



PROFILE OF INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT : DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

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PROFILE SUMMARY

Hundreds of thousands flee as fighting spirals in northeastern DR Congo

Many thousands of civilians have fled their homes in the latest round of inter-ethnic fighting to erupt in Bunia, the main town in DR Congo's northeastern Ituri district, prompting top UN officials to warn of possible genocide. With rival ethnic militias battling for control of the town, amid reports of widespread killing and looting, UN peacekeepers (MONUC) are outnumbered and overwhelmed. Civilians and humanitarian aid workers who remain in the town, many sheltering at a UN compound or at the airport, are extremely vulnerable to physical attack. Humanitarian access to civilian populations inside Bunia is very limited, and practically impossible in surrounding areas. Protection, as well as water, food and medical care are urgently needed to avert a humanitarian catastrophe. Although a shaky ceasefire has been in place as of 16 May, the situation remains extremely tense. It remains unclear precisely how and when the UN Security Council plans to stem the critical situation, either by strengthening the existing peacekeeping force or by supporting the deployment of a foreign force. Elsewhere in the country, there have also been recent reports of civilians fleeing fighting between armed factions in the Kivus and Kasai Oriental province, despite a peace agreement endorsed in April 2003 by all parties to DR Congo's almost five-year civil war. The conflict in DR Congo is the deadliest since World War II, and has displaced more than 2.7 million people.

Bloodshed in Ituri

Heavy fighting between rival Hema and Lendu militias broke out in the town of Bunia, the main town of the resource-rich Ituri district, in early May 2003. This intensified after Uganda – the de facto power in the region since 1999 – completed the withdrawal of about 6,000 troops from the area on May 7. After several days of killing and looting, the rebel group, *Union des Patriotes Congolais* (UPC), together with an allied group, took control of Bunia. Thomas Lubanga, a Hema, leads the UPC. But the bloodletting did not stop there: some reports describe corpses littering the streets of Bunia, with groups of men and children, armed and drugged, on the rampage (BBC, 14 May 03; IRIN, 8 May 03). MONUC confirmed that a “raft of atrocities” took place during the fighting, including massacres and arbitrary executions. While exact numbers of people displaced are unknown, UNICEF said it feared “hundreds of thousands” of civilians, mainly women and children, were displaced, while the BBC reported that most of Bunia’s 300,000 population had fled.

No protection for fleeing civilians

So far no one has been able to provide adequate protection for civilians fleeing the violence. Deployment of some 600 special police to Bunia by the Kinshasa government at the time of the Ugandan withdrawal proved ineffective: the majority of them have apparently fled as well. MONUC has increased its presence in Bunia up to about 700 troops, but they have barely managed to secure their own bases and the airport. A MONUC compound where thousands of civilians have been sheltering came under direct attack from heavily armed militia, killing 14 people and injuring 100.

Both the head of UN peacekeeping operations, Jean-Marie Guehenno, and the chief UN war crimes prosecutor for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, Carla del Ponte, have warned of the risk of genocide in Ituri.

Civilians and aid agencies in Bunia have complained that MONUC has failed to protect them, and have called for MONUC’s mandate to be changed to one of more vigorous peace enforcement rather than simply peacekeeping. As pointed out by Human Rights Watch, “The Security Council has given MONUC a mandate to ‘protect civilians under imminent threat of physical violence,’ but to do that it must have

enough troops and equipment.” (HRW, 8 May 03). The British aid organisation Oxfam similarly urged the UN to “find troops and resources for a rapid reaction peace enforcement force for Bunia.” France has already offered to send troops to Ituri – as long as there is a clear mandate and other governments join them in their effort.

As of mid-May 2003, MONUC had some 5,500 troops and observers in DR Congo – a number widely regarded as insufficient in a vast country with a population of about 56 million. Both the South African and Ugandan governments have voiced concern over MONUC’s limited protection powers, with President Museveni of Uganda saying that MONUC troops were practising “dangerous tourism.” (IRIN, 12 May 03).

Even though five armed groups involved in the fighting in Bunia signed a ceasefire agreement on 16 May, there was widespread concern that “unless an international force is deployed immediately, the signatures will mean nothing and insecurity will continue in the region” (IRIN, 16 May 03). Although the UN Security Council has been debating various options in terms of an international intervention force, there is as yet no information on a precise date or numbers.

Critical humanitarian needs

Some two weeks after the fighting broke out in Bunia, the humanitarian situation remains critical. Several warehouses containing essential food and non-food items have been pillaged and the main food market targeted, raising fears of imminent food shortages. Oxfam-Great Britain has voiced concern that untreated water would lead to outbreaks of disease. These fears appeared to be well-founded when some cases of dysentery broke out in the overcrowded MONUC compound and cholera looked increasingly likely. Lack of medical personnel and supplies has also become increasingly urgent, with numerous reports of injured patients dying on operating tables in the absence of medical care (IRIN, 14 May 03).

The NGO World Vision has reported that around 50,000 people – mostly women and children - were fleeing southwards from Bunia on foot, and that efforts must be made “to save thousands of lives that are at risk of starving in the Equatorial jungle.” Other reports have indicated that internally displaced people were being prevented from fleeing the region by armed factions seeking to hold them hostage, and from entering other regions by armed factions seeking to avoid having the conflict spill over into their territory.

Humanitarian response has been severely constrained by the insecurity. Although limited humanitarian supplies have been able to reach Bunia and distributed by UN OCHA, UNICEF, EC Humanitarian Office (ECHO) and various NGOs, air travel to the town remains unsafe and erratic. Two Red Cross volunteers were killed on 11 May while carrying out humanitarian duties during the fighting in Bunia. (ICRC, 16 May 03).

Some humanitarian organisations are still struggling to help people displaced by earlier fighting the region. More than 100,000 people displaced in clashes between the Hema and Lendu tribes in December 2002 were described by World Vision as being in “dire need... of food, clean water, shelter, drugs, clothing, blankets, kitchenware and utensils” (WV, 9 Jan 03). The displaced, the majority of them from Bunia, were located either in Beni town (North Kivu province), or were wandering around the forests.

Ituri’s violent legacy

Violent conflict in the Ituri district has a long history. The decades-old conflict between the Hema and Lendu tribes was initially over land – essentially between the Hema pastoralists and the Lendu cultivators. This conflict became complicated in recent years by the involvement of armed factions battling for power and control over natural resources, including gold, diamonds and rich timber reserves. According to Amnesty International, “foreign forces have also deliberately stoked inter-ethnic conflicts and mass killings in order to promote their economic interests.” AI cites the example of Ituri, where it says that thousands of women have been raped and children as young as 12 have been forced into hard labour in the mines (AI, 28 Apr 03).

Just one day after the DR Congo's warring parties endorsed a peace accord in April 2003, at least 1,000 people were reportedly massacred in and around the town of Drodo, Ituri district. The UN visited 49 seriously injured people – mostly Hema victims of Lendu violence – in a local hospital, and also witnessed numerous mass graves (MONUC, 9 Apr 03). According to Human Rights Watch, the “massacre follows a horrific pattern...seen in Ituri in recent months, where military operations often turn into the slaughter of civilians.” More than 4,000 people on either side of the ethnic divide lost their lives in ethnic killings from August 2002 – April 2003, according to HRW. An estimated 500,000 people in Ituri – about 10 percent of the population – were internally displaced before the recent upsurge in fighting, according to both the UN and the UPC rebel authorities.

Displacement continues as peace fails

The continued fighting in the Ituri district, in defiance of the April 2003 peace agreement, is not an isolated case. Violence has continued in a number of areas in the east of the country, notably in South Kivu province. Around 1,000 people fled the town of Uvira in April 2003, due to fighting between the rebel *Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie-Goma* (RCD-Goma) forces who control the town, and Mayi Mayi militias (IRIN, 25 Apr 03). A further 5,000 fled across a river from villages in South Kivu to neighbouring Burundi when RCD-Goma went on a military offensive against other rebel groups in May 2003.

Clashes between the Rwandan-backed RCD-Goma and Mayi Mayi militias also displaced more than 30,000 people from late 2002 to March 2003 in the Lomami River area of Kasai Oriental province, according to the NGO Catholic Relief Services (IRIN, 3 Mar 03).

Displaced civilians in all parts of DR Congo – but especially in the rebel-held territories in the east of the country – are often the targets of gross human rights violations. A MONUC investigation confirmed massive human rights abuses carried out by *Mouvement national de libération du Congo* (MLC) and *Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie-National* (RCD-N) rebel forces against displaced people as well as resident communities in villages in North Kivu and Ituri during their occupation of the area from October – November 2002. The investigation confirmed widespread summary executions, mutilation and cannibalization, systematic looting and rape, as well as forced displacement of Pygmy communities from the forest (MONUC, 15 Jan 03). The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights further reported, “All parties to the conflict continue to carry out gross violations of human rights with impunity,” and that in the east of the country “sexual violence against women and girls is a tool of warfare.” Recruitment of children as soldiers and the use of women and children as forced labour are continuing practices (UN SC, 24 Feb 03).

Humanitarian access to populations in need, many of whom have been forcibly displaced and are seeking refuge in the dense forests of the east, is often denied by the various rebel groups controlling the area. This has been making a dire humanitarian situation even worse. An estimated 3.3 million people have died as a result of the DR Congo war since 1998, according to an April 2003 report by the International Rescue Committee, making it the deadliest war anywhere in the world during the past half-century. The majority of deaths are attributed to disease and malnutrition, and most of those in the east of the country where the levels of internal displacement have consistently been the highest. Although health conditions in eastern DRC improved in 2002, the situation there still represents a “crisis of extraordinary proportions” (IRC, 8 Apr 03).

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CAUSES AND BACKGROUND OF DISPLACEMENT

Political developments

DRC political developments- Chronology: 1870-2002

1870s: Commissioned by King Leopold II of Belgium, the explorer H.M Stanley establishes the King's authority in the Congo basin.

1884-85: Leopold's claim on the Congo is formalized at the Berlin Conference. The "Congo Free State" was created as a personal fiefdom of the Belgian Crown.

1908: The Congo becomes a Belgian colony.

1960: The Congo becomes an independent state, with Patrice Lumumba as Prime Minister and Joseph Kasavubu as President.

1961: Lumumba is murdered, reportedly with US and Belgian complicity.

1965: President Kasavubu is ousted by General Mobutu, army chief of staff.

1990: Mobutu announces multiparty democracy but keeps significant powers.

1991: Anti-Mobutu sentiments explode in mass rioting and looting by unpaid soldiers in Kinshasa.

1992: Riots and looting by unpaid soldiers in Goma, Kisangani, Kolwesi; ethnic tensions rise between the Hunde, Nyanga and Nande and the Banyarwanda in North Kivu.

1993: Ethnic strife between the local populations and the Banyarwanda breaks out in Masisi area. The coup in Burundi against new Hutu President Melchior Ndadaye results in the arrival of some 80,000 Burundian refugees in Zaire.

1994: Genocide of the Tutsis in Rwanda. Following the Tutsi led counter offensive, one million refugees, mainly Hutus, cross the border with Zaire.

1995: Renewal of the ethnic war in Masisi.

1996: Revolt of the Zairian Tutsis "Banyamulenge" in South Kivu; the ADFL's (Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire) "Liberation" war led by Laurent-Désiré Kabila begins from the east.

1997: Mobutu is ousted by the ADFL forces and flees in exile to Morocco.

1998: Congolese rebel forces, backed by Rwanda and Uganda, start attacking Kabila's forces and conquer the east of the country. Angola, Namibia and Zimbabwe come to Kabila's aid and push the rebels back from Kinshasa.

1999: First confrontation of Rwandan and Ugandan troops in Kisangani. Signature of a cease-fire agreement by all six of the countries involved in the conflict; MONUC observers are deployed in the DRC.

2000: Six-day war between Rwanda and Uganda in Kisangani.

2001: President Kabila is shot dead by one of his bodyguards; his son Joseph takes over.

2002: Eruption of volcano Nyiragongo in Goma. Accord signed between Presidents Kabila and Kagame of Rwanda committing Rwandan to withdraw its troops from the DRC and Kinshasa to address Rwanda's security concerns in the DRC." (MSF 19 Nov 2002, p64)

Six foreign armies from neighbouring countries have been involved in war in DRC (1996-1999)

"The humanitarian crisis is the result of a complex conflict. The war in the DRC has involved six foreign armies from neighbouring countries, together with a range of foreign and domestic rebel and militia forces. Its roots are embedded in the history of the Great Lakes Region, although much of the current conflict stems from the violence and mass displacements unleashed by the Rwandan genocide of 1994. Over two million people, mainly Hutus, became refugees in the neighbouring countries of Tanzania and the DRC (then Zaire). Refugees in the DRC numbered some 1.2m and included many of those responsible for the genocide. They were mostly located near the towns of Goma and Bukavu, and it was here that the seeds of the current conflict were sown – with the international community partly to blame. The refugee camps were situated too close to the Rwandan border, rather than 50km away as recommended under international law. This encouraged incursions back into Rwanda by the Interahamwe militia, whose presence inside the camps went largely unchallenged for at least the first nine months.

The presence of the Interahamwe in the Kivus region of the DRC has not been the only source of conflict for the wider Great Lakes Region. Operating in the same area, but further south, the *Forces de défense pour la démocratie* (FDD) have battled against the regime in Burundi. In the northwest, the presence of another rebel force was seen as a direct threat to the Ugandan government in Kampala.

In September 1996, a rebellion broke out in the Kivus, led by Laurent Kabila and his *Alliance des forces démocratiques pour la libération du Congo-Zaire* (AFDL), and heavily backed by the Rwandan and Ugandan armies. All of these parties wanted to overthrow the Mobutu regime in Kinshasa and neutralise the threat of the various foreign militias. However, while the rebellion was successful, with Kabila acceding to power in May 1997, the problems of regional security continued.

Relations between the new regime in Kinshasa and its former allies of Rwanda and Uganda deteriorated as the latter accused the Kabila government of failing to deal with the militias and even of arming them, thus threatening the security of both Rwanda and Uganda. In August 1998 a new conflict broke out, with the Rwandan and Ugandan governments providing support to the *Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie* (RCD) in an attempt to overthrow the government in Kinshasa. Loosely allied to the RCD was the *Mouvement pour la libération du Congo* (MLC) of Pierre Bemba, based in the province of Equateur. In response to this threat, the Kabila government called upon the support of fellow SADC (Southern African Development Community) governments, claiming that DRC sovereignty had been violated. As a result, the governments of Zimbabwe, Angola, Namibia and Chad sent in troops to prevent the overthrow of the government. Burundi also became involved on the side of Rwanda and Uganda, for similar reasons." (APPG Nov 2002, pp8-9)

Lusaka cease-fire agreement and new President following assassination of Laurent Kabila in January 2001 (1999-2001)

- President Kabila, Rwanda, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Angola and Namibia signing cease-fire agreement on 10 July 1999 in Lusaka
- Major rebel forces signing agreement on 31 August 1999
- Continued stalemate means absence of solutions to the problem of massive displacement
- Assassination of President Kabila on 16 January 2001 moved the peace process in a new direction (2001)

"The seven month long peace talks under auspices of Zambia between the parties to the DRC conflict concluded a first significant step- signature of a cease-fire agreement by the Heads of DRC, Rwanda, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Angola and Namibia on 10 July [1999] in Lusaka. Unable to overcome persisting internal divergences, the two factions of the RCD and the MLC abstained from signing the Lusaka agreement" UN OCHA 15 July 1999, "Context")

"Following intense diplomatic activity, especially by President Chiluba of Zambia and his Government and the Government of South Africa and others, representatives of the remaining rebel movement, RCD, signed the Ceasefire Agreement in Lusaka on 31 August [1999]. " (UN SC 1 November 1999)

"The signing of a cease-fire agreement in the summer of 1999, constituted a real prospect for bringing an end to the violent conflict in Congo DR. The agreement included the establishment of a joint military commission made up of African countries to monitor the implementation of the agreement and disarmament of the Interahamwe militia, another major goal included in the accord. The agreement also included the deployment of a UN peacekeeping force in the DRC and opening a national debate among all domestic factions and civil society on the future of the DRC [the "Inter-Congolese dialogue]." (EPCPT October 2000, "prospects")

Renewed hope following coming to power of President Joseph Kabila

"Eighteen months of deadlock in efforts to end the war in the Congo came to a sudden end with the assassination of President Laurent Désiré Kabila on 16 January 2001. [...] His replacement by his 29-year old son Joseph consequently gave new hope to the peace process." (ICG 16 March 2001, sect. I)

"Since the change of power in Kinshasa in January 2001, the peace process in the DRC has gained new momentum. The ceasefire formally concluded in mid-1999 by the main belligerents has by and large been respected; the parties to the inter-Congolese dialogue have had a conclusive preparatory meeting in Gaborone and agreed to convene for substantive negotiations on 15 October; President Joseph Kabila has expressed his readiness to distance himself from the ex-FAR and Interahamwe, providing an opportunity to find a solution to the problem that has been at the heart of the regional conflict. The new government of the DRC has also taken a number of steps to stabilize the economy, ease restrictions on political activities and adopted a cooperative approach to the international community thus allowing the UN peacekeeping mission in the DRC (MONUC) to deploy in all provinces of the country.

Rwanda and Uganda have withdrawn their troops from the frontline in accordance with the provisions of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement. Uganda has also pledged to withdraw its troops from the DRC, with the exception of a few positions close to its border where they will pursue a limited objective of dismantling residual ADF forces. Rwanda has started to encourage the rank-and-file Hutu rebels in the DRC, notably in North Kivu, to desert and return home. Kigali has also offered a *de facto* amnesty to all rebels who were not involved in the 1994 genocide, in line with the formal amnesty in place in Uganda which has contributed to the dismantling or weakening of the Ugandan rebel groups.

Furthermore, the Rwandan authorities and the leadership of the *Rassemblement Congolais pour la Democratie – Goma* (RCD-G) have established contacts with some Mai Mai groups in South Kivu with a view to establishing local ceasefires. The *Rassemblement Congolais pour la Democratie – Mouvement de Liberation* (RCD/ML) is continuing negotiation with Mai Mai groups in the portions of North Kivu under

their control and their integration into the RCD-ML armed forces is now a likely perspective." (UNDP 28 Nov 2001)

Mutiny against RCD authority in Kisangani (2002)

"Two major media events illustrated the Human Rights situation in the DRC this year. The mutiny in the city of Kisangani in May, that started by the taking over of the national radio station, and called out for the expulsion of Rwandan forces, resulted in the death of over 180 civilians and military. A number of civilians fled the city to the north or the west, among them a large number of Human Rights activists. The Special Reporter on Human Rights of the UN condemned RCD-Goma, the authority in place, for denying their protection responsibility towards civilians and abusing the situation in order to create instability and insecurity in the city.

In the aftermath of the events enormous tension marked the entire RCD-Goma territory. MONUC and UN and humanitarian agencies in general were torn between a volatile attitude of the population as a result of the passive role MONUC took on during the events, and accusations by RCD-Goma of MONUC collaboration with the Kinshasa government, which finally resulted in the expulsion of four MONUC staff members, among them the SRSR Amos Namanga Ngongi. SRSR Ngongi's expulsion was subsequently retracted by the RCD." (UN OCHA 19 Nov 2002, p40)

Conflict in DRC consists of three different sets of dynamics involving security reasons and search for economic survival (Oct 2002)

- First level: regional dimension of the Great Lakes conflict
- Second level: armed struggle among the Congolese themselves for the control of national political power
- Third level: in eastern DRC, historical and continuing conflict between communities
- All these level have own logic but also influence each other

"The rationality behind the current conflict, indeed, should be seen as a mixture of security reasons and the search for economic survival. Today, the DRC war can be explained as the next phase in a much larger and more deeply rooted conflict consisting of at least three different, yet closely related, sets of dynamics. The most analysed of these is the regional dimension or the Great Lakes conflict, which at present is strongly linked to a larger regional struggle (involving at least six countries) for zones of political influence and economic control. This layer is related to the disparity of wealth between the different countries of the Great Lakes region and the relative weakness of the Congolese state. As a consequence, the presence of the Rwandan army on Congolese territory can be explained as part of a strategy to protect its borders from incursions from Interahamwe forces and to guarantee the Rwandan regime's economic survival. Although one should not read the Rwandan presence in the DRC as part of a broader strategy of Rwandan or Tutsi commercial expansionism, the search for economic and politico-military security of the Rwandan regime adds an additional dynamic to the Congolese conflict. The second level of conflict is the armed struggle among the Congolese themselves for the control of national political power. The causes for this level of the conflict are strongly linked to the two other layers and concern the political system and the access to resources. This national dimension, however, is strongly influenced by the respective links of the rebel movements and their foreign patrons. Finally, in both North and South Kivu, there is an historical but continuing conflict between different communities that is unrelated to, but highly influenced by, events in neighbouring countries. These conflicts are caused by a complex set of factors including access to and control over land, political representation and the respect of traditional authority. All three different levels exhibit a certain logic of their own but, at the same time, influence one another. In eastern Congo, however, the situation is very particular since local, national and regional dynamics are closely intertwined. When

analysing the current situation in the Kivus, one has to acknowledge that the 10-year old political crisis has resulted in a situation that is characterised by a profound social disintegration, a shift from patrimonial to military control over resources, a growing importance of armed militia as an escape from further alienation (with violence becoming the main mode of discourse) and a total 're-tribalisation' of politics and society as a consequence of the search for strategies of control and resistance for which ethnic identity offers a perfect instrument." (JHA 28 Oct 02, sect.2)

Progress in the disarming of the militia and withdrawal of foreign forces (2001-2003)

- One of the most problematic elements of the Lusaka Accord is the disarming and demobilization of the militia including the Interahamwe (Sept 2001)
- Increased localized violence in Eastern DRC following cease-fire
- In July 2002 DR Congo agreed to make its border with Rwanda safe while Rwanda agreed to withdraw its troops from DR Congo
- Rebel group RCD said they were willing to negotiate power-sharing deal with Congolese government (Aug 02)
- DRC government declared all political leaders of the Forces démocratiques de liberation du Rwanda persona non grata (Sept 02)
- Burundi agreed to withdraw remaining two battalions from DRC (Oct 02)
- Withdrawal of armed forces of Angola, Namibia and Zimbabwe from DRC (Oct 02)
- According to UN panel in Oct 02, Rwanda and Uganda have put in place control mechanisms which do not rely on an explicit presence of their army in DRC
- By the end of April 2003, Uganda has withdrawn 1650 troops from eastern DRC

"The Lusaka peace process is back on track but it has left Kivu provinces at the mercy of all the key players in the region. It is generally agreed that peace in DRC poses a considerable threat to both Burundi and Rwanda as Hutu rebels, threatened with the loss of their Congolese safe haven, look for a place to run. The Arusha and Lusaka processes have put pressure on the Burundian rebels, pushing them back into Burundi and causing increased insecurity in the country. Meanwhile the withdrawal of troops and the threat of disarmament has put pressure on the Interhamwe, a force that Rwanda will do anything to keep out of its borders.

One of the most problematic elements of the Lusaka Accord is the disarming and demobilization of the militia including the Interahamwe. The UN has committed to observing this process but it is the warring countries themselves who will carry the disarmament out." (SCF 10 July 2001)

"Although the Lusaka peace process launched in 1999 has generated numerous ceasefire agreements, it has still failed to produce a halt to the violence in the east of the country or a viable political solution to the conflict. The peace process has excluded various armed groups still active in the east of the country, including the *Interahamwe*, the Hutu militias involved in the Rwandan genocide, different Burundian rebel groups as well as the Congolese "Mai Mai" militias. The peace agreements have done little to stop the violence and repression. In the middle of 2001 the United Nations announced the beginning of a disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process of armed groups, specifically Interhamwe and ex-FAR. However, almost a year later, only a handful of fighters have been demobilized and disarmed in the process." (MSF 19 Nov 2002, p13)

"Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo have reached a peace agreement which could put an end to four years of fighting.

DR Congo has agreed to make their common border safe by flushing out Rwandan rebels sheltering in the east of the country, according to the French news agency, AFP. For its part, Rwanda has agreed to withdraw its troops from DR Congo, which are estimated to number as many as 30,000. But the peace deal, reached in Pretoria, South Africa, after five days of talks, needs to be approved by the presidents of Rwanda and DR Congo to be valid." (BBC News 22 July 2002)

To view the text of the peace agreement, please see Government of South Africa 30 July 2002, Peace Agreement between Rwanda and DRC [See document below]

"The Luanda accord [dated 6 Sept 02], brokered by Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, also arranged for the withdrawal of Ugandan troops from the DRC. Uganda has said that only one of its army battalions remain in the troubled northeastern DRC city of Bunia, at the request of MONUC, and along the slopes of the Rwenzori mountains." (IRIN 26 Nov 02)

"As the withdrawal of foreign forces proceeded, the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo on 24 September declared all political leaders of the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda (FDLR) persona non grata, and ordered them to leave the country within 72 hours." (UN SC 18 Oct 02, para.13)

"Burundi has agreed to withdraw its remaining two battalions of troops from the neighbouring Democratic Republic of the Congo, while Kinshasa has pledged that its territory will not serve as a rear base for Burundi Hutu rebel groups, delegations from the governments of the two countries said in a joint communique issued on Sunday at the end of talks in the Burundi capital, Bujumbura." (IRIN 14 Oct 02)

In December 2002, "The United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC) on Wednesday sent observers to Bukavu, South Kivu, to investigate the alleged presence of Rwandan soldiers in the region after their official withdrawal in October." (IRIN 5 Dec 2002)

"The government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) officially bade farewell on Wednesday to the armed forces of Angola, Namibia and Zimbabwe with a parade in their honour organized in the capital, Kinshasa." (IRIN 30 Oct 02)

According to UN Final report of the Panel of Experts on the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources and Other Forms of Wealth of DR Congo:

"14. The Uganda People's Defence Forces continue to provoke ethnic conflict, as in the past, clearly cognizant that the unrest in Ituri will require the continuing presence of a minimum of UPDF personnel. The Panel has evidence that high-ranking UPDF officers have taken steps to train local militia to serve as a paramilitary force, directly and discreetly under UPDF command, which will be capable of performing the same functions as UPDF. There will be little change in the control that Ugandans now exercise over trade flows and economic resources. As UPDF continue to arm local groups, only less conspicuously than before, the departure of Ugandan armed forces is unlikely to alter economic activities by those powerful individuals in the north-eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.

15. Like UPDF, and under pressure from its closest allies, Rwanda has started withdrawing. It has prepared for withdrawal by putting in place economic control mechanisms that do not rely on an explicit presence of the Rwandan Patriotic Army. It has replaced Congolese directors of parastatals with businessmen from Kigali to ensure continuing revenue from water, power and transportation facilities. It has replaced local currency with Rwandan currency. RPA battalions that specialize in mining activities remain in place, though they have ceased wearing RPA uniforms and will continue the activities under a commercial guise. The Panel's sources have reported that RPA recently undertook an operation to obtain a large number of Congolese passports so as to give an appropriate identity to RPA officers who continue to be stationed at strategically important sites in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

16. The Panel has learned of other tactics for disguising the continuing presence of an armed force loyal to Rwanda. Reliable sources have reported an initiative by the Chief of Staff of the Armée nationale congolaise, Major Sylvain Mbuki, to reorganize the RCD-Goma forces in order to accommodate large numbers of RPA soldiers inside ANC units and local defence forces made up of pro-Rwanda elements. Most of the ANC units have had RPA leadership for some time, and now, with this reorganization, a significant number of RPA soldiers will be integrated into the ANC rank and file. Instead of departing for Rwanda, large numbers of Rwandan Hutus serving in RPA have been provided with new uniforms and assigned to ANC brigades as Congolese Hutu. Rwanda has diverted attention from those soldiers staying in the Democratic Republic of the Congo by drawing particular attention to those who depart. Ceremonies have been held at points of re-entry. In fact, the number of soldiers who have left the Democratic Republic of the Congo is so far only a portion of the total number of RPA troops in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, which various sources estimate at between 35,000 and 50,000. Simultaneously with the RPA troop withdrawals, Rwandan officials have repatriated to North Kivu thousands of Congolese Tutsi refugees under duress from the camps around Byumba and Kibuye Provinces in Rwanda. Schools in the Rwandan camps have remained closed and some camp structures have been razed to encourage further repatriations. All the Panel's sources have also suggested that this movement could be part of the new tactic for maintaining Rwanda's presence in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo. " (UN SC 16 Oct 02, para.14-16)

"Uganda had by Sunday withdrawn 1,650 troops from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, army spokesman Maj. Shaban Bantariza told IRIN on Monday. The first group was flown out on Friday.

'Only military equipment and those guarding them are still to come by air,' he said.

The remaining troops, he said, were walking back to Uganda from southeast of Bunia, a three-week journey that would take about three weeks for some.

Military officials, including Defence Minister Amama Mbabazi, welcomed the troops who arrived at Entebbe Air Base on Friday. Referring to Kampala's assertion that Ugandan dissidents were active in eastern DRC he said: 'The mission in Congo was to defeat terrorists wanting to destabilise us. Uganda will not stand idly by while our people are being threatened from the Congo.'

[...]

"Earlier in the day MONUC officials told reporters that arrangements had been made to keep order in Ituri.

'We officially inaugurate the IPC [Ituri Pacification Committee] today,' Vadim Periliev, head of MONUC for eastern DRC, said. 'The various organs of the IPC on the ground are equipped to deal with the security situation in Ituri.'

He said that 'all the elements of the society' of eastern Congo were involved in these organs and had been consulting with MONUC.

Asked why the UN had, so far, only 200 troops in Ituri he said, 'Numbers are less important than the quality of the response.'

He also denied the Ugandan army's claim that the UN had asked them to stay longer to give it more time to organise a peacekeeping force.

'The position of MONUC is that we want immediate withdrawal,' he said. 'There was never a request to delay. There was only a concern that they pull out in an orderly fashion.' (IRIN, 28 April 2003)

Power-sharing deal signed by parties to the Inter-Congolese dialogue - but fighting continues (Dec 02-Apr 03)

- Dialogue aims to establish transitional government
- Inter Congolese meeting in Addis Ababa in October 2001 did not bring expected results
- Agreement between DRC government and MLC at Inter Congolese meeting in Sun City, South Africa, in April 2002 was not implemented
- Breakthrough of Congolese peace talks at the end of 2002 with signing of all-including power-sharing agreement
- Parties to the Inter-Congolese dialogue formally endorsed the agreement in April 2003
- At the same time, MONUC deplored resumption of fighting in the east - mainly between RCD-Goma and Mayi Mayi troops, as well as between RCD-Goma and RCD-Kisangani/ML troops

"As for the Inter Congolese Dialogue sanctioned by the Lusaka Peace Accord of 1999, it is aimed at establishing a transitional government and was designed to bring together representatives from the government, the political opposition, armed opposition groups and civil society to map out a future for the DRC." (UN OCHA 28 Feb 2002, p.15)

October 2001: inter Congolese meeting in Addis Ababa

"An attempt to meet in Addis Ababa was made in October 2001 but the talks broke up over disagreement about the selection process and did not authorize any significant progress." (UN OCHA 28 February 2002, p16)

Inter-Congolese Dialogue in Sun City, South Africa, in Feb-April 2002

"Disagreements over command and control of the army constituted the factor causing talks on a transitional ruling body between the government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the former rebel Mouvement de liberation congolais (MLC) to stall on 5 June.[...]

Agreement on forming a transitional government was reached in Sun City, South Africa, between DRC President Joseph Kabila and Bemba in April. But the RCD, which was not party to the agreement, described it as "a joke". " (IRIN 9 July 2002)

Mid-December 2002

"Warring parties in the Democratic Republic of the Congo signed an all-inclusive power-sharing deal on Tuesday to establish a government of national unity and hopefully end four years of war, news organisations reported.

Under the agreement, reached after months of stop-start negotiations known as the inter-Congolese dialogue (ICD), President Joseph Kabila will remain in office for the next two years until the country's first elections since independence from Belgium in 1960 are held. He will be assisted by four vice-presidents, respectively representing the government, the Rassemblement congolais pour la democratie-Goma, the Mouvement de liberation du Congo (MLC) and the unarmed political opposition.

There will be 36 ministers and 25 deputy ministers, a 500-member National Assembly and a 120-member Senate.

The accord provides for a Higher Defence Council (Conseil superieur de la defense) to be chaired by the president of the republic. An integrated national police force will provide security.

AFP reported that the accord permits ministers from the various groups to have their own bodyguards, but "abandons a proposal that 2,000 South African troops assure their security". The MLC was awarded the

presidency of the National Assembly, having maintained that it needed the position to ensure a fair balance of power, AFP added.

Representatives of the government, rebel movements, militias, opposition parties and civil society all signed the accord - their first all-inclusive deal." (IRIN 17 Dec 2002)

April 2003

"Following is the message of Secretary-General Kofi Annan to the final session of the Inter-Congolese Dialogue, delivered on his behalf by his Special Envoy M. Moustapha Niasse, in Sun City, South Africa on 2 April:

Your meeting today marks a breakthrough, which is potentially of great significance for the Congolese people, and indeed for Africa as a whole. You formally endorsed the All-inclusive Agreement on the Transition in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which you signed on 17 December 2002 in Pretoria, as well as the Transitional Constitution and the Memorandum on Military and Security of 6 March 2003, both of which complement that agreement. And you endorsed the various resolutions adopted a year ago.

[...]

Yet no one should imagine that the All-inclusive Agreement will implement itself. The most complex and difficult tasks still lie ahead. During the Transition, the parties will have to prepare for elections, and at the same time address issues that lie at the root of the conflict, such as citizenship and land reform. They will also have to reunify the country, to create an integrated army, to demobilize soldiers, and to demilitarize politics by transforming armed factions into political groups. Even unarmed groups, which until now have been bitter adversaries, will now have to learn to work together for the public good.

[...]

Most urgently, you need to address the continuing conflict in the east, where the unfortunate population are in a situation that is arguably even worse now than it was before the agreements were signed. This is a moment, not for self-congratulation, but for solemn reflection, and for firm resolution to keep on working together, no matter how great the difficulties and disappointments that lie ahead.

The United Nations will continue to do its utmost to support your efforts. But our support will be of little value unless you yourselves are fully determined to implement your agreements." (UN SG, 2 April 2003)

"Amos Namanga Ngongi, the head of the UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), known as MONUC, said on Wednesday that he 'deplored' the resumption of fighting in eastern regions of the country, particularly 'at a time when we are talking about war ending'.

Addressing a news conference in the DRC capital, Kinshasa, Ngongi said 'fights cannot be justified at this stage when everyone is seated at the same table to make peace', referring to a preliminary meeting held on Tuesday by the follow-up committee of the 2 April power-sharing agreement reached by all parties to the inter-Congolese dialogue.

Asked about specific concerns, the MONUC chief of public information, Patricia Tome, told IRIN that the UN Mission had received reports of widespread movements of armed forces of the Rassemblement congolais pour la democratie (RCD-Goma), a Rwandan-backed rebel movement and signatory of the power-sharing agreement.

She said about 10,000 RCD-Goma troops had been concentrated in recent days between the South Kivu Province cities of Bukavu and Uvira, fighting Congolese Mayi-Mayi militias, including the Mudundu 40. She said the local Red Cross had reported 30 deaths, primarily of civilians.

MONUC's spokesman, Hamadoun Toure, added that a recent MONUC mission to the town of Burhale, located some 75 km southwest of Bukavu, had found only three residents remaining. People were said to be coming to the town during the day, and seeking refuge in nearby forests at night.

Meanwhile, in North Kivu Province, Tome said fighting between RCD-Goma and a rival rebel faction, RCD-Kisangani/Mouvement de liberation, had been taking place around Bingi, Bunyatenge and Muhanga. MONUC had no casualty figures from those locations.

Toure said MONUC was in 'permanent contact' with all belligerent parties, urging them to cease hostilities and 'demanding that RCD-Goma return to its positions in line with all disengagement and redeployment plans'. He added that MONUC leaders had travelled to meet RCD-Goma representatives in both Goma and Bukavu in recent days, 'with a view towards putting an end to the military activities'.

Concerning the situation in the Ituri District of northeastern DRC, Ngongi said he 'applauded the current pacification process, yet condemn[ed] the continual hostilities in this part of the country'. He urged all parties 'to make peace so that unnecessary human losses come to an end'. He also welcomed the ongoing withdrawal of the Ugandan troops.

However, Toure admitted that the situation remained 'tense', and would remain so while MONUC was trying to build confidence among the various stakeholders." (IRIN, 30 April 2003)

A chronology of peace talks for DR Congo (1998-2003)

"Since war broke out in Democratic Republic of Congo on August 2, 1998, numerous efforts have been made to end the conflict through dialogue.

Herewith a chronology of the key talks on the war:

1998

Aug 8: The first summit on the DRC conflict brings together seven heads of state from southern and east Africa at Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.

Sept 13-14: The annual summit of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) recognises Zimbabwe's, Angola's and Namibia's intervention on behalf of the Kinshasa government and condemns Rwanda and Uganda for supporting DRC rebels.

Oct 26-27: Ministers from 11 African countries meet in the Zambian capital Lusaka and adopt the framework for a ceasefire in DRC. Zambia acts as regional mediator.

1999

July 10: A ceasefire agreement is signed at a summit in Lusaka by the DRC government and its allies Zimbabwe, Angola and Namibia, and by Rwanda and Uganda. The Congolese Liberation Movement (MLC, backed by Uganda) and the two factions of the Congolese Rally for Democracy (RCD, backed by Rwanda) ratify the agreement in August.

2000

Jan 24-26: Seven regional heads of state meet in New York with UN mediators.

Feb 23: Seven African heads of state meet in Lusaka and adopt a new timetable for applying the DRC ceasefire.

2001

Feb 15: DRC's new President Joseph Kabila – who came to power after his father Laurent was assassinated in January -- takes part in his first summit on the DRC in Lusaka, together with four other countries involved in the conflict and the rebel movements. Announcement of deployment of UN observers for DRC, MONUC, and appointment of Sir Ketumile Masire as Inter-Congolese Dialogue facilitator.

Oct 15: Inter-Congolese Dialogue officially opens in Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa but is suspended after three days and later adjourned.

2002

Feb 25-April 19: Inter-Congolese Dialogue opens in Sun City, South Africa. The talks run on for six weeks and eventually result in a non-inclusive accord on power sharing, which is never implemented.

Sept 6: The DRC and Uganda ratify a protocol of agreement for Kampala to withdraw its troops from DRC soil.

Dec 17: All parties to the DRC war sign an agreement in Pretoria on a power-sharing transition government aimed at taking DRC through to its first democratic elections since 1960.

2003

March 6: After 11 days of talks in Pretoria, delegates adopt a draft constitution and a memorandum on the military and security arrangements during the transition period.

March 16-30: At the end of talks on integrating rebels into the DRC armed forces and on security measures during the transition period, only the RCD rebel group signs an agreement in Pretoria on a high command for an integrated armed force." (AFP, 31 March 2003)

Overview of armed groups

Warring parties involved in the post-August 1998 conflict: an overview

The information below presents briefly the major armed groups involved in the DRC conflict since August 1998. The information should be considered indicative only, and excludes numerous smaller armed groups and factions within and outside the main armed groups involved in the conflict.

"The number of non-state actors, often referred to as armed opposition, uncontrolled military groups, insurgents, etc. is continuously on the rise. In addition to domestic non-state armed groups, the DRC hosts a significant number of foreign rebel or insurgent groups, which consider the DRC as a rear base for launching raids on their respective countries. With the exception of Tanzania, Zambia and CAR, all other DRC neighbour countries attempt to neutralise their domestic armed opposition on the DRC soil. In simple terms, the internal struggles of Sudan, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Angola and to a much lesser extent (in the past) Republic of the Congo have been spilling over into the DRC. In eastern province of the Kivu, there is a noticeable amalgamation of foreign and local insurgent groups that are not believed to be entirely under the control of any state-parties to the conflict, although they regard Rwandan and Burundian armies as their main target. Security-related problems encountered by relief personnel because of widespread insurrection have been regular and frequent and are expected to increase." (UN November 2000, p.21)

Congolese Armed Groups:

Forces Armées Congolaises (FAC)

"When Kabila came to power, he decided to reform the army. This was to become an integrated force comprised of soldiers of Mobutu's Forces Armées Zairoises (FAZ), and Kabila's own core force of Banyamulenge and Katangan gendarmes. However, neither of the latter elements was sufficiently well equipped or adequately trained to take command of the new FAC army. This explains the emergence of officers from the ranks of ex-FAZ troops, such as Jean-Pierre Ondekane, who is now leading the rebel movement. It also partly explains why Joseph Kabila, the president's son, was appointed FAC chief of staff. His initial military training was under the Tanzanians during the 1996 war, and he was receiving further training in China when the rebellion broke out in August 1998. Kabila has never won the loyalty of the ex-FAZ. They have not forgotten their humiliating defeat by the AFDL in 1996 and soon defected to the rebel side soon after this latest conflict began.

Most of the better-trained FAC troops belonged to the elite unit of the 10th Battalion stationed in Goma. It was this unit, numbering 25,000 men, which launched the rebellion on 2 August 1998 from FAC headquarters in Kivu. An official announcement that the FAC had started a war to liberate their country was broadcast over Radio Goma by one of their officers, Sylvain Mbuki. Kabila denounced them as traitors and puppets of Rwanda and Uganda. Their defection led directly to the loss of Kivu. They immediately started marching north towards Oriental and Equateur provinces, south to Northern Katanga and also towards the centre of the country; the FAC troops stationed in those provinces all defected to the rebel movement.

In response, Kabila has embarked on a massive recruitment exercise to plug the gap in the FAC's ranks. However, the deserters included the more experienced FAC soldiers and the new and obviously inexperienced recruits have not proved up to the job. Kabila has therefore had to co-opt more seasoned fighters from among the ex-FAR and Interahamwe militias, soldiers who formerly fought for Idi Amin, and the Burundian FDD in order to beef up his war machine." (ICG 21 May 1999, "The Congolese parties to the Conflict")

Mai-Mai

"The Mai Mai are the most important group of armed, Congolese, fighters who are neither signatories of the Lusaka Agreement nor mentioned by name in the text. Yet, in eastern Congo, they have become a force of such power that any attempt to conclude a peaceful solution to the current war will likely fail if they are not taken into account. Although there are many Mai Mai groups with different interests and goals, they do appear to have one common denominator which is the expulsion of foreign "occupiers" which translates into the Rwandan armed forces, their Congolese allies, the RCD and frequently appears to extend to all Tutsi.[...]

The Mai Mai have been given both moral and material support by the DRC Government approximately from the start of the second Congo War in the summer of 1998 up to the present. Indeed, in military terms, the alliance between Kinshasa and the Mai Mai has produced important victories for Kinshasa because it has pinned down Rwandan forces and undermined the RCD/Goma. No similar violent challenges to Kinshasa's authority has developed in the areas that it controls. In sum, the Mai Mai and the Hutu guerrillas in eastern Congo (both Rwandan and Burundian) had together become the greatest threat to the RCD/Goma and the RPA.

The Mai Mai are viewed by large segments of the population in Eastern Congo as patriotic fighters against the occupation of the Kivus by the Rwandans and "their puppets", the RCD/Goma. And, the alliance between the Mai Mai and the Hutu forces (ex-FAR, Interahamwe, newly recruited Hutu and FDD) gave the latter the protection and cover among the civilian population that was needed to operate effectively against the "occupiers." Although the exact amount of control or influence which Kinshasa exerted and continues to exert over the Mai Mai is unclear, the Government has on occasion claimed that the Mai Mai are an integral part of the FAC and some of their leaders have been given important roles as generals in the FAC. If the Mai Mai are indeed part of the FAC then the ongoing attacks against the RPA and the RCD/Goma can clearly be viewed as breaches of the cease-fire agreement. This would obviously be an undesirable development from Kinshasa's point of view - and indeed, neither MONUC nor the Joint Military

Commission has formally declared such a breach - and, this may be the reason why in recent months the Mai Mai forces have been designated the Force d'Autodéfense Populaire, FAP, especially by spokesmen of the Kinshasa authorities." (UNDP 28 Nov 2001)

Rassemblement Congolais pour la Démocratie/Congolese Rally for Democracy (RCD)

"The RCD [Congolese Rally for Democracy/Rassemblement Congolais pour la Démocratie], composed of former Tutsi members of Kabila's government, former Mobutists, a number of intellectuals, and others, soon emerged as the political leadership of this coalition. The conflict in Congo grew during August and September [1998], eventually drawing in other states from the region, including Angola, Zimbabwe, Namibia, and Chad on the government side, and with Burundi apparently joining the Rwandans and Ugandans to support the RCD and the FAC defectors. Rwanda and Uganda claimed they had sent forces across the border to protect themselves against various armed groups which had been attacking them from bases in the eastern Congo, operating without hindrance from the Congolese government. Burundi continued to deny its involvement in the conflict despite regular sightings of their troops in South Kivu. The RCD proclaimed its goal to be the ouster of Kabila, while his backers stated they were protecting a legitimate government from foreign aggression. Outside observers suspected that the prospect of exploiting Congo's vast mineral wealth had attracted many of the warring parties. A number of other militia and rebel groups from the region joined the fray, while alliances between them and the warring parties were often unclear.

[...]

Victims and witnesses of abuses in eastern Congo frequently described perpetrators as "Rwandan," "Banyamulenge," or "Tutsi" military allied with the RCD, but were often unable to conclusively identify them as belonging to a particular army. Establishing the national identity of perpetrators was complicated by the fact that some Tutsi military among the Rwandan and Ugandan forces were born in Congo but have lived in all three countries; Kinyarwanda and Swahili are spoken in all three countries; and the use of uniforms by RCD forces was often haphazard. Commanders fighting on behalf of the RCD frequently wore civilian clothes and, in an apparent attempt to further hide their identity, often used their first names or pseudonyms only. Many residents of the east claimed that the RCD military was dominated by Tutsi from the Rwandan, Ugandan, Burundian or Congolese armies, increasing resentment among other Congolese ethnic groups vis-à-vis Tutsi in general." (HRW February 1999, chaps. I, IV)

"The founder members of the RCD are a heterogeneous coalition whose opposition to Kabila is the only common denominator. They come from diverse political backgrounds and only joined together in August 1998 to launch the rebellion against Kabila. The first three months of the conflict were spent attempting to co-ordinate the different interests of the various political factions within the rebel movement.

[...]

Most RCD officials interviewed by an ICG field researcher conceded that the multiplicity of political interests, including those of their major political backers, Uganda and Rwanda, are leading to a lack of cohesion in the movement. But these political differences are officially played down. In an interview with Reuters in Goma, RCD Vice-President Moise Nyarugabo said: "This is normal and it can happen that any movement may contain some differences. But the differences we are facing we are facing as a team." (ICG 21 May 1999, "The Congolese parties to the Conflict")

RCD split into RCD-Goma and RCD-ML during 1999

"The rebel Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie (RCD) on Wednesday [19 May 1999] named medical doctor Emile Ilunga as its new leader after Ernest Wamba dia Wamba was ousted on Sunday [16 May 1999] in an internal power struggle. The movement retained military commander Jean-Pierre Ondekane and Moise Nyarugabo as first and second vice-presidents respectively. Wamba said he was a victim of a "coup", unilaterally ousted by his opponents within RCD." (IRIN-CEA 21 May 1999)

"The Ugandan army's sector commanders in fact exercised ultimate authority over all military and security matters in each district. Some RCD-ML units and cadres operated directly under their command." (HRW March 2001, sect.III)

Banyamulenge forces

"Motivated by a sense of desperation linked to the fear of being exterminated, the Banyamulenge forces are among the most violent in the Congo. The fact that the Banyamulenge community has lost so many of its youth in the war has contributed to the creation of a sense of great vulnerability within the community. It is said that Banyamulenge community leaders are attempting to distance themselves from Rwandan authorities, realizing that their association with Rwandan forces has resulted in a greater rejection of the community by other Congolese." (UNDP 28 Nov 2001, part 2)

"The Banyamulenge constitute the oldest Tutsi community in the DRC. Although they are prominent in the RCD, and have provided many troops for the movement, there have been a number of clashes between the Banyamulenge and the RCD-Goma.

Rwandan President Paul Kagame has vowed to crush Masunzu's forces, most of which are members of the Banyamulenge of South Kivu - a group whose protection is one of the principal reasons for Rwanda's military presence in the DRC. The RCD has also accused Masunzu of allying himself with members of Rwanda's Interahamwe militia - held responsible for the 1994 genocide. " (IRIN 25 June 2002)

Local Defense Forces

"The local defense forces were initially set up by RCD-Goma to enable local communities to fend off isolated groups of armed bands. The concept only really took hold in North Kivu. Given finite military resources of rebel forces and the propensity of Interahamwe and ex-FAR to attack local communities, the local defense forces quickly became the vanguard of all confrontations with the armed non-state actors. These forces are to a large part constituted of individuals from the Congolese Hutu community. This reality is an outcome of the fact that this community constitutes the majority of the population in the Masisi, Rutshuru and Walikale territories, and that individuals of this community are more inclined to join the local defense forces in an effort to clearly distance themselves from the Interahamwe and ex-FAR in order to distance themselves from RPA attacks.[...]

Today, many of these forces are said to be undisciplined, and thus utilizing their authority to further individual gains. As a consequence, members of the North Kivu Congolese Tutsi community are apprehensive that large numbers of these undisciplined forces could join the Interahamwe movement." (UNDP 28 Nov 2001, part 2)

The Movement for the Liberation of Congo (MLC)

"A handful of Congolese exiles led by Jean-Pierre Bemba told the Ugandan president in October 1998 that they wanted to change their government at home, but did not want to join the RCD. Ugandan authorities sent the group to a crash military and ideological training course and weeks later flew them to Equateur to launch what would become the MLC. Less than two years later, "Bemba commended Ugandan soldiers for training 20,000 soldiers" for the MLC. Reporting on the September 2000 press conference at Gebadolite during which Bemba acknowledged the UPDF's assistance, the *New Vision* quoted him as urging the UPDF to continue withdrawing troops from the DRC: "We are proud of the Ugandans. But why should they die for us when we (Congolese soldiers) are doing quite well at frontline positions?" Unlike the RCD-ML, the MLC was fighting an active war directly against the government alliance. With crucial battlefield support from the UPDF, the MLC was able to roll back a major government offensive in the second half of 2000. In contrast with the other two major rebel groups, the MLC was also reported to be financially self-sufficient, mainly from taxes levied on local produce" (HRW March 2001, sect.III)

Rwandan Armed Groups

Rwandan Hutu armed forces (ex-FAR/Interahamwe)

"Of all the armed groups in the DRC named in the Lusaka Agreement for disarming and repatriation, the ex-FAR and Interahamwe, currently known as 'Forces Démocratiques pour la Liberation du Rwanda' (FDLR), are by far the largest, most significant, and most difficult to deal with both politically and militarily. Leaders of the FAR and the Interahamwe, while still in power, organised and executed the

genocide of 1994, and it was these same 'genocidaires' who fled into the DRC (then Zaire) in the summer of that year that have continued to lead the war against the present Rwanda government from Congolese territory. Indeed, the conflict between the force led by this group and the RPF led Rwandan government constitutes the spark that ignited the war which escalated to engulf the entire Central Africa region." (UNDP 28 Nov 2001, part 2)

"Although the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement refers to the ex-Forces armées rwandaises (ex-FAR) and the Interahamwe, evidence gathered since the signing of the Agreement indicates that these groups are now collectively known as the Armée pour la libération du Rwanda (ALIR), which is divided into two parts, designated as ALIR I and ALIR II. Despite, or perhaps because of, the multiplicity of sources with information on the Rwandan armed groups in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, establishing precise and reliable figures has proved particularly difficult. ALIR I and ALIR II represent the bulk of the foreign fighters to be disarmed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

ALIR I is believed to include in its ranks the majority of the ex-FAR and Interahamwe who fled Rwanda in 1994. Estimates of the number of ALIR I troops vary considerably according to which source is consulted. MONUC estimates that there are between 4,000 and 6,000 troops.

ALIR I is based in North and South Kivu and Maniema Provinces. It is believed to have two divisions, Division Arbre/Yaounde, which operates on the Shabunda-Fizi-Kabambare axis, and Division Beor/Douala, which operates on the Masisi-Walikale axis.

