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Volcano Eruption
Goma, DRC

Situation Report #6

Period covered: 7-11 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, and 3,629 houses were burned. Seven schools, including five primary schools² and two secondary schools) and 4 health centers³ have been destroyed by the volcanic eruption. While a renovation of the water supply has been undertaken, two neighborhoods remain deprived of access to safe water in Goma.

The evacuation of ten eastern neighbourhoods of Goma city on 27 May led to the displacement of around 234,000 people in DRC.⁴ On 7 June, the Governor of North Kivu ordered the return of displaced population due to the volcanic eruption, with returns organized by axis between June 8 and 20: Sake-Goma (June 8-9), Nyiragongo-Goma (June 10), Rutshuru-Goma (June 11-12), Bukavu-Minova-Goma (June 15-17), Beni-Butembo-Lubero-Goma (June 16-17), Rwanda-Goma (June 19-20). It is estimated that a majority of displaced persons have returned in Goma either to their homes or to be sheltered in the site of Kanyarychinya, site identified by the provincial authorities to host 575 households of the 3,629 households that lost their home. Some of the most vulnerable households have decided to remain in Sake presumably because they are originally from the areas most affected by the lava, and despite the efforts of the authorities to help their return (busing, choice of Kanyarychinya resettlement site or free car and bus transportation), which is a matter of concern considering their living conditions in Sake.

Humanitarian needs remain important, considering the destruction of basic social services in the northeastern part of Goma city, and the large scale of the population movements:

- **WASH** : In Goma, the response is on-going to restore the access to water after the destruction of Buchara's reservoir and dozens of meters of pipes. While the emergency water assistance is phasing down in Sake, Minova and Rutshuru due to the return of most of the IDPs to Goma. Activities are therefore being reinforced in the return areas.
- **Cholera**: Since 22 May outbreak, 140 suspected cholera cases have been reported in North Kivu, more than 75% have been sampled for analysis by Ami Labo less than under 10% were positive. However, a clear increase in the number of suspected cases has been observed since 31 May, with 4 health zones of particular concern: Karisimbi (54 suspected cases including 2 confirmed cases), Kirotshe (49 suspected cases including 4 confirmed cases), Nyiragongo (26 suspected cases) and Goma (11 suspected cases). Overall, to date, and pending additional laboratory results, 6 cholera cases of cholera have been confirmed together with the presence of Salmonella-sp.
- **Child Protection** : Despite the large number of unaccompanied children due to the repeated population movements – displacement, relocation and return to Goma – the reunification process has been rapid. As of 4 June, 75% of

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

² Four primary schools and equipment have been destroyed by the lava flows while one is occupied by IDPs (Internally Displaced Person).

³ Source: UNICEF, June 5, 2021

⁴ Source: OCHA, June 1st, 2021

unaccompanied children identified in North Kivu have been reunified. It is also important to note the great solidarity of the communities, spontaneous host families and community-based associations in the identification and reunification of children.

- **Health and Nutrition:** Despite the government and NGOs support, the situation in health facilities remains precarious with an number of patients exceeding the capacities and the lack of medicines. In Goma, assessments are still ongoing to measure the impact of the return of the IDPs on food prices by the authorities and NGOs.⁵
- **Education:** On 7 June, the Governor announced that schools and universities will resume on 14 June in Goma. Children whose schools have been affected by the lava flows will have to be hosted in temporary schools nearby their living area. Overall, 12 schools require partial or total reconstruction in Goma. In the town of Sake and Bukavu, the schools which sheltered IDPs (13 schools in Sake, including 10 elementary, and 59 schools in Bukavu) will certainly need some investment to replace the filled latrines and damaged equipment.

Access: as mentioned in the previous SitRep, Air, Road and lake traffic is back to normal.

UNICEF's Response

UNICEF has been one of the first responders for this crisis with its partners. UNICEF's response focuses 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 GBV.

During the first phase of UNICEF humanitarian response to Nyiragongo eruption, assistance was provided in the displacement areas (Sake, Minova, Rutshuru), with priority given to assistance at the community level in WASH, cholera, nutrition and child protection. With the progressive return, UNICEF launched a second phase of intervention, by reducing assistance (notably in WASH and cholera) in the displacement areas to focus its response on Goma and the lava-affected neighborhoods. This includes major investments in WASH, education and cholera response.



