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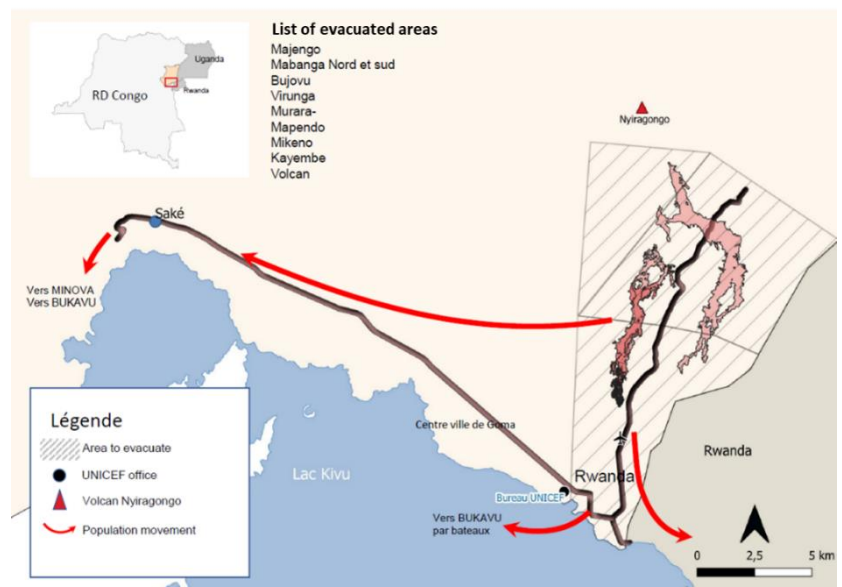
Volcano Eruption
Goma, DRC

Situation Report #4
1st June 2021

Situation Overview

The sudden eruption of Mount Nyiragongo on the evening of 22 May 2021, led to two lava flows towards Kibumba park as well as Buhene and Kibati in the North-East of Goma, DRC. 32 people 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, with an estimated 3,629 burned houses². According to the WASH cluster³, over 195,000 people might have difficulty in accessing safe water due to a disabled water reservoir directly damaged by the lava, while access to electricity was cut off in large parts of Goma city. Seven schools (five primary schools⁴ and two secondary schools) and 37 health centers⁵ have been affected by the volcanic eruption.



During the night of 27 May, the government decided to evacuate ten neighbourhoods of Goma city (Majengo, Mabanga Nord, Mabanga Sud, Bujovu, Virunga, Murara, Mapendo, Mikeno, Kayembe, Le Volcan) towards Sake, thus leading to important population movements and increased humanitarian needs, before asking the population to go to the town of Rutshuru instead on May 28. As of June 1st, according OCHA⁶, this evacuation has led to the displacement of around 234,000 people in DRC, with around 63,000 people displaced to Sake, around 67,000 to Minova, around 53,000 to Rutshuru, 11,000 to Lubero, 40,000 to Bukavu. It is estimated that around 53,000 people fled to Rwanda. As of 1 June, there is a very timid movement back to Goma, but most families, and especially the most vulnerable with no transportation mean to come back, still report they do not wish to return to Goma and are waiting for instructions from the provincial authorities.

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

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

With the massive population movement in an already fragile context, humanitarian needs are growing and include:

- **Cholera/WASH:** Sake is an area prone to cholera where positivity rates show one of the most dynamic cholera transmissions in eastern DRC. As of May 30, 63,000 people remain displaced in Sake where , the spread of cholera might increase both in Sake area, but also in Goma when the IDPs (Internally Displaced Populations) will return. Despite all the measures taken by UNICEF and its partners, as of 30 May, 10 suspected cases have already been reported in three days (compared to 19 in one week before the eruption) in the Sake agglomeration.
- **Child Protection:** As of May 29, 1,361 unaccompanied children have been identified, and UNICEF will provide NFIs assistance in coordination with WFP for food in the accommodation centers receiving 76 of these children. 999 parents are reported looking for their children is 999 as of 29 May ^h. It also important to note that during the evacuation, the deaths of 2 children were reported. A case of child kidnapping has been notified in Kiwandja, demonstrating the risks faced by IDP children.
- **Health:** Health facilities in the host areas are facing an influx of patients, including many pregnant women, while medicines are starting to run out.
- **Education:** Displaced children in Goma didn't have access to education for the past 10 days now, the Provincial Governor having decided to keep all schools in Goma closed because of the possible risks of a new volcanic eruption. In addition, 12 schools will require partial or total reconstruction in neighborhoods affected by the floods. In the town of Sake, the continuity of education is made impossible by the presence of displaced persons in 13 schools, including 10 elementary school, affecting 7,739 students and 164 teachers. This occupation has also led to the destruction of desks in some schools, while some latrines are full and/or blocked, multiplying the risks of cholera.
- **Increase in prices:** There is a concern of food and water supply shortage considering the massive arrival of IDPs in Sake and Minova, but also in Bukavu, where the prices of food, usually coming from Goma, have skyrocketed. It has to be noted that Sake, the town which welcomes the greatest number of IDPs, has seen its population doubled by the evacuation. Thus, host families are made more financially vulnerable, while water capacity is not sufficient to meet the needs of all new arrivals. This massive population displacement is also already impacting directly vulnerable host communities.

