

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

10/02/2002

Appeal No. 02/02

Launched on 18 January 2002 for CHF 1,533,000 (USD 966,000/ EUR 1,038,000)

For three months

Disaster Relief Emergency Fund Allocated: CHF 250,000

Beneficiaries: 250,000

Operations Update No. 5 Period covered: 31 January to 7 February 2002

Last Ops Update issued: 29 January 2002;

Next Ops Update No. 6 expected 15 February 2002

"At a Glance"

Appeal coverage: 188%

Related Appeals: Congo Republic & DR Congo 01.06/2002, Rwanda 01.11/2002

Outstanding needs: Covered

The Disaster/Situation: The Federation's operational activities in camps for Congolese displaced in Rwanda continue along with additional assessments of damage in Gisenyi. The ongoing political and security dilemma of how and where to relocate or house the tens of thousands of homeless in Goma continues to hamper definitive mid-term Appeal planning for the Federation and the ICRC. However, major distributions of relief support directly to 6,5000 families will go ahead this week regardless of the uncertainty. It is anticipated further clarification will allow the Appeal to be completed early this week.

Operational Developments:

Some seismic shocks, from moderate to strong, have been felt over the past days in Goma. but no further eruptions are expected for the moment. Latest UN figures from Goma:

Total Affected: 350,000 people

Deaths: 147
 Displaced People: Approximately 30,000
 Homes destroyed: 14,000 (100,000 people)

The status of Nyiragongo remains unpredictable and is still of concern. There are reports of expanding fissures on the sides of the volcano. Further detailed studies are being carried out to refine the analysis for ongoing risk. The alert status is currently YELLOW, indicating ongoing activity in the volcano.

Population movements:

Figures of homeless in Goma range from 60-100,000 but along with others the Red Cross is having great difficulty assessing this accurately. An additional 25-30,000 are located outside Goma town. The total population of the town is equally fluid as groups move back and forth. However, 400,000 seems to be the upper estimate. The UN, with other agencies, is reviewing the relevance of opening camps as part of a wider relocation of the Goma population. The viability of this is uncertain as the decision has political and security consideration and will also depend on the risk assessment evaluation from experts on how safe is the immediate environment of Goma. Lac Vert and Mugunga are two areas that have been identified by local authorities as potential relocation sites.

Red Cross Red Crescent action w

The On 4 February, ICRC reopened its delegation in Goma and will provide an office for the Federation. The unpredictability of the solution to the homeless issue in Goma dominates work. Without such a solution the selection and movement of people outside of Goma and subsequent assistance to them in a new location is beyond the remit of the Red Cross. Consequently the Federation will concentrate and for the moment limit its actions in Goma to a distribution of essential relief supplies to the population within the town.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Goma •

The overriding issue still limiting activity is whether the affected population of Goma will be ready to be relocated on a site outside of Goma. For the Red Cross the only option given the highly sensitive political and security considerations is to follow and not to participate in or precede such a resettlement. The following issues need to be resolved.

1. The people must have a secured right to return to their homes/property in Goma
2. Each family must be allocated a plot on the site
3. A minimum structure must be put in place
4. A minimum level of physical safety must be secured

The population in Goma are well informed about the risks of living in Goma. However, there are no important economic activities and no real infrastructure in the region around Goma that could represent an alternative place of living to the population. As people generally prefer to stay in Goma rather than to leave, economic security appears to outweigh physical security at the moment.

Food:

Save the Children Fund will make an assessment of the food economy in Goma.

WFP is ready to deliver food support and health education programs in Goma, which may open a “window of opportunity” for the Red Cross specifically the Goma Branch of the Democratic Republic of Congo RC (DRCRC). Local produce is available in markets and with the WFP stocks there is ample food for the population.

Schools:

It has been announced that the schools of Goma will reopen February 25. However, as the school buildings have also been affected by the volcano eruption and earth tremors, potential rehabilitation needs should be clarified before reopening. Therefore, an assessment team will examine the schools and their facilities in terms of water and sanitation installations etc. ATLAS will carry out this assessment, assisted by the FACT/Health delegate. Possible activities related to the schools are rehabilitation of latrines, digging small trenches around the buildings to avoid flooding during the rain. A two-month project is under consideration to procure food in the local market and pay women in Goma to prepare a daily meal for the children in the schools.

