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for every child

Upsurge of violence in
Rutshuru territory,
DRC

SitRep # 13

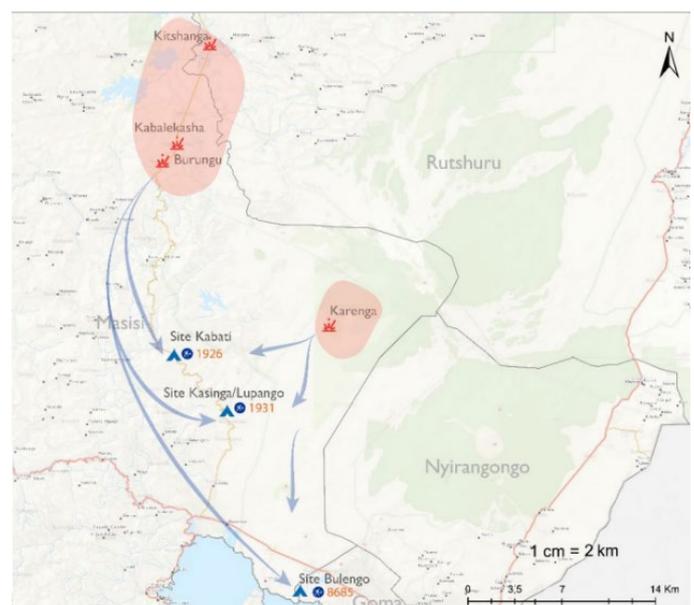
9 Jan – 5 Feb 2023

Highlights

- Heavy fighting continued in Rutshuru territory and headed towards west and south-west Masisi territory. On 25 January 2023, the M23 took control of Kitshanga town in Masisi territory leading to new population displacements along the Kitshanga – Sake axis and towards the western part of Goma with the establishments of new sites.
- According to IOM/DTM as of 31 January 2023, over 530,000 persons have been displaced in Rutshuru, Nyiragongo and Masisi territories since March 2022.
- Despite increasingly more challenging conditions and displaced persons, UNICEF continues to provide assistance to affected children and their families in the WASH, non-food items (NFI), health, nutrition, protection and education sectors.

Situation Overview

During this reporting period, the situation severely deteriorated in Masisi territory with new waves of displacement, notably towards western part of Goma as heavy fighting continued in Rutshuru territory and headed towards west and south-west Masisi territory. On 25 January 2023, the M23 took control of the city of Kitshanga, and the neighboring areas leading to new population movement both north towards Mweso health zone as well as southwards along the Kitshanga – Sake axis. Inhabitants on this axis also preventatively started to move further south towards Sake (30km west Goma) as well as towards Goma gathering mainly in two sites next to the Lac Vert (Bulengo site) and Rusayo locality. According to IOM, as of 5 February 2023, already 3,600 households (over 20,000 people) were newly displaced, but the numbers are increasing on a daily basis with continuous new arrivals. As per the rapid multisectoral



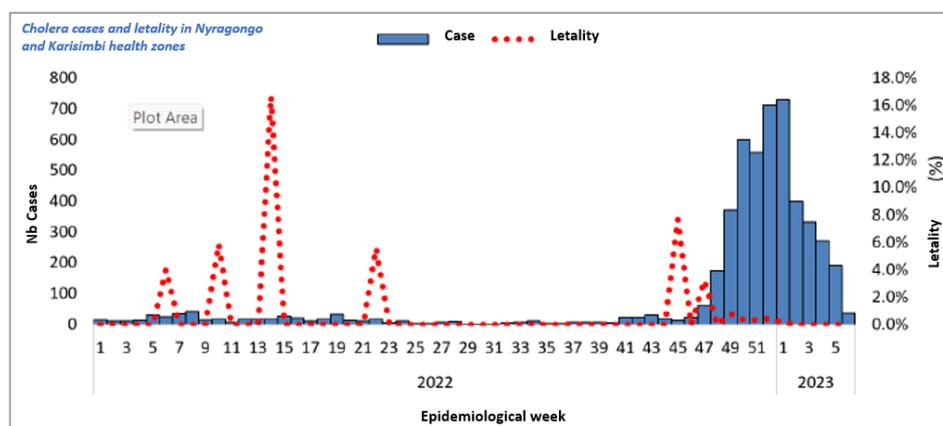
IOM –Source: DTM Dashbord #109, 7 February 2023

evaluation conducted by UNICEF’s rapid response together with the Red Cross in these new displacement sites, living conditions are very dire with limited to no access to shelter, NFI, food, clean water or sanitation. The number of gender-based violence (GBV) cases reported to the neighboring health center is also on the rise.

