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

## ***Democratic Republic of the Congo – Complex Emergency***

Situation Report #2, Fiscal Year (FY) 2009

June 4, 2009

*Note: The last situation report was dated May 6, 2009.*

### **BACKGROUND**

According to a January 2008 report by the International Rescue Committee, regional armed conflict across the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has resulted in an estimated 5.4 million deaths since 1998. Most deaths occurred due to indirect consequences of fighting, such as disease, malnutrition, and neonatal- and pregnancy-related complications. Overall, the decade of fighting has displaced more than 3 million Congolese across eastern and southern DRC and hindered access to agricultural land and traditional markets. Poverty continues to be widespread, and the Congolese health care system has eroded due to a lack of resources and looting of medical assets.

The 1999 Lusaka Peace Accords laid the foundation for the formation of a transitional government in 2003, the adoption of a new constitution in 2005, and national and local elections in 2006. However, armed groups such as the Forces Démocratiques de Libération du Rwanda (FDLR), Mai-Mai factions,<sup>1</sup> and the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA)<sup>2</sup> continue to create areas of insecurity in eastern DRC. In January 2008, armed opposition groups and the government signed the Goma Engagement Act, committing to a ceasefire and the integration of armed opposition forces into the national army. Despite an initial calm in the following months, renewed violence in August 2008 concentrated in North Kivu Province and an escalation in LRA attacks in Orientale Province beginning in September led to wide-scale displacement. Restricted humanitarian access, poor infrastructure, and ongoing violence further contributed to a deterioration of humanitarian conditions. The U.N. Mission in the DRC (MONUC) represents the largest U.N. peacekeeping operation in the world and continues to support ongoing peace efforts.

On October 15, 2008, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires Samuel V. Brock redeclared a disaster due to the ongoing complex emergency in the DRC. In FY 2009 to date, the U.S. Government (USG) has provided more than \$120 million for agriculture and food security, economy and market systems, food assistance, health, nutrition, protection, refugee assistance, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programs primarily targeting internally displaced persons (IDPs) and other conflict-affected populations in North Kivu and Orientale provinces.

<b>NUMBERS AT A GLANCE</b>	<b>SOURCE</b>	
<b>IDPs in North Kivu Province</b>	930,000	UNHCR <sup>3</sup> – May 2009
<b>IDPs in South Kivu Province</b>	450,000	Commission on Population Displacement – April 2009
<b>IDPs in Orientale Province</b>	207,000	OCHA <sup>4</sup> – April 2009
<b>Congolese Refugees since August 2008</b>	63,000	UNHCR – March 2009
<b>Total Congolese Refugees</b>	336,170	UNHCR – May 2009

### **FY 2009 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING**

<b>USAID/OFDA Assistance to DRC.....</b>	<b>\$16,561,087</b>
<b>USAID/FFP<sup>5</sup> Assistance to DRC .....</b>	<b>\$85,776,700</b>
<b>State/PRM<sup>6</sup> Assistance to DRC .....</b>	<b>\$18,148,622</b>
<b>Total USAID and State Humanitarian Assistance to DRC.....</b>	<b>\$120,486,409</b>

### **CURRENT SITUATION**

Sporadic violence, targeted attacks on humanitarian staff, and increased incidences of looting and burning of civilian property continue to cause insecurity and

population displacement in areas of North Kivu, South Kivu, and Orientale provinces. Following the conclusion of joint Armed Forces of the DRC (FARDC)

<sup>1</sup> Groups of local DRC citizens originally formed to resist Rwandan army occupation

<sup>2</sup> Armed opposition group formed in 1987 to resist the Government of Uganda

<sup>3</sup> Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

<sup>4</sup> U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

<sup>5</sup> USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

<sup>6</sup> U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

and Rwanda Defense Force (RDF) operations to disband the FDLR on February 25, FDLR violence targeting civilian populations and FARDC elements have increased in eastern DRC. In recent weeks, the deployment of joint FARDC and MONUC forces to South Kivu Province in preparation for operation expansion against the FDLR has led to significant displacement in South Kivu Province, particularly in Kalehe Territory, as well as in areas of southern Walikale and Lubero territories, North Kivu Province, according to OCHA. In addition, sporadic LRA attacks in Orientale Province continue to impede humanitarian access, despite increased FARDC deployments to the area.

USAID/OFDA staff based in the DRC continue to coordinate information sharing among partners, provide support for emergency relief activities, and monitor evolving humanitarian needs.

### ***Insecurity and Population Movement***

Insecurity resulting from FDLR and FARDC violence and FDLR reprisal attacks continue to result in new population displacement and impede humanitarian access, particularly in North Kivu and South Kivu provinces. Between May 9 and 12, FDLR forces attacked 23 villages throughout southern Walikale Territory, North Kivu Province, killing more than 69 civilians and burning more than 700 homes, according to MONUC. On May 19, OCHA reported that FDLR forces had burned approximately 1,128 homes since March 15.

In addition, insecurity continues to impede the returns process in North Kivu Province and result in additional displacement. As of May 5, UNHCR estimated that more than 930,000 IDPs resided in North Kivu Province, including people displaced by recent violence, as well as individuals displaced for the long-term.

