

EMERGENCY APPEAL



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

Preliminary Appeal
no: 02/2002
18 January, 2002

***THIS PRELIMINARY APPEAL SEEKS CHF 1,533,000
IN CASH, KIND AND SERVICES
TO ASSIST 250,000 BENEFICIARIES FOR THREE MONTHS***

The Situation

Nyiragongo, a dangerous volcano that looms a few miles from the major eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) town of Goma erupted at approximately 09:30 local time on 17 January, 2002. This volcano was a well known source of concern during the 1994 Rwanda refugee exodus and refugee operation when predictions of an imminent eruption caused agencies to undertake contingency planning to protect or relocate hundreds of thousands of refugees camped on or near the volcano's slopes. The lava flow is reportedly descending in three tracks and has inundated Goma, with reports indicating over 80% of the buildings are destroyed or burning. The town's airport and the main road north to Uganda are reportedly cut and unusable to traffic. Authorities issued a "Red Alert" and a full evacuation is underway. Latest reports from Goma and Gisenyi are that the population has been ordered to fully evacuate the immediate area by 20:00 hours local time. Earlier today (18 January) the Federation and Rwanda Red Cross sources contacted in Goma confirmed between 50,000-60,000 people had crossed into Gisenyi. By this evening that number is reported at 300,000. The total population of Goma is estimated at over 500,000, and it is feared that others from the surrounding area may also begin to move. Unconfirmed reports indicate 45 deaths, but burn victims, smoke inhalation, and other injuries are expected. Concerns are focused on the difficult water and sanitation conditions and the possibility of cholera and other epidemic outbreaks given the large population on the move and the conditions experienced in earlier operations. There are reports that additional lava flows could possibly impact on Gisenyi and while this is not thought a serious risk at this stage it will be watched. An additional concern is the potential for the production of deadly Co2 and other pollutants both in water and in the air which may add to the health concerns.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Rwanda Red Cross and Red Cross of the DRC (in Goma) have responded rapidly. The Rwandan Red Cross has three field teams in the Ruhengari area and another en route from Kigali. More than 1,000 volunteers are being mobilized. The Federation's head of delegation in Kinshasa is in contact with the Red Cross of the DRC and

the ICRC. A Federation team of delegates including logistics, health water and sanitation arrived in Kigali at 21h00 tonight and will meet up with the Assessment Team (already located in the Congo) who will lead the Federation Response and Assessment for this operation. In Rwanda the Spanish, German, Belgian and French Red Cross have offered delegate support to the Federation. Contact with OCHA/UNDAC, UNICEF, other UN agencies, OXFAM and other NGO is maintained by the Task Force. The French Red Cross have agreed with the Federation to provide the Secretariat immediate emergency relief support with an airlift from their logistics base in La Reunion. The Federation issued Information Bulletin no. 1 last night (17 January) and during the day has been in close contact with all the involved delegations in Congo, Rwanda and Nairobi (Regional Delegation). In addition, many European national societies have been in contact to confirm their interest in responding with support to this Appeal. A Task Force has been set up in the Secretariat, and given the complex dynamics of the situation in the Great Lakes region, the ICRC have participated in both task force meetings to agree on preliminary coordination modalities and relationships. The field components of the Movement are also in close contact, and regular contact is being maintained.

The Needs

Immediate Needs w

The situation is changing rapidly, and the speed of this evolving disaster means that detailed information on the likely numbers involved remains unclear as the affected population continues to move towards Rwanda and other safe areas. The increasing population movements triggered by the severe impact from the volcanic eruption, lava flow smoke and heat plus the concerns caused by the recurring seismic tremors are generating a major humanitarian crisis. The immediate needs will be to ensure the provision of safe areas, shelter, water, food and health supplies. The timely delivery of essential relief supplies such as blankets, plastic sheeting, utensils and other goods plus the transport, administrative and support costs and services to initiate this operation, will be critical. The need to start to identify human resources to follow up the assessment team is also very important. In addition early identification and possibilities for rehabilitation must be taken into account as the length of time the displaced population can remain in Rwanda is not clear. The provision for return and repatriation needs are thus noted at this time. This appeal is intended to only initiate emergency needs based on the information available at this time. Further details and needs to respond to the humanitarian situation will be communicated in Operations Updates and a Revised Appeal to be issued shortly.