ALIR I fighters are currently thought to suffer from low morale following their failed attempt to invade Rwanda in May 2001. They are believed to be isolated and living in harsh conditions. MONUC is aware of indications that outside support that may once have been provided to the group is now no longer available, and has been trying, with the cooperation of the RCD and Rwandan authorities and the help of Mayi-Mayi representatives, to establish direct contact in order to discuss disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration with some ALIR I elements near Masisi, north of Goma.

ALIR II is said to be larger and better equipped than ALIR I. Its members are thought to be younger, and not to have participated in the 1994 genocide. Estimates of the group's size vary considerably, with some knowledgeable sources placing the number between 4,000 and 6,000.

ALIR II is believed to have at least one division with three brigades in the South Kivu and Katanga Provinces and headquarters in Lubumbashi. The existence of a second division remains unconfirmed. However, reports that there may be two or three more brigades in Katanga would, according to traditional military structures, tend to indicate the existence of a second division whose headquarters remain unknown. ALIR II is said to be equipped with more sophisticated weaponry than other groups, including light anti-aircraft guns." (UN SC 5 April 2002, para.19-26)

Burundian Armed Groups

Burundian Forces for the Defence of Democracy (FDD)

"The Burundian Forces for the Defence of Democracy (FDD) forms the second largest of the armed groups, estimated at roughly 10,000 militia. They are also integrated in the FAC and are moving between the DRC, Burundi and Tanzania. They have shown consistent resistance in joining the Burundi peace process. Both the Rwandan and the Burundians Hutus fight alongside each other and with various Congolese resistance groups, collectively known as Mai Mai, composed of many different groups and a few thousands fighters." (ICG 12 June 2001)

"When Laurent Kabila annulled his alliance with Rwanda and war broke out between them, he sought the alliance of FDD rebels and began to give them support. Burundi had sent some of its troops to the Fizi-Uvira areas to attack FDD rebels there, and this occupation of parts of the DRC became an added reason for Kabila's alliance with the FDD. [...]

The FDD's links with Kabila left it with control of a swath of the territory in eastern Congo far larger than Burundi itself; this has given some of its leaders immense control and power and made them millionaires.[...]

It is widely suspected, if not known, that the FDD is currently headquartered in the Katangan capital of Lubumbashi and is said to be continuing to recruit and train troops from the Burundian refugee camps in Tanzania.[...]

The recent progress made in the peace talks in the DRC has meant that increasing numbers of FDD rebels have crossed back into Burundi particularly in the northwest Kibira forest area, thus destabilizing the country. It is also said that at a recent FDD congress in Lubumbashi, the FDD teamed up with the FNL, which it had invited to its congress. Its alliance with the ex-FAR/Interahamwe has also been strengthened [...]. (UNDP 28 Nov 2001, part 2)

"MONUC estimates that there are 3,000 to 4,000 FDD troops operating in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. These are mainly located in the South Kivu and Katanga Provinces, along the shores of Lake Tanganyika. In Katanga Province, FDD are said to fight alongside the Forces armées congolaises (FAC) and in South Kivu they are known to have undertaken joint operations with Rwandan armed groups and with the Mayi-Mayi. They are also said to receive outside support from a variety of sources including the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and its allies. MONUC has not been able to verify these reports. Approximately 1,000 FDD fighters were believed to be in Moliro, but were scattered when the Rassemblement Congolais pour la démocratie (RCD) seized the village in mid-March." (UN SC 5 April 2002, para.17)

Front de Libération Nationale (FLN or FROLINA)

"The FLN [a Burundi military splinter group] is not mentioned in the Lusaka Agreement directly as an organization that has to be disarmed and demobilized. But it is a significant militia organization that has maintained bases and troops, though limited in number, in eastern DRC." (UNDP 28 Nov 2001, part 2)

Angolan Armed Groups

UNITA

"MONUC has no recent reliable reports of UNITA activity in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, though the group may use that country's territory as a transit route for logistic supplies." (UN SC 5 April 2002, para.10)

Ugandan Armed Groups

Allied Democratic Forces (ADF)

"Information gathered by MONUC indicates that only one of the six Ugandan armed groups mentioned in the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement is still active in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, namely, the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF).[...]

The Allied Democratic Forces are reckoned to have 200 to 300 fighters, mainly in the Ruwenzori Mountains close to the border with Uganda. Unlike some of the other foreign armed groups operating in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, ADF are not known to have external allies. Like most other armed groups, ADF are believed to be only lightly armed." (UN SC 5 April 2002, para.12-13)

Complex multi-level conflict in the East (2001-2002)

"In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, nine armed internal, international and internationalized internal conflicts are going on with the participation of 6 national armies and 21 irregular groups. The most serious conflict is the one which pits Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi, together with the Congolese Rally for

Democracy (RCD), against the Kinshasa Government. RCD has split many times and the pro-Uganda and pro-Rwanda factions have fought on Congolese soil, causing death and destruction in a foreign country. In another conflict, the Movement for the Liberation of the Congo (MLC) is fighting the Government of President Kabila. Another conflict, started by Ugandan soldiers, opposes the Hema and Lendu ethnic groups. The victims of all these conflicts are always Congolese." (UN CHR 1 February 2001, "Summary")

"The DRC still remains split into three main zones of control with the MLC (Mouvement pour la Liberation du Congo) backed by the Ugandans in charge of the northern part (parts of Orientale and Equateur). North and south Kivu and parts of Orientale and Northern Katanga are controlled by the Rwandan supported RCD (Rassemblement Congolais pour la Democratie) and are still torn by ethnic conflict. The western and southern parts of the country are under government control with military support from Zimbabwe, Namibia and Angola.

Moreover, there are still some peace spoilers who have no interest for peace in the DRC: for example, the leaders of the Ex FAR and Interahamwe who were involved in the genocide and have all reasons to fear the ICTR or the Rwandan Justice; those who are engaged in the illegal exploitation of the DRC's resources and those who have committed gross violations of human rights and are afraid to be submitted to justice one day." (UN OCHA 28 February 2002, p.16)

"Although the country continues to be effectively divided among the three main parties, this has long ceased being a war between organized rebel factions and the government.

Instead of one big war in eastern Congo there are now dozens. Small bands fight each other or the RCD in increasingly bizarre alliances that shift and divide so rapidly that observers have difficulty tracking them.

Added to this are growing reports, most compellingly from last week's United Nations panel, that foreign armies have not entirely withdrawn from the Congo and may be maintaining a hidden presence that will continue to exploit the country's diamond and mineral wealth." (Christian Science Monitor 28 Oct 02)

Fighting between splinter groups and ethnic violence causes total collapse of public authority in Ituri and Orientale Provinces (2002)

- Conflict between the Hema and Lendu has previously occurred in 1972, 1985 and 1996
- Escalated conflict since mid-December 1999
- In February 2002 bloody ethnic clashes caused hundreds of killings and twenty thousands displaced
- Several hundred deaths in mid-2002 due to ethnic clashes; use of modern weapons such as Kalashnikov instead of traditional weapons
- Clashes now reportedly involve other tribes as well, and are fuelled by Uganda support to various parties (April 02)
- Killing of Ituri governor in Nov 02
- As of Nov 02, Uganda kept two battalions in Ituri

"Main Parties to the Current Crisis in Ituri and Orientale Provinces:

Congolese Rally for Democracy -- Liberation Movement (RCD-ML), led by Mbusa Nyamwisi, and its military wing, the Congolese People's Army (APC).

Lendu and Ngiti ethnic militias, frequently coopted by the RCD-ML.

Union of Congolese Patriots (UPC), led by Thomas Lubanga.

Hema and Gegere ethnic militias, associated with the UPC.

Mai-Mai groups of local combatants, sometimes aligned with the RCD-ML.

Movement for the Liberation of Congo (MLC) under Jean Pierre Bemba, once in control in Ituri but then pushed back west to Gbadolite, and now moving east again.

Congolese Rally for Democracy -- National (RCD-N), under Roger Lumbala -- another splinter group of the RCD-ML, currently allied to the MLC.

Ugandan People's Defence Force (UPDF, the Ugandan army)." (HRW 31 Oct 2002)

"Ituri province, created in 1999 out of part of Orientale province, is rich in gold, timber, and coltan (colombo-tantalite, a precious mineral). In addition it produces substantial amounts of coffee. Because of its location near Lake Albert and the Ugandan frontier, Ituri is a locus of trans-border trade that offers lucrative opportunities for transporting and taxing goods.

Several groups rebelling against the Kinshasa government have fought each other and splintered within themselves as they struggled to get and keep control over this wealthy region. The conflicts over political preeminence and control of resources have taken place increasingly along ethnic lines and have spilled over to encompass groups not originally touched by these hostilities. Thus a long standing rivalry between Hema and Lendu over the control of land and access to fishing rights now brings violence to various groups -- like the Nande, Gegere, Bira, and Alur -- said to be associated with one or the other of the original contenders. The conflict first involved some 40 percent of the local population -- roughly the numbers of Hema and Lendu -- but now brings devastation to far greater numbers. With the increase in attacks and victims on both sides, the level of fear has risen, making it easier for leaders to mobilize people for violence, supposedly as a measure of self-defense." (HRW 31 Oct 02)

"Ituri province is ruled by UPC (Congolese Patriotic Union) under Thomas Lubanga with Hema militias and the northern part of Nord Kivu including Beni, is under Mbusa Nyamwisi's RCD ML Kisangani (Congolese Rally for Democracy Liberation Movement) and Forced Combattantes Mayi Mayi -- a tribal militia.

The Ugandan People's Defence Forces that entered DRC four years ago to flush out Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) rebels, has a strong base in Bunia in Ituri." (WV 8 Nov 2002)

As of June 2002, "The UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) -- known as MONUC -- is to investigate reports of up to 500 people having been killed in recent clashes between the Hema and Lendu ethnic groups in the northeastern DRC province of Ituri, mission force commander Gen Mountaga Diallo told IRIN on Monday." (IRIN 10 June 2002)

"The ethnic clashes that have raged between the Hema and the Lendu since 1999 have grown and now include other tribes such as the Alur, Ngiti, Babira and N'do Okebo. The authorities and the military appear to do very little to control these tensions, and in many cases even fuel them. There is consistent information, including reports from the UN Human Rights Rapporteur, that the Uganda Peoples Defence Force (UPDF) has sided with the Hema tribe. Local sources indicate that some UPDF commanders have now also started to arm the opposing Lendu, making inter-ethnic clashes much more deadly." (Oxfam 25 April 2002)

"Unrest in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo is extremely alarming, with an ethnic dispute being inflamed by the use of modern weapons, the military commander of the United Nations Mission to the DRC (MONUC) said on Sunday.[...]

Where as before conflicts between the Hema and Lendu ethnic groups were resolved with traditional weapons now they are using Kalashnikov assault rifles. Even worse, the Hema, like the Lendu are both running training camps where hundreds of recruits trained in how to use modern arms." (AFP 9 June 2002)

"In July and August [2002], the ethnic conflict in Ituri in general and in the city of Bunia in particular, aggravated into clashes for the control over the city which led to a number of deaths, wounded, displaced

and the inaccessibility of several quarters of the area up till today. In the context of the recent diplomatic alliances, national and international attention was drawn to the problem. Unfortunately, the initiatives by the Kinshasa government ended up with the hostage taking of the Minister of Human Rights during his visit. The continuation of the conflict and the fragility of the authorities presently in place are a likely source for the further destabilisation of the area and a major constraints for all humanitarian action." (UN 19 Nov 2002, p41)

"In August [2002], the UPC (Congolese Patriotic Union) of Thomas Lubanga, supported by Hema militias, dislodged Mbusa RCD ML Kisangani and its allies from Bunia- the main town in Ituri Province. The RCD ML Kisangani, which set up camp in Beni, took revenge on Jean Pierre Bemba by grabbing the town of Mambasa from his MLC (Movement for Liberation of Congo) in late October.

Rival tribes have always taken advantage of rebel rivalries to stage revenge massacres and rebel armies too have used ethnic conflicts to advance their motives. The situation in northeastern DRC remains volatile and people are likely to be displaced from time to time." (WV 19 Nov 2002)

"Ugandan army troops of the UPDF continue to occupy Bunia, the chief town of Ituri, although they have withdrawn from other parts of the northeastern Congo. Under the terms of a September 6 agreement between Uganda and Congo, UPDF troops may remain in Bunia until a new administration is established there. The U.N. Security Council confirmed this arrangement but reminded Uganda that 'as long as its troops are there, Uganda is duty-bound to ensure the protection of the population.'" (HRW 31 Oct 02)

"Uganda has sent two new battalions of soldiers to the strife-torn Ituri region in Democratic Republic of Congo's northeastern Orientale province, a small rebel group said.

In a statement sent to AFP in Kinshasa late Wednesday, the Ugandan-backed Congolese Rally for Democracy-Liberation Movement (RCD-ML) said a first battalion had arrived and another was on its way." (AFP 7 Nov 2002)

"Uganda on Sunday appealed to rival groups in northeastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) for calm after the region's governor Joseph Eneku was killed, along with nine bodyguards, in an ambush on Friday." (AFP 24 Nov 02)

Main Parties to Current Crisis in South Kivu Province (Oct 02)

Main parties:

"Congolese Rally for Democracy – Goma (RCD-Goma) supported by the Rwandan government.

Rwandan Patriotic Army (RPA), the Rwandan government army.

Burundian government troops.

Mai-Mai groups of local combatants.

Banyamulenge, Congolese people of Rwandan ancestry, opposed to the RCD-Goma and Rwandan government troops.

Rwandan rebels against the Rwandan government, some of them including soldiers of the former Rwandan Armed Forces (FAR) and the Interahamwe militia.

Burundian rebels against the Burundian government. [...]

In South Kivu, violence has been sparked by the withdrawal of Rwandan government troops, formerly dominant in the area, although latest developments indicate their renewed involvement, and also the involvement of Burundian forces.[...]

Rwanda has been the chief support of the RCD-Goma since this movement began its rebellion against the Congolese government in 1998. Since then several armed groups have split off from the RCD-Goma, and have started operating in the Ugandan-held areas of Orientale and Ituri provinces.

The RCD-Goma has retained its link to Rwanda and relied on Rwandan government troops to control most of South and North Kivu. In addition, Burundian forces also provided some military support to the RCD-Goma in South Kivu.

In late September and early October Rwanda recalled its soldiers from the Congo under the terms of an agreement signed on July 30 with the Congolese government; in return the Congo was to help disarm and repatriate groups of rebels opposed to the Rwandan government based in the eastern Congo . In late September Congolese President Joseph Kabila banned all Rwandan rebel groups and ordered several rebel leaders to leave the country.

After the withdrawal of Rwandan government troops, RCD-Goma forces lost control of important parts of South Kivu, including the port of Uvira from which they fled on October 13. They were defeated by a coalition of Mai-Mai groups and two different groups of Banyamulenge, one led by Patrick Masunzu and the other led by a commander called Aron Nyamusheba. The Banyamulenge, Congolese whose ancestors had come from Rwanda, had originally provided many of the troops for the RCD-Goma, and the Rwandan government had frequently claimed to be in Congo in part to defend the Banyamulenge against other Congolese. But since early 2002 an important group of Banyamulenge led by Masunzu, once an officer in the RCD-Goma forces, rejected RCD-Goma control and fought to keep Rwandan and RCD-Goma troops out of their home territory on the high plateaus of South Kivu.

Since mid-October other local combatants reportedly fighting together with some Rwandan rebel groups have challenged RCD-Goma in the Ruzizi plain north of Uvira. Some of these Rwandan rebels are former soldiers of the Rwandan Armed Forces (FAR) and Interahamwe militia who participated in the 1994 genocide of Tutsi in Rwanda, but the majority are recent recruits not formerly involved in the genocide.

Suspecting the backing of the Congolese government in Kinshasa for the forces challenging it in South Kivu, on October 14 the RCD-Goma broke off discussions with the Congolese government and began an offensive to retake lost territory. On October 19 local combatants abandoned Uvira and RCD-Goma forces reentered the town. According to one local source, RCD soldiers killed five civilians, among them a catechist accused of being a Mai-Mai, and arrested more than twenty people. "(HRW 31 Oct 2002)

Fighting between Kabila's Congolese Armed Forces (FAC) and Mai Mai (2002)

- End 2001: reconciliation between Mai Mai and Congolese Army
- March 2002: fresh fighting between Mai Mai and Congolese army
- August 2002: negotiations for peace and disarmament of Mai Mai but no agreement

"La fin de l'année 2001 avait été caractérisée par une réconciliation entre les Mayi-Mayi et les FAC qui avait débouché sur une période de non-affrontements.

Le remplacement des troupes indisciplinées FAC par de nouvelles unités ainsi que la présence à Malemba-Nkulu [Katanga] de Mayi-Mayi avait laissé entrevoir une possible cohabitation entre Mayi-Mayi et troupes gouvernementales.

Rappelons que les troupes gouvernementales qui se trouvent le long de la ligne de désengagement sont accusées par les Mayi-Mayi de ne pas protéger la population locale, ce que ces derniers prétendent pouvoir assurer eux-même.

Malheureusement fin mars 2002, de nouveaux incidents eurent comme conséquences la reprise des hostilités et la fuite des Mayi-Mayi de Malemba-Nkulu, la généralisation des affrontements sur le territoire et de nouveaux déplacements de populations fuyant les combats.[...]

En Août 2002, le Président de la République, suite à la volonté exprimée par les groupes Mayi-Mayi d'aboutir à une cessation des hostilités, envoya sur place une délégation dirigée par le Général Numbi afin de négocier des accords de paix et le désarmement des Mayi-Mayi.

L'envoi des PPU (Presidential Protection Unit) d'Ankoro vers Kabambulu et Malemba-Nkulu, troupes plus disciplinées et entraînées afin de remplacer progressivement les troupes FAC, et le souhait à terme de remplacer les PPU par la police ainsi que la signature et le dépôt des armes des Mayi-Mayi du Lac et de ceux du chef Nwendé eurent pour effet de stopper les combats et de soulager un temps soit peu la population.

Mi-septembre le général Numbi retourna sur Kinshasa sans avoir signé l'accord de paix avec le dernier groupe de Mayi-Mayi dirigé par le chef Makabé laissant ainsi le processus de paix inachevé dans la région. Bien que le calme soit revenu dans le territoire, ce calme reste volatile et est conditionné par la signature d'un accord de paix avec le chef Makabé qui a exprimé le souhait de déposer les armes mais dont la zone reste inaccessible pour le moment.

La présence des PPU et le redéploiement des FAC a permis à la population de certaines zones de retourner chez elle, bien que ces retours soient timides.

Le repli du chef Makabé et de ses troupes vers son fief de Musao pourrait malgré tout déboucher sur une éventuelle reprise des combats si les promesses de paix du gouvernement ne sont pas tenues.

D'autre part la zone contrôlée par le chef Makabé est encerclée par les troupes gouvernementales qui pourraient à tout moment opter pour une solution militaire plutôt que pacifique.

La venue maintes fois reportée du Gouverneur du Katanga dans le territoire afin d'y signer l'accord de paix avec le chef Makabé ainsi que l'absence du Général Numbi sur le terrain depuis la mi-septembre sont des éléments qui inquiètent la population qui, plus le temps passe, craint une reprise des combats." (OCHA Oct 2002, pp2-3)

Main causes of displacement

Plunder of natural resources by warring parties continues to be major factor causing displacement (1998-2003)

- In May 2001, UN report on exploitation of natural resources accused foreign armed forces and Congolese fighters of using DRC's natural resources to fuel the conflict
- In Nov 2001, the Addendum to the May report explored further the link between the exploitation of resources and the continuation of the conflict in DRC
- In Oct 2002, the final version of the UN report stated that due to elite criminal networks, the illegal exploitation of DRC's resources would continue, despite the withdrawal of foreign armed forces
- Various NGO reports show the central role of natural resources, such as coltan and diamonds, in the conflict

"While different actors have justified their involvement in the war on the basis of security, it is clear that one of the driving forces behind the conflict is a desire by the warring parties to have access to, and control over, the DRC's vast natural resources. This wealth is not being used to reduce poverty, either in the DRC or in other countries involved in the war. In fact, wealth from natural resources is sustaining the war and bad governance. Such military activity has been described as 'military commercialism'. Natural resource exploitation has become a key factor in determining military deployment, perpetuating the cycle of violence. Against a backdrop of deteriorating governance, this is very worrying. [...]

Although troop numbers may have reduced in some areas, deployment is increasingly concentrated in mineral-rich areas. Zimbabwean troops are located in diamond, copper, cobalt, and timber-rich areas of the Kasais and Katanga. Rwandan troops have concentrated in coltan, gold, timber, and diamond-rich areas in the Kivus and Maniema. Ugandan troops, though reduced in number, are located near gold, timber, diamond, and, until recently, coltan-rich areas in Ituri and N. Kivu." (Oxfam 18 Jan 2002)

"The Panel's first report, issued on 12 April 2001 (document S/2001/357), states that illegal exploitation of the mineral and forest resources of the Democratic Republic of the Congo was in the form of mass-scale looting, as well as systematic and systemic exploitation which required planning and organization. Key individual actors, on the one hand, including top army commanders and businessmen, and government structures, on the other, have been the engines of that systematic and systemic exploitation. The report names functionaries, companies, banks and individuals involved in the exploitation." (UN SC 14 Dec 2001)

To see the Report of the Panel of Experts on the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources and Other Forms of Wealth of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/2001/357), 12 April 2001, [[External Link](#)]

According to November 2001 Addendum to the report on exploitation of natural resources:

"There are indications that clashes during the past seven months in the Oriental and Kivu regions between the Mayi-Mayi, who appear to be better equipped and coordinated than before, and UPDF and the MLC rebel group have been directly related to control of coltan and gold. Similar short-lived battles have been fought by the Mayi-Mayi with RPA over access to coltan throughout the Kivus. The Panel also believes that the infighting among the Congolese rebel groups in recent months, which has caused them to splinter and led to occasional violence, has been related to control over coltan, gold and diamonds in the Beni and Bafwasende areas.

The Panel received credible information, corroborating reports from independent sources, that Zimbabwe is supporting the Burundian FDD rebel forces by supplying them with weapons and expertise. Many reliable sources have informed the Panel in this regard that the Zimbabwe Defence Forces are training FDD in Lubumbashi, where the FDD leadership is based and where Zimbabwean copper and cobalt investments are located. Another sign of their loosely structured coordination with the Burundian rebels is that the ALIR II forces are based near FDD in South Kivu and also have a command and liaison presence in Lubumbashi. The Panel concluded that the arming of these irregular groups is contributing to sustaining what could be viewed as a war by proxy in the east. It allows the ceasefire to remain intact, while creating a "controllable" conflict in the occupied zone that satisfies the interests of many parties. With this sporadic, low-intensity conflict dragging on, a certain status quo is being maintained in this region where many precious resources are extracted, traded and routed for export. Zimbabwe and Rwanda have the most important commercial presence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo as a result of their involvement in the war. The role that Zimbabwe plays in regard to continuing the conflict may well be shared with the Government of the Democratic of the Republic of the Congo, or at least some elements in it, as well as others. This armed activity can continue to feed Rwandan and Burundian security concerns, becoming an added justification for those two countries to maintain their military positions. In the case of Rwanda, control can then be legitimately deepened over a considerable expanse of territory, as well as its population and resources." (UN SC 13 Nov 2001, para.57-8)

May 2002, UN SC Interim Report on the exploitation of natural resources in the DRC

"In the Panel's view, direct confrontation among the principal adversaries that are parties to the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement has all but disappeared.[...]

On either side of the ceasefire line, foreign armies have consolidated their presence and the struggle over maintaining control of natural resources and territory has become a principal preoccupation. Conflict over the resources has a different complexion on either side of the ceasefire line. Foreign forces in the west, in concert with certain Congolese parties, have entrenched themselves and continue to pursue their economic

interests in the natural resources of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, while adopting a more discreet profile. Their activities may also include asserting a certain control over local economies. [...]

In contrast to the relative calm along the ceasefire corridor and the quieter pursuit of the exploitation of resources in the west, the quest for natural resources in the east is characterized by armed violence of varying degrees of intensity among foreign armies, foreign armed groups, rebel armies and Mayi-Mayi groups. These conflicts incite others. Some of the conflicts are about dispersing opposition forces. Some are linked to rekindled ethnic tensions. Others are about large numbers of people bearing arms for survival purposes." (UN SC 22 May 2002, para.35-37)

October 2002 UN Final Report

"Issued on 21 October, the report stated that despite the withdrawal of foreign forces from the Congo, "elite criminal networks" had become so deeply entrenched that continuing illegal exploitation of the country's natural resources was assured, independent of the physical presence of foreign armies.

It accused three distinct criminal groups, respectively linked to the armies of Rwanda, Uganda and Zimbabwe (the last-named linked to the DRC government), of benefiting from overlapping micro-conflicts. These groups, it said, would not disband voluntarily even as the foreign military forces continued their withdrawals." (IRIN 28 Oct 02)

To see the Final report of the Panel of Experts on the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources and Other Forms of Wealth of DR Congo, 16 Oct 2002, see [\[External Link\]](#)

Study by Pole Institute (North Kivu)

"[...] the intercultural research institute "Pole Institute" in North Kivu together with the 'Comité de Réflexion sur le Développement Agro Pastoral en Province du Nord Kivu" (CREDAP), a platform of NGO activists and technicians working in rural areas in the province, decided to look into the issue of coltan mining. [...]

The study found that:

as crisis and war in North Kivu have severely hampered industrial mining, existing industrial mining concessions have been turned over to informal or artisanal mining, mainly of coltan. This phenomenon has led to a population exodus of all age groups with the aim of finding coltan;

as a result, agricultural and pastoral activities are being abandoned in favor of coltan. There is a real danger of food insecurity in North Kivu if the agricultural populations continue to leave their fields in order to mine coltan or turn their fields into mines;

young people, easily attracted by easy money, abandon school in favour of coltan mining. [...]

unplanned coltan mining and export in a context of State collapse and prolonged crisis has been a source of wealth for a handful of businessmen working with old and new mineral trading networks in Eastern Congo, but has also meant the emergence of a mafia economy organized around the rebel armies and their allies and the armed Mai-Mai groups. [...]

The coltan trade is closely intertwined with the activities of all armed groups present in the area. No demobilization, disarmament and reintegration programme can succeed without taking economic security into account. Proper regulation of mining and other trade is essential for disengagement and reconciliation programmes. [...]

Coltan is an abbreviation for colombite-tantalite, a mineral from which the precious metals Tantalum (Ta) and Columbium (Cb), also known as Niobium (Nb) are extracted. [...] According to mining specialists, 80% of known tantalite reserves are found in the Democratic Republic of Congo, almost entirely in the Eastern part controlled by rebel movements allied to Rwanda and Uganda." (Pole Institute Jan 2002)

For more information on the coltan trade and the role of European companies, please see "Supporting the War Economy in the DRC: European Companies and the Coltan Trade" by the International Peace Information Service (IPIS), January 2002 [External Link]

2002 Study by Partnership Africa Canada (Ottawa), International Peace Information Service (Antwerp) and the Network Movement for Justice and Development (Freetown):

"The Congo's long, sorry history of bad government, corruption and foreign pillage does not seem likely to end any time soon. The main external protagonists in the DRC's current war became involved for reasons ostensibly linked to their own security concerns. Rwanda and Uganda justified attacks on the DRC's sovereignty in 1998 as a means of depriving insurgents of bases in eastern DRC. Angola also justified military assistance to Kinshasa as a means to further isolate UNITA, and to protect its Cabinda oil enclave on the Gulf of Guinea. Zimbabwe and Namibia cited a joint security pact of fellow Southern African Development Community members.

By 2001, however, the façade of security concerns had largely fallen away to expose a foundation of resource exploitation supported by military deployment. Military and political considerations do remain central, but many facets of the present war can be reduced to little more than jockeying for the Congo's mineral resources. Diamonds have become a central feature of this plunder, and participating countries such as Rwanda, Uganda and Zimbabwe - with few or no diamonds of their own - have now become diamond exporting countries. This represents a new type of war, one characterized by military commercialism. The report provides details of numerous lucrative commercial enterprises undertaken by foreign armies in the Congo, suggesting that a failed state can offer significant financial rewards to the political and military elite of adjacent countries." (Partnership Africa Canada 17 June 2002)

Reports by Amnesty International (2001 & 2003):

"Amnesty International is [...] concerned at reports of human rights abuses such as killings, torture, use of forced labour, including by children and prisoners, and displacement of population that have taken place in the context of the exploitation of the resources. For example, Amnesty International has received reports of unarmed civilians being killed during fighting between the RCD-Goma troops and Hutu armed groups over mining areas; of villages being burned down; or people attacked and forced to flee the area. An independent observer told Amnesty International delegates that 'when a new RCD-Goma or RPA commander is nominated in the mining area of Walikale, Masisi, or Shabunda, the insecurity in the region decreases. However, once a commander is in a region for a while, he understands that insecurity has an advantage. His troops start shooting, killing and provoking massive displacement of the population, in order to make access to the extraction of the mineral wealth easier because the population is dead or has fled.'" (AI, 19 June 2001)

"The international community should urgently assume its moral and legal responsibilities and bring about an immediate end to violations of human rights and international humanitarian law by forces involved in the pillaging of war-ravaged Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and to the inconceivable suffering which this has caused to the Congolese people, Amnesty International urged in a new report published today.

'For the last four and half years Rwanda, Uganda and their Congolese allies have systematically plundered eastern DRC's natural wealth on a vast scale causing, directly or indirectly, the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Congolese civilians. In spite of numerous peace agreements, the killing continues, while the international community looks on,' Amnesty International said.

The report, entitled '*Democratic Republic of Congo - 'Our brothers who help kill us'*', identifies the drive to control and exploit the DRC's natural resources as the biggest single factor underpinning the continuing violence in the country.

The northern and eastern regions of the DRC, which are under the control of Congolese armed groups sponsored by Rwanda and Uganda, are rich in many precious resources, including coltan, gold, diamonds and timber. These resources have been systematically pillaged by the warring parties, with senior members of the Rwandese and Ugandan armies and their Congolese allies being the major beneficiaries. While they have grown rich beyond the dreams of avarice, the vast majority of the local Congolese population face widespread abject poverty, insecurity, displacement, abduction and death .

Wealth for a small military, political and commercial elite has come at a huge price. Hundreds of thousands of Congolese civilians have been tortured and killed during fighting to secure control of natural resources. Thousands of others have died due to malnutrition and lack of access to humanitarian assistance after being forced to flee their homes.

Foreign forces have also deliberately stoked inter-ethnic conflicts and mass killings in order to promote their economic interests. This has been the case in Ituri for example, resulting in further mass killings and large scale destruction of habitations. Thousands of women have been raped. Children as young as 12 have been forced into hard labour in the mines. Human rights defenders who have denounced these abuses have been beaten, detained, forced to flee or killed.” (AI, 28 April 2003)

Fighting between various armed groups causes desperate displacement situation in the Kivus (2000-2003)

- Reports in Feb 2000 of Rwandan troops moving civilians within North Kivu in order to create a security zone to control infiltration into Rwanda
- Evacuation of civilians undertaken without civilian authorities' consent or involvement
- In July 2001, movements of Interahamwe forces in North Kivu and fighting in South Kivu caused further internal displacement
- Intensification of fighting between Rwandan army and Congolese rebel group in South Kivu caused thousands of IDPs (2002)
- Following the withdrawal of Rwandan troops, fighting between RCD and Mai Mai to control towns cause further displacement (Oct 02-Apr 03)

"The North and South Kivu provinces are the epicenter of this disaster. Base of the biggest rebel faction (RCD Goma), disputed home of the Banyamulenge and other Tutsi in Congo, the provinces are the point of convergence of armed groups (Mai Mai, Interahamwe, Burundian rebels, Banyamulenge militias, RCD soldiers, Rwandan, Ugandan and Burundian soldiers). In South-Kivu, the Mai Mai, Interahamwe and FDD [Burundian rebel group] form a variety of alliances de facto supporting Kabila, fighting the Tutsi ethnic group, furthering their own cause against the regional regimes or committing acts of banditism. The lives of the Banyamulenge are being threatened or they risk to be expelled from the Congolese community. The RCD rebels have not been able to gain the acceptance of the population. The sheer number of actors and complex motivations, the barbarism and multitude of human rights violations and the constant exaction on the civilians by all sides have made this area a true mosaic of misery. (AAH August 2000, sects. 1, 3.3)

"There have been concerted efforts by Rwandan troops to move large groups of civilians out of Rutshuru territory deep into the interior of North Kivu. Available reports indicate that the entire commune of Bwito (300,000 persons) has been already "evacuated" in order that a security zone be created to control infiltrations into Rwanda. Arbitrary displacements in North Kivu/Rwanda bordering areas have been known since 1997, however the ongoing one is being implemented by Rwandan military without civilian authorities' consent or involvement." (OCHA 15 February 2000)

"All sides continue to accuse one another of violating the Lusaka cease-fire agreement signed in July-August 1999, and the situation in the eastern provinces remains precarious [...]. The U.N. World Food

Program (WFP) reported at the end of July that movements of Interhamwe forces in North Kivu (Rushuru territory) and fighting in South Kivu province have prompted internal displacement and restricted humanitarian access." (USAID 20 August 2001)

"In mid-2002, Fighting between the Rwandan army and a Congolese rebel group has intensified recently in the South Kivu region of Eastern DR Congo, leading to an increasing number of displaced people, reports JRS in the Great Lakes region. The Rwandan army has been deployed in DR Congo since 1998 on the pretext of protecting their borders from hostile Hutu forces based there. Since March of this year however, they have become embroiled in a conflict with the Tutsi Banyamulenge rebel group, who themselves are a dissident breakaway group, having formerly been part of the Rassemblement Congolais pour la Democratie (RCD). JRS in the region reports that the conflict has escalated in recent days with an increasing use of heavy arms and attacks on villages, leading the local population to flee. Some reports indicate that tens of thousands of people have become displaced as a result of the latest fighting. There are no humanitarian organisations in the area capable of intervening and providing much needed aid to the civilian population, with the region classed as a maximum insecurity area." (JRS 15 July 2002)

"Fighting between the Rwandan army and the dissident Banyamulenge forces commanded by Patrick Masunzu had displaced "in excess of 40,000" people, the worker, who asked not to be identified, said.[...]

Mayi Mayi groups, Interahamwe and Burundian rebels - les Forces pour la defense de la democratie (FDD) - had reportedly been fighting the Rwandan forces in the plateau, the worker said. These anti-Rwandan forces are a loose association of Congolese, Rwanda and Burundian groups. During June, the worker said, these forces changed their tactics from hit-and-run raids to larger-scaled pitched battles against the Rwandan army. The latest confrontation was reported on 5 and 6 July." (IRIN 12 July 2002)

"Large-scale displacement of the local population has been reported in recent weeks both in Uvira and the Ruzizi plains. The Roman Catholic NGO, Caritas, estimates that 20,000 of 130,000 inhabitants had fled during the Mayi-Mayi advance on Uvira. The return of RCD-Goma to the town had led to the displacement of a further 37,700 people, mostly to surrounding areas in the Middle and High Plateau areas, Caritas and local NGOs reported. A few of those displaced had begun to trickle back to the town since then, UN sources said." (IRIN 30 Oct 02)

"Close to 1,000 people fled Uvira, eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), on Friday after fighting broke out between rebel Rassemblement congolais pour la democratie-Goma (RCD-Goma) forces who control the town, and Mayi Mayi militia, local sources told IRIN.

'Six shells fell in the town, but no one has been able to see what damage they've caused because the shooting only stopped around 10 a.m.,' the source said.

Hamadoun Toure, spokesman for the UN Mission to the DRC, confirmed the fighting. 'There has been sporadic shooting since 0500 local time,' he said.

Uvira, in DRC's South Kivu province, lies on the shore of Lake Tanganyika on the border with Burundi. Radio Bonesha, reporting from the Burundian capital Bujumbura, said that a man and two children had been killed by a shell which landed on their home.

RCD-Goma spokesman Jean-Pierre Lola Kisanga said that fighting was particularly heavy around the port of Kalungu.

The RCD-Goma rebels, together with the pro-government Mayi Mayi militia and all other parties to the war in the DRC, signed a peace accord on 2 April to end more than four years of fighting." (IRIN, 25 April 2003)

For political analysis of the conflict in the Kivus, see 'The Kivus: The forgotten crucible of the Congo conflict', International Crisis Group, 24 January 2003 ([click here](#))

In Maniema people flee violent clashes between Mayi Mayi and RCD forces (2001-2002)

- Besides insecurity, Southern Maniema's logistical isolation is another major constraint, exacerbated by the war
- Violent clashes between Mayi Mayi and RCD forces and their allied forced the 13,000 inhabitants of Lokandu to flee towards Kindu in August 2001
- Mayi Mayi – RCD clashes in Punia also, which exposes the pygmy population to atrocities
- Other inter-ethnic clashes in the south-east of the province erupted over the exploitation of natural resources (fish, game and minerals), causing many displacements
- Mayi Mayi incursions around Kindu cause major displacement in Feb 2002
- Thousands of residents of Kampene (Maniema) fled into a nearby forest from attack of RCD-Goma, which aimed to regain town from Mai Mai in June 2002
- New displacement in region of Kindu following fighting between Mai Mai and RCD-Goma forces (early Aug 02)

"In the province of Maniema, the war between Mayi Mayi and RCD-Goma forces didn't directly touch the territories / health zones of Southern Maniema Kibombo, Kasongo, Kabambare (Lusangi HZ) and Pangi (Kampene HZ). until 8-10 months ago. By the end of August, the war had escalated between these two foes especially in the area north of Kasongo city, with the gold mining towns of Bikenge, Kampene, and Saramabila and the diamond mining city of Kibombo being the most sought after positions. The civilian population living on or near these front lines has not been spared, as campaigns are often characterized by innocent killings, rapes, lootings and general human rights abuses exacted by both parties. Today, with several thousand families hiding in forests and fields in fear of being seen by one armed group or another, it could be deduced that the belligerents in Southern Maniema are also targeting the civilian population.

Besides insecurity, Southern Maniema's logistical isolation is another major constraint, exacerbated by the war. Before the beginning of the second war in 1998, Maniema was considered the bread basket of Congo but that was before the railroad closed and river traffic halted for political reasons and feeder roads fell into decay. With few roads and trucks, the bicycle is the only feasible method of transportation of goods to and from Kasongo city for its 46,000 habitants." (OCHA 22 Nov 02, p1)

"De violents affrontements entre Maï- Maï et les forces du RCD et leurs alliés ont eu lieu depuis le 25 août à Lokandu, 50 Km au nord de Kindu, obligeant les quelques 13.000 habitants de la ville à fuir en direction de Kindu ou vers l'ouest. Jusqu'au 31 août, la situation demeurait confuse sur l'issue des combats.

- Insécurité persistante à Punia où des affrontements entre maï- maï et les forces du RCD ont été signalés à 12 km de la cité de Punia, près de l'aérodrome de Kalombenyama. Selon les autorités locales, les maï- maï viendraient de la grande forêt de Kitamona qui se prolonge jusqu'à Ikela. Il y a crainte d'une jonction avec les forces basées dans cette localité. Ces opérations qui se déroulent en pleine forêt exposent les pygmées à des atrocités.

- D'autres affrontements inter-ethniques sont signalés dans le sud-est de la province entre les Babembe appuyés par les maï- maï et les Babuyu appuyés par les forces du RCD et leurs alliés. Le conflit aurait fait plus de 26.000 déplacés dans la région de Kabambare. [...]

Les enjeux de ce conflit sont multiples mais les plus cités sont entre autres l'exploitation des ressources naturelles (poissons, gibier et minerais) par les deux communautés et leurs alliés qui se battent dans cette partie de la province." (UN OCHA 12 September 2001)

"Clashes between rebels and traditional warriors who back the Kinshasa government resumed at the weekend in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), a rebel source said.

Officials of the Rwandan-backed Congolese Rally for Democracy (RCD) said fighting between Mai-Mai warriors and RCD rebels broke out Saturday in Maniema and South Kivu provinces." (AFP 19 Dec 2001)

"Thousands of residents were forced to flee into a nearby forest when Rwandan-backed Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie (RCD-Goma) forces attacked the town of Kampene, eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, Missionary Service News Agency (Misna) reported on Saturday.[...]

It reported that the fighting took place 6 and 7 June in Kampene, some 500 km southwest of Bukavu, in the Maniema region. Misna said that a month earlier, a Mayi-Mayi faction called the Kala Sawa (Righteous Brothers) had seized control of the gold- and coltan-rich area from RCD-Goma.

While the exact toll of the fighting in Kampene remained unknown, Misna reported that the town was deserted." (IRIN 10 June 2002)

"At least 350 people fleeing fighting between Mayi-Mayi militias and troops of the Rwandan-backed Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie (RCD-Goma) rebel movement arrived in Kindu from the village of Kailo, some 50 km to the north, in east-central Democratic Republic of the Congo, UN spokesman Hamadoun Toure said on Thursday." (IRIN 2 Aug 2002)

Violent conflict between the Hema and Lendu people in Orientale province has caused major displacement (1999-2003)

- Reports of major destruction of villages and attacks on civilians having caused an estimated 150,000 displaced by end of January 2000
- Several interethnic clashes occurred in the region of Bunia during mid-August 2000
- Lendu launched a major attack on Hema villages in the region of Bunia in mid-December 2000
- Reprisal attacks on Lendu residents by Hema militiamen and soldiers of the APC (RCD-ML)
- FLC (new rebel coalition since Jan 01) managed to broker a peace agreement between representatives of the Hema and the Lendu peoples in mid-February 2001
- Renewed fighting and killing of 6 ICRC workers in April 2001
- 200 people dead and 15,000 displaced following attack by Lendu militiamen on the Hema village north of Bunia town (Feb 2002)
- 80,000 new IDPs since Jan 2002 (April 2002)
- Fighting between UPC (Congolese Patriotic Union) and RCD ML Kisangani (Congolese Rally for Democracy Movement for Liberation) cause more displacement end 2002
- More than 100,000 people are newly displaced by clashes between the Lendu and Hema tribes in December 2002
- In April 2003 the UN reported the massacre of at least 1,000 people (Hema victims of Lendu violence) in the northeastern district of Ituri
- Renewed fighting erupts in Bunia in May 2003, following the withdrawal of Ugandan troops from the area

- Rebel UPC group take control of Bunia in May 2003, after several days of fighting between rival ethnic militias that killed at least 30 people and forced thousands to flee

"[In December 1999 it was reported that] Ethnic clashes between the Lendu and Hema people in Ituri district of eastern DRC have broken out again in the past fortnight, displacing tens of thousands of civilians and greatly increasing humanitarian needs in an already difficult situation, the regional head of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Philip Spoerri told IRIN on Tuesday.

[...]

The current clashes were at their most intense around Djugu, and had sent 20,000 to 30,000 displaced people towards nearby towns, particularly Bunia, for shelter, he said. In light of the renewed clashes, the ICRC hoped to reach 85,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) in 10-15 sites in and around Bunia and Djugu by the end of January, Spoerri told IRIN." (IRIN 21 December 1999)

"The conflict in the district has cost the lives of thousands and caused over 150,000 people to be displaced within the region. Many villages have been razed to the ground; the fields that were used for crop cultivation are totally deserted. The conflict has led to the collapse of the already fragile healthcare system. In the past six months, the area has been ravaged by various epidemics including measles, the plague, and cholera." (MSF 2 February 2000)

"Lendu and associated militia of Ngiti people together with less organized bands of villagers, most of them armed with traditional weapons, launched a major attack on Hema villages in the region of Bunia in mid-December [2000]. According to some survivors, some Lendu also had automatic rifles. The fighters brought the violence into Bunia on January 19 when they attacked UPDF headquarters at the airport. They apparently wanted to disable a helicopter gunship that the UPDF had used against them in earlier attacks. They also wanted to occupy the airport to prevent the triumphal return of local Hema leaders, who were increasingly appearing as the winners in the negotiations going on in Kampala.

Some eighty attackers were slain by UPDF fire, including gunfire from the armed helicopter. Retreating Lendu militia ruthlessly massacred some sixty Hema residents in outlying residential areas and the villages of Soleniema and Mwangi north of Bunia. In the hours after the attack was repulsed, Bunia residents reported seeing UPDF officers encouraging Hema youth in several quarters of the town to arm themselves and to identify and kill Lendu infiltrators. This call apparently set the stage for reprisal attacks on Lendu residents by Hema militiamen and soldiers of the APC loyal to Mbusa. According to some witnesses, at least 150 to 250 Lendu were slaughtered, many of them Lendu intellectuals and community leaders.

[...]

Some 20,000 people fled in all directions inside Ituri as an estimated 10,000 others, mostly Hema, sought refuge in Uganda in the first week of January. This latest fighting made Ituri the scene of one of the bloodiest conflicts fought in the shadow of the Congo's broader war. The resulting displacement and movement of refugees to Uganda is one of the largest humanitarian emergencies in Congo today.

Mediation Efforts and Reconciliation

By mid-February, the Front for the Liberation of Congo appeared to be reestablishing control in the area. Violence diminished and hopes for peace increased. Following a three-day conference attended by some 160 traditional chiefs and notables of Ituri province, the FLC managed to broker a peace agreement between representatives of the Hema and the Lendu peoples. Signed on February 17, the agreement called among other things for an immediate cessation of hostilities and the disarmament of all militia groups. Olivier Kamitatu, national secretary of the FLC, told Human Rights Watch that the new front, "as public authority," undertook to implement these and other provisions of the agreement, including to dismantle training centers for militia, control movements of soldiers, secure border crossings, and guarantee the free movement of goods and people along roads." (HRW March 2001, sect. IV)

"The killings of the six ICRC personnel in the vicinity of Bunia in April comes against a backdrop of ethnic massacres between the Lendu and Hema [...]. Following these killings, fresh fighting broke out between the Hema-Bagerere and the Lendu, around the Fataki and Djugu areas." (UN SC 8 June 2001, para.66)

"Inter-community fighting, between Bira and Ngety tribes, has been reported in Ituri, with 44 dead and 48 wounded in the Nyakunde area (near Bunia). The situation has been calmed by the Ituri governor through negotiation with the communities." (UN OCHA 26 September 2001)

It is recommended to read the comprehensive report issued by Human Rights Watch in March 2001 for further details about the linkages between rebel forces, the Uganda army and the Lendu-Hema conflict as well as information about the Front for the Liberation of Congo (created in January 2001).

Renewed fighting in Feb 2002 causes displacement of 15,000 around Bunia

"An attack by Lendu militiamen last Friday [15 Feb 2002] morning on the Hema village of Kparnganza, north of Bunia town in northeastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), which, according to news organisations, left 200 people dead, constitutes yet another urgent warning that the security situation is deteriorating in the area and could get worse if something is not done to abate it.[...]

Humanitarian agencies in Bunia, northeastern DRC, have estimated that more than 15,000 people had been displaced in the surrounding area in the past few weeks by ethnic conflict involving the Lendu, Hema and Alur tribes, and among the political factions of several rebel groups." (IRIN 19 Feb 2002)

"The decades old tribal conflict over land has sucked in various rebel groups originally fighting the Kinshasa government of President Joseph Kabila. The Hema- relatively rich pastoralists now have the support of UPC (Congolese Patriotic Union). UPC took over Bunia from Mbusa Nyamwisi and his RCD ML Kisangani (Congolese Rally for Democracy Movement for Liberation) in September 2002. The political whirlwind fanned the massacre of Lendu- cultivators and tribes akin to them.

The survivors have been fleeing southwards towards Beni where Mbusa set up his base. Recently, more than 300 people, mostly Hema and Babira including patients waiting for operation in Nyakunde Hospital, were massacred. And at the end of October, RCD ML Kisangani took Mambasa from Jean Pierre Bemba's MLC (Movement for Liberation of Congo). Both incidents triggered revenge and exodus.

"Hundreds of people are again arriving in North Kivu Province in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) following fierce fighting between two rebel armies for control of Bafwasende and Niania in Province Orientale.

The RCD ML Kisangani (Congolese Rally for Democracy- Liberation Movement Kisangani) of Mbusa Nyamwisi took over Bafwasende and Niania from Roger Lumbala's rebel army triggering a mass exodus to Luna, Eringeti and Beni - the main town in northern Nord Kivu Province and base of RCD ML Kisangani." (WV 6 Nov 02)

"The number of internally displaced people (IDPs) has swollen by hundreds. We had registered about 33,000 two weeks ago,' says Richard Mugambi, acting Project Manager of the Beni Project of World Vision Eastern DRC based in Goma. The IDPs were registered within a stretch of 50 km in the urban centres of Eringeti, Oicha, Mbau, Ngadi, Mavivi, Mutwanga and Beni. " (WV 19 Nov 2002)

"Over 100,000 people newly displaced by recent clashes between the Lendu and Hema tribes in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) on Christmas Eve are in dire need in Beni town, 85 kms west of the border with Uganda.

World Vision, a relief and development agency has for the last two months been responding to immediate food and water needs of about 70,000 people coming from Bunia and the villages around it. During the same period, Merlin, another NGO has provided the much- needed survival kits and health care.

The newly displaced people wandering in this forested region of Congo are in need of food, clean water, shelter, drugs, clothing, blankets, kitchenware and utensils. Philippe Guiton, World Vision Africa Relief team leader will visit Beni this week to offer technical support.

The tribal conflict that has rendered hundreds of thousands homeless is exacerbated by a wider political conflict, mainly between warring rebel factions: the Congolese Rally for Democracy-Liberation Movement (RCD ML Kisangani) of Mbusa Nyamwisi and the Movement for Liberation of Congo (MLC), led by Jean Pierre Bemba.

Each of the warring parties seeks to control the resource-rich areas of Ituri where Bunia is found and North Kivu provinces where Beni and Goma are located. The influx of people moving from trouble spots in Beni, Butembo and Angita is believed to have risen to 200,000 people.

Bemba's MLC overrun Eringeti 50 km north of Beni and held it for three days. More than 14,000 IDPs are holed up in Eringeti. Around the same time, the Mai Mai warriors raided a prison in Beni, an action, which was characterised by heavy shooting in town." (World Vision, 9 Jan 2003)

"At least 1,000 people have been killed in ethnic violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the United Nations said on Sunday, one day after the signing of an accord to end over four years of war in the vast Central African country.

The massacres, which took place on Thursday in the northeastern region of Ituri, claimed 'at least one thousand victims', the UN mission in the DRC said in a statement sent to AFP's office in the Rwandan capital Kigali.

It said this information came from 'witness accounts' of the massacres, which took place in the parish of Drodo and 14 neighbouring areas.

According to lists compiled by local leaders, 966 people were 'summarily executed' in three hours of massacres, said the UN mission, which on Saturday sent a team to Drodo and the surrounding areas.

The UN mission said it had visited 49 seriously injured victims in a local hospital. Most had machetes wounds and some had been hit by bullets. The team had also witnessed '20 mass graves, identifiable by traces of blood that was still fresh'.

The UN mission, MONUC, said it would continue its investigations to identify those responsible for the bloodletting.

DRC's minister for human rights, Ntumba Luaba, called on the MONUC to help catch the killers. 'MONUC, which has already gathered some information on the massacre, must quickly pursue its investigation so the perpetrators are don't remain unpunished,' he told AFP in a telephone interview from the capital Kinshasa.

The violence came one day after the warring parties in the Democratic Republic of Congo signed a historic pact on Wednesday to end more than four years of brutal warfare.

The accord between the government, opposition parties and several rebel groups ended 19 months of tortuous peace negotiations. It enabled President Joseph Kabila to issue on Friday a new constitution which opens the way for a national unity government and the first democratic elections in the former Belgian colony for more than 40 years.

A commission, set up to try and bring peace to the troubled Ituri region, began work on Saturday." (AFP, 6 April 2003)

“Fighting involving heavy weaponry and light arms erupted on Wednesday between ethnic Hema and Lendu militias in the town of Bunia in Ituri District of northeastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

The ensuing situation was described by residents as ‘chaotic’ and ‘terrifying’, with sporadic fighting continuing to erupt at irregular intervals on Thursday. The situation outside Bunia, however, remained largely unknown because of prevailing insecurity and lack of access.

The international NGO Medair said on Wednesday that insecurity had prevented it and other NGOs from carrying out their relief efforts, forcing them to take refuge in their homes. It reported groups of men and children, armed and drugged, roaming the streets, pillaging and killing.

