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The RRMP: A Rapid Response to Population Movement in Eastern DRC



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Please visit the UNICEF DRC blog at www.ponabana.com to download the interactive pdf version of this document, containing extra maps, photos and links to more information.

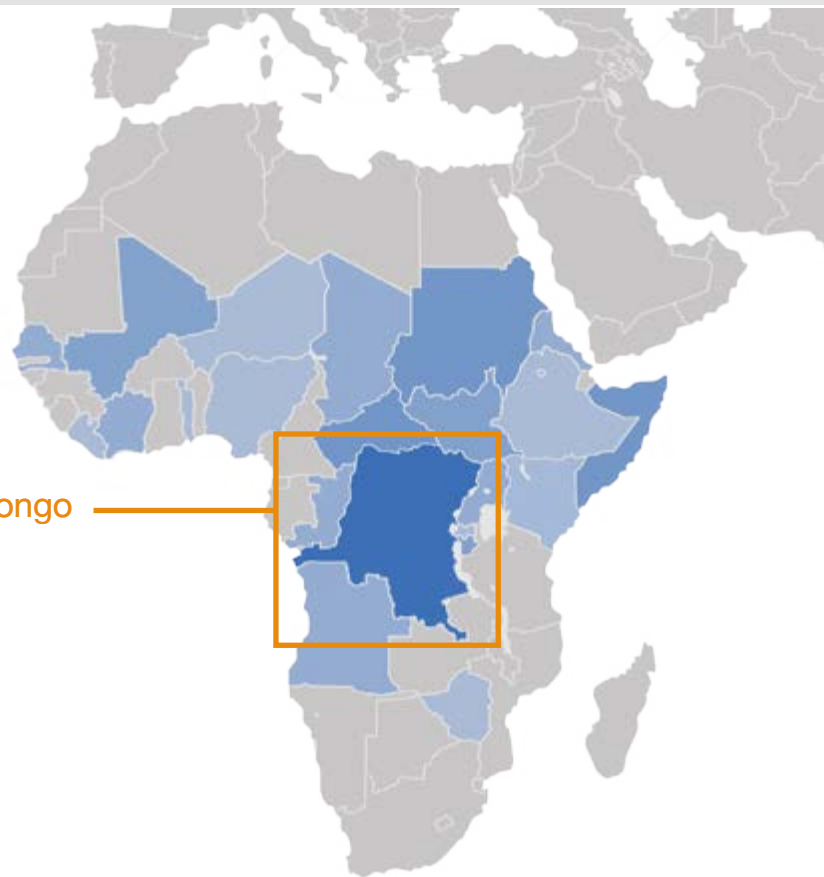
Internal Displacement ¹

as of December 2013 ²

20,000 Angola
78,900 Burundi
643,740 Central African Republic
90,000 Chad
70,000 Côte d'Ivoire

2,963,000 Democratic Republic of the Congo

10,000 Eritrea
412,000 Kenya
199,575 Mali
7,800 Republic of the Congo
24,000 Senegal
1,100,000 Somalia
916,900 South Sudan
2,445,000 Sudan
29,800 Uganda



Amongst the numerous crises gathering attention throughout the world today, the situation in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo remains one of the most volatile. With nearly 3 million people displaced from their homes and 6.3 million in need of humanitarian assistance³ aid continues to be provided amidst continued insecurity and financial constraints.

1. Persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border UNOCHA figures.

2. <http://www.internal-displacement.org/global-figures/>

3. <http://reliefweb.int/report/democratic-republic-congo/dr-congo-2013-year-humanitarian-challenges-january-2014>

The RRMP:

The objective of the Rapid Response to Movements of Population (RRMP) program is to provide rapid needs assessments to the Humanitarian Community and to deliver an integrated assistance package to populations made vulnerable by displacement, disease and/or natural disasters in eastern DRC.

Jointly managed by UNICEF and OCHA, the RRMP is currently implemented by six INGO partners - AVSI, IRC, Merlin, NRC, Save the Children and Solidarités International. Working in Province Orientale, Katanga, North and South Kivu, the RRMP provides Non-Food Items (NFI), Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Education and Health assistance to displaced, returning, and host populations. The RRMP is generously funded by ECHO, the Pooled Fund, DFID, US-AID, Japan, SIDA and Korea.

Since the early 1990s eastern DRC has suffered a nearly constant series of humanitarian disasters triggering massive displacement and death. Following the influx of hundreds of thousands of refugees after the Rwanda genocide and the 'First African World War' of 1996 to 2003, a variety of armed groups have come and gone, spreading destruction and terror. Today, millions of civilians remain trapped in this vicious cycle of violence, displacement, disease and poverty. With a nearly 100% increase in displacement since 2011, more than 96% of displacement in eastern DRC is caused by conflict-related insecurity¹.

