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**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 #2, Fiscal Year (FY) 2006

September 29, 2006

*Note: The last situation report was dated May 16, 2006.*

### BACKGROUND

Since 1998, regional armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has resulted in an estimated 4 million deaths due to fighting, disease, and malnutrition, and caused the displacement of more than 3 million residents. The 1999 Lusaka Peace Accords laid the foundation for the formation of a transitional government established in 2003, and the subsequent adoption of a new constitution in 2005. In July 2006, DRC citizens participated in the first pluralistic, open polls for presidential, parliamentary, and local elections in 40 years. However, armed groups such as the Forces Démocratiques de Libération du Rwanda (FDLR)/Interahamwe, Rwandans implicated in the 1994 genocide who subsequently fled to eastern DRC, and Mai-Mai factions, bands of local DRC citizens originally formed to resist Rwandan army occupation, continue to create areas of insecurity in eastern DRC. Joint offensives by the U.N. Mission in the DRC (MONUC), the largest U.N. peacekeeping operation in the world, and the DRC armed forces (FARDC) have to date been unsuccessful in eliminating the threat posed by these armed groups.

Due to the effects of conflict and continued insecurity, nearly 1.5 million internally displaced persons (IDPs), as well as 1.6 million former IDPs and refugees returning to their areas of origin, require emergency assistance, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Poverty is widespread, and the health care system has eroded due to a lack of resources and looting. Sporadic insecurity restricts access to agricultural land and traditional markets and prevents the remaining displaced population from returning home.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	SOURCE	
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	1,480,000	OCHA - August 2006
Refugees in the DRC	231,000	UNHCR <sup>1</sup> - September 2006
DRC Refugees in Tanzania, Republic of Congo, Zambia, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, Angola, Sudan, and the Central African Republic	355,516	UNHCR - August 2006

**Total FY 2006 USAID/OFDA Assistance to the DRC .....\$25,154,616**  
**Total FY 2006 U.S. Government (USG) Humanitarian Assistance to the DRC .....\$84,656,929**

### CURRENT SITUATION

**Security outlook.** The second round of presidential elections, scheduled for October 29 between President Joseph Kabila and Vice President Jean Pierre Bemba, has increased tensions in the DRC. Following the announcement of provisional first round results in August, violence in Kinshasa left 23 people dead. In September, organized street protests continued despite international efforts to facilitate dialogue between the candidates.

In eastern DRC, the continued presence of local and international militias, and the pervasive abuse of civilians by undisciplined FARDC troops led more than 500,000 residents to flee their homes in 2006, according to OCHA. Although some IDPs have begun to return home in Katanga and North Kivu, OCHA reports that most of the country's nearly 1.5 million IDPs remain displaced.

**Rising IDP returns in Katanga threatened by delayed assistance to former combatants.** According to OCHA, since a prominent Mai-Mai commander surrendered in May 2006, more than 100,000 IDPs have returned to their villages of origin. However, OCHA reports that

ineffective disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration programs—characterized by limited support for ex-combatants during demobilization and a lack of reinsertion programs—are undermining the prospects for long-term peace. In June, a USAID/OFDA Program Officer and a USAID/OFDA Principle Regional Advisor visited central Katanga Province, including the town of Mitwaba where separate camps have been established for Mai-Mai combatants and their families. The team noted that several families had been in the facilities for more than a month without receiving assistance. Many humanitarian actors are concerned that the lack of assistance could prevent remaining Mai-Mai combatants from surrendering and prolong insecurity in the area.

**Ituri remains volatile.** Ituri District continues to experience insecurity, despite MONUC reports that more than 4,800 combatants have surrendered their weapons since June. According to OCHA, more than 110,000 IDPs in Irumu Territory are unlikely to return home in September due to ongoing attacks and abductions perpetrated against the civilian population by multiple armed groups, including FARDC and the Fronts des

<sup>1</sup> Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees

Résistances Patriotiques en Ituri (FRPI). An increase in sporadic clashes among FRPI factions, and reports of recruitment efforts by local militias, further undermine security prospects in the district.

