

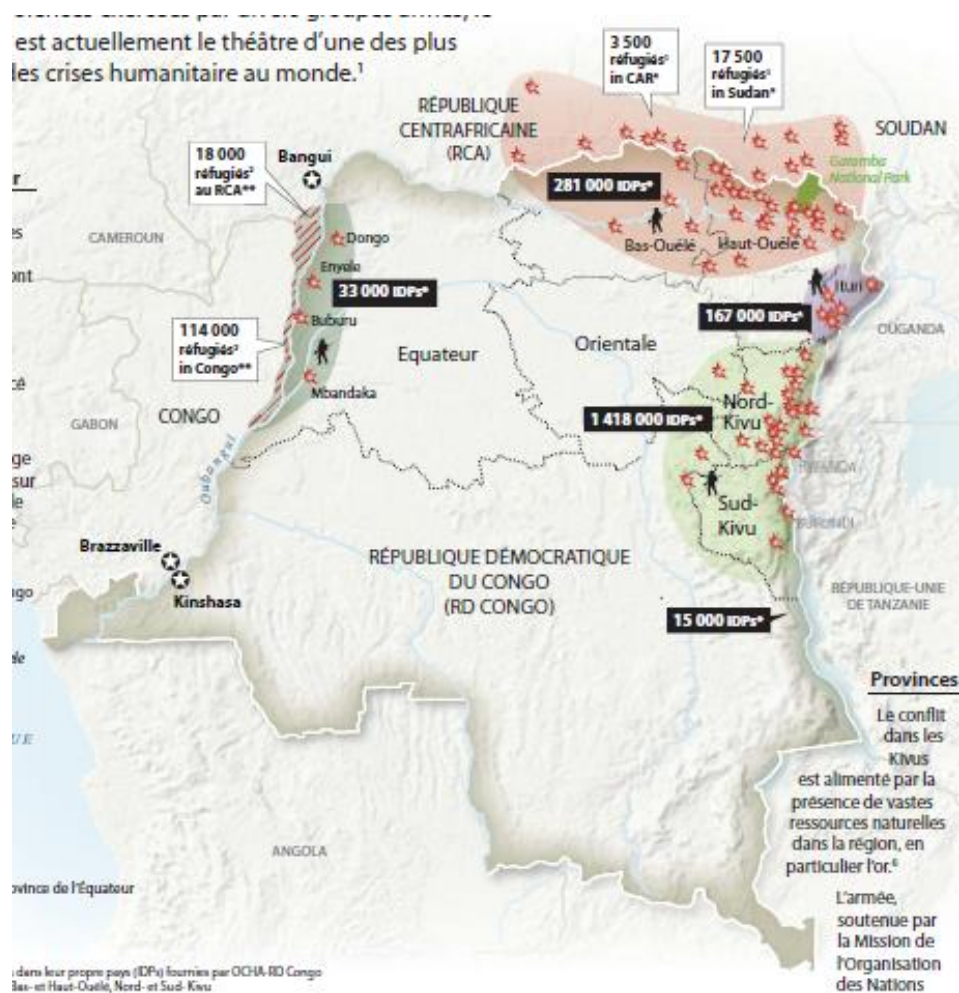
UNICEF HUMANITARIAN ACTION UPDATE

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

1 June 2010

URGENT SUPPORT REQUIRED FOR OVER A MILLION DISPLACED CHILDREN AND WOMEN

- Armed conflict, violence against civilians, rape, forced recruitment of children into armed forces and major population movement continues to affect large areas of eastern DRC, while the situation remains fragile in the rest of the country.
- Almost 1.9 million people are still displaced in the DRC, of which about 50 per cent are children.
- In addition to ongoing violence in eastern DRC, conflict has broken out in the Equateur province, displacing almost 200,000 people.
- UNICEF urgently needs US\$14 million in order to respond to the most urgent needs of children and women in the DRC.



OCHA (Insécurité et déplacement – Avril 2010)

1. ISSUES FOR CHILDREN

Armed conflict, violence against civilians, rape, forced recruitment of children into armed forces and major population movement continue to affect large areas of eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), while the situation remains fragile in the rest of the country.

According to OCHA estimates, there are almost 1.9 million displaced people in DRC, out of which about 50 per cent are children. While some people have been able to return to their homes, others have become newly displaced or displaced over again. Children are especially affected by the consequences of conflict such as diseases, malnutrition and violence, separation from their families and communities and limited access to education.

On 28 May, the UN Security Council prolonged the mandate of the "United Nations Organization Mission in DRC" (MONUC) until 30 June 2010. From 1 July onwards, the mission will be called "United Nations Organization Mission for the Stabilization of the DRC" or MONUSCO and its mandate will be valid until 30 June 2011.

