



**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
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 #4, Fiscal Year (FY) 2004

August 20, 2004

Note: the last situation report was dated May 3, 2004.

BACKGROUND

Since 1998, regional armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has claimed an estimated 3.3 million lives and displaced 3.4 million residents. In August 1999, the governments of the DRC (GDRC), Angola (GRA), Namibia, Rwanda, Uganda, and Zimbabwe and the main Congolese opposition groups—the Rwanda-backed Congolese Democratic Assembly (RCD) and the Uganda-backed Movement for the Liberation of the Congo (MLC)—signed the Lusaka Peace Accords, agreeing to cease fire and to discuss peace implementation via the Inter-Congolese Dialogue (ICD). In November 1999, the U.N. Mission in the DRC (MONUC) arrived to monitor the cease-fire and assist in the disarmament, demobilization, and repatriation (DDR) of foreign forces. After the ICD concluded in April 2003, President Joseph Kabila promulgated the transitional constitution, scheduled to govern the DRC until national elections in June 2005. In July 2003, signatories and civil society began to share four vice-presidential positions and other key government posts.

Although peace prospects have improved at the national level, the transitional government has yet to extend its authority to eastern DRC. Rwandan Armed Liberation Forces (FDLR)/Interahamwe (Rwandans implicated in the 1994 genocide who subsequently fled to eastern DRC), Mai-Mai factions (bands of local Congolese originally formed to resist Rwandan army occupation), and, in some areas, ethnic or clan-based local armed opposition groups continue to threaten security. During the summer of 2003, in response to increased ethnic violence and widespread population displacement in Ituri District, the U.N. Security Council (UNSC) strengthened MONUC’s mandate and increased its authorized force from 8,700 to 10,800 troops. According to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), 24 million people in the DRC remain vulnerable due to the effects of conflict and continued insecurity. Poverty is widespread, and the health care system has eroded due to a lack of resources and continuous looting. Sporadic insecurity restricts access to agricultural land and traditional markets and prevents the large-scale return of displaced populations.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	SOURCE	
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	2,400,000	OCHA (July 2004)
Refugees in the DRC	230,000	UNHCR (May 2004)
DRC Refugees	374,000	UNHCR (May 2004)

Total FY 2004 USAID/OFDA Assistance to the DRC\$22,352,991
Total FY 2004 USG Humanitarian Assistance to the DRC\$65,708,442

CURRENT SITUATION

The Bukavu crisis. In late May and June 2004, dissident ex-RCD/Goma officers Jules Mutebusi and Laurent Nkunda mutinied against the Kinshasa-appointed regional military commander in South Kivu resulting in two weeks of fighting in and around the town of Bukavu. Humanitarian assistance for the area was disrupted, local populations displaced, and the border with Rwanda closed as tensions between the two countries again mounted. Local residents suffered extensive violence, looting, and rape. At least 88 people died, more than 100 were injured, and thousands of residents became either internally displaced or fled to neighboring Burundi and Rwanda.

At one point during the crisis, nearly 1,300 local residents felt sufficiently insecure to take refuge inside the MONUC compound in Bukavu. The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates that

3,500 Tutsi residents of Bukavu fled to Rwanda out of fear of ethnically-based reprisals, since the dissident commanders are both Tutsi. An estimated 20,000 Congolese Tutsis fled to Burundi.

When Bukavu fell to the dissidents, students and others in many major cities throughout the DRC rioted for two days against the lack of international action to end the violence. The riots caused considerable damage to the property of U.N. and international nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). Humanitarian agencies lost an estimated \$1.5 million in supplies, equipment, and vehicles during the violence, and three OCHA offices sustained considerable damage. Humanitarian organizations suspended efforts in the Bukavu area for nearly a month as expatriate personnel were evacuated and local staff remained restricted to Bukavu center.

Once MONUC convinced the dissident leaders to leave

Bukavu, the GDRC deployed Congolese Armed Forces (FARDC) reinforcements to eastern DRC in July to prevent further destabilization attempts. Since then, clashes between the FARDC and remaining armed opposition forces in the Kalehe area have caused the displacement of an additional estimated 20,000 persons.

Sporadic insecurity still a problem in eastern DRC.

Clashes between disparate armed groups continue to affect security and hinder humanitarian access throughout parts of eastern DRC, though much of the region has become accessible to humanitarians over the past six months. On May 14, representatives from Ituri District's seven armed opposition groups met in Kinshasa and agreed to participate in the DDR process. However, the Congolese Popular Armed Forces (FAPC) of the Mahagi-Aru area and Lendu National Integrationist Front (FNI) have since clashed sporadically in areas just south of Mahagi. OCHA reported that up to 35,000 residents fled northeast to Mahagi and across the border to Uganda to seek shelter.

