

# Emergency Update on Volcano Nyiragongo

#5 | 23 August 2021

## Highlights

- Local authorities have registered **23,045 individuals (4,609 households) who lost their house or land** during the volcano eruption in Goma, North Kivu province.
- UNHCR is working with the authorities to plan a biometric registration to facilitate medium term assistance for those rendered homeless, **including providing rental assistance for nearly 2,000 households and transitional housing.**



*A UNHCR staff member meets with government officials in the affected areas surrounding Goma in order to discuss the appropriate response to the survivors of the eruption. © UNHCR/Sanne Biesmans*

## Situation Overview

- The eruption of the Mount Nyiragongo volcano in Goma, North Kivu Province, on May 22, 2021, led to the displacement of over 500,000 individuals to the surroundings areas of Goma, Sake, Minova, Kiwanja in Rutshuru, Bukavu as well as to Rwanda. The majority have since returned home.
- According to the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) working group and INTERSOS, 7,891 persons are still displaced in Masisi, and Rutshuru Territories, most of them accommodated in host families who have extremely limited resources. In Nyiragongo Territory, 31,904 displaced individuals are still staying in five spontaneous sites (Bujari, Mujoga, Kanyaruchinya, Kayembe and Kanyanja) according local authorities. Some of the survivors do not want to return to Goma as they lost everything and prefer to stay in their new location while others do not have the economic or transport means to go back.
- Local authorities report that 23,045 individuals have been impacted by the eruption: among those 22,395 individuals lost their home or had them heavily damaged by the earthquakes that followed the eruption, while 650 lost their fields, destroyed by the lava. UNHCR will perform biometric registration to identify families individually and to facilitate the assistance.
- In Rutshuru Territory, attacks by armed groups have increased the risks of human rights violations for displaced persons, including those who fled the volcano eruption.
- Due to the poor living conditions, women and children are particularly exposed to negative coping mechanisms such as survival sex while children are at risk of economic exploitation
- Many displaced persons who live in host families live overcrowded spaces with poor sanitary infrastructures. This exposes the risk of water-borne diseases such as cholera, but also increases the risk of sexual violence as women have to walk long distances to access drinkable water.

## Preparedness and response



- The volcano eruption, and subsequent earthquakes have been a stressful and traumatic experience to many, especially children. UNHCR through its partner AIDPROFEN is providing psychosocial care to survivors to recognize and address the effects this event has had on the mental status of the affected population.
- UNHCR's partner INTERSOS has conducted needs assessment in Sake, Masisi Territory, and in Mugunga, Nyiragongo Territory, which shows that food, healthcare, core relief items (CRI), dignity kits and economic activities are the main need for the displaced population. UNHCR has shared this information with appropriate humanitarian organizations and is working on distribution and shelter plans for those areas.



### SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRI)

- The initial list for rental assistance is now complete, after thorough review with local authorities and a triage for prioritizing those most in need. UNHCR will start the process of a cash distribution for rent next week.
- Now that sites are established, authorities are working on how plots of land and documents will be granted in order to prevent land conflicts, after which UNHCR's transitional shelter project will start.

## Clusters and Coordination

- The Congolese authorities and the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) built two sites, Kanyaruchinya and Kibati, in Nyiragongo Territory, with the capacity to accommodate 6,100 individuals, which will open soon. The CCCM working group is providing technical advice to both parties in the site planning to reduce protection risks.
- The Protection Cluster is advocating with territorial and provincial military authorities to reinforce the security and protection measures in Mubambiro and Sake. Since the arrival of former militia members - who surrendered in the context of the state of siege – an increase of violence and criminality has been reported through the protection monitoring mechanism.

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