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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 #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2009

May 6, 2009

Note: The last situation report was dated October 15, 2008.

BACKGROUND

According to a January 2008 report by the International Rescue Committee (IRC), regional armed conflict across the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) 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 displaced more than three million Congolese across eastern and southern Congo 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,¹ and the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA),² 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 concentrated in North Kivu Province and an escalation in LRA attacks in Oriental 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. As of April 21, the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimated that approximately 1.4 million people remained displaced countrywide. The U.N. Mission in the DRC (MONUC) represents the largest U.N. peacekeeping operation in the world and continues to support peace efforts.

On October 15, 2008, U.S. Chargé d’Affairs 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 nearly \$120 million for agriculture and food security, economy and market systems, food assistance, health, nutrition, protection, refugee assistance, and water, sanitation, and hygiene programs, as well as the provision of relief supplies, primarily targeting internally displaced persons (IDPs) and other conflict-affected populations in North Kivu and Orientale provinces.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE	SOURCE	
North Kivu IDPs since August 2008	300,000	OCHA ³ – January 2009
Total North Kivu IDPs	841,648	UNHCR – March 2009
Orientale IDPs since September 2008	207,000	OCHA – April 2009
Congolese Refugees since August 2008	63,000	UNHCR – March 2009
Total Congolese Refugees	345,170	UNHCR – April 2009

FY 2009 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

USAID/OFDA Assistance to DRC.....	\$14,075,998
USAID/FFP⁴ Assistance to DRC	\$87,427,800
State/PRM⁵ Assistance to DRC	\$18,148,622
Total USAID and State Humanitarian Assistance to DRC.....	\$119,652,420

CURRENT SITUATION

Ongoing violence in areas of North Kivu, South Kivu, and Orientale provinces, poor road infrastructure, and targeted attacks on humanitarian staff continue to result in population displacement, protection concerns, and

decreased humanitarian access in eastern DRC. Since the conclusion of joint Armed forces of the DRC (FARDC) and Rwanda Defense Force (RDF) operations to disband the FDLR on February 25, FDLR reprisal

¹ Groups of local DRC citizens originally formed to resist Rwandan army occupation

² Armed opposition group formed in 1987 to resist the Government of Uganda

³ U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

⁴ USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

⁵ U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

attacks against civilian populations have increased in areas of North Kivu Province, particularly in southern Lubero and Walikale territories, as well as South Kivu Province, according to OCHA. In addition, sporadic LRA attacks in Orientale province continue to exacerbate the security situation and impede humanitarian access.

USAID/OFDA staff based in the DRC are working with U.N. agency and non-governmental organization (NGO) partners to prioritize and support critical humanitarian interventions, monitor conditions, and coordinate information sharing.

Insecurity and Population Movement

Insecurity and population fears of potential future attacks, continue to result in new displacement, prevent wide-scale returns, and impede humanitarian access in areas of North Kivu, South Kivu, and Orientale provinces. As of April 21, UNHCR estimated that an estimated 1.4 million people remained displaced in DRC.

According to U.N. reports, simultaneous displacement and returns continue in North Kivu Province. Between January 20 and April 8, violence resulting from joint FARDC–RDF operations, as well as fear of FDLR reprisal attacks had displaced approximately 250,000 people in North Kivu Province, according to OCHA. However, improved security in other areas of North Kivu Province resulted in the return of approximately 300,000 individuals to areas of origin during the same time period.

Between March 1 and April 30, FDLR and Patriotes Resistants Congolais (PARECO) attacks in southern Lubero Territory, North Kivu Province, displaced more than 100,000 people. Displacement resulting from PARECO attacks occurred prior to the groups' early April ceasefire and agreement with the Government of the DRC to integrate forces into the FARDC. On April 17 and 18, FDLR forces attacked Lufofo and Kasiki villages, destroying more than 365 homes, according to UNHCR. In addition, UNHCR noted concern regarding the rapidly deteriorating humanitarian situation in Lubero town. Poor road infrastructure and targeted attacks on humanitarian staff along the Goma–Lubero road have prevented the delivery of emergency relief commodities since mid-February.

Insecurity in South Kivu Province has also resulted in the displacement of an additional estimated 100,000 individuals since January 2009, according to OCHA. Deployments of MONUC and FARDC forces to South Kivu Province in preparation for a second offensive against the FDLR have also contributed to increased displacement due to population fears of potential clashes. On April 29, OCHA noted concern regarding the potential humanitarian consequences of joint MONUC–FARDC operations, including massive population movement and reduced humanitarian access, particularly in Shabunda zone.

Decreased LRA presence and increased FARDC and MONUC patrols in some areas of Orientale Province have encouraged limited returns to areas of origin, according to OCHA. However, small-scale attacks in remote areas continue to cause new population displacement within Orientale Province and to surrounding areas, as well as prevent widespread returns. Between April 20 and 25, OCHA reported an increase in LRA attacks and looting of humanitarian commodities in areas north of Dungu.