One Bunia resident, who requested anonymity, said the current situation could be defined as an ongoing contest for control, on the one hand, between the Ituri Pacification Commission (IPC), which seeks to restore order in the region, and on the other hand ethnic Lendu and Hema militias fighting each other, while both trying to disrupt the establishment of order within Bunia by all means.

‘The population, no matter what [ethnic] community, is in constant fear of looting and harassment by Lendu combatants,’ the resident reported, and this was forcing thousands of ethnic Hema civilians, in particular, to flee.

[...]

The resident further cautioned that the exodus of ethnic Hema/Gegere from Bunia would result in an aggravated humanitarian situation at their destination points, and that continued restriction of movement for the humanitarian community due to insecurity would result in further deterioration of the humanitarian situation of populations in inaccessible areas.

Although specific information on the number of people displaced, injured or killed remained unavailable, at least 1,000 people sought refuge in the MONUC compound on Wednesday.” (IRIN, 8 May 2003)

“The rebel group, Union des patriotes congolais (UPC) took control of Bunia on Monday after six days of fighting between rival ethnic militias, MONUC, the UN Mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), told IRIN.

‘The UPC is patrolling the town together with some soldiers from the PUSIC de Kawa [an allied rebel group led by Kawa Mandro Pangal]’, Patricia Tome, director of information for MONUC, told IRIN. She said apart from sporadic shooting, calm had returned to the town after a two hour battle which began at 06:00 local time.

The UPC, led by Thomas Lubanga, a Hema, formerly controlled Bunia, which is the principal town of Ituri district in northeastern DRC. Lubanga's fighters were chased out by Ugandan troops on 6 March. Fighting between rival Hema and Lendu militias intensified after the Ugandans completed their withdrawal from Bunia on 7 May following an agreement with the government in Kinshasa.

Local sources told IRIN that thousands of people who sought refuge at the MONUC base on Sunday night to escape the fighting were returning to their homes. However, news reports said that ethnic Lendus were leaving Bunia.

Lubanga told IRIN that Lendu militiamen had been practising extortion and that militias had been ‘sowing terror in the town’.

[...]

Lubanga blamed the Kinshasa government for the violence, claiming that through an alliance with the former rebel group, Rassemblement congolais pour la democratie-Kisangani-Movement de liberation (RCD-K-ML), the government was arming and giving uniforms to Lendu militiamen.

According to MONUC some 30 people have been killed in the fighting in the past week, including children and several priests.

Aine Joyce, information officer for the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, said that some 30 international aid workers remained in Bunia to assess urgent needs. The rest were evacuated on Saturday” (IRIN, 12 May 2003)

Power struggle between armed groups in Ituri district causes further displacement (2002-2003)

- According to MONUC, more than 60,000 people have been killed and 500,000 displaced in the northeastern Ituri district between 1999 and 2003
- Conflict was initially ethnic in nature (Hema v. Lendu tribes), but was later exacerbated by the involvement of armed factions engaged in a power struggle in the region

“More than 60,000 people were killed, 50,000 houses burnt and 500,000 people got displaced in DR Congo's Ituri region between 1999 and September 2002, a reliable source at the UN Observer Mission in the country (MONUC) here said.

Violence against civilians and hard-line positions among belligerents in Ituri caused ‘the most worrying humanitarian crisis in the Democratic Republic of Congo,’ the source disclosed Wednesday.

Thirteen UN agencies and three NGOs need about 270 million US dollars in the short- and long-term to extend humanitarian aid to the most affected regions of DRC, including Ituri, where about 15 organisations are operating, according to the report.

Initially, the conflict in Ituri (Eastern province where Bunia is capital) was a feud between Hemas and Lendus, before the involvement of armed groups whose leaders are fighting in a power struggle over the region.

The rebel factions of RCD-National led by Roger Lumbala (supported by Jean-Pierre Bemba's MLC), the Union of Congolese Patriots (UPC led by Thomas Lubanga) and the Mbusa Nyamwisi's RCD-ML, evicted from Bunia and Mambasa, are engaged in the bloody struggle.

In the past two weeks, clashes have intensified between the first two movements, causing more than 100 deaths and several thousand persons freshly displaced.

MONUC described the clashes as ‘useless and unacceptable, especially after the signing of the comprehensive agreement on 17 December in Pretoria, for the unification of the country and the sharing of responsibilities.’

It urged the factions to respect the Pretoria accord and stop all hostilities.” (PANA, 26 December 2002)

For further reading on the crisis in the Ituri district of DRC, see:

‘Forgotten People: In the Ituri District of the Democratic Republic of the Congo’, Refugees International, 15 January 2003 ([click here](#))

‘Congo’s Ituri region sinks deeper into disaster’, Reuters, 3 March 2003 ([click here](#))

People flee fighting at the frontline in the Katanga Province (1998-2003)

- Majority of IDPs fled during the August-November 1998 fighting in northern Katanga
- Reported in 1999 that the IDPs are reluctant to return in fear of being considered rebel collaborators if Government regain control of return areas
- Major fighting around Pweto in December 2000 forcing civilians to flee towards Zambia
- In Sept 2001, further attacks in N. Katanga have led to additional displacement
- End 2002, people flee fighting between Kabila's Forces Armées Congolaises and Mayi Mayi
- MONUC confirms in April 2003 that at least 70 people were killed during November 2002 clashes in Ankoro between the regular army, armed Congolese forces and pro-government Mayi Mayi militia

"Along with the first-wave displaced of the Kivus, the IDP caseload in Katanga is the oldest as it was mainly generated during the August-November 1998 fighting in northern Katanga. All major IDP categories (according to their mode of settlement) known in the DRC are represented in this province: there are IDP camps in Lubumbashi, IDP resettlement sites south of the provincial capital, IDPs hosted in local communities and finally those dispersed in an area as large as 50,000 km². In total, there are some 250,000 displaced persons scattered in Katanga on both sides of the frontline." (OCHA 11 July 2000)

"In late November [2000], following attacks by government forces (FAC) in Katanga, RCD and the Rwandan People's Army (RPA) launched a counter-attack which culminated in their capture of Pweto on 6 December. Thousands of combatants and refugees fled into Zambia to escape the fighting.

[...]

As a result of recent fighting in the Pweto region (Katanga), a considerable number of people have sought refuge in neighbouring Zambia; about 9,000 of them are hosted in a refugee camp near Kala in Zambia's northern province, and a further 15,000 have settled in villages in the same area." (UN SC 12 February 2001, paras. 20, 45, 47)

"Further attacks in N. Katanga have led to additional displacement. The Pepa-Pweto axis is not secure. Fighting also reported between Babuyo and Babembe, the former allegedly supported by the RPA [Rwandese Army]. Babembe have previously been in conflict with the Banyamulenge, also supported by the RPA. Competition for natural resources in the area also exacerbates tension." (UN OCHA 26 September 2001)

Due to fighting between Forces Armées Congolaises and Mayi Mayi: "Ces affrontements et leurs corollaires, pillages, viols, exactions en tout genre, brûlage des champs, saisies des stocks poussèrent les populations à fuir vers des localités plus sûres (Kabambulu, Malemba cité) ou à se cacher en forêt." (OCHA Oct 02, p3)

"About 45 people died earlier in November during clashes between the pro-government Mayi-Mayi militia, regular soldiers and residents of Ankoro, a village in the northern Katanga Province of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Human Rights Minister Ntumba Luaba told reporters.

This assessment contrasts with the 104 dead and 1,200 homes burnt a local human rights body, the Commission de vulgarisation des droits de l'homme et de développement, had reported." (IRIN 29 Nov 2002)

"At least 70 people were killed during fighting in November 2002 between government forces and Mayi Mayi militia in Ankoro, in northern Katanga province of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the UN Mission in the DRC, MONUC, said in a report on Wednesday.

A joint team from MONUC and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights which visited Ankoro from 7 to 9 April found that the killings followed clashes between the regular army, armed Congolese forces and the pro-government Mayi Mayi militia.

MONUC's reports and information officer, Patricia Tome, said the death toll could be higher. 'These figures could be revised upwards because the victims were people displaced by the war who had settled in Ankoro,' she told IRIN.

She said the list of victims had been compiled after discussions with the head of the local administration, leaders of the Mayi Mayi militia and family members. Human rights groups and local priests in Ankoro described shortly after the massacre how houses were burnt and some bodies thrown into the river in an attempt by soldiers to hide the evidence.

The UN report said calm had now returned to Ankoro and that people who had been affected were receiving food from international NGOs.

'In this respect, MONUC is pleased that serious violations of human rights won't go unpunished,' Tome said.' (IRIN, 17 April 2003)

Women and girls from eastern Congo flee to escape sexual violence (2002)

"Women and girls of eastern Congo, their families, and the larger community have developed different strategies to protect them from sexual violence. Some families have sent their women and girls to safer locations. A Bukavu resident told Human Rights Watch researchers, "I have a girl in my house whose parents sent her away to keep her from being raped." In other cases, most of the family has fled to safer areas. A priest from a rural parish said, "Women, girls and young men are not in the villages anymore—you only find old people." (HRW June 2002, p75)

Many displaced who had found refuge in Goma had to flee again when the Nyiragongo volcano erupted (2002)

- Eruption of Mount Nyiragongo near Goma in Jan 2002
- As a result of the disaster, assessments indicate that around 15 per cent of Goma town has been destroyed, 120,000 people have been made homeless and 147 have died
- With their property destroyed and their livelihoods wiped away, the entire Goma population has been affected
- Eruption of other volcano in July 2002 did not cause further displacement

"Perhaps among the most unlucky are those who fled violence only to be forced to flee again from Goma as the Nyiragongo erupted: chased away one more time but by natural disaster. [...]"

The eruption of Mount Nyiragongo near Goma, on January 17 [2002], has caused a severe natural disaster in an area that has already suffered from years of conflict and distress. The lava flowed into the city and nearby Lake Kivu, causing fires, devastating the area, and generated an estimated 350,000 people to flee towards neighboring Rwanda. The vast majority of those who fled the town on January 17 returned home as early as Sunday 20 January and decided to stay in Goma despite fear due to a number of heavy earthquakes, continued eruptions, opening of fissures by earth tremors and serious risks of lethal gasses emission.

As a result of the disaster, assessments indicate that around 15 per cent of Goma town has been destroyed, 120,000 people have been made homeless and 147 have died.

With their property destroyed and their livelihoods wiped away, the entire Goma population is affected. Relief agencies and local authorities continue to debate options for the support of affected families. Possible options include moving to sites near Goma, resettling in neighboring towns, or returning previously displaced people to their areas of origin. The Rassemblement Congolais pour la Democratie (RCD), which controls the area, has banned any reconstruction on top of the recent lava flows and has announced that two sites outside of Goma (Lac Vert and Mugunga) would be available for resettlement. However, a survey of homeless Goma residents by the International Rescue Committee (IRC) revealed strong resistance to settling in the outside of Goma or in other towns.

The specificity of this natural disaster is that it has happened in a stateless area, ravaged by war and this situation has further complicated the response by the humanitarian actors. For example, the extent of the distrust between the two populations has been a factor leading to a much earlier return of the population to Goma and the suspicion of "hidden motives" about declaration and advice from RCD have also created a specific dynamic to the crisis. " (UN OCHA 28 Feb 02, pp.4 & 14)

"United Nations officials on Friday were monitoring a volcano that erupted near the eastern Congolese city of Goma, which was devastated by another volcano earlier this year.[...]

"There appears to be no immediate threat to the local population," he [UN OCHA official] said. [...]

Nyamuragira is the sister volcano to Mount Nyiragongo, which erupted in January, sending lava into the centre of Goma city and causing most of its 300,000 people to flee to the neighbouring Rwandan town of Gisenyi. The lava cut the city in two, destroyed about one-third of its buildings and killed dozens." (Deutsche Presse Agentur 26 July 2002)

POPULATION PROFILE AND FIGURES

Total national figures

Over 2.7 million IDPs, mainly in eastern DRC (December 2002)

- 500,000 additional IDPs since the beginning of 2002, mainly in Ituri and South Kivu
- 400,000 IDPs are now in South Kivu, compared to 235,000 in Aug 02
- More than 2.7 million IDPs at the end of 2002, according to UN figures

Country	IDPs		Refugees		Total affected population		Changes % (In figures)
	July 2002	Dec 2002	July 2002	Dec 2002	July 2002	Dec 2002	
DRC	2,275,000	2,706,993	346,540	331,241	2,621,540	3,038,234	+15.90% (+416,694)

[Click here](#) for map, 'Democratic Republic of Congo: Affected Populations by Province, Internally Displaced (UN OCHA, January 2003)

"The recent aggravation of violence in rebel-held areas (mainly in Ituri region, South Kivu, Kindu, Shabunda and northern Katanga) increased the number of displaced persons by at least 500,000 since the beginning of the year, putting considerable pressure on the humanitarian community's response capacity. The continuous eruption of cholera epidemics in many provinces (Kasais, Katanga, Orientale and Kivus) is an indication of the exhaustion of the population's survival strategies after years of protracted crisis and the need to reinforce the existing emergency response and coordination mechanisms." (UN 19 Nov 2002, p27)

"The Humanitarian Coordinator described the situation in the border region of Uvira, the Hauts Plateaux and Fizi- Baraka as a "creeping disaster", with over 100 villages deserted and 20,000 newly displaced families, bringing the total number of internally displaced people in South Kivu to an estimated 400,000." (UN SC 18 Oct 02, para.60)

2,275,000 IDPs as of August 2002

- UN estimates of IDPs remained stable from February 2002 to August 2002

LOCATION	ORIGIN	FIGURES
Equateur	DRC	85,000
Katanga	DRC	415,000
Maniema	DRC	160,000
North Kivu	DRC	760,000
Orientale	DRC	250,000

South Kivu	DRC	435,000
East and West Kasai	DRC	130,000
Kinshasa	DRC	40,000
TOTAL IDPs	2,275,000	
Victims of Nyiragongo eruption	120,000	
TOTAL Affected Population :	2,395,000	

(UN OCHA August 2002 & UN OCHA 31 July 2002)

2,275,111 IDPs as of February 2002:

"...the reported total number of IDPs (which shows an increase of 11% or 230,000 persons over the period [since September 2001]) reflects only a fraction of what is actually happening on the ground. In practice, a displaced person cannot be accounted for more than once and in today's Congo, the population who fled their villages and found asylum in another area have had, in many cases, to flee again and once again as frontlines move, violence erupts and their temporary refuges are no longer safe. Perhaps among the most unlucky are those who fled violence only to be forced to flee again from Goma as the Nyiragongo erupted; chased away one more time but by natural disaster.[...]"

This number also does not take into account the latest displacement due to interethnic clashes in Ituri (Orientale Province). (UN OCHA 28 Feb 02, p.14)

Other vulnerable groups include about 200,000 people who live hidden and are totally destitute (Feb 2002)

OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS IN THE DRC	
Estimated child soldiers	6,000
Widows	15,000
Handicapped including war wounded	25,000
Urban vulnerable+/-	3,500,000
Hidden population/ total destitution	200,000
Food insecure	16,000,000
Host families (estimate)	87,500 (households) x 5 (individuals) = 437,500
TOTAL	20,987,500*

*It is recognised that several of these groups will, naturally, overlap, possibly rendering this figure slightly exaggerated.

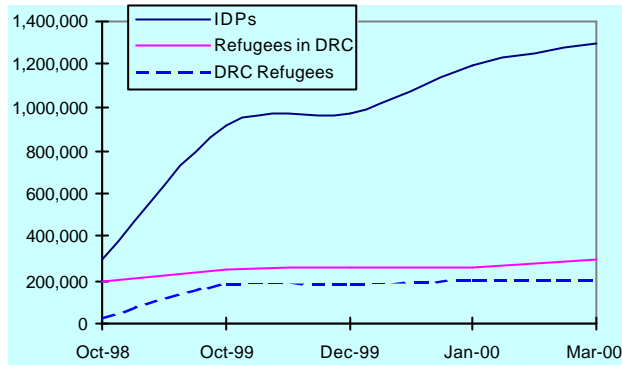
(UN OCHA 28 Feb 02, p.14)

Over 2 million IDPs in DRC by end of September 2001

According to UN estimates, there were about 2,045,000 IDPs in DRC as of the end of September 2001 (UN OCHA 30 September 2001).

There were about 2,002,500 IDPs in DRC by the end of December 2000. (OCHA 31 December 2000, p.3) This represents a significant increase during the last of part 2000, since there were 1,4 million IDPs by June 2000 and 1,8 million by September 2000. (UN November 2000, p.15). This is despite the fact that an estimated 810,000 former IDPs have returned to their habitual place of residence. (OCHA 31 December 2000, p.6).

IDP growth since 1998



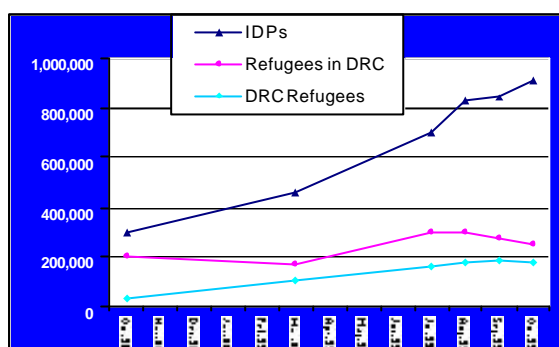
(OCHA 17 April 2000)

According to the United Nations, "The vast majority of the 2 million people displaced by war are children and women." (United Nations 7 June 2001)

960,000 IDPs in DRC by end of 1999

"[By January 2000 there were] some 960,000 internally displaced persons in eight of the 11 provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and over 300,000 refugees from six of its nine neighbouring countries. Recent humanitarian Assessments reveal that over 2.1 million people (internally displaced persons, refugees, urban vulnerable) or 4.3 per cent of the population of the Democratic Republic of the Congo face critical food insecurity. Another 8.4 million (mostly urban populations and farmers in the proximity of the front line), or 17 Per cent of the population, face moderate but rapidly growing food insecurity." (UN SC 17 January 2000, para. 24)

"The reporting period [1 October - 15 November 1999] saw new population displacements (Kibali-Ituri, Orientale; Walikale, North Kivu, and Mongala, Equateur) but also return of entire communities in South Kivu. Nevertheless, the overall number of IDPs grew from 830,000 to 916,000 (increase by 75,000), as illustrated on the accompanying graph. This considerable increment is attributable to continued hostilities between Hema and Lemu ethnicities and volatile security in Haut Uele districts of Orientale province." (UN OCHA 15 November 1999, "Humanitarian Action")



500,000 IDPs in DRC by end of 1998

"The number of IDPs is believed to have almost tripled since the outbreak of hostilities in the DRC and is estimated to have reached the level of 500,000 persons scattered in North and South Kivu, Orientale, Maniema, Kasai, Equateur and Katanga provinces. In rebel-held areas, the current conflict is marked by patterns some of which are similar to those that affected humanitarian action during the 1996-1997 war in former Zaire, i.e. all communities of Northern and Southern Kivu are considered - and consider themselves as - collective targets for military attacks. Massive, durable displacements are expected to have been amplified during the last three months. The situation is usually different in other parts of the DRC, where the populations are only afraid of looting and side-effects of military confrontations. Thus, they only leave their houses for as long as fighting, looting or take-over of a town will last at local level." (UN December 1998, p.14)

It should be noted that USCR apparently subscribed to a more careful estimate of IDPs by the end of 1998:

"The outbreak of renewed war in Congo-Kinshasa in August uprooted hundreds of thousands of people, some for a few days, others for the rest of the year. At year's end, displacement persisted primarily in the eastern one-third of the country.

Although an estimated 300,000 persons were internally displaced at year's end and some 130,000 were refugees in neighboring countries, some aid workers estimated that 80 percent of the population in some eastern regions a million or more people might have fled their homes temporarily for several days at different times during the year. Such estimates were impossible to confirm because much of the country remained inaccessible to local and international aid workers." (USCR 1999, p.59)

100,000 believed to be displaced by the end of 1997

- After the main civil war ended (May 1997), eruptions of violence in eastern Congo/Zaire pushed additional tens of thousands from their homes
- About 40,000 Congolese fled early in 1997 hundreds of kilometres westward with Rwandan refugees to the city of Kisangani

"The number of residents who became internally displaced during the civil war remains uncertain. More than 100,000 were already uprooted in eastern Zaire prior to the civil war due to ethnic conflicts. Poor roads, impenetrable forests, and pockets of insecurity impeded full assessments of humanitarian needs in the country's vast isolated areas throughout 1997.

A UN funding appeal in March estimated that nearly a half-million Congolese/Zairians were displaced. U.S. aid officials estimated in August that some 230,000 probably were uprooted within the country. A UN human rights official reported in mid-year that 250,000 to 400,000 were displaced. An international NGO put the number at 190,000. All sources agreed that the most pervasive displacement was in the chronically unstable Masisi zone of eastern Congo/Zaire, near the town of Goma.

USCR site visits to eastern Congo/Zaire during 1997 concluded that up to half the population in some areas of the east were at least temporarily displaced during the war. Many were able to return home after several weeks, but thousands of families endured long-term displacement caused by lingering insecurity in their home areas. USCR estimated that up to 150,000 people remained internally displaced at mid-year, but a majority were "invisible to outsiders because they are dispersed," USCR's report noted.

About 40,000 Congolese fled hundreds of kilometers westward with Rwandan refugees to the city of Kisangani early in the year. More than 70,000 fled to Tanzania. Smaller numbers entered Uganda, Burundi, Sudan, Zambia, and other countries as refugees. As many as 10,000 former Zairian soldiers and their families reportedly fled to Central African Republic.

[...]

In the second half of 1997, after the main civil war ended, eruptions of violence in eastern Congo/Zaire pushed additional tens of thousands from their homes. Some 8,000 people converged on the town of Goma in late April. At least 15,000 fled to Rwanda. Entire areas of Masisi zone, in the east, lay deserted, with 15,000 homes burned and 1,000 people dead." (USCR 1998, pp. 60-61)

400,000 believed to be displaced by the end of 1996

"Uprooted Zairians were the virtually forgotten victims of their country's widening civil war [after October 1996].

An estimated three million Zairians lived in the conflict zones. An estimated 400,000 became internally displaced, and approximately 50,000 others became new refugees in Tanzania, Rwanda, and Uganda. An additional 1,000 or more Zairian or Rwandan Tutsi fled to neighboring Congo to escape anti-Tutsi violence in the Zairian capital, Kinshasa.

In addition to the new Zairian refugees created during 1996, tens of thousands of Zairians remained refugees from previous years." (USCR 1997, p.107)

UN OCHA's renewed efforts to gather precise data on the number of IDPs despite difficulties (2001)

- IDPs in DRC are difficult to count due to a high degree of dispersion
- OCHA looks at the number of displaced per health zones
- It established an information network to compare data from different sources
- Its offices collect data in a continuous way and inter-agency mission also assess IDP numbers
- Dissemination of standardized evaluation forms

"La collecte d'information en matière de personnes déplacées est un exercice extrêmement ardu en République Démocratique du Congo, ne serait-ce que par un degré de dispersion spatiale probablement le

plus élevé au monde. Depuis plus de deux ans, OCHA s'efforce de regrouper les informations et de dénombrer les déplacés selon une combinaison cohérente de démarches :

- Approche par zones de santé et, le cas échéant (Masisi, Rutshuru) par territoires;
- Utilisation contradictoire de données démographiques mises à jour avant le second conflit (études Ministère de la Santé/OMS, ISA, Sisan);
- Prise en compte des mouvements de réfugiés congolais en dehors des frontières;
- Constitution d'un réseau d'information maillé de nature à permettre recoupements et études contradictoires;
- Travail continu de collecte des bureaux OCHA;
- Missions inter-agences ; missions spécifiques par les assistants humanitaires;
- Etudes spécifiques de villes ou de territoires (Kabinda, Masisi, Mwenga) par différents organismes;
- Dissémination de formulaires d'évaluation standardisés et élaborés en concertation avec toutes les agences et ONG à Kinshasa;
- Report cartographique des données.

OCHA souhaite procéder à une actualisation détaillée des chiffres de personnes déplacées à travers le territoire national. Pour cela, les outils précités existent déjà ainsi que les résultats de missions spécifiques.

L'exercice est devenu tellement fastidieux (du fait de l'absence prolongée de la pratique de collecte systématique) qu'OCHA envisage de se donner la fin juin comme date butoir pour la publication d'un chiffre qui constituera le produit de nos efforts communs. A compter du mercredi 6 juin, tous les bureaux OCHA à travers le pays solliciteront de chacun des organismes partenaires des informations à la fois simples et précises (la fiche de données sur les personnes déplacées est disponible dans tous les bureaux).

Les bureaux OCHA à Goma et Kinshasa procéderont à la consolidation de ces chiffres, et si les données le permettent, à une tentative de catégorisation des populations déplacées selon des critères similaires à ceux présentés dans l'Appel Consolidé 2001. Bien entendu, les mouvements de retour et de réintégration feront également l'objet d'une attention particulière." (UN OCHA 7 June 2001)

Disaggregated figures

Distribution of IDPs by province (July 99-Aug 2002)

- The majority of displaced persons were found in the eastern provinces of North Kivu, Katanga, Orientale and South Kivu, (Aug 2002)
- about 1 million IDPs in the Kivus as of Aug 2002
- The number of IDPs in Equateur decreased greatly from Dec 2000 to Sept 2001
- The number of IDPs in Orientale increased greatly from Dec 2000 to Sept 2001 and then increased again in Feb 2002
- The number of IDPs in Katanga increased by 100,000 IDPs between Dec 00 and Sept 01

Area	July 1999	June 2000	Dec 2000	Sept 2001	Feb 2002	Aug 2002
Equateur	100,000	250,000	300,000	85,000	85,000	85,000
Orientale	70,000	215,000	160,000	230,000	250,000	250,000
North Kivu	160,000	287,000	640,000	760,000	760,000	760,000
South Kivu	195,000	220,000	350,500	225,000	435,111	435,000
Katanga	150,000	250,000	305,000	415,000	415,000	415,000
Maniema	20,000	110,000	137,000	160,000	160,000	160,000
Eastern Kasai & Western Kasai	60,000	30,000 and 140,000	30,000 and 80,000	130,000	130,000	130,000
Kinshasa	N/A	N/A	N/A	40,000	40,000	40,000
Total	775,000	1,502,000	2,002,500	2,045,000	2,275,111	2,275,000

Source: UN OCHA 15 July 1999, 11 July 2000, 31 December 2000 (p.11), 30 September 2001; 28 February 2002, p.13; August 2002; 31 July 2002

Displacement in the Equateur province (2001-2002)

- Massive displacement of population, as the province is divided in two, the North and the East, under MLC and RCD-K/ML rebel occupation, and the South under the control of the government of Kinshasa
- The number of IDPs decreased from 300,000 in Dec 2000 to 85,000 in Sept 01 to remain stable since then (as of Aug 02)

"L'Equateur est l'une des provinces les plus durement touchées par la guerre en cours depuis 1998. Elle est coupée en deux, le Nord et l'Est sous occupation des rebelles du FLC [now split again in MLC and RCD-K/ML, as of March 2002], l'Ouest et le Sud sous le contrôle du Gouvernement de Kinshasa. Les activités militaires intenses dans cette province ont pour conséquences les extorsions quotidiennes de la population, l'insécurité généralisée, la destruction des récoltes, le vol de bétail et les déplacements massifs de la population." (UN-OCHA September 2001)

The number of IDPs decreased from 300,000 in Dec 2000 to 85,000 in Sept 01 to remain stable since then (UN OCHA 31 Dec 00; 30 Sept 01; 28 Feb 02; Aug 02)

Displacement in the Eastern Kasai province (2000-2003)

- Many displaced who found refuge in Eastern Kasai come from Katanga Province
- Kasai is a strategic place for military and economic reasons and is split between RCD-Goma and the government of Kinshasa
- Majority of the displaced are in the health zone of Sankuru
- The number of IDPs in Eastern and Western Kasai remained stable from Sept 01 to Aug 02 at 130,000
- More than 30,000 people were displaced in late 2002 by attacks and counter-attacks by Mayi Mayi militia and RCD-Goma troops, according to CRS
- Many civilians are reported to periodically take refuge in the forests

"Le contexte humanitaire au Kasai Oriental a été marqué au cours de la décennie 1990-2000 par l'arrivée massive des populations refoulées du Katanga en 1992 (environ 800.000 personnes), la guerre de 1996-1997 et celle en cours depuis 1998. A l'instar de la Province Orientale, le Kasai présente des enjeux militaro- économiques importants pour les parties impliquées dans la guerre. Il est ainsi scindé en deux, une partie sous occupation des rebelles du RCD Goma appuyés par le Rwanda, l'autre sous le contrôle du Gouvernement de Kinshasa.

Actuellement, la situation humanitaire se caractérise par l'afflux de nombreuses familles restées dans les territoires occupés, dans la forêt et dont l'état est alarmant. Le Kabinda a vécu un drame particulier, à savoir l'encercllement par les belligérants pendant plus d'une année."

As of March 01, the majority of IDPs were in the health zone of Sankuru (80,000 IDPs). (UN OCHA September 2001)

The number of IDPs in Eastern and Western Kasai remained stable from Sept 01 to Aug 02 at 130,000 (UN OCHA 30 Sept 01; Aug 02)

"Slightly over 30,000 people have been displaced since late 2002 by attacks and counterattacks by Mayi-Mayi militias and the Rwandan-backed Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie-Goma (RCD-Goma) rebel movement along the western bank of the River Lomami, between Katako Kombe and Lubefu, in Kasai Oriental Province, central Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), according to Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the official relief and development agency of the US Catholic community.

In response, CRS and its local partners, Caritas and BDOM/Tshumbe, are planning a distribution of agricultural implements, fishing nets, and non-food items, as well as medical kits from the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), with transportation of these goods from the capital, Kinshasa, to the diocese of Tshumbe, financed by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

'Attacks intensified between September 2002 and January 2003, forcing the population to abandon their farms and seek refuge in the areas around Tshumbe, Wembonyama, Lubefu and Katako Kombe,' CRS reported.

Displaced residents told CRS that attacks in the area had begun in April 2002, forcing many to periodically take refuge in nearby forests.

'The displaced report that their villages were repeatedly looted and burned, that crops were destroyed, and that there were cases of torture, execution and rape. Most of the displaced are staying with host families, while others sleep in the open. It is reported that some additional victims of the attacks have yet to emerge from the forest for fear of being mistaken for Mayi-Mayi by the RCD-Goma forces,' CRS stated.

The River Lomami separates the provinces of Kasai Oriental and Maniema.

The affected area of the river valley has been under the control of RCD-Goma since early 1998." (IRIN, 3 March 2003)

Displacement in the Western Kasai province (2001-2002)

- Part of the Western Kasai province is under rebel occupation since May 1999 and this provoked displacement
- As of March 2001, the highest number of displaced (13,000) was in the health zone of Kananga
- The number of IDPs in Eastern and Western Kasai remained stable from Sept 01 to Aug 02 at 130,000

"La situation de conflit qui affecte la RDC est durement ressentie dans la province du Kasai Occidental dont une partie est sous occupation rebelle depuis le mois de mai 1999.

Cette situation a entraîné un déplacement massif des populations, des problèmes aigus de sécurité alimentaire, de malnutrition, d'accessibilité aux soins de santé et de précarité des conditions de vie." (UN OCHA 30 Sept 2001)

As of March 2001, the highest number of displaced (13,000) was in the health zone of Kananga (UN OCHA Sept 01; 28 Feb 02)

The number of IDPs in Eastern and Western Kasai remained stable from Sept 01 to Aug 02 at 130,000 (UN OCHA 30 Sept 01; Aug 02)

Displacement in the Katanga province (2000-2003)

- Katanga province is divided between the northern part under RCD-Goma control, and the south, under the control of the government of Kinshasa
- 415,000 IDPs in Katanga as of Aug 2002
- 44,000 IDPs were displaced again by fighting that broke out in Ankoro in Nov 2002, according to World Vision

UN (OCHA) reported in July 2000 that:

"Along with the first-wave displaced of the Kivus, the IDP caseload in Katanga is the oldest as it was mainly generated during the August-November 1998 fighting in northern Katanga. All major IDP categories (according to their mode of settlement) known in the DRC are represented in this province: there are IDP camps in Lubumbashi, IDP resettlement sites south of the provincial capital, IDPs hosted in local communities and finally those dispersed in an area as large as 50,000 km². In total, there are some 250,000 displaced persons scattered in Katanga on both sides of the frontline." (OCHA 11 July 2000)

"La province du Katanga est aujourd'hui divisée en deux parties par la ligne de front: la partie Nord tombée sous le contrôle du RCD Goma et la partie Sud, sous celui du gouvernement de Kinshasa.

La situation humanitaire y est très préoccupante. Elle est caractérisée par des extorsions quotidiennes de la population et l'insécurité liée aux intenses activités militaires dans la partie agro- pastorale et piscicole du Nord- Katanga, l'enclavement et la rupture d'approvisionnement dû à la réduction du trafic commercial; les déplacements des populations et de la recrudescence de différentes épidémies, la spirale de la malnutrition." (UN OCHA September 2001)

The number of IDPs in the Province remained stable between Sept 01 and Feb 02. There were 415,000 IDPs in Katanga as of Aug 02 (UN OCHA 30 Sept 01; August 2002).

"44,000 internally displaced people were torn away from their homes yet again by fighting that broke out in Ankoro in November last year. Situated on the Congo River approximately 800 km from Lubumbashi, the Democratic Republic of Congo's second major centre, Ankoro has been on the frontline of the country's devastating war. The Congo River divides part of the town from rebel-controlled territory.

World Vision estimates that 3,000 homes were destroyed and more than 100 people were killed in the conflict last year, which erupted between government soldiers and Mai Mai militias.

Displaced families form the majority of Ankoro's population. They fled here from mineral-rich areas in the north, where much of the war has been played out. They come from surrounding areas such as Manono and Kaliemie and other areas close to Lake Tanganyika. Some families have travelled up to 1,000 km to reach Ankoro. Families walk for days through harsh territory with no food, arriving in new lands with no possessions and no relatives to provide assistance." (World Vision, 12 March 2003)

Displacement in Kinshasa Province (2001-2002)

- Kinshasa province has a population of over 6 million, among whom 40,000 are IDPs

"Sa population est estimée à 6.037.997 habitants. Kinshasa compte 24 communes urbaines et 34 de zones de santé. [...]"

Le contexte humanitaire global de la province de Kinshasa a été marqué au cours de la décennie 1990-2000 par la succession à la fois des catastrophes naturelles et celles dues à l'homme. Les événements les plus spectaculaires sont les pillages de 1991 et 1993, la série des accidents survenus entre 1996 et 2000, les inondations de 1999-2000, les érosions sur environ 400 sites et les deux guerres de 1996-1997 et de 1998-2001.

La crise économique qui frappe le pays n'a fait qu'aggraver face aux aléas la vulnérabilité d'une population Kinoise déjà très pauvre et sans pouvoir d'achat. C'est dans ce contexte que le ménage kinois doit faire face aux dépenses de la nourriture, de la santé, de l'éducation et autres." (UN OCHA September 2001)

As of early Aug 02, there were 40,000 IDPs in Kinshasa (UN-OCHA August 02)

Displacement in the Maniema province (2001-2002)

- The 1998 war created in Maniema a climate of permanent insecurity, destroyed infrastructure and caused massive displacements of population to the forest
- Report in March 2001 that the majority of the displaced in Maniema Province, about 100,000 persons, were in Nyembo
- Report in February 2001 that 68% of population in Maniema has been displaced
- The UN recorded 160,000 IDPs in Maniema as of Feb 2002
- The UN estimated that the number of IDPs reached over 41,000 by June 2002

"Le Maniema, jeune province issue de l'éclatement en trois de la grande province du Kivu en 1988, a dès le début connu des événements qui ont inexorablement conduit cette province dans une situation préoccupante. [...]"

La première guerre de 1996 a eu un impact modéré comparativement à la seconde guerre en cours depuis 1998 qui a achevé définitivement la dégradation générale de la province. Le front de cette guerre a créé un climat d'insécurité permanente, des déplacements massifs de la population vers les forêts, des destructions et pillages de toutes les infrastructures [...].

Le déplacement de plus de 100,000 personnes a paralysé matériellement et financièrement le maintien des infrastructures menant le Maniema à l'enclavement total et au chaos sur le plan socio-économique. [About 100,000 of them were in Nyembo as of March 2001]" (UN OCHA September 2001)

"The province of Maniema is one of the most isolated in the county. Its 132 square kilometres contain agriculturally rich land and formerly supplied Katanga and Kivu provinces with food. However, due to the extreme degradation of the provincial road and railway networks due to neglect, particularly since the outbreak of two wars, the province has experienced an economic decline, and suffers from a severe lack of information and technological expertise. Situated in a densely forested equatorial region, the only access currently to Kindu, the capital of Maniema, is by air." (ACT 5 March 2002, p.22)

UN(CHR) reported in February 2001 that:

"In Maniema, over 68 per cent of the population has been displaced. Humanitarian relief is able to reach only 50 per cent of the displaced persons." (CHR 1 February 2001, para.42)

Between Sept 01 and Feb 02, the number of IDPs remained stable at 160,000 IDPs (UN OCHA 30 Sept 01; 28 Feb 02).

" Les acteurs humanitaires opérant au Maniema ont contredit l'information passée sur les ondes de la RFI, selon laquelle il y aurait 13 000 déplacés à Kindu. Ils ont réaffirmé que ce chiffre est de loin dépassé, surtout qu'une opération concertée avait été menée en décembre 2001 pour dénombrer tous les déplacés de Kindu dont le nombre s'élevait à 24 216, soit 5847 familles. Suite aux récentes incursions des mayi mayi à la périphérie de Kindu, l'estimation des ONG locales est présentement entre 35 000 et 40 000 déplacés." (UN OCHA 15 Feb 2002)

"Although Kindu has been suffering dire economic consequences, it is the more recent war tactic that may plunge the population into a humanitarian crisis if the situation does not change soon. Starting in September 2001, the Mayi-Mayi began a spree of attacks, kidnappings, and rapes, which culminated in the encirclement of the town, preventing most of the population from accessing their fields for cultivation and harvesting. With 90% of its population reliant on farming as a means of survival, the town of Kindu is effectively being suffocated. Families are eating half of the portions they were eating six months ago and only one time per day instead of two or three. According to some local NGOs people are starting to die.

Displaced Persons in Kindu

Year Displaced	Nombre of Persons Displaced	Nombre of Families Displaced
1998	1,381	295
1999	1,105	236
2000	2,613	558
2001	8,657	1,849
2002	27,928	5,965
TOTAL	41,684	8,903

Source: Emergency displaced and malnourishment assessment conducted by the Consortium des ONGs et Eglises of Maniema, facilitated by OCHA and FAO Kindu, 21 to 23 June 2002. " (UN OCHA 25 June 2002)

Displacement in the North Kivu province (2001-2003)

- North Kivu is the province with the highest number of displaced in DRC with 760,000 IDPs as of Aug 02

- 120,000 people were made homeless following the eruption of Mount Nyiragongo near Goma in Jan 2002
- MONUC reports at least 130,000 people were displaced by fighting around Beni and Lubero in January 2003

"La province du Nord- Kivu a été confrontée au cours de la décennie 1990- 2000 à une série de crises humanitaires aiguës dont les plus importantes sont la guerre intercommunautaire dans le Masisi (1993 et 1996); la présence massive et prolongée des réfugiés rwandais (1994- 1996); la guerre de 1996- 1997 et la guerre en cours depuis août 1998.

La province du Nord Kivu est totalement sous occupation des rebelles du RCD Goma.

Les retombées négatives de ces crises ont affecté tous les secteurs de la vie, notamment le déplacement massif des populations et l'abandon des villages; les extorsions quotidiennes et l'insécurité généralisée consécutive à la multiplicité de bandes armées et à la prolifération des armes de guerre; la dégradation écologique; la destruction des infrastructures de base, l'enclavement des localités agricoles; le ralentissement des activités économiques et l'interruption du processus de développement." (UN OCHA September 2001)

"Recent confrontations in Nzulo and Mugunga entailed the displacement of more than 2000 IDPs families to Sake and Bugulube. It was noted at the 31st August 2001 meeting of the Commission for Population movements headed by SCF that the number of IDPs in the area was estimated at 796,000 in August 2001 compared with 640,000 IDPs in December 2000. This increase in the number of IDPs is due to continuous attacks registered in the rural areas of North Kivu." (WFP 13 September 2001)

The number of IDPs remained stable from Sept 01 to Aug 02 at 760,000 IDPs (UN OCHA 30 Sept 01; August 2002)

As a result of the volcanic eruption in Jan 02, assessments indicate that around 15 per cent of Goma town was destroyed, 120,000 people were made homeless and 147 died. (UN OCHA 28 Feb 02)

"At least 130,000 people had been displaced around the towns of Beni and Lubero, northeastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, the United Nations Mission in the DRC (known as MONUC) said on Thursday.

It said 23,000 internally displaced people had come from Oicha (30 km north of Beni), 40,800 from Mangina (30 km northwest of Beni) and the remainder from Rengeti and other neighbouring locations, MONUC announced on Radio Okapi.

The Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie-Kisangani-Mouvement de libération (RCD-K-ML) had accused the Mouvement pour la libération du Congo (MLC) of attacking its positions in Rengeti on Wednesday, RCD-K-ML Secretary-General Kolosso Sumahili told IRIN. 'According to the report that we have, it is a humanitarian catastrophe,' he added.

Meanwhile, MLC has accused RCD-K-ML of attacking its ally, RCD-National (RCD-N)." (IRIN, 2 January 2003)

Displacement in the South Kivu province (2001-2002)

- South Kivu is controlled by RCD-Goma
- The western part is characterized by intense military activity and massive displacement

- The health zones with the highest number of displaced as of March 2001 were Walungu (almost 62,000) and Bukavu (54,000)
- Number of IDPs in South Kivu province almost doubled from 225,000 in Sept 01 to 435,111 as of Feb 02
- In August 2002, the United Nations reported the estimate of 435,000 IDPs for South Kivu
- Following fighting in Jan 2002 south of Bukavu, 1500 families were displaced to towns nearby
- In the Fizi-Baraka region, approximately 20,000 IDPs went around Baraka to flee Mayi Mayi and Interahamwe militia which head towards Fizi early 2002
- About 40,000 people were displaced on the Minembwe/Itombwe Plateau in mid-2002 due to fighting between Rwandan army troops and dissident Banyamulenge forces

"La situation humanitaire du Sud- Kivu est presque identique à celle du Nord- Kivu. Elle est marquée par la présence massive et prolongée des réfugiés rwandais et burundais (1994- 1996) ainsi que les conflits communautaires à l'origine de la guerre de 1996, et la guerre en cours depuis août 1998. La province du Sud Kivu est totalement sous occupation des rebelles du RCD Goma.

Le Sud- Kivu connaît une forte densité de la population dans la partie Est l'exposant, de ce fait, à la carence de terre pour les activités agro- pastorales.

En revanche, la partie Ouest plutôt moins peuplée et à haute productivité agricole sert actuellement de zone opérationnelle avec d'intenses activités militaires entraînant les extorsions quotidiennes de la population ; l'insécurité ; l'enrôlement de la main d'œuvre masculine dans l'armée et les milices ; la déperdition scolaire ; l'abandon des champs et les déplacements massifs des populations. Les femmes et les enfants du Sud- Kivu sont les plus affectés par les effets de la guerre. [...]

Avec 353944 déplacés, le Sud- Kivu vient en deuxième position après le Nord- Kivu en nombre de personnes déplacées. Les deux provinces constituent ainsi la moitié des déplacés de la RDC."

As of March 01, the health zones with the highest number of displaced were Walungu (almost 62,000) and Bukavu (54,000) (UN OCHA September 2001)

The number of IDPs in South Kivu province almost doubled from 225,000 in Sept 01 to 435,111 as of Feb 02 (UN OCHA 30 Sept 01; 28 Feb 02). End July 2002, the UN reported the figure of 435,000 IDPs in South Kivu (UN OCHA 31 August 02).

"Les affrontements survenus le 20 janvier à Luhwindja, collectivité située en territoire de Mwenga à 65 km au sud de Bukavu, entre les groupes mayi mayi « Mudundu 40 » alliés aux Interahamwe et les forces du RCD épaulées par l'APR auraient causé un déplacement d'environ 1500 familles qui se seraient dirigées vers les localités environnantes. Notons que Luhwindja avait accueilli récemment environ 700 familles en provenance de Burhinyi ayant fui d'autres attaques des milices interahamwe. [...]

Dans la région de Fizi-Baraka, environ 20 000 déplacés seraient regroupés autour de Baraka fuyant, selon les ONG locales du milieu, la progression des mayi mayi et Interahamwe qui chercheraient à reprendre le contrôle de Fizi." (UN OCHA 15 Feb 2002)

"A worsening humanitarian crisis is unfolding in the south of South Kivu Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo, as fighting rages between mainly Rwandan army troops and the dissident Banyamulenge forces of Commandant Patrick Masunzu, humanitarian sources told IRIN on Tuesday.

"It is one of the hottest spots in the Congo," a humanitarian worker said.

Up to 100 villages have been deserted and some 40,000 people have been displaced on the Minembwe/Itombwe Plateau. Some have fled either into regroupment areas or into the mountain peaks and forests. "The fighting has apparently intensified over the past week with the use of aerial bombardment," the source said." (IRIN 2 July 2002)

Displacement in the Orientale province (2001-2003)

- Kisangani has been one of the stakes of both latest wars
- Orientale province is under rebel occupation, split between factions supported by Rwanda and Uganda
- The ethnic conflict between Hema and Lendu has plagued Ituri and caused 10,000 dead and 170,000 IDPs
- The highest number of displaced in the province as of June 01 were in Bunia (40,000 IDPs)
- As of Feb 02, increase of IDPs in Bunia by 20,000, not including the displacements due to the most recent interethnic clashes
- The UN reported 250,000 IDPs in Province Orientale in Feb 2002 and 500,000 for the Ituri territories in June 2002
- Rebel UPC authorities in Ituri cited 500,000 - one tenth of the population- displaced as of Feb 2003

"Oriental Province is the largest province in DRC, with an area of over 503,282 sq. km. and a population of approximately 8 million. The province is situated in the Northeast most part of the country and is divided into 5 districts (Kisangani, Low Uele, High Uele, Ituri and Tshopo). Kisangani, located on the Congo River and the third largest city in DRC, is 400 km. from the Rwanda border to the east, and 1,000 km. from the capital, Kinshasa, to the Southwest." (ACT 5 March 2002, p.4)

"La Province Orientale a été souvent qualifiée de «province martyre», se distingue sur le plan humanitaire par la singularité des événements vécus. Les points névralgiques ont été la Ville de Kisangani et le district de l'Ituri.

Pendant les deux guerres de 1996-1997 et 1998- 2001 Kisangani a été la ville de tous les enjeux pour les belligérants représentant ipso facto l'une des concentrations militaires les plus importantes du pays. Le dérapage a été consacré par les affrontements de mai et juin 2000 entre les armées rwandaises et ougandaises causant environ 1000 morts, 2000 blessés, la destruction des infrastructures socio-économiques, le traumatisme et la frustration au sein de la population.

La province Orientale, totalement sous occupation des rebelles est partagée entre les différentes factions soutenues par le Rwanda et l'Ouganda.

Quant à la situation en Ituri, elle a été marquée par le conflit ethnique entre les Hema et les Lendu. Cette guerre intercommunautaire la plus meurtrière connue ces dernières a causé environ 10.000 morts et 170.000 déplacés sans oublier ses retombées négatives sur le secteur de la santé, de la sécurité alimentaire, de l'éducation...Le degré de haine communautaire et d'atrocité a été tel que beaucoup de survivants surtout des femmes et des enfants resteront longtemps traumatisés par des scènes d'horreur vécue." (UN OCHA September 2001)

As of Feb 02, IDPs "increased by 20,000 in Bunia. This figure does not include thousands of new IDPs scattered in Ituri following the recent ethnic clashes." (UN OCHA 28 Feb 02).

"Parmi les 500.000 déplacés en Ituri (cf. Bulletin du 02/08 juin), 4.744 familles sont concentrées le long du lac Albert vers le sud entre les localités de Kasenyi, Tchiomia et Tara (dans les territoires d'Irumu et Djugu), selon la communauté humanitaire. Plusieurs sont sans abris.[...]

En plus de ceux-ci, il y a 7.800 personnes déplacées dans la région d'Iga barrière (territoire de Djugu) et plus de 5.247 familles dans la zone de santé de Bunia, sans prendre en compte les déplacés récents de Mandro et de Mungbwalu qui ne reçoivent pas d'assistance." (UN OCHA 19 June 2002)

"Fighting in Ituri province in the northeastern Democratic Republic of Congo has displaced 500,000 people, almost one in 10, since June last year, rebels in control of most of the area said on Saturday.

'We estimate the number of displaced people in all of Ituri since June at 500,000, out of a total of between 5.5 and six million,' Jean-Baptiste Dhetchuvi, foreign affairs spokesman for the rebel Union of Congolese Patriots (UPC), told AFP.

The UPC controls the eastern part of Ituri, between Bunia to the south and the Sudanese border to the north.

The troubled province of Ituri, which has been riven by bloody ethnic strife since 1999, also borders Uganda. Human rights organisations have accused Uganda of exacerbating the ethnic conflicts in the region, which it occupied for a long time and where it still has troops.

Dhetchuvi said aid agencies estimated the number of displaced people who had fled to Bunia 'at 25,000 families, or 125,000 people'.

They were mostly staying with locals, thereby avoiding the creation of refugee camps, he said." (AFP, 8 February 2003)

The civil war has caused a large number of displaced and unaccompanied children (1999-2000)

- 210,000 IDP children affected by the hardships accompanying internal displacement as of Nov 99
- 10,000 children in need in protection in the urban areas of the Kivu region

"[An] increased numbers of abandoned or street children in all major urban areas of the DRC prompted UNICEF to support a census of minors in Kinshasa, Goma, Lubumbashi, Mbuji-Mayi and Kisangani. The number of street children is estimated between 12-15,000 in Kinshasa alone. According to SCF/UK, the number of children in need in protection in the urban areas of the Kivu - 10,000." (UN OCHA 15 July 1999, "Children in Need of Protection")

"Approximately 1,500 unaccompanied children remained displaced early in the year at a camp in the city of Kisangani, in north central Congo-Kinshasa. Some 360 children in the camp died of cholera and dysentery before government authorities agreed to close the camp and transfer the children to different locations in February. Government officials claimed the children were Mai-Mai combatants."(USCR 1999, "Renewed War")

"Children in the DRC are worst hit by the adversities of the political and military turmoil and the accompanied economic collapse. Negative developments in child protection in the DRC can be seen in the following appalling statistics:

* An estimated 10-20,000 children under 15 were recruited as soldiers by all parties to the conflict;

*A unprecedented increase is being observed in the numbers of abandoned and street children (estimated 50,000) in all major urban centres as well as an increase of minors (estimated 25,000) attending nutritional rehabilitation centres and child-prostitutes.

* 210,000 IDP children are most affected by the hardships accompanying internal displacement (i.e., epidemic diseases such as measles and food shortages)." (UN November 1999, p.15)

"Abandoned children make up a substantial proportion of the displaced. In September, in the city of Kabina alone, there were 3,000 malnourished children out of a total population of 150,000, of which 15,000 were displaced persons (Hopital Catholique Sainte-Camille). In Lubumbashi too, the number of street children is growing fast. Estimates for this relatively new phenomenon are as high as 3,000 children. Perhaps this is an indication that essential family ties are no longer able to withstand the pressure of the circumstances." (MSF 25 January 2000, "Abandoned children")

See also: "Displaced children need protection from recruitment by armed groups (2000)"

PATTERNS OF DISPLACEMENT

General

People of Malemba-Nkulu, Katanga, have fled to urban areas or forest (Nov 2002)

- Since early 2002, population of Malemba-Nkulu have not stop fleeing fighting or cholera
- In Songwé, the majority of IDPs come from territories controlled by the Rassemblement Congolais pour la Démocratie (RCD)
- Little return movement, as people fear Mai Mai and Congolese Armed Forces

"Depuis le début de l'année , les populations du territoire de Malemba-Nkulu n'ont pas cessé de se mouvoir d'un coin à un autre du territoire, certains trouvant refuge au niveau de zones urbaines plus sûres , d'autres se réfugiant dans la forêt.

