



Shelters constructed by IOM and support to transfer operations organized by CCCM teams, Rusayo 2 and Bushagara sites, North Kivu © IOM 2023

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Since 2022, the humanitarian crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has been exacerbated by heightened violence in the eastern provinces of Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu as well as renewed tension in Tanganyika. The armed conflict between the Congolese Armed Forces (FARDC) and their allies and the March 23 Movement (M23) armed group that resumed in late 2022 in particular, has further contributed to the deteriorating security situation in North Kivu, causing large-scale population displacement and acutely growing humanitarian needs. In its [Mobility Tracking Round 2 Atlas \(May 2023\)](#), IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) identified 6,135,363 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu and Tanganyika. As of August 2023, over 590,000 persons remain displaced by the M23 crisis. More recently, there has been an increase in the number of return movements, with an estimated 820,000 individuals displaced since the beginning of the crisis having returned to their areas of origin as of August 2023 ([DTM](#)).

In response to the deteriorating situation in eastern DRC, the IASC system-wide scale up was activated for North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri in June 2023 alongside a corporate country-wide Level 3 scale up by IOM. This has facilitated the mobilization of more resources to reinforce urgent multisectoral assistance to be provided to people in displacement, returnees and other affected communities. Since the onset of the crisis, IOM has been managing five IDP sites around Goma (Bushagara, Rusayo 1, Lac Vert/Bulengo, Muja and the Axe Kanyarushinya settlement composed of 104 collective centres) via its implementing partner, Actions et Interventions pour le Développement et l'Encadrement Social (AIDES), supporting the development of two planned sites and facilitating the transfer of IDPs from spontaneous settlements to these new sites as well as co-coordinating the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster. IOM has also been monitoring population movements and assessing the humanitarian needs of displaced populations through the DTM, as well as registering IDPs in collective settlements.

Following the significant increase in the number of people in need, as well as funding gaps in the humanitarian response, IOM's flash appeal for the DRC has been revised to target 200,000 people (from 150,000) requiring USD 35 million (from 17 million). This response will contribute to addressing the critical humanitarian needs in the country of displaced populations, returnees and other affected communities. Interventions highlighted in this appeal are in line and complementary to the system-wide scale up Operational Plan 2023 ([OCHA 2023](#)) and IOM Crisis Response Plan 2023 ([IOM 2023](#)) for the DRC.

Over 1,200,000
 PEOPLE AFFECTED

200,000 individuals
 TARGETED

IOM APPEAL (USD)

(April—December 2023)

	DTM	3,000,000
	CCCM	5,000,000
	Shelter and NFI	11,000,000
	WASH	9,000,000
	Health and MHPSS	5,000,000
	Protection and GBV	2,000,000
	TOTAL	35,000,000
	FUNDING RECEIVED	12,000,000

IOM IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO (DRC)

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has been operating in the DRC since 1994. IOM in the DRC has a strong geographical presence throughout the country, with strategically located offices, including its main office in Kinshasa and various sub-offices in North Kivu, South Kivu, Ituri and Tanganyika.

IOM is an active member of the Humanitarian Country Team, United Nations Country Team, and similarly, reports to various Clusters including WASH, Shelter and Non-Food Items, Protection and Health. Together with UNHCR, IOM is co-leading the CCCM Cluster, that was activated in June 2022. Through these fora, IOM works with the broader humanitarian community to provide coordinated life-saving assistance. IOM's DTM, WASH, Shelter, CCCM, Protection and Health teams work holistically with the aim of providing an integrated response, ensuring to mainstream protection throughout programming. IOM works closely with Government counterparts at provincial level, namely the *Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés* (CNR) in North Kivu and Ituri and the *Division des Affaires Humanitaires* (DIVAH) in Tanganyika and North Kivu, in charge of site administration, as well as the Ministry of Health.

DISPLACEMENT TRACKING

IOM's [Displacement Tracking Matrix \(DTM\)](#) will continue assessing and collecting data on the displacement of populations leaving or returning to affected areas. Building on existing operational capacity in the country, the DTM aims to regularly track displacement and return movements in coordination with partners through the following activities:

- Emergency Event Tracking Tool (EET) and the development of crisis analysis to regularly capture essential information on displaced populations seeking refuge in collective centers, spontaneous sites, and host communities in Goma and other territories receiving or hosting internally displaced persons (IDPs) and their main needs.
- Multi-Sectoral Location Assessments (MSLA) to provide in-depth and cross-sectoral information on populations' needs in priority locations (in areas of displacement or return), including areas that may not be accessible to partners, as the situation evolves.
- Continuous registration of internally displaced populations in collective centres and sites to enable the delivery of assistance by humanitarian actors and the transfer of IDPs to new sites, adhering to IOM's data protection and ethical principles related to data collection in humanitarian settings. Registration will also gather information on vulnerability levels IDPs face, allowing for more targeted and prioritized (sectoral) interventions.