Clashes between ex-RCD military and Mai-Mai and Interahamwe groups in Masisi and Rutshuru territories of southern North Kivu Province provoked wide scale displacement in May. Although ongoing insecurity hinders access to the area, OCHA estimates that up to 100,000 people may have been displaced. The GDRC continues to call for the disarmament and repatriation of up to 10,000 FDLR forces in eastern DRC. In early August, MONUC declined to forcibly disarm and repatriate FDLR soldiers captured by government troops, explaining that involuntary repatriation did not fall within the present MONUC mandate.

According to USAID/OFDA field reports, the Baraka and Fizi area of southern South Kivu Province remains highly militarized, and the presence of numerous armed groups responding to different control hierarchies leaves the area susceptible to renewed conflict. Although the FARDC central command reportedly sent an officer to unify the military, the local administration remains divided between ex-RCD/Goma and Mai-Mai, whose forces control different villages along the road from Uvira to Fizi, taxing local residents who travel. Due to insecurity and logistics constraints, Fizi remained inaccessible to humanitarian activities until December 2003. Action Against Hunger (AAH/USA) has since begun a USAID/OFDA-funded food security project to assist Fizi residents, which includes fish pond rehabilitation and seeds and tools distributions.

Transitional Government. On May 16, after a six-month delay, the transitional GDRC appointed provincial governors for all eleven of the DRC's provinces. Although some celebrated the appointments as progress, many groups were reportedly unsatisfied.

On June 11, government-loyal troops in Kinshasa thwarted an attempted coup by a dissident member of the presidential guard and an estimated 20 supporters.

On June 14, international media reports indicated that eight ex-RCD members of the National Parliament withdrew from their positions and returned to Goma. The parliamentarians demanded an investigation into massacres of Congolese Tutsis that reportedly took place during the recent Bukavu crisis.

MONUC mandate extended. The UNSC adopted resolution 1555 on July 29, extending MONUC's mandate to October 1, 2004. According to MONUC, the interim period will be used to review MONUC's structure in order to more effectively support the transition and restore peace. MONUC currently has more than 10,000 peacekeepers deployed throughout eastern DRC, including a Kivu Brigade of up to 3,700 peacekeepers and an Ituri Brigade of 4,700 peacekeepers.

IDP and refugee returns. On May 19, following a security conference with the GDRC, the GRA suspended the expulsion of DRC nationals working illegally in Angola's diamond mines. From early April to mid-May, the GRA had forced up to 100,000 DRC nationals across the border to remote towns in Bandundu and Western Kasai provinces. Many returnees reported being harassed and even raped during the expulsion process. Expulsions resumed in July at the end of the agreed-upon moratorium period, but have so far been more orderly and reasonably paced.

Although ongoing insecurity has discouraged the return of displaced populations in eastern DRC, a number of IDPs continue to return home. According to OCHA, 83,000, or 33 percent, of IDPs in Ituri District are estimated to have returned home since June 2003. Of the 100,000 Ituri IDPs who fled to North Kivu, over half have now returned, though those from Bunia and areas north of Bunia have largely remained. UN OCHA also estimates that 82,000, or 50 percent, of the IDPs in Maniema Province have returned home.

According to USAID/OFDA field reports, IDPs have begun to return to the Baraka and Fizi area of southern South Kivu Province. On the Uvira-Baraka axis, an estimated 60 percent of the population has returned, while on the Baraka-Fizi axis only 30 percent of the population has returned. According to UNHCR, 100,000 of the DRC refugees in Tanzania are from Fizi and an additional 50,000 are from the Baraka-Makobola axis. Many of the refugees were anticipated to return at the end of the school year in August, but recent security problems may make refugees less inclined to return.

DRC refugees killed in Burundi. On August 13, armed attackers killed more than 150 DRC refugees at a camp

in Gatumba, Burundi, located one mile from the DRC border. Most of the dead were ethnic Tutsi women and children. The ethnic Hutu Burundian opposition group Forces Nationales de Liberation (FNL) claimed responsibility for the killings, leading the U.N. to suspend negotiations with the FNL. The governments of Burundi and Rwanda have nevertheless accused Congolese elements within the DRC of complicity and threatened military intervention, raising tension once again along the borders.

Kindu-Kabalo railroad complete. On June 29, the first train to travel to Maniema Province in five years arrived in Kindu, the provincial capital. The train's arrival marked the completion of the \$1.3 million USAID/OFDA project with Food for the Hungry International (FHI) to rehabilitate the railroad line from Kabalo, Katanga Province, to Kindu, Maniema Province. The line ceased operating with the outbreak of hostilities in 1998 and the ensuing partial destruction of Zofu Bridge near Kabalo.