Des centaines de déplacés se trouvent au niveau de Malemba-Nkulu, Lubundoy et Kabambulu, ces derniers fuient soit les combats , soit le choléra et sont originaires des villages du territoire de Malemba-Nkulu pour la plupart.

Au niveau de Songwé, la majorité des déplacés proviennent de l'autre côté du fleuve, de Kalémie, Kongolo, Kabalo et de Manono, territoire sous contrôle des rebelles du RCD.

Le mouvement de retour reste fort timide, les gens craignant toujours les exactions des Mayi-Mayi ainsi que des FAC." (OCHA 24 Nov 2002, p5)

Spontaneous flight and forcible regroupment following intense fighting in South-Kivu (July 2002)

"Fighting between the Rwandan army and the dissident Banyamulenge forces commanded by Patrick Masunzu had displaced 'in excess of 40,000' people, the worker, who asked not to be identified, said.

"There appears to be two main forms of displacement,' the official said. 'There has been spontaneous flight from incidents and areas of intense fighting, and many people have crowded into villages around the centre of Minembwe. To the northwest, in the region of Itombwe, significant numbers are reported to have been forcibly regrouped into concentrated areas in order to deny opportunity for dissident fighters to shelter among the population.'" (IRIN 12 July 2002)

Forced displacement from areas rich in mineral wealth in the Kivus and in Maniema (2001-2002)

- In the Kivus, reports that activities of the Rwanda Army and of soldiers of the Rassemblement Congolais pour la Démocratie have led to the displacement of villages as the armies have moved into areas in order to 'secure' a mining site
- In Maniema, reports that the Mai-Mai and the Interahamwe have forcibly moved people out of rural areas where they want to be involved in mining and exploiting other resources

According to a report by the All Party Parliamentary Group on the Great Lakes Region and Genocide Prevention:

"It was also reported that the activities of RPA and RCD soldiers have led to the displacement of villages as the armies have moved into areas in order to 'secure' a mining site. Numerous cases were mentioned by local sources in North and South Kivu. There are also reports from Masisi, Walikale and Maniema that the Mai-Mai and the Interahamwe have forcibly moved people out of rural areas where they want to be involved in mining and exploiting other resources. For example, it was reported that the Mai-Mai took control of the gold and coltan area of Kampene (Maniema) in May 2002. As they have taken control of villages near to mining sites, the population has fled which in turn has sometimes attracted the RPA and RCD to try to take the villages themselves. Displacement has led to population movement into other villages, towns and forests, which has increased malnutrition and food insecurity and exerted pressure on depleted health and education services." (APPG Nov 2002, p29)

According to Amnesty International:

"Large-scale population displacement is particularly prevalent in areas rich in mineral wealth. In the Masisi territory of North-Kivu, on 29 June 2000, the RCD-Goma and RPA reportedly fired continuously into the air for an hour-and-a-half, terrorizing the local population and forcing thousands of people to flee, leaving the area empty and easy accessible to troops. In another case, 34,000 were displaced during the months of July and August 2000, and a further 27,000 in September and October 2000, due to fighting around the town of Shabunda, a rich coltan mining area. [...] Most of these Internally Displaced People are receiving no humanitarian assistance." (AI 19 June 2001)

Changed frontline and strategy by armed groups in South Kivu make the displaced flee greater distances (2000-2001)

- Previously IDPs used to make efforts to stay near their villages and fields
- Anticipation of an all-out war, affected communities flee on far greater distances
- New strategy of uncontrolled armed groups to destroy villages forces IDPs constantly on the move from village to village in search for protection from attacks by the numerous armed factions
- In some instances, people in South Kivu are displaced five or more times, in various directions, as fighting breaks out in their places of refuge

"For much of 1999 humanitarian agencies were able to trace and reach most of IDP communities, since their movement was generally stable once away from insecure areas, i.e. IDPs were on the move for some time and making efforts to stay near their villages and fields. The displacement patterns of South Kivu noticeably changed starting from November-December 99, but especially in January 2000 when the frontline stretched from western parts of Maniema province down to Shabunda and even Kalonge. The dramatic shift of the frontline that has also led to significant changes - the Mayi-Mayi activity is now perceived by the civilian population, especially in towns, as a resistance movement, with which it overwhelmingly sympathises. Thus a qualitative change in the patterns of displacement- in search of security and in anticipation of an all-out war, affected communities flee on far greater distances. If the current levels of tension were to be sustained for another month, the majority of rural areas of South Kivu might be deserted and a significant rise in refugee numbers in Tanzania might occur." (OCHA 15 February 2000)

" The fact that uncontrolled armed groups in the Kivus are much better armed and co-ordinated than previously results in focused fighting of longer duration. On a number of occasions during the reporting period the uncontrolled-armed groups (UAGs) have gained the upper hand over RCD forces. A distinct change in the modus operandi of these groups has been observed: it would appear they no longer fight, loot

and withdraw. In many instances they fight for control of villages or territories and remain there as an occupying force. This was notably reported by recent IDPs from Masisi in North Kivu.

[...]

The most important pattern of displacement in South Kivu during the reporting period has been the change in strategies of attacks on populations and thus the change in displacement practices. Those dwelling in forests habitually displaced from settlements to camps further into the forest in order to be out of the way of whatever insecurity arising. This would be sufficient to keep them protected until their villages were safe and they could return. This method of self-preservation is no longer adequate. It would appear that there are previously unknown UAGs operating who are clearing entire areas with the express purpose that people do not return to their villages. As a result, waves of people who had been living rough in forests are now being swept before UAGs, constantly on the move." (OCHA 17 April 2000)

"The continued fighting in North and South Kivu provinces in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has displaced nearly half a million people in recent months. Congolese have fled from village to village in an illusory search for protection from attacks by the numerous armed factions in the region. Host communities up to this point have welcomed internally displaced people (IDPs). Individual households have swollen to twenty or more people in some areas. However, African hospitality and limited international resources are reaching their limits." (RI 5 May 2000)

"This province [of South Kivu] has seen the development of a pattern of displacement in which civilians, whose villages are raided for food and livestock, have to flee either to neighbouring villages, or to large towns such as Bukavu. In some instances, people are displaced five or more times, in various directions, as fighting breaks out in their places of refuge. In other cases, people have returned to their home villages once security returned, only to be displaced by fresh fighting. For the most part, they flee without belongings and many of those who return discover that their villages and farms are burned or otherwise destroyed by armed belligerents." (ACT 13 July 2001)

IDPs remain close to their places of origin (1999-2000)

- Most IDPs are not housed in camps but have merged into host communities
- Some communities already enduring the stress of the conflict has to shelter other displaced persons fleeing other more insecure areas
- People living along river and roads used by the armed forces settle in the nearby forests and hills
- Civilians flee to temporary sanctuaries in response to rumors of approaching troops
- When the relative calm during the day gives way to terror at night people seek refuge outside their villages

"In rebel-held areas, the current conflict is marked by patterns some of which are similar to those that affected humanitarian action during the 1996-1997 war in former Zaire, i.e. all communities of Northern and Southern Kivu are considered - and consider themselves as - collective targets for military attacks. Massive, durable displacements are expected to have been amplified during the last three months. The situation is usually different in other parts of the DRC, where the populations are only afraid of looting and side-effects of military confrontations. Thus, they only leave their houses for as long as fighting, looting or take-over of a town will last at local level." (UN December 1998, p.14)

"A characteristic feature of displacement in eastern DRC is the fact that IDPs are not housed in camps but have merged into host communities. Their conditions remain precarious due to lack of farming land, vital services and general insecurity. Remaining in proximity to their places of origin, the displaced are prone to be subjected to the same hazards and abuses that caused them to flee in the first place. On a number of occasions during 1998-99, the displaced and local communities were stranded in combat areas and were removed by military authorities in a bid to create security zones.

[...]

Having fled hostility, displaced communities (IDPs) live in forests in overcrowded, inadequate shelters, with insufficient food, contaminated water supplies and no sanitation. Adverse forces at times accentuated by persecutory practices and abuses perpetrate the vulnerability of this group. In most cases they have to endure the side effects of the war - looted property, destroyed infrastructure, including health facilities and often damaged housing, when they finally return to their hometown or village. In addition, a significant number of such communities has to shelter other displaced persons fleeing other often more insecure areas." (UN July 1999, pp.8-9)

"Since the beginning of the war the roads and navigable rivers in DRC have become a source of danger for most civilians. These axes are used for movement of troops that are typically accompanied by looting and extortion. Hence, the strategy adopted by riverside and roadside populations, to settle in the nearby forests and hills where they could eventually cultivate. In case if the short-distance displacement took place within the harvest season, the prospects of losing the entire output are greater. On the other hand, in instances when the population has sufficient flexibility to prepare its displacement, certain belongings and food reserves are being spared. Because of widespread fears of the military, civilians often flee to their temporary sanctuaries in response to rumours of approaching troops. In high insecurity areas however, the population flees longer distances and for a longer time and eventually become "people in the forest" (see above). This phenomenon of proximity flight is especially noticeable on most significant axes. However, it is also the case with secondary axes overburdened with sustained presence of regular armies, passage or retreat of smaller groups of deserters or uncontrolled-armed groups." (UN November 2000, p.15)

"The number of displaced people around the Kahuzi Biega national park, near Bukavu, is increasing, independent humanitarian sources in the region told IRIN.

During the daytime, some of them work or go looking for food. At night, they seek refuge in banana plantations along the road towards Miti, Murhesa and Kafulumaye. The sources said they were fleeing attacks by Interahamwe militia, Mayi-Mayi and other armed groups hiding out in the forests. Relative calm during the day gives way to terror at night, when these militia groups carry out looting sprees, raping women and killing people who get in their way.

The forest-dwelling pygmies are not immune from attack. Aid organisations have requested them to integrate into society so that they can benefit from food distributions, as it is impossible to care for them in the forests." (IRIN 1 August 2000)

PHYSICAL SECURITY & FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

General

All parties to the conflict carry out gross human rights abuses with impunity (2002-2003)

- MONUC confirms serious human rights abuses by MLC and RCD-N troops in Mambasa territory between Oct-Dec 2002 - including executions, mutilation, cannibalization and forced displacement of Pygmic communities from the forest
- Massive human rights violations are continuing especially in rebel-held eastern areas of the country (controlled or contested by RCD-Goma, MLC and UPC)
- Impunity of perpetrators of gross human rights violations, especially high-ranking military officers, is major obstacle to promotion of human rights and peace
- According to the UN HCHR, some violations constitute crimes that could be brought before the International Criminal Court, among others
- Rights of women and children are particularly violated in rebel-held areas, where sexual violence is used as a tool of warfare
- Humanitarian access is difficult to populations in need, many of whom have been forcibly displaced and are seeking refuge in forests in the east
- Plundering of natural resources underpins gross violations of human rights

“MONUC Investigation Mission's preliminary report confirms human rights abuses by MLC and RCD-N troops at Mambasa and in the villages on the Mambasa/Mangina main road.

On 31 December 2002, MONUC deployed a multidisciplinary Investigation team to Mambasa, Mangina, Beni, in North-Kivu and Ituri - consisting of members from the Human Rights, Child Protection, Civilian Police sections as well as two members from the Public Information Office - following the serious allegations of human rights abuses perpetrated by MLC and RCD-N troops during their occupation of Mambasa territory on 12th -29 October 2002, since their return to the territory on 29 November, and during their advance towards Beni.

The investigation team interviewed 368 peoples - victims and witnesses alike- during the two weeks spent in Mangina and Oicha villages where tens of thousands of displaced people found refuge.

The investigation mission received testimonies corroborating ‘systematic looting and rape as well as summary executions and abductions, as war weapons, practiced by MLC and RCD-N military forces (including 19 UPC elements during the period from 12-24 October), in an operation which the aggressors termed ‘erasing the blackboard’ presented to the population as ‘a vaccination operation’, aimed at looting every house and raping every woman’. The summary executions particularly targeted the Nande community in Mambasa and the Pygmies as well as the populations in the villages located on Mambasa-Beni main road.

The report also confirms that among the people executed, mutilated and cannibalized, there were members of the Pygmies' community forced to leave the forest.” (MONUC, 15 January 2003)

“3. The human rights situation remains grave throughout the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Despite having committed themselves to political and judicial reform for the promotion of human rights, all parties to the conflict continue to carry out gross violations of human rights with impunity. There has been a

widespread failure to provide minimum guarantees to the particular needs of the most marginalized and vulnerable people: women, children, the internally displaced and those affected by HIV/AIDS.

4. MONUC, OHCHR, and the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo have continued to document massive violations of human rights continuing in the country, especially in areas controlled by the rebels of the Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie, Goma (RCD-G), the Mouvement de libération du Congo (MLC) and the Union des patriotes congolais (UPC). In Government-controlled territory, concerns continue over the administration of justice because of the weakness of the judicial system. In the territories controlled by the rebels, reports continue to be received of massive human rights violations, especially in the east of the country. The Special Rapporteur is scheduled to undertake a mission from 28 February to 10 March 2003 and she will report on her findings to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-ninth session in late March.

5. It is in this context that I visited the country to make a first-hand assessment of the human rights situation in the light of the signing of the Pretoria Agreement of 16 December 2002. During my stay, I held consultations with a wide section of actors in Kinshasa and Kisangani, including President Kabila and members of his Government, leaders of RCD-Goma, former President Masire (the facilitator of the inter-Congolese dialogue), the international diplomatic community, MONUC, humanitarian groups and civil society representatives.

6. My overall assessment is that the prevailing human rights situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is alarming and a threat to the fragile peace process. Despite the conclusion of the Pretoria and other peace agreements, the ongoing war in eastern Congo is causing massive violations of human rights and terrible suffering to thousands of civilians. The fighting in the Uvira area, clashes in the Ituri District and atrocities committed in the Beni-Mambasa area have led to the displacement of thousands of people.

7. Both the Government and rebel leaders have acknowledged that there are violations of human rights. However, the impunity of perpetrators of gross human rights violations, especially high-ranking military officials, is a major obstacle to the promotion of human rights and genuine peace in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Some of these violations constitute international crimes that could be brought before various courts, including the International Criminal Court. The Democratic Republic of the Congo ratified the Rome Statute on 30 March 2002.

[...]

10. The rights of children and women are violated all over the country, but especially in the rebel-controlled areas, where sexual violence against women and girls is a tool of warfare. Much emphasis was also put on the discrimination against women under Congolese law and the need to remedy this. I was informed that the recruitment of child soldiers as well as the use of women and children as forced labour continue in spite of efforts to put an end to these practices.

11. The already worrying humanitarian situation is deteriorating in view of the difficulties humanitarian groups face in reaching populations in need, many of whom have been forcibly displaced from their homes and are seeking refuge in the inhospitable forests of the eastern region. These are rebel-controlled areas. The belligerents prevent the humanitarian workers from crossing their respective zones of control. Ensuring safe access for humanitarian workers is especially crucial given the large number of internally displaced persons.

12. The continued plundering of natural resources and State revenues remains a destabilizing factor and underpins gross violations of human rights. The rapidly deteriorating state of the economy, exacerbated by the continuing conflict, is also a cause for concern. The dramatic reduction of household incomes has led to extortion by magistrates, soldiers, policemen, teachers, school administrators, doctors and nurses, thus rendering the entire public administration ineffective.” (UN SC, 24 February 2003)

Landmines are difficult to locate but present danger for civilian population and humanitarian workers (Nov 02)

- Kisangani, Ikela, as well as the Uvira region are thought to be heavily mined

"There is little information on the presence of mines in the DRC. Information gathering seems very difficult, but it is certain that most of the belligerents and their alliances have laid landmines more or less extensively, essentially along the frontlines. The presence of these mines is a risk for humanitarian workers and the civilian population." (UN 19 Nov 02, p62)

"While less of a hazard than in other mission areas, mines and unexploded ordnance are still present in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Most mines were planted in 1999 and 2000. In particular, the areas of Kisangani and Ikela are heavily mined. Reportedly, FAC, RCD, UPDF and RPA frequently used mines in the Mbuji-Mayi, Kabinda, Kabalo, Pweto, Beni, Buta and Tshopo areas. As a consequence of the conflict in Burundi, landmines were planted in Kivu in the Uvira region, close to the Burundi border. It is believed that Uvira, Baraka, Makobolo and the Ruzizi Valley are mined. Reportedly, UPC has also used mines in the recent fighting around Bunia." (UN SC 18 Oct 02, para.64)

Need to protect civilians in areas left by Rwandan and Ugandan troops (Nov 02)

- According to senior UN relief official, armed groups in Eastern DRC are deliberately inciting ethnic hatred

"The provisions of the Pretoria and Luanda agreements and the resulting withdrawals of the Ugandan and Rwandan troops from large areas in the east and the North of the DRC have already started to impact on the humanitarian situation in several ways, the most important being a widespread fear of anarchy and total disorder that might be created by the vacuum resulting from the rapid withdrawals in some areas in eastern and northern DRC.

The protection of civilians in evacuated areas remain of concern in view of past experiences and behaviours of some armed elements. In this regard any future role for the Mission de l'Organisation des Nations Unies au Congo (MONUC) in protecting civilians in areas of its proximity and ensuring the respect of Human Rights and Humanitarian International Law will be indispensable. (UN OCHA 19 Nov 2002, p38)

According to UN Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, Carolyn McAskie, "Armed groups in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) are deliberately inciting ethnic hatred as part of the ongoing fighting there, and unless the international community acts to forestall it, the country faces a 'massacre of horrific proportions,' [...].

[...]

In one incident, a hospital was surrounded and hundreds of people were killed, Ms. McAskie said, while children have been turning up in hospitals with mutilations and machete cuts. Sexual violence has also been used as a weapon of war by most of the forces involved in the conflict." (UN News Service 23 Oct 02)

Government troops and Mai Mai commit human rights violations in Malemba-Nkulu, Katanga (Oct 02)

- Total impunity of armed groups committing human rights violations
- Rape, looting of food stocks, destruction of goods and forced displacement are common

- The new administrator said to the UN that IDPs would be send back home as soon as possible and that humanitarian assistance would not be allowed

"Il est apparu que de nombreuses violations des droit de la personne sont intervenues tout au long de l'année et que bien que les combats aient cessés, la population continue à subir des exactions. La signature d'accords de paix entre le gouvernement et certains groupes Mayi-Mayi, le dépôt d'armes de certains de ces groupes, la levée de nombreux barrages, le remplacement des FAC par les PPU contribuent à détendre l'atmosphère.

Cependant la population continue à être harassée par les hommes en armes qui bénéficient d'une impunité totale.

Le viol, le pillage des stocks alimentaires et de semences , la destruction et le vol des biens domestiques, le déplacement forcé, les tracasseries aux barrages restent monnaie courante et sont perpétrés à la fois par les troupes gouvernementales et les Mayi-Mayi.

A proprement parlé la région est une zone de non-droit, plus aucuns services de l'Etat chargés de la protection du citoyen ne fonctionnent, et la loi du plus fort est d'application.

Lors de notre rencontre avec le nouvel Administrateur du Territoire , ce dernier nous a décrit une région pratiquement pacifiée et son intention de ne plus permettre aux déplacés de rester dans les centres urbains, d'interdire l'aide humanitaire et de les renvoyer chez eux au plus vite.

Les déplacés à Maëmba-Nkulu n'ont ni le droit de louer voire d'acheter un lopin de terre.

Bien que l'objectif d'un retour chez eux des déplacés soit louable et à terme la meilleure solution, toutes mesures prises afin de contraindre ou forcer les déplacés au retour ne peuvent être soutenues.

Recommandations

Promouvoir la présence sur place d'une antenne du bureau des Droits de l'Homme des NU ou de la section droits de l'homme de la MONUC dans la région ou à défaut des missions régulières. Soutenir la population déplacée qui fait le choix volontaire du retour par la distribution de kits de retour." (OCHA Oct 02, p9)

The Banyamulenge (Tutsi) community in the Kivus is threatened but receives little protection from RCD-Goma (2001)

- The Banyamulenge community, about 150,000 in the Kivus, has been frequently attacked by Rwandese Hutu, Mayi Mayi and Burundian armed opposition groups
- Far from protecting them, the deployment of Rwandese troops and the presence of the RCD administration have increased the ethnic tensions between the Banyamulenge (Tutsi) and the rest of the population

"The Tutsi community of the Banyamulenge, (Batutsi of Rwandan origin, not recognized as having Congolese nationality) a small minority of around 150,000, is located mainly in South-Kivu, in the *Haut Plateau* and in smaller communities in Uvira, bukavu and around Goma in North-Kivu. That the Banyamulenge community is threatened is not in doubt. In the *Haut Plateau*, they are effectively

surrounded by Rwandese Hutu, *mayi-mayi* and CNDD-FDD armed opposition groups. Attacks on the community by the Hutu combatants fighting the Rwandese and Burundian governments are frequent, and killings of Banyamulenge civilians take place on a regular basis, and many villages have been pillaged and burned down. The roads in the area are very insecure, depriving the Banyamulenge in the *Haut Plateau* of access to the market in Uvira on which they are economically dependent. Many Banyamulenge are too afraid to travel, and can no longer cultivate their fields, or attend to their cattle without risking to be attacked. Because of the growing insecurity, since June 2000 Congolese Tutsi have increasingly been fleeing to Burundi.

The continuing attacks by Hutu and *mayi-mayi* armed groups on the Banyamulenge and Rwandese inaction demonstrate that the Rwandese occupation is failing to protect them. [...]

In addition, while tensions linked to land issues or citizenship rights for the Congolese Tutsis have long existed between the different ethnic groups in the Kivus, the deployment of RPA troops and the RCD-Goma administration since 1998 has drastically increased the ethnic tensions between the Banyamulenge and the rest of the Congolese population. A local human rights defender told Amnesty International delegates that anti-Tutsi feelings were increasing, and that in his view 'the Banyamulenge community was in danger of extermination.' The Banyamulenge are often held responsible by other Congolese ethnic groups for RCD-Goma attacks on them and are blamed for Rwanda's invasion of the DRC." (AI 19 June 2001)

Several IDP groups subjected to forced labour (2000-2002)

- IDPs forced by armed groups to undertake agricultural activities, services and transportation
- HRW reported in 2002 that women and girls are abducted by combatants and have to provide sexual services and domestic labor

"Various field observations conclude that several IDP groups are being systematically subjected to non-remunerated activities, or basically forced labour. The most unfortunate ones find themselves in the hands of military, various militia groups and warlords, held as prisoners or hostage and employed for agricultural activities, services and transportation. Most strikingly, this category is not a rare sociological phenomenon, but a common arrangement practised in many parts of the country along the roads of exile. There are other categories of displaced that are being regularly exploited, however this kind of subservient labour arrangement is of economic origin and is not coercive: extremely impoverished urban displaced, for instance, migrate into the country side in search of food for labour arrangements. Typically, displaced in this category remain in villages and are used as subservient labour force." (UN November 2000, p.15)

"Combatants abducted women and girls and held them for periods up to a year and a half, forcing them during that time to provide both sexual services and gender-specific work. In addition to being raped, women and girls were obliged to do domestic labor, such as finding and transport firewood and water, gathering and preparing food, and doing laundry for the men who held them captive. [...]

When combatants moved camp, they forced the women and girls under their control to transport their belongings. When they raided to seize goods, they obliged the women and girls to carry their loot to their bases.[...]

The captors ordinarily held the women and girls at places distant from their homes and often in areas that were unfamiliar to them, making it difficult for them to try to escape. In some cases, women and girls were kept under armed guard.

Women and girls held in the forest ordinarily lived in conditions of misery in temporary shelters constructed of leaves, wood, and sheets of plastic. In one case captors deprived the women of sleeping mats

and forced them to sleep on the ground. In some cases, women and girls had no shelter and were exposed to drenching rains whenever the weather was bad. Often short of water and with no soap, women found it difficult to stay clean." (HRW June 2002, pp61-62)

Women and children

Displaced children need protection from recruitment by armed groups (2001-2003)

- Displaced children are particularly vulnerable to forced recruitment - as soldiers, domestic servants or sex slaves
- In Nov 02, the UN Secretary General named all groups which recruit children
- In Feb 03, the UN SG reported that children were still present in all armed groups in DRC, sometimes representing up to 35 percent of troops, and were being sent to front lines
- New recruitment, sometimes of already demobilized child soldiers, continued in early 2003
- Issue of impunity for war crimes and other abuses against children, including recruitment of child soldiers, was highlighted by the UN SG as a particular concern

"War and poverty have also led to the displacement of many children. Some are orphaned or unaccompanied and forced to live on the streets. Such children are at particular risk of recruitment into the armed forces. An independent observer told Amnesty International that all over the Kivus 'children have become cannon fodder and slaves: they are recruited to become soldiers. Girls and sometimes boys are forced to become domestic servants or wives of combatants, and sometimes they are also used for child labour and exploited without payment to work in the mines. [...]"

The break-down of the political, social and economic infrastructures (schools, communities, household, health facilities), as well as displacement, weaken or destroy children's immediate source of care and protection, making them an easy target for recruitment. Unable to adequately provide for their children's needs, some parents in the region believe that recruitment into the armed forces will offer their children the food, education and security they need, and encourage separated from their families, displaced or have limited access to education." (AI 19 June 2001)

"It is argued that children in different fighting factions have distinct social backgrounds, distinct explanations of how or why they came to be with an armed group, distinct experiences within the particular armed group and distinct prospects for social and economic reintegration. Because of the variations in their backgrounds and future prospects, it is very important to seek to understand how different communities perceive the role their children have played in the conflict and how receptive these families and communities are to the children's return. Further needing to bear in mind is the fact that over the course of years of fighting many child soldiers will be demobilizing as adults, yet their experiences as child soldiers will surely have repercussions for their long-term reintegration." (UNDP 28 Nov 2001)

According to the UN Secretary General:

"In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Pretoria and Luanda Agreements with the Governments of Rwanda (July 2002) and Uganda (September 2002), which support the principles laid down in the Lusaka Agreement of 1999, provide a concrete opportunity to move forward with disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and the withdrawal of Rwandan and Ugandan forces, coordinated by MONUC. In May 2001, several parties appearing on the list in the Democratic Republic of the Congo made commitments to my Special Representative to refrain from recruiting children into their armed forces or groups. These same parties are also signatories to the Lusaka Agreement, which imposes a similar restriction. In addition, in November 2001, the Democratic Republic of the Congo ratified the Optional Protocol on the involvement

of children in armed conflict, setting 18 as the age limit for all recruitment into the armed forces. A disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process for child soldiers has been initiated with the Government and RCD-Goma.[...]

Parties to armed conflict that recruit or use child soldiers

1. Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo
2. Mouvement national de libération du Congo (MLC)
3. Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie (RCD)-Goma
4. Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie (RCD)-National
5. Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie (RCD)-Kisangani/ML
6. Union des patriotes congolais (UPC) (Hema militia)
7. Masunzu's forces
8. Lendu militias
9. Ex-FAR/Interahamwe
10. Mai-Mai" (UN SC 26 Nov 02)

“36. Child soldiers are still present in all armed groups in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in some cases representing up to 35 per cent of the troops, and are being sent to the front lines. New recruitment, sometimes of already demobilized child soldiers, continues. Against that backdrop, the disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement or reintegration of child soldiers made halting progress. The Mission's Child Protection Advisers investigated reports of military camps in which minors were being trained and raised those issues with the appropriate authorities. In collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund, MONUC monitored and provided advice on the disarmament, demobilization or reintegration processes for Congolese child soldiers being set up by the RCD-Goma, and by the Government, which is preparing a new disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement or reintegration phase in Lubumbashi. MONUC is preparing to monitor implementation of the commitments made by MLC and RCD-K/ML to demobilize child soldiers under the Gbadolite Agreement of 30 December. There is a particular need to focus on setting up reintegration programmes, with the necessary resources to implement them, throughout the country in order to prevent demobilized child soldiers from returning to the army (voluntarily or forcibly) or the street, as has already happened in some cases. MONUC has contributed funds from the Norwegian Trust Fund to the non-governmental organization (NGO) Let's Protect Children, which runs a transit centre and reintegration project for demobilized child soldiers and other children in Musienene.

37. Child Protection Advisers participated in joint investigations into serious human rights violations where children were among the victims, including in Ankoro, Domiongo and Mambasa, and monitored the situation of minors in detention. Funds were provided to an NGO, the Bureau international catholique de l'enfance, for training social workers, lawyers and others on issues relating to juvenile justice and child rights. An increasing number of requests for seminars on child protection, including from police and judicial authorities, were received.

38. A particular concern is the need to address the issue of impunity for war crimes and other abuses against children, including the recruitment of child soldiers, as highlighted in my November 2002 report on children and armed conflict (S/2002/1299), which contains a list of parties in the Democratic Republic of the Congo responsible for recruitment of child soldiers. MONUC has monitored proceedings in Kananga regarding 36 military personnel accused of raping and pillaging in Domiongo in October 2002, some of whom have now been sentenced to death. Several of the 40 females raped were minors and at least two children were killed. MONUC remains seriously concerned about numerous irregularities in the proceedings relating to that case.” (UN SC, 21 February 2003)

For further background on the recruitment of children as soldiers in DRC, see 'Child Soldiers 1379 Report', Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, 7 November 2002 ([click here](#)).

Rape of girls and women of all ages has been extensively used by all forces in eastern DRC (2000-2002)

- Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have both reported extensively on sexual violence as a weapon of war (2001 & 2002)
- Church sources in Eastern Kasai reported systematic rape of school age girls by Rwandan troops (July 2000)
- Worsened security situation for women in Kabinda (Kasai Oriental) reported in September 2000
- In September 2001, women fled to Bukavu to escape being raped
- In its Oct 01 report, the UN Secretary General said that internally displaced women are often preyed upon by armed elements and have been the victims of torture, sexual and other abuses and ethnically motivated killings
- The UN reported in January 2002 that 40 women in Shabunda (South Kivu) had been victims of sexual violence by Mai Mai elements
- Girls living on the streets due to war or poverty are extremely vulnerable to sexual predation once they reach puberty
- Churches, women's associations and human rights NGOs denounce violence against women and girl
- Lack of response of de-facto authorities to protect women and girls

"Nothing better defines the de-humanization process that has developed over a decade of turmoil in eastern DRC than the culture of rape of women and girls by armed groups." (UN OCHA 26 Nov 2001, p.34)

"Sexual violence has been used as a weapon of war by most of the forces involved in this conflict. Combatants of the RCD, Rwandan soldiers, as well as combatants of the forces opposed to them – Mai-Mai, armed groups of Rwandan Hutu, and Burundian rebels of the Forces for the Defense of Democracy (Forces pour la défense de la démocratie, FDD) and Front for National Liberation (Front pour la libération nationale, FNL) – all frequently and sometimes systematically raped women and girls in the last year." (HRW June 2002, p23)

According to Amnesty International, "Rape of girls and women of all ages has been extensively used by all forces. 'Many women have been subjected to rape and other forms of sexual violence by members of the security forces,' the Amnesty report said. However, rape is seriously under-reported because of the social stigma that victims must endure." (IRIN-CEA 27 June 2001)

"In general, refugee and internally displaced women are often preyed upon by armed elements and have been the victims of torture, sexual and other abuses and ethnically motivated killings. Rape has been used as a weapon of war. The situation is particularly dire in the eastern provinces. The recruitment of able-bodied males into armed forces and factions have left households headed by women and girls to fend for themselves in a country whose economy and infrastructure has been decimated by years of war." (UN SC 16 Oct 2001)

In Eastern Kasai "Although the need for relief supplies (mostly medicines) is great, local church sources prioritise the protection of displaced and give an appalling account of violence (systematic rape of school age girls) civilians are subjected to by Rwandan troops." (UN OCHA 11 July 2000)

"In Kabinda, the security situation for women has greatly deteriorated. Many cases of rape, occurring when women go to work in fields, have been reported. This situation has created a food shortage since women do not dare walk to the fields as well as an exodus of women toward Mbuji Mayi, the only accessible town from Kabinda." (OCHA September 2000, p.10)

In South Kivu: "The fear of rape defines daily life in rural south Kivu, where rape became a privileged weapon and a normal practice in this heinous war, although much unknown due to the stigmatization of rape victims." (UN OCHA 26 Nov 2001, p.34)

" There were reports that Interahamwe militia in South Kivu Province often raped women. [...]

Rwandan troops and RCD rebels also reportedly engaged in the rape of women in public and often in the presence of their families and in-laws. A woman raped in this manner generally is forced out of the village, leaving her husband and children behind. According to a number of credible human rights organizations, marauding bands of armed men in the occupied territories often put victims of rape through further abuse by inserting rocks, sharp sticks, and hot peppers into their vaginas." (US DOS 4 March 2002)

"40 femmes du territoire de Shabunda ont été victimes de violences sexuelles et dépouillées par des éléments maï-maï. Elles se sont mobilisées pour dénoncer ces pratiques dans un document adressé aux autorités locales et à diverses institutions internationales en faveur du rétablissement de la paix." (UN OCHA 2 Jan 2002)

"Girls living on the streets due to war or poverty are extremely vulnerable to sexual predation once they reach puberty. If they cannot find a home or are not taken in by a child welfare center, they are almost certain to have to sell sex to survive. They may opt to join life in the training camps, where they are used as porters, sex slaves, or spies to infiltrate enemy encampments." (RI 6 Feb 2002)

"A U.N. official said that women and girls in Shabunda, like those who live from the charcoal trade in Kahuzi-Biega National Park "are very vulnerable for reasons having to do with livelihood and survival. They are the ones who go looking for wood, food, fruits, and they are taken when they are doing that. But they have to keep doing it even after they are raped." And after being displaced and often unable to cultivate normally for three seasons, the population is desperate." (HRW June 2002, p43)

In North Kivu

[As of late 2001] "...military activity was less intense in North Kivu than in South Kivu. Some soldiers and combatants nonetheless raped women and girls frequently." (HRW June 2002, p49)

Churches, women's associations and human rights NGOs denounce violence against women and girls

"Churches and some local NGOs provided both material and emotional support to women and girls who had been raped, otherwise sexually abused, or abducted.[...]

An increasing number of women's associations and human rights NGOs have begun denouncing abuses against civilians in the context of the current armed conflict, and violence against women and girls in particular. Investigators went regularly into the rural areas of North and South Kivu, speaking to the victims and witnesses, and they have pulled together a substantial amount of information about sexual violence." (HRW June 2002, p76-79)

Lack of response of de facto authorities to protect women and girls

"The de facto authorities, the RCD and Rwandan forces that support them, have taken few meaningful steps to protect women and girls against rape either by its soldiers or those of its adversaries." (HRW June 2002, p79)

"Dans la ville de Bukavu et ses environs, une ONG locale de défense des droits de l'enfant, PRODES (Programme pour le développement social) vient d'identifier 207 filles mineures prostituées, 376 filles-mères mineures, 67 filles violées, 57 filles mineures exploitées sexuellement et 129 filles mineures exploitées économiquement. Cette ONG vient de lancer un cri d'alarme pour attirer l'attention à la fois de la communauté internationale et des autorités." (UN OCHA 15 Feb 2002)

SUBSISTENCE NEEDS (HEALTH NUTRITION AND SHELTER)

Health

3.3 million people are estimated to have died as a result of DRC war, according to IRC (2003)

- DRC's mortality rate is higher than UN reports for any country in the world
- Health conditions are far worse in the east of the country than in the west
- Death attributed to violence decreased dramatically in 2002
- Mortality in eastern DRC decreased in 2002 compared to previous years

“A complex and violent conflict has raged across much of the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) since August of 1998. In 2000 and 2001, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) surveyed areas in the five eastern provinces of the country to document the magnitude of the humanitarian crisis. With improved access and security during 2002, the IRC was able to measure the mortality rate among 9.3 million people accessible in the east, and among 31.2 million people in the west, by conducting a statistical sample survey. In both the east and the west, 10 health zones were selected systematically, proportional to population, and 225 households were interviewed in each health zone. The findings indicate that:

The mortality rate in the DRC is higher than the United Nations reports for any country in the world. The crude mortality rate (CMR) among the people surveyed in the east was 3.5/1000/mo. (95% CI = 2.2 - 4.9); the figure was 2.0/1000/mo. (95% CI = 1.5 - 2.6) among those surveyed in the west. This indicates a national mortality rate of 2.2/1000/mo. if the 5 million inaccessible easterners are ignored, or 2.4/1000/mo. if the inaccessible are assumed to have the same mortality as the surveyed eastern population. This rate is twice the African average and almost twice the 1.3/1000/mo. reported by UNICEF for the DRC in 1997, the year before the war began.

Health conditions in the east are far worse than in the west. Aside from having a higher crude mortality, the under-five-year-olds in the east die at twice the rate of those in the west: 9.0/1000/mo. [95% CI = 4.0 - 14.0] vs. 4.4/1000/mo. [95% CI = 3.2 - 5.7]. Likewise, population growth is non-existent in the east and is 1.6% per year in the west. People in the west have a higher birth rate, one-third the rate of lost pregnancies, and lower rates of death from disease. In three of the ten health zones visited in the east, more than half the children die before the age of two years.

The rate of death from violence in the east has decreased dramatically. Compared to previous IRC surveys, in 2002 people in the east reported less than one-tenth the previous reported rate of death from violence. Both in places surveyed in the past and again in 2002, and as an overall average, the rate of violent death decreased dramatically in 2002 compared to the previous three years. In past surveys, violent death rates have consistently been correlated with the overall crude mortality. Probably not by chance, the only surveyed health zone with a large recorded outbreak of violence, Kisangani Ville, was the one place where the CMR increased from previous mortality surveys.

Mortality in the eastern DRC decreased in 2002 compared to past years. The CMR of 3.5/1000/mo. recorded during the 2002 surveys contrasts with the IRC's previous CMR estimate of 5.4/1000/mo. for the period August 1998 to April 2001. In four out of five locations previously surveyed during this war and revisited as part of this survey, the CMR dramatically decreased. The lower rates of death and violent

death, and an increase in the areas accessible to survey teams, all indicate an overall improvement of conditions in the eastern provinces .

Based on past and current IRC data, it is estimated that 3.3 million people have died as a result of this war. While this estimate could vary from 3.0 to 4.7 million depending on assumptions about the populations excluded from the survey, the conclusion remains the same: this is the most deadly war ever documented in Africa, indeed the highest war death toll documented anywhere in the world during the past half-century.

Many factors may have contributed to the improved health conditions in eastern DRC in 2002. While historians, public health workers and politicians would benefit from studying the causes of this exceptionally deadly conflict, they may profit still more by determining what caused the favorable turn of events during the fourth year of the war.

Nevertheless, the present CMR of at least 3.5/1000/mo. among 9 to 14 million people in eastern DRC is a crisis of extraordinary proportions, and the adverse consequences of this war continue. If the world's peacemakers and the international community fail to give due attention to this crisis at this crucial time, all of the gains made to date could easily be lost. It is hoped that the positive trends in mortality rates documented in this report will encourage diplomatic and humanitarian efforts and inspire the international community to stay the course toward peace." (IRC, 8 April 2003)

Conflict causes degradation of the health care system (1999-2003)

- Deterioration of health system has resulted in spread of cholera, HIV/AIDS and malaria
- Scores of health institutions were looted or severely damaged in Orientale, North and South Kivu, Maniema, Katanga and Equateur provinces in the wake of the August 1998 rebellion
- Continued looting by soldiers, rebels or armed individuals affect many centres along the frontline and in unstable regions
- Health care systems paralysed in many provinces as qualified staff have fled war-affected regions
- At least 37 per cent of the population don't have access to any formal health care
- Situation in rebel-held areas is even worse due to war damage
- Health personnel run the risk of being taken hostage or prisoner

Despite the number of actors and the range of several activities undertaken in the health sector, the Congolese population, especially the most vulnerable, continue to pay a high price. The Minimum Package formulated in Nairobi has not been put in place in the field in an efficient way, mainly due to a lack of funding. Even if the accessibility to the population has improved in some areas, numerous places remain inaccessible for the humanitarian community and the health indicators continue to deteriorate significantly immensely.

Due to the withdrawal of foreign troops, the health sector will face a much larger number of vulnerable populations due to new access to previously unreachable areas and because of the accessibility of areas so far untouchable and because of the return of displaced and refugees to their home villages. Some areas of the country will remain difficult to gain access to because of continuing inter-ethnic clashes.

The health sector itself has a number of weaknesses. The deterioration of the health system in general and of the water sanitation system in particular results in the rapid spread of hydro-diseases water-borne and cholera epidemics (e.g. Katanga where 15,000 cases have been registered since the beginning of the year).

Even if the routine vaccination coverage has improved over certain provinces, it remains too low to prevent epidemics of vaccine-preventable infant diseases that are evitable by vaccination such as rougeole measles.

The support that the country will receive through the GAVI (Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation) will contribute to the reinforcement of prevention activities for the youngest against the six diseases of the Expanded Programme of Immunisation (EPI) the PEV.

The has faced over the past years, she will also have to fight another one that is much more sour noise, namely the one against HIV/AIDS epidemic is already presenting itself as a major challenge. The sero-prevalence of HIV/AIDS is of 5% globally, but recent studies report figures for the east up to 24.2%. According to an epidemiological report of UNAIDS in 2000, 1,300,000 children between ages 0 and 14 and adults ages between 15 and 49 live with HIV in DRC in the DRC. Another 216,000 cases expect to be reported in 2001.

Other infectious diseases also remain huge problems do not rest either: paludism malaria remains the first cause of morbidity and mortality in DRC in the DRC. According to a survey of IRC and OCHA in 2001, the number of malaria cases is estimated at 10.06 millions and according to a survey by the PNLP 5% of pregnant women die of malaria.

The resistance to Chloroquine, the first line of treatment, varies between 29% and 80% depending on the province. These results have led the health authorities to revise their national policy in the battle against malaria.

The affects of war such as displacement, killings, physical and sexual violence, physical and food insecurity, coupled with the natural disasters experienced during 2002 (floods, volcanoes, etc.) has also left the population deeply traumatised and in need of psychological support. intervention during the Goma crisis has responded to real needs.

The results of the war (displacement, killings, physical and sexual violence, physical and alimentary insecurity, etc) to which natural catastrophes (erosion, volcano eruptions) are added, leaves a population that is traumatised and disturbed in their mental health.

Reproductive Health

The results of a nationwide survey conducted by the MoH revealed the following:

- : the national average of the maternal mortality rate increased from 870 in 1995 to 1,837 per 100,000 live births in 1998, with the peaks of 2,000 per 100,000 live births in Kinshasa;
- the decrease of the contraceptive prevalence rate decreased from 15 per 100 in 1987 to 4.6 per 100 in 1998; and,
- and the fall of life expectancy at birth fell from 52 in 1993 to 48 in 1998.

A recent study by the IRC indicated even a maternal mortality rate of 3,000 per 100,000 live births in the rebel-controlled areas. The very high levels of maternal mortality are associated with early sexuality and motherhood (the teenagers of less than 20 years contribute for 20% to the total fertility), too many pregnancies and births (the total is estimated at seven children per woman), unspaced pregnancies (the average period between two births is less than two years), motherhood at a late age, and induced clandestine abortions associated with unwanted pregnancies that affect 30% of the teenagers. All of this occurs in the context of rising On top of that are the high HIV/AIDS infection rates (see HIV/AIDS paragraph)." (UN, 16 January 2003, p41)

"A dearth of recent statistical data from across the country makes a full assessment of the population's access to health services difficult.[1] However, conservative estimates of the coverage of health facilities show that at least 37 per cent of the population, or approximately 18.5 million people, have no access to any form of formal health care.[2]

In government-held areas, the share of central government expenditure allocated to the health sector is less than one per cent – and has been barely more than this since Independence in 1960. As a result, the health system has always been run as a 'private' service, with patients required to pay. In areas under RCD control, there is no budget for health services. Additional support to the 307 Health Zones into which the

country is divided comes mainly from churches and other organisations. However, in 2000, 100 Health Zones received no external assistance, either from the government or from outside agencies. In addition, there is a severe lack of human resources. In 1998 there were only 2056 doctors for a population of 50 million people, and of these, 930 were in Kinshasa.[3] [...]

In rebel-held areas the situation is even worse, because a large number of the medical facilities in areas which were already under-resourced have also suffered war damage. In Masisi (North Kivu), 40 per cent of all health infrastructure has been destroyed, including the hospital in Mweso which was gutted and used by soldiers. In the Djugu territory in Ituri, many health centres were completely destroyed as the inter-ethnic war raged through its towns. All that now remains is rubble, medical staff having fled or been killed. In rebel-held parts of Kabinda Health Zone (Kasai Oriental), the disengagement of warring parties in March has allowed medical staff from health outposts to reach the town for the first time in more than a year. They reported that in 12 areas only one of the health centres has any medicine, and the rest are not functioning at all. Many have been looted, and have little or no essential equipment."

[Notes:

[1] Access is defined as both geographical and economic, ie being within a reasonable walking distance of a functioning health service and being able to afford to pay for the consultation and treatment.

[2] Figure published in the 8th Report of the Secretary General on the UN Organisation Mission in DRC (S/2001/572), 8th June 2001. However, OCHA estimates that the percentage could be as high as 75%, meaning that over 37 million people would be denied access to health care.

[3] Etat des Lieux du Secteur de la Santé, Avril-Juin 1998, Ministère de la Santé Publique] (Oxfam August 2001, pp.15-17)

'La santé pour tous dans l'année 2000 - Health for all in the year 2000', the slogan adopted by the World Health Organisation in order to stimulate primary health care, is just an illusion: 79 health districts are more than 100 km from their referral hospital, and only 9% of health districts have a refrigerator for storing medicines. In the provinces of Maniema and South Kivu, there are no longer any lab technicians employed. The number of working health centres fluctuated in 1996 between 30% in Eastern Kasai and 86% in Bandundu.

[...].Looting and a "first come, first served" attitude by soldiers, rebels or armed individuals affect many centres along the frontline and in unstable regions. Health personnel run the risk of being taken hostage or prisoner. Imports of medicines via the rivers have come to a standstill for logistic or military reasons. Due to the disappearance and deterioration of equipment, the drying-up of spare parts supplies and the failure to maintain buildings, the quality of medical care provision is declining rapidly." (MSF 25 January 2000, "primary health care")

Outbreak of cholera in Kasai Oriental and in Katanga Provinces (2001-2003)

- Cholera cases increased in Katanga province in early 2003, following a huge epidemic in 2002
- Current epidemic started in September 2001, spreading in late 2002 from Katanga to Eastern Kasai province, causing a total of more than 1,200 deaths
- Causes include lack of access to food and health care, poor hygiene, and contaminated water

"Since January 2003 the local health authorities and MSF have registered an increase in cholera cases in Katanga province. The new outbreak follows a huge epidemic in 2002.

'At the moment we count almost one hundred cases per week in Lubumbashi town and some three hundred in the whole of Katanga,' said Alain Decoux, MSF Head of Mission in DRC. Meanwhile in East Kasai province the epidemic does not show any sign of stabilisation, with an average of 250 new cases per week.

'In Mbuji Mayi town the figures seem to have decreased slightly but in the periphery, especially the mine sites, there has been a new increase during the past two weeks.'

This means that cholera is continuing to spread from village to village.

'The health care system in DRC lies largely in ruins', explained Luc Nicolas, operational coordinator for MSF in Brussels. 'Cholera is now becoming a permanent reality in the two provinces.'

The first outbreak of the current epidemic dates back to September 2001. Since then a total of 19,000 cases has been counted, with more than 1,200 deaths. During the last months of 2002 the epidemic spread from Katanga to East Kasai province, where MSF teams have counted more than 3,800 cases and 209 deaths since then." (MSF, 21 February 2003)

Not only a lack of sufficient access to health care and food are the main reasons for the cholera outbreaks. Hygiene is also very problematic. The majority of villages in East Kasai with cholera cases are involved in diamond mining. The waste water of this industry goes directly into the river Lubilanji that is used for drinking water by the population. The epidemic is spreading along the river, from the south to the north, because of the tradition of putting corpses into the river." (MSF 18 Oct 02)

Coping capacities of health authorities greatly reduced following volcano eruption near Goma (2002)

"Although the number of deaths, due to the volcanic eruptions and its affects, have been low (100-150), the crowding in shelters, poor water and sanitation conditions and inadequate health support seriously risk the lives of survivors, especially children and women, who are highly vulnerable to cholera, measles, meningitis, malaria and dysentery. With the destruction of five health facilities in Goma, the coping capacities of the health authorities have been greatly reduced.[...]

The HIV/AIDS epidemic has been prevalent in the Goma region even before the current crisis, owing to population movements and ongoing conflicts. However, the families who have been left homeless are now the most vulnerable." (UNICEF 19 Feb 2002)

"The major problems facing the people of Goma as they return are water and sanitation, shelter, food, medical care and schools." (Oxfam 23 Jan 2002)

See also the report of 21 June 2002 by WHO, Human health and vulnerability in the Nyiragongo volcano crisis DR Congo June 2002 [See below]

IDPs are more exposed to HIV/AIDS infection as a result of the conflict (2001-2002)

- IDPs have no means to protect themselves from HIV/AIDS infection nor access to information about its transmission
- 800,000-1 million children are orphaned because of AIDS
- Eastern provinces have the highest rates of HIV/AIDS infection, with 20-22 percent of population affected
- Coordination of actions against HIV/AIDS in the eastern DRC is not operational and inaccessibility to different HIV/AIDS services is still a major problem in regions outside government control

"Multiple troop movements and population displacements in the DRC, and to and from neighbouring countries with high HIV prevalence rates, have left the DRC well set for "an explosion of HIV/AIDS", according to WHO focal point Dr Tshioko Kweteminga, cited in an agency situation report late last week. [...]

National statistics collected through the health information system suggested that there were just under 10,000 new HIV cases last year but public health authorities have estimated – based on information from five regional sites – that there were in the region of 173,000 new HIV cases each year in the DRC, and almost 1.3 million adults and children living with HIV." (IRIN-CEA 15 August 2001)

"In both government- and rebel-controlled areas, the population has suffered greater exposure to infection as a result of the conflict. People who are internally displaced, or who have lost all means of earning a livelihood, do not have the resources to protect themselves from infection, nor access to information about HIV/AIDS transmission. Health structures have limited capacity to test patients for HIV or to screen blood used in transfusions. Women living close to military camps, with no source of income, have turned to prostitution, despite the risks involved, in order to support themselves and their families.

Human rights organisations have also registered many cases of soldiers raping women. In addition to mental and physical injury and the risk of pregnancy, rape victims are particularly vulnerable to contracting HIV because body tissues are more likely to be torn. There are six foreign armies fighting on Congolese soil, and on average, soldiers' rates of infection can be up to four times higher than those of civilians.[1] [...]

Unlike most other diseases, AIDS affects adults of child-bearing age particularly, leaving the very young with no one to care for them.

[Note: [1] "No Excuses", Christian Aid, 2001" (Oxfam 6 August 2001, p.28)

"The eastern provinces have the highest rates, with the number of people infected having increased fivefold (from 4 to 22 per cent) over the past two years in towns such as Goma, Bukavu and Beni." (UN SC 8 June 2001)

"Surveys among blood donors in eastern DRC show HIV/AIDS prevalence rates around 20%, four times higher than the National AIDS Control Programme figures." (UNICEF 11 Feb 2002)

According to the UN:

"1.The coordination of actions against HIV/AIDS in the eastern DRC is not operational, as the Central coordination Offices do not have the means for action.

2.The inaccessibility to different HIV/AIDS services is still a major problem, especially in the regions outside government control. Condoms, tested blood, voluntary tests and advice, treatment of STI, treatment of secondary infections, prevention of mother to child transmission are not available to over 20% of the population." (UN OCHA 19 Nov 2002, p63)

WHO says clear shift to public health approach needed to focus on the main killer conditions (2000-2001)

- Malaria is the no one cause of the population of 20 million in the east and accounts for 65% of all causes of morbidity (June 2001)
- Up to 70% of the population is now excluded from accessing basic health services
- As a result of difficult living conditions and lack of access to health care, diseases which had almost been eradicated are now recorded

- As of Nov 2001, less than 25% of the population have access to basic health services according to UN estimates

"Malaria is the number one cause of mortality for the population of nearly 20 million in the east. There are big problems of security, logistics and infrastructure, low access to health services, no preventative activities and a real lack of standardization of approach to surveillance and treatment. [...]"