**IDP increase in North Kivu Province.** OCHA reported a net increase of more than 105,000 new IDPs in North Kivu Province in recent months, bringing the total IDP population to an estimated 685,000. FARDC continues attacks and harassment of civilians in Walikale Territory, especially in mining communities, while FDLR and Mai-Mai activity has resulted in the recent displacement of 600 families, according to OCHA. Additionally, the continued presence of Allied Democratic Forces/National Army for the Liberation of Uganda and FDLR militias in Beni Region, North Kivu remains a deterrent to IDP returns in Oicha and Erineti. However, OCHA also noted ongoing IDP returns in Rutshuru and Lubero territories.

**Ongoing insecurity in South Kivu Province.** According to OCHA, the threat of violence continues to foster insecurity in South Kivu due to joint MONUC-FARDC offensives against FDLR and the fear of subsequent crimes and abuses perpetrated by both FARDC and FDLR against civilians. OCHA reported at least 37 kidnappings during the month of August in South Kivu. Restricted distribution of food and emergency relief supplies is attributed to the ongoing insecurity.

**Food insecurity.** In many areas across the DRC, food insecurity remains an issue due to a combination of low quality seed stocks, limited access to appropriate agricultural tools, insect infestations, and continued insecurity, according to OCHA. The impact is most acute among returnee communities.

In August, a USAID/FFP monitoring mission to central Katanga Province noted the full resumption of U.N. World Food Program (WFP) assistance in the region, including the pre-positioning of village stocks in preparation for the coming rainy season. However, in September 2006, more than 110,000 WFP beneficiaries in North Kivu did not receive the full food basket of commodities due to funding shortfalls that are expected to continue into 2007. USAID/FFP increased their commodity level assistance to WFP in response to increased population displacements in North Kivu and will continue to monitor the situation.

**Polio outbreak.** From May to July 2006, the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) confirmed three cases of polio in the districts of Bas-Congo and Kasai Occidental. Prior to these cases, polio transmission had been successfully eradicated in the DRC since 2000. Since June, WHO and the GDRC Ministry of Health have been conducting a vaccination campaign targeting 17.4 million children under five as part of an Emergency Outbreak Response plan to prevent further spread of the disease.

**Cholera cases continue.** Between August 15 and 30,

WHO reported more than 400 cases of cholera in Katanga and North Kivu provinces, and Ituri District. In addition, OCHA reported 130 cases in Bas-Congo Province since mid-May. The rainy season is expected to increase the risk of the water-borne disease, particularly where cholera is endemic, and potable water is scarce. OCHA will continue to monitor the situation.

**Voluntary Congolese repatriation resumes.** In late August, UNHCR resumed the organized voluntary return of Congolese refugees following a month long suspension of activities during the first round of presidential elections. To date, more than 22,000 Congolese refugees have returned in 2006, including more than 14,000 to South Kivu Province and approximately 7,300 to Equateur Province, according to UNHCR. An estimated 350,000 Congolese refugees remain in neighboring countries.

**Sudanese repatriation.** Since January 2006, when the GDRC, the Sudanese Government of National Unity, and UNHCR signed a tripartite agreement concerning the repatriation of Sudanese and Congolese refugees, an estimated 2,000 Sudanese refugees from northeastern DRC have returned home. UNHCR estimates that 13,000 Sudanese refugees remain in the DRC. Regular returns are expected to continue over the coming months, facilitated through UNHCR transport and food assistance.

#### USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

On October 17, 2005, U.S. Ambassador Roger A. Meece redeclared a disaster for the ongoing complex emergency in the DRC. To date in FY 2006, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$25 million in emergency assistance to the DRC. Targeting conflict-affected populations, USAID/OFDA provides 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 projects and programs are implemented through multiple international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and several U.N. agencies. In addition, USAID/OFDA supports two Program Officers in the DRC who monitor the humanitarian situation and provide program recommendations to USAID/OFDA in Washington, D.C.