Three main humanitarian crises are taking their toll on eastern DRC while an additional crisis erupted in north-western DRC last October. These four main humanitarian crises are:

1. North Kivu: Displacements and extreme levels of violence against civilians continue to plague the area in the wake of joint MONUC and Forces Armées de la République Démocratique du Congo (FARDC -national army) operations against the Rwandan rebels, Forces Démocratique de Libération du Rwanda (FDLR). As of April 2010, 814,744 people were displaced in North Kivu (about 30,000 more than in January 2010 –source OCHA), located in spontaneous displacement sites and host communities, while about one million persons are estimated to have returned to their home areas.

2. South Kivu: Displacement and violence against civilians continue to plague the area, with the escalation of conflicts between Mai-Mai¹, FDLR and FARDC.

Civilians are caught between both forces and suffer reprisals. On one hand, unpaid and undisciplined government forces are responsible for human rights violations, and on the other hand the FDLR takes vengeance on the civilian population. The humanitarian community estimates that there are 603,520 displaced in the province (source: OCHA April). Due to military operations and increasing conflicts, humanitarian space is at risk in southern territories.

Katanga province is also of concern, with displaced populations from the South Kivu Province (over 20,000 people to date), epidemics (cholera, measles) and recurrent flooding (more than 15,000 people currently affected).

3. Province Orientale's Haut- and Bas-Uélé and Ituri districts: In Irumu territory, in South Ituri, conflicts between Front Populaire pour la Justice au Congo (FPJC) and FARDC are continuing. Attacks by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and the joint FARDC-UPDF (Uganda's Peoples Defence Force) operations have generated an atmosphere of fear and uncertainty in many areas of Orientale Province's remote Uele districts. The current estimated displaced population is of 448,139 (OCHA April 2010). While LRA attacks have decreased recently, violence is ongoing in one of the most challenging areas for UNICEF and partners to implement effective and appropriate humanitarian response programmes.

4. Equateur: The province of Equateur, in north-western DRC, continued to be affected by violence in the past months. This had originally been triggered by inter-ethnic conflict over access to land and fishing rights in Dongo last October. The conflict has since displaced about 192,000 people; 114,000 have crossed the river Congo to find refuge in the Republic of the Congo, 18,000 have fled into the Central African Republic, while about 33,000 are internally displaced in DRC (source OCHA, April 2010). The displacement has had a serious impact on the children: many among them have lost their family, have been taken out of school, or are victims of malnutrition and violence. Most of the displaced people have found refuge in host families, several hundred kilometres away from their homes. However, the host families already have limited resources and cannot cover the needs of the displaced over a long period of time.

2. UNICEF RESPONSE: ACTIVITIES, ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONSTRAINTS

The implementation of activities remains challenging in DRC due to the ongoing conflicts and the subsequent insecurity in parts of the country, which makes access difficult and at times impossible.

¹ The term **Mai-Mai** refers to any kind of community-based militia group active in the Second Congo War and its aftermath in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), formed to defend their local territory against other armed groups.

RAPID RESPONSE TO MOVEMENTS OF POPULATION (RRMP)

The 2010 objective for the Rapid Response for Movements of Populations (RRMP²) is to provide a total of 1,705,600 affected persons with access to essential non-food items /shelter, emergency water, sanitation and hygiene and/or emergency education.

From January to April 2010, RRMP has conducted dozens of rapid multi-sectoral needs and vulnerability assessments for the humanitarian community/clusters and provided essential humanitarian assistance in the form of family relief kits of essential household and personal items to over 42,000 emergency-affected families (over 210,000 people) affected by ongoing conflict in eastern DRC (displaced/returnees/host communities) and/or natural disasters. With a focus on emergency shelter, household relief supplies, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and access to primary education for displaced/returnee/host families, the RRMP provides the largest humanitarian response mechanism in the eastern DRC for disaster and conflict-affected populations.



UNICEF DRC/2009/Julien Harneis

Without additional funding over the next few months, a drastic reduction of the overall programme would need to be done and compromise UNICEF's capacity of humanitarian response in DRC. While a relative calm has returned to some areas of the east, new displacement occurs every week and the need to not only maintain but reinforce the RRMP programme remains a priority for UNICEF in DRC.

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HEALTH

In collaboration with partners of the Health Cluster, UNICEF is providing improved health care and vaccination campaigns in emergency affected areas reaching about 500,000 people.

