



The Eastern DRC has seen four successive waves in the territories of Rutshuru, Masisi and Nyiragongo.

Appeal №: MDRCD043	IFRC Secretariat Funding requirements: CHF 30 million Federation-wide Funding requirements ¹ : CHF 50 million	
Glide №:	People affected: 2.5m people	People to be assisted: 500,000 people
DREF allocation: CHF 750,000	Appeal launched: 20/02/2024	Appeal ends: 30/06/2025

¹ The Federation-wide funding requirement encompasses all financial support to be directed to the DRC Red Cross Society in response to the emergency. It includes the DRC Red Cross' domestic fundraising requests and the fundraising appeals of supporting Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, as well as the funding requirements of the IFRC secretariat. This comprehensive approach ensures that all available resources are mobilised to address the urgent humanitarian needs of the affected communities.

SITUATION OVERVIEW



DRC displacement map Feb 2024 (Map: OCHA)

For almost two years, the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), specifically North Kivu, has been facing a devastating conflict that has intensified and become increasingly complex over time, with the potential to reach unprecedented levels within this strategically located province. This crisis is characterised by a multitude of armed actors in conflict, a large, displaced population, and an even larger population in need of humanitarian aid. For some months now, the situation has alternated between fighting and short periods of calm.

Overall, 1.6 million people have been displaced since the beginning of this crisis in March 2022, according to data from the IOM.² The city of Goma and the outlying villages in Nyiragongo territory have continued to receive large numbers of displaced people in several waves.

Since the beginning of 2024, an intensification of the conflict between the armed forces of the DRC against the M23 armed group has had

devastating effects on the civilian population in several towns within North Kivu. Armed clashes have been reported in various areas, particularly in Mweso and Katsiru in Masisi territory and most recently towards the city of Sake which lies 25km west of Goma. These clashes have led to a spike in population displacement with massive movements towards already overcrowded sites.

The escalation peaked from 28 January to 12 February 2024 in the Masisi, Rutshuru, and Nyiragongo territories. Approximately 135,000 internally displaced people fled Sake in the past week to Goma, the capital of North Kivu, with an additional 60,000 people into South Kivu (specifically Minova). Goma has more than two million inhabitants, with at least 500,000 displaced people.

The situation is even more worrying as the fighting is moving ever closer to the city of Goma, the capital of North Kivu. The use of heavy artillery and shelling has killed dozens, and hospitals in Goma have struggled to cope with the influx of injured civilians. It is reported that the two main roads leading into Goma have been blocked disrupting food supplies.

A needs assessment led by Red Cross Society of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC Red Cross), in December revealed that people are living in extremely precarious conditions, packed into family homes or camps. They are already at breaking point – mentally, physically, and financially. Most of the assistance being provided by humanitarian organisations is going to people in camps on the outskirts of Goma, but a lack of funding and the scale of people's needs means that this is insufficient.

According to assessment both the displaced and host communities are struggling to have their most basic needs met, including access to drinking water and health care. People are increasingly adopting negative coping mechanisms to survive, such as stealing and prostitution. Food and health care are also

² <https://dtm.iom.int/democratic-republic-congo>

considered priorities. Goma faces additional challenges due to the spreading of a cholera outbreak. The massive displacement of people in North Kivu as a result of the war and its consequences remains the main cause of the spread of cholera. The response from the government and partners remains inadequate. The city's health care infrastructure is already stretched, and the crisis is compounding the difficulties in managing the outbreak.

Humanitarian needs are expected to significantly increase in the coming weeks and months, while the capacity of humanitarian organisations may face challenges due to reduced access, a possible evacuation, or relocations.

While humanitarian needs are expected to continue to increase in 2024, the financial resources mobilised in the country are decreasing.



Displaced camp in Goma territory (Photos: DRC Red Cross)

TARGETING

Despite the interventions of humanitarian actors, including the Red Cross Society of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC Red Cross), the needs continue to increase with steady flow of displaced persons. Given this situation, the DRC Red Cross, with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and in collaboration with all its members, wants to scale-up its ongoing response to support the thousands of people affected. Through this Emergency Appeal, the DRC Red Cross will provide food assistance, health, WASH, and protection services in North Kivu and South Kivu, to at least 500,000 of the most vulnerable IDPs and their corresponding host communities affected by the ongoing conflict.

