMPLEX EMERGENCY RESPONSE</b>			
<b>USAID/BHA</b>			
Action pour le Bien-etre Communautaire (ABCom)	Agriculture, Food Assistance	North Kivu	\$499,987
Action contre la Faim (ACF)	Agriculture, Food Assistance, Nutrition	Ituri, Kasai, Kasai Central, Kasai-Oriental, North Kivu, South Kivu, Maniema	\$62,523,500
ACTED	Agriculture, Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Food Assistance, Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA), Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Bas-Uele, Ituri, Maniema, Nord-Ubangi, North Kivu, South Kivu, Sud-Ubangi	\$24,006,427
Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)	Agriculture, ERMS, Food Assistance, WASH	Kasai	\$10,270,000
African Initiatives for Relief and Development (AIRD)	Shelter and Settlements, WASH	North Kivu	\$2,834,705
Alliance for International Medical Action (ALIMA)	Health, Nutrition, Protection	Ituri, North Kivu	\$2,500,000
CARE	Health, Protection, WASH	North Kivu, South Kivu	\$7,500,000
CONCERN	Agriculture, ERMS, Food Assistance, WASH	North Kivu, Tanganyika	\$12,403,969
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	Agriculture, (Disaster Risk Reduction Policy and Practice) DRRPP, ERMS, Food Assistance, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Kasai Central, Tanganyika	\$14,697,398
DanChurchAid	ERMS, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	North Kivu	\$4,775,000
Danish Refugee Council (DRC)	Agriculture, ERMS, Food Assistance, Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Ituri, North Kivu	\$9,000,000
Doctors of the World	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	South Kivu	\$4,500,000
Swiss Interchurch Aid (HEKS)	Agriculture, ERMS, WASH	South Kivu	\$2,000,000
International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)	Food Assistance	North Kivu, Tanganyika	\$10,000,000
IMC (International Medical Corps)	Health, Nutrition, Protection	South Kivu, Tanganyika	\$17,345,847
INSO	HCIMA	Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu	\$872,790
Interchurch Medical Assistance	Health	Ituri, Maniema, North Kivu, South Kivu, Tanganyika	\$4,125,018
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	HCIMA, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Countrywide	\$11,500,000
IRC	Health, Protection	Ituri, North Kivu	\$4,104,196
JSI Research and Training Institute, Inc.	Humanitarian Policy, Studies, Analysis, or Applications (HPSAA)	Countrywide	\$400,000
Medair	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	North Kivu	\$13,198,707
Mercy Corps	Agriculture, ERMS, Food Assistance, HCIMA, Multipurpose Cash Assistance, Protection, WASH	Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu, Tanganyika	\$22,816,327
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	Protection, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Tanganyika	\$2,750,000
Oxfam	WASH	Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu, Tanganyika	\$3,500,000
Première Urgence Internationale (PUI)	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	North Kivu	\$3,500,000
People in Need	Health, Multipurpose Cash Assistance, Nutrition, WASH	South Kivu	\$3,000,000

Save the Children Federation (SCF)	Health, Nutrition, Protection, WASH	Ituri	\$11,500,000
Samaritan's Purse	Agriculture, Food Assistance, Shelter and Settlements, WASH	Haut-Uele, Ituri, North Kivu, Tshopo	\$14,373,839
Transcultural Psychosocial Organization (TPO)	WASH	South Kivu	\$500,000
Tearfund	Agriculture, WASH	Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu	\$6,083,069
UN Population Fund (UNFPA)	HCIMA, Protection	Countrywide	\$1,994,263
UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)	Protection, WASH	Ituri, Maniema, North Kivu, South Kivu, Tanganyika	\$14,500,000
	HCIMA, Nutrition	Countrywide	\$988,229
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	HCIMA	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
WFP	Food Assistance - Cash Transfers for Food; Local, Regional, and International Procurement	Countrywide	\$22,000,000
	Food Assistance - 24,300 MT of U.S. In-Kind Food Aid, Nutrition - 4,300 U.S. In-Kind Food Aid	Countrywide	\$71,973,561
	Logistics	Countrywide	\$5,000,000
Welthungerhilfe (WHH)	Agriculture, Multipurpose Cash Assistance, WASH	North Kivu	\$1,444,000
World Relief International (WRI)	Agriculture, Food Assistance	Tanganyika	\$9,677,401
World Vision	Agriculture, Food Assistance, WASH	North Kivu	\$3,500,000
	Program Support		\$40,556
<b>TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING FOR THE DRC RESPONSE IN FY 2022</b>			<b>\$419,198,789</b>
<b>STATE/PRM<sup>3</sup></b>			
International Committee of the Red Cross	Multi-Sector Assistance	Countrywide	\$16,000,000
WFP	Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$600,000
UNHCR	Multi-Sector Assistance, Protection, Shelter and Settlements	Countrywide	\$36,100,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>			<b>\$52,700,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR COMPLEX EMERGENCY IN DRC IN FY 2022</b>			<b>\$471,898,789</b>

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of July 15, 2022.

<sup>2</sup> Estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement, subject to change.

<sup>3</sup> This total does not include the \$11.6 million in FY 2022 State/PRM funding for Congolese refugees in neighboring countries, which increases the total USG emergency funding for the DRC complex emergency in FY 2022 to approximately \$483 million.

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## PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at [interaction.org](https://www.interaction.org).
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
  - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: [cidi.org](https://www.cidi.org)
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [reliefweb.int](https://www.reliefweb.int).

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at [usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)