



**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 #3, Fiscal Year (FY) 2003

July 30, 2003

*Note: The last situation report was dated April 16, 2002.*

**BACKGROUND**

Insecurity, a lack of infrastructure, and limited access to vulnerable populations continue to hinder humanitarian assistance in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). In August 1998, an armed attack against the government of the DRC (GDRC) by the Rwanda-backed Congolese Democratic Assembly (RCD) opposition group sparked violence that involved five countries in the region. In July–August 1999, the GDRC; the governments of Angola, Namibia, Rwanda, Uganda, and Zimbabwe; and the main Congolese opposition groups RCD and the Uganda-backed Movement for the Liberation of the Congo (MLC) signed the Lusaka Peace Accords. The Lusaka agreement required signatories to agree to a cease-fire and to create the Inter-Congolese Dialogue (ICD), a mechanism for the GDRC and key political and armed opposition groups to discuss peace implementation. The U.N. Organization Mission in the DRC (MONUC) began in November 1999.

The ICD concluded on April 2, 2003, in Sun City, South Africa, with an agreement to establish a government of national unity and a transitional constitution. President Joseph Kabila will remain in office for a transitional period of approximately two years, to be followed by democratic elections. Members of the RCD, the MLC, other opposition groups, and civil society will share four vice-presidential positions, as well as other key government posts. On April 4, 2003, President Kabila promulgated the transitional constitution.

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. Although President Kabila has attempted to address the economic difficulties, the economy faces numerous constraints, and insecurity has resulted in limited private sector activities. Approximately 20 million people in the DRC remain vulnerable due to chronic insecurity and conflict.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
<b>Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)</b>	2,706,993	UN OCHA (January 2003)
<b>Refugees from the DRC</b>	389,500	UNHCR (February 2003)
<b>Refugees in the DRC</b>	330,100	UNHCR (February 2003)

**Total FY 2003 USAID/OFDA Assistance (to date) to the DRC .....\$26,216,603**  
**Total FY 2003 USG Humanitarian Assistance (to date) to the DRC .....\$70,807,708**

**CURRENT SITUATION**

***The Creation of the DRC Transitional Government.***

On June 29, 2003, the GDRC and opposition groups signed an agreement on the country’s military structure, breaking a deadlock that had impeded implementation of the transitional government. Under the agreement, President Kabila will choose the armed forces chief of staff and the head of the navy; the RCD faction based in Goma, North Kivu Province (RCD-G) will choose the head of the ground forces; and the MLC will choose the head of the air force. The GDRC held the swearing-in ceremony for the vice presidents on July 17, 2003, and all of the ministers and vice ministers were sworn-in by July 23, 2003.

shifted several times in recent months. On March 6, 2003, after a Union for Congolese Patriots (UPC) attack, the Ugandan People’s Defense Force (UPDF) soldiers and ethnic Ngiti and Lendu militias clashed with the primarily Hema UPC forces in Bunia, prompting UPC fighters to flee. Humanitarian access temporarily improved with UPDF control of Bunia, allowing non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to reach populations previously cut-off from assistance.

On April 23, 2003, MONUC deployed the first 200 of approximately 700 troops to reinforce the U.N. presence in Bunia in advance of UPDF withdrawal. At the urging of the U.N. and in accordance with a previous agreement between the GDRC and government of Uganda (GOU), on April 24, 2003, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni ordered the withdrawal of UPDF forces from the Ituri District, and

***Power Struggles in Ituri District, Orientale Province.***

Violence escalated in and around Bunia, the main town in Ituri District, as administrative control of the town

approximately 6,000 soldiers left Bunia by May 6, 2003. By June 6, 2003, all Ugandan troops had withdrawn from the DRC.

***Ugandan Withdrawal Sparks Ethnic Violence in May.***

Following the UPDF withdrawal from Bunia, UPC forces began attacks on Lendu positions in and around the town. On May 9, 2003, gunfire struck a plane carrying the GDRC Human Rights Minister while approaching the Bunia airstrip and the plane diverted to Uganda. On May 10-11, 2003, approximately 100 humanitarian workers, including 9 expatriates, evacuated Bunia due to the escalating violence.