The DRC Red Cross already has a significant presence and operational footprint in the area with thousands of active volunteers mobilised. This Emergency Appeal will support the DRC Red Cross in scaling-up their work using logistics and support structures that are already in place.

Community engagement and accountability (CEA), as well as protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI) standards, will help further refine the targeting methodology, with attention to the particularly vulnerable and/or the most at-risk groups, including women, children, the elderly, and people living with disabilities. Needs assessments of displaced people in North and South Kivu is continuous and will enable Red Cross Movement partners to prepare a coordinated response according to their capacities.

Cross-border coordination

The IFRC is undertaking very close coordination and cooperation with the neighbouring National Red Cross Societies of Rwanda, Burundi, and Uganda. The three countries are undertaking scenario analysis, which will inform a sub-regional contingency plan, alongside readiness activities. As needed, IFRC will activate a response to the needs of refugees in these countries. Cross-border coordination will be established between the Red Cross teams in the DRC, Rwanda, Burundi and Uganda, and stakeholders.





Image during rapid needs assessment (Photo: DRC Red Cross)



Vital food assistance interventions for 5,060 crisis-affected households in #Beni territory, North Kivu province, #RDC through USAID-funded "Towards Zero Hunger" project. (Photo; DRC Red Cross)

PLANNED OPERATIONS

Through this Emergency Appeal, the IFRC aims to support the DRC Red Cross in the following areas based on ongoing assessments:

 	<p>Integrated assistance (<i>Shelter, Livelihoods, and Multi-purpose Cash</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Distribute emergency shelter and other essential household items. - Food assistance for internally displacement camps (IDP) and host communities. The response to the IDP crisis aims to improve access to food and maintain consumption levels by increasing emergency food aid, mainly through the distribution of food and household items to IDPs in situations of acute food insecurity. The humanitarian response here is based on a basic needs approach. - The multi-purpose cash transfer modality, designed to meet the basic needs of IDPs, will be analysed in-depth in view of the insecurity in the intervention zone. - Regarding livelihood support, and depending on how the situation evolves, the Red Cross will consider providing inputs and production tools (mainly related to crops and livestock).
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Health and Care

- Monitoring of the most vulnerable, in particular children affected by acute malnutrition, will be supported by community screening and the referral of malnourished children to nutritional rehabilitation programmes.
- Considering the interrelationships between malnutrition and infectious diseases, community health promotion, hygiene, and epidemic prevention services adapted to the context will be provided.
- Detect and support the response to epidemics, including cholera: establishing ORTs, training Branch Outreach Response Teams (BORTs) to conduct WASH activities in communities and risk communication and community engagement (RCCE), epidemic (disease) surveillance, and referral services, and supporting expanded programmes on immunisation (EPI) and vaccination.
- Provide psychosocial support (PSS) and psychosocial first aid.



Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

- Water, hygiene, and sanitation contribute in a sustainable way to the health, dignity, protection, and livelihoods of communities.
- The provision of WASH services will therefore take a variety of forms, including the direct supply of drinking water or the rehabilitation of water supply infrastructure, as well as supplying water treatment and storage products in-kind. Additionally, hygiene promotion and distribution of hygiene items will be conducted, along with the set-up of water and sanitation facilities – latrines, sanitary facilities, water points, and washing stations.





Protection and Prevention (*Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI), Community Engagement and Accountability, Migration, Risk Reduction*)