Psychosocial Support, Child Protection, GBV and PSEA

UNICEF, in partnership with the North Kivu Division of Social Affairs (DIVAS), the Red Cross and Change the Word have so far identified 1,340 unaccompanied children of whom 1,038 have been reunified, 119 are in temporary foster care and 27 in spontaneous foster care while 156 are placed in transit centers. A system for verifying separation alerts and data has been put in place by key child welfare actors to ensure effective monitoring of the situation of children. For children remaining in transitional care, UNICEF collaborated with WFP to organize the distribution of food and hygiene/NFI kits for 240 children in centers or with host families.

As part of the return movements to Goma, mechanisms to prevent family separation and violence against children are being put in place. It includes the dissemination of messages to radio stations and authorities as well as the deployment of social workers in the places of departure and arrival of displaced persons.

UNICEF is working closely with the GBV sub-cluster to ensure that the humanitarian response includes measures to mitigate the risks of GBV and PSEA increased by the vulnerability of some IDPs and the population movements. UNICEF trained 36 people among our WASH and cholera partners on these risks and also conducted a GBV safety audit on WASH facilities managed by our partners. Finally, 35 supervisors and social workers from 11 reception centers providing care for unaccompanied children were trained on PSEA and the implementation of child-friendly complaint mechanisms.



Water, Hygiene and Sanitation (WASH)

UNICEF has launched a major effort to restore a safe water supply in Goma:

- Since May 30, 2021, with the financial support of UNICEF, the REGIDESO⁶ installed and protected a bypass system allowing more than 130,000 people to regain access to a regular and quality water supply in Goma
- In coordination with the WASH cluster, UNICEF is working in partnership with CARITAS Goma and AVUDS to provide a minimum of two months access to water through water-trucking for an estimated number of 200,000 persons including in schools and health centers in the area of Goma directly affected by the lava flows.
- Though UNICEF Rapid Response UniRR and in partnership with the Red-Cross, 4,000 WASH kits were distributed to the returnees who lost all their assets due to lava flows

⁵ WFP, Analyse des marchés #1, June 8, 2021

⁶ Regideso (Régie de distribution d'eau) is a public sector company in DRC charged with the production and distribution of water to residential, commercial and industrial customers

- 15 chlorination points have been set up near the lake in Goma in coordination with the provincial ministry of Planning at the level of the drawing points.
- In the coming weeks, the REGIDESO, will rehabilitate the water network with additional bypasses in two districts with the technical and financial support of UNICEF.
- 300-meter pipeline destroyed by the lava are being replaced under the coordination of REGIDESO by Virunga with support of ICRC and UNICEF. This would enable durable water access to the most affected neighborhood north of Goma.

UNICEF response in the displacement sites particularly in Sake and Minova and Rutshuru is phasing down due to the return movements to Goma. This response allows to meet water needs while reducing the risk of cholera transmission, through the following actions:

- As per needs, gradual dismantle the emergency water supply infrastructure in Sake and relocate it in Goma to increase availability of water in return area
- Hygiene promotion activities with local NGOs and radios

Since 22 May, 400 latrines and 200 emergency showers were installed in the displacement area displaced persons area with AVUDS.

Finally, UNICEF is finalising a study to rehabilitate the 25 km Sake gravity flow spring catchments system to be implemented by SNHR with the support from ICRC. A similar study will be undertaken for Kirotshu and Rutshuru, which are both struggling with water supply.

