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Upsurge of violence in
Rutshuru territory,
DRC

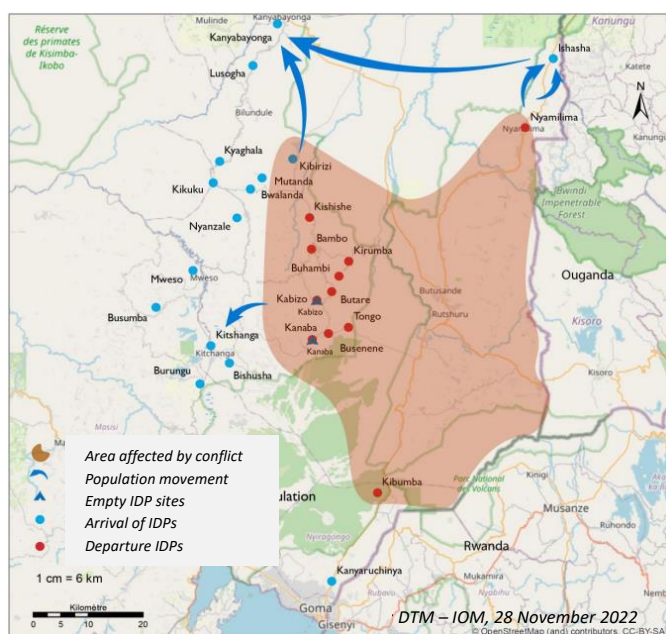
SitRep # 6

21-27 November 2022

Highlights

- Despite the decision a ceasefire after the mini-Summit held in Angola fighting continue in the western part of Rutshuru territory, causing additional population displacements
- Over 370,000 persons, including 228,000 women, have been displaced since the start of the conflict 49% live in sites and collective shelters, 92% of the sites are in Nyragongo territory
- 36 suspected cholera cases have been reported in Nyragongo territory including 29 from the Kanyaruchinya health area
- UNICEF and partners continue aiding the most vulnerable households through NFI-kits distributions and WASH, child protection, health, education, and nutrition interventions in this volatile and unpredictable environment

Situation Overview



Fighting continue in the western part of Rutshuru territory towards Bwito's chieftdom in Tongo and Bambo area. The M23 reportedly extended its control over the villages of Buhambi, Bambo, and Kishishe.

A mini summit on "peace and security in eastern DRC" (Luanda, November 23) was organized by Angola's President in his role as mediator between the DRC and Rwanda. Participants included the President of the DRC, Burundi and Kenya. Rwanda was represented by its Minister of Foreign Affairs. Among the conclusions, a cessation of hostilities between M23 and FARDC was decided for Friday 25 November. However, no cease-fire has yet been observed. Clashes continued after 25 November in the west Rutshuru towards the areas bordering Masisi territory and on the Nyamilima – Ishasha axis north of Rutshuru causing further population movements.

A worrying 65% increase of suspected cholera cases is being reported, from 62 suspected cases in the province in during the epidemiological week (EW) 46 (14-20 november) to 102 suspected cases in EW47 (21-27 november). 36 of these suspected cases are from Nyiragongo territory including 29 from the Kanyaruchinya health area where 168,000 people are displaced in overcrowded and precarious sites and collective shelters.

IOM estimates that over 370,000 persons, including 228,000 women, have been displaced since the start of the conflict 49% live in sites and collective shelters, 92% of the sites are in Nyragongo territory. (DTM – IOM, 28 November 2021).