In Rutshuru territory, clashes were reported between M23 and FDLR as well as auto-defense groups notably in the western part around Bambo and Binza. While casualties have been reported, it remains difficult to get reliable data. Humanitarian access to the Rutshuru territory is still being negotiated. In addition, it is urgently needed to ensure the provision of free health care in Rutshuru territory. Thanks to the reactivity of the European Union and World Bank, a bridge was made for a few months, but the funding has now come to an end and needs to be renewed as patient contribution is doubling from 1/3 to 2/3 total cost.

According to IOM/DTM, as of 31 January 2023, 530,190 persons have been displaced in Rutshuru, Nyiragongo and Masisi territories since March 2022 including 295,701 since November 2022. Around 67% live in sites and collective shelters. While limited, some return movements are also reported by IOM/DTM with 54,624 people who returned including in the M23 controlled areas.

While cholera cases are still reported in the health zone of Goma, Karisimbi and Nyiragongo, the number of suspected cases is decreasing (see infographic below). Nonetheless, the situation remains fragile as suspected cases have been reported in the new overcrowded sites of Bulengo and Rusayo where WASH facilities are still insufficient. Since the end of October, 4,530 cases have been notified (91.2% in Nyiragongo health zone and 8.8% in Karisimbi health zone). Over 70% of these suspected cases are children and over 38% are under 5 years old.



Source: DPS North Kivu

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, NFI distribution, health and nutrition, emergency education in the territories of Rutshuru, Nyiragongo, Lubero and Masisi. Despite the very volatile and unpredictable environment, UNICEF and partners continue to support the most vulnerable affected by this crisis in the following sectors:



Water, Hygiene and Sanitation (WASH)

During the reporting period, UNICEF and its partners AVUDES and Yme Grand Lac provided drinking water to a total of 26,040 people per day through the distribution of 1,824 m3 (130 m3 per day) via water trucking. These activities covered the sites of Kanyaruchinya, Bushagara as well as the newly established Bulengo site near the Lac Vert. The management of existing WASH facilities (including latrines, showers, and garbage pits) is still ongoing while sensitization activities on good hygiene practices reached 22,809 people, coupled with sensitization sessions on GBV and PSEA.

The construction of sanitation facilities in the site of Bushagara are progressing. As of 5 February 2023, 240 latrines and 120 showers had been constructed. If initially 360 latrines and 180 showers were planned, discussions are

ongoing to increase the numbers of latrines and showers, as the site will host more IDPs. 100 m³ of water per day are delivered through water-trucking to Bushagara.

The activities in the Lac Vert site were launched on 3 February 2023. UNICEF and its partner AVUDES are providing drinking water via water trucking and launched the construction of sanitation facilities for the newly arrived people.



Rapid response (UniRR)

Though UniRR, UNICEF and the Red Cross North Kivu carried out two NFI distributions in Lubero and Masisi territory. Over 50,000 displaced people received essential supplies (plastic sheeting, cooking set, soap, jerry cans, blankets, etc.) contributing to an overall improvement of their precarious situation. A total of 3,052 households (19,888 persons) were assisted on the Kikuvo-Kamandi-Vuhoyo axis in the southern part of the Lubero territory and 5,392 households (33,279 persons) on the Sake-Nyamitaba axis in Masisi territory.

In Kanyaruchinya, through the rapid health interventions and provision of free healthcare over 8 weeks around the Murambi IDP site, a total of 2,980 consultations were carried out, and 101 cases of children suffering from malnutrition and sick patients with complications were referred.