Funding required

\$ 3,000,000

CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM)

IOM, as the co-lead of the CCCM Cluster, will continue to work closely with the CCCM partners and other sectors to support authorities of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the establishment, coordination and management of sites and collective centres for the displaced populations. Activities will include:

- Advocate for land allocation and support the joint identification and assessment of suitable land, lead the planning and coordination of the development of sites, notably to decongest collective centres so that regular activities can resume, in coordination with the Education Cluster when schools are concerned. Ensure the newly established sites have exit strategies in place
- Camp management services in sites or collective centres, coordination of assistance, establishment of governance structures, complaints, feedbacks mechanisms and maintenance of site infrastructures.
- Transportation assistance to displaced populations currently hosted in collective centres (schools, churches) to transfer them to existing or new displacement sites.
- Intention surveys to find out the preference or plan of the displaced populations with regards to options for return, relocation (outside their area of origin) or local integration and timely durable solutions assistance to IDPs in opportune times.
- Ensure integration of all cross-cutting themes, particularly gender-based violence (GBV) risk mitigation, through accountability towards affected populations.

Funding required

\$ 5,000,000

Target no. of individuals

150,000

SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS

As a member of the Shelter Cluster and in coordination with CCCM actors, IOM will address the immediate needs of the displaced populations through the provision of shelter and non-food item (NFI) assistance in existing and new sites and within host communities, ensuring that all housing, land, and property issues are duly addressed. Activities will include:

- Emergency shelter assistance to the most vulnerable households who have been displaced by the crisis, in new or existing sites, as well as in host families. Those households will be identified through the DTM. The assistance provided will be a combination of cash, where feasible, and in-kind.
- Construction of communal emergency shelters (hangars) as a last resort to host displaced populations who must vacate collective centres (schools, churches) or while household shelters are under construction, as applicable.
- Distribute non-food item kits as per Cluster's standards to the most vulnerable households.

Funding required

\$ 11,000,000

Target no. of individuals

120,000





Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

To address the needs of displaced populations and tackle the risk of outbreaks and water-borne diseases (e.g. cholera), IOM WASH assistance, in alignment with the WASH Cluster's strategy, will include the following:

- Construction of communal emergency sanitation infrastructures, shower facilities, all segregated by gender, and handwashing stations in existing and new sites.
- Provision of water at displacement sites and communities hosting IDPs benefitting both the displaced populations as well as the host communities. The assistance is to be provided through boreholes, the construction/rehabilitation of water networks from water sources, and water trucking, as necessary.
- Provision of hygiene kits, including water containers or jerrycans, water treatment products (water purification tablets, chlorine), soaps, and menstrual hygiene management (MHM) kits, to displaced populations in sites and collective centers as well as host communities.

Funding required

\$ 9,000,000

Target no. of individuals

180,000



HEALTH, MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHO-SOCIAL SUPPORT

IOM will engage in health activities and provide Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services to affected communities. Activities will include:

- Support the establishment of Rapid Response Teams (RRT) in the most affected health zones through the provision of training for first-line responders in first aid and psychological first aid (PFA).
- Mental Health and Psychosocial Support services in line with IOM's "Manual on Community-Based MHPSS in Emergencies and Displacement" through community-based approaches (by multi-disciplinary Psychosocial Mobile Teams) for displaced and host communities, including counselling and reinforcement of referral of persons in need of mental health assistance to specialized services, as well as psycho-education and support to families.
- Support outbreak preparedness and response through strengthening infection prevention and control, disease surveillance among displaced populations, and vaccinations in the most affected health zones, and reinforce event surveillance capacity for early case detection of communicable diseases (such as cholera and other waterborne diseases, measles, COVID-19, and malaria). In addition, where gaps exist, procure and distribute essential medical commodities as well as build capacity in the most affected health zones with a high concentration of displaced populations to improve the quality of essential primary healthcare (including sexual and reproductive health).
- Identification of points of congregation through population mobility mapping exercises in areas at risk of outbreaks, i.e., markets, as well as areas of high concentration of displaced people in host families, to implement: Risk communication and community engagement to inform public health interventions.

Funding required

\$ 5,000,000

Target no. of individuals

70,000



PROTECTION AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

In a context marked by frequent human rights violations in sites, IOM will contribute to the overall protection response through various activities, including:

- Promote a protective environment in sites by sensitizing on the existence and use of protection services, monitoring of security incidents and engagement of all community groups to map and address their main needs.
- Address GBV through risk mitigation activities including sensitization, capacity building, women's engagement, community-led safety audits and risk assessments, and referral of survivors to specialized services, in line with IOM's "Institutional Framework for Addressing Gender-based Violence in Crises."
- Distribute flashlights and dignity kits to women in sites, in coordination with the GBV Sub-Cluster.
- Protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) will remain a key priority, be integrated into emergency programming and include the training of staff and partners, sensitization campaigns among communities and active contribution to inter-agency efforts.

Funding required

\$ 2,000,000

Target no. of individuals

30,000

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