Background

The humanitarian situation in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo further deteriorated in 2013, with numerous conflicts continuing to fuel grave human rights violations including the destruction of homes and schools, sexual violence, family separation, and forced recruitment of children into armed groups. Conflict-related displacement continues to contribute to large-scale acute malnutrition levels, epidemics such as measles and cholera and widespread food insecurity.

While military gains against high-profile groups such as the M23 Movement allowed some of the displaced to return home, dozens more armed groups remain active, with many continuing to extend their areas of operation, threaten to spread ethnic/tribal based violence into neighboring territories.

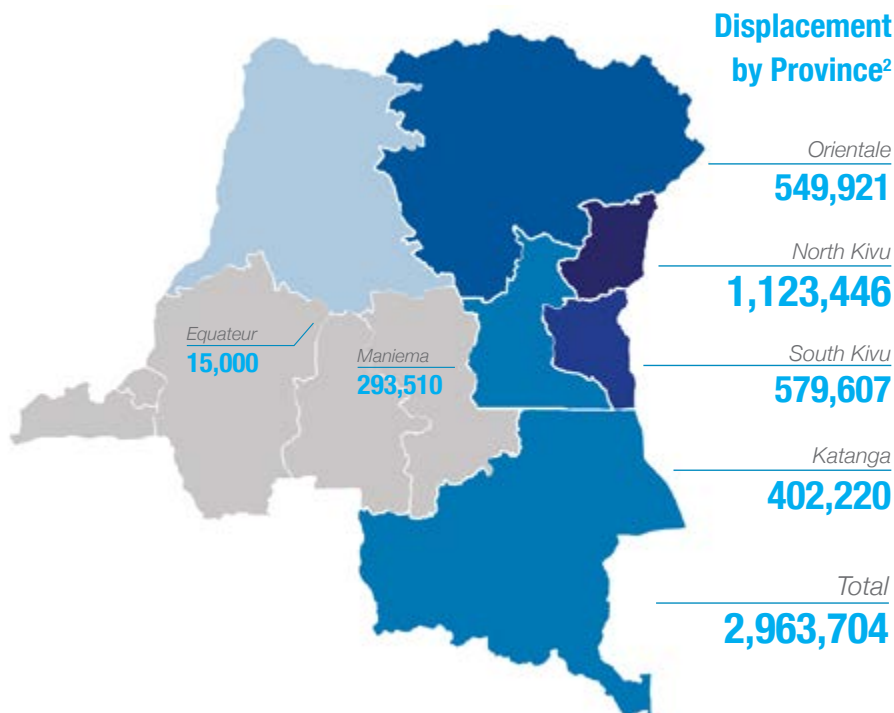
Overall, the humanitarian context within the affected provinces has become even more complex with the development of new patterns of displacement including protracted displacement in zones hosting displaced populations with a marked increase in the burden on host population resources, temporary and partial displacement such as 'pendulum displacement', re-displacement, partial return in areas nearer to home villages, return to instable areas and the continued crowding of spontaneous IDP sites, in particular around Goma.

The number of internally displaced persons in DRC has increased by 1.4 million since 2011

Uncertainty Prevails

Displacement in eastern DRC remains as unpredictable as it is widespread. Communities may flee at night with nothing, or may gather their belongings in a well-planned movement; displacement may last anywhere from a few days to many months. Typically preferring to remain close to home, the majority (72%) of displaced seek refuge in nearby villages, straining the already scarce resources of these host communities.

Upon return, communities rebuild with little certainty that the entire process will not repeat itself again soon, potentially shifting from being displaced to being returnees to being host communities several times within the year.



1. <http://reliefweb.int/report/democratic-republic-congo/democratic-republic-congo-internally-displaced-people-and-returnee-0>

2. <http://reliefweb.int/report/democratic-republic-congo/dr-congo-2013-year-humanitarian-challenges-january-2014>

Responding to the humanitarian needs of a constantly fluctuating population has proven to be a great challenge in eastern DRC. Due to the dynamic nature of conflict and displacement, needs may vary greatly from one community to the next, and may shift at any moment. Developed in 2009 as a mechanism to rapidly respond to the complex crisis in eastern DRC, the RRMP has grown to be the largest single provider of multi-sectorial aid in DRC in addition to providing invaluable needs assessments to the greater humanitarian community.

