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Upsurge of violence in  
Rutshuru territory,  
DRC

SitRep # 2

27-31 October 2022

## Highlights

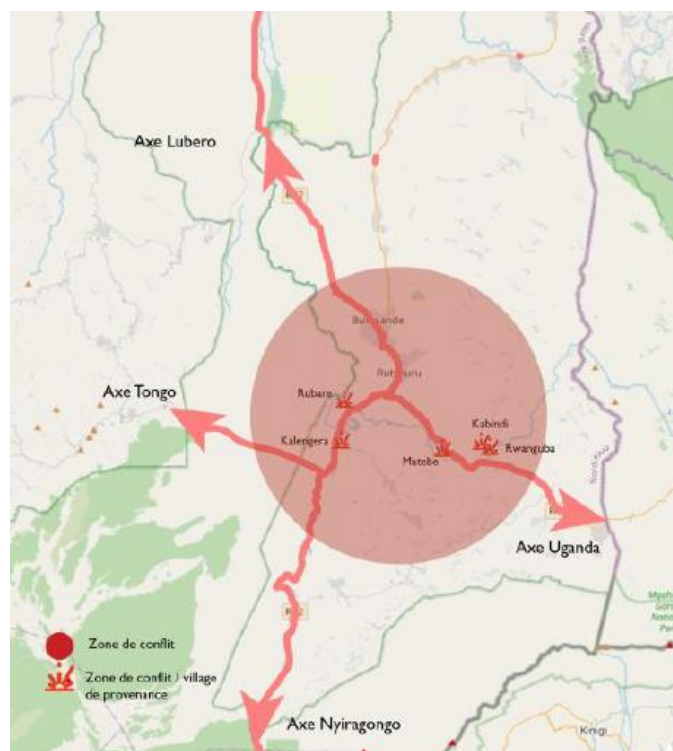
- Intense fighting between the FARDC and the M23 reached Rutshuru and Kiwanja localities on 27 October. Both localities are under control of M23 while fighting continue further north & south along the RN2 (Rutshuru-Goma axis)
- 16,319 households (90,894 people) have been forced to move mainly towards Lubero and Nyiragongo territories
- Despite the very volatile and unpredictable environment, UNICEF and partners continue to provide assistance to the most vulnerable in WASH, child protection, health, education, nutrition.

## Situation Overview

After a period of relative calm the last few months, intense fightings between FARDC and M23 restarted on 20 October in Rutshuru territory and significantly intensified since Wednesday 26 October.

On 27 October, as the M23 pushes to expand its area of control, the fightings reached Rutshuru and Kiwanja. Both localities were taken over by the M23 while fighting still continues further south along the RN2 (Rutshuru-Goma axis) towards Rugari about 35km away from Goma. Consequently, massive population displacements have been reported.

As of 31 October, according to IOM's DTM rapid assessments, a total of 16,319 households (90,894 people) have been forced to move along three main axes: Lubero axes (9,723 households mainly in host communities), Nyiragongo axes (5,242 households mainly in collective centers) and Tongo axes (1,354 households mainly in collective centers).<sup>1</sup> In Nyiragongo territory alone, nearly 10,000 new displaced households have arrived between 24 and 30 October concentrating mainly in Munigi, Kanyaruchinya and Kibati health areas.



Source : IOM, DTM Rapid Assessment, Dashboard 101, 20-31 oct. 2022

<sup>1</sup> IOM, DTM Rapid Assessment, Dashboard 101, 20-31 October 2022

## UNICEF's Response

From the first days of the crisis in April 2022, UNICEF has been responding to the humanitarian needs with a response in WASH, child protection, non-food item distribution, health and nutrition, emergency education in the territories of Rutshuru and Nyiragongo. Despite the very volatile and unpredictable environment, UNICEF and partners continue to provide assistance to the most vulnerable displaced affected by this crisis in Rutshuru/Kiwanja and to the various locations where the displaced are currently located and where more are moving to. Following the latest developments, UNICEF and its partners are scaling up the multi-sectoral assistance as follows:



