

Alert note**Democratic Republic of the Congo - Uvira floods, 15th July 2024****Completed by:** MULOLWA MUZALIA Paul (EELCO)**Date completed:** 15th July 2024**Forum:** DRC**Type of emergency:** Floods**Date of emergency (if rapid onset):** 15th July 2024**1. The nature of the emergency**

The provinces of South Kivu and Tanganyika in DRC (Democratic Republic of the Congo) have experienced heavy rains during the past two rainy seasons of September-February and April-June 2024 causing floods (of river and lake origin), storms and landslides exacerbated by climate change ([IFRC International Federation of Red Cross](#)).

Due to the flooding disaster more than 17 people have lost their lives and at least 320,000 people are affected and living in camps or with host families. Schools have been submerged and roads have been cut off ([theguardian](#)) and a total of 21,210 houses have collapsed, 185 health centres are destroyed, and 54 water wells are damaged.

The heavier than usual rains accompanied by strong waves and storms have caused swelling of several rivers that feed into Lake Tanganyika causing intense flooding during the months of May, June, and July 2024 resulting in a call for assistance from Uvira city authorities as the rivers of Kalimabenge, Mulongwe, Kavinvira and Nyangara continue to flow into Lake Tanganyika surpassing the lakes highest level having overflowed their banks([Relief Web](#)) causing more flooding.

Due to the flooding, homes are inundated and 1,200 people are currently living in camps in Kilomoni I, II and Tanganyika in extremely poor hygienic conditions (Town Hall Report, published May 31, 2024, www.ocha.org/drc). Many have lost their homes; fields crop of cereal and tubers and livelihoods ([ReliefWeb](#)).

Communities are devastated and live in temporary shelters (camps) with tarpaulins and worn-out sheets in extremely poor hygienic conditions. Families have lost many household items and livelihoods.

The economic impact is significant, characterized by considerable damage to critical infrastructure and disruptions to small-scale cross-border trade activities. More than 70,000 households are currently suffering from water shortages and a threat to agriculture, which is vital to the state's economy. Authorities have issued warnings of looming food shortages and rising prices that could have repercussions across the city.

Civil society groups have issued alerts to the communities living close to the lakeshore as water levels are expected to continue to rise above normal and affected households continue to leave their homes and settle in the established camps from the areas of the lakeshore as a safety measure, as water levels are expected to exceed the normal flood thresholds that Uvira experiences each year.

Water levels continue to rise in the other areas of Tanganyika territory including Mapendo area and evacuations are continuing to safer higher ground and camps. <https://www.radiookapi.net/2024/07/08/actualite/societe/crue-du-lac-tanganyika-la-route-luhanga-reliant-uvira-fizi-completement>

2. The impact and scale of the emergency

This is a medium scale emergency affecting the provinces of South Kivu and Tanganyika of DRC.

In South Kivu, Uvira and Fizi territories area affected while in Tanganyika, the affected territory is Tanganyika territory. Bordering areas in Burundi are also affected.

The affected area is generally flat (only 4 meters above lake level) making the region prone to flooding. While Kavinvira is the most affected district, Namianda, Kimanga, Rombe 1 and 2 and Kasenga districts are also flood affected as they are located where the rivers Kavinvira, Kalimanbenge and Mulongwe converge into Lake Tanganyika from the Munanira mountain range. These regions are more susceptible to landslides and mass movements, which transport sediment into the water and increase turbidity. The water, which flows quickly, loses its speed as it overflows into these plains.

The affected population lost their homes, assets, and livelihoods to ensure access to food, access to economic activities and the strengthening and restoration of community assets, capacities, and strategies. Among the most affected populations are widowed women and their families, the majority of whom are women who have previously lived in communities deeply affected by economic and social inequalities and in the area and others abandoned by their husbands from the beginning of the crisis.

Households dependent on family farming and small-scale cross-border trading activities have their properties flooded and many household items and farmland destroyed, thereby losing their production and capital. In the Bavira, Bafuuliro and Babembe communities, the situation is serious. Many are still stranded, without access to water, access to safe land and lack of food and essential household items continues. In Kivinvira, a Fulliuro leader declared categorically that “75% of the victims do not have the capacity to resume their activities affected by this crisis” due to the impact of the floods.

3. Local and national capacity

How are people coping

Most families are currently unable to resume normal livelihood activities as they are living in unfavourable camp settlements or hosted with relatives. Those who lived near the rivers unfortunately have lost majority of their household items and finding it difficult to resume their normal economic activities as they had to be rescued as the rivers rose rapidly.

The education system has not yet resumed due to flooded classrooms and the disruption of agricultural and economic activities as well as the trauma.

The lack of access to basic food for family subsistence was the main concern of these populations. It is estimated that the coming months will see a sharp drop in income, worsening food insecurity conditions and a barrier to purchasing hygiene and cleaning products.

What local structures are available

As an immediate action, the local government, through civil society, has been engaging those living in higher ground to host the affected persons.

The local government has not started to respond to the affected but have begun discussions on developing a disaster assistance plan.

Civil society, through associations and community organizations, has been active in mobilizing humanitarians and people of good will to come to the aid of affected household by encouraging them to support the affected with food and shelter or a means of substance. EELCO, as a member of the Forum, intends to aid 200 most affected households following information gathered during their need assessment conducted recently.

To ensure that the humanitarian response is well coordinated and complementary, the ACT (Advocacy & Communications Team) DRC Forum, primarily through EELCO, has been participating in meetings with relevant stakeholders of the civil protection system and is in contact with the affected.

The government of DRC is requesting for external assistance to help those affected by the floods and are planning to relocate the affected persons to safer ground. So far, no distribution has been done since the start of the crisis by any organization in the NFI sector.

WFP (World Food Programme) has distributed cash to affected people to help them meet their immediate needs while other international organizations and UN (United Nations) agencies are working on planned

responses to affected persons. Coordination for this response is hosted by UNOCHA (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs) (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs) and these meetings are also attended by EELCO.

4. Key needs and gaps

Communities and individuals affected by the floods are currently facing a range of vital unmet humanitarian needs related to the following sectors:

Food and Non-Food items – due to submerged farmlands and lost livelihoods there is inadequate food supply and NFI items destroyed in flooded homes.

WASH- there is a need to support hygiene services within displaced camps.

Psychosocial support is also needed for those who lost loved ones and properties.

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.

5. Forum Capacity and members intention to respond

ACT Member	Geographical focus	Sectors of expertise and experience
EELCO	South Kivu UVIRA	Cash multi-purpose

6. Potential responses

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Congo (EELCO) has planned to use Rapid Response funds to support the affected persons with multi-purpose cash transfer to meet their basic needs.

EELCO is seeking to support 200 families (i.e. 1,200 people) with cash distribution targeting most vulnerable persons living within camps and with host families.