

Alert note

Democratic Republic of Congo, 10th April 2025

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Date completed: 28th April 2025

Forum: ACT DRC Forum

Type of emergency: Floods in Kinshasa

Date of emergency (if rapid onset): 4th and 5th April 2025

<p>1. The nature of the emergency</p> <p>Between 4th and 11th April 2025, unusual heavy rainfall that started during the last week of March, continued into early April, contributing to the overflow of the Congo River, reaching its highest level in six decades, causing one of its tributaries, the river Ndjili, to burst its banks.</p>
<p>2. The impact and scale of the emergency</p> <p><u>Scale of the emergency</u> The torrential heavy rains caused severe widespread flooding and landslides in Kinshasa, the capital city of the Democratic Republic of Congo, affecting about half of the capital city’s population of about 18 million people (13 out of 26 districts).</p> <p><u>Impact of the emergency</u> According to Relief Web, 165 deaths and 30 injuries have been reported. Over 60,000 persons are affected by the destruction from the floods with more than 7,000 persons displaced and settled in the four relief sites established by the government while others are hosted by families. The displaced individuals are sheltered in sites with poor living conditions, characterized by a lack of food, safe drinking water and toilets. There is a high risk of a waterborne diseases outbreak (cholera, diarrhoea, typhoid) and other potential endemic diseases.</p> <p>The most affected areas by the floods are the city’s outskirts and some of Kinshasa’s poorest neighbourhoods where the rains submerged hundreds of buildings. Within the city, key infrastructure has been destroyed by the floods, including the main road to the airport. Health centres and submerged crops have suffered extensive damage. Many homes have been swept away, other houses have been made inhabitable by either silting or the destruction of houses totally or partially (Relief Web), putting many households in an unexpected situation of vulnerability. Power outages have been recorded, and water supplies have been cut off (NPR). The flooding has hampered access to safe drinking water, as the floods caused domestic water facilities to become contaminated.</p> <p>The United Nations Satellite Centre (UNOSAT) was activated on 11th April 2025 and the International Charter was activated on 10th April 2025 to provide information on the damage (Relief Web). The United Disaster Assessment and coordination agency UNDAC is requested to assist in assessing the needs and coordinating the response.</p> <p>The government has set up a crisis unit to evacuate residents and offer assistance as more heavy rain is forecasted during this season and this may result to more displacement or damage and hamper current emergency responses (BBC).</p>
<p>3. Local and national capacity</p> <p>The provincial Government of Kinshasa has set up a crisis unit to evacuate residents and offer assistance to the displaced, who are sheltered within four emergency camps in Kinshasa namely Lumumba site, the Tata Raphael site, the Martyrs Stadium site and the Kimwenza High School site. The conditions at the emergency camps are in poor condition and authorities are working to reduce congestion. These sites are providing assistance and distributing hot meals and safe water to those displaced by the flooding (IFRC).</p>

The World Health Organization is supporting the displaced by providing critical supplies including tents, essential medicine and hygiene kits to protect health and prevent outbreaks. Mattresses and mosquito nets have been distributed. These are part of the broader government and humanitarian response to the flooding crisis.

4. Key needs and gaps

According to an assessment report by the Church of Christ in Congo (ECC), the major needs and gaps that are foreseen include the need for food items, water, non-food items and hygiene kits. School materials may also be required to support children to return to school. Psychosocial assistance is also important.

The UN and government have not conducted needs assessments, but the United Disaster Assessment and coordination (UNDAC) is being requested to assist in assessing the needs and coordinating the response.

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>)	

5. Forum Capacity and members intention to respond

ACT Member	Geographical focus	Sectors of expertise and experience
ECC (Eglise du Christ au Congo)	Kinshasa	Food, non-food, hygiene kits and psychosocial support

6. Potential response

It is difficult to determine in detail the emergency priority needs, due to access challenges within affected areas, but ECC plans to respond to the needs of food, non-food items, shelter, safe water and hygiene kits after a more detailed assessment and would request for financial support.