

Alert note

Democratic Republic of Congo RDC Conflict FARDC and Rebel M23, 4-8 September 2022

Completed by: Jean Pierre MUHINDO MASTOLA and PALUKU MUDOGO Angelus, (BOAD (Bureau Oecuménique d Appui au Développement))

Date completed: 9 September 2022

Forum: ACT (Action by Churches Together) RDC (BOAD, EELCO, ECC/3rd CBCA)

Type of emergency: Army conflict (internal displacement)

Date of emergency (04 to 08 August and 2 September 2022)

1. The nature of the emergency			
<p>More than 100 armed groups operate in eastern DRC (Democratic Republic of Congo), an unsettled region where conflict has raged for decades but has escalated in recent months. The humanitarian situation has declined sharply following clashes that resumed in May 2022 and continue to date in the Territory of Rutshuru between the Congolese Armed Forces (FARDC) and the rebels of the M23. The conflict has seen an increased displacement of persons from the area groups of Jomba, Kisigari and Bweza, in Rutshuru and Rwanguba resulting in injury of civilians, looting of health centers and villages.</p> <p>Due to the conflict, 11,000 people fled to the Republic of Uganda, and 10,400 persons moved to neighboring localities of Rutshuru and Katale among others ¹. Most of the displaced persons(70%) currently spend the night at collective centers (schools, churches, stadiums) in very poor conditions while others are hosted in homes. There are some displaced families and hosting families who have not yet received external assistance.</p>			
The impact and scale of the emergency			
<p>The conflict would be classified as a medium-scale emergency as it is believed that the Congolese authorities and regional leaders will intervene and support to find a solution to the crisis to enable the rebels to leave the affected areas.</p> <p>As a result of the crisis, access is hampered, as an important road, Road 2 (RN2) which connects Eastern DRC to the rest of the country and to the border town of Bunagana is located in the affected area, cutting off important supply chains.</p> <p>Food supply is also affected, as the area in conflict is an agricultural area (due to the favorable climate and the fertile volcanic soil) which cannot not be accessed.</p> <p>Development initiatives are hindered due to clashes between the FARDC and the various armed groups on the territory hampering multi-sector development including a reduction to tourist sites (Volcanoes, Virunga National Park) thus affecting agricultural, economic, and mining production initiatives.</p>			
Displaced Populations:			
<i>Number of displaced per Village²</i>			
Villages	Male	Female	Total
Rwasa I	5769	6249	12018
Kiwanja	2341	5634	7975

¹ Source : UNHCR, 2022, Réunion COHP

² Source interviews

USHINDI KERAKABU, Head of Humanitarian Action and National Solidarity, Rutshuru Territory, 0998200888.

BIGATI DESIRE, president of the displaced persons REMERA site, 0995667293.

KARUHIJE MUDASINGA, president of the EP Rugabo/Rutshuru center displaced persons, 0998381673.

Rutshuru Centre	2678	6045	8723
Rubare	590	640	1,230
Kako	469	509	978
Katale	592	642	1,234
Rumangabo	1,660	1,799	3,459
Rugari	1,220	1,322	2,542
Total	15,320	22,839	38,159

Table of displaced population by age³.

Age	Male	Female	Total	%
0 - 4	5,990	6,490	12,480	20
5 - 11	6,290	6,814	13,104	21
12 - 17	5,391	5,841	11,232	18
18 - 59	11,082	12,006	23,088	37
60 +	1,198	1,298	2,496	4
	29,952	32,448	62,400	100

Women are the majority of the displaced, as out of 62,400 persons, men are 48% (29,952) while women are 52% (32,448).

how the people have been affected (destruction, displacement, effects on homes, livelihood etc – quantitative data if possible)

During the clashes between the FARDC and the M23 rebels, there has been loss of human life, human right abuses and summary executions as reported in the part occupied by the rebels. It is also reported that there has been destruction of homes and infrastructure (a hydroelectric dam under construction, a school bombed and the center of Kabindi center looted in August 2022). There has been theft and looting of crops in the fields, sexual violence and non-respect of human rights in the armed group occupied territories.

