

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

25 January 2002

Appeal No. 02/02

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

Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) allocated: CHF 250,000

Beneficiaries: 250,000

Operations Update No. 3 Period covered: 23-24 January 2002

Operations Update No. 4 expected 26 January

“At a Glance”

Coverage: 64.2%

Outstanding needs: CHF 549,464

Related Appeals: Congo Republic & DR Congo 01.06/2002

In Summary: The situation on the ground in the wake of the volcanic eruptions remains complicated and prone to rapid change. All parts of the Movement are continuing to coordinate their responses to this dynamic scenario, both in Rwanda and the DR Congo. Donor support has been strong and planning is well advanced to fully mobilise Red Cross Red Crescent resources as soon as an agreed plan of action has been finalised.

Operational Developments:

General: Experts working with OCHA appear to be in agreement that further eruptions are unlikely and Goma has been officially declared safe. However, there is reported activity from Nyamuragira the volcano some distance from Nyragongo. There are ongoing tremors over 4.3 on the Richter scale and the possibility of earthquake activity above that level is possible. There is also a small possibility that dangerous gases could form. About 35% of the town is now reported destroyed. Water supplies, reinforced by the ICRC, are partially operational and the water quality is acceptable and there is no concern at this stage over there being sufficient supplies for the population. Electricity is available in a limited area of the town. Some 13/15 health care centers as well as three hospitals are operational. Contrary to some reports there are no confirmed cases of cholera. However, diarrhoeal and respiratory infections are on the increase. The general health status is

acceptable but monitoring continues. Bulldozers are endeavoring to clear pathways through the lava. and OCHA reports 2,100 metres of the 3,300 metre-long Goma airport runway is available and small planes have been reported to have been landing. However at the time of reporting, it officially remains closed but planes up to the size of a C 130 could land once permission is given. Jet A1 fuel is available. The airstrip is considered suitable for DC-3s and Hercules aircraft.

Population Movements: The city population is increasing as displaced people return to Goma. Red Cross assessment teams say such movements make it difficult to supply accurate figures but it is estimated that 300,000 were displaced by the eruption. USAID/OFDA estimates of the number of displaced elsewhere are as follows: in Goma suburbs (62,5000); Sake, DRC (5,000); Rutshuru, DRC (5,000); displacement camps near Gisenyi, Rwanda (15,000 and steadily decreasing); Bukavu, DRC (11,000); surrounding areas (30,000) in towns on the southeastern shore of Lake Kivu (up to 60,000); and in six sites near the northwestern shore of Lake Kivu, near Sake (up to 60,000). An ongoing review in Goma with the ICRC will define more clearly tomorrow the extent of the operation. Both the ICRC and the Federation say the situation is still complex and sensitive and the position of the RCD authorities remains far from clear.

Red Cross Red Crescent action:

Federation:

The Federation/ICRC assessment teams have continued to liaise on the Plan of Action. They express concern that there remains a lack of clarity from the authorities on what will be an acceptable methodology to assist the displaced population. The RCD feel it will be 2-3 weeks before a base plan can be developed for the future of Goma and the displaced and would be concerned that any programmes were initiated that did not take this into account. There still also appears to be no clarity as to how the beneficiaries are selected or how balanced the distributions are. The UN have started some level of registration with WFO taking the lead on food and UNICEF on non-food. The team confirm that the confused and uncoordinated distributions of yesterday created an unacceptable situation. Congolese RC staff said that some young people were running around all locations where distributions were being held to ensure they received extra relief. Consequently, older people were left out. However, the UN have instituted a number of distribution sites and although still ad hoc in terms of beneficiary selection this has brought the situation under better control and the food situation in the short term is - like the water situation - not a crisis issue although there are vulnerable groups who must be identified. Given that the longer term needs may prove to be more demanding, the team will reserve their findings until next week as noted below.