Health care in DRC must be redirected from the current facility-based curative care to a public health approach focused on the main killer conditions if humanitarian interventions are to address the unacceptable mortality and morbidity evident in the country. This was the key message of a joint WHO-UNICEF mission which spent late July in DRC.

The mission found that, despite good intentions, up to 70% of the population is now excluded from accessing basic health services, while all forms of preventative public activities are severely curtailed, not least because salaries of health service workers are linked to curative care. This observation led to the mission's second key recommendation: that "health worker remuneration must be separated from payment by patients... and linked to performance of a package which directly targets the main killers, both in the health centre and at household level." (WHO 9 August 2001)

"As a result of difficult living conditions and lack of access to health care, diseases which had almost been eradicated, such as bubonic plague and whooping cough, are now being recorded. There have also been numerous epidemics of measles and cholera, and reported cases of haemorrhagic fever, monkey pox, and meningitis." (Oxfam 6 August 2001, p.19)

"More than half of the health zones do not receive any external support and less than 25% of the population have access to basic health services (UN OCHA 26 Nov 2001, p.42)

"Malaria accounted for some 36 percent of all causes of morbidity in December 2000 and grew to 65 percent of all causes of morbidity by the end of June 2001. [...] (Department of Public Health, Ministry of Health, DRC)." (IFRC 1 Jan 2002, Sect.3)

Appalling health conditions among IDPs in South Kivu (2000-2002)

- Most common diseases are malaria, respiratory infections, diarrhea, malnutrition, anemia and amoebiasis
- Reported that cholera is endemic
- In South Kivu, average crude mortality rate amongst IDPs is estimated at 6.0/1000/month, which is very high
- Significant outbreak of meningitis from Sept to Dec 2001

"Most IDPs are in Kivu province on the Rwandan border and they live in extremely poor conditions. They are able to plant crops on an irregular basis. Malnutrition rates have risen and now stand at 10% of the population. Health services and education, which operate broadly on a pay-as-you-go system, have become increasingly inaccessible to the impoverished population. There have recently been epidemics, notably haemorrhagic fever, measles and most importantly, cholera, in the region." (SCF 31 December 2000)

In South Kivu, "The average crude mortality rate amongst displaced populations is estimated to be 6.0/1000/month; this is very high when considered against the baseline rate of 1.2 reported by UNICEF before the war. A number of endemic diseases, and a particularly worrying epidemic of cholera, are reported in some areas in the province." (ACT 13 July 2001)

"In the Sud Kivu : the FAO has described the situation in Shabunda and Mwenga as « frightening », because of the flight of the population into the forests as a means of fleeing RCD Goma rebels, the Rwandan army and the militias. The author of the FAO report who met some of these people notes "... they don't have anything human except the shape of a body. The feet are inflated, with several wounds, an empty look... they mention a lot of cases of mortality in the forest for lack of healthcare. Their nutritional state is very disturbing." The number of these displaced in forests is estimated at more than 100,000 for the territory of Shabunda alone, out of a total population estimated at 475,000 people. " (OCHA September 2000)

"The situation in Shabunda, South Kivu, is reported as desperate. A UN mission, visiting the town in July, described the town as an "islet" controlled by RCD-Goma and surrounded by forces opposed to the RCD. About 34,000 displaced people have converged on the town itself, dislodged from their homes by fighting between the RCD and opposing forces such as the Mayi-Mayi and Interahamwe militias. These IDPs have little to eat, and no access to medical services and shelter." (UNICEF 10 October 2000)

"The most common diseases are malaria, respiratory infections, diarrhea, malnutrition, anemia and amoebiasis. Cholera is endemic. In May 2000 124 cases were reported in Uvira health zone. ACF-USA conducted 2 mortality surveys in the context of nutritional surveys in Lemera in January 2000 covering October-December 1999 and in Uvira in April, 2000, covering January March. They only include the accessible part of the health zones. Specifically the Hauts and Moyens Plateaux and the areas very close to the Burundian border are not included.

Zone de santé	Mortality rate under-fives (<5years)
Lemera	2.46 / 10,000 / day
Uvira	2.68 / 10,000 / day

For WHO, 2 deaths/10,000/day trigger a state of alert, while 4/10,000/day indicates an acute emergency (WHO under 5 mortality thresholds).

These figures are alarming but do not indicate massive mortality either. However, the studies only cover the areas that are most accessible and thus where relief has been provided. When compared with the dramatic figures of the recent IRC mortality survey in, for instance, an area such as Moba, south of Baraka, along the Lake Tanganyika in Northern Katanga, where no assistance was given in the past two years, it is clear that these alarming rates are only the top of the iceberg. Moreover, the ACF-USA surveys only cover three months. It is very likely that many deaths occurred before that period but are not included in the study. This is especially likely, given the near absence of health care, the lack of food security and the prevalence of severe malnutrition." (AAH August 2000, sect. 4.3)

"From September until December 2001, there was a significant outbreak of meningitis in South Kivu." (UN SC 15 Feb 2002, para.73)

"Plus de 300 cas de méningite ont été recensés dans la zone de santé de Katana dans le Sud-Kivu.[...] Seules 7 zones de santé sur 14 sont accessibles en raison d'une forte présence militaire." (UN OCHA 22 Oct 2001)

Civil war inflicts unbearable hardship on women and children (2000-2002)

- Violence perpetrated against women a feature of the war
- Absence of functional maternity wards
- Number of women dying as a result of pregnancy is three to five times higher than the African average

- Significant number of women and girls are infected with STD through rape, the most deadly being HIV/AIDS and do not seek medical treatment
- UNICEF/DRC government study shows high level of malnutrition, insufficient vaccination of children, very limited access to prenatal care; rising infant and childhood mortality and significant decrease of number of children attending school (Oct 02)

"Continued war in the DRC is a double-edged dilemma from a woman's perspective: an ever-present appalling violence and a blow to the most basic rights, pitted against an unprecedented opportunity to play a fairer role in the common response to the crisis. [...]"

The amazing endurance of the Congolese woman has been forged throughout the country's 30 years of social and economic decline, deadly natural and industrial disasters, and sporadic warfare since October 1996. The most striking effect of Congo's recent crises on women –small and major, natural and man-made – is reflected through the following:

The Ebola outbreak in Kikwit, Bandundu (peak in May-June 1995) showed images of Congolese and foreign nurses putting their own health at risk for their early commitment towards incurable patients with no protective equipment. The plane crash at Ndolo airport (January 1996), one of the worst aircraft accidents in history (more than 300 deaths) killed mostly female traders and buyers who were encouraged by "informal state structures" to push survival trade onto airport runways. Ever since the winds of war have swept through Congo, a country that strikes every visitor with its perpetual use of the word *maman*, violence perpetrated against women has become a morbid reflection of an increased resignation to the horrors of war. Massacres of Hutu Rwandan refugee women in Biaro or Mbandaka, massacres of mostly female and infant villagers in the Kivus (Kasika, Makobola), soldiers burying women alive in Mwenga, rumours of rape by HIV-infected soldiers in eastern DRC, forced labour of thousands of displaced communities at soldiers' disposal - these are but most visible features of woman's suffering.

A less visible mark, yet deadlier in the longer term, are problems associated with motherhood: the chances of a pregnant woman finding a functional maternity ward and being able to afford to benefit from its services in today's DRC are the slimmest in four decades. Statistics of maternal mortality mentioned in the 2000 Appeal – 1,837 deaths per 100,000 births, one of the highest in the world – have been echoed by IRC findings in eastern DRC areas (3,000/100,000). Lack of hygiene and sanitary facilities coupled with massive displacements, poor nutrition and expanding spots of health deserts have produced a risky environment that is and will inevitably alter the country's demographic profile. Mothers carrying both their babies and a 20 kg load of wood in one subtly tied piece of cloth along the roads of South Kivu are more than an embodiment of women's fate in today's DRC: behind their solid gait, they remind us of how frail the whole society has become." (UN November 2000, p.15)

"The number of women dying as a result of pregnancy is three to five times higher than the African average. Under-nourishment, forced and economic prostitution, overwork for insufficient compensation, untreated ailments and the psychological strain of maintaining large families are exacting a terrible toll. Out of the 2.5 million babies born in an average year, 20% will not reach their first birthday. Infant mortality is 50% higher than the African average." (UN 26 Nov 2001, p.42)

"A significant number of women and girls are infected with sexually transmitted diseases through rape and for any or all of the above reasons [such as stigma of rape] do not seek treatment unless it is absolutely necessary. The large majority of rape victims interviewed had never received any medical treatment after the rape, and often did not even tell doctors about the rape when they gave birth. Social workers and medical staff confirmed that only a small minority of victims ever get any treatment. Thus, many relatively easily treatable sexually transmitted diseases remain untreated, some causing considerable pain and inconvenience to the woman, and some causing irreversible consequences. The most deadly disease that can be contracted through rape is HIV/AIDS. Not only are the lives of HIV-positive women and girls shortened and their livelihood possibilities seriously impaired, but being HIV-positive or even being

suspected of being positive adds to the stigma of rape to make for a double stigmatization of these women and girls. One woman who had been raped said that her husband rejected her, saying he was afraid that she had contracted HIV and would "contaminate" him. ¹⁷⁷ The scarcity and high cost of HIV testing makes it more difficult for women who are not infected to demonstrate this to their husbands and families." (HRW June 2002, p69)

UNICEF study on women and children:

"A new study by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Ministry of Planning and Reconstruction of the Democratic Republic of the Congo has shown that the condition of women and children in the has not improved since the last such study was carried out in 1995.

According to the latest "Enquete Nationale sur la Situation des Enfants et des Femmes", released on Monday, malnutrition of children and their mothers remains high, vaccination of children is still insufficient, access to prenatal care remains very limited, infant and childhood mortality are continuing to rise, and the number of children attending school has decreased significantly.

In a statement, UNICEF said that the myriad of problems documented by this latest study "date back many years, and their solution was to be found in a radical change of development policy and greater awareness-raising of communities".

The information for the 'Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2' was gathered by a team of 355 people from April to October 2001 in all provinces of the country, in an effort to evaluate progress made since the 1990 World Summit for Children. 10,305 households were visited for the study, which received the technical and financial support of UNICEF and the US Agency for International Development. "" (IRIN 16 Oct 02)

For more information, see the study:

UNICEF/Ministry of Planning and Reconstruction of the DR Congo July 2002, Enquête nationale sur la situation des enfants et des femmes MICS2/2001, Rapport d'analyse, Kinshasa, [reference below]

Nutrition and food

Malnutrition on the increase among IDPs in eastern DRC (2001-2003)

- Many populations have exhausted their coping mechanisms, and are unable to meet their basic nutritional needs
- As a result of massive displacement, between 10 and 30 percent of population in some areas in Katanga, Orientale, North and South Kivu suffer from acute malnutrition (Nov 02)
- In 2001, 16 million people (33 % of population) were estimated to have critical food needs as a result of prolonged displacement and other factors

"During 2002, the general acute malnutrition remained unchanged. Areas that were previously inaccessible, such as North Katanga, experienced an improvement in the rate of malnutrition. However, areas such as South Kivu and Ituri saw an increase in armed conflict lead to increased rates of acute malnutrition.

A June 2001 study by WHO and UNICEF reported that the majority of the Congolese live on US\$ 0.20 a day, and consume less than two thirds of the calories required to meet their basic needs and remain healthy. With the continuation of the war in certain areas and the continued economic instability, many populations will remain vulnerable as they cannot meet their basic nutritional needs. Without intervention, these families will not possess the coping mechanisms needed to react and adjust to crisis. This coupled with limited access to basic social services and limited access by humanitarians to the most vulnerable places

millions of Congolese in a precarious state. Overall, the coping mechanisms that enabled most of the population to survive crises are by now totally exhausted. Insecurity and bad infrastructure make it difficult to gain access to the most vulnerable population, and this holds for punctual and sustainable humanitarian interventions." (UN, 16 January 2003, p43)

"Between 10 percent and 30 percent of the population are suffering from acute malnutrition in many areas of eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), says the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). Those most affected are women and children.

The hardest-hit areas are Kiambi, Nyunzu, Manono, Pweto, Pepa, Kalemie and Malemba-Nkulu in Katanga Province; Bunia, Mahagi, Mambasa and surrounding villages in Orientale Province; Shabunda, Walungu, Ngweshe, Bunyakiri and the plain of Ruzizi in South Kivu; and Beni, Butembo, Rutshuru and Masisi in North Kivu Province.

The high rates of malnutrition were attributable to massive displacement resulting from ongoing fighting in the region, Ad Spijkers, the FAO's representative in the DRC, told IRIN. Forced to flee at a moment's notice, people had been unable to carry away food, seeds or tools with them. Moreover, the displaced people had also become a huge burden on the areas to which they had fled.

"Under these conditions, everyone - that is the displaced populations and the families in the areas they flee to - loses the capacity to feed themselves," he said.

General insecurity in the region was uprooting people repeatedly as soldiers, rebels and militia groups looted villages and emptied homes of food, drugs, stocks of seeds, electric household appliances, tools, and clothing, he said.

Malnutrition in eastern DRC, an area with enormous agricultural potential, was a new phenomenon, except for parts of South Kivu where the density of the population was significant and the soil not very fertile, said Spijkers." (IRIN 6 Nov 02)

"Some 16 million people in the Democratic Republic of the Congo are estimated to have critical food needs as a result of prolonged displacement, the rupture of traditional sources of supply due to war and the alarming increase in prices." (UN SC 8 June 2001, para.57)

IDPs in Mambasa, Orientale province, face food shortages (2003)

- Most of the residents of Mambasa are continuing to hide in the forest waiting for rebel groups to leave
- People are unable to access their fields during harvest season, so are entirely dependent on humanitarian aid

"Tens of thousands of displaced residents of the northeastern town of Mambasa are threatened by hunger, even though three rebel groups have begun to withdraw from the area, according to the UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), known as MONUC.

"There are no more than 300 people remaining in Mambasa. It is a ghost town, because its residents are still hiding in the forest waiting for the rebel groups to leave," Patricia Tome, MONUC's chief of public information, said at a news conference in the capital, Kinshasa, on Wednesday. About 30,000 people normally live in Mambasa.

'It is now the harvest season, but the population does not have access to its fields, and will therefore depend entirely on international humanitarian aid - but this must be sent as soon as possible,' she said.

The heads of the three rebel movements - Jean-Pierre Bemba of the Mouvement pour la liberation du Congo (MLC), Roger Lumbala of the Rassemblement congolais pour la democratie-National (RCD-N), and Mbusa Nyamwisi of the RCD-Kisangani-Mouvement de liberation (RCD-K-ML) agreed in the northwestern DRC town of Gbadolite on 30 December to withdraw their forces to the positions they held prior to the most recent outbreak of hostilities.

[...]

The latest round of hostilities among the three rebel movements erupted only three days after the ceasefire was signed, and resulted in the new displacement of thousands of people. According to MONUC, some 130,000 people were already displaced in the surrounding region." (IRIN, 8 January 2003)

See also 'Informations sur la sécurité alimentaire en RDC No. 27,' FAO, 30 December 2002 [\[click here\]](#)

FAO survey in Kinshasa, Kasai Oriental and Katanga found significant shortfall of calorific and protein intake (July 2002)

"The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo has found significant levels of caloric deficiency and food insecurity in poor and densely populated areas of the capital, Kinshasa. This finding results from a survey conducted in June in the city's Masina Pascal and Kingasani Mont-Kali communes.[...]

The average size of the Kinshasa household was found to be 8.8 people, an increase of 10 percent from the year 2000. It can be explained in part by the arrival in the capital of populations fleeing conflict zones and poverty in rural areas, as well as by a growth in population.[...]

The study also highlighted the situation in the central DRC province of Kasai Oriental and the southern province of Katanga where, despite a stabilisation of food prices, an "alarming shortfall" of caloric and protein intake, due largely to unemployment, was found. FAO expressed particular concern for the hundreds of thousands of people living in areas of Katanga inaccessible to humanitarian assistance due to continued military activity." (IRIN 19 July 2002)

Malnutrition of small children in Baraka (Territory of Fizi, South Kivu) (Feb 2002)

In Baraka, "Families more recently displaced from the interior of Fizi are sheltering in some of them. In December there were estimated to be over 15,000 displaced people in the vicinity of Baraka, and there are additional smaller concentrations northwards along the lakeshore. There have been repeated outbreaks of cholera in recent months. The latest ones in Baraka have been somewhat stemmed by dispatch of serum from Uvira by ACF, but a new major outbreak has just been reported in and around Kazimia. With the rains in progress there is evidence of new planting of manioc and other food crops which is in some measure due to seed deliveries sent down, again by ACF, to local organisations that they worked with when they were here several years ago. There is no other evidence of any humanitarian supplies reaching Baraka or anywhere else in Fizi over the past couple of years. Malnutrition is evident particularly in small children. The most urgent needs are for nutrition and basic medicines, followed by non-food items, farming tools and, on the Plateau, veterinary supplies and seeds, particularly beans, maize and new banana stocks (there seems to be some sort of blight affecting the bananas). After that it is a question of rehabilitating schools and health posts, and supplying roofing sheets." (IA Feb 2002)

Alarming high malnutrition rates among displaced and other children (2001-2002)

- In rebel-held areas, global malnutrition rates among children under five have reached 41 % and severe malnutrition rates up to 25.79% (SCF-UK & Nueva Frontiera surveys)
- In certain parts of government-held areas, global malnutrition rates among children have reached 42% (SCF-UK survey)
- In certain areas of Katanga, there are reports of alarmingly high malnutrition rates at 28 % among young children (August 2001)
- In remote areas of Equateur Province, majority of children under 5 suffer from malnutrition and child mortality rates are reportedly unacceptably high (Dec 01 & Feb 02)
- World Vision found a 13.9% rate of serious malnutrition among children under 5 in Rwanguba health zone (North Kivu)
- In Kindu (Maniema Province), IDP and resident children show alarming signs of malnutrition (June 2002)

"In rebel-held areas, the rates of global malnutrition among children under five reported in the past year have reached 41 per cent,[1] with severe malnutrition rates of up to 25.79 per cent.[2] These figures were recorded at the point at which the humanitarian community gained access to previously isolated communities. Consequently, it is reasonable to expect that in areas of the east which continue to be too insecure to allow any form of assistance to be delivered, the situation is at least as bad, and possibly worse. Displaced populations inaccessible in the forests are in a particularly bad nutritional state, as illustrated by WFP's figures for South Kivu, which show that 75 per cent of malnourished children currently registered in feeding centres belong to families which have just emerged from the forests. When Manono and Kiambi (northern Katanga) became accessible in January 2001, Nuova Frontiera conducted a nutritional survey which found a global malnutrition rate among under fives of 32.07 per cent and a severe malnutrition rate of 25.79 per cent. [...]

Nor have parts of the government-held territories been spared. [...] A survey conducted by Save the Children UK in the poorest parts of the Commune of Kimbanseke in April 2001 found that 42 per cent of children are chronically malnourished, and that global malnutrition rates had reached 18.3 per cent. [3] The severe malnutrition rate in these areas was also found to have tripled between September 1999 and January 2001.[4]

[Notes:

[1] Global malnutrition rate registered by SC UK during a vaccination campaign in Bunyakiri, South Kivu. The methodology used was a first screening using MUAC and oedema detection. No anthropometric measurements were taken.

[2] Rapport de l'enquête nutritionnelle dans la ville de Kiambi, Nuova Frontiera, March 2001

[3] Nutrition Survey in Tshimungu, Mapela, Kimbanseke and Lobiko Aires de Santé, Save the Children UK, 28 April 2001

[4] Kinshasa, Enquetes Nutritionnelles, Communes de Kimbanseke, Selembao, Bumbu et Kisenso ACF-USA/Ceplanut, 31 January – 23 February 2001]" (Oxfam August 2001, p. 26)

In Katanga, "A recent nutritional survey conducted in the area of Kabongo and Kitenge reports alarmingly high malnutrition rates at 28 percent among young children. Some 1,500 under five years of age are suffering from global acute malnutrition, with a high prevalence of Kwashiorkor, a life-threatening disease caused by an extreme lack of protein that turns a child's hair blonde and leaves faces and limbs swollen with fluids." (WFP 13 August 2001)

In the Kivus, "Children, as usual, are being disproportionately impacted by the displacement. Therapeutic and supplementary feeding centers remain full. However, a shortage of therapeutic dry milk is being felt,

and many local centers which care for hundreds of children are scrambling to supply this life-giving commodity." (RI 14 September 2000)

"In Mbandaka, Gbadolite and more especially in the more remote areas of Equateur Province, MONUC has observed that the majority of children under 5 suffer from malnutrition, that child mortality rates are reportedly unacceptably high and that the expanded vaccination programme in Gbadolite has been interrupted since mid-2000." (UN SC 15 Feb 2002, para.74)

UN Mission to Befale, Equateur: "la mission organisée fin novembre 2001 par OCHA en Equateur avait pour objectif d'évaluer les possibilités d'apporter un appui à la réintégration des déplacés dans leurs localités d'origine. A l'issue de cette mission les participants ont jugé qu'une évaluation nutritionnelle des enfants de Befale s'avérait nécessaire [...]"

En définitive, sans être d'une urgence aiguë, la situation nutritionnelle dans la cité de Befale est très préoccupante." (UN OCHA 13 Dec 2001)

"An assessment of the health, nutrition and food security of people living in Rwanguba health zone, a war-affected area northeast of Goma in North Kivu province, has found a 13.9% rate of serious malnutrition among children under 5. World Vision has been addressing malnutrition among war-affected children in North and South Kivu provinces since 1998." (WVI 19 Mar 2002)

"41,684 displaced persons are now living in Kindu, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and among this population 2,933 children between the ages of 0 and 5 are showing signs of malnutrition, according to a recent emergency assessment facilitated by OCHA and FAO Kindu [...].[...]"

To make matters worse, Kindu's 131,000 residents, who's number of malnourished children have registered even higher than the displaced children [...], may themselves be facing a humanitarian crisis if the security situation doesn't change soon." (UN OCHA 25 June 2002)

Shelter

IDPs from Bunia are reported without shelter in the town of Bumba (June 2002)

- Most of them are women and children
- MLC authorities have assured the UN that IDPs would be given shelter very soon

"On rapporte que depuis le 10 juin, plus de 800 civils sont arrivés à Bumba en provenance de Kisangani à la suite des événements qui s'y sont déroulés à la mi-mai. La Croix-Rouge locale, qui s'est chargée du recensement de ces personnes et qui s'efforce de leur apporter assistance, indique qu'il s'agit en majorité d'enfants et de femmes. La majorité des personnes déplacées, n'ayant pas de liens familiaux à Bumba, seraient sans abri au port de Bumba. Les autorités du MLC ont assuré à OCHA Gemena que cette population serait abritée dans les plus brefs délais. Hormis l'hébergement, les besoins prioritaires de ces personnes sont la nourriture, les médicaments (notamment pour les enfants qui souffrent de malaria et de parasitose), les jerricans et les couvertures. A priori, il est peu probable que la situation se détériore, de nombreuses structures sanitaires de Bumba ayant été approvisionnées en médicaments à l'occasion du passage de la barge humanitaire en mai dernier." (UN OCHA 19 June 2002)

IDPs in eastern DRC seek shelter in towns (2000)

- Lack of camps for IDPs from the Kivus make people move in with family and friends or squat wherever they can in the towns
- IDPs in Ituri seek shelter at trading centres, churches and schools

"The largest groups of displaced are in Goma and Bukavu. One church worker told Human Rights Watch that at least a quarter of the population of Goma is now comprised of people displaced from the interior. But even in the small community of Kavumu in South Kivu there are more than 4,000 displaced persons, some 1,200 from Bunyakiri and Walikale and nearly 3,000 from Kalonge. These are the numbers of those officially registered and the actual number may be far higher. There are no camps for the displaced so they move in with family and friends, themselves already impoverished, or they squat wherever they can in the towns. As one church worker commented, "They have no work, no home, they're not accustomed to the city. They become beggars, are exposed to illnesses. They are the most affected by cholera, AIDS, and other diseases." Recently displaced persons told Human Rights Watch researchers that many of those who remained in their communities are too afraid of attack to spend their nights at home and sleep outside the house where they are exposed to inclement weather and to illnesses such as malaria." (HRW May 2000, chapt. III)

IDPs in the Ituri district also seek shelter in towns:

"The displaced are concentrated in isolated bush areas, major trading centres, around hospitals and in Bunia town. Bunia's population has significantly increased with villagers seeking refuge with relatives and friends. Every Friday, about 400 people are given two kg of food rations donated by MedAir, through a local women's organisation, Association des Mamans Antiwaki, in Bunia hospital grounds.

Numbers increased in February, with over 100 new cases. The organisation estimates some 75 percent come from displaced villages to collect the rations, and about 25 percent live in Bunia with relatives. Workers say resources are "very limited" and many people have to be sent away. One recipient said she moved near Bunia at the beginning of January when "Lendu fighters" attacked Ngongo village. After reuniting her scattered family, she came to stay with a relative in a one-roomed house that now tries to support 21 adults and children.

In Djugu, the displaced have congregated around the trading centre from different affected communities - Lendu, Hema and Ndo Okebo. Many of the women interviewed said they had to resort to "stealing" from the fields, and were brewing alcohol for soldiers to earn a small amount of cash.

[...]

In Drodro, a large group of displaced people occupies two church buildings and a secondary school. Some have been there since the early months of the conflict, and are in pitiful condition - infected skin diseases, marasmic and malnourished children, chronic diarrhoeal diseases, vitamin deficiencies, as well as hepatitis and cholera cases. The displaced say there are deaths "every day". A seven month-old baby was found dead, - tinged yellow and suffering from chronic diarrhoea - the morning IRIN visited the group.

[...]

To date, many displaced Lendu and Hema co-exist successfully together in towns and trading centres. But there are rural areas where the conflict has caused extreme polarisation, especially around the Rethy area, and in previously mixed villages. Polarisation and hostilities are likely to increase if attacks continue and no settlement is reached, - escalating an already acute humanitarian crisis and further complicating humanitarian access." (IRIN 3 March 2000, "Part Two")

Majority of IDPs are not housed in camps but have merged into host communities (1999-2000)

- In rural communities IDPs are often absorbed by host villages, accommodated and fed for the initial stages
- In urban areas it is not uncommon that continued stay of IDPs creates discontent

"A characteristic feature of displacement in eastern DRC is the fact that IDPs are not housed in camps but have merged into host communities. Their conditions remain precarious due to lack of farming land, vital services and general insecurity. Remaining in proximity to their places of origin, the displaced are prone to be subjected to the same hazards and abuses that caused them to flee in the first place. On a number of occasions during 1998-99, the displaced and local communities were stranded in combat areas and were removed by military authorities in a bid to create security zones." (UN July 1999, p.8)

"The great majority of displaced persons are relatively well received by foster communities thanks to the family or tribal ties. In urban areas, IDPs are sheltered and fed by their foster families thus becoming an additional burden on the already poverty-stricken urban households. It is not uncommon that the continued stay of IDPs creates discontent that eventually bursts into a conflict with the subsequent expulsion of the displaced. In rural communities on the other hand, IDPs are often absorbed by host villages, accommodated and fed for the initial stages. With the approval of traditional chiefs, the displaced subsequently receive land plots and in due course overcome their dependence on the local community. Eventually, the relations between the displaced and their hosts improve, as the former start contributing to the general well-being of the community." (UN November 2000, p.18)

IDPs seeking shelter in the forest constitute be the most vulnerable IDP group (2000)

- Forest dwellers lack access to health care and subside on wild foods
- This IDP category estimated at 200,000

"Tragically, it is estimated that less than half the displaced communities and families are receiving humanitarian assistance. Those vulnerable and displaced populations left without assistance are hiding in the forests, inaccessible as a result of insecurity and some who emerged for their hiding places in August [2000] were disturbingly described as 'living in animal-like-conditions.'" (OCHA 31 December 2000)

"This group of displaced is legitimately believed to be the most vulnerable among all IDP communities. Most commonly, these people have been displaced several times, having left their home communities seeking security in remote and barely accessible areas. Communities then cleanse a portion of forest and start cultivating. This category of displaced has practically no access to health care and is reduced to consuming wild berries and "non-human" and raw food. Ashamed of their physical appearance and nudity, precarious health conditions (infections, dermatosis, parasitosis, etc.), "forest dwellers" avoid any contacts with the outside world and seek to further distance and alienate themselves from the neighbouring communities. The previous (1996-1998) experience with similar groups of displaced suggested that practically every family loses on average one child under five. Because of its survival tactics, this group is the hardest to access and assist. The largest concentrations of people in the forest were observed in Shabunda (South Kivu) and Bokungu-Ikela (Equateur). The number of people in this category is estimated at 200,000." (UN November 2000, p.15)

ACCESS TO EDUCATION

General

Conflict has had terrible impact on already failing education system (2001-2003)

- Displacement has caused many children to quit school
- UNICEF estimated for 2000/2001, 3-3.5 million children between 6-11 in DRC do not receive any formal education; 2 million are estimated to be girls
- Situation is the worse in eastern part of DRC where IFRC estimates that 70% of children do not go to school at all
- 47% of children in North Kivu and 42% in South Kivu have never attended school, according to UNICEF 2002 study
- A higher percentage of girls have never attended school
- Parents lack the financial means to pay school fees and schools refuse students which have not paid the fees
- Difficult to enroll children following displacement

“The education system has suffered from the devastating effects of the war as well as from bad governance over the past decades. The national budget spent on education has dropped to 0.3%. It is estimated that only 30% of children attend and finish primary school and just 12% actually finish secondary education. Some children are unable to attend school either for economic reasons or the lack of any educational services and infrastructures in their region, or they have been obliged to quit school due to the war (displacement, insecurity problems, etc). This puts the future of the country in a precarious situation.” (UN, 16 January 2003, p44)

“The conflict in the DRC has had a terrible impact on an education system that was already failing. In 1998, the Ministry of Education reported that 40 per cent of children of primary school age were not attending school. The situation for girls was even worse. Nationally, half of all girls were not in school; in North Kivu, the figure was 69 per cent. The investment that was made in the Congolese education system in the 1970s and 1980s has been squandered. School enrolment rates plummeted from 94 per cent in 1978 to an estimated 60 per cent in 2001. Adult literacy rates fell from 74 per cent in 1992 to 58.9 per cent in 1998. There are no reliable figures for 2000/2001, although UNICEF estimates that there are currently between 3 and 3.5 million children aged between 6 and 11 who are not receiving any formal education. This figure exceeds the total population of the neighbouring Republic of Congo. Of these children, approximately two million are girls .

In eastern DRC, insecurity, poverty and the frequent closure or destruction of schools will have reduced attendance to a fraction of the 1998 figures. Many parents can no longer afford to send their children to school.” (Oxfam 6 August 2001, p.29-30)

[In Malemba-Nkulu, Katanga] "Le secteur éducatif bien que bénéficiant du soutien de l'Unicef, est à l'image de toute la zone, sinistré. Bâtiments brûlés et pillés dans de nombreux villages, fuite des élèves, carence d'enseignants et non-paiement des salaires, non-paiement du minerval, absence de matériel d'enseignement (craies, bancs, tableaux), fournitures scolaires rares et trop onéreuses." (OCHA Oct 02, p9)

"Close to 70% of the children in the occupied territories have not been able to go to school at all, and the educational system is in an acute crisis. Most schools have no books, and teachers are paid a few dollars a month taken from contributions from parents." (IFRC 17 July 2002)

La proportion d'enfants n'ayant jamais fréquenté l'école primaire est élevée en RDC (31%). Elle est plus importante en milieu rural où elle atteint 39%, contre 14% en milieu urbain. Entre les provinces, les disparités sont importantes, notamment entre Kinshasa où 9% d'enfants n'ont jamais fréquenté l'école, et certaines autres provinces dont le Sud-Kivu (42%), l'Equateur (44%) et surtout le Nord-Kivu (47%).

Les filles sont plus nombreuses (35%) que les garçons (28%) à n'avoir jamais fréquenté l'école. Cette disparité entre les sexes existe également en milieu rural (44% de filles contre 34% de garçons) et dans la plupart des provinces. [...]

Deux faits complémentaires peuvent expliquer cette situation : le manque réel de moyens financiers permettant aux parents de payer les frais de scolarité, et la pratique actuelle qui consiste à ne pas admettre les enfants non en règle de paiement de minerval avec l'école. Dans certains cas, les élèves sont expulsés pour un ou quelques jours seulement de retard de paiement. Cette pratique résulte, selon les chefs d'établissements, de la nécessité d'avoir les moyens nécessaires pour faire fonctionner l'école, y compris le paiement de la « prime » due aux enseignants. Ceci pose le problème de la responsabilité de l'Etat congolais vis-à-vis du financement de la scolarisation des enfants. Sa démission et le fait de faire endosser cette charge aux parents conduisent à la non-fréquentation, momentanée ou prolongée, d'une bonne moitié des enfants congolais.

Plusieurs autres causes sont citées pour expliquer la non-fréquentation scolaire. Il y a d'abord un ensemble de causes dites « autres », que les mères n'ont pas voulu ou pu déclarer au moment de l'enquête. Il peut s'agir des causes pour lesquelles elles se sentent coupables, car il semble invraisemblable qu'un parent ne sache pas pourquoi son enfant ne fréquente pas. Il faudrait approfondir les analyses sur cette question. L'éloignement des écoles par rapport aux domiciles des enfants est une autre cause de non-fréquentation de 9% d'enfants : 11% en milieu rural et 2% en milieu urbain.[...]

Dans certains milieux ruraux, les enfants doivent franchir des kilomètres pour effectuer les va-et-vient entre leurs villages et leurs écoles. La situation serait particulièrement dramatique dans la province Orientale, au Kasai Oriental et au Bandundu. Il se pose là un problème de la carte scolaire, c'est-à-dire de la distribution de l'offre éducative en fonction de la demande sociale de chaque milieu.

Les maladies prolongées constituent également une cause de non-fréquentation scolaire ; elles gênent indistinctement les enfants en milieu urbain et en milieu rural.

Les changements de résidence provoquent aussi la non-fréquentation scolaire, principalement dans les milieux urbains, sans doute parce qu'ils exigent de faire réinscrire les enfants dans les écoles des nouveaux lieux de résidence. Or l'inscription d'un enfant dans une école, notamment en ville, au cours d'une année scolaire n'est pas aisée." (UNICEF/Ministry of Planning and Reconstruction of the DR Congo July 02, pp75-79)

Following volcano eruption 45 schools destroyed in Goma temporarily left some 24,000 children out of school (Feb 2002)

- Almost all the schools reopened end of February following the building of 200 temporary classes

"A survey conducted by the Education department in Goma points to a total of 45 schools (26 government schools, 16 private schools and three non-formal schools) destroyed by the volcano eruption out of an estimated total number of 150 schools. Many schools, secondary in particular, were near the city centre

where the lava flow passed, hence the relatively high number of schools destroyed. The primary and secondary schools destroyed leave some 24,000 children out of school." (UN OCHA 19 Feb 2002)

"[A]vec l'aide des ONG qui ont construit plus de 200 classes temporaires, presque toutes les écoles ont réouvert leurs portes le 25 février. UNICEF se dit prêt à envisager de répondre à des besoins supplémentaires en fourniture scolaires et d'étudier la question de l'indemnisation des professeurs." (UN OCHA 7 March 2002)

Most displaced children have no access to basic education (2001-2002)

- 400,000 displaced children of primary school age have no access to basic education
- UN says that absolute majority of IDP children have been deprived of formal and informal schooling since 1998
- The fact that displaced children have almost no access to education make them more vulnerable to enlistment into armed forces
- In eastern Katanga, parents pay double school fee to enable displaced children to also attend school

"Displaced children in particular have little or no chance to continue with their education. Of the two million displaced people, approximately 400,000 are thought to be children of primary school age. These children have no access to any form of basic education, prejudicing their opportunities later in life, and increasing their risk of enlistment into armed forces in search of a better situation." (Oxfam August 2001, p.29-30)

"In Eastern Katanga province, parents are actually paying double school fee to enable displaced children to also attend school, and health clinics are desperately trying to cater for the IDPs." (WV 30 July 2001)

"The absolute majority of IDP children have been deprived of proper or any schooling since 1998. In urban areas, there is a marked increase in the number of dropouts with primary school attendance declining, as many families are unable to afford exorbitant education fees. For the first time since the beginning of the war, the CHAP 2001 will attempt to revive the importance and value of the education sector, through launching a series of primary education campaigns in areas of population displacement." (UN OCHA 26 Nov 2001, pp.47-48)

ISSUES OF SELF-RELIANCE AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

General

Displacement caused by years of war, as well as natural disasters, means agricultural production is at all-time low (2003)

- Many populations have abandoned their fields due to displacement or to look for other means of subsistence
- Former main agricultural areas - especially the Kivus, northern Katanga and Ituri - are now producing about 10 percent of their pre-war agricultural output
- In more stable areas, farmers are often reduced to survival cultivation, lacking the necessary inputs to resume their activities or increase production

“Situated on the Equator, the DRC has a wide climatic variety and immense agricultural resources. However, only ten percent of fertile land is being exploited. Due to four years of war, worsened by several natural disasters as the eruption of volcanoes, drought, etc., the agriculture sector has suffered immensely and the production has decreased as never before. The low population purchasing power and the lack of sufficient and balanced food have led to endemic malnutrition in the population.

Ever since the beginning of the war, the original trade circuits have been cut and roads and other infrastructure have further deteriorated. In addition, populations have abandoned their fields as a result of displacement or in order to look for other means of subsistence. Others turned to subsistence agriculture only.

The most affected zones, especially the Kivus, northern Katanga and Ituri, used to be the main agricultural production areas in the country. Presently, the agricultural production of these parts of the country is estimated at ten percent of the pre-war production.

In the relatively stable areas, weak purchasing power and the destruction of infrastructures has turned farmers back toward survival cultivation. They actually lack the most basic essential agricultural inputs (tools or seeds) to resume their activities or to increase production.” (UN, 16 January 2003, p42)

For detailed studies of the economic and food security situation in areas of North Kivu, see:

Save the Children Fund (SCF), “Update of the Household Economy Analysis of the Rural Population of the Plateaux Zone, Masisi, North Kivu, DRC” – SCF report, 31 Jan 2003

SCF, “Household Economy Analysis of the Rural Population of South-Western Bwito, Rutshuru, North Kivu, DR Congo” – SCF report, 31 Jan 2003

Isolation and food insecurity of IDPs and other vulnerable people in Kindu, Maniema (Sept 2002)

- Conflict caused destruction of infrastructure, financial paralysis, massive population displacement, strong reduction of economic activity, acute problems regarding food security and malnutrition
- Almost no assistance to Kindu population by the international community, 14 percent of whom were displaced as of mid-2002

"La situation de conflit a entraîné la destruction des infrastructures de développement, la paralysie financière, un déplacement massif des populations, une forte contraction de l'activité économique, une baisse importante de l'offre des produits vivriers, des problèmes aigus de sécurité alimentaire, de malnutrition et de précarité des conditions de vie. Cette situation particulière, combinée avec l'absence prolongée de toute assistance interne ou externe à la population de Kindu (exception faite d'une assistance modeste dans le secteur sanitaire et d'une distribution des vêtements sous l'égide de OCHA) mérite une réaction de compassion de la Communauté nationale et internationale pour soulager tant soit peu le traumatisme de la population de Kindu qui se pose la question simple et forte : « qu'avons-nous fait pour mériter cela ? »[...]

La ville de Kindu est actuellement enclavée, laissée exsangue dans tous les domaines, et a connu plusieurs événements majeurs depuis 1996. La ville a subi les conséquences de deux guerres de 1996 et de 1998, et des affrontements dans son hinterland entre différents groupes armés depuis septembre 2001. Les miliciens Mayi-Mayi opérant à la périphérie de la ville paralysent toute l'activité économique, les ménages agricoles ne savent pas exploiter les terrains de haute production situés dans l'hinterland de la ville et l'approvisionnement en denrées de base se fait avec beaucoup des difficultés.[...]

A la situation difficile et désespérée des populations de Kindu s'ajoute la détresse particulière des groupes de personnes vulnérables composés d'orphelins, de vieillards abandonnés à eux-mêmes, d'enfants de la rue, de déplacés et sinistrés de guerre. L'enquête - OCHA RDC - estime le nombre de déplacés à environ 14% de la population de Kindu à la fin du mois de juillet 2002, soit environ dix huit mille personnes. La ville de Kindu compte plusieurs milliers de familles sinistrées à cause de la paralysie de l'activité économique." (UN OCHA Sept 2002, pp2-9)

Deteriorating socio-economic situation due to the war (2001-2002)

- Rise in poverty level has dramatic impact on humanitarian situation
- Little health and education and road infrastructures existing before the two wars of 1996 and 1998 are in a state of collapse
- June 2001 WHO/UNICEF study reported that majority of Congolese live on 20 cents US a day, and consume less than two thirds of the calories required to meet basic needs
- Devaluation of currency and cost of imported goods (kerosene, salt) has eroded people's purchasing power
- Agricultural production has dropped and in mineral-rich areas, farmers have abandoned agriculture to dig for coltan, gold or diamond
- Deprived of state support, with little access to income, and without meaningful external aid, the resources and resilience of Congolese households have simply run out
- Vast majority of Congo's 50 million people live on around 20 cents per person per day and eat less than two thirds of the calories a day needed to maintain health
- Majority of the population survives on informal economic activities, mainly carried out by women (Feb 2002)

"Situated on the Equator, the DRC has a wide climatic variety and immense agricultural resources. However, only ten percent of fertile land is being exploited. Due to four years of war, worsened by several natural disasters as the eruption of volcanoes, drought, etc., the agriculture sector has suffered immensely and the production has decreased as never before. The low population purchasing power and the lack of sufficient and balanced food have led to endemic malnutrition in the population.

Ever since the beginning of the war, the original trade circuits have been cut and roads and other infrastructure have further deteriorated. In addition, populations have abandoned their fields as a result of displacement or in order to look for other means of subsistence. Others turned to subsistence agriculture only.

The most affected zones, especially the Kivus, northern Katanga and Ituri, used to be the main agricultural production areas in the country. Presently, the agricultural production of these parts of the country is estimated at ten percent of the pre-war production.

In the relatively stable areas the weak purchasing power and the destruction of infrastructures turn the farmers to survival cultivation. They actually lack the most basic essential agricultural inputs (tools or seeds) to resume their activities or to increase production.

During 2002, the general acute malnutrition remained unchanged. Areas that were previously inaccessible, such as North Katanga, experienced an improvement in the rate of malnutrition. However, areas such as South Kivu and Ituri saw an increase in armed conflict lead to increased rates of acute malnutrition.

A June 2001 study by WHO and UNICEF reported that the majority of the Congolese live on 20 cents US a day, and consume less than two thirds of the calories required to meet their basic needs and remain healthy. With the continuation of the war in certain areas and the continued economic instability, many populations will remain vulnerable as they cannot meet their basic nutritional needs. Without intervention, these families will not possess the coping mechanisms needed to react and adjust to crisis. This coupled with limited access to basic social services and limited access by humanitarians to the most vulnerable place millions of Congolese in a precarious state. Overall, the coping mechanisms that enabled most of the population to survive crises are by now totally exhausted. Insecurity and bad infrastructure make it difficult to gain access to the most vulnerable population, and this holds for punctual and sustainable humanitarian interventions." (UN 19 Nov 2002, p56)

"The war has had a devastating impact on the country's 50 million people.[1] The DRC is currently ranked 152nd on the UNDP Human Development index of 174 countries: a fall of 12 places since 1992. This is particularly shocking in a country with considerable natural resources, such as diamonds, hydro-electric power, wood, and minerals. Since the period of colonisation by King Leopold, very few Congolese citizens have ever benefited from the country's wealth. UNDP reported that the DRC's per capita gross domestic product (GDP) in 1998 was US\$110, compared with US\$160 in Burundi and US\$680 in the neighbouring Republic of Congo. More than half of the five million people living in the capital city of Kinshasa are thought to live below the World Bank's poverty threshold of US\$1 per day.[2] A recent socio-economic survey in North Kivu indicated average expenditure per person per day of US\$0.41; in other places like Kayna, this figure was as low as US\$0.18.[3] The rise in poverty levels has had a dramatic impact on the humanitarian situation in the country.

The little infrastructure that existed prior to the two wars of 1996 and 1998 has crumbled. Health and education systems are in a state of collapse, continuing to rely on support from the churches, local organisations, and international agencies to provide limited services to the population. The poor state of the roads all over the country, compounded by insecurity in the east, impedes trade and makes the delivery of humanitarian assistance difficult and costly. Of the 145,000km of roads, no more than 2,500km are asphalt. Many of the remaining roads are often impassable during the rainy season. The threat of armed attack leads many business people to abandon road traffic completely. River-transport connections along the Congo River and its tributaries, once the crucial highway of the DRC, have also been severed. In many places,

access is only possible by air, putting many basic necessities, including medicines, beyond people's reach. The movement of food and other supplies from rural to urban centres has completely ceased, resulting in large food deficits in towns and reduced production in the rural hinterlands.

"In eastern DRC, the war has reduced the poorest sections of the population, both displaced and host/local communities, to an extremely marginal existence. Conflict continues between the various armed groups and insecurity has worsened, particularly in rural areas. The devaluation of the currency and rise in the cost of imported goods such as kerosene and salt has eroded people's purchasing power. In isolated areas of rebel-held territories, such as Shabunda, Kindu, and East Kasai, which can only be reached by air, the cost of items such as salt, oil, soap, and even clothes has become even more prohibitive.

Agricultural production has dropped across the east of the country, meaning that some formerly surplus producing areas no longer grow enough to feed their populations. Insecurity, limited access to markets, cassava blight [4], and difficulties in making enough money from the sale of crops, all discourage people from cultivating. [...]

In mineral-rich areas such as Walikale, Punia, and Kalima, the short-term benefits of mining have also encouraged some farmers to abandon agriculture. Instead of working in their fields, they prefer to dig for coltan, gold, or diamond. This will have long-term implications for communities' access to food."

[Notes:

[1] The population at the time of the last census (1985) was 34.7 million. Current estimates range from 49 million to 59 million.

[2] Estimates of the population of Kinshasa range from 5-10 million people.

[3] Enquête Socio-Economique, Nord Kivu, Decembre 2000, ASRAMES

[4] Cassava is the staple for 70% of the Congolese population. Over the past 7 years, cassava crops across the country have suffered from viral and bacterial diseases that have totally wiped out production in some areas such as Bandundu. The war has hindered the application of measures to control the diseases and provide healthy disease-resistant varieties to farmers] (Oxfam August 2001, pp.9,24)

"International attention has focused on those areas and populations directly affected by the war but the reality is that the vast majority of Congo's 50 million people live on around 20 cents per person per day and eat less than two thirds of the calories a day needed to maintain health. Long deprived of state support, with dramatically reduced access to income, without meaningful external aid, the resources and resilience of Congolese households have simply run out." (WHO 29 June 2001)

"In the economic front, the situation throughout the country continues to deteriorate rapidly, poverty and unemployment having reached intolerable levels. The economic purchasing power of the population is extremely weak and the majority of the population survives on informal economic activities, mainly carried out by women." (UN OCHA 28 Feb 2002, pp.18-19)

Many displaced women have become the head of the household and pay an very heavy price (2001-2002)

- In Maniema, at Kalonge, at Bunyakiri, at Shabunda, in northern Shaba, more than 60% of displaced families are headed by women
- Women, who often hold the household together, are paying an extraordinary price

"The heavy displacement of populations mostly lead to dislocation of various families. Separated, women become responsible for their children future and have the obligation to guarantee the survival of the family in such a chaotic situation. According to various sources, in Maniema, at Kalonge, at Buyakiri, at Shabunda, in northern Shaba, more than 60% of displaced populations are from families of which husbands

have ran away or have been enrolled in the army or in armed militia. In Maniema, they are estimated to be 80%. The monoparental system as imposed on women is a source of permanent tension. Moreover, it is to be feared that this extended conflict will have side effects in establishing a culture of violence considered as normal lifestyle of which women are actually victims. [...]

[However] Far from being uniquely silent victims of the present conflict, women have progressively granted themselves a leadership role trying to ward off the consequences of the conflict on their families and attempting by all means to reduce the side effects of the war on their communities." (OCHA 6 March 2001)

"Women, who often hold the household together, are paying an extraordinary price. This year over 42,000 will die in childbirth alone. Under-nourishment, forced and economic prostitution, overwork for pathetic recompense, untreated ill health and the psychological strain of maintaining large families are exacting a terrible toll." (WHO 29 June 2001)

"The war has exhausted the reserves of the people of eastern Congo. The burden of trying to survive and assure that others in the family survive fall heavily on women. As the socio-economic situation worsens, more women and girls are resorting to trading sex for food, shelter, or money in order to provide for themselves and their families." (HRW June 2002, p21)

Orphaned and separated children, especially young girls, are exposed to neglect and abuse (December 2000)

- Poverty, war, HIV/AIDS, displacement, family separations and the breakdown of traditional coping mechanisms have forced growing numbers of children on to the streets

"There are large number of orphaned children in the DRC due to the high incidence of HIV/AIDS. Besides the trauma of being left without parental care, these children may be exposed to neglect, exploitation and abuse. They also lack access to education and vocational skills training and suffer immense psychological stress. [...]

Children on and of the street are criminalized and have become a soft target for round ups, recruitment and abuse by society at large; the high military presence in east and west of the country makes the situation even more acute. Issues that need to be addressed are the resettlement, care and protection of separated children, street children, child soldiers and children inappropriately placed in institutions.

Poverty, war, enlistment in the various armed forces, displacement, family separations and the breakdown of traditional coping mechanisms have forced growing numbers of children on to the streets or away from their original home environment in many foster families where they are often suffering from neglect and exploitation.

In North and South Kivu provinces, problems are concentrated in the cities and towns where a large group of vulnerable families have arrived as a result of general insecurity in the rural areas. [...] A much overlooked problem is the discrimination and abuse of women and young girls. Sexual violence against girls, adolescent pregnancies, abandoned child-mother, school drop-outs and girl sex workers are growing phenomena linked to the deterioration in work opportunities and a lack of family and community protection." (SCF 31 December 2000)

Displacement adds additional pressure on mechanisms for self-reliance of host families (1997-2001)

- Most of population in eastern DRC already destitute after decades of exploitation by the Mobutu government and isolation from the outside world (1998)
- Many IDPs, host communities and urban residents are affected by chronic food shortages and too high prices due to civil war
- When host community's resources are exhausted both the hosts and IDP further displace in search of food and shelter
- In Katanga, similar rate of malnutrition observed among the host communities than among the displaced and host families continue to care for IDPs despite meager resources (2001)
- In North & South Kivu, influx of displaced, who are bereft of any means to provide for themselves and constitute a heavy burden on the families that host them (mid-2001)
- High level of malnutrition in Shabunda (South Kivu) due to drought and presence of displaced in host families
- 200,000 displaced in South Kivu do not have access to their field, which increases the burden of host families
- In North Kivu, the number of displaced in host families is often larger than the one of the members of the host family and malnutrition is high

"Two USCR site visits to remote areas of eastern Congo/Zaire [in 1997] found that the needs of many uprooted Congolese/Zairians were the same as the needs of families who never left their homes. Decades of exploitation by the Mobutu government and isolation from the outside world had left much of the population destitute, whether at home or displaced." (USCR 1998, p.61)

"Two consecutive wars in 1996-1997 and in 1998 prompted a large number of people to flee their home communities. In most cases, the displaced have lost their belongings and survival means, such as agricultural tools and seeds. They are being hosted by other rural communities whose capacity for agricultural production is already extremely weak due to a continued economic crisis, severe shortages of agricultural inputs and ongoing hostilities. The whole agricultural production system is, therefore, on the verge of collapse as the output dramatically diminishes and the demand for basic produce is almost doubling in the host communities. The most critical issue is the availability of agricultural inputs." (UN July 1999, p.32)

"No significant positive changes in the household food security were observed during 2000. Domestic agricultural production continued to be curtailed and levels of food imports were insufficient to cover the supply-demand gap. The size of this gap varies from region to region reaching at times levels of 35-40 %. In spite of wide spread shortages and the food market's lopsidedness, the agricultural production in many parts of the country remains considerable. The available produce, however, does not reach its traditional markets because of the prevailing military and security situation. Larger groups of IDPs and their host communities and numerous urban residents are affected by chronic food shortages and unaffordable prices." (UN November 2000, p. 26)

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"A remarkable feature of the Congolese crisis is the degree to which it spreads from region to region in the span of a few weeks. Population movement and massive presence of troops (both foreign and Congolese) serve as a vector for the spread of various deprivations into areas otherwise untouched by the conflict. A recent study conducted by FAO in northern Katanga suggested that each newly arrived displaced person creates a perceptible pressure on the host community's limited reserves (food, medicines) and reduces food consumption of an average four hosts. The size of impact would certainly vary from one host community to another depending on IDP/host ratio. When this ratio is high enough to dry up the host community's resources, both the hosts and IDP further displace in search of food and shelter, provoking a chain reaction. Although the behaviour of IDP and host communities varies from region to region depending on the

availability of resources, the multiplier effect can be legitimately applied in every IDP hosting community." (UN November 2000, pp. 13-14)

"Congolese people are known for their hospitality. In the African tradition, room must always be made for a guest or those in need. Hundreds of thousands of Congolese who have been displaced by the fighting in eastern DRC have benefited from this tradition. Room has been made at the table in the homes of countless thousands of host communities throughout this war-torn region. Thanks to the generosity of the Congolese and their tradition of helping each other, large camps - so often the mark of similar crises - are not seen.