The International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (ICRC) reported that two DRC Red Cross Society Congolese volunteers died during fighting in Bunia on May 11, 2003. Both volunteers were wearing clothing that clearly identified them as Red Cross personnel.

***The Humanitarian Response in Bunia.***

On May 12, 2003, a technical humanitarian team of MONUC, U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), European Commission Humanitarian Office (ECHO), and the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) conducted a needs assessment of an estimated 7,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) in Bunia. Despite heavy fighting in the town, the assessment team organized the potable water supply, built latrines, and established an emergency health clinic.

In response to the humanitarian needs, UNICEF sent emergency humanitarian and medical supplies to MONUC headquarters in Bunia. USAID/OFDA-funded AirServ International (ASI) provided critical support to the response in Bunia by transporting humanitarian personnel and cargo. International humanitarian sources reported on May 15, 2003, that UN OCHA provided a Congolese medical team from Goma, with three surgeons and a mobile clinic to support the U.N. medical team. UNICEF and the Italian NGO COOPI also established two emergency therapeutic feeding centers in Bunia to assist malnourished children.

USAID/OFDA's Emergency Disaster Response Coordinator (EDRC) in the DRC visited Bunia on May 13, 2003, to assess the changing humanitarian situation. Despite the UPC takeover of Bunia on May 12, 2003, according to USAID/OFDA's EDRC, MONUC maintained control of the two IDP camps that by May 13, 2003, housed approximately 12,000 IDPs: an estimated 6,000 IDPs at MONUC's main compound and approximately 6,000 at the airport. The precarious security situation and sporadic clashes between Hema and Lendu militias continued to threaten populations in Bunia and nearby towns. On May 18, 2003, the bodies of two MONUC observers missing since May 14,

2003, were discovered in Mongualu, 17 km north of Bunia. MONUC is investigating the attacks.

Between May 19 and May 24, 2003, humanitarian agencies formerly operating in Bunia began to return to the town in order to recommence humanitarian response efforts. The USAID/OFDA-funded NGO German Agro Action (GAA) resumed the delivery of food and non-food assistance to IDPs within the MONUC camps, as well as others outside of the protected areas. COOPI restarted a therapeutic feeding center serving 64 severely malnourished children, and the Swiss NGO Medair established an emergency cholera ward. The USAID/OFDA-funded NGO Première Urgence adapted a food security program in Mambasa, Ituri District to receive IDPs from Bunia.

Humanitarian agencies continue to adapt to the needs of the vulnerable population in the Ituri District by relocating programs and attempting to gain increased humanitarian access. GAA moved staff and supplies to a branch office in Mahagi in northern Ituri, and Medair shipped emergency medical supplies to two isolated health centers with IDP populations: Komanda (5,000 IDPs) and Avena (7,000 IDPs). COOPI sent emergency supplies to a nutrition center in Iga Barriere, north of Bunia.

***Peace Negotiations in Ituri District, Orientale Province.***

On April 4, 2003, representatives of MONUC, the GDRC, the GOU, the government of Angola (GOA), and civil society, political, and military parties to the conflict, inaugurated the Ituri Pacification Committee (IPC) in Bunia. The IPC created a new administrative authority for Bunia called the Ituri Interim Administration, and provided for the withdrawal of Ugandan forces that occurred on May 6, 2003.

On May 16, 2003, President Kabila signed a cease-fire in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, with leaders of Hema and Lendu militias operating in the Ituri District, reaffirming the parties' commitment to the IPC and the Ituri Interim Administration. The agreement called for the demobilization of forces, the maintenance of basic conditions for humanitarian operations, and the reinforcement of sanctions against armed groups violating existing agreements.

***Violence and Displacement Persist in Ituri District.***

On May 28, 2003, MONUC condemned threats that the UPC reportedly made on a local radio station; the threats warned IDPs that the UPC would use force to dislodge civilians from MONUC-held sites, and demanded that the IDPs cease involvement with MONUC and other international organizations perceived by the UPC to be the enemy. On May 19, 2003, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimated that more than 20,000 people fled fighting in Bunia, Ituri District and entered

the Nebbi and Bundibugyo Districts in Uganda, settling on the shores of Lake Albert. UNHCR reported that by May 30, 2003, the significant refugee influx into western Uganda subsided.

