

# DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

## Mount Nyiragongo eruption

### CRISIS IMPACT OVERVIEW

- Mount Nyiragongo erupted on 22 May 2021 at 19:00 local time near the city of Goma, in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Two lava streams emerged from the volcano at a height of 1,800 metres. One stream flowed east in the direction of Rwanda, while the other headed towards Goma, stopping 300 metres from Goma International Airport (UNICEF 23/05/2021). As at 26 May, 1,400 metres of roads were potentially affected by the lava (UNOSAT 26/05/2021).
- At least 25,000 people were displaced in Sake, 25 km northwest of Goma, and 7,000 travelled towards neighbouring Rwanda to seek refuge (UNICEF 23/05/2021). 31 people died, and 24 were injured by the lava flows; 40 adults and 170 children are missing. Three villages and one neighbourhood in the city of Goma were destroyed by the lava, including more than 3,500 houses and five schools (OCHA 25/05/2021). Over 20,000 people (4,500 households) lost their home and are currently living in host communities, public spaces, and schools (IRC 23/05/2021).
- The most affected neighbourhoods are Buhene and Kibati, located north of Goma International Airport, where eight health centres and eight schools have been damaged (OCHA 25/05/2021). Power lines and water supplies have also been damaged, preventing 500,000 people from accessing water and electricity (USAID 25/05/2021). The Government and humanitarian partners have set up a hotline to provide assistance to the population (OCHA 25/05/2021).
- Strong aftershocks were recorded in Rwanda on 26 May, including a magnitude 5.1 earthquake under Lake Kivu (Al Jazeera 25/05/2021). A magnitude 4.7 earthquake in northeast Goma on the same day and fear of a second eruption triggered the evacuation of the city ordered by local authorities (Al Jazeera 27/05/2021).

### ANTICIPATED SCOPE AND SCALE

- The volcano's crater appears to have refilled, which is likely to cause new fissures opening or another volcano eruption (Al Jazeera 25/05/2021).
- More aftershocks are expected after the eruption, along with the risk of a second eruption (Al Jazeera 27/05/2021).
- The ash cloud from the volcano is likely to cause respiratory diseases (OCHA 25/05/2021).

### HUMANITARIAN CONSTRAINTS

- The road between Goma and Rutshuru, which is the main route for food and humanitarian assistance into Goma, is blocked by lava (Reuters 23/05/2021). Alternative routes through Uganda and Rwanda are possible but complicated by COVID-19 restrictions (OCHA 25/05/2021).
- The roads leading to northern parts of North Kivu are damaged, preventing the delivery of goods in Beni territory, where 280,000 people have been displaced since January 2021 as a result of conflict and insecurity (UNHCR 25/05/2021). Congolese construction company Société Congolaise de Construction has started works on 25 May to reopen the road (Actualite.cd 25/05/2021).
- Goma and Bukavu airports are closed, with repercussions on the delivery of humanitarian assistance by air (OCHA 25/05/2021).



### KEY PRIORITIES

**+30,000**  
AFFECTED PEOPLE

**170**  
MISSING CHILDREN

**3,629**  
HOUSES BURNT

### NATIONAL RESPONSE CAPACITY

- Congolese Government

### INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE CAPACITY

- OCHA
- UNHCR
- Humanitarian country team

## SECTORAL NEEDS

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### Shelter

Over 25,000 people are displaced in the town of Sake, 25 km northwest of Goma, following the volcano eruption. Schools and government buildings are used as shelter. The displaced population is in urgent need of shelter and relief items (UNHCR 25/05/2021). 7,000 people who had fled towards Rwanda are beginning to return to Goma (RFI 23/05/2021). People lost their belongings when they fled – either left behind, burnt, or looted (OCHA 25/05/2021).

### Health

Eight health centres were destroyed in North Kivu during the eruption, limiting access to healthcare for the affected population. Ten people were poisoned by lava gas in Kibati. Occupancy rates in open health centres have increased from 65% before the eruption to 100%. There has also been an increase in patients needing gynaecological and obstetric services (OCHA 26/05/2021).

### WASH

The volcano eruption damaged a critical water pipeline in Goma, cutting off access to potable water for 500,000 people (USAID 25/05/2021). Humanitarian partners are currently assessing WASH needs. The displacement to and from Sake, where 19 cases of cholera were recorded in the last two weeks, is likely to worsen the outbreak. The disease might further spread when IDPs return to Goma (UNICEF 23/05/2021). There is also an increased risk of cholera outbreaks as part of the population uses water from Lake Kivu because of water shortages (Africanews 26/05/2021).

## Protection

Humanitarian partners are working to reunite missing children with their families (UNHCR 25/05/2021). 939 children have been separated from their families during the eruption; 696 have been reunited so far (Save the Children 27/05/2021). Humanitarian partners and Congolese authorities have set up two transit centres to host unaccompanied and separated children (UNICEF 23/05/2021). There is also a need for mental health support for the affected population (OCHA 25/05/2021).

