**THE danish emergency relief fund**

**Alert note**

**Guide to submission of alerts**

NB: Only Danish organisations with local presence either through partner organisations or own organisation in the affected areas can raise an alert.

Please read the Danish Emergency Relief Fund’s Funding Guidelines before submitting an alert (the Funding Guidelines are available here: [www.cisu.dk/derf](http://www.cisu.dk/derf))

**Instructions:**

An alert is raised and submitted through the online platform *Vores CISU*. When submitting an alert

1. basic information must be submitted online.
2. an Alert Note (this document) must be attached.

In the Alert Note, you must fill either of the three sections:

* section B for rapid onset humanitarian crisis, or
* section C for slow onset humanitarian crisis, or
* section D for spike in a protracted humanitarian crisis.

Please note that the alert note must be completed with as much information as possible. CISU will need comprehensive information in order to assess the alert. The information provided has to be verifiable.

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| *Formalities regarding the alert text (section b, c or d):** *NUMBER OF PAGES: The text must not take up more than 1,5 pages (Arial, font size 11, line spacing 1.0, margins: top 3 cm, bottom 3 cm, right 2 cm and left 2 cm). Alerts exceeding this length will be rejected.*
* *LANGUAGE: The text can only be submitted to CISU in English.*
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**Section D: Spike in a protracted humanitarian crisis**

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| d.1 Where is the crisis? *Describe the areas affected*The current crisis is unfolding in the eastern provinces of Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), particularly in North Kivu, South Kivu, and Ituri, due to escalating conflict between the March 23 Movement (M23) and Congolese armed forces (FARDC). The conflict has led to a surge in internally displaced persons (IDPs) and mass exodus of refugees towards Burundi, with key entry points at Gatumba, Cibitoke, and Mabayi border posts. Given the limited infrastructure and strained reception facilities, urgent humanitarian intervention is required to support the influx of asylum seekers.  (<https://reliefweb.int/report/democratic-republic-congo/extremely-serious-humanitarian-situation-goma-requires-immediate-attention-international-community>) 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 renewed hostilities have resulted in widespread human rights violations, including mass killings, sexual violence, and forced recruitment into armed groups. According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), over [500,000 individuals](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/jan/28/drc-democratic-republic-of-congo-army-m23-rebels-fighting-goma?utm_source=chatgpt.com) were displaced in January 2025 alone due to the conflict in Goma.  Vulnerable groups, particularly [women, children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities, face heightened risks](https://www.wsj.com/world/africa/congo-war-rape-crisis-d83b3c52?utm_source=chatgpt.com). Reports indicate a surge in gender-based violence (GBV), with many women subjected to sexual assault while seeking essential resources.  The displacement has led to overcrowded settlements with limited access to food, clean water, sanitation, and healthcare services, increasing the risk of disease outbreaks. Environmental degradation around these settlements exacerbates the situation, contributing to resource scarcity and poor living conditions.  d.3 What information do you have about the situation? What is the source of that information? *Please provide available information on**affected populations including specific vulnerable groups and access to these* *urgent emergency and/or protection needs* *other actors responding and coordinating (including government, community structures, the UN, INGOs)*The latest UNHCR and IOM assessments, indicate that over 5.7 million people are internally displaced within the DRC, with at least 300,000 new displacements in North Kivu and South Kivu alone due to intensified fighting since September 2024. Further, Protection Cluster Burundi reports that over 36,000 Congolese refugees are expected to enter Burundi over the next three months. This is in addition to [80,000 urban and camp-based Congolese refugees](https://migrants-refugees.va/country-profile/burundi/) currently registered in Burundi. Among displaced populations, 60% are women and children, with UNFPA estimating that 1 in 3 women in displacement camps face GBV risks. Access to basic needs, including food, water, sanitation, and medical services, remains severely constrained. The situation is further exacerbated by border entry congestion, overwhelmed transit centers, and insufficient humanitarian suppliesd.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)*. Evidence chronologically points to a sudden spike in the crisis. Some of these indicators include: * Escalation in Armed Conflict: Clashes between M23 and FARDC intensified in August 2024, resulting in mass displacements, particularly around Goma, Rutshuru, and Beni. [This intensified in January 23](https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/thousands-uprooted-congo-m23-rebels-near-goma-major-advance-2025-01-23) and led to a [take over of Goma City on January 27 by M23](https://apnews.com/article/congo-rwanda-m23-rebels-peacekeepers-ccb80a43e102737dbf0ed2fc78a188d9).
* Refugee Influx: Burundi’s Gatumba border post registered an increase of 12,000 arrivals in September alone, a 300% increase from the previous months, according to Burundian Immigration Services.
* Protection Concerns: UNHCR field reports indicate a rise in child separations, GBV cases, and forced recruitment into armed groups among displaced youth.