Finally, on 4 and 5 February 2023, UniRR teams carried out a needs assessment in the newly established Bulengo IDP site. The evaluation found a very severe situation in all sectors. UniRR is planning to distribute NFI kits and WASH articles.



Cholera response – Case Area Targeted Interventions (CATI)

In partnership with the Red Cross and the health provincial division, 18 CATI teams continued the active surveillance in IDP sites at community level to enable an early detection of suspected cases (within 24h). A CATI team has also been deployed in the newly established sites in Rusayo as suspected cases were reported. CATI teams continued to follow-up on severe dehydration and confirmed cases, opened chlorination points, and decontaminated latrines, as well as monitored water quality.

During the reporting period, 914 CATI responses were carried out. All responses were completed within 24 hours and covered 100% of confirmed cholera cases in IDP sites. Around 17,160 households received at least one domestic water treatment product. A total of 12,314 complete cholera kits were distributed including notably of soap, buckets with tap and ORS.

All CATI activities are coordinated with UNICEF emergency unit, WASH Cluster and UNICEF WASH Section. The joint efforts of all WASH partners under the coordination of the WASH cluster have demonstrated a positive impact on the cholera outbreak.



Child Protection/Gender Based Violence

UNICEF and its partners UPDECO, CAJED, ACOPE, Heal Africa and North Kivu's Division of Social Affairs (DIVAS) 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 (CAFAAGs), psychosocial support to affected population, deployment of social workers and para-social workers to support identification in IDP sites as well as holistic case management for GBV survivors. The entire response is coordinated through the North Kivu Child Protection working group.

Child protection actors are still focusing on active family tracing of identified UASC in all IDP sites, as well as on the quality of care by monitoring closely foster families and collective centers. During the reporting period, 27 UASC (including 16 boys) received protection services from local partners CAJED and the DIVAS in the sites around Goma. Fix and mobile child protection teams have also been deployed in the Bulengo site to ensure a rapid response to protection cases, notably family separations and cases of GBV. The DIVAS's staff are permanently located in the sites and Heal Africa covers the site through their mobile GBV team. During the reporting period, 5 UASC were identified and placed in temporary host families on the Bulengo axis.

In Rutshuru territory, 25 UASC and 53 CAAFAGs were identified and received protection services via UPDECO partner. In the southern part of Lubero territory, UNICEF's partner ACOPE identified and provided holistic support to 62 UASC and 4 CAAFAGs.

Since the beginning of the crisis in March 2022, UNICEF's partners have identified a total of 2,244 UASC (1,278 boys and 966 girls) – 1,919 of which have been reunified (1,073 boys and 846 girls). In the same timeframe, 394 CAAFAGs (334 boys and 60 girls) have been identified and benefited from protection services by UNICEF's partners and over 10,000 children affected by the crisis received psychosocial care.



Education

During the reporting period, in Nyiragongo territory and through a partnership with Grace, 2,000 displaced and resident children, including 880 girls, went back to school as the construction and equipping of 18 Temporary Learning Spaces (TLS) in 6 elementary schools was finalized. UNICEF and its partner also distributed school and recreational kits as well as Intimate Hygiene Kits for 400 adolescent girls.

UNICEF and partners are closely monitoring the situation in Bulengo and Rusayo and conducted assessment. Discussions are on going to define a response package targeting six potential elementary schools around these two new sites.



Nutrition

UNICEF and its partners World Vision and AOF continued their activities in Nyiragongo and Rutshuru territories. A total of 728 children were admitted to outpatient nutrition clinics, while 70 children were admitted to intensive care nutrition clinics. In collaboration with MSF, UNICEF shipped 100 boxes of Plumpy Nut to the Rutshuru health zone to ensure AOF continue to have sufficient supplies to implement their activities.

In Nyiragongo territory, prevention activities are still ongoing. 5,314 persons (including 2,572 pregnant and lactating women) were sensitized on Infant and Young Child Feeding. and 47 cooking demonstrations were carried out and 1,382 children 6-59 months were screened for malnutrition.

