



**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 #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2003

December 16, 2002

Note: The last situation report was dated August 15, 2002.

BACKGROUND

Insecurity, the lack of infrastructure, and limited access to vulnerable populations continue to hinder humanitarian assistance in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Joseph Kabila became President of the DRC on January 26, 2001, following the death of his father, Laurent-Desire Kabila. President Joseph Kabila supports the Lusaka Peace Accords signed in July–August 1999. For the most part, a cease-fire has held in accordance with the Lusaka Accords for the past two years and U.N. Observer Mission in the DRC (MONUC) observers are beginning to focus on the next phase of operations, the disarmament, demobilization, and resettlement of combatants.

The Inter-Congolese Dialogue, hosted in Sun City, South Africa, ended in May 2002 but did not reach an all-party agreement. However, President Kabila and the Uganda-backed opposition group Movement for the Liberation of the Congo (MLC) signed a partial agreement that designated Kabila as interim President and the MLC's Jean-Pierre Bemba as interim Prime Minister. The Rwanda-backed Congolese Democratic Assembly based in Goma, North Kivu Province (RCD-G) and a few other opposition groups did not sign the agreement. On July 30, President Kagame of Rwanda and President Kabila signed a peace agreement in Pretoria, South Africa. The Government of Rwanda (GOR) pledged the withdrawal of all Rwandan forces from DRC territory, and the Government of the DRC (GDRC) agreed to assist in disarming and dismantling ex-Rwandan Armed Forces (ex-FAR) and Hutu militia Interahamwe forces in the DRC. On September 6, the Government of Uganda (GOU) and the GDRC signed an agreement on the withdrawal of Ugandan forces and the establishment of a Pacification Commission to focus on resolving the Ituri conflict. Since the end of October, the GDRC, primary rebel groups, and political party and civil society representatives have been holding talks in Pretoria, but have not yet reached an accord.

Most foreign troops (from Angola, Namibia, Rwanda, Uganda, and Zimbabwe) have withdrawn from the DRC during the past year. Angola, Namibia, and Zimbabwe sent troops in 1998 to support the GDRC, which controls the western part of the country. The MLC based in Gbadolite, Equateur Province controls most of Equateur and some of Orientale Province in the north. The RCD-G controls much of North and South Kivu, Maniema, Orientale, and Katanga Provinces. In the eastern part of the country (northern Katanga, Maniema, North and South Kivu Provinces), fighting has intensified involving, among others, ex-FAR/Interahamwe and Mai Mai forces against the RCD-G.

Insecurity in rural and urban areas has restricted access to agricultural land, decreasing harvest yields and contributing to the food security crisis. Lack of access to traditional markets has discouraged farming. Poverty is widespread and the health care system has eroded due to a lack of resources and continuous looting by different parties in the conflict. Widespread insecurity has resulted in limited private sector activities. Although President Kabila has attempted to address the economic difficulties, the economy faces numerous constraints. The January 17, 2002 eruption of the Mt. Nyiragongo volcano in Goma also strained already limited humanitarian resources. (See USAID/OFDA DRC–Volcano Fact Sheet #13 dated August 15, 2002.) The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) reported at the end of July that more than 120,000 people remain vulnerable as a result of the Mt. Nyiragongo volcano eruption. Approximately 20 million people in the DRC are vulnerable due to chronic insecurity and conflict.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	SOURCE
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	Total: 2,275,000 UN OCHA (July 31, 2002)
Refugees from the DRC	Total: 390,000 UN OCHA (July 31, 2002)
Refugees in the DRC	Total: 346,540 UN OCHA (July 31, 2002)
	193,535 from Angola 75,450 from Sudan 26,875 from Rwanda 21,425 from other regions 19,500 from Burundi 6,895 from CAR 2,895 from the Republic of Congo

Total FY 2002 USAID/OFDA Assistance to the DRC\$22,014,253
Total FY 2002 USG Humanitarian Assistance to the DRC\$62,472,058

CURRENT SITUATION

Insecurity persists in eastern DRC. On September 13, RCD-G forces arrested four staff members with the Goma Volcano Observatory (GVO): two Congolese volcanologists, one technician, and one driver. The armed men also confiscated a vehicle loaned to the GVO by the non-governmental organization (NGO) Save the Children Fund- UK (SCF-UK), but later returned the vehicle. On October 12, the four staff members were released.

