

INFORMATION BULLETIN



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO: POPULATION MOVEMENT

23 April 2004

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

In Brief

This Information Bulletin (no. 01/2004) is being issued for information only. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- In DRC: Matthieu Musepulu, Secretary General, Red Cross Society of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kinshasa; Email: croixrougerdc@hotmail.com, or matmusep@yahoo.fr, Phone: 243.98.225.214
- In DRC: Momodou Lamin Fye, Federation Head of Delegation, Kinshasa, Email: hod.kinshasdel@wireless.ifrc.org, Phone: 243.81.884.55.82
- In Geneva: Mark Willis, Federation Regional Officer for West and Central Africa, Africa Dept., Geneva; Email: mark.willis@ifrc.org, Phone: 41.22.730.42.60, Fax: 41.22.733.03.95

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

The Situation

In December 2003 and January 2004, the Government of Angola initiated a policy of identifying and evicting from its territory the Congolese civilians who had been living and working in the country's diamond mining areas. During these first two waves, at least 20,000 Congolese were forcibly expelled and returned to the remote south-western Bandundu and Western Kasai provinces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), bordering with Angola. The situation worsened in April 2004 with many more driven out of the Angolan borders, thereby provoking an acute humanitarian crisis; a third wave began on 20 April. Since then some 67,000 Congolese have been registered by local crisis committees in Bandundu and Western Kasai Provinces after crossing the Tungila River which separates the two countries. Statistics from DRC entry points are as follows:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------|
| • Kahungula, Bandundu | 28,000 |
| • Kamako, Western Kasai | 1,700 |
| • Kabwakala, Western Kasai | 20,081 |
| • Kanzaji, Western Kasai | 13,008 |
| • Kabungu, Western Kasai | 4,216 |

According to other humanitarian partners and the DRC Ministry of Solidarity and Humanitarian Affairs an estimate of 80,000 to 100,000 Congolese have been or will soon be forcibly expelled in this latest wave of population movement. The daily arrival rate is estimated at more than 2,500 people. The real number is likely to be much higher, as many of these people are not passing through registration points.

Human rights violations have been reported.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Besides the Government through its Ministries of the Interior and Humanitarian representatives, the following humanitarian partners are involved in the search for a solution for the returnees: OCHA, UNHCR, UNICEF, OHCHR, CRS, WFP, MSF-Belgium and Caritas.

The local branches of the [Red Cross Society of the Democratic Republic of the Congo](#) are working closely with these partners, through its network of volunteers. Following a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between WFP and the Red Cross of DRC, the WFP has put food-distribution items at the disposal of the Red Cross volunteers. The Federation Delegation in Kinshasa played a determinant role in the signing of this MOU.

At the different entry points, the Red Cross volunteers are involved in the returnees' registration, psychological support, first aid and family reunification.

All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's [Annual Appeal for the Democratic Republic of Congo, no. 01.43/2004](#).

[Click here to return to the title page or contact information.](#)