- CEA and PGI are essential and cross-cutting components of the operation to ensure that it recognises and values all members of the community as equal partners whose diverse needs, priorities, and preferences guide the actions of the Red Cross in the DRC.
- Targeting by the National Society will continue based on minimum standards of PGI in emergencies across all sectors.
- Safe and equitable service delivery will be ensured taking into account gender needs and other diversity factors, while data disaggregated by sex, age, and disability will be included in assessments and reports.
- Regarding food and household distribution interventions, awareness-raising efforts aimed at ending or reducing exposure to harmful household coping mechanisms (survival sex, child marriage, child labour, and dropping out of school) will be carried out.
- Community information and education initiatives followed by material on the culture of non-violence and peace (including discrimination, violence, exclusion, sexual and gender-based violence, and child protection) will be central to the response.
- CEA will serve as the underlying approach to amplify the voices of affected people and communities to inform and scale-up the response.
- Support will be provided to staff and volunteers to make sure they have the knowledge, skills, and tools to engage effectively with communities.
- In addition, measures to respond to the ongoing IDP crisis, beyond the period covered by this Emergency Appeal, will be integrated into the National Society's longer-term national plans, as part of the IFRC's Red Ready and Zero Hunger initiatives. There will also be links with existing programmes that invest in nature-based solutions and environmental protection.
- Support will be provided through mobile Humanitarian Service Points (HSPs) response mechanisms to underserved communities.



Enabling approaches

The sectors outlined above will be supported and enhanced by the following enabling approaches:

	<p>Coordination and partnerships</p> <p><i>IFRC member coordination</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This Emergency Appeal promotes a Federation-wide approach to the response based on the expertise, capacities, and resources of all members active in the targeted areas. The DRC Red Cross has adopted a single response plan, with a Federation-wide approach to resources and implementation. - The IFRC secretariat will continue to coordinate inputs and support information sharing and analysis between Red Cross and Red Crescent partners to ensure a common analysis and approach to the IDP crisis in the east of the country. - Cross-border collaboration will be improved given the border areas with Rwanda, Burundi, and Uganda. <p><i>Red Cross Movement cooperation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Given the presence of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the IFRC and other Participating National Societies in the two provinces (North and South Kivu), a joint coordinated response plan for the Movement partners has been developed at headquarters and in the two provinces. - The joint plan reflects the approaches and complementarity between the ICRC, IFRC, and other National Societies present in the country. A corresponding monitoring will be further developed to track collective progress. - Weekly Movement meetings convened by DRC Red Cross will ensure that all Movement partners are aligned with the response plan. <p><i>External coordination</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The IFRC role as observer to the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and the national and provincial cluster coordination mechanisms ensures that this Appeal is coordinated with all humanitarian partners to prevent duplication. This Appeal will be coordinated with the Humanitarian Response Plan. - The DRC Red Cross in their role as auxiliary to the Government contributes to the priorities of the Government at all levels. - The DRC Red Cross and IFRC operational teams in Kinshasa and Goma will maintain effective cooperation with all external partners of the Movement and provide leadership and advice through regular discussions and dialogue with the National Society. The ICRC and the Participating National Societies will work with the National Society within the framework of bilateral agreements and support the DRC Red Cross in its relations with external partners.
	<p>IFRC Secretariat services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The IFRC in advancing the National Societies development mandate is supporting DRC Red Cross to conduct a capacity gap analysis and work with partners to ensure adequate capacity is in place to implement the response. As needed the IFRC will draw human resources from its regional and or global surge rosters to ensure DRC Red Cross has in place security management plan, risk management plans, and business continuity plans. - The IFRC network's Federation Wide response is based on solid data and significant community involvement ensuring that the response is evidence-based. Our Information Management (IM) unit will analyse population movements in partnership with other humanitarian actors to inform our operational and strategic decision-making.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The IFRC will ensure compliance with the Seville Agreement 2.0 and Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) guidelines which accords ICRC the co convenor responsibilities in Eastern DRC. -A communication working group for Movement members in-country (the DRC Red Cross, ICRC, and IFRC) is activated and coordinated by the DRC Red Cross.
	<p>National Society Strengthening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The DRC Red Cross has significant capacity in emergency response. The IFRC will continue to strengthen the National Society to improve institutional and organisational capacity development of the National Society by putting in place agile finance, volunteers and branch management ns accountability systems. -Other ongoing work includes legal, ethical, and financial foundations, systems and structures, competencies, and capacities to plan and perform effectively. -Modernising volunteer duty of care strengthened through phone applications for data collection and timely reporting and analysis will be supported.