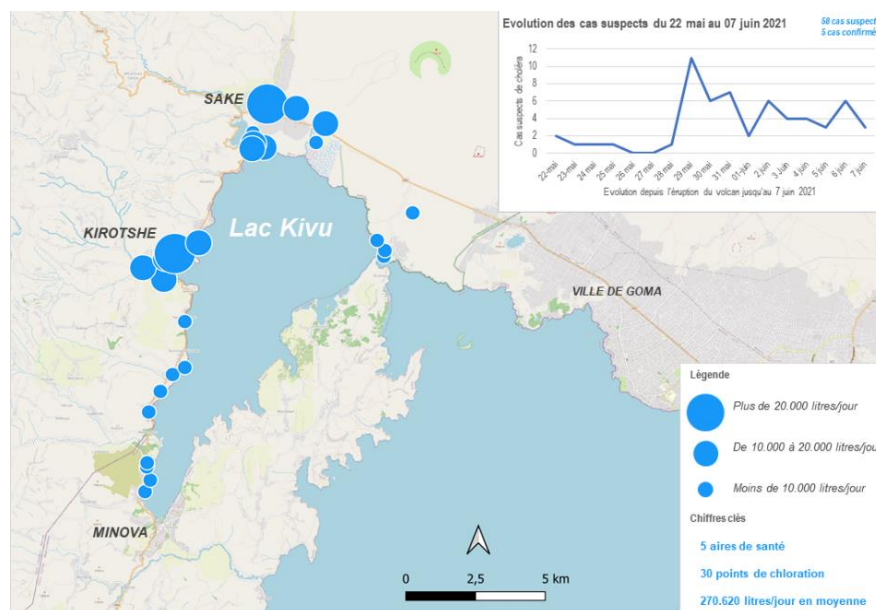


Cholera response – Case Area Targeted Interventions(CATI)⁷

With the return of the population to Goma, the initial 9 of the 14 CATIs teams deployed in Sake (UNICEF, North-Kivu Red Cross and DPS North Kivu) have been reassigned as follow: 3 teams in Karisimbi and Goma, 2 in Kirotshu, 2 in Nyiragongo and 2 in Walikale (outbreak alert). In addition, 2 CATIs teams are operational in Minova, South-Kivu.

Through this CATI teams network:

- 96% of suspected cases were responded in less than 48 hours over the past four weeks, which represents 88% of responded cases.
- A total of 22,993 people were sensitized through door-to-door rapid response and 2,849 houses disinfected
- 71 chlorination points (46 in North-Kivu and 25 in South-Kivu) have been installed since the eruption allowing the availability of over 450 m³ of chlorinated water per day. This point will remain for one month. These chlorination points, in addition to those implemented by traditional WASH activities, target directly the areas of suspected cholera cases in order to interrupt transmission.



Evolution des cas suspects de choléra et quantité d'eau disponible à travers les points de chlorination

⁷ The CATI methodology implemented with the DPS North Kivu and CRNK partners since January 2020, aims to strengthen epidemiological and microbiological surveillance with the objective of responding to at least 80% of suspected cases and 100% of confirmed cases through the implementation of sanitary cordons directly in the house of the suspected case and 15 to 20 households around this suspected case. The cordon sanitaire consists of a rapid investigation of the causes of cholera transmission, active case finding in the community, distribution of cholera kits (home water treatment products, soaps, ORS, jerycan and buckets), home disinfection, and hygienpromotion. When the case is confirmed in the laboratory, the CATIs teams make a second visit to perfect the first intervention and/or adapt the activities to really interrupt cholera transmission (<https://wrc.washcluster.net/document/response-cholera-outbreaks-area-targeted-interventions-and-community-outbreak-response>).



Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)

U-Report launched a survey earlier this week to find out the effects of the volcanic eruption on the people of Goma, as well as their major needs, in order to better direct the humanitarian aid effort. 26,000 people responded to the survey, 25% of whom had seen their homes destroyed.

UNICEF also continues to mobilize and engage the community of U-Reporters and Centers for Community Action (CACs) in the continuing identification of unaccompanied children, the promotion of hygiene measures and barrier measures against COVID-19. The U-Report Goma community organized a voluntary action to clean up the Don Bosco center for orphaned children in the Nyiragongo neighborhood to allow children to return in the best possible conditions.

In addition, the VOLCAN Information Center, reachable via SMS, was consulted by more than 13,300 people during the past week. 91% of the people shared reliable information on the volcano with friends or family.



Health and Nutrition

While nutritional supplies for the management of severe acute nutrition are being distributed to 1,380 beneficiaries in Kirotshé and Nyiragongo health zones in partnership with the Government (Pronanut), the treatment of children suffering from severe acute malnutrition was reinforced in North and South Kivu.