MONUC reported on June 5, 2003, that the total number of people killed in Bunia during the May violence was at least 429, and that the total number of people displaced from Bunia was 74,000.

***International Efforts to Stabilize Bunia.***

Due to increased ethnic violence in the Ituri District, on May 30, 2003, the U.N. Security Council authorized the deployment of a French-led Interim Emergency Multinational Force (MNF) to secure the town and reinforce the MONUC presence in Bunia. MONUC monitors the Lusaka cease-fire and the withdrawal of foreign forces, and assists in disarmament, demobilization, and repatriation programs. Under Chapter VII of the U.N. Charter, the MNF has a peace enforcement mandate. The MNF began deploying to Bunia on June 6, 2003, with the arrival of French forces. The MNF will remain in Bunia until September 1, 2003. On July 16, 2003, 180 Bangladeshi soldiers arrived in Bunia as the first group of a planned 3,800 member MONUC peacekeeping task force that will replace the current multinational force. The rest of the MONUC task force troops will arrive before August 15, 2003, to ensure a smooth handover from the MNF.

On July 28, 2003, the U.N. Security Council (UNSC) unanimously adopted a resolution giving MONUC a stronger mandate and increasing its authorized strength from 8,700 to 10,800 troops. The UNSC resolution enabled MONUC to act under Chapter VII, authorizing the use of "all necessary means" to fulfill its mandate in the Ituri District and North and South Kivu. The UNSC also extended MONUC's mandate for another year, until July 30, 2004.

Security in Bunia has improved significantly since the deployment of the MNF, particularly since June 24, 2003, when the MNF's "no arms in town" policy came into effect and began to be enforced. Several UPC members were arrested and disarmed by the MNF in the first few days of the policy. Despite this progress disarming opposition forces displaying arms in public, the MNF's policy does not include locating and destroying weapon caches that may exist in the town. As many as 1,000 to 1,500 people per day are coming into the town from outside areas; this is due in part to the improved security situation in Bunia.

***IDPs in Bunia continue to seek refuge with MONUC***

By early July, the number of IDPs in Bunia's MONUC-held camps had increased to more than 25,000 people: approximately 19,000 IDPs at the airport camp and approximately 6,200 IDPs at the main MONUC compound. While humanitarian actors reported that camp residents are engaging in commerce

during the day, many return at night to the MONUC-held areas. UN OCHA is exploring options for shifting assistance from the camps to various neighborhoods, since the camps are becoming very large.

***Displacement to North and South Kivu Provinces.***

As violence escalated in Bunia during May, thousands of people fled to southern parts of the DRC. On May 16, 2003, international humanitarian sources reported that more than 50,000 people had fled Bunia and walked to neighboring North Kivu Province. USAID/OFDA's EDRC reported that an estimated 1,000 IDPs had arrived in Eringeti, North Kivu Province by May 15, 2003, and that on May 16, 2003, the entry rate of IDPs into Eringeti was approximately 100 people per hour.

On May 21, 2003, the international NGO Action by Churches Together (ACT) reported that a total of 22,515 people were registered as IDPs in the Beni area, including 10,132 children, 7,494 women, and 4,434 men; the majority of the IDPs originated in the Bunia, Mungbalo, and Drodoro areas of the Ituri District. ACT reported that the IDPs suffered from fatigue and dehydration, and were in need of food, water and other emergency supplies.

On May 30, 2003, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) reported that it registered an estimated 50,000 IDPs in North Kivu, and began a large-scale distribution of food rations comprising pulses, maize, beans, and cooking oil. WFP initiated feeding programs for 25,000 people in and around Eringeti, and another 20,000 people along the Eringeti-Beni road. WFP also expressed concern for an estimated 100,000 people congregated in Lubero, approximately 120 km north of Goma in North Kivu, reporting that the group had not received food assistance since March due to insecurity.

***USAID/OFDA Response in North Kivu Province.***

USAID/OFDA-funded NGOs MERLIN, Première Urgence, SCF/U.K., GAA, Solidarités, as well as UNICEF provided emergency humanitarian supplies to IDPs in North Kivu Province. MERLIN established four health centers along the road between Eringeti and Komanda. SCF/U.K. continued child reunification programs already in place in North Kivu, and GAA continued an emergency food security program in the Butembo area. Solidarités, the main distributor of WFP food assistance in the Beni area, provided food assistance and non-food items to IDPs.

