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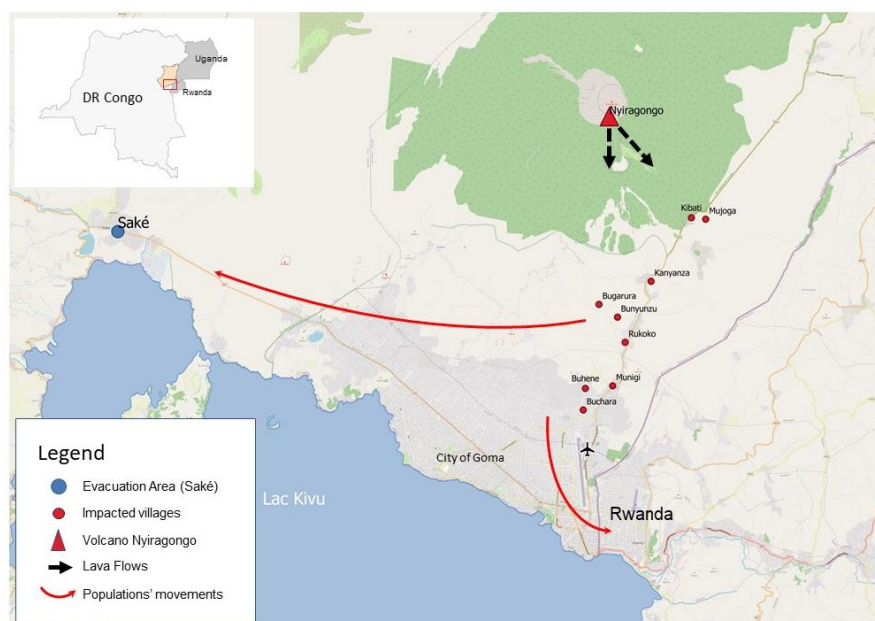
Volcano Eruption
Goma, DR Congo

Situation Report #3
27 May 2021

Overview

The eruption of Mount Nyiragongo on the evening of 22 May 2021, and the two lava flows have affected Kibumba park as well as Buhene and Kibati in the North-East of Goma, DR Congo. More than 20,000 people from Goma have fled Saké, 25 km north-west of Goma on the day of eruption. 32 people have died as a direct result of the eruption (either burned by the lava or asphyxiated by fumes), including three children, while 40 have been reported missing¹.

As of 26 May, it is estimated that the eruption directly affected 20 villages within the *groupements* of Kibati, Munigi and Mutaho, representing 3,629 burned houses². This results in around more than 20,000 displaced population. (about 4,500 households according to OCHA).



Map 1: Nyiragongo Volcano Eruption & Impacted Areas (source: UNICEF)

More than 195,000 people, according to the WASH cluster³, might have difficulty in accessing safe water due to a disabled water reservoir and 25,000 persons had already their water access cut off, while access to electricity was cut off in large parts of Goma city. Seven schools (five primary schools⁴ and two secondary schools) have been affected. 1,957 students and 49 teachers have been affected at primary school level and while 447 students and 72 teachers are affected at secondary school level⁵. It has also been reported that 38 health centers (including ten in Goma Health Zone, 19 in Karisimbi Health Zone and nine in Nyiragongo Health Zone) have been affected by the volcanic eruption⁶.

Between 3,000 and 5,000 people crossed the border into Rwanda from Goma, while at least 25,000 were displaced in Sake on 22 May⁷. From 23 May, a large majority of the displaced people from Sake and Rwanda have started make their way back home to Goma. The returnees have found damaged houses and water and electricity shortages.

¹ Source: OCHA, Sitrep #2, May 26, 2021

² Source: OCHA Sitrep #2, May 26, 2021

³ Source: WASH Cluster, Joint Needs Assessment Report, May 25 2021

⁴ Four primary schools and equipment have been destroyed by the lava flows while one is occupied by IDPs (Internally Displaced Person).

⁵ Source: UNICEF, 25 May 2021

⁶ Source: UNICEF, 25 May 2021

⁷ Source: UNICEF and Red Cross joint needs assessment, 23 May 2021.

