

Emergency Update on Volcano Nyiragongo

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Highlights

- **Over 21,133 of the people displaced** in the aftermath of the eruption of the Mount Nyiragongo on 22 May 2021 **have now found shelter in 11 schools and two churches** in Goma and Nyiragongo and will soon move to temporary sites established by the Military Government.
- **15,540 individuals remain displaced** in collective sites and host families in **Masisi, Rutshuru and Minova**.
- UNHCR together with the local authorities is **profiling the survivors of the eruption in order to assess their specific needs and ensure a targeted medium-term response**.



UNHCR has been assisting displaced populations by providing communal shelters, as well as core relief items including, tarpaulins, blankets, and hygiene kits. © UNHCR/Guerchom Ndebo

Situation Overview

- According to the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) working group, over 21,133 displaced persons are now sheltered in 13 collective centres (11 schools and two churches) located in the different neighbourhoods of Goma and Nyiragongo, while 9,212 are staying in host families in the surroundings of Goma.
- 7,500 individuals (1,500 families) will be accommodated temporarily at Kanyaruchinya and Kibati sites in Nyiragongo, which are being constructed by the Congolese military authorities and the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC).
- Over 23,345 individuals (4,669 families) have lost their homes during the volcano eruption according to local authorities and are in urgent need of shelter, water and sanitation, food, and psychosocial care. UNHCR will work with authorities to formalise their profiling, and to biometrically register survivors in coordination to make sure specific needs are known and that the response implements an exit strategy; biometric registration will allow for regular assistance over the short term that will help people ease back into the rental market and into independent commercial activities.
- Most of the displaced persons are exposed to various protection risks, especially on their way to work in the fields, including extortions, theft, and physical attacks. Due to the lack of means, many women and girls are also exposed to survival sex. Moreover, the promiscuity, the lack of information as well as unhealthy living conditions increase the risk of COVID-19 in the affected areas.

Preparedness and response



PROTECTION

- UNHCR and partners continue to monitor the needs of survivors in Goma and Nyiragongo, as well as those who are displaced in Rutshuru and Masisi in North Kivu Province and Minova in South Kivu Province. 15,540 individuals (3,108 households) who are staying in host families outside Goma are in need of shelter, water, food, emergency supplies and protection. Survivors who have lost everything indicate that they do not want to return to Goma as they don't have the means to start over and decided to farm instead. Others have stated that they wish to return but are in need of housing support.
- UNHCR is working with the authorities and will start to biometrically register 23,345 individuals (4,669 households) who lost their homes and belongings during the eruption and who have been identified and registered by the Congolese authorities, in order to keep track of the needs of beneficiaries and enable UNHCR and others to provide a targeted response.
- UNHCR, through its partner INTERSOS, has been monitoring the displacement situation in Masisi, Rutshuru and Lubero Territories and all other areas hosting survivors of the volcano Nyiragongo eruption. As of 31 July 2021, 15,540 people are still displaced, the majority being women and children. Most of them are accommodated in host families, placing a strain on already limited resources.
- Additionally, three mobile teams will monitor the needs of the volcano survivors who are present in various sites in Goma and Nyiragongo and will refer them to the relevant actors present in each area.
- UNHCR is also working with local partners to expand access to trauma counselling in Goma, particularly. Psycho-social assistance has almost exclusively linked to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) responses in the past, but the needs are apparent, and it is hoped that this intervention will inform a broader ranging approach in the future.



SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRI)

- UNHCR is collaborating with the Government on site and service planning in permanent villages now being formally established on the perimeters of Goma which will be better protected from the Volcano. Together with its partner AIDES, UNHCR will fund the construction of 1,500 transitional shelters for those households who have been allocated land and provided title deeds through Government action. UNHCR will also provide rental subsidies to 1,400 families who lost the homes they rented and their goods during the eruption. Rental subsidies are intended to help families re-enter the housing market without needing to spend food money on rent as they rebuild their livelihoods.
- UNHCR's protection teams are working closely with shelter teams and other actors to identify families with specific needs. So far, some 30 vulnerable households whose homes were destroyed by the lava in Kanyanja village have received 150 tarpaulins and will benefit from complementary multisectoral assistance.

Clusters and Coordination

- UNHCR continues to work with its partners and other humanitarian actors through the Protection Cluster to identify protection needs and assist the most vulnerable families who survived the eruption first. Persons are identified through protection monitoring, and the response includes

psychosocial, legal, and medical assistance to SGBV survivors, and Identification, Documentation, Tracing and Reunification (IDTR) of displaced children.

- UNHCR coordinates the Shelter Cluster which is mapping the shelter needs and orienting the actions of shelter actors to ensure effective and collaborative response. The Government's strategy focused first on temporary sites to relieve pressure on schools and other inappropriate venues. Congolese military authorities built 1,005 shelters in Kanyaruchinya site out of 1,500 planned and the IFRC built 240 shelters in Kibati site. Shelter cluster members are working closely with Government agencies and with organisations such as Oxfam and the Tear Fund, which have laid water systems and rudimentary electricity in the sites.
- UNHCR is part of a site planning working group together with UN-HABITAT, IOM and AIDES, which supports the local authorities in the planning, identification and organisation of permanent and temporary sites for the volcano victims. In line with the the Shelter Cluster emergency shelter response plan, the aim is to limit construction of emergency shelters and include existing housing solutions as part of the response. This includes rental assistance and the construction of small house extensions for host families.
- UNHCR, in coordination with local authorities is working to profile and biometrically register the victims of the eruption in order to assess their specific needs and facilitate their access to an appropriate humanitarian aid.

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