



**DRC**

Nairobi, 28 May 2021

**SITUATION**

In the afternoon of Saturday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May 2021, the town of Goma and its surroundings in North Kivu Province, experienced a sudden eruption of Nyiragongo volcano. Mount Nyiragongo is one of the world's more active volcanoes but there were concerns that its activity had not been properly observed by the Goma Volcano Observatory. The official declaration of the volcanic eruption was released by the Military Governor of the Province of North Kivu and the volcanological observatory of Goma who are preparing mechanisms for managing the crisis. According to the food security cluster report of May 25, 2021, around 40,000 people or 5,000 households in the villages of the chiefdom of the Nyiragongo territory in three notabilities including Rukoko, Ngangi and Bushari, have been displaced while 32 are reported dead. Access to basic services of health, schools, markets is disrupted due to destroyed roads and electricity and water supplies are affected. There is a likelihood of water borne disease outbreaks and many are still injured, or suffering burns, and suffering from psychosocial stress. Unfortunately, there is a disturbance of public order with looting, an increase in crime, and family separation reported. Agricultural activities in the affected region have stopped with fears of a shortage of basic food stuffs. On May 27, 2021, the Military Governor made an official declaration requesting the several quarters (Majengo, Mabanga North, Mabanga South, Bujovu, Virunga, Murara, Mapendo, Mikeno, Kahembe) to vacate to Sake due to a second possible eruption of the volcano. Local authorities have said Mount Nyiragongo could erupt once again with little warning. This has resulted in a massive displacement of a poor and vulnerable population<sup>1</sup> with a third of the population of Goma asked to evacuate to keep safe.

**Rwanda:** At least 7,000 people have fled from DRC to Rwanda to safety especially after a after second volcano warning. The Refugees have been assigned temporary shelter by Rwandan authorities. Rwanda expects to receive more refugees especially with the evacuation that has been ordered by the Military Governor of Goma<sup>2</sup> with UN estimating a displacement of over 400,000 people.

**NEEDS**

The volcano eruption has put the region in a state of crisis. The displaced persons find themselves in a desperate situation, with many unmet vital humanitarian needs such as access to food, safe water and education and health services. The eruption has put the city and its surroundings in a state of crisis and trauma. The people affected and affected by this volcano eruption find themselves in a desperate situation, with many unmet humanitarian needs such as lack of:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	sufficient food
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	safe shelter and basic non-food items
<input type="checkbox"/>	basic health services and facilities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	safe drinking water, as well as sanitation and hygiene infrastructure
<input type="checkbox"/>	livelihood activities

<sup>1</sup> UNOCHA: DR Congo: Volcanic eruption in Goma; Situation Report No. 1As of 25 May 2021

<sup>2</sup> UNICEF: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/05/1092942>

X	protection services
X	adequate nutrition

The dire situation is further compounded for the displaced and affected persons with vulnerabilities. Specifically, for woman and girls and there is a pressing necessity to provide immediate assistance to minimize loss of life, malnutrition, and the spread of communicable diseases by ensuring that the needs of the most vulnerable are covered first.

### **STAKEHOLDERS**

The following national and international entities are present and doing their best to respond to the crisis:

X	National government	The Government of the DRC through the Ministry of Scientific Research, Ministry of Health, Social Affairs and National Solidarity, are involved in the advocacy and mobilization of resources for the protection of the displaced community.
X	UN Agencies	All the United Nations agencies in the DRC actively participate in the protection activities of the population affected by the eruption.
X	INGOs	International NGOs will provide a response to immediate needs. ACT Alliance members from Lutheran World Relief (LWF), Christian Aid and Church World Service (CWS) intend to respond through a regional appeal (DRC & Rwanda).
X	Red Cross Red Crescent Movement	Has been supporting in providing basic medical services and tracing of family members through family re-unifications.
X	Military presence	The military and the police are supervising and securing affected areas.
X	National NGOs	BOAD and EELCO are deeply involved in psychosocial support, shelters, a start-up fund for care and hygiene and working on a Rapid Response Fund. YWCA (Rwanda) are also currently assessing the needs of the refugees to prepare the response once the resources are availed.
X	Civil society groups	Are supervising the movement of displaced persons and providing information to the public on safety measures.
X	Faith based groups	Religious leaders are supporting the affected in psychosocial support and giving faith and hope to the affected people.
X	Host communities	Some are hosting displaced persons and supporting them by providing shelter.
X	Affected communities	Are actively interested and following up the latest alerts and advice given by local authorities.

The emergency response is currently being coordinated by UNOCHA . To ensure that the humanitarian response is well coordinated and complementary, the ACT forum in DRC and CWS and partner YWCA in Rwanda will take part in meetings with all relevant sector stakeholders. this will ensure an established open line of communication with crisis affected

persons and communities to ensure a humanitarian response based on participation and feedback.

**ACT Alliance**

X	ACT members have been working in affected countries since 2000, and are now helping/planning to help people affected by the volcano.
X	ACT members work in areas affected by the volcano and is assessing the impact of the disaster to better understand the needs and vulnerabilities.
X	ACT members is currently monitoring the situation and is preparing a rapid needs assessment to have an in-depth context analysis and better understanding of existing vulnerabilities.
X	ACT members are monitoring the situation and emergency teams are ready/preparing to respond according to the results of a contextual analysis and rapid needs assessment.
X	In collaboration with relevant stakeholders, the ACT members are conducting needs assessments and resolved that if funded, it will have the capacity to properly bridge the identified gap.
X	The ACT DRC national members are planning to submit a Rapid Response Fund while also working with international members CWS, LWF, Christian Aid on a regional appeal for DRC and Rwanda refugees.
X	ACT members are ready to respond, providing basic essential needs and services to those affected.
X	Furthermore, ACT members will engage in advocacy on the national and international level to ensure that the voices of those affected by the volcano are amplified.

**Any funding indication or pledge should be communicated to the Head of Finance and Administration, Nancy Ette ([Nancy.ette@actalliance.org](mailto:Nancy.ette@actalliance.org))**

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