In response to the humanitarian needs of the IDPs, USAID/OFDA airlifted emergency humanitarian supplies from stockpiles in Italy and Kuwait on June 5, 2003, for local distribution in North Kivu by UNICEF. USAID/OFDA provided 1670 rolls of plastic sheeting, 20,400 10-liter water containers, 40,000 blankets, and 3 water treatment units. On June 8, 2003, USAID/OFDA

airlifted an additional 5 medical supply kits, each of which provides for the medical needs of 10,000 people for 3 months.

#### ***Cease-fire Agreement in North Kivu Province***

On June 19, 2003, the GDRC, the RCD-G, and the Congolese Democratic Assembly-Kisangani-Liberation Movement (RCD-K-ML) signed a cease-fire agreement in Bujumbura, Burundi. The Bujumbura Act of Engagement calls for the cessation of hostilities in North Kivu Province, specifically in the Beni-Butembo-Lubero area. On June 21, 2003, MONUC dispatched a mission to North Kivu to monitor the implementation of the cease-fire and verify accusations by the concerned parties of military movements.

#### ***USAID/OFDA Director visits Eastern DRC***

From June 14 to 21, the Director of USAID/OFDA, Bernd McConnell, visited the DRC to assess the causes of and responses required to address the multiple humanitarian crises in eastern DRC. The Director's delegation, which included the USAID/DRC Mission Director Anthony Gambino, and USAID/OFDA EDRC Jay Nash, traveled extensively in Eastern DRC; however, insecurity resulting from RCD-G movement beyond Lubero prevented the delegation from visiting Beni, North Kivu.

In South Kivu, the Director's Delegation visited hospitals and health centers. In Mwenga, the Delegation visited the site of an OFDA-funded International Rescue Committee (IRC) health project. The IRC project is restoring basic health services at the local hospital and in a number of health centers that had been cut off from international assistance for two years. In Bukavu, the delegation visited the Panzi Hospital where women are undergoing surgery to repair damage from bullet wounds and sexual violence. The delegation heard reports of thousands of rapes and other sexual assaults perpetrated against women of all ages, and some men, in South Kivu. International and local NGO representatives reported that the clear purpose of the sexual violence was to intimidate, degrade, and humiliate victims.

In the Ituri District, the delegation visited the MONUC-held IDP camps in Bunia. The delegation visited COOPI's feeding center and the USAID/OFDA Director met with members of the Ituri Pacification Commission (IPC) and MONUC representatives. IPC representatives reported that insecurity continues to limit humanitarian access outside of MONUC-protected areas in Bunia. The delegation also visited a representative of USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (USAID/OTI) funded Radio Okapi, which will be opening an office in Bunia. Radio Okapi will help to strengthen the IPC and will promote ethnic reconciliation in Bunia.

#### **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. USAID/OFDA is providing more than \$26.2 million in emergency assistance to the DRC to date in FY 2003. USAID/OFDA provides emergency assistance in the food security and nutrition sectors, contributes to emergency market infrastructure rehabilitation, and supports agricultural programs for war-affected, vulnerable, and internally displaced persons.

USAID/OFDA's projects target the geographic areas with the highest mortality and malnutrition rates, and encourage implementing NGOs to expand into new areas as security permits. USAID/OFDA supports programs that build local capacity to promote the development of people's sustainable livelihoods. USAID/OFDA supports two EDRCs in the DRC to monitor the humanitarian situation throughout the country and make programmatic recommendations to USAID/OFDA in Washington.

To date in FY 2003, USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) has authorized 41,670 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance to WFP, valued at approximately \$35.4 million. Following a Joint Inter-Agency Assessment Mission, WFP has launched a \$38.2 million emergency operation (EMOP) lasting six months from June 15 to December 14, 2003. The EMOP seeks to help 483,000 conflict-affected individuals in northern and eastern DRC.

USAID/OTI is providing \$4.6 million in FY 2003 for programs in the DRC. USAID/OTI has developed a national, multi-faceted program to support the transition to peace in the DRC. USAID/OTI supports MONUC's Radio Okapi (through Fondation Hirondelle and Search for Common Ground) in order to increase availability and access to balanced information on humanitarian assistance, the peace process, and demobilization and reintegration. Through a sub-grants program with CARE, USAID/OTI provides assistance to local and national groups, and encourages support of the Lusaka Peace Accords and the Ituri Interim Administration.