On September 13, MLC forces abducted a Congolese journalist in northwestern Gbadolite in Equateur Province who works for the semi-independent U.N. radio station, Radio Okapi. The MLC released him one week later, after questioning his interviews with child soldiers. The kidnapping indicates the degree of uncertainty facing humanitarian personnel working in the DRC.

On October 14, Mai-Mai forces captured the city of Uvira in eastern DRC from the RCD-G. Although the RCD-G recaptured Uvira on October 19, the Mai-Mai victory raised fears that continued unrest could undermine recent advances in the peace process. On October 22, UNHCR reported that approximately 20,000 people who had fled the fighting in Uvira returned home. Sporadic fighting has continued in areas south of Uvira around Makabola, but overall, violence between Mai-Mai and RCD-G forces in the Kivus has declined. The Interahamwe and ex-FAR have staged periodic attacks in South Kivu, notably in the Katana health zone in November, and around Kamituga in early December.

Ongoing insecurity in Ituri. Humanitarian organizations report that continuing insecurity has created a volatile humanitarian situation in Ituri in northeast DRC. More than 10,000 families were displaced in Bunia by fighting during July and August, but only 7,600 families received limited emergency food and non-food items due to escalating insecurity. The U.N. World Food Program (WFP) and other humanitarian organizations provided additional assistance, including water and sanitation supplies, later in August.

The Ugandan withdrawal from Ituri in northeastern DRC (apart from a battalion that remains at the request of the U.N.) prompted increased insecurity in early September. Residents approached MONUC observers in Bunia to report alleged attacks on villages in the region by Ugandan-backed opposition groups. Humanitarian organizations encountered difficulties accessing Nyakunde town, 45 kilometers (km) southwest of Bunia, where RCD Kisangani Liberation Movement (RCD-K-ML) and tribal militias clashed in mid-September. International media sources reported more than 100 people were killed during the clashes.

In response to escalating tensions in the Ituri region, and in accordance with the Luanda accords, the GOU and the GDRC established a joint commission at the end of September to work concurrently towards peace in the region, and to monitor insecurity in the Rwenzori Mountain area. GOU and GDRC experts, civil society leaders, and military advisers will be a part of the commission, which has yet to become functional.

On November 21, the consensus governor of Ituri, Joseph Eneko Ngwaza, was killed along with eight bodyguards near Mahagi on the road between Mahagi and Bunia. No-one has claimed responsibility for the assassination.

Humanitarians continue to be harassed regularly in the Bunia area. The leader of the Union des Patriotes Congolaises (UPC) militia, Thomas Lubanga, has not yet allowed a humanitarian airlift of food into Bunia. According to USAID/OFDA field assessments, some NGO personnel have been detained and relief vehicles seized by combatants. The Congolese head of the UN OCHA office in Bunia was declared persona non grata on November 22.

Implementation of the Pretoria Peace Agreement.

The Pretoria Accords, signed in July between the GDRC and the GOR, require the departure of all Rwandan forces from Congolese territory and the demobilization of ex-FAR and Interahamwe forces and their repatriation to Rwanda or settlement elsewhere. The Accords also created the Third Party Verification Mission (TPVM), consisting of South Africa and MONUC, to verify the implementation of the Accords. The GOR began withdrawing troops from the DRC in late September, and the TPVM verified that 23,400 troops had departed Congolese soil by October 24, completing the withdrawal of Rwandan forces. As of November 21, MONUC had facilitated the repatriation of 677 Rwandan Hutu militiamen and their families from the military base at Kamina in Katanga province. MONUC has also established the first collection point for ex-FAR and the Interahamwe at Lubero in North Kivu province. Additional groups of ex-FAR and the Interahamwe have sent messages to MONUC indicating their interest in repatriation.

