

Emergency Update on Volcano Nyiragongo

#7 | 21 September – 5 November

Highlights

- **6,822 victims of the Nyiragongo eruption have been offered temporary shelter** in Kanyaruchinya and Kibati sites in Nyiragongo with the support of local authorities.
- Over **5,612 survivors of the Nyiragongo eruption are still displaced** in Rutshuru and Masisi Territories, according to UNHCR's partner INTERSOS.
- **507 protection incidents were recorded in Rutshuru and Masisi** territories by UNHCR, through its partner INTERSOS.



Survivors of the volcano Nyiragongo eruption are being relocated to the Kibati site, North Kivu Province. © UNHCR/Felicien Mibulo

Situation Overview

- The eruption of the Mount Nyiragongo volcano on 22 May 2021 forced more than 364,000 people to flee their homes in Goma and surrounding areas according to OCHA's estimates. The majority of the people have since returned, but an estimated 5,612 people (1,900 households) remain displaced in Masisi and Rutshuru territories according to UNHCR's protection monitoring partner INTERSOS.
- According to joint assessments, led by the local authorities, over 28,500 persons or 4,173 families have been affected by the volcano. Out of this, nearly 20,000 persons (2,901 families) have lost their homes, while almost 900 individuals (130 families) have lost their land and 7,800 persons (1,142 families) have lost the houses that they were renting. Out of this, 2,892 persons with specific needs have been identified, including persons living with a handicap, pregnant women and elderly persons.

Preparedness and response



- UNHCR and partners continue to monitor the specific protection needs of survivors in Goma and Nyiragongo, as well as those who are displaced in Rutshuru and Masisi in North Kivu Province. This includes the risk of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and psychosocial needs of survivors and their families, as well as specific protection in order to help steer the humanitarian response in collaboration with partners and other humanitarian actors.
- From 17 September to 21 October, UNHCR, through its partner INTERSOS, recorded 507 protection incidents in Rutshuru and Masisi Territories, in the areas hosting persons who have fled the eruption. These

include kidnappings, physical and psychological assaults, forced labour, arbitrary arrests, rapes and extorsions and are reported to have been committed mostly by armed groups. UNHCR and INTERSOS are liaising with the authorities, MONUSCO and other partners to improve the protection of civilians.

- The estimated 5,612 people (1,900 households) who remain displaced outside Goma in the territories of Masisi and Rutshuru are unable to return due to the lack of financial means to pay rents in Goma and to the lack of capital to undertake their income generating activities in Goma. According to protection monitoring conducted by UNHCR's partner INTERSOS, some of them have chosen to integrate into the host community, started agricultural activities, and are waiting for the harvest season.
- UNHCR is also working with its local partner AIDPROFEN to expand access to trauma counselling for victims of the volcano eruption. Psycho-social assistance has almost exclusively linked to Sexual and Gender- Based Violence (SGBV) responses in the past, but the needs are apparent.



SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRI)

- 6,822 survivors who lost their homes and were staying collective centers such as schools have been relocated to Kanyaruchinya (5,628) and Kibati sites (1,194) in Nyiragongo territory with the support of the authorities.
- 1,806 persons are still staying in collective sites in Nyiragongo (Kahembe and Marudjo schools), where they lack privacy and basic necessities and cannot access proper hygiene and sanitation services.
- UNHCR is working with the government and partners to provide cash-for-rent assistance to over 1000 families who were renting property that got destroyed by the lava, thanks to funding by the Humanitarian Fund (HF).
- More durable housing will be provided to families who've lost their homes. UNHCR is working with authorities and the Housing, Land and Property (LTP) Working Group who will identify the land and make it available to the victims and plans to build between 800-1000 shelters once the land will be obtained..

Clusters and Coordination

- UNHCR and other humanitarian actors continue to work closely with the local authorities who have taken the lead in the volcano response. On 12 October, UNHCR participated in a joint needs' assessment at Kanyaruchinya and Kibati sites to identify multisectoral needs – including protection - in order to steer the response and prepare the relocation towards the sites. Persons with specific needs have also been identified.
- The LTP Working Group is coordinating a response to the 130 families who lost their land used for agriculture activities during the eruption in Kibati, Munigi, and Buvira, in Nyiragongo territory. The families are in need of food, Core Relief Items (CRI), latrines, and drinkable water. Advocacy efforts have been conducted towards humanitarian actors who have the capacity and resources to fill these gaps.

External / Donor Relations

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is grateful for the support of:

Donors for UNHCR operations in DRC in 2021

United States of America (47.1M) | Sweden (4.8M) | Japan (1.7M) | Canada (1.6M) | UN Peacebuilding Fund (1.6M) | Education Cannot Wait (1.5M) | European Union (1.5M) | CERF (1.5M) | France (1.2M) | Country-Based Pooled Funds (1M) | Norway (0.6M) | UN Covid-19 MPTF (0.2M) | UN Programme On HIV/AIDS (0.2M) | Toyota Tsusho Corporation (0.2M) | UPS Corporate (0.1M) | Unilever (UK) (0.1M)

Donors of regional or sub-regional funds in 2021

Germany (50.1M) | United States of America (33M) | Private donors Germany (9M) | Private donors Australia (8.7M) | Canada (5.6M) | Japan (2.7M) | Finland (2.4M) | Private Donors Republic of Korea (2,1M)

Major donors of unearmarked funds in 2021

Norway (80M) | Sweden (75.4M) | Private donors Spain (62.6M) | United Kingdom (40.4M) | Netherlands (36.1M) | Denmark (35M) | Private donors Republic of Korea (31.9M) | Private donors Japan (27.7M) | Germany (26M) | Japan (23.4M) | France (20.2 M) | Switzerland (16.4M) | Private donors Italy (15.7M) | Ireland (12.5M) | Private donors Sweden (14.4M) | Ireland (12.5M) | Belgium (11.9M) | Italy (10.7M)

Contacts

Johannes van Gemund, Senior External Relations Officer, UNHCR Representation Kinshasa, gemund@unhcr.org, Tel: +243 817 009 484

Vittoria Moretti, Associate External Relations and Reporting Officer, UNHCR Representation Kinshasa, moretti@unhcr.org, Tel: +243 820 556 65 9

Sanne Biesmans, External Relations and Reporting Officer, UNHCR Sub-Office Goma, biesmans@unhcr.org. Tel: +243 829 968 603

Margot Dunand, Associate External Relations and Reporting Officer, UNHCR Sub-Office Goma, dunand@unhcr.org. Tel: +243821352 375

[DR Congo Emergency page](#) | [UNHCR DRC operation page](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)