The frequent seismic activities, which began on 23 May, are still predicted to continue for the next days or weeks, even if with a lower intensity has been observed over the past few days. It remains a concern as it weakens the structure of the houses, some of which have already started to collapse while causing further stress on a population that is already traumatized.

In terms of access, the Goma-Rutshuru road has been re-established, allowing easy access to these areas for UNICEF teams, as well as allowing the people of Goma to access the Rutshuru food basket. The Goma airport is still closed to commercial aircraft but has reopened for UN helicopters, while the Bukavu airport is fully reopened. Boat traffic has resumed on Lake Kivu between Goma and Bukavu, while traffic is almost back to normal on the Goma-Sake-Minova-Bukavu axis.

Access to cash is still very limited in Goma, where only three banks allow cash withdrawals, posing difficulties in terms of payment to partners. The situation is similar in Sake and Bukavu, due to the influx of displaced people.

UNICEF's Response

UNICEF has been mobilized with its partners since the start of the crisis. UNICEF's response focus on the lifesaving humanitarian response for the first 3 months. This emergency response aims to alleviate the immediate needs and will consist of interventions in WASH, Cholera rapid response, child protection, health, nutrition, education and Gender-Based Violence (GBV).

During this first phase, humanitarian assistance will be provided in the host areas and return area. The preferred response model remains based on in-situ humanitarian support to people directly affected. As such, assistance will be provided in support to the government to meet immediate humanitarian needs while strengthening already functioning resilience mechanisms so as not to contribute to an extended stay of those temporarily relocated.

UNICEF's response is two-fold:

1. Emergency life-saving assistance in areas of displacement (Sake, Minova, Rutshuru), with priority given to assistance at the community level in particular WASH/cholera, Nutrition/health and child protection, considering that 70% of the displaced are accommodated by host families
2. Preparation for the restoration of basic social services in Goma as IDPs will eventually return to Goma

In addition to the on-going response, UNICEF also conducted in coordination with WFP, the Red Cross and Word Vision, two assessment on 29 May in the areas of Sake, Minova and Rutshuru to further evaluate the needs and design an appropriate response

A total of 28 essential staff members are operational in Goma to support the immediate UNICEF emergency response, while 8 staff from Kinshasa, including the Country Representative, have arrived on 31 May to Goma to support the scale-up of 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 1,361 non-accompanied children who were placed in host families or three transit centers⁷ while waiting to be reunited with their family.

Out of the 1,361 children, 858 have already been reunited with their families; 256 were placed in host families (preferred option), among them around 40 spontaneous families have received children; 76 were placed in the 3 transit centers, 3 children died while the situation of 168 children is still unknown. UNICEF-trained psychologists have provided psychosocial support to 50 children hosted in the three transit centres and 129 children host families. A total of 234 spontaneous THFs (Temporary Host Families) were identified in Goma, Sake, Shasha, Kirotshe, Mugunga and Nyiragongo. UNICEF is mobilizing NFI (non-food item) and hygiene support for the children accommodated in the transit centers as well as in host families, in coordination with WFP who will provide food to the IDPs.