Following a second participating National Societies (PNS) phone conference, efforts have been made to ensure better coordination of the ECHO applications and the EULIOF Bureau reports progress on this with some 500,000 ECU earmarked for Rwanda. The PNS agreed a combined application through the Belgian Red Cross for the Goma operations.

The Federation and ICRC roles in the coming operations.

The change in movements reported in the previous Operations Update have required a concerted effort to ensure a close working relationship with the ICRC. Despite assurances that such a relationship has in fact been maintained from the first day of the operation in Rwanda some PNS continue to express concerns that the focus of the operation is in the DR Congo - where the ICRC has the lead agency role - will result in a problematic environment for them to work. Responding to this, a meeting was held on 23 January between the ICRC and Federation Heads of Operations and Desk Officers. At this meeting the following decisions were taken:

- The ICRC and Federation agree that both wish to see the Federation fully participate in operational activities in Goma. There is mutual acknowledgement that the conditions both in Goma and surroundings remain even more fragile and insecure following the eruptions. A tense atmosphere dominates the scene.
- The full participation of the PNS is taken as pivotal. A number of models for management of the International Red Cross Movement's combined participation were put on the table for discussion with progress made on identifying a working methodology.
- The ICRC would maintain the Lead Agency position with the Federation taking the Lead Role in sectoral activities.
- The ICRC would maintain its existing activities in the water sector in Goma and relief activities outside Goma and be responsible for all protection and security matters.

- The Federation would take responsibility for all shelter, “camp” and distribution management, including the distribution of food and non-food materials.
- The Federation would maintain its own Appeal process and be fully responsible for the management of all goods and funds received through it.
- The Federation would maintain its responsibility for the coordination of PNS activities
- A joint ICRC/Federation statement is being prepared to formalise the proposal and will be circulated to all PNS and donors by Tuesday next week.
- In order to ensure full participation, a PNS meeting has been called for Wednesday to present the joint proposal of the Federation for operations in Rwanda and Goma.

To this end the Federation and ICRC field teams will deliver a draft working document by early next week allowing Geneva to develop this further as a document for the meeting.

Other Agencies:

The World Food Programme: WFP reports distributing food to 52,457 families (over 260,000 people) in the area around Goma and Sake, DRC, and plans to feed up to 400,000 people over the next three months.

UNOCHA: UNOCHA has arranged with authorities for the Rwanda border to be open for the movement of relief 7:00-21:00 hours. The Senior Officer will present a report on his mission in Geneva on Friday 25 January.

USAID: USAID has issued a number of bulletins on its funding and support activities. They have agreed to donate USD 25,000 directly to the Rwanda Red Cross for its relief activities.

ECHO: has commenced a shuttle flight schedule to the region from Nairobi for agencies. Details currently available have been posted on the DMIS Congo Volcano page. They will change and we will hope to keep this updated.

Latest Red Cross activities

Telecommunications

Need identified by field personnel for improved systems and communications network (HF/VHF/satellite) due to questionable security and changing field of operations. The Nairobi Regional Telecom Delegate will be deployed to direct the work of two technicians from Telecom Sans Frontieres (TSF) working with the French RC. Terms of references (ToRs) have been drafted and sent to guide TSF team in Federation procedures and support with software and equipment that will be closely coordinated by the Telecom department in Geneva. As there will be no need for a Telecoms ERU, the alert has been deactivated.

Logistics

Five planes arrived yesterday others were due to arrive today. A full breakdown of all logistics mobilisation is sent daily to all National Societies and donors. The Regional Logistics Unit head will return to Nairobi and coordinate future support from there. The Geneva Logistics Field Coordinator is presently in Goma, and has advised that many roads are not accessible at this time. The British ERU remains primarily involved in the airport operations. A full Logistics/Relief report on the disposition of all goods received to date is under way now that aircraft have been unloaded and goods transferred into the field.

Supplies have been moved up to the Gisenyi/Ruhengeri areas for support to the Rwanda Red Cross (RRC) camps and for deployment into Goma.

