

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

22 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 250,000

Beneficiaries: 250,000

Operations Update No. 2 Period covered: 21-22 January 2002

Operations Update No. 3 expected 23 January

"At a Glance"

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

The Disaster/Situation: In the wake of last week's eruption, the situation on the ground in and around Goma has been constantly shifting with massive population movements. This has meant a significant change in focus from the original Federation Response and Assessment of the needs and the future operational direction and thrust of the Appeal. Latest reports indicate that the majority of the displaced population has returned from Rwanda back to the Goma area. In the light of this it has been extremely difficult to finalise any operational plans but ongoing reassessments are underway alongside assistance and limited distributions where possible. All parts of the Movement are continuing to work together to draw up an effective plan of action.

Operational Developments:

General: The situation as of 18:00 hours Geneva time 22/01/2002 indicates some modification in volcanic activity. UN OCHA reports expert evaluations that there is a diminished flow of lava from Nyiragongo and the risk of dangerous gases, explosions from gas or activity in the lake is not highly likely. Nonetheless, continuing seismic activity is reported by Federation/Rwandan Red Cross (RRC)/ICRC teams in Goma and Gisenyi. A serious accident occurred killing dozens of Congolese when a fuel tank erupted, demonstrating the continuing risks. Latest surveys also indicate that considerably less of the town was destroyed than

originally feared, perhaps 40%, which in part explains the return of tens of thousands to reclaim their homes. The security situation is still fragile but has been reinforced by the authorities with harsh punishment threatened for looting.

The ongoing uncertainty means that all Federation planning will recognise the continuing possibility of a second return of large numbers back to Rwanda. The Federation/RRC/ICRC team crossed into Goma this morning to do a detailed evaluation of this new scenario with a view to producing an amended plan of action (see below under Red Cross action).

Population Movements: As noted in Operations Update #1, almost all of the original displacement of over 350,000 Goma residents to Rwanda has been reversed. As of this morning an estimated 90% of the population is struggling to reestablish some semblance of life in the devastated town. Red Cross teams indicate a determination to remain at all costs. In Rwanda, the Federation team reports only around 60,000 people needing assistance. The Federation /RRC will continue to address the needs of those assigned to them.

Red Cross Red Crescent Society action:

The Rwanda Red Cross, supported by the Federation, continues to provide essential assistance and support including First Aid, food and non-food distribution and health education and has taken overall charge of camp management in:

Nkamira	6180
Mubende	4200
Ruhengiri	1000

An operational office will be opened in Ruhengiri.

Federation/ICRC assistance:

Reflecting the consequences from the changed population movements, the coordination mechanisms between the ICRC and the Federation have been further strengthened. A senior member of each will now participate in the other's daily Task Force meetings to ensure compatibility and cohesion as the new realities for our combined assistance in Goma emerge. The field assessment coordination team (FACT) and ICRC colleagues have returned to the field to continue evaluation. The team completed its first combined assessment today. First observations are reported under latest developments. Both the Federation and the ICRC have consolidated information and technical capacity. By tomorrow, the Federation will have its full complement of FACT members in place.

UN and other main organisations actionw

The Federation maintains continuous contact with the OCHA coordinating office and through that other agencies and NGOs.

Latest developments w

The Red Cross teams reports that the situation in Rwanda is stable and essentially under control. In Goma state of chaos with major cross border movements continuing

In the Gisenyi area:

In the Red Cross Mudende camp, 27 kilometres from Gisenyi - population 4,500 people - RRC volunteers today distributed blankets and cooking sets to all. The people are in good physical condition, but they are suffering from the cold weather. Blankets have been particularly appreciated. People have enough food and water. A government dispensary is operational in the camp and there are latrines, although Rwanda Red Cross volunteers are digging more. There is a potato plantation near Mudende. The site is an unfinished university building, so there are walls and a roof, but not windows or doors. About 100 Red Cross volunteers are active in the camp.

In Nkamira camp, 20 kilometres from Gisaenyi, pop 6,000, the situation is more problematic, and a decision as to who will do distributions and manage the camp has not been taken. The Rwanda Red Cross does have a presence there.

In Goma:

People are moving to and fro, hence it is virtually impossible at the moment to estimate figures of potential beneficiaries. Certainly many tens of thousands will probably need assistance at some level..