In Kirotshé health zone, between 2 and 9 June, 21 children (6 displaced and 15 indigenous) were treated in the health area of Bweremana, 8 in the Kaduki health area, 17 in Nzulo health area, 20 in Kimoka health area and 53 (including 7 IDPs) in Sake health area. Active screening for severe acute malnutrition and awareness raising on nutritional practices for young children continue in Minova and Bukavu in partnership with Médecins d'Afrique.



Education

Preparation is on-going to support the back-to-school of all affected children. From 11 June, UNICEF has set up 20 temporary classrooms in 4 elementary schools in Goma (Turunga, Héri, Kayembe, Muinga).

UNICEF will also accompany the restart of the school year on June 14 and plans to distribute 10,459 school bags to children and 27 recreational kits to affected schools.

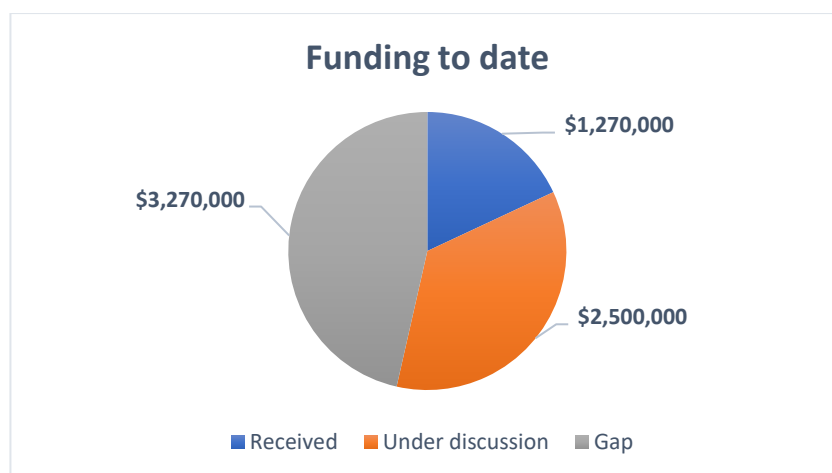


Funding Requirements

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 WASH, Cholera rapid response, child protection, health, nutrition, education and GBV.

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

UNICEF expresses its sincere gratitude to all public and private donors (USAID/BHA, CERF, Ministry of Foreign Affairs-Republic of Korea, Japan Committee for UNICEF) who are supporting the response to the volcano eruption which has enabled UNICEF to quickly deploy support for the provision of lifesaving and protective services for women, children and men affected by this crisis.



External Media

1) English-speaking media coverage

- NewsUN [Volcanic eruption in DR Congo: UNICEF working to restore water supply amid cholera threat](#)
- ReliefWeb [UNICEF works urgently to restore water to 200,000 people in Goma cut off because of volcano lava damage](#)
- RefugeesInternational [Urgent Humanitarian Assistance Needed for 400,000 People Displaced by DRC Volcano Eruption](#)
- Medcom.id [UNICEF Working to Restore Water Supply in Goma after Volcanic Eruption](#)
- Social News [UNICEF works urgently to restore water to 200,000 people in Goma cut off because of volcano lava damage](#)
- NewsFundForNGOs [DR Congo: UNICEF works urgently to restore water to thousands in Goma](#)
- NationalAccrdNews [DRC volcanic eruption: UNICEF working to restore water supply amid cholera threat](#)

2) French-speaking media coverage:

- Adjac-Congo [Eruption volcanique de Nyiragongo : l'Unicef s'investit dans l'approvisionnement en eau des déplacés de Goma](#)
- Actualité.cd [RDC-Goma: l'urgence de rétablir l'approvisionnement en eau pour environ 200.000 personnes & RDC-Nyiragongo: 54 écoles occupées par les déplacés dans le territoire de Masisi, la scolarité de plus de 30 000 élèves affectée](#)
- RadioOkapi.net [Eruption volcanique : le réseau de distribution d'eau rétabli à Goma & Eruption volcanique : l'UNICEF appelle à une réouverture des écoles à Goma](#)
- CaritasDev.cd [Goma : Plus de 90 000 personnes assistées par la Caritas Goma après l'éruption volcanique](#)
- CaritasDevGoma [Des installations d'hygiène pour desservir les déplacés à Saké](#)

UNICEF's Contacts in DRC

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