The Proposed Operation

Objectives and Activities planned w

The main objective is to ensure and deliver rapid but appropriate primary emergency relief and assistance in core areas. The Federation's first activities will be to coordinate with the Rwanda Red Cross, Rwanda government authorities, local, and international agencies to ensure a timely start of the operation and an effective delivery of assistance. The full case load can still only be estimated, but this appeal will commence with a target beneficiary number of 250,000.

Health w

The initial health effort will focus on preventative health activities given the concerns on possible epidemic conditions. Burns and other severe injuries, trauma, respiratory conditions, dehydration, and psychological stress are likely. Basic health kits and medical supplies will be needed. The Federation response teams have health delegates whose priority will be to develop essential components of this sector.

Water-sanitation w

The supply of water is assured from the lake (assuming it remains uncontaminated), but the quality, storage, delivery and distribution are likely to be a problem. Serious concern centres on sanitation conditions, and previous experience indicates that the provision and maintenance of latrines and vector control will be a critical factor. Detailed water and sanitation requirements will emerge from this assessment.

Relief distributions w

The procurement, transport delivery, and distribution of essential relief supplies will be a major component. Considerable stocks of these supplies are now available from Federation pre positioned stocks located in east and south Africa. The ICRC and national societies have offered additional support. The procurement of additional supplies will be required. External delivery is possible, but there is a critical importance to coordinate donations of in-kind goods to ensure appropriate coverage, to avoid duplication, and maximize field coordination. The Rwandan Red Cross has provided supplies available from its in-country stock as well as transport, but the stock of supplies is limited. the Rwandan Red Cross will also provide the essential human resources needed in Rwanda to coordinate distributions.

Shelter w

With as many as 400,000 persons potentially homeless, the shelter needs will be considerable. Standard shelter materials such as plastic sheeting, tents and construction material will be essential in the short term and other needs for the rehabilitation phase. The methodology and location of accommodation is to be agreed and coordination meetings with the government authorities are under way.

Logistics w

An operation of this potential will require a well coordinated logistics/relief interface. To this end, contacts and agreements on shared responsibilities, stock provision, and delivery mechanisms have begun. Additional logistics support at airports and bases will be needed and Emergency Response Unit (ERU) have been notified. Transport capacity will need to be reinforced.

Telecommunications w

Communications are unpredictable on both sides of the border. Steps have already been taken to reinforce the communications network with the delivery now en route of three additional satellite phones. The delivery of additional equipment and technical support is envisioned.

Tracing w

Contact with the ICRC is ensured, but it is too early to quantify the need for tracing activities and further information will be provided in the following updates.

Co-ordination w

The Federation's FACT will assume the initial coordination function, and the Rwanda Red Cross will play a central role as part of that mechanism. Close communications will be maintained with the ICRC, UN, government and other agencies, and much has been initiated on this front already.

Capacity of the National Society w

The Rwanda Red Cross has high quality human resources but limited capacity to respond to a very large emergency, and the Red Cross of the DRC is similarly structured. Both organizations have extensive experience from the 1994 crisis but they undoubtedly will need to be reinforced.

Present Capacity of the Federation w

The Federation has a Representative in Kigali who is being reinforced by the teams mentioned above. Additional support will be made available as events dictate.

Budget summary

See Annex 1 for details.

For further details please contact:

- *Operations: Iain Logan, DMC; Phone: 41 22 730 44984; Fax: 41 22 733 0395; email: logan@ifrc.org.*
- *Media/Information: Marie-Francois Borel; Phone: 41 22 730 4346; Fax: 41 22 733 0395; email: logan@ifrc.org.*

- *Logistics: Isabelle Sechaud, Phone: 41 22 730 4367; Fax: 41 22 733 0395; email: sechaud@ifrc.org.*

All International Federation Assistance 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.

In line with the Minimum Reporting Standards, the first Operations Update on this appeal will be issued within 30-days of the launch and a second will be issued over the course of the operation; a final narrative and financial report will be issued no later than 90 days after the end of the operation.

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 website.

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>

Jean Ayoub
Director
Disaster Management and Coordination

Didier J. Cherpitel
Secretary General

		ANNEX 1
<u>PRELIMINARY BUDGET SUMMARY</u>	.PPEAL 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
CAPITAL EQUIPMENT		
Miscellaneous equipment	50'000	
PROGRAMME SUPPORT		
Programme management	103'000	
Technical support	31'000	
Professional services	34'000	
TRANSPORT STORAGE & VEHICLE COSTS	150'000	
PERSONNEL		
Expatriate staff	25'000	
National staff	50'000	
ADMINISTRATIVE & GENERAL SERVICES		
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