



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

**BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

Democratic Republic of the Congo – Complex Emergency

Fact Sheet #13, Fiscal Year (FY) 2009

March 18, 2009

Note: The last fact sheet was dated March 4, 2009.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On March 15, Ugandan troops began withdrawing from northeastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), signaling the conclusion of the joint Ugandan, Sudanese, and Congolese military operation against the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), according to international media reports. Launched on December 14, the operation resulted in the deaths of more than 90 LRA soldiers and the release of approximately 300 abducted civilians, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).
- On March 6, the USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID/DART) demobilized as a result of the relative calm observed in most areas of North Kivu Province, indications of the potential for improved stability in the region, and decreased demand for immediate USAID/OFDA emergency reaction capacity in North Kivu and Orientale provinces.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	SOURCE	
North Kivu IDPs since August 2008	300,000	OCHA – January 2009
Total North Kivu IDPs	809,559	OCHA – January 2009
Orientale IDPs since September 2008	140,000	UNHCR ¹ – January 2009
Congolese Refugees since August 2008	63,000	UNHCR – March 2009
Total Congolese Refugees	340,000	UNHCR – December 2008

FY 2009 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Assistance to DRC.....	\$13,554,123
USAID/FFP² Assistance to DRC.....	\$48,000,000
State/PRM³ Assistance to DRC.....	\$18,148,622
Total USAID and State Assistance to DRC.....	\$79,702,745

CURRENT SITUATION

- An improved security environment in many areas of North Kivu Province in recent weeks continues to facilitate the returns process. However, the recent increase in attacks by Democratic Liberation Forces of Rwanda (FDLR) forces attempting to reclaim lost territory and continued presence of National Congress of the Defense of the People (CNDP) elements have prevented widespread returns to other areas of North Kivu Province.
- In recent weeks, OCHA has noted an increase in attacks against humanitarian organizations operating in North Kivu Province, from five reported incidents in January to 17 attacks between February 1 and March 4. The U.N. reports continuing attacks by unidentified armed individuals on non-governmental organization (NGO) vehicles using the Kichanga-Mweso road, on the border between Rutshuru and Masisi territories.
- Despite ongoing access constraints, OCHA reported that approximately 80 percent of individuals displaced within North Kivu prior to 2009 remain accessible and currently receive humanitarian assistance as of March 11. In addition, the report indicated an estimated 30 percent of individuals displaced by violence in recent months currently receive humanitarian assistance. To ensure civilian protection and facilitate the delivery of emergency relief commodities, the U.N. Mission in the DRC (MONUC) has increased protection team deployments and patrols along key axes in North Kivu Province in recent weeks.

Displacement in North Kivu Province

- Population movement remains fluid in eastern DRC, with humanitarian agencies indicating simultaneous returns and displacement in different areas of North Kivu Province. On February 28, OCHA released preliminary North Kivu displacement and IDP return figures compiled from NGO reports since January 1. Although OCHA continues to

¹ Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

² USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

³ U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

verify the figures, the report indicates nearly 265,000 IDPs returned to areas of origin, while violence and perceived insecurity resulted in 174,000 newly displaced individuals.

- The U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF) noted that prevailing insecurity between March 5 and 11 had resulted in new displacement in Lubero Territory, while sporadic violence between armed groups had resulted in limited population movement in Masisi and Walikale territories.
- According to OCHA, IDPs continue to return from spontaneous sites more frequently than from official Goma-area IDP camps. However, on March 4, OCHA reported that approximately 1,400 individuals had departed from Kibati I and Kibati II camps for areas of origin in southern Rutshuru Territory in recent weeks. According to UNHCR, the returns process has resulted in the resumption of agricultural activities in areas of origin.
- In FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$1.7 million to German Agro Action (GAA) for economy and market systems and agriculture and food security activities, as well as the provision of relief supplies and logistical support for more than 100,000 beneficiaries in North Kivu Province.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

- Reported cholera cases continue to decline in North Kivu Province as a result of enhanced water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) interventions. During the week of March 1, UNICEF reported 90 new cholera cases, a significant decline from 616 registered cases during the week of November 23.
- In FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$1.8 million to Merlin for the provision of emergency health assistance, including WASH interventions, to more than 500,000 beneficiaries in eastern DRC.