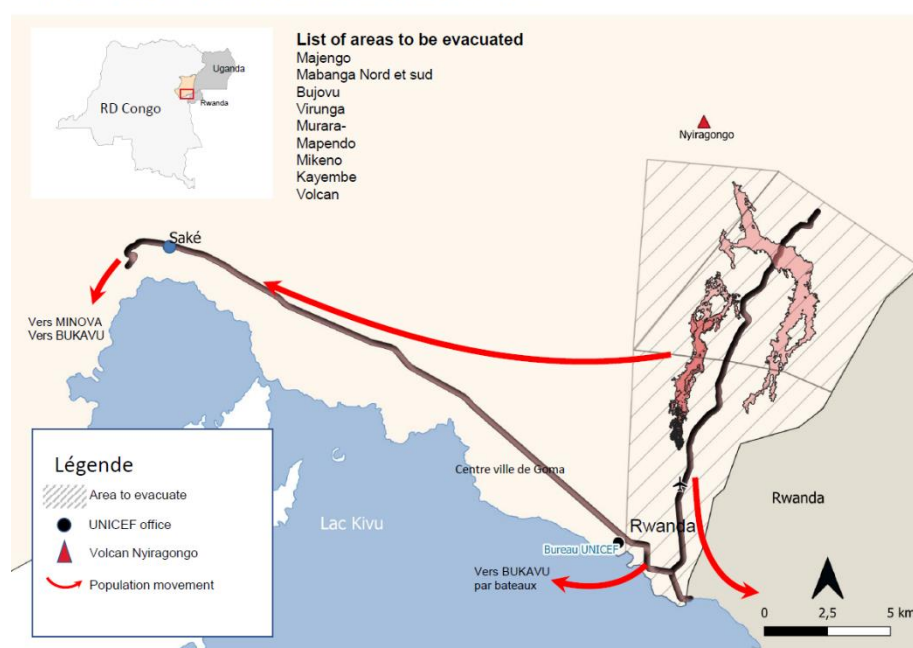
There is also risk that the displacement to Sake through Nyiragongo, an area prone to cholera outbreaks where at least 19 suspected cases have been recorded in the last two weeks and where positivity rates show one of the most dynamic cholera transmissions in eastern DRC, might increase the spread of cholera to new areas, and cause major risk of cholera epidemic resumption in the urban area of Goma, as people are heading home again. Eventually, there is a concern of food supply, considering that the road between Goma and Rutshuru has been cut off following the eruption. Airport of Goma and Bukavu are closed, limiting logistics access.

During the evacuation on the day of eruption, many children have gone missing. As of 26 May, 939 non-accompanied children have been identified, of which 686 non-accompanied children have been reunified, while 142 children have been placed in transitional foster families, 78 children are in transit accommodation centers and more than 170 families are still looking for lost children⁸.

The increasingly frequent seismic activities, which began on 23 May and are predicted to continue for the next days or weeks, also constitute a concern, in that it will weaken the structure of the houses, some of which have already started to collapse, and thus make the humanitarian situation worse, while causing further stress on a population that is already traumatized.

During the night of 27 May, the government decided to evacuate ten neighbourhoods (Majengo, Mabanga Nord, Mabanga Sud, Bujovu, Virunga, Murara, Mapendo, Mikeno, Kayembe, Le Volcan) towards Sake, thus increasing the humanitarian risks. Indeed, this evacuation will mean the displacement of approximately 400,000 people including 282,000 children and should have far-reaching consequences in terms of NFI (Non-Food Item), child protection, risks related to cholera, health and nutrition. Depending on the situation evolution, the humanitarian consequences will have to be reconsidered for the households that fled their home in evacuated districts.

RDC – Goma - Location of areas to be evacuated



Map 2: evacuation areas as of 27 May 2021 (source: UNICEF)

UNICEF's Response



Psychosocial Support and Child Protection

UNICEF, in partnership with the North Kivu Division of Social Affairs (DIVAS), the Red Cross and Change the Word have so far identified 939 non-accompanied children who were placed in host families or three transit centres⁹ while waiting to be reunited with their family.