Red Cross and Red Crescent Society w***Democratic Republic of Congo, Goma branch***

The branch has suggested a number of projects to the Federation during a February 1 meeting to equip and train the Goma branch to rapidly mobilise and deploy volunteers to support the evacuation of large numbers of the population in case of further volcanic activity. In Bukavu, the ICRC, through the Congolese Red Cross, is providing non-food assistance to approximately 1,500 people from Goma in three sites. The branch, along with the ICRC, is reuniting families separated by the disaster and have opened 12 posts to register and trace unaccompanied children.

Rwanda Red Cross Society

Currently 46 staff and volunteers from RRC are working in Mudende camp with the Belgian Red Cross and Federation to ensure proper living conditions for the approximately 5,500 beneficiaries in the camp. There are no signs that the number of beneficiaries is reducing. On the contrary, the Mudende camp seems to be growing as beneficiaries from other camps settle there. The RRC Gisenyi branch, with Federation support, is completing an assessment to estimate damage to houses affected by the tremors and earth shocks. The preliminary estimate is that 1,700 houses have been partly or severely damaged.

Logistics

Damage to the airport in Goma required that the British ERU be based in Kigali, Rwanda has the nearest international airport from which goods can be transported to the affected areas. Goods received in Kigali have been transferred within 24 hours - using a local transport contractor - to an 800 msq. rented warehouse in Ruengheri. Before the Ruengheri warehouse was available, goods were transferred to a warehouse in the Mudende refugee camp. Ruengheri has been chosen as the supply base and sub delegation for the operation in Goma and Rwanda and is a 90-minute drive from Kigali.

An ICRC warehouse in Goma is also used to store and make up kits for distributions to 6,500 families in 5 districts of Goma, commencing Monday. ICRC trucks are collecting items from the Ruengheri warehouse and Kigali airport for direct transfer to Goma. Local purchases are made in Kigali for distribution in Mudende refugee camp in Rwanda. The ERU member in Gisenyi and Goma is providing logistics support for the Goma distributions. 13.5 tons of soap have been purchased in Goma for this operation while blankets, jerry cans, cooking sets and tarpaulins are being dispatched from Ruengheri and the airport. Plastic sacks have been specially manufactured in Kigali to pack these items for the distribution. The ERU systems member has been reconciling stock figures at the warehouses with stocks received at the airport. Due to the limited storage and handling capacity at Kigali airport, the sudden arrival of huge amounts of humanitarian cargo has been extremely difficult to verify at time of arrival. Also, some goods received from donors have no, or insufficient, identification markings and have been indistinguishable from goods that arrived at the same time from the same suppliers for other agencies. Most of the discrepancies have been reconciled.

The Mudende warehouse is managed by RRC. Due to political pressure to keep goods in Mudende it has not been possible to transfer all goods back to the main Ruengheri warehouse. The ERU team leader has been coordinating airport operations and local procurement. Kitchen sets, sleeping mats, mattresses, lamps, buckets, clothing, lighting equipment, hygiene materials etc. are being purchased locally for Mudende camp. Complications have arisen due to almost all goods having been imported into Rwanda and needing lengthy and time-consuming formalities before being re-exported to Congo. There are still considerable problems relating to the processing of an unexpected and undocumented consignment from the Algerian RC. There has been excellent cooperation on the logistics with ICRC in Goma and Kigali. The ERU will depart shortly after handing over to an incoming Logistics Coordinator from Netherlands RC

Relief

With the arrival by air of a consignment of kitchen sets procured in Egypt through OPEC and Danish RC, the relief supply package is complete. A second distribution of non food items to 6,500 of 13,000 families in

Goma will take place next week. The Red Cross has taken responsibility for distributing the items in different parts of Goma town. Finalized lists of beneficiaries are expected to be ready by the weekend.

Each family will receive the following: 2 kgs of soap, 1 plastic sheeting, 2 jerry cans, 1 kitchen set and 3 blankets.

Distribution Plan

Name of quartier	Number of families
Virunga	921
Mugunga	40
Lac Vert	27
Munigi/Nyaragongo	5'503
Total	6'491 (approximately 40,000 persons)

Discussions are ongoing to refine the Plan of Action and will include rehabilitation of Goma to assist repair and rebuilding of hospitals, health posts, schools, etc. Some repair to homes damaged by lava and earth shocks in the Gisenyi prefecture is also planned, as is the provision of corrugated sheets and minimal hardware for roof repair. Support should facilitate the most urgent repair of houses in Gisenyi damaged by tremors. It is estimated that 800-1,000 houses need priority assistance. The French RC continues to refine its project to support water and sanitation work in a neighbourhood of Goma under the Federation Coordination and ICRC technical supervision.