But this generosity comes at great cost. A household of six can host at most one extra person before the family's food security is seriously impacted. In the Kivus, this number is frequently far exceeded. On a recent mission to South Kivu, Refugees International interviewed displaced and host families where. The situation has reached a point in many communities where host families have exhausted their meager reserves of food and money, placing their own children at risk. When this point is reached, those displaced by fighting must move on in search of other shelter, thus repeating the process with a new host family." (RI 14 September 2000)

Katanga

"Although displaced people are the most vulnerable, many host communities have suffered from the additional strain imposed by providing for the displaced. In Kioko (northern Katanga), Nuova Frontiera did not find that the global malnutrition rate among under fives was significantly higher in the displaced population (24.6 per cent of the sample) than in local communities." (Oxfam August 2001, p.26)

"The influx of displaced people since May 1999 has impoverished the host communities [...].

Although suffering greatly from raids by government troops and by fighting between government troops and Mai Mai rebels, these host communities have continued to use much of their meagre resources to care for the displaced people." (WV 30 July 2001)

Kivus

"La sécheresse précoce et la présence des déplacés dans des familles d'accueil renforcent le taux élevé de malnutrition. Il varie entre 4,9% et 11,3%. 15% des enfants de 5 ans meurent de malnutrition dans le territoire de Shabunda.

200.000 déplacés n'ont pas accès à leurs champs, exposant ainsi la communauté d'accueil à de lourdes charges. [...]

In North Kivu, "A continual influx of thousands of internally displaced persons (IDPs) fleeing the conflict areas continue to deplete the resources of the local population. Both urban and rural areas are hosting a vast number of displaced persons who are in dire need of life sustaining assistance. These people are bereft of any means to provide for themselves and they constitute a heavy burden on the families that host them – families already impoverished due to the political, economic and ecological degradation endemic in the DRC." (ACT 10 August 2001)

"Dans les familles, le nombre des déplacés dépasse souvent celui des membres de la famille d'accueil. En conséquence, l'état nutritionnel de la population est préoccupant surtout chez les enfants de moins de 5 ans, les femmes enceintes ou allaitantes. Le taux de malnutrition protéino- énergétique se situe entre 5 et 13 % selon la FAO." (UN OCHA September 2001)

In South Kivu, "The displaced rely on the hospitality of rural communities which are themselves weakened by the war, while the effects of the underlying socio-economic crisis are all pervasive." (ACT 13 July 2001)

DOCUMENTATION NEEDS AND CITIZENSHIP

General

62% of women in DRC marry under customary law and cannot get inheritance priority (Oct 2001)

"A national campaign to inform people of the advantages to officially registering their marriages was launched last week by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Family (Ministere des Affaires sociales et Famille) of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), in collaboration with UNICEF.

According to a statement from UNICEF in Kinshasa, a widow and her children are given inheritance priority under state law, as opposed to customary law, where other family members may make claims of the deceased assets. A woman is also entitled to greater protection against spousal abuse under state law. An estimated 62 percent of women in the DRC marry under customary law, while only 25 percent officially register their marriages with the state." (IRIN 1 Oct 2001)

The Banyamulenge or Banyarwanda have been stripped of their citizenship (June 2001)

- Open conflict today between this group and other tribes in the Kivus

"Stripped of their citizenship, the Banyarwanda peasants are also denied land rights, as the indigenous groups claim the land they occupy and use as ancestral land. The land question is at the heart of the conflicts that have shaken both South and North Kivu. Before the genocide in Rwanda, thousands of people died in interethnic violence in 1992-1993 in North Kivu. Instead of finding ways of resolving the crisis in a responsible manner, the Zairean authorities added fuel to fire with xenophobic appeals, while soldiers and military officers became implicated in arms trafficking on both sides. In September 1996, the South Kivu Deputy Governor stated in a radio broadcast that if the Tutsi Banyamulenge did not leave Zaire within a week, they would be interned in camps and exterminated.

Today there is open conflict between the Banyarwanda and the other tribes while over the years they were living in relative harmony, although the first big confrontations between the Banyarwanda and other tribes involved 80 per cent of the population of Rutshuru, Masisi, and Goma during the period 1961-1964. The problem of the nationality of this group of Rwandan origin was badly handled during the Second Republic. There are serious contradictions between the many legal texts that tried to deal with the problem. While the Luluaburg constitution itself is clear on the matter, stating in Article 6, Paragraph 2, that Congolese citizenship is granted as from 30 June 1960, to any person with an ancestor belonging to one of the tribes established in Congo before 18 October 1908, this Article has had many interpretations which have created a stalemate with many laws and Acts being put in place contradicting each other." (Kabemba June 2001, pp8-9)

PROPERTY ISSUES

General

IDPs from Bunia area (Orientale Province) may lose their land if do not return home within a month (2001)

"Officials of the Hema and Lendu ethnic groups in northeastern DRC have appealed to people who fled fighting in the Bunia area to return to their homes and resume their daily activities, as calm had now returned, rebel-controlled Radio Candip reported on Saturday. Officials warned that if people displaced from the Malili region did not return within one month, their land would be given away.

In February, the rival Hema and Lendu communities signed a pact aimed at resolving land disputes in the region that had left thousands of people dead during the preceding 18 months. Under the agreement, both ethnic groups were to send representatives into the rural areas to sensitise residents on peaceful co-existence and mutual tolerance, and a follow-up commission was to monitor and move the process forward." (IRIN-CEA 9 July 2001)

PATTERNS OF RETURN AND RESETTLEMENT

General

IRC survey says that 43% of displaced persons who fled Mt Nyiragongo eruption do not want to relocate west of Goma (2002)

"IRC conducted a cluster survey using a random spatial sampling method on Jan. 26 - 27, 2002. Two hundred forty households containing a total of 1937 displaced people were interviewed in 24 locations across the city. Major findings included:

43% of displaced said that they were not willing to relocate to Mugunga. Another 14% indicated they would go only if highly unlikely circumstances (i.e., given a prefabricated home) were realized. The majority of the remaining 43% said they would relocate only if building materials and/or support were made available.

86% of interviewees indicated that they were unwilling to relocate to Sake.

When asked what it would take to relocate to Mugunga, Sake, or "some other place," only 8% of people expressed a desire to live in "some other place."

When contemplating resettlement, people ranked having their own place as being more important than the possibility of employment, which in turn was more important than educational opportunities and/or security.

While 18% of interviewees claim to have held jobs for at least two days during most weeks in 2001, only 4% claim to be presently employed. [...]

An IRC Spatial Water Use Survey on Jan. 23, 2002 revealed that approximately 58% of households were hosting displaced and that 27% of the city's current population had lost their homes. The fate of these displaced remains undetermined. The potential options discussed by local and UN officials for resettling the displaced include encouraging people to relocate to the western edge of Goma town or the former Mugunga camp (just west of Goma), or the town of Sake, the closest major center to the west of Goma. This survey was undertaken at the request of OCHA to evaluate the attitudes and values of Goma's displaced population with regard to resettlement in a new location." (IRC 7 March 2002)

With the ceasefire holding, IDPs are starting to go home (2001-2002)

- In Maniema, returnees from the forest are without any resources (Sept 01)
- In Equateur, steady flow of return (Nov 02)
- In Katanga, people leave the forest to return to destroyed villages (July 01 and May 2002)
- End 2001, the UN said that many IDPs in Equateur and in Katanga were expected to go home
- 80 percent of houses in Ikela (Equateur) have been destroyed during the war and have to be rebuilt now that the displaced are returning home (June 02)
- In Shabunda (South Kivu), IDPs continue to return from the forest despite insecurity (Dec 01)

"Villagers who fled during three years of civil war in the Democratic Republic of Congo have begun trickling home since a ceasefire took hold earlier this year, bringing tales of months spent living on wild plants and fowl in the bush." (Reuters 5 July 2001)

Maniema

"Les familles qui ont put quitter les forêts pour rentrer aux villages se retrouvent complètement démunis et ne peuvent réintégrer le circuit agro-économique de base.

Aucun service d'encadrement rural n'étant opérationnel, on assiste à une dégénérescence des semences." (UN OCHA September 2001)

"Dans la région de Kalima, il a été dénombré, par le consortium regroupant des églises et des ONGs locales, 21.598 déplacés et 2.811 retournés qui se réinstallent petit à petit dans leurs villages sur l'axe de Lubile." (UN OCHA 12 September 2001)

Equateur

"Humanitarian interventions increased in scale and effectiveness in stabilised areas such as Equateur, where developments over the past twelve months have shown that a combination of a steady flow of spontaneous returns on the one hand and a proactive process of assessment and introduction of new humanitarian actors on the other can help pave the way towards a transition scheme supported by more appropriate funding channels." (UN OCHA 19 Nov 2002, p37)

"Thousands of people who had fled from Equateur Province are reported to be slowly returning to areas where the Observers of the United Nations Mission in DRC (MONUC) have been deployed." (WFP 10 August 2001)

In Ikela, "En outre, face aux retours de personnes déplacées, des bâches (500 à 600 bâches) sont requises pour permettre aux populations de s'abriter en attendant la reconstruction des habitations (détruites à 80% pendant la guerre)." (UN OCHA 19 June 2002)

Katanga

"Tens of thousands of people displaced by war are starting to leave the forest where they were hiding and are now heading home to villages which are completely destroyed," WFP spokeswoman Christiane Berthiaume said in Geneva.

"These people have nothing left, are in a deplorable state and suffering from serious malnutrition, with children in particular suffering from severe health problems," Berthiaume said. [...]

A ceasefire is now holding in the province and across the entire country, allowing UN peacekeepers to move in and relief agencies to get access to the sick and hungry." (AFP 19 July 2001)

In November 2001, the UN said that "it is thought most likely that the growing stability in both Equateur and north Katanga will allow considerable numbers to return to their homes and reduce the IDP figure by 500,000 to 1.5 million [...]." (UN OCHA 26 Nov 2001, p.36)

"A recent assessment undertaken by the Irish aid agency, GOAL, in the east of Katanga Province, southeastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), has shown that displaced people who had fled from the area due to insecurity were recently beginning to come home.[...]

"People are literally coming naked out of the forests to local villages, with nothing to rebuild their lives," Caroline Hurley, an employee of GOAL, told IRIN." (IRIN 30 May 2002)

In North Kivu insecurity maintained by troops and militia discourage the displaced to return home

"Troops and militia maintain a continuous state of insecurity in different corners of the province namely the North West of Masisi, the South West of Lubero and the North East of Beni (in and around the Ruwenzori massif). Violence and armed clashes are a daily occurrence depending on the tendency of the political or economic interests of the armed groups. Their activities discourage the displaced persons to return to their homelands where they have their means of livelihood." (ACT 10 August 2001)

In Shabunda (South Kivu), IDPs continue to return from the forest despite insecurity

"In Shabunda (South Kivu province), MSF-H reported that the food security situation was deteriorating and local markets were almost empty. While the population has been able to harvest only surrounding lands, more IDPs suffering from malnutrition and other illnesses continue to return from the forest." (WFP 28 Dec 2001)

HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

General

Humanitarian access difficult in Ituri district and in the Kivus (2002-2003)

- UN urges UPC rebels to improve humanitarian access, particularly in UPC-held areas near Bunia (Feb 2003)
- Renewed insecurity in the Kivus is hampering safe and unimpeded humanitarian access (2003)
- AAH withdraws from its humanitarian base in Shabunda for the second time in less than six months due to access problems
- Humanitarian access to Bunia becomes possible once again with the takeover by Ugandan troops in March 2003

“45. On 2 December in Bunia, my Special Representative, together with diplomatic and humanitarian representatives, urged the UPC leadership to improve humanitarian access and ensure the protection of civilians and humanitarian staff. That action followed several deliberate incidents of looting of humanitarian supplies and harassment of humanitarian workers, including the arrest or detention of certain NGO staff and the expulsion of an officer from Bunia in the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. While verbal assurances were received, the humanitarian community continues to impress upon UPC the need to deliver on that commitment, particularly by giving access to UPC-controlled areas outside Bunia.

46. The withdrawal of foreign troops significantly altered the security landscape in the Kivus and led to a situation that has become increasingly complex and fragmented. That has led to new displacements in some areas while encouraging the return of previously displaced persons to their homes in other areas. In many areas throughout North and South Kivu, Mayi-Mayi fighters have filled that power vacuum, making it difficult for the humanitarian community to negotiate safe and unimpeded access for the delivery of assistance. Throughout the region, fighting between opposing rebel forces has severely limited access to populations in dire need. The systematic looting of homes, stores and crops by forces on both sides has slowed recovery and further stifled aid activities. Fighting, when it occurs, is sporadic and unpredictable, and has devastating consequences for civilian populations that bear the brunt of the violence. In spite of those enduring obstacles, however, emergency relief efforts are continuing.” (UN SC, 21 February 2003)

“While international media attention is focused on the war in Iraq, forgotten humanitarian crises continue in areas of nominal peace, like Shabunda, IRC, where Action Against Hunger continues to encounter problems of access to the population in need.

Action Against Hunger recently withdrew from Shabunda due to anticipated fighting between the warring factions. At the time of withdrawal there were approximately 100 patients in Action Against Hunger's Therapeutic Feeding Center (TFC) and nearly 600 in all AAH's TFCs in Eastern Congo. Supplies were left to continue life-saving operations for one month. Without replenishment in April, these beneficiaries, mostly children, face certain death.

‘The situation is of great concern to us,’ said Banu Altunbas, country director for Action Against Hunger in Eastern DRC. ‘There is need for humanitarian intervention in nutrition, health, and food security, but there is not enough access to enable these programs to be implemented.’

[...]

This is the second time, in less than six months, that Action Against Hunger has had to withdraw from their humanitarian base in Shabunda due to access issues, putting civilian populations at risk.

Action Against Hunger calls on all parties in DRC to ensure that humanitarian assistance can be provided to civilians immediately in order to avert further nutritional emergencies and possible mortality.” (AAH, 2 March 2003)

“Humanitarian access to the embattled city of Bunia in Ituri District of northeastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is once again possible following a takeover on Thursday by the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) from the Union des patriotes congolais (UPC) rebel group, according to humanitarian sources.

‘For the first time, we hope to have access to the population to provide them with humanitarian assistance following several years of interruptions due to violence committed by ethnic militia groups who have been fighting in the region,’ Michel Kassa, head of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in the DRC, told IRIN on Monday.

He said calm returned to the city over the weekend, and its inhabitants were resuming their daily routines.

‘Businesses reopened this morning. The road toward Beni, to the south, has reopened. This is the first time that soldiers of the UPDF are a stabilising factor, because they are not conniving with the local ethnic militia that has gained the upper hand in the city,’ he said.

Other sources reported that the UPDF had reinforced its presence in the city.

Kassa reported that large-scale pillaging had taken place in Bunia, with people of the Hema and Gegere ethnic groups being particularly victimised before the arrival of soldiers of the Lendu-Ngiti ethnic groups coalition. However, he said that many Lendu and Hema - the two primary ethnic groups battling for control in the region - were now moving freely about the city.” (IRIN, 10 March 2003)

Frequent attacks on relief workers hinders the delivering of assistance to the displaced (2001-2003)

- Due to misconceptions on the humanitarian community’s mandate, aid workers often operate in a very unstable and insecure environment
- In April 2001, 6 ICRC workers were killed in Ituri province
- MONUC: Several attacks against MONUC in Aug-Sept 2001, killing of military observer in May 2002; break-in into MONUC office in Kisangani in June 2002 and UN staff- including MONUC- expelled from Goma by RCD-Goma authorities; assault of four MONUC staff in Dec 02
- In Oct 2001, four World Vision International staff were kidnapped on the road Beni-Bunia in the north-east of the country (North Kivu-Orientale Province)
- Ambush of MERLIN vehicle in Jan 02 on the road Kalima-Kindu in Maniema Province
- Shots fired at UN/NGO mission in Shabunda (South Kivu) in June 2002
- Tearfund national staff based in Uvira (South Kivu) was kidnapped for one day in mid-Nov 2002
- Red Cross vehicle is ambushed in January 2003 near Uvira, killing one passenger and wounding five

"A Red Cross vehicle was ambushed by unidentified assailants near Uvira, eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), on 17 January, leaving one of its passengers dead and five injured from bullet wounds, humanitarian sources in the region have reported.

The Land-Rover belonging to the Fizi chapter of the national Red Cross, which was clearly marked with Red Cross flags and stickers, was fired on without warning, no advance sign of hostilities, nor any attempt having been made to stop it, a humanitarian agency told IRIN on Tuesday.

The vehicle was transporting six patients from Baraka to the referral hospital in when it was attacked at midday local time near the town of Swima, some 35 km south of Uvira. One of the patients was reportedly killed, while four local Red Cross volunteers and the driver were wounded. Forced to abandon their bullet-riddled vehicle, the team managed to find another vehicle to get them to Uvira, where two of the injured remain in 'very serious' condition.

The Red Cross team was conducting an exploratory mission in the region of Baraka and Fizi in order to assess the current security situation. The Red Cross and international NGOs that had been operational in the region suspended their activities in 2002 due to ongoing insecurity.

In April 2001, six International Committee of the Red Cross personnel were ambushed and killed on the road from Fataki to Djugu in the Ituri District of northeastern DRC." (IRIN, 21 January 2003)

"In most tense areas of DRC, like in previous years, the following, almost insurmountable constraints were faced by humanitarian actors: a) Impossibility to reach and deliver relief to civilians in areas where de facto established authorities (RCD-Goma, UPC, RCD-ML) do not actually control the terrain and therefore consider any civilian located in those areas as potential accomplices to hostile forces; b) Due to misconceptions on the humanitarian community's mandate, aid workers often operate in a very unstable and insecure environment." (UN OCHA 19 Nov 2002, p36)

"Humanitarian affairs officers have witnessed an increase in recent months in the harassment of relief workers and the looting of their assets. Humanitarian staff in Bunia and Dungu experienced threats of physical violence and looting, which in Bunia resulted in the loss of nearly 14 tons of food destined for vulnerable populations. Several humanitarian teams were evacuated, most notably from Shabunda and Nyankunde. In many areas where there is widespread insecurity, health conditions are reported to have deteriorated alarmingly, and there is evidence of very high malnutrition rates among the populations. Access to war-affected areas remains critical for humanitarian partners." (UN SC 18 Oct 02, para.61)

"Four members of the United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) were ambushed and assaulted on Saturday by a group of 30 unidentified armed people 15 km south of Kanyabayonga, in North Kivu." (IRIN 9 Dec 02)

"Au courant de la semaine [mi-novembre 2002] un personnel national de l'ONG Tearfund, base à Uvira, a été pris en otage par les Mayi Mayi et libéré le lendemain. L'ONG Tearfund a suspendu ses activités en attendant que des explications soient apportées sur cet incident." (OCHA 24 Nov 02)

"A UN humanitarian assessment mission sent to Baraka on the shores of Lake Tanganyika in South Kivu Province in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) was on Saturday surrounded by unidentified armed forces and ordered to leave the area immediately, Hamadoun Toure, spokesman for the UN Mission in the DRC (MONUC), told IRIN." (IRIN 5 Aug 2002)

"A rebel movement in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) [RCD-Goma] has apologized for the forcible entry, on Monday, by its officers into UN premises at the inland port of Kisangani and their assault on two civilian security guards at the facility, a UN official has said." (IRIN 19 June 2002)

"On 2 June, RCD Goma authorities expelled the UN Security Officer and the MONUC political adviser from Goma. This decision is affecting the security of UN Agencies and NGOs' staff members. This is of particular concern given the security situation in North Kivu Province." (WFP 14 June 2002)

"Une mission, composée d'ACF-USA, MSF-H, et UNICEF, a essuyé des tirs à l'artillerie lourde dès son atterrissage à Shabunda. La mission a pu quitter la ville. Pour rappel, les batailles entre les Mayi-Mayi et le RCD continuent à Shabunda et ses environs depuis la prise de cette ville à la mi-avril par les Mayi-Mayi, provoquant une suspension de l'assistance humanitaire." (UN OCHA 19 June 2002)

"A military observer with the United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo was killed in Monday and his colleague badly wounded when their vehicle hit a landmine at Ikela in Province Orientale." (IRIN 14 May 2002)

"[...] suite à l'embuscade tendue au véhicule de Merlin, le 25 janvier sur la route Kalima-Kindu, cette ONG vient de décider de suspendre tout mouvement en dehors de la ville de Kindu" (UN OCHA 15 Feb 2002)

"On 16 August, a MONUC helicopter was hit by 14 bullets, fired by unidentified armed men as it flew between Uvira and Kalemie. It was able to land safely. Later, on 3 September, a MONUC patrol was held up and robbed at Mouchouchi (6 km along the Bukavu-Walungu road) by unidentified armed men. On 27 September, a locally recruited MONUC staff member in Goma was found dead in circumstances that suggested armed robbery." (UN SC 16 Oct 2001)

"Quatre agents de l'ONG World Vision International ont été victimes d'un enlèvement dans leur véhicule le 15 octobre à Livia (40 km sur la route Beni-Bunia). Avant d'être relâchés, ils ont été dépouillés de leurs effets personnels." (UN OCHA 22 Oct 2001)

On April 26 2001, 6 ICRC workers were killed. "The humanitarian community in Ituri province in northeastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is gradually resuming activities that had been suspended since 27 April following the murder of six staff members of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), a humanitarian source based in Bunia confirmed to IRIN on Wednesday." (IRIN-CEA 27 June 2001)

Over 50 percent of IDPs remain inaccessible(2001-2002)

- More freedom of movement in the West since March 2001 announcement by government of free movement of persons and goods
- Improved access to certain isolated areas in eastern DRC thank to deployment of UN Mission and ceasefire (2001-2002)
- In eastern DRC, great insecurity limited activities of humanitarian agencies and led to an increased recourse to air interventions
- In 2002, security situation remained unpredictable due to clashes between various armed forces, looting, ambushes and kidnappings of humanitarian staff in eastern DRC
- UN estimated in Nov 2002 that access to 900,000 IDPs in Ituri and in South Kivu was impossible
- Impossible to deliver assistance to other areas than those where authorities have actual control (Nov 02)
- RCD authorities in Bukavu refused delivery of assistance in areas under militia groups' control
- Except Kinshasa in security phase 3, the rest of the country is under security phase 4

"Less than 50% of the estimated displaced population are accessible to the humanitarian actors and this limitation was underlined by all actors. In the conflict zones, in particular in Eastern DRC, serious security

problems limit the presence of humanitarian actors and therefore constrain access to the vulnerable populations. Very often access requires negotiations with several different fighting groups within a given area and with the rapidly evolving situation, must be frequently reassessed." (Internal Displacement Unit Oct 02, p.3)

"2001 has been characterized by an emerging contradiction: expanding humanitarian space along the formal and now quiet frontline renders ever more visible the contrast between a western DRC waiting for more signs of normalcy and economic recovery, and patterns of acute malnutrition in the zones located across "sub-frontlines", essentially in northern Katanga and southern Kivu, strongly characterized by defiance and lack of trust from respective armed forces. In these areas, humanitarian space has shrunk dramatically, raising essential questions as to how to address head-on the sources of instability: a potent mixture of a proliferation of small arms, instrumentalised hate between communities, and overwhelming exhaustion and abject poverty. At all times, the threat posed by insecurity has to be finely balanced with the absolute necessity to follow up on field assessments that attest to the gravity of the situation and to cope with the "pull factor" exerted by the assessments on the surrounding population.

At the country level, the Minister of Health's request that the humanitarian community carry out humanitarian assessments in all parts of the country and subsequent announcement by the Government on 24 March that free movement of persons and goods was restored were extremely welcome developments. They echoed a longstanding plea by OCHA and the humanitarian community in general that, rather than simply link relief efforts to the criteria of proximity, it was imperative to track and focus on the most vulnerable if the humanitarian community was to effectively combat the massive mortality in DRC. Following these moves, crossing the frontline for trade and family purposes is now taken for granted by civilians along the frontline and is not opposed by forces from any side. Some additional steps still need to be taken to fulfill the March commitments, such as the establishing practices for humanitarian actors to move to a rebel-held area without starting from Kinshasa. Expanding the use of these practices should widen the scope of opportunities within each province, facilitate the return of displaced people and simplify logistical arrangements.

Administrative obstacles also restrict movements in government-held areas, especially in the conventional disengagement "buffer-zone" near Mbandaka. However, assessments in some newly accessible areas reveal needs similar to those experienced in rebel-held areas. Surveys such as that carried out by MSF in Songwe in northern Katanga, which showed an appalling infant mortality rate of 12 per 10,000 a day, could have been found on either side of the frontline. The outbreak of cholera that affected Ankoro, northern Katanga, in October 2001 was contained through a combined UN Emergency Humanitarian Intervention and MSF's Congo Emergency Pool (PUC), originated in the rebel-held Kabalo health zone.

In eastern DRC, the killing in April of six ICRC relief workers in Ituri and the massive influx of armed forces in May in areas of the Kivus provinces limited activities of humanitarian agencies and led to an increased recourse to air interventions. It is assumed that only some urban localities are reachable at any given time – a major hurdle being the cost of air operation - while inhabitants and displaced in rural areas are left to decide whether to remain outside the reach of assistance or to move closer to relief operations. The interventions in Kabinda and Shabunda in March highlighted this dilemma. In both locations, long-awaited decisions to airlift or truck in emergency supplies, while saving lives, exacerbated displacement patterns by drawing in local populations through the promise of manufactured goods and non food items.

Destitution is also a barrier to assistance. Large portions of conflict-prone areas such as Ituri, northern Katanga and southern South Kivu harbor thousands of families whose level of destitution – they are without any clothing at all – is so great that they are unwilling to try to return home." (UN OCHA 26 November 2001, p.16)

"There have some positive developments in DRC since the [UN Security] Council's last visit to the Great Lakes in May 2001. The ceasefire has held along the former "frontline." Humanitarian agencies have gained access to hitherto inaccessible areas such as Kabinda, Boende, Ikela, and Pweto in western DRC,

and have been able to provide much needed assistance to the most vulnerable people." (Oxfam 25 April 2002)

"The prevailing insecurity significantly restricted the ability of humanitarian agencies to assist populations in need. In some locations in North and South Kivu, Maniema and northern Katanga, agencies were forced to suspend operations because of insecurity and localized violence. In Ituri, threats and harassment forced agencies to restrict their movements to Bunia town. Insecurity often forces humanitarian agencies to rely on expensive air transport, further hampering humanitarian assistance efforts." (UN SC 15 Feb 2002, para.72)

"The security situation remained unpredictable in South Kivu as cases of looting and ambushes, and clashes between RCD and Mayi-Mayi militiamen were commonly reported. In Katanga, confrontations between Mayi-Mayi militiamen and Forces Armées Congolaises (FAC) reportedly continued to create insecurity in the area of Malemba-Nkulu. The city of Kindu, in Maniema, has been surrounded by Mayi-Mayi fighters for several weeks, preventing any food distributions in the city, except by air. Also in Maniema, RPF (Rwanda Patriotic Forces) and RCD soldiers (Congolese Rally for Democracy) looted a Catholic parish at Kapende, and two priests were kidnapped." (WFP 21 June 2002)

"Access to at least 900,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) remains 'impossible', according to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Of this total, some 500,000 IDPs are in the Ituri District, fleeing ongoing fighting between the Lendu and Hema communities.[...]

Meanwhile, another 400,000 IDPs are scattered throughout South Kivu Province, many as a result of recent fighting between Congolese Mayi-Mayi militias and the Rwandan-backed Rassemblement pour la démocratie rebel movement, in the wake of a large-scale withdrawal of Rwandan forces as agreed under the 30 July peace accord signed in the South African administrative capital, Pretoria.

Negotiations are said to be 'ongoing' by humanitarian organizations with authorities of Mayi-Mayi factions and RCD-Goma, for access to the patchwork of areas under their respective control." (IRIN 6 Nov 2002)

"[...] all humanitarian attempts to reach the vulnerable populations is depending on the local authorities in place. There is an objective impossibility to gain access to and to deliver assistance in other areas than those where the established authorities have actual control, and have opened space for humanitarian actors to enter and assist the civilian population in order to regain stability." (UN 19 Nov 2002, p38 & 43)

"The RCD authorities in Bukavu have refused the delivery of relief assistance to the most vulnerable populations in Shabunda, Mwanga, Bunyakiri, Baraka and Fizi, areas under militia groups' control." (WFP 7 Nov 2002)

"The security situation in the DRC has globally improved but remains critical in eastern and northern regions. With the exception of Kinshasa in security phase 3, the rest of the country is under security phase 4." (UN OCHA 26 Nov 2001, p.53)

Few NGOs work in Malemba-Nkulu, Katanga, mainly due to insecurity and lack of access (Nov 02)

- ACF, World Vision and MSF-France are now in the region
- ICRC should soon open an office in that zone

"Peu d'ONG sont présentes dans la zone et ce principalement pour des raisons d'insécurité et d'inaccessibilité auprès des victimes du conflit.

Bien que depuis le mois d'août, seule la zone Mai-Mai du chef Makélé reste inaccessible, le territoire entier souffre de son enclavement résultant non seulement de la guerre mais aussi de l'état déplorable des infrastructures routières.

Actuellement sont présentes trois ONG internationales, à savoir Action contre la Faim, World Vision et Médecins sans Frontières-France.

Le Comité international de la Croix-Rouge devrait d'ici peu ouvrir un bureau sur la zone." (UN OCHA Oct 02)

Difficulty to reach vulnerable population in Pweto (Katanga) due to Mai Mai activities (July 2002)

"On July 3 [2002], WFP announced the resumption of an emergency airlift operation to reach at least 24,000 people who remain cut off by war in the northern Katanga province.[...]

General insecurity in the area is the main reason why WFP must resort to a costly airlift operation." (WFP 5 July 2002)

"IOM has suspended all operations in the south-eastern border town of Pweto following the looting last weekend of its office by armed elements of the government-allied Mai-Mai militia. [...]

IOM was working with the provincial authorities in Pweto carrying out a EU funded programme to rebuild community infrastructures ahead of the possible return of Internally Displaced Persons and refugees." (IOM 5 July 2002)

MSF suspended activities in Shabunda (South Kivu) in May and in Dungu (North-East) in August (2002)

"MSF recently reported the evacuation of its teams in Shabunda, DRC due to increased violence in the area between the rebel 'Rassemblement Congolais pour la Démocratie' (RCD) party and the Congolese Mai Mai militias. The MSF team was evacuated by plane on April 13th, 2002.[...]

The security situation has not improved since then, with recurrent shooting in the area and three other Mai Mai attacks on Shabunda itself. Given the current developments, MSF fears it will be unable to resume humanitarian assistance for some weeks to come to a population that is, once more, the first victim in a conflict that a constant of the past seven years." (MSF 23 May 2002)

"During the night of Tuesday, August 28, the MSF mission in Dungu, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), was made the object of three violent intrusions by armed soldiers. The MSF team was physically threatened.

Because of these events, the organisation decided to evacuate its team of five expats to Kampala, capital of Uganda, the next day.

Dungu, located in the north-east of the DRC, is currently on the front line of two advancing rebellious factions, the DRC National and the DRC Kisangani/ML. For several weeks already, and following an intensification of offensives, most of the population had already left Dungu and the neighbouring villages in order to hide in the forest.

The MSF team that had received guarantees of safety from various wars chiefs had decided to remain in place in order to be able to maintain the operation of the hospital in Dungu. However on three occasions

during the night of August 28, armed soldiers entered the MSF compound by force. in order to plunder the supplies while physically threatening MSF staff.

Some shots were fired towards the interior of the compound and several stray bullets struck the interior of the expat's residence. Fortunately, none of the expats were wounded.

For reasons of safety and until a clarification of the events, the MSF team has been evacuated, temporarily, to Kampala." (MSF 29 Aug 2002)

Increased difficulty to reach vulnerable populations in Maniema Province (Feb 2002)

- Less than 30% of Maniema is now accessible to humanitarian actors
- All the villages between Nyoka and Kalima are emptied of their population

"The region [Maniema] was only 30 percent accessible to humanitarian groups, and water supplies and sanitation in Kindu were suffering as a result, the UN said in its latest daily information bulletin." (AFP 2 Feb 2002)

"L'accessibilité des populations vulnérables devient une préoccupation pour les acteurs humanitaires opérant dans la province du Maniema. Ainsi, suite à la multiplicité des attaques des mayi mayi dans la ville de Kindu et à sa périphérie ainsi qu'à l'insécurité qui prévaut dans les territoires administratifs de Punia et de Kailo, l'accessibilité s'avère réduite à moins de 30%. A titre d'exemple, l'ONG Merlin qui intervenait dans trois zones de santé (Kindu, Kalima et Punia) ne peut plus acheminer les médicaments et le matériel dans la zone de santé de Punia, et sur les 41 aires de santé que comptent les zones de santé de Kindu et Kalima, seules douze sont accessibles. De plus, suite à l'embuscade tendue au véhicule de Merlin, le 25 janvier sur la route Kalima-Kindu, cette ONG vient de décider de suspendre tout mouvement en dehors de la ville de Kindu.

Selon des personnes qui ont fait la route Kindu-Kalima, dont une équipe du Consortium des ONG et Eglises locales, tous les villages à partir de Nyoka, situé à 19 km à l'est de Kindu, jusqu'à Kalima sont vides de leurs populations. Une marée de personnes en provenance aussi bien de ces villages que de Kailo, se dirige vers la cité minière de Kalima. Dans cette ville, à l'instar de Kindu, il est rapporté que les paysans ne peuvent pas accéder à leurs champs. Une campagne menée par des militaires du RCD et les autorités locales met en garde toute personne qui se rendrait dans la forêt, pouvant ainsi être assimilé à un mayi mayi." (UN OCHA 15 Feb 2002)

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

National Response

Government's decision to allow freedom of movement in the entire country aims to facilitate the return of the displaced (2001)

- Following the UN's request, the government of DRC decided on March 24 to authorize freedom of movement for persons and for goods in the entire country, in compliance with the Lusaka agreement
- This measure should help to reunite families, the return of internally displaced to their homes and to improve a dire food situation

"Le gouvernement de la République démocratique du Congo a décidé ce samedi 24 mars d'autoriser la libre circulation des personnes et des biens sur l'ensemble du territoire national, conformément à l'accord de Lusaka. [...]

La libre circulation concerne les voies de communication terrestre, fluviale, lacustre, aérienne et maritime. Cette mesure se justifie par le souci de réunifier les familles séparées par la guerre et de faciliter le retour des déplacés de guerre dans leur lieux de résidence. Cette décision va aider également au rétablissement des échanges commerciaux à travers toute l'étendue du territoire national afin d'enrayer la crise alimentaire qui sévit actuellement en RDC." (OCHA 31 March 2001)

"In western DRC, humanitarian space was limited by the previous government's unwillingness to grant permission to foreigners to travel outside Kinshasa and Lubumbashi. Permission was regulated by the Ministry of the Interior, and was bogged down by bureaucracy and suspicion. International NGOs were almost never granted travel authorisations or the mining permits required for travel to designated mining areas, such as most of the two Kasai provinces. Unable to start programmes, given these constraints on access, agencies could provide only limited assistance to government-held areas. Between August 1998 and March 2001, very little humanitarian aid reached populations affected by the war in Katanga, Equateur, and the two Kasai provinces, despite a growing body of information about the level of need.

In March 2001, the new government changed this policy, approving freedom of movement for international personnel. Access to many areas has now improved, although expatriate staff still find travel to designated mining areas cumbersome. Humanitarian missions are being dispatched to government-held areas cut off for almost three years, and some of these have found very serious situations. " (Oxfam August 2001, pp.13-14)

RCD-Goma authorities start taxing humanitarian donations from international community (September 2001)

- In search of new sources of revenues following the drop in the price of coltan, rebel authorities in the east have started to tax humanitarian supplies, jeopardizing humanitarian effort

"The most positive development in the war-torn Congo today is the drop in the price of coltan, a mineral ore with super conductivity at high temperatures, much desired on the world market today for use in computer chips. Coltan is mined extensively in the eastern Congo and profits from the trade are a major

source of income for the Rassemblement Congolais pour la Démocratie (RCD-Goma), the rebel movement that governs much of the region with military and political support from the Rwandan government. Human rights advocates have called for an international embargo on coltan imports from the Congo on the grounds that the trade in this mineral fuels the civil war. While an embargo has not been implemented, the slump in the technology sector, which coincided with the opening of a huge new coltan mine in Australia, has led to a collapse in the price of coltan, jeopardizing the financial viability of the RCD.

While the plunge in the international price of coltan leaves the RCD-Goma with fewer resources to pursue further conflict, it forces their leadership to identify other sources of income. One obvious target is the international humanitarian community based in the eastern Congo. Humanitarian donations from the international community are generally tax-exempt. The RCD-Goma authorities recently informed one international NGO that shipments of donated medicines would henceforth be taxed at the rate of 5% of their commercial worth. Until this new tax is paid, they are holding all other cargo imported by this NGO. Another international NGO in Bukavu was just presented with a letter from the RCD-Goma demanding \$100,000 for back taxes on salaries paid to expatriates. Further harassment of this type will jeopardize the humanitarian aid effort in the eastern Congo, an effort that is already completely inadequate to meet the needs of the Congolese population cut off from basic services and unable to meet their own food needs due to the continuing conflict." (RI 4 September 2001)

International coordination mechanisms

UN mechanisms for coordination (1999-2003)

- UN opens Humanitarian Information Centre in Goma (Jan 2003), to help improve coordinated response to humanitarian emergencies
- Weekly UN Country Management Team Disaster Management Team meetings
- Creation of thematic group on humanitarian assistance to IDPs and affected populations (OCHA)
- In July 2001, international humanitarian community focused on health and food security in DRC, at a Conference in Geneva

“The United Nations has opened a Humanitarian Information Centre (HIC) in the city of Goma in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) announced on Tuesday.

Located within OCHA's offices, the purpose of the centre is to create a space for the exchange of vital information among humanitarian actors operating in eastern DRC in order to better coordinate aid to and advocacy for vulnerable populations.

OCHA said that one problem encountered when coordinating the response to any humanitarian emergency was the lack of timely, accurate and relevant information. In order to overcome this problem, OCHA has in recent years opened these centres in areas of complex humanitarian emergencies.

Items now available at the Goma centre include the database, ‘Who Does What Where’, as well as a contact list of humanitarian agencies, maps, reports, books, brochures, and even mailboxes for correspondence among organizations.

In the near future, OCHA-Goma hopes to provide up-to-date maps of humanitarian activities and statistics; a photocopier; and an Internet connection for two to three computers.” (IRIN, 28 January 2003)

"Coordination structures functioned in 2001 according to a two-pronged mechanism decided by the IASC: merging of Humanitarian Coordinator and Resident Coordinator functions and centralized coordination functions in Kinshasa around the UN country team, while at the provincial level, particularly in rebel-held areas, coordination has been entirely delegated to local representatives of UN operational agencies (UNICEF in Northern Kivu and Province Orientale, WFP in Southern Kivu). OCHA was asked to support these provincial humanitarian coordinators.

Specific Actions included:

- The UN system, MONUC, ICRC and NGOs, regularly discussed the global strategy and common approach to the crisis in the DRC

- Emergency Humanitarian Interventions have been instrumental in responding to the most immediate needs.

- The "peace boat" operation between government and FLC held areas has been a major success in starting the process of overcoming the divisions between the government and rebel-held regions of the country. This initiative has started to open up lines of economic trade, enhanced inter-communal contacts and ameliorated the humanitarian situation.

- OCHA and MONUC Emergency Relief Funds are closely coordinated since September 2001.

- WHO and the Ministry of Health are working together to reinforce and strengthen the epidemiological surveillance.

- WHO's newly appointed Great Lakes Coordinator assumed his functions in September and began by supporting the WHO DRC office in the coordination of humanitarian health interventions

- The WHO/UNICEF meeting held in Nairobi in September brought together several provincial medecins inspecteurs as well as other humanitarian partners in a coordination meeting that embodied the principles of health as a bridge for peace.

- Food security is monitored by a thematic group chaired by FAO. This group is supported by an Emergency Agriculture Coordination structure composed of two main offices: Kinshasa and Goma, eight sub-offices and three local units which enable FAO and its NGOs and UN partners to monitor the food security situation and implement large inputs distribution campaigns.

- Emergency coordination facilitated the delivery of 300 MT of WFP food by plane to North Katanga while increasing possibilities for other types of assistance (safe motherhood, advocacy for humanitarian principles and access, revival of economic capacities).

The following reports and plans have been produced:

- National Health Sector Development Plan (UNDP/WHO)

- Reproductive Health Problem Analysis (UNFPA)

- National Strategic Plan Against AIDS (UNDP/WHO)

- Plan for the Reconstruction of the Education sector (UNDP/UNESCO)

- Community Struggle against Poverty (UNDP/DESA)

- Reports on the situation of children (UNICEF); MICS2 underway throughout the country.

Thematic groups have been created in order to re-launch durable solutions: HI/-AIDS (WHO), nutrition (WFP), humanitarian assistance to IDPs and affected populations (OCHA), human rights (OHCHR), logistics (WFP), population, women and development (UNFPA), struggle against poverty (UNDP)." (UN OCHA 26 November 2001)

"On July 9 and 10, 2001, the international humanitarian community participated in a conference in Geneva, Switzerland focusing on health and food security in the DRC. The conference participants approved of the public health approach in humanitarian assistance that supports local structures and encourages community participation. Regarding food security, UN agencies, donors, and NGO partners agreed to continue support for traditional food security interventions (seeds and tools distributions, assistance to nutrition centers) and bolster small-scale infrastructure projects (maintain feeder roads and small bridges, and introduce micro

credit activities where appropriate). In addition, they reached a consensus on the need for improved coordination and information sharing, and the need to deploy a senior UN Humanitarian Coordinator to Kinshasa." (USAID 20 August 2001)

Coordination between UN peacekeeping mission (MONUC) and other UN agencies in DRC is criticised (2003)

- Geneva-based Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue issues report criticising lack of coordination between MONUC and other UN agencies in DRC during the period from the Lusaka Agreement of 1999 to September 2002
- MONUC is described as weak, with a non-integrated mission structure
- MONUC describes the report as 'outdated'

"A new report from The Henry Dunant Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue criticises the international response to the crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), particularly what it perceives as a lack of coordination between the UN peacekeeping mission (MONUC) and other UN agencies in the country.

The paper, entitled 'Politics and Humanitarianism: Coherence in crisis?' includes a case study of the DRC, covering the period from the Lusaka Agreement of 1999 to September 2002.

'Most striking in this case study is the enormous gulf between the scale of the tragedy and the response on every front from the international community ' the report states. 'The response, whether political, military or humanitarian, has been minimal.'

It further states that the consequence of a weak MONUC and non-integrated mission structure was that there was neither a negative nor positive effect on humanitarian space of association with MONUC.

Responding, Nancee Oku Bright, Chief of the Humanitarian Affairs Section of MONUC, called the report 'outdated'.

'Unfortunately, the report is outdated as far as MONUC's recent interaction with the humanitarian community and support to humanitarian action is concerned,' she said.

'Since my arrival in August 2002, we have substantially increased our support to humanitarian action, including monthly deliveries of humanitarian goods for UN and NGO counterparts; a commitment to allow humanitarian counterparts to utilise our logistical resources (planes/boats) as long as it does not interfere with the operations of the mission; increased participation in areas where few humanitarian actors are; back-stopping and supporting OCHA [the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs] where [we] can; pressuring for access where we are asked by OCHA or others to do so; and increased participation in joint assessment missions and making MONUC resources available to support such missions,' she added." (IRIN, 25 February 2003)

[Click [here](http://www.hdcentre.org/Resources/Documents/Politics%20and%20Humanitarianism.pdf) for the full report, which also includes case studies for Afghanistan and Sierra Leone]
<http://www.hdcentre.org/Resources/Documents/Politics%20and%20Humanitarianism.pdf>

New humanitarian coordination mechanisms to better respond to humanitarian crisis (Nov 2002)

- In May 2002 multi-donor mission recommended the restructuring of humanitarian coordination mechanisms
- Nine OCHA fields will be strengthened and other ones will be established to ensure a better coverage of the country

"In view of the drastic changes that occurred in the political and humanitarian scopes in the DRC over the past years, the existing humanitarian co-ordination mechanisms were deemed no longer suitable for the purposes for which they were established. Hence the multi-donor mission which visited DRC in May 2002 recommended their restructuring, both at the strategic and operational levels, in order to enhance and improve the humanitarian response capacity of the UN system and the NGO community to adequately address the new needs and challenges. Moreover, the expected consequences of the successive political developments on the humanitarian situation made the restructuring inevitable in view of the challenges to be met in terms of the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

The forthcoming restructuring will be implemented in three phases, the most immediate being the reinforcement of the nine existing field offices as well as the adjustment of the Kinshasa structure, a second phase which consists of creating new positions will follow towards the end of the year, and the last stage in the restructuring is expected to take place by the end of the first semester of 2003. The intended restructuring will have inevitably an impact on both the operational costs as well as the level of investments, in addition to the humanitarian coordination's strategy of increased mobility and field presence applied in the DRC since 1999. This strategy will be further streamlined through the strengthening of existing humanitarian coordination field offices and the establishment of additional ones, particularly in areas of greatest humanitarian needs. Decentralised field offices covering areas of common humanitarian concerns will contribute to enlarging the existing humanitarian space (access to new areas) and ensure a better coverage of the country." (UN OCHA 19 Nov 2002, p36)

UN and NGO sub-offices to get closer to isolated IDP communities and other vulnerable populations (2001)

- During 2001, OCHA established four new sub-offices, in Gemena, Kindu, Lubumbashi and Kalémie and consolidated existing ones in Kinshasa, Mbandaka, Kisangani, Bunia, Goma and Bukavu
- WFP, FAO, Solidarités, MSF, IRC and other agencies have opened a number of sub-offices and antennae in the field in order to get closer to isolated IDP communities (2001)
- WHO strengthens the surveillance of diseases in the provinces (2001)

During 2001, "Expanded OCHA presence by consolidating and/or opening four new sub-offices in Gemena, Kindu, Lubumbashi and Kalémie to bolster the existing ones in Kinshasa, Mbandaka, Kisangani, Bunia, Goma and Bukavu;" (OCHA May 2002, p13)

"In the past nine months, WHO has set up 11 provincial 'antennae' staffed with medical epidemiologists, logisticians and radio communications and recruited 42 epidemiologists to work at district level Both levels are funded by the Global Polio Campaign but are charged in their terms of reference with addressing the much broader brief of strengthening surveillance of all epidemic-prone diseases as well as polio." (WHO 9 August 2001)

"WFP, FAO, Solidarités, MSF, IRC and other agencies have opened a number of sub-offices and antennae in the field in order to get closer to displaced communities living in isolated locations. WFP opened new premises, including in Kamina, Zongo. Thanks to recent OFDA funding the FAO emergency coordination unit is now established in Kinshasa, Goma and in 7 antennae, thus allowing better food security and vulnerability assessment as well as the supervision of operations. OCHA's network now comprises ten

offices throughout the country, thus providing NGOs and agencies with increased opportunities for information sharing and analysis, exploratory and planning missions. WHO's polio antennae in the provinces have continued working on integrated disease surveillance. Likewise, indirect interventions through local structures proved successful such as in Ituri where UNICEF relies on the local NGO SOS Grands Lacs to implement a child tracing and reintegration programme. In violence-torn Masisi, patient action and deep-rooted bonds among various interest groups enabled Agro Action Allemande to achieve a road rehabilitation programme that has prompted a significant increase in farming, trade and transport, which in turn contributed to a decrease in commodity prices in town." (UN OCHA 26 November 2001, p.15)

Principles of Engagement for Emergency Humanitarian Assistance in the DRC (November 1998)

- Principles elaborated at a meeting of the humanitarian community in Nairobi on 23 November 1998
- Principles based on the ICRC's Code of Conduct
- Principles endorsed by the Government and main rebel group

"Late last year [1997] the worsening humanitarian situation in the DRC together with increased security risks to humanitarian agencies made it necessary to seek consensus on a common approach to the delivery of humanitarian assistance, based on the application of agreed principles. This set of principles – the Principles of Engagement for Emergency Humanitarian Assistance in the Democratic Republic of Congo – aims at increasing the efficiency and pertinence of aid and maximising the humanitarian space for the relief community. They are based on the ICRC's Code of Conduct and were first set out at a meeting in Nairobi on 23 November 1998.

The principles are addressed to the international humanitarian community as well as to the political and military authorities in the DRC. General overarching principles are defined as impartiality; neutrality; independence (aid based solely on need); human rights; participation with local partners; coordination between agencies; transparency of humanitarian actors; and accountability. In addition, some general protocols are mentioned with regard to accessibility, security and types of intervention, and monitoring and evaluation. The principles also set out some practical means for improving coordination mechanisms and monitoring compliance to the principles." (RRN November 1998)

"Shortly after the advent of the Congolese crisis, the humanitarian community developed 'Principles of Engagement for Emergency Humanitarian Assistance in the DRC' [...] as a basis for humanitarian interventions in the DRC. The document reflects basic international norms and practices governing humanitarian action, and was endorsed by UN agencies, various NGOs and donors, notably ECHO and the US.

During a mission of the Deputy to the UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs to the DRC in January 1999, the 'Principles of Engagement' were accepted by the DRC government and the RCD in Goma.

The document laid the groundwork for the resumption of UN humanitarian activities in the eastern provinces and emphasised the non-political character of humanitarian action. As a result and through active engagement with authorities at national, provincial and local level, the relief community increased its access to beneficiaries. Direct positive results achieved in 1999 include:

Legal and humanitarian assistance to endangered ethnic minorities;
Access to war prisoners on both sides of the frontline;

Safe havens for Sudanese refugees, where possible;
Nation-wide polio immunisation campaigns on both sides of the frontline;
Commitment from authorities to stop child recruitment and demobilise child-soldiers;
Establishment of joint UN humanitarian offices in Goma and Bukavu"
(UN November 1999, p.65)

Text of the principles:

"Introduction

The worsening humanitarian situation in the democratic Republic of Congo, in particular in the Eastern part of the country, together with increased security risks both to personnel and assets of humanitarian agencies, made it necessary to seek consensus on a common approach to the delivery of humanitarian assistance, based on the application of a set of agreed principles. This set of principles aims at increasing the efficiency and the pertinence of the delivered aid and maximising the humanitarian space for the relied community.