Information

An additional Information delegate has been posted to the operation and is supporting the teams in Goma. Reports and stories from the field are posted on the Federation web page.

Human Resources

There are two priorities to address: the future need for Relief Coordinators and for expert relief delegates. Both PNS and Regional National Societies have provided candidates and they will be selected for the field in the next two days as the organogram develops.

Health

As noted the health situation remains tolerable for the conditions in Goma. Detailed assessments were being carried out today on the possible need to support clinics with materials. In Rwanda, there will be a need to monitor conditions in those camps that the RRC is responsible for. A health coordinator may be needed to replace the field assessment coordination team (FACT) health officer. Although cholera scares have not been confirmed a precautionary delivery of one cholera health kit has been authorised.

Water and Sanitation

There is no emergency situation in either Goma or on the Rwanda side at the moment. A wat/san delegate will be needed to monitor the ongoing situation.

Finance

A Finance Officer has been in place since Monday to initiate Federation systems for the operation and will need to be supported and/or replaced in the future.

Pledges

Recent donations and pledges have come from Bamburi Cement in Kenya (a part of the French Company Lafarge. Funds have also been received from the National Societies of Canada, Denmark, Monaco and PR Korea and the UK. Pledge management notes (PMN) are still coming in and are being processed and the current appeal coverage is set to increase.

Coordination

Red Cross: As noted the reinforcement of the internal relationships. As noted the PNS contact has been maintained through phone conferences as well as the Updates and in addition the planned PNS meeting will be an important focus for the next phase. The Regional delegation in Nairobi will act as a coordinator for logistics and regional human resources. The delegation in Kinshasa is in close contact with Geneva on matters from the DRC side.

UN: Ongoing meetings with the UN agencies continue through the OCHA offices in Geneva and the field

ECHO: The Spanish Red Cross has provided a desk officer in Kigali to coordinate the PNS approaches to ECHO. As noted in the previous section.

Government: The RRC maintains close contact with key Ministries and with the Federation and ICRC.

Outstanding needs

The human resources need for the next phase will be critical and an amended Appeal will identify any additional needs for the relief operations. The obvious need for future rehabilitation while important will be very much dictated by the political and security environment that emerges in the coming months.

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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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D. R. Congo - volcanic eruption						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 02/2002		PLEDGES RECEIVED			25.01.2002	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						TOTAL COVERAGE
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				1'533'000		64.2%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD						
AMERICAN - GOVT		25'000	USD	41'470	24.01.2002	DIRECTLY TO THE DELEGATION
AMERICAN - RC		990	USD	1'642	18.01.2002	PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT
BRITISH - GOVT (DFID)		663	GBP	1'591	21.01.2002	PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT
BRITISH - GOVT (DFID)		50'000	gbp	120'000	23.01.2002	NON-RELIEF ITEMS
DANISH - RC		92'500	DKK	18'398	22.01.2002	
FRENCH - RC		335	EUR	495	18.01.2002	PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT
KENYAN - PRIVATE		40'000	USD	66'352	24.01.2002	
KOREA, REPUBLIC - RC				30'000	22.01.2002	
MONACO - RC		8'000	EUR	11'831	18.01.2002	
SPANISH - RC		6'454	EUR	9'454	20.01.2002	PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT
SWEDISH - GOVT		1'000'000	SEK	160'300	22.01.2002	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				461'533	CHF	30.1%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
AMERICAN - RC		19'800	USD	32'844	18.01.2002	3 NEW EMERGENCY HEALTH KITS
BRITISH - GOVT		64'147	GBP	153'953	21.01.2002	ERU EQUIPMENT AND TEAM
SPANISH - RC		226'659		335'206	20.01.2002	BLANKETS, JERRY CANS, TARPULINS, RUBBHALLS, TRANSPORT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				522'003	CHF	34.1%

		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