### Cholera response – Case Area Targeted Interventions (CATI)

The North Kivu province is the fourth most cholera-prone area in DRC. Since 24 October 2022, at least 24 suspected cholera cases have been recorded in Nyiragongo Health Zone, with 4 cases in Kanyaruchinya health area where nearly 63,000 IDPs have arrived since last week. UNICEF, with its partner the Red Cross of North Kivu, has strengthened its rapide response program to cholera and deployed 2 CATI teams. So far:

- 215 households received assistance to prevent cholera (disinfection, distribution of cholera kits, door-to-door hygiene awareness/promotion, training in the use of the kits)
- 1,405 persons were sensitized to cholera prevention and hygiene promotion in general (through focus groups)



### Child Protection

UNICEF and its partners UPEDECO, CAJED and Heal Africa are providing essential protection services to children including identification, care and family reunification for Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) and Children Associated with Armed Forces and Armed Groups (CAFAAG), psycho-social support to affected populations, deployment of social workers and para-social workers to support in IDPs sites as well as holistic case management for Gender-based Violence (GBV) survivors. Since 27 October, in coordination with the DIVAS and ICRC, UNICEF and its partners increased the number of fixed and mobile teams in the main IDPs sites in Nyiragongo territory in order to scale up the identification and management of UASC, GBV and CAFAAGs cases. As of 31 October, 120 UASCs (77 boys and 43 girls), 2 GBV cases and 2 CAFAAG were identified and taken care of by UNICEF' partners.



### Water, Hygiene and Sanitation (WASH)

UNICEF and its partners AVUDS and BIFERD initiated water trucking activities in Kanyaruchinia and the surrounding areas in Nyiragongo territory while maintaining their response capacity in Rutshuru territory. AVUDS and BIFERD have already started water-trucking activities in 8 sites while CARITAS is targeting three other sites. Between 30 and 31 October, nearly 200 cubic metres of drinking water have been provided to displaced populations.



### Education

The massive population displacement and lack of shelter has resulted in the occupation and use of eleven schools as shelters by the newly displaced population in Nyiragongo territory. While awaiting for the completion of a rapid needs assessment with the education cluster this week, UNICEF and its partner Village d'Espoir are already re-orienting their activities towards the areas with the most pressing needs.



### Nutrition

In Rutshuru health zone, all accessible health areas continue to benefit from support for the management of severe acute malnutrition of children under 5 and IYCF -U through a partnership with AOF. UNICEF and its partner World Vision are able to respond to immediate nutritional needs of the displaced population and the host community in Nyiragongo area through a project that was launched about a month ago that covers all the health areas of the Nyiragongo health zone.



### Health

UNICEF and its partner AOF have been providing free access to quality primary and secondary health care for displaced people and host populations in the health areas of Rugari and Kibututu (Rutshuru health zone), Munigi (Nyiragongo health zone) and Ntamugenga (Rwanguba health zone). The health assistance to displaced and host children, pregnant and lactating women will be further increased in 4 health areas in Nyiragongo health zone.



## Funding Requirements

While updating its response plan, UNICEF has allocated an additional US\$ 450,000 of its core funding for the immediate scale up the response and meet first critical needs until additional funding is secured. Overall, since the beginning of the crisis in April 2022, UNICEF has allocated \$1.2 million of its core funding to provide life-saving services to the most vulnerable.

More than ever, UNICEF needs flexible and timely funding to respond where the needs are the greatest as the situation unfolds.

## UNICEF's Contacts in DRC

Grant Leaity  
Representative  
UNICEF DRC  
Email: [glaity@unicef.org](mailto:glaity@unicef.org)

Katya Marino  
Deputy Representative  
UNICEF DRC  
Email: [kmarino@unicef.org](mailto:kmarino@unicef.org)

Typhaine Gendron  
Chief Emergency  
UNICEF DRC  
Email: [tgendron@unicef.org](mailto:tgendron@unicef.org)

Jean Metenier  
Senior Coordinator  
UNICEF DRC (Goma)  
Email: [jmetenier@unicef.org](mailto:jmetenier@unicef.org)