At least 70% of displaced people live with host families and 30% in spontaneous sites (schools, churches, football stadium).

The displaced persons remain at high risk of physical attack, sexual assault and abduction, and frequently are deprived of adequate shelter, food and health services. Furthermore the social community structure among the displaced has been corroded, resulting in increasing protection risks (rape, violation of human rights) especially for women and children. Also, humanitarian workers on ground have reported violations and abuses of human rights between May and July 2022 on 1,608 civilians.

Health centres were also affected and are not able to meet the health needs of the displaced and host communities.

short- and long-term consequences for the people (including livelihoods, protection etc)

Due to the conflict and poor access to agriculture activities, there is a disruption of food chain supply and consequent reduction of income flows. There may be reduced food outputs due to the disruption in this year's agricultural activities.

³ Source: Data disapproved by the BOAD department responsible for humanitarian issues, September 2022.

The youth may adapt negative coping mechanisms to survive and may be tempted to enlist in armed groups while girls may be drawn to prostitution and early marriages. Education may be disrupted during the period of displacement and enrolment into new schools.

There is likely to be psychological stress with the resurgence of sexual abuses and human right abuses.

2. Local and national capacity

Within the displaced and host communities, local structures have been formed for peace, community-based agriculture (associations), village savings and credit associations. Churches continue to be active and some civil society organizations, International NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations) and UN (United Nations) agencies are active in awareness raising, as well as sharing information through the media.

There is adequate security of the displaced population as the area controlled by the armed forces of the democratic republic of congo (FARDC) is ensured. The DRC, through its Ministry of National Solidarity and Humanitarian Affairs, has a national emergency response plan which is not updated.

Since the beginning of the crisis in the territories of Rutshuru and Nyiragongo, it is the national and international organizations, the churches including the UN which have provided humanitarian aid.

The United Nations Cluster system including working groups, under the coordination of OCHA (Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs), have been activated and each member of the given clusters has been intervening according to its financial capacity.

3. Key needs and gaps

From the needs assessment conducted, the following needs were identified; the need for food, safe water, essential household nonfood items, basic medical support, temporary shelter, clothing and school supplies and psychosocial support.

Please indicate whether you are considering:

	Indicate your intention with an X below
Rapid Response Fund (<i>intended for small and medium scale emergencies</i>)	X
Appeal (<i>intended for large scale emergencies</i>)	

If you indicate an intention to launch an appeal, the secretariat will activate an Emergency Steering Committee meeting within two working days on receipt of this alert.

Capacity details of forum members with the intention to respond are given below.

ACT Member	Geographical focus	Sectors of expertise	Support required	Estimated Budget range USD
BOAD	Nord Kivu	Food security, NFI (Non-Food Items).	Finance	54,595
EELCO		CALP, Agriculture, Educations in Emergencies,	Finance	45 405
ECC/3 rd CBCA		Psychosocial, WASH (Water, Sanitation & Hygiene).	Finance	50,000
Total				150,000

4. Potential responses

Three national members of ACT DRC forum, BOAD, EELCO and the 3rd Baptist Community in Central Africa (ECC/3rd CBCA) intend to support the affected displaced persons in the territory of Rushuru. The

three organizations have conducted a needs assessment to assess and identify gaps/needs and target beneficiaries.

The three national ACT members plan to provide humanitarian response (food, NFI, Education, Health) to displaced vulnerable persons settled in collective centres and host families and to provide an initial livelihood support. The response will target those who have not yet benefited from other assistance in terms of food, NFI, school supplies and access to basic health care.

The response will be in the following sectors:

FOOD and NFI-Their response will be to distribute cash for food, essential household items (NFI) and organize the beneficiaries into agriculture groups for initial livelihood support activities as land may be available to grow some quick maturing crops.

HEALTH -Covid-19 prevention measures will also be provided to prevent the spread of COVID-19 within the settlement camps.

PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT-Psychosocial support will be provided by trained persons within the members.

EDUCATION- Needy children (orphans) will be provided with school supplies