Two emergency projects were implemented in North Kivu during the first four months of the year 2010 improving access to good quality and entirely free health care for a total population estimated at 266,351 persons, including displaced and vulnerable host populations. The emergency immunization campaign in South Kivu has resulted in improved vaccination coverage. Almost 30,000 people were reached and thus protected against these diseases (diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, hepatitis B, meningitis), among them 13,922 children under one year and 15,956 pregnant women. The vaccination coverage has increased in certain areas from 30 per cent to over 80 per cent and has thus contributed to the depletion of outbreaks in areas covered. The emergency primary health care project supported by UNICEF has significantly improved the accessibility to high quality and free health care for 115,000 people in Ituri/Haut Uele –both displaced and hosts populations.

The total population covered by these emergency health projects supported by UNICEF is estimated to be more than 400,000 people among which 85,000 children under 5 years of age and almost 43,000 pregnant women in three provinces in eastern DRC. These activities need to be continued throughout the year 2010 and expanded to other vulnerable areas in Haut Uele and South Kivu.

In the immediate term, the funding gap is especially a constraint to immunize more than 80,000 “not-yet-reached children” under one year of age and more than 16,000 pregnant women mainly in the provinces of Orientale and Maniema. If the current critical funding gaps are not covered, over 90,000 children under five exposed to malaria in emergency affected areas will not have access to malaria management care.

In terms of HIV/AIDS prevention, UNICEF is providing training and information on the post-exposure prophylaxis HIV kit (PEP kit), to health centres in conflict-affected areas. Furthermore, women doing prenatal consultations have the opportunity to take a HIV/AIDS test and are referred to the appropriate care in case of a positive result.

NUTRITION (UNICEF cluster lead)

From January to April 2010, eleven nutrition surveys have been conducted in eastern DRC. Based on these, seven health zones have been identified with a rate of global acute malnutrition between 5 and 10 per cent.

In eastern DRC, to date a total of 31,400 children with severe acute malnutrition have been treated in around 400 health structures. During the reporting period, 386 health workers and 2,260 community workers have been trained on the management of acute malnutrition. Insecurity in some areas in North and South Kivu made the

² UNICEF joined its two flagship multi-province, multi-partner emergency assessment and response programmes in 2010 to create RRMP (Rapid Response for Movements of Populations). RRMP is co-managed by UNICEF and OCHA, and is implemented through the NGOs Solidarités, Norwegian Refugee Council, AVSI, International Rescue Committee, Save the Children and Danish Refugee Council.

implementation of activities very challenging and prevented one partner from carrying out critical nutrition related activities.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (UNICEF cluster lead)

In early 2010, UNICEF focused on providing access to safe water for displaced people and returnees in the eastern provinces, particularly vulnerable to cholera and waterborne diseases due to the poor sanitary conditions and limited access to safe water.

UNICEF and its partners **provided access to safe drinking water** for about 130,000 IDPs in North Katanga (coming from South Kivu) to **prevent cholera outbreak** in Kalemie town. In April, UNICEF supported the Health Ministry in Equateur province to provide around 14,000 households affected by the violence with education on **key hygiene messages**. Recently, UNICEF through its cluster lead role sent emergency WASH materials to South Kivu to assist around 50,000 newly displaced persons.

In the next months, UNICEF will implement projects in Katanga, South Kivu, North Kivu and Ituri, which will have a positive impact for more than 200,000 persons, among them around 40,000 children under 5 years old.

There is a lack of funding for critical emergency WASH projects in Haut and Bas Uélé, where alerts on the humanitarian crisis are increasing since early 2010 as well as for projects preventing cholera and other acute diarrhoeal diseases in endemic provinces. Furthermore, reinforcing the contingency stocks and response plans is critical in order to respond in a timely and efficient manner to emergencies that might occur during the year.

EDUCATION (UNICEF cluster lead)

The priority for 2010 is to ensure that 300,000 conflict-affected girls and boys have access to quality education. The following activities were carried out by UNICEF in the first quarter of 2010:

In North Kivu, 680 teachers have received **teaching kits**, 206 have been **trained on psychosocial support to children** and 552 on Peace education for the benefit of 122,000 children. Particular attention was paid to addressing notions of conflict resolution and management as well as to promoting 'peace clubs' and peer education workshops on peace issues. Furthermore, 126 parent committee members in 21 schools were trained on co-management. In South Kivu, 18,309 children have been supported during the past four months in formal and non-formal education. This support has been accompanied with community-based awareness programmes on the importance of education, advocacy to the government for the payment of the teachers' salaries and distribution of school kits. In Ituri, 20 temporary classes with 20 permanent latrines were built in three schools in Haut-Uélé. Furthermore, 277 teachers were trained on Child Rights and Peace Education. In three temporary **adolescent youth centres** constructed in the province, adolescents receive training on HIV/AIDS, peace education, reproductive health and are provided the space for individual creativity through art and sport.