On December 5, the U.N. Security Council strengthened MONUC in order to refocus MONUC's mission towards conflict-ridden eastern Congo. The Security Council also raised the ceiling on the number of MONUC troops from 5,537 personnel to 8,700.

Withdrawal of foreign troops from the DRC.

The Southern African Development Community Task Force (SADC), composed of troops from Angola, Namibia, and Zimbabwe, has withdrawn the majority of troops from the DRC, and closed the Mbandaka, Equateur Province SADC headquarters.

Angola: The Government of Angola has completed its withdrawal from the DRC. At the peak of the Angolan deployment, 8,000 soldiers had been sent to the DRC.

Burundi: The Government of Burundi had withdrawn approximately 700 soldiers from the DRC by October 2, according to MONUC. International media sources have also reported the withdrawal of Burundian troops from Fizi and Baraka, on the Ubwari Peninsula on the northwestern shore of Lake Tanganyika.

Namibia: The Government of Namibia no longer stations troops in the DRC.

Rwanda: On October 5, the GOR declared that it had completed the withdrawal of Rwandan troops from the DRC. The departure of Rwandan forces from eastern DRC raised concerns that fighting might erupt between the RCD-G and Mai-Mai militia operating in the interior. As a precaution, a number of NGOs temporarily withdrew staff from work sites, especially in Katanga, South Kivu, and Maniema provinces until the situation could be assessed. NGOs soon returned to Katanga and South Kivu, but Kindu in Maniema province remains unstable. In Katanga and South Kivu, Mai-Mai militia moved into positions previously occupied by the Rwandans with little or no violence. RCD-G restrictions on entering Mai-Mai-held areas have hindered the provision of humanitarian assistance. However, AirServ has retained air access to Shabunda, which is now controlled by Mai-Mai forces.

On October 18, WFP reported that the number of people needing humanitarian aid in eastern DRC has grown by 500,000 since Rwanda began withdrawing troops from the territory in mid-September.

Enduring Food Insecurity. WFP has airlifted emergency food assistance to the most vulnerable populations in Bunia, due to the threat of ambushes on the roads, and into Katanga Province due to the lack of road access. More than 800,000 people require food assistance.

On August 16, humanitarian organizations and the DRC Ministry of Health (MOH) organized the delivery of a humanitarian flight of 14 metric tons (MT) of food and non-food items from Kinshasa to Bunia, where fighting killed more than 110 people and displaced 10,000 families, according to UN OCHA. More recently, local authorities have barred an USAID/OFDA-funded food airlift planned by WFP.

UN OCHA warned on September 20 that some areas of the DRC may suffer a food crisis in the upcoming months as a result of the Southern Africa food security crisis situation. Katanga, Kasai Oriental, and Kasai Occidental Provinces rely on Zambia and Zimbabwe for 80 percent of their food commodities. The humanitarian community continues to monitor escalating food needs.

Continuing health concerns. Cholera outbreak.

Between July and early September, the MOH reported 2,636 cases of cholera in Katanga Province and 67 related deaths. Malemba Nkulu, Kabala, Butombe, Songwe, and Twite-Mwanza areas have been the most affected. The MOH and the NGO Medecins sans Frontieres (MSF) have been coordinating a response to the outbreak in the province.

Between September and November, an estimated 1,150 people in Kasai Oriental Province had reportedly contracted the disease, with more than 80 estimated deaths. The local Red Cross society and MSF are monitoring the spread of the disease and have been sensitizing the population about cholera, burying corpses, disinfecting contaminated homes, and administering rehydration salts.

Haemorrhagic Fever and Flu. At the end of November, the GDRC issued an alert due to an outbreak of haemorrhagic fever in Orientale Province, resulting in eight deaths. The GDRC also reported virulent flu in northern Equateur Province near the border with the Central African Republic (CAR) among CAR refugees. More than 500 people have reportedly died since the beginning of October. The exact number of affected cases is unknown at this time.

