The situation in Eastern DRC remains stable despite some incidents and ambushes observed on Rutshuru-Goma axis and within Beni town. The total number of internally displaced persons continued to decrease given the reduction of waves of displaced persons, although this trend appeared to rise during the second half of February, 2014 due to conflict in Masisi Territory. IOM DRC continues to monitor the situation closely together with partners while registration operations will soon commence in Bibwe for approximately 850 newly arrived households.

In Goma, IOM DRC continues to witness spontaneous departures from the displacement sites. This situation allowed the Emergency Programme in North Kivu to embark on a series of operations to better target humanitarian assistance, re-organize displacement sites and harmonize activities.

In this framework, registration activities were conducted by IOM DRC in Nzulo, located approximately 22 km from Goma. A total of 376 households / 603 individuals were verified by IOM’s teams as IDPs living permanently in the displacement site. These activities were conducted in preparation for the upcoming biometric registration programme to be implemented in the site. They also allowed IOM DRC to compile disaggregated gender-specific data and to update useful statistics for advocacy and planning of equitable assistance.

Moreover, WFP’s targeted food distribution resumed in Goma displacement sites after a period of absence of such operations. Started in the peri-urban sites of Goma, WFP assisted 4,381 households beneficiaries in four sites coordinated with Partners, including IOM DRC. As agreed between humanitarian actors, only vulnerable IDPs are targeted in this activity; the remaining IDPs will be encouraged to seek durable solutions, especially the investment in subsistence activities, while further options are explored.

Also, targeted activities continue to be organized within displacement sites for the better protection of and assistance to IDPs. The identification and documentation of children heads of households and unaccompanied children in displacement sites of Goma is one of such examples, conducted in connection with activities by the Support Program to fight against Poverty (PAMI), a partner of UNICEF in the sector of Child Protection. IOM DRC’s support includes mobile registration teams in charge of IDPs verification within the sites.

Lastly, efforts continue between IOM and UNHCR to consolidate information management tools and further strengthen the CCCM Sector. This enhanced coordination is now guided by the CCCM North Kivu Strategy which continues to be reinforced by IOM DRC and UNHCR.
RESUMPTION OF THE WFP’s GENERAL FOOD DISTRIBUTION IN GOMA TARGETING VULNERABLE DISPLACED PERSONS

WFP’s targeted food distribution resumed in Goma displacement sites after a three month lull in activity related to food distribution. The last distribution, which took place in December 2013, IOM and partners commenced a general advocacy for the distribution of food in all displacement sites (urban and rural). WFP and various partners agreed on the need to conduct a joint IOM-UNHCR-WFP-Local Agriculture Ministry Vulnerability Study to finally account for the needs of all IDPs and establish a level of vulnerability and classification for IDPs in nearly 33 sites.

Started in the peri-urban sites of Goma, WFP has provided the first results of the study on five displacement sites in Goma with activity being carried out until the end of May 2014 in around 33 sites involved in the first phase of the vulnerability survey.

As agreed between humanitarian actors, only vulnerable IDPs are targeted in this activity; the remaining IDPs will be assisted to encourage these people to seek alternative solutions to cover their needs in food security—activities such as Income Generating Activities. Partners were encouraged to seek and develop new projects to assist these remaining displaced persons.

For more equity in the provision of assistance, IOM supported the vulnerability survey by deploying data collectors and resources for the implementation of the survey in all displacement sites. After the first stage in Goma, the study continued in rural sites located in Masisi and Rutshuru territories and will continue throughout May 2014. Through this active involvement, IOM seeks to ensure that all sites receive assistance following the equitably objective criteria previously established for a better protection of beneficiaries.

FIELD VERIFICATION AND ADVOCACY FOR CHILD HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS ASSISTANCE IN GOMA ZONE

From 14 to 17 April 2014, IOM North Kivu was involved in the field verification of child heads of household and unaccompanied children in all Goma displacement sites. The aim of this activity is to assist the efforts of the Support Program to fight against Poverty (PAMI) in the identification, documentation and assistance of those children. The intervention is a part of Child Protection program funded Child Protection Working Group led by UNICEF.

These operations allowed IOM to update its lists in order to continue advocating for the inclusion of these children in the targeted food distribution. Also, individual cases will be monitored to ensure for the protection of these targeted groups.

The reality of child heads of households and unaccompanied children in displacement sites is a tragic part of the complex migration crisis in eastern DRC. Movements throughout the region have separated many families leaving many children unaccompanied in displacement sites and exposed to various protection incidents and social exploitation. Non-regularity of assistance in the peri-urban displacement sites near Goma is another factor which has increased their vulnerabilities. IOM, together with the actors involved in the Child Protection, strive to identify and document these cases and ensure that their cases and needs are properly referred to the relevant actors for tailored management.
NIGHT REGISTRATION OPERATIONS IN NZULO SITE

On the night of April 17 to 18, 2014, IOM’s Emergency Operations teams conducted registration of IDPs in the displacement site of Nzulo. In total, 376 households / 603 individuals were counted which corresponds to a net decrease in comparison with statistics shared last month. These activities will be followed by a mechanism of complaints coordinated by IOM in close coordination with the IDPs Committee to investigate cases and the large difference between pre and post-registration numbers. This work will then be complemented by the destruction of “ghost huts” and site restructuring.

Nzulo is inhabited by displaced persons from Malehe, Kingi, Kimoka, and Sake villages from Kamuronza groupement, Kitchanga and residually by Pygmies from Nyiragongo territory; IDPs arrived respectively at the end of 2012, March and June 2013. Significant spontaneous departures were observed at the end of 2013 due to the lack of regular assistance, proximity with host communities and places of origin.

Located in the groupement of Kamuronza, Nzulo is around 22 km from Goma. It was opened spontaneously November 30, 2012 following clashes between FARDC / APCS in Masisi and those repeated clashes between the FARDC and produced new waves of displaced people following elements of M23 in early 2012 and 2013.

This operation, as highlighted by the pictures shown to the right, was initiated to sensitize the importance of giving people identity to prepare biometric data, disaggregated data verified IDPs and updated statistics, which will allow IOM to provide reliable data to the humanitarian community and continue advocating for sustainable solutions in the site.

Usually the registration operation includes four steps all related to each other. The first step involves the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and their explanation to all the staff involved in the operation. This includes practical strategies and mapping tools. Secondly, the fixing operation begins and includes a series of individual steps, including marking all huts including "ghost huts"; putting indelibly ink on fingers of all members of verified household and finally, the counting process begins, activity which is ended by counting. Finally, compilation and aggregation of results for statistics reporting takes place. These types of operations will be conducted in the major sites of Goma within the coming weeks.

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