The Process

Humanitarian Alerts at the onset of a crisis involving population displacement trigger RRMP partners to immediately deploy Multi-Sectorial Analysis (MSA) teams to collect data on vulnerabilities present in the area. This MSA data is then shared through humanitarian Coordination mechanisms in order to determine possible Intervention strategies. When deemed necessary, the RRMP provides short term, emergency assistance in the areas of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Non-Food Items (NFI), Education and Health. Thanks largely to RRMP's distinct strategy (see below) the RRMP is generally able to respond in a fraction much more rapidly than traditional interventions.

RRMP Strategy

- 1. Prepositioning of partners and materials** - The RRMP streamlines the analysis and response processes by pre-positioning relief supplies and pre-funding INGO partners to conduct assessments and interventions. With assessments teams, relief supplies and coordination and decision mechanisms already in place a key value of the RRMP is its ability to understand and respond to needs both rapidly and effectively.
- 2. Vulnerability-based assessments and interventions** - Rather than using a traditional logical framework to predetermine activities, the RRMP program design has launched the "vulnerability approach" for assessment and intervention. Identifying zones of vulnerability through multi-sectorial assessments which use specific tools developed to score community vulnerability Education, Health, Food Security, Water and Sanitation, and Non Food Items, the data serves as a tool to help prioritize the most vulnerable communities for specific assistance.
- 3. Full-time emergency response capacity** - RRMP maintains full-time emergency response capacity to provide temporary shelter materials and NFIs, water and sanitation services and structures, emergency education and health support. The large store of pre-positioned stocks and advance financing allows INGO partners to respond immediately by not having to submit individual project proposals and budgets for each proposed intervention.

Response

A key added value of RRMP remains its ability to jumpstart a response without having to negotiate a new framework for each humanitarian crisis. Thanks to the standardized approach of the program - widely recognized to reduce coordination and set-up efforts - a tailored response in terms of one or more sectors can be initiated based on the data provided in the assessments, without the need for partners to submit individual proposals and budgets for each intervention. Very few agencies apart from RRMP partners have the required capacity, analysis systems and level of preparedness to respond rapidly to large scale population movements.

As the largest single multi-sectorial provider of aid in eastern DRC, the RRMP assisted more than 1.9 million people in 2013

Partners:

Province Orientale



North Kivu



South Kivu



Katanga



3

Assessment

Accurate and timely information about the needs of populations affected by displacement is essential for effective design of humanitarian programs and equitable allocation of resources. Carried out immediately following population movements, Multi Sectorial Assessments are shared widely within the humanitarian community to identify humanitarian needs and promote evidence-based prioritization of assistance both within the RRMP and the wider humanitarian community.

499 MSAs helped reveal the vulnerabilities of more than 8.5 million affected by population movement in 2013

2013 Maps

[click name below to view *](#)

Data Collection

RRMP MSA teams use a variety of methodologies to gather data in areas affected by population movement including interviews with local authorities and households, focus group discussions, direct observation and data collection. All reports are shared within the humanitarian community via email or via www.rrmp.org and then following interventions all project results are input by partners and organized using www.activityinfo.org. The findings remain a useful tool to account for activities as well as to advocate for involvement in areas of further need.

* If viewing a non-interactive PDF version of this newsletter, please visit

[to view maps or visit](#)

[to download the interactive version of this newsletter.](#)

In 2013/14 UNICEF has continued its large-scale assistance to acutely vulnerable populations affected by displacement, return and/or natural disasters through an improved RRMP mechanism. Expanded in-line with current needs to provide NFI, Education, WASH as well as Health support to a projected 1.8 million beneficiaries this project cycle, the RRMP continues to maintain a full-time emergency response capacity while also providing rapid needs assessments to the humanitarian community.

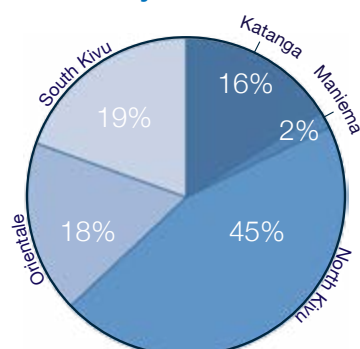
RRMP 4

The following results were achieved during the fourth cycle of RRMP 4* in five provinces - North Kivu, South Kivu, Province Orientale, Katanga and Maniema Provinces - through partnership with six international NGOs - AVSI, International Rescue Committee, Merlin, Norwegian Refugee Council, Save the Children and Solidarités International.