Humanitarian Conditions in Orientale Province

- The LRA remains a significant destabilizing presence in Orientale Province, despite recent joint Congolese, Ugandan, and Sudanese military operations. According to UNHCR, intensified LRA attacks since late February have resulted in new displacement, hindered assessment and registration activities, and impeded the delivery of emergency relief commodities.
- According to Caritas, LRA forces abducted more than 200 people during an attack on Banda village, Ango Territory, on March 14 and 15. As of March 6, UNHCR reported that LRA attacks have resulted in the displacement of approximately 143,000 people since September 2008, including more than 43,000 IDPs in Dungu area, as well as 15,000 people displaced to Southern Sudan.
- On March 4, UNICEF noted a lack of safe drinking water in Dungu resulting from increasing numbers of IDPs. In addition, UNICEF reported a critical humanitarian situation in Ngilima town caused by a lack of food, safe drinking water, and relief commodity deliveries.
- On March 11, UNICEF reported the establishment of an air bridge between Bunia and Doruma towns due to overland access constraints. In the coming weeks, the airlift is scheduled to deliver 25 tons of emergency relief commodities to more than 15,000 displaced persons residing in Doruma.
- In FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided \$2 million to UNICEF’s rapid response mechanism for logistical support and the provision of emergency relief commodities to conflict-affected persons, including beneficiaries in Orientale Province.

U.S. GOVERNMENT (USG) HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- On October 15, 2008, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires Samuel V. Brock redeclared a disaster in response to the ongoing humanitarian emergency in DRC.
- In FY 2008 and to date in FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$31.8 million in humanitarian assistance to DRC, primarily targeting beneficiaries in North Kivu and South Kivu provinces. USAID/OFDA is supporting programs in nutrition, health, agriculture and food security, economy and market systems, protection, shelter and settlements, and WASH, as well as the provision of relief supplies and logistical support. USAID/OFDA maintains two permanent program officers in DRC.
- In FY 2008 and to date in FY 2009, USAID/FFP has provided nearly \$120 million to meet the emergency food needs of conflict-affected persons throughout eastern DRC. USAID/FFP assistance includes 76,780 metric tons (MT) of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance and funding for administrative support.
- State/PRM has provided more than \$52.1 million to UNHCR, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP), and NGO partners for protection assistance, as well as the repatriation and reintegration programs benefiting returning refugees, IDPs, and host communities in FY 2008 and to date in FY 2009.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DRC IN FY 2009

FY 2009			
<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
GAA	Agriculture and Food Security, Economy and Market Systems, and Logistics and Relief Commodities	North Kivu Province	\$1,700,242
Handicap International	Economy and Market Systems	South Kivu Province	\$192,404
International Medical Corps (IMC)	Health, Nutrition, Protection, and WASH	North Kivu Province	\$2,882,567
Mercy Corps	WASH	North Kivu Province	\$1,112,272
Merlin	Health, Nutrition, Protection, and WASH	North Kivu Province	\$1,780,849
Samaritan's Purse	Logistics and Relief Commodities and WASH	North Kivu and Orientale Provinces	\$546,360
UNICEF	Logistics and Relief Commodities	North Kivu and Orientale Provinces	\$3,867,651
UNICEF	Protection	Orientale Province	\$800,000
	Program Support Costs	Countrywide	\$671,778
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$13,554,123
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
WFP	33,820 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Katanga, North Kivu, South Kivu, Orientale, Maniema, and Equateur Provinces	\$48,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$48,000,000
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$4,500,000
Search For Common Ground	Refugee Reintegration, Humanitarian Coordination, and Information Management	South Kivu and Katanga Provinces	\$249,995
Tearfund	Refugee Reintegration and Education	South Kivu Province	\$998,627
UNHCR	IDP Assistance and Refugee Assistance	Countrywide	\$12,400,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$18,148,622
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DRC IN FY 2009			\$61,554,123
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DRC IN FY 2009			\$79,702,745

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of March 18, 2009.

² Estimated value of food assistance.

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. Information on organizations responding to the humanitarian situation in the DRC may be available at www.reliefweb.int.
- 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, warehouse space, etc); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID: www.usaid.gov – Keyword: Donations
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or (703) 276-1914
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID web site at http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/