Economic Assistance. On September 24, the “Paris Club,” a group of 19 governments with claims on other governments, agreed to the immediate cancellation of an estimated \$4,640 million of the GDRC’s external debt and encouraged President Kabila’s efforts in the implementation of the DRC’s economic program and its poverty reduction strategy. A Consultative Group meeting was held in Paris on December 4 and 5 to consider the formation of a donor debt reduction fund and funding for the World Bank emergency recovery fund.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

On November 5, 2001, U.S. Ambassador Aubrey Hooks re-declared a disaster for the ongoing complex emergency in the DRC as a result of the continued fighting since August 1998.

During FY 2002, USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) provided more than \$26.0 million in emergency assistance to the DRC, including assistance provided in response to the January volcano eruption. USAID/OFDA provided emergency assistance in the food security and nutrition sectors, contributed to emergency market infrastructure rehabilitation, and supported agricultural programs for war-affected, vulnerable, and internally displaced persons. USAID/OFDA’s projects targeted the geographic areas with the highest mortality and malnutrition rates, and encouraged implementing NGOs to expand into new areas as security permitted. USAID/OFDA supported programs that provided emergency assistance to the most vulnerable and

integrated components for building local capacity in order to promote the development of people's sustainable livelihoods. An important ongoing component of USAID/OFDA assistance in the DRC is the funding of AirServ International to operate three humanitarian aircraft in areas outside of government control. USAID/OFDA also contributed nearly \$5.0 million in relief assistance for victims of the January volcano eruption. USAID/OFDA supports two Emergency Disaster Response Coordinators (EDRCs) in the DRC to monitor the humanitarian situation throughout the country and make programmatic recommendations to USAID/OFDA in Washington.

USAID's Office of Food For Peace (USAID/FFP) provided more than 19,510 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance to WFP in FY 2002, valued at approximately \$16.5 million. During FY 2002, WFP's Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation (PRRO) in the DRC assisted more than 800,000 food insecure IDPs, refugees, and other vulnerable populations. Activities ranged from direct distribution of food in critical emergency situations and support to supplemental and therapeutic feeding centers to food for work (FFW) activities in support of agricultural infrastructure rehabilitation and food for training.

USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (USAID/OTI) has developed a national, multi-faceted program to support the transition to peace in the DRC. In FY 2002, USAID/OTI supported MONUC's Radio Okapi through Fondation Hirondelle to increase the availability of and access to balanced information. Radio Okapi's local language radio programs disseminated information about humanitarian assistance, the peace process, and demobilization and reintegration, while engaging Congolese countrywide in debates of national importance. Through a USAID grant to Search for Common Ground, USAID/OTI has funded a program director to work with Radio Okapi to provide information on and opportunities for discussion about the DDRRR process. Through a sub-grants program with CARE, USAID/OTI will provide support to both national and local groups in the form of material and/or technical support to encourage support of the Lusaka Peace Accords and the advances of Inter-Congolese Dialogue. Through support of the peace process, the small grants program aims to promote stability, connectivity and ultimately play a key facilitative role in the reunification of the DRC. USAID/OTI's FY 2002 budget totaled \$3.3 million.

In FY 2002, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) provided 18,400 MT of 416(b) surplus food commodities to the DRC to assist in emergency food needs through WFP's PRRO. The more than \$15.0 million worth of food commodities included 16,900 MT of cornmeal and 1,500 MT of vegetable oil.

The State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) provided more than \$5.5

million to the DRC in FY 2002. State/PRM provided more than \$4.7 million to UNHCR to assist refugees in the DRC, and approximately \$700,000 to the International Rescue Committee (IRC) for camp management, health, water, sanitation, and agriculture assistance to Angolan refugees in Bas Congo Province in western DRC. State/PRM also provided approximately \$100,000 in assistance to WFP, and \$7,000 to the Ambassador's Fund for health assistance to refugees and vulnerable populations in Kinshasa. Since the death of Angolan opposition leader Jonas Savimbi in February 2002, approximately 9,500 Angolan refugees have spontaneously returned to Angola from the DRC. UNHCR plans to facilitate a voluntary refugee return program beginning in 2003.