To date in FY 2003, the State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) provided more than \$4.5 million to assist refugees in the DRC. Of that total, State/PRM provided \$3.75 million to UNHCR, including \$300,000 specifically for children's assistance programs. State/PRM also provided \$200,000 to WFP for refugee feeding programs and \$641,105 to IRC for assistance to Angolan refugees in the DRC.

## FY 2003 USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE DRC

<i>Agency</i>	<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Sector</i>	<i>Regions</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>FY 2003</b>				
<b>USAID (OFDA, FFP, OTI) .....</b>				<b>\$66,216,603</b>
<b>USAID/OFDA .....</b>				<b>\$26,216,603</b>
	AAH/USA	Food security	Northern Katanga	\$700,000
	AAH/USA	Health, water and sanitation, nutrition, and food security	Uvira, South Kivu	\$1,611,493
	ASI	Air transport	Eastern DRC	\$3,061,639
	CARE	Food security	Maniema	\$247,075
	Food for the Hungry International (FHI)	Food security	South Kivu and Katanga	\$1,500,000
	GAA	Food security	Ituri District, Orientale	\$1,877,309
	GAA	Food security	Butembo, North Kivu	\$714,431
	IMC	Health	South Kivu	\$696,022
	IRC	Health, water and sanitation	South Kivu	\$500,000
	IRC	Water and sanitation	Mwenga, South Kivu	\$1,500,000
	IRC	Health	Kalemie, northern Katanga	\$500,000
	IRC	Emergency water and sanitation	Kalemie, northern Katanga	\$100,000
	MERLIN	Health for IDPs from Ituri District	North Kivu	\$3,397,660
	Première Urgence	Food security	Ituri District and North Kivu	\$600,000
	SCF/UK	Volcano monitoring and mitigation	Goma, North Kivu	\$341,176
	SCF/UK	Child reunification for IDPs from Ituri District	North Kivu, Ituri District	\$82,171
	Solidarités	Food security for IDPs from Ituri District	North Kivu	\$71,000
	UMCOR	Food security	Katanga	\$718,037
	UN FAO	Food security	Country-wide	\$700,000
	UN OCHA	Seismic monitoring and mitigation	Eastern DRC	\$180,000
	UN OCHA	Coordination	Country-wide	\$1,500,000
	WFP	Air transport of emergency food	Northern Katanga	\$1,000,000
	UNICEF	Emergency health, water and sanitation	Country-wide	\$2,500,000
	UNICEF	Airlift of emergency humanitarian supplies including transportation	North Kivu	\$1,256,475
	Administrative Costs		Kinshasa and Washington D.C.	\$862,115
<b>USAID/FFP .....</b>				<b>\$35,400,000</b>
	WFP	41,670 MT in P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Country-wide	\$35,400,000
<b>USAID/OTI .....</b>				<b>\$4,600,000</b>
	Fondation Hironnelle, CARE, Search for Common Ground	Small grants initiative to support the Lusaka Peace Accords, support for MONUC's Radio Okapi	Country-wide	\$4,600,000
<b>STATE/PRM<sup>1</sup> .....</b>				<b>\$4,591,105</b>
	IRC	Assistance to Angolan Refugees in DRC	Kimpese, Bas Congo	\$641,105
	UNHCR	Assistance to Refugees	Country-wide	\$3,450,000
	UNHCR	Assistance to Refugee Children	Country-wide	\$300,000
	WFP	Assistance to Refugee Feeding Programs	Country-wide	\$200,000
<b>Total USG Humanitarian Assistance (to date) to the DRC in FY 2003 .....</b>				<b>\$70,807,708</b>

<sup>1</sup> State/PRM figures for FY 2003 do not include unearmarked funding for UNHCR and ICRC Africa-wide programs.



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Bernd McConnell  
Director  
Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance

*\*USAID/OFDA bulletins can be obtained from the USAID web site at [http://www.usaid.gov/hum\\_response/ofda/situation.htm](http://www.usaid.gov/hum_response/ofda/situation.htm)*