UNICEF's Response

Since the first days of the crisis in April 2022 UNICEF is responding to humanitarian needs in Rutshuru and Nyiragongo territories with NFI kits distributions and through WASH, child protection, health, nutrition, emergency education interventions. Despite the volatile and unpredictable environment, UNICEF and partners continue delivering lifesaving assistance to the most vulnerable households at various locations where the displaced are temporarily located. UNICEF closely monitors population movements and adapts its response accordingly. Since the beginning of November 2022 UNICEF is focusing its interventions on Nyiragongo territory in response to the large influx of displaced persons who recently arrived and now living in dire conditions. Following the latest developments, UNICEF and its partners are scaling up the multi-sectoral assistance as follows:



Water, Hygiene and Sanitation (WASH)

UNICEF and its partners, AVUDS and BIFERD, continue water-trucking and sanitation activities in and around Kanyaruchinia in Nyiragongo territory. During the reporting period:

- 700 m3 (100 m3 per day on average) of drinking water was distributed in six sites, providing drinking water to 20,000 people per day
- 49 latrine doors and 20 emergency shower doors have been built
- Awareness activities on good hygiene practices reached 29,773 people
- BIFERED distributed another 1,000 WASH kits to households in Kanyaruchinia sites

Since the beginning of activities on 30 October, UNICEF, and partners built 191 latrine doors, 140 showers, 30 hand-washing stations and distributed WASH kits to 2,000 households. Since the beginning of the crisis in March 2022, UNICEF and its partners provided safe water to over 120,000 people.



Cholera response – Case Area Targeted Interventions (CATI)

In Kanyaruchinya, three cholera rapid response teams are responding to all reported cholera cases in less than 48 hours and decontaminated 663 households in areas where cases were reported. All decontaminated households received a cholera kit. Awareness sessions on the risk of cholera and how to protect yourself were organized on site. Wider sensitization and hygiene promotion took place reaching approximately 9,600 people.

The CATI response is being adapted in the IDP sites in coordination with all health and WASH actors to enhance the coverage, strengthen the communication and awareness activities as well as WASH activities such as distribution of kits targeting sites with confirmed cases.



Child Protection

UNICEF and its partners UPDECO, CAJED, ACOPE, Heal Africa and DIVAS Nord Kivu 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 (CAAFAG), psycho-social support to affected populations, deployment of social workers and para-social workers to support identification in IDP sites as well as holistic case management for Gender-based Violence (GBV) survivors.

During the reporting period, in Nyiragongo displacements sites, 19 UASCs (10 boys and 9 girls) were identified and taken care of by UNICEF's partner CAJED and DIVAS, and 31 GBV cases including 7 girls have received medical care by UNICEF's partner Heal Africa. During that period, 18 UASC (10 boys et 8 girls) and 15 CAAFAGs (including 13 boys) were identified and received protection services via UPDECO partner in the territory of Rutshuru. In the southern part of Lubero territory, UNICEF's partner ACOPE identified and provided holistic support to 26 UASC (16 boys and 10 girls).

Since the beginning of the crisis in March 2022, UNICEF's partners have identified a total of 1752 UASC and 1401 of which have been reunified. In the same time frame, 258 CAAFAGs have been identified and benefited from protection services by UNICEF's partners and over 7,600 children affected by the crisis received psychosocial care.



Education

The situation regarding the 12 schools used by IDPs as shelters remained unchanged during the reporting period. Education activities supported by UNICEF for 2,000 affected children are ongoing in collaboration with the partnering NGOs, Cluster members and EPST NK. The Education in Emergency Project was presented to the various stakeholders, notably to the Division of EPST North Kivu 1, the Nyiragongo-1 Sub-division as well as the directors of elementary schools affected by the crisis, such as EP Kayembe, Munigi NC, Mboga, Munigi CEBCE, Monigi CEPAC, Bujari, Mujoga, Kanyarucinya, YEP AFDI and Don Bosco. A joint visit was organized with representatives of displaced communities to assess the accessibility of the land and the feasibility of building the Temporary Learning Spaces (TLS). The authorities, school principals, parents' committees (COPA) and representatives of displaced communities mutually agreed to constructing TLSs in Kayembe, Mboga, Bujari, Mujoga, Munigi Cepac and Don Bosco primary schools.



Nutrition

During the reporting period, UNICEF and its partners continued their activities in the two territories of Nyiragongo and Rutshuru.