d.3.2. Describe as specific as possible when the spike has started. *Mention specific dates if possible.* P*rovide documentation for this.* The humanitarian crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) intensified significantly in November 2023, as detailed in the [UNHCR DRC Situation Report](https://reporting.unhcr.org/democratic-republic-of-the-congo-situation-global-appeal-2024) and [the OCHA DRC Humanitarian Response Plan](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cflags%5CDownloads%5CDRC_HRP_23_glance_snapshot_2A4_drc-EN_Published.pdf). Local media outlets, including VOA and Radio Okapi, reported a surge in violence against internally displaced person (IDP) settlements in Rutshuru and Beni during mid-November 2023, leading to mass displacements. For instance, on November 15, 2024, an attack by the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) in North Kivu resulted in at least 13 fatalities.   Concurrently, diplomatic tensions among the DRC, Rwanda, and Burundi have escalated due to allegations of cross-border militia activities. These geopolitical frictions have significantly hindered humanitarian access and cross-border aid delivery, further exacerbating the crisis. A United Nations report published in July 2024 criticized the DRC's proximity to armed groups, expressing concerns over alliances that may legitimize the criminal activities of these militias. The UNHCR Global Focus report highlights that in 2024, a resurgence of fighting caused mass casualties and the displacement of over 738,000 people between January and March, with security conditions deteriorating rapidly in the eastern provinces of the DRC. Additionally, the OCHA DRC Humanitarian Response Plan 2024 outlines the ongoing humanitarian crisis, emphasizing the need for continued assistance to address elevated levels of acute food insecurity and other critical needs. These developments underscore the complex interplay between intensified conflict and diplomatic tensions, which collectively contribute to the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the DRC. d.3.3. How could DERF grants make a difference for the crisis affected population? *Please consider the following points:** *Rapid disbursement*
* *Short intervention (0-9 month)*
* *Meeting needs of hard-to-reach populations not catered for by other donors*

With the expected arrival of 36,000 Congolese refugees in Burundi over the next three months, DERF funding will enable World Relief Burundi (WR Burundi) to implement a targeted emergency response, prioritizing urgent humanitarian needs while addressing gaps not covered by other donors. A sizeable portion of the refugee population is expected to settle in western Burundi, particularly in the Cibitoke area, where WR Burundi will play a critical role in receiving and supporting hard-to-reach populations.**Key Response Areas**:* Food Assistance: Providing emergency food rations to vulnerable refugees, ensuring nutritional needs are met during the initial nine months. Special attention will be given to women, children, and individuals with specific dietary requirements.
* Shelter & Non-Food Items (NFIs): Supplying families with essential items, including tarpaulins, blankets, and cooking kits, to ensure basic living conditions for displaced persons.
* Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH): Constructing temporary sanitation facilities and distributing hygiene kits, with a focus on supporting women and girls to mitigate GBV risks and promote public health.
* Cash Transfers: Providing direct financial assistance to enable refugees to meet urgent needs with dignity, reducing aid dependency and supporting local markets.
* Protection & Child Welfare: Establishing safe spaces for unaccompanied children and providing psychosocial support to GBV survivors. WR Burundi will also work closely with local communities to identify and assist vulnerable individuals requiring additional support.

By specifically targeting underserved refugee groups and those in hard-to-reach areas like Cibitoke, WR Burundi will bridge critical gaps in humanitarian response, complementing efforts led by UNHCR, WFP, and Burundi’s National Refugee Agency (ONPRA). Coordination with these actors will ensure alignment with national response plans and prevent duplication of services.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? WR Burundi has been actively responding to humanitarian crises since 2004 and is currently operating in Ruyigi, Rutana, Muyinga, Makamba, Cibitoke, and Bujumbura provinces, where most refugees are being hosted. Our field teams have established partnerships with local churches, community networks, and government agencies, enabling rapid mobilization of resources and service delivery. WR Burundi has already been working in these camps frequented by Congolese refugees over the past years with health, nutrition & WASH interventions, food distribution, cash transfer and livelihood support. With DERF funding, WR Burundi will scale up these efforts by expanding its emergency and humanitarian assistance programs, filling critical gaps left by overstretched UNHCR operations. The escalating crisis in eastern DRC necessitates an immediate and coordinated humanitarian response. WR Burundi is uniquely positioned to provide life-saving assistance to newly arriving refugees, leveraging its local presence, operational expertise, and partnerships with UN agencies. The DERF emergency grant will ensure timely, targeted, and effective support to the most vulnerable populations, mitigating the risks of malnutrition, disease outbreaks, and protection violations. We’ll be glad to work with DERF in prioritizing this intervention to address the urgent needs of displaced Congolese refugees in Burundi and prevent a humanitarian catastrophe at the border regions. |