

# DREF operation



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Democratic Republic of the Congo: Earthquake in South Kivu

DREF Operation n° MDRCD003  
*GLIDE n° EQ-2008-000017-COD*  
15 February 2008

The International Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent response to emergencies. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of national societies to respond to disasters.

CHF 46,000 (USD 42,593 or EUR 28,571) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Congo (RCDRC) in delivering immediate assistance to some 1,000 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

**Summary:** An earthquake with a magnitude of 6.1 on the Richter scale struck the border area between eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Rwanda on the morning of Sunday, 3 February 2008, causing extreme and widespread destruction.

This DREF allocation aims at improving recovery, resilience, and response capacity of earthquake-affected families and the provincial committee of the RCDRC. This operation is expected to be implemented over 2 months, and will be completed by 11 April 2008; a final report will be made available three months after the end of the operation.



The Sunday, 3 February 2008 earthquake caused extreme and widespread destruction.

[<Click here to view the map of the affected area>](#)

## The situation

An earthquake with a magnitude of 6.1 on the Richter scale struck the border area between eastern Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda on the morning of Sunday 3 February 2008 at 9:35h causing extreme and widespread destruction. There was considerable loss of life and prevalence of injury and damage. It is reported that in the DRC, 2,488 homes have been damaged and 304 households made homeless in the communes of Ibanda (Bagira, Kabare territory), Ibinja Island and Kalehe (located at the borders with Goma).

According to official figures, 11 people have been killed – six in the commune of Ibanda (Bukavu), three in Kabare, two in Kalehe – and over 634 people injured. It is estimated that 17,355 people are affected by the disaster. Some of the structural damages reported are Alfajiri College, a church in Kabare, the local Red Cross office and two markets in Nyawere and Nguba (Bukavu). The hydroelectric centre has also been reportedly affected.

The epicentre of the earthquake was located in Birava/Bukavu. Ruzizi and Nyamasheke districts in Rwanda were also affected. The Goma Volcanic Observatory, which is located near the border with Rwanda, had warned that additional high-magnitude earth movements may follow as tremors were felt all day long (up to 24 tremors reported). The Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo expects the number of casualties to rise as emergency teams reach isolated areas hit by the earthquake for needs assessments.

The Bukavu provincial committee of the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of the Congo has been facing deep vulnerability these past years. Apart from conflict, which has affected many victims in Bukavu, cholera and sex abuse have increased vulnerability among the population.

## Coordination and partnerships

Coordination is being ensured by the provincial committee which takes part in the crisis committee set up in the first hours of the disaster to manage the situation. This committee is headed by the Governor. With the assistance of other humanitarian agencies, a needs assessment has been conducted over the province. The government has provided 15 tonnes of medical assistance and the World Health Organization (WHO) two tonnes of surgical kits and medical products. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has provided logistic support to the Red Cross branch of South Kivu. Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) Netherlands and UNICEF have also provided medical support – mostly medicines – to enable health centres in Bukavu and Kabare to provide better assistance to affected people.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Three hundred and twenty three volunteers were mobilized in early hours of the disaster to assist in evacuating injured people to medical centres. Thanks to the logistic support of ICRC, three teams have been deployed in the field for needs assessment in Birava (the epicentre of the disaster), Kabare (five kilometres off Bukavu), Idjui Island and Kalehe. Following the advice of experts, Red Cross volunteers sensitized affected populations not to sleep indoors on the first days of the disaster.

## The needs

Urgent needs of affected populations and the volunteers assisting them include non-food items (blankets, tarpaulins, mosquito nets, and kitchen sets), food, first aid kits, stretchers, splints and shelter kits (hammers, trowels and saws). Information, education and communication materials for sensitization (pamphlets, megaphones, etc.) are also required as well as training of Red Cross volunteers in sensitization techniques.

## The proposed operation

### Emergency shelter

**Objective: To contribute rebuilding damaged houses for 200 affected families, with the participation of community members.**

#### Activities planned:

- Transport and distribute shelter kits;
- Train volunteers in early alert;
- Support the National Society branch to implement activities;
- Build the disaster management capacity of the National Society.