The set of principles is addressed to the international Humanitarian community as well as to the political and military authorities. General overarching principles are defined under 1) while some general protocols, mainly on accessibility, security and types of interventions, monitoring and evaluation are mentioned under 2)

1) Overarching Principles

The present document, together with the 'Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief', which most assistance in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Its guiding principle is... 'The right to receive humanitarian assistance and to offer it is a fundamental humanitarian principle, which should be enjoyed by all citizens of all countries. As members of the international community, we recognise our obligation to provide humanitarian assistance wherever it is needed. Hence the need for unimpeded access to affected populations, is of fundamental importance in exercising that responsibility. The prime motivation of our response to disaster is to alleviate human suffering amongst those least able to withstand the stress caused by disaster. When we give humanitarian aid, it is no a partisan or political act and should not be viewed as such'... (Reference: Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in disaster relief, 7/9/98, p.2)

Impartiality:

Aid will be delivered without discrimination as to ethnicity, religious beliefs or political opinion. Humanitarian assistance should be provided solely on the basis of needs.

Neutrality-Apolitical nature of humanitarian aid:

Aid agencies will be neutral in providing humanitarian assistance and must stress the apolitical nature of humanitarian assistance. The action of aid agencies will not imply recognition of or confer legitimacy of the authority in control of the area in which humanitarian assistance is provided.

Independence:

The assistance provided will be depended solely on needs, giving priority to the most urgent and stressing situations, and will not be influenced by political, economic or military considerations.

Human Rights:

The promotion of human rights is an essential part of humanitarian assistance and may range from passive monitoring of respect for human rights to pro-active human rights advocacy. These activities will be guided by International Human Law and by the mandates given by International Instruments to various humanitarian organisations such as UNHCHR, UNHCR, and ICRC.

Participation:

Beneficiaries, local partners and local structures should be involved, wherever possible, in the need assessment, provision and monitoring of humanitarian emergency assistance, so as to provide sustainability in the long term.

Coordination:

Participating agencies commit themselves to enhanced co-ordination and mutual support using the existing co-ordination mechanisms.

Transparency:

Humanitarian programmes and aid agencies operating in the country must be totally transparent in all their workings and dealings with relevant authorities. Transparency should be achieved through the regular flow of information to the relevant authorities and vice versa. This principle should be applied without prejudice to the security of the beneficiaries.

Accountability:

Implementing partners hold themselves accountable to both those they seek to assist and those from whom they accept resources.

2) Protocol

Freedom of access:

Parties to the conflict should ensure unimpeded access for assessment, delivery and monitoring of humanitarian aid to potential beneficiaries. The assistance to affected areas should be provided in the most efficient manner and by the most accessible routes.

Security:

The relevant authorities are responsible for creating conditions conducive to the implementing of humanitarian activities. This must cover the security of local and international staff as well as all assets. The restitution of requisitioned assets is an essential indication of the goodwill of the authorities. Agencies look to the local authorities to take responsibilities for ensuring the return of assets wherever possible. The security of the civil population in conflict zones is the responsibility of the relevant authorities.

Escorts:

Armed escorts should only be used as a last resort for the delivery of humanitarian assistance in areas of serious insecurity. The co-ordinating body should evaluate the need for an armed escort on a case by case basis.

Joint assessments and types of intervention:

Where possible basic humanitarian needs and beneficiaries will be identified through joint assessment missions, which would also define the necessary package of assistance to mitigate and prevent life threatening situations. Interventions will involve local communities, wherever possible, and be designed to strengthen existing local capacities.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

Monitoring and evaluation of humanitarian assistance will be jointly undertaken by aid agencies and local partners, in cooperation with donors. Mechanisms will be put in place to monitor compliance with the principles of engagement. " (OCHA 25 January 1999)

International political response

Deployment of UN mission, MONUC, to help implement Lusaka agreement and monitor security conditions (1999-2003)

- MONUC Phase I deployed in support of the Lusaka Peace Accords in Nov 1999
- Under Phase II, approved by UNSC in 2001, MONUC's mandate include monitoring, maintaining liaison, working with parties, facilitating, cooperating, supervising and verifying
- Current MONUC strength is over 4,300 people

- While MONUC is mandated to protect civilians under imminent threats, current mission is not trained to intervene rapidly to provide such protection
- On June 14, 2002, UN SC adopted Resolution 1417, which extended the mandate of MONUC for another year
- UN Secretary General said in Feb 2002 that the phase II deployment of MONUC had been concluded successfully
- MONUC is the most complex logistical mission ever undertaken by the United Nations (March 02)
- In Dec 2002, the UNSC decided to expand MONUC to a total of 8,700 military personnel and to extend its presence eastwards
- More MONUC troops arrive in the eastern Ituri district as Ugandan troops begin their withdrawal in April 2003

"In November 1999, MONUC's Phase I, called the Joint Military Commission (JMC), was deployed to the DRC in support of the Lusaka Peace Accords. In 2001, the Security Council approved Phase II, which authorized 5,537 UN Peacekeeping personnel, but MONUC has not yet achieved that strength. The current MONUC military strength is 4,309. That number includes 455 military observers, 3,803 troops and 51 civilian police. Now the Security Council is debating whether to go forward with Phase III, an 8,000 strong peacekeeping force with a mandate to voluntarily disarm foreign militias. The Security Council has not yet voted on this increase.

MONUC's current mandate in Phase II lists a potpourri of tasks including monitoring, maintaining liaison, working with parties, facilitating, cooperating, supervising and verifying. It also includes a sentence that is at the heart of the misunderstandings and frustrations. 'Acting under chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, the Security Council also decided that MONUC may take the necessary action, in the areas of deployment of its infantry battalions and as it deems it within its capabilities, to protect United Nations and co-located JMC (Joint Military Commission) personnel, facilities, installations and equipment, ensure the security and freedom of movement of its personnel, and protect civilians under imminent threat of physical violence.'

While it would appear that MONUC thus has the mandate to protect civilian personnel, in fact, the matter is open to interpretation. The most recent dramatic test of that mandate was the May 14 crackdown and killings by soldiers of the RCD-Goma, the Rwandan-backed rebel force, in Kisangani. There are about 1,200 MONUC military personnel in Kisangani (approximately 650 Moroccans and 550 Uruguayans). There was no military response from MONUC to the attack, nor did they offer protection to civilians who came to them. From MONUC's point of view, neither the Moroccans nor the Uruguayans are infantry units. Therefore, its leaders did not "deem it within [their] capability" to protect these civilians, even though the civilians were certainly under "imminent threat of physical violence." The Congolese in Kisangani had a different perspective. They were being killed and were getting no help from 1,100 UN soldiers.

In his June report to the Security Council, Secretary-General Kofi Annan wrote that even though the Security Council mandated MONUC to protect civilians under imminent threat, "...MONUC troops currently deployed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo are not equipped, trained or configured to intervene rapidly to assist those in need of such protection."

Many MONUC personnel share the Congolese frustration with their ambiguous mandate and lack of capacity. RI asked a senior MONUC official about MONUC's response to the recent attacks on civilians in Ituri, a region likely to see more violence now that Ugandan troops have withdrawn. The reply was, "Look, people shouldn't throw stones at MONUC if they haven't given us the mandate and the people to do the job. Where's the P-5? Where are the Western troops?"

Further, in fairness to MONUC, it was deployed to monitor the implementation of a ceasefire that has never really existed for most Congolese in war-torn eastern Congo. As this report is being written, there are battles all along the eastern region of the DRC, and much of Congolese territory is under the control of various factions that call themselves rebels, even though they are backed by foreign powers. There are 400,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in South Kivu alone, and 75% of them are not accessible by humanitarian assistance due to the fighting. MONUC does not have a mandate to stop any of the fighting occurring in the Congo. Its total strength of about 3,800 troops, most of whom are in non-combat units, must cover an area of 2.3 million square kilometers. By comparison, the UNAMSIL mission in Sierra Leone, a country with only 71,740 square kilometers (about 1/32 the size of the DRC), has a troop strength of 17,500.

With the withdrawal of 20,000 soldiers of the Rwandan army, and as the 2,000 remaining soldiers of the Ugandan army withdraw from Ituri region, local rebel forces and militias have increased their hostile actions to gain power and territory, causing the situation in the Congo to deteriorate. MONUC's mandate and strength must be increased to prevent further massacres and population displacements." (RI 14 Nov 2002)

On 5 December 2002, "The strength of the United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) is to be expanded to a total of 8,700 military personnel and have its presence extended eastwards.

The UN reported on Wednesday that the Security Council had unanimously adopted a resolution agreeing to a "new concept" of operations for MONUC which included a shift of emphasis eastwards, and a significant strengthening of its military capacity through the creation of a "forward force" of two robust task forces based in Kindu and Kisangani.

The mission would provide security at sites allocated for the disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration process, assist in the destruction of impounded weapons and munitions, and continue to monitor the withdrawal of foreign troops from the DRC. In addition, riverine units would be used to support the reopening of the Congo river to commercial traffic, the UN said." (IRIN 5 Dec 2002, "MONUC reinforced")

To view the UN SC Resolution 1445 of 4 Dec 2002 expanding authorized troop level in DR Congo to 8,700, please see [\[External link\]](#)

The UN Security Council, Resolution 1417,

"Determining that the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo continues to pose a threat to international peace and security in the region,

"1. Decides to extend the mandate of MONUC until 30 June 2003;

"2. Calls upon Member States to contribute personnel to enable MONUC to reach its authorized strength of 5,537, including observers, within the timeframe outlined in its concept of operation;

"3. Takes note of the recommendation by the Secretary General for a troop ceiling increase and expresses its intention to consider authorizing it as soon as further progress has been achieved [...]" (UN SC 14 June 2002)

"Noting difficulties in the eastward deployment of the United Nations mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan has recommended that the Security Council consider increasing the overall number of UN troops and police in the country." (UN News Service 19 Feb 2002)

"The United Nations operation in the Congo was the most complex logistical mission ever undertaken by the United Nations, the Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) was told this morning as it concluded its consideration of the financing of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC)." (UN GA 12 March 2002)

"A major problem facing MONUC as it prepares for the main task of phase III, which is the facilitation of voluntary disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, is the lack of a capable force for this challenging task. The Mission's strategy depends on the creation of a climate of confidence and security in the east, for which the deployment of a robust contingent is essential. In the continuing absence of a country willing to provide a force with the necessary capacity, phase III of the Mission's deployment remains, for the present, delayed." (UN SC 5 June 2002, para.27)

"More peacekeepers from the UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), known as MONUC, and security forces from Kinshasa arrived in the Ituri District of northeastern DRC on Thursday to maintain law and order as Ugandan troops began their planned retreat.

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni gave the order on Thursday for his forces to withdraw from the troubled district. Thousands of people have been killed in Ituri in ethnic and other fighting over the past four years.

UN aircraft landed at Bunia's tiny airstrip airport on Thursday, ferrying MONUC personnel and supplies to the town. Around 70 armed Congolese policemen from Kinshasa also arrived and drove to the centre of Bunia.

The commander of the Ugandan troops in Ituri, Brig Kale Kayihura, told reporters at the airport that 1,500 of his men would leave on Thursday by plane. He said his men in Mongbwalu, northwest of Bunia, and Aru, almost on the Ugandan border, were walking to the border.

'We are doing this according to our own schedule,' he said.

'Today we are handing over the towns, including Bunia, to the Uruguayan forces [of MONUC] but we are keeping control of the airports until the withdrawal is complete,' he added.

The MONUC commander in Kinshasa, Gen Mountaga Diallo, said there were around 6,000 to 7,000 Ugandan troops in Ituri, and it would be impossible to evacuate them all in one day.

The Ugandan withdrawal is part of a deal presidents Joseph Kabila of the DRC and Yoweri Museveni signed on 6 September 2002 in Luanda, Angola.

MONUC is to deploy 2,500 of its peacekeepers to Ituri before June. A first contingent of 200 Uruguayans arrived in Bunia on Wednesday." (IRIN, 24 April 2003)

The [home page of MONUC](#) contains links to recent UN documents on DRC

Policy and recommendations

Numerous organisations call for strengthened MONUC force in wake of renewed violence in Bunia (May 2003)

- Following withdrawal of Ugandan troops from Bunia in May 2003, fierce fighting breaks out between Hema and Lendu/ Ngiti militias for control of the town
- MONUC comes under mounting criticism from both humanitarian organisations and civilians for its apparently ineffective handling of the situation

- HRW calls on the Security Council to provide MONUC with more troops and equipment so that it can properly fulfil its mandate (that includes a limited degree of civilian protection)
- Oxfam urges the UN to deploy a rapid reaction force to enforce peace in Bunia
- UN SG asks the Security Council to consider 'effective measures' to prevent the situation from deteriorating with further loss of civilians lives
- Ugandan president criticises MONUC for practising 'dangerous tourism'
- South African president expected to urge UN to give MONUC troops greater powers to intervene to protect civilians
- UN Security Council debates various options to boost the existing peacekeeping force in DRC

“The United Nations Observer Mission in Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC) must urgently protect civilians threatened by renewed violence in the war-torn region of Ituri in northeastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Human Rights Watch said today.

Following yesterday’s withdrawal of Ugandan troops from the provincial capital of Bunia, Hema militias began fighting Lendu and Ngiti militias for control of the town. Thousands of combatants armed with firearms, spears, axes and machetes streamed into the town as panicked civilians fled or sought refuge in one of the sites where MONUC troops have been posted. Witnesses in Bunia reported fighting in two suburbs and near the airport. Telephone conversations with persons in the area were interrupted by bursts of gunfire.

“The Security Council has given MONUC a mandate to ‘protect civilians under imminent threat of physical violence,’” said Alison Des Forges, senior adviser to the Africa Division of Human Rights Watch. ‘But to do that, it must have enough troops and equipment.’

The Hema and Lendu have been fighting since 1999 in a conflict that has claimed tens of thousands of lives and displaced some 500,000 people. In a fast-changing scene, the groups have allied with several different Congolese rebel groups and with foreign backers, including Uganda and Rwanda. With an agenda of apparent ethnic purification, the people of one group have massacred people of the other, yielding a spiral of deadly reprisal attacks.

The United Nations recently increased its troops in the area from eight to about 400, anticipating that fighting might resume with the departure of the Ugandans who have exercised de facto control in the region since 1999. The Ugandans left after a series of peace deals called for their withdrawal. A civilian administration set up recently by agreement among the various parties is supposed to govern the area but appears unable to control the deteriorating situation. According to preliminary reports, some MONUC soldiers were trying to restore order by conducting patrols and setting up roadblocks but they were far outnumbered by militia forces.

Human Rights Watch urged the Security Council and the U.N. peacekeeping office to urgently send MONUC reinforcements to Ituri from elsewhere in the DRC. As of March 31, there were 3,805 MONUC troops in the DRC. MONUC had been expected to deploy another 2,000 troops in the area in the coming months.

‘People in Ituri can’t wait months for help to come,’ said Des Forges. ‘They’re looking to the U.N. and to the rest of us for protection now.’” (HRW, 8 May 2003)

“The British aid organisation Oxfam has called on the UN to deploy rapid reaction troops to enforce peace in Bunia, northeastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), which has been rocked by violence between rival Hema and Lendu militias since the withdrawal of Ugandan troops which were controlling the town.

'The UN Security Council must act on recommendations made to them by the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations. The Council must find troops and resources for a rapid reaction peace enforcement force for Bunia', Nicola Reindorp, the head of Oxfam's New York office, said on Saturday.

The Security Council is due to meet Monday 12 May to decide on effective measures to stop the violence. News reports described a rising death toll among civilians at the weekend: they said 12 people, including three babies were killed in Bunia on Sunday, while some 20 civilians were killed in the town's Nyakasunza parish compound on Saturday. Many humanitarian workers have left the town because of insecurity and thousands of civilians have fled their homes.

[...]

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan on Saturday expressed alarm at the deteriorating situation and said that the headquarters of the UN Mission to the DRC, MONUC, had been attacked on Friday by militias despite the fact that it was sheltering thousands of civilians.

'I am therefore asking the Security Council to consider effective measures to prevent the situation from deteriorating with further loss of civilians lives', Annan said.

[...]

The Ugandan president Yoweri Museveni on Sunday said that Congolese fleeing from Ituri were welcome in Uganda. 'It would be unacceptable for us to close our borders before them and leave them to be massacred', he told a press conference in Kampala.

Museveni called for the deployment of an African Union force to the region. 'The situation in Ituri requires an African force with a proper mandate which should include monitoring a ceasefire if there is any, defending itself, defending civilians', he said. Museveni criticised the MONUC mission in Bunia, saying that the MONUC troops were practising 'dangerous tourism'.

South African newspapers also reported on Sunday that South African president and African Union chairman Thabo Mbeki would urge Annan to give MONUC troops greater powers to intervene to protect civilians." (IRIN, 12 May 2003)

"United Nations Security Council has been discussing sending more peacekeepers to help contain escalating ethnic violence in the north-east of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Some officials have likened recent killings and racial tensions in the area to the start of the Rwandan genocide of 1994.

During the first day of talks on Monday, the head of UN peacekeeping operations, Jean-Marie Guehenno, warned that without decisive action there would be a bloodbath in Congo's Ituri province - between the Lendu majority and the Hema minority.

[...]

Security Council President Munir Akram says that a final decision on what should be done in Congo is not expected to be reached until later this week.

Council members have been discussing a range of options, from the reinforcement of the existing peacekeeping force in DR Congo, to the deployment of a small, but highly robust foreign force, acting with the UN's blessing." (BBC News, 13 May 2003)

Uganda must protect civilians in Ituri, says Human Rights Watch (2003)

- HRW calls on Uganda to protect civilians in Ituri following a massacre of primarily Hema people in Drodro and Blukwa, in April 2003

- HRW research shows at least 4,000 people died in ethnic violence in Ituri in an 8 month period, a situation it says is inflamed by Ugandan support to various ethnic militias in the the area

“Ugandan forces and their allies must prevent the killing of civilians in Ituri in northeastern Congo, Human Rights Watch said in an open letter to President Museveni of Uganda today after information of yet another massacre of civilians surfaced over the weekend.

The killing of civilians in Drodro and Blukwa in Ituri, northeastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) on April 3 is the latest in a surge of killings and other serious human rights abuses that have taken place in the area. Reports from the field suggest that Lendu militias, who may have been supported by Ugandan soldiers, attacked remnants of the recently ousted Union of Congolese Patriots (UPC) Hema forces. The operation degenerated into a killing spree targeting primarily Hema, and hundreds were reportedly killed.

‘This massacre follows a horrific pattern we've seen in Ituri in recent months, where military operations often turn into the slaughter of civilians,’ said Alison Des Forges, senior advisor to the Africa Division of Human Rights Watch. ‘The Ugandan forces have a responsibility to prevent such killings by their own troops and their allies.’

Human Rights Watch research recently conducted in Ituri shows that at least 4,000 people have lost their lives in ethnic killings over the past eight months on both sides of the ethnic divide. Uganda's volatile sponsorship of a variety of ethnic militias in Ituri has inflamed the situation.” (HRW, 7 April 2003)

UN Security Council is urged to help end human rights violations, culture of impunity in DRC (2003)

- USG for Peacekeeping Operations and UNHCHR brief the Security Council on the situation in DRC (Feb 2003)
- UNHCHR, Sergio Vieira de Mello, highlights shocking human rights violations and lack of humanitarian access in areas of DRC, calling on the Security Council to urge belligerents and their foreign supporters to end this situation
- UNHCHR also highlights importance of creating effective judicial and national human rights protection systems in DRC

“In their dialogue with Security Council members regarding the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo this afternoon, Jean-Marie Guéhenno, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, and Sergio Vieira de Mello, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, underlined the need to put an end to the human rights violations and the culture of impunity in that country.

Mr. Guéhenno noted that there had been heavy fighting in the Ituri region, despite the signing on 16 to 17 December in Pretoria of the All-Inclusive Agreement. In December, the Mouvement de libération du Congo (MLC) and its ally, the Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie-National (RCD-N), had stepped up offensive operations in the direction of Beni against the forces of the Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie-Kisangani/Mouvement de libération (RCD-K/ML). Some forces of the Union des patriotes congolais (UPC) reportedly had participated, as well. Thousands of people had been displaced.

The United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) had been able to broker a truce on 30 December, providing for withdrawal and disengagement, as well as access for humanitarian relief. Withdrawal had been completed on 3 February, he said. However, the UPC had taken over Komanda, had recruited child soldiers and had acquired military equipment. He emphasized that the situation in the north-east was of growing concern. The MONUC had been working hard to defuse tensions

and recommended peace-building mechanisms. The situation in Ituri might prove to be a new flashpoint between Uganda and Rwanda.

Regarding MONUC's future role in the area of human rights, he recognized the leading role of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. If there was no end to the present culture of impunity in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, progress sought on the political front might be hard to achieve. The Council might consider a host of actions to ensure that more attention was paid to human rights concerns in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, he said.

Mr. Vieira de Mello, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, stressed an imperative need to continue to monitor closely the human rights situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and report on it, saying that the Pretoria peace process should be based on solid human rights grounds.

He said that all the parties to the conflict continued to commit grave violations of human rights. The situation was exacerbated by the impunity enjoyed by those committing those violations, including government officials. Most shocking violations of human rights included some 220 extrajudicial executions, 122 cases of forced disappearances, 95 cases of rape, and 32 cases of torture. Witnesses also described such atrocities as mutilations followed by cannibalism. The warring parties were not allowing humanitarian workers to the areas under their control, which made it difficult to provide assistance to the population displaced by the conflict.

Regarding a future course of action, he said that the Council might wish to demand again that the belligerents and their foreign supporters put an immediate end to human rights violations and the culture of impunity. Those responsible for such crimes should be immediately arrested and brought to justice, including those who continued to exercise military command functions.

It was also important to create effective judicial and national human rights protection systems in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, he said. Consideration should be given to the establishment of an international commission of inquiry to look into all serious human rights violations committed by all sides. He also expected that the Commission on Human Rights would continue to closely monitor the situation through its Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo." (UN SC, 13 February 2003)

Refugees International testifies to US Congress on the situation in DRC (2003)

- RI briefs US Congress on recent mission to DRC, where one focus was internal displacement caused by continuing insecurity
- RI highlights 'continuous and ongoing horror' in DRC, and calls on US to make vigorous efforts to find solutions to the catastrophe

"On April 3, 2003, Congressman Edward Royce chaired a hearing on 'Democratic Republic of Congo: Key to the Crisis in the Great Lakes Region.' RI Advocate Anne Edgerton was asked to present written testimony for the hearing. The following is a copy of her statement:

I want to thank the Chairman of the Subcommittee on African Affairs, Congressman Edward Royce, and the Ranking Member, Congressman Donald M. Payne, for providing the opportunity for Refugees International (RI) to submit written testimony on the current humanitarian crisis unfolding in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). I returned from Ituri district and North Kivu Province in northeastern DRC at the end of February, completing my eighth humanitarian assessment mission for RI in the Great Lakes region of Africa, an area I have worked in, studied and written about since January 1995. My focus on this most recent mission was on the following issues: internal displacement caused by continuing insecurity; humanitarian access to displaced populations; the extent to which foreign countries

are involved in the Congo; and the current status of children employed, armed, and used by the various fighting forces.

[...]

"In fiscal year 2002, the UN received 46% of the requested \$202 million for humanitarian assistance intended to respond to the needs of an estimated 2.1 million internally displaced people. This year's appeal for \$268 million, launched in November 2002, looks to fare far worse, while the estimate of internally displaced people now may eclipse 2.7 million.

The stark reality is that more people have died in the Congo in the last week due to violence, malnutrition, and disease than have died in the war in Iraq to date. The horror in the Congo is continuous and on-going. RI applauds the initiative of the Committee to hold this hearing and hopes that it will result in more vigorous efforts by the United States to find solutions to the Congo catastrophe." (RI, 7 April 2003)

Human Rights Watch says UN HCR and MONUC should deploy more human rights officers in the DRC (March 2002)

"Human Rights Watch called on the U.N. Human Rights Commission meeting today in Geneva to increase the number of monitors reporting on the ongoing war in the Democratic Republic of Congo.[...]

The Field Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights has some 20 human rights officers in the Congo, but too few to monitor abuses throughout the vast territory. A U.N. peacekeeping force known as MONUC also has positions allocated for human rights observers, but some of them remain vacant. In addition, observers from the two systems fail to coordinate their actions effectively.

Human Rights Watch urged the Human Rights Commission to allocate more funds for monitors and to press the Security Council to recruit and deploy monitors assigned to MONUC as rapidly as possible, particularly in the troubled eastern Congo. The Security Council should also direct child protection and humanitarian advisers as well as human rights monitors attached to MONUC to accompany military observers into areas of conflict." (HRW 28 Mar 2002)

UN Special Rapporteur for DR Congo expressed concern about increase of violations of human rights during withdrawal of foreign forces (October 2002)

"Iulia Antoanella Motoc, the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, has welcomed the withdrawal of foreign troops from the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the implementation of the Pretoria and Luanda agreements. She encouraged the holding of the inter-Congolese dialogue which would result in the putting in place of mechanisms to allow new institutions to function.

The Special Rapporteur expressed her concern about the increase of violations of human rights during the withdrawal of the foreign forces. She underscored that the withdrawal of foreign troops must not be an opportunity or a pretext for the commitment of human rights violations. She appealed to all the parties to respect all human rights.

Ms. Motoc condemned the resumption of the armed conflict in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo which resulted in massive violations of human rights, as well as the deterioration of the humanitarian situation." (UN HCHR 25 Oct 2002)

Oxfam GB, SCF-UK and Christian Aid advocate for better IDP protection (2001-2002)

In an August 2001 report entitled "No End in Sight: The human tragedy of the conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo", Oxfam GB, SCF-UK and Christian Aid make several recommendations including the following:

"The DRC government and the warring parties should guarantee safe access to all civilians in need and allow the free movement of humanitarian personnel and emergency relief supplies throughout the DRC. [...]

The protection of displaced people and civilians – from attack, separation from their families, malnutrition, or death from curable diseases – needs to be prioritized. All belligerents must be pressed to respect humanitarian principles and human rights, and to ensure that all humanitarian personnel have access to vulnerable groups. [...]

Donor governments should substantially increase their funding of humanitarian assistance and protection [...]." (Oxfam 6 August 2001)

"Christian Aid has been raising awareness of the humanitarian crisis in the DRC for more than two years, and with this in view its Advocacy Strategy aims to build on work with MPs and with other NGOs, both in the UK and in Europe." (Christian Aid Jan 2002)

Donor Response

UN inter-agency consolidated appeal for DRC 2003 calls for US\$ 270 million (January 2003)

- UN's 2-pronged humanitarian strategy for 2003 includes widening humanitarian space in most affected areas of DRC and strengthening reintegration dynamics
- In first ten months of 2002, humanitarian assistance to DRC channelled through the CAP amounted to just under US\$ 80 million

By the end of April 2003, about 15 percent of the 2003 CAP was funded. Up-to-date summaries of CAP requirements and contributions can be accessed on the financial tracking system of the UN OCHA ReliefWeb [\[external link\]](#)

"Flexibility and responsiveness are therefore key to a two-pronged humanitarian strategy for the year 2003 in the DRC. A first axis will aim at widening the humanitarian space in most affected areas of the DRC. Advocating for reaching the hidden target groups, pursuing humanitarian assistance to reachable vulnerable groups will be daily tasks, coupled with fostering rapid intervention and information sharing coordination capacities. A second axis will revolve around strengthening reintegration dynamics. Deciding when to return home or to resettle remains a sovereign choice, however weakened individuals and families can be. The purpose of this year's strategy will be to accompany them in this choice, using common grounds with the R segment of the DDR whenever needed.

Responsiveness will equally translate into strengthened humanitarian information and coordination structures in areas most affected by the effects of, and potential for more, armed violence. At central level, this will, in turn, feed strategic mechanisms for a humanitarian coordination whose position will be at the confluence of emergency responses, reintegration dynamics and early recovery.

Humanitarian assistance to the DRC channelled through the Consolidated Appeal (CA) in the ten first months of 2002 amounted to US\$ 79,118,000. The year 2003 will be characterised, for the first time in a

decade, by a flow of fund contributions for peace-keeping and economic rehabilitation purposes. It is essential that the needs of the voiceless and of those most exposed to armed violence be also addressed through a robust humanitarian response. The CAP 2003 for the Democratic Republic of Congo will seek approximately **US\$ 270 million.**”(UN,16 January 2003, p1)

US Government humanitarian assistance to DRC benefits IDPs, among others (2003)

- As of April 2003, USAID/OFDA had provided more than US\$ 10.4 million in emergency assistance to DRC during FY 2003
- USAID/OFDA's projects target geographic areas with the highest mortality and malnutrition rates
- In FY 2003 (as of April) USAID/FFP provided approximately US\$ 20 million in food assistance to WFP

“On November 5, 2001, U.S. Ambassador Aubrey Hooks re-declared a disaster for the ongoing complex emergency in the DRC as a result of the continued fighting since August 1998.

USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$10.4 million in emergency assistance to the DRC during FY 2003. USAID/OFDA provides emergency assistance in the food security and nutrition sectors, contributes to emergency market infrastructure rehabilitation, and supports agricultural programs for war-affected, vulnerable, and internally displaced persons.

USAID/OFDA's projects target the geographic areas with the highest mortality and malnutrition rates, and encourage implementing NGOs to expand into new areas as security permits. USAID/OFDA supports programs that provide emergency assistance to the most vulnerable, and integrate components for building local capacity in order to promote the development of people's sustainable livelihoods.

USAID/OFDA supports two Emergency Disaster Response Coordinators (EDRCs) in the DRC to monitor the humanitarian situation throughout the country and make programmatic recommendations to USAID/OFDA in Washington.

USAID's Office of Food For Peace (USAID/FFP) has provided 21,770 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance to WFP in FY 2003, valued at approximately \$20 million.

USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (USAID/OTI) is providing \$4.6 million in FY 2003 for programs in the DRC. USAID/OTI has developed a national, multi-faceted program to support the transition to peace in the DRC. USAID/OTI supports MONUC's Radio Okapi (through Fondation Hirondelle and Search for Common Ground) in order to increase availability and access to balanced information on humanitarian assistance, the peace process, and demobilization and reintegration. Through a sub-grants program with CARE, USAID/OTI provides assistance to local and national groups, and encourages support of the Lusaka Peace Accords and the Inter-Congolese Dialogue.

To date in FY 2003, the State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) has provided \$3.65 million to assist refugees in the DRC.” (USAID, 16 April 2003)

ECHO is DRC's largest donor of humanitarian aid (2003)

- ECHO approved a Euro 35 million package for DRC in 2003 (Jan 2003)
- ECHO funds will partly be used to treat some 60,000 acutely malnourished children and to provide their families with food, seeds and tools

- ECHO will continue to support the Congolese public health system through the provision of drugs, training and supervision
- Since 1998, ECHO has allocated just under Euro 120 million to DRC, making it the country's largest donor of humanitarian aid

“The European Commission has approved a €35 million package to help meet humanitarian needs in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in 2003. These funds will be channelled through partner organisations working in the field by the Humanitarian Aid Office, ECHO, which comes under the responsibility of Commissioner Poul Nielson. ‘ECHO always aims to provide humanitarian assistance on an equitable, needs-driven basis. The DRC programme has been one of our biggest in recent years because the needs there are so great’, said Mr Nielson. ‘2003 will be no exception. However, this year ECHO will be able to focus more on front-line humanitarian priorities such as health and food, as longer term donors complete their take-over of substantial health, food security and rehabilitation programmes’.

Despite recent progress on the political and military front, the DRC is still plagued by instability and faces a great number of challenges. Humanitarian needs are as great as ever, and Congolese continue to die in large numbers, with mortality rates approaching five times the sub-Saharan norm in some front-line areas. However only a small proportion of this 'excess mortality' is directly attributable to acts of violence. The main killers are not bullets and machetes, but malaria and malnutrition, owing to the breakdown of food production and basic health services.

ECHO funds will be used to treat some 60,000 acutely malnourished children, while addressing the causes of malnutrition by providing their families with food, seeds and tools. About 115,000 families with malnourished or otherwise vulnerable children will be assisted in this way.

ECHO will continue to support the Congolese public health system through the provision of drugs, training and supervision. Specific action will also be taken on mother and child healthcare, reproductive health, malaria, emergency obstetrics and secure blood transfusion. The fees charged by the health system will be greatly reduced, because even the token amounts involved have been shown to deter the poorest people from seeking medical help. Taking into account a likely increase in demand due to lower fees, ECHO aims to assist some 4.5 million people in 55 health districts in 2003.

Over the past five years ECHO has allocated just under €120 million to DRC, making it the country's largest donor of humanitarian aid.” (ECHO, 28 January 2003)

UK supports efforts of ICRC to help IDPs (2003)

- Britain donated US\$ 4 million to ICRC in DRC in support of their efforts to help IDPs (Mar 2003)
- Britain's total assistance to DRC from April 2002 to end March 2003 was US\$ 27 million

“Britain has donated US \$4 million to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in support of their efforts to help internally displaced persons (IDPs), according to an official from the British embassy in the DRC.

Paul Godefroy, the head of cooperation at the embassy in the DRC capital, Kinshasa, told IRIN on Tuesday that the contribution was part of Britain's annual assistance to the DRC, totalling \$27 million for the period 1 April 2002 to 31 March 2003.

‘The \$4 million is only a portion of the assistance provided by our government in an effort to support the peace process in the DRC and to help the people of eastern DRC, as well as those affected by war in other

regions of the country,' he said. He added that the grant was specifically in support of the ICRC's efforts to assist IDPs.

He said the bulk of Britain's \$27 million in humanitarian assistance had been credited to the ICRC, UN agencies, and NGOs such as Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) and Caritas. The \$4 million was in response to an emergency appeal made by the ICRC in December 2002. 'Great Britain wants to show its solidarity with the Congolese people during this difficult period,' Godefroy said.

In December 2002, the emergency aid fund of the UK Department for International Development had granted the DRC some \$1.16 million towards the cost of medical assistance being provided by MSF in the northern DRC provinces of Equateur and Orientale.

Also in December, a sum of \$800,000 was donated to the international NGO Population Services International towards a programme to fight the spread of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, which involved the distribution of 21 million condoms for men and 50,000 for women." (IRIN, 5 March 2003)

UN points out donor fatigue regarding humanitarian assistance to DRC and rest of the Great Lakes (2002)

- Major donors for humanitarian assistance in 2002 were the US, the EU, Belgium, the Netherlands, Canada, UK, Japan, and Sweden, together with private sector, NGOs, and international organisations
- Almost all fund available through the CAP have been allocated to WFP and UNHCR, ie for traditional humanitarian work
- Much easier to raise donations following the eruption of the volcano in eastern DRC than for the humanitarian crisis resulting from the war in the DRC
- DRC UN country team said donors now preferred financing medium and long-term projects related to the country's development instead of the CAP (May 02)

"The major donors for humanitarian assistance in the DRC remain the US, the European Union, Belgium, the Netherlands, Canada, UK, Japan, and Sweden, together with donors to the private sector, NGOs, and international organisations.

While most donors consider the CAP to be a good tool for financing, a few governments prefer to provide funding largely outside the CAP.

Most of the contributions outside the CAP went to NGOs working on the health sector, IDPs, refugees, children, multi-sector actions, and media.

Donor response in 2002 went in priority to Food Assistance and Multi-sector the Assistance to Refugees. Coordination and support services, health and agriculture received a lower level of funding, although humanitarian coordination has been fully funded. The sectors of economic recovery, education, family shelter and non-food items, mine action and water and sanitation were largely under-funded or did not receive funds at all. The lack of resources had a number of concrete consequences. UNICEF was forced to delay its plans for a major measles vaccination campaign in eastern DRC. Measles remains one of the main causes of mortality among children in eastern DRC." (UN OCHA 19 Nov 2002, p30)

"It has been unequivocally demonstrated that the impact of food assistance on nutrition is significantly limited, unless it is provided along with essential health care, hygiene education and programmes that

provide clean water and sanitation,' the agency [UN OCHA] added. It added that the cost of agricultural aid was about one-quarter of the cost of food aid, with the longer-term benefits of food security.

Apart from food, natural disasters tend to be funded much better than complex emergency or conflict situations. Donors considered these to be 'straightforward, immediate, not the fault of the people involved, and hopefully short-term', an OCHA official told IRIN.

Following the eruption of Mt Nyiragongo in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in January, \$30 million dollars was raised within two weeks. By contrast, the humanitarian crisis resulting from the war in the DRC has attracted about 21 percent of the \$194 million appeal. This figure is reduced to 10 percent, if the food appeal is excluded.

'In the context of the DRC, this means that people cannot sustain themselves, because they cannot cultivate, mortality rates - both direct and indirect - are high, there is very little access to health care, epidemics and diseases are spreading, people are not sensitised to the spread of HIV/AIDS, and because of the almost total lack of infrastructure and funding; we cannot even transport humanitarian personnel and assistance,' another OCHA official told IRIN." (IRIN 6 June 2002)

"The DRC country team notes that the new orientation of the Congolese Government seems to have encouraged donors to finance medium and long-term projects related to the country's development instead of the CAP. The return of Bretton Woods Institutions to the country might also have reoriented financial assistance from some donors who preferred to reduce the level of funds available for the CAP to support World Bank efforts." (UN OCHA 24 May 2002)

"Despite the CAP being an impressive attempt to diversify funding beyond traditional humanitarian work in order to reflect the specific context of chronic under-development, donors have not followed suit. Almost all funds so far available are just for WFP and UNHCR, covering only traditional humanitarian work.

The challenge for donors is twofold. First, to match rhetoric with reality, and provide assistance commensurate with the level of need. The volcano response generally met essential minimum standards. However, this is in sharp contrast to the level of assistance being given to the population as a whole. Second, there is a need to go beyond acute and ongoing humanitarian needs to fund longer-term reconstruction projects, enabling and encouraging IDPs to return to their homes. The rebuilding of communication networks and infrastructure, such as roads and telecommunications, is a key part of reconstruction." (Oxfam 25 April 2002)

Donors pledged to provide more funding to DRC with renewal of peace negotiations (2001-2002)

- A donor information meeting in Paris in July 2001 expressed support for a US\$156 million program presented by the government of DRC
- In December 2001, following up to the July meeting, the World Bank organized consultation on demobilization and reintegration program (Dec 2001)
- In Aug 2002, the World Bank approved US\$454 for health sector, food security and others

"During his recent visit to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Kenzo Oshima, called for the international donor community to increase its assistance in the coming months so that relief agencies could expand their capacity on the ground and increase the resources available to tackle the country's "massive humanitarian deficit". Mr. Oshima said that with the disengagement of combatant forces and the deployment of MONUC observers in frontline areas, access to vulnerable populations was improving and some civilians, such as those in Kabinda, a former frontline town, were already feeling the effects of the peace process. Mr. Oshima identified the need for

special programmes to address the specific problems of child soldiers, violence against women, issues related to displaced women and children and psychosocial problems among war-affected populations. The Under-Secretary-General also said that, whenever conditions allowed, there would be a need to develop resettlement programmes for internally displaced persons and refugees to support the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process." (UN SC 8 June 2001, para.62)

"A Donor Information Meeting on the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) was held in Paris on July 3, 2001. This meeting was aimed at taking stock of recent developments, and at discussing ways by which the international community could support the nascent recovery process.

At that meeting donor representatives observed that the Government had put in place a credible reform program, supported by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). They agreed on the need to quickly address the country's debt overhang (estimated at about US\$12.9 billion), to organize an orderly demobilization and reintegration of former combatants, to develop effective mechanisms for donor coordination and implementation of assistance, to enhance transparency, in particular in the mining sector, and to support a series of urgent activities. Donors also agreed on the need to ensure that foreign assistance is equitably distributed across the country and to take a regional approach in addressing some issues.

The delegates noted that a number of donor programs worth about US\$280 million were currently underway in the country and projects amounting to some US\$240 million were planned for the coming months. The planned projects would cover a large part of those contained in a US\$156 million request by the government.

At the end of this meeting, donors asked the Bank to organize a follow-up meeting, before the end of 2001." (WB 12 Dec 2001)

In Dec 2001, "The World Bank concluded consultations with UN and donor partners on a planned Greater Great Lakes Regional Demobilization and Reintegration Program and Multi-Donor Trust Fund. The purpose of the meeting was to consult with partners in the international community on opportunities to support the consolidation of peace and stability in the region through a comprehensive framework for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, and to lay the basis for generating the resources required for its implementation. The meeting was chaired by Emmanuel Mbi, World Bank Country Director, South Central Africa and Great Lakes Department. Representatives from 12 countries and 10 international organizations attended the meeting** including General Muntaga-Diallo, Force Commander, MONUC (United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo). The meeting was prepared in close collaboration with UNDP. [...]

** Participants included representatives from Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, the United Kingdom, United States, African Development Bank, the European Commission, GCA, ILO, IMF, UN-OCHA, UNDP, UNDPKO, MONUC, and the World Bank." (WB 19 Dec 2001)

"Last Tuesday the World Bank approved US\$454 million in grants and credits to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to help it finance part of its emergency reconstruction and rehabilitation effort.[...]

The Multisector Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Program offered by the World Bank will assist the DRC in improving agricultural production and enhancing food security, restoring critical infrastructure and essential social services, and strengthening the capacity of the government to formulate and implement its development programs. A US\$44 million grant is being allocated specifically to the health sector, to assist the government in its efforts to combat and treat HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, and other communicable diseases, as well as provide health care services targeted to specific groups, such as mothers, children, orphans and victims of war." (WB 12 Aug 2002)

To access the World Bank webpage for DRC [\[External link\]](#)

Selected UN activities

Inter-agency mission assesses IDP situation nationwide (January 2003)

- Inter-agency assessment mission to DRC in January 2003 aims to devise strategic plans to overcome IDP problem country-wide
- Agencies/ institutions with humanitarian or recovery/ reintegration mandates were invited to participate
- UN IDP Unit conducted preliminary missions to DRC in October and December 2002

“An inter-agency mission will begin a two-week tour on Monday to assess the situation of internally-displaced persons (IDPs) in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) with a view to devising strategic plans to overcome the country-wide problem, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

The country has an estimated 2.4 million IDPs according to the 2003 Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal. OCHA said on Thursday that the recent withdrawal and demobilisation of foreign troops in the DRC had led to significant changes on the ground: certain areas previously inaccessible were now reachable for humanitarian organisations, and that might encourage the return of IDPs. Conversely, increased insecurity in other areas due to renewed fighting between Congolese armed groups was hampering the delivery of humanitarian aid to vulnerable populations and resulting in further displacement and increased protection problems.

Agencies and institutions with either a humanitarian or recovery/reintegration mandates have been invited to participate. They include the UN Development Programme, the UN Children's Fund, and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. Others are the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, UN Habitat, the UN Mission in the DRC, the World Food Programme, the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, the UN World Health Organisation, the International Organisation for Migration and the Red Cross Movement, as well as representatives from the NGO community and donors.

The UN IDP Unit conducted two preliminary missions - 7-10 October 2002 in Kinshasa and 1-7 December 2002 in Kinshasa and eastern DRC - to explore the conditions and scope for an inter-agency mission on internal displacement in the country.” (IRIN, 24 January 2003)

[Click here](#) to see the mission report by the OCHA IDP Unit

UN health strategy focuses on the most vulnerable and the displaced (2003)

- WHO's priorities in the health sector, particularly in eastern DRC, will include activities related to HIV/AIDS, malaria, epidemiological surveillance and post-traumatic stress disorders
- UNICEF's primary objective is to increase access by the population to quality health care
- UNFPA's response will focus on the continuation and extension of ongoing projects in the field of reproductive health, including gender-based violence among war-affected people

“Within the CAP framework, WHO will focus its activities for next year on some urgent priority health matters, mainly in eastern DRC. Capacities to deal with HIV/AIDS and STI will be supported, especially in the eastern provinces that suffer from high prevalence of HIV/AIDS infections. Malaria control is another aspect in order to reduce morbidity and mortality. The activities will target specifically children under five and pregnant women, in collaboration with the MoPH and other partners. Epidemiological surveillance remains one of WHO’s primary activities. WHO will work on strengthening the implementation of the minimum package of health interventions, ensuring community participation. Through the fielding of emergency public health coordinators, it will reinforce partnerships as well as exchange of information, and will support health workers training. Finally, attention is given to the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorders in the eastern provinces. WHO is also participating in the DDRRR process ensuring that all public health considerations in that process are addressed.

UNICEF’s primary objective is to increase the access of the population to an efficient and sustainable health care system that provides quality services, with a focus on the most vulnerable and the displaced. Therefore the interventions are mainly carried out in the most affected areas. They consist of the distribution of drugs and equipment, management tools and training, and health programmes that ensure increased access by the population to basic life saving treatment. UNICEF also maintains the capacity to intervene in medical emergencies like this year’s cholera epidemic.

UNFPA’s response to emergency RH needs will be focused on the continuation and extension of the ongoing project activities, more specifically on RH basic services and gender-based violence among the most affected people by war, prevention of STI/HIV/AIDS among displaced people including refugees, IDPs and armed forces, and the integration of an STI/HIV/AIDS component into the DDRRR programme. Globally, UNFPA’s Emergency Programme aims at responding to the emergency needs through the combination of two approaches, namely provision of humanitarian relief assistance in the areas affected by prolonged and devastating conflicts, and support to reconstruction and development efforts of the national and local authorities and communities.

UNHCR pursues two objectives in this context. It works to ensure refugees’ access to primary health care (i.e. preventive and basic curative measures, reproductive and child care, immunisation, prevention/control of locally endemic diseases, and health education covering nutritional, RH and STD issues). At the same time, it aims to improve the sustainability of health care arrangements through the introduction of cost-recovery measures.” (UN, 16 January 2003, p42)

FAO, WFP and UNICEF will continue collaboration to address malnutrition in 2003 (January 2003)

- FAO provides life-saving support for the resumption of agricultural activities in the most war-affected areas, and in more stable areas helps establish adapted production systems in order to undertake early rehabilitation activities and sometimes even to relaunch commercial activities
- WFP will continue to undertake emergency humanitarian interventions and support self-recovery initiatives through general food distribution
- UNICEF plans to establish a system of nutritional surveillance that will ultimately help ensure a common approach to the current malnutrition problem in DRC

“As the situations of the rural populations differ from one region to another, FAO has devised a programme to fit the different types of needs. On the one hand there are the most war affected areas where a support to the resumption of agricultural activities is indispensable in order to save lives, while on the other hand there are relatively stable regions where more functional and adapted production systems are set up in order to

undertake early rehabilitation activities and in some cases even relaunch commercial activities. FAO's response will therefore be articulated around four pillars:

- Restore resilience and improve food security situation through emergency interventions (distributions of agricultural inputs and fishing tools to the most vulnerable households and support to households with children in feeding centres);
- Reduce dependence on external aid through support to transitional interventions mainly at the grassroots level (planting material reconstruction, maintenance, production and distribution of quality seeds, breeding small livestock for reproduction and distribution);
- Carry out emergency rehabilitation of key agricultural infrastructures (rehabilitation of roads, fish ponds, etc.);
- Support coordination of emergency agricultural operations including food security related information management, technical assistance and coordination of interventions.

WFP will continue to undertake emergency humanitarian interventions and support self-recovery initiatives to maintain the nutritional status of the population through general food distribution. Assistance to vulnerable groups is provided through vulnerable group feeding activities and other agricultural projects, market gardening and seed protection activities. For the year 2003, WFP will continue its activities along the following lines:

- More involvement in addressing post conflict issues and finding durable solutions;
- Linking humanitarian and development CAP with CCA and UNDAF;
- Full participation in the UNDAF process;
- New and strategic partnerships with World Bank, government and international NGOs;
- New special operations to reach beneficiaries in conflict zones and frontlines;
- Enhanced security management systems for staff and partners;
- More sub-offices to reflect emerging relationships and the expansion of humanitarian space;
- New approaches to logistics and pipeline management in the face of an expanding humanitarian space.

UNICEF plans to establish a system of nutritional surveillance. This, together with the presence of an emergency nutrition expert, will make it possible to provide pertinent information and an analysis of the acute malnutrition situation, and ensure a common approach to the malnutrition problem currently affecting Congo. UNICEF will also continue to support the Therapeutic Feeding Centres that have been established by its partners. Together with WFP and FAO, UNICEF will support training in nutrition with local NGOs and religious organisations involved. FAO, WFP and UNICEF work in collaboration to address the malnutrition problem." (UN, 16 January 2003, pp43-44)

WFP airlifts food to IDPs in eastern DRC (2003)

- WFP begins emergency operation to airlift food to some 6,750 IDPs in Kindu, Maniema province, in February 2002
- Air transport is the only viable means of delivering food to IDPs in Kindu due to widespread destruction of infrastructure
- In early 2003 WFP also airlifted food to more than 107,000 IDPs in Bunia
- WFP currently targets around 1.5 million IDPs throughout DRC

"The UN World Food Programme (WFP) has begun an emergency operation to airlift food to some 6,750 people in Kindu, the capital of Maniema Province, in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the agency announced on Friday.

During the operation, funded by the US government, WFP is planning to deliver more than 200 mt of food aid. This is the first time that WFP is intervening to assist internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Kindu, where precarious food security is a source of great concern to humanitarian organisations.

WFP said that near incessant fighting in eastern DRC had destroyed much of the region's infrastructure, rendering large areas completely inaccessible. Air transport, though costly, is the only viable means of delivering food to the displaced.

WFP reported that malnutrition rates were very high in the region, because the population - mostly peasant farmers - had been unable to access their fields for about three years. The agency added that following the withdrawal of Rwandan troops from the region, people in Maniema Province had been emerging from their hiding places in the forest and converging on Kindu, only to find that there was no food for them there.

WFP said that its implementing partner in Kindu, the British NGO Merlin, also planned to airlift 179.4 mt of food to cover the needs for three months of more than 5,000 malnourished children and malnourished pregnant and lactating mothers at therapeutic and supplementary feeding centres the organisation planned to open.

The Kindu special airlift is WFP's second such operation since the beginning of 2003 to deliver food to IDPs in the eastern DRC. An initial, month-long, special operation to airlift 892 mt of food to IDPs in the northeastern city of Bunia ended on 12 February. During the Bunia special operation, more than 107,000 IDPs, most of whom were women and children, received WFP emergency food assistance comprising maize flour, pulses, beans and vegetable oil.

WFP said it was currently targeting around 1.5 million IDPs throughout the DRC, whose living conditions and nutritional status were extremely insecure. A further special airlift operation to deliver about 102 mt of food to Kasongo and the surrounding area in southeastern DRC is also being planned.

However, WFP cautioned, there were still significant numbers of people within the country whom WFP had been unable to reach because of prevailing insecurity. The agency said it would be appealing for further resources to assist these people once they had been reached and identified." (IRIN, 21 February 2003)

Emergency Education programs for displaced children (January 2003)

- UNICEF focuses on educational activities for displaced and war-affected children
- UNESCO, with its partners, developed a programme aiming to respond to immediate needs of children obliged to drop out of school

"Both UNICEF and UNESCO have developed a philosophy on emergency education (in the context of the rehabilitation of the education structure as a whole, which is a long-term process, but each targets different groups.

UNICEF focuses on educational activities for displaced and war affected children, mainly in the most affected areas of the country (Kivus, Orientale, Northern Katanga, Equateur, Maniema and the Kasai). This programme was developed under the UNICEF Education Regular Programme's Plan of Action to ensure a complementarity between UNICEF regular and emergency education programmes in DRC in the DRC.

UNESCO developed a programme within the context of the global 'Education For All' appeal with several major partners including UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNESCO and the World Bank. Their aim is to respond to the immediate needs of children who have been obliged to drop out of school over the past period, especially disabled children, ex-child soldiers and orphan street children." (UN, 16 January 2003, pp44-45)

UN OCHA is setting up data management and mapping capacity on population movements (November 2002)

"A data management and mapping capacity on movements of populations will be available before December 2002 at OCHA 2002, building on inputs from all actors. It will help define range a qualitative and quantitative patterns (of displacement), status and intentions. Discussions are underway to set out standardized return package while taking into account the nature of return (individual, collective) and the status of the returnee (former armed element, former victim – of rape, extortion, slavery). Responses will include food, seed/tool or training for work programmes, as well as combinations between early rehabilitation and return." (UN OCHA 19 Nov 2002, p52)

UN discusses protection strategy based on the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (October 2002)

"In the context of a conflict-stridden and in many areas lawless country, the protection of IDPs and other war victims in the DRC seems in many ways an excruciatingly difficult challenge. The size of the country, the access problem, the extremely limited presence of peacekeepers and humanitarian actors, the number of fighting groups and the total impunity they enjoy, all these elements contribute to a difficult environment for ensuring protection for IDPs.

