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Volcano Eruption
Goma, DRC

Situation Report #7

Period covered: 12-20 June
2021

Highlights

- With the return of most of the displaced persons to Goma, UNICEF is shifting from a life-saving assistance in displacement areas to an assistance at community level in the return areas (Goma, Karisimbi and Nyiragongo). The response is focusing on WASH, rapid response to cholera and education.
- UNICEF is providing access to water through water-trucking to approximately 34,666 persons daily, while rehabilitating the water network allowing more than 130,000 people to regain access to a regular and quality water supply in the northern neighborhoods of Goma.
- UNICEF is accompanying the back-to-school of 840 children whose schools were affected by the eruption in Goma. through the set-up of 8 temporary classrooms in three elementary schools of Goma
- Surveillance, investigation, and response activities to suspected cholera cases continue in 4 priority areas (Goma, Karisimbi, Nyiragongo and Kirotshe) with a visible effect on the reduction of suspected cholera cases in Kirtoshe health zone.

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. As of 20 June, 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. The sites where displaced persons were hosted in Sake are now all empty, but some very few families may still be sheltered in Sake by family members.

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** : The water network in Goma has been severely affected by the lava flow reducing drastically the water available in Goma and increasing the risk of waterborne diseases and cholera outbreaks.

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

- **Cholera:** Overall, surveillance, investigation and response activities to suspected cholera cases continue in the 4 priority areas (Goma, Karisimbi, Nyiragongo and Kirotshe). In total, two weeks after the volcanic eruption, 143 suspected cases of cholera were notified in the 4 priority areas but, two weeks after the return movement, the same areas reported only 69 suspected cases which represent a reduction of 52%, thanks to WASH / Cholera interventions (including Rapid response to suspected cholera cases within 48 hours).
- **Child Protection** As of 18 June, 1,474 unaccompanied children have been identified, among which 1,256 children have been reunified. 131 unaccompanied children are still in transitional foster families while 87 children have been placed in childcare centers.
- **Education:** On 14 June, schools and universities resumed in Goma. Children whose schools have been affected by the lava flows started to be hosted in temporary schools nearby their living area. Overall, 12 schools require partial or total reconstruction in Goma, and 5 schools have been identified by UNICEF to be hosting schools for these affected schools.

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, 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.



Water, Hygiene and Sanitation (WASH)

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

- Since 30 May 2021, with the financial support of UNICEF, the REGIDESO⁵ installed and protected a bypass system allowing more than 130,000 people to regain access to a regular and quality water supply in Goma. The rehabilitation of the water network by REGIDESO through additional bypasses in two districts with the technical and financial support of UNICEF will begin in the coming days
- UNICEF is working in partnership with CARITAS Goma and AVUDS to provide access to water through water-trucking in the neighborhoods of Goma directly affected by the lava flows. This week, Caritas distributed 260 m³ of water for around 34,666 persons per day⁶.
- Following the GBV training and the protection audit carried out last week, Caritas has implemented recommendations for a better protection of beneficiaries, notably women and children.
- 15 chlorination points are still running near the lake in Goma in coordination with the provincial ministry of Planning at the level of the drawing points.
- 300-meter pipeline destroyed by the lava are being replaced by Virunga with support of UNICEF, and it should be operational in 2-3 weeks. This would enable durable water access to the most affected neighborhood north of Goma and decrease the need of water trucking.

In Sake, following the return of the population to Goma and in order to protect the Sake population from cholera and other diseases outbreaks, UNICEF and its local partner AVUDS have already disinfected 234 sites previously occupied by IDPs, decommissioned and disinfected 208 latrines, 50 showers and cleaned up 23 rubbish pits. Hygiene promotion activities are still ongoing through radio spots and local teams.

Finally, UNICEF finalized the study of rehabilitation of the 25 km Sake gravity flow spring catchments system to be implemented by the (Service for Rural Water Supply (SNHR) with the support from ICRC and will share it soon with the WASH cluster. A similar study will be undertaken for Kirotshe and Rutshuru, localities which are both especially struggling with water supply since the volcano eruption.

⁵ 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

⁶ <https://mobile.twitter.com/UNICEFDRC/status/1403343804900548612?s=19>



Cholera response – Case Area Targeted Interventions (CATI)⁷

With the return of the population to Goma, 16 CATIs (Case-Area Targeted Interventions) teams, including nurses from the Ministry of Health (DPS) are deployed in the 4 priority zones (Goma, Karisimbi, Nyiragongo and Kirotshe). In addition, 4 CATIs teams remain operational in Masisi, Rutshuru and Walikale. 25 points of chlorination are still ongoing in South-Kivu.

Through this CATI teams network, activities to reduce risk of cholera outbreak are still on-going with:

- Disinfection of 4 schools in Sake (classrooms, latrines, and bins) after the return of the displaced persons
- Disinfection of 5 schools in Nyiragongo, representing 39 classrooms and 38 latrines
- Distribution of 10kg of chlorine per school and 20 ORS (Oral Rehydration Serum) sachets per school in Nyiragongo (Kahembe Institute Kahembe primary school, Muringi Institute, Muringi primary school and Muja Institute) to allow chlorination of water and rehydration of children in these educational structures where suspected cases have been notified
- Sensitization of around 500 households on hygiene measures in Nyiragongo
- 30 chlorination points remain operational on the Sake-Bweremana axis, 25 in the Minova area and 6 in the city of Goma with a daily chlorination capacity of 10 to 20m³ for each of the points.