U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE DRC

<i>Agency</i>	<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Sector</i>	<i>Regions</i>	<i>Amount</i>
FY 2002				
USAID				\$41,856,253
USAID/OFDA¹				\$22,014,253
	Action Against Hunger/ USA (AAH/USA)	Integrated health, nutrition, food security, water/sanitation	Uvira, South Kivu Province	\$2,242,970
	AAH/USA	Emergency health for war-affected	Katanga Province	\$477,307
	AAH/USA	Emergency food security assistance	Equateur Province	\$1,018,330
	AirServ International	Air transport	Country-wide	\$1,209,870
	Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	Health	Kabinda	\$201,502
	Food for the Hungry International (FHI)	Food security	South Kivu and northern Katanga Provinces	\$744,577
	FHI	Food security	Northern Katanga Province	\$2,663,199
	German Agro Action (GAA)	Food security program	North Kivu Province (Beni, Lubero)	\$498,515
	International Medical Corps (IMC)	Health care and nutrition assistance	Bunyakiri, South Kivu Province	\$886,362
	International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Health	Kisangani	\$421,172
	IRC	Emergency health	Kabara health zone, South Kivu Province	\$664,380
	IRC	Emergency health	Bunyakri health zones, South Kivu Province	\$1,797,033
	IRC	Emergency health	Demba health zone, Kasai Orientale Province	\$963,757
	MERLIN	Health	Maniema Province	\$878,036
	MERLIN	Health	Kasai Orientale Province	\$163,061
	MERLIN	Health	Maniema Province	\$1,655,084
	Premiere Urgence	Farming and fish recovery	Equateur Province	\$585,501
	UNICEF	Emergency health	Country-wide	\$1,500,000
	UNICEF	Emergency IDP kits	Country-wide	\$700,000
	UNICEF	Emergency assistance activities	Bunia, Orientale Province	\$500,000
	UN OCHA	Emergency coordination	Country-wide	\$500,000
	UN WFP	Special Operations – air transport of food	Northern Katanga Province	\$919,829
	UN WHO	Health coordination	Country-wide	\$332,688
	World Vision International (WVI)	Health, nutrition, and food security	Rwandguba health zone, North Kivu Province	\$262,930
	Administrative costs		Kinshasa and Washington, D.C.	\$228,150
USAID/FFP				\$16,542,000
	WFP	19,510 MT in P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Country-wide	\$16,542,000
USAID/OTI				\$3,300,000
	Fondation Hironnelle, CARE, Search for Common Ground	Support for Radio Okapi, assistance towards establishing peace in the DRC	Country-wide	\$3,300,000

¹ In addition, USAID/OFDA also provided \$4,790,117 in response to the January 2002 Goma volcano emergency. Further information can be found at http://www.usaid.gov/hum_response/ofda/DROC_vo_fs13_fy02.html.

USDA.....\$15,050,370					
		WFP	16,900 MT of cornmeal and 1,500 MT of vegetable oil in 416(b) surplus food commodities to WFP's PRRO	Country-wide	\$15,050,370
STATE/PRM².....\$5,565,435					
		Ambassador's Fund	Health assistance for refugees and other vulnerable groups	Kinshasa	\$7,160
		UNHCR	Assistance for refugees in the DRC	Country-wide	\$4,440,000
		UNHCR	Refugee children's programs	Country-wide	\$300,000
		IRC	Assistance for Angolan refugees	Bas-Congo Province	\$699,985
		WFP	Full cost recovery for USAID/USDA food	Country-wide	\$21,000
		WFP	WFP Junior Program Officer	Kinshasa	\$97,920
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance to the DRC in FY 2002.....\$62,472,058					



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*USAID/OFDA bulletins can be obtained from the USAID web site at http://www.usaid.gov/hum_response/ofda/situation.html

² State/PRM figures include only DRC-specific funding, and do not include unarmarked funding for UNHCR and IFRC Africa programs.