### How we work

*All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

**Global Agenda Goals:**

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

## Contact information

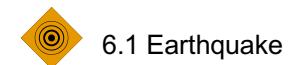
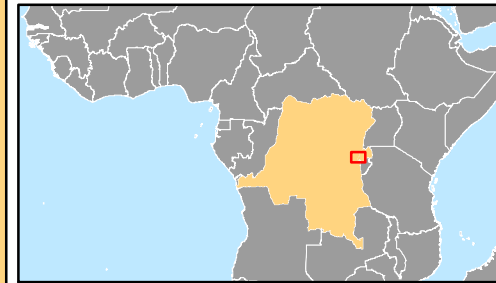
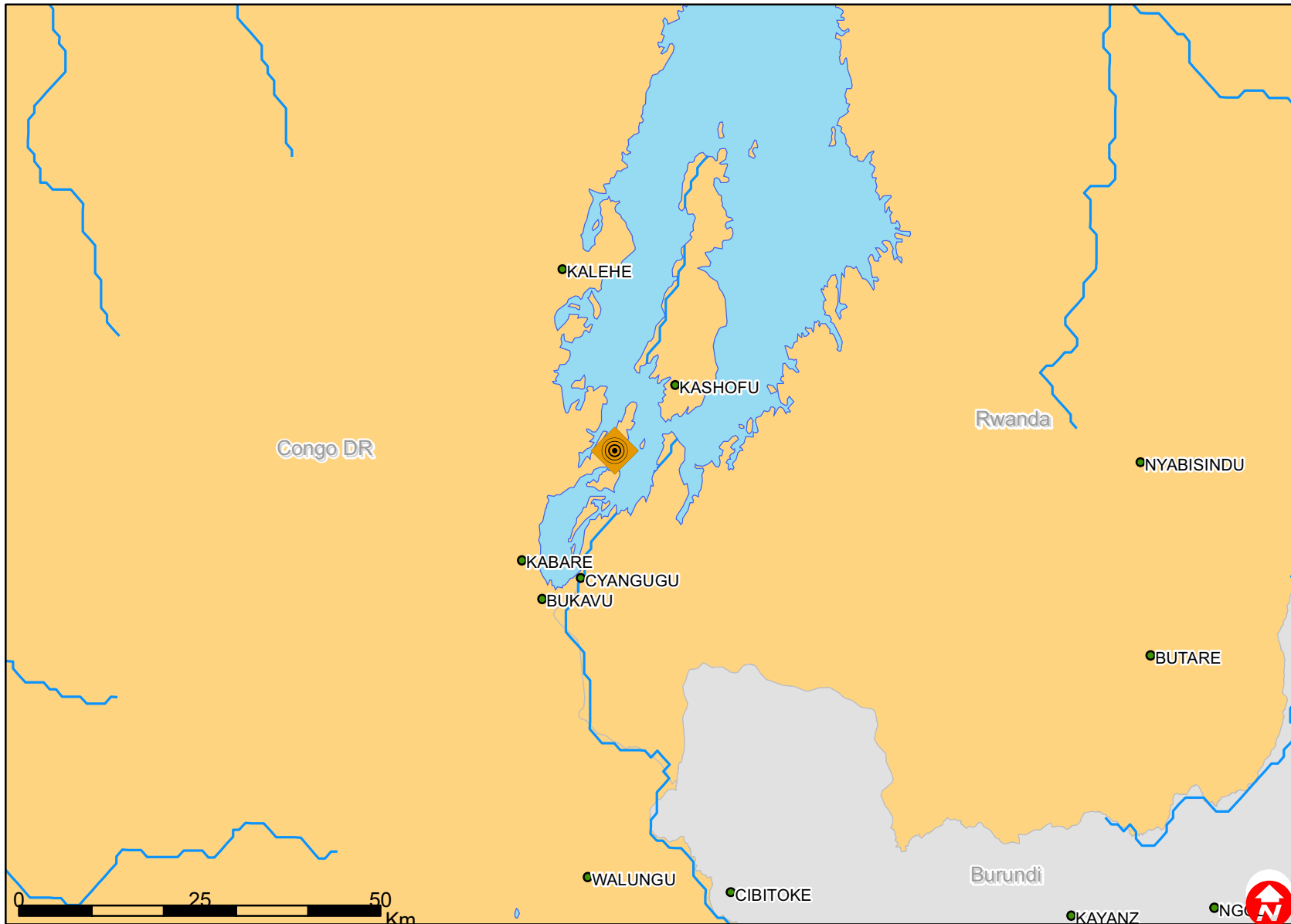
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[<Map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)



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