The Mission [of the Internal Displacement Unit] discussed with the Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for the Human Rights the development of a protection strategy based on the Guiding Principles within the context of the HCHR's promotion programme. This initiative could benefit from the involvement of protection partners of the UNCT and their different protection activities could form an integral part of a protection strategy in connection with the 2003 CHAP. The promotion and translation of the Guiding Principles into local languages and their adaptation to local circumstances for better dissemination are part of the promotion of protection activities that the Country Team will consider in the coming weeks. In this connection the organisation of a thematic workshop on protection of civilians is being considered by OCHA in Bukavu (South Kivu) at end of November-early December 2002. The Unit will provide support for this event." (Internal Displacement Unit Oct 02, p.3)

Launch of emergency operation in Ituri (July 2002)

- 4,000 IDP families in Bunia area got food and medication
- Many humanitarian needs still not covered
- In May 2002, humanitarian community identified 500,000 IDPs with humanitarian needs in Ituri

"L'opération "Urgence Ituri" a été déclenchée le 25 juillet par la communauté humanitaire en faveur d'environ 4.000 familles déplacées dans la ville de Bunia et sa périphérie ayant fui les tueries, enlèvements, pillages et viols suite aux affrontements récents entre l'APC (Armée Populaire Congolaise), UPDF (Uganda People's Defence Forces) et les milices hema et lendu (cf. Bulletin 15/21 juillet). Jusqu' au samedi 27 juillet, plus de 31,5 tonnes de vivres (équivalent à une ration pour 2 semaines) et médicaments ont été distribués à 1.474 familles des quartiers Saio, Lembabo, Salongo et Sukisa. De plus, 5 kits de médicaments de base pour les centres de santé et des semences maraîchères ont été distribuées. La communauté humanitaire et plusieurs autorités locales participent activement à cette opération; toutefois, il y aurait des besoins non-couverts dans le domaine de l'eau et assainissement (produits chimiques, planches, ciment, clous...). Il faudrait encore au moins 16 latrines, 4 réservoirs de 5m³, trois bornes fontaines et au moins 1.000m de conduites d'eau. Selon les sources humanitaires sur place, les moyens disponibles actuels ne

permettront jamais d'aider l'ensemble de ces 4.000 familles. Pour rappel, la communauté humanitaire avait identifié en mai environ 500.000 déplacés ayant besoin d'assistance en Ituri." (UN OCHA 1 Aug 2002)

Office of the Special Representative of Children in Armed Conflicts organized workshops to enhance child protection in DRC (June 2002)

"The Office of the Special Representative undertook three follow-up visits to the DRC. From 10-23 January 2002 the Office held meetings with faith-based organizations and youth groups in Kinshasa, Kisangani, Goma and Bukavu. The second visit from 26 March to 4 May 2002 was devoted to the organization of workshops, in Kisangani and Bukavu to mobilize local actors to raise awareness of international norms and standards for the protection of children, in collaboration with MONUC, UNICEF and local NGOs.

The third mission from 13-21 June 2002 laid the ground for planning and preparation of a follow up workshop, in the near future, to promote the strengthening of the capacity for monitoring, advocacy and networking on children affected by armed conflict in eastern DRC. The Office also organized a review meeting with CPAs and UNICEF Child Protection staff in Kinshasa to discuss collaboration between CPAs, UNICEF and the Office of the Special Representative, including the monitoring and reporting roles of CPAs. Meetings also took place with the Government office for demobilization and reintegration (BUNADER), UNICEF, ICRC and NGOs in Kinshasa to review lessons learned from the demobilization experience of the Government and RCD-Goma.

The Office consulted with the Special Adviser of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region, UNICEF, OCHA, and UNHCR in Nairobi regarding cooperation and modalities for a Great Lakes Conference on the cross-border effects of the sub-regional conflict on children. A meeting was held with a representative of the Expert Panel on the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources in the DRC to help the panel gather evidence of cases of child exploitation in the extraction of natural resources." (Office of the Special Representative of Children in Armed Conflicts June 2002)

Response to humanitarian needs following eruption of Nyiragongo volcano (February 2002)

"The major threats to the lives of the most vulnerable affected, particularly children and women, include: (1) lack of shelter for the vast majority that cannot yet return to their homes; (2) the threat of disease, particularly cholera and other diarrhoeal diseases; (3) malnutrition; and (4) the potential for children to be separated from their families.

Humanitarian assistance was so far distributed in Goma and surrounding areas, Bukavu, and two refugee camps, Mudende and Nkamira in Rwanda. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees during the initial stages of the emergency situation in Gisenyi, Rwanda contributed non-food items from their stocks inside Rwanda and from the Emergency Stockpile in Tanzania worth US\$ 100,899. The items contributed include plastic sheeting, jerrycans, cooking sets, blankets. In addition to this, UNHCR is responsible for the management of the Nkamira Transit Centre which currently hosts some 6,000 persons. This Transit Centre is co-managed by UNHCR and MINALOC (the Rwanda Government). For the relief situation in Goma, UNHCR received a cash donation of US\$100,000 from the Organisation for Africa Unity (OAU) for the victims in Goma. UNHCR has procured non-food items of that value as a contribution to the UN Country Team effort. Items donated by UNHCR for Goma include therapeutic milk, medical kits, blankets, kitchen sets and plastic sheets.

Some 67,000 households received food rations, and members of the health commission conducted epidemic surveillance and health care response from the very beginning of the emergency. The Provincial Health Inspector together with the health commission and supported by WHO announced a one-month phase of free health care in the affected areas. As a result several health centres have so far received eight times their average number of patients. Host families have so far been providing temporary shelter to the homeless; and, to alleviate the situation relief agencies distributed plastic sheeting and tents to the most vulnerable homeless families.

Moreover, UN agencies have provided funds loaned from HQ and from existing country programme funds to respond to this emergency to date, including:

The non-food items Commission chaired by UNICEF distributed non-food supplies so far to 81,000 families in Goma. A more targeted distribution is programmed for an additional 14,000 households.

Mobilisation of more than 200 Mt of non-food items (14,000 jerrycans, 46,000 blankets, 13,500 plastic sheets, 25,000 packs of purification tablets, 30 Mt of soap, 200 tents, as well as 30 Mt of therapeutic food and BP5 biscuits). The items were flown from Kinshasa, Bujumbura and Copenhagen to Goma for distribution.

Six therapeutic feeding centers and health posts manned by NGOs received feeding kits and therapeutic food from UNICEF.

Chlorine to treat lake water collected by the population was provided by UNICEF.

More than 600 unaccompanied minors were identified in Rwanda, Goma and Bukavu and support was provided to implementing partners that provided care to them until the families were traced (by ICRC) and the children reunited.

A measles vaccination campaign to almost 400,000 children between ages 6 months and 15 years in the Goma area.

In Bukavu, non-food items were distributed to more than 10,000 people. 43 medical kits were distributed to health centres, and High Protein biscuits distributed to displaced children under 5 and pregnant and lactating mothers." (UN OCHA 19 Feb 2002)

For an overview of humanitarian assistance (by OXFAM, ECHO, CARE, IRC, USAID, Save the Children, WFP, IFRC and Danish Church Aid), please see OCHA's Information Exchange Meeting, 23 January 2002, [see below]

For Christian Aid Response, please see Christian Aid 1 March 2002, "DR Congo: Goma emergency response update 1 March 2002" [see below]

For WFP EMOP 10166 Project document, "Assistance to Volcano Victims in Eastern DRC and Western Rwanda"(18 Jan-18 Apr. 2002), please see [\[External Link\]](#)

UNICEF, International and local NGOs in the area of Child Protection (2001-2003)

- UN agencies, the DRC government and NGOs have established centers for street children
- UNICEF accessed military camps to work on demobilization of children
- Within the light of the DDR process, first objective is support to demobilization, disarmament and reintegration of child soldiers
- Rebel parties have so far failed to agree to give the international community access to military sites (Oct 02)
- International NGOs such as Save the Children, and local NGOs also attempt to address the overall crisis of child protection in the eastern Congo
- Local NGOs try to prevent displacement of children but lack funding for activities

"Among the most serious issues affecting children are the lack of health care, recruitment by armed groups, food insecurity, sexual exploitation, and separation from and loss of family due to conflict, poverty and HIV/AIDS. As one of the most vulnerable categories, children are a major focus of the humanitarian community's concern. A few months ago, the operation "Kanga Vagabond" (getting rid of children wandering in the streets) initiated by the Governor of Kinshasa faced immediate objections from UN Agencies and NGOs because no proper infrastructure had been prepared to shelter the street children. This problem was eventually solved through a common approach from UNICEF, NGOs and authorities (with facilitation from OCHA) leading to proper centres where the children could also receive training.

The role of children in armed conflict has received increased attention. Demobilization of children has become a priority for the DRC authorities and rebel groups. A government decree pledges to stop enrolling children, while the two rebel movements made similar but as yet unofficial and conditional pledges. Access to military camps has been authorised in principle, enabling UNICEF to work on demobilisation activities. Measures to stop the recruitment of children and to resettle children already linked to armed forces in their familial environment have been stepped up." (UN OCHA 26 November 2001, pp.19-20)

"Within the light of the DDR process, the first objective is the support to the demobilisation, disarmament and reintegration of child soldiers. Both the Government and some rebel groups have signed a Plan of Action with UNICEF in order to respect the DDR of child soldiers. UNICEF will also continue to support BUNADER (the Government's National Commission on Demobilisation and Reintegration) and the RDC-Goma's Interdepartmental Commission for DDR to coordinate and supervise the demobilisation of child soldiers in the areas they control and the subsequent family and community reintegration of these children.

To address the issue of the street children and traumatised children, special attention will go to the reunion programmes for street children, demobilised and unaccompanied minors with their families and communities, the reinforcement of basic social structures such as PHC and formal/non-formal education activities targeting these categories of children, and the reinforcement of national capacities to treat psycho-social problems of traumatised children.

UNHCR, in addition to its regular protection work, carries out pursues peace education programmes in refugee settlements and primary and secondary schools throughout DRC to ease ethnic tensions which tend to raise in increasingly heterogeneous populations. Together with its Its implementing partners, it will organise various camps to complement school education and strengthen the role of girls in their communities." (UN, 16 January 2003, p44)

"Although UNICEF, MONUC and non-governmental organizations continue to plan for and advocate child demobilization in rebel-held areas, rebel parties have not yet agreed to give the international community access to military sites. Discussions on the establishment of child demobilization subcommissions have not yet borne fruit. It is hoped that the latest UNICEF/RCD-Goma efforts will result in the establishment of a subcommission in Kisangani in the near future." (UN SC 18 Oct 02, para.54)

"UNICEF, international NGOs such as Save the Children, and local NGOs attempt to address the overall crisis of child protection in the eastern Congo. The problem is vast, however, and homeless children, constantly on the move outside of institutional settings, are inherently difficult to reach. *RI* was in touch with a network of Congolese NGOs and community-based organizations that are trying to establish centers to get children off the streets and provide them with basic education and vocational training. They also attempt to prevent homelessness and displacement by instilling parents with a greater sense of responsibility towards their children. These groups are effective on a small scale, but they are terribly under-funded. *RI* visited one center where 50 or 60 children ate their afternoon snack in the rain in ankle-deep mud for lack of plastic sheeting to cover the cramped dining area." (RI 6 Feb 2002)

Emergency Humanitarian Interventions (EHI) and Quick Impact Projects benefit IDPs (2000-2002)

- EHI is a UN inter-agency rapid response structure
- EHI concept is meant to operate as first aid mechanism aiming at saving lives and restoring family and communal livelihood
- As of Nov 2001 approximately 850,000 persons have been assisted by the different activities funded through the EHI frameworks
- In June 2002, OCHA announced it would support through EHI a local NGO in Ikela (Equateur) to conduct income generating activities for IDPs

"While designed to enhance the UN's emergency preparedness capacity, the EHI concept is meant to operate as first aid mechanism aiming at saving lives and restoring family and communal livelihood . The scope of interventions under EHI will be limited to emergency food, distribution of seeds, tools, medical assistance, emergency water projects and control of epidemics.

[...]

Emergency Humanitarian Interventions (EHI) is a UN inter-agency rapid response structure which will enable the system to respond to war-inflicted and other suddenly arising emergencies on both sides of the frontline. EHI is designed to assist 300,000 war-affected persons in remote and hardly accessible areas of the DRC with no permanent presence of relief agencies. The scope of interventions under EHI will be limited to emergency food assistance and distribution of essential non-food items (WFP, UNHCR), distribution of seeds and tools for affected communities with access to land (FAO), medical assistance, emergency water projects (UNICEF and UNFPA) and control of epidemics (WFP and UNICEF). Although WFP does not appeal for funds under this sector, resources solicited for its IDP feeding projects will be made available to EHI operations, should the need arise. UNDP will contribute to EHI by strengthening the local capacities to manage and monitor the provided assistance.

EHI will be managed by the Office of the UN Humanitarian Co-ordinator in conjunction with the UN Country Management Team. All donor contributions for EHI are proposed to be channelled through OCHA and earmarked for a specific activity [...]" (UN November 1999, pp. 19, 57)

" EHI received considerable donor support to implement a series of activities ranging from assessment missions to facilitation of inter-agency actions. Unfortunately, the emergency response capacity of other institutions participating in the EHI initiative remained limited throughout 1999 and 2000, thus prompting modifications in the initial concept.

Modifications primarily affected operational synergies and methods of implementation while the main philosophy of EHI – immediate intervention to alleviate human suffering - remained unchanged. EHI was meant to be a “package deal” whereby each financial contribution would be distributed proportionally among various sectors and agencies. The package approach, however, was not implemented and by early 2000 the logistics, information collection and management components (OCHA/EHI) were almost fully funded while the requirements of emergency humanitarian supplies remained unmet. With the consent of donors and consultation with participating agencies, financial contributions are now channelled into an emergency fund accessible to all major humanitarian actors in response to crises. The definition of crises is relatively flexible and refers to all life-threatening situations encountered by civilians irrespective of the causes: war, natural disaster, human rights abuses, etc.

The May-June 2000 humanitarian crisis in Kisangani was a major test for EHI as an assistance concept, and as a coordination mechanism. Within days that followed the establishment of a cease-fire regime in this war-torn city, EHI consolidated resources of a large number of humanitarian actors, bilateral cooperation institutions and civil society, bringing badly needed relief to hundreds of thousands of Kisangani residents. EHI became the backbone of the international humanitarian response to the Kisangani crisis.

EHI survived chronic problems of insecurity, delayed access and prohibitions to travel often imposed by belligerents. The concept, however, needs substantial modification to address the changes in the nature of the crisis and offer a more diverse solution to emergencies that are otherwise covered by mandates of humanitarian actors currently present in the DRC. EHI and its successor are instrumental to the 2001 CAP and play a central role in linking activities at macro and micro levels to support this appeal's strategy: bolster the coping mechanisms of war-affected populations and enhance their self-sufficiency.

[...]

Equally, EHI initiatives helped the humanitarian community to better grasp the economic dimensions of the humanitarian crisis on all sides of the frontline. Surveys have been used in humanitarian co-ordination for strong advocacy on monetary policy matters in Government-held areas, and on tax income and redistribution in rebel-held areas. Inter-agency surveys on displaced and host families (notably in Kisangani), and on mortality-related statistics (in Kinshasa to obtain a countrywide methodology) have added useful tools for decision-making." (UN November 2000, pp. 81-82, 95)

As of Nov 2001 "Approximately 850,000 persons have been assisted by the different activities funded through the Emergency Response Fund frameworks. [...]

Places long affected by fighting along "conventional lines", like Boende, Manono, Kabinda, and Shabunda, benefited rapidly from a better organised information network and priority setting mechanisms, exemplifying the objectives of the EHI and QUIP mechanisms.

Specific actions included:

-Emergency funds were provided to support punctual and sustainable activities in the health, shelter and education sectors

-Quick Impact Projects (QUIP) were been used to support interventions in education, agriculture, non food items, and health throughout the DRC.

-Emergency Humanitarian Interventions (EHI) assisted IDPs, covered humanitarian needs in the food and health sectors, and supported the transportation of relief items." (UN OCHA 26 November 2001, p.22)

"OCHA, à travers le Fonds de réponse urgente (EHI) des Nations Unies, vient de débloquent le financement d'un projet à impact rapide de trois mois présenté par "Les Amis du Paysan" (ONG locale partenaire d'EDICHU, branche humanitaire d'urgence du Diocèse de Bokungu-Ikela) visant à fournir des intrants et outils agricoles aux familles de déplacés de guerre pour des activités génératrices de revenu à Ikela. Le projet vise aussi la fabrication des bancs-meubles au profit de 10 écoles identifiées et fréquentées par les enfants déplacés. Ce programme débutera au début du mois de juillet." (UN OCHA 19 June 2002)

UNDP's activities include the reintegration and livelihoods support of IDPs (2002)

- Assessment to identify opportunities for UNDP to engage in supporting a transition to peace and recovery

"In follow-up to the findings and recommendations of the mission led by CPR (former ERD) in August/September to review UNDP's role in the Disarmament, Demobilization and Durable Solutions (D3) process in the DRC and Great Lakes Region, a programming mission has been fielded to support the DRC country office in the elaboration of regional recovery frameworks, consultative mechanisms and the identification of key areas of activities to support socio-economic recovery and reintegration within the D3 context. This initiative will contribute to the country office effort to assist the government in the formulation of a comprehensive national recovery program.

The team is traveling from 26 November to 15 December and will visit Kisangani, Goma and Lubumbashi with a view to establishing and/or expanding program activities which will also lay the foundation for the effective management of longer-term interventions. Emphasis will be placed on programs that identify opportunities for UNDP to engage in supporting a transition to peace and recovery that incorporates

participatory multi-sectoral, area-wide planning and programming, and reinforces the potential for accelerating social and economic recovery.

Specifically, activities will support local reconciliation to promote the establishment of an environment conducive to the voluntary disarming and demobilization of armed groups; incorporate programs that provide technical assistance and training as well as income-generation schemes in order to support the revival of productive activities and strengthen the capacity of local economies to absorb demobilized groups; address infrastructure rehabilitation needs and improve access to basic social services; include reintegration and livelihoods support of IDPs and other war -affected populations to consolidate peace and build confidence during the transition process; and identify areas to integrate small arms reduction activities, where/as appropriate." (UNDP 1 Jan 2002)

President Kabila asks UNHCR to assist the internally displaced (2001-2002)

"Congolesse President Josph Kabila on Thursday met UN High Commissioner for Refugees Ruud Lubbers in Geneva [...]. Kabila sought help for the return home of Congolesse refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs). He told the High Commissioner that he was "anxious" to see the return of Congolesse refugees from the Great Lakes region.

He noted that his country was now in the process of reconstruction, which would enable refugees and IDPs to return to their homes. [...] He asked UNHCR to assist IDPs in his country, estimated to number around 1.8 million, which was more than the number of refugees. The IDPs were in accessible areas but lacked basic assistance, he said." (IRIN 30 March 2001)

In March 2002, the Global IDP Project was told by a UNHCR staff that UNHCR does not assist IDPs due to lack of funding and capacity, because peace has not been consolidated and because UNHCR is not better placed than other agencies in the field.

Swift response to major new displacements from Kisangani (2000-2002)

- First emergency operation in DRC reaching IDPs while fleeing
- Pre-positioned supplies airlifted from emergency stockpiles in Kinshasa and Goma,
- UNICEF has assisted 43 health centres providing of medical services to 212,000 people in Kisangani and surrounding areas
- UN Secretary General sends inter-agency assessment mission to Kisangani in August 2000
- As of March 2002 operations of international organisations are increasing with more agencies now opening programmes in Kisangani with both national and international staff present

"Coordination mechanisms were set up in Kinshasa and Kisangani at the beginning of the crisis. In collaboration with the humanitarian agencies based in Kisangani, the UN agencies immediately responded to the most urgent needs with a few stocks already pre-positioned in town. In particular, UNICEF provided medical kits and chlorine to the Medical University of Kisangani. With fighting over, humanitarian agencies reinforced their presence in Kisangani and airlifted additional supplies from Goma. At the same time, the agencies in Kinshasa requested government authorisation to airlift emergency assistance directly from Kinshasa to Kisangani, initially with MONUC aircraft. The first flight, carried food aid to Kisangani on June 12. The heads of the humanitarian agencies, including the UNICEF representative and humanitarian co-ordinator a.i., accompanied this flight. They stayed in Kisangani for 2 days, conducting initial assessments of the damage and some interventions. Seven flights, carrying a total of 111 MTs of emergency assistance, were dispatched to Kisangani from Kinshasa on 12 - 23 June.

[...]

UNICEF sent 15.6 MTs of pre-positioned supplies from its emergency stockpile in Kinshasa, including emergency health kits (70), ORS (Oral Rehydration Salt – 7 carton of 1000), jerry-cans, plastic sheeting (626), BP5 (95) and a boat and engine. Additional supplies were also airlifted from Goma, where ICRC, some NGOs and UN agencies maintain pre-positioned emergency stocks. UNICEF sent 22.5 MTs of supplies from Goma including plastic sheeting (2,300), blankets (1,740), mosquito nets (5,000), ORS (50 cartons of 1000) and chlorine. To date, a total of 38 MTs of medical supplies and non-food items valued at US\$ 231,000 have been sent by UNICEF to Kisangani to assist health centres treating the wounded and displaced/affected population." (UNICEF 7 July 2000)

"Humanitarian response in the early aftermath of the Kisangani crisis was in many ways exemplary. This implies the quantity and quality of the assistance and most importantly its timing and co-ordination. The rescue operations carried out by MSF/Holland, MSF/Belgium and ICRC and the UN system (WHO, UNICEF, WFP, OCHA) are still underway, but the preliminary results can be identified already. This is especially important for the UN system which had insignificant capacity in Kisangani before and during hostilities but succeed in mobilising internal (EHI) and external resources (Belgian, US, and Italian Governments, MEMISA, CRS, etc.) and in providing an efficient humanitarian response.

The vital importance of humanitarian assessments was felt immediately after the cessation of hostilities. For instance, medical needs covered by ICRC and MSF in the early days of crisis were commonly considered adequate, yet the first assessments revealed that there were a number of unmet medical needs such as coverage, type of medicine, need for additional surgeons and so on. The same was applicable to other sectors of intervention.

The Kisangani operation has also valuable methodological importance for the relief community. For the first time since the beginning of the war, the phenomenon of massive population displacement was assessed while happening. In the course of relief operations targeted at Kisangani residents along their exile roads, aid workers discovered numerous groups of rural IDPs who had fled their homes during and well before the June 2000 clashes. This invisible layer of displacement – a very important factor affecting the food security, is a reaction of farmers attributable to the protracted and massive presence of military (two armies and two rebel groups).

The successful implementation of the Kisangani demilitarisation plan is likely to create a large humanitarian space in the town and its vicinity (90 km in diameter). Throughout the two-year war in the DRC, this region remained virtually isolated from the rest of the country and was weakened to a greater extent than other urban areas in eastern DRC (e.g. very high malnutrition rates and an explosive epidemiological situation). The two-year long isolation has developed the region's internal resources and its population's coping mechanisms. Although these coping mechanisms practically collapsed in the course of the May-June fighting, their restoration is believed to be attainable through well-targeted humanitarian interventions already in the short-term.

Beyond the Rescue Phase

The rescue operations in Kisangani and on all major axes hosting displaced will continue as long as life saving activities are required (population movement has not entirely stabilised, there is still a number of wounded and severely malnourished, and the danger of epidemics remains serious). It may take another month before the transition to the post-conflict phase of the assistance is agreed to by all humanitarian actors." (UN July 2000, p.14)

"As part of the overall efforts of the international community to assist the population of Kisangani, badly affected by the war between the Rwandan and Ugandan troops in June 2000, UNICEF airlifted more than 38 tons of medical and essential non-food items at the onset of the crisis. With these UNICEF has assisted 43 health centres providing of medical services to 212,000 people in Kisangani and surrounding areas, emergency health and surgical kits, essential drugs, ringer lactate and Oral Re-Hydration Salt (ORS).

UNICEF distributed 2 plastic sheeting and 2 mosquito nets to each of 1,258 families whose houses were seriously damaged. Relief items including plastic sheeting, blankets, mosquito nets and jerrycans were distributed to 582 families who lost most of their belongings during the battle. An additional 2,000 mosquito nets were provided to ICRC for distribution to 1,000 families." (UNICEF 10 October 2000)

[In Resolution 1304 of 16 June 2000], "the Security Council expressed the view that the Government of Uganda and Rwanda should make reparations for the loss of life and the property damage they had inflicted on the civilian population in Kisangani, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and requested me to submit an assessment of the damage. Accordingly, [...] I send a mission to the Democratic Republic of Congo from 13 to 23 August to assess the loss of life and property damage inflicted on Kisangani as a result of the fighting between Uganda and Rwanda in June 2000." (UN SC 4 December 2000)

"Two rebel factions continue to control the province but are no longer in Kisangani Town – and their restraining effect in the rural areas has also been reduced. The security situation has been improving within Kisangani City since the arrival of the UN Observation Forces and is also increasingly so in surrounding areas giving an opportunity to access populations in other districts.

Operations of international organisations are increasing with more agencies now opening programmes in Kisangani with both national and international staff present, another reflection of the increased security. The two airports continue to be active with increased numbers of commercial carriers with regular services to Goma, Kigali and Entebbe – plus UN flights to Kinshasa." (ACT 5 March 2002)

Selected activities of the Red Cross Movement

ICRC provides assistance, including family reunification, for IDPs in DRC (2003)

- ICRC assists civilian victims of war in DRC to firstly improve their living conditions, and then to help them become self-sufficient
- Assistance includes family reunification, non-food assistance, provision of clean drinking water, food and seed distribution

"On 29 and 30 January the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) carried out a major operation to reunite separated family members.

A total of 140 children between one and 17 years of age were flown from Goma to Kinshasa on board a Boeing 737 specially chartered by the ICRC for the occasion. All the children were reunited with their families, from whom they had been separated for several months – or several years in some cases – owing to the conflict. The purpose of the operation was to remedy one of the many tragic consequences of armed conflict: the dispersal of members of the same family.

The ICRC is working in close cooperation with volunteers of the Red Cross Society of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to find the families of unaccompanied children throughout the country. The subsequent reunification operations are carried out both in the areas controlled by the government and in those held by the armed opposition.

Last year the ICRC reunited more than 400 children with their parents in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a country devastated by several years of war." (ICRC, 30 January 2003)

“Following various assessments made in 2002, the ICRC conducted a large-scale operation to assist the most vulnerable displaced and resident families in Djolu, in Equateur province, between 20 January and 7 February.

Three thousand families each received a kit containing cooking utensils, a hoe, a bucket, salt, sugar, soap, clothing and blankets.

The distribution of these kits, which ought to have taken place in the last quarter of 2002, had been held up by various logistical problems posed by the isolation of the region. As part of the operation, a plane had to bring in some of the relief supplies from Mbandaka, where they had been placed in temporary storage, at a rate of three flights a day for two weeks.

In addition, four springs in the Bolombo, Lindja I and Lindja II districts of Djolu are being tapped so as to supply the city's 15,000 inhabitants with drinking water.

The ICRC is assisting civilian victims of the four-year conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo so as to improve their living conditions, in the first place, and then help them to become self-sufficient.” (ICRC, 13 February 2003)

“On 14 February, the ICRC finished distributing food and high-quality seed to 10,000 families in Kindu. These people had been short of food because of fighting in the eastern part of the country.

Kindu is currently home to between 140,000 and 190,000 people, some residents and some displaced by the fighting. Recent clashes in Maniema province had led to the creation of a security cordon around Kindu, isolating the town from farming land and hampering both food deliveries and trade.

As the food situation was worsening, particularly for children, the ICRC decided to distribute food and seed to 6,000 families in Mikelenge and Kasuku and 4,000 in Alunguli.

Each household received 13 kg of improved groundnut, maize and bean seed, together with a hoe. They will now be able to work the fields that lie within the security cordon. The ICRC also supplied these families with food (15 kg of rice and beans), so they would not have to eat the seed.

In just five days, the ICRC flew in 300 tonnes of aid, making 21 trips with a leased Hercules C 130 and two more with its own DC3. Close cooperation with Kindu Red Cross personnel was an important factor in the success of the operation.” (ICRC, 17 February 2003)

Response by Non Governmental Organisations

MSF provides medical assistance to IDPs in eastern DRC – although access is limited (2003)

- At the end of 2002, MSF opened dispensaries for IDPs north of Beni town; originally catering to 25,000 people, numbers had increased to 60,000 within a month
- MSF health posts near Beni are well beyond capacity
- On-going fighting is preventing MSF medical teams accessing large parts of the population

“As fighting continues to ravage the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), about 35,000 people fled from heavy artillery shootings around their home town of Makeke, on the border between North-Kivu and Ituri, to the town of Beni on December 31st. MSF has been present in the Beni

area since early December and has already seen tens of thousands displaced people arriving, seeking refuge from war.

In early December, MSF opened dispensaries for displaced people north of the town of Beni in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The dispensaries originally catered to 25,000 people, including war displaced who have not had access to health care in years. Today, the dispensaries cater to 60,000 people, who daily flee the extreme levels of violence and fighting in Ituri province.

Since December, MSF teams have seen over 7,500 patients for medical consultations in six villages on the Beni-Mambassa axis. The health posts MSF has reopened over this period are now far beyond full capacity, and MSF is setting up hospital tents. In less than a month, MSF teams have treated 33 children suffering from acute malnutrition, and 13 rape victims. In Mangina, where measles broke out, MSF is vaccinating all patients during consultations as the displaced population has not been vaccinated in years.

The on-going fighting and violence in the region prevent MSF medical teams access to a large part of the population.

‘We see only part of the displaced population,’ said Philippe Hamel, MSF Head of Mission. ‘There may be many more. We fear that in total there might be over 155,000 displaced people in the area between Butembo, Beni, Mambasa and Komanda alone’.

MSF wants to rapidly expand its emergency relief operations in the area.” (MSF, 4 January 2003)

Medair and partners vaccinate more than 108,000 children against measles (January 2003)

- In January 2003, Medair and partners vaccinated more than 108,000 children in Bunia against measles
- Success of the operation, as well as improved access to humanitarian NGOs in certain areas around Bunia, was expected to result in 20,000 more children being vaccinated in February 2003

“Du 23 au 30 janvier 2003 sans interruption, une campagne de vaccination contre la rougeole pour les enfants de 6 mois à 15 ans s'est déroulée à Bunia, au nord-est de la RD Congo. Plus de 108 000 enfants ont été vaccinés dans 233 sites, lors d'une opération qui a mobilisé environ 900 personnes : médecins, infirmiers, mobilisateurs, chauffeurs, logisticiens... Malgré l'instabilité de la région et l'insécurité dans la ville de Bunia, cette opération d'une ampleur sans précédent, du nom de ‘vaccination pour la vie’, s'est achevée sans difficulté majeure, à la grande satisfaction des organisateurs.

Léonard Badibanga, représentant de l'OMS à Bunia, nous confiait ravi il y a quelques jours : ‘Nous avons dépassé notre objectif d'atteindre 100 000 enfants. L'engagement de l'équipe Medair a été essentiel à la réussite de cette campagne, fruit du partenariat réussi entre l'OMS, l'UNICEF et Medair’.

Les 300 cas de rougeole répertoriés en janvier qui ont causé le décès de 16 enfants, ont convaincu les plus sceptiques de l'urgence de la campagne. Ainsi, fin décembre, la mise en place de la gratuité des soins contre la rougeole, la formation des infirmiers et l'approvisionnement en kits de traitement par l'équipe médicale de Medair ont contribué à limiter au maximum les pertes en vies humaines. Sans cette campagne, les conséquences auraient pu être désastreuses.

Une action d'une telle envergure a nécessité la mobilisation du personnel de santé, des familles et des enfants des écoles. Le personnel local de Medair a été très encouragé par le résultat positif de 107% de couverture et souhaite recommencer.

Vu le succès de cette opération et compte tenu de l'ouverture de certaines régions autour de Bunia aux ONG humanitaires, la vaccination de 20 000 enfants supplémentaires est prévue au cours du mois de février, si la sécurité le permet. Le nombre de personnes déplacées et vulnérables à l'extérieur de Bunia étant élevé, cette action à impact immédiat doit être réalisée sur des sites accessibles et où des cas de rougeole sont signalés. C'est désormais le prochain objectif de l'équipe Medair." (Medair, 7 February 2003)

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) provides assistance to IDPs from Lomami River Valley, central DRC (2003)

- CRS has worked in DRC since independence from Belgium in 1960 - in the fields of emergency relief, food security, community health and peace and reconciliation
- As the only international NGO working in the area, CRS assisted thousands of IDPs in Lomami River Valley with non-food items and medical care (2003)
- CRS and local partner Caritas Congo organised a convoy of 700 returning IDPs and humanitarian aid from the capital, Kinshasa, to Bena-Dibele (April 2003)

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) today announced plans to assist more than 30,000 people displaced by fighting in the Lomami River Valley in central Democratic Republic of the Congo. The area has been cut off from the capital, Kinshasa, since the war began in 1998.

'Many people fled with only the clothes on their backs,' said Kevin Hartigan, CRS' Regional Director for Central Africa. 'We are working to get relief supplies to those who have been displaced. At the same time, we're also looking to the longer term effect of this situation and are providing tools, seeds and other staples people will need to begin their lives again.'

CRS and local partners from the Diocese of Tshumbe will distribute cooking utensils, clothing, agricultural tools and seed, fishing lines and hooks, mosquito nets and soap to those affected. Additionally, displaced families will receive medical consultations and basic medicines. CRS is the only international nongovernmental organization working in the area.

Since last April, sporadic fighting between the Mai Mai and the Rwandan-backed Rassemblement Congolais pour la Democratie-Goma has created instability in the area. As attacks have continued and increased in intensity, villagers have been caught in the middle, with both groups accusing them of collaborating with the other. Those who have been displaced report looted and burned villages, destroyed crops and a host of human rights abuses, including rape, torture and targeted executions.

Now in its fifth year, the ongoing conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo has been called 'Africa's first World War.' At least seven African countries and three rebel groups have been involved, and more than 50 million innocent lives have been disrupted and jeopardized.

CRS has worked in the Democratic Republic of the Congo since its independence from Belgium in 1960. Program areas include emergency relief, food security, community health and peace and reconciliation work." (CRS, 7 March 2003)

"Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and local partner Caritas Congo today announced the departure of a convoy carrying 700 returning displaced persons and humanitarian aid from the capital, Kinshasa, to rebel-controlled Bena-Dibele, some 1300 kilometers upriver. This action marks the first significant attempt to reunite families separated by the civil war's frontline.

'Most of the passengers are women and children who have been displaced in Kinshasa and apart from their families since 1998,' said Kevin Hartigan, CRS' Regional Director for Central Africa. 'The convoy gives us a chance to help people return home and to deliver some much needed humanitarian aid to the area.'

Funded by CRS and several Caritas and other international partners, the convoy is carrying hundreds of tons of humanitarian aid, including school supplies and building rehabilitation materials. Additionally, the convoy is bringing assistance—in the form of kitchen sets, clothing, farming tools and fishing equipment—for 20,000 persons recently displaced by fighting in the Lomami River Valley.

The initiative was conceived by the Bishop of Tshumbe, Nicolas Djomo, who negotiated authorization with the government in Kinshasa and the leadership of the Rassemblement Congolais pour la Democratie (RCD), which controls the area surrounding Bena-Dibele. The convoy is being managed by Caritas Congo with technical assistance from CRS.

Upon arrival in Bena-Dibele, passengers will be taken to points near their villages of origin and met by family members. Food and other necessities will be provided to the returnees to help ease the transition and decrease the burden on their families." (CRS, 4 April 2003)

Churches Together (ACT) aims to answer urgent food, medicines, shelter and clothing needs (2001-2003)

- Several projects are carried out with churches and local NGOs in favor of the North Kivu displaced persons
- In March 2002, ACT plans to promote self-sufficiency for vulnerable people in Kisangani

According to 5 March 2002 Appeal:

"South Kivu and Maniema

Goals: To cater for the most immediate food and non-food needs of the displaced and their host families; to improve agricultural and animal production in the medium-term through distributions, seeds, tools and animals. [...]

Oriental Province

Goal

To assist the people of the districts of Kisangani, Tshopo, and Low Uele located in Oriental Province regain basic self-sufficiency by returning to a productive, sustainable, and harmonious way of life and thus avoid the present danger of an increasing humanitarian crisis.

Through the exchange of expertise and services between LWF and member churches of ECC in the respective fields, a more specific but overlapping goal is to:

Increased Co-ordination between ECC and its member churches to strengthen its services and effectiveness in:

Food security

Health care provision

Nutrition services

Rehabilitation

Emergency preparedness" (ACT 5 March 2002, p.7)

ACT's appeal of March 2002 was revised in April 2003. [Click here](#) to see the revised document.

NGOs have established 100 nutrition centers to reduce malnutrition in eastern DRC (Nov 02)

"Malnutrition in eastern DRC, an area with enormous agricultural potential, was a new phenomenon, except for parts of South Kivu where the density of the population was significant and the soil not very fertile, said Spijkers [FAO's Representative in the DRC].

To overcome the problem, NGOs have established at least 100 nutrition centres, which are supported by the World Food Programme and the UN Children's Fund with donations of food and therapeutic milk. For over a year, FAO has been collaborating with 11 NGOs in the region, including Save the Children-UK, Medecins Sans Frontieres, Action contre le faim, Solidarités, and Caritas, supplying 90 nutrition centres with seeds and hoes. An FAO agronomist also does demonstrations for families accompanying their children to the centres on how to grow the food." (IRIN 6 Nov 02)

Radio Okapi launched an information campaign of DRRR in partnership with MONUC (Oct 02)

"Public information deployment and activities have reinforced the visibility of MONUC in all sectors of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Radio Okapi broadcasts news programmes in five languages from Kinshasa to eight locations: Kisangani, Goma, Kalemie, Kananga, Mbandaka, Gbadolite, Kindu and, as from 6 October, Bukavu. These eight regional FM stations have also commenced locally produced programming. Three short wave transmitters have been installed in Kinshasa and will be fully operational by the end of October, covering the entire country and the region. Radio Okapi has started an information campaign on disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, resettlement and reintegration with specific programmes in French, Swahili and Kinyarwanda targeting both the armed groups and the Congolese population. United Nations agencies have also increased their contributions to Radio Okapi programming." (UN SC 18 Oct 02, para.40)

Local human rights group monitor human rights abuses, offer counseling and assistance (Dec 2002)

- Local human rights organizations have shown great courage
- Often, human rights workers have been detained or killed

"The paradox of civil society in the Congo is that these groups often have almost no money and work in incredibly dangerous conditions, but they find ways to do what they have to," says Learned Dees, head of the National Endowment for Democracy's Africa program, which funds more than two dozen Congolese NGOs. "The civil society here is one of the most advanced in Africa." Often the most difficult job is finding the victims. While every side of this war is guilty of horrible crimes, the rebel Rally for Congolese Democracy-Goma [RCD], which controls most of the area's major cities, is becoming more sensitive about accusations that its unpaid soldiers are guilty of rape, pillage, and murder.

Human rights activists have been beaten, detained, and killed, and families of the victims terrorized into silence. Even funerals for those killed by the RCD have been banned, leaving many to mourn their dead in secrecy." (CSM 4 Dec 2002)

Norwegian Refugee Council launched emergency education program in Katanga (2002)

"Le Conseil Norvégien pour les Réfugiés (NRC) vient de lancer son programme de récupération scolaire d'urgence à Moba. Sur les 38 classes, 20 ont été nouvellement construites et 18 réhabilitées. Ce programme bénéficiera à 1264 élèves, répartis dans 40 classes avec 41 enseignants recrutés et formés dans le cadre d'un programme d'éducation de récupération d'urgence. NRC mène une évaluation dans la ville de Kalemie et environs pour y mener un projet identique." (UN OCHA 19 June 2002)

SCF: Improving health care and food security of displaced women and children (2001-2002)

- SCF-UK has offices in Kishasa, as well as in Goma, Bukavu, Bunia and Kalemie cities in the east
- In eastern DRC SCF-UK seeks to encourage the return of displaced families to their villages of origin

"Save the Children UK (SC UK) began working in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) formerly known as Zaire, in August 1994, running a family-tracing programme for Rwandan refugees in camps around Bukavu. Having completed this work, SC UK shut down its operations in July 1996. Later that year, when civil war broke out in Zaire, SC UK was invited back as the lead NGO in the repatriation of Rwandan refugee children. In addition to family tracing in South Kivu SC UK also ran a therapeutic feeding programme for severely malnourished displaced and refugee children.

SC UK maintains field offices in Goma, Bukavu, Bunia and Kalemie cities in the east of the country. These areas are controlled by rebels, making work difficult in terms of security and logistics. SC UK has helped to negotiate access for humanitarian agencies in these areas, and works to build close co-operation and co-ordination amongst international NGOs, and between NGOs and the local authorities.

SC UK opened a country office in Kinshasa in January 1998, where it runs a multi-sector urban programme which aims to prevent children moving onto the street. SC UK is currently exploring possibilities for further programmes in western DRC.[...]

In the war affected areas in East DRC SC UK seeks to encourage the return of displaced families to their villages of origin. Despite security having been restored to some areas, the loss of basic means of production and destruction of social infrastructure have been major factors preventing displaced families from returning. Over the course of the year SC UK, with support from ECHO provided 13,867 vulnerable households with seeds, tools, household kits and some food aid. In addition, eighteen primary schools were rehabilitated; 7,174 pupils provided with school supplies and 51 kilometres of roads were rehabilitated. " (SCF-UK June 2002)

"The fight against malnutrition, particularly amongst IDPs in North and South Kivu, has been reinforced by supporting families of malnourished children by rehabilitating feeder roads and by distributing agricultural items (hoes and seeds) in collaboration with the World Food Program (WFP) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation. SC UK has targeted all vulnerable people, including widows, heads of households, and the displaced.

SC UK aims to assist IDPs who have returned home and to restore livelihoods in the communities they come from to allow easier re-integration." (SCF 10 July 2001)

World Vision runs several programs benefiting the displaced in the East (2001-2002)

- At the end of 2002, WV Beni Programme assisted IDPs in health, nutrition, water and sanitation

- WV provided food to isolated IDPs in Ankoro, Eastern DRC (Oct 02)WV distributed in August 2001 non-food items to IDPs in North Katanga (adults and non accompanied children) and will provide emergency kits to 20,000 IDPs in the region in the second part of 2001
- It works with local emergency committees established by IDPs
- It runs a nutrition and health program for malnourished IDP children and others around Beni town
- It provided emergency kits to IDP families in North Kivu
- It has a nutrition program in Oicha (North Kivu)
- It has helped in the construction and rehabilitation of seven health centers in the Grand Nord

"The Beni Programme of World Vision Eastern DRC with interventions in health and nutrition and water and sanitation has registered 33,071 IDPs from 7,798 families. "The number is higher. Some people were not around during registration," says Richard Mugambi- acting Project Manager. He was surrounded by a swam of displaced people demanding to be registered as he emerged from a church service in Beni on Sunday, November 3." (WV 6 Nov 02)

"The International NGO World Vision and two UN agencies have begun evaluating a joint food-aid delivery to 44,000 war displaced now living in Ankoro, in the territory of Manono, in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported on Friday.

OCHA and the UN World Food Programme (WFP) - partners with World Vision in this relief effort - visited Ankoro on Thursday, where 8,000 malnourished children under five years old are among the internally displaced persons, who have been without aid for three years.

Over a three-month period, World Vision will distribute 556 mt of maize, soya, oil, sugar and salt to the displaced. After this period, World Vision and WFP will determine if more aid is still needed." (IRIN 11 Oct 02)

"World Vision a distribué des articles non alimentaires aux déplacés de guerre du Nord Katanga classés en deux catégories à savoir; 372 adultes avec enfants qui logent dans les locaux d'un ancien magasin et 622 enfants non accompagnés qui se retrouvent dans les installations de l'Eglise Methodiste. Ont également bénéficié de cette assistance, un autre groupe de 30 familles (soit 120 personnes), des déplacés pêcheurs de Kinkondja. Le groupe initialement planifié pour l'assistance était constitué des déplacés de guerre vivant tout aux alentours de Kamina, de Songwe et dans les villages environnants. WV continue encore à analyser la situation dans cette partie du pays, dans la mesure où l'actuelle situation de guerre n'a fait qu'empirer la misère et la souffrance déjà existantes tant chez les déplacés que les autochtones auxquels une attention particulière doit aussi être accordée. La prochaine opération prévue sera celle de faire la distribution de 2,500 kits de famille primordiallement aux déplacés des villages de Malemba Nkulu et de Songwe d'ici la mi-Septembre." (UN OCHA 22 August 2001)

"World Vision emergency kits containing essential supplies such as blankets, soap, collapsible jerry cans, cooking utensils and plastic sheeting will be distributed over the next six months to 20,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) around Kamina and Malemba-N'kuluin in government-controlled areas of Katanga province in southeastern DRC, World Vision announced Tuesday.

Of the estimated 180,000 IDPs (62 percent of them children) in government-held regions of Katanga province, those in Kamina are thus far not supported by international NGOs. According to World Vision, the IDPs who have fled from rebel-held areas say they are seeking food and protection and fear reprisals from retreating Rwandan and allied Rassemblement congolais pour la democratie (RCD-Goma) rebel troops. Following the distribution of essential supplies, World Vision plans to assist the IDPs to establish greater food security through fishing and agriculture, and to provide income for labor to repair schools, roads and health offices in the IDPs' host communities." (IRIN-CEA 1 August 2001)

"World Vision will continue to support and work alongside the proactive local emergency committees established by the IDPs and their hosts using representatives of local NGOs, women's groups, local authorities, and churches." (WV 30 July 2001)

"World Vision will this week begin a new nutrition and health program for malnourished children around Beni town [...]. The on-going fighting around Beni means there are at least 30,000 displaced people in the area, living in now impoverished host communities. World Vision will be assessing the opportunities for non-food distribution, and more long-term development work to improve food security and access to water." (WV 31 July 2001)

"WVI distributed 1,500 reinstallation kits (including blankets, kitchen sets and plastic sheetings) to IDPs families targeted through nutritional centers in Kirotshe health zones [North Kivu]. This distribution also encouraged the population to attend nutritional centers." (WFP 13 September 2001)

"World Vision has been responding with supplementary feeding for two years in Kirotshe, the mountainous region on the border of North and South Kivu and will continue for a third year [...]. [...]

In another vital region, the Grand Nord of North Kivu, World Vision has started one therapeutic and six supplementary feeding centers in strategic locations, working with partners at the Protestant church-run hospital in Oicha and with ECHO funding.[...]

World Vision has helped in the construction and rehabilitation of seven health centers in the Grand Nord. In every case the local community has done most of the work and provided resources, but gladly accepted World Vision's offer of help with cement, hardware and paint." (WVI 9 Oct 2001)

Oicha Zone, (the area of our [WVI] operations) is situated in Eastern Congo. The people are mainly agriculturalists and grow a variety of crops mostly bananas and palm trees. " WVI has a therapeutic feeding program and a supplementary feeding program in oicha. (WVI Dec 2001)

Following the eruption of the volcano in Goma, "A concerted response by international non-governmental organisations followed the eruption, with World Vision a leading agency in the critical areas of food, water, emergency relief supplies, and the construction of schools and housing.[...]

In total, World Vision has reached more than 530,000 people in four months through a relief response valued at \$2.6 million dollars.

However, the Congolese people are still suffering from a brutal, complex civil war, and World Vision eastern DRC is now focussing on addressing other urgent needs through North and South Kivu provinces, including child malnutrition, malaria morbidity and mortality, and children's rights." (WVI 2002)

References to the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement

Known references to the Guiding Principles (as of May 2003)

- Reference to the Guiding Principles in the national legislation
- Other References to the Guiding Principles (in chronological order)
- Availability of the Guiding Principles in local languages
- Training on the Guiding Principles (in chronological order)

Reference to the Guiding Principles in the national legislation

None

Other References to the Guiding Principles (in chronological order)

OCHA IDP Unit undertook mission in December 2002 to assess training needs on the Guiding Principles
Date: December 2002
Documents:

Availability of the Guiding Principles in local languages

The GP are available in Swahili
Document: GP in Swahili [Internet] http://www.idpproject.org/training/guiding_principles/Swahili_Guiding_principles.pdf

Training on the Guiding Principles

NRC training workshop on the Guiding Principles, Goma: Co-organised by the Department of Justice, using NRC training modules. 50 participants attended, from authorities, UN agencies, international and local NGOs, and IDPs. See list of sources for NRC document containing conclusions and recommendations.
Date: 7-9 April 2003
Documents: NRC, Atelier de formation sur les Principes Directeurs relatifs au déplacement de personnes à l'intérieur de leur propre pays, Goma, 7-9 April 2003

NRC training workshop on the Guiding Principles, Kalemie: About 60 participants attended, including authorities, UN agencies, international and local NGOs, and IDP representatives. See list of sources for NRC document containing conclusions and recommendations.
Date: 7-8 May 2003
Documents: NRC, Conclusions & recommendations of NRC training workshop, Kalemie, 7-8 May 2003

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ACF	Action Against Hunger (Action contre la faim)
ACT	Action by Churches Together (ACT)
ADFL	Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (Alliance des forces démocratiques pour la libération du Congo-Zaire)
ADF	Alliance of Democratic Forces
ADL	Local Defense Unit
ANR	National Information Agency
APC	Popular Congolese Army (Armée Populaire Congolaise)
BOAD	Ecumenical Office for Support to Development
Coltan	Colombium Tantalum
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
DDRR	disarmament, demobilization, repatriation and reintegration operations
DPKO	UN's Department of Peacekeeping Operations
DMIAP	Détection Militaire des Activités Anti-Patriotiques
DRC (RDC)	Democratic Republic of the Congo (République Démocratique du Congo)
ECC	Congolese Church of the Christ (Eglise Congolaise du Christ)
ECHO	European Union Humanitarian Office
EHI	Emergency Humanitarian Intervention
ex-FAR	Former Rwandan Armed Forces (Ex-Forces Armées Rwandaises)
FAC	Congolese Armed Forces (Forces Armées Congolaises)
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FAZ	Zairian Armed Forces (Forces Armées Zaïroises)
FDD	Forces for the Defense of Democracy (Forces pour la Défense de la Démocratie)
FLC	Front for the Liberation of Congo (Front pour la libération du Congo)
ICG	International Crisis Group
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
ILO	International Labor Organization
IMC	International Medical Corps
IRC	International Rescue Committee
IRIN	Integrated Regional Information

	Network
JMC	Joint Military Commission
MLC	Movement for the Liberation of the Congo
MONUC	United Nations Observer Mission in the DRC (Mission d'Observation des Nations Unies au Congo)
MSF-H	Médecins Sans Frontières- Holland
NGO (ONG)	Non Governmental Organization (Organisation non gouvernementale)
OAU	Organization of African Unity
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OFDA	U.S. Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
PALIPEHUTU	Party for the Liberation of the Hutu People (Parti pour la Liberation du Peuple Hutu)
PPU	Presidential Protection Unit
PRRO	Protracted Relief Recovery Operation
RCD-Goma	Congolese Rally for Democracy – Goma (Rassemblement Congolais pour la Démocratie)
RCD-ML	Congolese Rally for Democracy-Movement of Liberation (Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie-Mouvement de libération)
RCD-N	Congolese Rally for Democracy-Movement of Liberation-National (Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie-Mouvement de libération-National)
RPA	Rwandan Patriotic Army
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SCF-UK	Save the Children Fund- United Kingdom
TCHA	Technical Committee on Humanitarian Assistance
UAGs	Uncontrolled-armed groups
UN	United Nations
UNDP (PNUD)	United Nations Development Program (Programme des Nations Unies de Développement)
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Activities
UNHCHR	United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

UNHO	United Nations Humanitarian Office
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNITA	National Union for the Total Independence of Angola
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNSC	United Nations Security Council
UPDF	Uganda People's Defense Forces
USCR	U.S. Committee for Refugees
WFP (PAM)	World Food Program (Programme Alimentaire Mondial)
WHO (OMS)	World Health Organization (Organisation Mondiale de la Santé)
WV (WVI)	World Vision (World Vision International)

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