In Rutshuru Health Zone, with the partner AOF, UNICEF:

- Supported management of SAM treatment in 10 health areas,
- Admitted 57 children, including 26 boys and 31 girls to the mobile nutrition unit.

In Nyiragongo Health Zone with the partners WVI and AOF, UNICEF:

- Admitted 155 SAM children (68 boys and 87 girls) including 89 displaced children to the mobile nutrition unit,
- Sensitized 2,485 people on breastfeeding including 537 breastfeeding and 316 pregnant women,
- Screened 3,863 children aged 6-59 months for malnutrition and referred 20 cases of SAM cases to health care facilities.



Health

During the reporting period, UNICEF and its partner AOF ensure free health care for all (IDPs and host community) at Munigi health center, in complementarity with IRC. 118 people benefited from outpatient care, including 46 children under 5 years of age and 72 adults and 2 pregnant women.

In addition, UNICEF is putting together a plan for additional support to the General hospital of Nyiragongo that has been delocalized to Munigi due to the conflict. It will allow to increase health services for the IDPs in sites.



Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and child safeguarding

UNICEF contributed to the inter-agency PSEA Network's initiative that carried out a rapid SEA risk analysis. The latter revealed heightened levels of survival sex, including SEA with the proliferation of brothels around displacement. It also indicated that many beneficiaries are unwilling to report sexual exploitation since survival sex is their only source of income to address their most basic needs. UNICEF is supporting the implementation of an inter-agency PSEA strategy and action plan aiming at scaling up interventions.

During the reporting period, UNICEF and its protection partners Heal Africa, UPDECO and SOFEPADI continued to provide assistance to victims of SEA identified through UNICEF programs and referred by other actors.



Funding Requirements

UNICEF estimates the total funding requirements at US\$13.4 million to allow an immediate scale-up of its humanitarian response for three months. Overall, since the beginning of the crisis in March 2022, UNICEF has allocated US\$1.3 million of its core funding to provide life-saving services to the most vulnerable and received US\$3.6 million from the CERF. More than ever, UNICEF needs flexible and timely funding to respond where the needs are the greatest as the situation unfolds.

Area of intervention	Funding Requirements (US\$)
UNICEF Rapid Response (UNIRR)	3,000,000
WASH and cholera (CATI) response	4,395,000
Child Protection and Gender Based Violence	1,313,080
Health	255,500
Nutrition	2,425,170
Education	1,250,000
Social & Behaviour Change	310,000
Integrated Analysis Cell	140,000
PSEA/ Gender	149,500
Additional Operational support	200,000
Total	13,438,250

Summary of Response Results since March 2022

Sector	UNICEF Target	Total Results
WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE		
# of people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking and domestic needs	300,000	120,375
# of people use safe and appropriate sanitation facilities	170,000	92,255
# of people targeted around suspected cholera cases who received an appropriate and complete response within 48 hours of case notification through a responsive epidemiological surveillance system	135,000	32,058
CHILD PROTECTION		
# of children accessing mental health and psychosocial support	25,000	7,603
# of children GBV survivors accessing holistic care	650	235
# of children released from armed forces and groups reintegrated with their families/communities and/or provided with adequate care and services	670	258
# of unaccompanied and/or separated children reunified with their primary caregiver or provided with family-based care/alternative care services	2,650	1,752
Rapid Response Mechanism		
# of people whose life-saving non-food items and WASH supplies (including menstrual hygiene items) needs were met through supplies or cash distributions within 7 days of needs assessments	150,000	61,550
EDUCATION		
# of children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning	12,800	840
# of children receiving individual learning materials	24,000	11,870
# of temporary learning spaces established	144	24
NUTRITION		
# of children aged 6 to 59 months affected by SAM admitted for treatment	6,500	1,496
# of primary caregivers of children aged 0 to 23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling	37,000	12,158
HEALTH		
# of children and women receiving primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities	45,000	92

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