



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Post-eruption Transitional Recovery Programme for Goma

Disaster Context

On 24 January 2002, one of the most active volcanos in Africa, the Nyirangongo, erupted. Located about 10 kilometres north of Goma, the volcano spewed lava flows that blanketed about one third of the city and spilled into nearby Lake Kivu.

The lava destroyed schools, churches, a hospital, four health centres and about 40 percent of the central business district. The impact of the disaster on Goma residents has been grave. In all, about 250,000 households have been affected, leaving some 14,800 families homeless. Around 1,200 meters of the Goma airport runway was covered in lava, reducing the only link between the north Kivu in Eastern Congo and the rest of the country to a sub-standard safety level.

The volcanic eruption, seismic aftershocks, and drifting of the Rift Valley have all had serious effects on Goma. With the towns of Gyseni on the Rwanda side and Sake on the Democratic Republic of Congo side being pulled in opposite directions, the area between them – including Goma – is said to have sunk some 40-60 centimetres since the last eruption.

Project Title

Post-Eruption Transitional Recovery Programme for Goma (ZAI/02/002/07/34)

Sectors

At the end of the emergency phase addressed by humanitarian actors, a recovery process that would meet the medium- to longer-term needs was initiated and involved the following sectors:

- Capacity-building
- Shelter and infrastructure
- Livelihood restoration
- Disaster preparedness and mitigation

Funding

The one-year programme has an estimated budget of \$4.9 million. This amount is to be shared between three project components as follows:

- \$2.2 million for shelter through resettlement
- \$1.4 million for livelihood restoration
- \$600,000 to strengthen disaster preparedness and mitigation process

UNDP contributed \$50,000 from TRAC 1.1.3 funds towards the Goma relocation site process and housing estate development.

Partners

- International Labour Organisation
- UN Centre for Human Settlements
- Democratic Republic of Congo government

Programme Activities

Prior to this project, the international community carried out humanitarian response following the eruption. Immediate deployment of a UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination team to assist during the first week was accomplished. OCHA strengthened its capacity on the ground and launched an emergency appeal.

WFP, WHO and UNICEF played critical roles in coordinating emergency relief services to the population, and in distributing services within their respective portfolios. WFP delivered food and coordinated logistics, WHO handled health issues, and UNICEF was central to education matters and coordinated the distribution of non-food items.

At the end of the emergency phase, a recovery process to meet medium- and longer-term needs across a variety of sectors was initiated. A UNDP,

HABITAT, and ILO mission was undertaken, which concluded that an integrated approach would be required to place particular focus on the following areas:

- Provision of shelter through resettlement
- Restoration of livelihoods
- Disaster preparedness and mitigation
- Habitat

Specific programme activities are as follows:

- Organise personnel, equipment, administrative systems and subcontract agreements
- Review and finalize details of affected areas of Goma to be selected with regard to the availability of labour and most urgent needs, with particular focus placed on sanitation, home construction, marketplace rehabilitation in Kashero, and the provision of access roads to and within the new settlements
- Liaise with relevant partners to avoid duplication of planned projects and ensure effective prioritization in their final selection
- Review local capacity to provide inputs of skilled labour, small-scale contractors, tools, equipment and local materials
- Finalize labour work norms and technical standards to be applied to all projects activities
- Prepare a programme inception report and detailed work plan
- Establish an effective project-monitoring system with daily, weekly and monthly sub-project records, as well as the capacity to quickly assess sub-projects' progress and prepare updated monthly work plans
- Open locally-approved project accounts and design an administrative system that will pay workers' wages on time
- Set up self-help construction schemes
- Provision of basic services and social infrastructure
- Community building and revitalization activities
- Strengthening of observation capacity to ensure more timely and reliable transfer of information on the state of the volcano

- Raise public awareness and enhance preparedness through community education
- Support local civil protection force to ensure orderly evacuations in the event of future eruptions