As of April 8, an estimated 207,000 people remained displaced in Orientale Province, while 9,300 individuals and 30,000 people had returned to Haut-Uélé and Bas-Uélé districts, respectively, according to OCHA. In addition, UNHCR reported that unrelated armed group violence between Popular Front for Justice in the Congo (FPJC) and the Revolutionary Front for Peace in the Ituri (FPRI) displaced approximately 30,000 individuals in Ituri District, Orientale Province, between March 31 and April 2.

In FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$14 million to support agriculture and food security, economy and market systems, logistics and relief commodity, health, nutrition, protection, and water, sanitation, and hygiene programs targeting displaced and conflict-affected populations in eastern DRC. In addition, State/PRM has provided more than \$18 million in FY 2009 to implementing partners for repatriation and reintegration programs benefiting returning refugees, IDPs, and host communities.

Protection

Humanitarian agencies highlight concern regarding ongoing forced-child recruitment by armed opposition groups, particularly by LRA forces in Orientale Province. However, on April 21 the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) reported that recent rapid integration of Congress of the Defense of the People (CNDP) forces into the FARDC has facilitated the release of approximately 1,200 children since January 1. U.N. officials emphasize that the reintegration of child combatants into communities represents a critical priority for stability in eastern DRC.

To address ongoing child protection issues, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$1 million for protection programming in North Kivu and Orientale provinces through implementing partners International Medical Corps (IMC), Merlin, and UNICEF. USAID/OFDA funding supports UNICEF child protection activities in Dungu Territory, Orientale Province, including the establishment of community protection mechanisms, services for victims of sexual and gender-based violence, and registration and reunification of separated families.

Agriculture and Food Security

Agriculture and food security remain a critical challenge in multiple areas of DRC. On April 2, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reported severe localized food insecurity as a result of civil conflict in eastern DRC, in addition to the impact of returning populations. According to WFP, LRA attacks in Haut-Uélé District, Orientale Province, prevented residents from harvesting December crops and preparing fields for the February planting season, raising food security concerns for the coming months.

Despite plans by the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) to provide food assistance to nearly 1.5 million people in eastern DRC during 2009, WFP has noted that the fluid political and security environment continue to impede distributions to conflict-affected populations. In addition, armed group attacks and lootings of civilian populations have undermined relief efforts. On April 22, international media cited OCHA reports of FDLR confiscation of civilian food rations in South Kivu Province.

To date in FY 2009, USAID/FFP has provided more than 55,880 metric tons (MT) of P.L. Title II emergency food

assistance through WFP to conflict-affected persons, including IDPs and returnees, in Katanga, North Kivu, South Kivu, Orientale, Maniema, and Equateur provinces. USAID/FFP assistance includes nearly 5,000 MT of food assistance to support populations affected by increased insecurity resulting from LRA attacks in the Haut-Uélé District, Oriental Province, as part of WFP emergency operation targeting 142,000 beneficiaries in the area through November 2009. In total, USAID/FFP assistance is valued at more than \$87 million.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

In response to reduced water availability and concerns regarding increased incidences of waterborne diseases resulting from damage to water installations and population movement, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$1.5 million in FY 2009 to support WASH interventions in conflict-affected areas. Through implementing partners IMC, Merlin, and Samaritan's Purse, USAID/OFDA programs target improved IDP and host community access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities and the adoption of safe hygiene behaviors.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DRC IN FY 2009

FY 2009			
<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
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 WASH	North Kivu Province	\$2,882,567
Mercy Corps	WASH	North Kivu Province	\$1,112,272
Merlin	Health, Nutrition, Protection, and WASH	North Kivu Province	\$1,780,849
Samaritan's Purse (SP)	Logistics and Relief Commodities and WASH	North Kivu and Orientale Provinces	\$1,019,750
U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF)	Logistics and Relief Commodities	North Kivu and Orientale Provinces	\$3,867,651
UNICEF	Protection	Orientale Province	\$800,000
	Program Support Costs	Countrywide	\$720,263
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$14,075,998
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
U.N. World Food Program (WFP)	51,290 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Katanga, North Kivu, South Kivu, Orientale, Maniema, and Equateur Provinces	\$76,439,900

WFP	4,590 of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance for Haut-Uélé District Emergency Operation	Orientale Province	\$10,987,900
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$87,427,800
STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$4,500,000
Search For Common Ground	Refugee Reintegration, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	South Kivu and Katanga Provinces	\$249,995
Tearfund	Refugee Reintegration, Education	South Kivu Province	\$998,627
UNHCR	IDP Assistance, Refugee Assistance	Countrywide	\$12,400,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM			\$18,148,622
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DRC IN FY 2009			\$101,503,798
TOTAL USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DRC IN FY 2009			\$119,652,420

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of May 6, 2009

² Estimated value of food assistance