Telecommunications w

Communications have been reinforced in Rwanda by three VHF and HF stations. CRCS Goma branch has to be reinforced by at least VHF radios, electricity and other means to receive messages. The team continues to experience difficulty in data and e.mail communications from Ruhengeri and this will be addressed this week.

National Society Capacity Building w

Training sessions for top and middle management are planned. The first will be on camp management and relief. In Goma the branch is working on proposals with both the Federation and the ICRC.

Federation Delegation w

The Federation operations centre has been located in Ruhengeri from 6 February to be closer to the operation area. The Federation Rwanda Representative and Finance Delegate will remain in Kigali to ensure liaison with the RRC. The team leader will meet with the RRC weekly in Kigali to ensure coordination with the National Society and Participating National Society.

The British Logistics ERU will complete its mission next week and be replaced by a Logistics Coordinator. The Federation relief and logistics delegates are located in Gisenyi in the ICRC delegation. The field assessment and coordination team (FACT) members will have left the country before 20 February. The remaining team will consist of a:

- team leader
- finance and administrative delegate
- relief delegate
- warehouse manager
- camp manager

Two positions will be filled by regional delegates from the Tanzania RC. The Belgian Red Cross has two delegates in Mudende. A disaster preparedness delegate to work with the RRC and DRRC is proposed.

Coordination

The Federation continues to maintain close coordination with the ICRC and with both National Societies as well as the OCHA office in Goma and UN offices in Kigali.

Outstanding needs

The Federation is completing a detailed budget for the amended Appeal that will detail additional needs in materials and stock as well as resources for the Plan of Action

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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D. R. Congo - volcanic eruption						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 02/2002		PLEDGES RECEIVED			10.02.2002	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				1'533'000		TOTAL COVERAGE 188.0%
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
BRITISH - GOVT (DFID)		89'916	GBP	215'798	23.01.2002	RELIEF STOCKS, TRANSPORT
CANADIAN - RC		25'000	CAD	26'040	25.01.2002	
CYPRUS - RC				153	16.01.2002	
DANISH - RC		92'500	DKK	18'398	22.01.2002	
FINNISH - RC		48'840	EUR	72'229	01.02.2002	
FRENCH - RC		335	EUR	495	18.01.2002	PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT
IRISH - RC				29'360	07.02.2002	
JAPANESE - RC				50'000	30.01.2002	
KENYAN - PRIVATE, LAFARGE		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	
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		622'370	NOK	115'799	15.01.2002	
NORWEGIAN - GOVT/RC		2'151'030	NOK	400'225	28.01.2002	14'000 BLANKETS, 42'000 JERRY CASN, TRANSPORT/INSURANCE
OPEC		100'000	USD	165'880	25.01.2002	EMERGENCY RELIEF ITEMS
POLISH - RC		1'000	USD	1'659	29.01.2002	
SPANISH - RC		6'454	EUR	9'454	20.01.2002	PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT
SWEDISH - GOVT		1'000'000	SEK	160'300	22.01.2002	
SWISS - RC				178'500	28.01.2002	10'000 BLANKETS, 4'425 TARPULINS, TRANSPORT
SWISS - PRIVATE				1'500	28.01.2002	
TURKISH - RC				10'000	30.01.2002	
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES - RC		5'000	USD	8'294	05.02.2002	
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1'695'500	CHF	110.6%

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
BELGIUM - GOVT		110'039	EUR	162'737	19.01.2002	400 FAMILY TENTS, 13'440 M2 PLASTIC SHEETING, 4'500 BLANKETS, 2 WHO KITS, BILATERAL
BRITISH - GOVT		64'147	GBP	153'953	21.01.2002	ERU EQUIPMENT AND TEAM
FINNISH - GOVT		191'354	EUR	282'993	01.02.2002	300 TENTS, FREIGHT
FRENCH - RC		141'646	EUR	209'481	18.01.2002	NON-FOOD ITEMS, WATER EQUIPMENT, HEALTH MATERIAL, TELECOM EQUIPMENT
SPANISH - RC		226'659	EUR	335'206	20.01.2002	BLANKETS, JERRY CANS, TARPULINS, RUBBHALLS, TRANSPORT
SWISS - RC				10'000	28.01.2002	DELEGATE
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				1'187'214	CHF	77.4%