Three hospitals are functioning and the health situation, while of concern, also remains manageable at present. The water situation appears to be better than expected with about 60% of systems repairable or partially functioning. The quality is poor but manageable and water quality tests would indicate that lake water can be pumped into the system and treated for distribution. The ICRC is currently focusing on water assistance. Some family reunion activities are beginning through the ICRC.

An outbreak of cholera reports unconfirmed, possibly exaggerated. Coordination in Goma is also chaotic, though security appears better than reported in media. There are an increasing number of NGOs arriving but many are without operational support. The ICRC is planning to reestablish a permanent presence with the ICRC head of delegation (HoD) residence reclaimed intact. However, their warehouse was destroyed. The ICRC is beginning to reactivate its vehicles. There has been some cooperation with Congolese RC Goma branch and the ICRC released motorcycles for mobility of the branch.

The Federation and the ICRC will complete the evaluation as soon as is possible given the situation in Goma and have agreed that the field will develop a proposal on modalities of cooperation under the ICRC lead agency with the Federation likely to concentrate on shelter, camp management and distribution of relief supplies. Further details will follow in tomorrow's Update.

Response so far w

A joint Federation/ICRC/Rwanda Red Cross statement was issued in Kigali defining the activities of the Movement as described in yesterday's bulletin. Priority is now to deliver, transport and distribute shelter, and non-food items such as tents, blankets, plastic sheeting utensils. As of tonight the following support has been confirmed:

Mobilisation:

A full updated mobilisation table, shipping instructions and pipeline is up and running.

Details of goods supplied are with all donors and a daily update will be issued

Aircraft landed today: Belgium RC, Netherlands RC

Planned in next two days: French RC, Spanish RC, Swiss RC, British RC , Belgium RC

Commercial Flights delivering appeal donations: Finnish RC, American RC

(see details in Mobilisation table)

Field structure

Kigali:

Logistics emergency response unit (ERU) (British RC) in place their first task will be receiving cargo.

Warehousing capacity 4000 sqm

Ruhengeri:

Logistics base in place: (3 logisticians from the Secretariat, Swiss RC, Belgium RC)

Rub hall erected

1 vehicle has been sent from Uganda and 2 from Burundi

Commercial trucking available + 6 ICRC trucks available.

ERU:

Logistics ERU Operational

Basic Health and Wat/San on alert pending final assessment in Goma.

The team reports the need to probably reinforce the telecommunications, radio and phone net work. A telecom ERU has now been added to the Alert noted in OU #1.

Human Resources:

The current FACT team, bilateral and incoming technical support is adequate and no additional delegates are required at this time for these functions. If as is anticipated a larger scale relief operational emerges in the next 48 hours, then a structure will be proposed to support the action. This will require relief, camp management and relief experts and regional societies with recent experience and language skills have started to be contacted to identify such persons. In addition experienced Relief Coordinators would be needed. The Secretariat will coordinate this.

Coordination

General: At this moment the ongoing status in Goma continues to complicate assessment. The airports in both Goma and Gisenyi remain of limited use but this may change in the near future.

Red Cross: As noted earlier, the reinforcement of the internal Red Cross coordination.

Secretariat: The Congo Task Force has arranged a PNS phone conference for Wednesday 23 January at 14h Geneva time.

ECHO: The Spanish Red Cross has provided a desk officer in Kigali to coordinate PNS approaches to ECHO and he will liaise directly with the ECHO representative in Kigalia.

Government: The RRC maintains close contact with key ministries and, with the Federation and ICRC representatives, were to meet the British and French foreign ministers today.

Outstanding needs

The need for immediate cash pledges to support the operation and administrative expenses remain a priority. Cash donations from the Swedish and Danish Red Cross have now been pledged. With the operation pressure to mobilise many of the above mentioned relief supplies documentation still has to be completed and this should be done by tomorrow's Update.

Summary:

As noted in the first Update the need to maintain the initial appeal momentum remains. However the operation is at a crucial stage and it is critical that the Federation adapt its strategy as the situation on the ground evolves. It is of paramount importance that the roles of the ICRC and the Federation are clearly defined to maximise the Movement's resources and great efforts are underway to ensure this. All parts of the Movement have been responding to the changes on the ground and are collectively reassessing what roles they will play in a final Plan of Action that we anticipate to be agreed within the next 48 hours.

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