

Emergency Update on Volcano Nyiragongo

#3 | 25 June 2021

HIGHLIGHTS

- Over 21,133 displaced persons* are now sheltered in 13 collective centres in Goma and Nyiragongo.
- UNHCR is planning a coordinated shelter response together with local authorities and other humanitarian actors.
- As of 21 June, over 8,000 displaced people were assisted by UNHCR and its partners with shelter and household items

*Source: IOM-DTM



UNHCR's representative Liz Ahua visits the survivors who lost their house during the volcano eruption. UNHCR is planning its coordinated shelter response in Goma. ©UNHCR/Sanne Biesmans

Situation Overview

- Two weeks after the eruption of the Nyiragongo volcano, which took place on 22 May 2021, most people who fled town have returned to Goma. More than 3,600 houses have been destroyed, another 1,000 severely damaged while thousands of houses are feared looted in the aftermath of the eruption.
- According to estimates by the Social Fund, there are over 30,000 persons in need of shelter and other humanitarian assistance. Most of these people are staying in collective sites and with host families.
- The CCCM working group (IOM, UNHCR, CNR) has assessed multisectoral needs of the people who returned to Goma. According to CCCM, over 21,133 displaced persons are now sheltered in 13 communal buildings (11 schools and 2 churches) located in the different neighbourhoods of Goma and Nyiragongo. Since the reopening of the schools on 14 June households move outside during the day and return after school. These schools need to be vacated urgently so that children can resume classes in all safety and dignity.
- The overcrowded character of these spontaneous sites is also contributing to increased risks of COVID-19, while the medical infrastructures are overwhelmed.
- As the volcanic eruption has disrupted the water supply infrastructures in Goma and surrounding areas, over 550,000 persons are estimated to have lost access to water, which exposes them to health risks as well as protection risks, as many have to walk long distances to find water.
- This natural disaster comes on top of an existing security crisis which has already provoked the displacement of over 2 million people due to insecurity and violence in the North Kivu province. In 2021 alone, more than 400,000 people were displaced by armed conflict.
- Families have reported separation of children, loss of ID documents and discriminatory attitude in the registration process during which certain heads of villages allegedly privileged registration of members of one ethnicity over others.

Preparedness and response

UNHCR continues to work with the government, local communities, and other partners to help the internally displaced, offering shelter, core relief items and reinforcing the protection of human rights through a holistic coordinated response. UNHCR is working on a coordinated shelter and protection response for the affected families in Goma by providing transitional shelters or cash-for-rent. UNHCR is also preparing to provide psychosocial assistance to the victims of the volcano eruption and to

survivors of Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV), as 18 cases of SGBV have been reported by the SGBV sub-cluster so far. UNHCR is also preparing a donation of medical equipment to a health centre in Minova, where supplies have been depleted during the displacement.



PROTECTION

- UNHCR has been one of the first humanitarian responders in the affected areas, working closely with the Protection, Shelter and Camp Coordination and Management (CCCM) cluster teams.
- UNHCR continues protection monitoring in Goma and will focus on registering and profiling returnees, their family composition and possible deaths in order to continue to provide guidance to protection actors, including the government.
- UNHCR's protection monitoring teams have been deployed to identify key protection needs of displaced families and develop a response plan to assist the most vulnerable households including those staying with host families or in spontaneous sites.
- UNHCR and its partners are assessing specific protection needs, including family reunification, risk of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and psychosocial needs of survivors and their families in order to coordinate a response through the protection cluster.



SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRI)

- The Shelter Cluster – which is co-led by UNHCR - is elaborating a response plan that envisages primarily supporting the families who have lost their homes with economic assistance (rent) and facilitating the construction or enlargement of host family houses over the next 6 months.
- Over 7,640 people (1,423 households) have been assisted since the eruption by UNHCR and partners with core relief items and emergency supplies such as soap, tarpaulins, dignity kits, mats, blankets and solar lamps, targeting predominantly the most vulnerable people.

Coordination

- To ensure a coordinated humanitarian response, the Protection, Shelter and CCCM clusters are conducting joint assessments with other actors and local authorities to plan appropriate response to address the shelter needs of the families which have returned to Goma, and their protection needs with regard to referrals of victims of human right violations, psychosocial support and the promotion of peaceful coexistence in the face of heightened intercommunal tensions

Resource mobilization

- The displacement resulting from the eruption of the Nyiragongo volcano is happening against a backdrop of an already grave humanitarian situation in North Kivu, where there are already nearly 2 million IDPs. UNHCR is responding to immediate protection and assistance needs at the request of the respective Governments, and in full coordination with the UN humanitarian system in DRC. The capacity of the operations is, however, severely strained by the significant number of displaced people on the move.
- To meet protection needs related to the volcanic eruption, UNHCR requires an additional USD 2 million, and another 1.5 million USD is needed to provide shelter and essential core relief items to the people who have lost their homes.
- UNHCR's appeal for USD 204.8 million is only 18% funded. With this new disaster, the needs are enormous and keep growing, but the budgets remain limited.

External / Donor Relations

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The Map reflects the latest official figures shared by OCHA