**THE danish emergency relief fund**

**Alert note**

**Guide to submission of alerts**

**Section D: Spike in a protracted humanitarian crisis**

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| **d.1 Where is the crisis? *Describe the areas affected***  The crisis is centered in the eastern part of the **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)**, specifically in **North Kivu** and **South Kivu** provinces. According to reliable sources such as Reliefweb.int, UNHCR, 400 000 people have been displaced across the DRC in January 2025 alone.  <https://reliefweb.int/report/democratic-republic-congo/drc-waterborne-diseases-threaten-compound-escalating-humanitarian-crisis-warns-irc>  <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/01/1159401>  **d.2 What is the nature of the crisis? *Please describe the type of crisis (e.g. armed conflict, famine or other situation where significant portion of the population is acutely vulnerable to death, disease or other disruption) and describe potential local social and political implications (e.g. for specific target groups).***  The current crisis is an **armed conflict** marked by the **resurgence of the M23 rebel group** and ongoing **military hostilities**. This crisis has intensified with the **capture of Goma**, the capital of North Kivu, by the **M23 rebels**, who are supported by **Rwanda** and are seeking to expand their control over the region. According to reliable sources, over 400 000 had been displaced since the beginning of the year 2025. The local social and political implications of the recent fall of Goma include increased vulnerability, especially among children, women and the elderly. Lack access to clean water, food and sanitation as a result of the urgent displacement of civilians has been reported. Regional instability, increased violence, rape and civilian loss are some of the impacts that have also been reported.  *.* [*https://reliefweb.int/report/democratic-republic-congo/drc-escalating-conflict-goma-deepens-humanitarian-crisis-millions*](https://reliefweb.int/report/democratic-republic-congo/drc-escalating-conflict-goma-deepens-humanitarian-crisis-millions)  [*https://www.unhcr.org/news/briefing-notes/unhcr-gravely-concerned-worsening-violence-and-humanitarian-crisis-eastern-dr*](https://www.unhcr.org/news/briefing-notes/unhcr-gravely-concerned-worsening-violence-and-humanitarian-crisis-eastern-dr)  **d.3 What information do you have about the situation? What is the source of that information? *Please provide available information on***  According to a UN press release dated 30th January 2025, the MSF, ICR and WHO have reported 1,000 wounded, many of them civilians who had fallen victim to bullets and heavy artillery explosions. The press release also goes on to state that “the lack of medicines, equipment and medical staff is jeopardizing the treatment of the wounded and increasing the risk of loss of life”. Since the fall of Goma there have been reports of about 200 000 civilians being displaced.  **Apart from women and children, the elderly and disabled with** less mobility, have also been affected, leaving them stranded in dangerous environments. Those who remain in **Goma** are at heightened risk due to the **ongoing fighting**, **shelling**, and the breakdown of local governance and security.  The UN press release reports that the lack of medicines, equipment and medical staff is jeopardizing the treatment of the wounded and increasing the risk of loss of life Furthermore, d**isplaced populations** need **urgent food assistance** as they have been forced to leave their homes, often without enough to survive. Those who have reached camps are dependent on **humanitarian aid**, but these are **limited** by the ongoing conflict and access issues. People on the run are also in need of shelter. Many people are living in **overcrowded conditions** in makeshift shelters, such as tents, schools, and churches.  <https://reliefweb.int/report/democratic-republic-congo/democratic-republic-congo-flash-update-3-escalation-violence-significantly-affects-humanitarian-situation-north-kivu-and-south-kivu-28-january-2025>  <https://reliefweb.int/report/democratic-republic-congo/humanitarian-catastrophe-unfolds-north-and-south-kivu-violence-escalates-ingos-call-immediate-action>  <https://www.crisisgroup.org/africa/great-lakes/democratic-republic-congo/fall-drcs-goma-urgent-action-needed-avert-regional-war>  <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2025/1/29/dr-congo-live-news-rwanda-backed-m23-rebels-tighten-grip-on-goma>  <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/01/1159536>  **d.3.1 Do you consider there to be a spike/change in a slow onset/chronic crisis or in a protracted humanitarian crisis? If yes, provide as strong as possible evidence for this current spike (*how has the situation changed)*.