Water, Hygiene and Sanitation (WASH) and Cholera response

UNICEF reinforced its WASH response to increase the coverage of drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion. So far, the below activities are on-going::

- Ongoing support to REGIDESO for the rehabilitation of the water and supply network in Goma, in coordination with the ICRC
- Establishment of 10 water points with bladders, for a total capacity of 150 m3 and water trucking in Sake
- 12 chlorination points installed on the banks of Kivu lake in Goma
- Construction of 90 latrine doors in partnership with CARITAS and AVUDS in Sake
- Construction of 90 shower doors in partnership with AVUDS in Sake
- Construction of 10 hand-washing facilities in assembly areas in Sake
- Hygiene promotion activities in Sake

To address the risk of a cholera outbreak in Sake, UNICEF has strengthened its active surveillance and rapid response program based on the effective CATI (Case Area Targeted Interventions). In coordination with the North Kivu Red Cross and the DPS, 6 community-based teams have been added, amounting to 18 teams the number of response teams spread over the health zones of Kirotshe (Sake), Nyiragongo and Goma, as well as 2 teams in Minova. In addition, 55 chlorination points have already been activated by the CATI teams in order to reduce the incidence of cholera and are scheduled to last for one month.



Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

UNICEF U-Report continues to provide concrete support to the volcano victims through four main activities:

- U-Report community members participated voluntarily to fixing of water in Goma
- Provision of 150 SIM cards by Orange DRC to facilitate the activities of the U-Report community in Goma
- Search for children separated from their families in the locality of Sake, allowing 150 children to be sheltered
- Support for the collection of information on the housing conditions of displaced persons by members of the community to propose an appropriate response

In addition, the VOLCAN Information Center, available by SMS, was consulted by more than 12,800 people during the week, and 91% of these people shared information with friends or family.



Health and Nutrition

3 main actions have already been launched in terms of nutrition:

⁷ 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).

- In Sake and its surroundings (Kirotshe health zone), deployment of nutritional supplies for the management of severe acute malnutrition for 1,380 beneficiaries (children under 5 and pregnant and lactating women), in partnership with Pronanut
- Implementation of screening for malnutrition in health facilities in the Kirotshe health zone
- Integration of messages on the promotion of good feeding practices for infants and young children in emergency situations in the awareness-raising sessions carried out in the health zones of Kirotshe, Nyiragongo and Goma

Given the high cost of care and the difficulty of accessing care for IDPs, UNICEF has decided to release \$10,000 to allow a cash transfer to vulnerable IDPs to pay for health care in the centers receiving support, in coordination with the DPS. UNICEF has also planned to dispatch meds to Minova's DPS.



Education

UNICEF has been advocating with the provincial authorities for the resumption of classes as soon as possible, to avoid a prolonged interruption and therefore a profound impact on the children. This should lead to a redefinition of the dangerousness of the different neighborhoods of Goma, allowing for the relocation of children. UNICEF will work very closely with the Civil Protection and the Vice-Governor to build the response to the crisis in this area.



Funding Requirements

On 28 May, UNICEF published a flash appeal focusing on the lifesaving humanitarian response for the first 3 months. This emergency response aims to alleviate the immediate needs and will consist of interventions in child protection, WASH, Cholera rapid response, health, education, Gender-Based Violence (GBV), nutrition.

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 Operations	475,000
Total	5,000,000



External Media

1) English-speaking media coverage:

- abc7news [Volcanic eruption leaves at least 15 dead along with trail of destruction](#)
- Cnn [400,000 people flee Goma after warnings of second volcanic eruption](#)
- Reuters [Little food and water for Congolese fleeing volcano](#)
- News.un [Up to 400,000 could be displaced by new Goma eruption in DR Congo, warns UNICEF](#)
- News un [Eruptions du mont Nyiragongo en RDC : des milliers d'habitants quittent la zone volcanique de Goma \(OCHA\)](#)
- Swissinfo [Little food and water for Congolese fleeing volcano](#)

2) French-speaking media coverage:

- Actualite.cd [RDC-Volcan : 7 enfants blessés suite à l'effondrement des immeubles à Goma, Unicef « profondément » préoccupée](#)
- Adiac-congo [Eruption de Nyiragongo : l'Unicef estime à deux cent quatre-vingt mille enfants déplacés](#)
- Politoco.cd [Éruption du Nyiragongo : les États-Unis ajoutent 400 000 USD d'appui d'urgence pour fournir de l'eau potable aux déplacés](#)
- Radiokapi.net [RDC : environ 280 000 enfants risquent d'être déplacés à cause de la menace volcanique \(UNICEF\)](#)

UNICEF's Contacts in DRC

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