

## Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) USAID Humanitarian Assistance in Review, 1997 – Present

Since 1998, regional and internal armed conflict has resulted in an estimated 5.4 million deaths in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), according to a January 2008 report by the International Rescue Committee. The majority of deaths are attributed to indirect consequences of fighting, such as disease, malnutrition, and neonatal- and pregnancy-related complications resulting from the cumulative impact of population displacement and disruptions to health, water, and sanitation access. The protracted conflict has displaced more than 3 million people across eastern and southern Congo and hindered access to agricultural land and traditional markets, undermining livelihoods and increasing population vulnerability. In addition, the DRC is susceptible to a variety of natural hazards, including floods, volcanic eruptions, and disease outbreaks. The country experienced significant flooding in 1998 and 2000, a major volcanic eruption in 2002, and malaria and Ebola epidemics in 2000 and 2007, respectively.



Since the cessation of major hostilities and the formation of a transitional government in 2003, peace and stability have returned to most areas of the country, encouraging millions of displaced Congolese to return to areas of origin. However, the presence of armed groups continues to create areas of insecurity in eastern DRC and displace additional individuals, including an estimated 530,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in 2007, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. Currently, nearly 1.4 million IDPs and more than 2 million returnees require humanitarian assistance. Priority needs for IDPs include access to basic services such as health care and food assistance, while recent returnees require assistance to reintegrate, rebuild, and reestablish livelihoods.

### USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DRC (FISCAL YEARS 1997-2007), IN MILLIONS

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
<b>OFDA</b>	\$10.7	\$5.5	\$4.6	\$13.1	\$22.1	\$26.8	\$31.9	\$22.4	\$26.4	\$25.1	\$29.1
<b>FFP<sup>1</sup></b>	-	-	\$5.9	\$3.3	\$14.2	\$16.5	\$34.6	\$31.8	\$29.8	\$39.8	\$37.8
<b>Other USG<sup>2</sup></b>	\$1.0	\$7.3	\$11.2	\$8.2	\$13.9	\$7.2	\$9.0	\$10.5	\$19.5	\$20.6	\$21.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$11.7</b>	<b>\$12.8</b>	<b>\$21.7</b>	<b>\$24.6</b>	<b>\$50.2</b>	<b>\$50.5</b>	<b>\$75.5</b>	<b>\$64.7</b>	<b>\$75.7</b>	<b>\$85.5</b>	<b>\$88.2</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID's Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

<sup>2</sup> Includes additional humanitarian assistance funding from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration and USAID's offices of Transition Initiatives and Conflict Management and Mitigation.



USAID/OFDA programs provide emergency relief supplies to thousands of conflict-affected IDPs in eastern DRC. Photo by Jack Myer, USAID.

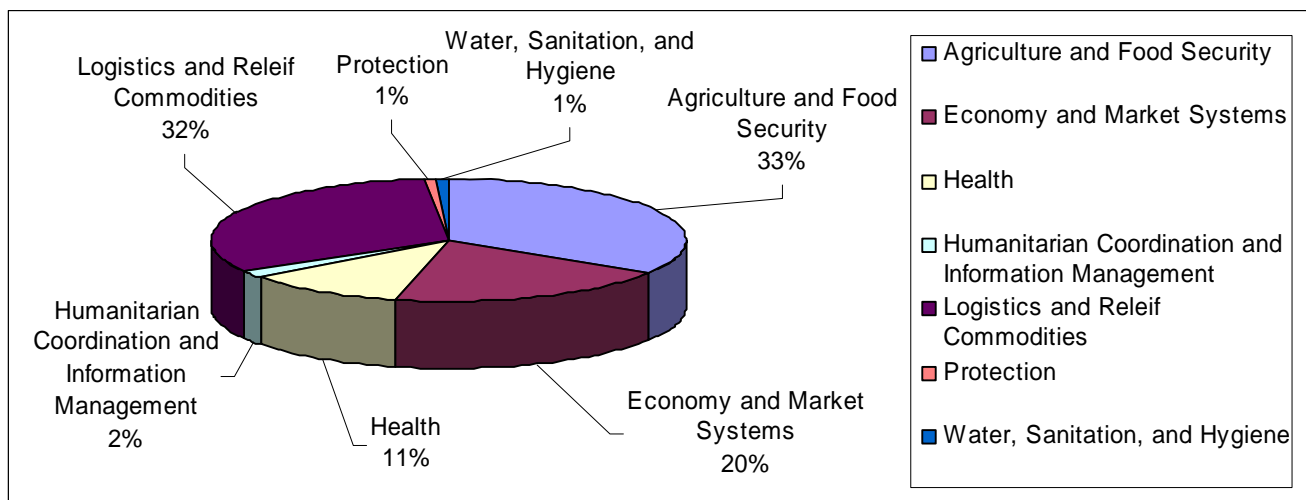
Since 1997, USAID has provided nearly \$476 million in humanitarian assistance to the DRC, including nearly \$224 million in relief commodities and emergency health, nutrition, agriculture, food security, economy and market systems, protection, coordination, road rehabilitation, and transportation interventions, and nearly \$252 million in food aid to date.

In response to changing conditions, USAID/OFDA funding has increasingly targeted assistance to support the growing number of returnees while simultaneously addressing emergency needs of populations affected by renewed conflict in eastern DRC. USAID/OFDA programs support returns and rehabilitate beneficiary livelihoods through targeted agriculture and food security programs, as well as critical road rehabilitation activities to facilitate economic recovery. USAID/OFDA programs also address

immediate humanitarian needs through the provision of primary health services and the delivery of emergency relief supplies to conflict-affected populations.

In FY 2007 alone, USAID/OFDA relief efforts totaled more than \$29 million and USAID/FFP authorized 33,820 metric tons of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance valued at nearly \$38 million. USAID continues to monitor humanitarian conditions in the DRC and respond to evolving needs.

### USAID/OFDA Non-Food Assistance to the DRC by Sector (FY 2007)<sup>3</sup>



<sup>3</sup> Approximate percentage of assistance by sector, excluding administrative and support costs.