The planned response reflects the current situation and is based on the information available at the time of this Emergency Appeal launch. Details of the operation will be updated through the Operational Strategy to be released in the upcoming days. The Operational Strategy will also provide further details on the Federation-wide approach, which includes the response activities of all contributing Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, and the Federation-wide funding requirement.

After June 2025, response activities to this humanitarian crisis will continue under the IFRC Network DRC Red Cross Country Plan for 2025. The IFRC Network Country Plans show an integrated view of the ongoing emergency responses and longer-term programming tailored to the needs in the country, as well as a Federation-wide view of the country's actions. This aims to streamline activities under one plan, while still ensuring that the needs of those affected by the disaster are met in an accountable and transparent way. Information will be shared promptly, should there be a need for an extension of the crisis-specific response beyond the above-mentioned time.

RED CROSS RED CRESCENT FOOTPRINT IN COUNTRY

Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo



Core areas of operation

Disaster Risk Management
Community Health
Protection, Gender, and Inclusion
Community Engagement and Accountability
Migration – population movement

Number of volunteers:	503,311
Number of branches:	26
Number of staff:	113

The Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC Red Cross) was established in 1961 as an auxiliary structure of the public authorities. With a large network of trained and motivated volunteers, staff, and real estate assets, the National Society has a strong added value to address the humanitarian needs in the country. With 26 provincial branches, an active volunteer base and high levels of access and acceptance across the territory, the DRC Red Cross is a key humanitarian actor and first responder.

At the national headquarters, there is an operational management structure with technical units in the fields of health, disaster risk management and emergency response, and support services. The DRC Red Cross has a national disaster response team and response teams in 11 provinces, with roughly 503,311 registered volunteers, 61% of whom are men and 39% women.

With a branch committee in each of the 26 provinces, 245 territorial committees, and a total of 63 years of experience in helping the most vulnerable people, the National Society has considerable experience in responding to population movements, disaster management, and epidemics.

The DRC Red Cross and all partners within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement present in the DRC, particularly the ICRC, IFRC, and Participating National Societies, continue to work together closely to support and strengthen the capacity of the DRC Red Cross in managing its resource requirements, and to deliver humanitarian assistance and other vital programmes and services.

Through its network of branches and volunteers who are particularly well-trained and widely accepted by communities, the DRC Red Cross has provided vital assistance to the hardest-to-reach communities



First aid activities with the mobile clinic (Photo DRC Red Cross)

and marginalised groups in the country and has been at the front line of assisting displaced populations since the beginning of the conflict. With a total of 26,368 volunteers across North Kivu and 24,541 volunteers in South Kivu, the DRC Red Cross is best placed to access areas where other humanitarian organisations cannot reach.

During this ongoing crisis, the DRC Red Cross is focusing its support on approaches that, in its experience, will make the most difference to the lives and livelihoods of those affected. The DRC Red Cross interventions within the areas from 2023 to date are summarised below:

- A rapid multi-sector needs assessment was carried out at IDP sites in Goma and Nyiragongo territory. The DRC Red Cross was one of the first partners to carry out assessments at various IDP shelter sites in Goma and Minova in South Kivu province,
- Given its acceptability in the area occupied by armed groups, the DRC Red Cross often organises logistics to support the Mweso, Kitshanga, and Rutshuru health centres.
- The DRC Red Cross has an existing food security project, "Towards Zero Hunger: Vital Food Security Interventions for Crisis-Affected Communities in DR Congo's North Kivu and Tanganyika Provinces," which aims to provide humanitarian assistance to displaced and host households affected by violence and other crisis situations in the provinces of North Kivu and Tanganyika. Through this programme, by December 2023, the DRC Red Cross had reached 18,454 households, including 11,158 IDPs, and 7,292 host families (114,226 people) with food distributions.
- In December 2023, at Kanyaruchinya in the Bushagara sites, the DRC Red Cross, with the support of the ICRC, provided a full ration of food and cash to 3,109 displaced households (18,654 people).
- As part of the UNICEF Rapid Response Project (UniRR) in North Kivu, the DRC Red Cross distributed essential household items and washing kits to displaced households.
- During 2023, in North Kivu, the DRC Red Cross provided 111 chlorination points to combat epidemics (cholera, Ebola, yellow fever, promotion of hygiene and basic sanitation, etc.).
- The DRC Red Cross is also implementing the DG ECHO Pilot Programme Partnership (PPP) in South Kivu (Uvira) with the support of the French Red Cross, the Spanish Red Cross, the Luxembourg Red Cross, and the IFRC. Assistance for displaced persons in the camps is included within this framework.