On May 19, OCHA reported that armed group violence has displaced 120,000 people in South Kivu Province since March 1, including 60,000 individuals displaced along the Bunyakiri–Hombo axis and Kibulube town, Kalehe Territory. On May 24 and 25, FDLR attacks along the Bunyakiri–Hombo axis resulted in the burning of more than 170 houses and caused significant population displacement. In total, the Commission on Population Displacement estimates that approximately 450,000 newly displaced and long-term IDPs resided in South Kivu Province as of late April.

Despite a decrease in LRA attacks in Orientale Province during recent weeks, ongoing insecurity resulting from LRA presence continues to impede humanitarian access and hinder the returns process, according to OCHA. To increase security, facilitate the delivery of emergency relief commodities, and improve civilian protection mechanisms, the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) reported on May 20 that the Government of the DRC deployed 6,000 FARDC troops to Haut-Uélé District. An additional 2,000 FARDC troops are expected to arrive in the coming weeks.

To date in FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$17 million to support programs targeting conflict-affected populations in eastern DRC, including agriculture and food security, economy and market systems, nutrition, protection, and WASH activities. In addition, State/PRM has provided more than \$18 million in FY 2009 to support repatriation and reintegration programs benefiting returning refugees, IDPs, and host communities.

### ***Agriculture and Food Security***

Food security continues to deteriorate in areas of DRC as a result of general insecurity and restricted humanitarian access, according to the U.N. World Food Program (WFP). In addition, OCHA notes that the presence of armed groups has impeded civilian access to agricultural fields, prevented local crop production, and resulted in the regular looting of food stocks. On March 19, OCHA reported that FARDC troops occupying homes in Kalehe Territory, South Kivu Province, confiscated food rations and harvested crops.

In response to ongoing food security concerns, WFP continues to provide food assistance to conflict-affected individuals in eastern DRC. On May 16, WFP initiated air drops of emergency food aid in Dungu town, Orientale Province, targeting more than 130,000 IDPs and host families. In addition, WFP distributed food assistance to 200,000 people affected by FDLR violence in southern Lubero Territory, North Kivu Province. Between May 14 and 23, WFP and implementing partner Caritas distributed food aid to nearly 5,000 IDPs along the Kalehe–Nyabibwe axis in Kalehe Territory, South Kivu Province. In the coming days, WFP plans to conduct a needs assessment of conflict-affected areas in South Kivu Province and supervise the distribution of an additional 350 metric tons (MT) of food assistance.

To date in FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$900,000 to support agriculture and food security programs targeting conflict-affected populations in the DRC. In addition, USAID/FFP has provided more than 55,380 MT of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance to date in FY 2009. USAID/FFP assistance includes nearly 5,000 MT of food assistance provided to WFP for an emergency operation targeting 142,000 beneficiaries affected by increased insecurity due to LRA attacks in the Haut–Uélé District, Orientale Province. In total, FY 2009 USAID/FFP assistance to the DRC is valued at nearly \$86 million.

### ***Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene***

Recent conflict continues to reduce access to safe drinking water and increase vulnerability to waterborne diseases among affected populations. In response, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$1.5 million in FY 2009 to support WASH interventions in conflict-affected areas, including programs designed to improve access to safe drinking water and support hygiene education.

## USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE DRC IN FY 2009

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>			
German Agro Action (GAA)	Agriculture and Food Security, Economy and Market Systems, 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 Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	North Kivu Province	\$2,882,567
Mercy Corps	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	North Kivu Province	\$1,112,272
Merlin	Health, Nutrition, Protection, and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	North Kivu Province	\$1,780,849
Premiere Urgence	Agriculture and Food Security, Economy and Market Systems	Orientale Province	\$1,000,000
Samaritan's Purse	Logistics and Relief Commodities and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	North Kivu and Orientale Provinces	\$1,019,750
UNICEF	Logistics and Relief Commodities	North Kivu and Orientale Provinces	\$3,867,651
UNICEF	Protection	Orientale Province	\$800,000
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$1,072,596
	Program Support Costs	Countrywide	\$1,132,756
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA</b>			<b>\$16,561,087</b>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE<sup>2</sup></b>			
WFP	51,290 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Equateur, Katanga, Maniema, North Kivu, Orientale, and South Kivu Provinces	\$75,648,700
WFP	4,090 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance for Haut-Uélé District Emergency Operation	Orientale Province	\$10,128,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP</b>			<b>\$85,776,700</b>
<b>STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE<sup>3</sup></b>			
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$4,500,000
Search For Common Ground	Refugee Reintegration, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Katanga and South Kivu Provinces	\$249,995
Tearfund	Refugee Reintegration, Education	South Kivu Province	\$998,627
UNHCR	IDP Assistance, Refugee Assistance	Countrywide	\$12,400,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM</b>			<b>\$18,148,622</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DRC IN FY 2009</b>			<b>\$102,337,787</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DRC IN FY 2009</b>			<b>\$120,486,409</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of June 4, 2009<sup>2</sup> Estimated value of food assistance<sup>3</sup> State/PRM funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of June 4, 2009.