

OPERATIONS UPDATE



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 CONGO AND RWANDA: VOLCANIC ERUPTION IN GOMA

20 January 2002

This Ops Update is intended for reporting on emergency appeals.

Appeal No. 02/02

Launched on 18 January 2002 for CHF 1,533,000 for three months

Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) allocated: CHF 100,000

Beneficiaries: 250,000

Operations Update No. 1 Period covered: 19-20 January 2002

Operations Update No. 2 expected 22 January

"At a Glance"

Related Appeals: Congo Republic & DR Congo 01.06/2002

The Disaster/Situation: The Federation is requesting urgent donor support so that it can quickly help hundreds of thousands of vulnerable people whose lives have been shattered by the volcanic eruption in Goma. Significant resources and assistance have already been mobilised but a major international effort is required to meet the massive needs on the ground. The Federation is actively coordinating with its partners the best way to mount the ongoing response and requires rapid support for this major effort.

Operational Developments:

General: On Thursday 17 January, Nyiragongo, a notoriously dangerous volcano a few miles from Goma, Congo, started to erupt, sending lava flows towards the airport. During the past three days the lava flow has destroyed 40% of the town and damaged up to 80%. Three main lava flows continue to run, burning everything in their way and causing fuel dumps and tanks to explode. Ongoing seismic tremors add to the concerns that the situation in Goma remains very dangerous. Volcanic experts are now expressing concerns that additional fissures could open up on the mountainside creating new and equally dangerous lava flows. Additional worries are emerging as the contamination in the lake appears to be growing with the lava and the heat creating sulphurous steam and gas. Ash and fumes are adding to the pollution and creating a dangerous hazard to drinking water.

Population Movements: The town's estimated population of 500,000 people evacuated the area. Some 250,000 crossed to Rwanda at the Gisenyi border; 100,000 moved to the west and approximately 150,000 remained in and around Goma. As of Saturday 19 January, 300,000 people were reported in Gisenyi and moving towards Ruhengeri. The situation by Saturday indicated a major displacement crisis. However, by Sunday afternoon contacts with the Federation/ICRC/Rwanda Red Cross (RRC) teams in Goma and Gisenyi revealed a sudden shift with many thousands returning back and forth between Rwanda and the Congo sides of the border. This included many crossing to Bukavu. It remains uncertain tonight (Sunday) if these are permanent returns as Congolese seek alternatives to staying in Rwanda, or are if they are 'go-see and return' visits to establish food and water sources. Although the Rwanda authorities are urging people to remain where aid can more easily reach them, many appear not to want to. The UN is moving 600 refugees from the stadium in Ruhengeri to Bukavu.

Red Cross Red Crescent Society action:

Immediately after the eruption both the Congolese and Rwanda Red Cross mobilised assistance in the Goma and Gisenyi areas. In Goma the Democratic Republic of Congo Red Cross (DRCRC) assisted displaced and injured. In Rwanda the RRC deployed 3 water tankers, 1 water purification unit, 6 tanks and 1,000 jerry cans along with three RRC response teams to distribute assistance. Volunteers were mobilised and were ready to assist with distribution of WFP food aid along the roads. In addition basic relief supplies of blankets, tents, jerry cans, water and sanitation purification and other materials were prepared for delivery to be distributed at shelters.

Federation/ICRC assistance:

From the beginning, close co-ordination and communication has been maintained between the Federation and the ICRC both at headquarters in Geneva and in both Kigali and Goma. The Federation has deployed the following emergency response resources:

Regional Disaster Response Teams (RDRT) The regional delegation in Nairobi sent to Kigali a 5-member RDRT on Friday 19 January, less than 24 hours after the first alert was given. The team comprises water and sanitation, logistics, relief, and communication/information delegates. The regional stock of the regional logistics unit in Nairobi is on standby for transport to Kigali and Gisenyi.

Participating National Society (PNS) delegates in Rwanda: Spanish, German, Belgian and French delegates already working in Rwanda were immediately put at the Federation's disposal by their societies. Upon arrival the RDRT team with the Head of Regional Delegation (HoRD) Nairobi and the Federation Rwanda Representative joined up with these delegates, Rwanda Red Cross and ICRC for a briefing on the situation and the response so far.

Field assessment coordination team (FACT): A FACT consisting of 10 delegates was immediately called up and most have now joined up with the RDRT. The Team Leader will have overall operational coordination of the Federation's response team.

Emergency response unit (ERU) teams: One ERU has so far been deployed, a British Red Cross logistics ERU will be operational at Kigali airport by Tuesday coordinating Red Cross relief flights and supporting field logistics. An ERU alert for a basic health care and specialised Wat/San unit has been sent to PNS in Spain, Germany, Sweden, Austria and Japan.