UNICEF and World Vision launched activities in the Rusayo site, including care for children suffering from severe acute malnutrition, as well as a prevention component.



Health

UNICEF is supporting health centers to provide primary health care in Rutshuru and Nyiragongo health zones.

In the Kibututu health center in Rutshuru health zone, 1,174 persons benefitted from outpatient care, including 433 children under five, and 16 deliveries were performed.

In the Nyiragongo health zone, UNICEF and its partner carried out 1,410 consultations (including 443 children under five), assisted 63 deliveries, referred 72 patients, and admitted 80 persons (32 under five years), especially for malaria, diarrheal diseases, and traumas.



Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

Given the increase in rates of survival sex, UNICEF and Heal Africa are strengthening awareness and response activities on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. Sensitization sessions continue to raise awareness on complaint and referral mechanisms, sharing widely the free phone number and the available services for victims in and around IDP sites in Nyiragongo.

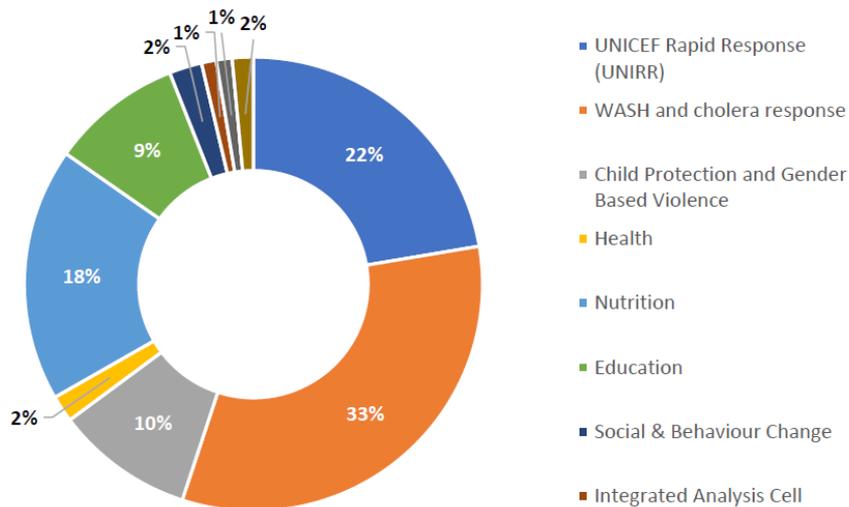


Funding Requirements

UNICEF needs US\$13.4 million to scale-up its humanitarian response for three months (Dec 2022 - February 2023) as detailed in the [response plan](#). The funding gap to date is 28% with \$9.7 million received. UNICEF expresses its sincere gratitude to all donors notably SIDA, ECHO and CERF for their continuous support.

As the situation is worsening and additional resources are needed, UNICEF will update its response plan for an additional 3 months. 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 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
Operational support Cost	\$200,000
Total	\$13,438,250



Summary of UNICEF's Response Results since March 2022

Sector Indicator	UNICEF and IPs Response	
	UNICEF Target ¹	Total Results
WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE		
# of people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking and domestic needs	202,816	243,200
# of people use safe and appropriate sanitation facilities	101,736	129,105
CHILD PROTECTION		
# of children accessing mental health and psychosocial support	11,750	7,603
# of children GBV survivors accessing holistic care	720	686
# of children released from armed forces and groups reintegrated with their families/communities and/or provided with adequate care and services	860	330
# of unaccompanied and/or separated children reunified with their primary caregiver or provided with family-based care/alternative care services	1,380	2,046
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	120,000	162,775
# 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	389,934
EDUCATION		
# of children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning	23,800	2,855
# of children receiving individual learning materials	35,420	12,225
# of temporary learning spaces established	144	29
NUTRITION		
# of children aged 6 to 59 months affected by SAM admitted for treatment	3,147	3,008
# of primary caregivers of children aged 0 to 23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling	15,829	23,262
HEALTH		
# of children and women receiving primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities	45,052	8,017

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¹ Targets since the beginning of the crisis with the new target for 3 months (December 2022 - February 2023)