The completed railroad line improves food security by reconnecting food-producing areas with urban markets and facilitates the delivery of humanitarian assistance in an area that previously relied solely on air transport. USAID/OFDA also funded rehabilitation of the road from Kasongo to the rail line so that this city would also benefit from the return of train traffic. FHI and its implementing partners—including CARE International, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), and Concern Worldwide—cleared 490 km of track that had been neglected since 1998, completed repairs to a key bridge in Kabalo, and restored critical railroad communications systems.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

On October 6, 2003, U.S. Ambassador Aubrey Hooks redeclared a disaster for the ongoing complex emergency in the DRC. To date in FY 2004, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$22.3 million in emergency assistance to the DRC. USAID/OFDA provides emergency assistance in the health and nutrition sectors, supplies emergency shelter and household equipment to IDPs and returnees, contributes to the transportation of humanitarian personnel and materials, and supports the return of agricultural production in areas where stability has been restored.

USAID/OFDA's projects and programs target conflict-affected areas with the highest malnutrition and mortality rates and encourage implementing NGOs to expand into new areas as security permits. In addition, USAID/OFDA supports two Program Officers in the DRC to monitor the humanitarian situation and make program recommendations to USAID/OFDA in Washington, D.C.

To date in FY 2004, USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) has authorized 35,410 metric tons (MT) of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at \$31 million, for the U.N. World Food Program (WFP).

To date in FY 2004, USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (USAID/OTI) has provided more than \$6.7 million for a multi-faceted program to support the DRC's transition to peace. Through its Community-Focused Reintegration Program, USAID/OTI assists in the re-socialization and reintegration of conflict-affected youths. USAID/OTI's media program supports Radio Okapi to increase access to balanced and accurate information on the political transition processes. USAID/OTI also supports Search for Common Ground's Voices of Children project, which produces radio programs by and for children affected by war.

To date in FY 2004, USAID's Office of Democracy and Governance (USAID/DG), through the Victims of Torture Fund, has provided approximately \$1.8 million to assist female survivors of rape through implementing partners. These projects offer women post-rape reconstructive surgery at two hospitals in North and South Kivu provinces.

The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) has provided \$3.7 million to UNHCR for refugee programs in the DRC. In addition, State/PRM has provided \$54.0 million to UNHCR unearmarked for Africa, and \$34.3 million to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) unearmarked for Africa, a portion of which supports UNHCR and ICRC programs in the DRC.

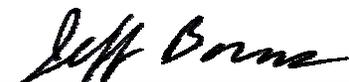
U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE DRC

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
AAH/USA	Health, food security, water/sanitation	Equateur, South Kivu, Katanga	\$1,600,000
AirServ International	Humanitarian air flights	Countrywide	\$3,000,000
CARE	Emergency relief commodities	Maniema	\$61,084
CRS	Emergency relief commodities	Maniema	\$1,106,208
FHI	Food security, agriculture, railroad rehabilitation	Katanga, Maniema, South Kivu	\$893,669
German Agro-Action	Food security, emergency relief commodities, road rehabilitation	Ituri, North Kivu	\$2,548,675
GOAL	Health, nutrition	South Kivu	\$521,548
International Medical Corps (IMC)	Health	Bunyakiri, South Kivu	\$918,639
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Health, emergency relief supplies, capacity building	South Kivu	\$796,417
Medair	Health	Ituri	\$275,000
Merlin	Health	North/South Kivu, Maniema	\$3,859,165
Première Urgence	Agriculture	Orientale	\$600,000
Save the Children U.K.	Child protection, capacity building	Ituri, North Kivu	\$80,000
Solidarités	Health and water and sanitation	North Kivu	\$740,578
U.N. Children's Fund	Health and assistance to rape victims	Countrywide	\$2,700,000
OCHA	Coordination	Countrywide	\$500,000
UMCOR	Food security	Katanga	\$600,000
World Vision	Health	North Kivu	\$547,638
Administrative Costs		Kinshasa	\$1,004,370
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$22,352,991
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
WFP	35,410 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$31,091,071
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$31,091,071
USAID/OTI ASSISTANCE			
Search for Common Ground	Community-Focused Reintegration Program, Radio Okapi, Voices of Children	Countrywide	\$6,775,692
TOTAL USAID/OTI			\$6,775,692
USAID/DG ASSISTANCE³			
IRC	Assistance to rape victims	North and South Kivu	\$1,788,688
TOTAL USAID/DG			\$1,788,688
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
UNHCR	Refugee assistance	Countrywide	\$3,700,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$3,700,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DRC IN FY 2004			\$62,008,442
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DRC IN FY 2004			\$65,708,442

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents committed and/or obligated amount as of August 17, 2004.

² Estimated value of food assistance.

³ USAID/DG assistance represents Development Assistance funds. USAID/DG has also programmed an additional \$1.4 million during FY 2004.



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USAID/OFDA bulletins can be found on the USAID web site:
http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/