The Team together with the ICRC immediately left for the disaster area for initial assessment while the Federation representative and the team leader stayed in Kigali for meetings with the authorities and other organisations, organised by the Ministry of Local Affairs (MINILOC) with the Minister of State assisted by a representative from the Ministries of Transport, Finance, Defence and Health. The organisations were briefed on the needs and the plans of the government of Rwanda to respond to the disaster. At that time the targeted population to be assisted was 560,000 beneficiaries, or 112,000 families. These figures have since been downgraded given the earlier noted movements back to the Congo.

UN and other main organisations actionw

OCHA senior officer from Geneva Ross Mountain will take over the overall co-ordination, along with the government. They will set up an operational centre in Ruhengeri and a satellite in Kigali. A database specialist will assist in mapping the combined aid operation. A coordination meeting between Red Cross and the incoming OCHA Representative was set for Sunday..

UNICEF has one plane arriving today carrying tents, plastic sheeting and jerrycans. Another one is scheduled to leave Copenhagen.

WORLD VISION has 3,700 metric tonnes of food available in-country. It will check with USAID for authorisation to release for the operation.

UNHCR mentioned in the meeting that they could not yet commit themselves as the beneficiaries were not as yet recognised as refugees.

OXFAM is addressing water needs

ECHO has regional representatives in Kigali and the field.

Latest developments w

The RC was asked by the government to take care of overall camp co-ordination, together with HCR. The proposed number of camps was to be 26 with approximately 25,000 persons per camp for a total of 560,000. Given the changed movements and the Preliminary Appeal and mobilisation target, the Red Cross prefers to limit for the moment their potential case-load to three camps or approximately 100,000 displaced. Two sites have been identified: Nkamira and Mudende. Another site, Nyundo, is to be confirmed later. The Federation/RRC team together with ICRC Kigali and Goma noted on Sunday that the camp sites in Gisenyi are not filling up and refugees are not willing to reside in the camps. Many are camping on the road side and are returning back to Goma to check on their properties. The team visited Goma and will return to Kigali on Sunday evening to present their combined observations and recommendations. The uncertainty of exactly where the 350,000 or more displaced will finally settle will be important in defining the final operational profile and needs.

Response so far w

The RRC mobilised their volunteers to respond to the immediate needs for the arriving refugees. At present there are 4 RRC staff in Gisenyi seconded from HQ, 4 teams of 20 volunteers; 1 in Nkamira, Mudende, Rugerero and Nyundo. Each team has a team leader and one unaccompanied minor officer. Gisenyi branch has one Wat San, one Health and a warehouse manager. Volunteers are tasked to organise the distribution of water and biscuits along the road towards the camps. An additional 2 disaster preparedness and 2 health personnel and 1 programme officer have been attached to the operation.

The Federation: On 20 January, the secretariat logistics department issued a mobilisation table for National Societies for 100,000 persons. The following actions have commenced as of Sunday 20 January. Specific commodities, amounts and pledges will be provided in the next Operations Update

French Red Cross: Has mobilised an airlift of relief and medical supplies plus 3 medical staff from their base on Reunion It was due to arrive in Kigali on Sunday night. Late Sunday reports were that the aircraft was ready to depart but a cyclone off the Madagascar coast was causing delays. A delegate arrived ahead to assist with logistics.

Belgian Red Cross: Belgian and Federation delegates were due to arrive Monday 21 January on a Belgian Government aircraft with relief supplies to prepare for a Belgian RC flight on the 21st and possibly a second on the 29th These flights to carry general relief supplies

Spanish & Netherlands Red Cross have planned relief flights over the next three days based on the Federation mobilisation plan.

The Secretariat will send two flights on 22 January with blankets and plastic sheeting from the Regional Emergency stocks in Nairobi.

American Red Cross has provide three WHO Kits.

In addition to the Federation mobilisation plan the Federation/ICRC/RRC team have identified the following supplies - from the required materials list distributed by the Government - that it could provide through its network, if needed.