In FY 2006, USAID/FFP has provided nearly 44,000 metric tons (MT) of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance to implementing partners WFP and Food for the Hungry International (FHI), valued at more than \$39 million. These commodities are used to provide assistance to vulnerable populations including women and children, IDPs, and refugees, and to support the national Disarmament, Demobilization, Repatriation, Reintegration, and Resettlement initiative through the provision of food to ex-combatants.

In FY 2006, the U.S. Department of State's Bureau for

Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) provided nearly \$17 million to UNHCR, and more than \$3.5 million to multiple relief agencies for ongoing program assistance to refugees in the DRC. In May, U.S. President George W. Bush approved a drawdown of \$12 million from the Emergency Refugee and Migration

Assistance (ERMA) fund to support the repatriation of Congolese refugees. President Bush also approved a drawdown of \$8 million in ERMA funds to support UNHCR programs in Africa of which \$4 million was directed towards IDP assistance in the DRC.

### U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE DRC

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>			
Action Against Hunger/U.S.A	Food Security and Agriculture, Water and Sanitation	South Kivu, Katanga	\$1,762,413
Air Serv International	Transportation	Katanga, North Kivu, Orientale, South Kivu	\$3,651,799
CONCERN	Food Security and Agriculture, Income Generation	Katanga	\$740,196
Catholic Relief Services	Food Security and Agriculture	Katanga	\$695,743
Food for the Hungry International (FHI)	Food Security and Agriculture	Maniema, Katanga, South Kivu	\$1,536,969
German Agro Action	Food Security and Agriculture	Ituri, North Kivu	\$1,507,344
GOAL	Food Security and Agriculture, Health	South Kivu	\$1,388,665
International Medical Corps (IMC)	Health, Nutrition, Water and Sanitation	South Kivu	\$1,800,000
International Rescue Committee	Health	South Kivu	\$1,775,596
Medair Swiss	Health	Ituri	\$482,400
MERLIN	Capacity Building, Health	Maniema	\$1,550,000
OCHA	Coordination	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
Solidarities	Food Security and Agriculture, Transportation	Ituri, North Kivu	\$800,000
United Methodist Committee on Relief	Food Security and Agriculture	Katanga	\$926,573
U.N. Children's Fund	Nutrition, Relief Commodities, Water and Sanitation	Countrywide	\$3,000,000
Premiere Urgence	Food Security and Agriculture, Rehabilitation	Ituri, Katanga	\$1,953,325
	Administrative Support	Countrywide	\$583,593
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA</b>			<b>\$25,154,616</b>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE<sup>2</sup></b>			
WFP	39,300 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$33,363,500
FHI	4,580 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Northern Katanga	\$5,868,500
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP</b>			<b>\$39,159,000</b>
<b>STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE<sup>3</sup></b>			
Center for Victims of Torture (CVT)	Psychosocial Support for Returnees	Katanga	\$498,523
FHI	Livelihoods and Market Access for Returnees	Katanga	\$656,790
IMC	Health Programs for Returnees	South Kivu	\$844,600
Medecins en Catasophe (MEC)	Ambassador's Fund for Hospital Rehabilitation	South Kivu	\$20,000

UNHCR	Multi-sectoral Refugee Assistance and Protection	Countrywide	\$16,750,000
WFP	Food Assistance for Returnees and IDPs	Countrywide	\$1,500,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM</b>			<b>\$20,269,913</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DRC IN FY 2006</b>			<b>\$64,313,616</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DRC IN FY 2006</b>			<b>\$84,656,929</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of September 29, 2006.

<sup>2</sup> Estimated value of food assistance.

<sup>3</sup> State/PRM also provided more than \$8 million to UNHCR and NGOs for assistance to DRC refugees living in neighboring Tanzania, Rwanda, and the Republic of Congo. In addition, State/PRM provided \$54.9 million in unearmarked funds for UNHCR in Africa and \$32.7 million to ICRC for its Emergency Appeal for Africa. A portion of the unearmarked funds supported UNHCR and ICRC programs in the DRC and programs to assist DRC refugees located outside the country.



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