Education

UNICEF has set up 8 temporary classrooms in 3 elementary schools in Goma (Mujoga, Heri and Kayembe elementary schools), providing access to education for children affected by the volcano crisis including:

- EP MUJOGA: 3 temporary classrooms installed to facilitate access to education for 330 students (including 137 girls)
- EP KAYEMBE: 3 temporary classrooms set up to facilitate access to education for 300 students (including 100 girls)
- EP HERI: 2 temporary classrooms set up to accommodate 210 students (including 80 girls) originally from a primary school affected by lava (EP PATMOS).



Psychosocial Support, Child Protection, GBV and PSEA

The Child Protection coordination between UNICEF, DIVAS, ICRC and the Red Cross continues to operate since the beginning of the response.

Standard Operating Procedures for the IDTR process (Identification, Documentation, Tracing, Reunification) that have been specifically drafted following the eruption will be circulated among the humanitarian community to ensure that children and families can be referred to the adequate child protection structure.



Health and Nutrition

During the period, UNICEF and its partners admitted 306 children under the age of 5 suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) to the nutritional care program. Following the allocation of nutritional supplies, UNICEF in support of the PRONANUT (National Program for Nutrition) and Heal Africa has started taking care of children suffering from SAM in 7 health areas (Kanyaruchinya, Kiziba, Turunga, Mudja, Kibati, Bujovu and Rusayo). As of 18 June, 93 children under 5 suffering from severe acute malnutrition and 2 pregnant women received nutritional care in Nyiragongo health zone. Among these beneficiaries, 16 children (17%) came from IDP sites. In Goma, UNICEF in collaboration with its partner Heal Africa, provided assistance to 112 children suffering from severe acute malnutrition, including 94 cases of uncomplicated malnutrition in the CCLK health area, and 18 cases of malnutrition with complications in Heal Africa Hospital.

On the Sake axis, UNICEF and PRONANUT with the actors of Kirotshe health zone supported 108 children suffering from SAM and 4 pregnant and breastfeeding women. 85% of the children treated for severe acute malnutrition were natives against only 15% were displaced persons.

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>).



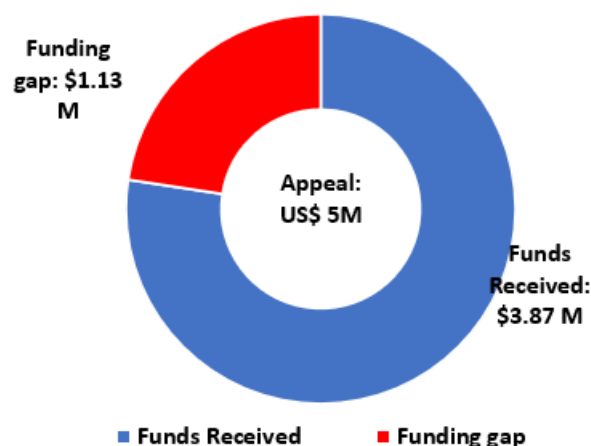
Funding Requirements

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.

UNICEF expresses its sincere gratitude to all public and private donors (USAID/BHA, ECHO, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, CERF, 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.

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

Funding Status (in US\$)



External Media

1) English-speaking media coverage

- Unicef.org [UNICEF works urgently to restore water to 200,000 people in Goma cut off because of volcano lava damage](#)
- Africanews [UNICEF works urgently to restore water to 200,000 people in Goma cut off because of volcano lava damage](#)
- The Rising Europe [Volcanic eruption in DR Congo: UNICEF working to restore water supply amid cholera threat](#)
- News24 [Searching for the lost children after DR Congo volcanic eruption](#)
- NationalDayLing [Drc volcanic eruption: unicef working to restore water supply amid cholera threat](#)
- BBC News <https://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-africa-57470431>
- BBC Africa <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YOMUubHEivg>

2) French-speaking media coverage:

- Radio L'Essentiel [Dégâts de l'éruption volcanique à goma : l'unicef s'emploie à rétablir l'approvisionnement en eau face à la menace du choléra](#)
- Lapresse.ca [Place à la réunification des familles après l'éruption du volcan Nyiragongo](#)
- Le Point https://www.lepoint.fr/afrique/nyiragongo-la-douloureuse-errance-des-deplaces-de-goma-30-05-2021-2428777_3826.php & https://www.lepoint.fr/afrique/nyiragongo-le-long-chemin-de-survie-des-refugies-de-goma-05-06-2021-2429719_3826.php#xtor=CS3-190
- Le Nouvel Obs <https://www.nouvelobs.com/monde/20210604.AFP9230/rdc-a-la-recherche-des-enfants-perdus-du-volcan-nyiragongo.html>
- L'Express https://www.lexpress.fr/actualites/1/monde/a-la-recherche-des-enfants-perdus-du-volcan-nyiragongo_2152170.html

- VOA Afrique <https://www.voaafrique.com/a/a-la-recherche-des-enfants-perdus-du-volcan-nyiragongo/5922082.html>

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