While establishing sustainable solutions for IDPs in Katanga, within formal and non-formal contexts, students, teachers and schools have received educational kits. UNICEF together with the Government will be providing three temporary learning spaces and three Early Childhood Centres; training teachers and caregivers on national curricula, teaching methodologies and peace education as well as providing training to teachers, adolescents and peer educators on HIV/AIDS.

In Equateur all preparations have been made for teacher trainings and for support to 25,000 children through school kit distribution and the building of school benches to furnish the classrooms in nine schools which are being rehabilitated by the International Organization of Migration. In collaboration with UNICEF Congo Brazzaville, the continued education of children who have fled across the river has been ensured, using the DRC curriculum which will facilitate their transition back into schooling upon their return.

CHILD PROTECTION (UNICEF leads the child protection working group)

UNICEF's Child Protection in Emergencies program has provided critical care and protection for children and women affected by conflict and displacement in at least five provinces across the country with emergency funds in early 2010.

UNICEF and its partners have identified and provided access to essential medical, psychosocial care and reintegration assistance to approximately **1,628 survivors of sexual violence** since the beginning of 2010. In addition, to contribute to prevention efforts over 15,000 girls and boys, men and women, participated in outreach activities to raise awareness about the consequences of sexual violence and seek to **engage men as allies in the fight against sexual violence**. In the eastern DRC, since the beginning of the year, UNICEF and its partners have identified and certified 458 children out of which 372 have received temporary shelter and care. In total, 466 children have been reunified with their families since January 2010. In the Equateur province alone, local protection partners trained by UNICEF on identification, documentation, tracing and reunification have **reunified over 260 children and placed an additional 234 with foster families** pending their family reunification. Several day centres will be created to provide a protective environment.

The forced expulsion of Congolese across the border from Angola has exposed many adults and children to human rights violations, including physical violence and sexual abuse. Children are separated from their families in the process and in need of temporary care. For example, 500 have been identified in Kasai Occidental, of whom 77 have already been reunified.

Additional funding will allow to reintegrate an estimated 2,000 child soldiers, assist 10,000 survivors of sexual violence (35 per cent girls) to receive essential assistance and reintegration support, reunify 2,000 non-accompanied children (50 per cent girls) with their families and inform 200,000 men, women, girls and boys about the risks of landmines and unexploded ordnances.

3. FUNDING REQUIREMENTS AND RECEIPTS

As part of the UNICEF Humanitarian Action Report 2010 appeal³ launched in February 2010, UNICEF DRC is still in need of more than US\$ 112 million in 2010 to be able to respond to the needs of children and women in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The response from the donor community has been limited thus far, with only US\$ 20.5 million received, barely covering 15 per cent of the needs. The priority need for the next few months amount to **US\$ 14.1 million**.

Table 1: Funds Received against Appeal

Appeal Sector	Requirements by Sector	Funds Received (US\$)	Unmet requirements (US\$)	% Unfunded
RRMP	50,000,000	5,230,455	44,769,545	90%
Health	12,000,000	150,000	11,850,000	99%
Nutrition	24,700,000	3,711,090	20,988,910	85%
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	18,000,000	5,380,105	12,619,895	70%
Education	13,000,000	3,139,651	9,860,349	76%
Child Protection	15,800,000	2,899,903	12,900,097	82%
Total*	133,500,000	20,511,204	112,988,796	85%

*The total includes a maximum recovery rate of 7%. The actual recovery rate on contributions will be calculated in accordance with UNICEF's Executive Board Decision 2006/7 dated 9 June 2006.

Table 2: Funding Priorities for June to July 2010

Project	Beneficiaries/coverage	Amount Required (US\$)
Emergency Coordination: emergency preparedness, reserve stocks, coordination mechanisms, and monitoring systems	20,000 families (100,000 people)	2,500,000
Nutrition: Purchase of therapeutic food	100,000 children	6,630,000
WASH: Water supply and sanitation	150,000 people	1,000,000
Education: school tents/teaching materials	93,000 children	4,000,000
Total Priority needs		14,130,000

Further information on the UNICEF emergency programme in DRC can be obtained from:

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³ UNICEF DRC is working within the framework of the humanitarian community in DRC, the Humanitarian Action Plan (HAP). The HAP is oriented around clusters and not organizations, and includes therefore no individual projects for agencies