⁸ Source: UNICEF, 26 May 2021

⁹ The transit centres are: Thalitha, Mouvement International des droits de l'enfant, de la femme (MIDFEHOPS), and Centre d'enfants et appui aux vulnérables (CEAVU).

Out of the 939 children: 686 have already been reunited with their families; 142 were placed in host families (preferred option); 78 were placed in the 3 transit centers. UNICEF-trained psychologists have provided psychosocial support to 50 children hosted in the three transit centres and 129 children host families. UNICEF is mobilizing NFI (non-food item) and hygiene support for the children accommodated in the transit centers as well as in host families.

Water, Hygiene and Sanitation (WASH) and Cholera response

UNICEF donated 45 kg of chlorine to Action contre la Faim (ACF), to provide access to chlorinated water to 1,300 households, representing 7,800 people. In addition, in view of the evacuation of all the neighborhoods affected by the lava, UNICEF, in coordination with the WASH cluster and the government, has decided to redirect all of its emergency actions to Saké and other areas hosting displaced people to allow the installation of emergency toilets and access to chlorinated water through water trucking.

In addition to seven water points that were already operational in Sake, four others have just been installed today including three in Kaduki health zone and one in Sake health zone. In Kibati, a suspected case of cholera was detected in a group of 164 internally displaced families who are living in six classrooms where only two latrines are available. Following this detection, cholera kits, which include soap, Aquatabs and buckets, were distributed to all these families by the Red Cross, in partnership with UNICEF.

Problems linked to water were signaled by the evaluation teams in Sake: the water used by the displaced population is from rain collection, while the dust of the lava forbids any treatment of the water by Aquatabs (after test, no chlorine was present in the water), while the only sanitation point is an open-air latrine.

The cholera situation is expected to deteriorate further due to the new mass displacement of an estimated 400,000 people, including 28,000 children, from Goma to Saké and the Rwandan border, which began during the night of 27 May and concerns the ten neighborhoods to the east of Goma.

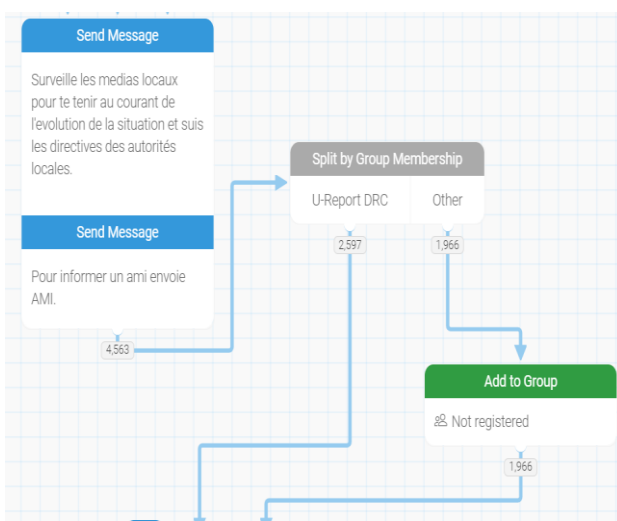
Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

UNICEF-supported U-Report has set up a Volcano Information Center, which as of 25 May, was consulted by more than 5,200 people who proactively sought information by sending the word VOLCAN by toll-free SMS to 101.

More than 4,500 people (87 per cent) who visited the information center immediately shared this information with friends and family. In total, a Volcano Alert SMS was sent to 299,142 U-Reporters in the North Kivu Province.



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Health and Nutrition

UNICEF has implemented *Performance-Based Financing* to improve the health system's performance in the Health Zones affected by the volcano eruption (Goma, Karisimbi and Nyiragongo). Through this approach, UNICEF pays an 'incentive' to health

centers who have exceeded specific targets. This directly benefits patients (children under 5, pregnant and nursing women) who only pay a 'ticket' between USD 2 and USD 10 for services such as medical consultation, delivery, purchase of medication, laboratory exams.