## AGGRAVATING FACTORS

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### COVID-19

As at 26 May, over 31,000 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 780 deaths were reported in DRC (WHO accessed 26/05/2021). Containment measures to stop the spread of the virus caused the closure of the border between Uganda and DRC. This led to a disruption in supply channels, as the northeastern region of DRC depends on import from Uganda for basic goods. It also caused an increase in prices of basic goods such as salt, sugar, and soap (The Conversation 24/05/2021). The lack of potable water in combination with overcrowded displacement camps also increases transmission risks.

### Previous displacement

There are over five million IDPs within DRC – the largest IDP population in Africa (UNHCR 07/01/2021). Of the five million IDPs, 44% are located in the North Kivu province. The damages to the roads in the northern part of North Kivu will prevent the 280,000 people already displaced in Beni before the eruption from accessing essential humanitarian aid (UNHCR 25/05/2021). The high number of IDPs aggravates the current situation, as displacement camps are already overcrowded, and the humanitarian response is unable to cover the needs of all displaced people. As at May 2021, the Humanitarian Response Plan was only funded at 12% (OCHA 25/05/2021).

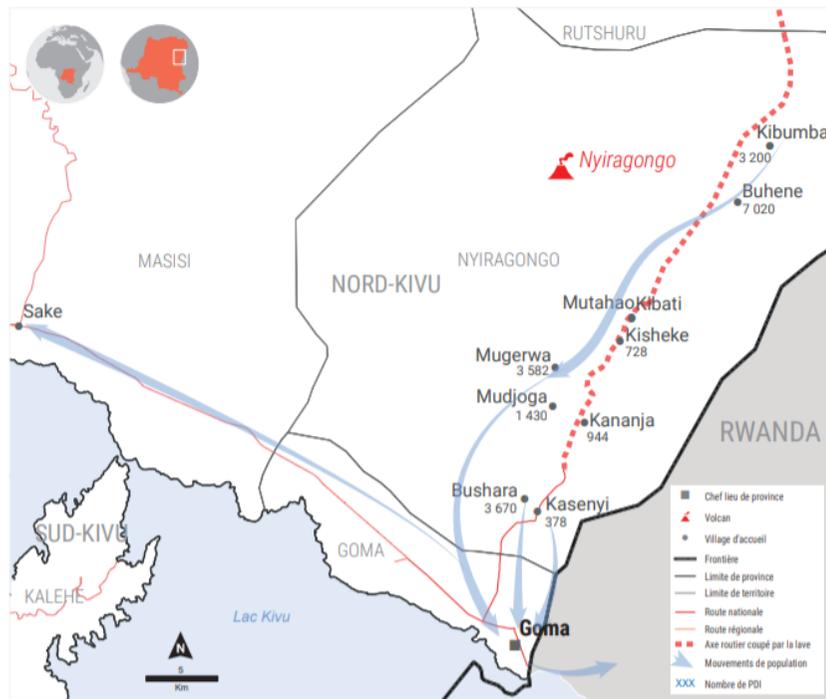
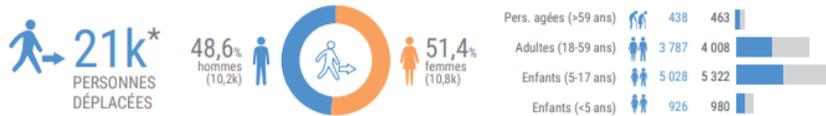
# IMPACT OF MOUNT NYIRAGONGO ERUPTION AS AT 25 MAY 2021



## RD CONGO - NORD KIVU

### Aperçu de la situation humanitaire: Éruption volcanique Nyiragongo

25 mai 2021



#### PERSONNES DÉPLACÉES PAR LOCALITÉ

| LOCALITÉ | PERS. DÉPLACÉES | HOMMES / FEMMES |      | NOMBRE D'ENFANTS < 5 ANS |
|----------|-----------------|-----------------|------|--------------------------|
| BUHENE   | 7020            | 3412            | 3608 | 821                      |
| BUSHARA  | 3670            | 1784            | 1886 | 431                      |
| MUGERWA  | 3582            | 1741            | 1841 | 74                       |
| KIBUMBA  | 3200            | 1555            | 1645 | 374                      |
| MUDJOGA  | 1430            | 690             | 740  | 38                       |
| KANANJA  | 944             | 459             | 485  | 110                      |
| KISHEKE  | 728             | 354             | 374  | 15                       |
| KASENYI  | 378             | 184             | 194  | 44                       |

#### BESOINS CLÉS IDENTIFIÉS (mise à jour au 25/05/2021)

- 1 744** élèves de 7 écoles dont 6 détruites et 1 ayant accueilli les populations rescapées
- 3 629** maisons calcinées par la lave et 23 maison avec toitures emportées par le vent
- 20 000** personnes ont perdu leurs biens
- 159** enfants non accompagnés ont été identifiés / **175** enfants recherchés par leurs parents
- 1 000+** Ha de champs agricoles, plusieurs bétails et volailles emportés par la lave
- 4** dispensaires de différents villages emportés par la lave
- 550 000** personnes n'auraient pas d'accès à l'eau

Les frontières et les noms indiqués et les désignations employées sur cette carte n'impliquent pas reconnaissance ou acceptation officielle par l'Organisation des Nations Unies.  
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(Source: OCHA 25/05/2021)