<i>Items</i>	<i>GVT Needs (based on 560,000 beneficiaries)</i>	<i>Immediate (in stock/delivered)</i>	<i>Short Term (- 10 Days)</i>	<i>Middle Term (+ 10 days)</i>
Blankets	280'000	2,500 BRC	12,000 GRC	
		2,900 FRC	50,000 FED	
		1,500 ICRC		
Mats	280'000			
Jerry Cans	224'000	2,000 FRC	40,000 ICRC	
		6,400 ICRC		
Sheeting Roll		10 (50m) FRC		
		10 (50m) ICRC		
		10 (60m) FRC		
Sheeting Pieces	112'000		13,000 FED	
			3,000 GRC	
			2,000 FRC	
Tents		250 BRC 42 ICRC		1,300 FED
Petrol Lamp	112'000			
Kitchen Sets	112'000	770 ICRC		
		3,000 pots ICRC		
Soap		112,500 Bars ICRC		
Used Clothes		1,200 RRC	1 Container ICRC	
Food		WFP / WV		
Latrines	28'000		Possible FED (up to 5,000 Latrines)	
Sanitation		To be assessed		15 l/day
Purification tablets		700,000 ICRC	NBO FED	NBO FED
		2 purification station BRC		
		1 purification station FRC		
Transport capacity		3 water tanks ICRC	3 water tanks ICRC	
		14,000 l x 2	10,000 l x 2	
		10,000 l x 1	15,000 l x 1	
Storage capacity		Bladders ICRC		
		10,000 l x 2		
		15,000 l x 4		
		Bladders ICRC,		
		10,000 l x 7		
		20,000 l x 4		
		30,000 l x 3		
		Tanks ICRC		
		10,000 l x 1		
		15,000 l x 1		
		2,300 l x 20		
		5,000 l x 16		

WHO Kits (10,000 pers/ 3 month)		1 kit BRC		
First Aid Kit		50 sets RRC		
Cooking Fuel				
Transport	The Red Cross will take care of its own transport			

Coordination

General: At this moment the continuing confusion of the sudden return movement of large numbers creates additional coordination problems. The delivery of aid in the existing conditions in Goma both logistical, security wise will be difficult. The airports in both Goma and Gisenyi are not thought to be useable and additional transport needs may arise.

Red Cross: The Congolese RC and the ICRC have been operational in Goma and the need to coordinate any Rwanda-based aid with any concurrent population movements between the two will require the Movement to work closely to combine their resources. This has been discussed at both field and HQ level.

UN: Meetings are planned with the OCHA Coordinator and other agencies.

Secretariat: The Congo Task Force arranged a PNS phone conference on Saturday 19 to initiate early coordination of interest. A second conference is scheduled for Wednesday when developments will be reviewed.

Outstanding needs

With the assessments in the field completed, a final plan is expected from Kigali tomorrow, 21 January. Any adjustments in the needs based on these recommendations will be covered in Tuesday’s Operational Update. The need for immediate cash pledges to support the operation are important. The transportation and flight elements will grow regardless of the final profile of the displaced.

Summary:

The changes noted by the assessment teams will have to be evaluated in the light of the lack of clarity as to what the Congolese displaced finally decide on as a semi-permanent place to settle while rehabilitation is considered. The Federation does not plan at this moment of uncertainty to change the basic objectives of the Preliminary Appeal. It will continue to mobilise for the essential needs for the first 100,000 - 68,000 of which are confirmed by the assessment teams as remaining Gisenyi - of the 250,000 beneficiaries identified in the appeal. The consensus is that there remains more than 400,000 plus displaced on each side of the border who will need essential relief regardless. The Federation believes a reserve must be maintained for options that could develop on the Congo side of the border. It will be for the various components of the Movement, including the Rwanda and Congolese RC, to adjust to cope with such an unfolding situation.

For further details please contact:

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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.

This operation seeks to administer to the immediate requirements of the victims of this disaster. Subsequent operations to promote sustainable development or longer-term capacity building will require additional support, and these programmes are outlined on the Federation's website.

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

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		ANNEX 1
<u>PRELIMINARY BUDGET SUMMARY</u>		APPEAL No. 02/2002
D. R. Congo - volcanic eruption		
TYPE		VALUE
RELIEF NEEDS		IN CHF
Shelter & constructions: tarpaulins, tents		250'000
Clothing & textiles: blankets, used clothes		150'000
Water and sanitation		200'000
Medical & first aid		100'000
Utensils & tools: kitchen sets, tools		200'000
Other relief supplies		150'000
TOTAL RELIEF NEEDS		1'050'000
<u>CAPITAL EQUIPMENT</u>		
Miscellaneous equipment		50'000
<u>PROGRAMME SUPPORT</u>		
Programme management		103'000
Technical support		31'000
Professional services		34'000
<u>TRANSPORT STORAGE & VEHICLE COSTS</u>		150'000
<u>PERSONNEL</u>		
Expatriate staff		25'000
National staff		50'000
<u>ADMINISTRATIVE & GENERAL SERVICES</u>		
Travel & related expenses		15'000
Information expenses		5'000
Administrative & general expenses		20'000
TOTAL OPERATIONAL NEEDS		483'000
TOTAL APPEAL CASH, KIND, SERVICES		1'533'000
LESS AVAILABLE RESOURCES (-)		NIL
NET REQUEST		1'533'000