At the same time, beyond responding to emergency crises, the DRC Red Cross, supported by the IFRC and partners, is developing longer-term programmes to tackle the root causes of humanitarian problems (food insecurity, lack of access to drinking water, epidemics, etc.). Additionally, it is building on its previous successes and working to support the government's plans to increase the resilience of the most vulnerable communities, including displaced populations.

IFRC Membership coordination

The IFRC Country Cluster Delegation in Kinshasa works with the DRC Red Cross on strategic and operational coordination, National Society development, humanitarian diplomacy, and also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme. The IFRC likewise focuses its work with the National Society in strengthening its auxiliary role by meeting key stakeholders at the government level on a regular basis.

With staff based in Goma, Tanganyika and Kinshasa, the IFRC provides support to the National Society's emergency operations and thematic programmes in the DRC, specifically focusing on disaster preparedness, health, and protection, gender, and inclusion. This encompasses planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting, as well as participation in monitoring and evaluation.

The DRC Red Cross benefits from its collaboration with the Belgian Red Cross, French Red Cross (as the lead EU National Society), Luxembourg Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross and Swedish Red Cross. With

the support of Participating National Societies, the DRC Red Cross is implementing several programmes in different geographic locations on thematic areas clearly identified in its strategic plan, and which contain elements of National Society capacity building.

Two crisis committees have been set up within the Red Cross Movement at the national headquarter level (the DRC Red Cross, IFRC, ICRC, French Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, and Belgium Red Cross), as well as at the North Kivu branch level (the DRC Red Cross, ICRC, and IFRC). Regular meetings are held to work with the North Kivu branch.

Red Cross Red Crescent Movement coordination

Regular senior management meetings between the DRC Red Cross, IFRC, and ICRC enable effective International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement coordination in the DRC. This is crucial to ensure the impact and relevance of the Movement in a country with multiple crises and significant needs. These efforts are carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) principles, and the newly adopted Seville Agreement 2.0.

A humanitarian response to the people affected by conflicts, other disasters, and epidemics has been made possible by collaboration between Movement partners. Communication and cooperation is being facilitated by a Movement Coordination Agreement, signed by all Movement partners active in the DRC, which recognises the DRC Red Cross's role as convener and the ICRC's role as co-convener, as outlined in the Movement Coordination for Collective Impact Agreement. The ICRC is maintaining a dialogue with all parties to the conflict. Given the complexity and sensitivity of the situation, the Movement is taking a reactive and discreet approach in its public communications.

The ICRC supports Movement partners active in the DRC under level three comprehensive security management support agreements.

The actions taken under the Emergency Appeal are complementary to those underway and planned with the contributions of the ICRC and the Participating National Societies in the country. During Movement coordination meetings in Kinshasa, immediate availability of support and ongoing actions were identified. A Movement-wide response plan is being prepared which accounts for all available resources and planned activities to ensure coordination, cooperation, and complementarity.

External coordination

The DRC Red Cross is working closely with relevant ministries, national stakeholders, and other agencies to align and reinforce each other's efforts and maximise effectiveness and efficiency. The National Society will continue to collaborate and coordinate with other humanitarian partners by participating in joint assessments and attending national and provincial coordination meetings.

DRC Red Cross teams in North and South Kivu regularly participate in humanitarian coordination meetings and are particularly active in meetings with OCHA in the Shelter, Health, and Food Security clusters in Goma, Beni, Bukavu, and Uvira.

The DRC Red Cross continues to develop stronger partnerships, particularly with the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Humanitarian Action and Social Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, in addition to the FAO, MSF, WFP, WHO, UNICEF, GAVI, USAID, CDC, ECHO, among other agencies and organisations.

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Reference



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