UNICEF and its partners supports the care of 2,980 children under the age of five suffering from malnutrition, as well as of the nutritional status of 12,000 pregnant and lactating mothers and their children under the age of two in hospitals in the most affected Health Zones, namely Nyiragongo, Goma, Karisimbi and Kirotshe.



Funding Requirements

On 28 May, UNICEF is publishing a flash appeal for the affected children and their families by the volcanic eruption crisis and its consequences, with a period of six months and with a budget of US\$5 million.

Sector Appeal	Requirements (US \$)
WASH	2,000,000
Cholera	600,000
Health	345,000
Nutrition	330,000
Child Protection	650,000
Education	350,000
RCCE	250,000
Support to Operation	475,000
Total	5,000,000



Operations

The Goma-Rutshuru road is inaccessible from Kibati, due to lava over a distance of nearly two kilometers, hindering access to supplies from several territories in North Kivu (Rutshuru, Lubero, Oicha, Beni and Butembo). The airport of Goma and Bukavu are still closed until further notice, while as of 27 May, the boats are no longer allowed on Kivu Lake, while road traffic westward to Sake and Bukavu is very slow due to the large number of evacuating people on the road, both by car and on foot. All these situation poses constraints for our humanitarian operation.

As of 25 May 2021, more than 50 per cent of the staff and their dependents have already been relocated to the cities of Bukavu, Sake and Rwanda. A total of 20 essential staff members are staying in Goma to continue immediate UNICEF emergency response.



External Media

1) Social media

In the early hours of the eruption, [UNICEF called on the population to be vigilant and seek advice by texting the word VOLCAN](#). Following the population movements observed in Goma, [UNICEF called on the population to respect the directives of local authorities](#). The days after the eruption, UNICEF [communicated on the humanitarian situation](#) and [its emergency response](#), particularly in [the area of child protection](#). Multimedia material has been made available on [WeShare](#).

2) English-speaking media coverage

Aljazeera	DR Congo: Goma 'spared' as lava from volcano halts outside city
UN News	DR Congo: More than 170 children feared missing following volcanic eruption in Goma
BBC News	DR Congo's Goma volcano: Desperate search for children missing after eruption
Euronews.com	Congo volcano kills 15 people, thousands of others flee
Reliefweb	Children and families at risk following huge volcano eruption in Goma, warns UNICEF
Reuters	Earthquakes in Congo raze buildings, stoke fear of second volcanic eruption
Deutsche Welle (DW)	DR Congo counts cost of volcanic eruption in Goma
CBS News	At least 15 killed after volcano erupts near Congolese city of Goma
ABC News	Volcanic eruption in Democratic Republic of Congo leaves at least 15 dead along with trail of destruction
Voice of America (VOA) News	Strong Earthquakes Near DRC Volcano Raise Fears of Second Eruption

3) French-speaking media coverage

News.un	Eruption du volcan Nyiragongo : effort pour réunir des centaines d'enfants séparés de leurs familles (UNICEF)
Reliefweb	Les enfants et les familles sont en danger suite à l'éruption d'un énorme volcan à Goma, avertit l'UNICEF
Le Monde Afrique	Eruption du volcan Nyiragongo en RDC : Goma épargnée par la lave, les habitants inquiets des secousses
Radio Okapi	Les enfants et les familles sont en danger à la suite de l'éruption d'un volcan à Goma, alerte UNICEF
Voice of America (VOA) News	DRC Volcano Eruption, Ensuing Chaos Leave at Least 15 Dead
AfricaNews	RDC : au moins 170 enfants portés disparus après l'éruption du volcan, selon l'UNICEF
Le Parisien	Eruption du Nyiragongo : Goma épargné par la lave, les habitants inquiets des secousses
Euronews	RDC : le volcan Nyiragongo gronde toujours, la peur enfle à Goma
BBC Afrique	Volcan de Goma en RD Congo : "je n'ai pas pu sauver mon mari malade de la lave"
24newsagency	Goma : Unicef préoccupé suite aux secousses sismiques fréquentes provoquées par l'éruption du volcan
RFI	RDC: problème d'approvisionnement en eau après l'éruption du Nyaragongo à Goma

UNICEF's Contacts in DRC

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