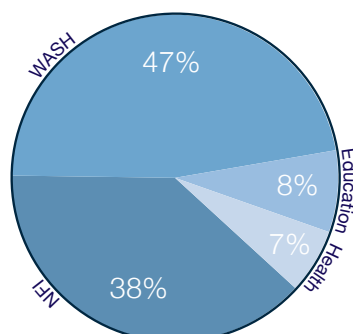
*Results for Feb 13, 2013 - Mar 14, 2014; cycle continues through Apr, 2014.

	Total	Katanga	Maniema	NordKivu	Orientale	Sud Kivu
Total Beneficiaries	2,343,138	376,667	39,165	1,060,159	410,297	456,850
Evaluations	536	26	14	275	86	135
Multi-Sectorial Assessments	429	26	14	197	67	125
MSA Complete	268	14	12	140	52	50
MSA Rapid	161	12	2	57	15	75
Sectorial Evaluations	107	-	-	78	19	10
Non-Food Item Beneficiaries	900,095	124,315	39,165	354,200	129,225	253,190
NFI Distribution Beneficiaries	292,845	14,635	-	123,450	54,045	100,715
NFI Voucher Fair Beneficiaries	607,250	109,680	39,165	230,750	75,180	152,475
WASH Beneficiaries	1,102,918	252,352	-	469,747	244,720	136,099
Beneficiaries of safe water	382,926	102,692	-	123,202	118,398	38,634
Beneficiaries of latrines / showers	147,693	11,405	-	106,910	17,575	11,803
Persons sensitized	572,299	138,255	-	239,635	108,747	85,662
Education Beneficiaries	189,720	-	-	85,807	36,352	67,561
Children/Adolescent Beneficiaries	134,466	-	-	62,866	28,719	42,881
Teachers/Director Trained	2,600	-	-	1,065	362	1,173
COPA Members Trained	427	-	-	115	83	229
People sensitized on access to Ed.	52,227	-	-	21,761	7,188	23,278
Health Beneficiaries	150,405	-	-	150,405	-	-
Mobile Clinic Beneficiaries	28,734	-	-	28,734	-	-
Institutional Support Beneficiaries	78,709	-	-	78,709	-	-
Vaccination Beneficiaries	42,962	-	-	42,962	-	-

RRMP 4 by Province



RRMP 4 by Sector



Since 2010, the RRMP has provided support to more than 7 million affected by displacement*

** cumulative figures - all sectors*

RRMP 5 Projections

The fifth cycle of RRMP is scheduled to be carried out over 12 months from May, 2014 - April, 2015, assisting approximately 1,540,000 people affected by population movement and providing the humanitarian community with approximately 420 MSA.

Due to funding constraints implementation of RRMP 5 is currently only confirmed through December 2014. Without further funding to extend the program beneficiaries for May - December 2014 would be approximately 1,150,000 million, with MSAs reduced to approximately 280.

Contacts

Nona Zicherman
Chief, Emergency/Transition Section
UNICEF - Kinshasa - RDC
e: nzicherman@unicef.org
t: +243 (0) 996050260

Filippo Mazzarelli
RRMP Coordinator, UNICEF DRC, Goma
e: fmazzarelli@unicef.org
t: +243 (0) 818306518

Anne-France White
Humanitarian Affairs Officer, OCHA Goma
e: white5@un.org
t: +243 971015446

Further engagement of communities involved in complex cycles of displacement and return is necessary to better understand and respond within the ever-changing context of eastern DRC. Over the years the RRMP has evolved through the development of pilot activities within the program designed to advance the efficiency and effectiveness of activities; as the dynamics of conflict and displacement in eastern DRC continue to change, so to will the RRMP.

A Continuum of Support

The RRMP, while being an essential provider of humanitarian aid in eastern DRC, is just one piece within the matrix of humanitarian response in eastern DRC. Even in cases that the RRMP is not mandated to respond, however, the information gathered through the MSA can help to decide whether to initiate outside intervention.

Within UNICEF, for example, the RRMP is part of a broader strategy to cover a wide range of vulnerabilities. Through insights gained in the RRMP, programs such as ARCC, promoting longer-term, cash-based livelihoods assistance, and the PEAR+ stabilization program, contributing to the objectives of STAREC through helping communities to build the resilience necessary to absorb future shocks, have arisen. The aim is to respond to the variety of needs present, while working with communities to promote longer-term stability whenever possible.

With thousands of donors, partners, and communities involved in the efforts to promote stability in DRC, approaches will inevitably vary. Regardless of the perspective though, information gained through RRMP can bring opportunities to understand and respond. [How can RRMP fit into the aims of your organization?](#)

Links of Interest