**  Yes, there is a **spike in a proacted humanitarian crisis**. This escalation has intensified rapidly since **late 2024**, with the most significant change occurring in **January 2025**. Evidence of the current spike include: **Rapid Expansion of the M23 Offensive**, massive displacement and humanitarian crisis, with close to 200 000 people being displaced since January 27th, and the UN going on record about lack of shelter. Medical facilities are overwhelmed, and since the fall of Goma, the lack of fuel to power water systems has left thousands of civilians with no safe water and the risk of a cholera outbreak and other waterborne diseases is escalating. As of the 31st of January, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) has raised alarm over the rapid increase in the number of displaced civilians over the past few days. This reaffirms the urgency and severity of the current situation in the Eastern part of Congo.  <https://reliefweb.int/report/democratic-republic-congo/extremely-serious-humanitarian-situation-goma-requires-immediate-attention-international-community>  <https://reliefweb.int/report/democratic-republic-congo/drc-waterborne-diseases-threaten-compound-escalating-humanitarian-crisis-warns-irc>  <https://reliefweb.int/report/democratic-republic-congo/iom-raises-alarm-over-displacement-hundreds-thousands-goma-drc>  **d.3.2. Describe as specific as possible when the spike has started.**  ***Mention specific dates if possible.* P*rovide documentation for this****.*  In December 2024, the M23 rebels, backed by Rwandan forces, resumed their advances in the region. The M23 captured Masisi and Minova towns in early December, important for both their strategic military value and mining resources. Between January 4th and 10th, 2025 the M23 captured Masisi, a strategic town in North Kivu, which controlled access to valuable mineral resources. This advance caused alarm and signals of a coming push towards Goma. On January 23rd, 2025 the M23 shelled Sake, a critical town just 25 kilometers from Goma that controlled a major supply route. On January 24th, 2025 the Congolese military lost its provincial governor, General Peter Cirimwami, in combat near Sake, deepening the loss of control over the region. By January 25th -26th the M23 and Rwandan special forces advanced rapidly on Goma, with the Congolese army and its allies unable to mount a significant defense. The outskirts of Goma became engulfed in fighting, causing panic and mass displacement as thousands began to flee the city. On January 27th, 2025 the M23 officially captured Goma, the provincial capital of North Kivu. This marked a turning point in the escalation, as the city of over one million people fell into M23 hands, leading to mass civilian displacement and the collapse of law and order within the city.  <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2025/01/drc-warring-parties-must-prioritize-civilian-protection-and-humanitarian-access-in-goma/>  **d.3.3. How could DERF grants make a difference for the crisis affected population? *Please consider the following points:***  **DERF grants** could make a significant difference in addressing the immediate and urgent needs of the population affected by the crisis in **North Kivu** and **South Kivu by supporting partnering organizations, health facilities, humanitarian organizations, NGOs and other stakeholders working to assist the affected population in this crisis. Immediate humanitarian needs** such as f**ood aid** to displaced populations, a**ccess to healthcare**, particularly for those injured in the conflict, temporary shelters, and w**ater, sanitation, and hygiene services** to prevent disease outbreaks, such as cholera, can be provided through DERF grants. The DERF grant can also assist with the urgent relocation or funding to help activists, reporters, and other volunteers from partnering organizations to a safer place. The DERF grant would also help the most vulnerable group, which is women are children, who are also victims of sexual assaults.  <https://reliefweb.int/report/democratic-republic-congo/drc-deepening-human-rights-crisis-amid-reports-further-m23-advances>  **d.4 Are you already responding to this emergency? In which locations/sectors? For which target group? Through which forms of local presence? What is the outcome of your latest assessment and what have you done since then?**  No, due to lack of funding we are currently not responding to this emergency. However, due to several partnerships with southern partners in Congo, we have been following the situation closely, and would like to respond to this emergency. Currently we are sourcing for funding to respond to the situation in Eastern Congo. |